

OPINION

THE DAILY
Collegian

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About the Collegian: The Daily Collegian and The Weekly Collegian are published by Collegian Inc., an independent, nonprofit corporation with a board of directors composed of students, faculty and professionals. Pennsylvania State University students write and edit both papers and solicit advertising for them. During the fall and spring semesters as well as the second six-week summer session, The Daily Collegian publishes Monday through Friday. Issues are distributed by mail to other Penn State campuses and individual subscribers.

Complaints: News and editorial complaints should be presented to the editor. Business and advertising complaints should be presented to the business manager.

Who we are

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Letters

We want to hear your comments on our coverage, editorial decisions and the Penn State community.

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Letters should be about 200 words. Student letters should include class year, major and campus. Letters from alumni should include year of graduation. All writers should provide their address and phone number for verification. Letters should be signed by no more than two people. Members of organizations must include their titles if the topic they write about is connected with the aim of their groups. The Collegian reserves the right to edit letters. The Collegian cannot guarantee publication of all letters it receives. Letters chosen also run on The Daily Collegian Online and may be selected for publication in The Weekly Collegian. All letters become property of Collegian Inc.

Drinking latent motive of move

Does one week really make that much of a difference for summer-long construction projects, downtown retailers and students moving out? Apparently — at least, they're all good excuses in an attempt to cover a very transparent, "Let's curb the drinking problem at Penn State" public relations move by the administration.

It's really not that big of a deal to change the date of graduation. But at least administrators should have a legitimate reason that doesn't unnecessarily penalize students legally allowed to enjoy happy hour at Café 210 West on an afternoon in early May.

Penn State might have a "drinking problem" — a quarter for every time that's been said might make up the university's missing appropriations — but fixing it isn't going to

start with the 21-year-olds. There needs to be a better plan of action to police the drinking at Penn State.

There was a valiant effort made against that particular student-created holiday in February with increased police presence and the cooperation of downtown bars. And Arts Fest didn't see any rise in arrests and no major disturbances occurred. The student government actively promotes awareness. Attacking the wrong crowd, however, is not the way to approach the situation.

Eliminating Senior Week is only punishing students who spend that last week in between finals and graduation with friends — often in a bar — celebrating the culmination of their undergraduate career. That is not something to make an example out of. If stu-

dents a week away from graduation want to put on matching T-shirts and sample beers at every bar, it's within their right.

Also, administration officials have said that students are still welcome to celebrate Senior Week the week following graduation.

How does that facilitate the expediency with which downtown and on-campus projects should move forward? If students stay in the same numbers as a normal Senior Week would see — which is very likely — doesn't that mean the same amount of downtown traffic and a later estimated time of departure for all of the new graduates to move out?

Changing the date of graduation might be harmless, but with a negative undertone attached it's just the wrong choice.

Spanier fails to realize week is about friends, not drinking

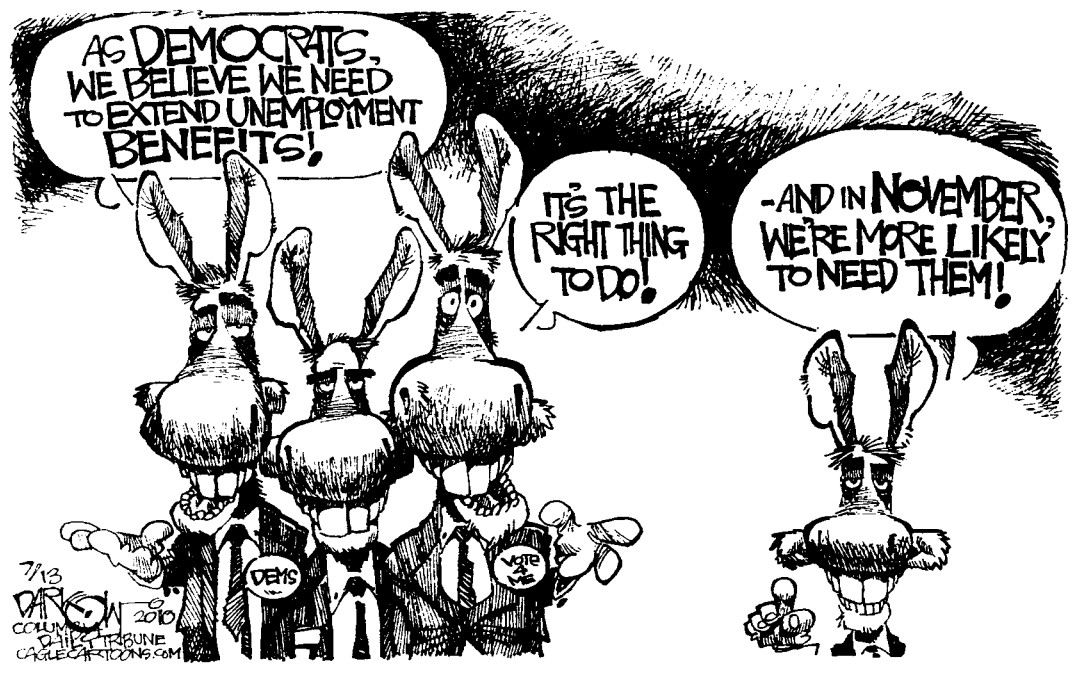
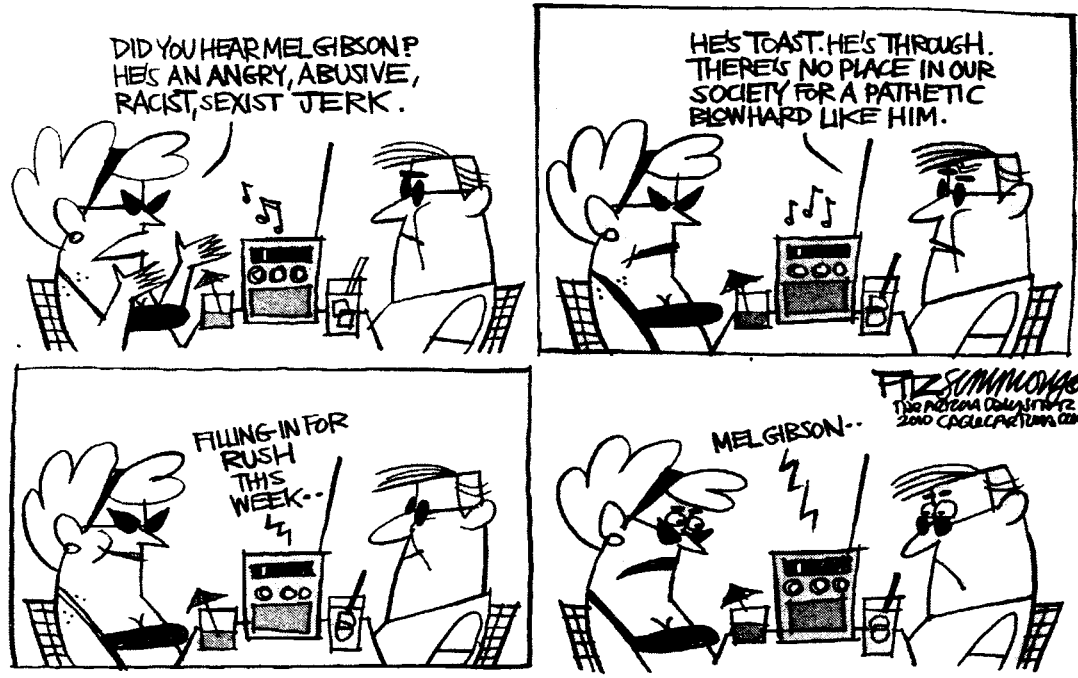
In the attempt to end a drinking ritual, Penn State President Graham Spanier fails to recognize the most important role of Senior Week: the opportunity to say goodbye to four years of friends. By eliminating the entire week between finals and graduation, many students will end up taking finals one day and graduating the next, rendering it nearly impossible to fit in goodbyes as families flood Happy Valley. Though I certainly valued my PSU education, it would have amounted to very little without the amazing people I met along the way — from those with whom I traversed the Great Wall, to those with whom I played soccer with street children in Kenya, to those with whom I regularly spent long nights in Osmond and Davey labs. Ending four years of life-changing experiences with an astoundingly diverse and remarkable student body is difficult enough as it stands; by reducing goodbyes to a day, Spanier suggests devaluing the entire Penn State experience.

Therese Jones
Class of 2009

PSU commitment questioned with bike website still down

When you quoted a student as having registered his bike online in the "University to enforce bike rules" article in the July 13 newspaper, I rushed to the Transportation Services website to see. Alas, the online registration function is still temporarily unavailable. I called the parking office a few weeks ago and was told the site is down because the PSU and State College bike registration databases are being merged; they had no information on when it would be back online. It is really a shame that online registration is unavailable, especially at a time of the year when bike registrations are expiring and unregistered or expired bikes are being confiscated. Admittedly, it is easier now to register a bike than a few years ago when you had to fill out a scantron sheet every year. When online registration finally was instituted it was a godsend. But now once again, bicycle owners must visit the parking office in person, turn their bikes over to read the serial number and fill out a paper form. If you drive to work, you can conveniently pick up your parking permit at an office close to yours. It makes you wonder about Penn State's commitment to encouraging bike commuting.

Edward Balzer
Programmer Analyst
Liberal Arts Department



Excessive Bieber hype confusing

By Lindsay Cryer

I do not hate Justin Bieber nor do I deny his success. While the following column may speak of Mr. Bieber somewhat critically, it would be hypocritical to say I don't enjoy some of his music. That being said, if you like Justin Bieber, you may hate me.



MY OPINION

Now, before you begin to rant about how Bieber is the gift of a higher power to make up for pop's music loss of Michael Jackson or something bogus like that, hear me out. I do find Bieber's songs to be slightly addicting, but not in a caffeine, need-to-have-it sort of way. I'd say Bieber is more like an addiction to potato chips. The bag of Lay's potato chips reads "Bet You Can't Eat Just One," and in all honesty, I can't eat just one. The same goes for Bieber. If I listen to "Somebody to Love" on YouTube, you can bet your bottom dollar that "One Less Lonely Girl" is my next click. I want to stop, but I can't. I am fully aware of how dumb and uninspiring the little guy is, but I just can't stop. And neither can the rest of the world.

"I do find Bieber's songs to be slightly addicting, but not in a caffeine, need-to-have-it sort of way. I'd say that Bieber is more like an addiction to potato chips."

But in four words let me just summarize my thoughts about "Bieber Fever." I don't get it. Why is this 16-year-old Canadian boy so well known that even my church's pastor mentioned him in a recent sermon? My initial thought was that, well, he's cute, he's young and he can hold a note pretty well. But in retrospect, the same was said about Aaron Carter, Jesse McCartney and Chris Brown when they were the same age. Did any of them have this much hype, though? I mean, for goodness sakes, there's a website called "Lesbians Who Look Like Justin Bieber." Google it. We could blame his all-star connection with BFFs — best friends forever — Usher and Sean Kingston, but Aaron Carter had his brother Nick's band, the Backstreet Boys, to fall back on. We could blame his impressive dancing skills, but Chris Brown had that on lock, too. We could blame his uncanny ability to allow women of all

ages to swoon with each new song he releases, but give "Beautiful Soul" a listen. McCartney did that, too. Truthfully, I blame his hair. It shines. It glows. It sweeps his eyebrows oh so perfectly. It defies gravity. I blame a universal obsession with the hairs upon his head. Otherwise, there is no reason for 3.5 million people to follow him on Twitter. So, I also blame the Internet. That's got to be it. So when Bieber appears on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" or has a new E! channel special on him, I will watch. But don't expect me to be first in line for "My World 3.0" or to include him in some sort of scientific thesis. Why? Because his singing is okay. Because his voice will change eventually. Because I don't like men who groom their hair. But mostly because I just don't get it. Lindsay Cryer is a junior majoring in journalism and is the Collegian's Wednesday columnist. Her e-mail address is lbc146@psu.edu

blog lines

Footblog

The Green Bay Packers announced the signing of former Penn State tight end Andrew Quarless on Monday. Fox Sports reported a four-year, \$1.97 million deal with an approximate \$182,500 signing bonus between the two parties. The deal was agreed upon last week. The Packers drafted Quarless in the fifth round this year with the 154th overall pick. In four years, the tight end accumulated 1,146 yards and eight touchdowns for the Nittany Lions.

Former Penn State running back Curt Warner will be enshrined in the National Football Foundation's College Football Hall of Fame this Saturday. The former Nittany Lion, who played from 1979-82, is one of 24 players who will be featured. Jesse Palmer and Mark May of ESPN will host the event at the Century Center in South Bend, Ind. In 2009, Warner — joining his former coach Joe Paterno — was the 22nd member from Penn State to be inducted. Other notables who will be enshrined include former Notre Dame wide receiver Tim Brown and former Ohio State linebacker Chris Spielman.

Though it's been six months since Collin Wagner kicked his 21-yard field goal to lift the Nittany Lions to victory in the Capital One Bowl, the kick impacted his off-season training. After admitting his nerves never settled down until after the fourth game of last season, Wagner's in a different situation this year. With a full year of experience and new-found confidence under his belt, the senior entered the summer with just one goal in mind.

Read more from the football blog [Footblog](#) and the rest of The Daily Collegian's blogs at psu-collegian.com/blogs.

Snap, Crackle, Pop

During the hot South Carolina summer months, Mary Jackson's mother and grandmother taught her the art of basketry when she was only 4 years old. Basketry is a tradition that has existed for 300 years and is a tradition that Jackson is keeping alive with her daughter and granddaughter. Jackson's unique sweet grass creations are part tradition and part her own creation. Her collections take about a year to create, which makes her too busy to maintain a website, but you can catch her at Arts Fest every summer, including next year's. Jackson was invited to show her work 26 years ago and has made the long trip to State College every year since.

Read more from the arts blog [Snap, Crackle, Pop](#) and the rest of The Daily Collegian's blogs at psu-collegian.com/blogs.