

OPINION

THE DAILY
Collegian

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Letters

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Student rep. would help schism

It's no secret there has been a very strained relationship between the student body at Penn State and the State College Borough Council. That's a big problem when that same disgruntled student body makes up 75 percent of the borough council's constituency.

But the effort to put a non-voting student member on the council — and the progress its made so far — is a huge step to mend that relationship and has a lot of potential for even more positive results.

First up to be commended is University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) President Christian Ragland. He is already following through on a campaign promise and is making a concen-

trated effort for a student to be seated on the council by the start of fall semester. This is both a promising and positive reflection of a still-growing student government that was internally muddled at the end of last spring.

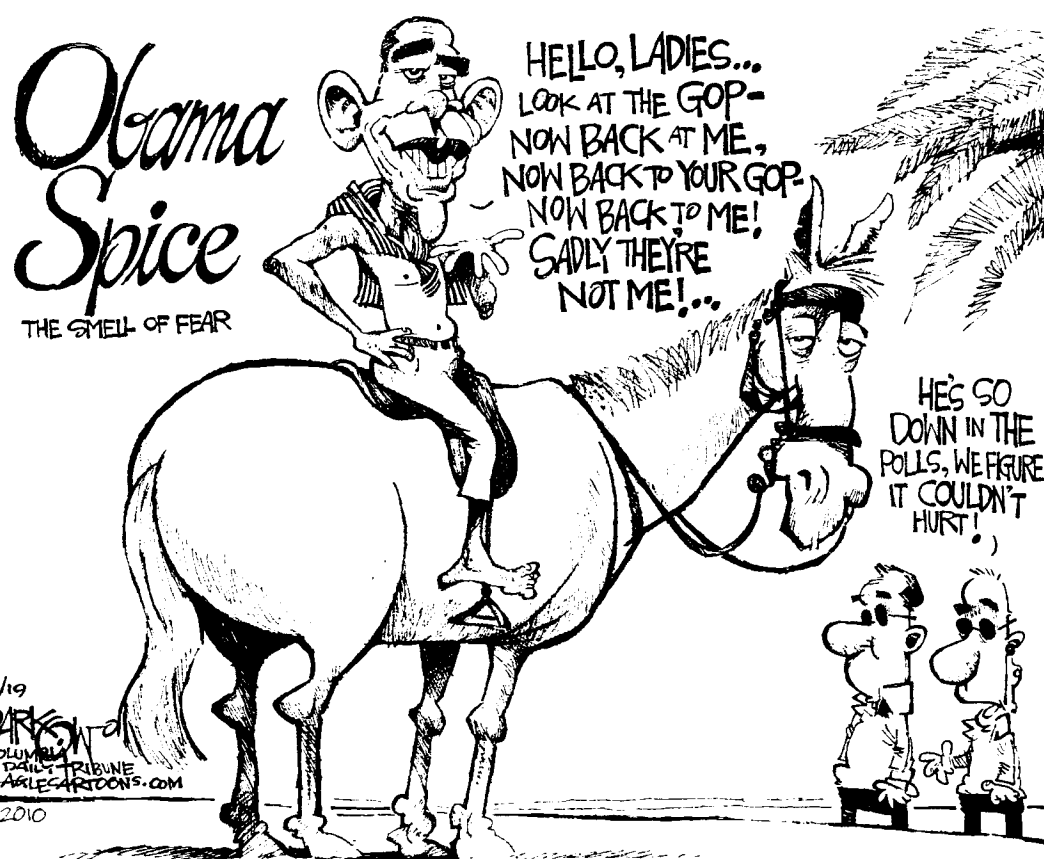
Ragland has shown dedication to this project — something else that is reflected in the borough's willingness to work with him to see this plan to fruition. And both sides have made reasonable requests and shared ideas that give us reason enough to think that come fall, this really could be a reality.

And that reality is a great idea. Having a student sit on borough council is something that seems so necessary, it

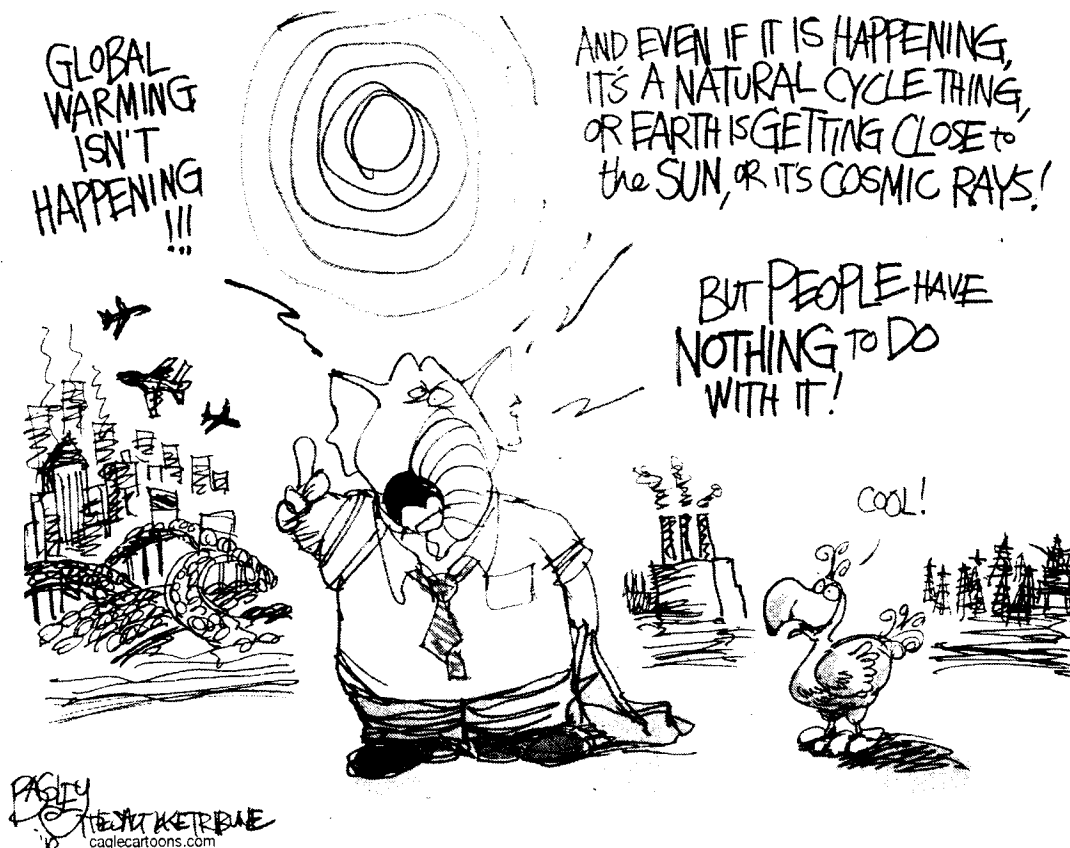
almost makes us wonder why this wasn't something that was pushed for before. Students have run unsuccessful campaigns for a spot on council in the past, but it might be that the better idea is in a non-voting member.

Right now, the most important thing is there is a concrete connection between the borough and the student body. Having a permanent liaison could ensure there is no discrepancies between what is said at a meeting and what gets relayed to students. And while the sitting student might not be able to vote, this move would ensure the student presence is always felt and the student voice is always heard.

And that is what is most important.



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Small World

Last weekend, I spent almost three days on a bus. Six of my friends and I had planned a trip to Scotland from Friday night until Monday morning. After work on Friday, we all packed and headed down to the bus station for an overnight (11p.m. to 8:30 a.m.) bus from London to Scotland. We barely made the bus thanks to transportation interruptions on the district tube line. Already frustrated, we boarded a hot, crowded bus to begin our journey. When we arrived in Edinburgh, we headed straight to the travel agency we booked our tour through and left 15 minutes later on a two-day bus tour.

Just after seating myself in the front row next to one of my flatmates (we wanted to see out of the front of the bus), I pretty much fell asleep. The good thing was, no matter how beautiful Scotland is, a lot of it is the same — especially on a bus tour.

So sheep after sheep, grassy hill after grassy hill, I slept for about an hour. We made our first stop at an old church in a tiny town. It was nice to get out and stretch our legs after being cramped up on a tiny bus seat for what seemed like forever. We then saw a battlefield and a Stonehenge-like rock formation.

All I was pretty much looking forward to was being able to stay in a castle that night. We had lunch in yet another small town along the way, and we stopped to get dinner for the hostel at the grocery store. My friends and I had wine and cheese in a castle that night. How many people can say that?

After dinner and after seeing Scotland's beauty through a bus window all day, we were itching to get out and explore.

Chloe Elmer
photographer

Read more from the study abroad blog **Small World** and the rest of The Daily Collegian's blogs at psu.collegian.com/blogs.

Blogging, Kicking and Screaming

After a surprising 1-1 tie with Ghana in the FIFA Women's U-20 World Cup, the United States bounced back with a strong 5-0 win over Switzerland.

... Ghana's athleticism caught the United States off guard and prevented the Americans from getting into their control-oriented style of play. Against the Swiss however the United States struck early and often, scoring three goals in the first 25 minutes.

"Going into this game, the team as a whole was more focused," said Christine Nairn, a Penn State midfielder in the fall. "We knew that we had to keep the width as much as possible against Switzerland in order to be successful. We knocked the ball around a lot more, found a rhythm, and put away our scoring opportunities."

Prior to the match, Nairn said the team was a little nervous knowing they needed the three points given for a win. However, scoring the five goals was a solid confidence boost for the team.

The key to shutting down the Swiss attack was isolating forward Ramona Bachmann. That role fell to the central midfield, composed of Nairn and Amber Brooks. After failing to get much attack out of the middle in the first match, Brooks and Nairn focused on playing a better game.

"[Bachmann] is a great player that can tear teams apart by herself," Nairn said. "Amber and my roles were to keep her under control and organize the team. We have been working a lot on our shape (between Amber and I) and I think it definitely paid off in that game."

Andrew Robinson
sports co-editor

Read more from the **Blogging, Kicking and Screaming** blog and the rest of The Daily Collegian's blogs at psu.collegian.com/blogs.

'Barefoot Bandit' represents modern-day outlaw

By Lindsay Cryer

I can't quite put my finger — or should I say a toe? — on my reason for thinking so, but how cool is the "Barefoot Bandit"?

For those of you who haven't heard of Colton Harris-Moore, a 19-year-old Washington state native, let me fill you in.

After a fairly troubled childhood, Harris-Moore began a robbing spree at the young age of 7. Since escaping a halfway house in April 2008, he is suspected of being responsible for more than 100 thefts throughout the Western United States and Canada. Many of these thefts have included stealing cars and crash-landing stolen planes.

With the exception of a few checks to his supportive mother, Harris-Moore has been nearly impossible to trace, though he once left a \$100 bill and a note bearing his nickname at a veterinary clinic, and he apparently wasn't too scared to release the now-iconic photo of himself.



MY OPINION

Despite his name, the "Bandit" does not commit all of his crimes unshod but earned his name after leaving footprints at one particular crime scene in Idaho and cartoon-like chalk outlines of footprints at another in the San Juan Islands off of the coast of Washington.

On July 11, local officers captured him in the Bahamas, and he is now being held in a federal detention center in Miami.

Harris-Moore will face charges in the Bahamas and United States for his crimes.

But his infamy will not end once he is potentially locked away for his wrongdoings. T-shirts have already been sold bearing his picture and the words "Momma Tried." And all of those who bought the T-shirts will be able to snuggle up and watch the movie 20th Century Fox has already bought rights to.

I may not have the shirt, yet, but I will throw down the money to see "Taking Flight: The Hunt for a Young Outlaw." Yes, it already has a name.

My fanhood is not a result of sheer admiration for criminals. In fact, I do think he should receive punishment for every crime he committed.

"My fanhood is not a result of sheer admiration for criminals. I think he should receive punishment for every crime he committed. But for some odd reason, I find a sort of romanticism in his notoriety."

But for some odd reason, I find a sort of romanticism in his notoriety. He's become the criminal that we hate to love, or, in many cases, the one that we love to hate.

Harris-Moore isn't the first bad guy that I've taken a liking to. I once did a research paper on the Old West's infamous criminal Billy the Kid.

He was known to have killed four people in his day, but legend has it he killed as many as 21. Though he died at the young age of 21, he was posthumously sensationalized and is now seen as an Old Western icon.

I think the same air is reserved for Prohibition-era gangster, Al Capone.

Neither of their crimes is forgivable, but I can imagine that each walked with quite a swagger.

With this reputation comes the respective ability to be mysterious. I don't know how they got away with

it, but I also don't really want to know.

The same will go for our "Barefoot Bandit." His name may not be as well known, but I can guarantee that in years to come, we won't only see him as just a criminal. His tactics will be preserved as those of the stereotypical runaway-child in the same way that Capone's pinstripe suit and fedora are now viewed as the uniform of a gangster.

My mom wasn't too thrilled with my opinion of the Barefoot Bandit, and I can completely see why. He is, after all, a criminal and has damaged beyond what he can make up for. But not every criminal gets a movie.

And, by the way, I really hope Shia LeBeouf plays him.

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