

blog lines

SNAP, CRACKLE, POP

Come Swift-ly third album

It's not much of a secret that I love Taylor Swift. Her lyrics frequently appear as my Facebook status and seeing her at the Bryce Jordan Center last August was probably my favorite concert experience ever.

I've been a fan since I first saw the video for "Tim McGraw" back in the summer of 2006. A girl with beautiful curly hair was hoping her ex-boyfriend would remember her by her favorite song by Tim McGraw. Having just gone through a breakup myself, I instantly connected with this girl.

I bought her self-titled debut CD and listened to it on repeat for weeks and I repeated the process when her sophomore album, "Fearless," was released. I listened as her music began being featured on Top 40 countdowns even more than country stations. I watched as Kanye West unintentionally made her a household name.

To say that I've been anticipating her third album is a little bit of an understatement. I've been itching for new music from this girl since I saw her in concert. So today, when Swift scheduled a webchat to talk about her upcoming album, I listened in.

Titled "Speak Now," the third album goes on sale October 25 this year. "Mine," the first single, will be released August 16. Swift confirmed "Sparks Fly," a fan favorite previously only performed in concert, will appear on the album. ...

Hannah Rishel
Collegian staff writer

EDITOR IN CHIEF

On background: Webster's

This week, Editor in Chief Elizabeth Murphy sat down with reporter Paul Osolnick, who has been on top of the Webster's Bookstore Cafe saga since the news broke that the store faces closure. Listen to Osolnick as he speaks about feeling like a "storm cloud" every time he walks through the cafe's door.

It's the third edition of Murphy's regular podcast series that gives readers the story behind the story with the reporter, photographers and editors who helped put the story together. ...

Elizabeth Murphy
Editor in Chief

Read more of The Daily Collegian's blogs at psucollegian.com/blogs.

Wanted: Web Intern

The Collegian is seeking a web intern for the fall semester to join its award-winning web team. This position offers a merit-based \$1,000 scholarship per semester.

We are diving into several new web initiatives this fall including a brand new website, and are looking for applicants with a working knowledge of HTML, CSS and proficiency in at least one of the following: Javascript, Flash, PHP, Perl, ASP.net, or C#. We are also looking into mobile applications, as well, so a knowledge of or interest in learning about mobile development is encouraged but not required.

You will be working with the Web Editor, who also has a knowledge of these technologies. This position requires a flexible but steady time commitment. Your responsibilities will vary based on your skills, but could include designing pages and/or interactive pieces for our site, writing scripts to parse and reformat old stories or communicate with public APIs (Twitter, Tumblr, etc), or designing back-end management systems, among other things.

An interest in journalism and being a part of an independent student newspaper is highly encouraged, as well.

To apply, send a resume and cover letter to Editor in Chief Elizabeth Murphy at editorinchief@psucollegian.com.

Council should OK West End

Earlier this week, the State College Borough Council, after hours of deliberation and a meeting that went late into the night, reached a decision: postpone the final vote on the West End project.

After a long string of similar decisions, this choice proves the council to be chronically indecisive about important, controversial issues. The members elected to make final votes and decisions are, ironically, avoiding making those tough decisions.

Though some may believe a change in zoning laws will lead to the West End becoming the next Beaver Canyon, this is not necessarily true. Instead of fearing the creation of a larger downtown district,

the council and those working with it would be better off learning from Beaver Canyon to prevent a similar area from popping up.

An expansion of affordable student housing throughout the borough is not a death sentence to any one location.

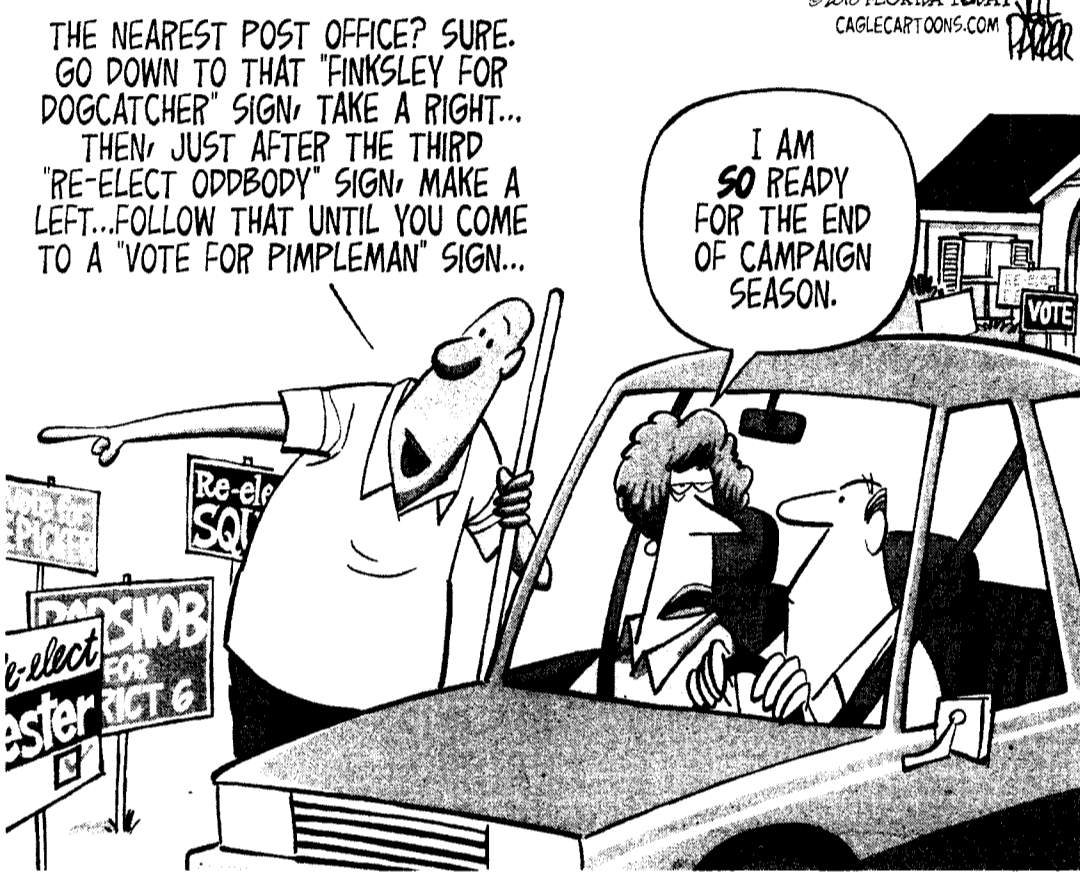
As housing in places like North Allen Street and Waupelani Drive have already proven, community members and students can co-exist with one another.

But instead the decision is once again put on the council's back burner. The inability to reach a verdict on the West End zoning issue is a move that harms everyone — both student and community members alike.

Students can benefit from new and affordable housing as the population of those enrolled at Penn State constantly expands. New and old landlords alike can begin profiting from renting out new buildings, and a higher population in the West End could attract new business franchises or even spur new local shops.

A final vote on the West End zoning issue is imperative. As a part of the population subjected to the authority of the State College Borough Council, residents and Penn State students alike are owed a timely decision.

And for the good of the borough, let that decision be yes.



THE DAILY Collegian

Elizabeth Murphy
Editor in Chief

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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

The Daily Collegian's editorial opinion is determined by its Board of Opinion, with the editor holding final responsibility. The letters and columns expressed on the editorial pages are not necessarily those of The Daily Collegian, Collegian Inc. or The Pennsylvania State University. Collegian Inc., publishers of The Daily Collegian and related publications, is a separate corporate institution from Penn State. Editorials are written by The Daily Collegian Board of Opinion.

Members are: Kevin Cirilli, Jenna Ekdahl, Bill Landis, Elizabeth Murphy, Laura Nichols, Edgar Ramirez, Andrew Robinson, Heather Schmelzen, Jared Shanker, Katie Sullivan, Alex Weisler, Steph Witt and Chris Zook.

Letters

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

E-mail: collegianletters@psu.edu

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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.

Palin's creative Twitter vocab helps write column

By Matt Fortuna

SARAH Palin posts a tweet, and the Twitterverse explodes. Sarah Palin deletes and repeats, and more readers are confused.



MY OPINION

Finally, sensing the moment of opportunity, Sarah Palin — the public's attention now fully fixed on her — unleashes her inner Hemingway on the web.

It all started Sunday with a simple 139-character plea: "Ground Zero Mosque supporters: doesn't it stab you in the heart, as it does ours throughout the heartland? Peaceful Muslims, pls refudiate."

Palin typed the message on her Blackberry. Perhaps next time she should type a draft first on Microsoft Word. Because doing that — in the same way that I am going about this column — will reveal those annoying, red squiggly lines underneath misspelled words.

And in the case of that Twitter

"But why would we ever waste our time with a meaningful, open discussion on race, religion or freedom, let alone one with a woman who ... is potentially the next GOP nominee for president?"

post, "pls" isn't the only red-stained term.

You see, "refudiate" is not an English word. So Palin, eventually alert of the gaffe, deleted her original message and posted another: "Peaceful New Yorkers, pls refute the Ground Zero mosque plan if you believe catastrophic pain caused @ Twin Towers site is too raw, too real."

This time — again, aside from "pls" — no red squiggly lines popped up.

Well, at least she's getting there. After all, "refute" is an English word. Except, according to the 10th edition of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary — and I realize there's a chance I just dated myself here within the context of this new-age conversation — "refute" means "to prove wrong by argument or evidence."

That sounds pretty tough to do when dealing with a mosque. And, as several were quick to point out afterward, "refute" just doesn't do it there. Not after "refudiate." Palin must have meant "repudiate."

According to Merriam-Webster again (I swear, these hardcover things still work), "repudiate" can mean "to refuse to have anything to do with."

So, after going through all of that, what Palin probably meant to say was that New Yorkers, at least the peaceful ones, (which just sounds so personal and direct to this cheery Big Apple native) should distance themselves from the Ground Zero mosque plan.

Because, you know, any mention of Muslims and 9/11 is a very sensitive issue, given this country's recent history.

But why would we ever waste our

time with a meaningful, open discussion on race, religion or freedom, let alone one with a woman who, based on recent fundraising totals and Gallup polls, is potentially the next GOP nominee for president?

Instead, we can just play the guessing game. It's much more fun, anyway.

Thankfully for us all, Palin was alertly back on Twitter before day's end to clear up any misunderstanding, putting her large following in place while she was at it:

"Refudiate," 'misunderestimate,' 'wee-wee'd up.' English is a living language. Shakespeare liked to coin new words too. Got to celebrate it!"

Hook, line and sinker. No wonder nearly 200,000 people follow Palin. She's a modern-day trendsetter of the written word.

Maybe she could help me write this column while she's at it.

Then again, she already has, in so many more ways than she is probably even aware of.

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