

OPINION

THE DAILY
Collegian

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

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Letters

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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.

Healthier options improve halls

Though Simmons Dining Commons will be missed by many, its closing this upcoming spring may motivate a positive change for the rest of the dining commons.

If a healthy dining hall exists, that means the university is admitting that unhealthy halls exist, as well. However, if all eating places consciously provide healthy eating options, students could benefit tremendously.

Instead of counting on a dining hall to make the decisions for them, students should learn to have some self-control when piling food on their plates. It's unrealistic to blame the "freshman 15" on having a meal plan or unhealthy food selections in the dining halls. Stu-

dents need to take responsibility for themselves and their eating habits.

Additionally, Director of Residence Dining Lisa Wandel's observations of the way students eat small amounts of many different foods is accurate. So the plan to shrink portions is a good one. For students who eat dinner with their eyes and not their stomachs, this might save the university money and reduce food waste.

If Residence Life wants to successfully pull this off, two things must happen. First, the Pollock renovation has to include some sort of expansion to accommodate the increased number of students using it as their main dining hall. Distracting students by introduc-

ing new "food concepts" such as an Asian food grille, barbeque and other vague ideas will not solve the almost definite overcrowding Pollock will see when Simmons closes.

Second, it has to be completely finished — and on time. Construction into the semester will cause significant issues, especially considering it's normal now for food lines to run out the doors. This also doesn't include the increased number bringing freshman will bring.

The efforts of Wandel and other authorities to integrate what Simmons had to offer across campus and make the transition as smooth as possible are appreciated, but there are still some issues that need to be resolved.

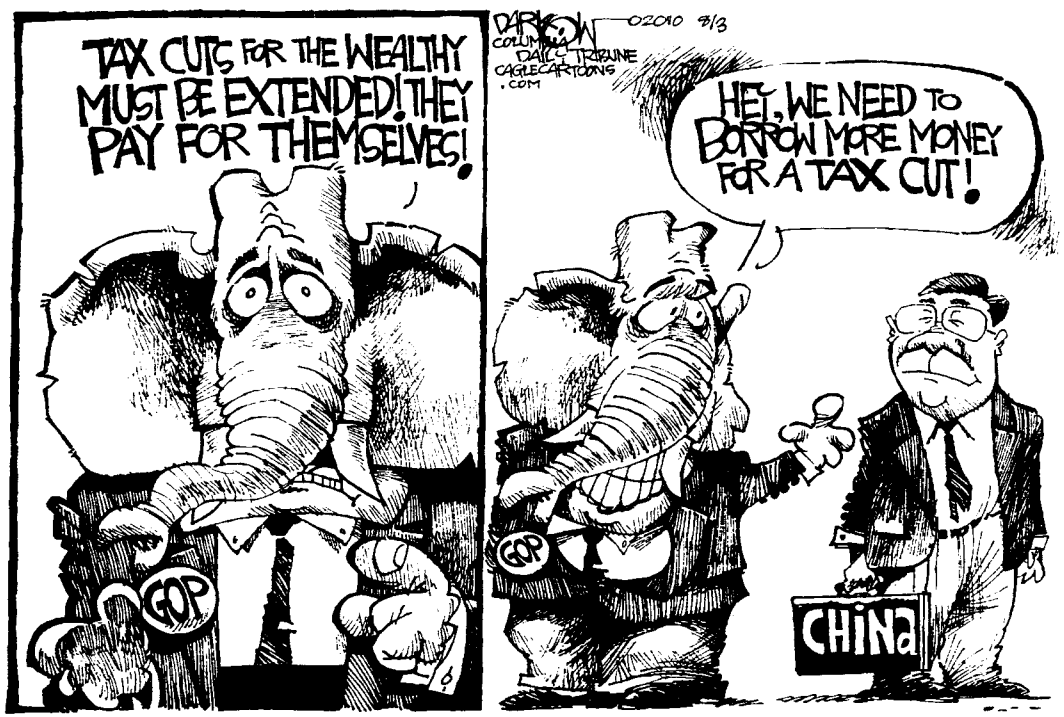
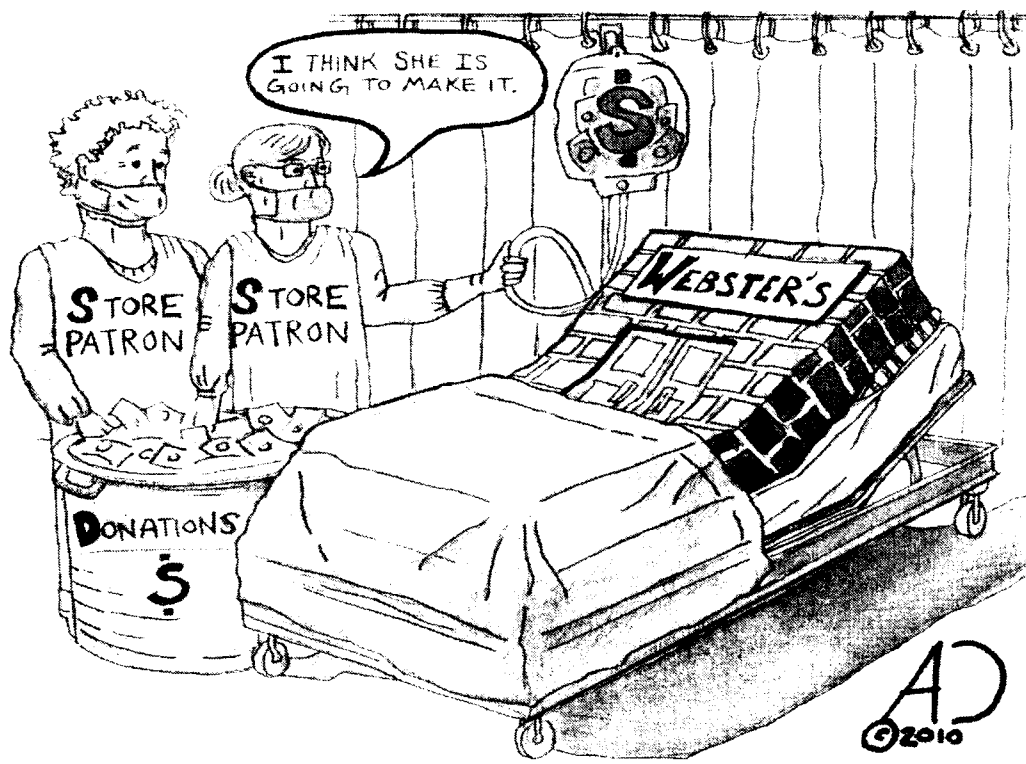
Avoid paying increased cost by simply paying in advance

In response to Kelly Swift's letter, "Continued football increases pushing loyal PSU fans away" — and to anyone who has a problem with the new parking pass situation for home football games — I disagree. Kelly maintains that in this tough economy, it's unfair for Penn State to prey on its loyal fans. Not that it's unfair to prey on the loyalty of our amazing fan base, but that Penn State is even committing this supposed act.

The only people Penn State is praying on are stupid and impulsive people. Coincidentally, those two groups, like fools, are soon to part ways with their money anyway. So why not let PSU have it?

If you plan ahead for a game (even as little as a week before) you will pay no more for parking than in previous years. People need to stop whining about things they can easily control and stop blaming others for their own laziness. Plan ahead; save money.

Erik Higbie
Class of 2007



State College becoming new home

By Lindsay Cryer

My dad really loves cheesesteaks from The Corner Room.

Sometimes I think it's the only reason he volunteers to come visit me, help me move in or — in last weekend's case — attend my brother's lacrosse tournament, which was conveniently held in State College.

As we sat in those booths for our first meal in town, my dad turned to me and asked a rather perplexing question before taking another bite of his cheesesteak, extra onions.

"So between State College and home, what feels more like home?"

Way to throw out the big questions, Dad.

As hard as it should be to decide where my "home" is, I'm fairly certain I responded quickly with just a smile.

"State College?" he asked.

I nodded, rejecting my hometown of Erie.

Now, don't get me wrong, I sure do like Erie. I actually love it. I was raised well, went to great schools and have made some of the best friends in the entire world — ones that can forgive even the worst haircuts

and most embarrassing moments in my grade-school life. I've got a great family, too. While my father persists that I was "raised by wolves," I know that my "home" is often times where my parents and siblings — all humans — are.

However, I've also got to take into consideration what is scribed on picture frames and doormats everywhere: Home is where the heart is.

Sorry, Mom and Dad, but my heart bleeds blue and white.

I think Penn State's transition from house to home, for lack of a better phrase, occurred this past year. Long gone are the days when Penn State felt like an extended summer camp. Now, it's a small town full of big-time love. Home becomes the place where we feel that extra special love.

By now, we've grown into the people that we want to be, whether that person is defined by a career goal, a personality trait or even a fashion taste.

What I've found is that the people that love this version of Lindsay that has taken 20 years to develop.

Home, and the people within, could just be the place where that version of yourself is loved and the most comfortable. Not just a cold-side-of-the-pillow kind of comfortable or the indescribable comfort you feel while laying on the HUB lawn, but the kind of comfortable you feel

when you realize that who you are is just OK.

While I was in State College, I took some time away from my family to enjoy The Diner's infamous gooey macaroni and cheese with my friend, Paul. I think it's something that he said that really made me think twice about what made the Happy Valley into my own valley of happiness.

"Doesn't it feel like we're back in school and have class tomorrow?" he said. "Even being here for one weekend me feel like I'm here for good."

That was it.

The best way to identify your home is to pay attention to how you feel. For me, it's a little fuzzy feeling in my heart. It's that itching I get when I know that where I'm at is where I'm supposed to be. It's the feeling that makes my hometown now feel like a temporary destination. It's how I feel when I realize that just because all my stuff is in Erie doesn't mean that I've unpacked my heart here too.

So, for my dad, the cheesesteaks draw him to State College. For my brother, it was his lacrosse tournament. But, in a couple weeks, I'll be going to State College because every vacation — or summer break — has to end with a drive home.

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

SNAP, CRACKLE, POP

Hangover 101: Intellishots

I don't usually pop little green pills or knock back shots-worth of green fluid, especially when it's from Las Vegas. But this one time, I made an exception. Why? Because it promised to take care of one of the biggest banes to the college experience: hangovers.

At first glance, they're not much to look at — just a little capsule filled with green tablets or a mini-bar coded bottle of liquid. And after you crack open the liquid shots, they're definitely not much to smell.

But even though Intellishots aren't the most appetizing things in the world, it's difficult to argue with results.

After heading out to a few bars with some friends, I decided to give the hangover remedies a shot (no pun intended). The taste was somewhat unsettling, and the tablet itself actually made my stomach upset for about five minutes after taking it.

But after walking it off, the nausea went away, and my adventure with Intellishots began.

Since it was a weekend and I didn't have work the next morning, I decided to put my little green friends to the test and see if they would actually stave off the sickening day-after effects.

Aside from waking up with a small headache — nowhere near as bad as a full-fledged hangover — Cheerz Intellishots did their job quite well. ...

Chris Zook
Arts chief

FOOTBLOG

D. Lynn eager to start camp

D'Anton Lynn's eyes lit up when asked about the start of fall practice, but not quite as much as they will when he wakes up for the Sept. 4 season opener against Youngstown State.

"We've been working all offseason to get here," Lynn said enthusiastically about starting camp Thursday. "Then we'll be working hard all camp, so I can't wait for the first game to start."

Lynn described the first few days of camp, saying the coaches will probably ease the younger players into the defensive scheme by putting in three new defenses each day. ...

Andrew J. Cassavell
Football reporter

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Magazine en route to frosh

Please, excuse us.

You may have seen the strange mailing label on today's issue of The Daily Collegian. Never fear, it's a good thing.

It's the marker of our freshman-only issue of "Fresh Start" — a magazine insert that is mailed to all incoming freshman for the fall.

Thousands of freshmen will be getting a taste of their Daily Collegian a couple weeks early. Fresh Start is meant to help freshman acclimate to the university and its surrounding community. Read an excerpt of my Fresh Start column for a better explanation:

"Truth be told, freshman year is crucial. Almost every day you are trying something you never had before. You are figuring out the Blue Loop for the first time. You are buying your first pair of Nittany Lion football tickets. You are buying textbooks downtown. You are calling your mom, asking for her to come pick you up — this college thing isn't for you.

"Everyone here has probably gone through all of these situations and more. That's the great thing about the Collegian — we get it. We've been through it, and we are going through it with you. We are here to be your roadmap these four years."

Elizabeth Murphy
Editor in Chief

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