

blog lines

SNAP, CRACKLE, POP

Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work

I haven't really been exposed to Joan Rivers too much — every once and a while I would flip past her while channel surfing. I had no idea how much of a career she's had — and that's what's good about "Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work."

The documentary chronicles her past career, as well as following her through a year of her life, and it is an entertaining portrait of a celebrity that shows the darker side of show business without getting too sappy. ...

What the movie does best is get past the persona Rivers has created for herself. The first scenes of the film include up-close shots of Rivers putting make-up on, and that's what the movie does for Rivers as a person. We see her on stage being hilarious and showing off her polished jokes.

But there are a ton of scenes where Rivers lays her life bare for the camera. We see her signing checks for all her unbelievable expenses; her lifestyle is absolutely insane. Rivers says in the movie, "This is how Marie Antoinette would live if she had had money."

We see her desperately trying to book work, and every chance at work she gets, she takes. We even see her with her grandson (who is adorable) and her dog (also adorable).

She comes off as a very tough, calculating woman, with some deep insecurities that make her more interesting. She is frank about her plastic surgery, her husband's suicide and her advancing age. Sometimes, she just seems sad.

But there is also a mixture of humor. A lot of Rivers' jokes are raunchy — really raunchy. She jokes about abortion, sex, Nazis, the Holocaust, prostitutes and adultery, just to name a few of the off-color topics. She — at 75 — shocked me with some of the dirtiest humor I've ever heard.

So don't avoid this movie if you think it's going to be sappy or sad, because there's a lot of humor, too. I actually wished there were more jokes, to be honest. Because Rivers is known as a comedian, I wanted to laugh more. ...

Sky Friedlander  
Collegian candidate

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All voices heard with liaisons

UPUA's new student life and diversity liaison program is another step in the right direction for Penn State student organizations.

University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) President Christian Ragland has continued to set up the programs he vowed to create during his campaign, and the liaison initiative is another piece of Ragland's puzzle.

The new program will involve student liaisons from various groups across campus that will report to UPUA's Student Life and Diversity Director Michal Berns.

Through this program,

Penn State students will have a greater voice and increased communication with UPUA.

On Wednesday, 11 officials were selected as liaisons, just short of Ragland's proposed 12 to 15. Berns and Ragland recruited people to serve in those roles without a formal application or voting process.

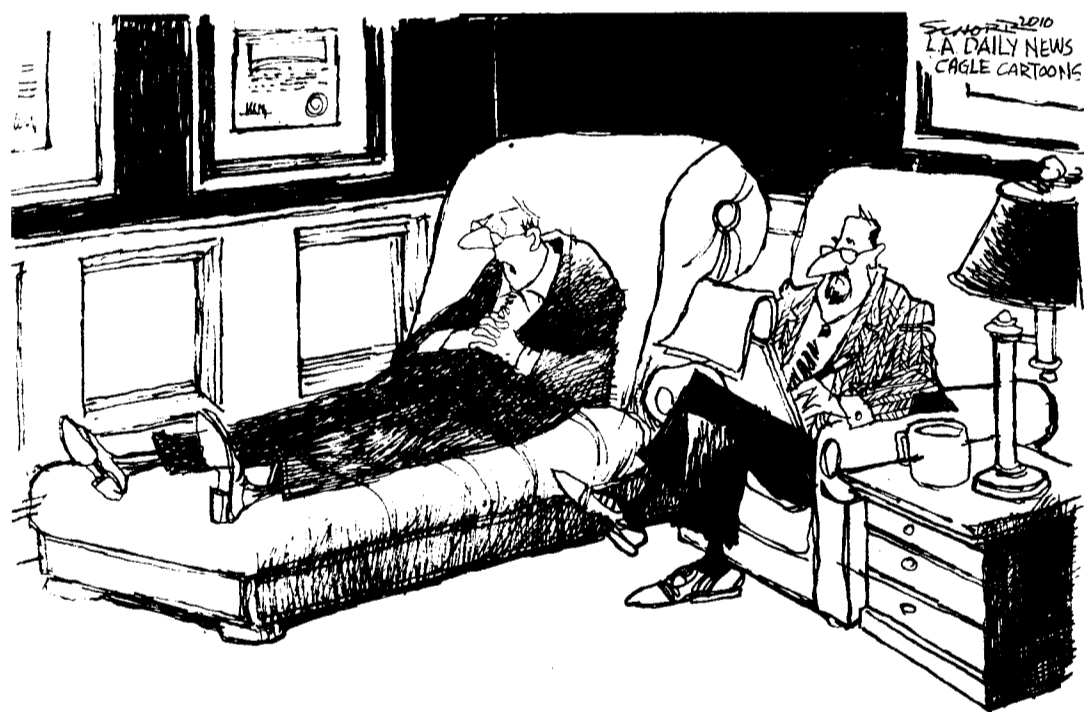
In most cases, the absence of an application or vote would raise eyebrows, but issues with the lack of applications received in the past make appointing people the best possible option. An application process would have also pushed liaison selections well into the fall, set-

ting the process back months.

Furthermore, UPUA leaders are confident the best possible people were appointed liaisons.

The liaisons chosen will serve an important role in ensuring that student life and diversity covers every aspect of student life at Penn State. It is the responsibility of those 11 liaisons to make sure they are performing their jobs and providing a greater voice for the student body as a whole.

Through dedication and hard work, this initiative could be a unifying program that helps UPUA to represent all student ideals at Penn State.



THE DAILY Collegian

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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.

Weiner's rant shows rare passion for political position

By Matt Fortuna

**P**OLITICIANS are ladies and gentlemen. They wear nice clothes. They shake hands.

They talk smoothly. When we're feeling down, they say just what we need to hear and assure us that everything will be all right. When they've really touched someone with their swagger, they get to kiss that person's baby.

Politicians are ladies and gentlemen.

That goes for Peter King, a Republican congressman from Long Island. I know this because he was constantly referred to as "the gentleman" on July 29 during what has to be one of the greatest rants by a politician in recent memory.

Seriously, if you haven't already, go on YouTube, immediately. You'll see Anthony Weiner, a Democrat representing parts of Brooklyn and Queens, make his displeasure clear after the House's rejection of a bill. The bill was set to provide up to \$7.4 billion in aid to those who became sick from World Trade Center dust in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Weiner was unhappy that King,

"I don't know much about Weiner, but based on what I saw, I'd have to believe he is in his job for the right reason — because it's something he feels strongly about doing."

Matt Fortuna  
senior - journalism



MY OPINION

one of the few Republicans who supported the bill, had spent more time berating Democrats than he did trying to gain more GOP support of the bill. And he let him know about it.

"You vote yes if you believe yes!" Weiner emphatically shouted. "You vote in favor of something if you believe it's the right thing!"

King then made the mistake of interrupting. "The gentleman will observe regular order!" Weiner shot back, angrily pointing right at King. "The gentleman thinks if he gets up and yells he's going to intimidate people into believing he's right. He is wrong! The gentleman is wrong!"

Weiner's tirade lasted more than a minute, including a giant "Sit down!" directed at King toward the end. It showed plenty of anger, character and instinct. It certainly created some discomfort, and I wouldn't count on too many mothers begging Weiner to hold their babies any time soon.

Weiner did not seem like a gentleman.

He seemed more like a football coach trying out for the next Coors Light commercial. And yet, it was all so refreshing.

This wasn't politics as we know it, where figureheads smile and say the right things. There were no back scratching or false promises. No, this felt genuine. This was a man in power showing raw emotion in the heat of the moment over a job that he is clearly passionate about. And he sounded like one of us.

When differences of opinion exist in the real world, we yell and argue. We often act on impulse and let it be known that we are upset. We're not ladies and gentleman; we're girls and guys.

Kids look up to athletes and rock stars because most are doing what they love for the public to see. There are no filters at football games or concerts.

I don't know much about Weiner, but based on what I saw, I'd have to

believe he is in his job for the right reason — because it's something he feels strongly about doing.

That was confirmed to me Wednesday when he wrote an Op-Ed piece for The New York Times under the headline "Why I Was Angry," in which he acknowledged his celebrity status on the web, but he continued to push for what he believed in. In the closing paragraph, Weiner reiterated that he's "still angry" and called "playing politics on important issues" an "outrage."

Weiner's demeanor is far different from that of the big players like Barack Obama, who remains just a little too cool in having his background questioned — not to mention while running a country in the middle of war, disaster and a floundering economy.

It's far different from Sarah Palin, who on Sunday questioned Obama's "cojones" in tackling illegal immigration.

At least her choice of a vulgar Spanish word when talking about the Arizona situation proves it's really not about race.

And that she's certainly no lady or gentleman, either.

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