

Honor shows PSU's dedication

Penn State, along with 19 other universities around the country, recently received a five-star rating for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) inclusion and friendliness by Campus Pride, a North Carolina based organization. This rating, which the university received for the second year in a row, sends a clear message about Penn State's attitude toward members of the LGBT community. It is great to see that people can celebrate who they are and feel comfortable being themselves on campus.

Over the past few years, there has been a tremendous growth in LGBT acceptance throughout the area. The late Mayor Bill Welch performed a same-sex marriage ceremony in 2008 and there is now an annual gay pride march through State College. Pride week has become a recognized time every spring, and the Valentine's Day KissOut is now a solid tradition. Though it shows progress and excellence, the five-star rating is something that needs to be maintained. Five stars doesn't mean discrimination toward members of

the LGBT community doesn't happen. As a student body and an administration, it is important not to become complacent and to work toward equality for all, regardless of gender or sexual orientation. Being straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender doesn't define a person — it is merely one of the pieces that make up the intricate puzzle of who they are. But it is comforting to know that Penn State can foster an environment where people can celebrate that piece of themselves without hesitation or fear.

blog lines

SNAP, CRACKLE, POP

The Real Housewives of D.C.

As an obsessive fan of every "Housewives" city, I was disappointed by these new women joining the Bravo family, but this isn't going to stop me from watching every episode of the season. Snobby is the only way I can describe the housewives of D.C. They don't flip tables, they don't fight at fashion shows, they don't get Botox with their daughters and so far they haven't made any catchy pop songs. All these new wives seem to be social climbers, they all brag about what politicians they know and how close they live to them. These women may not be in politics, but they sure wish they were. So let me introduce you to the newest housewives in the Bravo lineup. Cat is married to the White House photographer Charles Ommanney. She just moved to Washington, D.C. with her daughters to be with her husband. The other wives are happy to get to know her and give her a chance, which is unlike any other housewives city. But she pushes Stacie's buttons by saying Tyra Banks is hideous.

Karina Yucel
Arts candidate

THERE IS NO NAME ON MY BALLOT

Leaders react to Kagan

Becoming the fourth-ever woman to assume a spot on the highest-ranking bench in the nation's judicial system, Elena Kagan was confirmed to the Supreme Court Thursday afternoon with a vote of 63-37. Kagan's confirmation comes almost one year to the day after her most recent predecessor's confirmation to the high court — Sonia Sotomayor was voted in on Aug. 6, 2009. Penn State College Democrats President Rob Ghormoz said he is happy with Kagan's confirmation as a step toward a more gender-balanced court. "Another woman's voice is great on the court," Ghormoz (senior-political science) said. "I think it's important to keep a balance between the sexes, and I think she'll bring a nice viewpoint and a wealth of knowledge." ...

Casey McDermott
Police/crime/courts reporter

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



THE DAILY Collegian

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Perks key component of eventual job search

By Shannon Simcox

BEING as how I am now a senior — yeah, it actually happened — the dreaded real world is right around the corner, which means — a job! But not just any job. THE job, and the crazy, tumultuous search that will lead me to it — the dream job, the reason why we all decided to go to college in the first place. I realize this will be a long, hard search that will most likely end with me finding a job that is somewhere in the realm of what I want to do but is not exactly it. Alas, I am still holding on to that hope that I may be one of the only people in the world to find her dream job right out of college (and still realistic enough to realize this will never happen). What is it that goes into looking for a good job? I have no idea just yet, but a few things have crossed



MY OPINION

“Would you stay in a job that isn't really what you want to do for the free energy healing or Viagra? I honestly don't know yet, but I'm going to keep an open mind when the time comes.”

my mind: pay (obviously), location, benefits, work environment and perks. Perks, you know, those little things that the job can offer you in order to make your life a little easier. This idea had not crossed my mind for a second until I read a recent article in the Philadelphia Inquirer that outlined some of the, at times odd, “perks” found around the city. The perk I found to be the funniest is a monthly regiment of 10 Viagras. Yes, some employees pushed for a daily dose when negotiating their prescription plans, but sadly those ED-afflicted persons will have to live with 10. The employer whose employees enjoy this perk? Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority. It's no surprise that people who

work at tattoo parlors could get some free ink (sounds like an awesome boss to me) and people who work at retail or food stores will get a discount — this seems reasonable. Other perks take a little more thought than just the average freebie. Condom Kingdom charges cold medicine to the store during the winter months to give out to its employees. Quite practical when you think about how fast the flu and other diseases spread around the dorms, and I'm sure Condom Kingdom has the same problem. Others mentioned in the article are Harry's Occult Shop, which offers free energy healing to its employees, and McFadden's employees get 50 percent off food and drink at locations nationwide. I think I'd rather have the 50 percent, but to each their own.

So, how important is the perk category of a job offer? I imagine it's a lot like icing on the cake of a fantastic job, but for some it could be a make or break deal. Would you stay in a job that isn't really what you want to do for the free energy healing or Viagra? I honestly don't know yet, but I'm going to keep an open mind when the time comes. That ominous time of year is going to come all too quickly. As posters for graduation gowns are plastered all over campus, the weather starts to lighten up from its winter doldrums, senioritis has not only kicked in but taken over and I'm repeatedly refreshing my e-mail hoping to hear back from that dream job, I'm sure the perks end of the job will be not even register on my mind. But perhaps my dream will come true and THE job will have all kinds of perks waiting for me just as I put on my cap and gown. We'll see.

Shannon Simcox is a senior majoring in journalism and political science and is the Collegian's Tuesday columnist. Her e-mail address is scs5096@psu.edu.