

OPINION

THE DAILY
Collegian

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About the Collegian: The Daily Collegian and The Weekly Collegian are published by Collegian Inc., an independent, non-profit 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 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

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Letters

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

- **E-mail**
collegianletters@psu.edu
- **Online**
www.psu.collegian.com
- **Postal mail/In person**
123 S. Burrowes St.
University Park, PA 16801
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.

EDITORIAL: BOROUGH COUNCIL PROPOSAL

Council balks at student rep.

In the past, State College Borough Council has complained about a lack of student interest in borough issues. But earlier this month members turned down a proposal from UPUA President Christian Ragland that would address just that.

Ragland proposed to institute a non-voting student member on the council to bring a the students' perspective to the borough's agenda.

Several council members did not like the idea of a student having a say on the council, with or without a vote.

However, these individuals should realize that Penn State students make

up the majority of the borough during the school year. We are here, like it or not.

In short, the council should stop being negative nancies.

This is an excellent opportunity for students to voice their opinions about real issues that will affect us.

The idea of a non-voting member is not unheard of. Other Big Ten universities — like Iowa, Michigan State and Indiana — all have a student representation on their local governments.

If a non-voting student member has worked at other large schools, there should be no reason why

Penn State can't have the same.

Kudos to Ragland for coming up with a well thought-out and feasible plan to open the lines of communication between State College and University Park.

He should not give up on the idea and take the comments from the council as constructive criticism.

Hopefully, now that students have come back to campus for the start of a new school year, other student leaders can get behind Ragland's proposal and prove to the council that students not only want to be heard, but deserve to be heard.



COLUMNIST

New year is time to try new things

By Katie Sullivan

HAPPY first day of school! There's nothing like short classes, easy syllabus read-throughs and 'syllabus week' celebrations to ease you back into the swing of the school year.

The crack of a textbook spine, the confused looks on the faces of freshmen and the smell of an old building are the everyday normal things that welcome you back to school. But it's more than that — it's running into your friends downtown while shopping for new PSU gear, munching on a Peachy Paterno ice cream cone from the Creamery, hitting up your favorite party spot or bar while taking ridiculous pictures and strolling through a blooming campus bustling with excited students.

That's what keeps us coming back every year.

Though these comforting things make us feel at home at Penn State, it's always good to

step out of that comfort zone and try something new. It's the simple things that can take your Penn State school year to a whole new level of fun — introducing you to new people and epic experiences.

Join a new club that none of your friends are in. Go for a run through a part of campus you've never seen (I'd recommend the pond and garden near the old President's house.) Break it down in a class that involves dancing of some sort, even if you think you have no rhythm. Take a class that involves traveling or sign up to study abroad. Be that kid who bonds with his or her professors after class. Sit next to someone new in class and strike up a conversation about Jersey Shore, because love it or hate it, everyone has an opinion on it. Explore downtown and grab a bite to eat at a place that looks like a hole in the wall — those spots are usually the best.

Stepping outside of your Happy Valley box will open up a whole new world of connections and possibilities, not to mention memories that will last you a lifetime and friends that you'll never forget, and the beginning of the school year offers you a

perfect opportunity to expand your horizons. Whether you are a brand-new freshman away from home for the first time, or a seasoned senior like me looking to make the most of your last year of heaven on Earth, take the time to meet new people and try new things.

Set down the paper after you finish this column and look at the person sitting next to you in class, on the bus, in the coffee shop or where ever you happen to be reading. Introduce yourself.

Make the first move in stepping outside your Happy Valley comfort zone and creating new relationships and memories.

Who knows, maybe that person next to you will play a key role in your upcoming school year, maybe you'll learn something fascinating. But even if it's just a casual conversation, it's a step toward enhancing your Penn State experience and growing as a person.

Isn't that what college is all about?

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LETTERS

Penn State destroys Phi Delta without giving a good motive

I have to start off by saying that I am a bit biased in regards to the Aug. 13 article "Former frat house demolished," for I am an alumni of Penn State and the Pennsylvania Theta Chapter of Phi Delta Theta. I get that the house needed repaired and I understand that there were violations assessed against the chapter. What I don't understand is how Penn State can let a historical building, and the property it was positioned on, fall under a bulldozer's destruction. Regardless of who had the upper hand in court, Penn State should realize that the parcel of land was historic to countless alumni who either belonged to or were associated with the fraternity or students who lived nearby and simply walked down the historic stretch of Burrows St.

I suspect Penn State could have made that property into academic offices and not simply place another green space on campus. I will never think of the present-day Penn State the same way I did when I was an active student. I've always been an advocate for expansion on campus. However, when the university started to take down historic buildings simply for green space, the Penn State that I know disappeared. I will no longer support Penn State financially or by positive press due to its lack of compassion during this somber transition.

Matthew Blake Edwards
Class of 2004

Bottles not as bad for earth as stated by July columnist

Though I give columnist Andrew Metcalf credit for being concerned with making his campus more environmentally friendly and for acknowledging bottled water as vital in times of emergency, more information is required before jumping to his conclusions in his July 29 column "Bottled water hurting environment and your wallets" about bottled water, its environmental impact and its relationship to tap water.

I have been with Nestlé for more than 21 years and am a proud graduate of Penn State's College of Engineering. We at Nestlé Waters are pro-water and support strong public water systems and clean water accessibility for all people.

We compete in the bottled beverage industry and 70 percent of what people drink comes from a package. We test our water 200 times on every bottling line everyday to ensure it meets FDA standards.

Our water is tested 60 times more frequently than most municipal water supplies. Nestlé Waters' spring waters come from groundwater sources, more isolated from contamination exposure. Our purified bottled water puts tap water sources through extra filtration steps. The bottle protects the water quality until the moment you break the seal to drink.

Bottled water is actually a better environmental choice than other packaged beverages. According to a recent Life Cycle Analysis study, bottled water has the lightest environmental footprint of any packaged beverage, and plastic water bottles make up less than one percent of the U.S. solid waste stream.

In the end, eliminating bottled water is not the answer. Bottled water provides a healthy, hydrating choice. And in our active on-the-go culture, it is a part of people's everyday lives.

Tom Uhl
Class of 1986

blog lines

EDITOR IN CHIEF

New front page ads debut

Don't judge a (newspaper) by its cover. Today you will have seen a long strip ad alongside the bottom of your Daily Collegian. It may not seem like a big thing to you, but this topic has been hotly debated in our basement office for years now.

But whether you like it or not, it's time. Many newspapers, including several college media outlets, are following the trend of front page advertising. Today, we continue the trend in our first fall issue of the year.

Elizabeth Murphy
Editor in Chief

SMALL WORLD

Gift search part of process

In less than two weeks, I will meet the Russian family who will generously take me in during my four months in St. Petersburg. My program recommends that students bring a few small gifts for them that represent where we're from.

Luckily for me, there is no shortage of souvenir stores in Happy Valley. Old State Clothing Co., Rapid Transit Sports, Lions Pride, Lion and Cub: These are just a few of the stores downtown that specialize in everything Penn State. As I browsed aisles filled with keychains, stuffed animals, clothing and every possible Penn State-related knickknack one could imagine, I tried to imagine what objects would be most appreciated by my future Russian housemates.

Erin Rowley
Small World blogger

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