

# OPINION

THE DAILY  
Collegian

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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: RENAMING OF BEAVER STADIUM

# JoePa field will give just honors

Penn State alumnus Warren Armstrong recently met with university officials about renaming Beaver Stadium after long-time football coach and philanthropist, Joe Paterno.

Armstrong would like to see the stadium name changed before JoePa retires.

The university said it will consider all options, but no decision has been made.

We agree with Armstrong that the best way to honor this individual would be to rename the stadium after Paterno —

a legendary representative of college football. We respect Paterno as an educator and mentor to thousands of students throughout his many years at Penn State, but the man has built his legacy on the football field. That is where he should be immortalized.

The 82-year-old coach has dedicated his time, effort, money and spirit to Penn State, making this school a place to be proud of.

His commitment to education, philanthropy, team spirit and humility embody what Penn State

strives to be about.

Coach Paterno has served this university loyally and faithfully for the past 50 years, and his legacy is something that must be celebrated, sooner rather than later.

Paterno is a humble and a low-key man who probably doesn't want to draw time and attention away from the current football season.

But with JoePa coming up on his 400th win, the end of this potentially monumental football season would be the ideal time to honor him this way.

# Penn State Us. Alabama



Roll Over, Tide

## GUEST COLUMNIST

# Student borough council member will help town and gown relations

By Christian Ragland

Civil Rights Leader A. Phillip Randolph once said, "a community is democratic only when the humblest and weakest person can enjoy the highest civil, economic and social rights that the biggest and most powerful possess."

I am pretty sure many of you have heard about your student government fighting to incorporate a non-voting student member on the State College Borough Council. Some of you may ask what the point of having this position is.

My answer is very simple: a body of students who make up the majority of a community needs a student representative on the council.

Before I go any further, I would like to mention that during my time as a leader in the University Park Undergraduate Association, the borough officials have been extremely helpful and supportive in numerous ways.

This past year, UPUA has made tremendous strides in developing a positive and effective working relationship with the council. The two entities have worked with each other on several initiatives, clearly displaying the importance of consistent communication.

With that being said, as your student body president, I believe the next step with enhancing

the vision of a great town-and-gown relationship is by adding this student member to the council.

Students play very intricate roles in the enrichment of the State College community. We provide service, leadership and economic benefits to the community as students. Having a non-voting student member on the council legitimizes the importance of the student voice.

Now, some people have suggested that students should just run for a seat on the council.

Yes, that's an option as well. Matter of fact, I strongly encourage students to run for office in the council if that is a convenient option for you. There have been some students who have run for council, but unfortunately have not been successful. My main issue with encouraging students to run for council is that being a part of council is a four year commitment.

If many of you are like myself, we will go on to hold future careers or academic plans after our years at Penn State. You see, when I graduate, I am looking forward to applying the leadership skills and education that I have attained from Penn State in my own personal community. Therefore, running for council does not quite fit for me, and I'm sure that goes for many students.

So how can we compliment the borough council with the student voice if running for council can be extremely inconvenient for us as students? Well, again, this is where a non-voting student member to the borough council will play a role. We want

to work with the council and the borough officials on finding a way to incorporate a year-long representative with a student voice.

We are not the first school to ever try to push for this resource. Some of our Big Ten counterparts have non-voting student members on their municipality councils as well as other schools outside of our conference.

With this specific student voice on the council, we will now have a greater opportunity to work side by side on issues that affect the borough, such as safety, housing and the further development of the town and gown. Allowing a non-voting student member on the council will also further exhibit that we as students are truly stakeholders in the community.

In essence, when UPUA Vice President Colleen Smith and I ran for these positions, we ran with a vision of finding concrete ways to continue to positively enhance the town-gown relations.

With concrete initiatives to uphold these relationships, such as a non-voting student member, relations will always be on the forefront of student and student leader's yearly agendas.

So if you see the importance of enhancing the student voice in the community through a non-voting student member, please join us as we move forward with this initiative.

Christian Ragland is a senior majoring in political science and is the president of UPUA. His e-mail is cdr5063@psu.edu

## LETTERS

# Pluto's demotion was not supported by all astronomers

In response to Wednesday's article "Professors research atmospheres of planets light-years away," saying that some people are "reeling from the loss of Pluto" is inaccurate and a public disservice, as it is portraying one side in an ongoing debate as fact, which is not the case.

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) demotion of Pluto was done by only 4 percent of its members, most of whom are not planetary scientists. It was opposed in a formal petition by hundreds of professional astronomers led by Dr. Alan Stern, principal investigator of the New Horizons mission to Pluto for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). One of the leading scholars of Pluto in the world, Stern continues to refer to Pluto as a planet in his regular New Horizons updates.

Pluto as a planet is not lost because in spite of what the IAU may have intended in 2006, there is no consensus among astronomers in favor of its decision. Astronomers who agree with Stern and the petition signatories reject the notion that a planet must "clear its orbit" and hold to a simpler definition that a planet is any non-self-luminous spheroidal body orbiting a star.

Dwarf planets are planets too — the term was coined by Stern to indicate a third class of planets in addition to terrestrials and jovians.

It is irresponsible for the media to continue portraying the Pluto demotion as a done deal when this is not the case. Next time, please do not take one side of a debate and portray it as the only side.

—Kornelc  
—N  
—N

# Quran burning reflects rights and violence in all religions

As an atheist, I am not surprised that all religions are being used as a tool of intolerance. I mean this in the sense that the peaceful, modern religions of the world have the religious intolerance of the ancient Western religions. As Christopher Hitchens writes, "The modern, intolerant, allied to racism, anti-Semitism and bigotry, invested in ignorance and hostile to free inquiry, contemptuous of women and coercive toward children."

However repugnant some may find his actions, Rev. Terry Jones has the constitutional right to burn as many holy books as he wishes. Any suggestions to the contrary are not keeping with the First Amendment.

To be sure, I believe Rev. Jones is an idiot, but as much as I like to share in the outrage, am I one of the only few concerned that we have to bend over backwards in condemnation of his actions to stop the faithful from killing people for burning a book? I ask that we all think about that.

Saalam Abdul Carter  
Class of 2007

## blog lines

### SNAP CRACKLE POP

#### One David Guetta love

I'd say that David Guetta is my favorite singer right now — but he doesn't even sing his hits. He produces them. His songs are everywhere right now. They're in clubs, on the radio and, even more specifically, blaring through my apartment at any given moment. He's brought about a fusion of hip-hop, techno and party music. And I'm obsessed...

Lindsay Cryer  
Music reporter

### MALE GOLF

#### A word from the visitors

It's Thursday when we have a time for the visitor's lounge. This week's guest is a play-by-play man Eli Gold. At and he'll discuss the rivalry of the rivalry of Mark Ingram and Marcel Darius possibly being out, and how the freshman Robert Bolden will handle the Tuscaloosa crowd.

—Matthew J. Dascavell  
—Matt  
—Matt

### MALE GOLF

#### Students, staff share picks

Following are all the picks for the week one NFL games from each of our guests. Here is the quick rundown of the people who will participate in this year-long contest:  
**Christian Ragland** - UPUA president  
**Brad Pataky** - Penn State wrestler (this spot will rotate among Penn State athletes)  
**Alex Cohen** - Paternoville president  
**Zack Krieger** - Executive director of Student Programming Association  
**Jack Gashi** - Senior student (this spot will rotate among Penn State students)  
**Jim Regan** - Nittany Lion Fund president  
**Steve Hennessey** - Daily Collegian sports editor  
**Bill Landis** - Daily Collegian sports copy chief  
**Paul Casella** - Daily Collegian assistant sports editor

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