

New rules mark compromise

After an initial change to the rule book and an abundance of feedback from various organizations, THON officials announced Wednesday that they will return to announcing the top 10 fundraising organizations in each category.

Organizations in positions six through 10 for Commonwealth campuses, special interest organizations, general organizations and greek organiza-

tions will see their names displayed on the screens on stage and posted online.

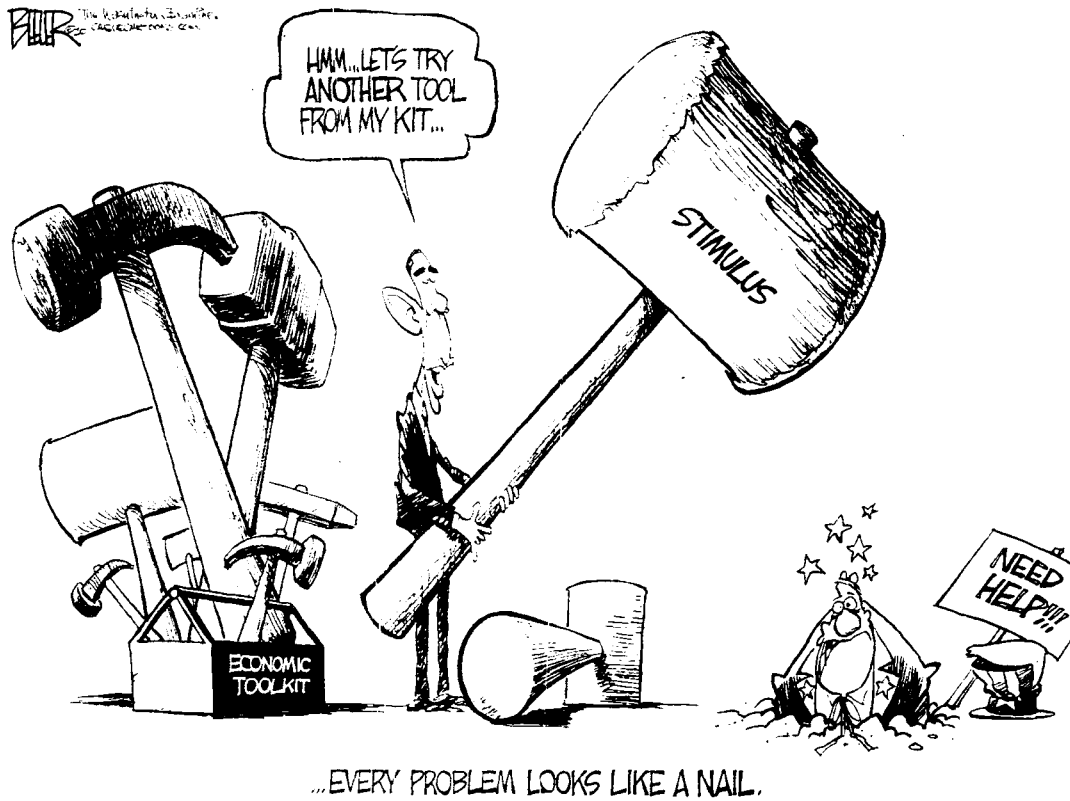
We believe that this decision was a good compromise made between THON officials and those organizations opposed to the new rules.

It is nice that the overall committee recognizes that they have a debt to the organizations they work with, and that they are willing to listen and

respond to feedback.

This whole situation could have been avoided, though, if the overall committee had conferred with the other organizations before making these changes.

We encourage THON officials to learn from their mistakes, and to continue being transparent and engaging in dialogue with all affiliates about important issues and decisions.



THE DAILY Collegian

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Editor in Chief

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

The Daily Collegian's editorial opinion is determined by its Board of Opinion, with the editor holding final responsibility. The letters and columns expressed on the editorial pages are not necessarily those of The Daily Collegian or Collegian Inc. Collegian Inc., publishers of The Daily Collegian and related publications, is a separate corporate institution from Penn State.

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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

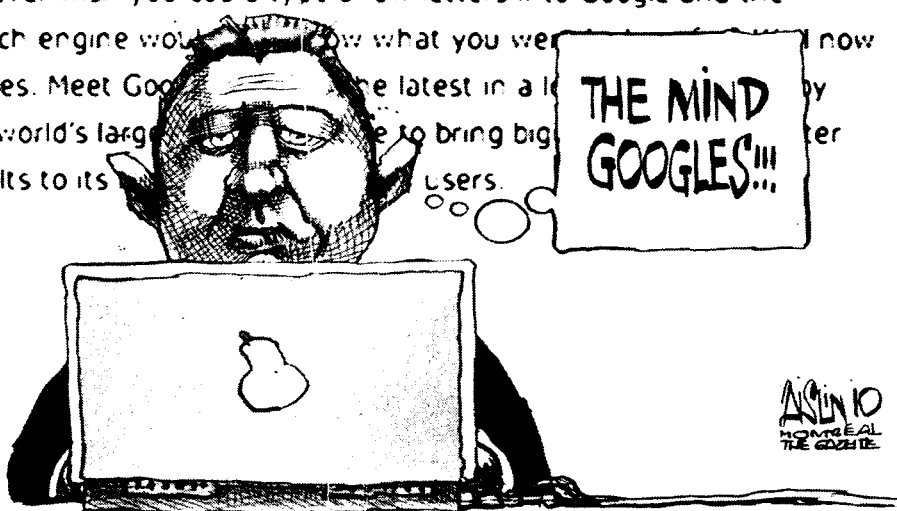
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Letters should be about 200 words. Student letters should include class year, major and campus. Letters from alumni should include year of graduation. All writers should provide their address and phone number for verification. Letters should be signed 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.

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Preachers should continue practicing civil liberties, but do so more quietly

By Katie Sullivan

A few weeks ago I walked to the HUB-Robeson Center and saw two cops on motorcycles and three more on stand-by parked in an SUV. With batons poised, they looked as if they were ready to hop out at any moment, break up a fight and bust heads.



MY OPINION

No it wasn't a football weekend complete with a riot in Beaver Canyon, and it certainly was nothing like the mayhem that comes hand-in-hand with Arts Fest.

It was simply a gathering of more than a few eccentric individuals expressing their passionate feelings and views about religion, or lack thereof. Loudly.

Jesus-loving, Christian-preaching disciples armed with damning signs — and the support of God, of course — squared off against a mix of Darwin-loving, Edward Cullen-worshipping, pro-atheists who praised evolution and won cheers from many on-looking students.

Love or hate either group of these crazy radicals who think it's their way or the highway, they are doing something many people these days are afraid to do — challenge the norm and

vocalize their opinion, taking complete advantage of the freedoms this country so often boasts.

As much as these people drive me crazy, it really does exemplify what this country is all about: civil liberties.

Freedom of speech is something that people in many other areas around the world are denied and are sometimes even killed for what they believe — preach or protest.

Do I agree with some of what I believe to be crazy stuff they carry on about? Absolutely not.

Do I have the urge to slap them upside the head with their Bible or mocking sign? You better believe it.

But I refrain. I take a deep breath and smile, knowing that these vocalists, however eccentric or however loud, are celebrating the very thing that makes America “the land of the free.”

After a weekend where we remembered and honored those who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001, it is refreshing to see those who are carrying on the legacy that this country has created. Terrorist attacks or not, we are still celebrating our freedom of speech, religion and the right to protest.

However, there are lines that need to be drawn. Students have been complaining about the noise these demonstrators are creating right outside classrooms where people are trying to learn in. Respectfully voicing your opinion is one thing.

Screaming about frying in hell and evolution while students in class are trying to comprehend a math equation and foster a meaningful discussion is another.

Our education should not be impeded because these people (again I am referring to both sides of the coin) are bickering unproductively at each other at the top of their lungs.

So a few requests for the preachers and the protestors — be respectful of the college atmosphere and keep your blasphemous-damning and religious mocking to a reasonable decibel. Also, be respectful of each other. Agree to disagree.

I know we don't all believe the same thing, and that's the beauty about living in America — we don't have to.

Freedom of speech comes with a sense of responsibility to be open-minded, respectful and productive.

Right now, I think the people who carry on outside the HUB are using their freedoms in a derogatory way.

Voice your opinion, but please, be respectful to students who are here to learn, and be respectful to one another.

The only time I want to see the police riding around on motorcycles and readying their cans of mace is when we storm the field after JoePa's 400th win.

Katie Sullivan is a senior majoring in journalism and is the Collegian's Monday columnist. Her e-mail is kms5424@psu.edu

New seats affect long-time fans

In response to Wednesday's column “Section shift will affect next season,” I think it's crazy to move what has been hailed the best student section in the country. The students are not the only ones being affected, as I'm sure is well known at this point.

My family has had season tickets for well over 10 years now, our seats are in a spot some would consider undesirable. The last row of the upper deck in the North end zone. However, everyone sitting around us loves our seats and are pretty upset we won't be together next year. We have become a family.

The people next to us have opted to not get season tickets any more. My family will have to get new seats; hopefully, we can find something we like as much as what we had.

Also, if you haven't noticed, the visitors will no longer have seats near the field, it will all be in the upper deck. While sure this may be to our advantage, how would you feel to go to another school and not be able to sit near the field, especially if you are a parent of a player?

Unfortunately, everything is done at this point, we can hope that they realize what they are doing is upsetting many of the Penn State fans, just probably not the ones with deep pockets, as they seem to be the only ones benefiting from the new seating.

The only thing to do is make the best of the situation and make new traditions in the new sections.

Anne McConnell
Class of 2005

Wrong to blame all religions

In response to Friday's letter “Quran burning reflects rights and violence in all religions,” I have to say that I could not disagree more with your overarching generalizations of all religious believers as violent and irrational. Frankly, associating the billions of religious believers in the world — in other words, the vast majority of humanity that doesn't think like you — with the actions of a violent few shows the same irrational, intolerant, tribalistic, bigoted and ignorant tendencies of which you accuse them.

Surely, religious texts can be willfully misinterpreted to rationalize any sort of violence and hatred someone wishes. In the same way, the theory of evolution and “survival of the fittest” were willfully misinterpreted by “scientific, rational” minds to justify the eugenics movement and the quest for “racial purity” in the early twentieth century. We all know how that ended.

There have always been those who have failed to live up to the ideals and beliefs they profess to follow. But, to be sure, religious believers don't hold a monopoly on irrational, violent behavior.

Joseph Brom
graduate-materials science and engineering

Soccer coach should step up

I know talk around Happy Valley in the fall usually revolves around football. However, my concern right now is the state of the women's soccer program. Maybe we have been spoiled by 12 straight Big Ten Championships. Maybe we have been spoiled by NCAA tournament wins and alumni on national teams. Whatever the reason, the current state of the program should be a concern. This is Coach Walsh's fourth year, which means these are her recruits and her record right now. The team has four losses (including one to Yale of all teams), with a winning percentage of only .667 the last two years — and a dismal start this year. Coach Walsh has some explaining to do. I do not want to hear how “the team is coming together” and that they are “experimenting with line-ups.”

The team is playing uninspired and sloppy. They are not scoring and are losing games they should not. That's on the coaching staff. The bottom line is that although Coach Walsh has continued the streak of Big Ten dominance, there has been a steady decrease in the winning percentage and early NCAA tournament exits, including last year's 6-2 debacle against the University of Virginia. I will continue to root for the Lions in all sports and support them in every way. However, I hope I have something worth celebrating soon.

Aaron Terranova
Class of 1999

blog lines

FOOTBLOG

Post-game 'Bama coverage

After the game, the Collegian's football reporters analyzed what went wrong and tried to make sense of what this game truly meant for Penn State...

Several players and coaches also addressed the media after the Nittany Lions' loss in Tuscaloosa, including Jay Paterno, Stephon Green, Devon Smith, Chris Colasanti, D'Anton Lynn and Derek Moye.

Football beat reporters

SNAP, CRACKLE, POP

MTV calls on change-makers

With educational rates at an all time high, it is no surprise that students are coming up with brilliant ideas that could shape the economic market...

Allegra O'Neill
Visual arts reporter

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