

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, 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.

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Letters

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

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collegianletters@psu.edu
■ **Online**
www.psucollegian.com
■ **Postal mail/In person**
123 S. Burrows 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.

WALL STREET JOURNAL SURVEY

No. 1 spot shows PSU promise

The Wall Street Journal published a survey Monday ranking Penn State the No. 1 college for students hoping to be recruited for a career. After six months of collecting data from 479 professional recruiters, the results placed Penn State at the top of a list of 100 colleges.

We are glad that this statistic seems to recognize the well-roundness of Penn State students, as well as book smarts, when it comes to our readiness

for landing careers post-graduation.

Penn State's success with job recruiters is a testament to the dedication most students seem to have to both their studies and extracurricular activities.

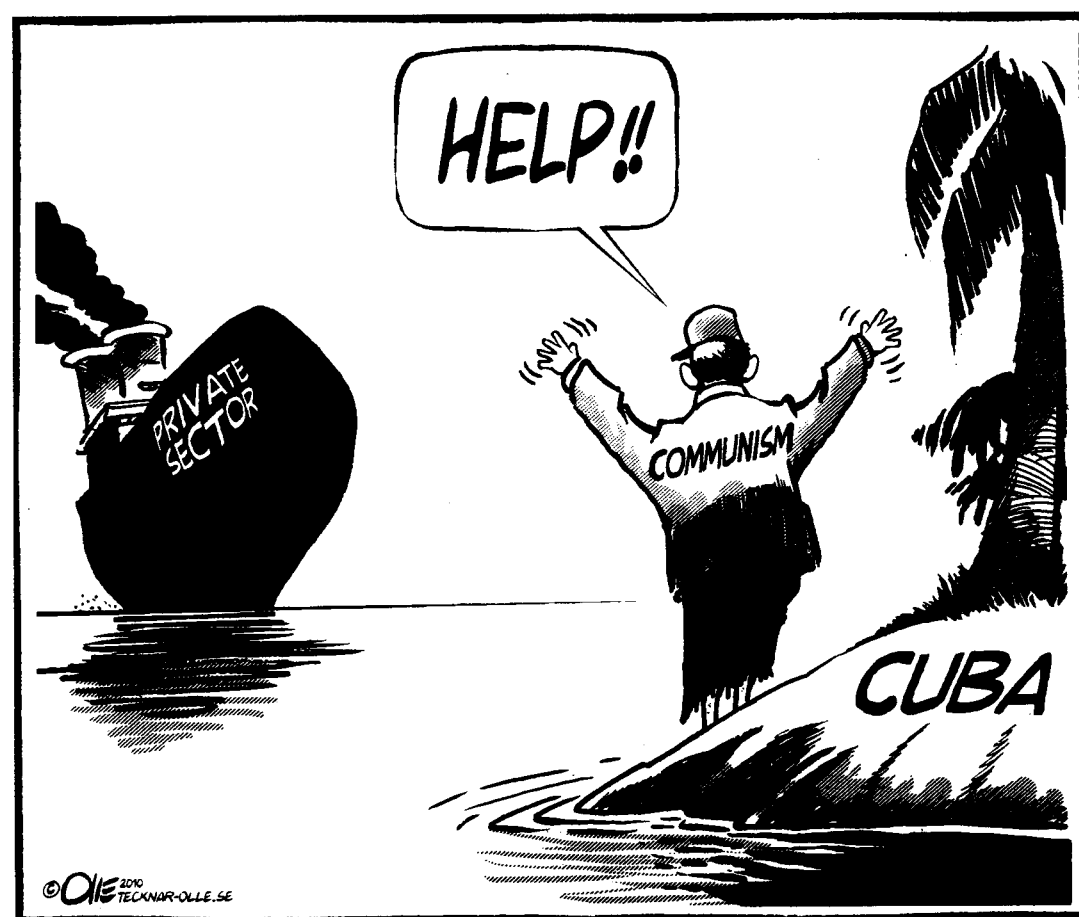
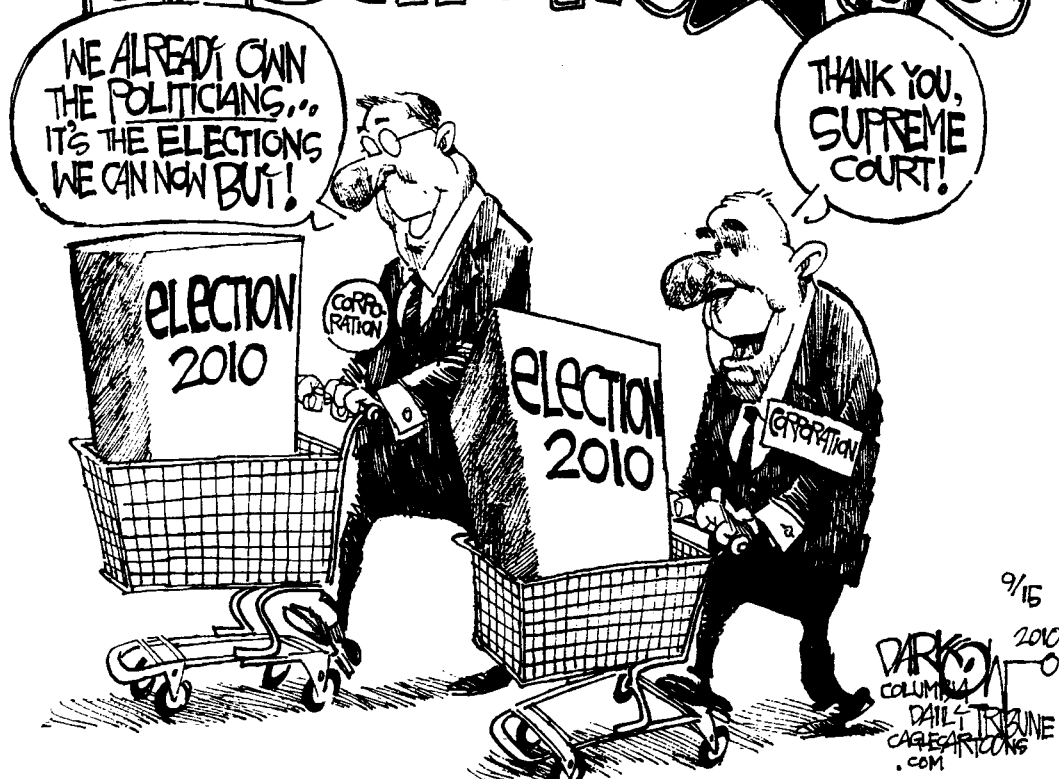
It's also no secret that Penn Staters love to see other Penn Staters succeed. Our vast alumni network must play a huge role in the amount of students that are employed after leaving Happy Valley. The camaraderie we show

towards one another transcends basic alumni relations.

We hope that the nation takes this news as a statement about the quality of Penn State students. Of the top 25 schools listed in the survey, only one was from the Ivy League. Something about our state school education and experience gives us the leg up on the assumed elite.

This is a No. 1 spot we can and should be proud of.

ELECTIONS RAUS



Boy band fever could see new day

By Amanda Elser

I still remember my first collection of CDs. They were the soundtrack to my young teen years and are still on my iPod to this day.

1. Backstreet "Another Level" (that was a pass down).
2. Alanis Morset "Jagged Little Pill" (first time I heard the F word).
3. Backstreet Boys "Millennium" (I still have that entire disc memorized).

It is pretty safe to say that this eclectic mix of music is still mirrored on my iTunes, but one early genre in particular sparked a fever in me like none other — the boy band fever. I spent countless nights blasting the smooth pre-pubescent melodies of Hanson and 'N Sync out of my snazzy CD and cassette playing stereo. That was while my sister stood in the doorway trying to convince me that these bands were not on par with her beloved New Kids on the Block.

Boy bands weren't just a trend; they were a way of life.

The late '90s would have been a sad time if not for the hours I spent learning dance moves to "Bye Bye Bye," and boycotting Britney Spears because she dared sink her claws into my future husband, J.T.

Years have passed, and I have grown up. But so have the baby-faced boys who popped their way into the hearts of our generation.

Last week, LFO's lead singer Rich Cronin died after his long battle with leukemia. The sad news sparked flashbacks of memorizing the lyrics to "Summer Girls" at recess and begging my mom to take me to Abercrombie & Fitch, which got me to thinking.

What happened to all the boy bands?

The two most prevalent, Backstreet Boys and 'N Sync, have fallen off the map since the 2000s and I am still waiting for an equally popular successor.

I'm waiting for the next generation of auto-tuned eye candy — the next influx of boy bands made up of five or more teenagers who know how to lip-sync well (cough cough Justin Beiber at the VMAs) and pop and lock it.

Who knows if or when another group of this nature arrives, or if I will even be a fan. But I am

looking out for the younger generation, a generation that needs some separation from Disney stars.

There is a world full of tween girls that will be heart broken when Justin Beiber's voice changes and he starts to date a leggy blond. They will need another fad to hold onto — a revival tour of Hanson doesn't count.

The good news is that our age group still has outlets to reminisce on the glory days. The hotter and short-haired Hanson brothers came to play at Penn State a few weeks ago, while plans are in the process for a combined 2011 tour for Backstreet Boys and New Kids on the Block. In an attempt to resurrect the boy band phenomenon, these two bands will be uniting two separate generations of crazed adult women, and consequently produce the perfect Bachelorette party.

I will probably not be waiting in line for hours to be front row at either of these revival tours, but I will enjoy their attempted comeback none the less.

Amanda Elser is a senior majoring in journalism and is the Collegian's Thursday columnist. Her e-mail is ale5045@psu.edu

LETTERS

Quran reflects human dignity and does not incite violence

In response to Wednesday's letter "Islamic texts do incite the violence of Muslim radicals," I don't know what Mr. Carter's background is, but I come from the school of engineering and we are taught that we cannot just sit under trees and come up with theories, we actually have to prove them. Mr. Carter's letter is an ignorant mischaracterization of Islam and his accusations of Islamic text are an abuse of facts.

The Quran and Hadith speak about basic dignity for all human beings regardless of their race, color, language or ethnic background. This is contradictory to Mr. Carter's 'violence' and 'savagery' description of Islam. Islam emphasizes the establishment of equality, justice and freedom of religion. The Quran is very clear when it says no coercion is allowed in matters of faith and belief ("There is no compulsion in religion," Quran 2:256).

Islam came to prominence in the United States during the civil rights movement era, mostly among African Americans. The absence of racism in Islam, in contrast to the brutal and racist enslavement African Americans endured, attracted many followers. Such a historical fact doesn't sound like the barbarism Mr. Carter mentions in his letter. I'd suggest he do a bit of research before publishing such material.

Shadi Ghrayep
graduate-engineering

Fans in Tuscaloosa showed 'genuine hospitality' to PSU

What was stated in Tuesday's letter "Tide fans made game special" is 100 percent accurate. I was there as well and have such a newfound respect for the people of Alabama for their genuine hospitality. I have never been treated as nicely and hospitable as I was all weekend in Tuscaloosa.

Matt Fine
Class of 1995

blog lines

EDITOR IN CHIEF

The real interview process

Editor's Note: This is the fifth part in a regular podcast series about the story behind the story. I will interview reporters, photographers and editors so readers can find out just how much time it took to write that 1,000-word story or shoot that dynamic photo.

This week, I spoke with one of the Collegian's music reporters, Lindsay Cryer. She spoke with Travis McCoy and Kris Allen a couple weeks ago, dominating our Venues coverage at the start of fall publication.

Listen in as Cryer retells her interview with McCoy — it's nothing short of "chipper."

Elizabeth Murphy
Editor in Chief

FOOTBLOG

Second Mile loses Sandusky

Former Penn State defensive coordinator, Jerry Sandusky, retired from The Second Mile board on Wednesday.

According to the Centre Daily Times, Sandusky sent a letter to donors and announced he would retire to spend more time with family and concentrate on individual needs.

Sandusky started The Second Mile in 1977. He retired as the Penn State defensive coordinator in 1999 to devote more time to The Second Mile, a program seeking to instill self-confidence in children who have faced hardship early in life...

Brendan Monahan
Football reporter

SMALL WORLD

Home is where the host is

The vast majority of people I know who have studied abroad have stayed in apartments with other Americans or with people who at least speak the same language as them. And I can understand why that option is attractive. Especially to people who are studying in a country where the native language isn't English.

But I wouldn't trade in my host parents for a house full of Americans, even if I could.

I live in an apartment close to the university with Liubov' Fedorovna, her husband, Anatoli Valerianovich, and their adult son, and his girlfriend. Liubov' Fedorovna is the program's housing coordinator, as well as an excellent cook and a very sweet and patient woman.

The first time I met my host dad I did not understand a word he said. That night, we ate bored together in silence and I went to bed wondering what I had gotten myself into.

The next day, I presented my host parents with the gifts I brought for them. When Liubov' Fedorovna picked up the little stuffed Nittany Lion I gave her and kissed it on the head, I knew everything would be all right.

And it has been...

Erin Rowley
Small World blogger

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