

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.

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EDITORIAL

System should reward, not inhibit

Thursday night's presidential roundtable focused on the issue of the Penn State Intercollegiate Athletic Department and its relation to students.

A topic discussed at the roundtable was a proposed new program that would work to bring attention to the non-revenue sports. It will tentatively be called "Roaring Awards," and would be similar to an attendance policy with an awards program.

We believe that a push to get students excited

about athletics outside of football Saturdays is a good initiative by the athletic department and the university. However, we would like to see "Roaring Awards" turn into a program that awards dedicated Nittany Lion fans without penalizing ticket holders who are merely exercising their free will to attend a game or not.

Though implementing an attendance reward system has been proven to work at other schools, like Villanova with the popularity of their basketball

team, we don't think a system like this would work here at Penn State due to the size of the university and because of the disparity in the capacity of our sports venues.

Overall, we believe the athletic department's heart is in the right place and we look forward to see how "Roaring Awards" progresses in implementation. Depending on how it is mapped out, it has the potential to shed light on the less-acknowledged sports on campus.

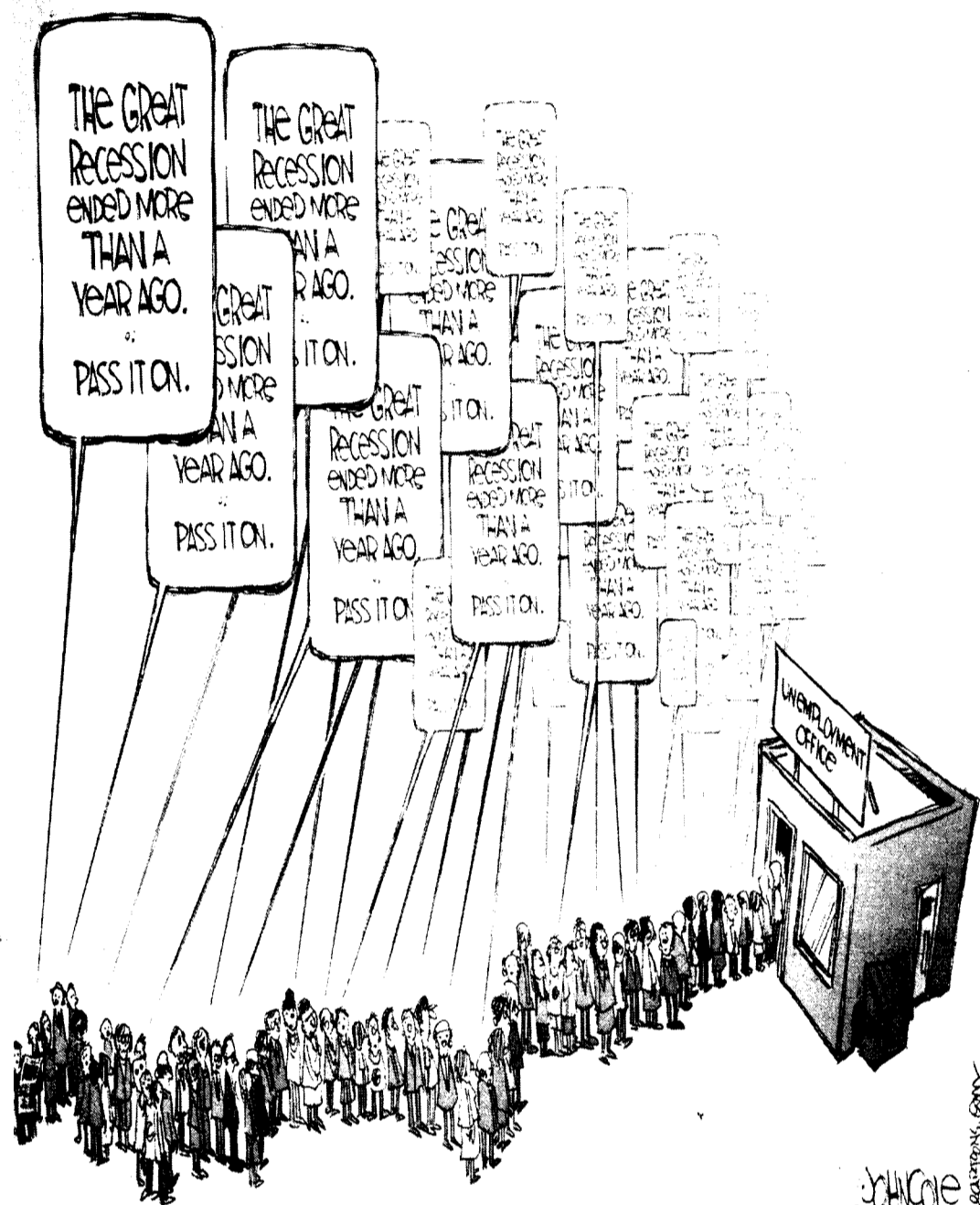
Ending of combat in Iraq war recognizes soldiers' sacrifice

With our combat mission in Iraq ending, thousands of troops are heading home eager to integrate back into society. Most will return to their families, schools, jobs and their lives; however, many others will not. Never forget the sacrifice these men and women made by taking up the uniform to serve our country. They each made a commitment to our nation that many of us would never consider. Yet, it is a necessary sacrifice for Americans to live freely. Regardless of our individual feelings concerning our troops' most recent missions, we must take time to appreciate and recognize their sacrifices.

When fighting, these patriots put their lives on hold. They say goodbye to loved ones, unsure of seeing them again, and venture straight into, for lack of a better word, hell. They were met with ruthless and cowardly hostility from civilians brainwashed to despise Americans. They courageously fight a moral-less, barbaric enemy that hates you, me and every other American citizen. They fight to keep terror, hate and violence off our soil, and away from our lives. They don't serve for our thanks nor do they serve for acknowledgement, but they undoubtedly deserve both.

To all the soldiers who fight, or who have ever served to defend American values, I humbly say, "Thank you."

Andrew Chansky
senior-science



blog lines

SMALL WORLD

Not 'Russian' her time

If this was a week-long vacation to St. Petersburg, I would have had to explore the city at a breakneck pace. I would have rushed from museum to museum and cathedral to cathedral; I would have hurriedly walked down Nevsky Prospekt, slowing down only to take the obligatory photograph in front of statues of Catherine the Great, Alexander Pushkin, Vladimir Lenin, etc. I would have to decide which tsar's summer palace I most wanted to see and abandon the others, leaving myself just enough time to buy a matryoshka doll and a music box shaped like the Church on Spilled Blood.

But since I'm lucky enough to have been given four months (only three left!) to explore the city, I've been taking my time. I've been to the Hermitage, but only for about 45 minutes (not nearly enough time to see the thousands of works of art it contains) and I've had a guided tour of the Russian Museum, which houses only Russian art, but I want to go back soon and explore on my own. There are dozens of other museums in SPB, some dedicated to people (Pushkin, Fyodor Dostoevsky, poet Anna Akhmatova) food (chocolate, vodka, coffee) and other aspects of Russian culture and history.

My program has already hosted some fantastic excursions. We took a four-hour bus ride to Novgorod, one of Russia's oldest cities and a bastion of old (we're talking 11th century) religious architecture. The doors of white-washed buildings with tiny windows and modest onion domes open to reveal extravagant murals, ikons and relics. We also visited Pavlosk, a suburb of St. Petersburg which houses the gorgeous park and opulent palace of murdered tsar Paul I.

But the grand-daddy of extravagant palaces in a place teeming with extravagant palaces is Peterhof, which is located about 45 minutes outside of the city. Photographs can't do justice to the gorgeous fountains, gawdy gold statues and the giant yellow palace, all of which overlook the Gulf of Finland...

Erin Rowley
Small World blogger

Good to see dictionary has embraced technological lingo without an LOL

By Jessica Uzar

BROMANCE (n.) *informal*, a close but nonsexual relationship between two men.

Origin-early 21st cent.: blend of brother and romance.

No, that's not a definition from the Urban Dictionary website. And yes, school teachers everywhere are having panic attacks.

Bromance, though my spell check doesn't realize it yet, has officially made its way into a prestigious English dictionary.

The newest release of the third edition of the New Oxford American Dictionary, first published in 2001. The words are taken from Oxford's 200 million English word database, but this same database is also used to decide which words make it into the much older and original reference book, Oxford English Dictionary.

The database records every time a word is used, in written or spoken form (in speeches or broadcasts) and the context it is used. This database is how definitions are developed.

Words that stem from the technology and pop culture boom keep appearing in this database — bromance, defriend, hashtag and BFF just to name a few new ones.

Editors decided for the September 2010 update of the American dictionary that many of these new words were being used often enough that they needed to be defined and added to the dictionary.

For example, it was decided that defriend and unfriend were both acceptable verbs for removing someone from your list of friends on a social networking site.

She broke up with her boyfriend, but she hasn't unfriended him.

The definition, however, does leave out the cultural implications how serious an action this could be.

There are also old words that were granted definition additions.

Heart: (v.) like very much; love: *I totally heart this song.*

Cougar: (n.) an older woman seeking a sexual relationship with a younger man.

This is concrete proof that the new generation — our generation, Generation Y (a new entry) — is one that bases many of its trends on technology and media. We are so used to computers, the Internet and smartphones where basically everything we need is at the tip of our fingers and available almost instantly.

My 4-year-old cousin is almost as efficient as I am at using the computer.

For this new technology we need new words to describe it. Many English teachers and parents are afraid that this new, shortened form of communication or informal language will hurt our use of vocabulary, in school and in life in general.

I completely disagree. First, students are not using LOL in their English class papers. Come on, give us some credit. That's saying that we aren't as smart as previous generations, which is not true.

Second, previous generations had to come up with new terms to describe the new develop-

ments in their lifetime. Cell phones and computers have not always been a part of the English language. We are adding more meaning to language, not removing it.

Third, texting is turning many students into great note-takers because they now have developed their own version of shorthand.

I will be the first to admit, I am no technological genius. Twitter is still foreign to me and I don't know what HTML is or how to deal with it. Even ANGEL is a challenge at times.

I only joined the smartphone world this weekend with my new Droid.

It has taken some getting used to, but I like having my e-mail, Internet and other entertainment (Paper Toss, anyone?) all together in the neat little black package of my phone.

I have apps (finally, a technological word my spell check recognizes) now like USA Today and Twitter where I can get instant and breaking news right on my phone. With e-mail sent to my phone, I can answer that e-mail sent by Mom instantly. For those long, boring lecture classes, I now have entertainment after I finish that day's Sudoku puzzle.

I think new technology is a great thing and the new development of the language is a natural progression, not a "dumbing down" of society.

Technology will continue to get faster and continue to improve communications and quality of life.

Jessica Uzar is a junior majoring in journalism and political science and is the Collegian's Wednesday columnist. Her e-mail is lju125@psu.edu



MY OPINION

CAN YOU DIG IT?

Freshman rises to top

Her collegiate volleyball career is just four weeks old, but freshman Deja McClendon is already being recognized as one of the top players in the conference.

McClendon — the 6-foot-1 outside hitter on the Penn State women's volleyball team — was named the Big Ten Freshman of the Week, conference officials announced Monday.

It is McClendon's second honor of the season, as she was the co-winner of the award in week two.

The Louisville, Ky., native shined this past weekend as the No. 2 Nittany Lions swept three opponents — Georgetown, Washington, Princeton and St. Johns — in the Rockvale Outlets Classic at Rec Hall. McClendon was second on the Lions with 25 kills and posted a team-best .525 hitting percentage.

Michigan's Alex Hunt was named the Big Ten Player of the Week while Ohio State's Mariah Booth garnered Big Ten Defensive Player of the Week honors.

With the non-conference portion of its schedule finished, Penn State will kick off Big Ten play Friday with a trip to Illinois.

Check the Collegian throughout the week for more coverage.

Emily Kaplan
Women's volleyball reporter

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