

# OPINION

THE DAILY  
Collegian

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

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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.

## EDITORIAL: OBAMA INTERVIEW WITH STUDENTS

# Call shows transparency, strategy

President Barack Obama held a phone conference with more than 200 student journalists Monday in an attempt to get students involved in the midterm elections and to inform students about all the policies that Democrats would like to put in place that would help students.

Obama realizes how much the youth vote contributed to his presidential win in 2008, and this act shows his initiative to gar-

ner the same support in this election.

Appreciate that Obama took the time to talk with students from all over the country.

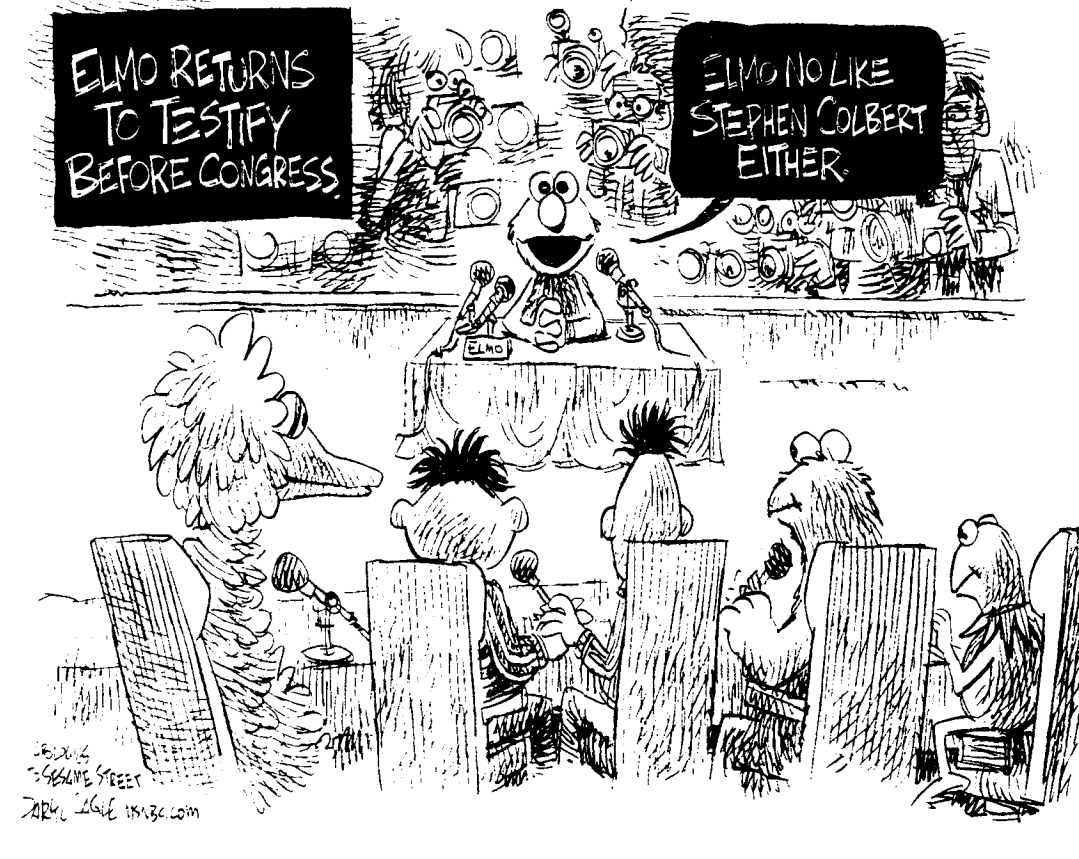
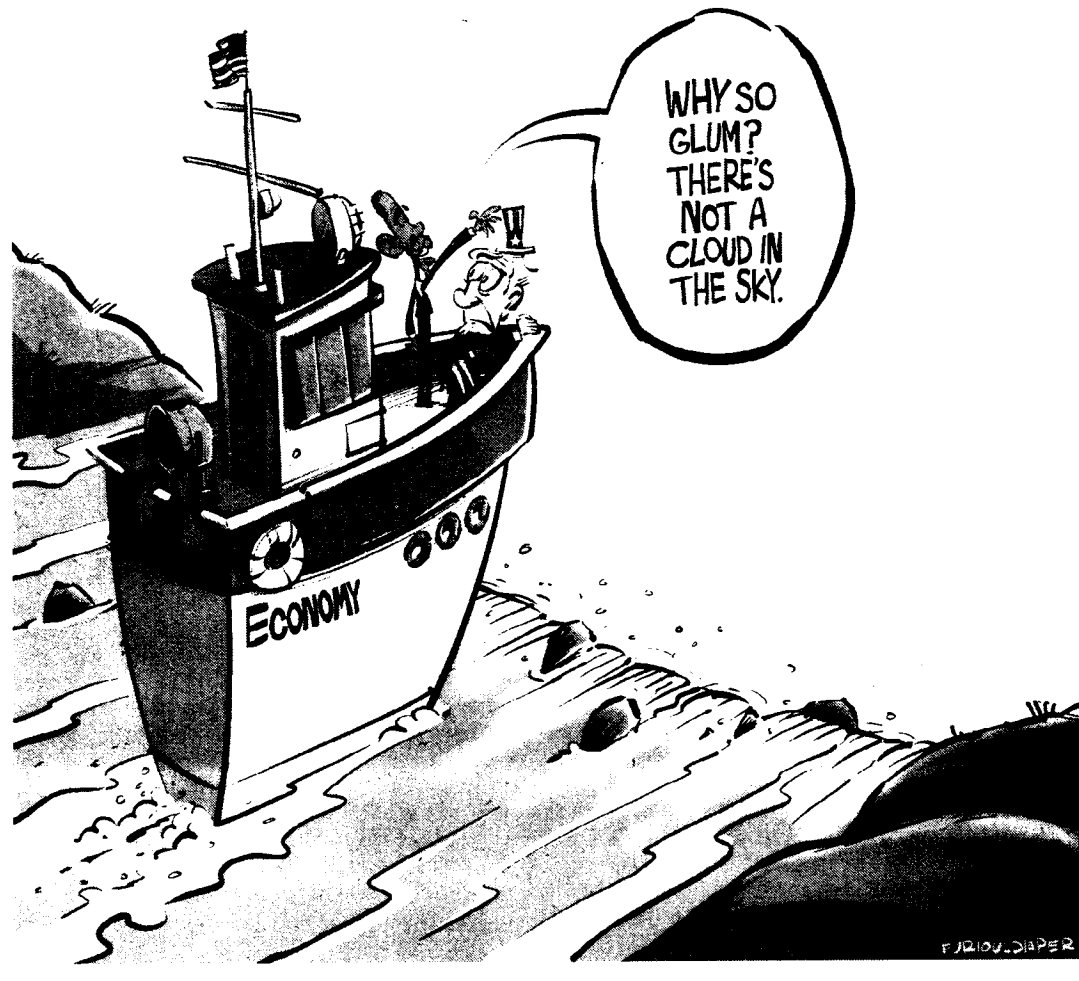
But this gesture is also not without an agenda, for it is no question that this act of transparency so close to the election is not much more than a campaign strategy.

The healthcare changes that have already taken effect — allowing students to remain on their par-

ents' healthcare plans until they are 26 — and the other policies proposed by Obama during the phone interview are great news.

However, we students realize that addressing our current economic situation is of the utmost importance, and we urge Obama to use all of his energy and resources to find a solution.

The call was appreciated, but should be taken at face value.



# Perry's hot cameo gets cold reception

By Amanda Elser

**A**FTER footage of Katy Perry's cameo on "Sesame Street" was released online, it seems as if her chest had a larger gig than the pop singer herself.



MY OPINION

Perry made a trip on down to Sesame Street to sing a reworded duet-version of "Hot N' Cold" with the lovable Elmo. And while Perry's curves may have tickled Elmo, parents weren't too thrilled with the cleavage-revealing ensemble.

So much controversy surrounded the pin-up style singer and her lime green figure skating-est outfit that "Sesame Street" cut the song from the program.

Then Sept. 22, Perry tweeted the YouTube link to the debated video and said, "I can totally tell you how to get to Sesame Street! I've been, Elmo & I hang out."

Less than 24 hours later the YouTube video was removed and Perry was pulled from the children's show.

Apparently Perry's voluptuous curves were too much for young viewers and "Sesame Street" deemed the skit too

scandalous to run on television, comforting the hundreds of concerned commentators.

Gawker.com writer Matt Chernet called Perry a "play-mate/love interest for Elmo" in her guest appearance, while other bloggers criticize the program for even considering airing Perry's skit.

But in defense of Perry — it is really not that bad. Yes, the lime green outfit is horrendous and the "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" veil made my eyes burn, but I don't think any 5 year old is going to get turned on by Perry's sweetheart cut dress.

A full screen shot of her chest isn't even seen until 25 seconds into the 2:33 minute video and most clips are only from the neck up. Really, I was too consumed by her poor acting and cheesy lyrics to notice her breast until the bridge of the song where the camera shows Perry running at a wide angle and her boobs get a bit of bounce in them.

As CNN pointed out, haven't these parents ever seen a Disney movie? Ariel, Jasmine, Cinderella, Belle and even Tinker Bell all had more than an A cup. Having breasts is a normal thing, and children are constantly surrounded by it. Do these parents hide Barbie dolls from their children as well?

I understand the hesitation, but for a celebrity so widely

known as Katy Perry, her style is what she is known for. I don't think an image of Elmo running around Perry's knees and skirt is much cause for concern.

Elmo made a guest appearance on ABC Good Morning America to say that he wants to have another "play date" with Ms. Perry soon. Executive Producer of "Sesame Street" Carol-Lynn Parante said the feedback was very split, but in the end they made a good decision for their broadcast.

In the end, one Muppet's lost is another puppet's gain. Perry will be guest starring on a Christmas-themed episode of "The Simpsons" where she will appear as herself, while the rest of the characters are puppets.

Through all of this, Perry has seemed to take the controversy in stride. She tweeted "Wow, looks like my play date with Elmo was cut short!"

In this past Saturday's "Saturday Night Live" skit, where Katy Perry was the host, she wore a ripped Elmo shirt for a skit and made sure to put an extra jiggle in her step.

And as the Bronx Beat ladies said "Who cares if kids are looking at boobs? Boobs feed babies."

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

## LETTERS

### Line to enter causes problem

With all the controversy surrounding the poor student attendance at the start of home football games, there is a factor that nobody is talking about and I think few alumni even know about. Every junior and senior who arrives less than 30 minutes before kickoff is funneled through the same tunnel in the southwest corner of the stadium. This naturally forms a massive line that runs all the way down five stories to the bottom of the ramp. Last year, I arrived 15 minutes early for a game and didn't get into the stadium until the 1st quarter was almost over because of the line funneling into sections ED and EC. This is why the students aren't in their seats at kickoff. Haven't alumni noticed that it's always the same area in the corner that's empty until the 2nd quarter? Rather than filling up the upperclassmen student section from side to side, why doesn't Beaver stadium fill the seats from bottom to top? That is how the freshman and sophomore section is filled, and that section is always full and without a line.

Trevor Turner  
senior-broadcast journalism

### Jaywalking is town problem

I am aware that writing this makes me sound like a crotchety old man, but I cease to be amazed regarding the antics of those who brazenly jaywalk across College Ave. Thanks to an ever-increasing amount of technology that allows people to utterly disconnect from the real world, it is now completely common for a student to cross the road and not look for oncoming cars, thanks to the distracting iPhone, and not hear oncoming cars, thanks to the blaring iPod. (Don't even get me started on the people who see and hear cars yet still jump in front of them.) Such behavior is dangerous and dumb, and is more deserving of some capital of a third world country. We show the rest of the country how great our student section is every home game. Now lets show the country how great we can be at crossing the street.

Tim Yuskavage  
senior-geography

## blog lines

### FOOTBLOG

#### Eyes on Iowa

**Lions Roar: Collin Wagner**

"It's good to have a season under your belt," Wagner said about changes in his kicking game.

"We definitely have the right personnel," Wagner said on kickoffs.

Wagner on Iowa game: It's not make or break but very important.

**Lions Roar: Derek Moye**

Moye said the Lions haven't practiced extra on red-zone offense.

Missing blocks and running the right routes are things the offense needs to improve on in the red zone.

"I wouldn't say there's a difference," said Moye on the locker room atmosphere heading into the Big Ten.

**Lions Roar: Pete Massaro**

Massaro isn't thinking of this game as redemption and said the best thing he and his teammates can do is forget about the past.

As for a scouting report on Iowa Quarterback Ricky Stanzi, Massaro said the Lions will need to adjust their rush lanes to ensure they keep Stanzi in the pocket and don't overly pursue Stanzi. He said it's probably a confidence boost from the Bowl game that helped Stanzi play so well this year and limit the number of interceptions.

**Lions Roar: Stefen Wisniewski**

"Looks like Chima [Okoli] is going to start for us at right tackle," Wisniewski said. "There's not a weak link on the Iowa defensive front."

"It doesn't seem like he's slowing down much," said Wisniewski on Joe Paterno continuing coaching. "I don't see how he couldn't go a couple more years."

Iowa defensive lineman Mike Daniels, who doesn't start, shows just how deep Iowa's front four is.

Football reporters

### TUMBLR

#### TTYL, Mr. President

Ms. Wehr: Hi, Mr. President. How are you?

The President: I'm good, Katrina. Where are you calling from?

Ms. Wehr: Penn State University, where Joe Biden will be tomorrow.

The President: Well, tell the Nittany Lions, congratulations. You guys won this weekend.

Ms. Wehr: Oh, yes, barely. (Laughter.)

The President: Barely. It was a little scary there for a second.

Ms. Wehr: You're telling me. Anyway, so my question is actually about health care. So will our parents' employers be required to cover us after we graduate at their group rate that they're currently at? Or will the cost go up as a result of us being kept on our parents' plan? And are there any regulations on this as far as like how it's going to work?

The President: Your costs should not — your parents' costs should not go up substantially.

Katrina Wehr  
Senior state reporter

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