

# OPINION

THE DAILY Collegian

Elizabeth Murphy  
Editor in Chief

Kelsey Thompson  
Business Manager

**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.

**Members are:** Lexi Belculfine, Caitlin Burnham, Paul Casella, Kevin Cirilli, Beth Ann Downey, Amanda Elser, Zachary Feldman, Ashley Gold, Stephen Hennessey, Allison Jackovitz, Kevin Kline, Samantha Kramer, Bill Landis, Andrew Metcalf, Nate Mink, Elizabeth Murphy, Laura Nichols, Michael Oplinger, Edgar Ramirez, Heather Schmelzlen, Caitlin Sellers, Laurie Stern, Katie Sullivan, Jessica Uzar, Aubrey Whelan, Alex Weisler, Somer Wiggins, Steph Witt and Chris Zook.

## 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. Burrows St.  
State College, 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: STUDENT SECTION CONTROVERSY

# No matter what, we're still No. 1

There have recently been many reactions to the current state of the student section in Beaver Stadium.

A few alumni have voiced complaints that the student section isn't what it used to be, and students choose to get drunk at tailgates instead of showing up at the game and supporting their team, or are showing up drunk and become disruptive.

Though there are some students that fall under this stereotype of the complacent, drunk college student, the majority of students go in and watch the game respectfully and with Penn State pride.

The tailgating legacy has been a tradition at

football games for years — and alumni are the reason that legacy is here. Now, current students carry on that tradition before and after the game.

For those students who aren't lucky enough to hold student tickets, this is the only aspect of the home game atmosphere that they can take part in.

Dedication and sportsmanship is a high priority at Penn State and is something that most students who attend the games uphold to the greatest extent.

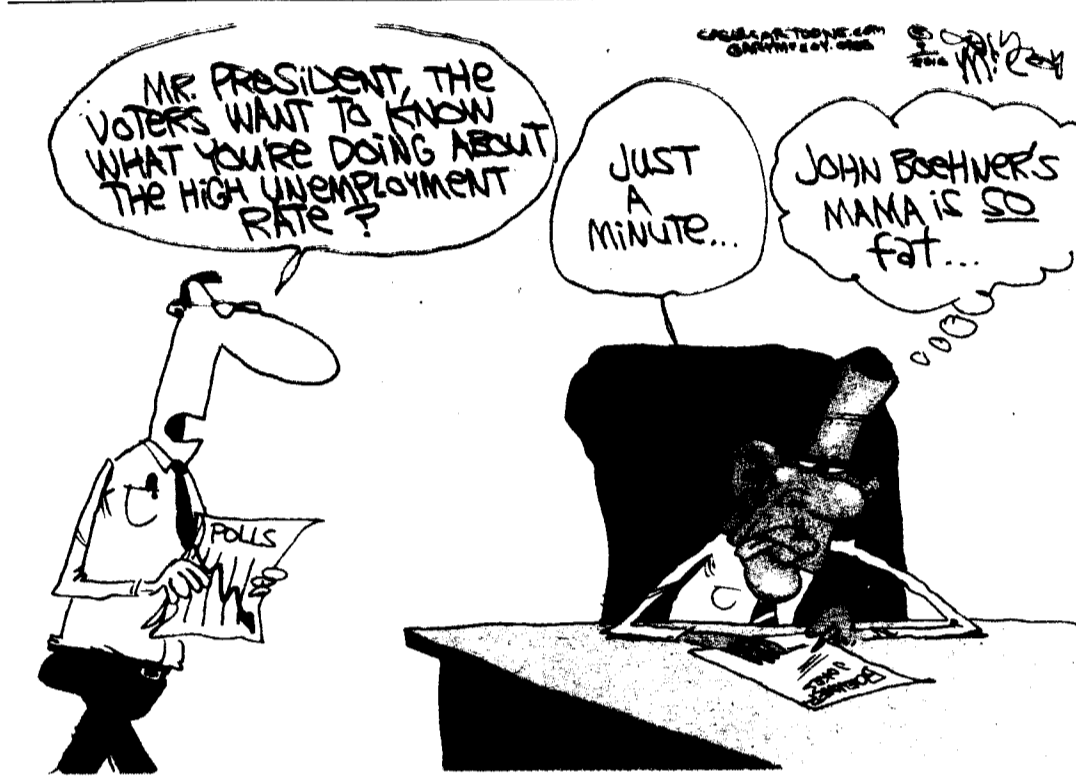
But if students decide that having a good time with friends outside the stadium beats watching Penn State trounce a team like Youngstown

State or Kent State, that is their prerogative.

As for the obnoxious behavior of drunk students who do enter the game, we urge alumni to stop assuming one obnoxious fans constitutes criticism of the No. 1 student section in the nation.

We are No. 1, and this is a title students are proud to uphold as we scream louder and stand longer than any other group in Beaver Stadium.

Despite some claims that students haven't been showing up to games, and therefore do not deserve a few hundred more seats in the student section next year, we still are the best student section in college football.



## GUEST COLUMNIST

# Biden's visit marks PSU importance

By Rob Ghormoz

**D**URING Vice President Joe Biden's visit to campus on Tuesday, he was able to show students concrete examples of how the President and Congressional Democrats have been fighting to make the burdens on students easier to bear.



MY OPINION

His speech centered on rallying the youth to volunteer and vote in the 2010 midterms, and defining the choice that America is facing in these important elections.

Biden's message especially reverberated with the youth in the crowd as he established the line between the positive changes that Democrats have been able to make.

The President and Vice President, as well as a number of other members of the administration, spoke at college campuses nationwide to establish and define the choice voters have to make this November.

It was an honor to host Vice President Biden here at Penn State. We are extremely grateful to have been given this chance, and we're humbled by his enthusiasm.

This was a historic event, one that we may never get a chance to see again.

Vice President Biden was genuinely excited to be here and was determined to be able to

meet any student who wanted to meet him, as showcased by his commitment to speak with the students in the overflow room in person. His choice to speak at our campus to our student body, one of the largest in the nation, highlighted his and the President's commitment to our nation's youth.

Together, the President and Congressional Democrats have been able to pass a number of pieces of legislation that have direct benefits for students across the nation. Student loan reform was passed earlier this year, making sure that students can come out of college with less debt that is more manageable.

Through this legislation, we will never have to pay more than 10 percent of our annual salaries for our student loans. After 20 years, or 10 years if a student enters into public service, student loan debts will be forgiven. In addition to this, credit card reform passed through Congress has made it much harder for credit card companies to take advantage of us by arbitrarily raising rates.

President Obama has been able to reform the healthcare system, a feat which has defied presidents for generations.

Through this law, students can no longer be dropped from their parent's health insurance after graduation. We are now allowed to remain on our parent's plans until we turn 26, giving us ample time to get on our feet after graduation without having to worry about the costs of health insurance.

This is especially personal for me, as my brother was dropped from my parents insurance after his graduation. He remained uninsured for nine months until the President's reform went into effect last week, when he was allowed to go back on my parent's plan. That is the kind of true, concrete change that the President promised and is delivering.

That change is benefiting students like us.

Vice President Biden was able to highlight all of these accomplishments during his rally. He also established the choice that voters have to make this November. We can choose to keep moving forward, enacting real change that is helping to strengthen America by investing in our youth, or we can return to the same policies that allowed our country to slip into a recession.

We can choose Democrats who have committed to progress and reform, or we can choose Republicans, who have publicly vowed to halt the pace of change and return to the same failed policies of the Bush era, putting us right back into the same mess that President Obama and his allies are currently helping us emerge from.

Tuesday at Penn State, Vice President Biden made it clear that we need to choose Democrats, because we cannot afford the alternative.

Rob Ghormoz is a senior majoring in political science and is the president of the Penn State College Democrats. His e-mail is rjg5097@psu.edu

## LETTERS

### Penn State meal plan is a rip-off

I've recently made quite a realization that I'd like to share.

The Penn State meal plan is equivalent to highway robbery for most students. Here's why, and sorry about the math, but that's what finances are. If a student is on the meal plan, he or she has to pay a base cost of \$1,265 to be eligible to get the meal plan. After that, they get about a 65 percent discount on all items prepared in the dining commons or at "On the Go" options. So, assuming a Penn State student only buys fully discounted items off the meal plan, they would have to use about \$681.15 worth of dining dollars to break even with the amount they would pay with straight cash.

Thing is, most students don't spend this much on prepared food as they also don't spend much of it on food in the HUB-Robeson Center (with a meager 10 percent discount on points or Lioncash) and on non-discounted packaged items in the convenience stores in all of the dining commons.

Plus, a student would have to upgrade to a level 4 (out of 6) meal plan (or add on funds themselves) to be able to spend the required amount of money to break even.

So, point is, Penn State really needs to overhaul Food Services, and if you can help it, I believe you should use Lioncash on campus if you don't live in the Residence Halls unless you eat like a vacuum.

Jessie Citrin  
junior-general engineering

## blog lines

### FOOTBLOG

#### Forseeing the future

Audrey Snyder  
Penn State prediction: Outback Bowl  
Rose Bowl: Boise State vs. Oregon  
Fiesta Bowl: Texas vs. West Virginia  
Orange Bowl: Miami vs. TCU  
Sugar Bowl: Florida vs. Nebraska  
National Title: Alabama vs. Ohio State  
Champion: Alabama

Andrew J. Cassavell  
Penn State prediction: Outback Bowl  
Rose Bowl: Ohio State vs. TCU  
Fiesta Bowl: Texas vs. Iowa  
Orange Bowl: Virginia Tech vs. West Virginia  
Sugar Bowl: Auburn vs. Nebraska  
National Title: Alabama vs. Oregon  
Champion: Alabama

Brendan Monahan  
Penn State prediction: Outback Bowl  
Rose Bowl: Boise State vs. Oregon  
Fiesta: Nebraska vs. West Virginia  
Orange: Miami vs. Wisconsin  
Sugar Bowl: Alabama vs. Oklahoma  
National title: Ohio State vs. Florida  
Champion: Ohio State

Football reporters

### SNAP, CRACKLE, POP Rock 'n' wha?

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame announced this year's nominees today after much anticipation. To receive a nomination is a prestigious honor. The list consists of artist from different eras and genres of music.

The full list is as follows: Alice Cooper, Beastie Boys, Bon Jovi, Chic, Neil Diamond, Donovan, Dr. John, J. Geils Band, LL Cool J, Darlene Love, Laura Nyro, Donna Summer, Joe Tex, Tom Waits, Chuck Willis.

I find most of the nominations questionable. This is the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, after all, so I'm having a hard time understanding why acts such as LL Cool J and the Beastie Boys are on this list. I like these artists, but this isn't their genre. I can't really see anyway that LL Cool J has influenced rock 'n' roll.

It would be like nominating Taylor Swift for best female rapper...

Ashley Smalls  
Arts candidate

### CAN YOU DIG IT? The numbers game

Sure, the Penn State women's volleyball team is only two matches into its Big Ten slate. But it's never too early to look at the stat books. Here's a glimpse at how the Nittany Lions stack up against the rest of the conference.

#### Team Hitting Percentage

1. Penn State .317
2. Minnesota .302
3. Illinois .287

#### Team Blocks (average per game)

1. Penn State 3.14
2. Ohio State 3.11
3. Minnesota 3.00

#### Team Service Aces (average per game)

1. Ohio State 2.02
2. Michigan 1.84
3. Penn State 1.71

#### Individual Hitting Percentage

1. Ashley Benson, IND .471
2. Arielle Wilson, PSU .460
3. Johannah Bangert ILL .456

#### Individual Kills (average per game)

1. Ariel Turner PUR 4.65
2. Alex Hunt MICH 4.49
3. Colleen Ward ILL 4.22
7. Blair Brown PSU 3.6

Emily Kaplan  
Women's Volleyball reporter

Read more of the Daily Collegian's blogs at  
psu.collegian.com/blogs