

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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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 POLICY

Real world not reflected in change

The Interfraternity Council chapter presidents agreed last Tuesday that all IFC violations should be determined by a formula that is based on the number of men in the fraternity.

According to the new rules, a smaller house would theoretically have to pay a lesser fine for a violation than one of the larger houses.

The new policy seems positive on the surface, but underneath the appar-

ent leveling of the playing field is really just means of making it easier for fraternities to bend the rules.

While it seems plausible and fair, it is not an accurate representation of real life.

If you get a speeding ticket your fine isn't determined by your yearly salary or the number of children you have — it is a fixed rate for the crime committed.

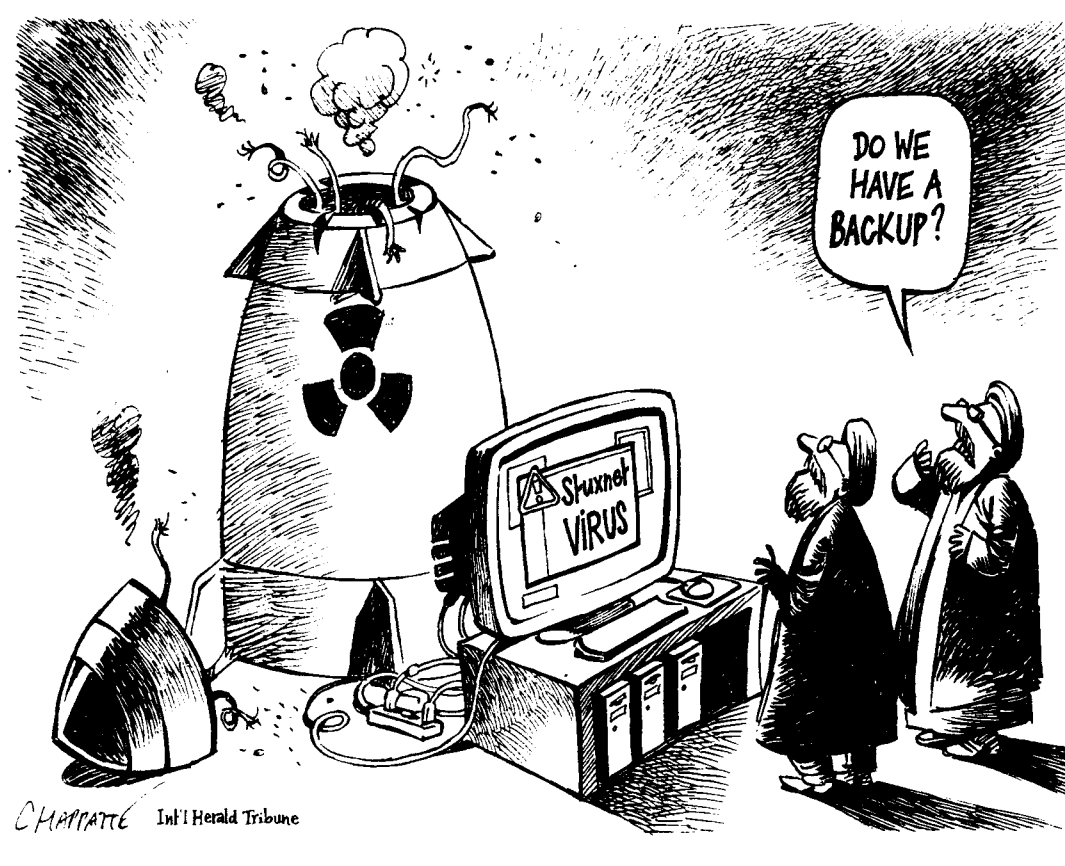
IFC policies should reflect the way the judi-

ary system works outside of the greek system.

Really, this just seems as a way of leveling the playing fields for breaking the rules. The IFC should stop creating policy changes benefiting rule breakers and start thinking of ways to reward those fraternities that do not get in trouble.

If you're going to have a judiciary system, have one that represents real world responsibilities and consequences.

EMPATHY 101



Events show need to embrace gay rights

By Michael Oplinger

CONGRESS features three members who are openly gay. Gays are widely accepted and embraced in the entertainment industry.

Yet, as a society, we don't seem ready to accept gays in everyday life.

Congress demonstrated as much two weeks ago when it wouldn't even vote on repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," sending the message that gays aren't equal to others.

Recent events, including bigotry by a government official and an unfortunate suicide by a gay college student, show that Congress may be more representative of the population than previously imagined.

In a display of baseless hatred, Michigan assistant attorney general Andrew Shirvell has started a blog devoted to attacking Chris Armstrong, the openly gay student assembly president of the University of Michigan.

Shirvell has called Armstrong "Satan's representative on the student assembly" accusing the student of advancing a "radical homosexual agenda."

That agenda consists of extending the hours of the dining halls.

Shirvell's job further demonizes his despicable actions. As a member of the government, his views have no place. While Shirvell justifies his blog because he produces it as a private citizen, not as a public authority, government officials tend to be held to higher moral standards.

Their actions, both public and private, are constantly scrutinized.

Shirvell also states his blog is protected by the First Amendment. But just because something is legal, doesn't mean it's right.

Armstrong's election signals progress toward tolerance and could serve as another example in the differences in attitudes between generations.

But the events surrounding the tragic suicide of a Rutgers student show that younger generations may not be as tolerant as assumed.

Tyler Clementi, just weeks into his freshman year at Rutgers, jumped off the George Washington Bridge into the Hudson River, ending his own life. He did so after his roommate allegedly broadcast a video of Clementi in a sexual encounter with another man over the Internet.

Clementi's tragic death marks at least the fifth suicide in the past month following bullying regarding sexual orientation, signaling a disturbing trend among young people.

We're supposed to be the ones who are tolerant. We're supposed to be the ones who are open. We've lived in a culture where openly gay people have been prominent.

We've been put in a position to accept everyone as equal regardless of orientation.

It's our generation's civil rights movement. It may be a campaign that lacks the strong central leader that Martin Luther King Jr. was in the racial equality movement, but there are powerful people who could become the leader, such as Ellen DeGeneres, who released an emotional video after

Clementi's suicide. It shouldn't need a leader, though.

Eliminating intolerance starts at a personal level. We must change the way we act. Our actions should start matching our words about gay rights.

Tolerance starts with small actions such as discontinuing the use of "gay" as an adjective to describe something that's stupid or corny. Just like any other slurs, gay slurs must be eliminated from our daily vocabulary if equality is ever to be achieved.

Ignorance also must be eliminated. The hatred of gays and denial of equal rights is based on nothing more than unwarranted fear. Very little evidence exists to show what gays did to provoke this treatment.

Small personal changes could lead to a progression of public opinion. Trends suggest that tolerance of gays will eventually be achieved, something Ellen expressed in her video.

"Things will get easier, people's minds will change, and you should be alive to see it," the popular talk show host said to gay teens who are struggling to find acceptance.

Over time, society should become more tolerant, just as it did regarding racial equality. But equality can't be achieved fast enough.

Equal rights aren't something that can be put on the backburner. We must continue to progress to a world where no one is bullied about their sexual orientation.

And we should all be alive to see it.

Michael Oplinger is a senior majoring in media studies and political science and is the Daily Collegian's Tuesday columnist. His e-mail is mjo5071@psu.edu.

LETTERS

Tuition money should better Commonwealth Campuses

Have you ever wondered where our tuition money and other expenses go? I do every day while attending Penn State Harrisburg. I love the school, but I feel we should have more things going on for the students to do, as well as more buildings on campus, such as a recreation hall, for students during their down time.

Tuition anywhere isn't cheap these days, but many families struggle to make the income to pay for their child's education. I think the least we could do is put more focus and money on the Commonwealth Campuses and give the students a little more incentive. We want people to have a great experience while at any Penn State campus and I believe having more events like concerts and a rec hall for students to interact and shoot pool and get to know each other would be great for the school.

Kenton Alston
junior-criminal justice

Constant energy use won't yield a greener environment

In response to Monday's letter, "PSU should divulge on energy," we would all like to save the environment, but we all keep using more and more energy. We cannot have it both ways. Do you have a goal to use 10 percent less energy each year? That would do more to save the environment than anything else would. Remember the batteries you buy in stores, anything that you plug in and even your trusty computer uses energy. Plus it took energy to make your computer, your iPhone, your food and your clothes. If we all used less energy it would make it easier for the university to go greener and greener.

Jal Cee
Class of 1975

Coaching and team lagged in all facets of the Iowa game

The Iowa game was sad to watch almost from the start. Penn State made no adjustments, showed no enthusiasm or creativity and squandered all its second string talent. My friends from other Big Ten schools tell me, tongue in cheek, how sad the Big Ten will be when JoePa (and company) leave.

The way we are going, they are perfectly satisfied with him as head coach.

Joseph C. Korsak, Esq.
Class of 1971

blog lines

CAN YOU DIG IT? Rankings remain

Despite two sweeps of Big Ten teams, the Penn State women's volleyball team (13-2, 3-1 Big Ten) remained in the No. 4 spot in today's AVCA Coaches Poll.

In fact, the entire top four remained intact, with Stanford yet again garnering all 60 first-place votes.

Illinois (12-2, 4-0), which beat Penn State in the Big Ten Opener two weekends ago, jumped up one spot to No. 6. Other Big Ten teams in the Top 25 include Minnesota (13-3, 3-1) at No. 16, Michigan (14-2, 3-1), which was swept by Penn State Saturday night, at No. 18 and Northwestern (13-2, 3-1) at No. 24. Ohio State and Purdue are also receiving votes.

The Nittany Lions next test comes on the road as they travel to face Purdue and Indiana on Friday and Saturday, respectively.

Jake Kaplan
Women's volleyball reporter

FOOTBLOG

News in brief

In Penn State football

-The trenches were dominated by Iowa on Saturday, and, as a result, so too was the game.

-Another slow start doomed the Nittany Lions in Iowa.

-The Last Word takes a look at the sequence of plays that led to Iowa's game-changing goal-line stand.

-Tom Bradley and the defense are still looking for a game-changer. The unit has not forced a fumble in five games.

-The Lions appeared to be showing improvement from the Alabama game, but another road loss by the same score indicates otherwise.

-Andrew J. Cassavell writes that Rob Bolden's grace period is finally over.

In the Big Ten

-Michigan State coach Markantonio was released from the hospital and is expected to appear at his weekly press conference on Tuesday.

-Michigan quarterback Denard Robinson is the player of the week... again.

In the NCAA

-The rankings are out and Penn State isn't the only traditional power noticeably absent. USC and Texas are both on the outside looking in.

-Boston College's quarterback problems only got compounded when Chase Rettig suffered an ankle injury in Saturday's "Holy War" loss to Notre Dame.

-Marcel Dareus had an agent recommended to him by former North Carolina assistant coach John Blake

Football reporters

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