

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.

Donation should boost attendance

The Penn State vs. Indiana football game on Nov. 20 at FedEx Field in Washington, D.C. has also been named an opportunity to benefit a good cause.

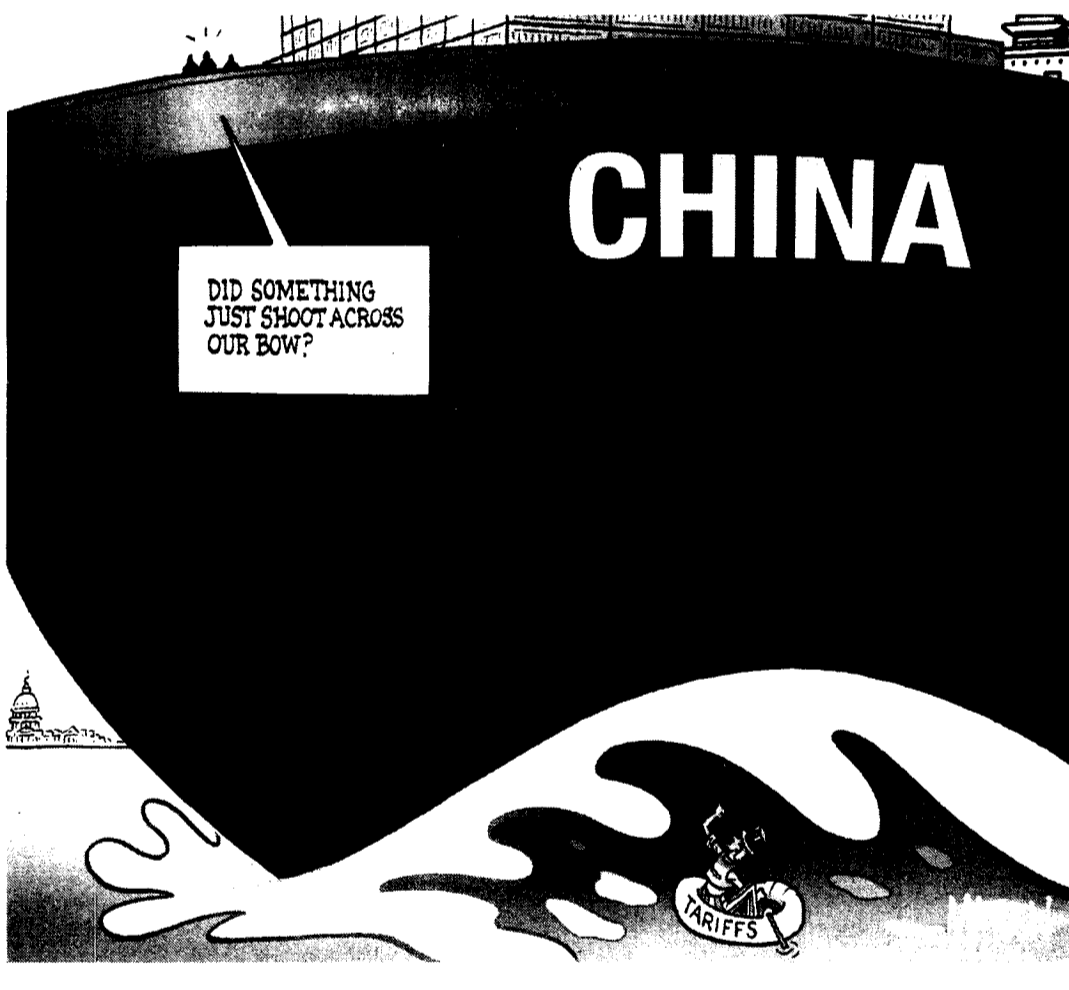
Though it will be an away game for the Nittany Lions, officials of FedEx Field have agreed to donate five percent of all ticket sales to the Interfraternity Council/Panhel-

lenic Dance Marathon. There is a \$150,000 cap on the donation, but if ticket sales reach that amount it would be roughly two percent of THON's total from last year. This is certainly no chump change considering that every little bit helps beat last year's total.

Kudos to Penn State, FedEx Field and Indiana for giving up a cut of the

profit for a good cause. Hopefully, this also meets the goal of motivating more Penn State students into making the trip to the relatively nearby Landover, Md.

It's not a common occurrence that professional football teams forfeit any type of profit, so students should take advantage of this good opportunity.



Homecoming week fosters school spirit

By Jessica Uzar

God so loved Penn State, that he made the sky blue and white.

It's a stretch, but you can't deny the facts. And even if God didn't necessarily love Penn State, we certainly do.

That's what Homecoming week is all about; like its theme says, "Bonded by Blue and White."

Not everyone here loves football or THON, but everyone here goes to school here. That's what is special about Homecoming. Even the people who are not exactly obsessed with their school are at least proud of the university (or they wouldn't have chosen to go here, right?)

If you don't love the blue and white, at the very least you must appreciate the school or you wouldn't be shelling thousands of dollars to get an education here.

This week's events are an awesome way to bond together with your fellow classmates. Even after substantial sporting losses this year so far, students should still rally around the school.

Actually, because of the upsetting losses in women's volleyball and a couple football games, it is even more important to show some Nittany Lion pride.

These losses shouldn't silence our student sections or dampen our spirits this week. It's a great time to show those teams that we are always behind them. They are a part of us, a part of the student body.

After all, the football team is a group of student athletes who are allowed to make mistakes, not a group of NFL players who are paid millions of dollars and expected to be near perfect because that's their job (excuse me, Jeff Reed, please make a field goal because that's what you're expected to do in Pittsburgh).

No, these students are doing amazing things on the fields and courts, and they deserve our continued support.

As do all the Homecoming volunteers who have worked their butts off to organize events from the talent show to the parade to both entertain us and help us celebrate our amazing school.

We have one of the largest alumni networks in the country — it becomes an instant bond when Penn Staters meet outside of State College. When alumni are hiring at their companies, whom do they want? Us. When they see that Penn State class ring around someone's finger, it's an instant advantage.

Alumni flock back to the university for Homecoming week because many miss being in an atmosphere that is filled with as much pride as this town is at the moment.

I think it's important to celebrate our commonality of being students here because we will

always carry that with us. Yes, of course those drunken nights are fun to laugh about the next morning. And yes, many students could complain all day about how much they hate Iowa.

But when it comes down to it, when you graduate and move on, what will be important is the tie with the university. Our emotions won't be about specific memories we have, but our time spent here as a whole.

I think being proud of something we are a part of, whether it's a school, family or sports team, makes us better people. It makes us want to be better people so that we represent our group well.

Don't drink so much before a football game that you're harassing the opposing team's fans in a way that's disrespectful and looks bad on the school. Don't do something off the field that reflects badly on your team, school and fans.

For life in general, behave in a way you can be proud of 10 years from now.

Get out this week and celebrate the special bond that Penn Staters share. Be proud of the accomplishments of your fellow students.

Be proud of this great institution and the amazing people that are really Nittany Lions at heart.

For the glory.

Jessica Uzar is a junior majoring in journalism and political science and is the Daily Collegian's Wednesday columnist. Her e-mail is ju125@psu.edu.

blog lines

SMALL WORLD

Meet the parents

Even though my host family is fantastic and the other Americans on my program are nice, I occasionally feel like I'm alone in a country of 140 million people. So last week I was really excited for my parents to visit me, and not just because they brought peanut butter (which is impossible to find here).

I taught them how to use the metro and took them to see some of the sights. We attended a ballet performance at the famous Mariinsky Theatre, which was simply amazing.

One of the highlights of their visit was introducing them to my host family. I spent the days immediately preceding this meeting worrying that I would have to translate everything my host mom and my parents said or that I would make some sort of faux pas that I wasn't even aware of, but luckily, my host brother's girlfriend, who speaks English very well, was there to help with the language issues, and the whole thing went very smoothly.

Russian women are all about hospitality, and this meeting was no exception. My host mom brought out champagne and cooked borscht and blini (which are like crepes) filled with cabbage, because I told her that my parents are vegetarians.

I think it was a great experience for them because it's not every tourist that is invited inside a Russian home and given a home-cooked meal, and it also gave them the opportunity to see that I am comfortable and well taken care of here...

Erin Rowley
Small world blogger

MAKE PLAYS

Who's left standing

With four weeks completely in the books on the NFL season, let's take a look at where our competitors stand in the Collegian's Penn State NFL Pick 'Em.

Through the first four weeks, 62 games have been played in the young NFL season and the leader, sports chief Paul Casella, has correctly predicted 40 of those games. Jim Regan, Nittany Lion Fund president, sits just one game back in second place with a 39-23 record.

Below are the results for week four and the up-to-date overall standings:

- Paul Casella, sports chief: 40-22
- Jim Regan, Nittany Lion Fund president: 39-23
- Athletes: 38-24
- Students: 37-25
- Steve Hennessey, sports editor: 35-27
- Alex Cohen, Paternoville president: 35-27
- Christian Ragland, UPUA president: 32-30
- Zack Kreiger, SPA executive director: 32-30
- Bill Landis, sports night editor: 29-33

- Week Four Results:**
- Paul Casella: 11-3
 - Jim Regan: 10-4
 - Paul Daley (Icers forward): 8-6
 - Kevin Anderson (student): 10-4
 - Steve Hennessey: 8-6
 - Alex Cohen: 8-6
 - Christian Ragland: 7-7
 - Zack Kreiger: 8-6
 - Bill Landis: 4-10 (Note: Landis didn't send in his picks until almost 3 p.m. Sunday, so he voluntarily took the losses for all of the early games. In games he actually picked, he was 4-2)

FOOTBLOG

Lion watch

Lions Roar: Justin Brown
Justin Brown called the game against Illinois a "must" and said the team understands that its offense is inconsistent and needs to finish in the red zone.

Derrick Thomas and Sean Stanley did return to practice this week after not making the trip to Iowa.

Tight end Andrew Szczerba has been practicing and doing more than he has done previously this season. With no definitive timetable set for Szczerba's return, Brown said freshman tight end Kevin Haplea will be relied on. Brown said the only way for Haplea to improve is to have game experience.

Brown didn't think there was necessarily any confusion during the Iowa game and the team's play before the end of the first half...

Lions Roar: C Doug Klopacz
This week in practice, red zone and short yardage have been a main focus, but Klopacz said the team has done all right with those situations in games, they've just been hit with some misfortune and come up just inches short.

Klopacz said he feels like no one has really physically outmanned the Lions, citing how well they moved the ball on Iowa and Alabama. But he said the key has been fundamentals that has kept the Lions off the scoreboard and out of the end zone.

Evan Royster's rushing record hasn't been talked about amongst the linemen but it hasn't been a focal point. But if Royster does break the school's all-time mark, the offensive line would certainly take pride in it.

"We just gotta buckle up and go play," Klopacz said...

Football reporters

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