

# OPINION

THE DAILY  
Collegian

Elizabeth Murphy  
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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 COMMENT

# Initiative shows PSU tolerance

After six gay students from across the country committed suicide in the past month, Penn State students, faculty and staff admirably held a forum to address the safety of the university's LGBTQA community.

Though the incidents have not occurred at Penn State, the university showed concern and the desire to seek out preven-

tative measures.

The forum shows the university can respond quickly and has its finger on the pulse of national issues.

While the university itself seems to feature an open community with a vocal LGBTQA group, the State College area may not show as much tolerance.

It is commendable that

this forum also acknowledged the need for more support to LGBTQA students and more guidance for students at State College High School and middle schools.

In a community as diverse as Penn State's, tolerance must be visibly practiced.

The university should be applauded for supporting that.



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Mike Kael/USA TODAY 10-12-10



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# Fans need to give Lions a break

By Jessica Uzar

BEING from Pittsburgh, I have high expectations for my two football

teams. Though the Steelers are doing just fine for now, Penn State isn't having the best season nor is the play quality amazing.

But I think some Penn State football fans are also being slightly ridiculous, quite selfish and unreasonably demanding.

Come on, give the kids a break. After all, that's what they are at the end of the day — kids. They are college students just like us. Maybe they're a little bigger and can run faster than most of "us," but fans should not expect perfection from any college team, even the Nittany Lions.

Being on the football team is just like being in the classroom. In class you have the opposing team (the professor), the field (classroom) and the fans (parents, friends, etc.). If you fail an exam because of a tough opposing team, or maybe because you were injured with a headache or hangover, the fans might get on your case. But hopefully they don't do it unfairly because after all, you are just a student.

For all those critics that are so concerned with the skill level on the field, I'd like to see them

go out there and play. When I was a freshman, I was nervous enough attending a game in Beaver Stadium. I can't imagine being in Rob Bolden's shoes as he takes the field in front of so many blue-and-white faithful.

Oh, and not to mention going up against the reigning No. 1 college football team on the road. I bet those defensive linemen coming at him were huge.

The high price we pay for tickets does not entitle anyone to claim that the game is not worth going to just because we lost or didn't play well. That's called being a fair-weather fan.

The Penn State football season has always been about so much more than what happens between the two end zones. It's also the tailgating before and after, Paternoville all week long and being inside a stadium with 110,000 other fans.

And where is the idea that tuition has anything to do with sports coming from? Tuition is used for academics, and the football program runs itself financially. You know, to heat the buildings, pay professors' salaries and build new science buildings on campus. Complain to UPUA or Graham Spanier that you're paying too much in tuition, not Joe and Jay.

If you don't like gambling your hard earned money by purchasing season football tickets, they don't. Watch the game from your couch; the No. 1 student section doesn't need attitudes like that.

Every year can't be a fantastic

season. Even professional teams, who don't have nearly the turnaround rate as college teams do with students graduating after four or five years, go through rough patches. The Steelers are the best football franchise in the country with six Super Bowl rings but they still went through a tough season last year. I don't know enough about the actual techniques of football and play calls and such to comment on the coaching.

However, I do think that coaches shouldn't necessarily be pulled apart because the average person, and particularly the average student, doesn't know enough about the game to know why the coaches did what they did. (An exception is the Collegian's team of football writers. Internal kudos to that crew.)

We have such a long tradition and such a large following that the team knows they will always be supported. I have faith that, knock on wood, if we had consecutive losing seasons, fans would still show up for games.

It's a rebuilding year and we're a young team, but we'll make it through the season.

We don't have to worship them, but the team does need our support, not unreasonable expectations and unjust criticism.

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](mailto:ju125@psu.edu).

## LETTERS

### JoePa has lost his 'swagger'

Since no one seems to have the courage to say it, I will. Thanks for the memories, Joe, but like everything else, all good things must come to an end.

As Collegian football editor Nate Mink said in his column Monday, "Swagger and 83 years old don't go well together." The team has become an extension of you — conservative, predictable and much too willing to settle. It needs new blood. In order to give us a chance to recruit for the next four years, please show some pride and go gracefully.

Shelly Paul  
Brooklyn, NY

### Harmless to set Bolden free

Unleash Bolden. Let him make some decisions on the field. Yes, yes he is a freshman, but he is not a novice at playing football. Put in some spread plays and let him make calls. What could be the harm — look at the win/loss record so far.

Liz Pettingill  
Graduate class of 1976

### Newsome could help season

I believe that Robert Bolden should have been selected starter. But from day one I always believed that Kevin Newsome should have been part of the solution for success for three very important reasons:

1. That would take some of the pressure off the true freshman as they could share the responsibilities of QB. 2. This would force defenses to prepare for a two headed monster, one that can throw precision passes and has a very strong arm, the other a triple option threat. Though Newsome may not have as strong of an arm as Bolden it can be effective. 3. I believe that both Newsome and Bolden would help sharpen each other. I believe as Paterno recruits that they are team players, and as such would help each other improve. I do not believe in putting Newsome in on certain downs, it would be a "tell" for the defense. If one gets hot, go with the hotter hand.

I plead with the Penn State coaches to give this a shot. Urban Meyer won a National Championship with Tim Tebow backing up Chris Leek. Back in the "Dark Ages" (2000-2005), Coach Paterno sent some of his coaches to Texas University to learn how to use the talents of a QB like Michael Robinson, and that turned around the program. Coach Paterno learned from others then, I hope he learns from others now, there is no time to lose.

John Bloom  
Class of 1985

### Stadium sale could fill seats

I'm not one of those old alumni who thinks it's a disgrace that the student section was still half empty by the end of the first quarter in the game against Illinois. I just thought it was unfortunate that there were hundreds, maybe thousands of empty seats before halftime in the game against Illinois.

They could have gone to students who wanted to attend the game but could not because they didn't have tickets. Those that did have tickets didn't want to attend or could not sell them because of the way reselling tickets is handled now. Here's one way to fill up those empty seats once the game begins. Why not open the empty student section seats to any student who wants them on a first-come, first-serve basis? That way any student who wants to go to the game gets to go. Charge the students using their Lion Cash or meal points by swiping their ID cards to verify they are students and so the university still receives payment for the seat. In fact, why not do that for all seats throughout the stadium.

Greg Halpin  
Class of 1992

## blog lines

### SNAP, CRACKLE, POP

#### Songs to soothe the soul

I've had a busy few weeks and I've hardly had time to catch my breath. Now all I want to do this weekend is slow down and relax. Sadly I won't be able to do this because of all the school-work I've neglected this week, but at least I've compiled a playlist for myself of soothing songs:

1. "Vienna" by Billy Joel: The song that inspired this playlist came on my iPod the other day. It was exactly what I needed to hear. "Slow down you crazy child, take the phone off the hook and disappear for a while," Billy told me. Message received.

2. "Penny's Song" from "Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog": I've been covering No Refund Theater's performance of the show, so the songs have been stuck in my head all week. This one fits in the category of soothing so I had to include it on this playlist.

3. "She's From Boston" by Kenny Chesney: My love of the Red Sox and the four years I lived in Massachusetts probably influenced my affinity for this song. Also, like all of Kenny's songs, it reminds me of summer.

4. "Capri" by Colbie Caillat: Pretty much all of Colbie's music is relaxing, but this lullaby she wrote for her aunt's unborn baby is probably the epitome of that.

5. "One Love" by Bob Marley: I couldn't possibly make a mellow mix without a little Marley on it...

Hannah Rishel  
Performing arts reporter

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