

OPINION

THE DAILY
Collegian

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About the Collegian: The Daily Collegian and The Weekly Collegian are published by Collegian Inc., an independent, non-profit 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 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.

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Letters

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

■ **E-mail**
collegianletters@psu.edu

■ **Online**
www.psuonline.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: RECENT STUDENT ACTIVISM

Protests are welcomed on campus

This week, Penn State's campus has been filled with displays of student activism and awareness rallies.

From Coming Out Week events to Eco-Action's rally for renewable energy on Old Main Lawn, it was refreshing to see so many Penn State students being vocal about things indirectly related to the university and college life.

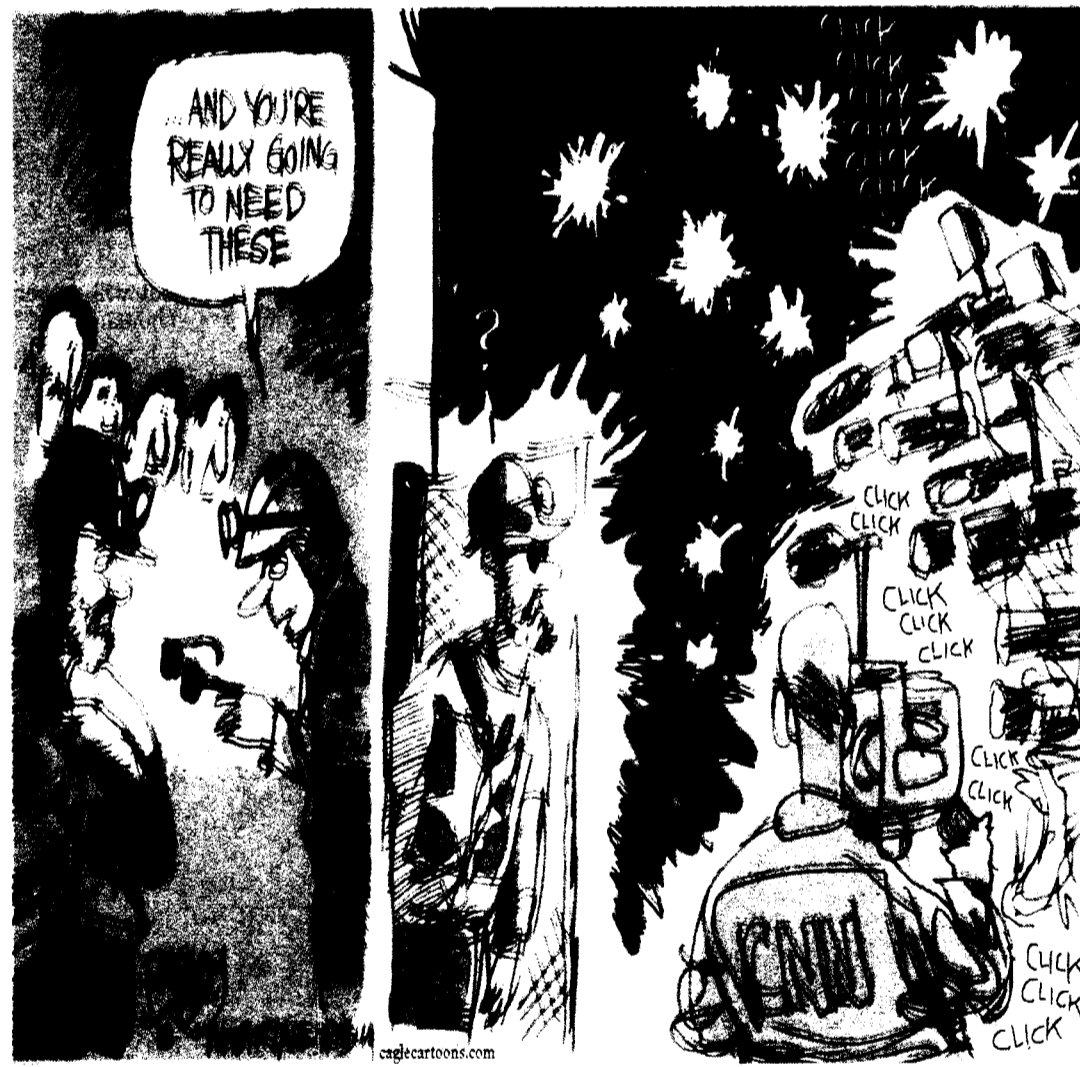
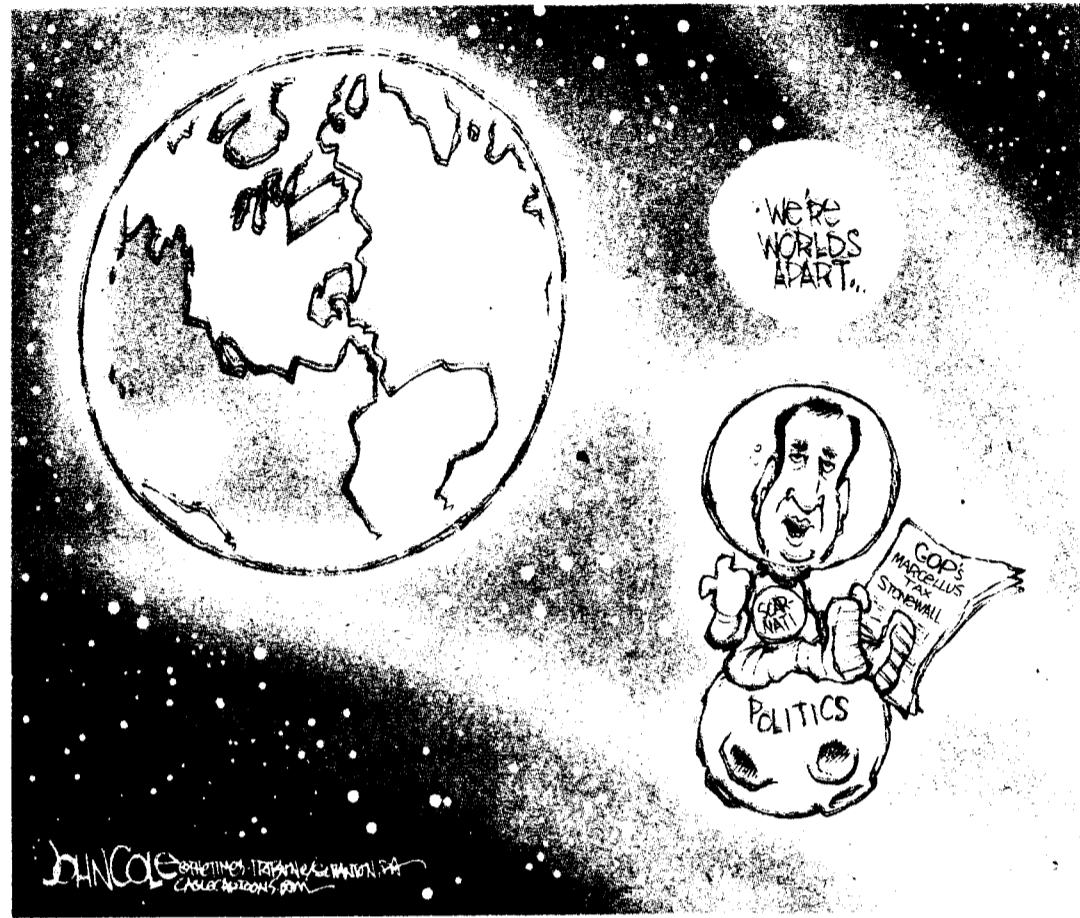
Penn State students have a generally apathetic attitude, so these groups should be commended for looking past issues involving football and caring about what's going on outside of State College.

We hope that other students do not simply look the other way when they see these public displays of activism, and make a concerted effort to head

these messages or get involved in the causes themselves.

While we encourage displays of student activism, we also urge these organizations and protestors to be organized and thoughtful in their approach.

Chanting and rallying can be equally as powerful as sitting down with administrators to talk change.



GUEST COLUMNIST

Concerns can be heard at the HUB

By Elizabeth Goreham

This week the Mayor's Office Hours in the HUB-Robson Center began, hosted by the Off Campus Student Union (OCSU) every Wednesday and Thursday afternoon in its office, 221B.

The idea to come on campus was born during my discussions at the University Park Undergraduate Association's Encampment last March, but it took two people to make it happen. I am grateful to Meg Furey, then President of OCSU, who volunteered their office for the remainder of the Spring semester; and Bobby Ryan, the current President of OCSU, who welcomed and expanded my office hours this Fall. Thank you!

From now through May, except for holidays, I will be at the OCSU office twice a week. I hope you will take this as an invitation. No appointment necessary.

Students are the majority of residents in State College. Most on-campus students also live within the municipal borders of State College. As your Mayor, representing your local govern-

ment, I come to the HUB eager to listen to what you want to tell me.

If you want to know more about the workings of the State College Borough, come see me. If you have an idea how to improve town-gown relations, please share it with me.

Nothing is more important to our community. I will do what I can to put you in touch with the right people.

If you have a problem or see an issue that needs to be addressed, I would be happy to make any suggestions I can on how to best proceed.

If your organization has a project that would make our town more sustainable, I'd love to be a part of it. Borough Council adopted a resolution with specific goals making State College a Climate Protection Community. We need your ideas and help to meet those goals.

If you are a journalism or communications student, bring your camera or your pen. I enjoy being interviewed — the questions help me understand town-gown issues from a different perspective. Being interviewed also provides me valuable practice for my speaking skills.

As Mayor I am also seeking opportunities to further my own aspirations for our town and all its citizens, expanding on the

current alchemy, mingling students and non-students in a community that continues to grow and benefit from Penn State's pursuit of excellence. I especially want to champion equity, community and environmental responsibility.

These are my favorite hours in the week because I meet new people and learn a lot. Coming to campus twice a week has also broadened my understanding of what it means to attend Penn State as a student.

In addition to a full load of classes, projects and all that texting, many of you also dedicate your energy to one or more of the 800 student organizations that offer seemingly endless opportunities.

This week I attended the Earth and Mineral Science Student Council and was deeply impressed by its energy and enthusiasm to undertake an important extracurricular project.

My vision of State College as a great place to live is both green and expansive, with local businesses and culture. This vision will be my roadmap and every one is invited to participate in these efforts.

Elizabeth Goreham is the Mayor of State College and the Daily Collegian's Friday guest columnist. Her e-mail is egoreham@statecollegepa.us.

LETTERS

Thompson visit to PSU should address more important issue

In response to Thursday's article "Representative speaks with students," Congressman Glenn Thompson should be the last person to give advice to Penn State students. In his visit to our campus last year he spoke about his trip to Israel sponsored by a special interest pro-Israel lobby group, American Israel Public Affairs Committee, whose leaders, Steven Rosen and Keith Weissman, were charged with espionage in 2005.

Why is Congressman Thompson accepting trips sponsored by a group whose leaders are involved in espionage against the United States? Congressman Thompson's freshman term in Washington and involvement with such groups is evident of the increasingly growing influence of lobbyist controlling the debate. Congressman Thompson should instead be having a debate with Penn State students of whether accepting lobby money is ethical or not.

Shadi Ghayeb
graduate-engineering

PSU fans of many sports teams lack class and enthusiasm

Every day we hear the same thing about great Penn State's fans are and how we are the best student section in the country for football. These so called "fans" this year have not even filled up the student section at a football game once. Then, when our football team loses a tough game, we go and bash the team.

Well you think that is bad, let's take a look at an incident that happened Wednesday night at Jeffrey Field when the Penn State men's soccer team was ready to take on No. 1-ranked Akron in a pivotal match.

A great number of students showed up to the game, and a couple of them decided to sneak in Akron's locker room tent while their team was warming up. Five of Akron's Jerseys and a pair of \$200 cleats were stolen. This caused a 40 minute delay and a damper on the rest of the night. Luckily, the incompetent students were caught. But seriously, that is garbage. I think we need to reevaluate ourselves as fans. We think we are the best, but we're not. We lack class and enthusiasm.

And one more reality check on our school spirit. How many students have purchased their Penn State basketball season tickets?

Greg Kincaid
senior-communications

Fans should expect more from Lions because of PSU legacy

In response to Jessica Uzar's column "Fans need to give Lions a quarter," I am aware we start a freshman quarterback, have been stung by a rash of injuries and are hindered by a very unimpressive offensive line. However, I disagree with Uzar's assertion that the fans are being too harsh on the team.

There is only one reason Beaver Stadium holds 110,000 people and football weekends in State College are considered an unofficial holiday — the quality of the football team. Unfortunately, the quality level is not very high at this point, and it is not just growing pains. For starters, full job security has prompted this coaching staff into a state of complacency. Fans have had every right to question some of their clock management decisions and play calls this year.

Personally, I am sickened to see the same conservative runs, sidelines passes and soft zone defensive package on a weekly basis. Perhaps somebody like Temple coach Al Golden can show offensive coordinator Al Golden how to utilize the middle third of the field or explain to defensive coordinator Tom Bradley that other players can rush the quarterback besides the front four and occasional linebacker. In football terms, we are soft.

Intercollegiate athletics is a business (farewell 30-yard line student section seats). It would be one thing if this was University of Pittsburgh, West Virginia or Illinois. But we are talking about Penn State football, one of the most prestigious programs in the nation. Though I will always show loyalty to my program, the quality of the brand this current football team is producing is unacceptable.

Tom Macaluso
junior-accounting

JoePa deserves fans' support for leadership on and off field

The last few days all I have read is that JoePa needs to go — well he doesn't. Sure, this season Penn State isn't playing up to our expectations — but Joe is the reason we have those expectations.

When Joe became head coach there were barely 30,000 seats in Beaver Stadium and Penn State was never thought of as a national power. Coach Paterno hatched a grand experiment that combined successful athletics with successful academics, and it worked. Penn State is recognized as a premier football team, and more importantly as an athletics program that graduates a higher percentage of student athletes than almost anyone else.

That's what matters. Sure we want to win games, but what Joe has done for this university I think we can take a couple extra losses every year to show our gratitude to a great man. Joe deserves to go out on his terms, do we really want Penn State to look like Florida State and fire a living legend? And before you answer that think of how many other college football coaches have built their school a library.

Scott Weaver
junior-landscape contracting