

EDITORIAL: DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL POLICY

Judge's order is just first step

Last Tuesday a federal judge ordered the military to stop enforcing the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. And while the Justice Department has 60 days to appeal the ruling, no immediate action has been announced.

It is nice to see that someone finally stepped up to the plate to take the first measure in abolishing this policy. The military should no longer defend a 17-year-old policy that applies to an all-volunteer, co-ed army. The

Obama administration has already openly criticized the policy but has done little to rectify the situation.

Now that the ball is rolling, we urge the Congress to take the additional steps to make DADT a distant memory. The administration's choice to appeal the federal judge's decision because of mid-term elections would be a low blow to all those who voted for Obama because they thought changes like this would ensue. Timeli-

ness should affect the end result.

This policy is nothing more than institutionalized government bullying and by upholding this outdated policy the administration is destroying people's careers and dreams all because of sexual orientation.

The government shouldn't appeal the ruling just to gain votes. It shouldn't matter what platform ends this policy, just as it shouldn't matter if a soldier is gay or straight.

Students face discrimination

This is a wakeup call to all students at the Penn State Altoona campus. The Logan Township Police are trolling for Penn State Altoona students on a daily basis. I shouldn't be the one to point this out. Your university should be telling you this. Seventy four students were issued underage drinking citation on the first weekend of classes this year. I am not sure how many other citations were issued so far this year, but the numbers stay stagnant year after year and you are paying the price.

The police can stop you anywhere and at anytime for any reason. They can bring their canine units to places like Nittany Pointe and walk your sidewalks even if the complex is completely quiet. As a student, you do not have the same rights as the general public in Altoona. You are under constant watch and the city of Altoona and the university both are making money hand over fist. At \$300 for the first offense and \$500 for the second, Logan Township is obviously profiting. And, supposedly, the fine may go to \$1,000 — you do the math. The university office of judicial affairs is forwarded the students names who are then required to take an alcohol awareness class and possibly community service even if they are not convicted of the underage drinking offense. The class costs \$200.

These are the numbers I could retrieve from the web but I am sure the statistics are much higher. I do not condone underage drinking and neither does Penn State Altoona. However, the university dishes out poor advice by telling students if they are going to drink do it "responsibly." Don't go to big parties, have a designated driver, etc. These suggestions are leading you into a false sense of security. Ask any of your classmates if they followed this advice and still got a citation. The answer will be yes. The simple truth is you are all victims of age discrimination. What are you going to do about it?

Rebecca White
Class of 1994

Fans are not entitled to wins

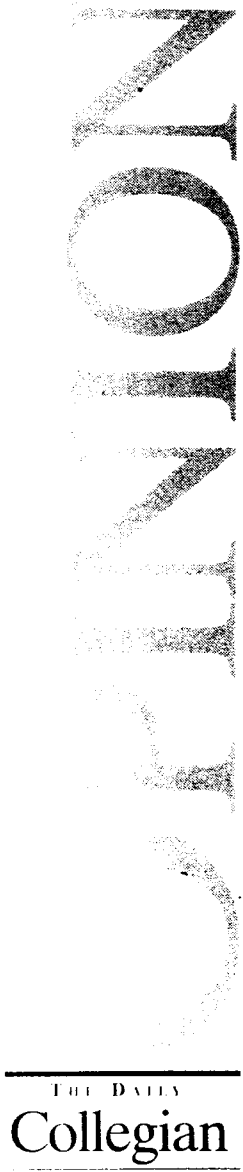
In response to Tuesday's letter "Lion Turnaround Is Unlikely" Mr. Herman's letter is the usual "get rid of JoePa" letter that creeps around the mid-season of a bumper football year. What makes his complaint stand out, however, is his phrase: "I have the right as a season ticket holder to expect reimbursement for the inferior product that I am paying for." This specific terminology creeps up more and more — not only in regards to football, but also academically.

This sense of entitlement comes down to this: Professors, instructors and certainly coaches are increasingly relegated to customer service. We hear phrases like this: "You're giving my son an F? We're not paying for him to come here to receive Fs." Mr. Herman, you're simply paying to watch a live sporting event. You are not paying for Penn State to win, just like any alumnus is not paying tuition for his Penn State daughter to get an automatic A.

Paterno has been the greatest financial asset Penn State has ever had regarding academics and athletics. Insulting Paterno's age and credentials because of lousy scores this particular season is absurd. Are you expecting Paterno to drop magical fairy dust on the players to get them to the Rose Bowl? Maybe they just stink this season.

Of course Penn State is money-driven, but quality — whether it's academic or athletic — is not necessarily a direct correlation of the money thrown at it. Take that as you will.

Alice Teeple
Class of 2005

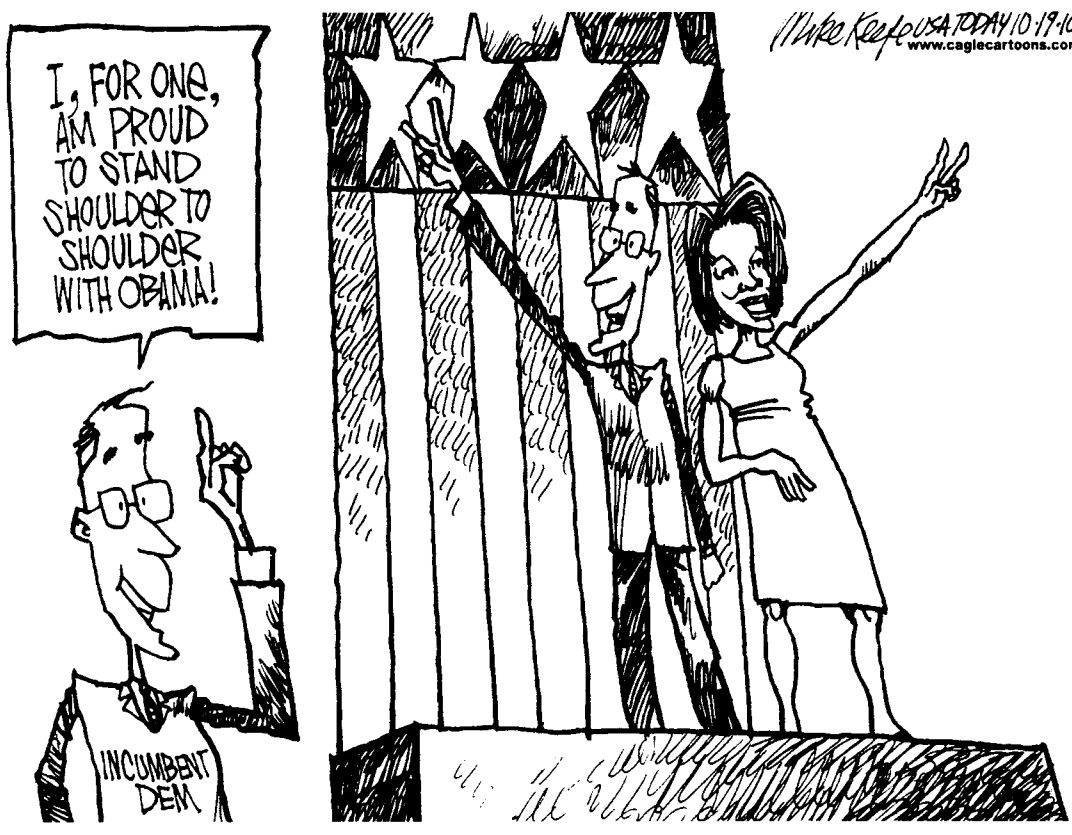
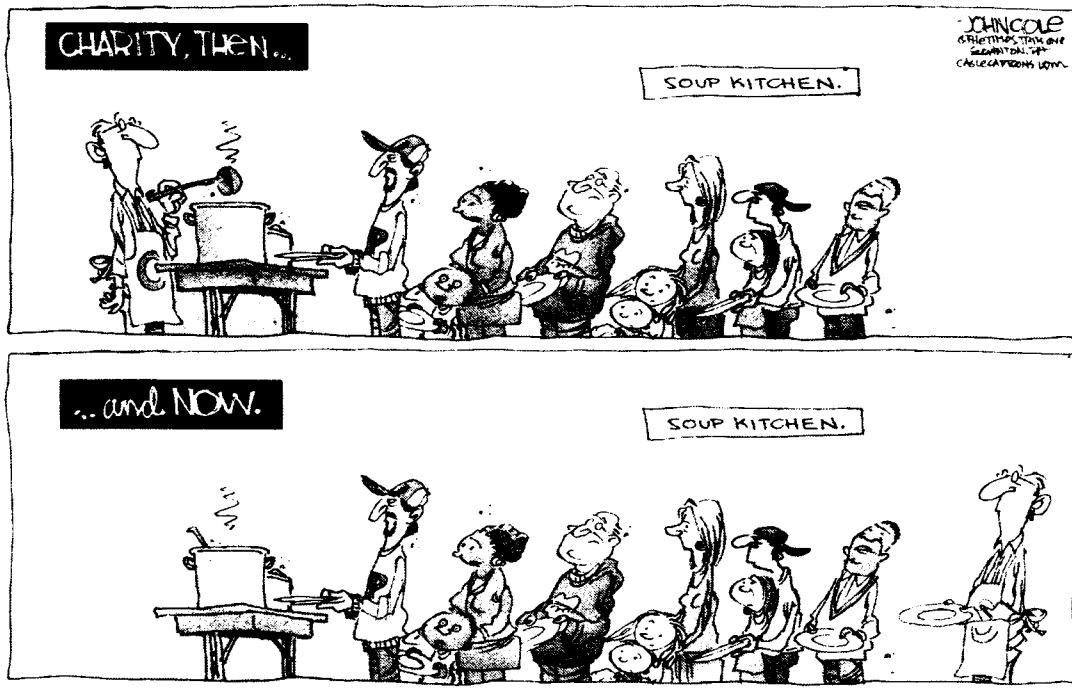


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College displays boy, girl differences

By Jessica Uzar

I've been in denial about relationships between men and women for a long time.

Until recently, I couldn't understand why men seemed to be so dumb.

Then this summer, I realized that, in fact, they are not dumb. They're just different.

Working in a steel mill, I was surrounded by 150 plus men with only three other women on site as my allies. Being around this large amount of testosterone pushed me to my most recent revelation about the sexes.

In the "real world" outside of college, I heard the way the men at work talked about their relationships. Divorces were a very common topic and none were pleasant discussions. And every single person that had any advice about relationships told me to never, ever get married.

If guys hate being in a relationship so much, why do they do it?

Men and women really do have different brains. When the book "Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus," first came out, I was pretty young. Only now do I appreciate the idea of how truly opposite males and females are.

Girls are crazy. Yes, I said it and am admitting to it myself.

All girls except your mom, of course.

Sometimes I don't even understand why I say what I say or why I care about a particular thing. Of course a boy is sleeping with every girl that writes on his Facebook wall, right?

Girls basically think with their emotions, sometimes construing what makes sense. Boys are the

opposite, often thinking with little or no emotion — and often using a part of their body other than their brain to make decisions.

The differences are even more apparent in college. Girls and guys generally look at the college dating experience differently. Girls are naturally looking for a boyfriend, whether consciously or not. Guys rarely think of commitment.

Also, the invention of Facebook has only worsened the problems. People can now stalk activities of their boyfriends, girlfriends, exes and crushes. I don't think Facebook has ever actually helped a relationship, except to announce it to the world.

College is such a short time (depending on your career choice) that you almost have to decide between being single or being in a relationship. Say freshman year you meet a great guy or girl. Do you date them because you like them so much or do you pass and stay single so you can get the "college experience"?

For all the students who ever had Dirk Mateer for ECON002 (Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy), you know that college is the best economic time to find a partner, and also the most likely. When else are you in a town where there are so many people your age from so many different parts of the country? And when else in life can you get away with being cheap?

I agree that this is the best time to find someone. But I have also thoroughly enjoyed my first two years in college being single. If you spend almost all your time for the first two years with a boyfriend, your college experience is all about him.

But if we know a high percentage of guys are going to do some-

thing bad in a relationship or turn out not to be the person we want them to be, why do girls want to enter into relationships? If guys know that girls are going to be nuts sometimes and yell at them when they didn't really do anything wrong, why do they date us?

I think the benefits outweigh the problems, and those are the reasons men and women want to be together. When a person finds someone of the opposite sex that they truly like, they enjoy spending time with that person and can overlook the occasional tiff or misunderstanding.

But the more important part of the Mars vs. Venus war for me is that in finally realizing how different guys think, and that it's not something that changes at any point in their maturity.

I feel like someday I can be a better other-half of a couple.

When I find a guy that I want to stay with, I will make more of an effort to not do "typical" girls things. I won't obsess about whether he's being unfaithful and I won't make him talk about his feelings with me.

Of course I'm going to have moments. I cannot stop Facebook creeping. I will always ask if I look fat in a dress — and the answer is always, always no, with zero hesitation.

But I will do my best to remember that guys don't see the world like I do. That they don't have the same thought process or emotion set that I have. And I will learn to know what they are thinking and not get mad when he would rather watch basketball than talk to me.

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blog lines

SNAP, CRACKLE, POP Extra innings

If you've ever seen a documentary, you know who Ken Burns is. You may not realize you know him, but you know him.

Ken Burns is one of the biggest names in documentary filmmaking, with an extensive lineup of productions and his very own famous "Ken Burns Effect," (that classic documentary filming technique where the camera pans and zooms on a photograph).

One of Burns' most highly acclaimed works was his Emmy award-winning documentary "Baseball." The film was appropriately divided into nine parts or "innings," and, recently, Burns released "The Tenth Inning."

Much has happened in the world of baseball since Burns released his original 9-part documentary in 1994, and "The Tenth Inning" aims to document recent history...

David Strader
Music reporter

BETWEEN THE PIPES Moving forward

Junior forward Nick Seravalli is on schedule as he recovers from full groin reconstructive surgery he had in the offseason.

He said he is about two to three weeks away from returning, aiming to be back to face Liberty in two weeks or West Chester a week later...

Anthony Barton
Lcers reporter

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