

OPINION BOROUGHS MEMBER

History made, work still to do

The State College Borough Council's recent approval of the addition of a non-voting student representative truly was a monumental occasion and an exciting accomplishment for the University Park Undergraduate Association.

The passing of this proposal shows how hard UPUA President Christian Ragland and the rest of the association have worked to combat all obstacles in their path.

The relatively quick process shows how much students can accomplish when they exert effort and passion.

This is by far the most

notable accomplishment by UPUA in its short lifetime; it has a much greater impact than others like the White Loop bus hours extension. We are proud of Ragland for following through on such an important part of his campaign platform.

It is also positive to see that the council didn't get hung up on the nomenclature of the student representative, and worked with UPUA to make compromises and steady forward movement.

We urge the first representative to set a positive precedent as the guinea pig in this powerful position. They will have to

work very hard to establish a steadfast student voice and earn the respect of council members.

For the rest of the student body, this extension of UPUA makes your vote in student government elections even more important. Students are now not only voting for their voice on campus, but their voice in the borough council — the person who has the best ability to improve town-gown relations.

All students should utilize this student position and take this opportunity to voice their concerns on borough issues.

LETTERS

Individual only real minority

In order to work towards a truly better and happier society, it's time America stops creating more minority groups and accepts that we only have one, the individual. The individual is the smallest minority, and sadly has become the most abused. One cannot claim to be a defender of minority rights unless they support liberty for the individual. The words of our Declaration of Independence are quite clear, "All men are created equal." It's apparent that founders intended all individuals to be equal, not all social groups. We have lost this intention in a society where we are tolerated because our sexual orientation, permitted to vote because of our ethnicity, or have our property protected because of our socioeconomic status. If we work to create more minorities, more hyphenated Americans or more factions dividing us, we will never live in a free society. The freedom message of our founding documents and American culture should not strive to divide us to make us separate but equal, it should work to simply make us equal.

Brett Larter
freshman-business
Young Americans for Freedom member

'Sundown' review too harsh

Tuesday's review of the album "Come Around Sundown" by Kings of Leon was quick to dismiss the Tennessee quartet's latest work as "garbage" and an "overall disappointment." This hasty assessment was overly critical and undeserved. Albums should be judged based on the quality of their music, not on the relative popularity or attitude of the band. While this album may not be KOLs best work, it certainly merits a better grade than a C+. Die-hard Kings fans and new listeners alike will find that "Come Around Sundown" has something to offer and is definitely worth downloading in its entirety.

John Bogan
senior-international politics

The Daily Collegian

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Letters

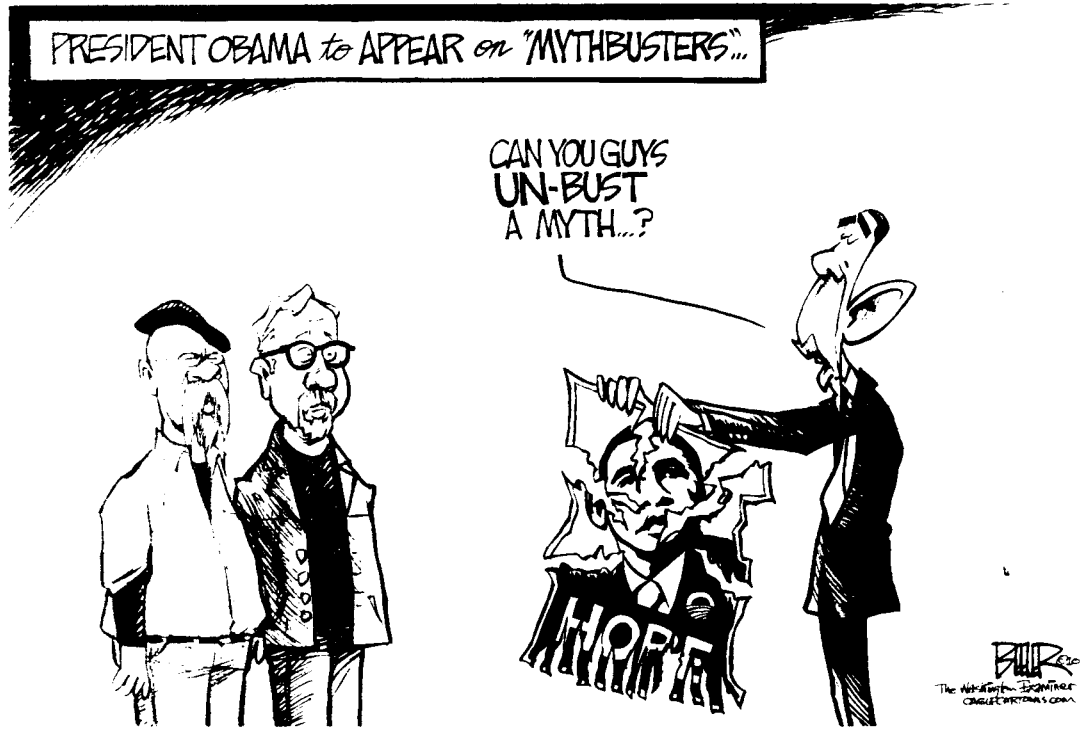
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World seems stranded on the 'Shore'

By Amanda Elser

Oh yeah. "Jersey Shore." yeah. Or should I say oh no. I have a love-

hate relationship with the cultural phenomenon that is "Jersey Shore."

While I do partake in the occasional Thursday night viewing party, I feel as if I have been

able to keep a healthy balance between casual viewer and obsessed fan.

I am not saying that watching these over-the-top "guidos" as a guilty pleasure is a bad thing. They are certainly entertaining in that "I can't believe this is real" type of way. But how many times can one girl be subject to hearing "cabs are here" down the streets of State College a night?

A ridiculous show concept on MTV has turned into a nationwide craze.

Known for fist pumping and drinking, these 20-something "celebrities" are famous for basically being degenerates to society.

On some level, I am a little offended that no matter what respectable journalism career I get with my college degree, I will never have as much money or notoriety as "DJ Pauly D."

It is reported that next season, the cast members will be making \$30,000 per episode.

That is the annual income for an editorial assistant...FML.

Their recent fame has also brought them Ed Hardy T-shirts

and a spot on "Dancing with the Stars," while the rest of us our left quoting their made-up vocabulary.

And while J-Woww's Filthy Couture fashion line just shut down, Snookie and Sammi are both going ahead with their own design ambitions.

Because who doesn't want a bedazzled Bumpit?

What I think really bothers me is that they achieved their infamous status by having poor taste and crude behavior, but our generation continues to emulate them.

I understand that the majority of people who watch "Jersey Shore" religiously do it for the sheer fact that it is amusing, and they don't really expect it to stimulate their brain anyway. But just the fact that these people are idolized for running around beating up each other says a lot about our culture.

Sadly, it is not just our generation that is enthralled by this revolutionary breed of meat heads. Monday morning, "Jersey Shore" cast members made a guest appearance of "Live with Regis and Kelly." A few things alarmed me about this.

1. Middle-aged stay at home wives know about "Jersey Shore" and actually want to watch interviews with these people.

2. Regis, who is old enough to be their grandfather, wanted to know what "hooking up means."

"Jersey Shore" is no longer confined to MTV. "South Park" aired an episode making fun of the reality show and explored what would happen if the Jersey shore tried to take over the country.

The Taliban was the South

Park solution to a New Jersey take over. Terrorists were the satirical cartoon's lesser evil when compared to New Jersey.

Though exaggerated, New Jersey, formally known as the armpit of the United States, really has spread throughout the nation. Once confined to the beaches of New York and New Jersey — guidos have reached all corners of the country.

Maybe I just don't see what all the hype is about. Guidos are nothing new to a girl from Delaware County, Pa., who has been going to the shore her whole life.

And if I wanted to see idiots make fools of themselves I just have to walk around downtown State College on a Friday night.

Subtract the fake tan, the accent, fake nails, fake boobs and gelled hair, and these people are like the average young "adult." We all say stupid things when we are drunk that would probably make a hilarious catch phrase if caught on camera and broadcast over a major TV network.

I'm sure I will be subject to more "Jersey Shore" commentary the rest of my time here at Penn State (probably even more after this column), but I just wanted you to think about what you are all supporting.

If you must run around singing "T-shirt time" when it is cold enough to be wearing a parka, then do it.

But none of you are cool enough to create your own "smush" room.

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MY OPINION

blog lines

FOOTBLOG

Lowe's to bestow award

Senior Stafen Wisniewski is among 10 finalists selected for the Lowe's Senior Class Award.

The award is meant to recognize athletes from various sports for their work both in and outside of the classroom. The Division I athletes are voted on a panel from the national media and Wisniewski is now the only Big Ten player remaining in the football category in the Top 10.

The four categories each of the 10 football players will be considered on is character, community, classroom and competition.

Wisniewski is a secondary education major and also a member of the Schreyer Honors College. With a 3.91 GPA and after participating in mission trips in the Dominican Republic, as well as several local service events, Wisniewski could also become the team's first three-time academic All American...

Audrey Snyder
Football reporter

SNAP, CRACKLE, POP

Pencil precision

Many people create art with a pencil. But how many people can say they create art inside of a pencil?

One talented man from Connecticut can make this claim. For the past 25 years, Dalton Ghetti has been creating miniature sculptures from the tip of a pencil. Ghetti has created minuscule, yet highly-detailed, sculptures such as a tiny shoe, a hammer, a mailbox — even Elvis Presley.

Ghetti, who works as a carpenter, started out by creating large sculptures, but said he decided to try to create the smallest sculptures possible in an effort to challenge himself. Ghetti experimented with chalk before settling on the use of graphite, and uses three tools to complete his work: a razor blade, sewing needle and a sculpting knife.

The sculpting process is a painstaking one. His creations take months to complete on average...

Julie Mastrine
Culinary reporter

Uba-cool

Turn off the lights, crank up the volume and let the strobing begin. That's the feeling Uba's new music video ignites with its amped up sound, glow in the dark lips, and sexy dance moves.

Jeremy Sylvester, the UK's equivalent of Simon Cowell, is on the verge of introducing Uba to the world-wide fans of "indie-grime pop acts."

The group is a collaboration of DVSMC, Rony Blues, and Jon Audio, who is also responsible for co-producing the group.

Recently, the group published its first music video onto Youtube after some encouragement from fans eager to see what the group was producing. The new album will go digital on iTunes on Oct. 25...

Brittany Horn
Arts candidate

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