

Ranking jump not high enough

The United States was recently ranked 19th globally in gender equality. The ranking, which is based on economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, political empowerment and health and survival, rose from 31st last year. Though the jump into the Top 20 countries in the world dedicated to eliminating gender inequality shows progress, there clearly is a lot of work to be done on the issue.

For a country that puts so much emphasis on being the land of the free and equal, there are still gaps between equal pay

and equal work. Along with economic issues, women only make up a small percentage of our nation's political leaders in Congress. And when female leaders do run for political office, the public and the media seem to focus more on her emotional state or her latest haircut than her actual political policies.

Penn State is not exactly a microcosm for gender equality either. There has never been a female president of Penn State, and though the university seems to be equal when it comes to women in student leadership positions

such as UPUA, THON and other organizations, the administration leadership is lacking in female numbers.

Breaking the stereotypes of women in America — from how they should dress to how they should behave and what positions they should or shouldn't hold — seems like the first step in pushing our gender equality ranking higher.

Ranking 19th out of 136 other countries isn't too bad, but not too bad is not the sentiment that the U.S. strives for on many other issues. This should be no different.

Team giving, coaches failing

After reading Wednesday's letter "Fans are not entitled to wins," I was extremely surprised by the author's response. In criticizing Mr. Herman's statement of wanting a reimbursement for season tickets, she compares it to a professor giving a student an F. A professor doesn't give a student an F just because the professor wants to and the parent's who complain expect the students to do their best.

The same is expected of the football team — the entire team, players and all. We expect the players to go out there and do their best. We also expect the coaches to call plays that benefit the team. Only calling seven throwing plays in an entire game does not do that.

I do not blame Mr. Herman for wanting his money back. If a student went to class and tried their best, got good grades on all tests and the professor still failed him then the student should want their money back. That is the situation that these football players are in. They are giving their all and the coaches are failing them — literally and figuratively. Maybe Mr. Herman is wrong in throwing the "get rid of JoePa" card out their, but I think all fans will agree that something needs to change.

Manal Khalil
Class of 2010

PSU football still a business

In response to Wednesday's letter "Fans are not entitled to wins," Ms. Teeple must be one of those "Kool-aid drinkers" that believes that we should just accept mediocrity and allow JoePa to stay forever because of the legend's past and not whether he is truly capable of running the current program.

I stated that comparing this program to the 1964 turnaround was like comparing apples to oranges. I hope that you do understand that you run a business to succeed and mediocrity and less is not acceptable. Whether you want to believe it or not, football at major universities is big business. Take it away, or even cut the revenue that it brings in, and watch the ripple effect on the university. That being said, the CEO of the program (head coach) has the responsibility of making sure that the "business" is successful as that is what the stockholders (season ticket holders) expect with their investment. JoePa states that he has delegated much of the coaching responsibilities to his assistant coaches. There is the answer. The assistant coaches are demonstrating that they cannot get the job done and JoePa is demonstrating that he is no longer able to perform all the functions that the "CEO" position requires.

When JoePa can no longer achieve success with the "business" then it is time for a new CEO. There will never be another JoePa, but that does not mean that there is not someone out there that, in his own way, will bring new excitement and success to Penn State football. Let the new era begin ASAP.

Rick Herman
Class of 1975

Engineers need 'soft skills'

In response to Thursday's article "PSU engineering 'highly regarded,'" Mr. Wintner accurately captured the value and increasing importance to engineers of so-called "soft skills" — which are critical to project and product success. Regardless of where engineering students learn the technical aspects of their trade, they would be wise to invest some time in learning and mastering interpersonal skills. Programs like those at Penn State and MIT — and the other participating institutions at this meeting — are preparing young engineers leaders to become effective engineering leaders.

Bruce R. Mendelsohn
director of communications and outreach at MIT



Seat benefits students, community

By TJ Bard

This past week has been an eventful and historic one for not only the University Park Undergraduate Association, but also the entirety of the Penn State and State College communities. We as students now have a stable and powerful seat in the decision making process for our local government.



MY OPINION

This week marks a milestone in the creation of an everlasting form of communication between the State College Borough Council and the Penn State student body.

Clearly, I am referring to the recent passing of the resolution forming a non-voting student representative to the State College Borough Council.

As the Governmental Affairs Chairman for UPUA, I have worked very closely with this proposal from the start. This initiative about the inclusion of a non-voting student representative has been one that I have pursued passionately since the end of my freshman year.

I was previously a non-voting student member in my home town and helped to establish similar models throughout my community's governing bodies. Coming to Penn State, I quickly saw the apparent need to bridge the overwhelming gap between students and the State College Borough.

I was encouraged when UPUA President Christian Ragland and

Vice President Colleen Smith included this initiative on their platform, and subsequently pursued it after being elected. I believe this position could become the most influential and historic position for any student at Penn State to obtain as an undergraduate.

It is hard to realize the sheer magnitude and importance that this decision has carried. Now, we as students have a permanent voice on the borough council.

We are able to formally voice questions, concerns and opinions on all matters occurring in State College. This means that the student body is guaranteed to be considered in every facet of a borough council decision.

I believe, though, that it is more than just the student body of Penn State that benefits from this historic decision. I have always spoken to that fact that this position allows for communication to be a two way street. The non-voting student representative position should not only be utilized by the student body. This seat should be a resource for the borough council and entire State College community.

It is imperative that the community uses the position as a way to directly connect to the student body. I hope that the community can voice their concerns or ideas at the council meetings with the confidence that the non-voting student representative will take that information back to the student body.

This position is far more than just an extra seat at a meeting. This position will be an opportunity — it will be an opportunity to form relationships, strengthen bonds, voice concerns and con-

tribute to the overall governance of State College.

This entire process has been a testament to the willingness of the borough to work with students. I was so enthusiastic and pleased about the welcoming I received from the council members during my almost two months of individual meetings that I conducted to discuss this resolution.

I promise that the council is excited about the students and genuinely wants them to be involved. I commend the council members for being so open minded and truly taking a leap forward in the improvement of relationships between students and their elected officials.

The unanimous passing of the resolution sends such a strong message of cooperation and compromise. The creation of this position was nothing short of monumental for everyone involved.

This was a collaborated effort between the borough council, residents of State College, the UPUA assembly and the executive board. But more importantly, this will be a position that serves the entire community for decades to come.

I have always advocated that UPUA should be the voice of Penn State students. This time we were able to create a position that does just that. It is the voice and will continue to be the voice of the student body where it proves to matter most.

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Collegian

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blog lines

INCOGNITO

Change is good

Hey, all. Welcome back to the Collegian's ever-evolving new website. I'm Paige Minemyer, one of the online managers responsible for maintaining content on our site.

It seems like we just got settled into the new look of our freshly overhauled website, the baby of the web staff. However, you know what they say... you can't please everyone.

So, we met with the newsroom to discuss the things they'd like to see happen on our website...and boom. We changed it, just like that, because we want the Collegian's site to be as effective as possible for conveying the news to Penn Staters. Though the changes you see now may be small, they represent our effort to move even closer to integrating the look of our broadsheets with that of our homepage.

The main home layout will also gain a new sense of consistency with updates. The layout you see will generally only change in content, not in design. And it's my job as an OM to keep an eye on the design and to see that visitors are being exposed to different stories and features during the day without losing grasp of the big stories and important content everyone needs to know.

What do you think of the updates? What would you like to see on the site to make content more accessible and explorable?...

Paige Minemyer
Online Manager

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