

OPINION

THE DAILY
Collegian

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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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Secrecy, tiffs cloud credibility

This past weekend was the first canning weekend of the season for the IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon. While thousands of students set out to raise money for children with cancer, it was not without continued controversy between the THON Overall Committee and other THON groups.

The THON Overall committee changed the look of canning materials, and left out the Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Council namesake, without telling or consulting anyone.

This angered some greeks and greek leaders because they were not informed about the name change beforehand.

We feel that this never-ending battle between greeks and THON is something that both parties must work to end.

While perhaps unintentional, releasing a press release about the material change and not addressing the fact that the IFC and Panhellenic name was removed from the signs was a sneaky move by the THON Overalls.

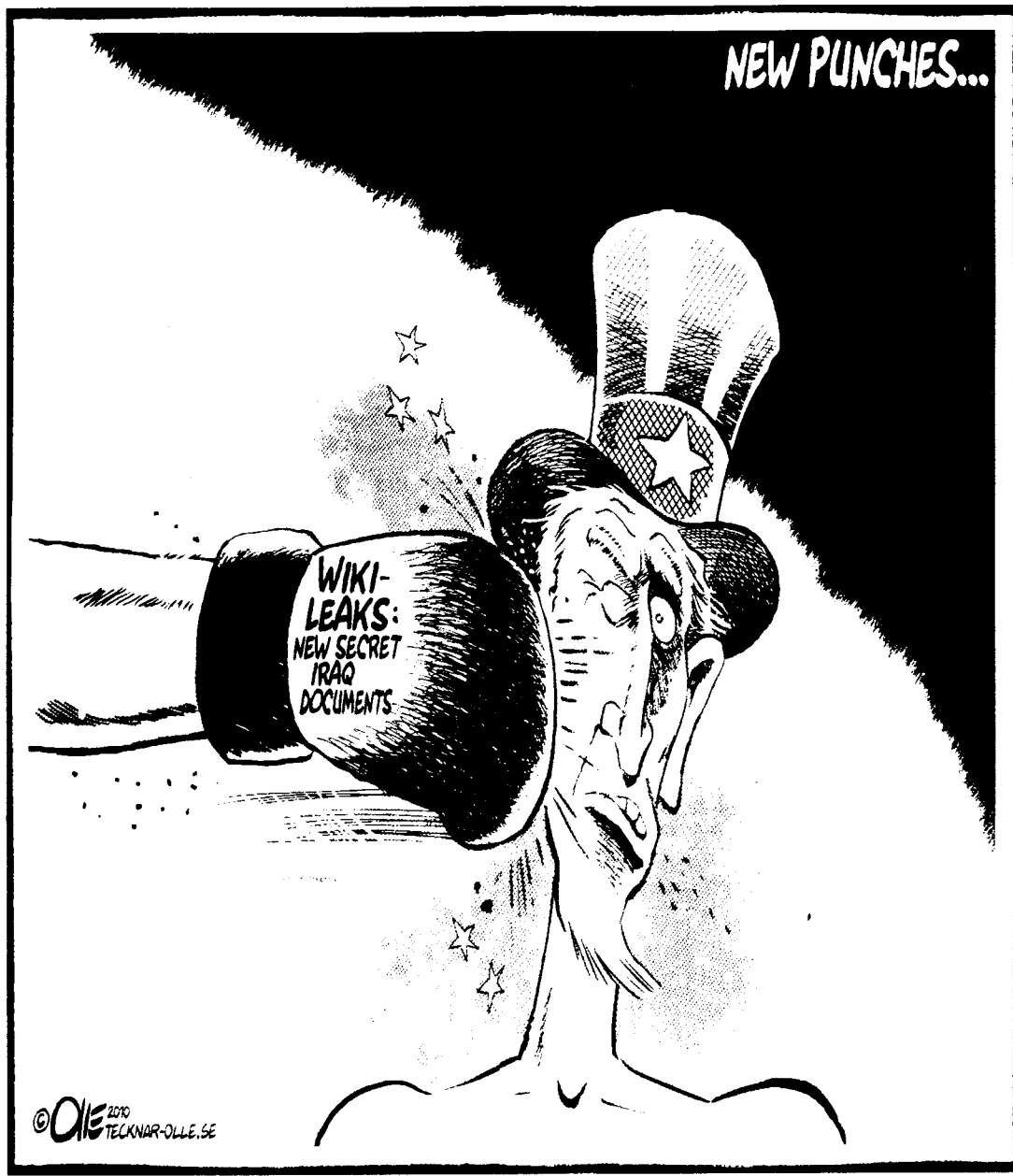
Their promise for more transparency after other changes were made earlier this year was obviously not upheld through recent actions.

We want to remind all sides of what this philanthropy is really for — children with cancer. THON should not be trying to

shut out the greeks and the greeks should not be starting controversy that is not related to the kids or the total. Both parties should only be doing what's necessary to make THON the best it can be, not giving it a bad name with secrecy and petty arguments.

As we said before, it doesn't matter what the change — communication is key.

We know that this controversy did not affect the canners out this weekend, but we worry that if there is a constant tug and pull between people in power that it may cause a ripple of consequences that will negatively affect the entire THON community.



Tea Party is scarier than a nightmare

By Michael Oplinger

This Saturday Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert will host the

most anticipated non-political political rally since Glenn Beck's "Restoring Honor" rally two months ago.

And Colbert will host the most anticipated rally to keep fear alive since, well, Glenn Beck's two months ago.

But the Tea Party movement has outdone both of them in spreading panic throughout the country.

Since 2009, the Tea Partiers have been obsessing over a perceived fundamental change in the democratic system.

The wealth was being redistributed right before their eyes. But they were the only ones who noticed it.

Taxes were increasing at an astronomical level while somehow also being reduced for 95 percent of the country.

Constitutional rights were being infringed. Their voices were being drowned out despite being given huge media coverage.

The horror! But, with Halloween approaching, visions of the Tea Party in power are far more frightening than anything you'll see this weekend.

Imagine it's 2015 and Christine O'Donnell is in the third year of her term as president after beating out Sarah Palin in the 2012 election. Despite polls that show Tea Partiers tend to be wealthier and more educated than the general population, they continue to struggle to nominate intelligent candidates, making

O'Donnell the obvious choice. Palin did remain in the administration, securing the Secretary of State job for her extensive foreign policy experience gained dealing with Russia when governor of Alaska.

Armed with a majority in Congress, O'Donnell was able to implement her most important policies in order to attain true freedom and liberty for all.

The obviously socialist health care reform bill was instantaneously repealed, ensuring those who can't afford coverage deservedly won't be given access to satisfactory treatment. It's simple political Darwinism.

The federal income tax became a thing of the past because it was so damn unconstitutional, despite its establishment in the 16th Amendment of the Constitution.

Taxes across the board were then slashed significantly.

Unemployment benefits? Gone. President O'Donnell wants you to get a job and stop being a free-riding leech on society.

Social security? No chance. People can't be truly free if they rely on the government for support, no matter their age or disability.

With limited funds, the government let true democracy take its course. Private businesses scooped up the old government functions.

Roads crumbled and bridges fell, except in areas where "true Tea Party patriots" could afford to pay the private contractors to repair them.

Crime rates were on the rise because people should be truly free without the pesky interference of law enforcement. Without money to fund them, local governments eliminated police departments, forcing citizens to hire private security for protection.

Houses burned down at his-

torically high rates as public fire stations ceased to exist. Anyone who wanted the privatized fire department to extinguish a fire better have already paid the corporation running the station.

Because President O'Donnell wanted no poor person to be smarter than her, public schools shut down and were replaced by fancy, high-priced private academies. Under the new system, people truly have freedom of education and a choice in where they go to school.

In order to control the free flow of dissenting opinions, public libraries have been replaced by privately owned book rental stores. Each town features its own "Rupert Murdoch Books for Loan," which carries only books by Bill O'Reilly, Glenn Beck and Ann Coulter.

After gaining power, the Tea Partiers decided to downsize the government, logically eliminating their own jobs.

By ridding the government of such pointless bureaus like the Environmental Protection Agency, the Tea Party ensured that air and water flowed freely and toxically into our homes.

And, as mandated by the 28th Amendment to the Constitution, a weekly rally is held in Washington, D.C., to reinforce the message with the population. Citizens are required to dress up in 18th century clothing to properly channel the original message of the country's first Tea Party patriots.

The policies seemed so logical when explained in the folksy, down-to-earth style of President O'Donnell.

Wait, President O'Donnell? That's scarier than any other witch you'll see this Halloween.

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Protestors provide wrong fact

Some people were offended by the large posters of the abortion display this week and last week. I, however, was more offended by the group's lack of intellectual honesty.

One of their posters displayed the severed head of a fetus. In the copy, it says that this was done without anesthesia. This procedure, called an IDX abortion, is often performed when the fetus is already dead inside the mother. In cases when it is not, a syringe of a chemical to stop the heart is given before the procedure. Either way, the reason why there is no anesthesia is because the fetus is already dead. IDX is also illegal in the United States.

In addition, this group repeatedly claimed that a fetus has consciousness at 40 days, even when I showed them textbooks to the contrary. The abortion debate is complicated enough with just the real facts. We shouldn't have to worry about the accuracy of the information presented.

Valerie Lute
senior-English

Gift should honor Lt. Murphy

The memorial plaza for Lt. Michael Murphy has my vote for senior class gift all the way. It's time we had something named after a student, and an actual hero, rather than another governor or former president of Penn State.

Nick Bell
junior-security and risk analysis

Stadium could hold concerts

I propose that the athletic department begin to aggressively market the most under-utilized asset on campus for the purpose of outdoor concerts and professional sports events — Beaver Stadium. Back in the mid '80s, the former Undergraduate Student Government petitioned the university to open up the stadium for non-football events; however, Coach Paterno put a "thumbs down" on the idea over concerns of turf damage. That concern is no longer valid today as universities all over America are raising additional revenue from stadium concerts and protecting their turf by using a state-of-the-art technology called Terraplas. I am not a season ticket holder, but I find it saddening that long-time, loyal fans, who have sat in the same seat for generations, will be given the boot next season because of cost. The typical fan doesn't have a money tree growing in their backyard. Attending a game is now going to be out of reach for a lot of loyal fans. The time is perfect to start using the stadium for concerts and roll back the STEP contribution.

Dave Swiderski
Class of 2010

Lions need white out support

Like many of the PSU faithful, I've found this football season to be a little tough to watch. How quickly, though, I forget about the three losing seasons we had when I was a student, and I should probably remind myself that we've been to two BCS bowl games in the last four seasons.

With that in mind, I propose we put the first half of the season behind us and make the second half one to remember. What better way to start it off than by having a white-out? Though it's a rebuilding year, we don't have the right to give up on the team. If I can be there in the good times, I can be there in the bad. I think the school owes it to itself to show Michigan, the team, and the PSU nation what we're made of. A packed Beaver Stadium of 110,000 screaming fans adorned in white should prove that quite nicely...and you never know, we just might surprise ourselves.

David Lane
Class of 2004

blog lines

SMALL WORLD

Gift search part of process

Almost eight weeks in Washington has started to take a toll on me. I am exhausted, but I knew I would be when I accepted the offer to study and work here. The Penn State Washington Program is able to sell its participants as worthwhile interns to companies in D.C. by offering us as available to work at least four full days a week.

The tactic works, though. The caliber of internships some of us have is truly impressive. They range from USA Today, NBC's "Meet the Press" and the Attorney General's office.

At WTOP Radio, I've grown to enjoy and appreciate my internship even more. I worried at first about settling for a radio station because what I really want to work in is TV someday. But I didn't know just how successful a station WTOP is until working here for awhile. What I've learned is that WTOP was the second largest revenue-generating station in the country in 2009. It's also a 2010 triple-Murrow Award winner. Fox reporter John Henrehan told me he thinks it's arguably the most successful radio station in the country. Needless to say, I no longer feel like I settled.

The variety of experience I'm getting is incredible. I have shadowed and assisted reporters, conducted "Man on Street" interviews and interviews by phone, published four articles to WTOP.com, and earned the trust and responsibility to update the website weekly by myself...

Erica Brecher
Small World blogger

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