

# Effort brings gradual change

Last Tuesday, members of Eco-Action met with President Graham Spanier and other administrators to discuss a student/faculty coalition and future plans to improve Penn State's sustainability and decrease its carbon footprint.

We applaud both Eco-Action and the administration for taking the steps to enact change.

A student/faculty coalition is a great initiative to ensure that there will be a formal mode of communication and a free-flowing exchange of ideas between faculty and students.

It's also good to see student activists, like the members of Eco-Action, opting for quiet, but efficient means of helping their cause, instead of just planning loud and flashy on-campus protests.

However, both parties should also realize that they have to be committed to this coalition in order to get things accomplished. The administration has a history of meeting with student groups like Eco-Action, but this increased communication rarely results in action.

The administration has a great opportunity to enact change, now they

need to follow through. These meeting should also continually involve the members of the administration that make these big decisions. A liaison should never be sent in their place.

Eco-Action should continue to take the long term into account, and realize that the university has limitations as to what can be done immediately. Change is possible, but it will happen gradually.

Through an extended process and sustained effort by both parties, we believe growing a greener Penn State is both possible and necessary.

## PSU hurts home affordability

In response to Friday's article "Happy Valley avoids pain of recession," a recent article printed in Voices of Central Pennsylvania has a different take on Penn State's impact on the local economy. For example, housing is much less affordable in State College than in neighboring cities and counties throughout the state, and this problem has only worsened during the recession. The university is the reason for this inflated expense, which impacts all residents, not just students, and puts hundreds (including families) on waiting lists for government subsidized housing throughout the county.

Dr. Trish Campie  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

## Republicans not considered

In my five years of reading The Collegian, you have not once endorsed a Republican. The full-page ad for Obama (I'm sorry, "Opinions Page endorsing Obama") during the '08 election was proof enough of your liberal bias, but seriously, Goreham for mayor, Casey for Senate, and now Sestak and Onorato? Do you guys even consider other parties? If you want to be an "objective" and "unbiased" organization, why not endorse someone not on the Democratic ticket for once? It may help any remaining credibility your news department has.

Kurt Bopp  
Class of 2010

## Tea Party initiative won't hurt

In response to Tuesday's column, "Tea Party scarier than a nightmare," if many of the things the writer said would come true, it wouldn't be so bad. Federal Income Tax being taken away, great! Now people can afford to pay for health insurance. Firehouses and police stations would still exist, how do you think we lived before 1932? Social security will be bankrupt when our generation is old, so get rid of it anyway! Again, how did the elderly survive before 1935? If public schools were torn down, then there would be many more private schools and their rates would go down because they would have to compete with each other. But we'd have more money anyway to pay private schools with no school tax and all the other taxes cut. And the schools would probably be more effective than public schools because if there were no teacher unions, teachers would actually have to teach. Some government agencies could go away, and most could be downsized. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be three city blocks long and one city block wide. With more money, more local would businesses open, giving way to more jobs. The roads could still be funded, or if not, toll roads would be rampant but we could pay for them because of less taxes. The unemployment benefits would be drastically reduced. What an America we would have if taxes were only at 10 or 15 percent.

Philip Rossi  
Class of 2010

## THE DAILY Collegian

Elizabeth Murphy  
Editor in Chief

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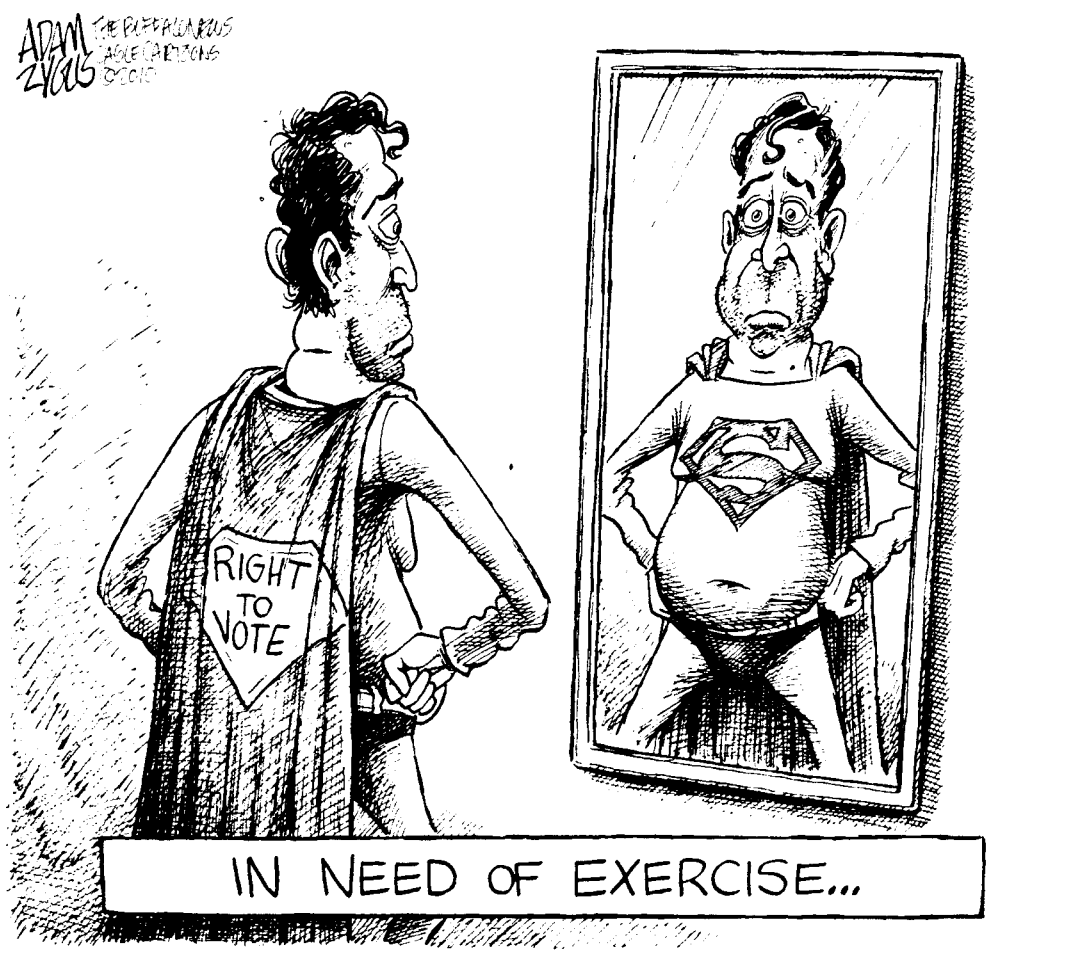
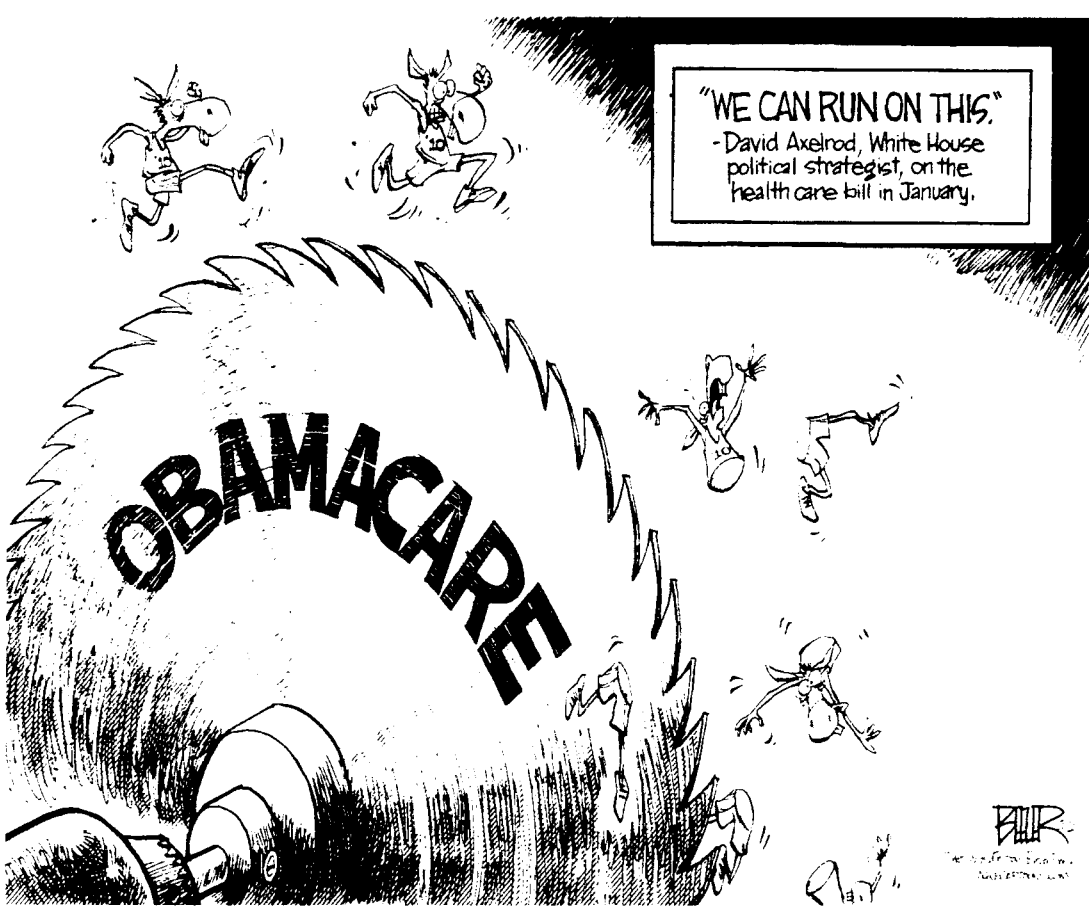
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# Celebrate holiday in the voting booth

By Katie Sullivan

I was supposed to be born on Halloween, but thank God or Buddah or whoever that I was two days late. Having to share my birthday with sugar-loaded hooligans running around like the demons they're dressed as and having to eat my birthday cake in a costume would have made me angry as a child.

By being born two days late, Nov. 2, you'd think I wouldn't have to share my birthday with any other holidays. But if you're a devout Catholic, as my family pretends to be, I share it with All Souls' Day. This is a whole 24 hours of praying for people who are in Purgatory/limbo because they were crappy church-goers like me.

Not the ideal holiday to celebrate a birthday, either. If you're of Mexican heritage, Nov. 2 is the Day of the Dead celebration, a holiday dedicated

to honoring the memory of lost love ones. It's better than damn-ing the memory of the loved ones, but still a little creepy because of all the candy skulls.

But this year, my birthday falls on the most important holiday of all.

This year, Nov. 2 falls on Election Day.

This is a holiday I'm proud to share my birthday with. If anybody asks me what I want for my birthday, it's for people to celebrate this day to the fullest.

Celebrate our country's freedom. Celebrate your individual rights, and that if you lived anywhere else, they wouldn't be the same. Celebrate your voice — that you get a say in who represents us in our government.

Celebrate by voting in the mid-term elections.

Helping to elect Pennsylvania's next governor, congressmen and women and county representatives would be the best gift this soon-to-be 22-year-old could ask for.

I know it's frustrating sometimes — our perception of Harrisburg and Washington is jaded. Squirrelly, shifty politicians seem to always do one

thing and say another. Our economy and job situation are dismal.

But Nov. 2 will be a day where we can celebrate change, a fresh start and a new candle on the cake of our country's history. Go out and cast your vote for who you think can switch our perception of government from one that is struggling into one that is thriving.

With my new age — and therefore wisdom — I can safely say an active political society is the basis for a functioning democracy where citizens are the ones who thrive. As a soon-to-be college grad, nothing would make me more pleased than leaving the Happy Valley bubble for a real world where the economy is on the up and I can find a job.

So help me and my fellow seniors out. Vote tomorrow and help take part in what our state and our country needs.

Celebrate this birthday and Election Day to the fullest!

Katie Sullivan is a senior majoring in journalism and The Daily Collegian's Monday columnist. Her e-mail is kms5424@psu.edu.

## blog lines

### EXPOSURE

#### Below the surface

I was lucky enough to visit the islands of Hawaii this summer. My favorite part of that trip was snorkeling. I had purchased an underwater camera before the trip.

Snorkeling is like being in an aquarium or Finding Nemo. It was amazing. So here are my tips on underwater photography:

- 1: Try not to go where everyone else does.
- This is because with many people in the water, like in Hanauma Bay in Oahu, everyone is swimming and therefore kicking up the sand and other dirt that's in the water. When this happens you end up with pictures where you can see all the dirt. Also, if you are in this situation try not to use the flash because it will make the dirt more obvious.

- 2: Go early!
- Go early, this way you can avoid crowds, and the fish are more active. I went to a small beach along Ali Drive in Kona on the Big Island pretty early in the morning. My father and I were the only ones at the beach. The fish were so active and picture perfect...

Amanda August  
General assignment photographer

### HARDWOOD HITS

#### Poll tells all

Talor Battle is not a preseason All-Big Ten selection.

The first Big Ten Media Poll of the season was released Thursday afternoon at the conference's media day in Park Ridge, Ill., and Penn State's senior co-captain was left off the list.

Battle, who finished second in the conference in scoring in 2010, is a two-time All-Big Ten selection. The 6-foot guard was on the first team in 2009 and the second team last season.

Michigan State — which returns three starters from last year's squad that went 28-9, earning its second consecutive trip to the Final Four — was selected to finish first in the Big Ten...

Emily Kaplan  
Men's basketball reporter

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