

# NOVEMBER

## 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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Letters should be about 200 words. Student letters should include class year, major and campus. Letters from alumni should include year of graduation. All writers should provide their address and phone number for verification. Letters should be signed by no more than two people. Members of organizations must include their titles if the topic they write about is connected with the aim of their groups. The Collegian reserves the right to edit letters. The Collegian cannot guarantee publication of all letters it receives. Letters chosen also run on The Daily Collegian Online and may be selected for publication in The Weekly Collegian. All letters become property of Collegian Inc.

## Ban is not a necessary measure

The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board recently encouraged local alcohol distributors to take Four Loko, an alcoholic energy drink, off the shelves pending approval from the Food and Drug Administration.

After incidents including hospitalization of some college students from drinking the product, the PLCB requested shops drop the product.

Though we understand the PLCB is only looking

out for the health and safety of Pennsylvania citizens and students, it is not right for them to target one specific product.

There are many alcoholic energy drinks out there that were not requested to be taken off shelves.

If the FDA is going to ban one, then they must take a hard look at all.

Wouldn't Red Bull and vodka need to be banned as well?

Another issue this situa-

tion touches on is social responsibility.

As young adults, it is our place to control our own drinking and to avoid dangerous drinking practices, not a government agency's.

Four Loko is just like any other alcoholic beverage, there is some risk involved if you drink irresponsibly.

There are always college student drinking fads. An outright Four Loko ban is unnecessary.



## Cohabitation shows true personality

By Jessica Uzar

**L**IVING with roommates can be a nightmare. Everyone has different

expectations on cleanliness, guests, chores, loud music — you name it, it can become an issue.

Coming into this year, I signed a lease for an apartment with two girls whom I shared a dorm room with for a year, as well as one girl I had met only once or twice.

It had the potential to either turn out great or become a disaster.

As it turns out, it has been a fantastic time. It's three-quarters of the way through our first semester of living together, and we have reached a point where there are no secrets, no judgment and no holding back.

We tell our life stories to each other and complain about how much we don't want to study. We talk about anything and everything — no topic is off limits.

And, at least for my side of the apartment's bathroom, we even pee with the door open.

We've become good friends simply by living with each other. Sharing an apartment with someone, you see them in their worst moods and all their bad habits quickly come out. You also quickly realize what traits people have that annoy you.

Though I've always had a roommate in the dorms, living in

an apartment has been so much different. It's a lot more responsibility, and I think that brings up more important issues than living in a dorm did.

Not only do you learn what your personal cleaning habits are — I've learned that I have definitely picked up my parents' trait of obsessive cleanliness — but you learn how to work around others' habits.

One of the most important life lessons is compromise. A roommate of mine refuses to take out the garbage, but she does other chores, like cleaning the kitchen.

I think living together has developed our relationships for the better. We haven't hit any major bumps in the road yet, but with the little issues that have popped up, we've been very open about it and talked our way through it.

Our roommate experience has made me realize that living with someone is the best way to get to know them.

This solidifies the fact that I want to live with whomever I plan on marrying before the wedding actually happens. I want a relationship or engagement long enough to live with someone for a while before I make that commitment.

The divorce rate is high enough to cause concern. Having the opportunity to live with someone before making such a big commitment reduces the risk of failure for the relationship.

For a long time, my years of Catholic school education told me that living with a guy before I marry them is a bad thing. But

I've decided that I'm okay with the idea.

I think the most important thing that comes out of the roommate relationship is the communication skills. With strong communication all other problems can be resolved. If one roommate doesn't feel that he or she can bring up small issues — like the fact that they hate when you leave dirty cups on the coffee table — then the small issues will pile up and become big issues.

This is particularly important when it comes to marriage and serious relationships in general. If you can't tell your potential husband that you hate that he leaves his dirty dishes piled in the sink, then it might be hard to tell him that you want him to stop his excessive drinking.

I'm very happy with how this year has gone in my apartment and I wouldn't change a thing. It's been a great time. I've forged close friendships that I might not have if we hadn't ended up living together.

I also think the things I'm learning about myself are important — what my quirks are, what my standards are and where my lines stand in a living situation.

But as a side note, my standards do not include toleration of stealing, so whoever stole our kitchen sign should probably return it.

Jessica Uzar is a junior majoring in journalism and political science and is The Daily Collegian's Wednesday columnist. Her e-mail is [jlu125@psu.edu](mailto:jlu125@psu.edu).

### Embrace climate skepticism

Tuesday's article, "Student project aims to prove global warming is occurring," is an excellent demonstration of why the public has adopted a (rightly) skeptical position on global warming. According to the article, students in engineering were required to "prove the credibility of a number of peer-reviewed sources related to climate change." If you're assignment is to prove the credibility of a paper, then you're not coming in with an open mind — you have an agenda from the outset. The close-minded nature of the exercise is made evident when you consider that the class apparently disregarded all skeptical research as not "valid." What does this mean, exactly?

Apparently, "any of the sources the class found against global warming were against a specific study." In other words, when the class found two contradicting sources, they automatically assumed that the non-skeptical one must be correct. This is a mockery of science. One term that the article used over and over was "peer review." Alas, this is one of the great misconceptions regarding global warming. People hear that alarmist science is "peer reviewed" and assume it to be true. Have we already forgotten Climategate? We have ample evidence of climate "scientists" colluding for political purposes. Peer review is corrupted when controlled by a like-minded clique, as was evident from the Climategate emails. The public is right to turn away from climate alarmism. Now, more than ever, we must embrace skepticism.

Samuel Settle  
junior-history and political science  
Young Americans for Freedom Chairman

### Spanier should be applauded

As a proud member of the Penn State family, I am disgusted by the immaturity of the student body, both past and present, by their booing of President Graham Spanier at this weekend's game. Dr. Spanier should be commended for the remarkable job he has done in his 15-year tenure at our institution, the one I call a second home.

We all need to take a good look around the campus and beam with pride at the renovations done to it. When I left in 2001, there was no sky bridge across Atherton Street. There was no "new" Berkey Creamery. The classroom buildings by the golf courses were just finished. During his tenure, he has created the Schreyer Honors College, the College of Information Sciences and Technology, the Penn State World Campus and is responsible for the merger with the Dickinson School of Law. He hosts a radio show on WPSU, plays the washboard, intramural racquetball and is a magician. He embodies the meaning of "involved."

We should all thank him and his wife, Sandy, for their contributions to our collegiate home. Enough with the carrying on about arbitrary issues. Tailgating has not been eliminated. The changes in the greek system were needed because some houses could not conduct themselves responsibly. Grow up a little. Penn State is a better place thanks to Dr. Spanier.

Kyle Greenwood  
Class of 2001

### Students still disappointing

For the second game in a row, I was very disappointed in the Penn State students' attendance at the game. First, you have a night game against Michigan and the student section is half empty at the start of the game and never fills to capacity. On Saturday, with Penn State's legendary coach going for his 400th win, the same thing happens. Then, during the post game ceremony, the classless students boo the university president when he is trying to say some kind words to Coach Paterno. While 99 percent of the fans stayed after the game for the awards ceremony, several hundred students decided they had more important things to do than be a part of football history. Best student section in the nation? I don't think so.

John Lynn  
Class of 1973

## blog lines

FOOTBLOG

More on 400

**Tom Bradley, Defensive coordinator:** "All the people who have been involved in this from players and the managers, the coaches, to the people that supported this program, to the great fans we have, I think it's a 400 win for Penn State."

**Ron Vanderlinden, Linebackers coach:** "It's so unprecedented, and it's doubtful it will ever be broken again for so many different reasons. It's been a thrill to be a part of it."

**Derek Moyer, Wide receiver:** "Really, it's crazy. I'm honored to have played for him. I kind of thought before the game that it wouldn't be a big deal, kind of just another game. Then as we go out there and play, and the clock starts winding down toward the end, and we realize that we're going to win, it was really something that gives you chills. In the ceremony at the end, it's just crazy — something I'll remember, and I think the rest of the players on the team will remember for the rest of our lives."

Brendan Monahan  
Football reporter

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