OPINION

The Daily
Collegian

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About the Collegian: The Daily Collegian and The Weekly Collegian are published by Collegian Inc., an independent, nonprofit corporation with a board of directors composed of students, faculty and professionals. Pennsylvania State University students write and edit both papers and solicit advertising for them. During the fall and spring semesters as well as the second six-week summer session, The Daily Collegian publishes Monday through Friday. Issues are distributed by mail to other Penn State campuses and subscribers.
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Letters

We want to hear your comments on our coverage, editorial decisions and the Penn State community.

- **E-mail**
collegianletters@psu.edu
- **Online**
www.psucollegian.com
- **Postal mail/In person**
123 S. Burrowes St.
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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.

EDITORIAL

Housing should benefit students

Though Henry Sahakian has withdrawn his rezoning request to build a new housing complex in Beaver Canyon, the State College Borough Council is still considering rezoning the area.

We believe the council should consider rezoning the area to allow the largest amount of student housing because it is a prime location close to campus and more student housing will always be beneficial.

University officials may claim that all students at University Park have found housing for this year, but this still doesn't negate the fact that most students must pay absurd prices for small, dingy apartments, or are forced to live miles from campus if they cannot pay the competitive downtown prices.

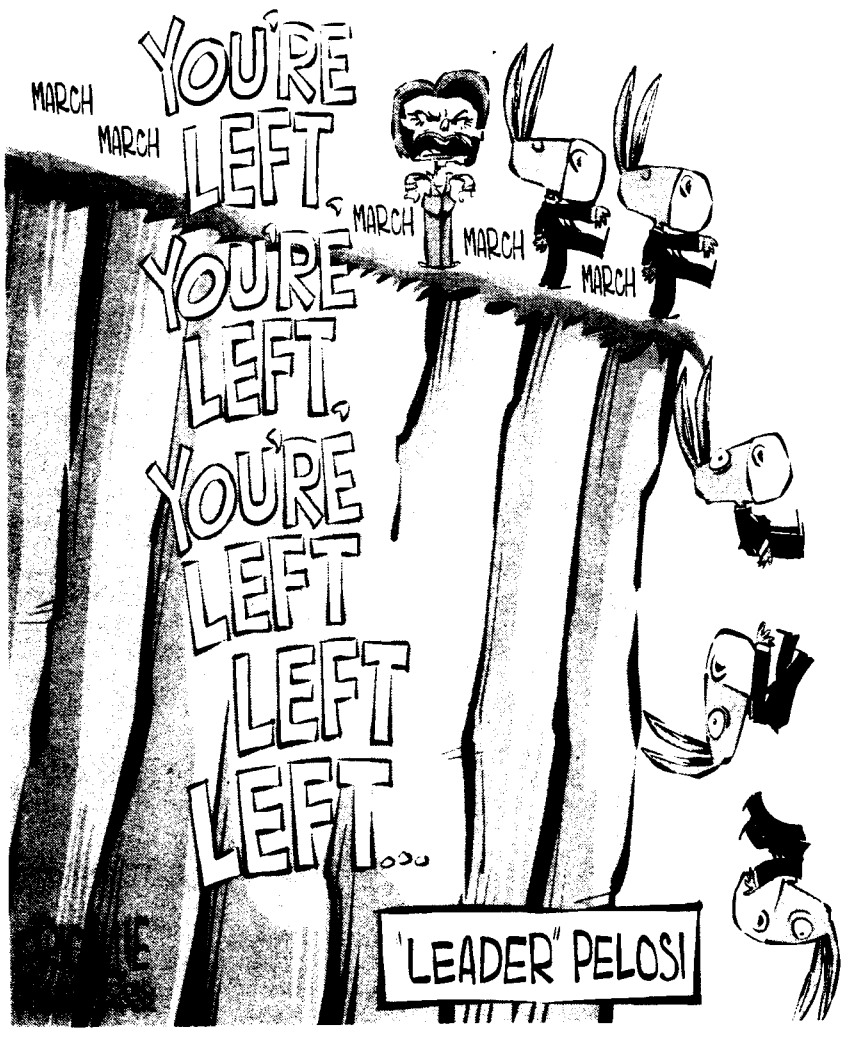
Also, claiming that the university does not plan on accepting more students in the future seems like a shallow excuse for not building more student housing.

Even if this is true, it still means that on-campus students will find themselves crammed into supplemental rooms of eight to 10 people, as the university now offers.

We understand local residents' concern with student density in Beaver Canyon, but the fact remains that very few non-students live in the area. Building a smaller apartment complex will still not make the location any more attractive to this minority of downtown residents. There will be parties in the area whether or not the new complex has 15 units or 42 units.

As with most of the council's endeavors, this rezoning could take weeks or months to see action. But we urge the council to figure out this issue in a timely manner, and in a way that will help alleviate some of the student housing problems.

Housing is the most stressful issue for most students year to year.



Palin show skips politics for scenery

By Amanda Elser

MY OPINION

In case the world didn't get enough of the Palin family — between tabloid covers, "Dancing with the Stars" and, of course, the 2008 presidential election — another hour of television is about to be dedicated to the Alaskan family and the former Republican governor.

The concept surrounding this eight-part television series, "Sarah Palin's Alaska" is to give viewers and inside look of Alaska through the quirky eyes of Sarah Palin.

The show seems to be a perfect fit for the Discovery Channel, with its mountain climbing, canoeing and bear sightings. Yet, all the while Palin's glasses were left perfectly un-foggy.

Whether you agree with her political views or not, Palin seems to be a pretty entertaining character for a television show. The trailer even made me laugh a bit.

It seems as if the show is going to be a mixture of Palin family drama and scenic Alaskan frontier.

The trailer showed sneak peeks of Willow Palin trying to sneak a boy up to her room and Sarah Palin getting a gnat stuck to her lipgloss (every girl can relate).

Palin was reportedly approached by more than 200 outlets for a reality series, but said yes to Mark Burnett and his spin. Burnett pitched the show to be a governor's tour of Alaska, and that is certainly how the website describes it.

So is the centerpiece of the television series America's forgotten state or America's rejected vice-president?

According to the show's website, "Sarah Palin's Alaska" is introducing viewers to another aspect of the unfamiliar land and says that "you betcha that you want to watch."

The website has set up blogs to discuss different facets introduced in each episodes — culture, media, politics and behind the scenes. In addition, each week they will have a live podcast for the truly opinionated viewers.

I am curious to see how this Sunday's premiere goes. It is almost guaranteed that audiences will tune it just to catch a first look at Tina Fey-worthy Palin mockery.

But if viewers are hoping to see politics, the producers are adamant that this is not the show for you.

To prove it, the show's political blog is titled "Not Taking Sides" to promote non-partisanship discussions — even though they still show clips of her recording her Fox news segment.

We've seen it before, reality television shows making seemingly unimpressive people ridiculously famous.

Now, that disease has spread to politicians.

Since the 2008 elections, Sarah Palin has become a notable figure in American households.

Whether or not you picture Tina Fey when you think of Palin is another story.

She is no longer a hot topic because of her political affiliation, but because of her pregnant teenage daughter, her Fox news airtime and now her reality TV show.

Quite frankly, I am sick of the Palin drama in People every day. I'm hoping that if the show does anything, it refocuses the question of why Palin was even considered for the vice-presidency in the first place.

Amanda Elser is a senior majoring in journalism and is The Daily Collegian's Thursday columnist. Her e-mail is **ale5045@psu.edu.**

LETTERS

CATA cuts affect residents

In response to Wednesday's article, "CATA to cut some services," it is extremely frustrating to read about the reduction in some of the services from CATA. I ride the K route every day that the bus runs, which is currently Monday through Saturday. On Saturday, I work on campus and it is crucial for me to catch the bus. Currently, at my bus stop, the only two buses which stop there are the K and S buses. The S route does not run on the weekends at all. The future plan of CATA is to eliminate the Saturday service for the K route all together.

For those who are like me, how are we going to get to campus? I have walked to campus before from where I am living. It is at least a 40-minute walk, and the sidewalks do not even extend that whole distance. In order to stay on the sidewalks, you have to jaywalk across the busy street. If you do not do this, then you are forced to walk about one to two feet away from the side of the road on ground that is not flat. In the coming winter months, how will those who rely on the K route be able to get to campus since the snow, and especially the ice, can be dangerous? Also, like others who pay their own way through college, I maintain a schedule of hours at work in order to, get this, pay for my CATA bus pass, as well as other necessities. Working in the middle of the week is a last resort because of studying and homework. It is also frustrating to read that CATA wants to increase service to the more highly used bus routes.

State College Mayor Elizabeth Goreham is wrong when she said that CATA is considering the needs of its residents. If it were, then it would consider other alternatives to the current schedule, such as just cutting back the K route or having the S route run on weekends.

Sarah Rauterkus
junior-nutritional sciences

Alumni also hurt attendance

As a Penn State student, I make it a point to read The Daily Collegian. I mean, who doesn't? However, in the past few weeks I have been bombarded with letters to the editor from alumnus about their disappointment in the Penn State students at not filling the student section, particularly at the Michigan and Northwestern games.

One alumni pointed out that the student section never filled to capacity during the much anticipated 400th win for JoePa that took place in front of 104,147 fans. The remaining 6,000 seats that were empty on Saturday night were not all in the student section. In fact, not even half of that number were in the student section.

So I ask you alumni and fellow Penn State fans, why are you unable to fill your seats? It is hypocritical to point fingers at the students when the rest of the stadium is also not full. In addition, some alumni seem to forget that the number of tickets sold equals the number of seats, and therefore will not always be filled. There are always circumstances in which not every student is in State College for those games and in a student section of 21,000 there are bound to be a few dozen students missing. As for not being the best student section in the nation, we will always be the loudest and proudest no matter how full our section is at the end of the game. Which is why we earned the title in the first place.

Christina Tabraham
junior-accounting

Shot glass ban has no effect

Though I can't really say I am angry at the fact I can no longer buy a Penn State shot glass, I also can't say that I actually know anyone who has refrained from drinking just because they didn't have a PSU shot glass. Honestly, this policy is almost as ridiculous and pointless as banning green beer and pizza on State Patty's Day. Anyone who was here for State Patty's last year will probably tell you that they didn't hold back on celebrating just because they wouldn't get green beer or pizza. The same also goes for this situation. If students are going to drink, they are going to do it regardless of what they're drinking it out of. All this policy is really going to do is stop people from having a Penn State shot glass as a souvenir, not stop people from taking shots.

Morgan Flenman
senior-human development and family studies

blog lines

SMALL WORLD

One month left

I think I finally fit in here. I know how to get through the Metro system seamlessly. I know the best places to eat in my neighborhood. I understand the local news because I've learned the names of D.C.'s newsmakers and pieced together the geography of the area. I've even given other people directions. I still have to travel one block in the wrong direction when I get off the Metro to realize the street numbers are going in the opposite direction that I need to go, but even that is happening less often. I've finally settled in, and suddenly my time in Washington is almost over. Leaving WTOP News is going to be hard. I've made great connections and friendships with the reporters and people. They've gotten to know me as more than just an intern...

Erica Brecher
Small World blogger

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