

# OPINION

THE DAILY  
Collegian

Elizabeth Murphy  
Editor in Chief

Kelsey Thompson  
Business Manager

**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.

**Complaints:** News and editorial complaints should be presented to the editor. Business and advertising complaints should be presented to the business manager.

## Who we are

The Daily Collegian's editorial opinion is determined by its Board of Opinion, with the editor holding final responsibility. The letters and columns expressed on the editorial pages are not necessarily those of The Daily Collegian or Collegian Inc. Collegian Inc., publishers of The Daily Collegian and related publications, is a separate corporate institution from Penn State.

**Members are:** Lexi Belcuffine, Caitlin Burnham, Paul Casella, Kevin Cirilli, Beth Ann Downey, Amanda Elser, Ashley Gold, Stephen Hennessey, Allison Jackovitz, Andrew Metcalf, Nate Mink, Elizabeth Murphy, Laura Nichols, Michael Optinger, Edgar Ramirez, Heather Schmelzlen, Caitlin Sellers, Laurie Stern, Katie Sullivan, Jessica Uzar, Aubrey Whelan, Alex Weisler, Somer Wiggins, Steph Witt and Chris Zook.

## Letters

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

■ **E-mail**  
collegianletters@psu.edu

■ **Online**  
www.psu.collegian.com

■ **Postal mail/In person**  
123 S. Burrows St.  
State College, PA 16801

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 STATE COLLEGE SAFE

### Ranking shouldn't cloud reality

Though State College has fallen to the No. 3 spot in the safest metropolitan areas in America after receiving the highest rank last year, we are still proud that all Penn State students can consistently call our college town a safe home.

But just because we rank low in the violent crime statistics — including murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, bur-

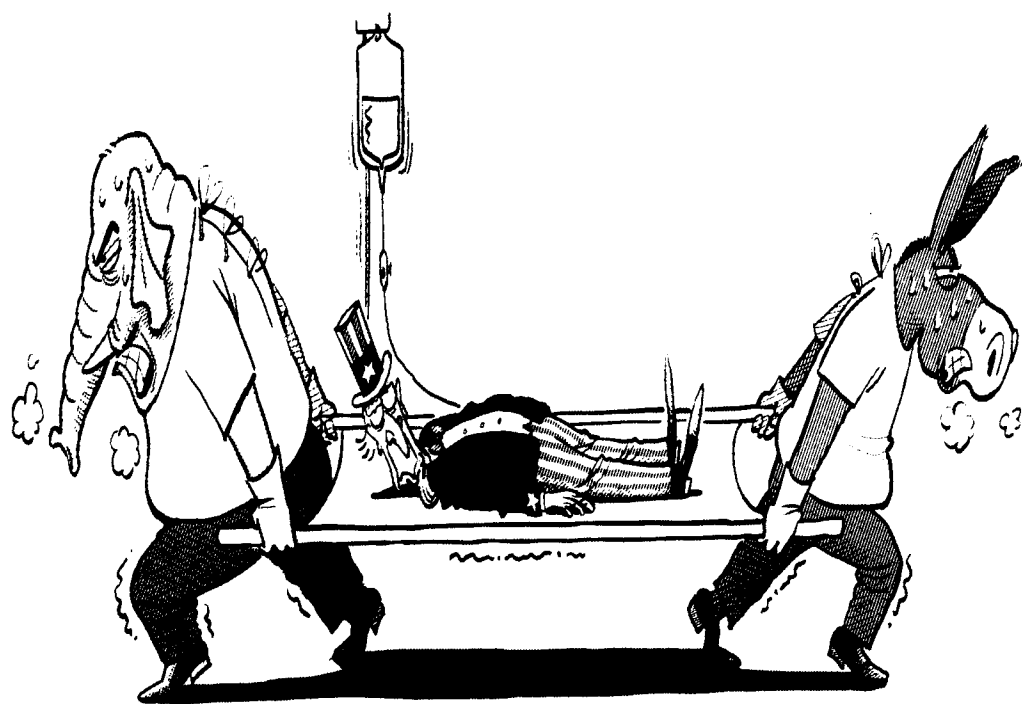
glary and motor vehicle theft — compiled by the Congressional Quarterly Press, State College still has its full share of problems.

Students, residents and borough officials cannot cite this ranking as a reason to lessen efforts to minimize the petty crime that plagues State College.

With an underage drinking problem, a string of

indecent exposures on campus and recent stabbing incidents, we all need to remain concerned about ways to make both University Park and State College safer for everyone.

While we should relish in the fact that State College is consistently deemed a safe metropolitan area, the news should also continuously be taken with a grain of salt.



### PSU sports outside Beaver Stadium are worth student attendance, support

By Cassie Leighton

**A**FTER experiencing it once, you're hooked. The adrenaline rushing through your veins. The camaraderie of more than 107,000 friends. The echoing sounds of "We Are... Penn State."



MY OPINION

A football Saturday in Beaver Stadium is unparalleled. The student body arrives in force for each game, and usually ends up sacrificing their voices for the next few days in order to propel their school to victory.

In fact, Kirk Herbstreit once again named Penn State "The Best Student Section" in the nation.

However, the student energy and passion brought to Beaver Stadium goes into hibernation following the last home football game in late November.

As current vice president of Nittany Nation, the Penn State men's basketball student section, our organization strives to find ways to increase student attendance and encourage game day participation during the basketball season.

From pre-game to the waning seconds of the second half, we work to build an electric energy that matches the standards set by Penn State students earlier in the fall.

Over my time here as a student, there have been glimpses of magic atmospheres at basket-

ball games that were similar to the ones created during the football season.

Perhaps the best example was when more than 30 buses filled with students made the trip to Madison Square Garden to witness Penn State win the 2009 NIT Championship over Baylor University.

Never before had MSG literally rocked as it did when Penn State students bounced to "Zombie Nation."

We showed the power of student support and demonstrated our ability to create a home court advantage despite being more than four hours away from Happy Valley.

However, the need for passion and pride does not end with football or basketball.

There are nearly 30 sports teams at Penn State, and together they create one of the most impressive athletic programs in the nation.

Our women's volleyball team is three-time defending national champions and recently won another Big Ten title. Our combined fencing team has won 12 national championships since 1990, and the Penn State men's soccer team made it to the third round of the NCAA tournament.

The list of exceptional programs runs on and on.

These teams are composed of our fellow students, who spend hours every day preparing to represent Penn State at the highest level possible.

They deserve our support for all their hard work and dedication.

Never again will we have the

opportunity to see a wide range of quality sports (or next to nothing) day in and day out as we have at this very moment.

Unfortunately, the truth is that many students will never see many of the Penn State teams play during their time here in State College.

As students, we need to work to increase our attendance at the events of the 26 other Penn State teams outside of football. It has to be discouraging for many of those student athletes to continually compete in front of small crowds and in nearly empty venues after months of hard work.

When students do actually show up to other sporting events, a distinctive home court advantage is created as is done each Saturday in Beaver Stadium.

The encouragement and inspiration provided by fans can elevate the games of our athletes and, in some instances, be the difference between victory and defeat.

Nittany Nation would like to challenge the student body to live up to the honor bestowed by Kirk Herbstreit and to continue to exemplify the standard of excellence for the fans of all other universities.

The power is ours to show the nation that we truly are Penn State at Beaver Stadium and beyond.

Cassie Leighton is a senior majoring in sociology and is the vice president of Nittany Nation. She is The Daily Collegian's Friday guest columnist and her e-mail is [cl5095@psu.edu](mailto:cl5095@psu.edu).

### DeChellis fails to put winning basketball program on court

As a senior, I have been going to basketball games for four years now, and in those four years I have seen a few very exciting games. But a majority of my time inside the Bryce Jordan Center has been full of disappointment.

It seems that after eight years here in Happy Valley, it is finally time for head coach Ed DeChellis to be removed from his position. After leaving the Maryland game and watching what seemed like an offensive game plan of who could shoot the quickest and a defensive scheme of who could stay the furthest away from an opposing player, I feel like it is finally time for Ed to go.

I do appreciate all the great things Coach DeChellis has done for the university with Coaches vs. Cancer and the team's involvement with THON, but at the end of the day his main goal is to put a winning program on the court. After eight seasons of failing to do so, I think it is time for change within the basketball program, and I believe that starts with the head coach.

Jason Freeman  
senior-labor employment relations

## blog lines

### INCOGNITO

#### Let's get social

Social media is the buzz word thrown around journalists and journalistic coverage these days, and why shouldn't it be? With over 350 million users worldwide on Facebook and 75 million user accounts on Twitter with an average of 1.3 million tweets per hour (according to an article on [econscout.com](http://econscout.com)) it is an amazing tool to getting the news into people's hands.

This is why, this past semester, The Daily Collegian has embraced social media in the forms of Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr and Foursquare.

Though we had a Facebook account prior to this semester, we have begun to use it more frequently. Mostly we have been using Facebook to bring you into the website and make you aware of interesting articles in the paper and on the web. However, we also use it to get your feedback from the various goings-on of campus and downtown. By monitoring your comments on Facebook we try to take note of what you want to read more of or what we may be missing.

We are using our Twitter in a similar fashion. In the future we are hoping to expand our tweets beyond our coverage, but for now we are primarily using to promote stories and get feedback, much like many prominent newspapers like The New York Times, Philadelphia Inquirer and USA Today. In addition, we have been encouraging reporters to send out live tweets from various events, so even if you can't attend your favorite concert at the Bryce Jordan Center, live tweets will ensure you don't miss any big moments.

In case you have not noticed, we have been attaching Foursquare venues to our relevant stories. Though I'm sure many of you can easily find Eisenhower Auditorium, Beaver Stadium or Schwab Auditorium, it's another useful piece of information attached to the story.

Our Tumblr is the pride and joy of the online managers. Through Tumblr we bring to The Daily Collegian audience the news and interesting facts beyond the pages of our print version. Recent posts include a photo of Mike the Situation with canners, links to other Big Ten newspapers with articles relevant to Penn State or links to articles in other venues that are relevant to Penn State. Our most recent Tumblr post can be seen in the Tumblr box on our website.

We are constantly working and evolving the uses for our social media and would love to hear from you about ways in which we can use these avenues to bring more information to you. Feel free to comment on this post or on any of our social media sites to tell us what you want to see.

Shannon Simcox  
Online manager

### SNAP, CRACKLE, POP

#### Aid in the fight

Wednesday was World AIDs day, where people all over the world spent their day spreading awareness about the disease.

The Keep A Child Alive organization launched its "Buy Life" campaign. According to the group's website, there is a difference between life and living.

"Living may extend time for another day. But life is far more than sleeping and waking. Life is more than merely existing. And, although it would be easier, life cannot be bought in a pill. That is why Keep A Child Alive buys more than just the pills needed to fight HIV/AIDS in Africa and India. It buys the essential nutrition, shelter, support and education to help ensure those pills are taken properly and effectively," according to the website.

Helping KCA spread the word are celebrities like Justin Timberlake, Khloe Kardashian and Lady Gaga...

Karina Yucel  
TV reporter

Read more of The Daily Collegian's blogs at [psu.collegian.com/blogs](http://psu.collegian.com/blogs).