



THE DAILY
Collegian
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Letters
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Equality efforts must see results

Facing the issue of gender inequality among university employees, Penn State has dealt with the issue effectively and quickly — something that should continue in the future.

The university released a report finding that a higher percentage of men earned tenure in a seven-year period than women. Penn State's Commission for Women also found that only 17 percent of professors at Penn State were women — a shockingly low statistic.

While the trend is present at a national level, the fact that Penn State has these commissions shows that it is making an effort to treat its employees equally.

However, any effort made by the university to reverse this national trend's hold on Penn State means nothing without results.

The university rightly acted quickly in responding to the requests, including adding more daycare options, but there is still much more to be done. Penn State must continue to stay ahead of the curve by frequently doing studies to determine which strategies are working and respond accordingly.



Classic still teaches 'Wonderful' lessons

By Michael Oplinger

I spent my Friday night attending the School of Theatre's production of "It's a Wonderful Life," which benefited THON.

The cast and crew brilliantly tackled the daunting task of adapting one of the best movies ever made to the stage, while still evoking the powerful emotions of the storyline.

They accomplished this by sticking mostly to the lines written in the script of the movie, differing only in a few places, including a very noticeable line addition.

"Who would have thought you couldn't trust the American banking system?" one character said about the financial crisis that took place during the story.

The line drew uncomfortable laughter from the sold-out crowd, who very clearly understood the film's impact nearly 60 years after it was made.

"It's a Wonderful Life" is rightly called a timeless classic, as its lessons of being good to others while remaining selfless continue to be relevant today.

In a world where bailed-out bank executives take home huge bonuses and corporations continue to make large profits while many remain unemployed, George Bailey's tale could be a lesson to all of us.

George, like his father Peter before him, continually foiled the plans of Mr. Potter, the greedy businessman who practiced the harshest form of capitalism and desired a monopoly over all of fictional Bedford Falls, NY.

Potter accused Peter Bailey of being a man of high ideals



MY OPINION

instead of a good businessman because he provided people with houses for below market value.

But why do the two have to be mutually exclusive?

People like the Baileys seem to be just what the world needs right now. George and his father prove that it's possible to be both a good businessman and a humanitarian. The Baileys only made a minimum profit on their transactions, opting for the lower prices to allow for the community to live in decent homes.

The Baileys viewed their customers as actual people instead of dollar signs, humans instead of pawns in a game to get rich. When people went through rough patches and couldn't make that month's loan payment, they weren't foreclosed upon.

Yet today we almost seem conditioned to ignore what foreclosure really means. George understood families couldn't simply be thrown out on the street. He trusted people and they repaid him — a quality that seems to be lacking in the current climate.

The Baileys made money from their business without pursuing maximum profits and never got extremely wealthy. In today's world, such an approach would probably be denounced as socialism.

But really, the Bailey's were just running their business with the needs and struggles of their customers in mind, a trait observed by many small businesses and something large corporations could benefit from today.

Potter said George's kind heart and modest capitalist approach would cause "a discontented, lazy rabble instead of a thrifty, working class. And all because a few starry-eyed dreamers like Peter Bailey stir

them up and fill their heads with a lot of impossible ideas."

This argument is often heard currently as to why labor and service workers don't earn more money. The argument goes that giving them more money would somehow reward them for a perceived laziness.

Obviously some people are going to earn and deserve more money. But that's no reason that all can't have a decent life with satisfactory basic necessities.

George used strong morals to protect his small business while shirking the big business greed of Mr. Potter, fostering a strong sense of community between customers who were able to live in acceptable homes.

Before the play, director and producer Laura Matey described "It's a Wonderful Life" as a story about a community where people felt the power of good was much greater than individual satisfactions.

It's a feeling most of us experience in the Bryce Jordan Center during THON.

It would be nice to feel it in all aspects of our lives.

George had faith in people and his community — faith that was rewarded in the movie's powerful final scene. We could use more of that attitude today.

Since the movie was released in 1946, times have changed yet remained the same and George's story may provide answers to today's struggles.

NBC airs "It's a Wonderful Life" this Saturday. Take a study break to see the movie's lessons and hopefully, find that little piece of George Bailey in every one of us.

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blog lines

INCOGNITO

Workin' on the web

It's not easy maintaining a site like the Collegian's. I honestly get whiplash sometimes when I think about the amount of content I am responsible for overseeing on a daily basis. It takes a lot of hands each night to design the layouts you see each morning. A number of people look over and approve our plans before they get posted to the website.

First, during our budget meetings when we lay out the paper, the homepage is also designed. We customize these for each day, picking the most important and interesting content to make sure that the site's visitors get the news that means the most to them and affects them the most.

We also design the homepage based around multimedia we want to direct our visitors to. Obviously, you can't run a video or a slideshow in the paper, but the website is perfect platform for unique content that can't work in a print platform. Many of our stories have, at the least, a photo gallery or slideshow, and some feature custom-designed interactive to present the story in a fun creative way.

The sports and arts pages are also customized. The sports page gets a new design every day, designed by the sports editor at their budget meeting. Generally, sports is underrepresented on the homepage, so we try our best to present sports stories on their own page to represent the biggest and most important games and features that the staff has to offer.

The arts page is only updated twice a week to highlight the staff's special sections — Arts in Review and Venues.

Both of the online managers spend a lot of time gathering media and posting stories so that we have everything we need, both for a successful layout and to make our website as dynamic as possible...

Paige Minemyer
Online manager

Fat as a food group

I'm living in one of the world's most beautiful, interesting cities, so you'd think there'd be a lot for my American comrades and I to talk about.

But after more than three months here, the topic of what sort of crazy foods our host moms are feeding us still comes up constantly.

From applesauce on toast, to ketchup on pasta, to barley in a bowl and sandwiches made up of one piece of bread covered with raw fish — I've developed a lot of strange eating habits here.

Some of my favorite Russian foods are borsht, which is a traditional Russian soup made of beets; pelmeni, which are similar to wontons; and blini, which are thin pancakes similar to crepes. St. Petersburg has a fast food place called Teremok, which has quickly become a favorite spot of mine. It specializes in blini stuffed with various fillings — the apple and caramel blinis are my favorites.

But aside from these delicacies, there are definitely some things about Russian food that I'm not too fond of. The main one being that almost everything I eat has a large amount of fat on it. Whether it's a big chunk of butter in my kasha (oatmeal) or a large dollop of sour cream in my borsht, my diet here is extremely high in fat. I once got a container of liquid caramel with my breakfast, which, try as I might, I just could not bring myself to eat.

Salads haven't escaped this fate. I haven't had a real salad (real meaning a dish that contains tomatoes, lettuce and other vegetables) since August.

Here, the only kind of salad I ever get is a vegetable smothered in mayonnaise...

Erin Rowley
Small world blogger

Big Ten representin'

The Big Ten tied a conference record by sending eight teams to this year's NCAA tournament.

And through the first two rounds, Big Ten teams did not disappoint, establishing their reputation as one of the most talented conferences in the country this season.

Of the 16 teams left in the tournament, six are from the Big Ten. In comparison, the Pac-10 has the second-most representatives left, with four teams still in play.

Here's a look at where each Big Ten team stands when the Sweet Sixteen kicks off this weekend:

Purdue, the tournament's No. 16 overall seed, has the toughest challenge of any Big Ten team this weekend. The Boilermakers will square off with No. 1 Florida on Friday night. The Gators have a 29-1 overall record so far this season. Their only defeat? A loss to Penn State on Sept. 10.

The Fighting Illini have one of the more intriguing Sweet Sixteen matchups. They'll face Texas — on the Longhorns' home court. Texas has only one loss at Gregory Gym this year — it was to Illinois, back on Sept. 3.

Volleyball reporters

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