

# OPINION

THE DAILY  
Collegian

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

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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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collegianletters@psu.edu

**Online**  
www.psucollegian.com

**Postal mail/In person**  
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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 "GREEN" MODEL

# Sustainability efforts commendable

A Penn State professor helped edit a region-wide sustainability study that will be presented before the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection today, and was recently met with a call for other Centre Region Council of Governments municipalities to follow Centre County's lead.

Going green has been a developing trend for a while now, but since the adoption of Resolution 944, it seems as if State College is hopping on the bandwagon. The resolution included action

elements for College, Ferguson, Halfmoon, Harris and Patton townships. But not all municipalities are excited about the resolution and are showing hesitation when it comes to enforcing "going green" initiatives.

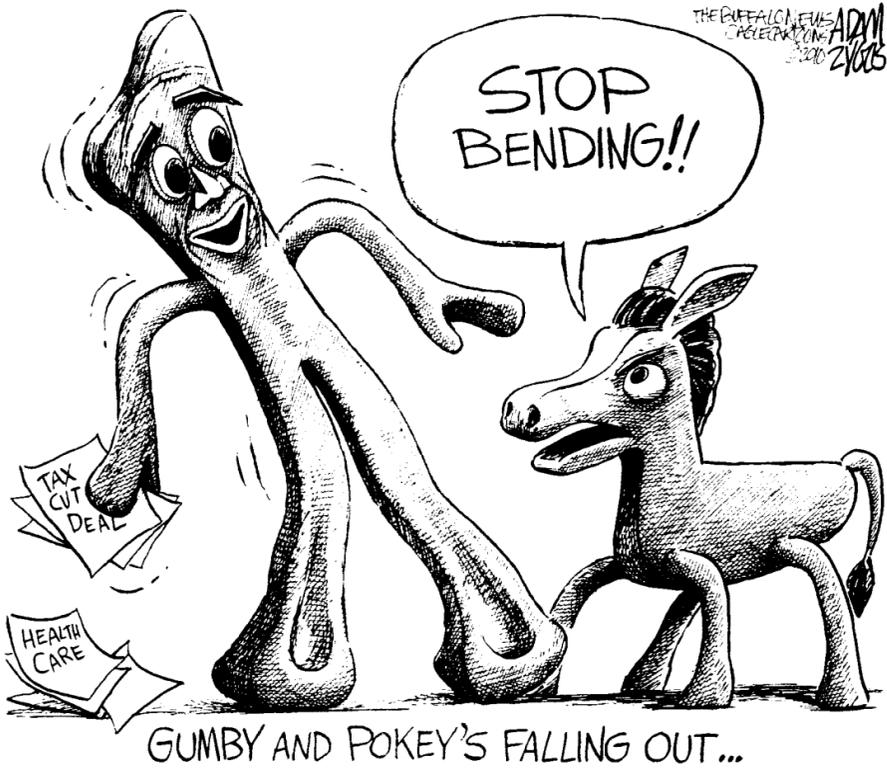
But we don't really see how greener laws could be perceived as a bad thing. We are proud of State College for taking the initiative, and we urge them to continue to lead by example and motivate other townships to follow suit.

If you are hesitant to enforce

laws, than you should lead by example. By showing us that the government can act green, then maybe we will be motivated to as well.

If you don't want to enforce a law then provide us with a green education and offer us equal opportunities for going green.

No government should go bankrupt for going green, but if it is at their disposal then they should make a conscious effort to do what they can to make a positive change in their community.



## SENIOR COLUMN

# Getting involved makes PSU smaller

By Steph Witt

If you had asked the high school senior version of me if I thought I would ever graduate from Penn State, I would have laughed at you. Penn State was at the bottom of my list. My mother urged me to apply here, so I did, never giving any thought to the possibility that I would actually end up in Happy Valley.



MY OPINION

But here I am. I came here not knowing anyone or anything about Penn State. FTCA was like an awkward blind date that my mother set me up on.

But as much as I hated to admit it, it was love at first sight. Even at the worst times, from living in supplemental my freshman year to slipping on ice and getting a concussion at 4 a.m., I would not trade my time here for anything.

If I had to give one piece of advice, it would be to get involved in something.

Whether it's joining The Daily Collegian or greek life or even the Harry Potter club, join something.

I have been at the Collegian for six of my seven semesters at Penn State and have made some of the best friends I've ever had.

I've also made some enemies along the way, but even they have taught me a lot about myself.

As hard as it is for people to believe, I used to be very quiet and shy. The Collegian and the people I've met here have given me the confidence to break out of that shell.

College has its ups and downs, just like the rest of life. You will come to realize that college is a lot like high school, just with more drinking and less rigid schedules. People will talk about you behind your back and try to make your life miserable.

The difference here is that there are 40,000 people at this over-sized high school. For every one person that tries to make you feel bad, there is at least one other that will be there to say "screw them" along side you.

You have to go out and find

those people, and the best way to do that is get involved in everything this massive campus has to offer.

Even if Penn State wasn't your first choice, it will change your life. For better or worse, the people here will change you. The ones who hate you will try to break you down, and the ones that love you will be there to build you back up.

I have met the greatest people here. Some have come and gone, and some I haven't been sad to see go, but they have all helped me find myself.

Graduating is bittersweet. While I'm not so sad that I will no longer be woken up at 2 a.m. by obnoxious neighbors, I will miss Penn State in general.

Through the good times and the bad, there have always been people there for me. Make sure you find those people that will come running to help you at all hours of the morning.

They are the people that will still be there in 10 years, no matter what life throws at you.

Steph Witt is a senior majoring in journalism and is The Daily Collegian's photo editor. Her e-mail is scw5057@psu.edu.

## LETTERS

### Security should be a priority

In response to Wednesday's article, "Students hold candlelight vigil in support of legislation," I see how groups like the Penn State Latino Caucus and Penn State College Democrats would support the DREAM Act, but any recent poll will show that this goes against the beliefs of the majority of Americans.

This bill insults the 68 percent of registered US voters who, according to a July 2010 Rasmussen poll, believe that securing the border is more important than legalizing illegal aliens already in the United States. This makes sense, given the criminal activity from Mexican drug lords in American border states and negative effects on American economy and the cost to American taxpayers.

When discussing the topic of illegal immigration, Congress should first focus on the safety of Americans before alien amnesty programs like the DREAM Act. So I'm glad there are student groups who understand the severity of the illegal immigration issue, like the Latino Caucus, but there needs to be more focus on solving the problem at the source: securing American borders.

After all, national security is a right that our government is required to provide by the constitution. education is not.

Dan Nysch  
junior-actuarial science

### Meaning of Christmas is lost

What's the meaning of Christmas? Is it how many presents you can receive, which seems to be the most common idea of what Christmas really means, or does it mean something completely different?

Does it mean Santa is coming to bring gifts that people really do not need or does it mean something completely different as well? Let me ask you what you think. In your opinion, what's the first thing that comes to your mind when you think of the true meaning of Christmas?

Well, the true meaning of Christmas has nothing to do with Santa Claus or even giving or receiving materialistic presents. The meaning of Christmas dates back over 2,000 years ago to a town called Bethlehem in the Middle East. Jesus Christ, the son of god was born in a manger. He wasn't born to live a long life, but instead was destined for death by crucifixion for mankind's sins. He was killed for us, yes, us.

The Christmas holiday originated to celebrate the birth of the King, the holy one, the most influential and important person in history. However today we seem to feel that the gift giving is the true meaning of Christmas.

People stomp and run over people to get the best deal or the new product craze. Christmas didn't come about so people could buy everyone they know a gift; it came about because of God's love for us. The point of Christmas is to help a person in need, get together with family and celebrate the birth of Jesus and most importantly love one another.

Giving of gifts is a nice gesture to show your love and kindness towards someone, but wouldn't it seem more kind and loving if you helped someone out anyway you could, or invited them over for dinner? Materialistic gifts are nothing compared to showing people love, affection and just being there when they need someone.

Let's do what God intended for us to do, celebrate Christmas for its true meaning, not the commercialized and merchandise stores idea.

Corey Witt  
junior agribusiness management

### Gov. holds double standards

I read with interest about the controversy surrounding the Wikileaks dump of classified cables in the public domain. While some members of Congress are calling for the prosecution and/or assassination of Wikileaks founder, other members are petitioning the White House to pardon a convicted spy for transferring US classified documents to a foreign government.

The double standards on this issue are quite breathtaking. Less than two weeks before Wikileaks made the cables public, 39 Democratic members of Congress, led by Congressmen Barney Frank, Steve Rothman and Anthony Weiner, petitioned the White House to pardon Jonathan Pollard who has been convicted and sentenced to life in prison for passing along classified US secrets to Israel.

The American public ought to be outraged. This is just one of the many double standards of policy towards Israel that has plagued both houses of Congress. As a matter of fact, according to the General Accounting Office, the research arm of Congress, Israel conducts the most aggressive espionage operation against the United States of any U.S. ally.

What benefit does the US gain in return to its special relationship with Israel? That, to me, is the most perplexing question.

Shadi Ghayrep  
graduate-engineering

## blog lines

### Post-grade games

The Lady moved to 8-2 with a 95-65 win against Army. Here's a breakdown of each player's performance...

Ryan Loy  
Women's basketball reporter

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