

Opinion

Editorial

Child care's time for action is now

Students have many problems that face them on the way to earning a degree. Some of these problems are unavoidable. We must all study, write papers, and pass examinations. Certain students, however, are forced to try to earn their degree facing a problem of personal importance.

Penn State has finally acted on this problem that has had students up in arms for quite some time. A University task force has been established to tackle the issue of child care at every Penn State campus.

Previously, the University has maintained a hands-off approach to the problem, refusing to get directly involved in providing child care services.

Now Penn State feels that "no longer can we take that approach, we need to be directly involved in facilitating familial relationships."

Additionally, the administrators here have created a task force to tackle needs unique to Behrend.

Well, it's about time.

The University has been unfair for too long, not only to its students, but its faculty and staff, as well.

Now that the child care issue has been recognized and is being studied, the problem of exactly who should provide the child care has arisen.

The University has proposed that for-profit child care organizations should be brought on campus. A nominal-lease would be paid and at the end of fifteen years, the facility would belong to the campus.

This is a more financially realistic approach for Penn State than actually building and staffing the facilities itself.

The administration should keep in mind that they are in a very strong bargaining position for now, and that if they wish to conduct research or implement work-study programs, they should choose an organization that will agree to these terms.

Recognizing the problem was the first, long overdue step, and now that it has been taken, the University should push onward towards a solution.

The Collegian

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The Collegian is a student-edited newspaper

Letters to the Editor

The Collegian gets curses...

Dear Editor,

With all due respect to the Editors' views on humor, clean up the newspaper.

I am amazed really that the advisor of the paper allows for headlines outlining "Mark Bitching" about something, or even worse, the April Fools edition where F...k was used.

Come on! Your collective writing talents are much more appealing when you're forced to use your imagination. Don't give into the instant gratification - the easy way out to create humor, by using words that are not necessary.

Brett Banker
Sports Information Director

We appreciate your input, but we feel we must respond to your criticism.

We have all heard the language in question. We are a college newspaper writing for a college audience and we feel some obligation not to talk down to them.

Yes, it's true we used the two words you mentioned, but to say that we took the easy way out by not using our imaginations is perhaps a bit rash. We are only talking about two words out of several thousand that went into the two issues in question. It is our hope that the profanity in *The C-News* edition was used for an ironically critical reason, not for shock value.

-- Ed. Staff

...and kudos on The C-News

Dear Editor,

Your April Fools' Edition of *The C-News* was very well done, and about due. If important issues

raised by the students are not acted upon by just a show of voice maybe by using comedy and satire administrators will understand the concerns and problems of the students and act upon them. Again let me commend you for a job well done.

Jason Fichtner
2nd semester Pre-law

Prof finds Big West error

Dear Editor,

I'm confused by the statement in the "Playboy" article (March 28 issue of *The Collegian*) about the "Big West" conference existing "only in the minds of *Playboy's* editors." I was deluded into thinking that the nine schools listed, plus UNLV, composed a conference known as the Big West. I know this was a CPS wire story and not your staff's reporting, but now I'm worried.

What's the next troubling revelation - that the "Ask Louanne" column doesn't have real letters from real students?

Steven de Hart
Asst. Professor of
German & Humanities

Students irate about Food Services

Dear Editor,

Recently, a few of us have been discussing whether it is cheaper to live on-campus or off-campus. We are very upset with our shocking discoveries.

According to the "Ala Board Meal Plan," we have the below meal plans to choose from. The plan also states that we are paying \$.01 per point. This didn't make any sense to us. So, we decided to get out our trusty calculators and do a little mathematics. This is what we found:

Plan	Amount	Points	per point	Amount
1	\$ 755.00	19,500		\$.04
2	805.00	24,500		.03
3	855.00	29,500		.03
4	895.00	33,500		.03
5	925.00	36,500		.03

None of these equal \$.01 per point. So what is going on? Is Penn State misleading us? It certainly seems so. If this is the way our meal plans really are, then we are being totally ripped off.

Here are a few extra facts--

Breakfast	75 pts	\$ 1.90
Lunch	145 pts	4.35
Dinner	210 pts	6.30
Soda	69 pts	2.07
Pizza w/3 items	530 pts	15.90

**THIS IS BASED ON \$.03 PER POINT

Oh! But wait! We get a 10% discount. What a bargain!!

Finally, we have one more complaint. The money we spend on the meal plans is used for both non-food and food costs. As most of you "Faithful Dobbins Goers" (or should we say "Slobbins Goers") know, Penn State certainly doesn't use very much of our meal plan money on food costs. Maybe they should concentrate on making better meals rather than on the way Dobbins looks.

Now look, Penn State - no wonder we are such "poor" college students. Quit misleading us. We are tired of getting ripped off. And if you have to continue to charge so much, at least feed us better.

Tara L. Barker
4th semester
Biology

Dea M. Eaton
4th semester
Psychology

Tiffanne L. Shaffer
4th semester
Marketing

Ed. note: These facts and figures are the findings of the authors of the letter, and are not related to any research done by *The Collegian*.

Editorial Policy

The Collegian's editorial opinion is determined by the editorial staff, with the editor holding final responsibility. Opinions expressed in *The Collegian* are not necessarily those of *The Collegian* or the Pennsylvania State University.

Editorials: Student's frequently ask us if they can write an editorial. By definition, the answer is always no. An editorial represents the official stand of a newspaper on a given issue and is generally written by one of the newspaper's editors. Hence the name editorial. We do however welcome the opinions of our readers, submitted in the form of letters to the editor.

Letter Policy: *The Collegian* encourages letters on news coverage, editorial content and university affairs. Letters should be typewritten, double-spaced and signed by no more than two persons. Letters should be no longer than 400 words. Letters should include the semester and major of the writer. All letters should provide the address and phone number of the writer for verification of the letter. *The Collegian* reserves the right to edit letters for length and to reject letters if they are libelous or do not conform to standards of good taste. Letters should be submitted to *The Collegian* office no later than noon on Monday prior to the desired publication date.

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