

## COLUMN

## Give bartenders a little R-E-S-P-E-C-T

By Charles Bartlett

This is the most important lesson all of you will learn this entire semester.

Some of you college students have no comprehension of what it means to go out. So I'm going to give you all some advice.

This advice should be ingrained into your heads for the rest of your lives, lest you want to spend your nights out being referred to as a seven-letter word that starts with a capital "A."

In perhaps the most revolting display of cheapness ever perpetrated, two guys walked up to the front of the establishment that employs my services and said the following: "Man, \$3 cover? We only have eight bucks." So what did they decide to do? Pay the six to get in, buy two slices of pizza at a buck apiece, and went in to "drink some floaters." You know what that is? Friggin' disgusting.

First of all, if you don't have enough money to go out, DON'T GO OUT! Rent a movie and stay the hell away from places that will require the exchange of currency for alcoholic beverages. For those of you that want to put a three dollar pitcher of beer on your credit card, realize that by the



MY OPINION

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time you are done paying it off, that pitcher will probably cost you \$87. Second of all, a \$3 cover charge is nothing. The only thing I have to say to you people that complain about such a paltry entrance fee is never go to New York. It's \$25 to get in to some places, and they don't stamp your hand for re-entry. But then again, they pick the crowd at those kinds of places and something tells me that you complainers won't look decent enough to get in.

Never, ever, ever tell a bartender to give you a strong drink. That means you automatically assume their drinks are not good, and in essence you are telling them they are doing a bad job. Asking for a strong Captain and Coke will get you a whole lotta Coke and a smidgen of liquor that wouldn't give a 2-year-old a buzz.

Never, ever, ever tell a bartender to give you a free drink. Do bartenders ask you for free oil while you're at work at Jiffy-Lube or free fries while you're at work at Burger King? No. So what makes you think they should give you free alcohol? It's been my experience that the people who ask for free drinks are the same that gripe about three bucks to get in.

Referring to a bartender as "Hey" or "Yo" will probably get you slapped.

Bartenders have names. Ask them and they'll probably tell you. Waving money will get you ignored. You're not looking for a lap dance, you're looking for a drink. Whistling will ensure that you never get a drink. Ever. Plain and simple. Whistling is how you get a dog's attention, not how you get a drink.

You want to know how you get good service at a bar? Leave money.

Bartenders make less than minimum wage. Tips are their bread and butter. Tips are how they pay for groceries. Tips are how they make car payments. Tips are how they pay tuition.

And don't leave just quarters. Someone left me 25 cents once and I said, "Hey you forgot something." I then proceeded to throw the quarter. At them.

My suggestion to all you horrible customers defiling the nightlife of State College is cut out this next sentence and tape it to your mirror so you can read it before you go out:

There is a fine line between being a customer and being a seven-letter word that begins with a capital "A."

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Spanier must include students in decisions

So Graham Spanier is shortening the school year but raising our tuition. We are getting charged more but are given less. Under the new calendar, we are losing 7 percent of our instructional time in the fall but Spanier has also said that 10 percent yearly tuition increases could be the norm.

I hope this doesn't start a trend of continually devaluing our education. Education is at the heart of this university, and students should be the primary concern. Seeing how easily the administration dismisses and ignores the voice of students (downtown cameras, inadequate student parking, fall break and more ...) really disturbs me.

If Spanier wants to play the money game and run Penn State like a business, I challenge him to produce more satisfied customers. Every year Spanier travels to Harrisburg to lobby for more money from the state. To justify increased expenditure he allows the state lawmakers to question him on how Penn State is run and where the money is being used. As students we pay for more of our education than the state does, but I have never seen Spanier spend several days answering questions from students to hold the administration accountable for our tuition increases.

If the administration disregards students there could be long-term repercussions. Today's offended students could be tomorrow's wealthy alumni. Treat us fairly and with respect and well will give back when we have the

money to give. Walk all over us and pick our pockets of our last pennies and you will alienate us.

Ben Campbell  
senior-physics

## Gender stereotyping unfair to both sexes

This is in response to this discussion on what constitutes a real man or a real woman. Gender is part of what makes us who we are, but it doesn't define anyone completely. I for one am tired of people assuming that because I'm male, I'm therefore also a "typical" male. I don't fit the stereotype, and neither do most people. Like it or not, defining roles for people is a form of stereotyping, and it can challenge a person's sense of self-worth.

Possibly my biggest goal in life, though not my only one, is fatherhood. To tell a parent that it's not their "role" to nurture their child, and that it is someone else's is wrong, especially when the research shows that fathers are just as effective parents as mothers are, even in single parenting. It's an insult to the individuality that makes society what it is to box people into roles which might not fit them. The fact that men are taught not to express their emotions doesn't mean that they don't experience them with the same frequency or intensity. Stop worrying about being a real man or a real woman, and concern yourselves with being a real human being. Look at others for who they are.

Christopher Becker  
sophomore-psychology

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