

# OPINION

THE DAILY  
Collegian

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**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 individual subscribers.

**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.

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

■ **Online**  
www.collegian.psu.edu

■ **Postal mail/In person**  
123 S. Burrows St.  
University Park, 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 online at The Digital Collegian and may be selected for publication in The Weekly Collegian. All letters become property of Collegian Inc.

## EDITORIALS

### Anti-gay rally

## Freedom of speech applies to everyone

Penn State got a lesson in free speech last week, and it wasn't delivered by a media law professor.

While religious extremists Michael and Tamika Venyah and Chris Lemieux shared their anti-gay sentiments outside the Willard Building, most Penn State students and faculty had no choice but to bite their tongues and keep moving.

Some chose to listen and others chose to voice their own opinions in protest.

It's safe to say most passers-by were at least a little bit irked by the visitors' T-shirts, which read things like "All homos are going to hell."

Was it offensive? Absolutely. Was it distracting? For sure.

But the important thing for the Penn State community to remember is that what the Venyahs and Lemieux did last week was not illegal.

Their choice to bash the gay community may have been repulsive to most of us, but it is exactly the type of speech that is protected by the First Amendment.

As the cliché goes, the First Amendment was written to protect the minority, not the majority.

Even hate speech, as some have classified the anti-gay message to be, is protected as long as it does not incite violence.

What happened last week should also be regarded as an opportunity for the LGBT

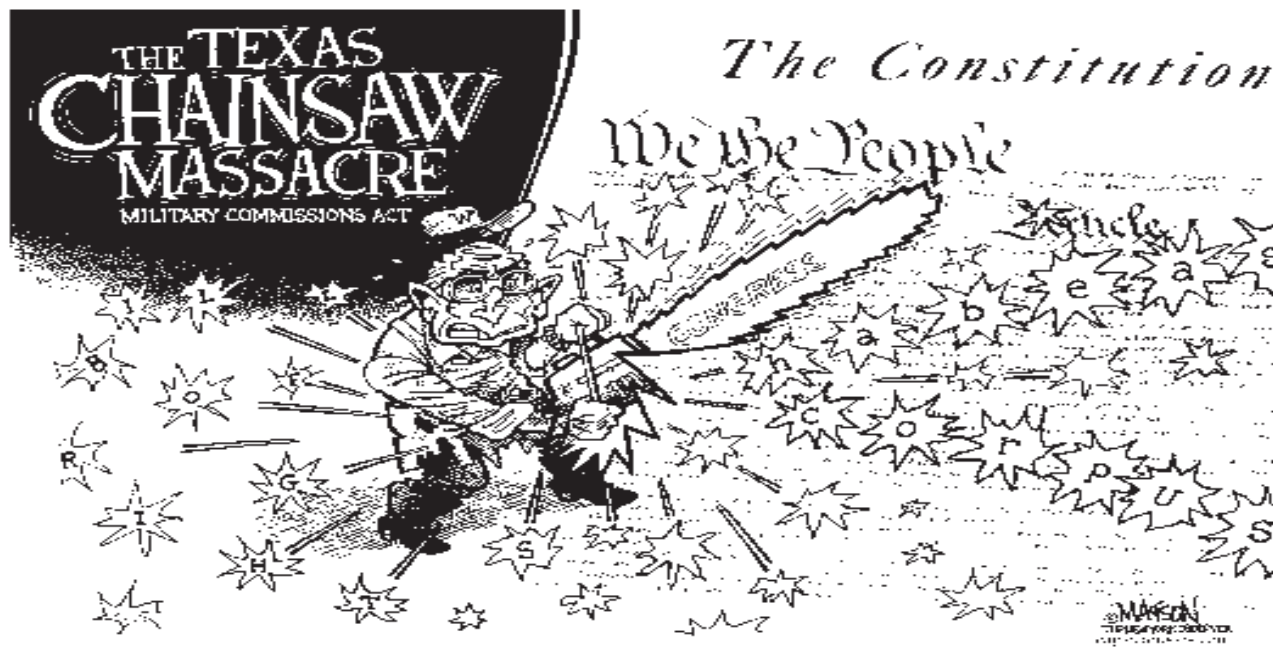
community to create a dialogue and thus further their cause.

There was a heck of a lot of student support for the gay community during this demonstration, and LGBT organizations would be doing themselves a favor by capitalizing on it.

Go to the administration and use this as an example for why an LGBT minor is necessary at this university. Lobby for additional programming at Penn State. And most of all, demand respect.

Anti-gay extremists like the Venyahs might be excruciatingly frustrating for Penn State students, but they also present an opportunity for change.

We'd be foolish not to use it.



## COLUMNIST

## Morelli deserves the benefit of the doubt

By Chris Mueller

IT MIGHT SEEM tough to remember now, in the wake of his confusing Vicodin with Tic-Tacs, but Terrell Owens was once a productive and fairly shy receiver for the San Francisco 49ers. Yes, a few short days ago he was dodging Duracells thrown by Philadelphia's finest citizens, but at one time the public at large knew him for his productivity as a wide receiver, and specifically for his last-play touchdown catch to win a wild-card playoff game.

Yet, the more Owens was built up, the more cracks we noticed in his façade. He became a spoiled prima donna almost overnight, and it wasn't long before he was traded to Philadelphia.

We all know what happened there. Needless to say, he's gone from superstar to pariah in a few short years.

Take Tom Cruise as another example. When he broke on the scene, his performances in Top Gun, Jerry Maguire, Mission Impossible and even Vanilla Sky were well-received, both critically and by fans.

Not much was said about his devotion to Scientology, fans loved him, women swooned over him and everyone seemed to ignore the fact that he was about 5 foot 6 inches tall and married to a woman almost half a foot taller.

In short, he was about as big as it gets in Hollywood. He was making over \$20 million a picture, and every-

one wanted him for every big role in every marquee movie.

Yet now, people are clamoring for the mother of his child to be "freed," claiming that he is in fact gay, and that the conception of "his" daughter more than likely involved a sperm bank and a surgical, decidedly non-sexual procedure.

It seems as if people couldn't handle what they saw when some of Cruise's more private tendencies were made public.

Take another example: Creed...oh wait, they always sucked.

Terrell Owens, Tom Cruise and Creed all have one thing in common. More than likely, they, along with numerous other despised celebrities, probably aren't as bad as the public thinks they are.

Okay, Creed still really sucks.

There is one well-known person in particular that I would like to apply this "build them up, tear them down" principle to. He wears number 14 for the football team. You've probably heard of him at some point.

Anthony Morelli was rated as high as No. 2 in the country among senior quarterbacks when he was in high school. When he de-committed to Pitt and decided to come to Penn State, everyone here couldn't believe the Nittany Lions' good fortune.

When Zack Mills struggled during Morelli's freshman season, the fans called for him to play. He was the savior of the team, proof that Penn State could still swing with the big boys in recruiting. In short, he was the "next big thing." So Morelli finally got his chance to start this year, and after one so-so game, the detractors were out in force.

Suddenly, the ludicrous accusation that he wasn't smart enough to read defenses reared its ugly head, and every armchair quarterback was

ready to insert everyone short of, well, Zack Mills in his place.

Just like Tom Cruise almost certainly isn't as crazy as we think he is and Terrell Owens probably isn't nearly the jerk he appears to be, I'm fairly certain that Anthony Morelli is a pretty good quarterback.

And Creed still sucks.

People, it's not that he's not smart enough to read a defense, it's that he's inexperienced. It's not that he has no touch on the ball, it's just that he has a much stronger arm than Michael Robinson. It's not that he can't make plays against good teams, it's that his offensive line is still learning to play together, and it's not that he's not a good quarterback, it's just that he hasn't had his signature game yet.

Remember MRob's game against Northwestern last year? I'm willing to bet Morelli has one of those very soon, and at a very good time, like, say, against Michigan.

So, if it's too hard to let go of the grudge against people like T.O. and Tom Cruise, let's at least try to give Morelli the benefit of the doubt. There aren't many more high profile positions for a college kid to be in than quarterback of the football team, and getting constant negative feedback can't help.

Try refraining from booing after that incompletion, and not calling for Air Bud: Golden Receiver, after the next INT. In short, give the guy a little love, like you used to lavish on Michael Robinson, and yes, long ago, even Zack Mills.

But you can still be tough on Creed, because they'll always suck.

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## LETTERS

### Nuclear device in N. Korea warrants news coverage

Let me understand this correctly: The North Koreans tell the world they have detonated a nuclear device, and that they are debating firing a nuclear missile as a second test. The Daily Collegian, however, doesn't see fit to print this - even under "News in Brief."

Isn't the job of a newspaper, even a college newspaper, to inform their readers of major events that could affect them?

Were the North Koreans to fire a functional Taepodong 2 missile, more than two-thirds of the United States would be in range.

Do the editors of The Daily Collegian not think Penn State students should be aware of the fact that we are now in range of North Korean nuclear weapons?

Steve Johnson

junior - international politics

### Administration alienates former Penn State student

Two recent decisions by the university administration are shining examples of why, for a three-year period, I stopped coming to Penn State games and practically disavowed myself from Penn State entirely.

Those are the prohibition on tailgating during games and the restrictions on Pater-noville.

The latter disturbs me the most. Pater-noville sprung up as a spontaneous way for students to show their school spirit. After several years of mediocrity, the football team seemed to be rebounding and the students were once again proud to wear the blue and white. It was a great thing to see. In fact it was so great Joe himself showed up to serve pizza and a plaque was put up to commemorate a new Penn State tradition.

The university and particularly athletic director Tim Curley seem to be willing to put up with traditions at Penn State, as long as they are on the university's own terms.

In short, any sort of school spirit activity is OK with this bunch as long as it is sanctioned, regulated and packaged with a university seal and charged \$10 for.

Better yet, just stop it all together. It is just wrong that a great new tradition is effectively stopped due to a few concerns that could be addressed with a few minor changes, and not with these prohibitive steps.

But that is the great thing about these students. The university treats them like dirt. They consistently bungle the student ticketing system, harass them for having parties and cancel Pater-noville. But the students still camp out in the cold and wet for a chance to sit front row to cheer on their Nittany Lions.

Tom Bux

Class of 1998

### Speaker series provides great opportunity at PSU

Hey Penn State, have you heard of the Distinguished Speaker Series? I had the pleasure of hearing General Richard Myers talk at the Eisenhower Auditorium on Monday evening. I found the low turnout of Penn State students to be appalling. For those of you who don't know who this is, General Myers, USAF (Ret.), was the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from October 2001 to September 2005.

This man was the highest-ranking military official in the United States and arguably the world. During his four years serving in this capacity, he was directly involved in some of the most tumultuous events in recent history.

He spoke honestly and unbiased on topics including the fight against violent extremism, homeland security and the current state of the military. The point I'm trying to make is that these speakers are invited here for a reason. They all possess a wealth of knowledge and experience in a wide variety of topics.

Tickets are free.

Don't let this great program falter because of low participation. Just because someone isn't a household name like Cal Ripken, Jr. or Jesse Ventura doesn't make the message any less important.

Take advantage of these great opportunities and use them to broaden your mind.

Dan Zedack

senior - mechanical engineering

## blog lines

### Collegian: News

"I think life needs a soundtrack. How great would that be? Having the perfect, most relevant tune playing while experiencing everyday life would enhance all of our experiences.

Imagine reading a newspaper — but with sound (yeah I know you can just watch CNN, but agree with me for the sake of argument). Every article would have a different track that would be perfectly appropriate for that story.

Unfortunately, this is impossible in the newspaper biz — but this isn't a newspaper it's a blog.

This is purely experimental, understand, and my idea of the perfect tune won't be yours, but I'm going to run down some of the major news stories of the last week, and include an "appropriate" track.

... So get your Morpheus running, because here we go..."

Read more of the Collegian: News blog at [www.collegian.psu.edu](http://www.collegian.psu.edu) under the "Blogs" heading.