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Graphic by Libby Gregg

‘Against the peace:’ Alumna impacted by travel ban

By Lindsey Toomer
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Zoha Savadkouhi was a Penn State Law student who came to the United States for the opportunity to take the New York Bar Exam.

But due to her nationality, she did not even get the chance.

Savadkouhi is an Iranian citizen who currently lives in Pakistan where she is working and continuing her education with her husband and daughter. She graduated from Penn State Law with her LL.M. — an international equivalent to a master’s degree in law — in 2017.

Last year, President Donald Trump issued an executive order creating a travel ban against certain countries, particularly ones that practice Muslim faith.

In December 2017, Travel Ban 3.0 was approved by the Supreme Court, adding sanctions on immigration from Libya, Yemen, North Korea, Syria, Somalia, Venezuela and Iran, according to Penn State’s Center for Immigrants’ Right Clinic. In April, Chad was removed from the ban.

For Iranian citizens, the travel ban doesn’t completely prevent them from coming into the country. F, J and M visa holders are still able to enter the country, but law students in the Center for Immigrants’ Right Clinic said their cases will be analyzed with more of a fine tooth comb.

Despite having a daughter who was born in the United States and a husband with Pakistani citizenship — both not affected by the travel ban — Savadkouhi cannot return to the U.S. to take her bar exam because she is an Iranian citizen.

Because Pakistan is not included in the travel ban, Savadkouhi noticed differences between the two of them when trying to enter the United States. Her husband may be asked two or three questions about his plans for traveling when applying for a visa, while Savadkouhi will be interviewed for a much longer time, and is asked many intense questions.

She said when applying for her visa to come back to take the bar exam, she went through the interview process as usual, but was



Zoha Savadkouhi poses with her daughter, Aryana Metlo, in front of the Lewis Katz Building in 2017.

later greeted on the phone by the United States embassy.

“They actually gave me the visa after a long interview, but then in the afternoon they called from the embassy and they said we forgot about this ban, so we cannot issue you a visa,” she said. “They said the bar exam is not that necessary for you to go to the U.S....My goal has not been accomplished because of this travel ban.”

Savadkouhi said the most important thing people need to know about the ban is it is promoting the opposite of peace by creating tension and unnecessary opinions about the countries affected by the ban.

She said when she was at Penn State, she heard from American students that they thought Iranians hated Americans. Savadkouhi said this is not the case.

“When people [in the government do] these things, they know how this brings just hatred and bad feelings between the two nations and people...it’s not a good thing,” she said. “It’s not just a

ban on travel, it’s not just a ban on movement. It’s just creating this thing that is against the peace of the world,” she said.

Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia is the director of the Center for Immigrants’ Rights Clinic. She noted how Penn State’s large population of international students are affected by the travel ban.

“It affects not only people seeking to be here on a short term basis for these huge moments in our lives — weddings, births, graduations — but also those who seek to be here on a more permanent basis,” Wadhia said. “What this ban does is block entry from people who are in otherwise in a legally qualifying relationship [to be] able to have a green card.”

Wadhia said changes relating to immigration law comes from the federal government. So in regards to the midterm elections this month, she said a flip in the house has the “potential for there to be advocacy on something that is pro-im-

migration.” She said there also needs to be acknowledgment of those who have been in the United States for an extensive period of time.

“Many people who are at risk of losing temporary protected status or deferred enforcement departure have lived in the United States for [decades],” she said.

“Why not take these long term residents who are otherwise American in many other ways, and find solutions through legislation?”

Mark Diaz is one of Wadhia’s students who works directly in the Center for Immigrants’ Rights Clinic. He noted that because Penn State has such a large population of international students, everyone may know at least one person affected by immigration policies.

“I think to wake up in the morning, you have a lot of anxieties about your daily life,” Diaz (graduate-law) said.

“But you never question your ability to stay here in this country. So to wake up and have that as another anxiety must be a huge burden, and it is for a lot of people.”

Diaz wanted note that the new USCIS policy can affect students without them knowing.

Previously, the student would only acquire unlawful presence after the USCIS made a formal finding that they violated their status.

After it was updated in August of this year, the student will have unlawful presence starting on the day they violate their nonimmigrant status, whether or not he or she was aware it expired. For students, this could happen if they are not enrolled full time in 12 credits.

If a visa holder has a certain amount of time of unlawful presence, it can affect their ability to re-enter the country for up to 10 years.

Diaz also mentioned that the Center for Immigrants’ Rights Clinic has done immigration trainings with the State College Police Department, so the police are aware of how to properly work with immigration cases.

Because state and federal law are separate, the Pennsylvania State Police do not have to report anything to federal police officers. Diaz said the State College Police Department has a specific policy — an anti-biased based policing policy — that states officers will not report to the federal government.

Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.

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Transgender community weighs in on Trump policy

By Lilly Forsyth
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

A coin, a light switch and a “true or false” question — all things that only have two options.

Those in the transgender, gender nonbinary and queer community feel their gender is not an aspect of their life limited to binary terms.

The New York Times recently obtained a memo from within the Department of Health and Human Services suggesting plans for the current administration to push for a change in how sex is determined — qualifications based solely on female or male reproductive organs at birth.

The new definition would apply to Title IX — a federal law providing protection against gender discrimination in federally funded educational programs.

During the Obama administration, policy related sex to gender identity, which allowed for some flexibility in terms of interpretation.

Some believed this policy would allow for predators to mislabel themselves to better access victims — in bathrooms, for instance. Other felt the ambiguity of the term allowed for more accurate self-representation, especially for transgendered persons.

This viewpoint allowed those who identify as transgender to legally change their sex and name on birth certificates and driver’s licenses.

Should the government adopt the suggested changes, transgender and gender nonbinary people would be based solely on biological information. The department explained that conflict of identity could be solved by genetic testing, as the New York Times reported.

Members within the local LGBTQ community are worried about the potential change in policy, but are slightly reassured they are surrounded by a supportive environment.

“This is a pretty big hit to some of that progress and liberation [for transgender people], but I do have hope that we will weather this,” Brian Patchcoski, LGBTQA Student Resource Center Director, said. “It may not be perfect in the interim, but I think that’s a call to our allies and our supporters ... that are part of this experience to work together

and figure out what we are doing next.”

Since November is Transgender Awareness month, the center has month-long activities, including a keynote speaker and a vigil in honor of hate-crime victims.

In response to the recent shooting in Pittsburgh at the Tree of Life Synagogue, Patchcoski hopes the center will provide additional support for those who are Jewish as well as transgender or queer.

“We need to work together to collectively move our communities forward,” Patchcoski said. “There’s a whole lot of heaviness across all this stuff right now.”

Focusing on the sex definition conversation, a mix of emotions have bled across campus and State College.

Jess Davis said she was “not surprised” upon first hearing the desires of President Donald Trump’s administration.

“It sounds on par with the types of things he’s been doing lately,” Davis (junior-psychology) said. “It’s basically another brick in his wall that he’s building.”

Sabrina Held said she is one of the “privileged” who will most likely not be impacted by the change in policy.

“My life isn’t really going to be affected by this,” Held (junior-mathematics) said. “I’m protected by my school. I’m protected by the area that I’m in. It’s a problem for everyone else outside of these protected areas and these sanctuaries.”

State College resident and Penn State alumna Emily Creuz said she has been at demonstrations in the past but has noted a difference in perception.

“When I was growing up ... nobody was paying attention,” Creuz, 38, said. “I don’t really think you can put the genie back in the bottle, so to speak. I don’t think that it’s something that will just go away.”

Davis, Held and Creuz recently attended “Standing at the Gates for Trans Equity” at the Allen Street Gates in response to “political threats to erase the rights of Queer and Transgender people,” as described on the event’s Facebook page.

“Those of us who are given a platform and given the resources to survive need to do a little extra and come out here and show support,” Held said.

While the policy is still be liberated, Patchcoski said he wants to remind everyone that “progress looks different.”

“We have moved forward in certain ways,” Patchcoski said. “We have persevered in certain areas, but we are not done in terms of liberation for sexual and gender diversity, racial diversity or ability diversity. There’s so many places that we still have lots of work to do.”

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POLITICAL ORGANIZATION Q&A

Editor’s Note: The Daily Collegian emailed questions to political organizations at Penn State to gauge their thoughts on the upcoming midterm elections. The presidents of five prominent political clubs on campus spoke on the key issues at stake in this election and gave their message to student voters. They were given a 200 word limit for each question. Below are their responses verbatim.

Question 1: What are the biggest issues at stake in this election?

Penn State College Democrats

Katierose Epstein (senior-political science)

“There are a plethora of huge issues at stake in this election. Some of the more prominent ones are guaranteeing affordable health care to all Americans, reducing the burden of crippling student debt, and climate change.”

Penn State College Republicans

Reagan McCarthy (senior-political science)

“A variety of issues are always on the ballot in a midterm election, despite historically low turnout presidential elections. In 2018, the economy will dominate the ballot box. President Trump’s bold economic reforms have breathed life into the struggling American economy, and voters of all ideologies know this. Wages are growing, unemployment is at a historic low, consumer confidence is soaring and job growth continues to increase. To me, there are few issues more important than these core economic issues and I think that the average voter feels the same way.”

Penn State College Independents

Rafay Nasir (sophomore-biology)

“There are an incredible amount of issues that are at stake this election: healthcare, education, international affairs, free speech and much more. However, one of the biggest things is not exactly an issue, but a concept of American government. For the past several years, politicians from both sides of the aisle are becoming more and more polarized in their parties. Electing politicians who are extreme on issues is not conducive to collaboration and actual progress. Candidates should be evaluated not only on their issues, but their ability to collaborate with those across the aisle in order to achieve mutually beneficial change.”

Turning Point USA at Penn State

Michael Csencsits (senior-political science)

“Immigration, gun control and taxes.”

United Socialists at Penn State

Siddharth Almeida (junior-political science)

There are a number of issues which are at stake in this election. The issues of health care and minimum wages have always been at the forefront, and it’s not a surprise as they are issues that affect most Americans. Regarding the issue of health care, it is important to push for a system of universal health care. It’s also important to push a living wage, because although the economy is doing better, the real wages for workers have barely moved. In recent weeks the news of voter suppression has made headlines across the country, with the purging of voter rolls in Georgia and the introduction of new voter ID laws in North Dakota, which could severely affect the Native American vote in that state. The Trump administration’s despicable actions regarding sex and gender have put into jeopardy the rights of [transgender] people across the nation, making it a key issue that we have to defend.

To read the full Q&A, including three more questions answered by each organization, visit collegian.psu.edu.

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Make a plan for Election Day

It seemed like it would never come, but Election Day is right around the corner.

After seemingly months of non-stop campaigning from politicians, celebrities and other citizens across the country, Nov. 6 will finally be here.

Earlier in October, the deadline to register to vote quickly approached. Now, nearly a month later, it's time to either send in your absentee ballot or take a trip to your local polling place to cast your vote.

If you're voting by absentee ballot, your home county in Pennsylvania must receive your completed ballot by Nov. 2. However, this deadline varies state-by-state, so if you're mailing in a ballot to your home state, be sure to visit Vote.org and check out their deadlines guide.

If you're voting here in State College or University Park, make sure you know where your polling place is located. The address is listed right on your voter registration card, but

OUR VIEW

Students should utilize sources for finding information about their polling place

you can also find your polling place by typing your address into Vote.org.

Most students who live on campus will be voting in the HUB. However, it doesn't hurt to double check.

If you live downtown, it's essential you map your path to the polling location you're assigned to because the journey may require you to drive or take a bus. Your apartment complex may even give you a flier to show you exactly where your polling location is.

At The Graduate, they printed the location on a hot-pink flier and slid one under every door to make sure tenants know

where they're going. With all of the resources available to us, students shouldn't have an excuse not to know where to go.

Also, even though Election Day is close, there's still enough time to do some research about the candidates, if you don't have enough information yet. There are voter guides for local and more expansive state-wide elections just a simple internet search away.

It doesn't take long to find out which candidates do or do not align with your personal views. There's still a few days to dig a little deeper into who's running.

Once Nov. 6 actually rolls around, make sure you set aside

enough time to transport yourself to and from the polls, as well as enough time to wait in line. It only takes a few minutes to actually vote, but it may take quite a while for the entire process to play out depending on what time you go.

As students, our days are crazy with school, work and extra curriculars. So, if you need to go to your polling place right when it opens at 7 a.m., then so be it. You can do it — we believe in you.

If you're more available at night, that works too.

In Pennsylvania, the polls close at 8 p.m., but as long as you are in line by that time,

they are required to let you vote.

Finding time is probably the hardest part of voting for students and others across the country.

To help take a little bit of the burden off, if it's possible, professors should consider canceling class, offering excused absences or extra credit to encourage voter turnout.

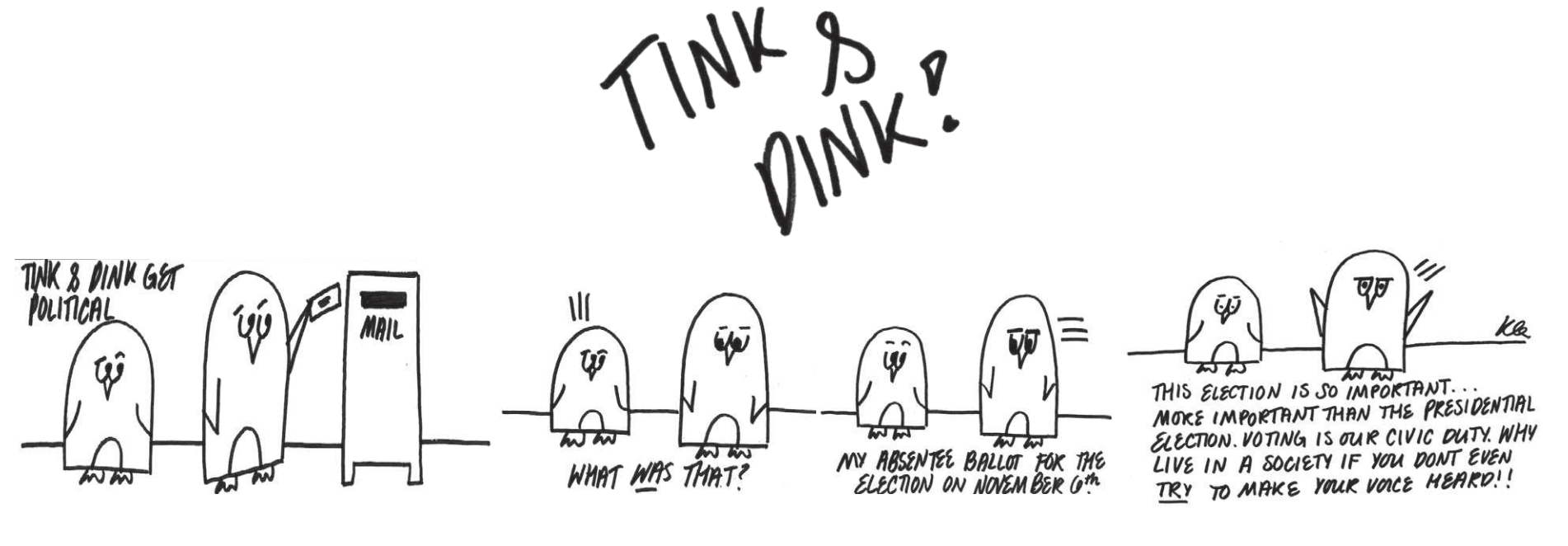
Realistically, we shouldn't need a bribe to perform our civic duty, but a little incentive never hurts.

You've made it this far. You've registered to vote. You've either received your voter registration card or applied for and received your absentee ballot.

Now, it's time to take the final, most important step and cast your vote.

Set aside some time before Nov. 6 to figure out a voting plan, then execute it on Election Day.

It's the final stretch, so let's get to it.



MY VIEW | Madeline Messa

Reflecting on a week of hate before Election Day on Nov. 6

This past week was meant to be scary only because of costumes and horror films surrounding Halloween. Instead, it was far more surreal.

Bombs were mailed to prominent politicians, Jewish people were gunned down during a religious practice and a man killed two black people in a grocery store, just after trying to enter a predominantly black church.

The hate has always existed, but people chose to act on it in the last week. Racism and stubborn partisanship motivated the aggressors to commit crimes and draw blood.

As upsetting as the circumstances are, people unite to discourage hate and to stand in solidarity with victims. They respond to hate with love.

Here on campus, Penn State Chabad and Hillel held a candlelight vigil at Old Main on Monday night to commemorate the lives lost in the shooting at a Pittsburgh synagogue two days prior. Robert Bower was named as the alleged anti-Semitic shooter who killed 11



people and shot four police officers. His shout that "all Jews must die" before he opened fire was drowned out by the quiet assembly of a crowd mourning the deaths that followed it.

With Election Day approaching, these events are both worrisome and motivating. Hopefully, the tragedies will at least spur higher voting rates.

Likely due to the unexpected result of the 2016 presidential election and the current administration's controversies,

voter turnout is expected to be at a record-high for midterms on Nov. 6. According to Non-profit Vote, an organization that registers voters, 800,000 people registered on national voter registration day — a significantly higher number than 154,500 who registered that day four years ago.

As amazing as it is that so many people are registered now, it is also concerning in a way. The recent tragedies reinforced the unfortunate fact that extreme political stances can

incite violence among their opposition and that gathering places are optimal targets for mass shootings.

For this reason, many polling places institute security measures such as bomb protocols and having poll workers be on the lookout for suspicious activity. Since schools are commonly designated as polling locations, there are federal guidelines to protect voters at them. For instance, patrolling is encouraged and open doors are not regarded as an option.

But we must resist fearing oppressors because that only empowers them. The best defense we have to combat hate is love, to fight silence by shouting with our votes.

We have fought throughout history for the right of everyone — men, women, people of all races, ethnicities, genders and sexual orientations — to vote. We should not deny ourselves that right because we are afraid.

Madeline Messa is a junior majoring in print and digital journalism and is a columnist for The Daily Collegian. Email her at mgm5413@psu.edu or follow her on Twitter at [@madeline_messa](https://twitter.com/madeline_messa).



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STICK TO SPORTS?

Athletes should express their political opinions any way they want

MY VIEW | COOPER DECK

In 1967, Muhammad Ali was not only at the top of the boxing world, he was also a household name due to his success as an African-American athlete.



This all came to a sudden halt on April 28 of the same year, when Ali refused to serve his country in the Vietnam War, citing his religious beliefs as a backing. He was arrested, sentenced to the maximum of five years in prison and assessed a \$10,000 fine. While the decision was eventually unanimously overturned by the New York Supreme Court three years later, Ali's boxing license was revoked -- in turn stripping him of his world heavyweight title -- and he was absent from the sport for a period of time.

Ali received extreme backlash from the general public throughout this long legal battle. Fast forward just over 50 years later, and Ali is praised as one of the greatest athletes of all time, both in and out of the ring, due in large part to his contributions in the civil rights movement and other humanitarian efforts.

It is important to understand that the intersection of sports and political issues is nothing new. It has simply gained more traction due to increased media access to both athletes and the public, whether they are sports fans or not.

This intersection has seen an exponential revival over the past two years, and was exemplified by Fox News political talk show host Laura Ingraham reacting to LeBron James' comments about President Donald Trump by telling him, along with Kevin Durant, who was also in the interview, to "shut up and dribble."

Ingraham also attempted to discredit James' statements by describing him as someone who attempted to graduate high school a year early to join the NBA while also adding that he "gets paid \$100 million a year to bounce a ball."

Citing the "shut up and dribble" phrase does not only discredit the argument Ingraham is making, but it also limits the potential for effective discourse going forward in hopes of solving the political issues brought to the table.

The same goes for Colin Kaepernick, who took the sports world by storm when he started kneeling for the national anthem at the beginning of the 2016 season. Kaepernick's motivation behind starting this protest was to bring awareness to the police brutality that exists in America.

At first, the former 49ers quarterback received more hate than support. However, as time goes on, it seems that he is slowly gaining more backing to his protests. What I'm trying to say here is that we cannot make abrupt judgements solely based off the face value of what many consider very polarizing political stances.

If we immediately jump to irrational

criticism and hate every time we have a situation like this arise, we will never make any progress in combating the actual issue itself.

This would thus put us into the perpetual downward spiral of endless arguments as a result of the unwillingness to listen to each other.

Of course, there can't be a solution to every single political issue that is brought up; some people value specific policies more than others due to their own individual upbringing and life experiences. More and more, sports have become a venue for political debate.

As a lifelong sports junkie, the last thing I want to hear about when I turn on ESPN or Fox Sports One is politics and where athletes stand in the middle of all of it. I watch sports to get away from the unavoidable political arguments I hear walking through campus or on CNN, Fox, MSNBC or any other news network.

But just because it's not what I want to see doesn't mean I am going to knock someone's right, whether an athlete or not, to use the platform they have worked their entire life to achieve as a means to express their political beliefs if they feel it will better the country.

They also have the right to do so wherever they please -- even if that means it's during a primetime game with millions watching.

The right to freedom of expression is guaranteed by the first amendment of the Constitution, so it doesn't matter what background someone has, where they come from, or how much money they have.

This is exactly why trying to discredit athletes by using the 'shut up and dribble' tag is a contradiction within itself. Every U.S. citizen is granted the right to do this and that can never be taken away from them, regardless of political affiliation or any other label. Athletes are no exception, and we need to remember that.

To email reporter: cfd8@psu.edu. Follow him on Twitter at @CooperDeck.

Athletes should stay informed and be active politically, but keep it off the field

MY VIEW | ANDREW RUBIN

Sports have always been an escape for millions.

A break from the stresses of daily life, a fun way to compete yourself, cheer on and have pride in the alma mater or watch the best perform. For those in the stands, it has no tangible effect on anything in your life. Sure, it's fun when your team wins and can be painful when they don't. But when you get back home after the game, life is exactly the same as when you left to head to the stadium. I think a majority of sports fans enjoy that aspect of it whether they realize it or not, (many of them will probably tell you there is nothing fun about it as it does affect them, but it really doesn't).

The political process on the other hand isn't meant to be fun.

It has real effects on the world at a macro and micro level. It determines everything from how much in taxes you pay to where you get to park at the beach. Some of its consequences are minor, but some are more serious.

But the two worlds are very different. Sure there are plenty of exceptions, but for the most part, the people directly involved with them or that follow them closely are just as different. Especially in these polarized times that we live in, many find political discussion especially stressful. The two major political parties have ideas for how to best take our great American experiment to the highest possible place, and they have rarely been more different.

As an involved American that has voted in every single election since turning 18 (yes I request and fill out an absentee ballot for municipal elections) who also loves sports, one would think I'd be an obvious candidate to love for the two worlds to collide. However, I can't stand it. I hate every second of it. I grew up in a household where pretty much all we

talked about was sports and politics. My parents are both very politically active and involved, as well as being huge sports fans. As my close friends can attest, it's pretty much all I know. I don't pay attention to music or other forms of entertainment at all.

The reason I can't stand political statements being made on the field does not come down to whether I agree or disagree with them, but for the simple fact that when they are made, sports are no longer the escape that many people desire. It becomes something else, almost another front in the political process.

SportsCenter is no longer just a fun breakdown of last night's games, it has some of the political talk I can get from cable news. The NFL's protests during the national anthem during the last few years led by Colin Kaepernick drove a lot of frustration into many sports fans. Having said that, it's important to note that I said "on the field" above, because I believe equally as strongly that, as Americans, we should be politically involved in our communities -- and athletes are no exception.

An example that strikes close to home here in Happy Valley is Penn State safety Lamont Wade. He makes political statements on Twitter and speaks his mind about politics on a somewhat regular basis. He walked in a rally in Pittsburgh after police killed unarmed black teen Antwon Rose Jr. east of the city and made an appearance on CNN to talk about it.

Former Penn State linebacker Jason Cabinda was another Nittany Lion that spoke out on social media -- I even wrote about it while I covered the team. While I don't often totally agree with what either Wade or Cabinda think, I firmly believe that if they've taken the time to be sure in their beliefs, they should make them known.

From there, it is up to their fans to make a decision if they are actually informed and educated on an issue. An athlete's political opinions off the field don't have to become part of the experience of watching them play, as long as you don't follow them on Twitter.

It also doesn't need to and shouldn't become a main talking point headed into the game, which it often has. After all, those beliefs have no result in the final score, which is what I'm there for at the end of the day. Athletes need to remember we watch games to see them perform. We do it because they can run faster, hit harder and make saves better than any of us could ever dream of -- for many they are living our childhood dreams.

We aren't taking time out of our day to see what they think of the president or any other elected official. It's a crucial distinction I hope athletes of all sports respect moving forward, so we can avoid the NFL controversies of the last few years.

To email reporter: abr5312@psu.edu. Follow him on Twitter at @andrewrubin24.

MY VIEW | JAKE AFERIAT

Coaches should use their platform to speak out

Whether it's Penn State or Alabama football, or North Carolina or Kentucky basketball, athletics tend to reign supreme at big-name institutions.



When that's the case, it consumes the lives of those involved with the teams, fans, university officials and alumni alike.

This often leads to a mob-like mentality among fans and clouds our judgment as to the importance of these teams in the grand scheme of life.

By virtue of this culture and its pervasive nature, it propels college coaches like James Franklin and Nick Saban in football, or John Calipari for basketball, into the national spotlight while still being expected to operate in the bubble that is their respective universities.

But it's incumbent on these coaches to possess the self-awareness to realize they do wield tremendous power. The spotlight afforded to them is one that most university officials, politicians and especially common citizens wish they had.

Whether it was an instance of getting caught off guard and not shrugging off the question, or genuine self-awareness in an attempt to provide an articulate answer to an important issue, James Franklin used his platform to address the issue of race and coaching in college football prior to his team's game against Illinois. Franklin is one of just 13 black head coaches among 130 FBS schools.

Before Penn State's game against the Illini, he was asked his thoughts on the matchup

between him and Illinois coach Lovie Smith -- one of the few games played between two black head coaches this season.

"I'd love for us to get to a point where this really isn't even a conversation anymore," Franklin said. "Obviously I don't think we're there yet. But I remember thinking back as an assistant, when Tony Dungy and Lovie were playing against each other in a Super Bowl, and I said 'This is going to have an impact.' And I think it did."

Franklin's answer isn't particularly profound, but he is correct. In 2018, this shouldn't have to be an issue that needs to be discussed. But since it does still need to be addressed, the fact that Franklin answered the question articulately and with some degree of thought put into it helps shed light on the issue.

While his answer likely won't change the world or many minds, if people even talk about it a little bit, then it was successful and for that reason alone, I fully support and commend Franklin.

Franklin went on to further explain his position on the issue.

"I do think there's a lot of progress that still needs to be made in college and probably the NFL, as well," he said. "But at the end of the day, I think all that anybody wants is that people have opportunities. And whether that is people of color, whether that is women, whether that is whatever it may be -- that they have opportunities."

What followed was perhaps the most telling example of Franklin's experience as a black head coach and the thing that struck me most about what he said.

"I also feel like I carry a little bit of that weight that I'm also

working for thousands of young African-American football coaches all over the country," he said.

"When someone gets into my position the success that we have here hopefully opens some opportunities for other guys in the future."

I would absolutely characterize this as a "political statement," not in the sense that he's saying "vote for X candidate" or offering a policy suggestion, but merely in the fact that he's speaking on these issues.

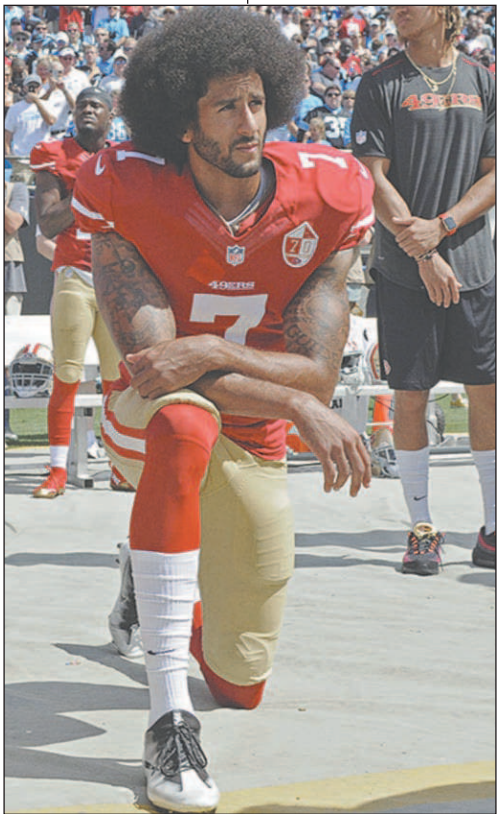
A lot of coaches with equally as big a platform are less overt in the political statements they make or the causes they back.

For example, per OpenSecrets, Iowa football coach Kirk Ferentz donated \$6,750 to Republican candidates at various levels of politics, and former UNC basketball coach Dean Smith donated \$29,458 to various Democrats and Democratic organizations.

These are certainly a conscious, albeit far less overt "political statement" than the one Franklin made, but Smith, Ferentz and Franklin used their platforms and used their influence to throw their weight behind political issues.

And that's great. They should be empowered to do so at every turn and we shouldn't threaten to boycott their respective sport or the university that employs them because we don't like someone's politics.

You're allowed to disagree with Washington State football coach Mike Leach endorsing President Trump the same way you can disagree with LeBron James wearing a hat supporting Beto O'Rourke, Ted Cruz's Democratic challenger for the senate.



AP File Photo

Colin Kaepernick (7) takes a knee during the national anthem before a game in 2016.



Christopher Sanders/Collegian

James Franklin calls a play late in the fourth quarter during the game against Michigan State at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Oct. 13.

But we should respect the right that Franklin, Smith, Ferentz, Leach or any other coach or player has to speak on any issue at any time they feel needs addressing. Yes, they're employees of their respective universities and they may have certain clauses in their contracts about what they can and can't say, but they don't sign away their rights as American citizens to have or voice an opinion no matter where they lie on the spectrum.

And I get that they're not paid to speak on politics, the weather or their family, but if we restrict what they can say to only being

about the sport that they're involved in, we're doing everyone a disservice.

There are a lot of people who aren't politically inclined. So when someone like Franklin makes the statement that he does, it exposes people who might not otherwise care to consider a different view.

So I implore Franklin, Leach and whomever else feels strongly about an issue to use your voice and platform and help raise awareness to start a dialogue. It'll benefit all parties involved.

To email reporter: jxa5415@psu.edu. Follow him on Twitter at @Jake_Aferiat.

Celebrities take on Capitol Hill

By Erin Hogge
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Throughout President Donald Trump’s tenure, there has been an increase in celebrity activism concerning politics, influencing citizens nationwide.

Known for being vocal about his opinions, rapper Kanye West is a believer in the president’s decisions. West has posed for paparazzi in his “Make America Great Again” hat on more than one occasion and has appeared on multiple late night shows to speak about his political views, which stray from Hollywood’s norm. Despite being a firm supporter of West’s music career, Nathan Smith said the rapper went too far in terms of his behavior when delivering various political messages to the president and the nation.

“You have to understand the point he’s trying to get at is that really, it’s not even about the politics,” Smith (sophomore-information sciences & technology) said. “It’s more about being able to think differently and speak how you want to without fear that you’re going to be ridiculed

because someone doesn’t like how you think.”

“I’m all for that—but the way in which you do it means a lot, and I think for a lot of people it just came off as really [disingenuous], or like [West] doesn’t really know what he’s talking about,” he added.

Despite his distaste for West’s delivery, Smith said he supports the right to free speech.

“I think that celebrities have every single right to [share political preferences],” Smith said. “Even if their opinions aren’t popular, or necessarily even that educated, they’re entitled to speak up about whatever they want.”

Taylor Swift, country-turned-pop singer, kept her opinions about political figures and policies quiet for years. Recently, though, Swift posted a photo on Instagram with a caption detailing her dislike of Republican

practices in her adopted home state of Tennessee. Voter registration in the state increased by over 2,000 people a day after the singer’s lengthy post went viral.

Agreeing with Smith about whether celebrities should be able to speak freely, Carissa Janecek said celebrities influence citizens more than they may know.

“We often unintentionally closely associate our feelings about a celebrity to whoever or whatever they may be endorsing,” Janecek (freshman-advertising and public relations) said. “So however I may feel about Taylor Swift could

determine how I feel about the political views she’s endorsing.”

An issue of credibility arises when a celebrity, or any average person for that matter, discusses a topic about which one has to be knowledgeable, specifically politics.

“You should consider the source on anything that somebody says,” Curt Chandler, assistant teaching professor in the Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications, said. “Taylor Swift is obviously a bright, successful woman. She’s a good singer but she’s also a good businessperson. So if she’s talking about [politics], then she has a certain credibility. If Kim Kardashian says something and she’s famous does that have any more weight than if a nuclear physicist says something? You want to think, ‘How does that person know that?’”

Trump made history as the first nonpolitician to secure his spot at the head of the table in the Oval Office. At the conclusion of his time in office, it’s possible for a new celebrity to follow in his footsteps and run for the presidency.

“Celebrities have a big soapbox and they can take advantage of it and sometimes it’s to their own peril,” Chandler said. “But on the other hand, they do reach a large audience so they can have a big impact, and sometimes that’s important.”

The days of celebrities sticking to their scripts seem to be over, as a wave of political activism crashes over the country, carrying with it Hollywood’s elite. Although it’s impossible to know for certain what the future of the political world looks like, it’s likely to include individuals who may not have a background in politics.

“As media coverage and social outlets expand, celebrities are more likely to be elected now more than ever before,” Janecek said. “It’s up to us to be educated voters and to know the whole truth about what celebrities may be endorsing.”



LION'S LIST

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Crossword

Across

1 Breaks
6 Magazine contents
10 Luxurious resorts
14 Crude
15 The ___ Piper
16 Bridge site
17 Bullion unit
18 Death rattle
19 Fury
20 Those always looking at the dark side
22 Caspian Sea feeder
23 Storm precursor
24 Lease out part of a rented apartment
26 Feisty
30 Wistful word
32 Nevada city
33 Overly smooth
35 Reservations
40 Stableboys
42 Otalgia
44 Brown ermine
45 Speech problem
47 Hard to find
48 Prepare to swallow
50 Balloon filler
52 Cheerful
56 Norse war god
58 Priest of the East
59 Hear a case
65 Tricksters
66 Quick haircut
67 Errand runner
68 Missouri tributary
69 Rope fiber
70 Customs
71 Compensates
72 Go to and fro
73 Make amends (for)

Down

1 Junket
2 First-class
3 Steins
4 Prima donna problems
5 Piece of clowning (Yiddish)
6 Patriots' Day month
7 Filled with vapor
8 Tuna ___
9 Black Sea port
10 Perennial plant
11 Oyster's prize
12 Pond buildup
13 Troutlike fish
21 City manager
25 Red letters?
26 Ravens
27 "___ we forget"
28 Biblical preposition
29 Bubbly drink
31 Cleaning cabinet supplies
34 Catalina, e.g.
36 Lady's man
37 Small dark purple fruit
38 Drive-___
39 Appear to be
41 Delineate
43 Garden pest
46 World War II battle site
49 Moors
51 Puzzle
52 Dirigible
53 Female demon
54 Suggest
55 Items on a to-do list
57 Pudgy
60 Sketched
61 Codger
62 60's hairdo
63 High schooler
64 Hebrides tongue

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WORD SEARCH

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Tennis Hall of Fame

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Davenport
Edberg
Evert
Graf
Hingis
King
Laver
Lendl
McEnroe
Nastase
Navratilova
Newcombe
Richey
Riggs
Sampras
Seles
Snow
Wade

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P A V O L I T A R V A N E G E Y O C

Bigar's Stars

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

www.jacquelinebigar.com

Thursday, Nov. 1, 2018

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You might not intend to hit the extremes you could reach today. Perhaps you have been holding in your feelings for too long. You will find that your irritation builds. Try to discharge negative energy before the problem becomes bigger. Tonight: Enjoy a loved one's company.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You could be in a situation where you must deal with several difficult people, and might feel as if you have no other option. Someone close to you has been extraordinarily difficult for several months. Deal with this issue now. Tonight: Listen to a dear friend.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You could feel overwhelmed, as someone insists on approaching you and clearing the air. You might have difficulty staying calm when dealing with this person, as he or she knows how to get under your skin. Try to work through your intense feelings. Tonight: Get some exercise.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You might have your hands full dealing with a loved one over an issue that involves both of you. Try not to get triggered. If you do, recognize what in you gets charged that way and why. You will find one-on-one relating to be more successful at present. Tonight: Out on the town.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You might hit a disagreement and find that you are a lot angrier than you had thought. Try to tame your tone and your words, because the other party has similar feelings. Later in the day, you are more likely to have a reasonable conversation to resolve a problem. Tonight: Say "yes."
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Your nerves could be fried from having too much to do. More and more to-dos are dumped on your plate. Be willing to say "no" to the next few requests. Consider canceling some appointments or engagements. Tonight: Listen to a loved one's request, and opt for closeness.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Your friends surround you. You are likely to join them whenever your pace slows down, perhaps after several meetings. You have a lot on your mind. Relaxing with a friend seems to help you let go of recent stress. Tonight: Consider getting into weekend mode early.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You have a way and a style about you that draws many people toward you. Today, however – whether intentionally or not – you could trigger quite a disagreement, especially if someone you are supposed to respect becomes difficult. Tonight: Be especially gracious!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You could feel unusually drained and exhausted because of a recent heavy conversation that started out as an argument. You certainly will have a lot to think about over the next few days. You see yourself and someone else quite differently as a result. Tonight: Do your thing.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Connect with someone you have a lot of dealings with, especially those involving money. You might want to divulge some private information about a financial matter. You appreciate the diversity of opinions that surround you. Tonight: Make the most of the night with loved ones.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You need to take charge of your mood. The tension between you and a close friend could be very strong, if you are not careful. Try to detach and not get triggered. You will find the other parties involved to be more responsive if you do that. Tonight: Enjoy the admiration of a partner.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Reach out to someone at a distance or an expert who is always full of great ideas. Decide to brainstorm with this person as long as you both deem necessary. The less you discuss your anger or resentment for the moment, the better. Tonight: Digest all the feedback you get.

Kakuro (Cross Sums)

The rules are easy to learn: A number above the diagonal line in a black square is the sum of the white squares to the right of it. A number below the diagonal line is the sum of the white squares in the sequence below it. You may only use the digits 1 to 9, and a digit may be used only once in any sequence.

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Answers bit.ly/1CBcyRi

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‘DEFINITELY WORTHWHILE’

One sophomore takes semester off to work for Pennsylvania Democrats

By Tina Locurto
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

In second grade, Rylie Cooper wrote that one day, she wanted to be president of the United States. Cooper’s teacher, however, told her a woman couldn’t be president.

“That was just really disheartening to me as a second grader,” Cooper said. “I was like, ‘Wow, well I’m gonna’ show you.’”

Cooper (sophomore-international politics) decided to take a semester off to focus on the 2018 midterm election.

Currently, Cooper is working full time as the youngest paid employee for the Democratic Party of Pennsylvania.

As a field organizer working in four counties — Blair, Mifflin, Huntingdon and Juniata — Cooper said she’s primarily responsi-

ble for encouraging volunteer recruitment in rural communities.

“Considering this is what I want to do as a future career, it was definitely worthwhile,” she said.

Cooper said she always knew she wanted to get involved as soon as she could. When she turned 18, the first thing on her mind was registering to vote.

Then, she got a taste for political work when she was an intern for the Hillary Clinton presidential campaign. From that first job, Cooper said she knew this was the work for her.

“The love for politics is already there, but once I realized that there was something I could do that wasn’t just policy work — and was actually working with communities — I definitely fell in love with that,” Cooper said.

She said it all came down to

“luck” for getting her current job.

While she’s the youngest paid employee on staff, Cooper said, she’s developed a “learning curve” for working with people from all ages.

Working primarily in rural counties, Cooper said many registered Democrats she’s talked with were surprised to find someone with similar political beliefs.

“Just seeing that pure, raw energy... is really uplifting,” Cooper said of volunteers.

Though she no longer dreams of being president, she said, her true passion is working behind-the-scenes in politics.

Gillian Kratzer, chairperson of the Blair County Democratic Committee, said she first met Cooper during early summer. Kratzer said Cooper was “very energetic and had a lot of knowledge for her age.”

“I remember recently we had a full day of phone banking, and it was refreshing to see someone as young as Rylie who has dedicated herself to this work in an area of our commonwealth where it really isn’t easy,” Kratzer said. “She knuckles down and does the hard work of convincing people to come out and do something.”

Cooper said the hardest part of her job is working in four separate counties — and giving equal attention and time to them.

“It’s hard to see the measure of what I’m doing when you’re constantly emerged in it on the ground,” Cooper said.

She recently received a phone call from Sen. Bob Casey, who commended Cooper for her work.

“I didn’t really know what to say — I was just taken aback,” she said.

As a young person immersed in the world of politics, Cooper admits it can be tough to engage other young individuals.

However, she said, she thinks progress is being made as more high school and college-aged



Rylie Cooper, left, responds to a question in the Municipal Building on Tuesday, April 18, 2017.



Rylie Cooper (sophomore-international politics) poses in front of the HUB-Robeson Center on Tuesday, Oct. 30.

people are taking the initiative to get politically involved.

Anthony Zarzycki, who first met Cooper while working on the 2016 Clinton campaign together, said she is “ambitious, yet willing to learn.”

As a freshman, Cooper had run for a seat on the State College Borough Council. Though her bid was unsuccessful, Cooper told The Daily Collegian in 2017 that a “movement has been started.”

“She’s the person who believes she only benefits when others around her are being built up,” Zarzycki, Class of 2018, said.

Cooper helped found Front & Centre in 2017, an organization that promotes and expands LGBTQ rights in Central Pennsylvania.

“If she couldn’t enact the change to better people’s lives through one medium, she’d try another,” Zarzycki said.

“That’s what makes Rylie a special case in the Penn State and State College political community.”

To email reporter: cr15284@psu.edu. Follow her on Twitter at [@tina_locurto](https://twitter.com/tina_locurto).

Why climate change is no longer a scientific debate

By Katy Shero
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Rising sea levels, shrinking glaciers, strengthening natural disasters and more — Earth is experiencing environmental shifts due to climate change.

According to NASA, at least 97 percent of actively publishing climate scientists agree Earth’s climate is warming. Though in recent years, the existence of climate change has been questioned by political parties, introducing climate change “deniers.”

Those who do acknowledge climate change’s existence more often debate the causation of climate change as opposed to its overall existence.

Dr. Chris Forest, a Penn State professor of climate dynamics in the Department of Meteorology and Atmospheric Science, said he doesn’t use the word “believe” anymore when discussing climate change because he knows it is real.

Further, Forest said the existence of climate change is common knowledge by now, even to deniers who might not want to

accept the facts. The issue with the debate, according to Forest, comes from how much individuals care about the environment’s sustainability in relation to other political issues.

“Everybody has their own niche issues,” Forest said. “The question now is where do we see climate change impacting things... and what are all the factors that will influence an individual?”

Sean Semanko, a member of Turning Point USA, a conservative political organization on campus, said he believes climate change is real. He does not agree with many democrats on climate change, though, because he said he thinks there is still too much room for inaccuracy about the issue.

“Predicting the climate is very difficult and a lot of past predictions have been wrong, so I’m skeptical in that aspect,” Semanko (junior-advertising) said.

Semanko added that the debate is “100 percent political” because most people on both sides agree climate change is a problem, but disagree about how to deal

with it. “The left wants more government, the right says [climate change] isn’t an apocalypse and that more government isn’t the solution,” Semanko said.

“It becomes a red versus blue issue, though, because people follow their sides... and they conform to that. Everybody’s guilty of it.”

Jacob Klipstein, chief of staff for the College Democrats, said the debate has become political because instead of working to minimize climate change, many continue to ignore it.

Klipstein (sophomore-political science and history) also said a major debate now is whether climate change is caused by humans or occurs naturally.


Forest said it is a mix of both, with humans holding the majority of responsibility.

“Accounting for the driving factors affecting climate, 80 to 90 percent of what we observed in the last 100 years is due to humans and their effect on the planet,” Forest said. “And this other 10 to 20 percent is what we know is also caused by natural factors.



Collegian Creative

Either way, Klipstein said people need to address climate change to prevent and reverse it. “This issue will not just affect Democrats or Republicans,” Klipstein said. “It’s going to affect everyone in the world. The United States needs to step up as a leader... and implement the policies for change.”



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Evan Pugh Professor of Geosciences

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Community discusses the importance of voting

By Alyshia Hercules
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

After the results of the 2016 presidential election, some Penn State students still have faith in the power of voting.

In that election, the Electoral College had the final say in who won the presidency. Hillary Clinton won the popular vote, but Donald Trump won the seat in the Oval Office.

The losing candidate of the popular vote has been awarded the presidency only five times in U.S history. The Electoral College being the deciding factor has weakened some Americans faith in the voting system.

According to the Pew Research Center, 55 percent of Americans believe the Electoral College should be eliminated and the winner of the popular vote should get the presidency.

“After the 2016 election, I was in shock and felt like my vote didn’t matter if the electoral gets to override the popular vote,” Spencer McKee (senior-philosophy) said. “However, voting is the only way to make our voices heard by those in power which is why I’m registered to vote this midterm election.”

Only 40 percent of Americans ages 18-29 are planning to vote in this election, according to a study done by the Harvard Kennedy School Institute of Politics.

Professor Amy Linch, a political science professor at Penn State, urged stu-

dents to put their activism to work at the polls.

“Midterm elections are just as important as presidential elections,” Linch said. “Our current administration is not doing anything to combat climate change, supports voter suppression, suppression of transgender rights and many other things that young voters constantly protest about. The only resistance we have to the administration is state-based law.”

Midterm elections typically have a lower turn out rate than that of the presidential elections. In midterm elections, voters will ultimately determine which party will control each chamber of congress over the next two years.

O’Neill Kennedy, treasurer of the Penn State Democrats, wants students to think about what the candidates we elect say about our country.

“Anyone who is unhappy with the direction in which our country is going needs to vote to see change. I understand why post 2016 election some people feel like their vote doesn’t matter, however your vote ultimately controls the electoral college and the popular vote,” Kennedy (senior-international politics) said.

“When voting, [you should] really look into the candidates and what they support, and you will find a candidate that stands for something you strongly believe in,” she added.

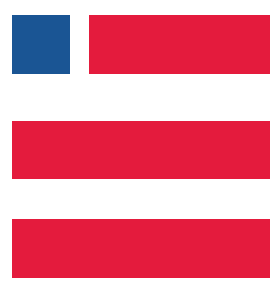
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