

DAILY COLLEGIAN

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Housing Guide Fall 2019



Tuition isn’t the only money drain

By **Jordan Corley**
and **Grace Vocalina**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

State College did not become an official town until the mid-1800s when the Farmers’ High School of Pennsylvania — the early version of Penn State — was founded. Flash forward nearly 165 years, State College and University Park have a combined population of over 84,000 residents.

The campus and surrounding town have seen significant changes over the years, accommodating a growing population and economy.

With time, the evolving community experienced an increase in prices for a significant number of amenities, including housing, parking and food.

These changes have resulted in a “town and gown” comprised of both original, distinguishing features of an old campus and new, modernized establishments common to a city.

Chow time

Food. A necessity of life, especially for those under the pressure of late-night study sessions and inevitable debt.

With inflation, as with most valuable goods, food has gotten more expensive.

Most students, especially freshmen, rely on the campus dining options as the sole source of food. Therefore, these students must purchase one of the available meal plans.

Currently, there are three levels of plans. The cheapest is \$655 “dining dollars” while the most expensive is \$1,250. This money can only be utilized on campus at dining halls and other establishments such as Starbucks.

Students using the plans are given discounts at these locations, some as high as 65 percent off at the all-you-can-eat buffets within the five commons.

For context, those without a meal plan pay \$14.95 for the dinner buffet while plan holders pay \$5.60.

Students with a plan also receive a 10 percent discount on on prepared items at on-campus retail dining locations. This does not include national chains such as Burger King, Starbucks, coffee shops and convenience stores.

Campus dining prices are typically selected in the spring for the following school year. Jim Meinecke, Associate Director of Residential Dining, said their

team looks at prices of similar items downtown to determine prices for the dining halls.

“We try to make sure that [our price] is covering our cost and try to keep it in the same ballpark as we have around town for a lot of the items so that it’s affordable and reasonable,” Meinecke said.

In recent years, the food market has seen changes, which Meinecke hinted may indicate two price re-evaluations for the following year instead of one at the end of the previous spring semester.

For example, the swine flu epidemic in 2009 significantly impacted the availability of pork, according to the CDC, which caused Penn State dining to rely more heavily on chicken and fish as their protein options.

For the rest of the State College community and students who indulge in off-campus eateries, there are numerous options for all tastebud preferences.

Decades ago, staples included The Ye Olde College Diner, which closed in 2018 after 43 years of serving the State College community, and sandwich shop CC Peppers, which is currently located off North Atherton Street.

The Diner’s prices for a typical breakfast in 1983 are drastically different from current local prices.

For example, the Diner’s “Cakes and More” special — two large pancakes with a choice of bacon or sausage — was \$1.79. In comparison, the Corner Room’s big stack pancakes and additional slices of bacon or sausage is roughly \$8 — almost four times the 1980’s prices.

But restaurants like the Diner are closing to be replaced by newer options such as BRGR and Sauly Boys, which generally have mid-to-higher priced menus.

Sauly Boys, a burger and hot dog eatery, came to downtown State College in October 2016. The restaurant is collectively owned along with Fiddlehead and Irving’s. Meanwhile, the Pittsburgh chain BRGR recently opened in September 2019.

Looking at the menus, Sauly’s sells a “Sauly Burger,” which includes lettuce, cheese, tomato, red onion and Sauly sauce for \$5.95, and a “Beautiful Day” burger from BRGR, including cheese, BRGR sauce, grilled onions, lettuce, tomato, pickles and cheese costs \$8.90.

Manager of Sauly Boys, David Botch, said the owners were initially worried about the impact BRGR would have on their business.

“We thought [the establishment of BRGR] was going to [impact us] but it’s a totally different type of restaurant,” Botch said. “I don’t think it’s really having much of an impact so far.”

Other common burger options are McDonalds, Baby’s Diner and Five Guys. A cheeseburger from McDonalds costs \$2.79, a cheeseburger from Five Guys costs \$7.69 and Baby’s Diner sells the “original” burger for \$6.29 and an additional 75 cents for cheese.

Notably, these places have also not significantly impacted campus dining prices, according to Meinecke.

“In general [prices] have been pretty stable but there have been a few things we have had to take into account,” Meinecke said.

Another development Downtown has been the expansion of vegan and vegetarian friendly options.

Restaurants, such as Playa Bowls, Frutta Bowls and Roots Natural Kitchen, offer a variety of grain, salad or fruit bowls, smoothies and juices.

But like the burger joints, these restaurants carry a higher price tag.

The standard bowl at Playa Bowls with acai, granola, banana and honey costs \$9.00. Additional toppings cost \$0.50. Frutta Bowls offers a similar bowl with strawberries and peanut butter as well for \$9.99.

Roots Natural Kitchen sells bowls that the customers choose of base, up to five ingredients and a protein. Prices range from \$7.65 to \$9.00 depending on the protein. Each additional topping is an extra \$0.35.

Beep beep

Places to be and nowhere to park is a common complaint among students, locals and visitors.

On campus, there are three main parking decks located by the HUB-Robeson Center, the Berkey Creamery and the Nittany Lion Inn. These charge \$1/hour with a maximum of \$12 or \$18 for a lost parking ticket.

Student parking at these lots, however, are limited.

There is also multi-space parking around campus, which charge similar rates.

Students with vehicles must purchase a parking pass, which vary by price based on dorm location or whether one is a commuter.

“Prices [for student parking] are determined by a combina-



Rachel Miller/Collegian

The Metropolitan located on College Avenue on Wednesday, Oct. 9.

tion of departmental costs and parking demand,” Jason Thomas, special projects coordinator for transportation services at Penn State said.

Over the past two years, Thomas said the price for student parking in lot 83, resident student long-term storage, has increased by 18 dollars, 9 dollars each year. He attributed this in part to the prices remaining stagnant over the past six years.

Lot 43, off-campus student long term storage parking experienced a similar price increase due to it’s higher parking demand. Parking prices increased by 18 dollars per academic year.

Thomas said prices for resident student core parking permits, including lots 22, 42, 81 and 82 and off-campus student commuter permits have not increased in several years.

Prices for resident student parking permits, including lots Blue 22 (Eastview Terrace), Blue 42 (Nittany Apartments), Blue 81 (South/Pollock Halls) and Blue 82 (East/North/West Halls) are currently \$640 for both the fall 2019 and spring 2020 semesters.

Both the Brown 11 (White Course Apartments) permit and the Blue 83 (Resident Remote Storage) permit now cost \$324 for the fall 2019 and spring 2020 semesters combined.

The cheapest parking permit to have on-campus parking at is at the Resident Student Lot and the White Course Apartments, and to park there for both fall and spring semester is \$288. To park closer to a dormitory building or in a place more centrally located on campus significantly increase to \$640 in total.

Off-campus students have two options for parking: student commuter parking (SCR) which includes Jordan East (east of Bryce Jordan Center), Stadium West (west of Beaver Stadium) and Porter North (north of Medlar Field) and lot 43. SCR parking costs \$90 for the fall 2019 and spring 2020 semesters combined and parking in lot 43 costs \$405 total.

Those without passes are sub-

ject to fines. Parking fines can range between \$10 for a minor violation such as improper display to \$100 for a fraudulent permit or parking in a handicapped space. Second and third offenses for fraudulent, altered or unauthorized permits increase in value to \$150 and \$200, respectively.

A roof to sleep under

The traditional downtown strip is an essential part of Penn state culture.

However, with the increasing student population, apartments, highrises and townhouses are becoming a popular alternative to living in a dorm following their freshman year.

Though the downtown locations are convenient, this comes at a price — literally. Downtown apartments are currently marketed at a substantially higher rent when compared to other off-campus housing.

Luxury apartments include the Rise, the Metropolitan, where rent can be \$900/month.

The price for the rent for apartments outside of the university grounds are not regulated by Penn State.

Due to company’s buying land — starting at \$450-\$500 per square foot — the prices for rent are solely based off of the apartment company’s choosing.

Planning Director of the State College borough Edward LeClear discussed the struggle of maintaining a balance between traditional State College and the modern look that is beginning to pop up on the outskirts of downtown.

With a future rezoning of the borough — this will not take place for several years — LeClear mentions there is an effort at some locations to decrease rent, but for a while, finding a place with decent rent in a central location may seem impossible.

“I would go to round table discussions on campus and borough staff would stay at a table, and student leadership would come through,” LeClear said.

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



Collegian File Photo

Sauly Boy’s opens on Monday Oct. 3, 2016 on South Allen Street.

Off or on campus? Go with your gut

By **Morayo Ogunbayo**
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

As the fall semester ends, many students begin to consider their housing options for the next year. The question of “dorms vs. apartments” begins to fall onto students’ minds, and with contract season imminent, the pressure to make a decision is growing.

While many see another year in the dorms as an unpleasant option, some students do not want to deal with the perceived hassle of looking for off-campus housing.

Before taking on the task of moving off-campus, finding advice may be a useful way for students to make sure they are making the correct decision.

“I just like the meal plan – making meals is a hassle and I barely have time to eat, let alone make myself meals,” Grace Miller said. Miller (freshman - psychology and criminology) also said, “We’re right next to all the resources, I don’t want to have to get up earlier to do, like, travel time.”

Her explanation is one that can be felt by many other students who do not want to take on the

responsibilities of living on their own.

Many students see the dorms as the closer to campus option, even if off-campus housing can sometimes be closer to where they need to go.

Ryan Dinchier recommends that students decide what they actually want, instead of sending around “feelers.”

“If I wanted to stay in the place I have now next year, I had to sign my lease a week ago,” Dinchier (senior- supply chain management) said, “Don’t apply for on-campus if that’s not what you want,” he said.

Vanessa Lares echoed Dinchier’s belief and goes further by saying, “Start looking late September, early October. If you’re not already talking to a housing company, get on it.”

Lares (senior - biobehavioral health) also said that those good housing contracts have already been signed.

Dinchier and Ward both addressed students’ inclination to be picky about off-campus housing.

“Don’t be afraid of sharing a bedroom. It can often be cheaper that way,” Dinchier said.

Finding roommates is also a large concern of students opting for new housing options. Besides the fear of disagreements, there is also the confusion of who will bring what.

Nicolette Nybro recommends that students “Make a spreadsheet for their roommates about what to bring” to avoid that confusion and any conflicts that arise from it.

Nybro (junior- risk management actuarial science) also addresses “food concerns” by recommending that students make sure they understand “the difference between the commuter meal plan and Lion Cash.”

Vivian Ward recommends that underclassmen “take advantage of all the upperclassmen in their clubs and classes,” before making a firm decision.

Ward (sophomore- business administration) also said that students should visit the rental company’s office and get to know every piece of information in person.

Ward recognizes that some students may fear unsavory living conditions.

“It’s only one year,” Ward said. “You’ll be fine.”



Collegian file

Martin Hall is one of the dorms located in East Halls along Curtin Road on Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2018.

Alumni react to East Hall renovations

By Adriana Guidi
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

East Halls.

For most alumni, those two words are filled with memories of old communal bathrooms and dorm furniture that hasn't been replaced since around 1975.

Now, that has changed — with the complete renovation of a majority of the East Halls dorm buildings, with the exception of a few buildings that will be renovated within the next year or two years.

The new East Halls dorms are unrecognizable from their former, outdated state, with new improvements including air conditioning, private bathrooms, large study lounges and larger dorm rooms.

For most alumni, they would not have even dreamed about living in a renovated dorm building their freshman year — and alumni have mixed feelings about the renovations.

Harrison Heise, 23, who lived in Brumbaugh Hall his freshman year, wishes he got a chance to live in renovated East Halls.

"It would've been a lot better. The dorms would have felt more

comfortable and [I would have been more] willing to be in my dorm," Heise said. "Also, I heard East Halls has A/C now, which I wish I had."

Even though he feels it would have been overall more comfortable, Heise does not think too much of the renovated experience.

"I think it did not add or detract from my experience, because [old] East Halls was... living the 'freshmen' experience," he said.

There are things about old East Halls that Heise also misses.

"One of the only things I miss about East Halls that I liked was the 'Big O,'" Heise said of the former pizza place in Findlay Commons.

"It was in the commons before renovations."

Ed Glosslar, 49, who lived in Pennypacker Hall, believes that the new renovations were a necessity.

"Oh, they really needed to be renovated, I mean the bathrooms alone were just a reason to gut the whole place," Glosslar said.

Other alumni who lived in Pollock Halls believe those dorm buildings should be renovated soon, as well.

Jamie Chiponis, 21, who lived in Hartranft Hall, wonders why those buildings have not been renovated yet.

"If they're gonna do one section, it probably should've been Pollock to start with because a whole bunch of students in all grades and ages live there. And after having a bunk bed, I wouldn't recommend, so they should expand Pollock if they can," Chiponis said.

According to plans, the university plans to renovate Pollock next.

While Chiponis didn't love having a bunkbed freshman year, she thinks that living in an older and small dorm room added to her experience.

"I kind of feel like freshmen aren't getting the true college experience because half of my freshman memories were in my small dorm room," she said.

Overall, most alumni seem happy for incoming classes, but understand that their experiences and the experiences of those living in renovated buildings is very different.

"But still I feel like it's almost too glam in a sense to start out in a beautiful dorm," Chiponis said.



Samantha Wilson/Daily Collegian

Construction is ongoing at the East Residence Halls on Tuesday, Oct. 8.

Living with a roommate you don't know

By Braden Dyreson
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Coming to Penn State as a first year student is a difficult transition.

You have to find new friends on campus, study new subjects you didn't know about in high school, and figure out how to get from the Business Building to Willard in 10 minutes.

With 8,138 freshmen students at University Park and most of them living on campus, having a roommate who you do not know is one of the most difficult but rewarding experiences a freshman can face.

As a freshman, I chose to live with a random roommate.

While it can seem like a challenge at times, here are some useful tips and tricks for living with the random person that sleeps three feet away from you.

Communication is key

All good relationships are built upon good communication.

Be willing to talk to your roommate and express your thoughts and feelings with them.

At the same time, also remember the other half of communication is listening.

Make sure you are listening to your roommate and taking in what they have to say.

If my roommate does something that bothers me, I'll just end up getting more irritated and my roommate will not change his behavior if I do not talk to him about it.

Set clear boundaries and expectations

Make sure that within the first couple of days of meeting and getting to know your roommate, you set clear boundaries with

them. This is bound to be an awkward conversation —but it is a necessary one.

You have to tell your roommate what you are and are not comfortable with, and understand what your roommate is and is not comfortable with.

It was uncomfortable to tell my roommate what I was and was not okay with, but it was important to talk about it.

Once you set these boundaries, it is important that you respect your roommate and not break them.

Do stuff together

How you form connections with people is shared experiences. If you think about your closest relationships with your friends and family, you probably have some fun memories of doing stuff with them.

You do not need to become the

best of friends with your roommate, but you will be living for (hopefully) 30 weeks together.

Because of this, you should be at the very least be friendly.

Try to go and do something with your roommate at least once a week.

Whether it is eating a meal together or watching the Penn State game with each other, figure out something to do with your roommate to help you become friendlier.

My roommate, my whole floor and I are part of a NFL fantasy league, which brings us together as a floor.

Talk to your RA

The resident assistant for your floor is there for you — feel free to talk to them about anything.

It may seem awkward to talk to someone you don't know about your problems, but it is literally

their job to solve problems between roommates.

So if you have an issue with your roommate you cannot resolve, talk to your RA about it.

My RA is always willing to talk to people and work problems out if they arise.

Respect your roommate

This is the most important part of living with a roommate.

Understand that just because your roommate is different from you, they are not a bad person.

University Park is a diverse campus, with people from all over the world and from all walks of life.

If you respect your roommate, more often than not they will respect you back.

Although I had never met my roommate before living together, we still manage to get along because we respect each other.

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MY VIEW | ERIN HOGGE

Why I chose to move off campus

Dorms aren't ideal. Not to say it's the worst thing in the world — unless one is stuck in Pollock — but living in a cell-like space isn't what I'd call enjoyable. Subsequently, I decided to lease an apartment with three other roommates this year.

Food

When living in a dorm, one must resort either to microwavable meals or the dining commons. This means that unhealthy foods — while convenient — are easily accessible. I'll give the dining halls credit — they do have some healthy options, like the salad bar, but the options become monotonous. Now living in an apartment, I am able to choose exactly what I consume because I have a kitchen with cabinets and a full-size refrigerator. Is it the nicest kitchen I've ever seen? No — but that doesn't matter because it allows me to prepare homemade meals, which is a bonus for those who are prone to get homesick. Plus, I don't have to purchase

a campus meal plan, which saves money. After having the space to store more than a few snacks and cold items, I will never return to the mini-fridge life one lives in a dorm.

Freedom

Let's say one's roommate wants to throw a party. It's difficult to do so when a resident assistant is patrolling the halls, just waiting to catch someone red-handed. Even if one doesn't have a stickler of an RA, in a dorm there always seems to be a sense of caution when going about one's business. From alcohol policy violations to noise complaints, there are many ways living on campus can become one's worst nightmare. I'm not saying one should be a bad neighbor or roommate, but in an off-campus home, these issues rarely, if ever, arise. Many apartment complexes allow residents to select their preferred noise level when applying to live there, meaning it's harder to get a noise com-

plaint from neighbors since one is likely living around like-minded people.

Finances

I was fortunate enough to live in a renovated dorm last year, but the cost of living was higher than for other dorms. When looking elsewhere, I discovered there are far more options at a cheaper price. Currently, a traditional double residence hall costs \$3,277 per semester, excluding the summer. For two semesters, that's \$6,554. On-campus apartments are even more costly. A two bedroom unit in Nittany Apartments costs \$3,975 per person per semester, with a standard occupancy of four people. Students will pay \$7,950 for two semesters in the Nittany Apartments. A unit in The Meridian complex, however, costs \$7,560 per person for an entire year — or an average of \$630 per person per month. I have seen other rooms for rent as low as \$425 per month. It just takes a bit of research to



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find the right place.

Fun

When living off-campus, one is closer to all the fun activities that are available downtown, like going to the State Theater to watch a film or studying in Webster's Bookstore and Cafe. While these activities aren't too far from some campus residence

areas, they are closer overall. Living off campus makes me feel connected to State College as my second home, rather than a town in which I attend school. If you're looking for a more home-y lifestyle while living at school, moving off campus might be just the thing for you.

To email reporter: egh5129@psu.edu. Follow her on Twitter at [@erinhogge](https://twitter.com/erinhogge).



Collegian File Photo

McKean Hall is located in East Halls, a housing area populated by only freshmen.

Freshmen hunt for housing

By Sarah Pellis
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

The search for housing is on — and some Penn State students are stressed. Whether they are looking for on-campus housing or an off-campus apartment, the current freshmen class will experience arranging housing situations for the first time, and some say it can be a bit of a stressful process. Some freshmen plan on booking housing arrangements on campus, like Keaton Zang, who currently lives in Porter Hall in Pollock Halls. "It's a give or take," Zang (freshman-computer science) said on housing options for next year. "I like the situation that I have." Zang also wants to be a resident assistant next fall. Zang's friend, Ian Beaulieu, who currently lives in Mifflin Hall in Pollock, also hopes to live on campus. "There are definitely some upsides to living on campus," Beaulieu (freshman-cybersecurity analytics and operations) said. "You are living in a community." However, Cameron Sauls, who lives in Earl Hall in East Halls is in a different situation. Sauls (freshman-security risk analysis) said she has "no idea" what she is doing. For those who don't know what their living plans are next year, Penn State is holding several information sessions and a Housing Fair to help students. Katie Dicker, who lives in Earl

Hall in East Halls, also plans to live on campus. "I knew I still wanted to live on campus. I didn't want to live off campus yet," Dicker (freshman-chemistry) said. However, according to Dicker, a good amount of the freshmen class is looking for housing arrangements off campus. "A ton of people I know are planning on living off campus next year, and I just felt like it was too soon for me," she said. Dicker added her roommate is moving off campus next year. "My roommate has been very proactive. She has already been touring apartments with her group that she is going to be moving in with and they are very proactive," Dicker said. She also believes that students are "stressed" when it comes to off campus housing because the apartments sell out "so fast." However, Dicker said she personally isn't stressed. "I just feel like whatever happens will happen," she said. Big factors that weigh freshmen stress on housing are — as Dicker said — off-campus living. The thought of commuting to campus for those who choose to live farther away can cause stress for freshmen who don't know what they're doing. Ashely McCoy, who lives in Beaver Hall in Pollock, is still in the process of deciding whether or not she wants to stay on or off campus, or commute from her hometown that is 40 minutes away.

"If I lived off campus, I would like to be in an apartment, and I wouldn't care if I did not have a car or something, because I could take a bus," McCoy (freshman-elementary and early childhood education) said. "Being so close to home, I would also need a car. If I had to be on campus, I would like to remain in Pollock because it is nice and it is a community." As McCoy indicated, this can be a stressful process for some freshmen like her who are debating where they are going to live. In the long run, most students will figure out the housing option that works best for them. "Look in the long term," Zang said. "A lot of people have learned that off campus is cheaper, but at the end of the day you have to balance that with what you want to be involved in." For those who have no idea what is going on and are stressing about housing arrangements for next year, the Housing Assignment Office is having student information sessions from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 12 in 100 Thomas and from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Oct. 13 in the HUB-Robeson Center's Freeman Auditorium. Students can visit the Penn State Housing Office at their website housing.psu.edu or contact the assignment office via email at assignmentoffice@psu.edu.

The benefits of supplemental housing at PSU

By Kyle Hutchinson
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

For many Penn State students, having a roommate is the first time they've had to share a room with anyone, or at least learn how to adapt in close proximity to another. For students in supplemental housing, they have to do this as well — but with three to seven other people. Multiply the amount of beds in a room, the people, the laundry, the unwanted desk light and late-night music blasting. Natalie Downey has grown to embrace her supplemental housing situation, believing it benefits her and her roommates greatly. "When I first found out I was in supplemental, I wasn't excited at all because I didn't know how my other two roommates would be, or if I would like them," Downey (freshman-marketing) said. Downey and a friend decided to room together and ended up with an additional two roommates, but she said she values sharing the room with her new friends. "I found it to be really easy to meet people being in the four-person dorm because my roommate and I have our friends and the other two have their friends, and when they come hang out in the dorm, we meet everyone, which is super cool," Downey said. She said she has received messages from Penn State asking if she'd like to move into a regular dorm, but chooses not to, as she is more than content with her room. Lauren Mazzei had similar initial thoughts when she discovered she was going to be in supplemental, but because her roommate of choice accepted her offer late, she opted for the supplemental dorm in order to stay with her friend. "When I found out I felt a

little uneasy about living with three other people," Mazzei (freshman-labor and employment-relations) said. However, after reaching out to them, she got to know her new friends and has enjoyed living with them. Mazzei likes being able to meet her roommates' other friends that come into the dorm, which because of its size, is often a place they choose to socialize. Despite mixed feelings originally, Mazzei doesn't plan on leaving anytime soon. "I plan on staying here the entire year", Mazzei said, "I like my roommates and don't want to go through the hassle of moving [again]." Brian Standen feels differently about supplemental housing, however. While he is glad he's been able to meet new faces, he wishes he was able to have a regular dorm. "I wouldn't stay in supplemental for the year. I think just balancing schedules and getting used to three other people is kind of difficult," Standen (freshman-civil engineering) said. "We're all our own people, and putting four individuals together isn't the easiest thing." Standen had always expected that he was going to just have one roommate instead of three. He said that he was caught a bit off guard, and suggested that Penn State Housing could create a system where people who wanted a supplemental housing situation could sign up for it — rather than being randomly assigned to the dorm. He hasn't received any emails from housing yet about moving into a traditional dorm. However, he acknowledged that he is lucky to have a renovated dorm in East Halls and is happy with the friends he's made on his floor. "I've met a lot of fun and lively people on my floor that I do enjoy hanging with," Standen said. "It's just too bad there's no other option."

High rises, high prices: Is luxury living worth it?

By Adriana Guidi
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Rooftop terraces and having your own bedroom and bathroom sounds like a dream come true in college — but the question is, how realistic is this? The arrival of luxury apartments in downtown State College is not slowing down, and by fall 2020, two more luxury apartment buildings are scheduled to open, Here and Pugh Centre. While these new apartment buildings are modern and full of shining amenities, they are also high priced. For most students, whether these apartment buildings are worth it for them comes down to the price. Samantha Marcus, who lives in The Metropolitan, believes the high price is worth it. "Literally just having my own bedroom and bathroom is worth it all for me, and on top of that I get to live in a gorgeous building that I get excited to come back to after a long day," Marcus (senior-

psychology) said. While Marcus agrees the price is high, she said that if you want your own bedroom in an apartment downtown, you have to pay that high price. "When my friends and I were deciding where we wanted to apply to and live, we all wanted our own bedrooms and then realized that all of the older buildings like Cedarbrook are only two bedrooms, so that wouldn't have been ideal for what we wanted," Marcus said. "We all realized that the new buildings were four bedrooms, and decided that is what we need to do for our needs." Colleen Rigney, who lives in Penn Tower, thinks that the high rent prices are not worth it. "I really don't see the point when there are plenty of other suitable living arrangements downtown for half the price that you'd pay for a brand new high rise," Rigney (junior-marketing) said. "They're beautiful buildings, but I didn't want to burden my

parents with paying thousands of dollars a month in rent just so I could get a nicer kitchen or bathroom." While Rigney appreciates the location of her building, she wishes that the renting companies for older buildings would make minor renovations so that her apartment feels less old. "The interior of my apartment is quite dated and things break frequently, but that's the nature of living in an old building. They don't have to update these things because people like us will still pay the price to live there," Rigney said. Sara Wenk, who lives at The Collegian, agrees with Rigney about the high prices. "Most of the luxury apartments off campus are very pricey and out of my budget range, you can find a decent apartment for a lot cheaper of a price," Wenk (sophomore-supply chain management) said. Wenk actually appreciates her apartment building, even though



Rachel Miller/Collegian

The Metropolitan stands on College Ave. on Wednesday, Oct. 9.

she said things break easily. "I like my current apartment building a lot actually. The only other concern I have is that some things have been breaking, but they have been pretty on top of coming to

fix things quickly," Wenk said. "And I agree that paying a little more for something nicer is worth it, but I think that rent for the new buildings downtown is way too high," Rigney said. "We're still students after all."



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GREYSTAR™ 

Students share thoughts on random roommates

By Greydon Tomkowicz
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Every year, Penn State students face a potentially stressful situation – living with a random roommate.

Penn State Residence Life operates a truly random roommate pairing system for students without a roommate in mind.

Where some schools offer questionnaires and dating-app-like pairing features, the Penn State system is completely blind.

According to the Penn State Housing website, the lack of matching services is intentional.

“Penn State values diversity in its student population and feels strongly that living with others from different backgrounds, cultures and ethnic groups serves to enhance the college experience,” the website said.

Kam Vaswani has experienced both sides of the random roommate spectrum.

“I’ve had two random roommates here on campus,” Vaswani (sophomore-engineering) said.

“The first time it didn’t really work out, but this year I went random again and it worked out well.”

Anthony Bertolami said the experience could go well or poorly.

“I’m rooming with someone I know,” Bertolami (freshman-business administration) said.

“I think random roommates are kind of 50/50 though. I’ve heard about great experiences and also really bad pairs.”

Resident assistant Ashley Smithers lived with her randomly paired roommate two years in a row.

“My sophomore year I had an amazing random roommate,” Smithers (senior-supply chain and information systems) said.

“We actually ended up rooming together junior year as well.”

Nicole DeCanio said there needs to be a questionnaire for students to fill out to get paired.

“I really don’t think random pairing works,” DeCanio (sophomore-communications) said.

“Housing should have students fill out a questionnaire, so they get paired with people who are more similar.”

However, Ashley Ryan said the random pairing system rarely works out.

“I’ve never had a random roommate,” Ryan (junior-criminology) said.

“I don’t think random roommates ever work out, though.”

Megan Loftus agreed the process does not work, and can be a scary prospect for students.

“Random roommate pairing is a scary idea for me,” Loftus (junior-supply chain and information systems) said.

“I never went random be-



Lauren Magnotta/Collegian

Supplemental housing dorm in Runkle Hall on Tuesday, Oct. 8.

cause of that, but I think if they made a pairing survey it might be better.”

While Ryan and Loftus expressed concern for the randomized system, Matt Lanza, who also hasn’t roomed with a random person, said the system generally works, but has an idea for how students can navigate the pairing system.

“Random roommates generally work out from what I’ve seen,” Lanza (sophomore-division of undergraduate studies).

“If you don’t like the idea of a random roommate though, try

looking for one on your class Facebook page.”

Sam Muntzer had an “okay” random experience, but said he wants housing to create a pairing survey as well.

“I had a random roommate last year,” Muntzer (sophomore-division of undergraduate studies) said.

“We’re not still rooming together this year, but I think if housing had a survey to pair students it might’ve worked out better.”

Both Nick Malizia and Casey Emler had random roommates their freshmen year that they

are rooming with again as sophomores.

“I think random roommate assignments work out pretty well,” Malizia (sophomore-division of undergraduate studies) said. “I went random last year, and we ended up living together this year too.”

“Random roommates work out great,” Emler (sophomore-engineering) said. “My roommate last year was random and we decided to live together again this year.”

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Weighing the good and the bad of life in a single dorm

By Caitlyn Frolo
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

My freshman roommate experience was far from perfect.

When Penn State Housing offered me a single dorm room for sophomore year, I dropped all plans to move off campus and accepted the offer.

I figured another year on campus could be good for me.

I would be living in Pollock, and since I lived there freshman year, I knew the area and how long I could stay in bed until heading to class.

I ended up in Hiester Hall, the primarily upperclassmen dorm in Pollock.

I moved in with the same amount of stuff as freshman year,

and when I turned the key and opened the door for the first time, I was concerned.

It was small — undeniably smaller than I was used to — and I worried about how all my things were going to fit.

It even had a short, skinny hallway that led into the actual room area, which if extended, would have made the room a decent size.

Moving in was the worst.

The amount of stuff we had to take out of boxes and the lack of air conditioning made my helpers and I move slow and it took us all day to get settled.

However, once everything was in its own place and the large closet fit all of my clothes perfectly, I started to look forward

to the year.

It was quaint.

With a couple posters, canvases and Christmas lights, it became my home.

I had everything I needed, and while I still had to share the bathroom with 40 other girls, it was nice to be able to come home from class and have alone time.

I was able to stay up as late as needed to get work done and have my boyfriend and friends stay over without worrying about waking a roommate.

However, I did sometimes find myself getting lonely and wishing I had someone else to talk to.

I remember calling my mom, boyfriend and friends constantly.

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



Caitlyn Frolo/For the Collegian

Caitlyn Frolo's single room in Hiester Hall during her sophomore year.

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Collegian file photo

Safety Marcus Allen (2) walks off the field after the last second win against Iowa at Kinnick Stadium on Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017. No. 4 Penn State won 21-19.

THE KINNICK COMEBACK

Penn State returns to Iowa for the first time since Trace McSorley and Juwan Johnson connected for the game-winning touchdown as time expired

By Caleb Wilfinger
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Everything came down to one play.

Trailing Iowa by four and needing a touchdown to win, No. 4 Penn State faced a fourth-and-goal at the 7-yard line with just four seconds remaining.

With a sea of 70,000 fans dressed in black and yellow making as much noise as humanly possible, Trace McSorley took the snap and dropped back to the 17-yard line before uncorking a pass off his back foot toward the end zone.

As the ball floated between multiple defenders and into the waiting arms of Juwan Johnson, countless memories of painful nights for the Nittany Lions on that very same field were suddenly expelled from the minds of thousands of Penn State fans in a little over four seconds.

But how did we arrive at this point? How was this dramatic finish possible?

The Hawkeyes were 3-0 coming into the game and boasted a stout defense led by linebacker Josey Jewell and defensive back Amani Hooker.

But part of what makes them such a formidable foe was their considerable home field advantage and the Nittany Lions entered Kinnick Stadium knowing they were in for a dogfight.

“We knew it was going to be a tough environment, and a difficult game for us,” McSorley told The Daily Collegian. “Iowa is always a tough team, but especially when it’s at home. I knew that going into a stadium like that was going to be a tough task for us as an offense, especially in terms of communication.”

Kinnick Stadium was — and still is — a daunting place to play for any team, but especially for highly-ranked opponents.

History was not on the Nittany Lions’ side heading into this anticipated matchup, as Iowa was 4-1 against AP Top 5 opponents in Kinnick Stadium in the previous nine years.

This trend actually started in 2008 against Penn State, when an unranked Hawkeyes team beat then-No. 3 Penn State on kicker Daniel Murray’s walk-off field goal. The game-winning field goal capped an Iowa comeback in a game that Penn State led 23-14 with nine minutes remaining in the fourth quarter.

In fact, without “Kinnick Voodoo”, Penn State would likely not have qualified for the 2016 Big Ten Championship. In a shocking result that enabled the Nittany Lions to capture a Big Ten East division crown, then-No. 3 Michigan was knocked off by unranked Iowa 14-13, with kicker Keith Duncan’s game-winning field goal sealing one of the biggest upsets of the 2016 season.

“What makes [Kinnick Stadium] so tough to deal with is how loud and hostile it is,” James Franklin said. “The crowd is right on top of you, and it can be uncomfortable. They feed off the energy of their crowd.”

Penn State had won three consecutive games against Iowa entering the 2017 season, but most of the team was unprepared for the hostile environment they were about to enter.

“It was my first time playing in that stadium, and it



Collegian file photo

Quarterback Trace McSorley (9) throws a pass with pressure from Iowa A.J. Epenesa (94) during their game at Kinnick Stadium on Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017.



Collegian file photo

Defensive end Shane Simmons (34) and punter Blake Gillikin (93) run onto the field at the game against Iowa on Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017.

actually caught me by surprise,” former safety Nick Scott told the Collegian. “I really didn’t understand how intense those fans were, but I quickly learned why it’s one of the most special environments in the country.”

Following a surprise season that ended with a Big Ten championship and a Rose Bowl berth, it became apparent that Penn State’s success that year would be decided in large part by its matchups with Michigan and Ohio State, two teams that the Nittany Lions were in direct competition with for a Big Ten title and a berth in the College Football Playoff.

However, Penn State’s 2017 campaign — one that started out with three blowout wins — was almost derailed before the Nittany Lions could even dream about the postseason.

On that midwestern Saturday night in September, all of the ingredients were present for an upset.

Sept. 23 was a relatively quiet evening on the college football calendar. This meant that for a few hours, Penn State-Iowa was at the center of the football world.

For those that were previously unfamiliar with Saquon Barkley, this early-season Big Ten clash was the perfect time to get acquainted with the Heisman Trophy hopeful.

Barkley put on a show under the lights.

“I felt like every single time he touched the ball, something crazy was about to happen,” former cornerback Grant Haley told the Collegian. “We all knew what he was capable of, but that game was something special.”

Iowa’s defense was causing problems for the Nittany Lions, disrupting McSorley with its blitzing and consistent pressure. From the onset, it felt like one of those games where a team gives the ball to its best playmaker and lets him go to work.

Penn State turned to Barkley on play after play, and his sheer athleticism handled the rest.

“They did a great job of taking away our deep shots and forcing us into check-downs,” McSorley said. “So we were forced to check it down to [Barkley] and he was able to create big plays for us time and again. It was really impressive to see him put together a performance like that.”

The Nittany Lions got on the board with a field goal in the opening quarter, and added a safety in the second, but a 5-0 lead did not feel safe.

Sure enough, Iowa quarterback Nate Stanley threw a touchdown to Nick Easley late in the quarter, giving the Hawkeyes a slim 7-5 lead at the break.

As its normally dynamic offense continued to fall flat, Barkley continued to do everything in his power to keep Penn State in it.

Barkley finished the game with 211 rushing yards on 28 carries, and he caught 12 passes for 94 yards, good for a school-record 358 all-purpose yards. It was a performance that even his teammates had to stop and admire.

“One play that really stood out to me was when he stopped on a dime and let Jewel fly by him near the sideline,” McSorley said. “That was one that I can remember where I almost got caught in the moment watching it.”

Barkley scored Penn State’s first touchdown on a pitch from the 8-yard line, reaching the ball over the pylon just before his foot stepped out of bounds. The play gave the Nittany Lions a 15-7 lead and capped off a drive on which Barkley recorded 56 of their 75 yards.

However, that was one of the only times Barkley’s efforts would lead to Penn State points on the night.

Barkley provided one of the highlights of the game by hurdling an Iowa defensive back — while absorbing a hit in the process — early in the fourth quarter, shocking the rest of his teammates.

“We all knew he had the ability to do that, but to see it in a game, that was crazy,” Scott said.

Even with that highlight-reel play, that drive would eventually stall and the Nittany Lions were forced to punt it away. At one point midway in the fourth quarter, Penn State had nearly 500 yards of total offense. Yet, the Nittany Lions somehow only had 15 points to show for it.

PUSHING THROUGH MIDTERM SEASON



Briana San Diego/Collegian

Member of the PSU Kinesiology Club Sammy Chakir (senior-kinesiology) tracks the number of push-ups done by Haozhe Zhong (sophomore-mechanical engineering) for this year’s Exercise Is Medicine week on the HUB Lawn on Oct. 9.



Briana San Diego/Collegian

David Gold (senior-cyber security) and Haozhe Zhong (sophomore-mechanical engineering) participate in PSU Kinesiology Club’s push-up challenge for Exercise Is Medicine Week on the HUB Lawn on Wednesday, Oct. 9.

Black students face lack of hair care options

By Melissa Manno
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Hair is a common avenue for self-expression — for black students, however, this expression has been stifled historically, and currently, due to discrimination rooted into the State College community.

At Penn State, several student protests related to hair have broken out in the past century, beginning in 1948 when William Meek, then the president of Penn State’s chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, called for a community-wide boycott of six barbershops in State College for refusing service to black students.

Darryl Daisey, a graduate of the class of 1983, recalled this event in his compiled chronology titled, “Black History at Penn State,” which he curated to document black history at Penn State.

“1948 was probably the first protest around these racial issues at Penn State,” Daisey said. “It kind of said that the climate at Penn State wasn’t particularly suited for African American students.”

The events of 1948 would not mark the end of discrimination against black students in State College barbershops. According to Daisey’s chronology, in March of 1960 the Barbershop Poster-Walks began when the owner of Bunn’s Barber Shop refused service to a black student.

By the time Daisey came to Penn State in 1979, discrimination in barbershops was on the decline, but the options for black students were still few and far between. Though black students were no longer being refused service, they were still not granted access to a barber that specialized in their specific type of hair.

“I didn’t particularly want to have an afro, but I ended up having one because there weren’t really any barbers that specialized or knew much about African American hair,” Daisey said. “I think it reinforced that the community wasn’t geared toward diverse people and that this area didn’t really accommodate.”

Deja Workman is a student at Penn State, and although her attendance at this university comes almost 40 years after Daisey’s, her experience parallels his.

“I feel as though there are just a few token locations that exist downtown or elsewhere for African American students, and many of their salon prices can be

expensive since they don’t have many competitors,” Workman (sophomore-information sciences and technology) said.

Today, there are two “token” multicultural salons in downtown State College. The two salons, S’Hair-eng Styling Salon and Visions Multicultural Hair Design, offer services that cater directly to black students — but the lack of competition results in high prices and busy hours, according to Workman.

Both Workman and Daisey said the lack of options resulted in students turning to each other for grooming and styling.

“You’ll frequently find people going to other students to get their hair done,” Workman said. “The network of black students doing hair out of their dorm room or apartment is a result of both the lack of affordability, and also the lack of black hair experience had by stylists at non-ethnic salons.”

What was once an issue of unadulterated discrimination has evolved into a lack of effort for barbershops to cater to the needs of black students. The lack of expertise and knowledge of African American hair deters many — if not most — black students from the popular barbershops and salons in downtown State College.

“There are tons of different kinds of hair within the huge umbrella of black hair — including relaxed hair, natural hair, transitioning hair — and then just within natural hair, you have different curl types and patterns, which doesn’t even consider density, volume, strand thickness, etc.,” Workman said. “The list goes on and on and each of those attributes needs a different type of care.”

Many students of color have become passionate about this topic and actively speak about it. Loving Our Curly, Kinky and Straight Hair (LOCKS) is a club on campus with the goal of accepting natural hair and celebrating its beauty — a feat that may be difficult to accomplish when students don’t feel that their hair is being accommodated for. Aissatou Ndiaye, a member of LOCKS, also sees the lack of options for African Americans students as problematic and imbalanced.

On top of the lack of services offered by barbershops and salons, Ndiaye (junior-telecommunication) said one of the biggest issues is the absence of an accessible beauty supply store downtown. She said women of color typically get all of their self-

care products from these stores, and that many students come from communities that have a beauty supply store nearby — making life at Penn State to be a difficult adjustment.

Beauty supply stores provide black customers with haircare products that can allow them to become self-sufficient with their hair. Without access to these products, many students seek the services that a salon may offer but come to find out there isn’t a suitable option due to the risks associated with seeking services from a predominantly white salon.

“Most African American women will not go to a hair salon that doesn’t have someone who knows how to take care and style African American hair,” Ndiaye said. “You have to know what products will work, you have to have knowledge on the different hair types, and you have to know how to care for it. Personally, I don’t trust the salons here to do that.”

This desire to help her peers become self-sufficient led her to the creation of her company, Queen Hustle Hair, which provides hair services for women of color in the State College area.

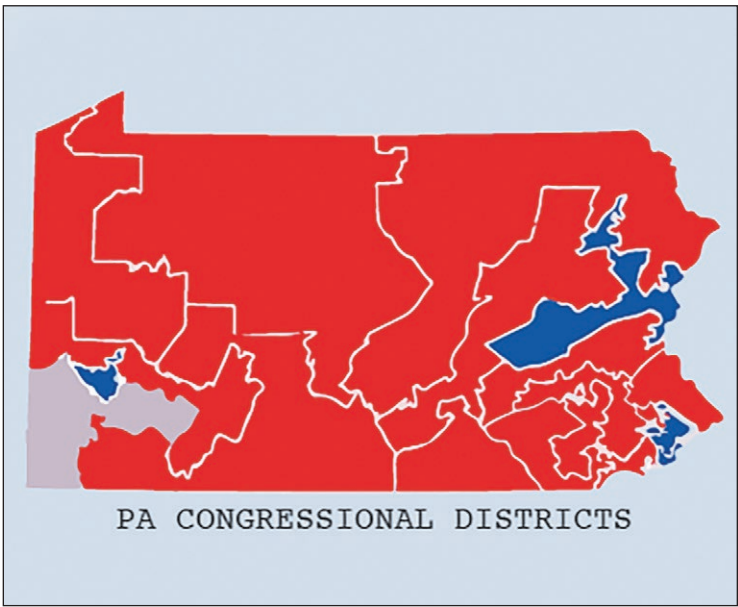
Ndiaye, much like many of her peers, sees the lack of options as a clear issue, but not one that is being addressed. In her eyes, promoting diversity includes basic accommodations such as these.

“I’ve noticed that when institutions try to diversify a place, they never ask people how we can accommodate to their version of diversity or how to make them feel included,” Ndiaye said. “Penn State does have diversity and inclusion, but it’s their definition of diversity and inclusion. It makes me feel like State College doesn’t really care.”

Many black students share the sentiment that basic accommodations, such as hair care, are not being made in the State College area. These notions, though being observed through the topic of hair, have a deeper impact on these communities than just causing them to seek haircare through different avenues.

“I, along with much of the black Penn State population, think that there is no excuse for the lack of resources,” Workman said. “We’re tired of the lack of proper accommodations.”

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Collegian Creative

Professor promotes gerrymandering reform

By Madigan Lubold
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

As the redrawing of the Pennsylvania’s district lines approaches, Penn State professor Lee Ann Banaszak has worked to promote a fair and transparent redrawing process.

Banaszak, a professor and head of the Penn State Department of Political Science, is currently on sabbatical — a paid leave for a university professor during a time of study — as she works as a representative for the chair of Pennsylvania Redistricting Reform Commission.

Banaszak is a representative of Governor Tom Wolf’s independent commission that focuses on redistricting reform to prevent gerrymandering — the act of manipulating the boundaries of a district in order to favor an electoral constituency.

Gerrymandering is a “huge” issue American people face, according to Banaszak.

However, this was not a concern she had before she became a representative.

“It’s concerning that we cannot always trust the process of congressional maps,” Banaszak said.

“This system needs to be transparent and fair.”

The governor’s commission holds nine public hearings across the state and many online surveys to get a sense of public opinion on congressional mapping in Pennsylvania.

This information allows the commission to make concrete decisions on what reforms should be taken in relation to redistricting.

Republicans and African Americans were the populations least represented in the opinions of the online surveys that circulated, according to Banaszak.

“We should have a system that meets what the citizens of Pennsylvania want,” Banaszak said.

“But we need the opinions of all groups to understand what those wants are.”

The governor’s commission does not advocate for a solution to congressional maps — instead, the commission seeks a broad level of public engagement in addition to a transparent process.

“This system should not be decided behind closed doors,

but in a fair and transparent manner,” Banaszak said.

“Voters should have a say in the process and should understand why a map was drawn a certain way.”

According to Banaszak, maps are sometimes drawn where communities felt they were split with no connection in order to suit the interests of politicians.

“I think communities feel disenfranchised,” she said.

“Redistricting cannot split municipalities and districts need to be compact and continuous rather than obscure.”

Banaszak has been a huge help to the commission, chair of Pennsylvania Redistricting Reform Commission David Thornburgh said.

“[Banaszak] has been more helpful than anything through the commission,” Thornburgh said. “This is a tribute to her and Penn State that she could find the time to help us.”

Pennsylvania has had districts that “particularly resemble gerrymandering,” Banaszak said.

In order to combat this issue, Banaszak proposes to have an independent commission to participate in the initial drawing of the maps.

Gerrymandering can determine how much citizens’ votes count, according to Thornburgh.

“Politicians in office abuse and misuse their power,” he said regarding gerrymandering. “We need a system people can trust.”

Congressional maps are drawn after the conclusion of the U.S. Census — with the next map drawing scheduled for 2021.

These maps are dictated by a group of five people, including the state House majority and minority leaders and the state Senate majority and minority leaders, according to Justin Villere, chief of staff for “Draw the Lines PA.”

The fifth person is decided by a unanimous vote among the leaders in each legislative house. If the four members cannot agree on a fifth person, the decision is made by the state Supreme Court.

“Democrats and Republicans can’t collectively decide that the sky is blue, so this process can be very challenging,” Villere said.

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Courtesy of Aissatou Ndiaye

Aissatou Ndiaye, a member of LOCKS, makes a wig at the company she founded, Queen Hustle Hair, which provides hair services for women of color in the State College area.

Ellen defends friendship with Bush, forgives his wrongs

On Sunday at the Cowboys-Packers game, we saw a “gay hollywood liberal sitting next to a conservative republican president.” And as it tends to, the internet chimed in with criticism.

In a response Tuesday, Ellen DeGeneres opened her show with a four minute-long defense of her friendship with former President George W. Bush.

“Here’s the thing, I’m friends with George Bush,” DeGeneres said. “In fact, I’m friends with a lot of people who don’t share the same beliefs that I have. We’re all different and I think we’ve forgotten that that’s okay.”

At the bottom of everything, it’s not really anybody’s business who DeGeneres is friends with. Further, it seems that the two just happened to be sitting in a box watching a football game alongside others.

What’s questionable, though, is DeGeneres’ decision to essentially encourage her audience to overlook Bush’s “different” views because she does too. His views weren’t just “different,” though — they were

OUR VIEW

Ellen DeGeneres should stop trying to speak on behalf of entire LGBTQ community

wrong and discriminatory.

Some of these include his conscious efforts throughout his presidency to commit war crimes, bar LGBTQ individuals from basic human rights and turn a blind eye toward those impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

This isn’t the first time DeGeneres has issued a sort of blanket “forgiveness statement” like this, seeming to speak fully on behalf of marginalized communities when they didn’t ask to be spoken for.

Just this past January, she defended Kevin Hart after he stepped down as the 2019 Oscars host for making offensive, homophobic jokes. Instead of potentially using her platform to condemn Hart’s remarks, she gave him even more of an audience by bringing him on her

show for an interview.

Hart’s apology was hollow at best. But DeGeneres accepted, and said that “as a gay person, [she is] sensitive” to LGBTQ issues.

“You’ve already expressed that it’s not being educated on the subject, not realizing how dangerous those words are...,” DeGeneres said. “You have grown, you have apologized, you are apologizing again right now. You’ve done it. Don’t let those people win. Host the Oscars.”

Many did not accept Hart’s apology or think he handled the situation genuinely — but a popular, beloved gay talk show host did, so many absolved him of his wrongs.

DeGeneres’ decisions to be “buddy buddy” with both Bush and Hart angered many, especially those within the LGBTQ community. In addition to identifying

as gay, DeGeneres is a wealthy, white female celebrity who has a massive platform.

While she is known for using her celebrity for good, that doesn’t mean she should hold her words as gospel for entire communities, including the LGBTQ community. She seems to have silently given herself the right to speak for many people from different backgrounds, experiences and perspectives who might not actually agree with her.

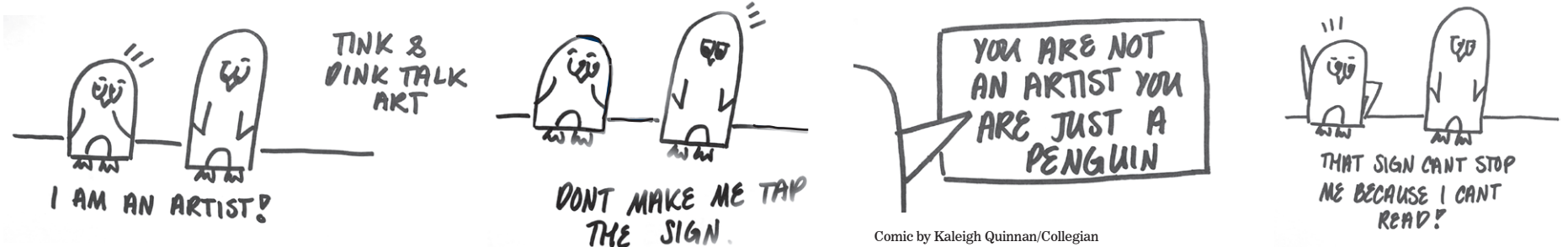
While her message of “be kind to everyone” is, well, kind in theory, it can also be pretty vague and meaningless in situations like this. To be “kind” means to show “friendly, generous or considerate nature,” according to The New Oxford American Dictionary — not to turn a blind eye in the decision to

be “friends” with those who have been inconsiderate and discriminatory toward others and label that as “kindness.”

Had DeGeneres just let the initial commenters be, it’s hard to believe she would have received nearly as much backlash as she has now. The larger problem at hand is not that she sat next to Bush, but rather that she used her platform to pardon his behaviors on behalf of multiple communities and individuals who may not actually agree with her after all.

Hundreds of thousands of people sit and watch “The Ellen Show” every day, and it’s disappointing to see DeGeneres push “kindness” as giving a “pass” to those who frankly may not deserve it.

DeGeneres has every right to be friends with and forgive people like Bush and Hart who “disagree” with her — but others don’t have to. If a “friend’s” actions pose another’s existence as lesser, perhaps there should be some deeper thought behind what “kindness” really means.



Comic by Kaleigh Quinnan/Collegian

MY VIEW | Madeline Messa

I shared my autism diagnosis; Now, I want to advocate

One year ago, I woke up terrified. My usually-blank phone was lighting up every second with text messages and social media alerts.



Messa My roommate came up to me crying and wrapped her arms around me in a hug. One year ago, I published a column in The Daily Collegian’s mental health edition, finally revealing my place on the autism spectrum for the world to read.

The messages on my phone were filled with heart emojis and “I’m proud of you,” and my roommate suggested we celebrate with a toast that night.

All of the feedback, every response, every stranger’s email and every Facebook comment — they were all positive. Of course they were.

But, at the time, I had never been so open about something so personal, and I feared the

worst. I was afraid of harsh judgment, but I was met only with acceptance instead.

By making my diagnosis public, I am now comfortable in my own skin.

While my social and sensory struggles are still pertinent, I know the public is responsive. I have friends, family and peers who support me, and I have had strangers reach out to do the same.

When I first learned that I am autistic, I did not know what that meant. All I had to go on to know what autism is was the misconceptions.

I knew “autistic” was thrown around as an insult, that it was a disorder associated with children and not adults, that it meant you were a mathemati-

cal genius and that paranoid mothers believed it was caused by vaccinations. I was angry and embarrassed to be identified by the word.

Obviously, that is not what autism is. I know that now, but many people don’t. Even as someone with the disorder, I am still coming to find quirks of mine that correlate with it.

I don’t expect everyone to know all the intricacies of autism, but I insist they become educated and resist the surface-level stereotypes and falsities that were all I first knew.

Autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder that includes communication and sensory processing difficulties among other aspects.

opinion is determined by its Board of Opinion, which is made up of members of its Board of Editors, with the editor in chief holding final responsibility for content. The opinions expressed on the editorial page are not necessarily those of Collegian Inc., a separate institution from Penn State.

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 profession-

It is a disorder, not an insult. Children grow up to become adults, and sometimes people — such as myself — are not diagnosed until much older than five.

Savants are few and far between, and some of us with autism — such as myself — do worse in math than any other subject.

The only effect vaccines have on children is immunity from diseases.

With my growing understanding and society’s willingness to learn, I am grateful and relieved to have a word and the community behind it to explain my idiosyncrasies.

One year ago, my goal was to explain to society how autism affects me personally. Now, I want to take it up a notch by advocating for understanding and equal treatment of disorders and disabilities.

Madeline Messa is a senior 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).

DAILY COLLEGIAN

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Who we are The Daily Collegian’s editorial

Mike Watkins' bounce is back

By Matt Lingerman
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

While Penn State worked on defending the press break during the portion of Monday's practice which was open to the media, Mike Watkins was tasked with defending assistant coach Kevin Freeman at the free throw line opposite the inbound.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

As the ball worked its way from under the basket to associate head coach Keith Urgo at half court, Watkins spun to face-guard Freeman as the former UConn player called for the ball. Under duress, Urgo attempted a pass to Freeman, but he couldn't get around Watkins' huge wingspan, and the ball trickled out of bounds.

It was a simple play that lasted all of 10 seconds, but as his teammates clapped their hands and yelled in celebration, Watkins smiled. At this time last year, he would have been watching from the sideline, his stellar play from his first two seasons at Penn State a seemingly distant memory.

"He is almost to the level he was a couple years ago before the injury," Pat Chambers said. "His second jump is back and it's great to see the skill develop-

ment that he got this summer and past summers. He's gotten better. He's playing at a very high level."

Chambers stressed that Watkins' status is day-to-day. Physically, he's as close to 100 percent as he's been since he suffered a season-ending leg injury against Michigan in February 2018.

But the other hurdle Watkins must clear on a daily basis is his battle with mental health issues which he candidly described in an op-ed prior to last season — and the consensus at Monday's Media Day is that Watkins is trending in the right direction on that front.

"One thing I think Mike has really grown up with over these past couple of seasons is holding himself accountable," senior forward Lamar Stevens said. "Knowing when he's at his best, and maybe when he's not, and doing what he has to do to make sure he stays at that level, and I think that's something Mike has taken pride in... We hold each other accountable like we would any other teammate, but I think Mike is hardest on himself."

Chambers and his players didn't shy away from stating Watkins' value to the team when all three factors of his play — mental health, talent and athleticism — are working in tandem.

Chambers said that as long as

Watkins "continues on [the] path" he's on in terms of being a good teammate and taking care of himself off the court, the redshirt senior is in position to satisfy the first objective. His talent has never been in question, especially after working this offseason to improve his free throw shooting.

Plus, his health seems to be back after his athleticism was limited last season as he worked to come back from injury. Although he played 27 games last year and provided a couple of important moments down the stretch, Watkins never reached the same level as he did during a redshirt sophomore campaign which saw him earn Big Ten All-Defensive Team and honorable mention All-Big Ten nods.

His field goal percentage, points per game and free throw percentages all plummeted to well below his career averages, and he didn't have quite the consistent impact on games as he had prior to his injury.

But with a full offseason during which he was presumably completely healthy, he's poised to be a crucial contributor on a team which has NCAA Tournament aspirations.

"He's a guy that could get a double-double every night, get any amount of blocks, he's just a game-changer," Stevens said. "I think when Mike is at his best, probably the best big man in the Big Ten. And I don't think it's close."

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Collegian File Photo

Mike Watkins (24) attempts to grab the ball during the men's basketball game vs. Illinois at the Bryce Jordan Center on Sunday, March 10.

MY VIEW | MATT LINGERMAN

Newfound depth will replace Bolton

When Rasir Bolton entered the NCAA transfer portal in April, I smelled smoke but didn't think there was a fire.



The 6-foot-2 guard had just come off a freshman season during which he averaged 26.9 minutes per contest and started

nine games.

Sure, none of those starts came in the final 15 games of the season, and he shot a lowly 31 percent from the floor over the course of what would end up being the last six matchups of his Penn State career.

But with no incoming recruit who fit his mold and with the Nittany Lions in search of a ball handler with the ability to occasionally explode offensively, it seemed as though he was going to have an opportunity to play a crucial role during his sophomore campaign and beyond at Penn State.

But there was a fire, and now Bolton is at a different school in a different conference.

At Monday's media day, player responses were mixed as to whether Bolton's decision to depart Happy Valley was surprising. But what was a consensus was that the Nittany Lion backcourt is deeper today than it was at the end of last year, with or without the smooth and shifty Bolton.

"I think we have more answers than questions," Pat Chambers said. "We have some depth at the guard, we have some depth up front. Right now, we could play 10 or 11 guys. That's today."

Depth isn't something Penn State boasted last season, especially in the wake of Shep Garner and Tony Carr's exits from the backcourt.

The guard rotation consisted mainly of Myles Dread, Jamari Wheeler and Bolton, and any combination of the three stunted the Nittany Lions' performances in some capacity.

Dread and Bolton were both freshmen who went through the occasional slumps to which first-year players are prone.

A combination of the offensively-minded Bolton and stout defender in Wheeler meant a level of deficiency from the guards at their different respective ends of the floor, and Wheeler and Dread each had limits to their offensive versatility.

Fellow freshman Myreon Jones was occasionally inserted among the trio, but he was streaky at best last season. Like the team as a whole, it seemed like the guard play rarely

meshed, and when it did, it wasn't for extended periods of time.

But this season, Chambers and his team believe the growing pains will be less pronounced. He still hasn't settled on a starting lineup — which Chambers referenced as a rare notion for him at this point on the calendar — and he's got a mix of skillsets and experience levels to choose from.

Dread should take a step forward after finishing last season only one made 3-pointer off the Penn State freshman record, but the sophomore guard had more to say about the players who are poised to fill the void Bolton left.

"Myreon Jones is going to surprise a lot of people. Jamari Wheeler is going to surprise a lot of people," Dread said. "The work that they put in this offseason is starting to really show."

For Jones, his role will be dictated on how consistent he can be with his jump shot.

Nicknamed "Buckets," Jones finished last season with unimpressive shooting percentages, shooting 29 percent from the field and 27 percent from 3-point range, but looked more comfortable down the stretch.

The same can be said for Wheeler, who provided a somewhat surprising offensive spark toward the end of last season to complement his always active defending.

"I think pace of play and tempo was dictated by him," Chambers said.

"I thought he was more confident at attacking the basket... Opportunities count, and I thought is leadership was great, and he is setting the table right now."

Chambers added that in a scrimmage last weekend, Wheeler turned the ball over only once in 20 minutes.

So long as he continues to develop his offensive game, his value and playing time in late-game situations will rise substantially.

Plus, the addition of a second Jones — Curtis Jones Jr., a grad transfer who played for both Indiana and Oklahoma State — will be a source of experience for his young teammates.

"I can't tell you what he's taught me so far, but it's very good stuff," Dread said with a laugh. "He's got a lot of veteran tricks, experience that I obviously don't have."

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



James Leavy/Collegian

The Penn State men's basketball team practices on Monday at the Bryce Jordan Center.

Takeaways from media day

By Evan Patrick
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

With the first regular season game of Penn State's season less than month away, media gathered at the Bryce Jordan Center on Monday to talk with old and new Nittany Lions.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Here are some of the biggest storylines from 2019 media day.

Mamba Mentality

Lamar Stevens made the decision to run it back with Penn State for his final year of eligibility and pursue an NCAA tournament berth.

Now, Stevens is the Big Ten's leading-returning scorer and rebounder, and he welcomes the high expectations that the program has accumulated heading into this season.

"For me, being a senior and knowing this is my last year playing college basketball, it's something I've always dreamed about as a kid so it's not overwhelming for me," Stevens said. "It's a challenge I'm willing to accept."

If the Nittany Lions want to achieve their goals this season, Stevens is going to have to be the driving force of the team, much like he was last season.

But there's still room for the senior forward to grow as a player and a leader.

It's clear that Stevens is the best player on this team, by far, and Chambers recognizes that along with the value in the trickle-down effect that his No. 1 guy can have on the rest of the group.

"I think Lamar is an elite player, obviously a first team All-Big Ten player," Chambers said. "But I want more, and it's so small the more that I want, and if he goes with that Kobe Bryant mamba mentality I think he gets there

individually, but then he brings everybody with him... and that way you have everybody with that mamba mentality, and that's a tough team to beat."

Stevens has had high quality, older players around him the whole time he's been in the program, but now he's the guy who has to set the tone for this team.

"It's an everyday thing, coach wants me to have that killer mentality, that dominant mentality in every drill and every practice, in everything we do," Stevens said. "I think it's good for me and for the team, there's no settling, you can always get better, you can always push yourself to that limit and never settle for less."

Depth

Depth is an area that this program hasn't been as confident with in recent years, but with Stevens returning and some offseason additions, that doesn't seem to be the case now.

"We've got some depth at the guard, we've got some depth up front," Chambers said. "Right now I believe we can play 10 or 11 guys."

The additions of Curtis Jones, a transfer from Oklahoma State, and Izaiah Brockington, a transfer from Saint Bonaventure will be key for the Nittany Lions rotation this season.

Jones adds experience to the backcourt as a playmaker who will likely come off the bench and run the offense.

The grad transfer started his career elsewhere in the Big Ten with Indiana before moving on to Oklahoma State before coming to Happy Valley.

"We've added some much-needed fire power in Curtis Jones and Izaiah Brockington, so we definitely have some depth to go along with some sophomores that played critical minutes for us last year."

Brockington, who was with the program last season but had to sit out per NCAA rules, is competing for a spot in the starting lineup and has turned some heads with his athleticism.

"Izaiah, it's gonna hurt me to say this, but he's probably the best athlete on the team," Stevens said. "He's got like a 44-45 inch vertical, something crazy, super fast, super good in transition, he's a good three point shooter."

With so many returning players, Penn State has just two freshmen on the roster in Seth Lundy and Patrick Kelly.

Lundy attended Roman Catholic high school like so many other Nittany Lions in years past, and when he was a freshman at the school Stevens was in his senior year.

"In years past we would have to start Seth [Lundy]," Chambers said. "And now we can bring [Lundy] along slowly and be patient with him as he follows guys like Lamar Stevens."

Mike Watkins

After missing significant time a season ago with a knee injury, Mike Watkins is gearing up for his senior season.

The big man has had his ups and downs on the court, but when he has been fully healthy he has looked like one of the conference's most dominant forces in the paint.

"I think he's the best big man in the country," Jamari Wheeler said. "He stayed up here this whole summer to work on his game, that was a big decision for him and his family."

And Watkins looked like his old self in practice on Monday as he seemed light-footed and very mobile in drills.

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



PENN STATE at Iowa



GAME INFO

Penn State at Iowa
Time: 7:30 p.m. Saturday
Place: Kinnick Stadium
TV: ABC
Spread: Penn State -3.5
Over/under: 41.5

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Penn State:
WR KJ Hamler

The big play will be hard to come by in this game. This game will be low scoring and the receivers will have make something out of nothing, and that’s what Hamler can do. He’ll have to make plays on short passes to get the ball moving.

Iowa:
DE A.J. Epenesa

Epenesa is one of the top defensive players in the conference, and while he hasn’t had the most success this season — only two sacks on the year, but he is being projected as a 1st round pick in next year’s NFL Draft, so he has the talent to make an impact.

BY THE NUMBERS

3
Iowa has three ranked wins all time in home night games. Its record is 3-4 in those games. The last home night game against a ranked team was last year in a loss to No. 18 Wisconsin.

10
The Penn State defense recorded 10 sacks last week against Purdue, one shy of the school record.

39
This will be Iowa quarterback Nate Stanley’s 39th career appearance. He made his debut during the 2016 season.

5.9
Noah Cain is averaging 5.9 yards per carry this season, which is helped by his big performance against Purdue where he totaled 105 yards on 12 car-



Defensive end **Shaka Toney (18)** attempts to tackle Purdue’s quarterback Jack Plummer (13) during the homecoming game against Purdue.

Toney’s intelligence sets him apart

By **Dylan Jacobs**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Players are in awe of Yetur Gross-Matos’ hands when rushing the quarterback. Micah Parsons is known for his quickness and athleticism.

Shaka Toney is a solid athlete, but he sets himself apart with something other than his physical attributes.

It’s Toney’s intellect that makes him unique. Everyone seems to praise his work ethic in the film room, understanding how to exploit the defense.

“If you want to have the leg up on your opponent before you jump on the field, know everything about him and know everything about the team you’re going against...” Toney said. “The more you know, the faster you can play.”

That was evident last week against Purdue, where he recorded three first-half sacks. He saw a weakness and exploited it.

“Not only does he have great quickness and speed but he also is a very smart football

player,” James Franklin said after the game.

“He’s really one of the most cerebral guys that we have. He’s a guy that once he gets your cadence, now you’re combining him having a really good feel for what your cadence is and now he’s able to anticipate and combine his athletic ability with his mental approach to the game as well.”

That mental preparation started late in his high school career, and that has only enhanced during his time at Penn State.

Defensive line coach Sean Spencer is a big part of this development, making Toney one of the smartest players on the team.

“I just prepare all week,” Toney said. “Coach Spencer gives me a lot of tips, a lot of things to do. I’m a big film guy. If you want to be a good pass rusher you gotta be able to know what’s going on.”

The mental preparation was a big boost for him when he got here because physically, he had plenty of room to grow.

“You look how Shaka has grown, really, since he stepped on campus, in every area,” Franklin said. “You look at him physically.

We actually recruited him to be an outside linebacker first at 195 pounds. Changed his mind during the recruiting process and wanted to be a defensive end. You know, just has embraced it.”

His intellect separates him from the rest of the group, and other defenders have taken notice, seeing differences between him and Gross-Matos.

“The crazy part is that they are just so different. Yetur, he really knows how to use his hands well and body position. I was like, ‘Yo, Ye, how did you do that?’ Like one day he made this really nice move. He’s like, ‘I keep my hands so tight to my body to make sure they don’t let them touch me,’” Micah Parsons said.

“And Shaka, he’s always like, ‘You’ve just got to really get off the ball and really get him off his heels,’ and things like that.

“They have got two different skills and I think it causes a lot of trouble for most offensive linemen.”

Toney had to work hard when he got to Penn State, just to get bigger, and while it may have been difficult, he and Franklin

we’re able to work to get to a point where he can be successful.

“He’s a really good example of a young man coming to Penn State and taking advantage of all the resources...” Franklin said. “You know, I think we’re able to work together because one of Shaka’s greatest strengths and weaknesses, he can be stubborn at times. But I think because we have such a great relationship with the whole family, we work together. Shaka has got great perspectives. He’s thoughtful. He’s intelligent. He cares about his teammates. He cares about a lot of different subjects.”

With how smart he is, Franklin is excited to see what the future holds for Toney.

“He is a fiercely loyal guy to his teammates, very respected in our locker room,” Franklin said.

“You know, he’s really done well. I’m proud of him. I think he’s going to continue to do great things here at Penn State. I think he’s got a bright future after Penn State.”

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Pinegar and Stout embracing shared role

By **Evan Patrick**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The two-kicker approach isn’t one that teams commonly go with in college football.

But Penn State is making it work.

Jake Pinegar and Jordan Stout know their roles in the kicking game for the Nittany Lions, and they’re relationship on and off the field has been mutually beneficial.

“The relationship between us is awesome. Ever since he got here we’ve helped each other grow, helped each other get better,” Pinegar said.

“There was no negative expressions of feelings for us at all, I think when you’re on the field competing, that’s what you’re focused on, I think we both handled it really well, we both wanted to make each other better, and see what we were made out of.”

For a lot of positions in football, having technically two starters at the position would cause a lot of problems and inconsistency.

But the setup for Pinegar and Stout allows each of the kickers to focus on their strengths and to put themselves in the best position to succeed.

“During camp and stuff like that we were doing kicks of all distances and I think inside of 50 yards I was a little more accurate and outside of 50 he was,” Pinegar said.

“And about a week before the game we got it in the game plan for who’s gonna take what type of kicks.”

Through five games, Pinegar is 4-for-5 with a long field goal of 38 yards, while Stout is 2-for-3, with all his attempts coming from over 50 yards.

“We thought it was close, but it wasn’t really close,” James Franklin said.

“Pinegar, through all of camp really dominated 49 [yards] and in, and 50 [yards] and above Stout dominated.”

Even though it made sense to have two kickers from a numbers perspective, there was always the risk that one player might become disgruntled with their situation.

There’s no telling how players will react to having to share their precious game time with someone in their same area of expertise.

Last season as a true freshman, Pinegar started for the Nittany Lions and led the Big Ten in total points at the end of the season.

His longest field goal a season ago was 49 yards, but he never attempted a kick longer than that.

With Stout being the long range specialist, he really isn’t taking away from any of Pinegar’s opportunities.

The transfer from Virginia Tech made his long-range presence felt early on in the year with his Penn State school record 57-yard bomb against Pitt.

“What I’ve been proud of is how



Jake Pinegar (92) kicks for the extra point during the game against Buffalo at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Sept. 7.

the other guys have embraced [Stout] and brought him into our family and it’s not always like that when you get transfers,” special teams coach Joe Lorig said. “You know, sometimes there can be some tension in the room because

somebody could potentially lose their job — no one has handled it that way and they have actually risen to the occasion.”

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Dylan Jacobs



Jacobs
What to watch for: On paper, this game shouldn’t be close. Penn State’s talent is far superior. But Kinnick Stadium throws paper out the window. This game will be close, down to the wire. But Penn State’s talent will be too much.

Score: Penn State 17, Iowa 10

Caleb Wilfinger



Wilfinger
What to watch for: I expect both defenses to dictate play in this one, but Penn State has the advantage at the skill positions, especially on the outside.
If Sean Clifford can get comfortable early in the game, it could mean a big day for Penn State’s passing attack.

Score: Penn State 21, Iowa 13

Ben Ferree



Ferree
What to watch for: Not many ranked teams enter Kinnick Stadium for a night game and leave with a victory. The two defenses are going to dominate this game but ultimately Penn State has more playmakers and talent on the offensive side of the ball and that is why they will escape Kinnick with a rare victory.

Score: Penn State 16, Iowa 13

Evan Patrick



Patrick
What to watch for: Saturday night is when we find out what this team is made of. The young offense will face a tough Iowa defense in a hostile stadium that is all too familiar with ending undefeated seasons. After Iowa put up just three points against Michigan, I don’t see the offense doing much more in this one.

Score: Penn State 24, Iowa 10

Guest Picker: Tyler King



King
What to watch for: This figures to be a typical low-scoring, fight-til-the-end battle between the Nittany Lions and Hawkeyes. Both defenses have a ton of talent, but in the end, Penn State’s offense will win out.

Score: Penn State 24, Iowa 13