

State College-born band Canary reflects on its past, present, future

By Ayden Mateo Herold THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Playing stages and events all across State College, it's not difficult for one to find local band Canary jamming out for a crowd.

Fronted by singer and lyricist Kat Leverenz and guitarist Zach Dennis, the band blends the genres of indie with pop and rock using a five-instrument set.

Other members of Canary include keyboardist Sam Horn, bassist Alex Mijangos and drummer Tom Niuman.

A 2020 graduate of Penn State's School of Music, Leverenz said her partnership with Dennis began in 2018 when she was looking to improve her guitar skills.

"I was feeling like I wanted to start actually being in the music scene instead of doing my major-specific [work], and I really wanted to learn guitar better," Leverenz said. "I saw a flyer for first gig.

guitar lessons at Webster's, that was [Dennis'] flyer."

Dennis recalled their first meeting at Rainbow Music.

'We met at Rainbow Music, which [was] a music store downtown. It's not there anymore," Dennis said. "I was teaching guitar lessons there, [and] she came in, and the rest is history.'

Leverenz said their first lesson was all they needed to form a partnership — and future romance.

We set up a lesson, and it was supposed to be a short trial lesson, but it ended up being maybe two hours," Leverenz said. "We were just jamming and talking, [and] we decided that we wanted to go in on a project together."

Leverenz said she believes "the universe" kickstarted her music career, as her first lesson was the same day as her birthday. That same day, she got her

cuisine] place up there. And the owner was like, 'You play music?' And I was like, 'Yeah,' and he was like, 'Do you want a gig?'" Leverenz said. "And I was like, 'Yeah,' and so it all kind of snowballed from that because once you get one gig, then you get another and another, and you get more experience. Good stuff."

The duo has gone through several iterations before landing on the current name and lineup.

The original band name for the pair was Jazz Cat.

"[Zach's] middle name is Jazz. [My name is] 'Kat,' and that had a cool ring to it," Leverenz said. 'But we didn't play enough jazz, we only played, like, one jazz song."

Jazz Cat provided an opportunity for Leverenz to learn the ropes of playing live music.

Jazz Ĉat was fun — everything

"I had [my] guitar on my back. was new," Leverenz said. "It was wasn't really I went to Kaarma, the [Indian my first time learning how to get Leverenz said. "And so then we gigs [and] learning how to be changed it to Canary.' a performer."

Leverenz said there was a learning curve, but she said she believes it was helpful.

Since she was focusing more on the technical aspects of playing music over her style, Leverenz said she would describe her lyrics from that time as "simpler."

'My lyrics had less metaphors [and] fewer devices. It was more, 'I'm feeling sad' or 'I think this about this' more... square." Leverenz said. "But I think out of that came a [distinct] period. Because I think it was those early years [when] I wrote 'Too Many Miles'[and some] songs that are honestly some of my favorite songs.'

After evolving past Jazz Cat, Dennis and Leverenz wanted to expand the number of members in the band. They brought on three additional musicians to the group, with keyboardist Horn (senior-computer science) among the new roster, and renamed the band to "Live Wire."

our name.'

Mijangos (junior-music) is the band's bassist and most recent member. Despite joining later than Horn and Niuman, he said he was already familiar with Dennis.

"[My experience] was actually pretty similar to Sam. Zach and I played in another band about three years ago or something like that. It was a really messy project," Mijangos said. "... I don't think I entirely know what happened there. I don't think [Dennis] knows what happened there, but we kept in touch."

In addition to this, Mijangos was also already familiar with Leverenz.

"Then [Zach] invited me to the band, and funnily enough, I had already performed with Kat a few times through [Penn State] because we're both music majors. We just never really knew each other," Mijangos said. "So then I jumped into Canary, and here we are.



Lead singer Kat Leverenz and guitarist Zach Dennis formed local band Canary after meeting as students at Penn State in 2018.

Horn's invitation to the group came as an unexpected surprise, he said.

'So the summer of 2019, I got a Snapchat message from this guy, who I hadn't talked to in at least a year," Horn said. "And he's like, 'Hey, man, I hope school's going well, blah, blah, blah, this and that. Do you want to be in my band?' And I'm like, 'What the hell? Sure."

When Sam's sophomore year at Penn State began, he started going to Live Wire's practice sessions, which he said he was "really excited about."

Later on, the name Live Wire was changed to Canary, and two members left the group.

When the coronavirus pandemic hit, only Leverenz and Dennis were able to perform as a duo due to local restrictions on live bands.

Leverenz said Canary used the time to be more productive with its music and to expand its online presence. This included getting a personal Instagram, revamping the band's Instagram and learning the best online marketing tools.

"Then for me personally, [I was] trying to dig into songwriting because I had hours and hours of time and no structure,' Leverenz said. "[I was] just trying to watch YouTube videos on that, listen to artists that I like, look at what they're doing.'

Visit collegian.psu.edu to read 'We just felt like Live Wire the full story.

Lost Bird Project displays sculptures

By James Engel THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

They were once flesh, but now they are bronze.

Throughout Penn State campuses and State College are five new avian sculptures. Each of them has a unique story, but all lot of people excited about share an unfortunate bond: They are extinct.

Fifteen years ago, an artist began work on what came to be the rent position, Regan said he Lost Bird Project. The project, which encourages activism and thoughtful discussion, serves to memorialize birds driven to extinction in recent years by human activity.

There have been multiple casts of the original sculptures made, and now after sitting on the campus of Fairfield University in Connecticut, the works have made their way down to Central Pennsylvania.

They were installed on Aug. 24 and will remain for one year. Bringing the sculptures to Pennsylvania was hard work, but they bring a common message for

the community.

Jerry Regan, the director of major gifts for the Penn State College of Education, said he became aware of the project and felt it could raise awareness and promote activism at Penn State.

"I thought we could get a conservation across the board," ne said.

Before he worked in his curspent more than 16 years in conservation advocacy. He ascribes his interest in the outdoors to his youth in Pennsylvania's Bradford County.

Regan said he also hopes the project will bring awareness to window strikes, which kill hundreds of millions of birds each year that do not see glass in their flight paths.

When Regan began work on the project, interest was gauged among other groups at Penn successful recov-State and around State College, resulting in a large-scale collaboration among numerous entities. One of the groups to join was stories to emulate

Shaver's Creek Environmental for other diminishing species. Center, a prominent conservation organization located just south of State College.

Jason Beale has worked for Shaver's Creek for seven years as an onsite educator and now as its coordinator of the Lost Bird Project.

They said they hope the project can inform people about the mistakes of the past but also the conservation work to be done in the future.

"Our hope is, through a year of programming with our partner facilities, we're able to talk about what we've lost," Beale "But said. also, more importantly, talk about what we recovered have and the work we can still do."

They cite the ery of peregrine falcon and bald eagle populations as

Five birds sit in five locations in the area. The great auk can be found at the Penn State Altoona Reflecting Pond. The Labrador duck is on the lawn of the Hintz Family Alumni Center at Penn

State. The passenger pigeon sits on site at Shaver's Creek. The Carolina parakeet is located in a new section of The Arboretum

at Penn State. Lastly. the heath hen can be discovered at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center east of

campus. To Beale, this message pulls in much of the work of their career to one broader message of conservation.

"Even though it's kind of a dark side that we're talking about — this extinc-

tion — we're really talking about bringing people together to take care of things," they said. "That's ultimately what my career is about - trying to get as many people to the table, pulling in the same direction."

According to Regan, there are hopes enough money can be raised to keep the passenger pigeon at Shaver's Creek as a permanent reminder next to its aviary.

The most viewed sculpture, according to Beale, sits north of campus at the Arboretum, which just finished installing its new Pollinator and Bird Garden.

Shari Edelson, director of operations at the Arboretum, said many folks have viewed the sculpture and come away with "a complex emotional response."

Many are struck by the beauty of the sculpture, she said, only to find out they will never have the opportunity to see the parakeet's colorful wings in flight.

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

LOCAL

Staffing shortages affect students

By Julia Mertes THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

From on-campus dining halls to the HUB-Robeson Center eating locations to commons desks. many Penn State students said they've experienced unprecedented service changes and closures due to staffing shortages.

According to Jim Meinecke, associate director of residential dining at Penn State, on-campus residential dining is currently seeking 35 full-time staff members and approximately 1,100 part-time student staff to help run operations.

While the bulk of our oncampus dining facilities continue to be open, some staffing shortages have forced us to make adjustments in the availability of some dining options, as well as occasionally limiting in-person and mobile orders at peak timeframes," Meinecke said via email.

On Oct. 13, Penn State dining facilities announced the consolidation of food services due to ongoing staffing shortages.

Starting last Saturday, South Food District in Redifer Commons will only operate Monday through Friday, according to a release.

North Food District in Warnock Commons will also be closed on Saturdays due to staffing issues.

"We're doing our best to minimize any disruptions to the campus community and provide the high-quality dining experience our customers have come to expect from us," Meinecke said.

While students may not have a particular food option at their "home' dining commons," Mei-necke said they "still have options at several nearby a la carte, retail or convenience store locations."

Although other food options exist, student Breanna Grace-Frazier said she experienced inconveniences during the first weekend South Hall's dining facilities were closed for service.

She said understaffing issues especially at the dining facilities - can cause a "domino effect" that consequently impacts students living in residential areas.

"When there's just no food being served here — that's a very impactful situation," Grace-(junior-anthropological Frazier science). "It's hard to get things done and do what you need to do when there's not enough people to help [or] not enough staff to do the work.'

Since she said many students need jobs to pay for college and financially support themselves, Grace-Frazier said stuapplying to the opportunities.



Chloe Trieff/Collegiar

Students stand in the Panda Express line within the HUB-Robeson Center on Oct. 19. "Staffing shortages are occurring all over the country," Alexis Snyder (junior-biomedical engineering) said.

communities.

In previous years, Meinecke said student staff typically applied for a position having previous customer service experience that was easily transferable to the dining facilities.

restaurant experience in their local communities, Meinecke said some have been less inclined to apply to the open jobs.

According to Meinecke, the campus typically start off the academic year short on student help since many previous workers graduated and positions are open for underclassmen to fill.

"It's hard to get

things done and

do what you need

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enough staff to do

Breanna Grace-Frazier

Junior-anthropological science

to help [or] not

the work."

However, Meinecke said students are "not able to fill all our roles as quickly as we would like" since fewer incoming students are applying for the open jobs.

He said the residential dining facilities view the staffing shortage as a "temporary disruption" that will "bounce

returns to the typical "Penn State experience."

Some students like Alexis Snyder said Penn State community members have experienced challenges with on-campus facilities as the locations experience increased closures and limited hours due to staffing shortages.

Snyder (junior-biomedical engineering) said on-campus staffing shortages can negatively payroll with the university, the and inconvenience release said. impact students.

dents should be advised toward excessive wait times for food on cine mandate for faculty and cilities should "increase the bencurrent campus - so much so that "they staff could exacerbate the curdon't even bother ordering food rent staffing shortage by causing improve the work-school balance staff tries to handle the same She also said promotions sometimes" because they cannot

worth

"If a job pays somewhere around minimum wage and is only part time, then most people who are on their own financially would be unable to pay their cost of living with that job alone," Sny-With many students not having der said. "It would make more sense to take a better paying job or one with more hours.'

To improve staffing, Snyder said employees should both be better compensated and given residential dining facilities on increased flexibility in their work schedules so they can better manage their academic and extracurricular engagements.

Meinecke said Penn State Residential Dining raised wages by \$2 an hour at

year, and "students have numerous opportunities to earn even more fairly certifications, referrals and promotions." Besides rais-

ing the pay, Meinecke said residining dential offers other additional benefits

back" as the college experience like free and discounted meals, flexible scheduling and access to professional and fun events.

> On Oct. 13, Penn State announced coronavirus vaccination requirements for all federal employees, contractors and other workers at the University Park campus by Dec. 8.

> The vaccine mandate will also apply to any graduate and undergraduate students on a wage

Snyder said the university's She said students experience decision to implement a vacdedicated employees to find other employment options. "I understand that the university [could] lose a significant amount of funding by going against President [Joe] Biden's executive order," Snyder said. "[Although] the university may not lose a high volume of employees due to the vaccine mandate, some will quit and worsen the worker shortage to some extent." According to a study conducted in August from Qualtrics, approximately 44% of workers said they would consider leaving their current job if a vaccine mandate was instituted.

said they would consider leaving if their place of employment failed to create a mandate.

A similar study conducted in June from the University of Florida found that of respondents who self-labeled themselves as "vaccine-hesitant," 48% would search for other employment or quit their current job.

From the same survey, respondents were almost equally divided about whether a vaccine mandate should be instituted demonstrating divided opinions by the public regarding the topic.

As staffing shortages remain a threat for many establishments, employers are faced with navigating between the troubles of corothe start of the navirus procedures and business functionality.

Jenna Bologa said she believes the lines at the on-campus buffet dining locations are longer because of a reduction in dining quickly through stations and locations being open and functional throughout the day.

With fewer options to choose from, Bologa (senior-math and physics) said students have to eat at the same dining facilities, causing increased delays.

Bologa said the long lines in both dining facilities and commons desks are "an annoying inconvenience" at times - especially when students are on a tight schedule.

Bologa works at the Starbucks on the second floor of the HUB another location that she said has been understaffed since the beginning of the semester.

Due to understaffing at her job, Bologa said she's had to work increased hours, which is "the biggest impact" the staffing shortages have had on her semester thus far.

John Berke said on-campus faefits" of working as a student and so students feel more comfortable working while managing a full course load. Berke (freshman-economics) said there are various ways to better incentives working within on-campus facilities - like making work schedules more reasonable for student employees and improving their overall salaries to be more reasonable for the expected roles. "I know quite a few people who actually want to work for the university, but they can't figure out where to start and how to go about applying," Berke said.

so students understand the labor opportunities — and all they entail — along with the application process.

As the worker shortage continues on campus. Meinecke said residential dining has attempted to promote available positions to students.

"Residential dining has been aggressive about advertising student positions, posting on our website and social media, as well as placing large banners in dining halls and handouts in our eateries," Meinecke said.

He said they've also "been working to streamline the application process" to make it 'easier for students to apply for positions."

However, Berke said the labor shortage is "not necessarily isolated to Penn State" and is actually impacting a lot of areas, as people are leaving their jobs for a variety of reasons, like economic and health concerns.

In fact, the national unemployment rate declined sharply in September to 4.8% from 5.2%, which was the previous data recorded in August 2021, according to a U.S. Department of Labor release.

experiencing after-Besides maths of the labor shortage in dining facilities, Berke said he's also experienced problems with on-campus transportation, since the State College Centre Area Transportation Authority is understaffed.

According to a release by CATA, the company only has 85 bus drivers, which is 78% of its full service, and several local bus routes have been temporarily limited or closed due to these shortages.

Along with modifications to daily routes, the downtown football shuttle has also been suspended for the rest of the season, according to a recent CATA release.

According to CATA Executive Director and CEO Louwana Oliva, many businesses along CATA's routes have yet to reinstate their staff, which has also impacted ridership.

Other students like Ximena Iriarte said the Penn State community needs to be understanding of workers at establishments around town that are suffering from shortages - even though the situation may be a personal inconvenience.

(senior-international Iriarte politics) said she used to go to the Barnes and Noble At The Penn State University Bookstore café for its quick, efficient service during previous semesters.

However, she said the staffing shortage within the café has caused backups and longer wait times, especially as the limited

and benefits should be given to wait in the excessive lines. incentivize the positions.

shortages are not a local problem but rather a challenge the pandemic created "for our local eateries and retails [located] across our country and around the world."

Locally, Meinecke said some staffing shortages originate from the lack of returning student staff due to the reduced on-campus living population last year.

who worked in the restaurant industry their in

Snyder said increased wait Meinecke said the staffing times aren't limited to food establishments and also impact on-campus services like the residential commons desks.

"Staffing shortages are occurring all over the country — mainly for jobs that are low paying, require long hours or have other undesirable work conditions," Snyder said.

Snyder said many college students and adults looking for He said the pandemic also employment can't afford to take impacted the number of students low-paying jobs anymore "out of necessity" and instead require to local be paid what they believe they're

He said information should be Conversely, 38% of respondents "posted and advertised better"

number of customers, if not more, with less hands at work.

Iriarte said she believes the staffing shortage also needs to be fixed for the people struggling to work extra shifts with limited help due to understaffing - not just for the customers.

"The people working here when there's not enough [staff] are also having a hard time," Iriarte said. "We don't only need [more staff] for the convenience of the students but also because the [employees] need more help when they're working."

To email reporter: jbm6333@psu.edu. Follow her on Twitter at @JuliaMertes1.

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'CRUCIAL PART OF MY IDENTITY'

LOCAL

Penn State Filipino Association celebrates Filipino American History Month

Ella Castronuovo THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

In honor of October being Filipino American History Month, some Penn State students are celebrating their heritage through appreciation, education and traditional dances like the Tinikling dance.

Through its mission statement, the Penn State Filipino Association is celebrating and representing the university's Filipino community by promoting cultural diversity within community interactions at Penn State and in State College, according to its website.

Lindsay Aluquin, co-cultural director for PSFA, said she believes Filipino Americans don't receive a lot of representation for the work they do — especially in the entertainment industry.

To Aluquin (sophomore-nutritional science), this month is a "rare" time in which Filipino Americans can be appreciated for the impacts they've made in the United States. "Filipino American History Month is so important to me because it's an extra motivator to take time to appreciate and educate myself on this crucial part of my identity," Aluquin said. "Growing up in a predominantly white community and going to predominantly white institutions, I've sadly been neglecting [this identity] for a really long time in my life.



Students in the Penn State Filipino Association celebrate their heritage during October, which is Filipino American History Month.

Having lived in the Philippines for half of her life and then coming to Penn State, Kaely Banega, co-cultural director for PSFA, said she didn't know anyone or have any family to turn to at first.

(junior-biomedical Banega engineering) said she was used to being surrounded by mostly Hispanic and Asian communities, and when she came to Penn State, a predominantly white community, she looked for a club that shared the same culture as her.

"Since joining [PSFA], I felt and other traditional dances more at home," Banega said. "I through the association. like being surrounded by people who I can consider my family and remind me of home — where we do the traditions that I used to do or we learn different things together like our traditions back home."

Benega said a tradition she's celebrated with her family since she was born is wearing polka dots or having round fruits on the table for New Year's Eve.

Also, once the time reads midnight, Banega said her family jumps to grow taller — a superstition she's followed since she was a kid — and makes lots of noises by banging pots and pans.

similar family tradition to this, and the main reason behind it is to cleanse the house of "evil spirits and bad omens."

'It's like starting the new year off with a very clean, pure slate, and it's just a very exciting event to bring forth all good tidings for the upcoming year," Aluquin said.

Another tradition in Filipino culture is the Tinikling dance, which involves two bamboo sticks, two clappers on each side and two dancers who step between poles.

Jared Asprer, vice president of PSFA, said he was first introduced to the Tinikling dance

"I think it's important for me because when I grew up, I didn't really know about all these Filipino dances," Asprer (junioractuarial sciences) said. "When I came to Penn State, I really wanted to know what true Filipino culture was, and [the Tinikling dance] is something that could introduce anyone to the Filipino culture."

For the upcoming Penn State Paul Robeson Cultural Center's Pride in Our Community Pep Rally at 5:30 p.m. Thursday on the Monumental Staircase in the HUB-Robeson Center, the *v* banging pots and pans. Aluquin said she also has a ern version of the Tinikling dance, according to Aluquin. The pep rally is part of Penn State's Homecoming festivities.

Even though Aluquin and Banega came from "very different" backgrounds, Aluquin said it's "unique" that they are both co-cultural directors.

Growing up, Aluquin said she had friends from different cultures but never many friends who were Filipino.

"I think it was really important for me to get more in touch with my Filipino identity and to share the beauties and struggles of being both Filipino and American with people who have shared sim- the full story.

ilar experiences," Aluquin said.

Aluquin said one of the "greatest barriers" for her as a Filipino American was not knowing the language.

A common "immigrant trope" of immigrant parents is to not teach their kids their native language so their kids can be good at English, Aluquin said. "I felt like I had imposter syn-

drome," Aluquin said. "I felt like wasn't truly Filipino because didn't have this background knowledge."

Because of this, Aluquin said she never learned Tagalog — the main dialect of the Philippines — growing up.

"But I realized being Filipino American is far more than just knowing a language or just knowing dances," Aluquin said.

"It's also about being able to persistently work on educating yourself on your culture... and loving the people within your culture and honoring those values that make someone Filipino American."

For Banega and Aluquin, finding people with shared experiences on campus can be difficult.

"It really is challenging to find someone, or rather, find a community that can empathize with the experiences and struggles that you face as being a part of your minority community," Aluquin said.

However, Aluquin said facing these challenges has pushed her to be a more "resilient" person.

Banega said it's easy to feel very small" in such a "big place."

"It's very important for places and organizations like the [PRCC] and the [Penn State's Multicultural Resource Center] that make you feel like you're not alone," Banega said. "There's also other people here like you — you don't have to feel like you're by yourself."

Asprer said he wants outsiders to know how welcoming people within the Filipino culture are.

Asprer said PSFA is like a family to him, and the club wants to teach everyone about Filipino culture and make a community where Flipinos can feel and be themselves.

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Members of the PSFA rehearse a traditional Tinikling dance.



Ella Castronuovo/Collegian

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PSU must raise dining wages

order to accommodate recent staffing short-ages, Penn State Dining announced it is temporarily changing the hours and availability of certain on-campus dining locations starting Oct. 16.

PAGE 4

According to Jim Richard, director of residential dining, the time adjustments were made in order to maintain the "variety and high quality foods that our customers have come to expect" while also attempting to "minimize disruption."

South Food District in Redifer Commons will operate on a Monday through Friday basis and it opened In A Pickle, a delioriented restaurant, on Oct. 25. Students who want to take part in the "All You Care To Eat" brunch have been advised to go to the Pollock Dining Commons.

The North Food District will also close on Saturdays, but the North Market Convenience Store will remain open under its regular weekend hours of 9 a.m. to midnight.

While it may be an inconvenience for students to now have to walk farther to get a meal, workers shouldn't be expected to have to deal with the influx of students from other dining halls while understaffed.

OUR VIEW Penn State shouldn't be shocked about staffing shortages if it's unwilling to raise pay

Customer service is an already demanding industry but coupled with classes and extracurriculars, perhaps workers are realizing they're worth more than what they're being compensated for.

Campus Dining positions pay \$12 an hour, with \$2 employee meals and "the ability to have a flexible schedule," while also having the opportunity for promotions. \$12 an hour is obviously a step up from Pennsylvania's \$7.25 minimum wage but considering the amount of work asked of Campus Dining employees, that figure may not be enough to draw the attention of new workers.

If Penn State is unwilling to pay employees more, then it shouldn't come as a shock if they don't want to work. The staffing shortage should be a telltale sign of a flawed system.

For the sheer amount that tuition costs at Penn State — tuition that is now raised — along with extracurricular

other expenses such as housing and groceries, the current pay scale is unsustainable. There's no reason the university cannot put more resources into dining and food services, and raise the pay to \$15 an hour.

This isn't just a student employee issue as there are plenty of full-time employees who are trying to make a living off of these positions. The cost of living in State College is far from affordable, with the average affordable monthly cost for an apartment in the area coming in at \$603.

For perspective, if full-time employees are receiving \$12 an hour, they would have to work 12.5 hours a week, four days a week to simply pay their rent — no other expenses included. That's only around 3 hours per day, though the demand is difficult for a fulltime student who is taking classes on top of involvement with opportunities

and additional spending needs like groceries, utilities, travel, and tuition.

Even something as simple as making employee meals free could serve as some form of an incentive to bring in workers.

If pay isn't the issue, then maybe the customers are becoming it. While everyone might be in a rush to get their food, there's no reason for attitude to be given to employees who are just trying to make ends meet.

If anything, the pandemic may have led employees to realize their worth, and after being indoors almost all of last year, maybe they want to catch up on what they missed out on, especially for third and fourth year students. For them, an on-campus job might not be of importance.

But some don't have the luxury. And because of that, it's imperative that Penn State make the pay respectable and create an environment that will welcome those looking for work.

This burden shouldn't be placed on management as these efforts show it's trying to make the most out of the staffing shortage. However, trying to avoid "disruption" has now become a nuisance for other dining halls as lines begin to grow longer, forcing the already shortened staffs to take on more customers than normal.

There is also the emphasis in the modern day on mental health, something that Penn State often preaches about. College is the usual time that people aged 18-21 develop eating disorders, including 10-20% of women and 4-10% of men.

A closed buffet could contribute to a student's disorder as they may see it as a reason to avoid a meal.

The university should do all it can to fill positions to avoid any potential situations that fuel a negative mentality.

This isn't just a Penn State or collegiate issue as U.S. job openings reached an unprecedented 10.9 million. So, if Penn State and other businesses want to fill these vacancies as quickly as they can, they need to start valuing their employees by raising their pay.



Virginia's governor race has

major impacts on the nation

As Virginia goes, so goes the nation. At least, that's what the state's governor race is shaping up to be.

The battle

ernor Terry

between former

Democratic Gov-

McAuliffe, who

helmed the state

from 2014 to 2018,

and Republican

Glenn Youngkin,



Hutchinson

the former CEO of The Carlyle Group, a private equity firm, is by far the most contentious and closely watched contest in the 2021 election cycle.

The showdown has gone deeper than just a normal race. Both candidates have run bitter campaigns attacking one another.

McAuliffe has been criticized for his ties to the Clinton family and fundraising violations. Youngkin, on the other hand, was called out for initially refusing to acknowledge the 2020 presidential election results and has courted the supporters of former President Donald Trump, such as Ted Cruz.

The race is in a deadlock with both candidates neck and neck in the polls, which shouldn't be the case in the Old Dominion State.

The former capital of the Confederacy has turned into a blue stronghold as of recently. Democrats won the last four presidential races by comfortable margins, with President Joe Biden defeating Trump by a whopping 10%.

As well, Virginia hasn't elected a Republican to statewide office since 2009, with

both senators, current governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general all being Democrats.

Additionally, seven of 11 House of Representatives districts in the state are Democratic controlled, along with both the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates.

So why is this Democratic state a toss-up right now? All things point to the direction of national politics.

With Biden's approval ratings in freefall after a series of negative events, this election is going to be more of a reflection on him rather than anything McAuliffe or Youngkin has to say.

While odd-year elections and midterms have often been a referendum on the current

presidential administration, a solidly blue state being in a dead heat is a major warning sign for Biden and his party.

Biden has struggled to string together wins and pass legislation, which hasn't helped McAuliffe's case. Meanwhile,

Youngkin appears

while not having

the former presi-

Virginia, campaign

Even McAuliffe

recognizes Biden

is dragging down

his chances in the

"A McAuliffe victory to have perfected the balancing act buys the Democrats of bringing in some time to plan Trump voters for midterms, while a Youngkin win sets dent, unpopular in the near future for for him in the GOP dominance." state.

Kyle Hutchinson

race

He along with other Democrats have tried to tie Youngkin to Trump, touting the two's similar views and Trump's support of the GOP nominee. But this tactic has been failing.

Ultimately, although some **Democrats and Independents** still have an unwavering fear of Trump, results from the current administration will matter more in swaying voters, and the Biden presidency hasn't been one of results thus far. Biden is

responsible for his own actions, not Trump.

It will be a close race regardless of the outcome.

If McAuliffe is able to prevail, the Democrats get a major save but should still be concerned entering midterms next year.

If Youngkin pulls out a win, Biden and the Democrats are doomed next fall and will see the U.S. House and Senate switch to Republican control, as well as governorships flip to the GOP. That's an easy recipe for a 2024 Republican victory for president.

Swing states with big races next year such as Pennsylvania, Arizona, Nevada, North Carolina, Wisconsin and Michigan will all be affected by the outcome of Virginia.

A McAuliffe victory buys the Democrats some time to plan for midterms, while a Youngkin win sets the near future for GOP dominance.

Virginia's race will be pivotal in determining the future direction of the country, as well as if Biden can still hope for any success as president.

Kyle Hutchinson is a junior majoring in criminology and is a columnist for The Daily Collegian. Email him at kkh5359@ psu.edu or follow him on Twitter at @kvlehutchhutch.

5 - 21 **-** 74

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Friday, Oct. 29, 2021

SPORTS PAGE 5 FRANKLIN ON THE FENCE

Penn State football coach's response to rumors contrasts that of Steelers coach Mike Tomlin

By Justin Morganstein THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

long from It's way а Pennsylvania to California future. from both a geographical and

cultural FOOTBALL 2.000in the states and а two places apart.

They're nearly opposites, similar to what two happened different coaches had to say mer," regarding rumors surround-viously I didn't make afternoon. "Obviously, I've

been asked this

question multiple

is completely on

Illinois and this

team and this

program."

times, and my focus

James Franklin

James who Franklin, has been connected with the now-open USC gig for multiple seasons and even thrown into the LSU rumors recently, was once again asked about his future plans and his commitment to Penn State in his weekly press conference.

It's a hot topic once again this this question multiple times, and week, as a report from Football my focus is completely on Illinois Scoop on Monday night stated and this team and this program," that Franklin had switched Franklin said. "I think I've shown agents from Trace Armstrong of over my eight years my commit-

With Penn State President Eric Barron set to retire at the end of the 2021-22 year and Senior Vice instead of Illinois, and while the President for Intercollegiate answer seems to display his Athletics Sandv

potentially on the way out in the near future, the supposed inseason move may have indicated Franklin was thinking about his

Franklin confirmed the report stand- Tuesday, but he did clarify that point, with over the move was made well before miles the season (and firing of USC between coach Clay Helton).

"I'm not going to get into the myriad of differences setting the details, but what I will tell you is that this is being reported polar now, but this is something that over the sum-Franklin said. "Oban ing their names on Tuesday announcement. I don't know

anybody that ever does when that happens. But this is something that happened over the summer that's just being reported now." Franklin was

later asked rather flatly if he's committed to coaching in Valley Happy beyond 2021.

"Yeah, you know, obviously

I've been asked Athletes First to Jimmy Sexton of ment to this university and this community. That's kind of my statement."

He likely meant Ohio State Barbour commitment to the blue and



James Franklin continues to answer ambiguously to questions surrounding his future at Penn State amid rumors linking him to openings at LSU and USC.

"no" the Nittany Lion faithful has wanted to hear for a while.

other coaches in college football and the NFL that have shot down these reports as soon as they've turned up, though.

One of those also happened to take place Tuesday afternoon, with fellow Pennsylvania head coach Mike Tomlin of the Pittsburgh Steelers addressing a report also linking him to the Trojans.

Tomlin, unlike Franklin, shut down the question immediately and made a commitment to continue what he feels is "one of the best jobs in all of professional sports.'

"I don't have time for that speculation. I mean, that's a joke

white, it's far from the emphatic to me," Tomlin said in his Tuesday media availability. "That will be the last time I address it and There have been multiple not only today, but moving forward. Never say never, but never [...] There is not a booster with a big enough blank check."

Franklin and Tomlin are certainly different with financial leverageandrecruitingmakingthe Nittany Lion head coach more restricted in what he can say, Tomlin's is the type of statement many Penn State supporters are looking for.

At this point, it's pretty safe to say Franklin won't give any more information on the topic, as he's given relatively simianswers since the rumors lar started earlier in the year.

All that matters now to the

Happy Valley head man is that his players remain focused on Ohio State this weekend and on the task at hand of being 1-0 each week.

Star wide receiver Jahan Dotson said that the message While the situations between has been clear from Franklin since the minute he stepped on campus, and that doesn't change now with outside distractions surrounding the program's leader.

"Ever since I've gotten here, Coach Franklin has really drilled in our heads about going 1-0,' Dotson said. "Me being in the program for four years now, that's just something that's engraved in my mind."

> To email reporter: jum668@psu.edu. Follow him on Twitter at @JmoTweets_.



Shrewsberry's new philosophy

By Seth Engle THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

They say defense wins championships, so maybe the lack of such was a reason Penn State

- a team that **MEN'S** finding Ten in scor-BASKETBALL

ing defense to have a new look on that side of the ball.

But what should fans look for specifically on that side of the ball when the blue and white begin its season in November?

On Monday, Harrar offered Big some "technical" information on the new defensive front.

"I play pick and rolls differcouldn't ently this year than I have," Harrar said. "I was up at the line of scrimmage and up higher, but Shrews wants us to drop and kind of pack it in around the room for more defensive rebounding.' While Penn State had a respectable season in terms of rebounding last season, Shrewsberry's Boilermakers were a step ahead in both offensive and defensive rebounding, ranked No. 3 in the conference in both categories. A consistent winning team, Purdue hasn't missed an NCAA Tournament since 2014. Shrewsberry must believe rebounding is a significant reason for his former program's success in recent years. "The really good coaches just take stuff from other people who have been successful," Shrewberry said. "That's all I'm doing." While defense seems to be the most important standard in Shrewsberry's task to make the Nittany Lions a competitive basketball program, he offered some insight on his offensive philosophy for this season as well. "Sometimes you play really beautiful offense... and the guy misses a 3," Shrewberry said. "Like there was nothing wrong with the offense, it was the result. But I'm okay with that because that great offense led to that result." The man likely to take most of the shots this season - junior forward Seth Lundy.

Ernesto Estremera JR/Collegian

Following a loss to Illinois last Saturday, the Penn State defense has much to improve going into this weekend's matchup with Ohio State in front of a hostile crowd in Columbus.

Defense learns from mistal

By Alexis Yoder THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Despite losing PJ Mustipher shortly into the game against Iowa, Penn State's defense re-

mained

against

Hawkeyes,

strong

the

de-

FOOTBALL

spite finding itself in the loss column for the first time in 2021.

The Nittany Lions had two weeks to prepare for a seemingly lackluster Illinois offense that ranked last in the Big Ten in nearly every passing statistic.

But the Illini stuck to their game plan, which was to attack Penn State on the ground in a formation not revealed prior to Saturday's contest.

The plan worked to perfection, as Illinois compiled 357 rushing vards on 67 carries. Penn State gives up an average of 118.9 rushing yards per game and held its opponents to under 100 rushing yards in four out of its seven games thus far.

According to James Franklin, the defense never prepared for the formation it saw from Illinois and couldn't avoid being thrown back on its heels — despite "historically" doing a "really good job" at defending against the run game.

"We've been a little bit of a bend-but-don't-break defense all year long," Franklin said. "We've been really good at stopping the run. We did have challenges there. Just like we're dealing with Sean [Clifford] on offense, we've had some injuries on defense, so some guys' rep counts have gone

up. "They had a nice little wrinkle that caused us some challenges there's no doubt about it."

Without Mustipher, arguably the best defensive lineman Penn State possesses against the run end," Ebiketie said. "We're just game, Coziah Izzard got the start trying to correct those mistakes,

interior.

Franklin mentioned the importance of Zuriah Fisher and Smith Vilbert developing into contributors, alongside Dvon Ellies, who stepped in immediately following Mustipher's injury in Iowa City.

Players who consistently appear on the defensive side of the ball said they felt they could've adjusted better to Illinois' offense but said the opposition performed well

"When we watched film after the game, obviously there were a lot of things that Illinois did well, and there's some things that we could've done better," defensive end Arnold Ebiketie said. "It kind of goes on both sides. I think we've got to give them credit because they did a great job and executed the game plan.'

Linebacker Brooks Ellis echoed Ebiketie's thoughts, saying the team was caught off guard against the Illini.

He added "it's common" for teams to make scheme changes in order to throw off an opponent following a bye week, and the Nittany Lions can only learn from the past.

"Teams have time to prepare something that they haven't put on film and break tendencies," Brooks said. "There's obviously whenever there's any game there's things you can look back and say, 'I wish I could have done better, we could have done [and] switched stuff,' but it is what it is at that point."

Although the nine-overtime loss on Homecoming "hurt," according to Ebiketie, the defense can't dwell on the result and must refocus ahead of a prime-time game at Ohio State.

"We obviously made a couple mistakes on defense, and they had a good game plan on their

next to Derrick Tangelo on the so we don't make the same mistakes. We have to move forward because we have another opponent ahead."

The Buckeyes are riding a five-game win streak coming into Saturday's contest and are fresh off a 54-7 victory over Indiana, a game in which quarterback C.J. Stroud threw for 266 yards and four touchdowns while the offense compiled 187 rushing yards.

Franklin acknowledged the freshman gunslinger's positive growth over the season along with the bevy of talent surrounding him, but his defensive stars are eager for the challenge of stopping Ohio State's offensive attack.

'They really try to stretch the field," Brooks said. "[Stroud] obviously has weapons at his disposal, and [they're an] athletic group. They're fast. We're going to have to be on our A-game with a great week of preparation."

Last week's result is one the Nittany Lion defense will have to learn from, and they've done so by watching film and pinpointing where they broke down against Illinois.

Now, the blue and white feels focused and prepared ahead of Saturday's showdown in Columbus as well as the rest of the season.

"We're not going to put our heads down," Ebiketie said. "We're just going to keep fighting because we know what we're capable of doing in that locker room. I'm pretty confident as we come to work - we're just trying to do our best to win the day and take advantage of the opportunity we have in front of us.

"I'm confident that group of guys will be ready for Saturday to take on the Buckeyes."

To email reporter: axy143@psu.edu. Follow her on Twitter at @AlexisYoder1.

piece together winning record last season.

With a new coaching staff and philosophy, however, the Nittany Lions have focused nearly exclusively on the defensive end since the start of training camp, said coach Micah Shrewsberry.

"If you would watch us practice, if you would see us play, you would obviously see that our defense is way ahead of our offense," Shrewsberry said. "We spent way more time on it in the summer and in the fall.'

Coming from Purdue, one of the most consistently dominant defensive programs in the country, it's not surprising that Shrewsberry has put more of an emphasis on that side of the ball.

According to senior forward John Harrar, Shrewsberry took no time to spread his defensive philosophy to his new group.

"He said he wants me to be the voice on defense and that he's going to teach defense every day from the first day we get out there," Harrar said.

Having been a part of the Penn State program for four years already, Harrar understands the importance of hardnose defense in the Big Ten, a conference that has a standard on the defensive end that the Nittany Lions didn't necessarily meet in 2020.

"I know to compete in the Big Ten you have to be top three in defense, top three in rebounding," Harrar said.

With a new game plan on defense, the Nittany Lions are set

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



Ahead of coach Micah Shrewsberry inaugural season, he has begun to implement new tactics to improve on both sides of the ball.

LOCAL

Davis 'juggles' academics

By Niceiry Marizan THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

College students are often expected to have one major: Some Penn State students like Janiyah Davis are able to handle multiple degrees, extracurriculars and ing side you can get from a permore.

Davis is a third-year Penn State Schreyer Honors College scholar in the College of the Liberal Arts studying criminology and psychology with minors in anthropology and sociology, as well as an enhanced minor in child maltreatment and advocacy studies and a certificate in behavioral health and counseling psychology.

"She participates in more aspects of Penn State than any student I've ever seen before,' Theresa Vescio, who has been a professor of psychology and women's, gender and sexuality studies for 22 years, said. "She's far more skilled than the average undergraduate in her ability to juggle many things."

Additionally, Davis is a part of the 4 + 1 program, which means she is also completing a master's degree in public policy at the same time as her undergraduate degrees.

Vescio is the advisor for her honors thesis — which focuses on the adultification of Black girls and the "Wonder Woman syndrome.'

"Girls of color, particularly Black girls, lose the protection of their childhood at a much earlier age than white girls do," Vescio said. "[They] are assumed to a young girl, the differences in have greater sexual knowledge, are assumed to hold the responsibilities of adults and be able to carry a lot more weight.

Davis said ongoing improvement of the Black women image is also why she joined Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She said she was drawn in by the founding women who wanted to actively make social change in their community.

"The founders of Delta Sigma Theta... marched in a women's suffrage movement, and it's such a big deal because they were 22 women — 22 college-educated Black women in 1913. That's crazy," Davis said.

would be a support system for her.

"I have stuff to do. I have lots of plans, and I have lots of things I want to get done for myself and for people around me," Davis said. "As hard as I work, it is impossible for me to do everything by myself.

explained how Davis is actu- fair." ally one of the biggest support

systems for their sisterhood. Line sisters are individuals who go through the process of joining a sorority at the same time and "cross" into the sisterhood together.

'Honestly, I see the most carson. On my bad days, she's one of the first people to make sure that she's doing things to make sure that I feel loved," Brown (juniorbiobehavioral health) said. "Let's just say she's the head of the 'bad day committee.""

Many of the people around Davis said she has positive and caring energy.

'She's one of the students that comes into the classroom full of energy and creativity and is the kind of student that makes me love teaching," Vescio said. Brown described her as a role

model for the future.

'I just know she's going to be so successful in life just by how much she's doing now at such a young age," Brown said. "[She's] someone that I would want my kids to look up to.'

Davis said she grew up as a military child, traveling, when her now retired father, Gernell Davis, was in the army. However, she had never been to Pennsylvania before, and that, as well as the "good" criminology program at Penn State are what made her choose the university.

She said she realized her passion for criminology at a young age and currently focuses on incarcerated youth.

"You can't help but notice, as how people are treated in different areas," Janiyah said. "Ever since then, I was just like, 'What can I do?' 'What can I do in this moment?' — 'What can I do to set myself up for the future where I can make life better for other people?""

She practices this interest by serving as president of the Restorative Justice Initiative at Penn State. The RJI is an organization aimed at "restoring and empowering individuals [who] are incarcerated through education and meaningful engagement in civic life," according to its website.

Janiyah said there's an "in-She said she also believed it tense stigma" surrounding incarcerated people that affects them in many ways.

'They're unable to live their lives post-incarceration, [they] aren't able to live their lives during incarceration [and they have trouble being] welcomed by the community because of one wrong or a wrong that they've done, Her line sister Cydney Brown Janiyah said. "I don't think that's

In order to carry out this cause



Janiyah Davis (junior, criminology and psychology) poses for a portrait near the McAllister Building in University Park, Pa. Davis is also a member of the Board of Trustees.

after her Penn State career, Janiyah said she wants to complete sure I'm increasing that in as a doctorate in higher education policy or educational psychology. She said her goal is to draft policies impacting students in the child welfare system, specifically those who are or previously were incarcerated.

"I want to go farther and branch that into making sure those students are able to have access to higher education," Janiyah said.

Janiyah has worked with many students like Adwait Chafale regarding her work in policy advocacy.

"I think she'd be a strong advocate for wherever she lands at," student Chafale (senior-psychology) said. "I see that as her future really in policy work."

Chafale said he met Janiyah during her sophomore year where they started developing the Multicultural Association for Schreyer Scholars because they believe diversity is necessary to Schrever.

university relations while Chafale said he became the peer to peer director for this year within the organization.

That ideal went beyond just racial and ethnic diversity but also diversity of thought," Chafale said.

He said he credits Janiyah for bringing such an expanded point of view of diversity to MASS.

[Penn State] always says diversity, but we're always just talkdiversity is a lot more than that," Janiyah said. "I want to make many aspects as I can during my time here."

Another way she is progressing toward that goal is by being part of Penn State's Board of Trustees as the student trustee since July 2021, where she said she "amplifies the needs and wants" of over 98,000 students from all campuses and graduate students.

"I'm so happy to be in this position because I take the time to interact with students to let them know what's going on and to make sure we're being transparent between administration and students," Janiyah said.

Her father said Janiyah has had a passion for being involved since she was a child including helping him in the military.

"My soldiers could be working fixing up tanks or something, and she'd be there with me," Gernell said. "They had a little stool for her that she could stand on.'

Gernell said being in the Janiyah became the director of military meant he couldn't be around often during his deployment, which he said affected his daughter.

> "She wrote me a book," Gernell said. "The book was asking questions like, 'When can I come home?' [or] 'Why can't I come home?"

> He said he wants everyone to know she has always been creative and a leader, but sometimes, she can be a perfectionist.

"I tell her, 'Baby girl, you can't ing about Black and white, but change the world in one day,' but she always says, 'Well, there's

seven days [in] a week," Gernell said.

David Butler, student volunteer coordinator for the Large Group Visitation team at Penn State, also said Janiyah is a perfectionist but is very good at time management.

"Sometimes, she takes on a little too much and bites more than she can chew, but at the end, she kind of counters that by her structure, organization and time management skills," Butler said

She also spends her time playing six different instruments. She taught herself piano, guitar acoustic and electric — flute, drums and the clarinet. She also learned how to play the French horn.

Butler said he wouldn't have been able to do what she does when he was in college.

"I think Janiyah is just one of the greatest people I've ever met," Butler said. "I'm just blessed to be a small part of her iournev.'

Chafale agreed with Butler's sentiment and said he admires her drive when completing projects and tasks.

"Whatever she does, she does with 100% focus in that moment, and that allows for the project or the individual she's working with to feel valued and feel that the contribution is substantial enough for it to be a finished product.

Is the student section overcrowded?

By Katelyn Garcia FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Beaver Stadium's student section is often considered one of the best in the country.

After Penn State's White Out win against Auburn, the student section won Taco Bell's Live Más Student Section of the Week — an award it also won in 2019.

Despite the set number of student section ticket sales, some and if it's a big game, more." students said it seems overfilled, with people settling in on the stairways, standing in between rive at the stadium 15 minutes any open spaces and squishing themselves to stand on the bleachers.

Student tickets went on sale in late July, with approximately 21,000 tickets sold — filling up a majority of the south end zone, according to Kristina Petersen, associate athletics director of Penn State Strategic Communications.

said to get seats, she had to arrive at the stadium early.

"We always have to link arms

a struggle to get in and out of student, and the crowd would not get them through," Rosen-marketing and labor and employ- berry (junior-advertising) said. ment relations) said. "It's literally like herds of people pushing -Istrongly dislike it."

Bleehash also said if someone leaves to go to the bathroom or buy food, finding a seat again is worse.

Veronica Alonso said "you have to get there 30 minutes before,

Alonso (freshman-international politics) said she tends to arbefore kickoff, but there are no seats left.

She said she had to stand in aisles because even the stairs were too crowded.

In addition to overcrowding, Alonso said fights are an issue, and security personnel "kick people out all the time."

Another issue due to the crowding, according to Katlynn But, student Emily Bleehash Rosenberry, is medical teams are unable to reach situations like fights.

"I witnessed a medic who or hold hands because it is such needed to get through to get to a

"And then, a policeman had to come up and weave through all of the students in the aisle.

Rosenberry also said the students themselves are an issue, as they "aren't very respectful all of the time."

"As we always have, we hold after action reviews following each game and continue to monitor and adjust accordingly to address any fan concerns related to our contests," Petersen said via email.

James Dugan said another issue has been students throwing objects in the student section, such as their empty water bottles.

Dugan (sophomore-business) said there are many people on top of you since "there are two people for every spot" in the stands.

Jeremy Lehman said students will ask for other students to move down the bleachers to make more room for themselves.

'I've had drunk people falling onto me," Lehman (sophomoremechanical engineering) said.

As a large part of the social scene at Penn State, Liam Walker said he still has a good time at the games.

Despite this, Walker (freshman-division of undergraduate studies) said he thinks the student section is definitely overfilled, and it's "a little unsafe."

"It's hard to have the freedom of mind that you could get out of the stadium without having to push or touch someone," Walker said. " I would say the crowding has officially become an issue.



Ella Freda/Collegian



Josie Chen/Collegian file photo

A piper warrior II turns on a runway to get gas at University Park Airport.

Students reflect on travel restrictions

By Arthur LaBan FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Hopeful Penn Staters have looked to study abroad ever since opportunities were suspended by the coronavirus pandemic - but saw delays and cancellations with prospective trips for months. However, with vaccination rates on the rise and new regulations in place, some students have cautious hope for the future.

President Joe Biden's administration eased travel restrictions this fall for international visitors with proof of full vaccination. This will take effect on Nov. 8, according to the U.S. Department of State. With a step forward in the return of travel abroad, students like Emma Kyle expressed hope for upcoming trips.

traveling," she (senior-advertising). "There's a lot of value with traveling abroad, and actually, journalism) said. in my English class, we were talking about... how it's really a the full story.

good learning experience to feel like you're a stranger in a place."

And, Kyle said she is in favor of vaccine protocols for travelers.

'You need to be mindful of the fact that you are a visitor, so you should be vaccinated," Kyle said. She also added that when travelers return home, they should remain careful to keep their community safe.

Marget Shelly said respect and protocols are paramount while traveling.

"I feel like you should be vaccinated if you want to go abroad, basically," Shelly (senior-human development and family studies) said.

International student Yunjie Zhao said she has been frustrated with the complications of traveling between China and the United States in the past year.

'I just feel like... when I went "I think it's great if [Penn back to America, the flight, be-State] can get students back cause of the restrictions — the price of the flight tickets were really high," Zhao (junior-

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The student section voices their opinion after a call during Penn State football's Stripe Out against Indiana at Beaver Stadium.

To email reporter: nfm5332@psu.edu. Follow her on Twitter at @niceirym.