

DAILY COLLEGIAN

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Photo by James Riccardo/Collegian

Community Cafe offers free dinners

By Grace Miller
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

It all started with soup and bagels.

What is currently Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church's Community Cafe was just a soup kitchen 10 years ago, but now serves an all-you-can-eat dinner with drinks and desserts for the community every Thursday.

The cafe is open to anyone who needs it, whether that person is a college student, a member of the church, a homeless individual or anyone else, according to Sharon Rovansek, volunteer and wife of the program's executive director Ron Rovansek.

Rovansek said the goal of the kitchen isn't only to provide meals, but to empower patrons to still have a choice in what they'd like to eat and foster a community feel.

"Some people are lonely," Rovansek said. "And that's a big deal with the cafe. We're not a prison. We always say that... We don't give you a scoop of potatoes, a scoop of meat and a scoop of this and shove it at you."

Rovansek said the kitchen tries to accommodate special dietary needs of patrons, offering vegan

and gluten-free options. The cafe gets its food from Wegmans, Trader Joe's and donations.

The cafe also has a "take home table" where patrons can take items like bread, vegetables and sometimes fruit. Patrons are also able to choose from a variety of toiletry items at no cost.

"We try to do our best to get everybody what they need as an individual and as a community," Rovansek said.

Rovansek said the cafe receives many donations from the community, patrons and the church, saying "we'll get anything from anybody at any time."

The Community Cafe does not keep track of who gives what donations, with its motto being "donations are accepted, but they're never expected." Rovansek said when the cafe is "more generous," the community responds by "embracing" it and giving back even more.

"Some people come in and put a penny in the [donation] jar or a quarter," Rovansek said. "It's as valuable as somebody that donates a lot."

Michael Weaver is a past patron of the Community Cafe since the early 2000s, but now



James Riccardo/Collegian

Keith Hickey, a volunteer and Penn State Employee, helps to prepare the first meals given to patrons.

volunteers his time at the cafe. Weaver decorates the cafe for community events, handles drinks and helps out with general tasks. He also makes the art for thank-you cards and has created some art that hangs in the cafe.

In addition to offering his time, Weaver has a system for how he gives back to the cafe.

"I [donate] \$2 every day except for on Thanksgiving Day, I do \$5," Weaver said. "That's one of my big things."

In the past 10 years, the cafe hasn't missed a single Thursday of meals, including holidays like Thanksgiving.

Weaver said he has a stress disorder, which can sometimes make tasks overwhelming, but he can keep up with the work at the cafe. During his time volunteering, Weaver has inspired change

within the inner workings of the cafe, creating ways for dinner to run more smoothly.

State College resident and volunteer Joan Bouchard has also helped make improvements within the cafe, saying she calls herself the "clean-up fairy."

"I'm here to show the love of Christ to all these different people," Bouchard said. "People that go to church with me, people that come here every Thursday and that maybe sleep out in the cold, and everybody in between."

Though they don't keep track of who comes to the cafe, Rovansek said she estimates that patrons who visit the cafe are 50 percent adults from the community, 25 percent students and the remaining number are residents who attend the church.

State College resident Tom Horne has been eating at the cafe since its creation. The giving atmosphere can sometimes cause the cafe to become hectic because they give so much stuff away, Horne said.

But the upside, however, is that the cafe is a good way to build relationships, according to Horne. Horne said he meets with individuals at the cafe that he only ever sees during these Thursday dinners.

"I look forward to it," Horne said.

According to Community Cafe's website, it is always accepting new volunteers and anyone interested may contact Ron at rrovansek@pacewater.com.

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James Riccardo/Collegian

Volunteer April Dawood stirs a pot in preparation for the upcoming dinner at the Community Caf .

New student organization to provide real-world opportunities for student musicians

By Lindsey Toomer
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State has hundreds of student musicians looking to gain experience and exposure in the music industry — Nittany Music Group may be their first step to make that happen.

When Devin Laserna first came to Penn State, he immediately noticed a lack of resources for student musicians to make connections and grow their brands.

Laserna (sophomore - business) founded Nittany Music Group with the idea of creating a music label for students. While a university organization cannot realistically be considered an actual "record label," Laserna hopes to provide student musicians with opportunities to network and gain experience in the live music industry.

"If you're an artist at Penn State, it is important to have your work shown — and I don't think there are any major student organizations giving that opportunity for exposure," Laserna said. "If you want your music to be known at Penn State and you want to be involved in a live career industry, you should come to us."

The club will be split into three committees: booking, marketing and artists and repertoire (A&R). Booking will be responsible for managing finances and finding venues to connect artists to performances. Marketing will be in charge of promoting the artists and the club on social media, as well as creating a website. A&R will act as the recruitment for the club, seeking out artists who could benefit from the club's resources and connecting them with producers, videographers, recording studios and other artists.

The artists who benefit from the club's resources will

also be the members who make it possible, participating in the committees to help other artists as well.

Laserna said if student musicians are serious about having a career in the music industry, it is important for them to have an understanding of how these processes function.

Eric Damiano is a fellow musician and friend of Laserna who has helped get the organization off the ground.

"Personally, the most exciting part of it is just meeting all the other people who want to do music," Damiano (sophomore - advertising) said. "It's not hard to find people who like music here, [but to find] other people who love to perform and make connections to start a music career."

Damiano is a prime example of a student who wants to provide help to the organization and its artists while also taking advantage of the resources to further his own music career.

He emphasized the impact the club can have for student musicians who don't know much about the industry.

Jonathan Gangi, a professor of arts entrepreneurship and guitar in the School of Music, serves as the organization's faculty adviser.

Gangi decided to become the faculty adviser for Nittany Music Group "because of the clear focus and the apparent strong leadership coming from [Laserna]." Laserna approached Gangi about becoming the adviser last semester, and he is currently enrolled in Gangi's music entrepreneurship course.

Laserna had a booth at the involvement fair earlier this month, where he gauged student interest and had about 40 students sign up for an email list. The club hosted its first meeting last week, where Laserna explained the

basic structure of the organization and what his goals are to about 10 potential members.

Since Nittany Music Group is so new, Laserna said the next step is to continue spreading the word and recruiting new members to help get the organization started. He hopes the club will meet regularly throughout the semester, and also find a time and a place to host an open mic night.

"Our goal is just to have a community of artists at Penn State," Laserna said. "We want to be able to promote artist work as much as possible through many different avenues. I want them to feel connected within a family, a club, and just have a network of people who they can collaborate with and rely on."

Gangi said considering the wide array of specializations within the School of Music, this club can be an opportunity to "connect all the pieces." He hopes the students of Nittany Music Group will take advantage of newly updated equipment in the School of Music's recording studio.

Damiano agreed with Gangi's sentiments, noting the openness and inclusivity of Nittany Music Group.

"I think that a lot of clubs and organizations here are targeted toward one specific genre or type of music, but we are open to everything — and we need everything," Damiano said.

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Professors weigh value of Electoral College

By Braden Dyreson
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

On Nov. 3, Americans across the country will cast their ballots to have a say in who is president of the United States – or so they think.

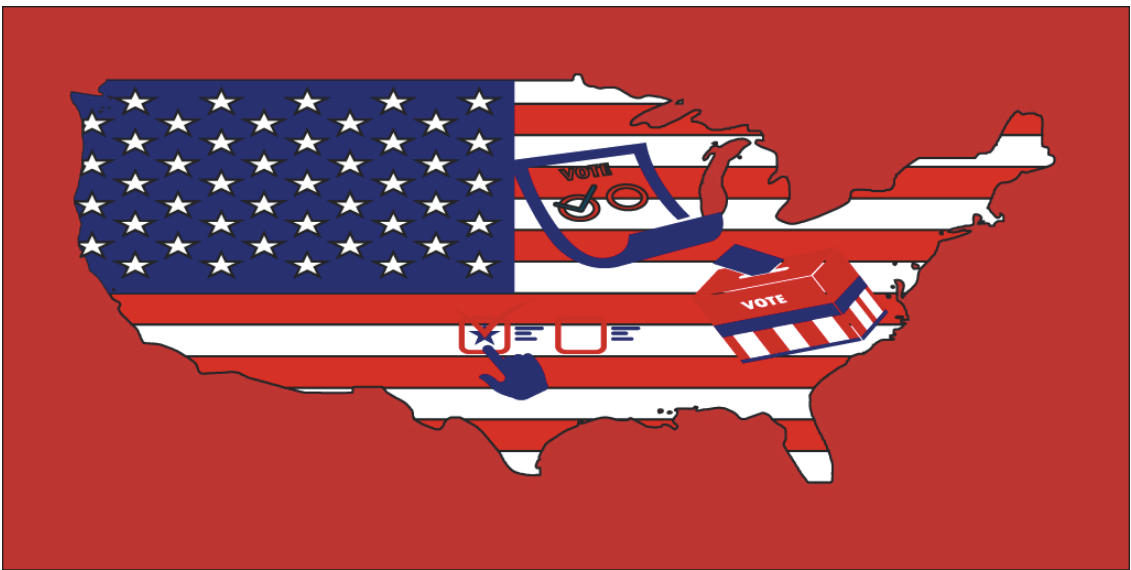
A prominent aspect of the American voting process is the Electoral College — who electors are actually voting for are other electors, who are allocated to states based upon their representation in Congress. Then, they vote for president and vice president based upon the popular vote of their respective state.

The Electoral College seems to be an unusual democratic process to a lot of voters. According to Dr. Robert Speel, Penn State Erie associate professor of political science, no other country chooses a head of government the way the United States does.

Speel said France used to elect its president with an Electoral College, but in the 1960s, voters decided to abolish the Electoral College in favor of a direct election.

The origin of the Electoral College goes back to the Constitutional Convention of 1787, in which the Founding Fathers argued over how the country should choose its leader of the executive branch.

“This is a more filtered democratic approach,” Dr. Jud



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Mathews, a Penn State law professor, said. “Some of the framers wanted to limit how democratic some of these processes are. They wanted to have it filter through intermediaries who might be more knowledgeable than the voters themselves.”

Mathews continued to explain that historically, the Electoral College was implemented because a direct election would disfavor slave states.

“James Madison at the Constitutional Convention said, ‘[Direct election] is not going to be good for the slave states.’ Madison, who is from Virginia, said he

would be willing to live with it, but no one else [from slave states] would, and that killed the idea [of a direct election],” Mathews said.

States are given electoral votes based upon their representation in the House of Representatives, which is determined by population, plus two votes for each Senator. The Three-Fifths Compromise meant that for census purposes, slaves in the South were counted as three-fifths of a person, giving more electoral power to slave states.

For legal and practical purposes, slaves were still considered property. This then

meant that slave states had more Electoral College power because they were allowed to count slaves who were not allowed to vote.

Today, the Electoral College continues to be controversial. Only four presidents have ever lost the popular vote but won the Electoral College — two of which happened in the last 20 years.

Many of those in favor of the Electoral College say that presidential candidates would ignore low-population and rural areas without it.

They argue candidates would just focus on major cities in order

to win nationwide election. Dr. Michael Berkman, director of the McCourtney Institute for Democracy and Penn State professor of political science, said one issue with the removal of the Electoral College is recounts. He said during the 2000 election, it all came down to the Florida vote, in which a recount had to take place.

The vote eventually went to the Supreme Court, with Berkman describing it as “chaos.”

“Imagine [without the Electoral College] if after the election, one candidate that lost is down by 20,000 votes and they can find those 20,000 votes anywhere in the country, rather than in a particular state,” Berkman said. “Then we’d be doing recounts all over the place. It would be very, very chaotic. Right now, you are kind of concentrating your problems with elections in particular states.”

However, Berkman said he generally feels the Electoral College is a mistake.

“[The Electoral College] does over-represent states with a lower population if you think about how many people are represented by each elector,” he said. “The electors from heavily urbanized states are representing more people from smaller states.”

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Penn State students on transferring into tradition

By Morgan Miller
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The start of the spring semester has brought new faces on campus at Penn State, as students who’ve transferred to the university are learning the ropes and adjusting to their new school.

Whether students are coming from one of Penn State’s commonwealth campuses or transferring from a different school, the decision to transition may be daunting.

In addition, starting at a new school in the middle of the year can make it difficult to get involved.

“I don’t think campus was super accommodating for me. They threw my entire orientation into several hours, whereas other students would get a full weekend earlier in the summer,” student Hannah Thornton said. “I had to figure out a lot of stuff for myself. I didn’t even know what THON was my freshman year.”

However, the office of New Student Orientation (NSO) works to incorporate the full NSO experience into the limited amount of time that students are given. It seeks to allow every student at

Penn State to feel prepared for the start of the semester.

Dan Murphy, director for Student Orientation and Transition Programs, said NSO is designed to introduce students to the campus, its resources and support services.

He said students also get the opportunity to meet with an orientation leader, a current student who acts as a resource and guide for new students.

“The orientation programming we offer to students starting in January is very similar to the opportunities available to students entering in the fall — though admittedly on a compressed timeline,” Murphy said.

After they are fully adjusted to the new experience of living on campus, many students found that the Penn State experience was “exactly what they were looking for.”

“I realized that my initial school was not the place for me, and I would be really unhappy if I spent four years there,” Thornton (junior-art education). “I actually wanted to go to Pitt, but my mom convinced me to go to Penn State instead. She came here for college and knew that I would like it.”

Domenic DeSanta initially attended Drexel University, spending one year there. However, he said it wasn’t the place for him.

“I was unhappy with the programs and with the school in general,” DeSanta (junior-economics) said.

DeSanta first saw Penn State when he began visiting his girlfriend at the university.

“Each time I visited, I fell more and more in love with the school and always wished I went there,” he said.

Students decide to choose Penn State for a variety of reasons, including the expansive campus and large student population.

“I knew that Penn State was the school that I wanted to transfer to just because I was unhappy at my previous university,” Amelia Reep (junior-music education) said. “I came and I met some really fabulous students and professors in my profession, and I feel in love with it here.”

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Lindsey Toomer/Collegian

Pablo’s Chicken Eatery will open on East Calder Avenue in 2020.

New restaurant to fill chicken lovers’ needs

By Michael Sneff
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

A new family-owned fried chicken restaurant, Pablo’s Chicken is coming soon to State College, with the hope that it can fill chicken lovers’ needs downtown.

The new chicken joint — located at 324 E. Calder Way — will be the third franchise to fill the space in two years after King Patacon and Barranquero Cafe closed their doors.

Pablo’s will feature fried chicken and sandwiches for now, and will create the rest of the menu pending the public’s reaction and opinions going forward. Sides will include various typical fried chicken accompaniers like fries and coleslaw.

“We’re spending a lot of time honing in on our fried chicken recipe,” Bryan Guerero — son of Pablo’s Chicken owner Uriel Guerero — said. “The great thing about chicken is that it’s so versatile. It can be put in sandwiches, as wings, as so many things.”

Bryan said he is planning to open the restaurant sometime before February.

Pablo’s is owned by the same family who owns the Bagel Crust franchise in State College, which was the

springboard for this new franchise.

“That’s what initially got us started here in State College,” Bryan said.

The family originally came to State College because Bryan’s cousin attended Penn State and, when visiting him, they fell in love with the area.

“We just saw the perfect opportunity to put up a bagel shop,” Bryan said. “I’ve been to many places around the world, and there’s just something special about the people here.”

The first Bagel Crust opened at 332 E. Calder Way, next to the new Pablo’s Chicken location, which has other locations in the State College area.

Uriel, the founder of Bagel Crust and Pablo’s Chicken, had the idea for the new restaurant while walking around downtown.

He posted on the new Pablo’s Chicken website his inspiration for opening the new location.

“I walked and I walked and I never found a place to get some freshly cooked chicken. That’s what sparked the idea,” the website reads. “So, sounds like a good enough reason to build a restaurant — when you like the food and there is a reasonable demand for the food, go for it, some would say.”

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



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MY VIEW | Cassandra Kidwell

Penn State is not responding to climate change at the rate it should

Change is a difficult, long and complicated process.

But change is ultimately necessary, especially when combating an idea like climate change — it is important to keep innovating and searching for the next best change for the sake of the common good.

Penn State has certainly made a lot of progress over the years in its growth of recycling programs, organizations that promote sustainability and the introduction of The Sustainability Institute.



Kidwell

Students are given many options to recycle and chose a sustainable lifestyle if they want to take it.

Compared to Penn State, Ohio State has taken ambitious goals in sustainability.

One of them is to achieve zero waste by 2025 by diverting 90% of waste away from landfills.

Even though this is an ambitious claim by Ohio State, I think these initiatives and possibly “out there” goals are amazing to promote the general consensus that wasteful habits need to stop.

As someone who is involved in environmentalist clubs at Penn State, I see the actions of

students who are constantly advocating change.

What is lacking, is a large amount of institutional support from the town board and Penn State for innovation that will do more than just word of mouth.

Many of those like myself who are active in Penn State’s sustainability community will be the first to say there are many changes that can be made to the recycling systems at Penn State.

We see that many students are open to be more sustainable, but Penn State needs to make it so that sustainability is the only option.

Penn State should be more clear and open to their initia-

tives — there are only vague plans of Penn State’s goal to achieve a sustainable campus life.

In the institute’s “Commitment to Impact” plan, it says, “This Plan’s supporting elements comprise a focus upon: organizational processes, infrastructure and support, constituent outreach and engagement.”

While these ideals are necessary steps for a plan to succeed, I believe they do not assure any real changes will occur.

I have, however, seen tremendous growth from The Sustainability Institute and with reusable energy around Penn State, but no large goals that shows Penn State is working at the same pace as other top institutes.

I also spoke to my friend who attends Ohio State, and she said that the school has recycling bins on all dorm floors.

Penn State recently removed most recycling bins from individual floors in East, South and Pollock halls.

Instead, Penn State gives students the choice to walk down to the ground floor to recycle, or often the easier choice: to not recycle at all.

State College also does not have a very inclusive recycling program, sending plastics to landfills that would be recycled in other townships.

As a person who has given in to the daily life of buying overpriced Starbucks, I was astonished to find out Penn State (and the town of State College)

does not recycle everyday plastic cups.

If a Starbucks cup was put in the recycling bin, it would ultimately contaminate the recycling and potentially be sent to the landfill instead.

Technically, Penn State is not at fault in this case, as they abide to the town’s recycling laws and programs. But it is hard to believe that Penn State, as an innovative institution, does not have more power to change those rules.

This comes to the difficult part of change. Sustainability and overall attitudes towards climate change have become a political ideal — a mistake mentality since the start of the popularization of the climate change discussion.

It seems climate change action is constantly swept aside in its importance.

The innovations of climate change have been continuous; the knowledge of what is harmful to the earth is apparent, yet the politics of lawmaking and attitudes towards change is what keeps institutions like Penn State from being even more eco-friendly.

We should be taking steps forward into a more zero-waste society, and the backwards step in decreasing dorm recycling and lack of clear plan does not show hope for a more sustainable campus.

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Collegian file photo

Recycling bins in the HUB-Robeson Center on Wednesday, March 27, 2019.

MY VIEW | Jake Aferiat

Hillary Clinton’s critique of Bernie Sanders is hypocritical

Hillary Clinton has been a part of the American political scene for over 30 years, and in the process, has become one of the most polarizing figures in history during that time.

Her 2016 run for president saw her win the popular vote by more than 3

million votes over Donald Trump, who wiped the floor with Clinton in the Electoral College.

It was unlikely she would’ve sought public office again or run for president a third time. She could’ve stayed out of the spotlight and become a lecturer or a professor or sat on a corporate board and made even more money than she already has.

But instead, Clinton has insisted on relitigating the 2016 Democratic primary wherein she got 3 million more votes and almost 1,000 more delegates than runner-up Bernie Sanders.

Sanders rightly criticized Clinton’s record on everything from her votes for the Iraq War to her close ties to Wall Street to her foreign policy as Secretary of State. Clinton would often fire back, and the two would exchange blows.

But that could be chalked up to the spirit of a campaign and

trying to win a major political party’s nomination for president.

Now though, Clinton has taken to attacking Sanders once again, this time on a more personal level, alleging that Sanders has few fans and is hurting the future of the Democratic Party.

Maybe Clinton is threatened by Sanders’ rise because she does know that Sanders’ positions — Medicare for All, a Green New Deal, championing the working class and making sweeping criminal justice and higher education reforms — are all wildly popular and represent the best of the Democratic Party.

After all, Clinton took a lot of Sanders’ positions and moved to the left in the primary and the general, suggesting she perhaps saw some merit to his positions.

People like to invoke Franklin Roosevelt and other progressive champions when talking about all of the successes of the Democratic Party, but few people bring up Bill Clinton and his milquetoast, moderate reforms that he pushed.

Yet people try to flex their progressive bona fides and still oppose much of Sanders’ platform, instead promoting some middle of the road liberalism where they don’t really fight and champion for much.

Clinton has fought for causes in the past, yes, but she’s also an incredibly wealthy white

“But when leaders from communities of color can’t get the airtime or the column inches because of the media landscape, it’s not hard to believe we keep hearing from the same voices.”

Jake Aferiat

woman who has had an inordinate amount of privilege for much of her adult life.

It’s a weighty charge, but with Trump in office, it’s hard to imagine Clinton has been forced to change her lifestyle much and still has much of the same privilege and same status she had before.

Meanwhile, Sanders has railed against the political elite and bucked the status quo, suggesting perhaps Clinton would have to change things up.

She’s quick to tweet her thoughts, sit in front of a camera or talk to reporters and be revered as some clairvoyant, must listen to pundit, but it’s done harm to people of color whose stories and voices need to be heard as well.

Sanders has long been a fierce advocate for marginalized communities, rallying around Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ilhan Omar and

Rashida Tlaib, but it’s still important that he gives people of color platforms and voices as well. But when leaders from communities of color can’t get the airtime or the column inches because of the media landscape, it’s not hard to believe we keep hearing from the same voices.

The ironic part about all of Clinton’s criticism of Sanders is that a new CNN poll has Sanders leading the primary field, while Clinton herself got major support from Sanders in Clinton’s efforts to beat Trump, campaigning for Clinton in states she didn’t bother to show up in.

Hillary Clinton has done some good and important things in her political career — standing up against the Defense of Marriage Act, opposing President Bush’s tax cuts and voting against Samuel Alito and John Roberts to be on the Supreme Court, to name a few.

But now, with the stakes of the 2020 Democratic Primary and ensuing general election incredibly high, Clinton has done more harm than good in fighting for progressive causes and trying to beat Trump by decrying Sanders to the extent she has.

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How John Harrar changed his approach

By Caleb Wilfinger
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

John Harrar's sophomore season didn't go according to plan.

After a freshman campaign in which the 6-foot-9, 240-pound big man saw action in 27

games and started the last eight, proving to be an essential component in Penn State's run to an NIT championship.

The 2018-19 season however was one that featured more bumps in the road for Harrar.

While he started the season getting significant playing time alongside Mike Watkins in Penn State's frontcourt, Harrar's playing time decreased in the second half of the season and he was not able to find the form that made him so effective in the 2018 Big Ten Tournament, and the subsequent NIT run that followed.

One year after the then-freshman had seven points and 12 rebounds in only 11 minutes in the Nittany Lions' NIT championship win over Utah, Harrar was on the bench in crunch time as his team crumbled in a loss to Minnesota in the second round of the Big Ten Tournament.

It was a frustrating year for the Wallingford, Pennsylvania native, and Harrar had a lot to think about heading into the summer.

"I needed to work on my confidence," Harrar said. "Last year didn't exactly go the way I wanted, and I met with coach [Pat] Chambers right before our first summer session to talk about how I could get in better shape and bounce back from last year to be the best frontcourt player I could be."

But the book on Harrar's time at Penn State was far from closed, and the forward was determined to rewrite the story of his career.

It started with a change in his diet.

Instead of continuing with the same eating plan as he had followed in years past, Harrar cut down on eating out, and made it a personal focus to maintain a healthier diet going forward.

"I think the biggest thing I



Aabha Vora/Collegian

Forward John Harrar (21) sings the alma mater during the game against Iowa at the Palestra in Philadelphia on Saturday, Jan. 4. No. 21 Penn State defeated No. 25 Iowa 89-86.

accomplished in the offseason is how I've improved my diet," Harrar said at Penn State's media day in October. "I try cooking at home more now, and I've been learning stuff that our strength coach tells me to do. I was about 249-250 pounds at the end of last season, and now I'm down to 238."

Harrar also took it upon himself to change his daily mindset, improving his mentality, on and off the basketball court.

He even ran a half marathon in the offseason as a way of becoming more mentally tough, proving to himself that he could have a more focused and determined outlook.

"My first day back at Penn State [this summer], I went to the track and just ran a half marathon to try and change the story in my head," Harrar said. "I noticed that last year, the negative stories I would tell myself were not good or helpful to myself, or

anyone around me."

For Harrar, changing the script on how he approached his life, and basketball, was as simple as getting back to a routine that motivated the junior to attack his daily obligations with a sense of purpose and vigor.

During his freshman year, he would work out after the games, challenging himself to raise his level long after the fans had left the Bryce Jordan Center.

But a season ago, Harrar let himself be comfortable, and opted not to do those postgame workouts most nights.

"I know everyone goes through it," Harrar said. "I just think the stories I told myself were not allowing me to challenge myself and make my life more meaningful. That's what makes me who I am."

For the first half of the season, it appeared as if those adjustments made by Harrar had not

translated onto the court yet.

Outside of an early season game against Georgetown, Harrar failed to have much of a tangible impact on the court, clearing 15 minutes in just 4 of the team's first 14 games, and was unable to register a shot attempt in six of those contests.

But the junior knew that his time would eventually come, and his patience was rewarded last week.

Harrar's first start of the season came in a crucial game against Minnesota, and the big man responded well to being inserted into the starting five.

Tasked with the challenge of facing off against one of the best players in the Big Ten in Daniel Oturu, Harrar held his own, shooting 3-of-3 from the field and preventing Oturu from doing any damage on the offensive end while he was guarding him.

The insertion of Harrar into the

starting lineup has also allowed for fellow frontcourt mate Mike Watkins to focus on playing freely and without boundaries, a fact that Chambers believes is imperative to the success of the team.

"I think [starting Harrar] has been beneficial for both him and Mike [Watkins]," Chambers said. "Mike is playing even harder now and not worrying about foul trouble, and John is starting to produce offensively. He's got great confidence right now. I think both guys are really enjoying their success."

Even though it ultimately came in a losing effort, Harrar's performance was more than enough to earn another start a few days later.

This was a chance that the big man would take advantage of, as Harrar tallied a season-high 21 minutes, scored six points on 3-of-5 shooting and pulled down five rebounds in Penn State's win over Ohio State last Saturday.

It was the kind of effort that earned the praise of both his teammates and coaches, and could hint at a longer stint in the starting lineup for Harrar as the season continues.

"He played great, that dunk he had was monstrous," senior forward Lamar Stevens said after the win over Ohio State. "I thought he defended well against [Kaleb] Wesson, and made things hard on him. He always plays hard, gives us solid defense, good ball-screen defense and he'll score when he gets the ball."

In his third season, Harrar's growth in confidence is noticeable, and it has revealed itself in the way he has carried himself since summer workouts.

But the biggest difference in how Harrar approaches life, and basketball compared to years past is his mindset and self-belief.

"When I got here, I saw how good guys like Mike [Watkins] and Lamar [Stevens] were, and I knew I could work hard enough to get to that level," Harrar said. "For me, just sorting everything out between my ears was what helped me separate myself now from who I was before."

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Texas native Blake Gober's unique perspective

By Matthew Knaub
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Blake Gober's first experience playing hockey didn't involve ice, sticks or pucks.

Using a mouse and a keyboard, Gober and his childhood friend began playing the Backyard Hockey computer game at the age of six.

While Backyard Hockey wasn't Gober's first or only exposure to the sport he now plays for Penn State, it's what made him interested in playing hockey. He and his friend began taking lessons two weeks after playing the game for the first time, launching Gober into what would become unusual journey.

"My mom was all for it, just because she's a big sports fan too," Gober said. "So, she was pretty pumped to get me into it."

A native of Colleyville, Texas, a suburb of Dallas and Fort Worth, Gober played football and hockey as a kid. He played the former until just prior to his freshman year of high school, when hockey

became his sole athletic focus.

"I loved playing football," Gober said. "I was pretty good at it until everyone else starting growing and I stayed the same size."

A Dallas Stars fan, Gober credits the Stars for helping grow hockey's popularity in the Dallas-Fort Worth Area, a nontraditional hockey market.

"When they won the [Stanley] Cup in [1999], [it] was huge," Gober, who was four years old at the time of the championship, said. "Now again that we have guys like [Jamie] Benn and [Tyler] Seguin and big-time players, I think it helps, a lot."

According to USA Hockey, there were 5,932 registered ice hockey players in Texas in 1998-99. That number grew to 7,060 players the following year and swelled to 15,026 by 2017-18, according to FanSided.

Dallas recently hosted the 2020 Winter Classic against Nashville at the Cotton Bowl stadium in front of 85,630 spectators, the second-largest crowd in NHL history. The Stars defeated the Predators 4-2.

"It's a big football city [and]

state," Gober said. "Getting to see a big-time hockey game like that will definitely have some kids wanting to go play hockey."

Gober left his native Texas and moved to Michigan during his freshman year of high school to play for HoneyBaked Hockey Club.

As a member of the youth hockey club in Farmington Hills, Michigan, Gober won a national championship and began to realize his future in the sport.

"It was right around that time that I knew that I wanted to keep doing this and that I could probably play college hockey," Gober said.

Gober grew up in a Baylor family, as his great-grandfather F.B. Strickland, played football and baseball for the Bears in the 1920s and his grandfather, F.B. Strickland Jr., played baseball for Baylor in the late 1950s.

Gober's parents are also Baylor graduates, but when it became clear he would pursue college hockey, the university wasn't an option because it does not sponsor NCAA men's hockey.

"By the time I wanted to even start thinking about where I would go to college, it was already in the back of my mind that I wanted to play college hockey," Gober said. "None of the southern schools are really an option for me, so they always knew I'd go somewhere else."

Gober returned to Texas to finish high school, and then played several seasons of junior hockey in various leagues. He played for the Bloomington Thunder of the United States Hockey League from 2014-2016, when the forward began to draw attention from NCAA programs.

In two campaigns with the Thunder, Gober registered 20 goals and 43 points in 101 career contests. He served as an assistant captain in 2015-16, his best USHL season.

"I always wanted to go to a big school with a big football team that had everything, not just a hockey school," Gober said. "When Penn State came calling, I knew that's where I wanted to be."

The only Texan in program his-

tory and one of the few Nittany Lions to hail from the southern U.S., Gober has impacted Penn State in more ways than one. Now a senior, the forward has helped the program both on and off the ice.

"It's [been] fun to see him improve since my freshman year and really [see] what he means [to the team]," forward Alex Limoges said. "He pushes everybody else to work harder on the ice, especially in the weight room too."

Gober played 16 games in each of his first two seasons with the Nittany Lions.

He excelled during his freshman campaign, registering six points and finishing with a +6 plus-minus.

Gober saw a lot more ice time in 2018-19, playing in 30 matchups while recording three points, all of which were assists.

"He gives his best effort day in and day out," Limoges said. "It's just fun seeing what he can do out there."

With the influx of freshman forwards this season, Gober's playing time has shrunk drasti-

cally. So far, he's appeared in just two contests.

However, Gober has always found a way to help his fellow Penn State teammates, whether he's on the ice or on the bench.

"Gober is a guy that has really learned to be incredibly positive," Guy Gadowsky said. "He's been probably the best tool that we've had to make sure that we have a positive environment even in very tough times, when it's tough to crack the lineup."

Gober has helped guide younger players who do not see regular ice time, a situation in which he's experienced both sides of the coin. Gadowsky believes Gober's leadership is vital to a team's chemistry, especially over the course of a long season.

"[Not playing] can be a distraction that can derail a team for good," Gadowsky said. "What we've really appreciated is how he's taught and mentored anybody, and most players are going to come into that [particular] situation at one point."

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Ken Minamoto/Collegian

Blake Gober (23) battles for the puck with Ottawa player Connor Brown-Maloski (10) during the game against the University of Ottawa.



James Leavy/Collegian

Forward Blake Gober (23) glides during a game against Clarkson University at Pegula Ice Arena, on Friday, Oct. 12, 2018.

Future Nittany Lions star for Team USA

By **Lindsey Scott**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Team Canada danced around Team USA's defensive zone with possession of the puck in the 2020 IIHF U18 Women's World Championship game as it extended into overtime.

Kiara Zanon and team captain Maggie Nicholson cut off a pass meant for a Canadian defenseman and a tight defense suddenly turned into a footrace toward Team Canada's goalie.

Before Nicholson peeled off from the net, she dished a backhand pass off to Zanon, who smacked it past the goaltender.

Just like that, the United States won its eighth gold medal since 2008, thanks to a future Nittany Lion.

Zanon, along with USA teammate Lyndie Lobdell, are two of the seven commits who will join Penn State for the 2020-21 season.

Watching the goal unfold, you never would have known Zanon was looking for a line change off the ice.

"I was at the end of a long shift," Zanon said. "I was actually trying to get off but I got stuck out there. [It was] me and Nicholson."

Zanon recalls pressuring Canada's defender at the top of the blue line with Nicholson and the two poking the puck away to turn game play into a 2-on-1.

"[Nicholson] made a great pass, all I had to do was tap it in," Zanon said.

Zanon and Lobdell had plenty of success with their club teams before making it on Team USA, but before representing their country, they had to undergo the long and anxiety-inducing process of being selected for the U18 team.

"It's very nerve wracking," Lobdell said. "A lot of anxiety in it, but the outcome is amazing and the experience is amazing no matter what."

The process begins in the

spring before the tournament takes place.

The first of many tryouts is district camp, a local tryout of sorts held in 12 different areas. If they make it through camp without being cut, they are invited to a what Crowell calls "select camp" in the summer.

From then to August, 72 of the most elite female players for that age group in the nation are cut down to 22 by August.

The players still remaining are then invited to play in the USA Women's Hockey National Festival.

"They're always under pressure in those tryout environments," Team USA U18 coach Maura Crowell said. "They don't know where they stand, even if you've made the team before, there are no guarantees."

Crowell continued to say that even when tryouts are over and the roster is posted, a whole new wave of pressure is soon to come.

"Even once you make that world roster and there with us, it's another level of pressure. Now you're with the top players in the country," Crowell said. "We're talking about representing your country and wearing the red, white and blue. It's the highest honor for them."

The selected players then move on to play against Team Canada in a series. After the series and festival in August, the team waits until November for the tournament roster.

"To have the opportunity is just absolutely incredible. I think the piece that sticks with me is obviously the competition. You're playing against the best players, and every game is a close game. You never know what could happen," Zanon said.

Lobdell echoed her future teammate's sentiments.

"It is insane honor to be able to play with Team USA. I know that we have a lot of eyes on us, but it is surreal to think that so many eyes are on us and on me," Lobdell said. "The focus was really on us in December, so many people



Courtesy of Kiara Zanon

Kiara Zanon (11) celebrates her gold medal winnng goal against Canada on January 2, 2020.

were wondering how it was going and watching us."

"It was really amazing to be a part of that but I tend to focus on what we are doing on and off the ice instead of who's watching and what's going on on the outside."

In the end, the extensive process of making it to Worlds was all worth it to Zanon and Lobdell, especially when it ended with them winning gold.

"Everyone asks me, 'How does it feel?' and I can't put it into words," Zanon said. "It is

something I have worked towards my whole life, all of us have. And last year we came up short. So to come out on top this year, especially against Canada, it means more than anything."

Lobdell, who was not a part of the team last year, did not experience the sting of losing to Canada, but she was ecstatic nonetheless about winning gold.

"It is unbelievable. It took a long time for it to sink in and still hasn't fully sunk in at this point," Lobdell said.

After performing on a stage the world was tuning in on, coming to Penn State will be a big change for the pair.

Nevertheless, the two look forward to their futures at Penn State.

"[Visiting Penn State] got me so pumped up to be a part of something that's growing so much and being a part of a team that wants to be the best, wants to do what they can to be the best," Lobdell said. "I'm coming in with a class that I'm actually really excited about and a coach who I've been following for a while. I'm excited to be a part of this team and see what it has to bring."

Crowell spoke highly of the two and how big of an impact she believes the two will have on the Penn State team.

"I think there'll be impact players right away. They're both awesome kids, great to work with, very coachable and both mature," Crowell said. "I think they're both going to add a ton to [Penn State's] offense and I think they'll both add good speed."

Having the experience and history Zanon and Lobdell have to their names, the two are likely to become valuable contributors to Penn State.

"Knowing the two of them and what they bring both on and off the ice and knowing a lot of teams around the country from a distance, I would say that they have the ability to really help a culture, help from the on ice product that they're able to put out there and help get the program to a really good spot," Crowell said.

Crowell did caution that the two are still young and that they may need to adjust before producing for the team.

"They're still going to be freshmen and they're going to be going through those growing pains," Crowell said, "But as they grow and develop over the years I would expect great things from them."

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Crossword

Across

- 1 Surveyor's map
- 5 Abbey area
- 9 Arizona city
- 14 Tales and such
- 15 Place for a comb
- 16 Walking ____
- 17 Kind of car
- 18 And others (Abbr.)
- 19 Distorts
- 20 Fraternity members
- 21 Impertinent one
- 22 Tiny village
- 23 Swagger
- 25 Give a hoot
- 26 German spa
- 27 Mute
- 31 Thunderstorm product
- 34 Reading lights
- 35 ____ culpa
- 36 Actor's goal
- 37 Creepers
- 38 Farm sound
- 39 Helm heading
- 40 Yak's home
- 41 Montana city
- 42 Damages beyond repair
- 44 Took place
- 45 Kind of skirt
- 46 Impersonate
- 50 Indian turnover
- 53 Fat
- 54 Australian runner
- 55 Scrub
- 56 Root beer brand
- 57 Bit of physics
- 58 Duplicate
- 59 Emerald Isle
- 60 Cylindrical metal container

Down

- 1 Kind of line or bob
- 2 Failure
- 3 Boxing site
- 4 "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" character
- 5 Makes right
- 6 Place for a barbecue
- 7 Ginger cookie
- 8 Electric ____
- 9 In the direction of
- 10 Crown covering
- 11 Earthy deposit
- 12 Water carrier
- 13 Once, once
- 21 Identical
- 22 Heavenly strings
- 24 Let off steam
- 25 Extraterrestrial body
- 27 Diminishes
- 28 Discharge
- 29 Transmitted
- 30 "For goodness ____!"
- 31 Newspaper piece
- 32 Western writer
- 33 Metallurgist's materials
- 34 OPEC land
- 37 String quartet member
- 38 Evict
- 40 Part of a board
- 41 Lyric poet
- 43 Stickers
- 44 Go downhill
- 46 Military chaplain
- 47 Old-fashioned
- 48 French romance
- 49 Scrumptious
- 50 Pouches
- 51 Competent
- 52 Night light
- 53 Animal shelter
- 56 Morning moisture
- 57 Do sums

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WORD SEARCH

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On the Farm

Acres
Agriculture
Allalfa
Baler
Barley
Barn
Bull
Cattle
Chickens
Coop
Cows
Cultivator
Dairy
Farmer
Field
Grain
Harvest
Hay
Hogs
Mulch
Orchard
Flow
Produce
Ranch
Scarecrow
Silo
Stable
Tiller
Tractor
Wheat

I H C O W S J R D U H R Y Y R C L R
D M A X E C O V E C U D O R P A F O
F P T G T T A E H W R R Z L L F V T
A F N I C P C O F B C T Y F I P O A
T U B A L N C T A H N I A R G S E V
T S R R A L R L A J M L K C P L H I
C T E Y A H E R H J F I A B J C K T
H J W V J R D R W A O T J A V M U L
I X O T R M W Z F U T D X Y Z R Q U
C Y R L Z A Y X S L L U B X B E M C
K J C G U W H S E J K R E V L Z P P
E D E M U L C H K B A A B B O Y Y F
N L R G M Y J V X W F C A E P R R B
S E A S D L R M O A O T R S Q E I A
C I C V G A E L J O S Q N E Z M A R
S F S J N O P U P F F M T D S R D L
C E F C J G H K C E X Y N X Z A G E
C K H M A G R I C U L T U R E F W Y

Kakuro (Cross Sums)

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

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