

# DAILY COLLEGIAN

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## Clubs promote sustainability at Penn State

By Lesley Cosme  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State has a variety of environmental organizations and several of them gathered at the HUB on Sunday afternoon to celebrate Earth Day and help guide those who wish to partake more in environmentally sustainable practices.

Several organizations gave away free take-homes in hopes to engage students in advance of Earth Day.

Some of those take-homes included reusable bags, homemade pins, coasters made from used bathroom tiles, soil for planting flowers and pamphlets further promoting healthy living.

There were several clubs, each with their own philosophy and take on what can be done to live more suitably within the Penn State community. The Daily Collegian spoke with each of these clubs about their missions and goals for Earth Day.

### Sierra Club

The Penn State chapter of the Sierra club strives to make a difference regarding climate change through student action.

The Sierra Club lobbies for environmentally-friendly legislation and advances environmental candidates who would perform in their favor.

Most recently, the Sierra Club has contacted over 300 restaurants in the local area asking them not to give out plastic straws.

“We really believe in the power of Penn State youth,” Doug Mason, the chair of the Penn State chapter of the Sierra Club, said. “They will really need to make a difference because these students are the ones who will have to live with the consequences of climate change, not me.”

### Eco Reps

Eco Reps is an organization on campus that tries to promote sustainable living for students that live in dorms.

Members of Eco Reps lead activities



and events to educate peers on more sustainable behaviors.

“We help students try and recycle in their dorm in many ways,” Louise Shaffer said.

“We try and get students to shut off their lights when they’re not using them and try and promote taking shorter showers,” Shaffer (sophomore-chemical engineering) added.

### Penn State Community Garden

The Penn State Community Garden is a garden on campus with approximately 100 slots — 50 percent reserved for students who would like to grow things and 50 percent for Penn State faculty, staff and the State College community members to try out gardening for themselves.

Plot members of the community garden are given access to a 10-foot by 15-foot garden plot and free use of garden tools, compost and mulch.

Members are also provided with gardening workshops that can help further their knowledge of the health and growth of their plants.

“We’re really passionate about getting people to grow their own food and plants,” said Laura Kaminsky.

“It helps when people really get in there and get their hands dirty,” Kaminsky (PhD student-plant pathology) added.

### Penn State Outing Club

The Penn State Outing Club (PSOC) is an entirely student-run organization that

is solely dedicated to experiencing the outdoors.

PSOC organizes backpacking trips, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, and trail maintenance trips from Catskills all the way to California.

PSOC is dedicated to helping their community and often helps with extension programs at Shaver’s Creek.

“We are simply a club dedicated to the outdoors,” Shaywn Chang said.

“We run weekly hikes and help connect people to the outdoors. All we want to do is help people obtain their sustainable goals, and help them learn to care about the environment,” Chang (sophomore-biology) said.

### Eco-Action

Eco-Action is the organizer of all annual earth day activities and the oldest environmental activism club on campus.

The club strives to educate students about current environmental issues and how to generate change within their communities.

Eco-Action President, Amelia Geiser spoke about the current campaign that eco-action is wishing to fulfill campus wide.

“When Penn State renegotiates their Pepsi contract, we want them to include less single use plastic and instead put more funding towards filling stations for reusable water bottles,” said Geiser (sophomore-environmental resource management).

According to Geiser, Eco-Action is about empowering the student voice, and making sure it is heard and listened to campus wide.

Eco-Action advisor, Derek Kalp, mentioned how proud he was of all the students that attended and partook in this event.

“These students are extremely committed and dedicated,” Kalp said. “It’s all about being a part of community that is interested in one thing, saving the Earth.”

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Lindsey Shuey/Collegian

## Students believe ‘Earth Day should be every day’

By Jade Campos  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Earth Day is present for Millennials and Generation Z’ers alike throughout their childhoods.

For many, the holiday was celebrated at their schools in order to raise awareness about sustainability at a young age. Some schools would bring students out into nature to celebrate and others would have students spend the day cleaning up litter.

Jeffrey Binet remembers Earth Day from his childhood in a different way, though. Binet (freshman-film) recalls the TV channel Nickelodeon encouraging viewers to go outside for the day and enjoy nature as they turned off access to programs.

While the holiday has been prevalent through many young people’s lives, some remain unaware of the meaning behind Earth Day.

“That’s all I remember [about Earth Day],” Binet said of his childhood memories.

Each year on April 22, Earth

Day is celebrated across the United States to raise awareness about issues in the environment. It began in 1970 with the beginning of the environmental movement promoting sustainability. Many people across the country come together on Earth Day to celebrate the planet and focus on creating greener habits.

“[It’s a day to] remind ourselves that we need to do something,” Sunakshi Verma said.

Verma (junior-neuropsychology) said she believes that Earth Day is a time for people to realize the environmental impacts humans are causing. However, she said there shouldn’t be just one day focused on the environment.

“Just doing something on one particular day wouldn’t matter,” Verma said. “We need to change little things throughout the year.”

For some students, however, specific holidays celebrating the planet are meaningful. Sarah Files described Earth Day as a “really special day,” though she noted she didn’t know much about the holiday.

“I try to take care of the Earth as much as possible,” Files (senior-music) said. She said she plants a tree each year for Arbor Day, a holiday dedicated to planting trees that takes place a few days after Earth Day.

However, some students believe that people should be doing more about issues like climate change. Vanshika Madaan is a member of Eco-Reps, a group focused on promoting sustainability on campus, specifically in housing and dining. Madaan (freshman-earth science) agreed with the idea that green habits shouldn’t be limited to one day, whether it be Earth Day or Arbor Day.

Madaan said she believes that much of the issue is due to a lack of knowledge. She said that the campus should focus on spreading information to students in an efficient way that would reach many people. In order to reach all students, Madaan thinks orientation is a good time to teach incoming freshman about recycling habits.

“Many people aren’t sure how to [recycle] even if they want to,” Madaan said.

Across campus, many students said they would like to know more about sustainability and Earth Day. Binet said he learned about Earth Day through Google, though he wishes Penn State would provide more information about the holiday through emails and reminders.

“I don’t think it’s a good idea for me to only find out it’s Earth Day through Google,” Binet said.

Genna Aldridge said she doesn’t really do much for Earth Day outside of her Girl Scouts troop growing up. However, Aldridge (sophomore-biomedical engineering) believes that Penn State should do more to bring the campus together for the holiday.

“It kind of feels like there’s nothing we can do as an individual, but it would be cool to see that mass action,” Aldridge said.

Even with efforts throughout all years of education, some students agree it still isn’t enough. Cal Forster remembers attending

annual assemblies on Earth Day to spread sustainability awareness. Forster (junior-kinesiology) said he understands human impacts on the environments, but just one day a year hasn’t been enough to change his habits.

Brett Hoffman agrees that many students aren’t sure of how they can “minimize their carbon footprints.” However, Hoffman (sophomore-hospitality) said that the university is doing “all they can” when it comes to informing students about recycling. With all of the different recycling bins across campus, Hoffman said he thinks students have the resources they need to live a greener life. For students like Aldridge who grew up with the holiday but no longer have activities to celebrate, Earth Day is still important to them. Aldridge described it as a “day to celebrate the Earth and be reminded that we need to take care of her.”

“I think Earth Day should be every day,” Hoffman said. “We shouldn’t have just one day to celebrate the Earth.”

MY VIEW | LAUREN LEE

# Failing at success and the road thus far

Before I came to college, I didn't think having mental health issues was a thing. My best friend in high school dealt with severe depression and anxiety. Although I was there for her as a friend, I couldn't fully grasp what she was going through. Until I did. It was the summer of sophomore year and I could not bring myself to get out of bed. I stayed in State College for an internship and found myself not caring about whether I should get up to eat. I thought to myself, 'How did I get here?'

One of my main struggles was with my own self-validation and whether I thought I was successful enough. Through social media, I would constantly compare myself to others – was I doing enough to match with the perceived success of my peers in the same major as me? Was I enough?

Even professors in the College of Communications would worry me by saying, "You should be doing this or else you won't get that job."

I remember when I was a freshman, I had to state what my dream job was in my class and they said, "Are you sure? You have to work really hard at that."

I just remember how defeating that was right off the bat coming into college when I was already unsure of myself. Too often I would tie my happiness and self worth with whether I got that sparkling internship or wrote enough articles.

As much work as I tried to complete, I still didn't feel like I was doing enough to make myself happy. It was an endless cycle of me being frustrated that I wasn't doing enough and when I was doing enough I still felt like I had to do more. I exhausted myself.

It took too long for me to realize that it didn't have to be that way. It took me until this past summer to realize that I am worth it. And as cheesy as it sounds, I needed to trust the process of growth. I assumed that I had to be the best as a sophomore even though I didn't have years of experience as a reporter.

Why was I stressing out so much when I could have just been patient with myself and used that energy to focus on becoming better?

And I know I'm not alone. All too often – especially students majoring in communications – are extremely stressed out.

A part of what set me free from my crippling self-criticism was taking a semester to literally leave the country. Studying in Paris gave me the space to rediscover my passions: friendships, art, and traveling. I had to let myself take time for myself and not feel too bad for sticking with my passions.

However, not every student can afford studying abroad, which is another issue that could be saved for another article. So for those who are currently thinking, "I do not know who I am," take a step back right now. Go back to the



Courtesy of Lauren Lee

**From left, Sarah Moore, Lauren Lee, Katherine McCaffrey, Michelle Bongiovanni and Gilberto Orozco** sitting together in Bruges, Belgium.

basics. What makes you smile? What makes gets you excited? If you don't know yet, try something that peaked your interest but you were too afraid to join. 4 years seems like a long time, but boy does it fly fast.

Take for instance seeing your friends. Why are you friends with them? What about them makes you happy?

On the dark days, hold onto a small thing that makes your day. Cherish your relationships with friends who support you and root for you in all your endeavors.

There is not enough time to focus on making sure someone likes you if they're not providing support in your life.

Check on your friends. Make

sure you let them know you care about them.

And for those who are going through hard times, thank your friends. I can't imagine all the times I've had hard discussions with my best friends Gab, Ashley, Klaudia, Vibha and Mike. They truly helped me get out of my funk.

Going back to basics, caring about my friends and my passions is what gave me space to learn more about myself and what goals I want to achieve in life. Sometimes it's all about taking a step back.

One last note: for the women of color on campus, you are strong.

For the women of color who are journalists, politicians, or in

any leadership roles, you are an inspiration to many.

There have been many times where I would find myself in a room and I was the only person of color. It can be intimidating. But what's important is that we continue to strive for greatness and also support other women of color to achieve the best.

Thanks mom and dad for supporting me through all my endeavors. I simply could not be where I am today without your support.

Thank you to 306 legends for being the best family at college and my Paris people for all the adventures.

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Aabha Vora/Collegian

**Alison Kuznitz (senior-print/digital journalism and marketing)** is the overall student marshal for the Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications. She is the Features & Investigation Editor at The Daily Collegian.

MY VIEW | ALISON KUZNITZ

## A morale booster bids farewell to the snazziest valley, paper

There's this beautifully renovated, yet vaguely sinister-looking, fraternity house at 220 N. Burrowes St., awkwardly wedged amid academic buildings and residence halls.

It's a smear on this campus. But it's good that Beta Theta Pi — while permanently banned — is still there.

The house silently bears witness to the agony and death of Timothy Piazza, a 19-year-old victim of a broken, perilous greek like culture that Penn State administrators ignored for far too long.

And then, less than a five-minute walk away, there's a slightly crumbling, albeit adorable, red brick building at 123 S. Burrowes St. that makes my heart swell each time I see it — which is often. After all, The Daily Collegian is home.

These two places, though worlds apart, are inextricably linked in my mind and my reporter's soul. For two years, I've had the immense responsibility of covering the Beta Theta Pi fraternity hazing death case.

I've knocked on the front door when the fraternity house was mysteriously illuminated — for the first of many disgraceful times — one football weekend. I've sat in the Centre County Courthouse for pretrial after pretrial, watching as defense attorneys attempted to pin the blame on Piazza himself, all while his parents listened on the verge of tears. I've interviewed editors from college newspapers across the country as pledges elsewhere died of a brutal hazing ritual — and then another.

This case, quite honestly, has defined my collegiate career and shaped my journalistic philosophy. It is our job to keep the public informed, and sometimes, that means following a story so intently, you can weed out the legal minutiae and testimony to fearlessly spark dialogue — and change.

A reporter's life isn't necessarily glamorous, but my goodness, it is exhilarating and

magical. And when you're lucky — and passionate enough — it is pure fun to simply write all day, every day.

So here's my biggest piece of advice to anyone reading this column: Make the most of every semester and never regret a single moment. Be a star.

If you want to spend an absurd amount of time in the library stacks, do it. If you want to walk up and down a steep hill in Bellefonte — in the pouring rain, at 7:30 a.m. — to get a photo of a former Beta brother, more power to you.

If you want to run yourself blissfully ragged to make everything absolutely perfect, even better. There will be kosher chicken waiting for you at Shabbos dinner before you start the cycle all over again.

\*\*\*

I am extremely grateful for my Penn State experience and would like to thank, in a very abbreviated list, some of the people who made it possible:

To my mom, my forever editor-in-chief who infinitely improves my stories under print deadline, I love you so much. I have no clue how you put up with my myriad texts and calls, but I think you're terrific and super spunky. Thanks for being my biggest fan, always. Fenway, here we come!

To my twin sister, affectionately known as my built-in best friend and math tutor, I'm so proud of you. I'm sorry I would go days without calling because I was either too busy studying or writing. I live for our running hugs — please reconsider my request to be next-door neighbors when we grow up.

To my dad, my literal and figurative navigator-in-chief, thank you for mapping out my entire life and making sure I never got hopelessly lost on assignment, especially in Hartford and San Francisco. Still, I feel compelled to put this in print: My second major was actually soul crushing.

To Russ Eshleman, my

quintessential journalism mentor, I have no idea where I would be without you, but I certainly would not be a Hearst Award-winner. Thank you for guiding me on the most memorable endeavors, whether it was Tom Kline, Beta Theta Pi, open records or mental health journalism. One day, I'm going to write you a 5,000-word profile — and it won't read long, so you won't need to cut a single sentence.

To the Collegian, you have my heart. If I could do it all over again, I would powerwalk to you every Wednesday night, disappear in the upstairs wire room and frantically write my UPUA meeting cover. I would sacrifice sleep for another four years if I could snag 200 more bylines in this snazziest newspaper — and boost everyone's morale in the process.

To my reporters, if you remember me for nothing else, please remember my perpetual icebreaker, "What was the best part of your weekend?" Find the bright spots — I promise they exist.

\*\*\*

And finally, a note on this past semester, which was objectively and excruciatingly painful...

Thank you to everyone who took such good care of me — and made me feel like myself again before I knew that was even possible.

I choose to remember only the silver linings: the visits, hugs, laughs and matzo ball soup.

To my Collegian darlings — Gabby Barone, Kara Fesolovich, Andy Kalmowitz, Kelly Powers and Kara Duriez, among many others — I adore you endlessly.

To my favorite mensches — Megan Gold, Hannah Geller, Hannah Feldstein, Rachel Rubinstein, Morgan Seiff, Jules van Schaik and Nicole Firestone — I am forever kvelling over you.

To Israel, I love you. I know it's not really your fault, but how dare you.

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MY VIEW | MIKE FORTUGNO

## Processing these past four years

I'm not really sure how to begin, but I guess no one does in this instance, as I'm sure anyone writing a "Senior Column" could have ever pictured actually getting to this point in life.

In just two short weeks I'll be graduating from college — excuse me while I run to the nearest toilet and/or garbage to projectile vomit at the thought of leaving this place and entering the real world.

I really can't comprehend the fact that it was four years ago when I chose to come to come to Penn State and now it's Good Friday in 2019 and I'm writing about leaving this place I've called home for four years.

I came to this school because I wanted something different.

I wanted the most stereotypical college experience possible — big school, Greek life, premier football team — and I got it all.

Coming from a small Westchester County, New York suburb I really had no idea what to expect out of this place.

I loved the thrill of the city's bright lights, but there was something about my visit to Penn State that ultimately led to my decision to choose Centre County, over my parent's alma mater of Fordham in the Bronx.

I guess my story is really about taking a chance and in the least corny way possible, finding myself — yeah I know, corny, sue me.

When I came to this school, I was in the Smeal College of Business, which didn't last very long as I had little to no interest in crunching numbers and probably enjoyed social life a little too much (no regrets brother \*Tiger fist pump\*).

I struggled to figure out what I actually had a passion for.

I remember calling my father one night and telling him how much I hated the schoolwork I was doing and had such little desire to go forward with it. He asked me what I wanted to do and I told him that I'd like to enter the communications school as a journalism major — the switch was made shortly thereafter.

As a kid I had always had such a fixation with the media. I loved to read the newspaper and listen to talk radio, and while I wasn't certain that I wanted to be a journalist, I knew that being in communications was the path I truly longed for.

I got involved as quickly as possible, joining the Collegian's sport staff and CommRadio's advertising sales team.

Both of these opportunities allowed me to experience two different facets of the communications world and I couldn't be more grateful for them.

With the Collegian I was able to truly experience the thrill of being a sports journalist, my favorite beat being men's vol-

leyball when I attended games, practices, press conferences, and weekly sessions with Coach Mark Pavlik.

This year I switched over to the opinion staff and have had so much fun writing weekly columns essentially about whatever I wanted to — as a loud opinionated person, this was very fun for me.

My experience with CommRadio allowed me to learn the ins and outs of ad/sales under the tutelage of Bob Martin, and ironically after making a sale to promote a Meek Mill concert that never came to fruition due to his legal troubles; I was promoted to the sales director role for my senior year.

Through these experiences, I was able to interview my way to NBC's 30 Rockefeller Plaza for an internship in MSNBC's Media Relations Department, and now have accepted a position with Weber Shandwick's MR team in New York following graduation.

But enough about school and my professional aspirations.

I would be remiss if I didn't take some time to get to the "extracurriculars" Penn State afforded me.

Penn State, thank you for providing me the movie that was the past four years.

I've had more fun in college than I could have ever dreamed being possible (sorry mom and dad).

I have also met many truly unforgettable people, an amazing girlfriend and what I hope to be lifelong friends.

All of these people have helped to form lasting memories from State College to beyond the border (don't let me back in Mexico).

Going along with the theme of fun, seeing Ohio State upset at the White Out (also rioting) and beating Wisconsin in Indianapolis in 2016 were childhood dreams come true.

I had always wanted to bear witness to an event that ESPN spent the whole day covering, and I knew Penn State would make that possible.

Of course the biggest thank you is to my parents who not only foot the bill for this university, but have also supported me in every single one of my endeavors from the beginning.

I'm not going to lie, I'm a little nervous about leaving this fake place and entering the real world, but I also think it's completely normal to feel that way.

Penn State, you certainly don't have the greatest food, but man am I going to miss waking up in Happy Valley.

In the words of Fall Out Boy and Frank Sinatra; Thanks for the memories and I did it my way!

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# COUNTING POINTS

*Students make the most of their declining meal points as the semester comes to a close*

By Ashley Hayford  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

The end of the semester means a lot of things for students at Penn State. Finals are approaching, the weather is getting warmer and meal points are running low. By this point, most students are scavenging for free anything, especially food.

Penn State's meal plan is designed for commuters and students living on campus, offering discounts for on-campus dining halls and grocery stores, just as long as they are not a national chain like Starbucks or Burger King.

However, even with the discounts, students are failing to make ends meet with their dwindling meal point balances.

Christian Zapata has around

\$43 left on his campus meal plan.

"I started off on the lowest meal points level, but basketball games cut through it this semester," Zapata (freshman-communication sciences and disorders) said. "Now that The Mix is closed, I don't have a close option for cheap snacks."

Julianna Simon isn't surprised that she has \$23 in meal points left.

"I had a level 2 meal plan at the start of the semester, which I thought would last, but I've run out pretty quickly," Simon (freshman-biobehavioral health) said. "If I had to guess, I would say the Hub is the reason why I'm so low. Other than that, the market in East is so expensive and when the food closes at 8, I usually get dinner and snacks from the market."

Emily Schulz advises students not to listen to dining hall employees when it comes to meal plans, as she now has \$17.

"The lady in the dining hall said I had way too much about a month ago and suggested that I lower it. I see her pretty much every day and she always said something about it," Schulz (junior-dance) said. "I talked to my mom and she went online and lowered it, but she obviously lowered it way too much because now I have none left."

Larsen Angus has \$8.60 left in meal points, but has already had to put more money into her account. Similar to Simon, Angus loses most of her points at the HUB.

"I usually eat lunch at the Hub and then dinner at the dining halls," Angus (freshman-psychology) said. "The food at the Hub is just so expensive, like a lot more expensive than it needs to be."

As for Michael Kume, he is officially broke and trying his best to live off of the campus meal cards he receives from working in Redifer Commons.

"I'm so low on my meal points because I buy stuff for people in the market and Starbucks," Kume (sophomore-chemical engineering said). "I get meal cards

for working in South, and I have about \$60 worth of cards left, but I guess if I need more money, I'll just add to my account."

Now, Zapata takes advantage of every opportunity he can to not use his own meal points.

"I've been going to In a Pickle in South for a cheap sandwich instead of the dining halls," Zapata said. "I've also been using friend's meal points when they offer to get me food."

Although most students may want to remain starving and humble and not ask their parents for more money, Simon has compromised with her mom that if she runs out, her mom will add more money for finals week.

"I've been trying to pick the

least expensive snacks and meals to eat which is slightly starving myself, and that's not a healthy way to live," Simon said.

Angus been taking advantage of the discounted dining areas on campus as she tries her best to make the most of her \$8.60.

"I'm in North so I go to Blue-spoon a lot," Angus said. "I'll buy the cheapest thing there, which is a grilled cheese for like 60 cents."

The competition is on these final two weeks to see who can make the most of their steadily declining meal points. However, the best solution for some may be to refill their accounts because asking your parents for more money is better than starving during finals week.



Louie's is a convenience store located in Reidifer commons of South Residence Halls.



Chushi Hu/Collegian

Findlay Commons, located in East Residence Halls, on campus Wednesday, April 10.

## CATA Summer Send-Off Event

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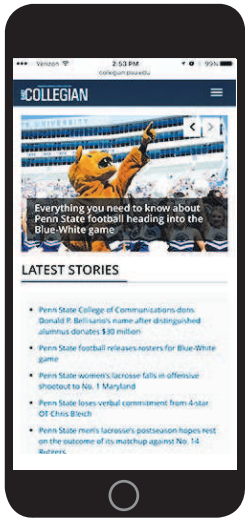


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# Meal point donations could be vital, but more should be done

## OUR VIEW

The program should be prolonged, better-advertised and more accessible to be successful

When Laura McKinney and Jake Griggs were running for president and vice president of University Park Undergraduate Association earlier this semester, one of their key policies was to help impoverished students.

Now, with the introduction of a meal point donation program taking place today, efforts are being made to help out students who may be less fortunate.

The program, taking place at Redifer Commons in South Residence Halls during dinner and late night hours.

The system will allow students to donate remaining meal points up to \$15 to benefit the Student Emergency Fund, which helps students experiencing financial hardship.

To be clear, this is an inherently good move by UPUA — one that if executed well, would conceivably benefit an important part of the Penn State population

who needs it most.

But we wouldn't need to talk about the "what ifs" of execution if there weren't a few issues.

For starters, this is only a one-day event, and it's hard to envision how large of an amount of money will be raised in just one day, for only a limited amount of time and truly make a dent in the problem.

The idea of limiting it to just Redifer is also curious, as it doesn't appear there's any public data to support the notion that it's the most visited of the five dining areas.

Why not put this effort online as well?

Why not open the time for donations to a month or a full semester?

The other issue is that from all of the available literature, it seems as though donations will be capped at \$15.

This likely won't make a sizeable impact if only a few people donate for the few hours and also prohibits students who may want to or are willing to donate more from doing so.

When it comes to helping fellow students via donation, it seems counterintuitive and unhelpful to limit how much someone can give.

This donation effort also hasn't been highly publicized, which is surprising.

That means if someone is asked if they'd like to donate extra meal points as they're checking out, they may

be confused by the suggestion and not really know what's going on.

If people don't know about these issues and can't get impassioned about them, they'll never know or care to donate, thus rendering all of the efforts moot.

Yes, the high meal plan costs account for salaries and distribution costs and construction projects and other important measures.

But it should seem to be a universally held belief that every student here is entitled to a meal, regardless of socioeconomic standing.

Right now, there are students in need of meal point donations which seems to indicate not everyone can afford a meal.

We like this plan and think it's noble in its intentions and it's great that UPUA is trying to expand access to affordability and highlight this.

It's also incredibly important to help financially struggling students and instead of wasting meal points.

If you can get someone else a meal and can expand access to these meal points, those are all positives and should be celebrated.

We're just critical because this is such an important measure and discussion that effects an at-risk group.

But in order to have that dialogue and awareness, it needs to be made sure the donations are not just relegated and limited to one capped donation day per year.

Overall though, UPUA and the university deserve credit for thinking of this and for looking out for the students who need it.

## MY VIEW | Michael Fortugno

# The media needs to move on from the collusion debate

Alright, here we go – Thursday, Robert Mueller's 448 page report was finally handed into



Fortugno

Department and posted for public consumption albeit with sections heavily redacted or totally blacked out.

After 22 months of investigation, Mueller found insufficient evidence to claim that Donald Trump and his team conspired with Russian officials to disrupt the 2016 Presidential election.

Wow, I can't believe it. I mean, it is only pretty much the same conclusion that was established after Attorney General William Barr shared his own summary of the Harry Potter novel sized document last month when he read it prior to its public release.

Now for the love of God, left leaning media, liberal politicians and everyone else can we stop talking about it please and focus on some other issues like healthcare or the economy or education?

For almost two years, this investigation dominated the conversations heard on cable news and in the words of print and digital journalists.

After all the discussions and speculation, the only thing that was concluded was essentially that Trump's team had some

contact with Russians officials but there was most likely no collusion.

For almost two full global rotations, the left and right waged war on each other over this debate and brought out the worst in both sides.

This debate created a highly turbulent and ultra-polarized society where the sharing of political opinions led to the destruction of friendships and relationships in some instances.

This investigation has sucked our nation in for too long and we need to just let it go.

The more we prolong conversations surrounding this investigation the angrier as a nation we become and the more clouded our reality is.

Ironically or not, the New York Times and Washington Post won a Pulitzer Prize for "deeply sourced, relentlessly reported coverage in the public interest that dramatically furthered the nation's understanding of Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election as well as its connections to the Trump campaign, the President-elect's transition team and his eventual administration."

It's 2018 – guys.

Please enjoy your prize and shut down the daily opinion columns about specific sentences within the report that vaguely point to Trump being a criminal.

The same thing will transpire on television.

I'm sure each and every letter in the report will be poked and prodded by cable news pundits for the next month or even year and literal sections will be read verbatim on the air, just to fit a narrative and breathe life into a now dead argument.

It's almost as though these people want our President to troll them with ludicrous Game of Thrones-themed Instagram posts declaring victory and his innocence.

Let's just face it. You aren't going to impeach the man.

Plus, the constant talk about this report and the different ways to construe it are a losing battle that only riles up his base more and more and further proves their point.

Continuing to talk about this report and investigation in a manner that seeks to find guilt in our President is like arguing

that the 2007-08 Patriots are a better team than the Giants team they faced in the Super Bowl that year.

Yes, New England was undefeated going into the game and Tom Brady spent the entirety of the season breaking records, but at the end of the game the Giants had more points and that's ultimately what mattered in the end.

Left of center media, let's look at the positives: cable news ratings are up across the board and your coverage as exemplified by the aforementioned Times and Washington Post wins were obviously well received and well deserved, but its just time to move on.

There's an election in 2020. If Democrats really want the reality star out of the Oval Office and are serious about ousting Trump, they have got to start talking about the people and issues that matter.

Otherwise they will be stuck in the same battle they've found themselves on the wrong side of and will continue to do so if they keep mentioning Trump and collusion.

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Photo by Ken Minamoto/Collegian

# Jack Kelly has career day in big win

By Shane Connelly  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

As a ground ball skipped across the field behind Johns Hopkins' net, Grant Ament slapped it between two defenders to an open Mac O'Keefe. O'Keefe decided against taking a shot of his own, deferring to Jack Kelly, who buried his second goal of the day.

The score fueled an already hot Penn State team. It was the first goal of the second quarter that saw the Nittany Lions add four points to build a 9-4 lead heading into halftime, and it wasn't the last time Kelly made an impact in the game.

The sophomore midfielder returned to the field for the first time since Penn State's win over Maryland on March 31 and put up a career-high five points.

After notching the Nittany Lions' third goal in the opening 15 minutes and finishing the highlight play in the second quarter, Kelly found the back of the net two more times. He scored one more time in the first half before piling onto Penn State's lead with last-second goal to end the third quarter.

He also assisted Dylan Foulds for his first goal of a three-goal streak for the attackman that

helped create an insurmountable lead heading into the final quarter of play.

Kelly and Ament finished the day tied for the top spot on the scoresheet with each burying four goals, helping the Nittany Lions secure a 20-9 victory over Johns Hopkins and move to a perfect 4-0 in Big Ten conference play. Leading up to the game, Kelly's status was a major question mark. He had been dealing with an undisclosed injury, and coach Jeff Tambroni was unsure about how he would fare if he got on the field.

"We were a bit concerned because he didn't practice all week," Tambroni said. "We certainly didn't know what we were going to expect when he came out there today."

The midfield has lost a couple of key pieces over the course of the season. Senior Kevin Hill went down at the start of the year with a leg injury. Against the Blue Jays, redshirt freshman Dan Reaume did not see the field.

Penn State couldn't afford to lose Kelly for an extended period of time, and his triumphant return cleared up the doubts that Tambroni and his staff had about how healthy he was.

"Not only did he come back and play, but I mean he was one of the kingpins in the offensive end," Tambroni said. "[Kelly]

really got things going for us off the dodge, and in a game plan where they were really trying hard to take away the knowns of Ament and O'Keefe, he really stepped up and was not just productive, but he really opened things up for everybody today."

With players such as Ament and O'Keefe, contributors like Kelly can fly under the radar. According to Ament, that was the case against Johns Hopkins.

"He just exploited the way that Hopkins was playing," Ament said. "I don't think they necessarily respected him from a dodging standpoint, and they didn't really slide to him, so he took all that he could."

Ament knows what it is like to be forced to watch your team play from the sideline. In 2018, he missed the entire year due to a foot injury. The injury bug bit him again this season just before the Big Ten schedule and forced the attackman to sit out against Cleveland State.

Ament was impressed by Kelly's performance in his return.

"He played with just an incredible deal of confidence," Ament said. "I know obviously from experience, coming back after a few games out is not an easy thing to do."

Kelly was able to pick up where he left off before he dropped out of the lineup. Although he did not

see much time in 2018, the sophomore has emerged as a weapon for Penn State's offense this year.

Kelly recorded at least one point in each game he appeared in thus far, and he put together a seven-game goal streak prior to his injury.

The midfielder also proved his ability to put up points against tough opponents. Against Maryland, Kelly notched a hat trick and added an assist to tie a career high in points that he set against Jacksonville three weeks earlier.

In his return, Kelly credited the people around him for making his transition back onto the field seamless.

"I've got great teammates playing with me and supporting me the whole way, so I just kinda got some opportunities today and took advantage of it," Kelly said. "Missing [games] is no fun, but we have a lot of guys who can step up at any position."

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Ken Minamoto/Collegian

Penn State's Grant Ament (1) runs past several Johns Hopkins players during the men's lacrosse game at Panzer Stadium on April 21.

# NFL Draft Preview: Penn State edition

By Dylan Jacobs  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

After Penn State's present were in the spotlight last week, it's now time for Penn State's past to take center stage.

On Thursday, the 2019 NFL Draft will take place from Nashville, Tennessee, and a number of Nittany Lions are expected to be drafted over the course of the weekend.

There almost certainly won't be Penn Stater at the top of the draft like Saquon Barkley last year, but there will be plenty of Nittany Lions represented at NFL Training Camps in the summer.

Here's where a few Nittany Lions are likely to be selected.

## Miles Sanders - Day 2

Penn State yet again has a starting running back going to be drafted, and while he won't go No. 2 like his predecessor did, there is a shot he will be the first Nittany Lion off the board.

Some mock drafts have him going late in the first round, but with other running backs ahead of him and more success coming from later selected backs in the past, most analysts have him going anywhere in the second or third round.

There are plenty of teams in need of running help, so the junior will most likely hear his name called in the second or third round.

Teams like the Eagles, Ravens and Jaguars all have needs at the



Eric Firestone/Collegian

Penn State running back Miles Sanders catches a pass during Penn State football's pro day at Holuba Hall on Tuesday, March 19.

running back position and could pick Sanders on day two.

## Amani Oruwariye - Day 2

Throughout the season, it seemed like the senior cornerback would be destined for a first round selection.

He fits the mold of an NFL corner — long, athletic, good ball skills.

A few months ago, some experts had the senior corner going all the way in the top-10.

But subpar numbers in the combine and a lackluster performance at the Senior Bowl have likely dropped him into the second day.

Like Sanders, he could really go anywhere here.

There are plenty of teams with cornerback needs, like the Kan-

sas City Chiefs, who could select Oruwariye on day two.

## Connor McGovern - Day 2

McGovern is ranked as Mel Kiper's No. 2 guard, but that still places him on the second day of the NFL Draft.

The early-declaree will find himself drafted on day two, as plenty of teams are in need of

offensive line help.

Teams like Houston and Detroit are considered options by draft analysts.

McGovern will probably fare better than fellow lineman Ryan Bates in terms of draft positioning.

## Shareef Miller - Day 3

After declaring early, the defensive end will probably have to wait until the third and final day to hear his name called.

Somewhere around the fifth round seems like where he'll end up.

A solid performance at the combine has made it that Miller will almost certainly hear his name called at the draft.

## Possible Undrafted

### Free Agents

There are plenty of other players who could find their way onto draft boards, most notably Trace McSorley.

The three-year starting quarterback could hear his name called in the sixth or seventh round, but due to a poor performance at Senior Bowl and the often talked about height concerns, he could have to wait until after the draft to sign with a team.

Other players like Ryan Bates, Kevin Givens and Nick Scott could get drafted late, with Bates having the best chance to, but all three have a decent shot of going undrafted.

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MYVIEW | BENJAMIN FERREE

# Regional games at neutral sites is a mistake

Empty arenas are bad. They aren't good for the fans, they aren't good for the players, they aren't good for atmosphere and they don't look good on television. Empty arenas are bad for the NCAA, but yet, they are going to have them for at least the next two years in the NCAA Hockey Tournament.

On Friday morning, the NCAA announced the regional sites for the 2020 and 2021 NCAA Tournament, once again holding them at neutral arenas rather than campus sites.

This is a mistake. It's time for the NCAA to move these regional games — to ditch the big arenas and play them at campus sites.

It would be simple to implement: The top-seeded team in each region would host the three games to determine who goes to the Frozen Four, which would continue to be played at NHL stadiums.

Two years ago, the Big Ten made this change to its conference tournament, holding matchups at campus sites of the higher-seeded teams, and it has made a world of difference.

When Penn State won the Big Ten Tournament in 2017, the game was played at Joe Louis Arena in Detroit which held around 20,000 people for a hockey game.

5,601 people were in attendance.

The arena was three-quarters empty, and it showed in the atmosphere when Liam Folkes put the puck in the

back of the net. Now compare that atmosphere to the one at Notre Dame this season when the Fighting Irish won the second of their back-to-back Big Ten Tournament championships.

The attendance at that game was 5,988 people, the largest crowd ever at Compton Family Ice Arena.

Campus sites work. But more importantly, the arena is only designed to hold that many, which livens the atmosphere.

Now one big thing the NCAA is counting on when determining regional sites is that teams close to the region, or even the team that is hosting the region, will make the NCAA Tournament, thus drawing their fans to the games.

In 2018, this worked for Penn State. The Nittany Lions made the NCAA Tournament and were sent to their home regional in Allentown, and the attendance was good. Princeton was also in this region so two schools were geographically close to the arena.

The recorded attendance was 7,491 people at those two games, just 1,500 people short of a sold-out arena.

But then Penn State and Princeton both lost in the first round on Saturday night, and the hit in attendance was noticeable.

In the regional championship game between Denver and Ohio State, with a spot in the Frozen Four on the line, the recorded attendance was 5,124.

46 percent of the arena was empty and the regional final had 2,367 less people at it than the first round the night before.

The NCAA counts on nearby programs making the tournament, but frankly it just isn't happening.

In the past 10 years, NCAA Tournament regionals have been hosted 38 times by teams. The other two were by conferences.

In those 38 possibilities for a team to play at a regional they hosted, only eight actually made the NCAA Tournament, with only two coming in the past four years.

And this creates some hurdles for fans wanting to see their team play. For example, in the Midwest region this season in Allentown, the closest team to the PPL Center was Quinnipiac, which is 186 miles away.

The other schools included Minnesota-Duluth, which is about 1,200 miles away, Arizona State, which is 2,311 away and Bowling Green, which is 510 miles away.

And frankly the attendance suffered.

The recorded attendance for the first-round games was 3,763 and the championship game was



John Stinely/Collegian

Penn State forward Alex Limoges (9) takes a shot during the NCAA tournament game vs. Denver on March 24, 2018.

worse, drawing only 3,561 people.

The arena was two-thirds empty.

And yes, admittedly this could happen at campus sites as well. Let's say Penn State was hosting the regional on its campus and the Nittany Lions lose in the first round.

But the difference is a 10,000-seat arena wouldn't be empty. If 3,500 people came to Pegula it would still be a large enough crowd to make the arena not

seem empty. The NCAA has guaranteed the next two years will be more of the same with regional sites being at neutral sites, but the time is coming for campus sites.

It worked for the Big Ten Tournament and it'll work for the NCAA Tournament.

Benjamin Ferree is a sophomore majoring in broadcast journalism and is a men's hockey and football reporter for The Daily Collegian. His email is [bcf5167@psu.edu](mailto:bcf5167@psu.edu).

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Crossword

Across

1 Party handout
6 Pop singer Amos
10 Turn over earth
14 It might be airtight
15 At another time
16 MSN's butterfly, e.g.
17 Organic compound
18 Cozy spot
19 International money
20 Aardvark's tidbit
21 Pan, e.g.
23 Argues
25 Beloved
27 White House souvenir
29 Part of an E-mail address
30 Lack of vigor
33 French cap
37 Bakery buy
40 Sticker
42 Floor model
43 Basis of some divisions
44 Get-up-and-go
46 Scope
48 Archaeological site
49 Musher's transport
51 Decay
53 Capital of Colombia
55 Greek monster with nine heads
57 Children's author
59 Offbeat
61 Publicize
62 Buddy
66 City in Germany
70 Big bang producer
72 One of Alcott's "Little Men"
73 Crowning
74 Like some apples
76 Fragrance

Down

78 Fill to excess
79 Blackthorn fruit
80 Renaissance fiddle
81 Ivan the Terrible, e.g.
82 Sign of boredom
83 Undisguised

10 Folded
11 Oaf
12 Folklore fiend
13 Romances
22 First game of a doubleheader
24 Hair style
26 W.W. II fliers
28 Bird's beak
31 Small bite
32 North Sea diver
34 Make over
35 Give off
36 Forum wear
37 Sitcom set in Korea
38 Hideous
39 Graze
41 Converted, in a way

45 Neighbor of Ger.
47 Prefix with profit
50 After eye or name
52 Kind of party
54 High school class
56 Woodworking tool
58 Winter hand warmer
60 Scatterbrained
63 Hacienda brick
64 Circus performer
65 Make into law
66 Bringing up the rear
67 Terminal info
68 Infinitesimal amount
69 Big bash
71 Hawaiian tuber
75 Commotion
77 Increase, with "up"

WORD SEARCH

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M R A C H M A N I N O F F V G Z F T

Bigar's Stars

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

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ARIES (3/21-4/19) ★★★★★

Keep reaching out for someone or something new. Do not allow a situation to hold you back. How you feel could change at any given moment. Keep conversations light and easy. If you expect the unexpected, you will be miles ahead of everyone. Tonight: Off to the movies.

TAURUS (4/20-5/20) ★★★★★

One-one relating takes a higher priority than normal. You could be surprised by what goes down. You will see a situation far differently than you thought possible. Your sense of humor emerges when speaking to an old friend or a special loved one. Tonight: Express your feelings.

GEMINI (5/21-6/20) ★★★★★

Someone has his or her eye on you. The nature of this person's interest will reflect your interactions. Try not to mix business and pleasure. You will be more content if you don't. Your interactions will be more authentic. Tonight: Stay free and easy.

CANCER (6/21-7/22) ★★★

Do not hesitate to plunge into a project or hobby. You could quickly accomplish more than your share. Schedule meetings for later in the week, when you will want to be less of a workaholic and more of a social butterfly. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.

LEO (7/23-8/22) ★★★★★

Whatever you do, you do 100%. You might reflect on some strong feelings briefly, as you can barely control your energy. You could opt to deal with this situation another time. You might not want to change plans. Good luck surrounds you. Tonight: Express your playfulness.

VIRGO (8/23-9/22) ★★★

Tension surrounds the resolution of an issue on the homefront. You might be unusually feisty and capable of unexpected actions. You could cause an unusual amount of upset, which could come back to haunt you. Tonight: Hang close to home.

LIBRA (9/23-10/22) ★★★★★

Reach out to someone you often call when you experience a hassle. Speak your mind. Eye different ways of handling the situation. Your ability to communicate could help you break through a problem. Be more open about your feelings. Tonight: Haunting a favorite spot.

SCORPIO (10/23-11/21) ★★★★★

You could be on edge as you attempt to handle a financial matter. You will experience an unexpected bump on the way, but will get the matter under control -- although perhaps not immediately. You will experience excesses of all kinds. Tonight: Get to the bottom of a hassle.

SAGITTARIUS (11/22-12/21) ★★★★★

You are full of spunk and happiness even when you hit a roadblock. Despite upsets in your routine and a lack of coordination, you are streaming along today. You will tend toward excess. Flow with the moment. Tonight: All smiles.

CAPRICORN (12/22-1/19) ★★★★★

You could be out of sorts and not exactly sure how to handle a personal matter. You might want to have a conversation with someone you often share personal issues with. You both gain new perspectives because of your talks. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

AQUARIUS (1/20-2/18) ★★★★★

Keep reaching out for a friend you trust and like sharing with. You will get another perspective. You could easily hit a home run. In any case, you might feel unsure or shaky for no reason. Tonight: Catching up on a friend's news.

PISCES (2/19-3/20) ★★★

Once more, you feel the need to allow yourself to go for what you want. You are likely to achieve more prestige or knowledge, but new responsibilities could fall on you. Tonight: A force to behold.



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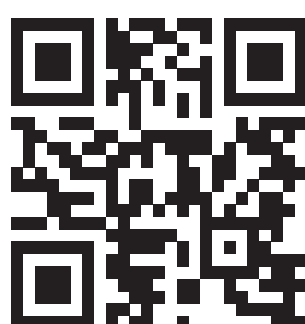
PLUS 1 LUCKY WINNER WILL RECEIVE 1-YEAR OF FREE RENT!

**ELECTION ALERT:** There is a one-off special election on May 21st to elect a new member of congress. Pennsylvania law requires you to register to vote before casting your ballot. You can register to vote at [vote.org/pa-12](https://vote.org/pa-12)

# VOTE

## TUESDAY, MAY 21

April 22nd is the deadline to register to vote. You do not need to show photo ID to vote in Pennsylvania, but if you are voting for the very first time, please bring something that shows your name and PA address. A student ID is fine.



As a Pennsylvania college student, you have the legal right to vote in PA elections. If anyone tries to stop you from voting, call or text the numbers below.

**Call: Election Protection Hotline at (866) OUR-VOTE**  
**Text: "ELECTIONPROTECTION" to 97779**

