

# ‘Wow, I’m not even **here**’

## How a historic lack of diversity at Penn State has resulted in institutional bias that could stifle black academics

By Pat Newkumet  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

### THE RACIAL LANDSCAPE

Game-changing developments have shifted the racial landscape of the United States in the last 14 years.

Yet, during that time, the total number of African American faculty at Penn State has declined rather than increased.

There were 109 black faculty at Penn State University Park in 2004. By 2018, that number remained fairly stagnant at 107; just 3.1% of the 3,425 total faculty members. In reality, the university’s apparent apathy toward hiring and retaining black academics has put them far behind the more progressive standards of the nation.

Conversely, faculty representation in nearly every other ethnic group has been on the rise.

During that time span, this country saw its first African American president, the legalization of same-sex marriage, the modern internet, a recession and the addition of 448 total faculty at Penn State University Park.

Historically failing to seek out black academics, coupled with the general racial landscape of State College, has allowed for a system of faculty evaluations that lets bias-prone student surveys hold a seemingly inordinate stake in the promotion of faculty of color.

On Jan. 16, The Daily Collegian ran a letter to the editor from Errol Henderson, an associate professor of political science, in which he decried discrimination at the departmental level of the university.

In questioning what he found to be a biased evaluation of his teaching acumen, Henderson felt there was little support from the majority-white staff surrounding him. He described this climate as “hostile,” and the racism surrounding him as “beyond attitudinal.”

Nearly four months later, Henderson and other Penn State faculty, students, community members and representatives from the NAACP convened to address racism throughout the university.

Though testimonies came from various departments, base notions of isolation, frustration and anger rang throughout.

The meeting, occurring on the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.’s assassination, made clear that racism remains prevalent in the everyday lives of black people in State College.

“As a young African American male who has been here for four years, I have felt very socially isolated. With the faculty panel here, it seems like I could relate to everyone’s story,” Brian Cliette, instructor of hospitality management, said during a panel. “Like in the back of my mind there was a script that I’d already read, and now I’m here hearing the audiobook from you.”

When compared to Pennsylvania as a whole, State College varies on relative diversity. According to a 2017 population estimate by the U.S. Census Bureau, percentage population of white persons remains fairly standard on the state and local level at 76.5% and 79%, respectively.

However, relative population for Asian and African American groups almost switches once localized.

Black persons make up an estimated 11.9% of the commonwealth’s population, but only 3.9% within State College. Conversely, Asian ethnicity makes up 11% of the State College population, but only 3.6% of the entire commonwealth.

These numbers are not arbitrary, as an influx of international students has dominated the university’s public claim of diversity.

“The weird thing is, when I left here in 2003, the international population was not this big. It is much bigger now. In many of the majors, STEM majors certainly, most of the class is white or international,” said Gregory Jenkins, current professor of meteorology and atmospheric science.

And he’s not wrong.

The proportion of international students

attending Penn State University Park is 10.7% above the national average.

Seeking proportionate diversity does not mean that all ethnic groups clamor for the largest piece of the pie, but rather, that the over-abundance of any number of groups creates an environment of implicit privilege.

In a statement to the Collegian, the university made note of its desire to change this landscape.

“It is right that we should all be focused on the need to increase the percentage of African American faculty across the University to adequately reflect current demographics nationally and to expose students, and the entire Penn State community, to leading African American scholars and mentors,” Nick Jones, Penn State’s executive vice president and provost, said in the statement.

Faculty of color at Penn State often encounter students who have had little to no previous experience with teachers of another race.

Wanda B. Knight, associate professor of art education, African American studies, as well as women’s, gender, and sexuality studies, often makes note of this reality.

“When I initially stand in front of my students, I have them take a poll every time: ‘How many of you have had a black professor?’ The vast majority haven’t. In Pennsylvania, 96% of the teachers K-12 are white people. 96!”

As the state’s primary and secondary education fall short of providing a standard of instruction from all voices, Pennsylvanians entering as undergraduates may view the university as seemingly diverse.

However, while white students benefit from their now somewhat-varied cultural experiences, faculty of color face the other side of pale. Some feel the lack of black faculty is due to recruitment committees who fail to weigh the issue of diversity in personnel decisions.

“The search committees continue to not be diverse in many instances,” Jenkins said. “There may not be a single person of color in a search committee, and I’m supposed to believe that they’re out looking for people of color?”

However, just as past recruitment has created the current landscape, so too can future hires remedy it.

“Recruitment is a first step, the deans, department head, and the recruitment committees have a major responsibility in this regard,” Gary King, professor of biobehavioral health, said. “This is where a big part of the problem lies, and it must be addressed by the university.”

### THE SRTE ISSUE

From freshman gen-eds to 400-level theory courses, there’s one consistent outlet of student critique.

The Student Rating of Teaching Effectiveness tool has been an instrument for Penn State faculty since 1985. It allows for students to voluntarily review various portions of a professor’s teaching acumen at the end of the semester.

Ratings are meant to contribute anecdotal context to the teaching portion of promotion evaluations. SRTEs are noted in policy as often inconsistent and perceptive to bias; and thus, the university implores reviewers to consider them as “broad brush” instruments.

A report from Angela Linse, executive director and associate dean at the Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence, to the faculty senate on SRTEs notes they “are not precision tools that produce a measurement that can then be compared to a known standard.”

Reviews are segmented between three sections.

The A section contains questions on the general experience of the student. Questions A3 and A4, which ask students to rate the overall quality of the course and professor on a seven-point scale, are in every SRTE as a baseline measure.

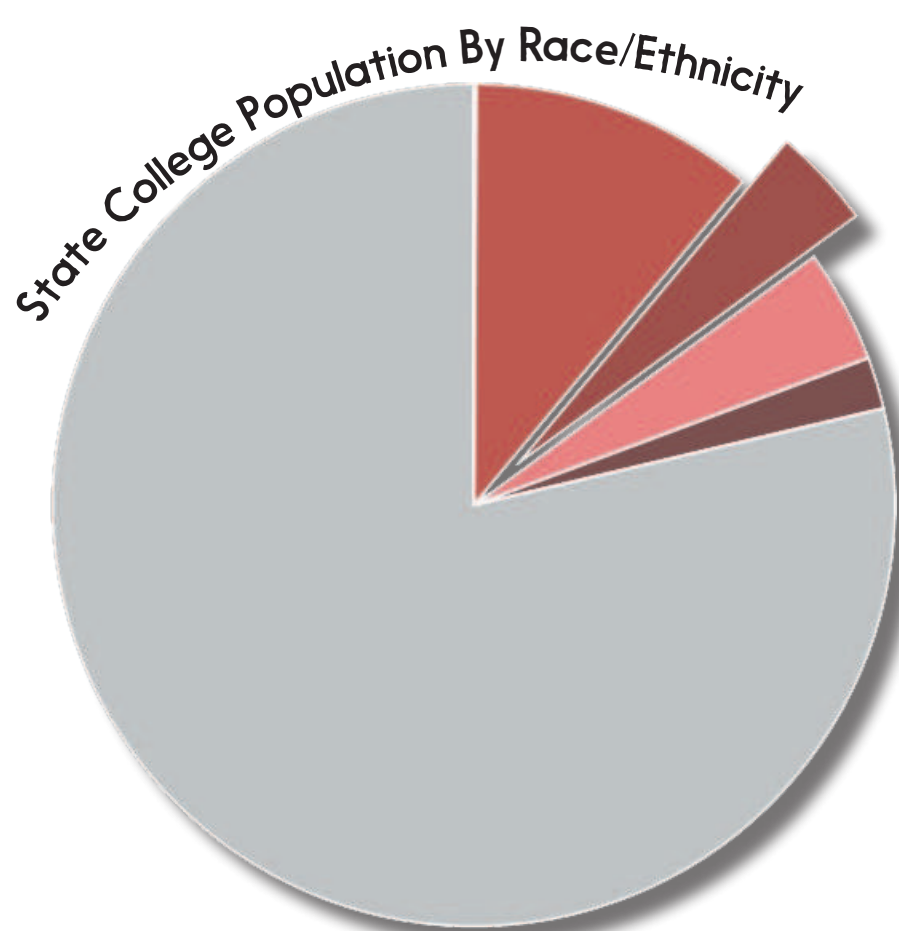
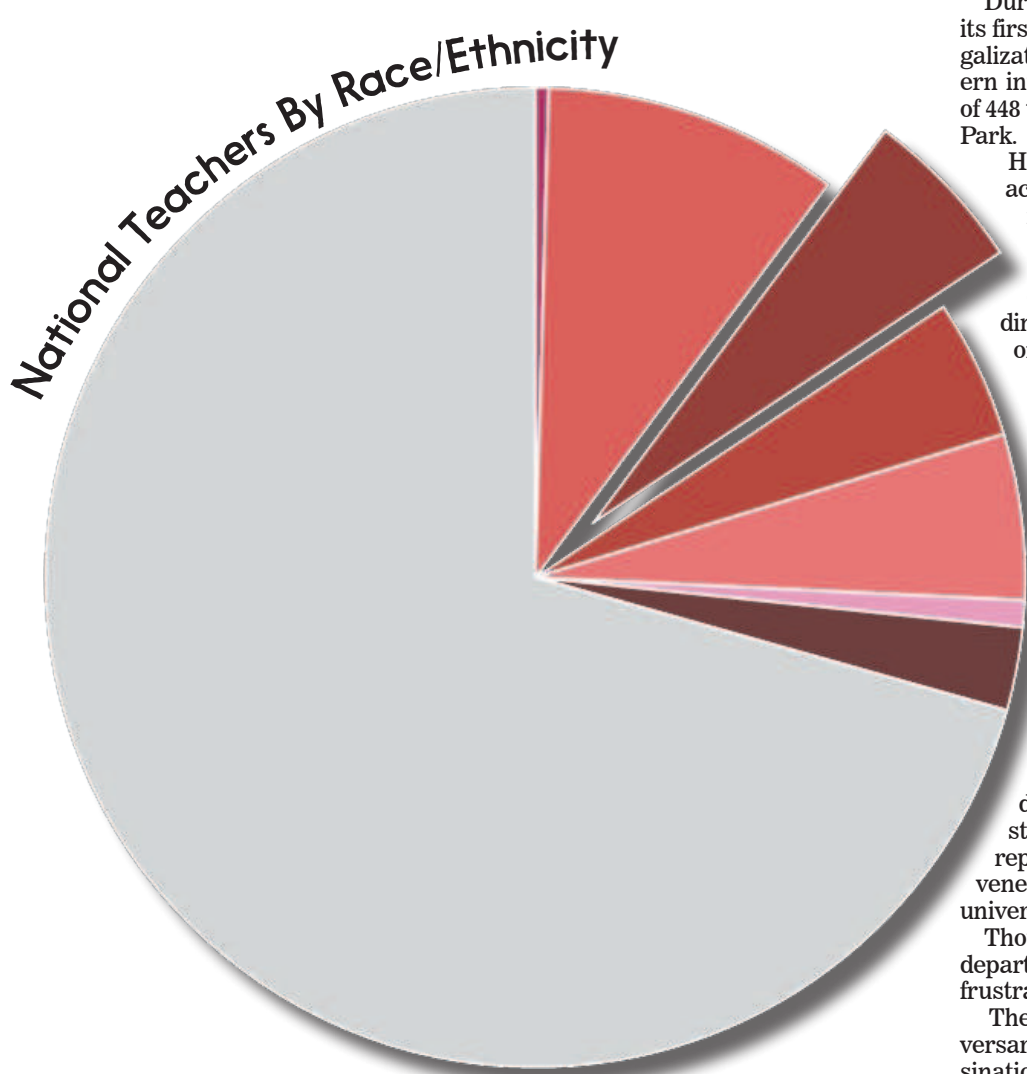
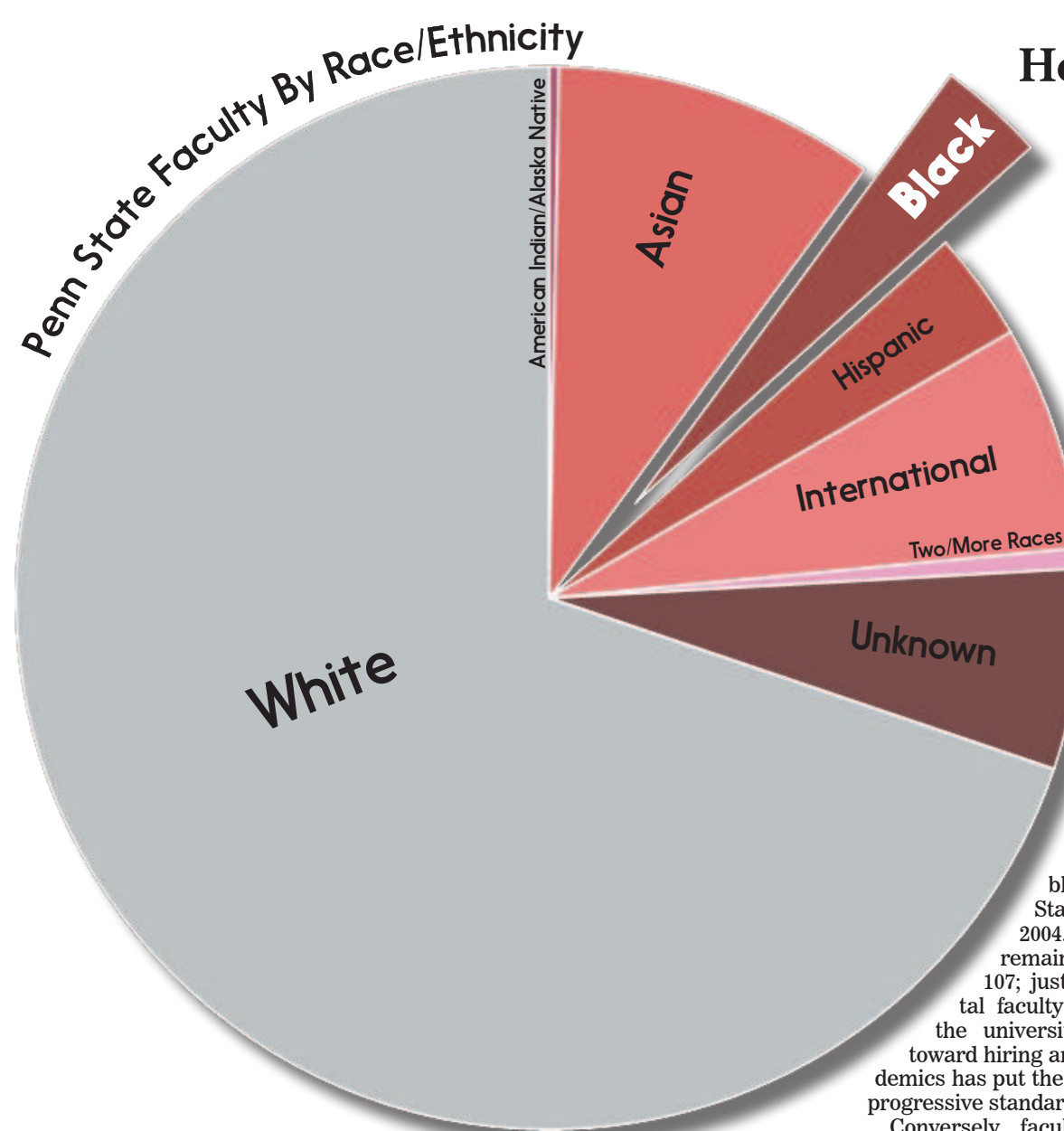
This data can prove informative if either end of the scale ends up abnormally clustered.

“I think most faculty probably believe that there may be a few students in class who collude together and say, ‘Ok let’s give this professor a bad score,’” Jenkins said. “And I really think this likely happens to women and people of color quite often.”

In the B section, questions on the same scale pertain to the goals of a specific department, and are chosen by department heads out of 177 total options.

The open-ended section contains written comments, which grant the reviewer a window into student perception of a professor.

See **DIVERSITY**, Page 2.





## Diversity

FROM Page 1.

As a means of data collection, the A and B sections are often dubious and could be swayed by irrelative factors.

“I know that there is bias in those SRTEs, and a lot of it is around popularity and how many A’s you give,” Jenkins said. “If you are early in your career, and you are teaching lots of different courses, it’s hard to figure that part out.”

Like the “questions? comments?” toll number on the back of a shampoo bottle, SRTEs tend to be filled out from those motivated by exceedingly negative or positive feelings.

Positive SRTE submissions may be spurred by an easy A, a favorable teaching style or a pleasant manner of speaking. Conversely, negative reviews, which tend to be more personal, may come due to seemingly irrelevant factors like a lisp or messy handwriting.

Obviously, maliciously written comments such as intolerance for a black professor’s teaching on racism won’t be considered by the department heads who review them.

But should the A and B section data be removed from that professor’s set? And how can a department head know if a seemingly objective comment stems from extraneous motivation?

In detecting underlying bias within student comments, administrators must ultimately rely on their own judgment. And, while university policy heeds the many pitfalls of student reviews, no amount of racial consideration could wholly rid this data of its undertones.

“Why are we relying on this instrument that we know has these biases? They rely on them because you can lazily turn to them when you want to make your case,” Henderson said. “And even when they don’t make a case for you, they can use them for making a case against you.”

Such data is granted a relatively unknowable weight by the reviewer, and faculty of color stress over the potential that their careers may stall due to administrative discrimination.

Interpreting SRTE data gets even more difficult when weighing classes of vastly different size, subject and intensity.

For example, under the current general guidelines of evaluation, an African American professor teaching an introductory class on colonialism to over 400 students will find his ratings weighed on the same scale as a white contemporary teaching the same class.

“When you’re a faculty member of color teaching about racial issues, you are going to take a bigger hit than a white faculty member teaching those issues. That is fairly well documented,” Linse said.

Currently, there is no university policy in place which instructs department heads or administrators to account for implicit bias in SRTEs or student comments.

In a report for the Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs on “Effective Use of SRTE Data” by Linse, she explains that “without research-based guidance, these faculty end up relying on their own experiences, biases, and possibly erroneous information to the evaluation process.”

The report notes that research on racial bias within student ratings is less prevalent than gender bias, as the lack of a strong sample size makes any patterns unreliable.

“Because there are so few faculty of color here, it complicates it,” Linse said. “You don’t have a big enough distribution to know whether that faculty member is different from any other.”

For those who have seen little addition to that statistical pool while at the university, such reasoning seems shaky.

“I ask them, ‘What is the sample you compare me to if I am the only tenured African-American professor in the history of this department?’” Henderson said. “What are you comparing me to? I am your sample.”

As Linse describes, student reviews are merely an instrument, and reflect the inherent qualities of those using it.

“This is a management problem; they’ll simply ignore that racism is here. [If] they deny this racism, we don’t get to the management issues or the structural changes.”

Errol Henderson  
Associate Professor of Political Science

“Are some students who are filling out the ratings implicitly biased against faculty of color? We can relatively, confidently say yes, because we know that a predominantly white society is generally implicitly biased against people of color,” Linse said. “So why would students be any different?”

Since it is so entrenched and integral to the evaluative process, the complete removal of SRTEs would require documented evidence that the instrument itself is biased.

According to Provost Nick Jones, as of publication, Penn State is “examining the questions used on the SRTE forms to identify if any may be inadvertently prompting biased ratings from students.”

Such research is promising, yet SRTEs are not the sole issue with implicit administrative bias.

“While we will do the statistical analysis, it is not going to solve the issue of a [black professor] having their data unfairly interpreted in a promotion case,” Linse said. “I don’t think any amount of research can specifically address the individual issues that professors are facing. And that is the challenge in this, it’s a broad-brush kind of an instrument which is potentially being used as a precision instrument — which it is not.”

### LACK OF OVERSIGHT

Penn State faculty undergo annual and five-year extended teaching evaluations in order for administrators to determine positions within the department. These reviews revolve around research, teaching and service — with each portion granted an indeterminate slice in the final review based on departmental preferences.

One issue with the teaching portion of the review process lies in vague language surrounding the weight given to different evaluative measures in the final equation.

As policy says: “teaching performance, for example, may be evaluated with ratings, peer teaching evaluations, and/or a teaching portfolio.”

Ultimately, a great deal of the evaluation process is left to the discretion of department heads. This is sensible, as any academic pursuit cannot be accurately weighed against another.

However, the lack of initial oversight in crafting review policy has created a landscape in which department heads and administrators hold unchecked narrative power in the summarization of student data and comments.

This summarization of SRTE results by department heads became standard after the faculty senate’s 2003 survey on SRTE procedures found many professors tended to erroneously self-report their own results. They corrected this by amending policy to include “under no circumstances shall the candidate be involved in preparing the summary of student comments.”

While seemingly just, this helped form the current landscape in which professors of color feel they have little input in the narrative stemming from their SRTE results.

“They can say ‘The students generally felt like...’ and you see them start to pick, hand pick and summarize,” Knight said. “And that is very problematic because they aren’t taking into consideration the context of the individuals, and what pedagogy the instructor is using to be transformative.”

Student reviews tend to be honest, anecdotal views of a professor, yet the possibility for manipulation makes scrutiny of the entire data and comment set necessary.

“SRTEs reflect the opinions of a cohort and individuals. It would be nice if the head would correlate comments across the cohort and parse out the targeted negative feedback,” Marc Miller, assistant professor of landscape architecture, said. “Perhaps this would require some additional training or workshops so department heads could become more aware, but it also requires that they remove some of their basic assumptions.”

Even if SRTEs were somehow manipulated to account for bias, the process of summarization by a superior may allow for insertion of biased undertones into a professor of color’s review.

“Penn State is a community of academics, but the experiences are not entirely shared,” Miller said. “To assume that African American or other marginalized faculty has had the same experience with academia being neutral is false.”

This is not to infer that department heads hold racial malice toward faculty of color, but that a lack of a neutral third party allows for unconscious bias to go unchecked. This may manifest in forms beside race — as gender, sexuality and personal relationships can permeate the objectivity expected of a reviewer.

Safeguards could be put in place to help curb this reality.

“You could have [non-PSU faculty] review the class, or you could have focus groups from students in the class, or you could have a mid-semester review from students to see what is going on,” Linse said.

Another issue with the relative autonomy of department heads comes from the very hierarchy they operate under. Universities across the country differ on whether to use heads or chairs to run the upper annals of administration. Chairs are elected by members of the department, and thus might be more loyal to professors than deans and provosts. Heads, on the other hand, are appointed by deans and provosts, and may make decisions more in line with the larger goals of the university.

If departments within the university continue to operate under a head hierarchy, subordinate faculty receiving their annual reviews are at the whim of those open solely to scrutiny from above. If a professor feels their SRTE data may be biased, the denial of such by their department head would be final.

“This is a management problem, they’ll simply ignore that racism is here,” Henderson said. “As they deny this racism, we don’t get to the management issues or the structural changes.”

## WHERE IS PENN STATE NOW?

Joan Duvall-Flynn, state conference president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Pennsylvania State Conference (NAACP—PA), came to the university on April 4 to offer professors and students of color an avenue for collectively fighting against oppression.

Currently, the NAACP does not have an adult chapter within Centre County or its surrounding counties — though Penn State does have a college unit, which lacks a local adult branch for guidance and access to resources.

Duvall-Flynn and most in attendance sought to remedy this by establishing one right in town. The local presence of such a group could feasibly provide legal checks on discrimination of any form.

“If there is known bias in a ratings system, and that rating system is impacting on the economic well-being of the persons being rated, that means the disparity has to be addressed,” Flynn said. “And so there are agencies that we will go to, because what we do is rock the boat.”

Legal action may be uncomfortable for those who feel diversity isn’t an issue at this university, but such an opinion may come due to perception from the majority and past public declarations by the administration. As previously reported by the Collegian, the university’s Jan. 16 report asserting “employees from diverse backgrounds make up 30% of faculty, and 13 % of staff and administrators, University-wide,” offered an inaccurate portrayal of diversity in University Park as a whole.

A conglomerate measure of general diversity fails to highlight the discrepancies among different ethnic groups. In data provided by the university, black, Hispanic and Hawaiian faculty were lumped together into a 7% portion of the university’s overall measure.

More specific data later provided by the university to the Collegian found that 3.1% of total faculty at University Park identified as black/African-American (though it is of note that self-reporting of race was not mandatory for new hires in 2017-2018, and thus percentages may be slightly affected.) When measured against national data from 2016, Penn State falls roughly 2.3% below the national average. For those who have continued to work among this inequity, exemplary performance is not only common, but necessary, as 48.6% of current black faculty at Penn State received tenure — 9.6% more than the average rate of all other faculty.

“There is this weird feeling that you have to teach your classes equal or better than your counterparts, and that the penalty for not doing so could be excessive,” Jenkins said.

Since the beginning of the fall semester, the university has made piecemeal moves to alter the perception of diversity at Penn State. The aforementioned review of bias within the promotion and tenure review process by the faculty is expected to be finalized by the fall. The university also made multiple senior leadership appointments of African American administrators and a “cluster hire” of diverse faculty in the College of the Liberal Arts, according to the statement from Jones.

For whatever complacency the administration displayed toward past calls for diversity, they now seem ready for action.

“We are resolute in our commitment to achieving our goal of diversity and inclusion, and our determination goes beyond words,” Jones said.

However, no level of data manipulation or well-intentioned rhetoric can change the perception shared by faculty, students and residents — that University Park is, and likely will continue to be, a place where black faces are few and far between.

“At times, I feel like privilege is something that supersedes everything,” Jenkins said. “It just feels very isolating, and I can’t imagine what it must feel like to be 18 or 19. To feel like ‘Wow, I’m not even here.’”

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Following him on Twitter at [@blacknewkumet](https://twitter.com/blacknewkumet).

# WORD SEARCH

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What on Earth	D	T	J	G	H	I	A	U	E	D	I	G	Z	N	R	Y	R	D
Basin	H	I	D	F	Q	S	Y	E	L	L	A	V	J	O	A	E	A	F
Bay	N	A	G	G	E	T	Y	K	P	D	P	M	G	T	R	E	M	B
Canyon	O	R	J	M	E	H	L	J	N	L	D	L	A	N	I	O	C	M
Continent	N	T	R	Q	V	M	F	A	Z	L	A	J	O	E	U	X	Z	O
Delta	A	S	N	E	R	U	L	F	F	C	X	R	W	N	R	A	I	N
Desert	C	T	X	M	V	S	O	P	I	O	L	C	T	I	P	T	P	U
Fjord	L	H	U	V	I	I	M	E	Q	Y	A	A	T	T	P	J	S	M
Forest	O	I	Z	Q	A	F	R	H	V	N	I	T	R	N	T	X	X	A
Geyser	V	K	L	C	P	L	V	S	Y	N	S	Q	E	O	U	G	C	A
Glacier	R	E	S	Y	E	G	U	O	R	E	B	B	S	C	N	E	P	A
Island	B	U	M	F	I	I	N	S	R	O	N	O	E	K	D	E	M	B
Isthmus	Y	F	A	L	I	E	R	O	N	N	F	S	D	K	R	N	A	A
Lake	W	D	S	E	F	S	F	Q	C	I	Q	Q	F	A	A	S	W	X
Massif	T	O	X	I	T	J	S	C	U	O	N	X	M	C	I	L	S	Z
Mesa	L	U	L	O	C	A	O	A	A	T	L	E	D	N	L	I	O	S
Mountain	H	Z	H	H	T	Q	L	R	M	J	H	V	P	L	A	I	N	S
Ocean	Q	Z	H	A	E	W	T	P	D	R	S	N	O	W	O	L	X	Z
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## With a few weeks left, reflect on your year and ‘just soak in Penn State’

This semester has been filled with a myriad of headlines, both positive and negative.

On the positive — things like Penn State raising over \$10 million for Penn State THON, the Jonas Brothers coming to perform or Democratic presidential candidate Beto O’Rourke visiting campus, will all likely be ingrained in our memories for a long time.

But on the negative side, there was an officer-involved shooting of a State College resident, a mass shooting at Penn State and reports of institutional racism within certain departments at Penn State all likely affected many students to their cores.

However, as with all of these events, time has on and will continue to go on and that will allow for introspection and perhaps healing on everything that has happened this year, good or bad.

And as time has marched on, that’s led us to this point: two weeks before the end of the semester at a time when many people are stressed about grades or exams or summer plans or graduation or all of it together.

While those feelings may be the prevailing ones, it’s important to remember that while your time might be almost over, there’s still time to accomplish things or achieve a certain grade or to spend time with friends you’ve made over the years.

People’s experiences and perceptions of Penn State vary from person to person, and there are certainly issues with this university — but as the semester comes to an end, remember what makes it special.

It’s not exclusively the institution or the athletic programs

### OUR VIEW

## Time is running out, so make the most of it and remember to breathe

or the quality of education.

Instead, it’s the people behind all of those things — faculty, staff, professors and even students — that bind this university together and make people’s experiences special and worthwhile, and it’s in the people that Penn State excels.

We as an editorial board have aired our grievances about Penn State enough, so now, we’re taking this opportunity to discuss why we’re thankful and to acknowledge the events and advice that we feel are important to remember as the year comes to an end:

“Take everything in steps, and don’t let the dwindling amount of time overwhelm you. Try not to stress out about what comes next but appreciate the time you have and take in all the moments you can. Make as many memories as you can, and maybe do something that you haven’t before. Just keep on keeping on.” - **Caitlin Lee, Photo Editor**

“In kind of a different vein, there’s two weeks left and it’s not too late to be proud of what you’ve accomplished this semester. You can push through these last two weeks and get that grade that you want or achieve whatever you want to achieve. Along the same lines, if you’re a graduating senior use these last two weeks to check things off your Penn State bucket list, like going to that restaurant you’ve always wanted to try or an event

you’ve always wanted to attend.” - **Aabha Vora, Assistant Photo Editor**

“Make the most of each day, but at the same time, don’t think everything has to be perfect. If you try to force yourself to be happy, you won’t be. Take each day in stride and take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way. It will all work out in the end.” - **Jack Hirsh, Multi-media Editor**

“Just push through. The work right now may be difficult, but in two weeks, when everything is done, it’ll all be worth it and you’ll be rewarded. You don’t have to work for a few months so make these few weeks count.” - **Dylan Jacobs, Football Editor**

“Take a deep breath. Don’t stress about classes and finals (they’re not that important in the long run). Enjoy the last few weeks of the semester and spend time with friends that you won’t see for a while. It’s been a long, stressful year for all of us and we all deserve to enjoy the nice weather as the semester winds down.” - **Tyler King, Sports Editor**

“Life is never going to be as easy as it is right now. Something I’ve tried to do this semester especially is take a moment every-day to be thankful for everything in my life: I go to a great school, I have family and friends who care about me, I have my health, and I get to do awesome things that not everyone gets the chance to

do. Taking those moments every-day to put life into perspective has made me so much happier than I was, and I think I was already pretty happy.” - **Matt Lingerman, Assistant Sports Editor**

“As cynical as I may be sometimes, Penn State offers a world of opportunity to its students. With academic resources, research opportunities, and social events, we can experience a lot throughout our time here. It’s something that I don’t think I’ll fully realize I miss until I graduate. So, my advice for myself and other seniors is to just soak in Penn State for these last weeks.” - **Kara Feselovich, Arts & Lifestyle Editor**

“Be grateful for every single moment, and make it count! Cherish your friends and professors who have helped you grow immeasurably this semester. Walk around Penn State’s beautiful campus — just breathe and soak it all in. Do not lose sight of who you are, all you’ve accomplished so far, and all the wonderful things yet to come.” - **Alison Kuznitz, Features & Investigative Editor**

“Even as a freshman, I’d say constantly take everything in and appreciate what you have. My peers always say things like, ‘I can’t wait to go home for break,’ and, ‘There’s so much work to do,’ and I want them to realize how short of a time they have left here. My first year of college is

over; I have three years before I enter the workforce for real. I wish students would take time every day to think about all the opportunity they have and take advantage of the resources Penn State has.” - **Erin Hogge, News Social Media Editor**

“At first I typed a semi-inspirational message, and then I realized it was cliché and boring. So instead, I leave you with this in the style of John F. Kennedy — ask not what Penn State can do for you, ask what you can do for Penn State.” - **Maddie Aiken, Assistant News Editor**

“Life is a vast expanse, and you are only in the beginning of it. College is not the end of your life, but rather the stepping off point for the rest of it. Realize what you’ve gained from this place, and try to take it with you for the rest of your life.” - **Pat Newkumet, News Editor**

“Honestly at this point just soak it up. Try to enjoy yourself as much as you can, because life will literally never be as easy as it is right now. Skip your class. Enjoy the sun. Take a walk.” - **Andy Kalmowitz, Digital Managing Editor**

“Everything in life needs to be temporary — and semesters of college are no different. If things weren’t temporary, they wouldn’t be important to us. Gratitude comes when we understand the impact of this. In these last two weeks, work hard and be proud to wake up every day. Enjoy the little things, the big things and all that’s in between for your own sake — you deserve it.” - **Kara Duriez, Managing Editor**

“Here’s to surviving.” - **Kelly Powers, Editor in Chief**

MY VIEW | Jack R. Hirsh

## Tiger Woods returns to form in all-time great Masters comeback

He was in doubt. Everyone watching was in doubt. I was in doubt. Then, he went and did it again.



Hirsh

By the 10th hole of the final round of the 2019 Masters, it didn’t look like Tiger Woods would win that elusive 15th major title.

He was two back of Francesco Molinari and the Italian looked unflappable, having made only two bogeys all tournament up until that point.

It was by no means an insurmountable deficit, but for a man who went from the greatest ever to rock bottom, it shouldn’t have been a surprise to overcome it.

Woods’ life was seemingly perfect — money, a beautiful family and a whole lot of wins. He was always in the spotlight. But then, on Black Friday in 2009, came the image of the shattered window of his black Cadillac Escalade crashed outside of his Orlando mansion. The world found out he wasn’t the man we thought he was. He was caught in an infidelity scandal that cost him his marriage and he had his day in the court of public opinion.

When he issued a public apology in 2010, his mother couldn’t look him in the eye. He didn’t win on the PGA

Tour again until 2012.

Then came the injuries. Even after regaining the No. 1 spot in the Official World Golf Rankings in 2013, Woods finished only three events the following year. In 2015, he missed the cut in three out of the four majors.

He missed the entire 2016 season before attempting his 2017 comeback.

When that didn’t work, Woods went under the knife for his fourth back surgery to fuse two of his vertebrae.

Then came his comments at the 2017 Presidents Cup, when he said, “I don’t know what my future holds for me.”

He essentially admitted he may not ever compete competitively again.

A year later, he won again at the Tour Championship in Atlanta, but yet, his comeback was not complete.

Sure, he ended a five-year winless drought on the PGA Tour, but the majors are what Woods really cares about.

For 11 years, he was stuck at 14 majors, four behind Jack Nicklaus’ all-time record.

Majors are a different level of competition than regular Tour events. They feature unique challenges to their setup, added competition and added pressure given the enhanced media presence.

Not to mention there are only four opportunities each year.

These things never used to faze Woods.

But even during his resurgence in 2018, he was beaten on the biggest stages.

He lost the lead on the back nine at the British Open and couldn’t chase down Brooks Koepka at the PGA Championship, despite posting his lowest aggregate score in a major.

It’s harder to win a major now than it was during Woods’ prime.

He inspired a generation of athletes like Koepka, Dustin Johnson, Rickie Fowler, Rory McIlroy, etc., to pick up golf, leading to a talent influx never before seen in the sport.

On Sunday, Woods was competing against a field of golfers who grew up idolizing him. But those same players didn’t seem to be afraid of him like his competition did at the turn of the century.

Woods waited for his opportunity.

And the Tiger pounced. Birdies on 13 and 15 gave him sole possession of the lead as Molinari hit it in the water on 12 and 15.

A perfectly placed tee shot on 16 to just a few feet slammed the door as no one in the field could mount a charge.

Just like old times.

Woods’ comeback to major glory is the greatest in sports history for many reasons.

He fell from the top, a young 33-year-old with seemingly endless potential to own every single record of the sport, to out of the top-1000 of the world rankings by the summer of 2017.

His marital infidelity was exposed, he went through a divorce and public embarrassment, his body began to break down and then he was arrested for a DUI in August 2017.

And yet on Sunday, he turned back the clock, took the lead and won his first major since 2008. From rock bottom, to as Jim Nantz said on CBS’s broadcast, “The return to glory.”

Never has someone in sports spent so much time down, or gone as far down, only to come back to the biggest stage and win. He now moves to No. 6 in the world, with his sights presumably set on returning to No. 1 for the first time in five years.

His comeback is complete, and he can resume one of the most dominant sports careers of all-time.

Three more to tie, four from history.

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als. Penn State students write and edit both papers and solicit advertising for them.

During the fall and spring semesters as well as the second six-week summer session, The Daily Collegian publishes Monday through Friday. Issues are distributed by mail to other Penn State campuses and subscribers.

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Noah Riffe/Collegian

Wide receiver Dan Chisena (88) celebrates catching a 59-yard touchdown pass during the Blue-White game at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, April 13.

# Chisena receives spring game surprise

By Benjamin Ferree  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

As time winded down in the third quarter, Dan Chisena heard the play call, lined up wide along the Penn State sideline and waited for the ball to be snapped.

It was a play that would end up changing his life.

Chisena took off on the snap and hauled in a 59-yard touchdown pass. As he was celebrating with his teammates, James Franklin came over the PA system and said “Chisena, you’re on full scholarship.”

As the crowd at Beaver Stadium came to a roar, the entire Penn State team mobbed Chisena, who was in disbelief.

“I heard [Franklin] start speaking on the microphone and say that I was on scholarship and I can’t even say what was going through my head,” Chisena said. “I just heard it and it didn’t seem real.”

Chisena’s path to this moment in Penn State’s final spring practice of the season was anything but normal.

The fifth-year senior, who was a state track champion in high school, chose to come to Penn State as a preferred walk-on, where he ended up redshirting his true freshman season.

And then in the words of Franklin, “the track team

stole him from us.”

Chisena joined the Penn State track team in 2016 on a partial scholarship.

In a perfect world, according to Chisena, he would’ve continued to play both sports, but because of an NCAA rule, he was unable to play football while on scholarship at another sport.

So, Chisena left a sport he had been playing since the third grade to run track.

And Chisena found instant success.

“My sophomore year, we won the Big Ten Championships which was really special,” Chisena said. “I got third in the 400 there and some of our relay team competed at the national championships both indoors and outdoors a few times.

“So it was some really special moments.”

While Chisena was making these memories and loving track, he knew he was missing something.

That something was football.

“I felt like when I left I didn’t really end it the way I wanted it to and so I always just had this feeling that I wanted to give it another shot,” Chisena said.

Last fall, Chisena returned to the Penn State program and was able to appear on special teams in two games.

And while Chisena admittedly misses the people in the Penn State track program, he is just

thankful for the opportunity.

An opportunity that changed his life but also brought on a lot of work.

Running track and running on the football field are two very different things, but Chisena has been putting in the work after practice to “get his football legs back,” and has spent countless hours on the jug working his hands to be a dependable target.

But it was also a change off the field.

It was a whole different level of work from watching film and studying the playbook, but also incorporating himself back into the locker room and finding himself in a team from a mainly individual sport.

While these were all challenges Chisena had to face, he could always rely on his speed and, according to him, would like to consider himself the fastest player on the team.

This speed was on display as Chisena ran into the north end zone at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, but Franklin’s praise for the receiver goes much further than how fast he can run.

“He legitimately, before he left, ran in the 4.3’s,” Franklin said. “He’s catching the ball confidently and things like that so he’s a guy we always kind of had bright hopes for and just had a really good, consistent spring.

“He’s mature, he’s smart, he’s strong. Obviously he has a lot of

work to do from a fundamental and technique standpoint but we like where he’s at.”

This work that Chisena has put into his game after practice has been noticed by his teammates and made this shock announcement even more special for them.

“It’s one of the best things that college football brings is a walk-on guy, who works as hard as any of the scholarship guys, then gets put on scholarship. There isn’t anything better than that,” quarterback Sean Clifford said. “I was actually talking to him about it in the hot-tub a few days ago about how hard he’s worked.

“I heard it over the loudspeaker and was like ‘yes,’” Clifford continued. “You could see the expressions on our team’s faces. We had no idea.”

Chisena was ushered into the press room at Beaver Stadium after the game and was barely able to check his phone.

“A lot of my best friends and family and stuff were texting me just saying congrats,” Chisena said. “I really didn’t look at it too much because I was just spending time with the guys in there but I saw I had a bunch of messages and I was like ‘alright I just need to get to those later.’”

In fact, Chisena wasn’t even able to speak to his parents directly after the game, who’ve supported him in everything he’s done and mean so much to him.

“I’m very blessed to have

parents who are so supportive and were supportive of my decision to go back to football and pursue this dream of mine,” Chisena said. “I can’t even begin to describe how loving they are and how much I love them and how important they are in my life.”

The Blue-White game marked an end to spring football for Penn State, but Chisena needs to continue work to become an impact player for Penn State this season. The senior will continue to work and take advantage of the opportunities he is grateful to have.

“I told the guys, ‘life’s about opportunities’ and he converted that third down by running a great route and we were able to hit a comeback and then the next play we were able to throw the go to him,” offensive coordinator Ricky Rahne said.

“He took advantage of his opportunities and that’s why he was able to get that scholarship.”

Chisena was never a star. According to him, in high school he only ever had three touchdown receptions, but it was his hard work and commitment that got him to Penn State and over the next few months it will be once again his hard work and commitment that will get him on the field in Beaver Stadium.

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# Sean Clifford heightens QB battle

By Dylan Jacobs  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

There were plenty of things to like about Sean Clifford’s performance in Saturday’s Blue-White game.

He completed 11 of his 19 attempts for 118 yards and a touchdown.

He ran six times for 31 yards.

He didn’t turn the ball over.

While he wasn’t doing this against an elite Big Ten defense, he showed potential.

But James Franklin made it clear that Saturday didn’t solve anything.

“I’m a big believer of competition at every single position. We haven’t named a starter at any position...” Franklin said.

“Obviously we want to name a starter as soon as we possibly can but we’re not ready to do that right now and it’s gonna be more of a true competition.”

It was to be expected that this quarterback competition between Clifford and Tommy Stevens would go deep into the summer, especially with Stevens’ health.

The senior quarterback has been limited all spring with an injury he suffered last season.

Even though he hasn’t gotten the reps this spring, Franklin still has confidence that he can compete.

“Tommy’s done everything right,” Franklin said. “For four years there is a huge body of work for what we’ve seen from him. Last year wasn’t fair to him because he was playing with an injury. “Our coaching staff has all the



Aabha Vora/Collegian

Quarterback Sean Clifford (14) gets sacked during the Blue-White game at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, April 13.

belief in the world in Tommy,” Franklin continued.

“Our coaching staff understands what Tommy has done and who he can be but we also have belief in the other guys. We’ve created really good competition in our quarterback room so we’ll see how this plays out.”

But for Saturday, it was Sean Clifford who held that No. 1 spot all by himself, leading the first-team offense into

Beaver Stadium.

“That’s the one thing people don’t understand is how much fun it is,” Clifford said. “I love working hard. I love being at practice, but when you get in front of everybody and you get to play the game you love, there’s nothing better. “It just puts a smile on my face. It was so much fun just going out there.”

The day-to-day routine is something that motivates Clifford, and

it’s something that is putting him in this competition in the first place.

“Coach Franklin talks about trusting the process and that’s one of the biggest things for me so far,” Clifford said. “Just the day by day, I love that. Waking up early, watching tape late at night. That’s the type of guy I want to be.”

The redshirt sophomore has tried to do all he can to become

“I love working hard. I love being at practice, but when you get in front of everybody and you get to play the game you love, there’s nothing better.”

Sean Clifford  
Quarterback

a leader, which is important if he gets the starting job.

But he said that’s all about what he does on the field.

“Leading by example is a big part of playing the quarterback position,” Clifford said. “Taking that time to show that you are the hardest working guy in the room and guys lean off that. It’s not asserting yourself saying ‘hey I’m going to be a leader.’ It’s more showing it day in and day out.”

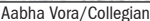
With Stevens’ history and Clifford’s work ethic, this will be an intense competition throughout the summer.

And offensive coordinator Ricky Rahne knows that it’ll make each of them better in the long run.

“I think it brings out the best in everybody,” Rahne said. “When you don’t feel like you’re getting pushed whether it’s by your coach or the opponent or the guys behind you, you’re never going to reach your full potential.”

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Noah Riffe/Collegian

Aabha Vora/Collegian

**Alexander Shoemaker, 5, of Millmont, Pennsylvania** wears kicker Blake Gillikin's jersey (93) before the game.



Lily Laregina/Collegian

**Wide receiver Dan Chisena (88)** celebrates after being given a full scholarship during the Blue-White game at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, April 13. The Blue team defeated the White team 24-7.

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**ARIES** (3/21-4/19) ★★ Deal with your finances early on this a.m. You will make some excellent decisions. As the day progresses, you might find yourself in a situation that could be costlier than anticipated. Tonight: A conversation could be difficult.

**TAURUS (4/20-5/20) ★★★★★** Your creativity soars to a nearly unprecedented level. You experience spurts of energy and enthusiasm. In some cases, you finally will take on a difficult associate or friend. Your attitude has a devil-may-care quality, but know that it could change shortly. Tonight: Relax at home.

**GEMINI (5/21-6/20) ★★★** You could be more grounded than others believe. As a result, you could have an unanticipated realization or event. A partner or close loved one could be full of chatter. If you're not in the mood to share, just pull back. Tonight: Happiest at home.

**CANCER** (6/21-7/22) ★★★★★ You speak your mind and might not be concerned with others' reactions. Trust that you are coming from a grounded point of view. Anger could flare up when you least anticipate. Stay centered, even if it is you who is angry! Tonight: As you like.

**LEO (7/23-8/22) ★★★** You might notice a substantial difference in how you feel today as opposed to the past few days. Handle your finances with care. Be picky and fussy. You could come up with answers out of the blue. A friend or meeting could be difficult. Tonight: Pay bills first.

**VIRGO** (8/23-9/22) ★★★★★ Your energy soars as the day grows older. Look for new possibilities. Extremes earmark your domestic or personal life. A must-do repair could be far more expensive than you anticipate. State your limits. Tonight: As you like.

**LIBRA (9/23-10/22) ★★** Remain low-key. You might learn more than you thought. Extremes hit when dealing with a partner and your bond. Try not to take a conclusive action. Give yourself some space to think through your words and actions. Tonight: Not to be found.

**SCORPIO (10/23-11/21) ★★★★★**  
 Speak your mind. You might hear some news that you have been waiting for. A partner or loved one could be full of surprises. Play it conservatively as far as finances go. You might not make a bad decision, but still give yourself a day to mull it over. Tonight: Where the action is.

**SAGITTARIUS (11/22-12/21) ★★★**  
Tension mounts, especially around your daily life. Someone might surprise you with his or her actions or words. You understand that life is not always predictable. Also understand that others' moods and the end results could change swiftly. Tonight: To the wee hours.

**CAPRICORN (12/22-1/19) ★★★★★**  
Stretch and willingly look at the various sides of an issue. No matter what happens, you will land like a cat with nine lives. You do not need to fret, but do look for a good solution. Give yourself a day or so to find the right answer. Tonight: Veg out while watching a favorite movie.

**AQUARIUS (1/20-2/18) ★★★★★ A**  
 partner or associate plays a key  
 role in your financial stability. The  
 way you deal with a problem could  
 change greatly. Your sense of well-  
 being might be threatened if a loved  
 one goes on a rant or rave. Let the  
 other party know his or her behavior  
 is unacceptable. Tonight: Say "yes"  
 to living.

**PISCES (2/19-3/20) ★★★★★** Defer to an associate who wants to take the lead. Even if you disagree, this person needs to see the outcome of his or her ideas. A family member could be disagreeable. Everyone is entitled to have a bad day. Tonight: Go along with plan.

# Crossword

### Across

- 1 Chimps researcher  
Goodall  
5 Dross  
9 Bank machine  
(Abbr.)  
12 Explorer \_\_\_\_ J.  
Tasman  
13 Norwegian port  
city  
14 Flightless birds  
16 Land broker  
20 Mild oath  
21 Close  
22 Tai language  
23 Fish catcher  
26 Anger  
27 Snoot  
28 Irregular tribunal  
34 Pitcher  
35 Wedding words  
36 Less common  
39 Hindu theistic  
philosophy  
40 Punctuation mark  
Inlet

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	
12					13					14			15
16					17				18				19
	20						21				22		
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28	29	30	31				32				33		
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- |                       |             |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 71 Ordinance (Abbr.)  | 10 Raiment  | 45 Flying high    |
| 72 Rave               | 11 Vortices | 49 Building block |
| 73 State of confusion | 15 Break    | 50 Burrowing      |

## Down

- |   |                       |    |                  |    |                     |
|---|-----------------------|----|------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Cookie holder         | 24 | Author Ambler    | 53 | Doorhandle          |
| 2 | Retired               | 25 | Disruption       | 58 | This (Sp.)          |
| 3 | Approach              | 28 | Auto necessities | 60 | <i>Batman</i> actor |
| 4 | Fitzgerald, for one   | 29 | Absentee inits.  |    | West                |
|   |                       | 30 | Go-between       | 61 | Weak-stemmed plant  |
| 5 | Distress signal       | 31 | Illustration     |    |                     |
| 6 | Landing craft (Abbr.) | 32 | Pizzazz          | 62 | Chimp in space      |
|   |                       | 33 | Hastens          |    |                     |
| 7 | Word of regret        | 37 | Wicked           | 64 | Suffering           |
| 8 | Architectural style   | 38 | Depend           | 65 | Weight unit         |
|   |                       | 41 | Actor Dillon     | 66 | Insect              |
| 9 | Non-professional      | 42 | Shaft            | 67 | Fuel                |

## 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.

	8	32	8			11	13		
10				17	17			10	11
29					11				
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			23						
9			20					4	8
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			9				9		

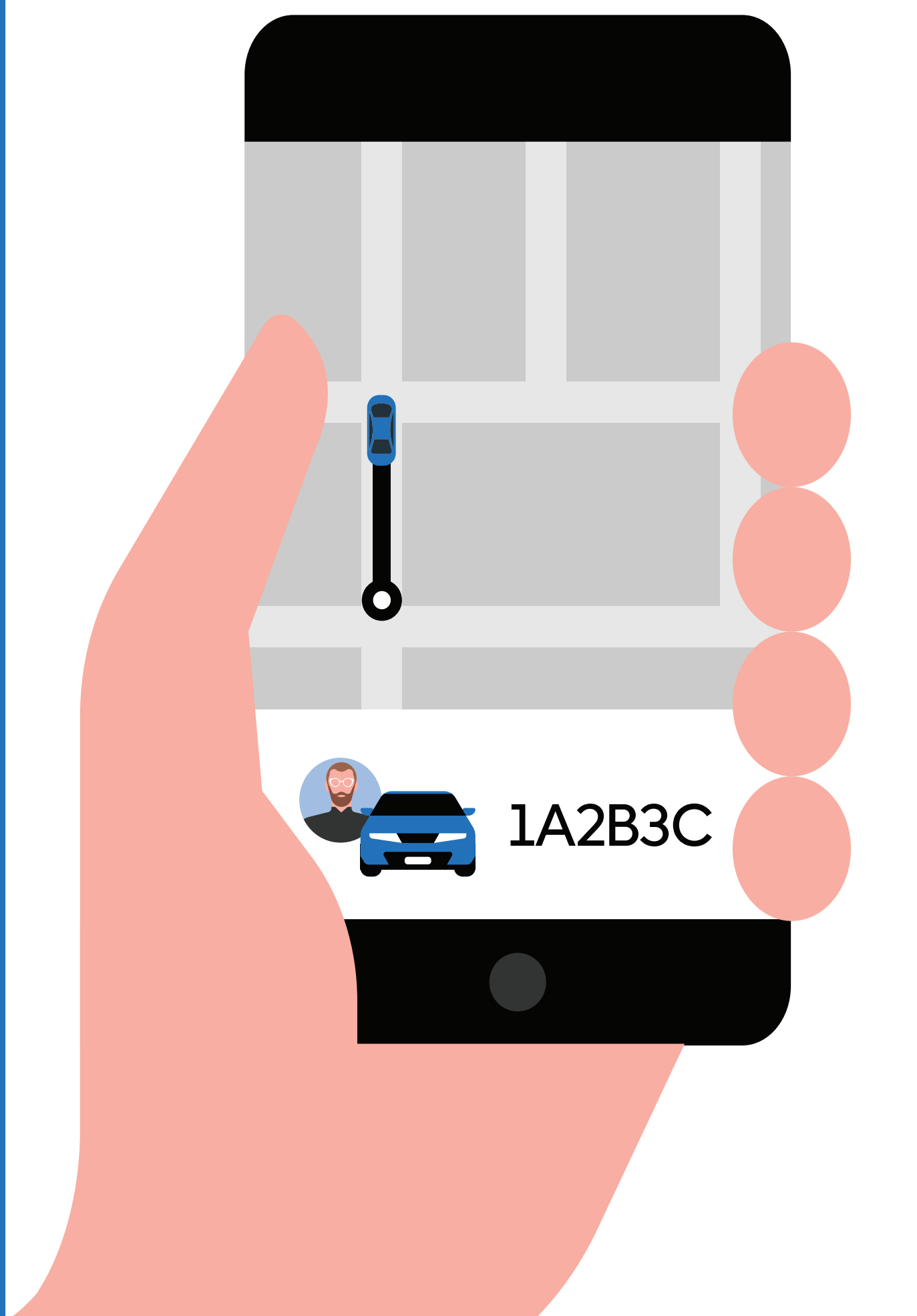




# Ride Safer

## Check Your Ride

1. License plate
2. Car make & model
3. Driver photo
4. Have driver confirm your name



Uber