

The Daily Collegian

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U.S. COMMEMORATES THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

Students set aside individual politics in an effort to honor the victims

By Annabella Chaklos
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Usually, the Penn State College Democrats and College Republicans can be seen tabling, organizing protests, speaker events, and mobilizing students to vote — against each other’s party.

But on Tuesday, both organizations were found together, huddled over 2,977 American flags, each one planted in memory of a victim of the terrorist attacks on Sep. 11, 2001.

Since 2010, the College Republicans have hosted a 9/11 memorial event, including the planting of 2,977 flags on Old Main lawn a few days before the service. For the last two years, the College Democrats have joined them in putting out flags.

Ryan Reichel, the director of special events for the College Republicans, said he considers having the duty to plan out the memorial events an honor. Collaborating with the past special events director, Reichel has been planning Friday’s service since the middle of summer.

He said Penn State President Neeli Bendapudi, State College mayor Ezra Nanes, Slippery Rock mayor Jondavid Longo will all be in attendance.

“There’s an event in everybody’s lifetime that they know exactly where they were,” Reichel, a third-year studying accounting, said. “For my grandparents, it was Kennedy’s assassination. For my parents, it was 9/11. I was talking to my dad and a close family friend, and we were talking about 9/11, and the one thing they described to me was unity.”

Reichel said he sees these me-



Lucas Yendrzejewski/Collegian

Flags stand on the Old Main lawn on Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2026, in University Park, Pa. Friday marks the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

morials as an opportunity to build unity during a time of political discord. He described his parents’ memory of the year after 9/11 as a time when it didn’t matter if you were a Democrat or Republican, everyone was an American.

“Our world is facing a great divide,” Reichel said, planting another flag into the grass. “I feel like this is an opportunity to somewhat get back to that and try to use it as a building block for the years to come.”

For Madeline Shanafelt, the president of the College Democrats, the 9/11 memorials aren’t just an opportunity for unity, but to demonstrate a love for America in the face of devastation.

“I think that 9/11 was such a tragedy in the United States that

we should commemorate every year, especially with this one being the 25th,” Shanafelt, a fourth-year majoring in education and public policy and political science, said. “It’s really important for our club and for me personally to participate to show my love for the country.”

Shanafelt said that it’s important to commemorate the tragedy no matter how much time has passed so it’s never forgotten.

“I think that that was one of the first large-scale attacks on that, and I think the United States is seen as impenetrable, and when that happened, it was proven not,” Shanafelt said. “So it really changed how things worked with valuing national security a lot and really protecting the United

States’ security, which I do think really changed the way that now things are funded, or our emphasis on funding the military.”

Neve McAllister, the secretary of the College Republicans, said that despite most students not being alive when 9/11 happened, it’s still a story that all people need to learn about for the future.

“It brings the community together for a bigger purpose,” McAllister, a third-year studying criminology, said. “There’s still people in this community who have lost people from 9/11. So being able to do this for them especially is really important.”

In addition to bringing the community together, McAllister believes having bipartisan events like the annual flag plant-

ing brings the two organizations closer to collaborate.

“State College is a very blue area, but then we’re surrounded by a very red area, which makes it a little interesting in terms of polarization,” McAllister said, with a bundle of American flags in her arms. “I think being able to have our executive boards work together and collaborate is only going to allow executive boards to come to be able to work again together.”

Keegan Jolly, the vice president of the College Democrats believes that the partisan nature of today’s politics has no place in the remembrance of Sep. 11, 2001.

“I think 9/11 shouldn’t be partisan at all,” Jolly, a fourth-year studying criminology, said. “We’re all Americans. We’re all affected. People that passed away in this tragedy, the thing that you don’t immediately think of is whether they were a Democrat or a Republican or anything in between. They’re all people.”

Jolly said that despite the country feeling divided right now, it is important to continually remind ourselves that everyone is here to celebrate and commemorate a nation and people that was and continues to be greatly affected, no matter anyone’s affiliation.

“I think the reminder of no matter what party that you’re a part of, we’re all Americans. And unfortunately, sometimes it takes tragedy to remind us of that. But 9/11 is a day where, of course, we’re reminded of tragedy, but we’re also reminded of how beautiful it is to band together as Americans.”

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Sandusky withdraws recantation, seeks new trial

By Grace Levy
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Jerry Sandusky appeared remotely at the Centre County Courthouse on Tuesday morning, withdrawing the recantation claim of one of the men who alleged Sandusky assaulted him when he was young.

Presiding Special Judge Maureen A. Skerda, of Warren County, questioned Sandusky to confirm that he was informed of his rights when withdrawing the claim, which was made on his behalf by his attorney Jerry Russo.

State prosecutors also questioned Sandusky, and confirmed that he understood that he would not be able to try the claim again in state or federal court.

In a court document, Skerda dismissed the Post-Conviction Relief Act (PCRA) petition filed by Sandusky in Sept. 2025. The order says that Sandusky has 30 days to appeal.

The hearing occurred despite a request from Russo to have Sandusky’s evidentiary hearing cancelled. The hearing was expected to include the recantation testimony of one of Sandusky’s alleged victims, known in court documents as “Victim Number 10.”

In an affidavit filed in June 2025, the individual recanted his testimony against Sandusky, saying that he was told by prosecutors that his testimony was “critical to stopping a predator” despite lacking “clear or certain memory of any such conduct.” He said that his “statements were not willfully false, but induced under extreme psychological and institutional pressure.”

According to an initial report from ESPN, Sandusky plans on seeking federal relief.

“There is a pending federal appeal that has been stayed pending this litigation,” Russo said to

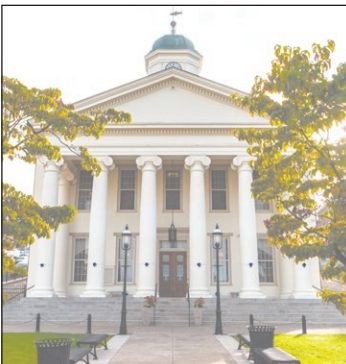
reporters following the hearing. “We will be supplementing that extensively.”

Attorney General Dave Sunday shared a press release Tuesday afternoon, saying that Sandusky’s latest attempt to have his conviction overturned “failed.”

“This was yet another attempt by a convicted child predator to avoid accountability and escape punishment for years of abuse he perpetrated under the veil of a child-empowerment program,” Sunday said. “I commend our litigation team for challenging this alleged recantation by one victim, and putting on record that we had available voluminous evidence that debunks this highly-suspect claim by defense counsel.”

The former Penn State assistant football coach was convicted in 2012 of sexually abusing young boys. He was originally sentenced to 30 to 60 years in prison. He is currently held at Laurel Highlands state correctional institute in southeastern Pennsylvania.

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Aayan Hamdani/Collegian

The front of the Centre County Courthouse sits empty prior to an evidentiary hearing for Jerry Sandusky in Bellefonte, Pa.

UHS, CAPS, Jana Marie Foundation unveil Stomper statue

By Annabella Chaklos
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Content warning: This column contains mention of suicide. Resources and support are available through Penn State’s Counseling and Psychological Services.

University Health Services, Counseling and Psychological Services and the Jana Marie Foundation unveiled the Stomper statue in the Student Health Center lobby on Wednesday.

The statue is a colorful 6-foot figure made mostly of recycled sneakers named “HAVEN,” an acronym meaning “healing and validating emotional needs.” The finished product of a year-long collaboration was presented by UHS and CAPS staff and members of the Jana Marie Foundation, who gave a series of speeches.

Introductory remarks were given by CAPS senior director Natalie Hernandez DePalma and UHS senior director Rebecca Simcik, who expressed their shared wish that the Stomper would serve as a symbol of hope, not just for students seeking services, but for the staff providing them.

“Many of us know how hard the work is every day through every student or patient encounter, no matter what that might look like,” Simcik said. “We know with every year that goes by, the needs increase and the complexities increase, and yet the isolation and the distress for many of our folks is real.”

“I think that this is a wonderful sign of hope and thoughts of moving forward to a better era of wellness for students and also kind of our colleagues here within both units,” Simcik said.

Simcik and DePalma then introduced Jennifer Brauser, who they said “this would not have



Geraldine Cruz-Hernandez/Collegian

A statue stands inside the University Health Services building on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2026 in University Park, Pa.

ever happened without the sort of wit of.”

Brauser, a UHS pharmacist, revealed the name of the statue and explained that although the project is for raising mental health awareness, it began with something more personal: the loss of her sister, Donn, to suicide nearly five years ago.

Brauser confided in the founder of the Jana Marie Foundation in State College, Marisa Vicere. When Brauser learned about the Stomper Project, she knew she wanted to share it with the Penn State community.

“I may have conceived the thought of a Stomper here at UHS, but it has taken a community to create ‘HAVEN,’” Brauser said.

Brauser described the multiple workshops held to create the statue, where students, faculty and community members were taught about mental health stigma, followed by a session where they painted each of the 200 pieces of sneakers that make up “HA-

VEN.” At the base of the statue are a pair of yellow converse that every Stomper wears in memory of Jana Marie Vicere.

“I hope that they feel free to take a look, and close up, and realize that it is a representation of a place where they can feel safe, secure, and that no one has to walk through mental health issues by themselves,” Brauser said. “That they should be a person that can be someone that others can talk to, and that they can talk to others.”

Marisa Vicere followed Brauser’s speech, detailing how she founded the Jana Marie Foundation 14 years ago after her sister took her own life, and all of the collaborative work that’s gone into the statue since the summer of 2025.

Vicere explained art installations like “HAVEN” are an impactful way to raise awareness because creative expression is a powerful vehicle to start conversation.

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25 Years In Memorium

Remembering 9/11

As we approach the 25th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks, we remember the Penn State alumni who lost their lives:

- Kermit Anderson**, Spring 1965, Bachelor of Science, Mathematics
- Patrick Dwyer**, Summer 1986, Bachelor of Science, Finance
- Michael Ferugio**, Spring 1987, Bachelor of Science, Industrial Engineering
- Scott Hazelcorn**, Fall 1994, Bachelor of Science, Accounting
- Howard L. Kane**, Spring 1983, Bachelor of Science, Accounting
- David Kovalcin**, Winter 1983, Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering, and Spring 1985, Master of Science, Mechanical Engineering
- Michele Nelson**, Summer 1985, Bachelor of Science, Psychology
- Michael Pescherine**, Spring 1991, Bachelor of Science, Finance, and Spring 1994, Master of Business Administration
- Jean Roger**, Summer 1999 (non-degree)
- David Suarez**, Summer 1999, Bachelor of Science, Industrial Engineering



Leah Eder/Collegian File Photo

Steve Benza, of Windber, touches the memorial wall that depicts the names of the victims of Flight 93 after the Service of Remembrance.



Nick Thomas/Collegian File Photo

Former head coach James Franklin visits the South Pool memorial fountain during the Penn State football team's visit to the 9/11 Memorial.



Tap Permyao/Collegian File Photo

Participants start off the 5K race during the 9/11 Heroes Run at Bryce Jordan Center on Sunday, Sept. 11, 2016.



Zainabu Williams/Collegian File Photo

Don Leon places a candle on the altar at the Sept. 11 memorial.



Jacob DeLuca/Collegian

Joshua Rus, a first-year studying electrical engineering, places flags during the 9/11 memorial flag placing hosted by the College Republicans on Old Main Lawn on Monday, Sept. 8, 2025 in University Park, Pa.



Jacob DeLuca/Collegian

An American flag hangs at half-mast above Old Main Lawn.



Leah Eder/Collegian File Photo

Petty Office 3rd Class (CTR3) Audri Quinlan of the USS Somerset pauses at the wall of the Flight 93 Memorial near Shanksville, where a service was held to remember the 12th anniversary of the Sept. 11, terrorist attacks.



Sawyer Hadlummw/Collegian

A woman stands for the Pledge of Allegiance during the 9/11 memorial on Old Main Lawn on Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025.



Lucas Yendrzejewski/Collegian

A student plants flags in Old Main lawn on Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2026. Friday marks the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.



Ariana Krammes/Collegian File Photo

Jonathan Kane places a rose next to an American flag during a 9/11 memorial service on Friday, Sept. 10, 2021.



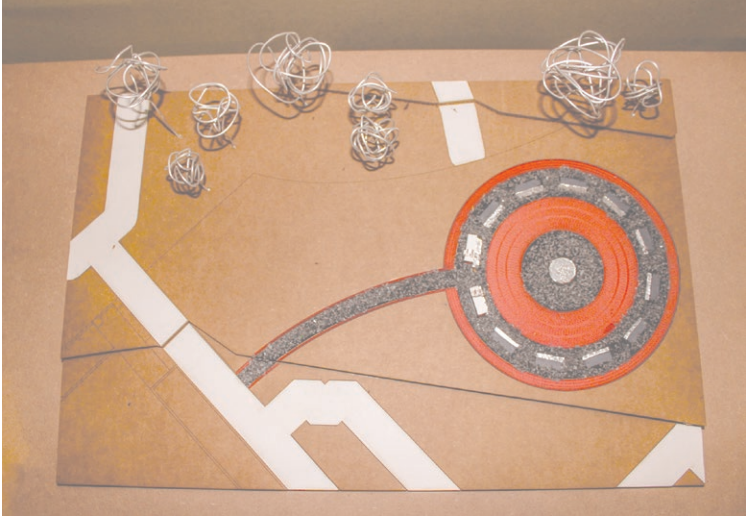
Leah Eder/Collegian File Photo

A USS Somerset crewmate rings one of the Bells of Remembrance.



Lily LaRegina/Collegian File Photo

2,977 American flags are planted on Old Main lawn in remembrance of the 20th anniversary of 9/11 on Friday, Sept. 10, 2021.



Kenni Michels/Collegian

A Sept. 11 memorial designed by an architecture student stands in the Stuckeman Family Building on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2026.

Where to find Penn State’s local music scene

By Brennan Kramp
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State’s local music scene has exploded within the last few years. Not only has the scene become a place for homegrown acts to flourish, but it’s slowly becoming a staple destination for local bands and artists from other college towns wanting to expand their fanbase.

Today’s typical concert experience consists of monopolies like Ticketmaster skyrocketing their prices, sliding in obscene hidden fees at the last second, all for you to sit in bumper-to-bumper traffic on your way to pay \$45 for a parking spot in the dusty, back corner of a lot.

Once you’re finally in the stadium, you’re hemorrhaging your bank account for a pretzel and a bottle of water — just to sit in the nosebleeds while your favorite band plays on the other side of the stadium.

So, what are students starting to do in lieu of not having the budget for a big name concert? They’re turning to their own local music scene.

At Penn State, the community around the streets of venues on College and Beaver Avenue are not just fans of music, but of watching their peers and their friends get on stage and give the whole crowd a night they wished they could repeat.

Manny’s

The first pit stop for anyone looking to get more invested in the local scene is Manny’s Live Performance Space. Since early 2025, this all-ages club has been a go-to venue for any band or musician looking for a fun, open space to display their talents and put on a great show.

As you descend the stairs into the main area, you’re greeted with the poised faces of music legends like Bob Dylan, Lou Reed and Frank Zappa plastered on the walls. Then, you enter the low-lit, wood-paneled room. The stage is low and the floor can get just tight enough to where you can feel the energy of the crowd, but you’re not sweating in a claustrophobic panic, allowing you to be fully immersed in the band you went to see.

According to Manny’s website, it’s “designed for those who value creativity, connection and meaningful hospitality.” The attendees of these late night, underground,



Aayan Hamdani/Collegian

The crowd puts their hands up during Mojofest Happy Valley Music Festival at Tussey Mountain on Saturday, April 18, 2026 in Boalsburg, Pa.

musical rendezvous surely live up to that statement.

Every person in attendance at these shows is moving and grooving no matter who’s up on stage. It’s pure energy and acceptance all around.

Movin’ On

For those not looking to pay for tickets, there are many fraternities around campus that will often host local bands to play for functions during the year.

Another huge event for student acts and fans of local music is the Movin’ On BATTLE and subsequent Movin’ On Festival. At the Movin’ On BATTLE, a handful of student bands and artists are selected to compete for the opening slot of Penn State’s Movin’ On Festival.

Last year’s festival included Slayyyter and Zara Larsson — so you can catch some big names all for the humble price of \$0.

Mojofest

Back in April 2026, Penn State held its first ever Mojofest Happy Valley, another huge step in cultivating a community of local and student bands. It was the first time the festival had been held at a campus outside of Massachusetts.

Mojofest is a chapter of Local Mojo, an Amherst, Massachusetts-based organization started in 2021. April’s event featured several young bands and DJs from the Penn State area.

Local Mojo has helped student bands across six different chap-

ters find performance spaces, promotion, media and anything else that will help more people come out and watch a show.

Now, while there are several places and events for you to see live bands, let’s find out just exactly who’s playing around town.

Local bands

Some of the most popular acts brought up in Happy Valley are killer bands like Sarasota, Amelia and Sequoia (last year’s Movin’ On BATTLE winners), the hard-rocking trio Tuck&Roll, Ham on a Stick and 346 Sunrise. And those are just a few of the well-beloved Penn State groups that are starting to make a name for themselves both in and out of State College.

What’s so great about Penn State’s local scene is that it’s incredibly welcoming and exciting for other underground acts to come through and play alongside some of the more local groups. Bands like the popular Amherst, Massachusetts three-piece Morrissey Blvd, the Harrisburg-based Jay Veil and SKORTS all the way from Brooklyn.

By and large, Penn State’s passion and commitment to supporting local music will only grow more and more from here on out. People have a taste of what it’s like to head down to Manny’s or stop by a frat house to see a few of their friends get on stage and give them a loud night full of jams and laughs.

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‘Anyone can enjoy art’ Palmer Museum of Art serves, students, community alike

By Sarah Price
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The Palmer Museum of Art on University Park campus houses the largest collection of art between Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

Palmer, located on 650 Bigler Rd., is a free-admission art museum that serves both Penn State and Central Pennsylvania alike. It offers a plethora of programs and tours, and frequently features new art exhibitions. It’s open Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday’s hours are extended to 8 p.m., and Sunday’s hours are from noon to 5 p.m.

Director Amanda Hellman has only been in her position at the museum for eight months, but she said she constantly strives to create a welcoming space.

“Every day feels very different,” Hellman said. “I spend a lot of time meeting with everybody, setting a vision for the institution and helping people establish workflows and how we accomplish that.”

Since assuming her position at the Palmer, Hellman has set forth big goals for the museum by creating an exhibition program for the next five years, working toward accreditation with the American Alliance of Museums and ensuring the new building is meeting the community’s needs.

“This (accreditation) is important because it allows us to get bigger grants and to partner with other credited institutions, because they know that we’re following best practices,” Hellman said.

Along with that initiative, another important part of the museum’s philosophy is Penn State’s land-grant mission, which is a three-fold commitment to teaching, research and public service aimed at benefiting all residents of the Commonwealth.

For Janine Yorimoto Boldt, Palmer Museum’s curator of American art, it’s a vital part of her job. As a curator, Boldt thinks carefully about how to make those connections between the



Courtesy of Palmer Museum of Art

Visitors look at artwork in the Palmer Museum of Art in University Park, Pennsylvania.

university, students, faculty and researchers as they study and interpret American art.

It’s important, Boldt said, to take into consideration the origins of the land-grant, as the land-grant mission relied on the sale of lands that are native lands and the dispossession of indigenous communities to fund the university.

“I have a long-term goal of a project that will think through the entangled histories of land-grant universities and indigenous dispossession through the visual arts,” Boldt said.

Recently, Boldt has purchased two photographs by native photographers Tom Jones and Ryan RedCorn, who represent contemporary native individuals. She said she wanted to grow their collection to include positive representations of native people by native artists.

On Oct. 8 at 5:30 p.m., RedCorn will deliver a speech and install his own photograph. He will also meet with the Indigenous Peoples’ Student Association and the Indigenous Faculty and Staff Alliance at Penn State.

Boldt’s largest project, currently, is planning for a complete reinstallation of the American art gal-

leries on the museum’s first floor.

“I’m spending a lot of time browsing our collection, doing research, thinking about how to reorganize and reinterpret that collection,” Boldt said.

As the museum approaches the reinstallation, Boldt said she is thinking of key themes for each of the galleries, and how they can remain flexible to allow for a regular rotation of artworks.

“(Boldt) really sought faculty, student and community member input on reimagining the American galleries, which is the strength of the museum’s collection,” Keri Mongelluzzo, the museum’s educator for academic engagement and access, said.

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Continue Reading:



CROSSWORD

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Across

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|----|---------------------------|----|-------------------|----|-----------------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | High-hatter | 63 | Cold war initials | 10 | Jeweled crowns | 35 | Involuntary twitch |
| 6 | Sticking point? | 64 | Impersonator | 11 | Taro root | 38 | Desertlike |
| 10 | Office fill-in | 65 | ___ a high note | 12 | Cat call | 39 | Medicinal amount |
| 14 | Diacritical mark | | | 13 | Hock | 41 | Chopper part |
| 15 | Angry display | | | 19 | Nuclear weapon | 42 | Business wear |
| 16 | Brain wave | | | 22 | Automobile sticker fig. | 44 | Come-___ |
| 17 | Finished | | | 24 | Skier’s aid | 45 | Fond du ___ |
| 18 | Makeup | | | 25 | Red Cross supply | 47 | Failure |
| 20 | Is no longer | | | 26 | Stretched | 48 | Lima’s land |
| 21 | Rascals | | | 27 | Foundation | 49 | Shades |
| 23 | Rhode Island university | | | 28 | Jagged | 50 | Chooses |
| 24 | Hit the bottle | | | 29 | Kind of queen | 51 | Expunge |
| 25 | Greek portico | | | 30 | Oar pin | 52 | Dressed |
| 27 | Hotel pest | | | 31 | Mountain lakes | 53 | Choir voice |
| 30 | Hard working union member | | | 32 | Draw forth | 54 | Hammer part |
| 34 | Rich tapestry | | | 33 | Radio communication message | 56 | Wanted letters |
| 35 | Bush | | | | | 57 | Kind of dance |
| 36 | Big fuss | | | | | 59 | Coffee maker |
| 37 | Fly like an eagle | | | | | | |
| 38 | Water conduit | | | | | | |
| 39 | Kind of bust or kingpin | | | | | | |

Down

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| 1 | One-dish meal | 63 | Cold war initials | 10 | Jeweled crowns | 35 | Involuntary twitch |
| 2 | Semitic deity | 64 | Impersonator | 11 | Taro root | 38 | Desertlike |
| 3 | Auto pioneer | 65 | ___ a high note | 12 | Cat call | 39 | Medicinal amount |
| 4 | Ben Jonson wrote one to himself | | | 13 | Hock | 41 | Chopper part |
| 5 | Wearisome | | | 19 | Nuclear weapon | 42 | Business wear |
| 6 | Brunch serving | | | 22 | Automobile sticker fig. | 44 | Come-___ |
| 7 | Some stingers | | | 24 | Skier’s aid | 45 | Fond du ___ |
| 8 | Add years to one’s life | | | 25 | Red Cross supply | 47 | Failure |
| 9 | “Scream” director Craven | | | 26 | Stretched | 48 | Lima’s land |

WORD SEARCH

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Water Birds

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D	U	I	U	O	A	U	G	S	F	T	M	A	Y	W	D	D	B

Avocet	Egret	Moorhen	Seagull
Bittern	Eider	Pelican	Snipe
Booby	Gannet	Penguin	Spoonbill
Brant	Goose	Petrel	Stork
Coot	Grebe	Plover	Swan
Cormorant	Heron	Puffin	Teal
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Duck	Merganser	Scoter	

KAKURO

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How to play:

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 can only be used once in any sequence.

SUDOKU

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How to play:

Only use digits 1 through 12. Digits can not repeat within a grid.

That’s just how guys are

“That’s just the way college guys are.”
I’ve heard this sentiment several times, and I can’t help but notice a glaring flaw in it. If college guys don’t want to

Miss Behave commit, only want girls for their bodies and never see them for more than sex, then why are so many Penn State women constantly getting into relationships? It’s not “just the way guys are.” Clearly, the “problem” is us single ladies. Right?

There are some women in college who seem to find relationships left and right. Others say no to sex and aren’t given the time of day. It’s disheartening to be wanted only for your body when your heart is so full of love.

Why do we continuously make excuses for guys? We’ve all heard, “If he’s mean to you, it’s just because he likes you,” or, “Boys will be boys.” These phrases have been ingrained into women’s minds since child-

hood, and perpetuate harmful messages to young women and men.

I’m sick of it. And that’s OK. We don’t need to justify our feelings with poor excuses for men. In fact, we can just feel all the emotions we please.

I don’t have an answer for why some girls face the feelings of only being seen and wanted for sex while other girls attract relationships full of depth and reciprocal love. (Not to say any of this is easy for them, by the way.)

Is it the circles we hang out in? What we do for fun? Who we’re attracted to? Or is it simply just how our stories were written?

Of course, we can love our friends who have been lucky in love, but they don’t necessarily understand the feeling of actively trying to cultivate a healthy relationship, only for the other person to just want sex.

They don’t necessarily understand the feeling of becoming a shell of yourself, separating your sexual life from your mind to feel wanted in the only way you’ve ever been.

This feeling is extremely isolating, but you’re not alone.

It’s expected for a man to not want commitment. After all, it’s “just how college guys are.” The ironic thing is, when a woman wants sex without commitment, she’s considered a whore.

Sometimes, you might just think, “What’s wrong with me? Why am I good enough for sex

“Even so, the guilt that can arise from participating in hook-up culture as a girl wanting a relationship can be painful.”

Miss Behave

but nothing more?” Society has deemed a whore to be a woman — I think we all know that. After all, when we’re referring to a man, we say man-whore instead.

Women aren’t supposed to want sex. We’re supposed to want the flowers. But why can’t we want both? A woman who wants sex is a whore, a slut, she gives off “a vibe.” She has no self-respect or dignity. A man who wants sex? Well, that’s “just how guys are.”

Women are expected to want relationships, and men are expected to want sex. As a woman, I wonder: when a girl won’t sleep with a guy, do his friends tell him, “that’s just how college girls are?” I’m going to say the answer is no.

Rules don’t exist when it comes to hooking up. If you want a relationship, it doesn’t mean you have to wait to have sex. If you want to wait, you should. There are more pressing issues than how a woman decides to live in her body.

Even so, the guilt that can arise from participating in hook-up culture as a girl wanting a relationship can be painful. I’ve seen the quote “I’ve given my body more times than I’ve been given flowers” across social media platforms. Watching guys walk downtown with bouquets on Valentine’s

Day after searching Trader Joe’s for the perfect selection of roses, the feeling isn’t necessarily jealousy.

Women don’t always want this so-called reassurance. They don’t necessarily want to hear “love comes from within yourself.” They don’t want to hear that their time will come. I won’t tell you any of these things — they’re cliché and lack substance.

I think the most important thing for women who feel they are only seen for sex to understand is: you’re so worthy of love, there’s nothing wrong with you and you’re not alone.

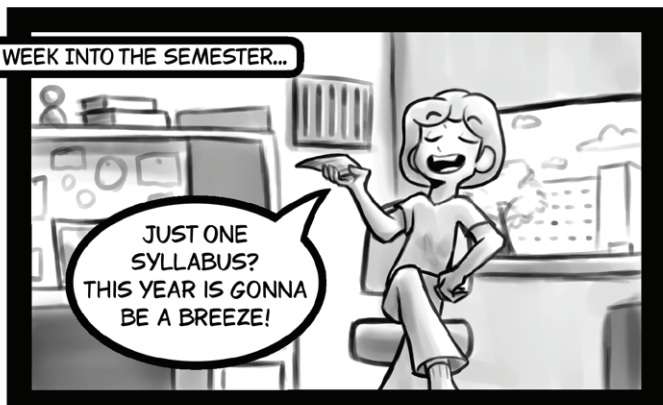
I also want to say that you can do whatever the hell you want; it’s your body, your life. I’ll be here cheering you on the whole time.

Yours truly,
Miss Behave

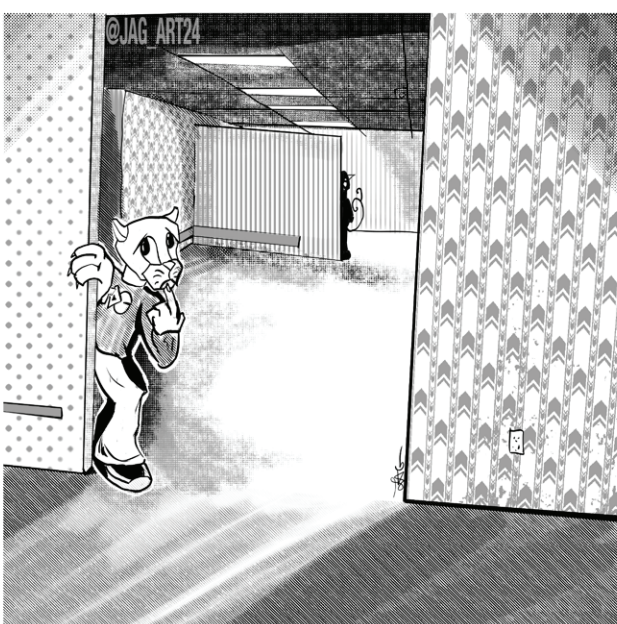
Off the record is a weekly column written by a fourth-year Collegian staffer writing under an alias. It aims to promote a space for honest conversations about love, sex and relationships.



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‘HE’S FINALLY GETTING HONORED’ *Fans share thoughts on Paterno Family Experience Room*

By Andrew Mercer
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Sharyn Fitzpatrick-Skudneski, 69, and Judy Hoffman, 55, beamed from ear to ear as they entered

FOOTBALL

the Paterno Family Experience Room on Friday morning. Two of the three superfans dubbed the “PSU Crazyes” couldn’t help but reminisce on the past.

Fitzpatrick-Skudneski was immediately struck by the featured exhibit — an authentic replica of the late coach Joe Paterno’s office. It was complete with the exact furniture he used during his tenure including the Greenberg Chair, film machine, playbook notes and a box of Wheaties with his face on it from 2003.

“He’s finally getting honored,” Fitzpatrick-Skudneski said. “This touches the surface very little of who (Joe) was and what he’s done.”

The Paterno Family Experience Room opened on Thursday inside the All-Sports Museum at Beaver Stadium and consists of Paterno’s office, a timeline of his career, an evolutionary display of helmets, a list of the team’s captains, Hall of Fame inductees — both collegiate and professional — and interactive video boards.

Fitzpatrick-Skudneski, decked out in Penn State merchandise from head to toe, looked at a picture of Paterno and immediately thought about the Paterno family’s influence on her life.

She was serving as the Treasurer for the Penn State Alumni Association Chapter in



Lucas Yendrzejewski/Collegian

A replica of Coach Paterno’s office is displayed in the new Paterno Family Football Experience Room within the Penn State All-Sports Museum at Beaver Stadium on Friday, Sept. 4, 2026, in University Park, Pa.

San Francisco. She attended a Paterno alumni banquet in Palo Alto, California, and Paterno himself introduced her to the

“It brings back very great memories to be able to see everything put in this fashion, just to see it and reminisce on all the pictures.”

Bruce Engle
Season Ticket Holder

president of the Silicon Valley Chapter; Stan Skudneski, who she later married in 1993.

“I was talking to Sue (Paterno).

I had seen her at the natatorium a lot swimming, and my husband knew Joe. So, Joe comes over saying, ‘You kids need to meet each other,’ and he introduced us,” Fitzpatrick-Skudneski said. “(Stan’s) treasurer didn’t show up for the night, so I had to write a check for 650 people for dinner, and he met me the next day at the bank.”

Fitzpatrick-Skudneski and Hoffman read the timeline of Paterno’s life, looked at the wall of trophies and laughed while remembering the hundreds of experiences they’ve shared throughout the years.

On the other end of the floor, John Powers, 47, and his family came to State College from Tampa Bay, Florida, for the season-opener against Marshall on Saturday and decided to stop by the Penn State All-Sports

Museum a day ahead of the game.

Powers couldn’t keep his eyes off the wall featuring all of the team’s captains since 1887. Powers said that it’s important to include such an exhibit to give his children the chance to learn the program’s history.

“The best part is bringing my kids here and letting them experience it,” Powers said. “Obviously, it’s biased towards getting them to become Nittany Lions someday, but just having them relive it and see this for themselves is great.”

Bruce Engle, 75, was also lost in a sea of memories. A 1973 graduate, Engle was the Scholarship Chair of the Penn State Alumni Association’s South Jersey Shore Chapter, and he vividly remembered meeting the Paterno family on many occasions, even having

dinner with them in Philadelphia.

“It brings back very great memories to be able to see everything put in this fashion, just to see it and reminisce on all the pictures,” Engle said.

Engle smiled as he gazed at Paterno’s replica office. He’s been a season ticket holder since 1974 and experienced first-hand the changes that have been made since his days as a student.

However, Engle said that it’s “marvelous and unique” that the Paterno Family Experience Room was able to preserve a slice of history as it stood.

“This is a marvelous testament to a great coach, and a great family man, and everything that he stood for,” Engle said. “It’s been a long time coming, and it’s a marvelous job they did with this.”

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Big Ten play opens against Washington *Coach Rob Dow gets first real test*

By Luci Palacios
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State opens Big Ten play Friday with its toughest test yet.

The Nittany Lions travel to face the Washington Huskies at 10:30 p.m. Friday, marking head

SOCCER

coach Rob Dow’s first Big Ten matchup since taking over the program.

Penn State enters the game at 2-2 after shutting out Yale 1-0 at Jeffrey Field. Washington comes in at 3-2-1 and is fresh off a 4-0 win over UC Davis.

The matchup also gives Penn State its first chance to take on the defending NCAA champions. The Huskies have won all three meetings between the programs, including a 2-1 victory at Jeffrey Field on Oct. 20, 2025.

The Defending Champions

Washington enters its first Big Ten game as the reigning National Champion after defeating No. 15 seed N.C. State 3-2 in overtime of the national title game last season.

The championship marked Washington’s first NCAA men’s soccer title and the 13th national championship won by a Big Ten program.

Senior defender Harrison Bertos returns after scoring the championship-winning goal against N.C. State.

The Huskies also return one of the conference’s top threats in junior midfielder Zach Ramsey. Ramsey leads the NCAA and Big Ten with nine goals this season, adding one assist through six games.

Ramsey finished last season with 24 points on eight goals and eight assists. He was also named the Offensive Most Outstanding Player of the championship match.

Fifth-year midfielder Cameron Cruz gives Washington another option in attack. Cruz leads the Huskies with four assists, tying for seventh nationally.

Washington will also rely on fifth-year goalkeeper Stockton Short. The 6-foot-3 keeper has started every game this season, recording 11 saves with a .524



Sawyer Hadlum/Collegian

Forward Amadou Kone (42) keeps the ball away from Pitt midfielder Grayson Carter (20) during the men’s soccer game against Pitt on Friday, Aug. 28, 2026 in University Park, Pa.

save percentage and a 1.68 goals-against average.

Penn State’s Test

Penn State comes into the matchup after its strongest defensive performance of the season.

The Nittany Lions held Yale to five shots and didn’t allow a single shot on target in Friday’s 1-0 win.

The performance was a step forward for a defense that has allowed seven goals through four games. Penn State will now face a much different challenge against Washington, which has scored 18 goals through six games.

The Nittany Lions will need to carry over Friday’s defensive discipline while limiting the Huskies’ chances in front of goal.

Freshman goalkeeper Daniel Peluffo-Wiese recorded his first collegiate shutout. The 6-foot-7 keeper has started all four games he has played this season

and gives Penn State a major presence in the box.

Peluffo-Wiese is part of a tall defensive group that also includes sophomore center back Joe Sheridan at 6-foot-6 and junior center back Noah Förster at 6-foot-4.

The Nittany Lions will need that size against Washington’s attack led by Ramsey and Cruz.

Penn State also found some offense of its own against Yale. Sophomore Joe Buckley scored his first collegiate goal, while freshman Nehan Hasan recorded his first collegiate assist.

Friday’s matchup will give Dow his first look at Big Ten competition. Facing the defending national champions this early in conference play could provide an early measure of where Penn State stands under its new head coach.

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New-look numbers

By Maggie Hardy
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

College hockey returns in just over a month, with a new class gearing up to make their Hockey Valley debuts.

HOCKEY

New names on the roster also mean new-look numbers scrawled across the classic blue and white sweaters for the 2026-27 season.

Here’s a look at the jersey numbers the newest Nittany Lions will be wearing ahead of their first appearances at Pegula Ice Arena.

History makers

Before last year, the highest number a Nittany Lion had worn was No. 35.

In a historic 2025-26 season, Penn State seemed to do away with its shortened number system, allowing this summer’s No. 1 overall NHL draft pick, Gavin McKenna, to wear No. 72, and standout sophomore forward JJ Wiebusch to claim No. 86, to name a few.

After last season’s changes opened the door, four new blue and white skaters will be the first in program history to wear their chosen numbers this year.

A big addition to Penn State’s forward core was Maine transfer forward and 2024 fifth-round NHL draft pick Justin Poirier, who will be the first to wear No. 89 for the Nittany Lions.

Forward Andrew Kuzma will make his return to Hockey Valley this season, this time suiting up with No. 91.

After the discovery of an undetected medical condition forced Kuzma to redshirt his freshman season back in 2024, he spent last season in the OHL before recently returning to Penn State’s roster.

Finally, freshmen Shea Busch, a Florida Panthers 2025 fourth-rounder, and Justin Larose, a forward out of the QMJHL, will don No. 74 and No. 96, respectively.

Out with the old, in with the new

Three newcomers have elected to step into the shoes of the recent graduates, claiming numbers previously worn by 2025-26 Nittany Lions.

Former Penn State defender Carter Schade’s No. 2 will be passed down to fellow blueliner and Vermont transfer Caeden Herrington. Herrington was another big get for the blue and white out of the transfer portal this offseason, taken in the fourth round of the 2025 NHL draft by the Los Angeles Kings.

Freshman Crew Petty is keeping No. 35 within the goaltender family, taking over former Nittany Lion stand-out goaltender Kevin Reidler’s number after he signed an entry-level contract with the Ottawa Senators.

To round out the trio, former Miami (OH) defenseman Charlie Michaud claimed former forward Alex Servagno’s No. 8.

Bringing back the past

The remaining five skaters are bringing back numbers that have been out of rotation for the past few seasons.

One of Penn State’s most exciting new recruits is reigning OHL goaltender of the year Ryder Fetterolf, who will be wearing No. 1 for the blue and white for the first time in over a decade, since it was worn by fellow goaltender PJ Musico during the 2014-15 season.

Tampa Bay Lightning draftee Marco Mignosa is bringing back No. 26, last worn by Penn State forward Ashton Calder during the 2022-23 season.

Defenseman Ethan Weber, No. 6, forward Kaden Pitre, No. 17, and forward Kale Dach, No. 22, all selected numbers last worn by blue and white alumni during the 2024-25 season to finish off the list.

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Meliza Fermin shares her story from Penn State to Emmy-winning visual arts

By Colleen Cratty
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

In between her classes at Penn State, Meliza Fermin would rent out cameras and new technology to experiment with. From constant work in computer labs, filming around campus and practicing her artistic skills, she kept herself busy, learning and exploring.

On Sunday, Fermin was nominated for Outstanding Special Visual Effects In A Single Episode for her work as a digital matte painter supervisor on the television show “Paradise.” This was her third nomination with the Television Academy, and she won in 2009 for the show “Heroes.”

Fermin started her journey studying integrative arts at Penn State from 1999 to 2003, where she found she loved manipulating videos, whether it was 3D or after effects.

Fermin also mentioned that she loved watching movies,



Courtesy of Meliza Fermin

Fermin, left, poses with colleagues after receiving their awards.

“I was making my own projects, basically, and that’s how I started learning about visual effects,” Fermin said. “I was in the computer lab there one day, and I realized, ‘Wow I really like doing this.’”

Meliza Fermin
Visual Effects Professional

which led her to find visual effects as her career path. After graduating, Fermin reached out to Penn State alumni to get advice and learn about the complicated industry of film and television.

“I spoke to a lot of people around that time in her position, and I often recommended that they try and get an internship,”

Forker, a visual effects supervisor at Netflix, said. “Having the right experience is really hard, I’d say.”

Fermin agreed that getting experience post-graduation was really difficult, a barrier that still prevails today.

“Before, everyone would move to LA and pursue their dreams there,” Fermin said. “But now, the entertainment industry is expanding and is not concentrated in LA, like it was before. Because of the switch to streaming now, there’s not a lot of money being made in movie theaters.”

Even through the difficulties in the growing industry, Fermin has found success in the visual arts field.

But she said awards aren’t what define achievement in her field. People are more interested in the actual work you’ve done.

“In this era where technology is always changing, new software is coming out. Who cares if you won an Emmy five years ago?” Fermin said.

When working on a new show,

no one knows if it’s going to get recognized, she said, and it’s important to approach everything the same way: Work hard no matter what.

Fermin’s colleague, Evan Underwood, spoke to her dedication in the workplace.

He said most matte painters in visual arts just do the art aspect of the shots, and most commonly, separate artists or teams set it up. But Fermin’s knowledge of technology sets her apart from other visual artists. Since she’s multi-skilled, she’s a “one-stop shop,” Underwood said.

Forker also said knowing technology and having the ability to adapt to new changes in the entertainment industry holds high importance. Professionals need to constantly be willing to adjust, learn and perfect new skills.

In recalling a specific shot on a project the two worked on, Underwood said Fermin’s artistic abilities superseded anything that could’ve been made using CGI.

“The real hidden skill is her technical chops,” Underwood said. “She has the artistic ability, which is one side of the brain, she’s an incredible artist and an incredible painter. But usually, you don’t get both. You don’t get somebody that is technically savvy as well.”

“Rarely does she miss the mark. She’s very detail-oriented. She asks great questions upfront to make sure she fully understands the needs of the shot.”

Evan Underwood
Computer Graphics Supervisor

Fermin’s technical skill goes back to her time at Penn State, where she was able to use

campus resources to experiment with cameras.

The access to campus computer labs also allowed her to play with software and technology she never could have afforded. The ability to try out and have fun with Penn State’s tools helped her grow in her profession.

“The advice I always give to current students is to focus on something,” Fermin said. “Visual effects is so general. And everyone always says, ‘I wanna work in visual effects, I wanna work in film.’ I’m like, ‘But what? What area?’”

Even through her whole career journey, she said her biggest achievement is simply her art skills.

“You can’t just learn a software and be an artist,” Fermin said. “You actually have to know composition, color values, all those basics — and you can’t ignore that.”

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Breaking through the ‘class friend’ barrier

By Ally Sons
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

As new classes officially start feeling real, there’s no better time to start truly getting to know your classmates than now. Whether it be the people in your assigned class groups or the people in your 300 person lecture hall that happen to sit next to you each day, the opportunity for friends is everywhere.

Even though it can feel scary to break out of your shell and connect with people in a school environment, it’s important to remember we’re all in the same boat: Everyone’s a little nervous, and everyone wants more friends.

We sit in class all day, so there’s no better place to meet new people. If you’re looking for some easy ways to break through that awkward “class friend” barrier, look no further than these five strategies.



Sarah Price/Collegian

Students sit outside Thomas 100 on Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2026 in University Park, Pa.

Exchange phone numbers, social media for “studying”

By offering your contact info to someone, it creates a closer bond than just “classmates.” It shows you’re taking initiative to stay connected, but still in a casual and less intimidating way than asking them to hang out upfront.

You can suggest studying together or creating a study group for class, which takes the friendship outside of the classroom. Even if no study plans ever emerge, it guarantees you a person to sit next to for the rest of the semester.

This also gives you the opportunity to ask them to hang out socially. Whether in a big group to celebrate post-exam or asking them to grab food and gossip about class, it sets you up for success.

Overshare (slightly)

This is definitely something that’s easier said than done, but striking up conversation before class starts makes you seem like a social person that anyone would love to be friends with.

Some good conversation starters could be talking about upcoming quizzes or assignments, any big weekend plans or something exciting going on in your life. If you’re feeling brave,

you could have a big reaction to a notification and then tell your classmate all about it.

Keep it tasteful. No one’s asking you to trauma-dump to a fresh group of faces who likely just want to get the class over with. But show that you have a personality outside of taking notes on your laptop.

Suggest new study spots

The easiest way to make the friendship feel less classroom-confined and less stuck on talking about the curriculum is venturing outside of Willard, Thomas or wherever you take notes for 50 minutes each week.

Instead of asking to study at the library or the HUB, you could instead suggest Starbucks, Dunkin’ or, if you’re really feeling bold, your apartment or dorm. If you’re already committed to studying at the library, you could always suggest coffee or food after and invite them.

This sets you up to be able to shift the conversation to something more personable and find common interests.

Identify mutual friends, interests

On that note, mutual friends and interests are the easiest way to have someone see you as more than just a person to share notes and exasperated sighs with in class. If you exchange social media accounts, then it allows you to check for mutuals or

any organizations or clubs you have in common.

All you need is one, single mutual thing, and then you have a blossoming plan for hanging out in the future.

Ask them about going-out plans, invite them to yours

This one is straight to the point and definitely not for everyone, but has a very high-risk return.

Penn State has a pretty big going-out scene that many students engage with. Asking the people in your classes about their favorite night-life activities opens up the conversation to you guys going out together, which definitely secures a friendship.

People are so much more than just what they’re studying in class, and everyone’s definitions of “going-out” are different, so, just like any of the suggestions on this list, this could expand your horizons too.

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Brooklyn Bodega Deli and Grill opens

By Talia Rittenhouse
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Brooklyn Bodega Deli and Grill recently opened up on 340 E. College Ave.

Here, the bread and bagels come straight from New York, bringing authentic, delicious meals to State College. As a girl whose parents are from the New York area, I just knew this restaurant would hit home.

Not only are there sandwiches and bagels, but you can also buy pancakes, french toast, omelets and platters for breakfast, and salads, fries and burgers for lunch or dinner.

Let me tell you, this is not a place you want to miss out on — Brooklyn Bodega has just become one of my go-to spots.

Chopped Cheese

Wow — this may be better than any other burger.

If you love the gooey cheese on a cheeseburger, just imagine you have that in every bite. With the hamburger meat chopped up — hence the name, “Chopped Cheese,” you truly get that cheesy goodness in each bite you take.

You also have lettuce, tomato and onion in every bite. With the cheese, you don’t even need a condiment to dip the burger into, although it never hurts to add more flavor.

There was a perfect amount of seasoning in this dish, and the lettuce was kept fresh and not soggy, like some fast food chain burgers you might have had in the past. So without a doubt, this could be one of the best burgers I’ve had — you’re truly missing out if you don’t grab this for your next meal.

Chicken Parm Sandwich

Another one you cannot pass up.

The classic Italian dish, chicken parmesan, turns into a sub, hoagie, sandwich — whatever your family taught you to call it.

You always need a good roll for this kind of meal. It’s chewy and flavorful and holds together all of the ingredients without losing its structure. In each bite, you get layers of breaded chicken and delicious marinara sauce. The kind of sauce you would get at a nice Italian restaurant, but here it is, at our new bodega in State College.

Bacon Cheese Fries

Truly, how could you ever go wrong with these three key ingredients — cheese, bacon, fries, what’s not to like?

The fries themselves have a great seasoning and crunch to them, so if cheese fries are not your style, you can still get them on the side of any other order.

If I had to change one thing about this, it would be cutting the bacon up into smaller pieces so you could have more across the plate of fries, but still, this side is close to perfect.

Imagine getting bacon cheese fries after a long day of college football tailgating or as a late-night snack — now that’s ideal.

Bagel

After talking with the workers in the store, I learned that their bagels come straight from New York, so if you’re from New York or New Jersey, you may get a taste of home at the Brooklyn Bodega.

The bagel was on the sweeter side and had an amazing chew to it, a factor that is a must-have in a bagel.

However, I did miss the crunch factor from the outside, but this could be fixed with a double toasting.

The bagel was not my favorite I’ve ever had, but I would definitely be open to trying it again, especially as a bacon, egg and cheese.

Waffle Egg and Cheese

At Brooklyn Bodega, you can get an egg and cheese on many different things — on a bagel, pancake, french toast or a waffle.

Seeing these unique options, I had to give this one a try since it was different from anything I’ve heard of.

After having a few bites, I realized I may not be a fan of mixing sweet and savory foods with one another, but that doesn’t mean it wouldn’t be someone else’s favorite.

You get the savory from the egg and melted cheese and then a taste of sweetness from the waffle holding it all together.

If you’re more adventurous than me with trying foods like this, you should venture into one of these breakfast options.

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