

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

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EDITORIAL

Loop accident should serve as safety reminder for PSU

As State College and the university communities continue to expand, more people than ever fill the streets and sidewalks on their daily commutes.

On such a "pedestrian friendly" campus, however, last week's crash involving a motorcyclist and a crowded Loop bus only proves there is much room left for brushing up on driving and pedestrian safety skills.

With such a great number of pedestrians strolling about town, students sprinting to class, commuters trying to beat rush hour and bicyclists weaving through traffic, it is easy to see how the numbered roads of a small town can get congested. But the problem is easily alleviated when all parties involved are completely aware of their surroundings.

Motorists need to keep in mind that rolling through stop signs or jumping the gun on green lights may not be the best of ideas when so many people are reading the newspaper, are in a hurry, or are simply oblivious to the obvious danger they put themselves in.

Awareness of even the slightest traffic changes can make everyone's lives much easier by taking away at least that much of the opportunity for disaster. This includes checking for bicyclists before letting passengers swing open their doors to exit the vehicle,

and that dreaded 15 mph speed limit on campus, which protects the swarms of hurried students as they race the clock to get to their classes on time.

Bicyclists, too, must be more compliant to the rules of the road, as they are considered moving vehicles.

By the same token, however, pedestrians also need to put forth their fair share of effort by taking the time to actually look before stepping across the street, and even then, to do so at designated crosswalks rather than at random portions of Beaver and College Avenues.

The free Loop buses have also created potential safety hazards, as an increasing number of students take advantage of the service. As weather gets colder, this crowding problem can only get worse. It is up to bus drivers, then, to follow the set guidelines and to turn away potential riders when their buses are already filled with more passengers than what is really safe.

It is a shame that every year, students have to be hurt in commuter-related accidents before anyone takes notice of the grisly situation.

If pedestrians and operators of vehicles alike would only use common sense and common courtesy, the incessant problem of roadway safety would easily begin to solve itself.

Who we are

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Knight's time should continue at IU

By Ben Rupp

The Hoosiers are going to regret this one.

How could they let a legendary coach like Bobby Knight go? All he did was teach a kid, who greeted the coach in public with "Hey Knight," some lessons in manners, the latest so-called altercation, which can best be described as minor, is in no way serious enough to deserve this type of response.

The debate in this entire saga centers around the zero-tolerance plan outlined by the university back on May 15. Everyone knows this was a farce from the beginning. It was nothing more than a way of protecting the university's image by saying, "We're going to give you one more chance Bobby, but you better behave."

Did they really expect Knight to totally change his coaching style that has led to 763 career victories, even a gold medal in the 1984 Olympics?

They make it seem as if Knight just recently became a cause of controversy in the sports world.

The truth is that Indiana University has forever overlooked the fact that Knight has always been a physically intimidating, fiery coach. No one on the University Board of Directors appeared to have a problem with his coaching methods when Indiana was winning any of their three national championships, or 11 Big Ten titles. His actions were downplayed, and he was labeled as a man with an intense desire to win.

It's funny how someone's persona can change just because his team has been struggling.

The Hoosiers have not won a Big Ten title since 1993 and had an embarrassing early departure from the NCAA tournament last year in what turned out to be their worst first-round loss ever. It seems as if winning is their top priority, and only when



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"The simple fact is that the vast majority of Knight's players, past and present, respect him and admire him as a person and a coach."

the winning has stopped does the administration look to act.

I won't kid anyone; the list of complaints filed against Coach Knight is as long as the one of his accomplishments. It consists of repeated reports of verbal abuse, unwillingness to cooperate, and actions of intimidation.

The biggest complaint, however, has always been that he is too hard on his players.

To most of these people I would have to say, grow up. These basketball players are attending a top university — for free I might add — while being given the opportunity to play in front of thousands of adoring fans. Their peers basically treat them like royalty.

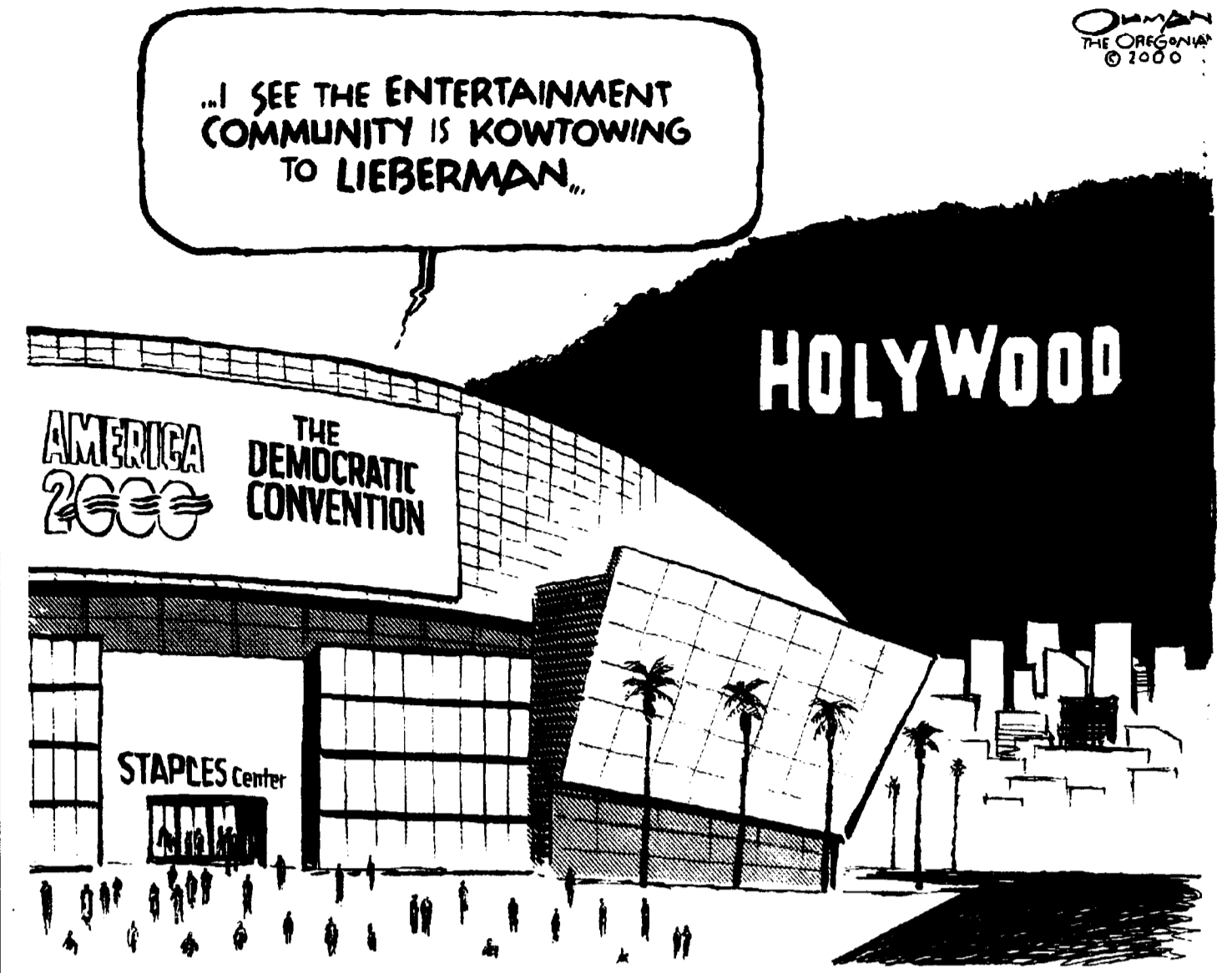
But yes, there is a down side to playing at Indiana. Sometimes the coach yells at them, and even gets in their faces.

Well, I'm sorry to burst many of your bubbles, but that's sports. I can remember my football coaches getting right up in my face, pulling my facemask, and letting me have it when I would mistakenly jump offside or miss a block. You just accept it, use it for motivation, and go out harder on the next play.

Players who come to Indiana should know what to expect. Knight's personality is highly publicized, just as his constant "unethical" actions are. They have to be aware of his famous halftime tirades, or that he demands 100 percent of your effort and attention every time you step on to the court because he wants you to be your best — and he wants to win.

If all these things about Knight are so terrible, then why does he continue to get high school All-Americans every year?

The simple fact is that the vast majority of Knight's players, past and present, respect him and admire him as a person and a coach.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Administration should not raise tuition another time

I've come to realize that Penn State President Graham Spanier is a money-leeching vampire. Why is it that every time anyone makes a contribution to the university, Spanier crawls out from under the rock he was hiding behind to gladly accept it? Why again is tuition being raised? I don't get it. Does Spanier and the rest of the university think that all of us have a "Daddy Moneybucks" back home who can just fork over tuition?

Now, I can understand that tuition has to be raised in accordance with the rate of inflation, but this university raises tuition faster than the rate of inflation. I also want to know what is going to happen when the state does not give all the money that Spanier is asking for? That's right, we the students are going to pick up the rest.

This university is the model of inefficiency. If the administration had any brains, they'd find a way not to just waste money and make running the university a little more efficient and make it a little easier on us students and our parents.

Victor Banks
senior-chemical engineering

CATA should work toward reinstating Loop charges

I am disturbed at CATA's apparent inability to deal with the overcrowding problem on the Loop buses.

This "price cut" led to a drastic increase in the amount of students who chose to ride these buses.

This increase in riders led to some major problems, most obviously an extreme overcrowding of the buses during the busiest hours of the day, namely right before and after all classes. I and many of my fellow Loop riders who do not live on campus have found it extremely difficult to catch the Loop out by the Bryce Jordan Center and ride it in to where our classes or offices are.

After a year of careful observation, I have come to the revolutionary conclusion that this overcrowding is dangerous not only to the Loop drivers who have to deal with students in their face because they are forced to stand throughout the ride, but to the students themselves who, by standing, take a terrible risk of being seriously injured after an accident or even a sudden stop.

Last year, when the overcrowding problem came to a head, CATA promised to alleviate the situation by purchasing new buses. As of September 12, 2000, I have not seen any more Loop buses than last year, and the only thing CATA has done is moved the locations of some of the Loop stops. Not only that, but the overcrowding situation is seemingly worse.

When is CATA going to actually do something about this situation? As a solution, I believe that they should reinstate the fee for riding the Loop. I feel that the situation that prevailed before the free Loop was perfectly efficient. Students who have parking permits at the Jordan Center lot or live in one of the major apartment complexes off campus, should be given free Loop passes. Those who live on campus (and are fit to walk) should be made to pay to ride the Loop.

This simple change would decrease the number of riders immediately and make the Loop a more convenient and safe ride for everyone.

Joe McGill
graduate-liberal arts

Write a letter

We want to hear your comments on our coverage, editorial decisions and the Penn State community in general.

■ Email: letters@psu.edu

■ Postal mail:

The Daily Collegian
123 S. Burrowes St.
University Park, PA 16801-3882

■ In person:

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Letters must be typewritten, double-spaced and no longer than 400 words. Students' letters should include semester standing, major and campus of the writer. Letters from alumni should include the major and year of graduation of the writer. All writers should provide their address and phone number for verification of the letter. Letters should be signed by no more than two people. Names may be withheld on request. Members and officers of organizations must include their titles if the topic they write about is connected with the aim of their organization. The Collegian reserves the right to edit letters for length and to reject letters if they are libelous or do not conform to standards of good taste.

Knight's coaching tenure should be left in the past

By Jesse Norris

Bobby Knight is out of control.

The list of lessons people learn in kindergarten that he has not learned is long, and in the words of basketball legend Bob Cousy, "It's time to grow up" for Bobby Knight.

The problem with Knight is that he is ultra-competitive.

This competitiveness is often transformed into a violent rage, and rational people in the year 2000, like Indiana President Miles Brand, the man who rightfully fired Knight, do not tolerate physical abuse anymore. This is not 1930 when, if you misbehaved in elementary school you might be hit with a ruler. In this era, any businessman or teacher who choked a subordinate would be fired and probably prosecuted.

The era in which Bobby Knight was a great coach has passed. Knight won his last of three NCAA titles in 1987. Players don't bow down to their basketball coaches anymore, and especially not one who employs physical violence and intimidation. The coaches who have won championships in the last 10 years are the one's who are "player's coaches" — those who develop a strong rapport with their players. Just look what Phil Jackson did for the L.A. Lakers in helping Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neil co-exist.

Logically, most players who know they have the talent to star in the NBA and who have received special treatment because of their talent in high school, don't want to deal with physical abuse from Bobby Knight. Undoubtedly, Knight has scared away some potential recruits because of the physical anger he uses with players.

It's about time he was fired. Apparently



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all the hooligans at Indiana University who have threatened Kent Harvey's life (the student Knight grabbed by the arm this past Thursday) and who chanted Sunday for the resignation of Brand as president, have a blind faith in Knight's legend in Indiana as a basketball coach and have selectively forgotten Knight's racist and sexist actions.

For all of Knight's supporters, here are a few of Knight's actions that might wake you up from your hypnotized phase of supporting Knight. Have you forgotten that Knight said in a 1988 NBC interview that "If rape is inevitable, sit back and enjoy it"? And did you lose track of the time when Knight, according to the USA Today, acted like he was whipping a black player in 1992? And the list goes on.

In 1997, Knight was caught on videotape choking his player, Neil Reed during a practice. This incident helped spark a zero-tolerance policy that Indiana's Board of Trustees imposed on Knight (on May 15) along with a \$30,000 fine and a three game suspension that would have started this year. This penalty was light. But Knight's pattern of abusive behavior continued this summer, including Knight's continued failure to comply with the athletic department at IU. It was not so much that Knight grabbed Kent Harvey that axed him as it was the continued pattern of childlike behavior.

How can Knight, the coach of a prestigious basketball program, expect to walk into Assembly Hall at Indiana and coach with his head up high after he chokes his own player? It is sad that some students at Indiana say Bobby Knight is a god.

Bobby Knight's era as a coach has passed and he should not try to coach in the same archaic intimidating manner again.

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