

# Confiscation unfair punishment

Bicycles started disappearing around campus this week without much of a heads up to the university's bike-riding population.

Penn State Transportation Services has started to confiscate unregistered bicycles around campus, but did not issue a public warning, instead leaving tickets on unregistered bikes around campus.

To simply confiscate a bike, with the promise of cutting bike locks with no compensation for it in return, is unfair to the students who use them to get around.

Transportation Services has threatened a confiscation before but has never actually gone through with it, meaning most students simply don't register or renew their bike tags.

If a student were to register a bike, however, it would have to be done in person, as the Transportation Services website, where bikes can also be registered, still doesn't work as of press time.

Should a bike be taken, it will be held at Lion Surplus for 90 days before being auctioned off.

Confiscating bikes — especially in the summer when the number of students is way down — seems like an extremely harsh penalty for the minor issue of an unregistered bike.

While there is an overpopulation problem with bikes on campus, hacking locks and tossing bikes into a storage unit isn't the answer. The university should invest in more bike racks to cut down on the

piling up of bikes.

Granted, there are advantages to registering bicycles. It does give the university a means of calculating the number of students using bikes, which in turn could result in the purchase of more racks.

But the main purpose for registration, it seems, is to locate missing or stolen bikes. But how practical can it really be for a university employee to wander around campus, scanning tags on every bike until the missing bike is recovered?

Instead of confiscating a student's possible lone means of transportation, Transportation Services should really focus on finding ways to fix the problem, not subvert it to deep storage.

## Vuvuzelas don't make noise, only echoes external sounds

For the sake of accuracy, I must say that vuvuzelas do not amplify sound, which was debated in the July 9 point-counterpoint. They are passive resonators, and they do not have their own energy source. The only energy to produce the sound is supplied externally by the person blowing into the vuvuzela.

Alexey Kovalev

Penn State electrical engineering professor

## Raised tuition not reflecting changes in U.S. inflation rate

After reading "Tuition rise pricing out students," the question is what does Penn State do with the money it receives? The 2010 national inflation rate is about 2 percent. In 2009 it was negative. Shouldn't trustees limit tuition raises to no more than the national inflation rate? How much goes to subsidizing athletics? That is a big issue at other campuses. The UC Berkeley faculty says that no tuition money should go to intercollegiate athletics. Only full disclosure of the athletics budget will produce full and fair discussion. But tuition raises of 6 percent are way out of line. Apparently students, parents and alumni should ask the Pennsylvania Legislature to set the limit because university administration and trustees are unwilling to do so.

Jay Beckerman

Penn State parent  
Phoenixville, Pa.

## Collegian

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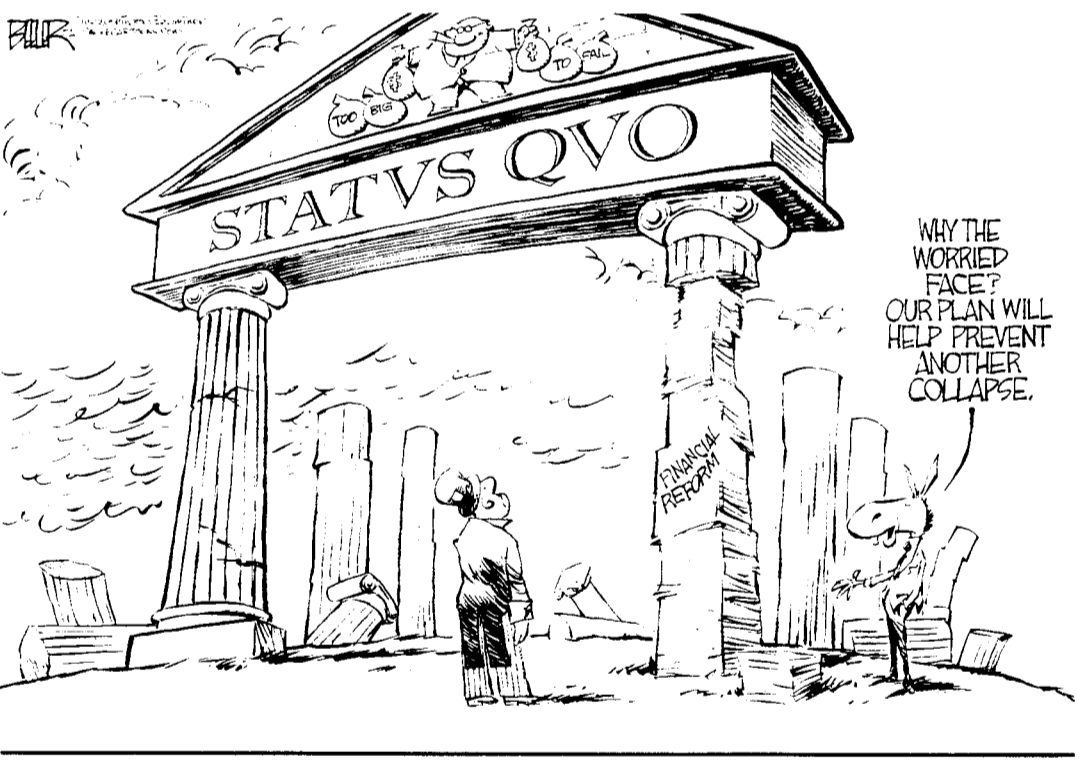
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# Obama let oil spill opportunity pass by

By Andrew Metcalf

WHEN the Deepwater offshore oil platform sunk more than two months ago, I was saddened, but not particularly surprised. Oil-related accidents happen fairly often because of the incredible amount of drilling it requires.

In the weeks following the oil spill, many public figures — mostly Republican — blamed President Barack Obama for not responding quickly enough to the accident. But, I think their anger is misdirected.

Obama's fault lies not in his direct response to the accident. Sad as it may be, the federal government is truly powerless to combat a gushing pipe deep underwater and has always been. Nothing Obama could have done in his short tenure would have made the government better prepared to deal with this spill, and he certainly hasn't had the time or the funding to negotiate the purchase of deepwater drilling equipment since.

He has successfully established a massive \$20 billion fund from BP to settle claims, though, and has ordered them to pay for many other projects involving the cleanup. He also

"Obama opted to wait. He may have been pulling the correct strings from the inside, but he didn't communicate this to the public, and he certainly didn't call people to action."

declared a six-month moratorium on deepwater oil drilling — an obvious but necessary step.

Obama's fault is wasted opportunity. He could have harnessed early anger from this disaster and combined it with momentum from West Virginia's coal mining accident a few weeks prior to call for an end to dependence on dirty fossil fuels. He could have really hammered on the idea these accidents are a result of our demand for these resources, and the only real way to solve this problem is to significantly and quickly reduce our consumption, be it through taxes, incentives or regulation.

Instead, Obama opted to wait. He may have been pulling the correct strings from the inside, but he didn't communicate this to the public, and he certainly didn't call people to action. Obama has always been a cautious president and sometimes avoiding knee-jerk reactions can work in his favor.

In this case, however, he lost the opportunity to make a significant call for political action, and, worse, he gave the Republicans a platform which to criticize him from.

The sad part is, Obama could have used this opportunity to

advance his platform and keep Democrats from losing seats in the fall.

He could have passed a bill that would have left him a powerful legacy.

Environmental protection typically polls higher than health-care reform, and some Republicans have historically shown a great interest in participating in energy reform.

People are still angry about the oil spill, but their vigor has been diminished. The Republicans have managed to reframe comprehensive energy reform as a job killer, and have even had some success in framing Obama's moratorium on drilling as a bad idea — an impressive publicity stunt given how much damage the spill has done.

Now, it looks like the only thing we're going to get out of this disaster is a necessary but obvious lift on the liability cap for accidents such as these and maybe a few watered down clean energy incentives.

What a shame.

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## blog lines

### Footblog

Cohesion has been a constant theme for the Penn State offensive line this off-season. So to come together as a unit on the field, the offensive linemen have spent time together off the field. During the summer — between preseason and spring practice — left tackle Quinn Barham said the line has been training Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings. The unit is awake at five to six o'clock in the morning running and doing drills. Eating meals, studying the Bible and conversing via their Blackberry phones are some other activities the linemen partake in together, but they have also been taking lessons together — boxing lessons that is. Barham said a boxing coach has been working with both the offensive and defensive linemen, though it isn't the first year the non-contact lessons have occurred. The footwork and handwork in boxing helps the o-line improve its blocking, and Barham thinks it's been beneficial so far. "We work on balance and working on straight lines," Barham said. "Just getting a nice center of gravity and base. Boxing is very similar to offensive line."

Think waking up for that noon kickoff was tough? The real die-hards of college football will be exposed with ESPN announcing GameDay will now air from 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays in the fall. However, the first hour airs on ESPN before switching over to ESPN during the same 10 a.m. to noon time slot as in previous years. Also, ESPN announced Erin Andrews will join Chris Fowler, Lee Corso, Kirk Herbstreit and Desmond Howard. GameDay has yet to release its schedule, but Penn State quarterbacks coach Jay Paterno indicated Tuscaloosa, Ala. is a serious contender for the Sept. 11 game between Alabama and Penn State after bumping into Corso at the Coke Zero 400 at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona, Fla., this summer.

At last Friday's Lift for Life, a Penn State football event initiated to raise money for kidney cancer, Daily Collegian football reporter Andrew J. Cassavell was able to catch up with former Penn State defensive tackle Jared Odrick. Now a member of the Miami Dolphins after being selected with the 28th pick in the first round of the 2010 NFL Draft, Odrick took some time to answer a few questions. Here is an excerpt from that interview, an answer to a question about the difference between college and NFL football. Odrick: "We didn't put full pads on yet, but a difference that I've noticed already is that when we practice with no pads, it's like a full speed practice up here. We're not taking anybody down or tackling but you're definitely gonna get double teams. You're definitely gonna get blocked. Jake Long's not taking any days off. So it's definitely a full speed practice with no pads."

There's going to be at least one change in the 2010 Penn State football media guide from last year. No longer can Penn State pump up its claim as having the largest football stadium in the country. Michigan tugged that title back with its announcement the bulk of its stadium renovations will be complete by its Sept. 4 opener against Connecticut, allowing for capacity to reach 109,901. Beaver Stadium holds 107,282. The next time Penn State visits Ann Arbor, which is unknown given the scheduling flux the Big Ten is about to be in, fans may see widened aisles and seats, as well as handrailing in aisles. I'll save you the public relations statement released by Michigan. As you might have guessed, everyone is excited.

Read more from the football blog **Footblog** and the rest of The Daily Collegian's blogs at [psu.collegian.com/blogs](http://psu.collegian.com/blogs).