

NON-CONVICTION

THE DAILY
Collegian
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Letters

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

■ **E-mail**
collegianletters@psu.edu

■ **Online**
www.psucollegian.com

■ **Postal mail/In person**
123 S. Burrows St.
State College, PA 16801

Letters should be about 200 words. Student letters should include class year, major and campus. Letters from alumni should include year of graduation. All writers should provide their address and phone number for verification. Letters should be signed by no more than two people. Members of organizations must include their titles if the topic they write about is connected with the aim of their groups. The Collegian reserves the right to edit letters. The Collegian cannot guarantee publication of all letters it receives. Letters chosen also run on The Daily Collegian Online and may be selected for publication in The Weekly Collegian. All letters become property of Collegian Inc.

REBUILDING LOSS TO ILLINOIS

Rebuilding should mean progress

This season of Penn State football, especially after the worst-ever Homecoming performance Joe Paterno has ever coached, can be described as lackluster at best. Suffering from everything from inexperience to injury, the Nittany Lions are looking shaky this season.

It's safe to say a "rebuilding year" was something almost everyone expected with the football team's current lineup. Rebuilding is fine, but there has been little to

no improvement or progress since the team's loss to Alabama last month. There doesn't seem to be any cohesion on offense, and the defense's pass protection hasn't stepped up either.

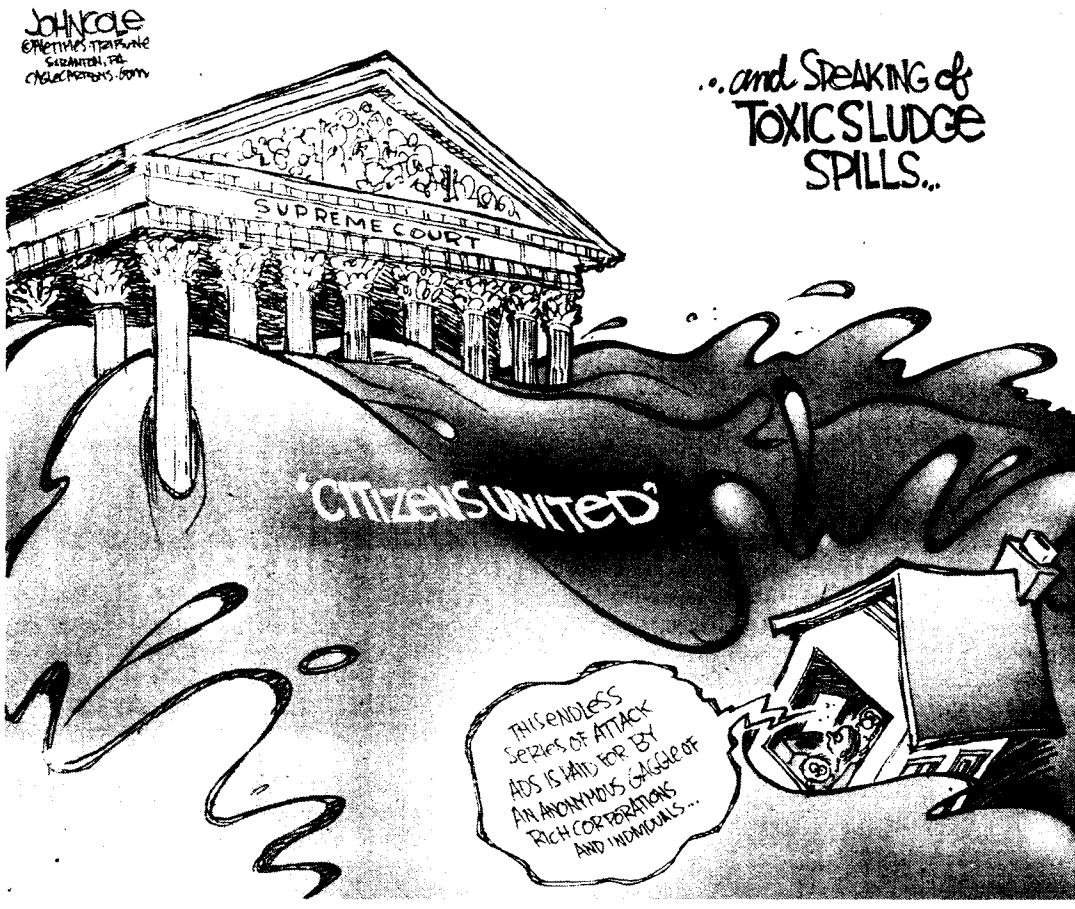
Understandably, inexperience and youth are the football team's greatest hindrances. Many young players are still learning to play college ball. This year is going to be rough, and a young team is going up against a tough Big Ten schedule. But in the future, after playing more

and learning their positions, we hope to see these young players lead the team to great things.

We would all love if the team could pull together to get Paterno his 400th win and a bowl appearance this season; however, that scenario is slipping away with every loss.

With the knowledge that it's a "rebuilding year" for the program, plus a list of key players on the injured list, this outcome is anything but unexpected.

Still, we'll hold on to hope for a little longer.



PSU streets should be safer for bikers

By Katie Sullivan

I'm a recent convert to biking. I used to be a walker — a "ped" — and an inefficient time-waster who had to leave 10 minutes earlier to walk to class. Now I'm a new woman, one who makes it to class in half the time, who feels the wind through her hair and gets an adrenaline rush whenever someone jaywalks in front of her on road and she has to pull a stunt to avoid a collision.

I get to skip the lines for the White Loop and the bottom of my jeans don't get wet on a rainy day. I get to class early, and I can hop on and go quickly between my job, rugby training, THON meetings and my evenings at the Collegian. Yes, in a busy world where I'm trying to milk my senior year of college for all it's worth, the bike seems like the way to go.

This new lifestyle does come with a downside — crashes. The first month of my new liberty and speed, I escaped unscathed, but last Wednesday I survived my first tumble while cruising down Shortlidge Road. It was slow motion: wheel twists, breaks squeal, I have the "Oh shoot" moment and before you know it I'm over my handlebars and sprawled on the cement. Luckily, it was late at night

and there was only one other person around to witness my wipeout and humiliation, and even more luckily, the only injury I walked away with was a nasty road rash on my elbow (which seems to be a great conversation starter at parties).

Anyway, my crash landing made me realize a few things are important when it comes to biker and pedestrian safety in State College.

One: There are not a lot of bikeways on the roads in Happy Valley. Bikes are mixed in either with the cars on the road or the walkers on the sidewalk. This is unfortunate because not a lot of people bike fast enough to keep up with traffic, and pedestrians don't find it amusing when people are passing them on bikes, weaving in and out of walkers.

If I would have crashed on the street rather than the sidewalk I was going down, I might have been yesterday's road kill. If there were walkers when I wiped out I might have hurled myself into, and hurt, one of them.

Two: Until someone takes the initiative to build us some bike lanes, bikers should decide whether they want to act as a car on the road or a pedestrian. Pick one and stick with it. Don't ride on the road and then cut into a cross walk when there's a traffic jam on College Ave. Don't cruise down the sidewalk and then decide you want to slip into traffic when there's a bottleneck of students by the Allen St. bus stop.

Three: Bikers, make yourself visible. Wear bright colors at night or put a light on your bike. That way, you don't have to hear a pedestrian whine when they step out in front of you and claim they couldn't see you. Don't be afraid to let people know you're there, call out "passing" or ring your little bell if you're cool enough to have one.

Finally: Peds, RELAX. Bikers are not out to ruin your stroll to class. We are simply trying to fit a little more into our schedule. If you watch out for us, we'll watch out for you.

We wouldn't even have to have this discussion if the State College Borough Council and the administration would team up for a bike path that would make State College a little more efficient, safe and bike-friendly.

Please, Penn State and downtown State College, spare a few pennies and lay down a nice asphalt trail for my new biking friends and me. If and when I wipe out next time (hopefully it will be while doing something heroic like sparing a squirrel's life) it would be nice to know peds and cars won't be in the way.

Until then, I shall do my best to take advantage of my new lifestyle while avoiding peds and wipeouts on my quick journey to class.

Katie Sullivan is a senior majoring in journalism and is the Daily Collegian's Monday columnist. Her e-mail is kms5424@psu.edu.

LETTERS

Game was a letdown for fans

Over the past week, I heard a lot of talk within the Penn State community that the fans needed to make a strong showing against Illinois after the second tough loss of the year to a top-25 team. I did my part, and so did the rest of the student section — the atmosphere in the stands was electric throughout the game, even when we were clearly being beaten down by the Illinois running game in the second half. With the score 30-13 and our offense still sputtering, I had seen enough. As I walked out of the student section, another student yelled at me, "Real fans stay for the whole game!" I beg to differ, because a real fan would have been absolutely disgusted with our performance on Saturday. People who left were merely showing their frustration over the lack of effort and execution on the field, and quite frankly, I don't blame them. We got embarrassed on our home turf, and there is no reason to accept such mediocrity in a football program with such a great tradition.

Matthew Krott
sophomore-mechanical engineering

Team should be embarrassed

As a season ticket holder whose parents pay an astronomical amount in out-of-state tuition, I was appalled at Penn State's performance on Saturday. On national television the past two weeks, Penn State hasn't even been competitive in its first two conference games of the year. For those 85 Penn State football players who are lucky enough to be on full scholarship this year, they should be embarrassed with the way they have played this season. If this trend of arm tackling, poor coaching and overall unacceptable play continues, I will not be purchasing tickets next year. It's time for both the coaching staff and players to stop taking the fans and their hard earned money for granted.

Carl Nelson
junior-finance

Pathetic effort plagues team

How much more pathetic playing do we have to endure? How much more incomprehensible play calling does the university expect us to digest? A few months ago, the administration declared that there would be no White Out games, because we did not have a significant enough home game. How's that for arrogance? The university invests so much in maintaining the Paterno legacy, without realizing that it is already over. The greatest show in college football? Spare me.

Joseph C. Korsak, Esq.
Class of 1971

Court titles were deserved

In regards to Friday's letter "Conflict found in court picks," I think this letter was in poor taste. The court is nominated first by their peers. Any student can nominate another for the court. That being said Florencio's and Larimer's nominations can come from people residing within Homecoming's internal structure or someone outside. I know Dan is the executive vice president for the Interfraternity Council here on this campus and he has a lot of face time with multiple people not only associated with his own fraternity of Zeta Psi, but the entire campus as a whole. Secondly, the court is chosen through an interview process and an application. They had to write a complete description of their activities on this campus and go through a quasi-rigorous interview. If they meet the standards to become a Homecoming court member they will be on the court. They had to go through the same process as everyone else who is on that court and saying that favoritism is in play here is ridiculous. Sure they could have some friends in high places, but just realize that when it comes down to the bottom line, they deserved to be on that court for a reason.

Nicholas Geyer
senior-meteorology

blog lines

SNAP, CRACKLE, POP Behind the big screen

Ian Deitchman and Kristin Rusk Robinson are a screenwriting duo who have been writing together since their college days. The two talked to me about their first major motion picture, "Life as We Know It," starring Katherine Heigl and Josh Duhamel.

Q: How did you two come to meet and start working together?

Kristin: We went to Northwestern University in Illinois and lived in the same dorm.

Ian: We were Radio-TV-Film nerds. We are still nerds, just older nerds. When we both graduated, we knew we wanted to work in film industry, but didn't know exactly how to get into it. I worked for James L. Brooks and Kristin worked as an assistant to Randa Haines. We read a ton, that's how you learn to write, by reading screenplays. We learned to write once we came out to L.A.

Q: What inspired this movie?
Ian: The idea for the movie came about because my wife was pregnant with our first child. We were having the conversation, who we leave the baby to if we die. My wife and I had two single friends and my wife suggested that we put them down...

Karina Yücel
TV reporter

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