

Veterans plaza will touch all

The senior class voted to create a memorial park for Lt. Michael P. Murphy, a Navy Seal who died leading troops in Afghanistan.

The Class of 2011 should feel accomplished to have such a meaningful memorial as the Lt. Michael P. Murphy Penn State Veterans Plaza added to campus in their name.

Murphy is the only Penn State alumnus to receive the Medal of Honor, and

we can think of no better way to commemorate the Class of 2011 than through a memorial to Murphy and all Penn State servicemen and women.

Whether you agree with the war or not, our entire generation has been changed and affected by it.

Penn State has the largest ROTC program out of all non-military institutions, and many of our students are veterans

or plan to serve in the military after graduation. This space will be a place they can relax and know the students of Penn State appreciate their service and sacrifice for our well being.

Even though the Lt. Michael P. Murphy Penn State Veterans Plaza honors one man, it is a place where all will be able to go reflect, remember and pay tribute to those who have fallen in battle.

Success could silence critics

For the past decade, Penn State football has had its ups and downs, but one thing has always been consistent: Calls for Joe Paterno's retirement. Every time there is a glimpse of struggle an outcry of blame is wrongfully laid upon the greatest coach in college football. In class, on campus and through various social networks, I've been hearing numerous statements from troubled fans declaring Joe is washed up and no longer able to carry out his job soundly. Members in the media have continually questioned his coaching ability.

I'm not going to list JoePa's career achievements (it's rather long), but last time I checked, he's consistently found ways to win and always takes full advantage of his coaching staff and the athletic ability of his team. He has never given up, and has never doubted his team, and that trickles down to those that have had the privilege to play for him.

Joe Paterno's 400th win could not have been more indicative of this. The onset of a transformed team has silenced that small percentage of fans, as well as the media. If last Saturday's win against Northwestern doesn't forever mute the public discourse about Joe's coaching ability and the ambiguity in some of our fans, I'm not sure what will. In the meantime, show some respect for a legend and let him do his job. He's been doing it better than anyone else for a long time, and it still shows.

Congratulations on your incredible achievement, Coach Paterno!

Tyler Latsha
senior-energy engineering and physics

Booing bad for celebration

I was so proud to be a part of the student section during Joe Paterno's 400th win rally after the game. Almost everyone stayed until the very end, celebrated and showed a ton of school spirit and respect for JoePa. It was something I'll never forget.

That being said, I was very disappointed when the student body booed President Graham Spanier. As a school population and a student section, it is our job to show pride, class, support and unity. Whether or not you agree with Spanier's policies is up to you, but booing down the man who runs our university during one of Penn State's proudest moments was uncalled for — especially on a publicly televised national stage.

Brenna Thorpe
junior-communication arts and sciences and public relations

Students care about games

This letter is in response to the multiple alumni letters that were sent in the last few weeks regarding the poor attendance in the student section. The fact is that, yes, while some students are tailgating until the second quarter or just skipping the game all together many of us are trying to get into the stadium with difficulty.

The university's entrance system for football games is extremely inefficient. We wait in line outside to scan our IDs in for awhile then wait to get our tickets looked out as we enter the concourse then wait again while the ushers make sure we are in the exact right seat.

My friends and I got to the Michigan game at 7:40 but we didn't get to our seats until about four minutes left in the first quarter, a total of about 50 minutes. So, just to clear things up, for many of us students it's not that we're too busy tailgating or that we just don't care enough to arrive on time. It's that the system is not efficient at moving people into the student section.

Jeff Giroud
junior-business management

Old ticket system was better

The deadline to transfer tickets is around 5 p.m. on Thursdays. You used to be able to wake up on Saturday and decide if you wanted to go the game. If you didn't, you would just give your ticket to a friend or a random person looking for one — or at least sell at face value.

Yes, there were some people that would prey off of this and try to sell Ohio State tickets for \$300 a pop, which is the reason for the new system, but at least those who wanted to come and support our team could get to the stadium and fill the stands. The tickets wouldn't go to waste.

I for one would rather go back to the old system and see Beaver Stadium packed again like "the old days," or at least allow ticket transfers a few hours before the game. It's just too embarrassing to see the stands empty on national television.

Mike Macheski
senior-chemical engineering

New system would fill seats

In response to Friday's letter, "Tickets are hard to come by," each year, the student football ticket process remains competitive and expensive. Each year, alumni wonder where the students are — why aren't the bleachers full? There is a simpler solution: a la carte ticket sales.

Yes, the university would need to process more transactions, but spreading the wealth to more students would benefit Beaver Stadium and the team as a whole by filling the seats. Seniors who may just want to get to one last game while taking more than 20 credits and working two jobs can do so without the up-front purchase of an entire season.

Students, the simple truth is that it is easier for the ticket office to sell you larger blocks of tickets. But ask, ask and ask until a la carte or single game tickets become the norm and allow more students to attend the games, rather than boxing out the majority while awarding only a privileged few.

Jeremiah Northridge
Class of 2000

Collegian

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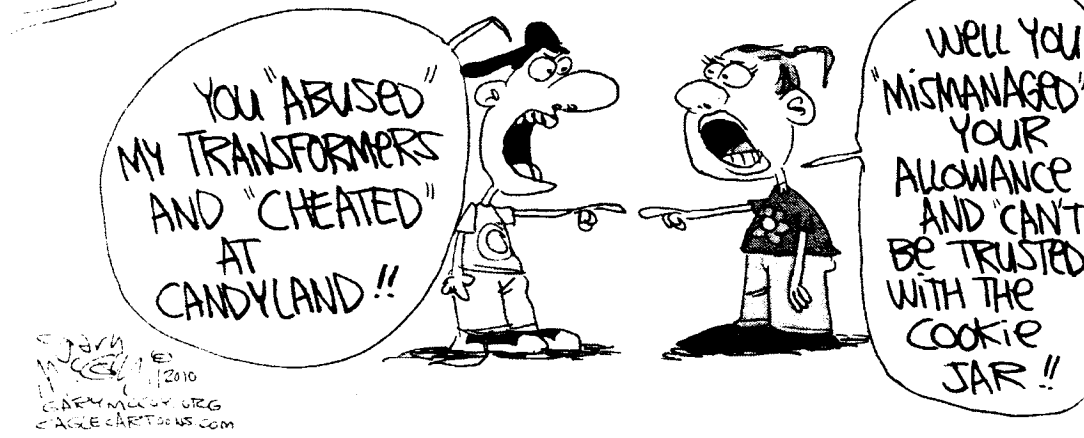
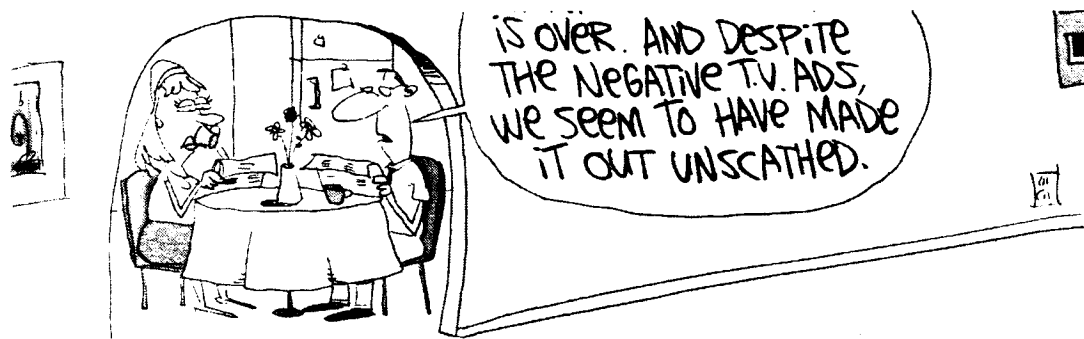
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Unbiased media would benefit public

By Michael Oplinger

JUST a week after Jon Stewart delivered a scathing criticism of the news media at his "Rally to Restore Sanity," journalistic controversies appeared.



MY OPINION

From spreading false rumors about the president's upcoming trip to Asia to back-and-forth bickering between cable news analysts, the media was on its worst behavior in an important week of elections and reactions.

The media seems to have missed Stewart's message.

In his closing speech at the rally, Stewart, who spends more of his show critiquing the media than poking fun at politicians, pointed out that cable news channels were not doing an adequate job of providing information.

Instead of informing the public, Stewart implied that cable news channels simply spread a political party's message.

He argues against the idea that there should be ideological differences between the channels.

Instead, he wants the news broadcasts to provide facts and do reporting that exposes the truth, regardless of the parties involved.

It's hard to argue against that sentiment. For Fox News to seemingly be an outlet for the Republican message goes against the benefit of the public. The same goes for MSNBC and its liberal leanings.

The channels, which many Americans turn to for information, can't simply spew party talking points.

While talking heads like Glenn Beck and Keith Olbermann shrug off responsibility because they are political analysts, they must realize that many turn to them for information.

Before they give their analysis, which is important to the

education process, they must first report the facts — real, accurate facts.

Which is exactly what Glenn Beck and Rush Limbaugh did not do this week as they informed their huge audiences that President Obama's upcoming trip to India will cost taxpayers \$2 billion.

Using an anonymous Indian government official as a source, Beck and Limbaugh ran with the idea that the president would be traveling with 3,000 other people, rent out an entire hotel and require 34 Navy ships to protect him.

The trip would supposedly cost \$200 million per day.

Except the figure doesn't seem confirmed by any respectable source. Beck and Limbaugh certainly didn't confirm the statistic before criticizing the trip on the radio.

The White House has vehemently denied the claim. The Pentagon called the rumor "comical" because it certainly would not be able to devote 10 percent of the Navy to protecting the president on a foreign trip.

History supports the White House's claims. When Bill Clinton went to India, the trip cost approximately \$10 million dollars per day, according to the independent Government Accountability Office.

It's hard to imagine Obama's current trip would cost that much more, or that the president would be so arrogant and out of touch to spend extravagantly while many of his constituents struggle financially. It also seems unlikely that a trip to India would cost more money than the war in Afghanistan, which is estimated to cost slightly under \$200 million per day.

But the story raises the bigger issue of simply making things up in order to criticize. Beck has seen his star blossom by criticizing the actions taken by Obama. It doesn't seem necessary to spread pure falsities.

MSNBC didn't let Fox News have all the fun this week as Keith Olbermann was suspend-

ed indefinitely for making donations to Democratic candidates without permission. While his suspension is controversial in its own right, the reaction of fellow pundit Rachel Maddow shows another problem with the cable news channels.

While defending Olbermann, Maddow used the moment to criticize Fox News. She used a long list of negative adjectives to describe the channel and said Olbermann's suspension shows that MSNBC is a real news organization while Fox News is not.

The criticism is just one in a long string of bickering between hosts from the two networks. Instead of presenting the truth, they spend their shows debunking and criticizing what their opponents said on the opposing network.

It's never just about them and their positive message. It seems to be along the lines of negative political campaigning. Instead of making themselves look good, they try to make the other side look bad.

This is the same old routine for MSNBC and Fox News. MSNBC hosts accuse Fox News hosts of spreading lies while Fox News hosts respond by touting their ratings, saying the American people agree with their viewpoints.

The argument continues back and forth, and as Stewart pointed out, no progress is ever made.

If MSNBC and Fox News just want to be the cable news voice of the Democratic and Republican parties, they should just admit it, instead of pretending to be unbiased news sources.

To continue the façade of being reliable, balanced news sources, only hurts the American people and the informed discourse democracy needs to thrive.

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