

THE DAILY
Collegian
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Letters
We want to hear your comments on our coverage, editorial decisions and the Penn State community.
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Bigotry shouldn't be tolerated

Bobby and Linda Baker came to Penn State Oct. 30 as Michigan fans to watch the match up between the Wolverines and the Nittany Lions. Instead, they were forced to leave the game early by Penn State fans taunting the couple with racial slurs.

While we recognize that this intolerable behavior does not represent the majority of the Penn State community, it is still inexcusable. Behavior like this from anyone — students, alumni or fans — should

never be tolerated. Being drunk at a football game is no excuse for bigotry.

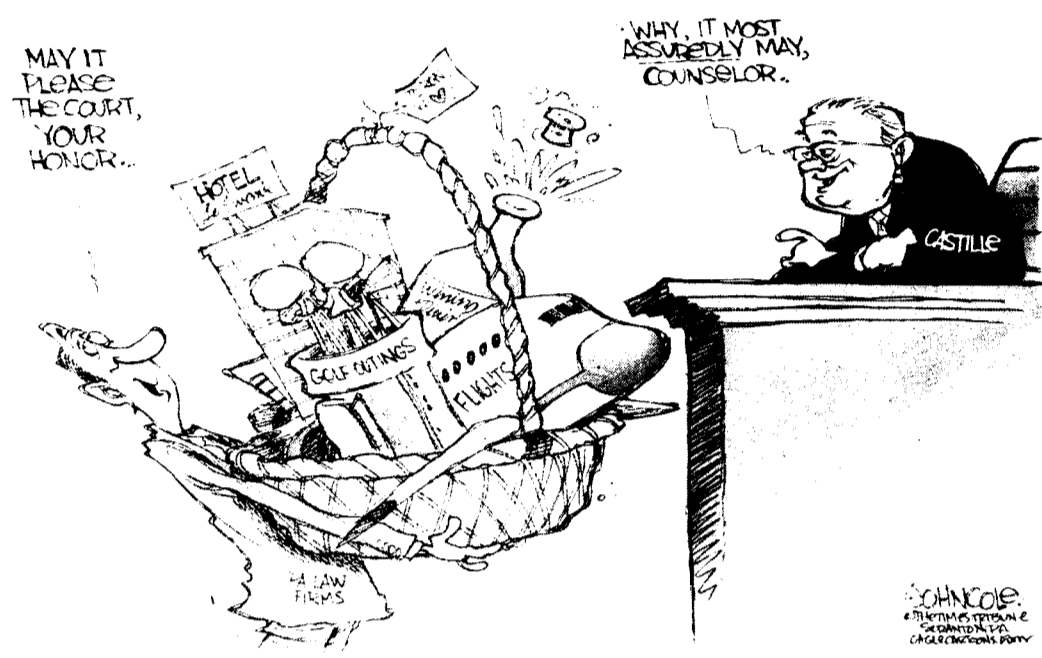
We commend the Bakers for making their voice heard. Racism should never be accepted or swallowed by those subjected to it, and the dialogue they have started could empower other victims to come forward in the future.

We also applaud the university for taking the proper steps to holding the bigots accountable through a criminal investigation and by personally

reaching out to the Bakers with their apologies and remorse.

Students and alumni should follow in the Bakers' example and not sit back when they or some one they know are being subjected to any type of slur. The excuse of a tense game day atmosphere can also never be blamed for this type of behavior.

Anyone who chooses to wear a Penn State jersey should remember the morals our university stands for: "May no act of ours bring shame."



Grayson Sundermeier senior-biology

University has become problem

This is in response to Monday's letter, "Game shows student section shouldn't grow for next year." As a student who attended the Penn State vs. Michigan State game this past weekend, I agree with Mr. Campbell. The student turnout was disappointing to say the least. However, Penn State didn't make it very accessible for students to return to campus in order to see the game. About a week before Thanksgiving break, campus announced they'd be opening dorms up for students at 5 pm. Friday. As an out of state student, there is no way I'd have been able to get back to campus that late if I were still living in the dorms, and I'm assuming many students without cars were faced with this problem.

Yes, the student section has been relatively sparse this whole year, but the school hasn't been very accommodating either. The new ticketing system has undoubtedly caused problems throughout the season and this past weekend's on-campus housing problem was another one. Hopefully, now that the regular season is over, the comments from people like you, Mr. Campbell, will stop. I, for one, am sick of it.

Lauren Ritchey
senior-wildlife and fisheries science

Alumni also lacked attendance

Dear Whiney Alumni (and yes I realize this doesn't apply to all of you), get off your freaking high horse. Is it embarrassing that the student section was only filled about half-way this weekend? Of course. However, judging from the thousands of empty seats in your sections, it's safe to say I am also embarrassed by you. Yes, you embarrassed me. Take a minute to stop complaining about the student section and look at the empty seats next to you, in front of you, and couple rows back.

Also, I missed the part where I was supposed to be excited that for my senior season, instead of having the best seats in the student section, I'm being stuck in the end zone again. And why am I being moved? So that the university can make some more money at football games. So, please, when you wake up tomorrow morning and get dressed for work, put on a nice pair of khakis and leave your grumpy pants on the hanger.

Allison Miller
junior-human development and family studies

Students showed school spirit

Congratulations to all the students that showed for the Michigan State game. As a 30-year fan of Penn State football, it appeared that the underclassman attendance at Saturday's game was the worst I've ever seen. Granted, it was a holiday weekend, the dorms were closed until early Saturday, it was cold and snowy and we were not expected to win the game, but those that did make the game reflected the true "We Are Penn State" spirit.

These are the students that you want in the stands for every game in the future. They reflect the true spirit of Penn State, and should be rewarded for their spirit and loyalty. These students should be guaranteed tickets for next season, and not have to worry about the first come first served lottery. Let's go Penn State, and do something good for these kids that showed their true support of the team.

Tom Rapak
Class of 1981

Coverage of Palin gaffe shows skew

By Michael Oplinger

SARAH Palin is right. Sometimes the media doesn't treat her fairly, particularly during the past week. During an interview on Glenn Beck's radio show, the former governor of Alaska mistakenly referred to North Korea as an ally of the United States.



MY OPINION

The gaffe was part of a much longer segment in which she clearly and repeatedly referred to South Korea as an ally of the U.S.

Palin's slip-up was just one moment in a 15 minute interview with Beck in which she discussed everything from her daughter's appearance on "Dancing with the Stars" to feminism.

After correctly identifying the countries numerous times, Palin said "North Korean allies," was quickly corrected by Beck, and continued with her comment.

Yet headlines in numerous publications screamed that Palin didn't know where the United States stood on the Korea situation.

Using one of the many outlets at her disposal, Palin turned to Facebook to defend her statement.

In a post titled "A Thanksgiving Message to All 57 States," the former vice presidential candidate listed numerous verbal gaffes made by Barack Obama during speeches. The title of the post refers to a time where Obama once said he had cam-

paigned in 57 states when he meant to say 47.

The post links to videos of Obama calling Europe a country instead of a continent and saying the Constitution was written more than 20 centuries ago instead of decades.

Most people are unaware that Obama ever said such things, mostly because they're simple slips of the tongue that don't matter — just like Palin's was.

Obama knows that Europe is a continent, just like Palin knows the difference between North and South Korea.

Such mistakes are inevitable. With microphones constantly in front of their faces, politicians are going to slip up occasionally. They make speeches all day and are bound to mix a few words up.

In an era where video cameras are inescapable and everything is recorded, the mistakes just seem to be pointlessly magnified. But Obama's mistakes aren't as well known because the media correctly chose not to cover them.

The gaffes simply weren't newsworthy — and neither was Palin's.

An honest mistake that is quickly corrected should just be ignored. The correction was made and everyone should move on.

This rarely seems to happen with Palin and certainly didn't last week.

Instead of just ignoring the misstatement, the Internet exploded with comments that Palin didn't know where the U.S. stood on the situation.

Stories like these are one of the main reasons the media is perceived to have a liberal bias,

The difference between news outlets isn't in the big important stories. Every outlet covers economic issues, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the conflict in Korea.

It's very difficult to distinguish the coverage of these stories, especially when many media outlets run Associated Press pieces.

But the fringe stories that an outlet chooses to cover shows its leanings.

Determining that a slip of the tongue is newsworthy demonstrates poor journalistic judgment and integrity.

Such decisions fuel the criticism of a perceived liberal media with an agenda against conservatives. Whether the accusations are true or not, the stories at least start a discussion.

The very existence of such trivial stories does not help the media in its defense of impartiality. Recognizing an agenda is not too much of a stretch.

In Palin's case, the strategy may be working against the alleged liberal media. She constantly derides what she calls the "lame-stream media" for trying to make her look bad, which only adds to her reputation as a person outside the establishment.

Plus, part of her appeal as a true representative of the people is the fact that she occasionally makes mistakes and doesn't always give the correct answers.

But this time, Palin is right.

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blog lines

SMALL WORLD
Lion relocation

For what was technically a Hoosier home game, the FedEx field was mainly blue and white...

Erica Brecher
Small world blogger

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