

*Opinion*

# Penn State football players' antics nothing new

by Murali Balaji

There was a time when Penn State football had a squeaky clean image here and around the country. During the 1980s and 1990s, when supposed “bad boy” football programs such as Miami, Florida State and Nebraska were winning with juvenile delinquents, Penn State—under the guidance of the sagely JoePa—was winning the “right way.”

Or were they? In light of the recent legal difficulties of current and former Nittany Lions, as well as court cases that have been long forgotten in the public conscience, it's probably the right time to re-visit Penn State's sanctity as a football program that upholds character and “good values.”

The April 1 altercation involving six football players might not be entirely the players' fault, but it does demonstrate the systemic sense of entitlement—and the accom-



panying lack of accountability—that many of them have. The arrests will do nothing to discourage Penn State players from taking the law into their own hands or feeling any

less entitled to attend any campus or off-campus social gathering they choose, but they might make the athletic department more aggressive in covering up for its athletes.

For years, the two things that have kept Penn State's reputation squeaky clean—as opposed to the vilified ones of Miami and Florida State—are its savvy media relations and a fan base that is all too willing to overlook players' indiscretions. After all, fans reason, JoePa will take care of it, right?

Well, that's what I'm afraid of.

While Joe Paterno publicly speaks of integrity, holding his players accountable and making them graduate, the evidence points to a man who excuses his players' sometimes boorish—and occasionally illegal—conduct with a wink and a nod. After all, Paterno is concerned about winning, even if it means allowing his players to take under-the-table money from boosters, make

fools of themselves in public settings and skip classes with a “gentleman's C.”

While Rashard Casey, Scott Paxson, LaVon Chisley and the recently charged “Meridian Six” may seem like mere blemishes on Penn State's supposedly sterling record, it's more conceivable that Penn State football has only now begun to let some of its long-hidden dirt come from underneath the rug. Coach Joe's “Paternalism” has led many of his players to believe that they walk on water and that no matter what they do, somehow their coach—and the athletics department he has bankrolled—will bail them out.

Having covered Big 10 sports, I know firsthand the kind of things athletics departments such as Penn State's do to keep their programs looking clean. They do it in a way

see *Antics*, pg. 23

# University-industrial complex puts profit over people

by Aaron Troisi

Penn State's reciprocally beneficial relationship to big business begs the question, “What are the university's true priorities?” An examination of the school's income and expenses provides a sound response: Like the capitalistic organizations Penn State receives its funding from, the university tends to place profit over people.

Penn State has strong ties with private business. According to the Penn State Fact Book, the university receives more than \$500,000 from private businesses every year. These “restricted funds,” which account for more than 17 percent of the school's total operating budget, are provided for specific projects—mostly research—and cannot be used for any other purposes.

Restricted funds benefit Penn State in two ways: They provide a static source of income, and they provide students with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience by producing useful research or products for existing companies. These funds also benefit the private organizations by providing inexpensive labor and research. Because students and faculty provide a service in return for the money, these grants and contracts are recorded by the school as income.

Donations from private companies are not.

In fact, donations are not recorded in Penn State's budget at all, even though they produce the same mutually beneficial relationship that restricted funds produce. In late April, the university announced that J. Lloyd Huck, former chairman of the pharmaceutical giant Merck & Co., and his wife, Dorothy, were planning to donate \$20 million to life sciences at Penn State. The Hucks have long been supporters of Penn State, their contributions totaling over \$40 million.

Merck, the source of Lloyd Huck's wealth, has also enjoyed a long relationship with the school: Penn State's Eberly College of Science hosts the Chemerda Lecture Series, supported by grants (restricted funds) from Merck; every summer, Penn State students intern with the corporation; Merck routinely extends employment opportunities to graduating students.

And what does Merck gain from its constant contributions to Penn State? To answer this, one must examine how Penn State spends its money.

Penn State spends approximately eight times more on producing “good students”—students who show up to class, follow the rules and listen to their professors



Photo by Katie Reed

The Verne M. Willaman Gateway to the Sciences connects the new Chemistry and Life Sciences buildings. Willaman, former chairman and president of Ortho Pharmaceutical Corp., gave the university \$3 million to help build and furnish the Life Sciences Building at University Park.

and administrators—than it spends on student aid. That is, only 1.1 percent of the total budget is spent on student aid, while 8.8 percent is spent on “academic support,” such as the Summer PLUS program, tutor-

ing centers and supplemental instruction.

Penn State's number one priority remains

see *Profit*, pg. 23

# U.S. 'War on Terror' prolongs crisis in Darfur

by Doug Mason

All is not quiet on the Western Front in Sudan. For more than four years, Darfur has been a place of bloodshed and banishment, where 450,000 people have been killed and six times as many pushed from their villages into refugee camps and the wilderness by soldiers, pro-government militias and, more recently, clashes between rebel groups. About 2,000 villages have been destroyed in an arid moonscape where people barely scraped by in the best of times.

As Darfur descends further into the hell that is ethnic cleansing, why has the United States done so little? John Prendergast, senior adviser for the International Crisis Group, says the Bush administration's pathetic response points to one thing: al-Qaida.

Osama bin Laden lived in Sudan in the early 1990s as a guest of President (General) Omar Hassan al-Bashir's regime, which was already killing fellow Muslims in Darfur. At the time, bin Laden's main local interlocutor was an official named

As Darfur descends further into the hell that is ethnic cleansing, why has the United States done so little? The Bush administration's pathetic response points to one thing: al-Qaida.

Salah Abdallah Gosh. After Sept. 11, however, Gosh became a more active counterterrorism partner, expelling Islamic extremists and detaining suspected terrorists, raiding their homes and turning them over to the United States.

Gosh's current job as head of security for the Sudanese government also gives him a lead role in the Bashir regime's counterinsurgency strategy, which relies on the Janjaweed (Arabic for "evil horsemen") militias to destroy villages in Darfur.

The deepening intelligence-sharing relationship between Washington and Khartoum, Sudan's capital, blunted any U.S. response in Darfur in 2003. U.S. officials told Prendergast that access to Gosh's information would be jeopardized if the Bush administration confronted Khartoum

on Darfur. Since 2001, Washington had been pursuing a peace deal between southern Sudanese rebels (mostly Christians, with some animists) and the Bashir regime—a deal aimed at placating U.S. evangelicals who had long demanded action. The Bush administration didn't want to undermine that process by hammering Khartoum over Darfur. In the past few months, Gosh and other Sudanese informants have become more valuable to U.S. counterterrorism efforts because of political upheaval in Somalia.

The core of a U.S. Treasury plan to hurt Sudan rests on an executive order issued by President Bill Clinton in 1997 that blocked all Sudanese government assets. But now the State Department has shifted from the Clinton policy of isolation and pressure to one of engagement. That policy endures, and Darfur continues to burn.

Following the policy of ex-Secretary of State Colin Powell (who on Sept. 9, 2004, testified to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that "genocide has been committed in Darfur"), his former deputy secretary, Robert B. Zoellick, and Jendayi Frazer, assistant secretary of state for African affairs, have remained staunch advocates of engaging the Bashir regime. Incredibly, in August 2006, Frazer told reporters, "We believe that President Bashir and the Sudanese government want peace in

Darfur."

Prendergast said that in November 2006, administration officials offered to move toward normalizing relations with Sudan by lifting some Clinton administration unilateral trade and investment sanctions in exchange for Sudan's acceptance of U.N. peacekeepers. Sudan refused.

Ben Prochazka, of the Save Darfur Coalition, reported that Bush's special envoy to Sudan, Andrew Natsios, claimed in February that genocide is no longer occurring in Darfur. And Bush sent Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte (who bloodied his hands in Central America for the Reagan administration) to Sudan in April as his special envoy to supposedly bring U.S. influence to bear. Shortly thereafter, Bashir agreed to allow the United Nations to send 3,000 military police and six attack helicopters to Darfur. It remains to be seen if the move is just another stalling tactic.

What can you do? Write or call the White House and members of Congress. (See how your representative does on the issue at [www.darfurscores.org](http://www.darfurscores.org).) To find out more about the ongoing crisis in Darfur, go to [www.savedarfur.org](http://www.savedarfur.org). The group most actively involved in Centre County is the Penn State chapter of Amnesty International. Co-coordinators Kristen Cario ([kec195@psu.edu](mailto:kec195@psu.edu)) and Loren Heinbach ([leh162@psu.edu](mailto:leh162@psu.edu)) can keep you on top of meetings and events in State College.

*Doug Mason, a soil scientist, has traveled to many developing countries. He returned to Centre County last year after living in Central America for six years.*

## Local tax increases more threatening than alleged rising global temperatures

by David Silverman

I was talking the other day to Whitey Blue, longtime Centre Region resident and hardnose.

Whitey, what's your feeling about all this talk in the media about global warming?

"Why are you asking me about that? It's not a local, State College-area issue."

I thought it was a subject that should be of concern to all citizens.

"What could we do about it, even if true (which I doubt)? We have enough local issues to be concerned about: the extravagant high school renovation, usage of the

old prison grounds, the dump."

But global warming would have a greater impact at all levels than any of those issues, if what I read and hear is correct!

"I think it's media hokum."

But ice caps are melting, and sea levels are rising.

"They probably have done so many times in the past but just weren't measured or recorded. And they didn't have all the media hoopla."

Some of the people reporting this are scientists!

"I'd call them pseudoscientists, just like the ones trying to foist evolution on us."

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# Bush itching to send U.S. soldiers to Iran

by Zach Good

I'd rather spend a few years in jail for resisting the draft than sacrifice my life for a war based on a lie.

When I logged onto CNN's Web site on March 23, my future, my dreams, maybe even my life started to slip away. Iran had detained 15 British sailors for trespassing in Iranian waters while performing operations for the war in Iraq. England's prime minister, Tony Blair, called Iran's acts "unjustified and wrong." U.S. President George W. Bush referred to the detained Britons as "hostages."

I knew that if even one of those British marines were injured or killed while in Iranian custody, nothing short of a miracle would prevent British retaliation; and the U.S. military would follow close behind. Given the heavy burden of current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, that could only happen by means of a draft. If one bullet found its way into the body of one of those Brits, my approaching graduation from Penn State would be my ticket to a war.

That's why I was nervous about the fate of those 15 British sailors.

After a little more than a week, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad freed the

If the American public is tricked into sending me off to die in Iran any time soon, I'll watch that war on the television in my jail cell.

Brits, gave them some gifts and sent them home.

Phew. That was a close one.

This situation was particularly tense because the Bush administration has an axe to grind with Iran. They constantly condemn Iran's nuclear ambitions, and in Bush's 2002 State of the Union address, he even included Iran with North Korea and Iraq in the "axis of evil." If the United States had to pick another country to fight tomorrow, it would be Iran. Wouldn't a charter member of the axis of evil either harm the Brits or hold them hostage for an extended period of time to solidify its status as an evil country? But they didn't, and now I'm wondering if everything we've been told about Iran is merely part of our government's propaganda attack on the Middle Eastern nation.

Leaders in the United States continually make scathing references to Iran's desire for nuclear energy, saying it's only for weapons. History shows this can be dangerous. Look at India, Pakistan and Israel—not

to mention Britain, France, Russia and whoever else may be in the nuclear club.

From Vietnam to Iraq, our presidents have talked the American public into hating other nations on unwarranted grounds. Lyndon Johnson lied to get the Gulf of Tonkin resolution passed to authorize his military action in Vietnam. Nearly 60,000 U.S. troops were killed in that war.

George W. Bush lied about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and terrorist connections to get his war resolution. At last count, there have been more than 3,309 U.S. troops killed, 160 of them Pennsylvanians. That doesn't include civilian contractors. Not one weapon of mass destruction or terrorist link has been found.

I wonder what Bush would have done if the captives had been U.S. sailors. If he tried to make a case to invade Iran, would the American public have been led by the nose once again?

Iran freed the Brits, instead of keeping them indefinitely like we keep our prisoners in Guantánamo Bay. We hear familiar prop-



aganda about Iran supporting terrorists, but we heard that about Iraq too. It seems this administration is trying to set Iran up as a target for another war.

If any president talks the American public into supporting a war against Iran as a result of anything less than a nuclear strike or mass murder, I'm not fighting. If the American public is tricked into sending me off to die in Iran any time soon, I'll watch that war on the television in my jail cell.

*Zach Good is a senior at Penn State majoring in political science.*

# U.S. reputation tarnished by fascist president

by Joanne Bateup

Bush is Hitler. So said people in Guatemala City when I was there over spring break.

President Bush's tour of Latin America coincided with my tour of the National University of San Juan, a public university in Guatemala City. The students were out in full force, performing sketches, writing newsletters and painting battle cries on buildings and sidewalks. Protestors wore intimidating black and grey masks to cover their faces.

Our guide from the university said that every year students protest and celebrate the Friday before Holy Week. It just happened that President Bush was to arrive that Sunday, so there was even more reason to protest.

The events were both fun and somber. My group stopped to watch a pantomime who made fun of the school administration, the government and Americans. The crowd laughed uncontrollably, and after the per-

formance, we took pictures with some of the performers. I asked to hold the sign with a picture of President Bush with a Hitler mustache and the words "Go Home, Gringo" in Spanish. The crowd whistled and jeered as we took photos.

Then we learned the reason students do this annual protest. On the sidewalk, they had chalked outlines of people who were "disappeared" during the brutal civil war that lasted from 1960 to 1996. Four of the outlines had dates as recent as 1993.

On the bland concrete walls throughout the university were brightly colored murals that depicted various moments of the uprising against the Guatemalan government. The message was repeated by every mural, poster and protestor: Never stop protesting. Never stop fighting for a better tomorrow for you and the people of Guatemala.

Where is that message in the United States, or at Penn State? Twenty student



see *Fascist*, pg. 23

Photo by Joanne Bateup  
Students at the National University of San Juan, in Guatemala, remember those disappeared during the country's civil war, which ended in 1996, and protest U.S. President George W. Bush's visit.

## Longtime rescuer left out of pet issue

I have been getting many phone calls about your May issue with the listing of the pet rescue organizations in the area. I and others were astonished that my cat rescue shelter, Fonda's Foundlings, was not mentioned.

I have been rescuing cats for the past six years—635 cats to date—and was involved in the rescues of the 121 cats in Potters Mills, all the cats at Toftrees when the Shaners took over the hotel and golf course, 15 cats from a colony behind Rider Auto, all the cats from the now gone North Atherton trailer park and many, many more.

Since I single-handedly run this shelter, it is very difficult to get publicity, and the omission of my shelter really hurts.

I have 40 indoor cats that are ready to be adopted. They are all "fixed," vaccinated, wormed and very affectionate.

They can be viewed at <http://petfinder.com> under my zip code, 16803. Also, I show cats at PETCO Saturday afternoons and evenings, but people are welcome to call me at 238-4758 to see the cats in my home.

Shirley Fonda  
Park Forest

## from Antics, pg. 20

that's similar to how a kid cleans his/her room by putting all the garbage and clutter into the closet and telling mom that the room is spotless.

I've spoken with young women who

declined to press charges against players who assaulted them because the players have their coaches and the fans' backing; the legal process would have simply taken too much out of the victims. I've witnessed teams talk about how to uphold morals and codes of conduct but say under their breath that "boys will be boys."

Though Penn State football has produced many quality men who have gone on to become leaders in the community (Franco Harris is a great example), the PSU fan base has for too long ignored the program's unwillingness to hold players accountable when they do wrong. Maybe JoePa would give fans a more realistic assessment of his program by acknowledging that in the world of sports and morality, there is the good, the bad and the increasingly ugly.

*Murali Balaji is a journalist, lecturer and doctoral student at Penn State and is the author of two books, including the forthcoming "The Professor and the Pupil: The Politics and Friendship of W.E.B. Du Bois and Paul Robeson" (Nation Books).*

## Sudoku solution

3	6	7	4	2	5	8	9	1
5	8	9	6	3	1	2	4	7
1	4	2	8	7	9	6	3	5
9	1	6	2	5	8	4	7	3
7	3	8	1	4	6	5	2	9
2	5	4	3	9	7	1	6	8
6	2	5	7	1	3	9	8	4
8	7	1	9	6	4	3	5	2
4	9	3	5	8	2	7	1	6

## from Fascist, pg. 22

groups on campus are listed as "political." Outside of their small communities, their presence is rarely seen, and students rarely pay attention to them for more than five minutes. Perhaps on your way to class you've seen a parade of people wearing only billboards, or a girl in your class wears a shirt that says "This is What a PSU Feminist Looks Like," but as a fourth-year senior, I have never seen the level of organization and solidarity that I saw in Guatemala City. Where is our unity? Where is our collective action against our corrupt government?

George W. Bush went to Iximché, a sacred Mayan site, to be photographed with Mayan priests in traditional clothing. After his departure, priests performed a ceremony to cleanse the site of his presence. The police violently broke up the protest of Mayan agriculturists in Iximché. The cleansing of the sacred site and the protests in Guatemala City and Iximché make clear what Guatemalans think about the Bush administration.

People associate our president with Hitler. He embodies the injustices that the people of Guatemala suffered during the civil war. Our president stands as a reminder of U.S. domination of business and the resource drain that supports U.S. citizens' way of life. This negative view of the U.S. government and, by association,

the people of the United States, limits opportunities for cooperation and solidarity between the U.S. government and other world governments.

In considering our next president, every U.S. citizen must consider our image abroad and the way our president affects that image. The people of the world support our lifestyle, so it is time to think globally when choosing our president. We should learn a lesson from the protestors in other countries and listen to their grievances. After all, they are protesting a system that we, the citizens of the United States, should have the power to control.

I hope the next U.S. president who travels to Latin America will not be associated with such unsavory characters as Hitler. We have an opportunity to change the way issues are dealt with (or ignored) at home and at the international level. How are you going to impact the world?

It is time for the people of the United States to wake up to our image, our impact and our support of continued oppression and degradation throughout the world. It is time for us to join with the people of Guatemala and the rest of the world to stop these injustices.

*Joanne Bateup graduated from Penn State this spring with a degree in anthropology and international studies and minors in French and theater history. She spent this past spring break volunteering in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala.*

## from Profit, pg. 20

profit.

Very little money is spent on student aid because increasing student aid would not only increase the university's expenses, but simultaneously decrease its income, more than a third of which comes from tuition and fees. More is spent on academic support because producing "good students" tends to produce "good workers" for the corporations who contribute heavily to Penn State's budget.

Thus, from its constant contributions to Penn State, Merck gains inexpensive research and labor from students as well as a constant pool of potential employees from alumni. Whether directly, through grants and contracts, or indirectly, through private donations, Merck and other companies that invest in Penn State see a profitable return.

Penn State and private businesses, then, enjoy a mutually profitable relationship. The university spends nearly 16 times more on "auxiliary enterprises," such as the

Berkey Creamery, and academic support than it does on student aid, even while students march in protest of the high tuition rates.

That's because auxiliary enterprises and academic support expenses are investments. Auxiliary enterprises make up almost 9 percent of the school's yearly income, and academic support guarantees a constant flow of restricted funds and private donations by supplying workers for the corporations who provide them. These investments increase the university's profits, which is why they take priority over student aid.

Penn State, like the capitalistic corporations it receives millions of dollars from, tends to value profits over people. So the next time someone yells "We are!..." at you, an appropriate response would be "Big business!"

*Aaron Troisi is a senior at Penn State majoring in anthropology, sociology, criminal justice and African studies. He invites criticism and dissent, and can be reached at [art5001@psu.edu](mailto:art5001@psu.edu).*



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# ASK *Cosmo*



Dear Cosmo,

The child of one of our dearest friends is gay. His lifestyle choices are destroying that family. We've prayed over him numerous times, but to no effect. He simply turns away from those who love him. What would you recommend as a cure?

Signed, Help Us Save Him

Dear Salvage Engineers,

Did you say prayed over or preyed upon? It sounds as if you fear he's gone down for the third time. If it's only three times, it may just be youthful experimentation. I wouldn't get your knickers in a twist, unless you go for that kind of thing.

It sounds like the family's self-destruction could be linked to its own rigidity as much as anything else. Which of the following would you consider to be a lifestyle choice? Being Amish? Having blue eyes? Being intolerant?

Sometimes little blue-eyed boys aren't all that innocent, and even those quaint restaurants with the Amish buggy on the menu

have the little machines in the restrooms selling colored condoms. Sure, the machines are sponsored by some august sounding outfit like Health Care Convenience Center, but they don't seem to state provisos about whom one should use the products with.

So to answer your question, for a cure, I'd recommend scraping most of the fat off the skin, rubbing in a healthy dose of salt, rolling it up and placing it in the freezer. Later, soak the hide in an alkaline solution to kill the bacteria, and carefully stretch the pelt in a frame and place it out of direct sunlight in a dry, well-ventilated place and let nature take its course.

I assume you weren't interested in the previous course nature took on its own, or that you misconstrued nature as some failure of nurture. At any rate, it sounds like the identity of your friend's kid is more decorative than utilitarian, and it appears it's all about wanting to tan an errant hide one way or another.

This may be the most expedient solution for you, because a hide tanning the other way might be perceived—God forbid—as foreplay. In either case, you'll end up with a potentially nice mount.

I'm still disturbed by the way you portray your friendship with this kid and the kid's family. You didn't ask how to love, serve or understand him or her, but rather what method you could employ to produce change as only you see fit. I recommend you first learn to change yourself, because I suspect you're luggin' around a pretty heavy diaper.

Dear Cosmo,

Why do all the commercials on TV seem to feature oldies music? I thought the marketplace was more attuned than that and would go with the shiznit.

Signed, Update It Already

Dear Already Ate It Up,

The commercials feature old music

because the target customers are old. Things like hair products or fragrances or MP3 players get the youthful music treatment, but hard rock goes with hardening arteries.

What was once revolutionary is now nostalgic, so Led Zeppelin can be used to sell geriatric motorcycles, Jimi Hendrix can be used to sell insurance and The Who can be used to usher in all 17 incarnations of *CSI: Podunk*.

It will be interesting when your generation hits the retirement community—about the time Paris Hilton gets her driver's license—and you sashay into the dayroom for your Bone Thugs-N-Harmony session. The activity leader can lead a lovely sing-along with a medley of songs by Avril Lavigne, Maroon 5 and Nelly. That's after you ride the elevator to a cane-tappin' Muzak version of "Shawty Snappin'."

Oil down the rubber sheets, because D. Polly Grip is in the hizzle! Recall The Who's antique musings from *My Generation*: "Hope I die before I get old." They say if it's too loud, you're too old. Or else response to everything but the low frequencies is all we have left.

You should plan for retirement by investing in a company that makes electric grocery cart seats out of subwoofers. Swizzle!

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## Sudoku

3							9	1
	8		6					
		2	8					
	1	6	2	5				3
			1				2	
					7	1		8
					3			4
8				6				2
4			5		2	7	1	

Fill in the grid so every row, every column and every 3-by-3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reason and logic.

Thanks to Peter Morris for contributing this puzzle.

The solution to this month's puzzle can be found on pg. 23 of this issue.