

News

Blocked in
Russian rebels barricade city; Chechens still seek refuge
Page 4

Sports

Still champs
Women's volleyball captures Big Ten Conference title
Page 12

Weather

Fog and drizzle
Partly cloudy tonight
62/49
Extended forecast: Page 2

the daily **Collegian** 30°
www.collegian.psu.edu

Vol. 100, No. 93 20 Pages ©1999 Collegian Inc.

Monday, Nov. 22, 1999

Published independently by students at Penn State

Buses collide in heavy fog

Crash claims driver, student

By DARYL LANG and TIM SWIFT
Collegian Staff Writers

WHITE HAVEN — A Penn State student and a bus driver died when four buses filled with Penn State students crashed early yesterday on a foggy stretch of Interstate 80 in the Poconos.

Ambulances took 106 injured people to 10 hospitals, according to Penn State officials and emergency workers.

The student killed was Denise R. Orndorff of Ohio, Pa., said Carbon County coroner Bruce Nalesnik. Orndorff, who is listed as a biology major in the Penn State directory, was riding in the front of the bus with her mother, Linda Orndorff, who was in satisfactory condition last night at Penn State Geisinger in Danville.

The bus driver killed was Robert Clifford Burge, 50, of Altoona, said Pennsylvania State Police Trooper Shannon Yates. Burge was a pastor at Riggles Gap Bible Church in Altoona until 1998.

A convoy of six buses carrying about 280 students encountered a thick patch of fog on the way home from a New York City day trip sponsored by the Association of Residence Hall Students.

The pileup, which involved four buses, two cars and a pickup truck, occurred just after midnight yesterday at exit 41 near White Haven. Many passengers were asleep at the time of the crash.

The emergency response to the accident included 45 ambulances, 25 state troopers and at least 150 rescuers from all over eastern Pennsylvania, according to Pennsylvania state police.

At a press conference yesterday, Penn State President Graham Spanier thanked the emergency workers for their quick responses.

"We also want to express our most sincere condolences to the families of the two individuals who were killed," Spanier said.

Penn State officials said seven people were still hospitalized yesterday afternoon — including five with serious injuries — but hospital workers failed to say how many were still being treated last night.

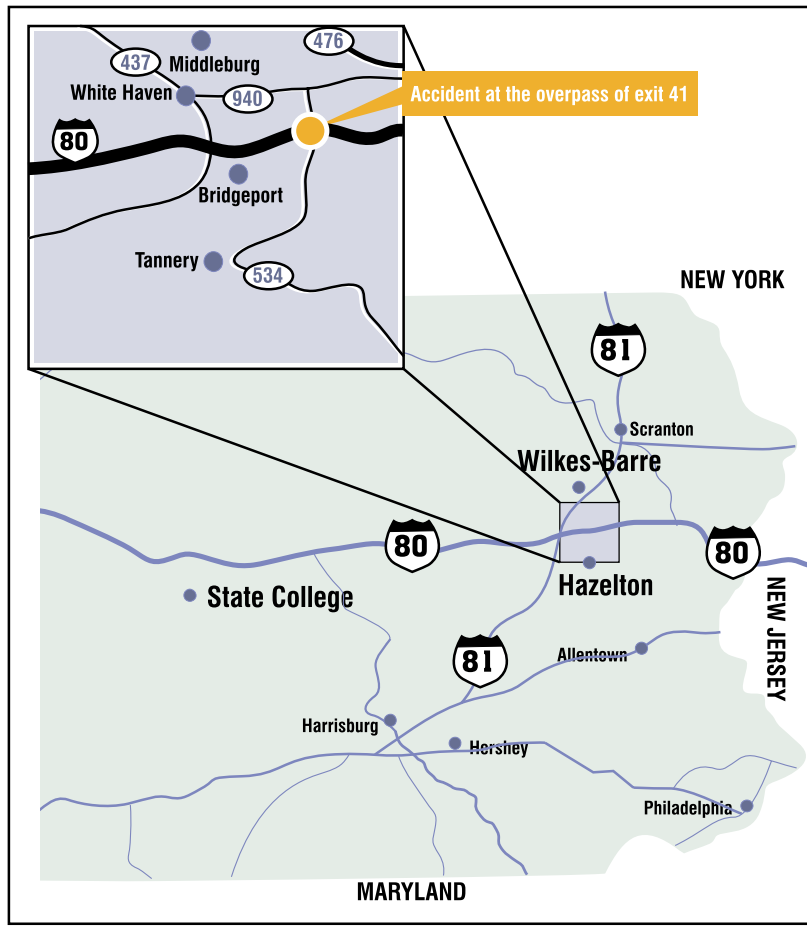
One of the trip's organizers, Matt Sliwa (sophomore-marketing), was on the most severely damaged bus.

"I heard a bunch of shrieking and then the bus just plowed into



Collegian Photo/Daryl Lang

Emergency rescue workers attempt to help bus passengers out of the wreckage of yesterday morning's crash on Interstate 80. The buses were returning from a day trip to New York City.



Collegian Graphic/David Heasty

Students aid injured at scene of accident

By DARYL LANG and TIM SWIFT
Collegian Staff Writers

WHITE HAVEN — Craig Billman (junior-mechanical engineering), a volunteer firefighter, let the first ambulance team know where people needed help.

Jeff Hodge (senior-industrial engineering), who was tall enough to hold open emergency window exits, helped people climb out of one of the buses.

Tiffany Parker (sophomore-journalism), who was riding in the front seat of one of the undamaged buses, helped injured victims into seats on the bus and wiped blood from their faces with paper towels.

With more than 100 fellow students injured in the multi-bus Interstate 80 accident yesterday morning, the unhurt teamed up to help those in need.

"No one was turned off by the sight of people completely covered in blood," Annie Bagley (freshman-business) said. "No one has been in a situation like that."

Twisted chrome bus parts and shattered glass littered the highway. Clouds of diesel exhaust mixed with a thick fog hanging over the wreckage.

Before ambulances arrived, students trained in first aid helped when they could. Parker helped care for a moaning student with a bloody T-shirt to her mouth, fearful that her teeth had been knocked loose.

Inside the second bus in the pile-up, Jason Dietz (junior-economics and finance) stayed with the student who sat behind him amid

Additional Coverage

— Page 9

- Penn State offers counseling for passengers, friends
- Emergency officials respond to the scene
- Local churches offer assistance to passengers

Anyone with questions about the bus accident can call HUB information desk at (814) 865-2000 or visit Penn State's Web site (www.psu.edu).

smoke, mangled chairs and a buckled luggage rack.

"His eye socket and cheekbone was busted up. I didn't want him to go into shock," Dietz said.

After emergency crews took over, students comforted the injured waiting for care. Victims who left their coats or shoes on the bus during the hasty evacuations borrowed blankets or stood on pillows on the highway.

Emergency workers instructed anyone with injuries to come forward for medical care.

"Nobody was screaming or crying or running around," Jay Springfield (freshman-computer science) said. "Just the number of people that were hurt — it was a miracle that I was all right. I thought I might as well take advantage of that and help someone else."

Trip organizers from the Association of Residence Hall Students had complete lists of every person

Please see SCENE, Page 9.

Lions end season with loss to Spartans

By WILLIAM KALEC
Collegian Staff Writer

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Brandon Short walked off the wet turf of Spartan Stadium with an inexplicable facial expression.

Maybe the realization of playing his last college game had hit him.

Or maybe he remembered how, three weeks ago, he had been playing for a national title instead of rebounding from a third straight loss.

The reason was known only to the fifth-year senior, but Short was shaking his head and cracking a smile of disbelief after the Nittany Lions were defeated Saturday by Michigan State, 35-28.

After drying off from the light drizzle

that hung in the sky for most of the second half, Short gave his explanation for the smile peaking through another Saturday full of pain.

"How close we were to one of the greatest comebacks ever in our school's history," Short answered as the reason. "Just thinking about the fluke play against Minnesota. Just how we have lost these three games in a row."

And just how Kevin Thompson was unable to get off the last snap of the game — they were all reasons for the smile.

Not since 1914 has Penn State ended a season with three straight losses.

A season that started under the sunshine with a big win against Arizona ended under a dark sky with a loss against Michigan State.

Questions that did not exist in August have finally arose — when it is too late to answer them.

"It's a little disappointing at times," Penn State wide receiver Eddie Drummond said. "We've just got to think positively on our season. If you don't do that, then you are going to go downward and a tough football player never wants to do that."

They also do not want to find themselves in a 28-7 hole midway through the second quarter.

They also don't allow one running back to collect four touchdowns as a freshman.

But Penn State's players were victims of both against the Spartans.

Michigan State tailback T.J. Duckett ended his day in the place he visited more

than any other player — the end zone. His 159 yards rushing were finalized on an 11-yard backward plunge across the goal line, giving the Spartans a lead they would not relinquish.

Penn State's last-gasp attempt fell a second too short as Thompson's attempted Hail Mary pass was halted by officials as the clock expired.

He would not have a chance to add on to his 185 yards passing.

He would not have another snap as a senior in the regular season.

He would not have reason to smile — except when looking within himself.

"It's not a 9-3 team," Thompson said. "I am so proud of these guys for the pride and the heart and the character they showed."



Collegian Photo/Gordon Marshall

Penn State receiver Eddie Drummond attempts to catch a pass tipped by a Michigan State defender. For full post-game coverage, please see Page 11.