

EDITORIAL: FOUR-LETTER WORDS

Clever T-shirts get more laughs

Last week, a shirt in the window of People's Nation, 126 E. College Ave., caused quite a stir.

The store displayed a not-so-subtle, anti-Ohio State shirt, reading "Buck the F--keys," proudly in its window, and owner Art Fine said it was one of his best sellers.

However, the prominent exhibition of the four-letter word — and Fine's subsequent censorship of it — drew ire from both sides of the spectrum.

But that's not the biggest issue here.

The issue is that the shirt is one of Fine's "best-selling shirts."

Seriously, do consumers need to display that word on their shirts? Is that really the cool thing to do? And it's not an issue of vulgarity. Words like that probably shouldn't turn many heads in a college

town, offensive as they may be. It's just an issue of stupidity.

Contrary to popular belief, the phrase "Buck the F--keys" is no more clever than the equally loathsome "Muck F'chigan," another overused State College slogan so wittily constructed to create the guise of profanity.

Do people really get their "buckeyes" off by wearing that word, as if a few high fives from their drunken friends may make it all worth it?

Any second grader with a reasonable knowledge of curse words could have made the exact same pun. And it wouldn't be funny then, either.

But for every handful of "Buck the F--keys" T-shirts spotted in Beaver Stadium on Saturday night, there were one or two cleverer, funnier and, on occasion, less offensive shirts. And these shirts were the ones that stuck out.

Put some thought into it, people.

For example, before its game with Notre Dame last year, Georgia Tech's fans were inspired by their star wide receiver, Calvin Johnson. One fan on College GameDay made a sign that read: "Calvin: Own-ing Catholics since 1509."

Holds a bit more power than "Notre Lame," huh? We bet it would have sold a bunch of T-shirts, also.

So also a nut, Nittany Lion fans. Use your heads. There are all kinds of funny comments waiting to be used for every team on Penn State's schedule. All it takes is a little bit of effort. And, who knows, maybe it would be a worthwhile business venture.

And no, just because "Puck Furdue" sounds funny doesn't mean it qualifies.

That, like all the others, is just ducking fumb.



THE DAILY Collegian

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About the Collegian: The Daily Collegian and The Weekly Collegian are published by Collegian Inc., an independent, nonprofit corporation with a board of directors composed of students, faculty and professionals. Pennsylvania State University students write and edit both papers and solicit advertising for them. During the fall and spring semesters as well as the second six-week summer session, The Daily Collegian publishes Monday through Friday. Issues are distributed by mail to other Penn State campuses and individual subscribers.

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Letters

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

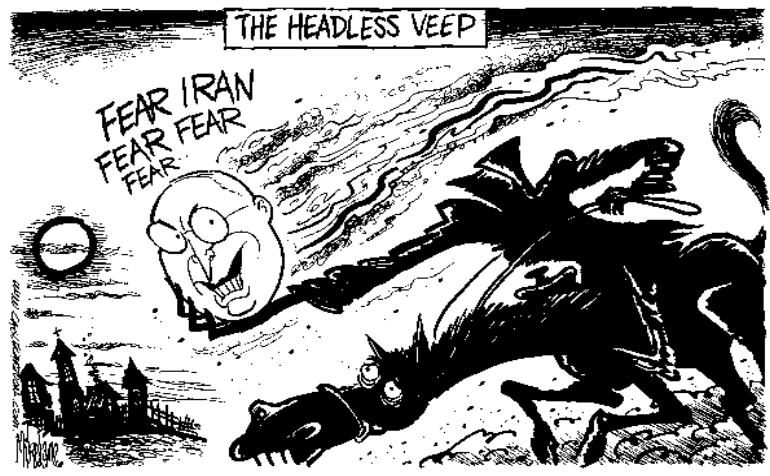
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Members of organizations must include their titles if the topic they write about is connected with the aim of their groups. The Collegian reserves the right to edit letters. The Collegian cannot guarantee publication of all letters it receives. Letters chosen also on The Daily Collegian Online and may be selected for publication in The Weekly Collegian. All letters become property of Collegian Inc.



STAFF COLUMN

Music lovers deserve free market of songs

By Kevin Doran



MY OPINION

On SATURDAY night, my friend and I discussed the prospect of rushing the field at Beaver Stadium if Penn State had managed to slay the Goliath that is Ohio State.

Unfortunately, we never got the chance. But during the discussion, my friend brought up a classic point: There are 20,000 of us, and there's no way the cops could stop us all. This point, like communism, works in theory but is generally poorly executed. It's every man for himself, and once the mace starts flying, that 20,000 will drop to 2,000.

But while that ideal wouldn't have worked on Saturday, it's been working for years on the Internet in the form of illegal MP3 sharing. It's become commonplace to illegally download music, and the piracy is so rampant that the collective heads of the Recording Industry Association of America's (RIAA) Big Four (the four record companies that control more than 80 percent of American music) are spinning.

The method of choice to this point has been simple in every sense of the word: plain, guileless, naive and ignorant (that tip to m-w.com). Early this month, a federal jury levied \$220,000 against a 30-year-old single mother in Minnesota for sharing a whopping 24 songs. Apparently, music is now

worth \$9,166.67 per song. I mean, "Crank That" is good and all, but that's a little extreme.

The RIAA's misguided lawsuits against individuals have been well-publicized, but more recently, its minions have come down hard on a music sharing institution: OINK's Pink Palace, a UK-based tracker for BitTorrents, which in layman's terms are big files that usually contain a large collection of MP3s. The format is highly convenient for music albums and 100+ song mixes.

OINK, as it's more commonly referred to, had an active membership of 80,000 people worldwide and was responsible for the international leakage of more than 60 major album releases in 2007 alone. Needless to say, this was not a 30-year-old single mother. This is serious business.

But even though the RIAA has earned a victory with the takedown of a top-level music piracy network, it's still got a long battle ahead. And the battle, because of the Internet's "one for all, and all for one" attitude, seems impossible to win.

In fact, even with OINK down and the possibility that the International Criminal Police Organization will begin targeting individual users of the site, the blogosphere is stepping up to the plate. Technorati, a site that indexes more than 94 million blogs, yields an overload of search results pointing to OINK alternatives. The most popular one in the works is BOiNK, a replacement made by BitTorrent site The Pirate Bay.

It's readily apparent that it doesn't matter what the RIAA does; people realize that there are 80,000 fans who won't back down to the mace. The

only crime more widespread than illegal downloading is jaywalking.

Clearly, people don't think they should have to throw down 15 bucks for a CD that may or may not completely suck. There's a lot of music I've listened to that I've never deemed worthy of purchasing, and there's plenty of music I've illegally downloaded, only to go out of my way to walk to City Lights Records and throw down the cash for the album. Studies have shown that people who download music are the most likely people to buy CDs.

The RIAA continues to push the issue with illegal downloading, but instead of coming up with a novel way to circumvent it, it's using litigation to attack its most valuable customers. Sounds like a good business strategy.

Ben Franklin did a great thing for the world when he came up with the idea of a lending library. It put public education and a free exchange of culture at the fingertips of all Americans, no matter how much money they had to drop on the new Mark Twain novel.

Now, imagine if book publishing conglomerates started suing libraries. No Hawthorne, no Twain, no Hemingway.

Luckily for us, there was no RIAA of the literature world.

No matter what they call it — illegal downloading, piracy, whatever — a free market for music is a good thing.

And there's too many of us for the RIAA to stop. One for all, and all for one.

Kevin Doran is a senior majoring in media studies and is the Venues editor for The Daily Collegian. His e-mail is kad952@psu.edu.

LETTERS

Student safety in stadium is a necessary investment

In 2005, I witnessed the triumphant victory against Ohio State University (OSU), and as a senior, I hoped this year's game was going to top it.

I arrived an hour and a half before kickoff and headed directly to the ramp for section ECU. I reached the top platform with an hour until kickoff, and nobody was moving. As kickoff approached, the restless students began to push and jump over railings. The band took the field, the stadium shook, tempers rose and pushing got worse. After climbing 39 stadium steps, I reached row 79, only to find a broken bleacher.

Every time the stadium shook, multiple fans would fall forward or back, causing a domino effect.

As a senior, I was grateful to attend the game of the year, but the conditions I experienced were dangerous and appalling. The event staff and police need to work harder to manage the ramps before the situation becomes unmanageable.

If more staff need to be hired to insure the student body's well being, then I think it's well worth the investment. Penn State prides itself on football; the stadium should reflect the quality of the program. For all you underclassmen, if changes aren't made, be prepared to be herded like cattle to the senior section.

Alle Wolkin
senior-advertising and psychology

Even on game day, going to hospital should be easy

After the game Saturday night, my roommate cut her hand badly and needed to go to the hospital for stitches. But what should've been a three-minute car drive to the hospital took an absurd hour and fifteen minutes, and no traffic or police personnel were cooperative and willing to help.

Park Avenue was the only way out of campus (away from the hospital) and both Curtin Road and University Drive were blocked off toward Park Avenue.

Three traffic officers told us to go completely different routes that never took us to the hospital; they obviously had no idea how to get to the hospital without going on Park Avenue. One officer radioed his boss "claiming her roommate needs to go to the hospital" and then told me to just turn around.

When we called non-emergency police, they proceeded to tell me they only way my roommate could get to the hospital was in an ambulance, that can cost up to \$1000. She just needed stitches and didn't need an ambulance.

After the hour and fifteen minute drive, it took her two and a half hours to get four stitches, and that's another story in itself. People brought in ambulances for "emergencies" sat in the waiting room for hours. If Penn State is such a "great" university, shouldn't getting to the hospital be a top priority?

Gina Audo
senior-broadcast journalism

People misuse ideology to justify American invasions

In the letter "Many Muslims seemed to favor radical Islam" Oct. 26, Len Torchia has selective amnesia when it comes to the so-called Islamo-Fascist. Do I need to remind Torchia that his own government was funding and supporting what he would call Islamo-Fascist, including Bin Laden, to oust Soviet from Afghanistan in the '80s?

Do I need to remind him about the abundant war supplies including chemical weapons granted to Saddam Hussein when he tried to invade Iran, leading to the death of 300,000 Iraqis?

Of course, all of these will be missing during the Islamo-Fascism Awareness Week.

What infuriates most Muslims is how the term Islamo-Fascist is used to justify the already bloody occupation of Iraq and the coming invasion of Iran. What scares Muslims is how this term can be an unquestionable justification for the occupation of Muslim soils while our resources are being plundered and our nations are being "democratized."

Just like how the events of Sept. 11, 2001, weapons of mass destruction, women's rights and democracy were used to win the support of 70 percent of Americans during the invasion of Iraq.

When Torchia said, "If you criticize someone because they speak out against radical Islam, then it would seem you support radical Islam." He meant to say that you are either with us or with them. He gave Muslims the only option he knew — choose between Bin Laden or George Bush.

Nasir Ismail
graduate-petroleum and mineral engineering

blog lines

Collegian: Editor in Chief

"When a reporter came running into the office on Friday bursting with the news that the Paternoville banner for the Thon auction had been defaced with red spray with the words, "border wars, Go Bucks, #1," we all stopped breathing for a second.

The seniors and juniors in the room looked at each other with the same thought — "People are going to be pissed."

See, I was a crime and courts reporter during the 2005 Ohio State victory and won't ever forget..."

Read more of the Collegian: Editor in Chief blog at www.collegian.psu.edu under the "Blogs" heading.