

Opinion # 1  
**The University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA)**  
**of the 2007- 2008 Session**  
[November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007]

*Be it Enacted by the Association, having been considered by the  
Committee on Governmental Affairs, an*

**OPINION**  
**Condemnation of Disrespectful Behavior**  
**During Big Ten Intercollegiate Football Weekends (Ohio State)**  
(Decided: [Y/N/A])

**Nature of the Problem:**

There seems to be a noticeable escalation of hostile football rivalry between our Big Ten peer universities manifesting itself most notably in the Ohio State U-Tube incident publicized in local media and *The Daily Collegian* article entitled “Fan violence flares” on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007. This escalation may be due to the gradual acceptance of phrases and interaction that then get thrust into the public and deemed acceptable behavior. While it should go without saying that the vast majority of Penn State students, alumni, and fans of football and other intercollegiate sports conduct themselves in a responsible and respectful manor, these growing isolated incidents and their acceptance as “normal” and “just all in fun” is troubling. These unsportsmanlike acts bring shame, disrespect, and dishonor to the entire Penn State community.

There is a growing concern within the Penn State faithful that has been accounted in such recent articles as “Four-letter word stirs controversy” and numerous editors. Unsportsmanlike acts must be categorically denounced and those responsible understand actions have consequences not only for the individual but the community. Every Penn Stater should recall and live the virtues and values expressed in our alma mater “may not act of ours brings shame to the one heart that loves they name”:

For the glory of old State,  
For her founders strong and great,  
For the future that we wait,  
Raise the song, raise the song.

Sing our love and loyalty,  
Sing our hopes that, bright and free, Rest,  
O Mother dear, with thee, All with thee,  
all with thee.

When we stood at childhood's gate,  
Shapeless in the hands of fate,  
Thou didst mold us, dear old State,  
Dear old State, dear old State.

May no act of ours bring shame  
To one heart that loves thy name,  
May our lives but swell thy fame,  
Dear old State, dear old State.

**This Opinion serves to remind all student and fans that rivalry can be fun and enjoyable but not at the expense of honor, respect, and dignity and that there are consequences to such actions as the Penn State undergraduate student body will not tolerate such unsportsmanlike behavior.**

## **Recommended Course of Action:**

It is the opinion of the University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) and The Pennsylvania State University (Penn State) undergraduate student body that actions of disrespect, harassment, excessive taunting, aggression, and other lewd, impolite, and inappropriate behavior must be categorically condemned as unsportsmanlike and not befitting genuine and healthy sports rivalry during football or other intercollegiate sports activities.

Furthermore, on behalf of the undergraduate student body, the UPUA, while acknowledging unsportsmanlike acts from individuals regardless of university affiliation, sincerely apologizes to The Ohio State University student body and more specifically those students involved in U-Tube incident, recognizing the complete and inappropriate behavior of those Penn State students involved.

Additionally, the UPUA requests that the Office of Judicial Affairs investigate the specific U-Tube and all reported incidents of inappropriate and unsportsmanlike behavior for possible criminal acts such as harassment, battery, disorderly conduct, and assault and hold any students who engaged or engages in such despicable acts legally accountable as members of the Penn State community. Likewise, the UPUA requests that the Penn State InterFraternity Council investigate and report on the possible involvement of fraternities in this specific incident.

Moreover, the UPUA encourages all students to treat members of other university student bodies, alumni, fans, supporters, and families with the upmost respect that is in the Penn State sport's tradition and culture and swiftly prevent such brazen and discourteous behavior from transpiring and besmirching the good and honorable name of Penn State and Nittany Lion football.

### *Executive Board Action:*

The Executive Board and President of the UPUA shall be charged with the following:

1. Transmitting this Opinion and any appropriate documents to President Kate Christobek and Speaker of the Senate Matt Dodovich of the Ohio State University Undergraduate Student Government (USGOSU).
2. Transmitting this Opinion to the Office of Judicial Affairs, the President of the InterFraternity Council, and any other party deemed necessary and proper by the President.
3. Updating the Assembly on the status of any investigation and recommendations mention within this Opinion.
4. Exploring possible campaigns to address the issue of unsportsmanlike conduct awareness and prevention.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph K. Crivello  
College of Engineering  
Vice Chair Academic Affairs

John Richter  
Off Campus  
Chair Governmental Affairs

Committee Vote: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Chair Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of a UPUA officer:

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President Hillary Lewis  
The University Park Undergraduate Association