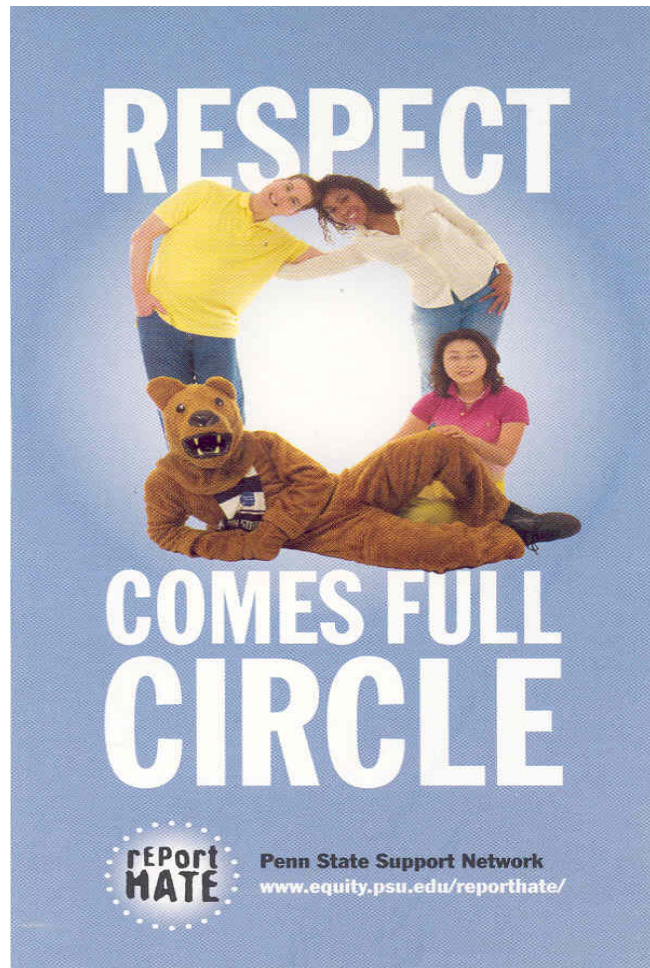


PENNSTATE



Office of the Vice Provost for Educational Equity

**BIAS MOTIVATED
INCIDENTS REPORT
SPRING 2008**

Posted on August 20, 2008

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Diversity Advocate for Students

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
BIAS MOTIVATED INCIDENTS REPORT
SPRING 2008

Start Date: January 14, 2008

Closing Date: May 16, 2008

<i>Total Number of Reports (All Sources)</i>	25
<i>Report Hate Web Site Reports:</i>	4
1 from an Undergraduate Student	
1 from an Auxiliary Police Officer	
1 from the Assistant Director of Student Affairs	
1 from an Assistant Professor	
<i>Report from University Police:</i>	17
5 from Undergraduate students	
1 from a Police Officer observation	
6 from Residence Life Assistants (students)	
3 from Residence Life Coordinator	
1 from a Janitorial Employee	
1 from Library Employee	
<i>Referred Directly to the Diversity Advocate:</i>	4
3 from Undergraduate Students	
1 from a Graduate Student	
<i>Distribution of Campus Locations for Reports:</i>	
University Park Campus	23
Scranton Campus	1
Shenango Campus	1

Statistical Breakdown for Bias Incidents Reported

Status of Targeted Persons:

Students = 60 (13 individuals; unable to count organization/community members)
Residence Life Assistant = 1
Assistant Professor = 1
**Group(s) = (1 student organization experienced 2 separate incidents of bias;
 1 group of 22 students; 1 group of 17 students; 1 group of 3 students;
 2 groups of 2 students.)**
Penn State Community in General = 6

Gender of Targeted Persons:

Male = 22

Female = 3

General Population = 5

Unknown = 35

Sexual Orientation of Targeted Person(s):

Heterosexual = 3 disclosures

**LGBT = 1 (entire group at commitment ceremony was joked about by some
Auxiliary Police Officers.)**

Number of reports where targeted person were perceived to be LGBT = 11

The number of individuals targeted within the above perceived LGBT reports = 37

Race/Ethnicity/Religious Belief (Actual or Perceived) of Targeted Person(s):

White = 11

Latino/Hispanic = 2

Black = 6

Asian = 3

Arabic Descent/Muslim = 2 (1 Muslim Student Association harassed 2X)

Jewish = 0

Christian = 0

Pacific Islander = 1

Indian (Native American) = 0

Bi/Multiracial = 0

Submitter's Status:

(In 10 reports, the targeted person and the submitter of the report were the same.)

Undergraduate Students = 9

Graduate Student = 1

Faculty = 1

Residence Life Assistants = 6

Janitorial Employee = 1

Police Officer = 1

Student Police Officer = 1

Auxiliary Police Officer = 1

Library Staff = 1

Submitter's Gender:

Male = 14

Female = 6

Unspecified/Unknown = 5

Submitter's Sexual Orientation:

LGBT = 1 (1 gay individual)

Unspecified/Unknown = 24

Submitter's Racial/Ethnic Identity/Religious Belief:

Latino/Hispanic = 1
Black = 2
Asian = 1
Arab/Muslim = 2
Unspecified/Unknown = 19

Identification of Perpetrator(s) known (most often unknown), or believed to be:

Student = 13
Nonstudent = 3
Male (actual or suspected) = 12
Female (actual or suspected) = 5
White = 11
Black = 0 (includes those of Caribbean and African ancestry who identify as black)
Hispanic = 3 (includes identification with heritage and race)
Asian = 1
Daily Collegian = 1
Auxiliary Police Group = 1

Targeted Issues (motives behind the intolerance of perpetrators; sometimes multiple):

Sexual Solicitation = 12
Sexual Orientation = 33
Race = 7
Ethnicity/Culture = 1
Religious/Spiritual Beliefs = 12
Physical Appearance = 2
A "Joke" = 1
Social Situation = 1
Retaliation = 1
Academic Situation = 1
Unable to Determine = 8

Type of Offense (how bias was demonstrated--may involve more than one type):

Harassment (verbal/written/e-mail/phone) = 4
Verbal Attack/Comment = 6
Threat/Intimidation = 2
Physical Assault = 1
Graffiti = 16
Vandalism = 7
Advertisement, Written note, fax, text message or e-mail = 27
Picture/Poster/Flier = 21
Offensive effigy/flag/object = 1
Stalking = 0

Geographic Location:

On Campus = 23

Off Campus = 2

Month Incident Occurred:

January = 4

February = 5

March = 3

April = 7

May = 5

Unknown = 1

Day of Incident:

Sunday = 0

Monday = 2

Tuesday = 1

Wednesday = 5

Thursday = 3

Friday = 3

Saturday = 8

Unknown = 3

Time of Incident:

6:00 a.m. to Noon = 3

Noon to 6:00 p.m. = 3

6:00 p.m. to Midnight = 7

Midnight to 6:00 a.m. = 2

Time Unspecified/Unknown = 10

Intoxicant Involved:

Yes = 2

No or Unknown = 23

Weapons Involved:

Yes = 0

No or Unknown = 25

Bias Motivated Incidents Report Discussion

- A total of twenty-five incidents were reported during spring 2008, compared to thirty-three reports for summer/fall semesters, 2007.
- Twenty-three reports received were from the University Park campus; one report received was from the Shenango campus; and, one report was from the Scranton-Worthington campus.
- When it was possible and if the submitter provided contact information, each case submission was followed up with a contact by the Diversity Advocate. In a few instances, the targeted person was encouraged to make an additional police report. Where the perpetrator was known, contact with that individual or that individual's supervisor was made. In one instance, a Muslim student leader was harassed via e-mail on two separate occasions. Since the incidents were similar and occurred with the same individual and his student organization, the Muslim Student Association, the occurrences were counted as one incident. Police involvement did occur and one of the perpetrators was contacted by police and warned. The point of origin is known for only one of the perpetrators.

The Centre County district attorney determined that since the comments made by the perpetrator in the second instance were more generic than specifically directed to the student, no special action to determine the point of origin was made at the time, nor was the e-mail considered a threat.

However, the Muslim Student Association did consider the e-mail a threat, especially in the aftermath of the publishing of a political advertisement in the *Daily Collegian*. The negative advertisement, paid for by the Terrorism Awareness Project, a project associated with **David Horowitz, made some erroneous accusations, which the Muslim Student Association felt would provoke others to do harm to their members or to Muslims in general.

- As always, confidentiality of identities and information will be respected, unless otherwise indicated by the submitter or targeted person.
- Multiple categories often exist for the status of Targeted Persons, Race/Ethnicity, Targeted Issues, and Types of Offense. An effort is made to indicate one choice, and which best describes an incident or individual, or how that individual may identify themselves. However, in some instances where appropriate and where overlap exists, more than one category is chosen and indicated. This accounts for the occasional slightly higher numbers within a category than the total number of reports given. In addition, two perpetrators may have acted in concert.

Finally, the intended target of a perpetrator may be a student organization or the general Penn State student community. Those numbers of targeted persons cannot be determined.

- **The data collection forms were not always similar from campuses and police. Therefore, this statistical account still represents varied information about characteristics of targeted individuals, those who submitted reports, and perpetrators. An effort was made to gain clarification in such instances. A meeting also occurred to rectify this. In the future, efforts will be made to ensure uniformity of data gathered and reported.**

David Horowitz, a former activist in the New Left movement in the 1960s, is now known to side with corporate interests and conservative ideals. He is in charge of the David Horowitz Freedom Center, formerly named the Center for the Study of Popular Culture, and the online neo-conservative magazine titled, **FrontPageMag.com.
[www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=David Horowitz \(ex-Marxist\)](http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=David_Horowitz_(ex-Marxist))