

## Alumni Unite

November 14, 2011

Yes, I'm a proud alumna from 30 years ago. Yes, I drove (along with my brother who is also an alum) four hours to attend Saturday's game. Yes, I've been following virtually every media and press report, local and national, day and night. And yes, I gave a Philadelphia media outlet, CNN, two talk radio programs, a syndicated radio talk show host, a professional business organization (the press is having a field day with this), and a national magazine a piece of my mind about the sensational coverage of this entire situation and their attempts to destroy everything Penn State.

A former Collegian editor wrote an amazing piece in Esquire magazine, stating that he could no sooner negate his allegiance to Penn State than he could change his eye color. What a brilliant analogy and so true. It's part of us.

From reporters stating that the mood at Saturday's game was "somber" to them talking about the riot (it was not a riot by any means) that occurred after Coach Paterno was ousted, every single report and reporter has inflamed an already burning wound. It's enough already.

I understand that many alumni have opted to end their affiliation with Penn State and I truly feel sad for them. It's much easier for many to walk away when someone is in trouble than to stand beside them as solutions are developed. But what does that say about us, our integrity, our grit, and our values.

We, as an alumni population, must stand beside Penn State and the thousands of students, professors, and staff who continue to work each and every day to make a positive difference in their lives, the lives of others, and the State College community and beyond.

We need to show our support louder and stronger now than ever before. Because for each of us, our Penn State experience has framed who we are, provided us with opportunities both personal and professional, and instilled in us a sense of community that one man and his alleged actions cannot nor should not remove.

We ARE Penn State. Never forget it.

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