

一派胡言

yi2 pai4 hu2 yan2

Popular radio and television talk show host Suzie Wong came under fire for poking fun at Hong Kong's Olympic athletes.

First, she called table tennis player Wong Chun-ting "sloppy" for not buttoning up his team sports shirt. Then she said the cycling team's grey uniform "has no aesthetic sense." She might as well have used the word "ugly."

She also referred to Wong as a *mulli*, a Cantonese slang that can mean dumbbo, idiot, country bumpkin, or whatever you like it to mean, but possible definitions do not include any flattering connotations.

Unrepentant, she reportedly started her radio show the next day by greeting the audience "All you *mullis* out there" adding she often called herself a *mulli* too. Fuming netizens called her remarks "一派胡言" (yi2 pai4 hu2 yan2).

"一" (yi2) is "one," "派" (pai4) "branch of family," "a school of thought," "a sect," "胡" (hu2) is "reckless" and "言" (yan2) "speech," "words." Literally, "一派胡言" (yi2

Idiom by Lon Yan

(pai4 hu2 yan2) is "a whole bunch of reckless words." The idiom means "complete nonsense."

"一派胡言" (yi2 pai4 hu2 yan2) is the product of "胡言亂語" (hu2 yan2 luan4 yu3) "to talk nonsense (or rubbish)."

Members of an Olympic team have put in years of hard work to compete for their place or country in the world's top sports event, so it is appropriate that people show them respect.

But then being proper and appropriate has never been the hallmark for Wong, who is famous instead for being hilarious. Mock insolence makes people laugh, being respectful doesn't. But perhaps certain subjects are just not meant for joking.

Terms containing the character "胡" (hu2) include:

胡亂 (hu2 luan4) – carelessly; casually

胡扯 (hu2 che3) – to chat idly

胡蘿蔔 (hu2 luo2 bo) – a carrot

胡椒 (hu2 jiao1) –pepper