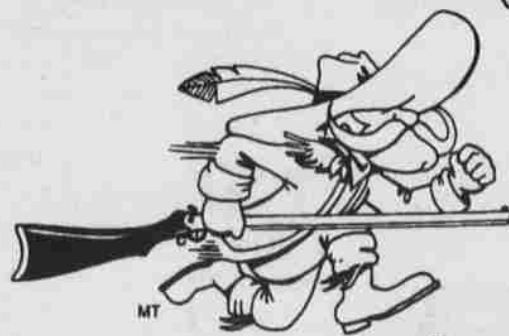


PERSPECTIVE

REBEL
YELL



Violence is essentially wordless, and it can begin only when thought and rational communication have broken down.

—Thomas Merton

Students rage, individuals responsible not groups

Caught up in the hysteria of the L.A. four verdicts...

No, make that caught up in the hysteria of UNLV football...

Let's try one more time—drunk and in the mood to rage, the Alpha Tau Omega and Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternities brawled last Saturday at the Sam Boyd Silver Bowl.

These are the facts: the fight started with 3 minutes left in the first half; members of the ATO and SAE fraternities were involved, as well as a significant amount of other UNLV students.

After that however, the story becomes blurry.

One ATO offered this version of what happened.

The student section was jammed. It was Homecoming so most everyone was drinking. The SAEs were sitting behind the ATOs when all of a sudden a beer spilled. The beer, from the cup of an SAE, went on the girlfriend of an ATO. And when the ATO brother turned around to get an explanation, the SAE was laughing in his face.

So the ATO took his spittoon cup, partially used, and threw it in the face of the laughing SAE.

Hence, the brawl began. Was this what really happened?

My guess is probably not, but who cares anyway?

The above is an interesting version of a stupid, yet entertaining brawl.

Now, a question of accountability for the fraternities is apparent.

Some may debate they are



From the Sap

Jay Sapovits

out of hand. An argument lies that fraternities represent a university, and in brawling,

make the entire school look foolish.

But that is absolutely ridiculous.

First off, most people at UNLV look with disdain at the

Greeks anyway.

Only three percent of the entire student body is Greek. Most parties they throw are closed, so outsiders don't participate.

So take the "represent the university" crap and shove it.

The individuals who fought don't represent UNLV.

They don't represent their fraternity, either. The fist and boot throwing individuals represent themselves, and that is who the punishment must fall upon.

Whatever the punishment is, public drunkenness violations to battery to nothing at all, the individuals should be held accountable for themselves only. Why should an entire group get punished for the actions of its individual members?

It isn't a fraternity issue. It's a person by person issue.

Just as if I were to fight, it wouldn't be a reflection on anybody but myself. *The Rebel Yell* wouldn't look bad, nor should it, but I would.

If you think I represent anyone but myself you're sadly mistaken. The same must be applied to the individuals who fought at the homecoming.

Sexual harassment case pending in high court, nothing's changed

Once again the issue of sexual harassment is making the news.

Though some had hoped the issue would die after Clarence Thomas' appointment to the Supreme Court two years ago, it hasn't. Anita Hill's allegations brought the issue to national attention, and it is clear that this problem, faced by over half of all women in this country, must be addressed.

For the first time in seven years, the Supreme Court is taking up the issue. The last time the court dealt with the problem, it ruled that sexual harassment was a form of sexual discrimination, if the harassment created an abusive working environment. Leaving the lower courts to decide what "abusive" meant, the lower courts were, in effect, left with the problem of defining sexual harassment.

This is the issue in the case of Teresa Harris. She alleges that while employed as a manager for Forklift Systems, Inc., she was the victim of sexual harassment. However, when charges were brought against her employer, the judge ruled that Harris' "psychological well-being" was not affected, thereby ruling in her employer's favor. The judge's decision was upheld on appeal, and now it is before the Supreme Court.

Though the federal judge in Harris' case found the employer to be a "vulgar man," whose comments were "inane and adolescent," he contended that such behavior may be annoying and insensitive but can not be construed as a form of sexual harassment.

Well, let's look at what Ms. Harris went through during the two years at her job. According to Ms. Harris, she endured name calling and dirty jokes. On one occasion, Harris was asked to go to the Holiday Inn to negotiate a raise. On other occasions, her employer asked her to retrieve coins from his front pants pocket or he would throw objects on the ground so he could watch her pick them up. She finally quit after her employer joked that she obtained a contract with a customer after promising that customer sexual favors.



Staff Columnist

Maryanne Dawicki

As an employee, Ms. Harris said that she was devas-

tated by comments made about her ability to do her job. She cried often, lost much sleep, and turned to drinking. She put up with all of this because, as the primary breadwinner in her family, she couldn't quit her job.

Despite all of this, Harris does not claim to have lost out on promotions or salary increases because of the harassment. This may be the key factor when the Supreme Court considers her case.

The employer's sexist actions are indicative of his sexist attitudes. The question then becomes, should we turn to the courts to address such sexism. Some women say "no." They argue that sexual harassment laws perpetuate the idea that women are weak and in need of protection, therefore such laws should be eliminated.

Though I agree to some extent, there is a need for some legal protections. Legislation that seeks to address sexism at least provides legal recourse for women in situations similar to Ms. Harris'.

Sexual harassment is a manifestation of the current struggle for power. One group is trying to hold on to its power and privilege, while the other group seeks to grasp onto whatever little bit it can get. As a result, sexual harassment is tolerated as an inevitable reality.

Men, in their efforts to protect the last vestiges of male dominance, will demean, embarrass, and reduce female

workers to playthings. These actions place female colleagues a step below male workers and serve to maintain a system whereby men are deemed superior. Men still have trouble meeting the demands of a gender integrated workforce, because they were never ready to welcome women in.

From the male perspective, there is the perception that men are the victims of a "witch hunt." They perceive there to be a fine line between mindless office banter and actual sexual harassment, and many are afraid to mutter any statement that may be construed as a form of sexual harassment.

Well if there is the chance that a man might accidentally say something insensitive, it is probably because he possesses sexist attitudes. Perhaps he is afraid he will be found out.

Men, in their efforts to protect the last vestiges of male dominance, will demean, embarrass, and reduce female workers to playthings.

Hiding his true self, this man is unwilling to address his sexism.

In the end, it seems that the Supreme Court's ruling will mean little. We will still be left with the problem of defining

sexual harassment. In order to truly address the problem, efforts must be made to raise our sons and daughters to hold more enlightened views on women. Sadly enough, little can be done to eliminate the fear-induced sexism that now exists.

To the Point, Nick Haley's controversial and provocative column will return in two weeks.

Read the Perspective section every week for a Rebel view of the UNLV campus and its population.