

# Harassment victim still feeling pain

As a former victim of sexual harassment in the workplace, I understand Anita Hill's reluctance in reporting the sexual harassment she experienced in the early '80s.

At that time, sexual harassment was defined as "...actions that would be found offensive by a reasonable man." In 1986 the wording was changed to "...actions to be found offensive by a reasonable woman."

As an attorney in the EEOC, the

agency that oversees discrimination, Anita Hill probably knew that her chances for seeing any results in reporting this crime would have only induced more hardship for her. She made the right choice in seeking employment elsewhere.

I regret that I did not do the same.

I desperately wanted to stay in my job, but it got to the point where I either had to do something about the harassment or resign. I chose to fight, but I can assure you the process is long, painful and ugly.

I think the most painful experience was the indignant behavior and attitudes of some "professional" women whom I worked with for four years. I will, however, be eternally grateful to the few who showed me kindness and support.

I diligently watched Anita Hill's testimony. I found her credible, specific and articulate.

It's terribly distressing to see polling results that basically indicate blame for the victim. I wish pollsters would have

contacted me, I wanted to give them an earful.

The Senate made major errors starting with the judiciary committee, but what's done is done--no one can repair the damage. I only hope that the lessons learned by this media carnival will raise public consciousness to the deficiencies that still exist within the system.

Name withheld at author's request

## Professors voice opinions about diversity

### Requirement is an insult

As a general principle, I believe that diversity--racial, religious, cultural, any reasonable kind--can be wonderful, so long as a person chooses it. And I also believe that similarity of any reasonable kind can be wonderful, so long as it is chosen. A truly diverse society--that is, a truly free and tolerant society--would let citizens choose any mix of similarity and diversity they want, however they define those terms. That's one of the two or three really important improvements we've seen in political and social philosophy in the last 200 years: The principle that you are allowed to choose in every matter unless there is a radically compelling

reason, widely agreed upon, for choice to be denied. So, I'm appalled that Penn State has decreed that its highly controversial and very politicized conception of "educational diversity" is going to be forced on students. It will distort the curriculum by privileging fashionable courses that seek to legitimize the fetid accusations of every crackpot theorist. It is left-wing Puritanism, and I will fight it just as my ancestors fought the right-wing kind in Salem.

Michael Barton

Associate Professor of  
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### Requirement is needed

The diversity requirement is only an updated version of a long-established goal of general education. Far from distorting the curriculum, it will exert pressure to expand offerings in areas that have been shamefully neglected here, especially international and inter-cultural subjects. These are directly pertinent to all life and work today, not merely "fashionable"--the United States is already a diverse place and will become more so, and academic disciplines have developed exciting ways of understanding these variations. Faculty always design curricula to best prepare students for careers and life; students choose to meet these requirements in order to

become educated. Students will be able to meet this requirement in many ways--often through work or experience completed before enrolling here--and will be able to choose among a broad variety of courses. It's not the advocates of diversity education who are crackpots, but rather those who see "fetid accusations" festering in every class on Soviet politics, international management, race and ethnicity, and women's history.

Louise E. Hoffman

Associate Professor of Humanities  
and History

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## Jogger sees sights in Heights at night

Michael Stone  
Capital Times Staff

For a reason I cannot explain, I have recently had the yen to get in shape. I referee basketball--yes, by choice--and need to improve my endurance for the season ahead.

I decided to start jogging. If you are like me, your exercise consists of going to the fridge between *Cheers* and *Married...With Children*. And probably, leisure time is not in great supply.

I have thereby chosen to jog at midnight, through the glorious housing haven which we call "Meade Heights."

Yes, it's a little crazy. And granted, I have done safer things in my life. But thanks to the painful exercise, I have discovered a new world that I must share with you.

You might be aware of your PSH surroundings during the day. But at night, my friends, this institution goes through a metamorphosis.

At midnight, I experience the cold, suburban air--marred by factory influences, the airport, Three Mile Island and the dreaded campus manure fertilizer. My lungs turn frosty and a bronchial cough makes me ashamed to produce mucus.

Halfway through the run, I encounter the dumpster and old mattress burial

ground. At night, it looks like the scene of every horror/slasher movie.

I also see many people. Drivers swerve and give me the "are you for real?" look. Women pedestrians look over their shoulders and wonder if this person jogging towards them is a potential rapist. Don't let the heavy breathing fool you. When I jog, I am physically drained and my sexual desire is almost nonexistent by mile two.

But as I run through the starry and chilly nights, my thoughts wander from my panting and the R.E.M. blasting from my walkman.

Getting philosophical, I pose some pretty significant questions to my psyche.

First of all, what am I going to do with my life? Will I get a job when I graduate? Will I like my work? Will I be a "fry guy?"

What does the future hold? Will *L.A. Law* be a Benny episode? What will the kids be up to on *90210*?

Does ANYONE listen to my radio show? (WPSH, Wednesdays, 8-10 p.m.)

Did I correctly locate the seven pitchers in the last Capital Times issue?

Did the Lion's Den actually have to get with the times and get rid of the quarter pinball machines? Everything is now 50

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