

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Special Collections

9-29-1988

Sexual harassment is not a laughing matter

Student names withheld by request
University of Maine

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/social_justice



Part of the [Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Commons](#), [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Repository Citation

by request, Student names withheld, "Sexual harassment is not a laughing matter" (1988). *Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion*. 639.

https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/social_justice/639

This Letter to the Editor is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

Sexual harassment is not a laughing matter

To the editor:

We are addressing an existing but ignored problem: Sexual Harassment at Parties. This past Saturday night, September 24, I went to an off-campus party in Old Town with some friends. Since I am not a beer drinker, I had been making frequent trips to the kitchen for water. One time, I entered for a glass and was harassed by eight very big men who appeared drunk. They formed a tight circle around me and started grabbing at me.

Two of the men introduced themselves to me as one being a member of the football team and the other a member of the basketball team. I don't know if they were telling me the truth, but just because they are jocks does not mean they have the right to treat me in this manner. One man (the football player), shook my hand and informed me that I could "jack him off anytime." Was I supposed to feel honored? I didn't feel honored, I felt afraid. I made my way past them and ran out of the room.

Why do some men think that they can treat women this way? Am I supposed to be so impressed that they are jocks? Are these the same men who represent the University of Maine and Dale Lick's precious sports teams? Why is the university building a new baseball lounge and not adding more lighting to this campus?

A woman is not safe walking alone at night. How many rapes will it take for this university to clearly see what a major problem this is?

To the editor:

I also attended the same off-campus party as my friend. I am a sophomore and have been to many parties, yet I have never had to deal with the

harassment that happened Saturday, Sept. 24. I experienced the worst sense of invasion that I have ever felt in a party atmosphere.

There were eight large men in the kitchen who were visibly drunk. I put my jacket in the kitchen cupboard where I thought it would be safe.

On occasional returns to the kitchen, I was faced with some kind of verbal or physical

abuse. The men surrounded me trying to kiss me, and pinch my behind and breasts. It was frightening to think that these men were doing this against my will. I pushed them away to no avail. Then one of the men pulled down his jeans and exposed himself to me. Disgusted, I ran into the other room.

I left the party intact, but later thought what if a woman had been invited to one of these "gang bangs" without knowing

what could happen and finding that she couldn't escape? I wouldn't even wish that on my worst enemy.

Everyone has their own private space. No one has the right to invade it. If anyone reads this and recognizes it as something that they have done, think about how I feel and how any other woman would feel. Think about being raped.

Names withheld by request