

# OPINION PACKAGES

## GUEST VIEW

### Dishonorable Don't punish women for men's sex crimes

From The San Diego Union-Tribune.

Reports of rapes and other sexual assaults against female personnel at a number of Army installations have revived a long-running debate about the proper role of women in the military.

Advocates on both sides of the issue — those who believe women should fill only support positions, and those who believe women should serve alongside men in combat — agree on one point: Anyone guilty of committing sex crimes or sexual harassment against female officers or enlisted personnel should be punished severely.

But the Army's widening sex scandal also has led to calls by some lawmakers for greater separation between men and women in military missions; units and, especially, basic training. Allegations of sexual misconduct by male drill sergeants and officers at the Army's Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland stemmed from contact with female subordinates during advanced training.

Four drill instructors and a captain at Aberdeen have been charged with raping, sexually harassing or fraternizing with a dozen women recruits. An Army-wide hot line established in response to the scandal has logged more than 4,000 calls, with more than 500 considered to be potential grounds for disciplinary actions.

"We have to be realistic," says Rep. Bob Livingston, R-La., chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. "We have to understand that young people between 18 and 25 are young people, and they're going to do what comes naturally if given the opportunity. And we shouldn't put them in that position."

The Army, Navy and Air Force mix men and women together in basic training, while the Marine Corps continues to separate them in all-male and all-female training units.

Officially, women still are excluded from most combat positions in the Army. But the reality is that in any conflict, women are close enough to the action to suffer casualties and be taken prisoner, as occurred during the Persian Gulf War. Women also fly combat aircraft in the Navy and Air Force, and serve aboard aircraft carriers and other ships subject to hostile action.

Livingston argues for resegregating some military units by gender, with female officers supervising female enlisted personnel, particularly during basic training. His idea is for a "women's corps" headed by women drill sergeants and commanders.

The problem with Livingston's approach is that it inevitably would relegate women to a second-class role, with reduced opportunities for career advancement — all in the name of curbing the illegal excesses of a handful of men. The unspoken premise is that because some men can't control their sexual impulses, women should be assigned to segregated units for their own protection.

That amounts to punishing the victim, when the blame really should rest exclusively with anyone who engages in sexual misconduct.

## MEHSLING'S VIEW

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MEHSLING OF THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

## GUEST VIEW

### Spirit of St. Louis found in Husker fans

**Editor's note:** This column, written by University of Texas at Austin student Brian Davis, appeared in the Daily Texan on Monday and is reprinted here courtesy of U-Wire.

While walking up to the entrance of the Trans World Dome in St. Louis, I saw a sight that mere words couldn't describe.

Standing on the corner of Fifth Street and Missouri, just a block away from the stadium, one could look out and witness something nonexistent in Austin. People streamed through the streets of St. Louis, and because of their shirts, jackets and suits, it was a literal "Red Sea."

Now, this crowd wasn't like the ones that Longhorn fans are accustomed to seeing in College Station and Lubbock. There were no tortillas, nor fears of having 'Horns stickers defaced on the back windshields of fans' cars.

No, these fans had to be the classiest group of college football fans that Texas has seen in a long time.

Make no mistake about it: the Trans World Dome was Lincoln South.

When the Huskers took the field, the crowd rose to its feet as if Tom Osborne, Nebraska's head coach, was raising his hand to the crowd and casting a spell that electrically charged the field.

"Every time I ran out onto the field at Memorial Stadium (Nebraska's home stadium in Lincoln), it was like I was walking on air," former Husker Trev Alberts once said. "It's the most incredible feeling."

The feeling inside the Dome was definitely incredible. Many Husker fans discovered that the same feeling

"These fans had to be the classiest group of college football fans that Texas has seen in a long time."

they generate at every home game is also easily transferable to another place, another city, another state or even to another world.

Instead of renting cars to travel to the Trans World Dome, fans packed the Metrolink rail system hours before kickoff. Since there were hardly any Texas fans in sight, the rail cars were packed like sardines with people mostly wearing red sweatshirts with Nebraska logos.

At one particular stop along the route, four people who were clad in regular street clothes tried to force their way onto the car, but there was simply no room. The Nebraska fans on board cried out, "Sorry, no room here."

As the four shuffled to another car, three fans wearing Husker apparel approached the same door.

"Yea, come on. There's plenty of room," the same three said as they pushed their way into the car. And the other Nebraska fans were more than happy to oblige.

One thing's for sure, the most amazing thing that came out of the Nebraska tunnel on Saturday wasn't the Cornhusker football team.

"Lil' Red," a mascot that resembles an overgrown Pillsbury dough boy, took the field to a roar of thunderous approval. The mascot,

which is a person inside a suit filled with helium, parades around the field by moving with a bouncing motion and apparently suffers from computer-like twitches.

Lil' Red took to the stands, where the 40,000-plus Nebraska fans were happy to have their pictures taken. Fans lined the aisles adorned with NU construction helmets, gallons of face paint, hundreds of tattoo stickers, thousands of printed "Go Big Red" signs, team jerseys, bikini tops that read "N" followed by a "U," and leather jackets that chronicled the school's four national titles.

But after watching Texas down the Huskers, the once jubilant Trans World Dome turned into the world's largest mausoleum. Nebraska fans found solace in giving Texas fans the "Hook 'em Horns" gesture while Texas fans were mostly stunned with amazement.

Now about those Texas fans who were few and far between ....

It will probably be easy to forgive the fans who didn't make the trip. After all, a plane ticket, a hotel room, a rental car, food and spirits and any other wanted mementos could have cost an average person upwards of \$600-700 each.

Prior to kickoff, there was one section on the upper level of the stadium that was next to empty. That section was in the Texas seating area that featured a corner view.

"We figured out who the true fans were at this game," Texas kicker Phil Dawson said. "It was basically a road game. These people had to come spend a lot of money to come watch us play, and a lot of people probably stayed in Austin because they thought that we didn't have a chance."

"But I couldn't be prouder of our fans — the ones that were here."

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