Sexual Harassment: For Sex Or Money? Essay, Research Paper

Sexual Harassment: For Sex or Money?

Jon Flerchinger Period 4 C.C.E. Paper #5

It is tragic that such a country exists in today’s world. The citizens

live in constant fear. The children are force fed the ?New Philosophy?. The

adults have an invariable fear that they will be the next to be arraigned on

trumped up charges. Amazingly the cause of all the terror is not the government,

but private individuals seeking to take advantage of a weak government. What

country is this? The Middle East? Perhaps war torn Eastern-Europe? No, it is

the United States that fosters such anarchy, in the form of sexual harassment

suits. People from both sexes find themselves editing their conversations.

They are trying to take out anything that might be misread as an innuendo. It

is getting so absurd that a simple date is turning into a well-documented legal

affair. Sexual harassment is not normal human behavior, but explicit sexual

influence from a superior.

Take the case of the six-year-old boy from Wisconsin. He kissed another

six-year-old on the cheek. She asked him to do it, and the act was totally

innocent. The first grader was suspended for a day for sexual harassment. I am

really glad that I did not go to that school when I was six. I would have been

expelled. To tell a little boy that it is amoral to kiss anyone on the cheek is

wrong. To punish him for it shows a situation that has gone completely out of

control. The boy did not even know what sex was, much less how to harass

someone with it! If it takes these extreme measures to keep harassment out of

the workplace then maybe we should abolish the workplace too.

A case that clearly does show sexual harassment is Bob Packwood.

Packwood used his position and power to take sexual favors from women. He

forced his attention on women in his staff who had no choice but to accept him

or quit their jobs. Packwood’s actions show that he does not care much about

other’s opinions, least of all women’s. Packwood has chauvinistic and unfair

ideas about society and he casts a dark shadow on all males. Cases like

Packwood’s are to be minimized, but not at the cost of everyone else’s rights.

A case that does not come close to Packwood’s in significance or

precedent, but that does equal it in outrage, is the story of a twelve-year-old

boy in Oregon. This boy stuck out his tongue at another girl his age. He was

suspended for three days for sexual harassment. The administrators said he was ?

mimicking oral sex?. The girl was shocked. She had no idea the boy would be in

such hot water. The parents were outraged that their boy was accused of

mimicking something that he could not even define. At twelve I thought oral sex

was phone sex! The boy just needed to be reprimanded not kicked out of school

for three days. If we are so strict when we are watching our kids they will do

their exploring completely outside of out supervision.

A strong example of what sexual harassment is, is the Ed Fadely case

coming up. Ed is much like Packwood in that he used his position to force

sexual favors out of his staff. The way in which Ed differs is that he is a

judge. He is supposed to interpret the law. Instead Ed broke it, and he

misinterpreted it for others coming in and out of the court-room. Ed not only

hurt himself and the women he abused. He also hurt every member of society

coming through his doors seeking restitution and justice. Ed needs to go down

big time, but not if it means locking up six-year-old cheek-kissers.

At the University of Oregon now, students must receive explicit

permission to hug, to kiss, to … You get the idea. If the baby boomers were

required to jump through all of these hoops none of us would have been born.

The point is that you cannot regulate manners. Even the victims agree that

these type of strategies will not work. Sexual harassment problems are power

problems, not manner problems. If the administrators want to curb problems then

they should set up harsher penalties, not harsher preventive measures. Sexual

harassment is not a pickup line.

Sexual harassment is not your boss trying to get a date with you. It’s

your boss telling you to choose between a date and your job. Sexual harassment

is your boss coming on to you more than once. It is not little kids on a

playground exchanging pecks. Nor is it a kiss good-night after a first date.

Sexual harassment is anyone with power over you seeking to use that power to a

sexual end. Sexual harassment is not any other human behavior.