1985

1985 Correspondence re Sexist Language in Daily Beacon Crime Log

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TO:    Jeff Brumley, News Editor
       The Daily Beacon

FROM:  Denise M. Harvey, Director
       Office of Affirmative Action

DATE:  July 2, 1985

RE:     Nonsexist Language Guidelines

In the attached June 28, 1985, The Daily Beacon
"Crime Log," you refer to female students as
"girls;" yet you refer to male students as
"males." This sexist language is offensive and
is in violation of UTK guidelines for Nonsexist
Language (UTK Affirmative Action Plan, Section
14, 1984).

Please be more cognizant of these guidelines in
the future.

Attachment

cc:    Karen Martin, Editor, The Daily Beacon
      Bob McElwee, Manager, Student Publications
      Judy Webster, Chair, Commission for Women
      Dr. Jack Reese, Chancellor
The Daily Beacon Friday, June 28, 1985

Crime Log

Monday, June 24, 1985
3:25 p.m. The head resident at Humes Hall reported that three of her residents received obscene phone calls. Officer dispatched.

Tuesday, June 25, 1985
4:32 a.m. Complainant reported an alarm sounding in the Austin Peay Psychology Building. Officer dispatched found no smoke. 6:40 a.m. Complainant reported that a candy machine had been broken into on the sixth floor of Dabney Hall. Officer dispatched.

11:15 a.m. Complainant reported a black male was wondering around inside the Home Economics Building. Complainant thought the suspicious person was not a student. Officer dispatched.

12:06 p.m. Complainant reported a black male wearing black shorts and a striped shirt was in the Law School Building. Complainant believed the suspect was trying to steal something. Officer dispatched. Suspect was gone when officer arrived.

7:43 p.m. Complainant reported she was hit in the eye and her glasses were broken while she was playing ball on field number two. Officer dispatched.

8:25 p.m. Complainant reported she had injured her ankle behind Rees-Hall. Officer dispatched. (girl was taken to UT Hospital.)

Wednesday, June 26, 1985
8:06 a.m. Complainant requested ambulance for male subject at Clement Residence Hall. Officer dispatched.

8:38 a.m. Complainant reported she had been receiving obscene and harassing telephone calls from a male subject. Officer dispatched.

9:38 a.m. Complainant reported her purse was stolen from the Main Library.

4:04 p.m. Complainant in McCord Hall reported that a male subject walked in off the street and stated that he was from a mental hospital and needed help. Officer dispatched.

NY Times Crossword

ACROSS
1. Fancy's opposite
2. "Act One" subject
3. Pigskin speech
4. A "Silent" actress
5. This might be corny
6. Great Lakes acroyn
7. Proton
8. Anagram for mail
9. A day's march
10. Place-to-eat, sleep and learn
11. Also
12. Swan
13. Jocanet of 1773
14. Domestic hot spot
15. Most logical
16. Assistant (Ivy)
17. Cannes' rival
18. Street show
19. Seafarer's expression
20. Type of Mackenzie
21. Specialty of 70 Across
22. Shakespeare offering
23. A Gardner
24. Avila aunt
25. Hitch predecessor
26. Abbr. on a list
27. Symbol of

DOWN
1. Hawaiian thrash
2. Molotov or squash
3. German canoe
4. A friend of Winnie
5. Draft curves to the agenda
6. Kind of psychology
7. "E.T." e.g.
8. "Desire Under the Sea" author
9. Sister's daughter, e.g.
10. Collar
11. U.S.S. range
12. Controlling power
13. Friendly islands
14. Turn on (DeVery pleasant)
15. He wrote "Our Gang"
16. Just as

Try Your Pencil At
THE NEW YORK TIMES DAILY CROSSWORD

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE
July 11, 1985

TO: Chief Hugh Griffin  
UTK Police Department

FROM: Denise M. Harvey, Director  
Office of Affirmative Action

RE: Nonsexist Language, "Crime Log"

Please note the attached memos.

As always, I am available for comments or discussion.

MW

Attachments

cc: Bob McElvee, Manager, Student Publications  
Judy Webster, Chair, Commission for Women  
Dr. Jack Reese, Chancellor
MEMORANDUM

To:   Denise M. Harvey, Director, Office of Affirmative Action
From: Hugh Griffin

Subject: Your memo dated 7-11-85 (Nonsexist Language, "Crime Log")

This is in reference to your memo to me dated July 11, 1985 regarding Crime Log dated June 25, 1985. I have checked the complaints you mentioned in your memo and neither complaint refers to the complainant as girl (Please see copy of complaint).

Even though we find we are not using sexist language we have issued a memo reminding our officers not to use when writing their reports.

If you have any questions, I will be happy to discuss.

HG/jc

c: Bob McElwee, Manager, Student Publications
   Judy Webster, Chair, Commission for Women
   Dr. Jack Reese, Chancellor
   Phil Scheurer, Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs
   Charlie Bradshaw, Editorial Editor, The Daily Beacon
MEMORANDUM

TO: Denise Harvey, Director
    Office of Affirmative Action

FROM: Charlie Bradshaw, Editorial Editor
      The Daily Beacon

RE: FIRST AMENDMENT FREEDOM AND LIMITED
    AUTHORITY OF THE OFFICE OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

July 9, 1985

Thank you so much for your correspondence of July 2, 1985 expressing an interest in our Crime Log feature. As you may know, we take our crime log information directly from the UT police logs. Therefore, any reference to "girls" instead of "females" is of their choosing, not ours.

If you are uncomfortable with such a designation, I suggest you take up the matter with Chief Hugh Griffin.

As for your request that we "be more cognizant of their guidelines in the future", I must inform you that our policy decisions are protected by the First Amendment and therefore are independent of yours or any other administrative office.

cc: Bob McElwee, Director of Student Publications
    Judy Webster, Chair, Commission for Women
    Dr. Jack Reese, Chancellor
July 9, 1985

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ms. Denise Harvey
FROM: Bob McElwee, Director of Student Publications

RE: NONSEXIST LANGUAGE GUIDELINES

In reference to your July 2 memo concerning the reference made to female students as girls in the crime log, I would like to make several important points to you.

(1) What you are asking the editors of the Beacon to do is called "censorship".

Government employees are not allowed to determine the editorial content of the free student press (see the first amendment).

(2) The crime log is an "official record" - while we copy word for word from the officers report, we do not alter official records to meet our standards (or your standards).

If you have a problem with how the officers write up the report you should contact Chief Hugh Griffin to discuss the matter with him.

I understand your concerns, but I think in this case you should have researched the matter a little more before firing off memos and exhibiting a lack of knowledge in this area. Another suggestion concerning dealing with the press would be that you never tell newspaper editors what they are to print.

I hope this gives you a better idea of where the problem lies and I hope this helps you to correct the situation. I would be glad to talk with you more about student press rights if you would like to learn more about them.

cc: Karen Martin, The Daily Beacon
Addy Webster, Commission for Women
Dr. Jack Reese, Chancellor