

Alas, honor has fallen

By KENT ANDERSON
STAFF WRITER

Chivalry and respect have been brutally murdered. Their bloody, slashed corpses are sprawled on top of a section of concrete walk-way that has been shaded a grim, wet burgundy by their spilled faith. From the bodies rises a faint aroma, a sweet scent of roses tainted by a fetid, earthy fragrance of death and sorrow. Trailing off from the scene, hasty, gory footprints indicate evil's passing. A discarded glove, splattered with blood, lies at the base of a nearby palm tree.

It's been over for awhile now, but I can't stop thinking about the O. J. Simpson trial. Photographs of Nicole Brown's battered face burden my thoughts, as does the fact that Simpson never suffered any punishment for inflicting the wounds, both physical and mental, on who was then his wife. The verdict that ended his murder trial was not guilty. Now, Simpson might not have been guilty of murder, but he sure as hell wasn't innocent.

He pounded on his wife, a woman who had no way to defend herself. Let me repeat that last part: . . . a woman who had no way to defend herself. Simpson's guilt in this matter is uncontested.

What kind of message has been sent to women trapped in abusive relationships? What does Simpson's freedom from any form of real punishment, during and after his marriage to Nicole as well as after the trial, say to battered and soon to be battered women?

I think it screams, "You better develop thick skin or an immunity to pain, because

you've been consigned to live out your life as a punching-bag." It makes me sick, the lack of respect toward women that this case has shown.

I don't blame the legal system for crafting, or failing to take adequate steps to prevent, this disrespect, for it is simply a mirror, reflecting the state of abysmal contempt with which some men seem to regard women today. We like to call ourselves an advanced society. A country that has risen above such foolishness as slavery and inequality based on gender, but for all its trappings, I find our modern nation to be more of an ugly, ignorant monstrosity than many of us would care to admit. As a nation, we are still dealing with racism, inequality based on gender, and a broad disinterest in recognizing the rights of others. Therefore, I blame society for the falling status of female respectability. I accuse men in general, and, for the purpose of citing a situation that clearly represents my opinion, O.J. Simpson specifically.

What kind of perverted sewer rat beats his wife? How can any man strike a woman he has asserted his love for? A man promises to love his wife in sickness and in health, not love to cause her sickness and ruin her health.

Now, I realize there are psychological explanations for the abusive nature of some men, but I honestly don't believe that a bad childhood, or some other form of unfortunate experience, justifies pounding on a helpless woman, or child for that matter.

If a man has an ocean of turbulent, unresolved emotional waters crashing up against his mind, and he

chooses not to seek professional help, he should go beat on a tree or pick a fight with someone who can fight back. To punch a woman or child is a cowardly, dishonorable, and abominable action without any reasonable justification.

As long as society fails to adequately ostracize and severely punish men responsible for depraved acts of ultimate disrespect, there will exist no will to respect the right to dignity that belongs to the general female population. Give the women of the world the attention they deserve, the recognition they are entitled to, and bring those who violate the dignity of women to justice.

I don't think all men, one hundred percent of us, are guilty of this horrible disregard of dignity, but as a general statement, I believe it is fair to say that men are barbaric fools. Simpson is the epitome of this savage ignorance of honor and respect. In my view, that makes him a worthless piece of human refuse, a fleshy clump of rancid stupidity that's unfit to breathe, to walk, to talk, or to know the joys of life.

So, the evidence is easy to see - chivalry and respect have definitely been murdered, but where is the weapon that dealt the wounds? Where is the specific cause of death? Many investigators have searched for the edged weapon, but, in spite of their questioning, probing, and lead-chasing, nobody comes forward. Nobody will reveal what they know, for they are terrified of the revenge the killer could extract upon them for talking. Therefore, the violent, malicious woman-beater remains free to abuse again.

This was no accident



Nicotine withdrawal hurts

By LYNLY
STAFF WRITER

It is easy for non-smokers to turn up their noses at a smoker. Cigarettes stink! I'm a smoker, I can admit to that. But what makes a non-smoker turn away in disgust, makes a smoker reach for another smoke.

It's easy for non-smokers to say "just quit." They do not feel the words the way smokers do. Yes feel!

One brave Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, spoke boldly to the Nation and told a truth that startled non-smokers. He said that "Nicotine withdrawal is equal to heroin withdrawal."

Smokers were Not surprised by this statement. There is not a smoker alive that has not experienced this painful fact at least once.

But non-smokers everywhere were startled by this bold statement. The facts were never spelled out so clearly to them before.

Comparing a street drug like heroin, known for the past 30 years to be so ugly and painful in its addiction and withdrawals, to smoking silenced the non-smokers for a brief moment in time.

But non-smokers have raised their voices once again, and have succeeded in banning massive public territories to smokers, while conveniently forgetting the physical consequences to the smoker.

A national campaign has been waged against a multitude of people in this country. A campaign of ostracism and prejudice. To be sneered at and snubbed. To be kicked out into the rain and the cold.

A lie is repeated over and over, until it's believed to be true. "You could quit if you really wanted to." Yet it's these same non-smokers who will thrust one of our own cigarettes at us, the smoker when we're trying to quit.

The non-smoker can't stand to see their loved one or friend in pain. Or they have no patience for the mood swings that always accompany withdrawals.

Has the non-smoker listened when the national news media revealed the insidious addiction plan of the Tobacco industry?

Did they listen when I heard CNN report in 1991 that Blue Cross and Blue shield now owns massive amounts stock in the Tobacco companies? It's true, and on public record! Call CNN, or your stock broker.

Do you know that there are NO withdrawal treatment centers for nicotine in this state? In fact there is only one in the entire nation in up state New York, and even the American Cancer Society does not back this

one place up with its support.

How do I know this? Because I've called! No rehab center will treat nicotine withdrawal outright. You must be on street drugs or alcohol first, and then they will treat you. But only as a secondary issue, and not for the heroin withdrawal equivalent that it is.

Society, you have pushed us out into the winter, and with me your Fathers, Mothers, Sisters, and Brothers.

Give us a place where we can shake and scream. Where we can fall apart as addicts, and be rebuilt as humans. Away from your sneers and the self righteous opinions. Bring us back into humanity by addressing this one point.

Without a center for nicotine withdrawal for your family, co-workers, and friends, you condemn us with your complacency to the tobacco killing fields, and turn your backs on Millions of people in this nation.

