

And the winner of the Pink Ribbon is...

I assume by now that you've heard about attorney Alfred G. Rava out in California. He's the defender of our rights who sued the Oakland A's baseball team over a Breast Cancer Awareness promotion which they ran in May. On Mothers' Day the A's gave out pink sun hats to the first 7,500 women to enter the park. Mr. Rava travelled from San Diego to Oakland to attend the game just so he could be denied a pink sun hat. Why would he want to be denied a pink sun hat? Because he planned on suing the ballclub for sex discrimination. He makes a habit of these suits. Yup, that's right, his rights were infringed. He has the same right to a pink sun hat that any woman has. You can't argue with that. All you can do is point at him and laugh. I guess the Bill of Rights states, in its own way, that we all have the right to a free pink sun hat.

I find myself trying to imagine what went wrong in poor Mr. Rava's life that has him worrying and travelling and suing over his right to a free pink sun hat. Could it be that he was not endowed by his Creator with certain inalienable attributes? Is it possible that Mr. Rava comes up short in some respects? I'm referring, of course, to this sense of ethics, his conscience if you will. Perhaps he was forced to wear a blue sun hat as a child? That'll leave a psychic scar. Maybe he never had a sun hat at all and he's still fuming over the permanent damage done to his head. My guess is that a certain portion of the \$510,000 settlement will go to Mr. Rava and that this bit of lunch money might have a bearing on his behavior. Oh well, only he knows for sure.

Mr. Rava is apparently a member of that female-unfriendly club which increases its angry membership in direct proportion to whatever is done on behalf of women. You'll find these misogynists residing everywhere including basements, remote cabins, certain pulpits, Congress and even (gulp) in law firms. They take it as a personal affront whenever any institution creates a special day, party, promotion or giveaway for someone they are not. They never seem to ask the obvious question, "What is the reason for this event?" They just focus on the fact that they feel cheated. If the Oakland Mothers' Day promotion drew extra fans to the ballpark (and it did) and some of the proceeds went towards cancer awareness (and they did) how in holy blazes can a guy take it as a wrong that needs righting? Instead of going out and doing the legwork that one of these events requires, instead of creating their own events to promote whatever it is they want to promote, they attack their perceived enemy.

Why can't they throw some of that energy at a Prostate Cancer Awareness Day where every male over fifty gets a free trial-size bottle of Grecian Formula? Would you sue them for that? Would they sue themselves for that? What nonsense.

Maybe it would be a good idea for charitable events organizers to come up with some kind of consolation prize, given away in lieu of whatever is being given to the target audience. You know, some kind of button or bumper sticker to indicate that you went to the event but were disenfranchised on arrival. Something like, "I went to the Mothers' Day Game and all I got was this stupid bumper sticker." Or simply, "I Sue Women." This way the aggrieved suitor would get something for free (his constitutional right) and still get to make the point about...what was the point again?

I have the feeling that none of these fixes would make Mr. Rava and his fellow sufferers feel re-enfranchised. If only there were a way to do the important work of fighting cancer while still making sure that Mr. Rava feels constitutionally cuddled. Maybe then we could get beyond all this hoo-ha.

Maybe we should just give him his free mammogram and let bygones be bygones.