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Los Angeles
Daily News
2/11/97
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Freedom of speech

As one who put in many hours and walked many miles in two unsuccessful initiative campaigns for a civilian police review board for the city of Los Angeles, let me express my support for the decision by the Los Angeles Police Department board of rights not to stretch department rules governing on-duty speech and behavior to cover such sexist jokes as told by Capt. Paul Marks, acting as master of ceremonies, at a private retirement party for Officer Mike Weiss (Daily News, Feb. 3).

The tribunal showed both common sense and understanding of the First Amendment.

Let me advise those who are offended by such behavior, as I am, to rest easier. America's sexist, macho culture is, in fact, on the run, through increasing public awareness of the inherent violence and immaturity underlying all sexist behavior.

Meanwhile, it is best to keep the First Amendment strong.

— Bill Becker
Woodland Hills

Below is the letter as I submitted it. The text omitted by the editor is enclosed in brackets “[“, ”]”. I am certain that the editor is protecting LAPD Captain Paul Marks.

Daily News Public Forum
P.O. Box 4200
Woodland Hills, CA 91365
FAX: (818) 713- 3723

February 4, 1997

Dear editor,

As one who put in many hours and walked many miles in two unsuccessful initiative campaigns for a civilian police review board for the City of Los Angeles, let me express my support for the decision by the LAPD Board of Rights not to stretch Department rules governing on-duty speech and behavior to cover such sexist jokes as told by Captain Paul Marks, acting as master of ceremonies at a private retirement party for officer Mike Weiss. (NEWS, February 3.) The tribunal showed both common sense and understanding of the First Amendment .

Let me advise those who are offended by such behavior, as I am, to rest easier. America's sexist- macho culture is, in fact, on the run, through increasing public awareness of the inherent violence and immaturity underlying all sexist behavior. [Captain Marks ' s pornographic joke, at the expense of LAPD Lt. Tammy Tatreau and her LAPD Captain husband, has all the earmarks of a juvenile act of defiance, typical of those whose fun is being spoiled by forces beyond their control. The day is foreseeable when so-called adults who need sexist language to spice up their lives will simply shut up . We will then also see a noticeable reduction in violence against women.] Meanwhile, it is best to keep the First Amendment strong.

Sincerely,
Bill Becker