

**We are listening to our District Attorney.** We're also listening to the self-righteous drivel of 88 opportunists, to the evolving tales of a false accuser, and to our collective conscience. Regardless of the results of this absurd persecution, what is apparent every day now is the anger and fear of many citizens and students who know themselves to be objects of manipulation and corruption, who see illuminated in this moment's extraordinary spotlight what they live with every day. They know that it isn't just Durham, it isn't everybody, but it is just individuals making this disaster.

**But it is a disaster nonetheless.**

Concerned citizens are shouting and whispering about what happened to these young men and to ourselves.

"...Either he knew what the facts were and misstated them, or he was making them up... Whether he acted knowing they were false, or if he was reckless, it doesn't matter in the long run. This is the kind of stuff that causes the public to lose confidence in the justice system." [Professor James Coleman, News & Observer, 15 June 2006]

"I am innocent. Reade Seligmann is innocent. Collin Finnerty is innocent. Every member of the Duke lacrosse team is innocent. You have all been told some fantastic lies, and I look forward to watching them unravel in the weeks to come." [David Evans, 16 May 2006]

If it turns out that this prosecutor is guilty, I want him expelled by the State Bar. But his expulsion will only bring resolution to his case and not the bigger problem. This is much bigger than a breach of ethics and throwing him out of the Bar will not solve the problem. I want the attorney general to investigate what is going on in Durham and how criminal it is.

"Results of DNA testing exclude the defendant as the perpetrator of this crime" - [Mike Nifong, News & Observer, 15 June 2000]

**Everything seems up for grabs--I am only comfortable talking about this event in my room or with my attorney. I am actually afraid to even bring it up in public. But worse, I wonder now about everything. . . If something like this happens to me . . . What would be used against me--The DA's lies? Contrived lineups?**

I was talking to my professor who told me "Well if you people -- and she meant the whole lacrosse team -- were really innocent I'd have sympathy for you." I never want to see her again

## What Does Injustice Sound Like?

If you're innocent then the justice system should be your friend, and I don't know, I just don't really feel like that's been the case. (The Chronicle 19 July 2006)

**All we heard was "You know what happened that night. Why aren't you saying anything." If nobody's guilty, then you can't tell them who's guilty. It's awful because you want people to know the truth, you want people to know what really happened, but they don't want to hear that,"** (The Chronicle 19 July 2006)

"But when a petty-tyrant prosecutor has perverted and prolonged the legal process without disclosing his supposed evidence, and when academics and journalists have joined in smearing presumptively innocent young men ... in the face of much contrary evidence — it's not too early to offer tentative judgments." [Stuart Taylor, National Journal, 20 May 2006]

I can't help but think about the different attention given to what has happened from what it would have been if Mr. Nifong had been not just campaigning but participating in a different sport, like seeking justice, something that's not so self serving.

And this is what I'm thinking right now – The media isn't really responding to this. Duke isn't really responding to this. Durham isn't really responding to this. Not really. And this, what has happened, is an injustice. **This is an absolute injustice.**

**We know that the disaster didn't begin on March 13th and won't end with what the State Bar says or the court decides. Like all disasters, this one has a history. And what lies beneath what we're hearing from our collective conscience are questions about the future.**

**This satire, printed in the most easily seen venue, online, is just one way for us to say that we're hearing what the media, the victims of these false accusations, and those charged with serving justice and education are saying.**

**Of these things said here by a mixed (in every way possible) group of citizens on Wednesday, July 25th in offices and homes across the nation, some were taken from an issue of The Chronicle that came out this same month, and some were found elsewhere in print and on air. (Some statements we just made up, but we think they are important anyway.)**

**We're turning up the volume in a moment when some of the most vulnerable among us are being asked to quiet down by Mike Nifong, Bob Ashley and Andrew Cohen while we wait. To the citizens speaking individually and to the bloggers making collective noise, thank you for not waiting and for making yourself heard.**