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## **Super Bowl Sunday and domestic violence: A hoax**

### *Ten years later the lie is still propagated*

Super Bowl Sunday has been proclaimed as a day of overwhelming violence against women. But that story is just another one of many politically expedient social myths.

The faux story got started at a January 1993 press conference held by Sheila Kuehl, now a California state senator. Kuehl labeled Super Bowl Sunday as “the biggest day of the year for violence against women,” stating that 40 percent more women would be battered than usual.

But there never was a basis for her claim—a problem common to many emotionally laden “statistics” radical feminists like to cite to support their political agenda.

In Christina Hoff Sommers’s 1994 book, *Who Stole Feminism*, she exposes the “Abuse Bowl” hoax in Chapter 9, “Noble Lies.”

And when Washington Post staff writer Ken Ringle tracked down the sources who had supposedly confirmed Super Bowl’s day of family violence, he found none of those quoted had made any such claim. In fact, Super Bowl Sunday is one of the quieter days, with many around the country attending Super Bowl parties.

Yet now, almost 10 years after this lie has been exposed, it still continues to be reported in the news. Just recently, Los Angeles UPN affiliate KCOP-TV ran a news story of how violence against women increases during football games. And Linda Mitchell, a representative of the media “watchdog” group Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (F.A.I.R.) helped further this myth even though aware that Kuehl had misrepresented the facts.

Unfortunately, the Super Bowl Sunday violence myth is just one of many myths surrounding domestic violence. Most studies are suspect and highly skewed. Men and women initiate domestic violence in roughly equal proportions, yet judges and police are trained and intimidated politically not to question a woman’s claim of domestic violence, effectively passing judgment on the accused man.

While the media must refer to the military as “men and women,” men do not get equal time when it comes to domestic violence. Women comprise only 20 percent of the military but the percent of male victims of domestic violence is higher. Therefore, the media needs to have more consistency—and honesty—in their use of such terms.

Indeed, it is time to set the record straight. Until then, we will not be able to effectively deal with the real victims of abuse and family violence.

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*The Equal Justice Foundation is a non-profit organization that promotes progressive justice and civil liberties for all citizens. For more information, contact Dr. Charles Corry at (719) 520-1089, or e-mail him at [ccorry@ejfi.org](mailto:ccorry@ejfi.org). EJF’s Web site is [www.ejfi.org](http://www.ejfi.org) and the foundation also sponsors [www.dvmen.org](http://www.dvmen.org) dealing with domestic violence against men.*