

Incidents of Misogyny and Sexism in the UFC

Rampage Jackson

- In the YouTube video, called “How To Pick Up a Gurl – Fast,” Rampage Jackson **attempts to rape a woman** in a parking garage. Before attacking his target, Rampage instructs viewers to use chloroform as “something to help her relax” and zip ties. The UFC fighter explains, “I like this parking lot because my cousin work for the security company so I know the cameras are gonna be out of service right now.”¹ As Rampage stalks his victim, he comments, “And I **hope she got low self-esteem.**” The video has received over 200,000 views and remains accessible for public viewing.² To our knowledge, the UFC has not issued an official statement, fined, or suspended Jackson for the video.
- In July 2008, video footage was uploaded of Rampage positioning himself behind a female Japanese reporter, **placing his hand on her thigh**, and **dry humping** her. When she moves away from him, he follows her and grabs her leg.³ The video currently has 1.4 million views.
- In June 2009, Rampage, in the middle of an interview, holds *Cage Potato* reporter Heather Nichols against him, and **dry humps her for a full 37 seconds**. He continues to hold her after she attempts to end the interview, and does not let her go until a man walks up to Rampage and taps him on the shoulder a few seconds after the interview ends. The video has over 9.8 million views.⁴
- In late May 2011, when being interviewed by MMA Heat host Karyn Bryant, Rampage replied that she’s “**Jamaican me horny**” in response to her statement that she was Jamaican, black and white. He also commented that he wanted to **motorboat her** and simulated the act, although he did not touch her.⁵ The video currently has over 4 million views.

Other UFC Fighters

- Bantamweight fighter Miguel Torres was briefly released by the UFC in December 2011 after he posted the following comment on his Twitter account: “**If a rape van was called a surprise van more women wouldn’t mind going for rides in them.**” Torres was reinstated by the UFC less than a month later after he apologized for the rape tweet and made donations to several rape crisis centers. After losing a fight in April 2012, the UFC released him again; in August Torres signed on with another promotion company.⁶
- In November 2011, UFC light heavyweight fighter Forrest Griffin wrote on Twitter that “**Rape is the new missionary.**” According to *The Huffington Post*, Griffin responded to a woman’s objections to the tweet by telling her, “**Keep it to yourself nobody cares.**”⁷ Griffin apologized for the rape tweet and made a donation to a rape crisis center.⁸
- In a Dutch video posted in late January 2012, a group of men time how long it takes for UFC fighter Alistair Overeem to **unfasten the bras of seven women wearing animal masks** to cover their faces, while he holds a beer in one hand.⁹ Earlier in the year, Overeem was charged with misdemeanor battery for allegedly shoving a woman in the face at a Las Vegas casino. In March, Overeem was sentenced to 50 hours of community service and to undergo anger management counseling.¹⁰
- On March 3rd, 2012, UFC Bantamweight fighter Bryan Caraway, tweeted the following statements about Ronda Rousey: “Ronda [is] an **unintelligent bimbo,**” “if she wants to challenge a man I’ll knock her teeth

dwn [sic] her throat the [sic] break her arm!," "She gonna talk smack **she needs to know her place,**" and "[...] she not a women [sic]. She gonna **act like a dude** she can deal w the consequences."¹¹

Dana White

- Dana White wrote the following to Jenna Jameson, partner of retired UFC fighter Tito Ortiz, on Twitter: "@jennajameson hey jenna SHUT THE FUCK UP and mind ur biz! @titoortiz **put her on a fuckin' leash!!!**"¹²
- In early December 2012, UFC President Dana White had a brief cameo as a homeless character in a short comedy skit for Fox NFL Sunday that caused some outrage from UFC fans over the stereotypes portrayed. Dana's response via Twitter was the following: "It's a skit for a comedian. **Pussies** in this country cry about everything!!! Get a sense of humor," "the **pussies** in this country who cry about everything everyone does makes me fucking ill," "people are such **pussies** these days it makes me SICK!!!," and "ur a puss."¹³
- In a video uploaded on March 12, 2008, UFC President Dana White delivers a talk to participants of *The Ultimate Fighter* about being a UFC fighter: "It's not all, fucking, you know, signing autographs and **banging broads** when you get outta here. It's not. It's no fucking fun man, it's a job. Just like any other job. Being a fighter isn't all **fucking girls** and signing autographs. It's fucking hard work."¹⁴
- In a 3-minute expletive-filled rant to *Sherdog* journalist Loretta Hunt, UFC President Dana White says the following: "Shut the fuck up! Any fucking guy that won't put his name on it, first of all, whoever gave you that quote is a **pussy** and a fucking **faggot** and a fucking liar and everything else, whoever gave you that quote." A minute later he says, "I mean, how do you write a story from a guy who fucking it's like, hey it's like in an interview where they fucking like put a black thing over the guy's face and change his voice and shit, you **fucking dumb bitch**. Fuck you, Loretta Hunt!"¹⁵

Others

- In an Anheuser-Busch InBev commercial for Bud Light Lime and UFC 132, dubbed "The Ultimate Fantasy," Arianny Celeste, the UFC's "Octagon Girl," is **featured topless, rolling in a pit of limes** delivering lines such as "I like it physical," "I love a good submission," "I like it when you get right down to it," and "I like a guy who can go more than one round—know what I'm saying?"¹⁶
- Joe Rogan, who does commentary for televised UFC events, said the following about female sports reporter Maggie Hendricks: "I don't think [Rampage Jackson] should be given a free pass for some of the questionable things he does, but I do think that this woman in question is all kinds of **cunty**."¹⁷

¹ YouTube video, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SfG5amLtWEQ>

² The YouTube video with over 200,000 views is no longer available online; the video that is currently accessible lists over 1,000 views.

³ YouTube video, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZKVeBOCPpGU>

⁴ YouTube video, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYmYA4ZPsIM>; <http://www.break.com/cage-potato/rampage-dry-humps-cagepotato-reporter.html>; http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/2009/writers/jimmy_traina/07/09/heather.nicholes-not-happy-with-rampage-jackson/index.html?eref=sircrc

⁵ YouTube video, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jpoaugfkxIU>; Daily Mail Reporter, "'She's Jamaican me horny': Quinton 'Rampage' Jackson shocks TV viewers with lewd comments to female reporter after MMA win," *Daily Mail Online*, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-1393262/Shes-Jamaican-horny--Quinton-Rampage-Jackson-makes-lewd-comments-female-reporter-MMA-win.html>;

⁶ UFC.com, <http://www.ufc.com/fighter/Miguel-Angel-Torres>; MMA Weekly, "Former WEC Champion Miguel Torres Released from the UFC; Signs with Titan Fighting," *Yahoo! Sports*, Aug. 21, 2012, <http://sports.yahoo.com/news/former-wec-champion-miguel-torres-034910298--mma.html>

⁷ The Huffington Post, "Forrest Griffin Rape Jokes: MMA Fighter Sparks Controversy on Twitter," Nov. 9, 2011, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/11/09/forrest-griffin-rape-jokes-twitter_n_1084471.html

⁸ Hendricks, Maggie, "Griffin apologizes for rape tweet, makes donation to rape crisis center," Nov. 11, 2011, *Yahoo! Sports*, <http://sports.yahoo.com/mma/blog/cagewriter/post/griffin-apologizes-for-rape-tweet-makes-donation-to-rape-crisis-center?urn=mma,wp9282>

⁹ YouTube video, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7SfW7UiWCGg>

¹⁰ Adam Hill, "UFC's Overeem avoids jail time on battery charge," March 27, 2012, *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, <http://www.lvrj.com/sports/ufc-s-overeem-avoids-jail-time-on-battery-charge-144411665.html>

¹¹ Marc Raimondi, "UFC's Rousey wants to beat up boyfriend of rival Tate," *New York Post*, Jan. 14, 2013, http://www.nypost.com/p/blogs/the_main_event/ufc_rousey_wants_to_beat_up_boyfriend_VWy6OdvENqzWsHieYI2GtK#axz2zIBChGhrp; Jeremy Botter, "Miesha Tate's Boyfriend Makes Stupid Twitter Comments Toward Ronda Rousey," *Los Angeles Times*, Mar. 3, 2012, <http://bleacherreport.com/articles/1089423-miesha-tates-boyfriend-makes-stupid-twitter-comments-towards-ronda-rousey>

¹² Twitter.com, <https://twitter.com/danawhite/status/63635042731175936>, Apr. 28, 2011.

¹³ Kevin Iole, "Dana White stirs up controversy in role as homeless man during Fox NFL Sunday," *Yahoo! Sports*, Dec. 2, 2012; Twitter.com, <https://twitter.com/danawhite/status/275348582985515008>, <https://twitter.com/danawhite/status/275347962769600512>, <https://twitter.com/danawhite/status/275347623240663042>, Dec. 2, 2012.

¹⁴ YouTube video, <http://www.youtube.com/embed/0Q8BeT77tVQ>, 3:51-4:06.

¹⁵ Video, <http://www.blinkx.com/watch-video/ufc-president-dana-white-notorious-rant/FYZcYppmYJ5swYruuKpvpw>, 1:49-2:02, 2:55-3:06.

¹⁶ YouTube video, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCETBQh9v9c>

¹⁷ Kevin Iole, "UFC cannot condone sexual harassment," *Yahoo! Sports*, June 3, 2011, http://sports.yahoo.com/mma/news?slug=ki-iole_ufc_sexual_harrassment_060311