

AUM NIBUS

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A Woman's Perspective on Catcalling

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A few weeks ago, my boyfriend asked me if I thought 'catcalling' was a form of sexual harassment. Without thinking, I quickly replied with a no. He seemed puzzled at my answer because he believed the exact opposite. He believed that it was very offensive to women. Truthfully, I had never been catcalled, nor did I know exactly what it was. According to Urban Dictionary, the definition of catcalling is "a loud whistle or comment of a sexual nature made by a man to a passing woman." Once I saw that it was whistling or yelling at a woman, I thought it was offensive but not necessarily harassment. That is, until it happened to me.

A few months later, I was walking into the Taylor Center from the main parking lot. I had places to be and things to do. Then, a white truck stopped beside me. I slowed down because I thought it might have been someone I knew. AUM is a relatively small campus compared to most, so it's definitely possible, right? In the truck, there were four men I had never seen before. They began whistling and hollering at me. I was taken aback by these actions, but what shook me to my core was not the yelling, but the way they were looking at me. All four of them

were staring at me like I was an object. To them, I was simply a piece of meat they wanted to tear apart. Of course, I put my head up high and kept walking.

Then, the question as to whether or not catcalling is sexual harassment began to fester inside of me. I am a college student that has two jobs. I have family members and friends that love me. I have hobbies I enjoy. These men didn't care about any of that. All they cared about was how



Photo courtesy of Nikki Headley

