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FLOOR DEBATE

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and not only because what allegedly happened at the March 13 party was so ugly that we won't even bother to discuss the details here--the fact it may have also been a hate crime involving a black victim who said her attackers were all white. Witnesses quoted by The News & Observer of Raleigh said they heard racial comments directed toward the woman before she was allegedly raped, including one neighbor who said he heard someone at the party say, "Thank your grandpa for my cotton shirt." See, let me continue reading. Not the kind of thing you want to yell out in a town that is half black if you're a white student at a school where tuition is \$43,000, more than most families earn in a year. "The circumstances of the rape indicated a deep racial motivation for some of the things that were done." That's what the Durham district attorney, Mike Nifong, N-i-f-o-n-g, said. "It makes a crime that is by its nature one of the most offensive and invasive even more so." It's hard to make this any more offensive. The alleged victim was not drunk and partying with the team. She identified herself to The News & Observer as a mother of two and a student at a nearby college who was trying to support herself by going on dates with men. It does not matter what you do for a living, no one should be violated by three men in a bathroom. Police should not have much trouble solving this case. They have video tapes and pictures taken during the party...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and four red...excuse me? Excuse me, Mr. President...

SENATOR CUDABACK: I said 1 minute, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Oh, thank you. Four red fingernails from the bathroom where the alleged attack occurred. They even have DNA swabs from 46 players. What they don't have is any real cooperation from the players themselves. They've banded together and refused to talk, other than issuing a statement from two captains calling the allegations "totally and transparently false." Nifong has warned that players who do not cooperate may be charged with aiding and abetting. But maybe it's time for the university to turn the heat up itself. Duke