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by S N

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Fantastic Lies: Season 3 Episode 6

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Fantastic Lies: Season 3 Episode 6

The episode has focused on reviewing the events that happened in the Duke Lacrosse case as well as the aftermath. Therefore, the episode has used critical new footage and interviews to provide the truth on the allegations presented, media coverage and legal proceedings concerning the issue. Therefore, although the case revolves around the three male Duke players comprising Collin Finnerty, David Evans and Reade Seligman as the defendant and a black dancer and stripper woman who was the accuser, the case made all the players, school faculty and the society feel it. Nevertheless, the episode portrays that the three accused Duke players were victims of media criticism and prosecutorial wrongdoing. The paper will focus on how the episode is associated with intersectionality concerning maleness, manhood, toxic masculinity and rape culture.

The players in Duke Lacrosse were all men and therefore, the episode indicates how they presented their maleness. Gender plays a critical role in society; however, the concept continues to change based on the social variations in society. Females have been empowered more through being given the opportunity of trust more than males. **Yellowhorn (2016) argued that society does not provide male individuals with their definition of maleness and manhood; however, they are taught to be tough, aggressive, and not present their emotions. For instance, when a boy is afraid to play football, they are told to man up. The episode has presented maleness in how team players are united in the game, although they were defeated in the last game.**

Similarly, maleness and masculinity are explained in both the social and political perspective because the man should provide leadership and authority. Based on the episode, the male players provide leadership by organizing for the party and they attend.

Also, they have power over the women and allow them to attend the party and dance for them while they watch.

Rape culture is presented in the episode and it displays clearly. Johnson & Johnson (2021) defined rape culture as the environment in which rape is predominant at the same time sexual violence is standardized and released in media platforms and other known cultures. Therefore, this culture spreads through misogynistic language, objectification of women hence developing a society that disrespects women's rights and security. As seen in the episode, the three male players were victims of the media because the woman alleged that she was raped. **Although this was the accusation, Magnum claimed that the three boys had attacked her with harsh words in the bathroom, which demeaned her and considered it sexual assault. Jozkowski & Wiersma-Mosley (2017) added that some examples of rape assault comprise sexually explicit jokes. Sexual harassment as well as presenting manhood as leading and sexually aggressive while womanhood should be submissive and sexually passive.** Based on the episode, "Magnum had severe mental health problems and when she arrived in the player's party, she did not have interest in performing because she had already taken alcohol and other prescription drugs" (Fantastic Lies). Therefore, through the allegation of being raped, she was trusted with all sources from duke faculty to the media because of the three suspects being male.

Gender exists in all facets of individuals' lives and can impact everyone without exception. Moreover, several factors enhance gender-based inequalities, such as gender-based violence, including sexual assault, making it difficult to realize without social structures and values. At the same time, gender is defined by manhood, explained by Cornwall & Lindisfarne (2016), to comprise strength, freedom, confidence, and control. The episode indicated manhood

when the players stood to defend themselves with courage regardless of their case's immense challenges. **Strength as one of the features of manhood is presented because the team players are not lazy; they demonstrate their strength during the training. Also, through moral strength, the players were able to do the right thing regardless of the situation because every man is faced with temptations, but the decisions and actions they take are what defines their manhood.** The episode indicates how the 88 Duke professors signed an advertisement in Duke's student magazine with the front page "What Does a Social Disaster Look Like" (Fantastic Lies). Also, it is confidence and strength that allowed the players to stay strong regardless of the allegations because the journalist was jumping to conclusions concerning the whole information.

The 88 Duke professors and the District Attorney and prosecutor Mike Nifong indicated signs of toxic masculinity. **This case presents that the media and the 88 Duke professors did not present the information and actions with honesty, indicating toxic masculinity; they needed to investigate the information first before reporting and taking actions against the three players. This resulted to immense consequences to the players which affected the life to date.** Masculinity is being honest with oneself concerning their feelings, wants and desires. Therefore, through healthy masculinity, one can handle others with respect they require. Nevertheless, Duke professors did not consider understanding if the allegations were correct. Also, Nifong was consumed by political aspirations that focused on the imprisonment of innocent players. This is presented by the episode "Nifong did not want to hear the truth presented Infront of him and went further to involve in dishonesty, deceit, fraud and misrepresentation of the DNA results" (Fantastic Lies). **Both manhood, maleness and rape culture are coordinated together in society. For example, maleness and manhood are**

intersectionalities associated together because they indicate how the male gender can operate to shape the experiences of females in society. Maleness and manhood create masculine characters. When it works together with other components that create toxic masculinity, rape culture will appear because men will view themselves and dominate and control women, hence abusing them sexually.

In summation, the episode indicates magnificent information concerning the duke players' case and its aftermath. Similarly, the story revolves around how the media wrongly presumed guilt and falsely crucified the players. The concepts of maleness and manhood are presented with players in their game and respect women during the entertainment. They stood with the truth. However, toxic masculinity is presented by Mike Nifong concerning the withholding of the DNA lab test that found no player was guilty because of his political aspirations.

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