

Gloria Steinem v. Football

By Hap Hansen

Some time ago, a feminist named Gloria Steinem threw down the gauntlet of over-age-50-female superiority. Those of us who are elderly males must respond or run the risk of having half-truths, or in some cases, alternative truths, become fact, thereby emasculating our last remnants of male pride.

Ms. Steinem said that an older woman won't watch a game, probably football, because she has other, more interesting things to do! Friendship? What could possibly be more interesting than watching a chugging, 260-pound tight end, tiptoeing down the sideline, prancing like an oversized ballerina? Nothing could be more exciting than watching a 325-pound defensive lineman smash a 180-pound quarterback into the ground. In fact, when the NFL wanted to protect quarterbacks better, the 325-pound lineman said, "If you don't want us to hit them, let them wear skirts!"

Some senior women say that older women are more dignified because they seldom have a screaming match with you at the opera or in the middle of an expensive restaurant. I say that older men are just as dignified because we wouldn't be caught dead at an opera, and in restaurants, we only scream at bad football plays on the 54-inch super-sized television set.

Some senior women may say that older females look good wearing bright, red lipstick. Senior men may say that bold color can easily match bright, fluorescent cheek rouge and prematurely blue hair. On the other hand, senior men always look good wearing nothing but a quizzical look! Finally, my senior neighbor says that for every stunning, smart, well-coiffed, hot woman of fifty plus, there is a bald, paunchy, relic of a senior man in yellow pants and a multi-colored Hawaiian shirt making a fool of himself with some 22-year old.

Balderdash! That's what bald, paunchy men say to elderly feminine untruths. Balderdash! The analogy of bald, paunchy men chasing 22-year olds is akin to a dachshund chasing a Volkswagen. If he ever caught one, he wouldn't know what to do with it! I have the feeling that a very few of my elderly female friends, who may be rapidly approaching, if not entering senility, could not possibly remember all those elderly feminine praises and masculine shortcomings.

Friendship! I would continue discussing over-age-50-female superiority, but I will have to let it go. The Broncos are playing the Raiders on TV!