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Tough 'Broad Sues to Get Her Promotion

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Tough broad' sues to get her promotion

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Kathleen Parker
do Sentinel

body likes a tough broad. Especially the
s at Price Waterhouse, the accounting
e folks at Price Waterhouse, in fact,
ke tough broads so much that seven
s ago they denied a partnership to a
an who had brought in more new
ess than any of the other 87 candidates
artner — all men.

ey denied the partnership, they said,
use the woman — Ann B. Hopkins —
"too masculine." She drank beer, cursed,
ied a briefcase instead of a purse, and,
she didn't wear makeup. It just wasn't,
know, natural.

ne partner in the Washington office said
kins needed to take a charm class.
her said she was a "bitch." Another
sed her to walk and talk more "femi-
y."

Ann Hopkins, a divorced mother of
e, took her case all the way to the U.S.
eme Court, no doubt cussing and tossing
brewskies all the way, and won. A year
the Supreme Court ruled in Hopkins'
that an employer who takes action
st a woman for discriminatory as well
gitimate reasons has to prove justifica-
for the decision.

at court then returned the case to U.S.
ict Judge Gerhard Gesell, who last week
she should get the partnership.

artnership ... is the logical remedy,"
ll wrote. Hopkins "was likely to have
made a partner if not for unlawful
imination."

ice Waterhouse is trying "to determine
ppropriate response."

t over it, Price Waterhouse. That's the
ppropriate response. Some people just like
Besides, Hopkins tried Campari and

**Tough guys don't fool around.
Tough broads don't get
promoted.**

**Tough guys are heroes.
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promoted.**

**Tough guys turn girls on.
Tough broads don't get
promoted.**

soda and didn't like it.

As for the cursing, she was an Army brat. Anyway, who would pay attention to a Price Waterhouse executive who said, "Gosh darn, let's edit that dadgum ..."

A man could get away with a quick summary statement that said it all, stiletto style: "Blank 'em."

Tough guys don't fool around. Tough broads don't get promoted.

Finally, some people just don't want to walk and talk femininely. How exactly does that work anyhow? First the walk.

Let's see, you wear high heels, walk quickly, clicking little helpless heels on the highly polished marble, as though running breathlessly from some absolutely ferocious wild animal in desperate hope that some Tough Guy will emerge from the elevator shaft just in the nick of time.

Tough guys are heroes. Tough broads don't get promoted.

Or, you walk slowly, shifting those come-

hither hips as if you will absolutely collapse from the weight of unbridled passion if some Tough Guy doesn't come along soon and give you One Last Kiss — Live From Casablanca.

Tough Guys turn girls on. Tough broads don't get promoted.

And how about the feminine talk? I think I may have heard some feminine talk just the other day. It was a high-pitched sound — somewhere between high C and an ascending F-sharp: "Heeeeyyy! How are YOOOUUU???! Ooohh, it has been so looonnggg. You look woouoonderful. I'm so glad to seeeeee you."

Now I'm not sure that is what the Price Waterhouse folks meant when they said Hopkins should talk more femininely, but somehow I can't imagine an executive, female or otherwise, greeting a business prospect: "Heeeeyyy, Mr. Garfinkel, how are yoooouuuu? I am so sorry to keep you waiting, but I was putting on my makeup. Now how about you and me taking a look at those big ol' numbers."

Of course they didn't mean that. That would scare away even Tough Guys. They probably meant something like Lauren Bacall, something husky — assertively sexy, yet somehow vulnerably feminine.

"Hey, Mister, how about a little figure work. If it all adds up, who knows, maybe a quiet dinner somewhere. And if you're ever in the mood for more business, you do know how to whistle, don't you? Just pucker up your lips and blow."

Yup, that's probably it. I'd say if Hopkins tones down the cussing, perhaps adds a sliver of lime to her beer and adopts the slow-walk, husky-voice approach, she could rise to the vice presidency in no time.

Meanwhile, any divorced woman who can raise three children while successfully competing in the tough-guy world of Price Waterhouse is my hero. Or is that heroine?