

The Whine Of Silicon Valley

By **Alexander Baron** - Jan 14, 2016



Valley Girl Ellen Pao

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In 2012, **Ellen Pao** was fired by the hi tech venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins. She brought a sex discrimination suit against the company, which she lost. The trial lasted 24 days, and saddled her with a huge bill for costs. She did not appeal. Shortly after parting company with Kleiner Perkins, Pao was snapped up by Reddit. She has a degree in electrical engineering (very rare for a woman) *and* a doctorate in law. Probably, the people behind Reddit thought Kleiner's loss was their gain, yet after only a little over two years, they parted company on bad terms.

Okay, people are fired every day in the real world, that doesn't make them bad human beings, nor necessarily bad employees, but why is Pao being made into a folk heroine, almost a latter day Joan of Arc? On Tuesday, the **Guardian** published a story about Pao and *sexism* (so-called) in Silicon Valley. Linked to this article was a vacuous survey called ***Elephant in the Valley***. Yes, you guessed, it's all about *sexism*. This chimera does not exist. It is an imitation of the word *racism*, which was used first in 1935 (the title of the last book by sexologist Magnus Hirschfeld, published posthumously). In the 1960s,

second wave feminists (proponents of so-called women's liberation) began using this word (which was apparently coined by a man) in the same pejorative fashion as the left and social justice warriors would come to use the word *racism*.

It is meant to signify some sort of oppression – don't they love that word? – women always have it so bad. If Ellen Pao and the women who work in Silicon Valley are truly oppressed, their privileged lifestyles do not reflect it. At Kleiner Perkins, Pao was on a salary of over half a million dollars a year including bonuses. How is that oppressed?

The Elephant...survey poses all manner of ridiculous and loaded questions which result in answers such as "60% of women in Tech reported unwanted sexual advances". And?

Pao herself admits to having an affair with one of her co-workers, a married man named Ajit Nazre, whom she would later claim had sexually harassed her. So his unwanted sexual advances were once *wanted* sexual advances, or did she make the first move? This is one of the problems of working with women, not ordinary female employees on the shop floor, but career women who use their sexuality in the workplace then whine about *sexism* when it backfires. A woman working at this level who can't put a man in his place when he makes unwanted sexual advances should rethink her career choices.

A few months after his firm had successfully defeated Pao's vacuous claim, John Doerr of Kleiner Perkins gave an interview in which he sounded almost apologetic about the Pao affair and for the supposed lack of diversity in Silicon Valley. It is amazing that even the people at the top of their game have fallen for this diversity twaddle, which affects in the first place white males and in the second, white society in general, but this a manufactured problem, not a real one. No rational person complains about the lack of diversity in heavyweight boxing, which is dominated by blacks, most of them American. No rational person complains about the lack of diversity in rap music, which is dominated by black males. No rational person complains about diversity in primary school teaching, which is dominated by women. And there is even one field dominated by white English-speaking males that no rational person complains about: since its inception in 1927, the World Professional Snooker Championship has been won by a white man. Every single time. And all but three of those winners were born in the British Isles.

There is no need for diversity nor even a chance of its ever being achieved, because human beings have different talents, strengths, weaknesses, desires...and all these are distributed unevenly by race, sex, religion, age, geographical location...

The reality is that there are no barriers to properly qualified women in Silicon Valley, but the sham martyrdom of Ellen Pao has done nothing to advance the cause of women in tech or anywhere. Employers must be free to sack bad or useless staff, and hitting them with anti-discrimination lawsuits every time some toxic bitch with an overwhelming sense of entitlement is shown the door can only make them less not more inclined to employ women in the future.

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