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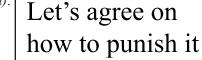
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BY JILL RICHARDSON Our national debate about sexual harassment and assault

woman who's been sexually harassed

Film producer Harvey Weintrapped women trying to make it A monstrous one.

Al Franken sounds like a pig. A pig is the man who stares at your propriate, non-confrontational pochest instead of your face when talking to you. A pig might try to touch you under the pretense of being friendly, or joking, or "accidentally" brushing up on you.

The pig might think he's being hilarious or just having good fun. He may even think he's flattering you. You should feel grateful he mission," I snapped back.

his sexual attention.

smacked my behind. Twice. The but there had to be more. first time it happened, I didn't know what to

> what do you say? couldn't think of an ap- tion or justification.

finger, as if he were making a list the sincerity of the apology. The last pig I encountered and I'd just given him one item -

What? No.

"I didn't give you permission" say. It wasn't OK, but is the only reason I need. But I added, "And were aren't dating." As a woman I'm He nodded, accepting my reasons. socialized to always I was enraged. "Don't touch my remain polite. Since I butt" shouldn't require explana-

Donald Trump bragged predator. His systematic, frequent about assaulting women, and many women have come forward to allege he's stein, who systematically en- assaulted them, yet he's in in the film industry, is a predator. the White House.

lite response, I said nothing.

The second time, I was ready. This wasn't OK, and I was willing to risk an unpleasant confrontation.

"Don't do that," I said.

"Why not?" the man asked. "Because I didn't give you per-

There seems to be a spectrum, from the small-time pig to the most heinous sexual predator. And different punishments fit different crimes. It also matters if the perpetrator apologizes, and if he stops the problematic behavior.

applying consequences doesn't reflect the severity of the crime, the Do to Fix It.

CONVERS

EXT

Donald Trump bragged about assaulting women, and many women have come forward to allege he's assaulted them, yet he's in the White House. Roy Moore pursued teenage girls when he was an adult, yet he still retained the support of most Republicans.

Sen. Al Franken, a mere pig by comparison, resigned his seat after realizing he was wrong for groping and kissing women without their consent.

Actor Kevin Spacey, who played the president on the TV show House of Cards, lost his job after a wave of assault allegations surfaced against him. But while Spacey can't play a president on TV anymore, a man who openly bragged about committing assault still sits in the real Oval Office.

And Clarence Thomas, a man once accused of serial sexual harassment, is still on the Supreme Court.

Our conversation must advance from simply agreeing to take sexual harassment and assault seriously to agreeing upon a fair and consistent way to punish it.

OtherWords columnist Jill *Richardson is the author of Recipe* Yet the way we're haphazardly for America: Why Our Food System Is Broken and What We Can



and assaulted many times, here's how I see it.

Sexual predators aren't the same as pigs. Roy Moore is a pursuing of teenage girls at a shopping mall when he was in his 30s shows a pattern of intentional behavior. He was after children too young to consent to sex.