

THE NEW YORK TIMES, FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2011

## A Man's Losing Fight Against Ladies' Night

By COREY KILGANNON

A Manhattan lawyer who has filed a series of antifeminist lawsuits in recent years — with little success — has suffered his latest defeat: the United States Supreme Court refused to hear what he calls his “ladies’ night lawsuit.”

In 2007, the lawyer, Roy Den Hollander, filed a class-action suit against Manhattan nightclubs like Copacabana, China Club, Lotus and Sol, claiming that they discriminated against men by offering free or reduced admission to women on ladies’ nights. Mr. Den Hollander contended that these offers violated the 14th Amendment’s guarantee of equal protection under the law.

The suit, filed in federal court, was dismissed, and so was a subsequent appeal. Mr. Den Hollander then submitted a petition to the United States Supreme Court on the same issue. He said he received word on Wednesday that the court had refused to hear the case.

“Of course, the three females on the court probably voted against it,” Mr. Den Hollander said on Thursday. “Fighting for the rights of men is not a very popular thing to do in America these days.”

Mr. Hollander said that the basis of his case was that feminism

is a religion. “The U.S. Supreme Court,” he said, “has ruled that religion is a belief system that occupies the same space in a person’s activities as a traditional religion like Catholicism or Protestantism — a system that dictates your ethical and moral standards and activities.”

“The feminists have taken control over every institution in this country — they want to take control over men,” he said. “I’m going to fight them to my last dollar, last breath.”

Mr. Den Hollander said he did not hate all women; only feminists.

“When I go to a club and I’m looking at some young babe, I do not have malice in my heart,” he said. “When some great-looking 20-year-old babe is walking down the street, it is not malice in my heart that I’m feeling.”

Mr. Den Hollander refused to reveal his age because it might hurt his chances of picking up younger women at bars. He said that he looked younger than his true age and that “I want to continue to exploit the infinite capacity of females to delude themselves.”

Mr. Den Hollander has also unsuccessfully challenged the federal Violence Against Women Act and Columbia University’s women’s studies program, which he

called a violation of Title IX and the Constitution.

The federal judge who threw out the Columbia suit ruled that “feminism is no more a religion than physics.”

Of the ladies’ night suit, Mr. Den Hollander said: “I knew I did not have much of a chance to have my case heard in the U.S. Supreme Court, but I wanted to take this as far as I could. The next step is the streets, civil disobedience.”

Terry O’Neill, president of the National Organization for Women, said that Mr. Den Hollander reminded her of Bobby Riggs, who challenged Billie Jean King to a “battle of the sexes” tennis match in 1973 and then lost.

“He was one of the best things to happen to women’s tennis,” Ms. O’Neill said, “because he started a national conversation about the inequality of prize money and other issues for women.”

Regarding Mr. Den Hollander’s ladies’ night lawsuit, she said, “Let’s face it: ladies’ nights are not actually for the ladies — they’re about men, for men — so why he’s complaining about that I don’t understand.”

Ms. O’Neill caught herself. “I guess I’m getting sincere in the face of a ludicrous argument,” she said.