

# TAXI TALK

## Women are not punch bags

**I**t took a woman to cut off her husband's penis for the world to sit up and listen to a story of domestic violence and battery. How often do we hear stories of women being beaten up and raped by their husbands and partners, and no one takes any notice. Suddenly we have world attention on a story of abuse. Why? Because a man lost his penis — which was sown back on, anyway. I believe he will only know in a year's time whether he will have the use of it again. And, of course, one can only hope that he will not. Both his male and female friends spoke out about his brutality against women.

"Such a barbaric act," said one young man on the taxi the other day. "She should get a life sentence," added his friend. "No one can be allowed to take the law into their own hands."

It is true that people should not take the law into their own hands. But what happens when no one listens to the crime? Battery and domestic violence are daily happenings all over the world.

In South Africa, the statistics of battery are so high it makes you want to cut off the

*Was it right for a woman to cut off her husband's penis? I'm not sure how I really feel about it, except to say that it has turned the world's attention to the abuse and battery of women, writes*

**Sissy Ntombela**



penis of every man you know who beats his partner. Yet the newspapers and people in the street fail to say or do anything about the millions of women who live in constant fear of their lives.

One can understand the position of the radical feminist movement in Guatemala, where Bobbitt comes from, which said that, if she was found guilty, they would go on the rampage and cut off the penises of 100 American men in Guatemala.

Of course, Bobbitt must have been completely desperate to commit the act that she did, desperate from years of abuse and battery. The Bobbitt trial has drawn the world's attention to the horror of domestic violence. Let us hope that men are starting to get the message: "We will not be your punch bags anymore."

One young man was heard saying, "Well, she will never get another date." Well, I imagine that Bobbitt probably does not want another date for a while. ☺