

The second F-word as offensive as the first

RANDOM MUSINGS

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"Be not afraid of moving slowly. Be afraid only of standing still." -Confucius (I think)

Barbie Girl. Slut. Bitch. Feminist?

Not this issue again. Haven't we already heard enough about it?

Apparently not.

Once again, a few fellow Rebels have surprised and disappointed me by revealing themselves as slightly narrow-minded, and I've taken it upon myself to remind us all of a few important facts.

Believe it or not, when misused, the label "feminist" can be just as harmful as the other terms. Although the term covers a broad spectrum of definitions, a feminist is not an angry, militant, bra-burning lesbian hell-bent on removing all men from society, contrary to what some of my fellow students have proven to believe. Instead, the more correct and logical definition of a feminist is any person determined to ensure equality between men and women in the home,

schools, work force and every other area of society.

Those who embrace the former definition react negatively to feminists because they view them as the dentists extracting the decayed teeth of our society (men).

Understandably, due to semantics, some may feel excluded from feminism. They tend to ignore the fact that feminism concerns equality, not superiority. Feminists just advocate women receiving their fair share.

Granted, ours isn't necessarily a patriarchal society. Our country entitles most women to benefits those of other countries could only dream about. However, a few loops remain in the system.

And using the F-word in a derogatory manner can only obstruct our society's evolution.

For example, a classmate who brings up feminism or anti-feminism in group discussion should not be imagined to advocate castration of all men. Instead, she may be pointing the issue out because it was had been neglected.

Also, someone, specifically a woman, who shares one feminist view with the class should not auto-

matically be labeled as a liberal feminist. In fact, she may not be a feminist at all since one quality does not make a person.

We must not lump such women into one category. Instead, they need to be given credit for expressing their thoughts when no one else in the class speaks up. A feminist can be, but is not necessarily, a lesbian or a woman who wants to live without a man. Just because a woman exudes the strength, intelligence and works just as hard as her male counterpart does not mean she wants to eliminate men from her life. Like him, she strives for self-fulfillment. He need not run to the arms of a weaker woman just so he could feel "more needed." That selfishness could lead him to look for the worst in his partner.

And why do we label a woman who emanates the same self-confidence as a man pushy? It could be that our competitiveness kicks in and we wish we could be that person, expressing ourselves completely and passionately.

The preceding generations of feminists covered much ground and brought women to where they are today. But because some feminists

still feel degraded and labeled, they limit their discussions to themselves. Some feel their colleagues don't take them seriously enough and clump their arguments into one cliché. Since we alienate them, their previously undisclosed discussions intrigue me. It makes me wonder if, when a more informed feminist speaks on the subject, she'll share pearls of wisdom not already known to me. And this frightens me.

We still have a lot of work cut out for us. But since the foundation is already established, our convictions are not as mind-blowing to contemporary society. Ergo, we need to bury the militant, bra-burning stereotype of a feminist.

I realize that we are changing, becoming more accepting of equality of the sexes. However, hearing Neanderthal students typecast and ridicule others for supporting feminism discourages me, especially since UNLV is supposed to be an institute of higher learning.

I guess I should be thankful for the fact that feminists do outnumber chauvinists, though. So be careful using the F-word. You could be surrounded by them.

in with the college culture.

But the biggest effort was really made over the past several years by the entire family. Chelsea has been effectively hidden away from the media and allowed to grow up and live as normal a life as she can. Nobody saw her in high school. There were no cameras following her around.

Quite frankly, Chelsea Clinton didn't ask to be in the spotlight. She wasn't consulted by Bill when he chose to run for the White House. She just wanted to be a kid. Now, she just wants to be a college student.

She has no plans to go into politics. In fact, Chelsea plans to become a cardiologist. Of course, we all know that she will probably change majors several times before she gets out of school. For all we know, she could end up as an English major or, even worse, a communications student.

Hopefully, everyone will just leave her alone for the next four or five years and let her be a college student. The experiences and events of this time cannot be duplicated and, if the crush of media or protection keeps her from truly enjoying them, will be greatly missed. Let the kid be a kid, just like she has been allowed to be up to now.

Election article misleading

Your article "Senate at odds with election committee" contains continued inaccuracies. First the Elections Board does not make the decision as to what company to use. That decision is made by a committee through the Purchasing Department of which I was a member.

Further in your article it was stated that I said "It was too late to contact another bidder"; this is also incorrect. We did have another bidder, as I stated at the Senate meeting. The request for bids went out to the entire western United States. The monetary difference between Collegiate Election Services and the next bid was \$5,000.

Yes, at last year's elections there were questions involving stickers and who was to be held responsible. There was an argument between the owner of the election company and Student Body President Aaron Rosenthal. However, at no time was there a question of the validity of the elections. These factors were reviewed by the Purchasing Committee and the decision was made to give the bid to the Collegiate Elections Services.

Also, in the article it states that the Election Board will be searching for bidders. This is a function of the Purchasing Department. The board will not be searching for bidders. It was also stated in the article that the board receives bids from collegiate elections companies and then votes on a bid. When the Purchasing Department receives bids they are from election companies. The name of the current-election company is Collegiate Elections not DBA (Doing Business As) as reported in the article.

These are facts that were incorrect involving the elections and the election company. In "other news," in the same article the Senate did vote down the proposed ballot question, as reported. However, the article further stated that Senate tabled the question. You cannot table and vote down the same action at the same meeting.

I hope that in the future any article written involving the elections will be researched with more care.

Leia Fleishman
Election Board Director

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