

The Monthly Rag

Brought to you by the Feminist and Gender Studies Interns

Block VII, 2011

CC Men Speak:

I am a feminist because arbitrary discrimination is abhorrent to me. I would inhabit a world in which all are free to live to their fullest potential. This will never happen, but not striving to bring it about is inexcusable. I want to share in and understand as best I can the unique experiences of those different from me, so that I can better live alongside them.

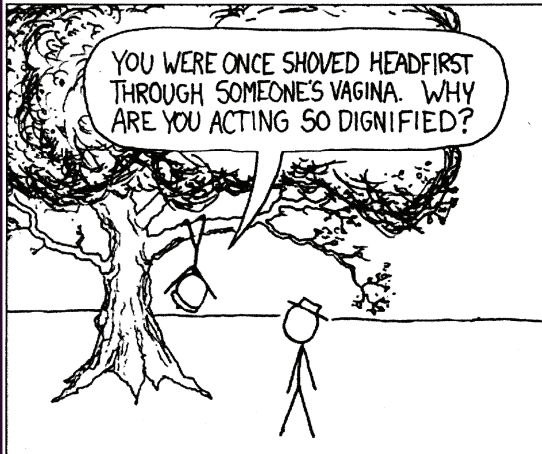
~Alec Arellano Class of 2011 Political Science Major

I am a feminist because, above all, I am my Mother's child.

~Westley Mori Class of 2011 Biochemistry Major

I believe in equality and attention to difference for everyone. As a feminist, I don't seek domination but I seek understanding and respect for those that do and do not get to tell their stories.

~Elijah Douresseau Class of 2013 English Major



Women give birth to men, why do they deserve less?

~Edward Ruiz Class of 2014 Neuroscience Major

I am a feminist because I love my sister, and if I am ever lucky enough to have one, I will love my daughter. I will never allow myself to participate in a system that hurts these people, that humiliates them, and that tells them that they are anything less than extraordinary.

~Joey Glick Class of 2011 Anthropology Major

another haiku
written in angst over old
new hierarchy.

as a response to
"isn't it great all my friends
are women not men?"

about as cool as
having a hundred all white
or male. doesn't help.

fuck this lesbian
separatism gone wrong
what about her sons?

~Adison T. Petti
Class of 2011
Political Science/Feminist
& Gender Studies Major

I honestly don't understand
why anyone wouldn't
identify as a feminist.

~Shreve Fellars
Class of 2012
Political Science Major

No one seems to like the word "feminist". I used to cringe at the term. I, like so many others, pictured some over-ambitious, man-hating, never contented woman complaining about nonexistent problems. But as I grew, my mind expanded. I started to learn about the sad state of the world—the exploitation, destruction, apathy. And soon I started to see feminism as more than a battle for political rights. Patriarchy became more than "father of the household". I started hearing stories about abusive relationships, fruitless rape trials, income gaps and social oppression. Masculinity became increasingly associated with war, violence and domination in my mind. I stopped seeing the world strictly from the male lens. The words "Girly" and "Manly" no longer carried any weight except as social constructs. My whole perception of the world turned upside-down. So when I say I'm a feminist, I am not saying I hate my own sex. I am not disgusted by all men and all things masculine. I just wish the victims of this system could speak their minds and find genuine support. I wish people, male or female, could act themselves, without the pressure to live up to prescribed roles. Wouldn't that make for a better world?

~Anonymous Class of 2013

"Get Huge!"

an excerpt from: An Analysis of Masculinity in the Colorado College Weight Room

While sex is a biological difference, gender is a division of socially constructed ideals that are discretely linked to each sex. Societal standards pressure males and females to abide by these strictly defined gender roles. In his analysis of adolescent males' attempts to achieve masculinity through homosocially-oriented practices, Grazian (2007) lists a number of attributes, which commonly comprise the "social constructed vision of manhood, a set of cultural beliefs that prescribe what men ought to be like: physically strong, powerful, independent, self-confident, efficacious, dominant, active, persistent, responsible, dependable, aggressive, courageous, and sexually potent." Conversely, women, according to dominant culture, are supposed to be nurturing, docile, sensitive, physically small, and seductive (Anderson & Hysock, 2009).

Like all exercise facilities, the Carle Weight Room, located in Colorado

College's El Pomar Sports Center, is a pivotal component in the exhibition and perpetuation of societal standards that govern people's lives. Fitness centers provide the tools and equipment that enable people to reshape their bodies so that they can more closely align their physical attributes with those that are culturally idealized. Therefore, the Carle Weight Room harbors a telling display of gender expressions, norms and glamorizations. The Carle Weight Room is a masculine-dominated environment, exhibiting and reinforcing hierarchical gender expectations through the transformations of male and female bodies.

The Weight Room at Colorado College is a male-dominated, masculine environment. With an average of over four guys for every girl present, The Weight Room is a place where guys take up more space and generally act entitled to do so. Some of the more physically masculine guys dominate the atmosphere – making

scenes by yelling, dropping weights loudly, and posing in front of mirrors. Society expects guys to be muscular and girls to be thin. Thus, guys typically lift weights while girls do cardio exercises. Consequently, the male to female ratio is further imbalanced by the disproportional abundance of resistance training equipment and the limited number of cardio machines. Additionally, the presence of an alternative, stigmatically all-female facility, the Tiger Pit, provides a space for women to exercise where their bodies will not be subjected to the scrutiny of guys. In combination, the aforementioned factors deter women from exercising in El Pomar. With fewer women at The Weight Room, other women are less inclined to workout there, intensifying the unequal gender representation and generating a vicious cycle in which masculinity increasingly penetrates the weight room atmosphere.

~Cam Hurd Class of 2012

Do you have a question, want more info or resources, don't understand something, or want to contribute to our publication?

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