

The Monthly Rag

Brought to you by the Feminist and Gender Studies Student Advisory Council

Block II, 2011

Is My Son Gay App for Android

"Is My Son Gay?," an app created by the Android Market had a simple premise: It claimed to determine, through a series of 20 questions, whether or not the survey-taker's offspring is, in fact, a homosexual. And yet despite this simplicity of purpose, the app is--surprise!--incredibly controversial.

You're questioning yourself? 20 questions to know more about your son. After this test you'll have the proven answer to a question you might have since maybe a long time.

The app itself is a 20-question survey of "Yes" or "No" questions designed to identify your son's sexual preference. The questions are:

1. Does he like to dress up nicely? Does he pay close attention to his outfits and brand names?
2. Does he like football?
3. Before he was born did you wish he would be a girl?
4. Has he ever gotten into or participated in a fight?
5. Does he read sports magazines?
6. Does he have a best friend?
7. Does he like team sports?
8. Is he prudish/modest?
9. Does he like diva singers?
10. Does he spend a long time in the bathroom?
11. Does he have a tongue, nose or ear piercing?
12. Does he spend time getting ready before being seen in public?
13. Have you asked yourself questions about your son's sexual orientation?
14. Are you divorced?
15. Does he like musical comedies?
16. Has he introduced you to a girlfriend ever?
17. Is the father (you) very strict or authoritarian with his son?
18. In your family is the father absent?
19. Was he shy as a child?
20. Is he close to his father?

Reaction around the Internet were not kind. Gay-friendly Instinct Magazine said that the app is based on the "science of tired and offensive stereotypes," while Jezebel lamented the app's "horrible, stereotypical questions." The app is not entirely homophobic, apparently, as Jezebel reports that, if your son is determined to not be gay, the app says "No need to look the other way! ... He is gay! ... ACCEPT IT! ..."

The app was on the market for nine days before being pulled off by Android. The app was considered to be a form of hate speech. Android developer program policies state: We don't allow the promotion of hatred toward groups of people based on their race or ethnic origin, religion, disability, gender, age, veteran status, or sexual orientation/gender identity. After reading Android's policy on hate speech people are left to question why this app was ever allowed to be marketed in the first place.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com>

"I am a feminist because it just makes sense...why wouldn't you be? I support equal rights, and that's all there is to it."

~Eli Williams, Math major, Class of 2013

Colin Busby

Sociology and Music Major, Class of 2013

I am a feminist because I am ashamed
 I am a feminist because I have four feet
 I am a feminist because it's time for a change
 I am a feminist because I move like one hundred eyes
 I am a feminist because we are becoming too automatic
 I am a feminist because I would prefer some excitement
 I am a feminist because we are out of touch with our senses
 I am a feminist because everyone has a body but few know it
 I am a feminist because I am no longer living inside my head
 I am a feminist because [I'm guessing that] you're sitting on a toilet
 How does that feel?

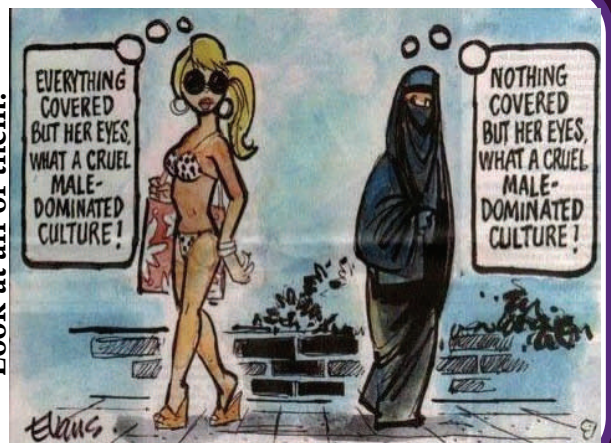
Courage is a little chicken
 Courage likes to eat worms and rotten vegetables
 Courage enjoys sitting in a nice dust pile and soaking up the sun
 Courage prefers to run around all day and explore
 Courage layed her first egg today
 This is why I am a feminist.

Want more information about feminism?!
 Visit our Board of Feminism in Worner Center, located in the stairwell by the ATM. Anonymously post your thoughts on the Monthly Rag and other feminist issues!

Brought to you by Advocates for Choice, FemCo, and SAC.

Submitted by Guojun Lee, Liberal Arts and Sciences Major, Class of 2014

PERSPECTIVES:
Look at all of them!



Feminism is an entire world view or gestalt, not just a laundry list of women's issues. ~Charlotte Bunch

Introduction from Jessica Valenti's Full Frontal Feminism

I don't know why I didn't call myself a feminist until I was in college. I certainly was one way before then. I think we all are.

I mean, really, what young girl hasn't thought at some point that some sexist bullshit is completely unfair to women? The problem seems to be putting a name on that feeling. "Feminism" is just too scary and loaded a word for some women. Which is really too bad. Because feminism is a pretty amazing thing.

When you're a feminist, day-to-day life is better. You make better decisions. You have better sex. You understand the struggles you're up against and how to best handle them.

I wrote Full Frontal Feminism because I spent a really long time feeling completely confused about why more young women wouldn't embrace something that to me was clearly the greatest thing ever.

Feminism has become such an important part of my life; it's changed me for the better and shaped who I am in tremendous

ways. While I've always known I was a feminist, I didn't get into it hardcore, or even call myself a feminist, until I was in college and took my first women's studies class. The class "opened my eyes." But I guess it really did. Without that awakening, I never would have gone to grad school, worked for women's organizations, or started my blog, Feministing.com. I needed that one little push that let me know what feminism was really about.

Then I realized that young women don't have enough outlets teaching them and showing them how great feminism is. Of course, there are women's studies classes and books, and maybe some of us are lucky enough to have moms and friends who are self-professed and proud feminists. But the majority of young women only know the total-crap stereotypes. To most young women, feminism is ugly. It's unpopular. It's the anti-cool.

So when I thought about writing a book about feminism, I thought the most

important thing I could do was dispel the myth that feminism is anything but awesome.

Because young women—most of whom, unfortunately don't identify as feminists—don't know what they're missing. And if the idea of a stereotypical feminist doesn't exactly inspire thoughts of some secret fab life you're missing out on, I'm here to tell you—you are missing out.

I truly believe that feminism makes your life better. Imagine being able to get past all the nonsense that tells you you're not good enough. To all of a sudden understand why you've ever felt not smart enough or not pretty enough. To finally be able to put your finger on that feeling you've always had that something is off. Believe me, to get to this place is amazing.

Most important, perhaps, was my desire to write something that explained not only why feminism is so necessary and relevant, but also why it's so damn cool.

Questions?

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

Andrea.Ruybal@ColoradoCollege.edu

Comments?