

The Monthly Rag

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

Block V, 2012

Feminism 101: Debunking Myths

Kenzie Mulligan-Buckmiller, FGS Major, Class of 2015

Myth: One cannot be feminist and feminine at the same time

Truth: We can. Why not? The feminist movement is centered around providing women with the option to make their own decisions. If a woman chooses to act traditionally feminine, it is a personal choice. Not anyone's business but her own. Defining feminine feminists as unfeminist is as unfeminist as you can get.

Myth: Feminists hate men

Truth: Feminism is ultimately about equality; it is not a power struggle. Socially constructed ideologies limit and define all genders and identities. For example, examine masculinity. Males are taught to be "macho," authoritative and emotionless leaders, and to never show weakness. Feminism fights against these ideologies, undergoing the struggle to liberate men as well as women. To conquer this, we need all people to help us – feminist men included.

Myth: There is no longer a need for feminism

Truth: There is a significant gender difference not only in the workplace, but also at home. Women are still expected to do the majority of the housework even though many also work full time. In the workplace, women are limited by pay differences, prejudices on motherhood, and a lack of female representation up the ladder. Furthermore, this representation greatly changes when you look at the intersection of race and gender. Do I even need to start on the victim blaming here and abroad? Should I direct you to the young women threatened by the Taliban everyday, just because they want an education? You could write a in depth never-ending novel on why we still need feminism.

Myth: Feminists have no sense of humor and/or cannot take jokes about feminism.

Truth: Au Contraire: I believe that it is a prerequisite to have a sense of humor when dealing with such large issues as feminism. And, if you don't believe me, just talk to us – I think we are kind of hilarious. But then again, that's a total judgment call. In regards to many feminists not having humor about sexist jokes, why would we enjoy jokes that reinforce outdated and oppressive notions about women as a monolithic, uniform group? Just sayin.

Myths: Feminists are anti-sex

Truth: While I might disagree with how the media, prostitution, and pornography objectify and sexualize people, it does not mean that feminists don't enjoy sex. Generalizing the actions of a few to that of all is reflective of what we are trying to change. Ever heard of sex-positive feminism? The movement for sex workers rights? Feminists all over the realms of feminism are fighting for safer, better sex for all.

Myths: A feminist never shaves

Truth: First off, does it really matter? The fact that people still cling onto this arbitrary stereotype speaks volumes. Secondly, some do. Some don't. For their own reasons. NBD



If it's done by a rich stay-at-home mom, work is difficult, noble and dignified.



Ken Pocki ©2012
Thanks to Katie Pollitt
HUCK/KONOPACKI LABOR CARTOONS
WWW.SOLIDARITY.COM/HKZCARTOONS - JUNE

If it's done for pay, it's low-wage drudge-work that anyone can do.



If it's done by poor moms, it's considered idleness.



A Case for Female Masturbation

Anonymous, Class of 2014

I remember, as a teenager, when my friend received a vibrator for her birthday and my friends made timid jokes about it, implying that the vibrator was purely for humor, not for usage. I remember their nervousness around the subject, and how shocked I was to hear, only implicitly through their jokes, that they didn't masturbate. I had long since pleased myself and was surprised that these strong confident women found it a taboo.

The general sentiment around female masturbation is one of embarrassment and the curious silence around masturbation is part of the repression of women's bodies. Reflecting on this, it is my belief that if more women masturbate:

- 1) Women will experience increased connection with their own bodies. Through connecting with themselves on a sexual level, women can enhance their own self-love, body confidence and body comfort.
- 2) Women will be happier, calmer and experience all the other positive effects of orgasms!
- 3) Women will know what gives them pleasure, thereby enhancing communication with their partners of choice.



Speaking from my own experience, women often engage in hook-up culture, in part, to seek approval from men. If women know how to pleasure themselves, they will enter hook-ups with the motivation of sexual pleasure and a better understanding of how to ask for it. I want to encourage all women to either start experimenting or masturbate more. Take what you learn and use it to communicate with your partner about what turns you on. And, of course, have fun!

From MLK to Obama: Have we made progress?

January 21 marked both the national holiday celebrating the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr and the inauguration of Barack Obama for his second term in office. While many have applauded this day for its importance as a cornerstone in history, we can't lose sight of the vast inequality that still plagues our nation. These men stand out, while a large portion of the black male population faces the criminal justice system: one in six black males have been incarcerated as of 2001.

On a larger scale, the reason for such an overrepresentation stems from the same problems Martin Luther King tried to fight. UCLA's Civil Rights Project discovered that public schools today are more segregated than they were in the late 1960s. Additionally, current research points to poor implementation of fair housing laws, which in turn creates today's segregated neighborhoods. Oftentimes, the neighborhoods that are mostly low-income or minority have higher rates of poverty due to a lack of educational and employment opportunities within them. We deem these neighborhoods as "dangerous" without acknowledging what little opportunity exists outside of crime.

It's time to acknowledge some of these real problems in our political discussions - as long as it remains the elephant in the room, we won't make any lasting progress.



Carmen Rodi, Soc Major & FGS Minor, Class of 2013

Do you have a question, want more info or resources, don't understand something, or want to contribute to our publication?
Contact Editor-in-Chief Tess: Theresa.Gattuso@ColoradoCollege.edu