

To The Editor:

I am writing this letter to help you, a reasonably intelligent man, understand what a feminist is. From your letter, it is painfully obvious that you have no understanding why we (both men and women) need movements like this to bring necessary change to society.

The quote you presented at the opening of your editorial leads me to believe that you think women are naive and therefore are looking at the world through rose - coloured glasses. Perhaps you would agree with me when I tell you that we have serious problems in our social system. Feminism offers some alternatives to this situation, though it recognizes that it doesn't have all the answers. Do you think any of the following ideas could help our society?

- i) violence doesn't solve problems
- ii) cooperation is more life enhancing than competition
- iii) Life and value of it are more important than the materialistic considerations of patriarchy. (Property, Power, Prestige, and Profit).

What you have just read are the three basic principles of feminism. Of course, we must all earn a living, but must we do this at the expense of others?

You stated in your editorial that feminists blame men for all the problems in the world. Maybe this is due to the fact that white, wealthy, men have typically held the powers of decision making in our society. What is "bad" with this situation is that all those who are not male, white and wealthy become subject to domination by those who are. This dominated group, which includes all women and all minorities, makes up a greater percentage of the total population. Why shouldn't we object to a lack of say in the directions of our lives?

I hope that you have learned something from this letter and the many others I am sure you will receive. At the very least it is my genuine concern that you, a person of considerable influence on this campus, try to research some of the topics about which you write.

Sincerely,
Catherine J. Morrison
Feminist Who Cares About Men."

Mr. Editor;

I am writing this letter in response to your editorial in the Nov. 14 issue of the "X-PRESS". I have never been more dissatisfied with the quality of the editorials in the school newspaper as I am this year.

Firstly, you open with the quote "The world is a beautiful place where everyone is happy and gay." However, you fail to give the source of the quote. Where did it come from? Who wrote it? Was it a feminist? Well, even if it was a feminist, we all know that this doesn't describe the world that we live in today. I'm not happy and I'm sure that a large percentage of the world's population isn't happy either. Why? Mainly because the "powers that be", the men that run our country and lives, continue to build nuclear weapons, participate in the arms race and wage war between our country and others. This scores me and I often wonder what kind of world we are leaving for the next generation.

There are three basic principles of feminism:

- 1) Violence doesn't solve problems - it only postpones them or makes them larger
- 2) Co-operation is more life enhancing than competition and
- 3) Life and the quality of life are more important than profit, property, prestige, or power. It is clear that war and its promotion don't fit into any of these principles. Many women (feminists or not), as well as men will feel compelled to agree with these principles, as we have all been affected by misused power at some point in our lives.

We live in a patriarchal society. That is no secret. The rules of patriarchy don't support women as leaders and they require that we internalize our ideas and feelings. If women were in charge of the world, our now silenced voices may be heard and possibly the world would be "a beautiful place". However, feminists are simply striving for equality: equality under the law, access to political leadership, an end to our exploitation as sex objects and humane use of skills and power. We don't want to rule the world - we simply want an equal say in what happens. We may not be able to solve the world's problems but perhaps many of them wouldn't exist if we had the power we deserve. If we had equality, every person would be able to experience free choice, self-actualization and the enjoyment of life as the individuals that we are, not the people we're expected to be.