

In regards to a skewed perspective

By Kristen Marshall
News Editor



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It's no small secret that journalists, by and large, are not well liked by the masses. Not only are they manipulative, but they're liars and thieves. They are biased and push their own agendas. They will do anything for a story, for a few exploitive words from a grieving widow. Journalists are jaded, heartless snoops who believe that tragedies should be sensationalized. Bring on that Pulitzer!

The public stopped considering journalists as trustworthy messengers somewhere between Stephen Glass, high-profile plagiarist extraordinaire, and Geraldo Rivera, the mustached idiot who gave away the positions of U.S. troops overseas.

But perhaps journalists are simply misunderstood. Perhaps they all have the most honest of intentions at heart (excluding Rivera, that idiot), with their collegiate ideals still in tact. Maybe they just want to change the world the only way they know how: by writing about it.

At their best and most pure state, journalists are truth seekers and public informants. They are the whistleblowers, the expositors of scandal, the modern-day freedom fighters, hoping for justice through the printed word.

Remember those kids who spent the majority of high school listening to Rage Against the Machine, hoping for the day when they, too, could fight The Man and start a revolution? They probably became journalists, realizing that the easiest way to make a cause known, the easiest way to change the way people think, is informing the world of the injustices many ignore. Make them see, make them look and read so they understand just what's got you so riled up.

Sadly, somewhere along the line, while trying to fulfill their idealistic fantasies of world peace, some journalists turned wayward and rotten, spoiling the bunch.

Of course this is hard to believe (considering you, dear skeptic, are reading this in a newspaper), but most journalists are good at what they do. In fact, they can be utilized to your advantage. Say you've got an organization that

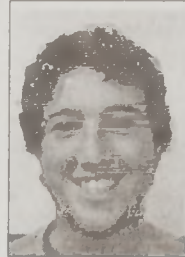
never gets any recognition. Why not talk to a newspaper or news station and get the word out? Got an event coming up? Tell us, and we'll tell everybody else. Journalists are, after all, the messengers. If there's a cause you're fighting for, if there's something important the people should know, a dangerous toy that needs to be recalled, a stupid president that needs to be revealed, an unjust war that is being fought, journalists should be the first people talked to.

Despite their preceding reputations, they're not out to skew the truth, to sensationalize a tragedy or to ruin lives. They are simply out to tell the truth, and they have the constitutional right to do so. However, they should also be equipped with the ethics to determine what should be put into a story and what should be left out. These ethical choices are made every day, and sometimes, a wrong decision is made. Because of continuous mistakes made recently by many notable journalists (including the unforgivable falsification of facts and plagiarism), the rest of us continue to fight to right the wrongs.

The important thing for anybody to realize when speaking with a journalist is nothing is considered "off the record." If a journalist has identified themselves as such and as long as you're speaking, you are on the record and anything you say is fair game. However, that does not mean everything said should be written. Again, ethics come into play. The public should think of journalists as the middlemen, transferring your words to the page or the airwaves. Above all else, they are out to deliver the truth, which tends to upset people because, more often than not, the truth hurts.

White men also hurt by stereotypes

By Trevor Worden
Staff Writer



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As we all know, the Super Bowl occurred recently. With this annual event came a wave of men crowding televisions, pounding down beers, each other and encourages many stereotypes.

Our society constantly measures, compares and expects men to be certain things. We have yet to break free. Men, especially white middle-upper class men, are some of the most hated people in the world.

Unlike women and minorities, white "middle-of-the-road" guys are stuck. Women kicked down unconventional stereotypes about their supposed place of housework and motherhood. Through their collected effort, minorities have leveled many hierarchical situations.

White middle-upper class men never had anything to rebel against because they were oppressing others with their ty.

This powerful group of men had no social injustice or unconventional stereotypes to deal with until now.

Granted we might have thrown this stereotype upon ourselves, but that part is debatable. Either way, men are held to standards and criteria that prove supposed manliness.

Women are a diverse gender. They can become whatever they want on their own terms and then celebrate that same diversity within their gender.

Society expects men to earn a lot of money in order to care for their partners or families. Men have to watch sports, especially NASCAR, football or basketball games, and the occasional soccer game.

Men must like meat, preferably red, and eat pounds of it at a time. They must take care of heavy lifting such as trash bags, groceries, yard work and other miscellaneous maintenance. The list goes on and on.

The interpersonal theory suggests there are inherent differences between men and women and how they relate to each other, according to John Birtchnell in his book *How Humans Relate: A New Interpersonal Theory*.

Differences in gender have potential to be accommodated and overthrown, according to Birtchnell.

Men do not deserve the stereotypes or social constrictions just as women do not. While there are minor differences between

gender relations, these restrictions can, and should be broken down and virtually erased.

The media plays to these social constrictions on men with T.V. shows, music videos, and commercials. Businesses market to men by including scantily clad women, fast cars and the combination of the two.

Apparently they see men as too dumb to realize these things are all superficial and have no lasting importance on a meaningful life.

More recently, Burger King has created a theme song for their fine establishment. The song lyrics read, "I am man. Hear me roar in numbers too big to be ignored, and I am way too hungry to settle for chick food." The lyrics go on with, "Oh yes, I'm a guy. I'll admit I've been fed quiche... I will eat this meat till my innie turns into an outtie. I am starved, I am incorrigible, I am man."

This continues with men in many jobs such as construction workers who lift a car off of a bridge into a dump truck while another man pulls the truck by a rope. The stereotypes in this one commercial are numerous.

Not all men are construction workers. Not all men lift cars off bridges onto dump trucks. All men do not tow cars in trucks for absolutely no reason. All men are not incorrigible.

Stereotypes rule every man's life. This is completely universal. Each of us deals with devia-

tions of these stereotypes.

One Facebook.com group, "Man Law," states rules that every real "man" must abide by. Such laws include, "Thou shall not rent the movie *The Notebook*," and "Under no circumstances may 2 men share an umbrella," and "If a buddy is already singing along to a song in the car, you may not join him...too gay."

This group perpetuates the stereotypes and social constrictions we are forced to face every day as men.

Garrison Keillor, host of NPR's "A Prairie Home Companion," wrote a book entitled "The Book of Guys: Stories." Every man should be allowed to stay home, enjoy life and be artistic, according to Keillor. Every man needs to be able to roam free without limitations or deadlines, because that is how a man would thrive best.

Women should dominate in the work force and in all things competitive because women are much more successful at such things, according to Keillor.

Men must break out of social norms. It is imperative that we, as a gender, embrace ourselves and all of our potential and explore where else that could lead us.

There is much more out there than beer, naked women and making money. It is the 21st century. Let this be the era in which man finally evolves into a better, more intelligent collective being.

Women still not equal after years of struggle

By Ashley Horne
Copy Editor



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Copy editor

We live in a society where people want to believe men and women are treated as equals, and anytime we see something contrary, we push it aside and reaffirm this belief of equality. Why, as a society, do we reaffirm this false belief when women still take baby steps and struggle for positions of power?

Recently, Nancy Pelosi became the first female Speaker of the House of Representatives. Her appointment came as a huge step for women, because she is second in line for the presidency. This is just one among the many firsts American women have accomplished in the past century, but look at how long it has taken women to get this far.

Women have struggled throughout history for recognition as man's equal, and from the early 1800s, women fought for the right to vote and finally won it in 1920. Many women thought once they won the vote, equality would come with it. It turned out to be just a false appearance of equality.

Women could finally vote in the United States, but that achievement opened up a new box of challenges. They had to fight the stereotype of women just being mothers and homemakers and accomplish the right to work as lawyers, businesswomen and even congresswomen.

Little by little women have won these small battles and asserted that they are capable of holding powerful positions that were once

reserved for men. In 1917, women began to fill power roles in the House of Representatives, the Senate and the Supreme Court. But today their numbers remain low!

Now, finally, a woman holds the third highest power position in America. At the same time Nancy Pelosi became Madame Speaker, Congress welcomed the largest female contingent in American history. It appears women may make history again in 2008 with a strong female presidential candidate. Hillary Rodham Clinton will not be the first woman to run for president, but she is one of the first female candidates the public is taking seriously.

Current polls show that 60 percent of the public states they are ready for a woman president. So it appears that women are finally being treated as equals in 2007, but then again, you can never tell. The polls may say 60 percent of America is ready, but plenty of critics continue to place doubt on our capabilities.

How are women considered equal when theories of them being the weaker sex still surface? Many critics say America is not ready for a woman as president for the sole reason that the rest of the world would not respect the United States. Yes, America is one of the most powerful countries in the world, but why would the United States be less powerful with a woman in charge?

Think about all of the tough decisions men and women make every day. The list is probably different

for each person but essentially the difficult and time-consuming tasks are just as tough for both sexes. Many countries want to box women into the homemaker, submissive stereotype. However, it can easily be argued that if a woman can run a successful family, she can also run a successful country and maybe even a country with higher morals and less corruption than the one we currently live in.

It is hard to hear people say that other powerful countries would lose respect for the United States if a woman is in power, when they respect the baboon currently living in the White House just because he has a penis. By now people certainly must realize that a person's sex has no effect on their amount of brains and common sense.

Why is it so difficult for women in America to be respected? The world considers the United States a powerful, progressive nation, but this certainly is not showcased when compared to the number of women in power in other countries.

Thirteen democratic countries currently have a woman as their president or prime minister. America falls behind a lot of smaller countries in terms of this kind of progress.

Currently the United States is ranked 67th among world democracies for number of women in legislative offices. Sweden is No. 1 on the list, with 165 women in their version of Congress. Over 47 percent of their legislators are women. The United States is well behind this number with only 16 percent of Congress represented by women.

With 87 women in Congress, we have the highest number in history for America, but this number does not scream progress.

What happened to the idea that the members of Congress should be representative of our country's population? Women make up 51 percent of our population, but it seems they are not equally represented. Historically men have dominated society, and even after women have proven themselves worthy of equality, men continue to dominate the legal system, controlling 84 percent of Congress.

To be a progressive nation where dreams are supposed to come true, the United States lags behind a large chunk of the world. At least women can say they eventually will gain recognition, as historically they have slowly gained many achievements. Maybe a female president and an appropriate representation in Congress are the next achievements for women toward becoming truly equal.

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Spring 2007
Karpen Hall 019
828.251.6586
banner@unca.edu

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