

Campus Colloquy



Student Discusses Human Freedom

-- by Susan Fauntleroy

Disregard your sex, age, race, and nationality. What is left - a human! It is my belief, that by God's will, to be human is to be the master of your own fate. It is this gift which Women's Lib is all about. It represents an attempt to make all humans aware -- intellectually, spiritually, and emotionally -- that alternatives to what we have been led to believe are the "right" ways, do exist. "Roles" and "proper places," on the basis of sex differentiation, are outright contradictions. Our freedom is within each of us, and it is our responsibility to make use of our freedom. We must examine the avenues open to us, in order that we may live our lives in the way that only each of us alone can live them. I refer to all humans, for men are certainly equally entitled and obligated to this FREEDOM TO BE HUMAN. It is in respect to the attainment of this goal that I urge each of you to take a stand on the Equal Rights Amendment.

The proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution reads as follows:

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

This does not mean that all laws which distinguish on the basis of sex would be nullified, but rather would require that the law must treat men and women equally. Some of the laws with which the Equal Rights Amendment deals will be discussed below:

- 1) **Property Rights of Married Women.** Special restrictions on property rights of married women would be invalidated; married women could engage in business as freely as men and manage their separate property such as inheritances and earnings.

Did you know that as the law stands now, if you and your husband own a piece of property, and he wants to sell it, but you don't, he has the authority to do as he wishes without your consent?
- 2) **Alimony, Child Support, and Custody Laws.** Present laws will not be validated. In those states where alimony is limited to women, men will be eligible under the same circumstances as women. The welfare of the child will be the criterion for child custody as it is in most states now. Provisions of law giving mothers (or fathers) preference will be inoperative.
- 3) **The ERA and the Draft.** (in reference to a potential draft which might come with another war). First, it should be remembered that although women would be subject to such a draft, in the past, men have been deferred due to hardships on dependents. So would women not also receive such deferments? Also, the military can mean becoming eligible for a number of benefits, such as the GI Educational Bill, GI loans for homes, businesses, GS medical services, Veterans' mortgage insurance, Employment benefits and Death benefits.
- 4) **Federal Social Security.** The ERA would extend to widowers of covered women workers the benefits now provided only to widows of covered men workers.
- 5) **Status of the Homemaker.** As Congresswoman Dwyer of New Jersey pointed out, the ERA would not demean the role of the housewife, but rather, would give it new dignity by confirming the equality of women and her freedom to choose her own life.
- 6) This has nothing to do with the ERA as such, but I think it is interesting to note that North Carolina did not pass the nineteenth amendment (women's right to vote) until two years ago! The only reason the women of North Carolina were allowed to vote was because of the prevalence of the law in the other states. If I were a resident here, I would not have stood for that!

These are only a few areas with which the ERA deals, but are among the most controversial ones (alimony and the draft). Thus far, 26 states have ratified the ERA. In a few short weeks, this legislation will be voted on in North Carolina, and many other states. It's future here is a dim one. The legislators have said repeatedly, that the younger women are not in favor of it, only the older women, whom it will not significantly affect. They accuse these older women of attempting to take away the "protection" of the younger ones -- us. Will the ERA really take away our protection, or will it restore THE FREEDOM TO BE HUMAN to all humans?

STANDING ON YOUR OWN FEET

by Colonel Harland Sanders

(Now 82 years old, and still an increasingly familiar figure all over the United States, Colonel Harland Sanders is the famous creator of "finger-lickin'-good" Kentucky Fried Chicken. An avid philanthropist for many years, he has repeatedly donated large sums of money to charity, colleges, children's hospitals, orphanages, and youth organizations. Just recently, the Colonel has been honored by both the Salvation Army and the National Council of Christians and Jews for his efforts in the field of human relations.)

Everyone of you is looking forward to standing on his own feet and making his own way in the world. But before you can stand on your own feet, you must have something more in your head than the desire to stand up. You need to know enough to keep your balance. That is why young people go to school and university and go to church. In this changing world, it is not enough to have in your head nothing more than there was yesterday.

What have you that is particular to yourself; a point of distinction, something in which you are proficient? That is the feature to display and develop. The thing to do is find your best quality and bring it to maturity. Thomas Fuller said this in a book he published in 1640. "Good is not good when proceeding from them from whom far better is expected."

To choose, or select, or decide a man needs standards by which to judge. He may be ignorant about how to do a thing, but that will be cured by learning and by trying to acquire the skills needed for his particular job.

One who is striving to be great in whatever line of endeavor he has chosen will find satisfaction in doing so with his own natural qualities and vitality rather than in dependence on other people. By combining industry, enthusiasm, knowledge and ability, a man will become outstanding.

The firmness with which you stand and the success that attends your effort depends upon the intensity of your purpose and your perseverance.

It has been said that 90% of the world's failures are quitters.

A man has to believe in himself. Standing on your own feet means having confidence in your ability to do some task, the outcome of which is desirable but not certain. Self confidence may be promoted by finding or creating an interest in something about it. This is the opposite of the wishy-washy habit of copying the actions and mannerisms of other people.

To stand on your own feet does not mean being indifferent or neutral. A vigorous constructive attitude is needed. No bright idea and no great achieve-

ment will be brought forth by a negative fault-finding mind. Nothing worthwhile is gained without effort. One needs to have a vital spirit behind one's work.

Men in both public and private enterprise may be moved to make money, gain fame, or wield power, but there is a fourth aspiration more rewarding than any of these; "The desire to do a good job, to make some contribution to the advancement of their industry or profession. To make mistakes is far more honorable than to escape making them through never moving.

A wise man regards his present situation as only a sketch of a picture he must finish. If he does not try to do a little more or a little better than he can do easily, he will never learn the best that he is capable of doing.

You would be a wise man to not allow yourself to become elated by the things you come to possess. When a man becomes eminent, he should carry his hon-

ors with gentleness and the absence of arrogance. Guard against allowing success to go to your head. The tightness of your halo may cause headaches. It is comparatively easy to prosper by trickery, the violation of confidence, oppression of the weak, sharp practices, cutting corners--all of these methods that we are so prone to palliate and condone as business shrewdness. It is difficult to prosper by keeping promises, the deliverance of value in goods, in services and in deeds--and in meeting of so-called shrewdness with sound merit and good ethics.

The easy way is efficacious and speedy--the hard way arduous and long. But as the clock ticks, the easy way becomes harder and the hard way becomes easier. And as the calendar records the years, it becomes increasingly evident that the easy way rests hazardously upon shifting sands, whereas the hard way builds solidly a foundation of confidence that cannot be swept away.

Female Smokers Considered Nasty

By Charles B. Towns,
New York, N.Y.

Civilized man has been smoking since the days of King James, but it is only recently that its use among the respectable women of this country has been noticeable. The saddest thing about the use of tobacco by women is that the upper classes of society have placed their unqualified approval on the use of tobacco by women, and until this sanction is withdrawn by the same body of women, there will not only be no progress made towards the lessening of this vice among that class, but there will be a constant army of recruits added to the poison squad of tobacco users.

The woman who permits herself to drift into habits of this kind soon loses all self-control and goes the limit, and it is only a matter of time, which depends entirely upon her physical constitution, on how long she will last. There is nothing on earth she can do that will so surely bring about her mental and moral ruin as the use of tobacco. It changes her entire mental attitude towards life and she lets down the last bar of reason and seeks and courts congenial companionship among other unfortunates of her class and in the end it degrades everything in woman that is worth while, and in short time the lovely, devoted, clean wife and mother becomes negligent of all her womanly duties and responsibilities, and if an alcoholic history has not previously existed it is only a matter of time when she will also acquire that vice. Can you picture a more disgusting human being than an alcoholic and nicotine-

poisoned woman?

No woman puts herself on a par with man when she indulges with him in life's vices, she always puts herself beneath him. There is some hope of saving a man who may drift into the taking of drugs and drink but when a woman takes up drugs and drink for the sake of dissipation the moral hazard is far greater than among men, and therefore very few of them in the end who are ever restored to normality.

When a woman with a cigarette history is brought to me for help I invariably throw up both my hands and am frank to say that we hold out little or no hope for her regeneration.

If the young women who use tobacco knew the mental estimate in which men hold them, there would be few tobacco users among them. They are immediately associated with the morally low, . . . looked upon with suspicion, and time and place and circumstances permitting, they sooner or later have to defend their virtue or lose it.

There is no worse case of drug habit that has ever come under my observation than that of the confirmed female tobacco user. There is nothing that she can possibly do that is going to so surely rob her of her good looks, of everything in her life and make up that is pleasing and fascinating to men--and the men who tolerate their smoking are the first to kick them aside for those who are younger and prettier, when the tobacco has worked its irreparable havoc.

Excerpts from DELAWARE STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL, Oct. 1916