

Editorial

by Jessica Cook, Copy Editor

This month, a Time/CNN poll showed 63% of American women do not consider themselves feminists. How wonderful it is to see that American women, including many Meredith College women, feel so confident and assured of their rights and equality that they consider the term feminist and the women's movement to be a thing of the past. Who wants to be a dirty old bra-burning feminist, anyway? We all shave our legs here. Women have plenty of rights, and if there are still some small wrinkles to be ironed out, such as the extraordinarily high rate of women who are beaten by their husbands and boyfriends every day, well, those problems will pass with time. No, feminism is bad. It might lead to male bashing.

Why should anyone want to be a feminist? There aren't any problems in the workplace. There is no sexual harassment and job discrimination; just look at the Clarence Thomas/Anita Hill hearings. Any woman can get a good promotion; she might have to sleep with her boss to get it, but why is that such a big deal? After all, a successful woman has to be sexy and desirable. No wonder those ugly feminists are currently so unpopular.

Women's rights today are secure. We don't need strong, outspoken women to fight and scream for women's basic constitutional rights. Aggressive women who demand the protection of such unreasonable freedoms as abortion are unladylike. In a matter of months, the U.S. government (composed mostly of men) could restrict a woman's right to choose when she wants to have a child. Laws across the country already prevent women from having access to information about abortion. This is no time for feminism; what do women have to fear from the government? Look at how well the U.S. government has supported working women with its excellent child care policies. If the day care centers aren't regulated and are overcrowded, it's because too many women are working. They should be at home with their children. The government also has enormous regard for the health of women; it uses its federally funded medical research on white males to apply to female health problems as well. No research needs to be done on women; women's health problems really aren't that important.

Surely the way the media portrays women as serious, intelligent human beings worthy of respect should stifle the protests of the few remaining feminists. A perfect example is the Swedish bikini team. This articulate, socially conscious group of women has sold thousands

of cases of beer. Magazines show women's bodies as they really are; everyone looks like the models in Vogue. However, if a woman was born with a serious figure flaw such as small breasts, she can easily have safe, well-tested silicon implants manufactured by Dow Corning placed in her chest to give her the breasts the media says she must have to be beautiful. If an older woman is unfortunate enough to develop wrinkles, her dermatologist can helpfully pour an acid on her face that causes the wrinkles to peel off.

American women are right to reject the notion of feminism. This obsolete, unflattering sobriquet has no place in a society where women are considered equal to men and are treated as first-class citizens. Feminism has rightly become the new "f" word of the 90's.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

The issue of apathy on our campus has been addressed several times in the Herald over the past few months. This time it is my turn. As president of Tomorrow's Business Women, I had high expectations for our club. I was excited when we had over 40 people at our first meeting in September. We had 35 people pay dues. Although I knew we would not have full membership at every meeting, I was not prepared to see only 5 or 6 members at the meetings. As a student who holds two offices on campus, works part time, and is taking a full course load, I realize that students are busy. However, attending one meeting a month is all that is asked of TBW members

TBW does not have an attendance policy, because we did not want people to attend meetings if they really did not want to be there. We felt that a business major would be interested enough to attend the meetings without it being required. However, this does not seem to be the case. When I saw that attendance had decreased so drastically, I considered what should be done. I was considering cancelling club events for the rest of the semester (it was embarrassing to have only 6 people come hear our speakers). However, it was decided that this would not be the best approach. Instead, it was decided that we would have business professors encourage students to attend the meetings. A few professors offered extra credit for attending. Needless to say, we had 65 people at our last meeting. You are probably wondering why I would complain about such a big turnout. Yes, we had a great

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