

Prominent World Leaders Address Sexism in Politics

By MARGAUX WINTER

The last few decades have led rise to a new era in politics. Notably, it has become an era where women are taking charge. From the outside, it may appear that coming into a position of power is easy for any women that works as hard as the men that currently hold the reigns, this is not always the case.

One example in particular is Germany's Chancellor, Angela Merkel. Political positions aside, having a female lead a country is notable. However, Merkel has recently been commenting on the discrimination she faced before becoming chancellor, and the sexism that she still must combat, even as a world leader.

Merkel is the leader of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), a liberal-conservative political party in Germany. Essentially, it represents those politicians that fall in the center-right of German politics. This party supports a free-market economy and social welfare, but tends to be conservative on social issues. The CDU advocates European integration, and during its time in power, has solidified bonds with the United States. The CDU is known as a "catch-all" party, as it presents itself as representing an entire people, rather than a group with a



Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany, has spoke out against sexism in politics and the discrimination she has faced.

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particular set of interests.

Merkel was appointed as Germany's first female chancellor in 2005, and in 2013 won the federal election with 41.5% of the votes. Since her appointment and election, Merkel has played a part in negotiation of the Treaty of Lisbon and the Berlin Declaration, and also strengthened transatlantic economic relations by signing the agreement for the Transatlantic Economic Council.

Recently, Merkel has made public the kind of sexism that exists within her own

conservative party, after CDU junior politician Jenna Brehrens made public the defamatory comments that were frequently made against her. Many of those comments included crude language and sexual remarks. Not only were these comments coming from men, but also from fellow females in her party. She was held to a double standard, being labeled as cut-through and a career-obsessed climber, for simply being as ambitious as the men in her party.

Merkel took this information in stride, calling out her party for these unacceptable actions.

Merkel herself combats these sexist comments, made worse by the fact that she has more power and shatters societal norms. Following a long line of Roman Catholic leaders from the west, she took power as a childless, Protestant woman from the former communist East.

During a conversation about Germany's new quota for its biggest companies to fill at least 30% of their supervisory board seats with women, Merkel said, "It is pathetic that in more than 65 years of the Federal Republic of Germany, it was not possible for the Dax-

30 companies to get a few more women on supervisory boards on a voluntary basis."

Uncovering these deep-seated issues has led rise to productive conversations about future goals not only within the party but also within Germany as a whole. Recognizing that this problem exists has sparked a global conversation, and will hopefully lead to the reduction of not only sexist rhetoric, but will also break down barriers that have been created within countless industries and vocations, which prevent women from reaching their full potential.

On Vegetarianism at Science and Math

By KARENNA LEVIN

For junior Tamar McMahon, being a vegetarian is all she has ever known. Both McMahon's parents were vegetarian when she was born and she has never eaten meat. When asked about her reasons for choosing to remain a vegetarian, McMahon said, "I don't want the suffering of a bunch of animals on me, but for the most part, it's just the way I've always lived."

Junior Archit Kulkarni, grew up with the familial influence of his mother being vegetarian. Kulkarni mentioned the impact of watching P.E.T.A. videos, which depict animal cruelty at its worst, on his decision to be vegetarian.

According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, 99% of the ten billion farm animals in the United States are raised on industrial farms, which prioritize efficiency and cost over animal welfare.

This prioritization causes animals to be raised in inhumane conditions that would make even those with a strong stomach squeamish. Others, such as seniors Cary Shindell and Abby Fanchur, cited environmental reasons

as one of their main reasons for choosing vegetarianism. Fanchur said that being a vegetarian is "more environmentally sound because it takes more energy to produce beef and pork than it does to produce plant products."

Remember learning about the food chain in elementary school? Only 10% of the energy in the food chain advances from one level to the next. This means that it takes far more plants, particularly grains, to provide the same number of calories through direct plant consumption.

Shindell is a self-proclaimed "kind of vegetarian" in that he rarely eats meat and doesn't eat beef at all. He added that along with energy consumption, deforestation, pollution, and depletion of resources are some of the many negative environmental effects of a meat-based diet.

It turns out that 30% of the ice-free land on earth is used for livestock production, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

It is also estimated that the industry of livestock production accounts for

18%, almost a fifth, of greenhouse gases, which is even more than the amount generated by transportation.

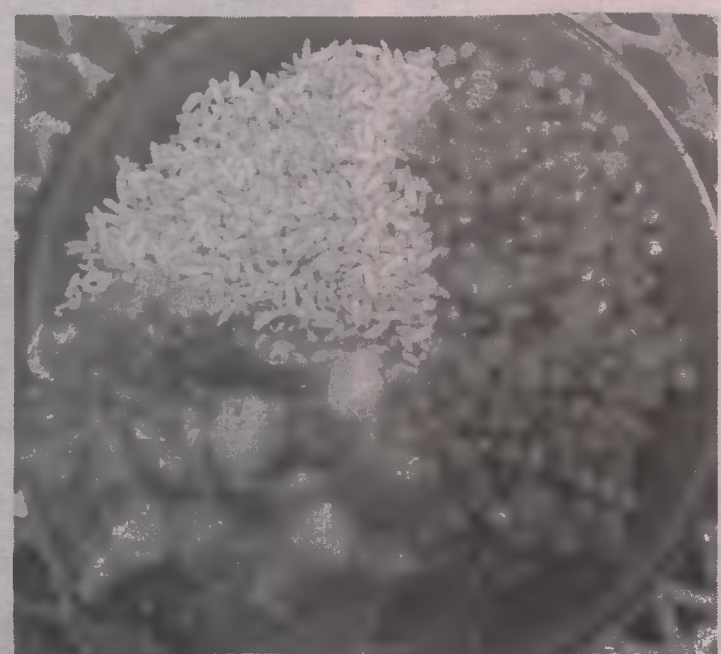
Then, there's the food choices in public places.

"It's hard in the P.F.M. because on a lot of days there aren't many options and other days there are just bad options," said Fanchur. McMahon had much to say on the matter as well: "as much as I love and appreciate the PFM workers, they don't understand that a certain amount of vegetarian protein is not as much as the same size of meat protein."

McMahon also said that she has lost weight since coming here, despite supplementing her P.F.M. meals with vegetarian protein she has stored in her dorm.

Shindell stated that he finds eating in the P.F.M. slightly inconvenient, as does junior Chloe Pickell, who said, "I have protein shakes and I buy a lot of my own food."

For senior Jessica Buchanan, the options are even more limited, being a vegan. "I feel like when I was a vegetarian I could always find something here, but now I don't eat as much because the vegan options, such as plain



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Not all vegetarian options at school are appealing, students say.

corn, aren't enough to make a meal, and sometimes they say something is vegan when it's not." However, not everyone is dissatisfied with the options; Kulkarni said, "I usually just eat at the P.F.M. and I don't find it inconvenient."

According to a 2008 Harris Interactive survey, only about 3% of adults in the U.S. follow a vegetarian diet. With such small numbers, sometimes it's hard for the meat-eating

majority to understand. Buchanan said that "a lot of people joke - they aren't mean; it's just annoying - more people do it on purpose than you would think."

Fanchur added that in the P.F.M., "People who aren't vegetarian get the vegetarian options and it annoys me. There'll be one slice of cheese pizza left and someone in front of me in line who I know isn't vegetarian will take it."