

Macho male image still prevalent—panelists

By Ward W. Triplett III

"The macho image" is merely a visage, and an unfortunate expansion on masculinity, a small group determined Wednesday night in the last of three sessions sponsored by the Student Y entitled "The Myth of the Macho Male."

Although it has declined in the past 10 to 15 years, the macho image is still prevalent in our society and thought of as a must to too many people, the guest panelists, Steve Moore, Rush Reynolds, and Hodari Sababu indicated.

"To me, machoism is the man who goes overboard in trying to prove his masculinity by pressuring the things that are supposed to be male," said Moore.

"The macho man is aggressive, domineering, and yields only to his own ideas. They feel they have to show a superiority or they are not men at all."

Moore said he did not consider himself to be macho, but found himself doing macho things in certain situations.

Sababu said the American macho ideal is based on material or physical things that society says a man should have.

"The Village People's song, 'Macho Man,' exploited some of the ideas around it, and gave a distorted image of what macho is all about," Sababu said.

"When it gets too hazy between them, something is wrong. It wouldn't be right for us to say it's cool if this man wears a dress," he said.

"We should ask ourselves 'is it valid for there to be a definite behavior pattern of men and women,' and I think there should be."

A real man, Sababu said, is not taken up by the unimportant qualities that make up the macho image like physique, or gold chains, but is concerned with being a leader, and a great follower if necessary. He should also be a rational thinker, and a hard worker to achieve the goals he has set.

"Never should a man be dominated by a woman," Sababu said.

"If there is going to be any domination at all in the relationship, it should be by the male. For a man to treat a woman as a property is not valid, and these days, it's going to be increasingly hard to find a woman who will let herself be dominated anyway," Sababu said. A male is always supreme according to machoism, Sababu said.

Reynolds added that his concept of a true man was one who was not hypocritical to himself.

"He knows how to share, how to compromise, and how to love," Reynolds said. He added macho is built around the female roles in society.

The open forum discussion, which attracted 13 people, allowed others to discuss their viewpoints as well. Tony Bolton said it was his feeling that macho had moved away from the brutal element it had, to its current sexual attractiveness.

"We've picked up from the strength thing to where it's how many women you can get," Bolton said.

"A lot of people get off into that, but a total man has a rational mind, and he uses the real things, like his mouth and his mind to communicate with all kinds of people. The machoist is just concerned with what his body can get him," Bolton said.

It is hard to change the macho, as well as the female, stereotypes because most people are raised with them, Sababu said. "But the women's liberation movement has done a lot to turn it around. We still need to show a man can show emotion, and still be masculine," he said.



Dean's secretary is award winner

Jean Cray said she was surprised to be selected as woman of the year for 1981 by the Lincoln Horizons Chapter of the American Businesswomen's Association.

After all, she is not a 64-year-old judge like last year's national winner. Cray is only 26, but has risen from a clerk-typist position with UNI Agricultural Communications seven years ago to her present job as secretary to W. Cecil Steward, dean of the College of Architecture.

"Every time I saw an opportunity, I applied for the next higher position," Cray said.

She was informed of the woman of the year honor at the Tuesday meeting of the Horizons chapter, of which she is vice president.

Cray said she will receive a plaque in May and her name will be entered in the national contest for woman of the year at the American Businesswomen's Association headquarters in Kansas City. The top 10 businesswomen in the nation will be selected for 1981, she said.

"I consider it an honor to even be selected. I'm still in a state of shock," Cray said. She added that her boss didn't even know of the honor Thursday.

She graduated from Norfolk High School in 1973 and has completed 70 credit hours at UNI toward a degree in business education. Cray is now corresponding secretary for the University of Nebraska Office Personnel Association, a group of clerical workers.

Moving up to the management level is her long-range goal, Cray said, although she added, "It's going to take a lot of my secretarial work that I enjoy away from me."

As secretary to Steward, Cray said her duties include making travel arrangements, taking minutes of faculty meetings, writing all correspondence and taking care of office equipment and personnel. She said complaints often go through her to the dean's assistant.



Photo by Jon Natwig

Jean Cray

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