

# Reader defines sexism, feminism

In several of the most recent issues of the DN there have been many mentionings of sexism. Sexism is a stereotypical way of perceiving a certain gender. Sexism applies to both males and females.

Generally it is not a conscious perception but rather a way we are socialized to think from the day we are born. A male baby is treated differently than a female baby. Behavior patterns are set -- "real boys" play with cars and guns while "real girls" play with baby dolls and cooking utensils. Parents don't tell their children this, but peer pressure, books, television programs and films all convey the message of what's "normal" gender-wise. At this early age, physical differences are minimal -- so the roles are mentally imposed.

Arguments can be made as to whether women are as strong as men in the same way as arguments can be made as to men's ability to cook, sew and bring up children. Most of these are definitely not innate qualities but socialized. The argument that some women are proud of their feminine

physique (36-24-36) does not mean the fraternity penny drop wasn't sexist (DN Sept. 27). These women are applying sexist stereotypes to themselves, which doesn't make them any better or more acceptable.

There has also been some confusion as to the connection between feminism and sexism. In a broad sense, feminism is an attempt to strip away or at least make people aware of the gender stereotyping done toward women (and men) by both women and men.

Some people take this to an extreme to retaliate for the hundreds of years women have been socialized to be subservient, lesser beings. It is not the idea that all women are saints (DN, Sept. 28), but more that they've been on the bottom so long that they deserve to be in control for awhile. This is an extreme point of view.

A professor of mine told his class about opening a door for a woman once, only to have her say that she'd rather do it for herself. He did not appreciate this -- even feminists should "know how to be women."

He likes to open doors for women just as he likes to see women's legs and so forth. He fails to see that the woman in question only protested his action because of its sexist intent -- he was opening the door for a woman, not for a fellow human being.

If we applied his logic to racism, we could justifiably say we like blacks so long as they only try to achieve status in sports and music. He would view this as a totally bigoted way of thinking and most unjustifiable.

Sexism is destructive because it discounts a lot about people based solely on their gender. Feminism is not the same as "man hating" and is not something men should view as a weakness in other men and undesirable in women. "Mainstream feminism" is an attempt to emphasize that people are people first and foremost, that gender should have as little to do with the way people are perceived as their eye color or hair length.

Neil Eckersley  
sophomore  
social science/Spanish

# Reader speaks out on sexism

Some believe stylistic characteristics (such as the way somebody talks or the way he writes) can be judged in and of themselves, without reference to one's motives, as "sexist." It is my belief that these individuals must be so dogmatically fettered to what is mistakenly called "egalitarianism," that they are not really in possession of the power to think. I am inclined to conjecture that they have probably spent the better part of their education learning what to think, rather than how to think.

As unfortunate as this is, perhaps the victims of the "educational system" could be directed to truly "neutral" language such as Persian, and away from such sexist languages as Spanish, German, French and even English.

A "sexist" language such as English would not suffer the crude disfigurement imposed on it by ideologues wishing to make it conform to their shallow, jaded

orthodoxies. If such an arrangement were made, language would be safe from "thinking" which totally ignores the aesthetic value of language. But obviously not everybody would participate in such a program. So we are left to face a potentially dangerous situation.

The egalitarians, following a sort of totalitarian line of reasoning, continue to intimidate and discriminate against those who do not think precisely as they do.

I tend to blame the public school system as a major promoter of absurd totalitarian notions, and socialistic philosophies. It is this system primarily which turns out graduates with dangerous cookie-cutter mentalities. But what can one expect from a socialistic institution?

Darin J. Knepper  
senior  
history/German education

# Reader condemns Enquirer tactics Editorial contradicts First Amendment

Dear Lee Rood,

I would like to start this letter by saying that I do not appreciate your cheap interpretation of my intentions (DN, Sept. 29). I also do not like the remark you made, and I quote: "Marking pens were not enough, nor was Schultz's after-the-fact confession that he found the posters in bad taste." How do you know that I found the posters in bad taste after the fact? Did you follow me around for the three weeks we had the posters to substantiate that fact? I think not.

This in turn reminds me of groundless Enquirer-type tactics to bring your point across.

Did you know that I was the first person to confront Mick Dyer about the posters so he could do an article of this issue? I think not.

You act like I got caught with my hand in the cookie jar. I do not appreciate you calling my opinion on the matter, and subsequent explanation, a makeshift rebuttal.

My point was made perfectly clear on this issue in the article. I censored the posters against my will, even though I found them in bad taste. The reason I did not feel good about censoring the posters is because I am not God, or our founding fathers, and do

# Jail term unfair to James Brown

I feel that the present judicial system is sentencing people to jail terms without a fair chance.

Just because the courts are backed up is no reason for pushing a person through the trial without really hearing what they have to say.

This is really, really, really unjust! Free James Brown.

Doug Couron  
sophomore  
actuarial science

# letter

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. Whether material should run as a letter or guest opinion, or not to run, is left to the editor's discretion.

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Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.

not feel my opinions come before freedom of speech and expression. Lee, if you had been at the show yourself, and spoken with the band, and had the journalistic smarts to get their opinion, I would have not found your editorial so shallow, sensationalistic, and unfounded.

It really upsets me when people who consider themselves journalists contradict themselves within the span of an article. If you believe in the First Amendment, then live and let live. If you don't, then move to East Germany.

It's obvious that you found it offensive. It's obvious I found it in bad taste; but perhaps some people went

home and framed one of the posters and hung it above the mantel.

Lee, I find the Ku Klux Klan, death squads in El Salvador, animal experimentation, and nuclear waste offensive, too. But I need to remember (and so do you) that they all have a right themselves. (Except for the poor defenseless animals.)

To end my letter in the same fashion as yours: Let's hope unsubstantiated, opinionated, and disturbing letters are no way for the Daily Nebraskan to drum up business. God bless America.

Stephen Schultz  
owner of Project Import  
musical director for Duffy's Tavern

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