

CHRIS HALLIGAN

Feminism robs masculinity



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to be done in a male-dominated justice system. Now, in light of the women's movement, we have seen policies that nail men who commit these blind sex crimes to the wall, and justly so.

However, we also have seen clear abuse on the part of women in dealing with situations of these sorts. New terms such as "date rape" and "friend rape" have climbed up out of the feminist flames and have given some men an irrefutable fear to even be alone in a room with a girl.

It has gotten to a point where women have empowered themselves with the right to decide whether the sex they had the night before was rape or not rape, without taking into account what the man might have been thinking at the time or even what they themselves might have been thinking at the time. The destiny of a man's life lies in the hands of a woman he had sex with.

Now, many feminists are asking themselves why this "backlash" occurred. Perhaps some of them should think about it on the way to court.

In the '90s, some men who are beginning to feel as if it is illegal to be men are actively striving to regain their masculinity, which was robbed from them through implementation of feminist policy in the '70s.

At one time, men could depend on women for complete support and recognition of their maleness. Today, men are turning to their male friends, who they can trust to recognize them as men.

In attempting to empower themselves over men, it seems as though women accomplished nothing more than completely relinquishing perhaps the most influential power they had over men: the inherent male trust of females.

However, as many men would agree, the women's movement of the past two decades did more. It stole power from men and left many people feeling powerless in situations that fundamentally require power for the survival of society.

Indeed, there has been a backlash towards feminism in recent years, and we need to look at the reasons why.

Perhaps we are on the verge of men's movement, a movement dedicated to giving back to men what was rightfully theirs: the fundamental power of men to be men.

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A revolution now and then can be a healthy thing, however unguided and blind a person might be going into one.

Perhaps one of society's most influential revolutions in the last 25 years was the women's movement of the '70s. Truly a successful "call to arms," the movement changed many fundamental views of American culture that were believed and practiced for generations.

Suddenly, American women were empowered to make choices for themselves and the people around them. They found the strength to compete against overpaid men in the work force, the power to release themselves from the suppressive grip of bad marriages, and they were able to rise above the sexual stigmas that helped keep them in the home for hundreds of years.

They took on a man's world and transformed it into a joint operation. Then again, maybe they didn't.

As I read about the new backlash towards feminism and the new "call to arms," I see why there is such a feeling of anger and amazement on the part of feminists throughout this country. Backlash, as I see it, is a sort of "going back to the start," a societal rethinking of exactly why the movement began and where it went wrong.

Perhaps it also could be interpreted as an angry reaction to some damage certain persons have done to what used to be the norm. As many feminists will agree, things seem to be moving backwards.

So while many feminists are resurfacing in the '90s to jump-start a movement that is dying out, I see that the basic premise of the entire movement is, again, explained by feminists as a result of men's disregard of the potential power of women. However, because I never have seen a man's written point of view on this touchy subject, I decided to play the devil's advocate.

So are many reasons why men are thinking twice before getting into relationships that have anything to do with women. Here are some reasons why:

Our generation of children remembers well the effects of the '70s women's movement. While divorce was considered a somewhat radical alternative to a bad marriage in early American history, suddenly, in the '70s, divorce rates skyrocketed. I grew up with half of all of my friends living in single-family units, units caused by women who felt empowered to bail from what they considered a bad marriage.

While the feminist movement was created to empower women, women have also, in many cases, succeeded in robbing power from so many other

— primarily male — facets of society. New choices, new voices and new attitudes that are now the norm in society are the results of the women's movement.

Clearly a feminist could argue that, in the past, women simply did not have the resources to get out of bad marriages, that the financial stability created and used by men entrapped women to stay on.

However, while the women's movement created the strength for women to leave, it also created a blind cowardice disguised as "strength" that allowed women to think selfishly, many times without consideration of the effects on other people involved in the marriage.

Now, as the '90s roll on, my generation of men is thinking twice about getting into a marriage. These men remember the devastating effects they experienced in their childhood.

Another reason men might be distrustful of women is rape.

Needless to say, situations of rape are abhorrent. These acts of violence towards women are naturally inexcusable on any level. In the past, women very often felt powerless to the vise grips of male physical dominance. When rape occurred, little was

Column lacked insight on legislative method



Michelle Paulman/DN

A page leaves the queue to run an errand for a senator during the Legislature's final session Tuesday.

We are writing in response to Sean Green's column "Law, order redeem Legislature," in the April 13 DN. It's almost amusing to us. We are pages at the Legislature, and we see what goes on there everyday. Your article was humorous because it is probably how a lot of people who stop in for a few minutes view their state government. That's really too bad. You really couldn't understand it that quickly. If the legislators seem to be rushing around like they have two jobs, well, you are correct for the most part. Most of them do have two jobs — the salary of a legislator isn't any great amount.

Yes, the debate on an average day is — average. The senators are civil to each other even when they don't agree on issues. You can't expect raised voices all the time, or thrown punches on the floor. Some issues do invoke heated and quite interesting debates, such as abortion and the controversial tax issues. We've learned quite a bit while working here, from how the system is run to the attitudes of the senators. The hearings can also get long and tedious, but that's how our democratic system works — everyone who wants to say something has a right to.

That's the way we see it, anyway, no matter how boring the debate may be.

We were disappointed in your article in that it was so typical, cliché maybe. Sure, it's great that you are using your right to freedom of the press, and if that's how you feel, put it in writing. Why not? But everyone seems to complain about their government. We would have liked a different angle from the DN, rather than the same old scoop.

Julie Loeffler junior economics

Editor's note: Eleven other pages' names were also on the letter.

Youth needs to take initiative

Today's youth, as the cliché goes, are tomorrow's leaders. But where is the direction we urgently need coming from today? Nowhere. My question is: Where has the fervor of our generation gone in this age? Answer: We are reacting, just as the rest of the world is watching and standing by, too.

What is the responsibility of young people today? To think. To vote. To understand. To discuss what can be done. To take the initiative in directing the future. To act. My challenge to you, reader, is to accept your role as a citizen of this nation and of the world. WE are the foundation and catalyst for change. How do we do this? We read. We watch the news. We vote. We write our congressional repre-

sentatives in Washington. We search for new ideas.

Create your vision, reader. Make a difference, no matter how insignificant you may feel it is. New ideas are waiting to be discovered. Many solutions need only be rediscovered. Youth is traditionally the harbinger of change, providing insightful — and sometimes radical — solutions. Great change is taking place in the world today. It would be a tragedy to miss the historical opportunities we face. Become an actor and play your role to the fullest.

Joseph B. Franz
freshman
international business and political science

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