

Feminists shouldn't conform to male values

We have a society which thinks that the sector which produces lemon-scented furniture polish is the productive center, while the government that educates our children and protects us is unproductive.

—Mark H. Moore

Tim Truesdale
Columnist

What role does feminism have in our society? What role should it have?

As Battalion columnist Ellen Hobbs so aptly pointed out, the Gulf War has left the feminist movement struggling to define its purpose.

Should the movement seek to make the sexes equal in a world created by men or should women refuse to conform to a world they were not allowed to help create?

In my opinion, the role of the feminist movement is not to bring womanhood up to the status of manhood, but rather to educate men and women alike about the advantages

women enjoy.

Take bra burners for example. No matter what they verbalized, what they were saying was that their bodies were "as good as" male bodies. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The reality is that the female body is superior to the male body in many ways.

Take longevity for example. It is well established that male bodies wear out faster than female bodies.

Furthermore, consider aesthetics. The female body is infinitely more beautiful than the male body. This is best proved by a historical comparison of how many female statues have been produced over the ages compared to the number of male statues produced. Michaelangelo's David is unique. The simple fact is that women have all the curves. Men are simply blocks with

appendages sticking out.

Capitalism was invented by men. It emphasizes male characteristics: Aggression, "objectivity," numbers, worth determined by productivity, etc. This is a very efficient and productive system for producing and distributing material goods.

The problem is that many feminists have bought this philosophy hook, line and sinker. The way they emphasize "equal pay for equal work" proves they now advocate a system of determining worth based on income. Income is no longer seen as a means for survival, but rather as the measure of status.

Which is more productive — a woman producing lemon-scented furniture polish or a woman educating and cultivating the next generation? In the capitalist system, the first is more valuable.

Allow me to answer some angry responses I can already foresee. In the first place, we must deal with the "feminization of poverty." No child should have his opportunities for a future cut off due to a parent's

mistakes. However, many experts assert that this problem is not caused by the market, but by social forces and problems in the welfare system.

Furthermore, women should not be "tied" to home and children any more than men should be. Opportunities for men and women should be as equal as possible; and by the way, I do believe in equal pay for equal work and experience at the same job.

But this certainly is a crazy society where a person's worth is determined by one's income. The feminist movement can continue to reinforce this idea by emphasizing disparities between average male and female money incomes. Or it can refuse to conform and educate the public about the invaluable investment of countless women (and increasingly, men) who accept lower paying and less demanding employment to take a greater role in raising their children.

If you think we can rely on the government and the marketplace to

raise a generation of healthy humans, I have some Patriot missiles and some lemon-scented furniture polish to sell you.

Of course, we could supplement the incomes of parents who choose to invest in the future by spending more time with their children. To make it really equitable, we could install clocks in every home for the parents to punch in and out on a time card. Then, of course, we would have to pay a bonus for "hazardous duty" like going camping with the children. Figuring out when to pay overtime could get to be a chore. Books on "maximizing time with your children" would take on a whole different meaning. And let's see, do we have different premiums for "quality time" and "quantity time?" ...

Hmm, I wonder how in the world people existed, not to mention reproduced, before money was invented.

Tim Truesdale is a graduate student in urban planning.

MAIL CALL

The Battalion is interested in hearing from its readers and welcomes all letters to the editor. Please include name, classification, address and phone number on all letters. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for style and length. Because of limited space, shorter letters have a better chance of appearing. There is, however, no guarantee letters will appear. Letters may be brought to 216 Reed McDonald or sent to Campus Mail Stop 1111.

My heart supports Texas A&M

EDITOR:

I am a student at TCU, but as is often the case at smaller, private schools that do not seem to place a high degree of emphasis on a successful athletic program, my heart supports another team.

For me, Texas A&M is that team. I have both family and friends who are Aggies, and many of my greatest memories growing up were those of watching A&M football and basketball games. I regularly attended SWC tournaments and the Aggie visits to Moody Coliseum during basketball season. When football time came, I saw many Aggie games — home and away — and, of course, the three consecutive Cotton Bowls (1986-88).

I hate to write this letter, but it angers me to see how the Aggie basketball and football programs always seem to shoot themselves in the foot. The situation with Kermit Davis seems to be the latest in a string of incidents that places A&M, with perhaps only SMU in close contention, as the school that brings more embarrassment upon itself than any other in the Southwest Conference.

If I were an A&M student or alumnus, I'd be infuriated with the results produced. There is no reason, as far as I can see, why A&M cannot build a consistently top-10 program in both basketball and football. A&M should have programs on par with Michigan, Notre Dame and the best of the South-eastern Conference schools. There is no reason why A&M shouldn't be able to make fairly regular trips to the Cotton Bowl on New Year's Day and the NCAA basketball tournament in March.

It should be done, and not only that, done right. That means no scandals, no NCAA violations, no players getting into trouble with the law. Perhaps that is too idealistic, but the Aggies I know have higher standards for results and ethics expected than most people.

I am tired of things happening, like hovering around the 50 percent win mark in basketball for years, while Tom Penders of Texas comes in and basically does in a few years what Shelby Metcalf couldn't do in nearly three decades.

I am tired of hearing how A&M wins the SWC recruiting in football and sometimes even nationally (like many who said of the Darren Lewis-Randy Simmons class of 1987) and then only proceeds to win one conference championship in four years. Why?

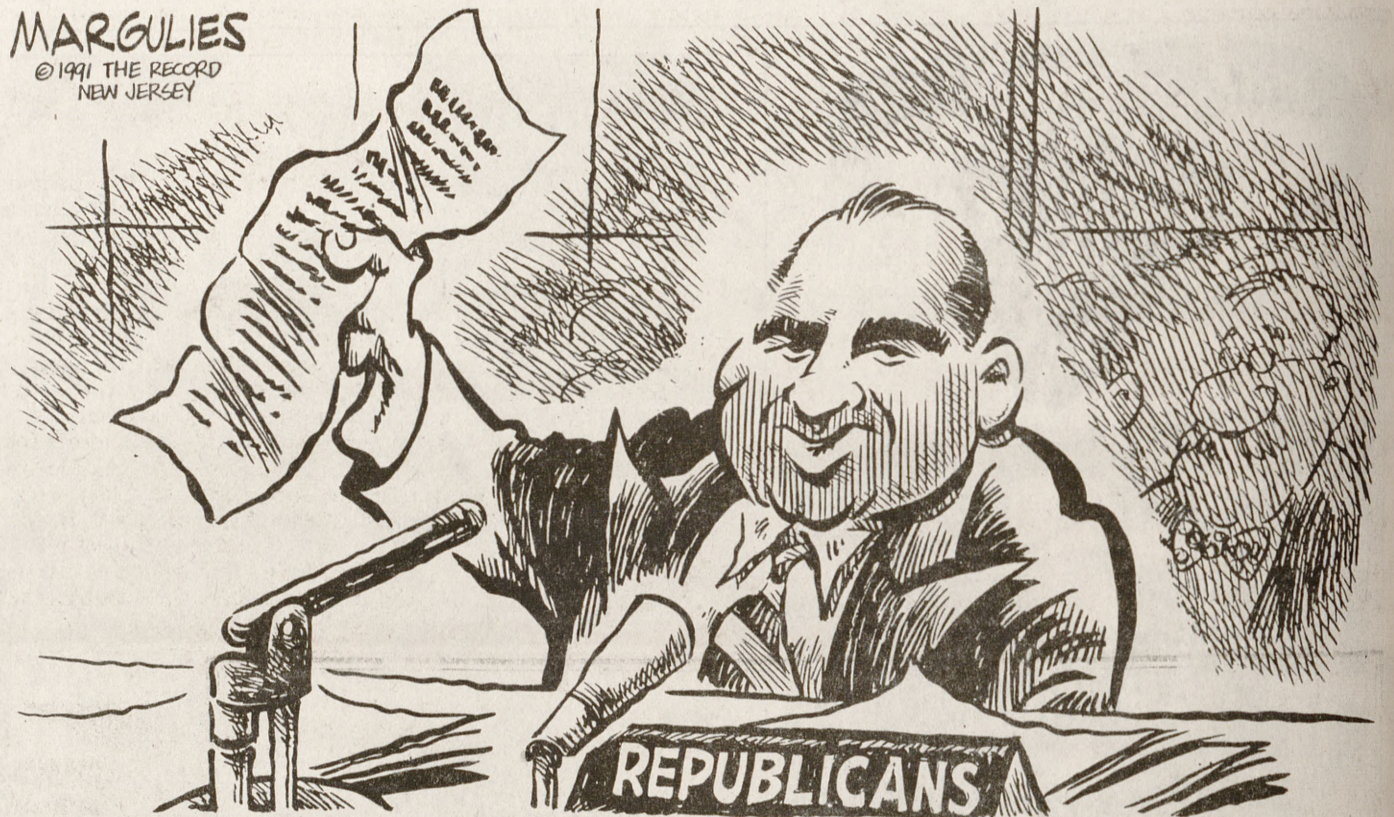
Somewhere in this country, there is a basketball coach who can take this program, recruit top-notch players to play for it, get the most out of the talent and turn it into a team that has the potential to play for national championships. More than that, he can do it with the honor and class Texas A&M deserves.

How badly does A&M want programs, not just in the conference, but in the nation, that bring it the respect the school deserves? In my mind, if I were an Aggie, losing to Texas in both basketball and football would make me angry as hell. But, losing the respect of not even being able to build programs that win without finding themselves in some sort of mess every few years would ignite disgust words I would not even be able to appropriately describe.

Texas A&M is an outstanding school that produces class people. I just expect the quality of A&M's basketball and football teams, both on the field and off, to reflect that high degree of excellence. There is no excuse for anything less.

Scott Wallace
TCU student

MARGULIES
©1991 THE RECORD
NEW JERSEY



"I have in my hand a list of Democrats who voted against President Bush's war policy..."

Teach responsibility in U.S. schools

Responsibility concepts could easily be incorporated in the U.S. school curricula by teaching them in courses such as "Values Clarification."

For example, as students are taught they must choose what values are meaningful to them in making decisions, obedience to statutory laws and responsibilities for one's own actions could be included. Students also could be taught that respect for parents was a choice supported by strong traditions in many societies and a history as one of the established mores in many U.S. communities.

The responsibility of helping to guarantee the right to life and personal security of oneself and others could be paralleled to the admonitions against molestation, manslaughter and murder.

Responsibilities for respecting the value of real property could be included by teaching students that each person has rights to what they have acquired. Definitions of

Carter Price

Reader's Opinion

acceptable means of acquisition could be incorporated by pointing out the admonitions against illegal intentions and behavior toward property belonging to others.

Also, the responsibility for truthful reporting of known facts and refraining from false accusations could be taught by illustrating the relationship of these concepts to the right of every person to fair and equitable treatment.

Of the most lasting importance would be teaching the responsibility concepts that recognize the rights of all to freely choose a form of worship. If, for example, one individual chooses to express through Jesus Christ the love for GOD with all heart, soul, mind and strength, responsibility concepts must teach allowing others to have different,

forms, opinions, etc. without confrontation. Also, responsibility would require withdrawing from proselytizing one's beliefs when opposition or offense were registered.

Responsibility and its results have had a good illustration in recent actions of President Bush and the U.S. military in the Gulf War. Irrespective of the relative wealth of Kuwait and the ruling monarchy, it would have been irresponsible to allow Iraq (Saddam Hussein, etc.) to violate the rights of a neighboring nation to a peaceful existence. Iraq was "wrong" or in violation of responsibility standards.

Through responsible actions in Kuwait, pride and gratitude were brought to the United States. By the same token, teaching concepts of responsibility in U.S. schools will strengthen our unity and purpose as a nation.

Carter Price is a visiting professor from the University of Arkansas.

The Battalion

(USPS 045 360)

Member of
Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Conference

The Battalion Editorial Board

Lisa Ann Robertson,
Editor — 845-2647
Kathy Cox,
Managing Editor — 845-2647
Jennifer Jeffus,
Opinion Page Editor — 845-3314
Chris Vaughn,
City Editor — 845-3316
Keith Sartin,
Richard Tijerina,
News Editors — 845-2665
Alan Lehmann,
Sports Editor — 845-2688
Fredrick D. Joe,
Art Director — 845-3312
Kristin North,
Life Style Editor — 845-3313

Editorial Policy

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station.

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editorial board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.

The Battalion is published daily, except Saturday, Sunday, holidays, exam periods, and when school is not in session during fall and spring semesters; publication is Tuesday through Friday during the summer session.

Mail subscriptions are \$20 per semester, \$40 per school year and \$50 per full year; 845-2611. Advertising rates furnished on request: 845-2696.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111.

Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station TX 77843-4111.

the itch

by Nito

