

Career women should clean house

It is not easy being a homemaker. At best, homemaking and child-rearing strengthen the virtues of tolerance and patience, provide a wealth of satisfaction, and hone the skills of psychology, medicine and management.

Columnist



H.L. Baxter
Senior geography major

At worst, their duties can seem belittling, unrewarding, almost dehumanizing. Americans should counter the negative aspects of homemaking by enhancing its status among other forms of work. Luckily, Canada is providing a prototype.

Last fall, The Canadian Alliance for Home Managers accomplished this by having the occupation of homemaker included in Canada's census.

The United States should follow suit, considering how Americans — often criticized for hypocrisy — throw around the catchall family values like waste paper.

Canada's reaction to the demands of The Alliance was more a symbolic gesture than anything else. It espoused the belief that homemakers (particularly housewives) were as important as anyone else in the labor force and deserved the respect of the workplace.

Such is not the case in the States. Since the 1970s, America's working women placed housewives on the same echelon as the family wage. Working women criticize housewives for earning their own living and for entrusting their welfare to their husbands.

The patronizing attitude of working women toward housewives is the smoking gun that shot the feminist movement in its bow. Belittling women at home progresses to belittling them in the workplace, as Marilyn Gardner reported in the Oct. 26, 1995 issue of the Christian Science Monitor.

Working women contribute to this deprecation by establishing a hierarchy among all women. Categorizing one group of women as



superior to another did not help feminism, and feminist groups still pay for this mistake.

For men, the faulty logic follows that women in the work force are unimportant because their true place is in the home, an economically unimportant place.

To combat this sentiment, The Alliance took a brilliant and proud step-up from the doghouse.

And the ramifications are vast. For instance, homemaking, like any other occupation, could provide pensions, health insurance and tax breaks.

Gardner even suggests that homemaking can also be added to economic indicators like the gross national product.

However, since homemakers don't "produce" anything tangible, Americans have downplayed their importance.

As a result of this attitude toward homemakers, Americans have reduced "family

values," the ideal we tote and promote so highly, to a disgusting joke.

There's no point in talking about family values when we refuse to value the thoughts and feelings of the individual — the housewife.

Simple love of homemaking and child-rearing is enough for some.

But other homemakers often feel pretty damned unappreciated, complaining of loss of identity, a voice or worth. To compensate, the wife goes to work, and the ideal of the model family goes out the window right along with family values.

Promoting homemaking to an occupation and bestowing upon it the benefits and statuses of other careers will give these women identity, a voice and worth. It is essential if "family values" is to be taken seriously.

Otherwise, the uncaring, unrewarding, dehumanizing aspects of homemaking will

EDITORIAL

THE BATTALION

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BUSING BREAKDOWN

The University should make improvements in its bus system.

Drivers and passengers might agree that the bus system is back on schedule, but this isn't saying much. Every year, students complain about the inefficient on-campus bus system. And every year the administration fails to solve the problem.

It is time they resolve the busing problem, instead of merely addressing it.

The administration knows the source of inefficiency.

Too many students see the roads on campus as personal drop-off sights for their friends and roommates. The chauffeur-ing system consists of cars veering slightly into the bike lanes and stopping mid-road.

Traffic cannot maneuver around the stationary vehicles, creating gridlock.

Once cars eventually approach stop signs, the constant flow of pedestrians prevents them from moving any further.

However, none of this is news to the administration.

The only new twist thrown into the mixture is construction.

Now, on certain roads, those who provide a personal shuttle service have but one option of where to stop.

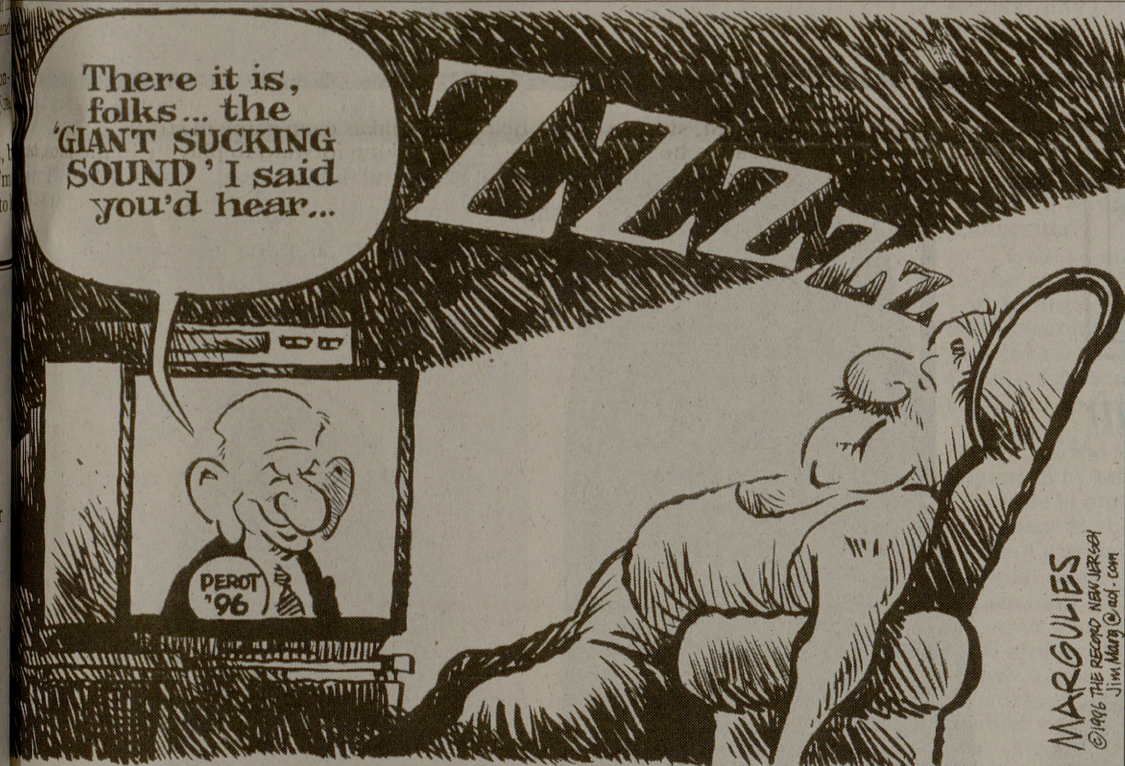
These back-ups caused by non-University motorists create the inefficient on-campus busing system.

The obvious solution is simple and cheap: close campus to all non-University vehicles, put up a few signs, and let Parking Traffic and Transportation employees do something other than ticket cars.

During regular business hours, the signs should state the campus is closed to outside vehicles. PTTS can direct traffic and ticket violators for the initial stages.

As a result, buses will run more efficiently, over-crowding on buses will decrease because of faster routes, and utilization of buses will increase. As a bonus, pedestrians need not fear the fleeing car who has finally freed itself from the hands of gridlock.

The administrators have talked enough. It's time they put their money where their mouth is.



Build it and they won't come

Columnist



David Minor
Graduate student

This is exactly the reason I want to close off the borders.

The Native-Americans were gracious and caring. How did the immigrants repay their new friends? By spreading diseases, stealing their land and banishing the Indians to reservations in the desert. If the Indians would have

been a little more hostile in the beginning, maybe the Europeans would have sailed home.

If that tragedy does not convince you, let me explain how the Republic of Texas became the 28th state.

After Mexico gained its independence in 1821, it was eager to attract settlers to its northern province. Moses Austin and 300 American immigrants accepted the Mexican invitation and set up camp in Texas.

When the United States saw this mass movement, it quickly sent Sam Houston to Texas on a mission to declare Texas independence, and later, to allow the United States to annex the territory.

This demonstrates what immigrants do — they take and do not offer anything to a gracious country. This dilemma was repeated by American immigrants on the West Coast.

After seeing such a success in Texas, the Americans set their sights on California. Encouraging another American immigrant revolt against Mexico, the United States annexed the land and paid the Mexican people \$15 million to avoid a war and keep them quiet.

Just a few months later, oil was discovered in Texas and gold in California.

Think what Mexico could have been today if it had not allowed American immigrants onto Mexican land. It would be one of the most powerful nations. These examples show why the United States must close off its borders.

Every time a country has tried to be kind and allowed American immigrants the opportunity to settle on its land, those thankless immigrants turn around and steal the land for their country.

If we continue to allow immigrants to enter the United States, how long will it be before these foreigners steal our land and claim it for their home countries?

Those who do not learn from history's lessons are destined to repeat them. I have learned the lesson. I am dedicated to reviving the good ol' U. S. of A for Americans and only Americans. God bless you, and God bless America.



MAIL CALL

Accurate research lacks real options

Regarding Jon Appgar's Sept. 17 column, "Animal testing produces errors."

As scientists who appreciate the brilliant successes of medical research, we find Appgar's opposition to the use of animals in research uninformed and irresponsible.

A partial list of diseases and health problems conquered or fought by means of research using animals includes tuberculosis, smallpox, cholera, heart disease, polio, epilepsy, diabetes, yellow fever, drug and alcohol addiction, Alzheimer's disease, AIDS, sickle cell anemia and many forms of cancer.

In the 1960s, only 4 percent of children with acute lymphocytic leukemia were cured. Today, because of animal research, the cure rate exceeds 70 percent.

Appgar argues that animal research is unnecessary because there are alternatives. It is true that researchers use a variety of techniques, including cell and tissue culture and computer modeling, to get quicker results at a lower cost.

Poor predictors of biological activity in humans, these methods can serve only as complements to whole animal and subsequent clinical studies.

Fortunately, most Americans disagree with Appgar. In a 1989 Gallup survey, 77 percent agreed that the use of animals in research was necessary for progress in medicine.

Among scientists and physicians, who are aware of how much remains to be done, the figure is 97 percent.

The Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing is managed by a team of scientists whose purpose is funding research in an attempt to minimize the number of animal subjects used in biomedical studies. It spends several million dollars each year in an effort to find suitable alternatives to animal use.

Despite the financial and manpower resources expended to date, no acceptable alternative has been developed that can reasonably eliminate the use of animals.

Animal research remains critical to solving many horrific human and veterinary medical problems. HIV and AIDS alone will kill millions worldwide before vaccines and effective treatments are found.

Atherosclerosis, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes and dozens of other diseases still condemn millions to bleak lives or premature deaths.

Cody Wilson
Graduate Student
Accompanied by 12 signatures

Martians provide intelligent insights

Regarding Jeremy Grohikay's Sept. 17 Mail Call, "Liberal Martians."

I was amused by Grohikay's account of the "martians" who visited our campus ... very cute indeed.

I do agree that those who make a habit of removing College Republican fliers should find something better to do with their time, even if these fliers do sometimes seem a bit excessive.

The College Republicans has every right to post as many fliers as it wants.

The dedication of the College Republicans is certainly admirable. As Nov. 5 draws closer, there will be more of the same.

There will be more fliers. There will be more ludicrous generalizations about people who hold differing views.

It seems that anyone who disagrees with the College Republicans is a "liberal extremist" or even a "liberal martian extremist!"

There will be more crying about the family values they supposedly adhere to — all in a vain attempt to win votes for poor, old, floundering Bob Dole.

It certainly is beginning to seem like a lost cause.

Perhaps the Republican party should focus its efforts on a more viable goal, like retaining some of the Congressional seats they've recently acquired.

However, there was an implicit compliment in Grohikay's letter, even though I'm not sure he realized it.

Suppose for a moment that

there does exist a civilization so advanced that it is able to travel the Universe and visit other worlds.

Is it not logical to assume that such a civilization would have equally advanced political ideologies?

Grohikay's assumption that martians would favor President Clinton is a good one.

Jason Longoria
Class of '99

Actions of rap star speak loud & clear

Regarding Mason's Jackson's Sept. 11 column, "Gangsta's paradise lost."

It seems that in today's society, everyone is claiming to be a victim.

But, please — Tupac Shakur purposefully and repeatedly lived a violent lifestyle. So does that make him a victim? Only if a person can be victimized by the lifestyle that he or she chooses to live.

Nature and Kensley commented on how the media judged him based on facts (indictments, arrests, and other violent incidents he was linked to).

It seems clear to me that the most reliable way to judge people is by their actions, not their alluring smiles or a few well-meant lyrics they wrote (actions do speak louder than words).

There is one comment Nature made that I do, however, partially agree with: It is sad that people have to die on account of violent acts (whether they be black, white, male or female).

Nonetheless, Shakur sought after a tough-guy image. His actions and words unmistakably backed that up.

Did the image he portrayed speak for his true character? Who knows? But if it was a tough-guy image he was after, congratulations Shakur, looks like you found it.

Benny Hawk
Class of '00

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