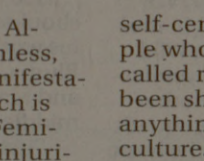


Women beware

Feminism preaches impossible goals, dreams

This year's Women's Week theme is "Images of Women: Visions and Voices." Angela Doolittle, a graduate student in sociology, said, "This is a universal theme everyone can relate to, a week of encouragement for women to say, 'Look at what we've done, what we're doing [and] what we're going to do.'" Although this sounds harmless, Women's Week is the manifestation of a philosophy which is anything but innocent. Feminism has been the most injurious thing to happen to women in the 20th century, and it has been a self-inflicted wound. When feminism is held up to the light, it is exposed for what it truly is, and people can see how it stealthily has crept into the lives and culture of people who don't even consider themselves feminists. Feminists like author Naomi Wolf have enacted a careful plan. As Wolf states in her book *Fire with Fire*, feminists have connived to "propose specific strategies... something that is effective, populist, inclusive, easy, fun and even (forgive me Karl [Marx]) lucrative." The first and greatest lie of feminism is "You can have it all." This has been the title of countless books and magazine articles, not to mention the mantra of feminist preachings to young girls. Anyone who grows up internalizing this lie is

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Courtney Phillips
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going to be frustrated when life falls short of the standard. This "you can have it all" lie preaches self-esteem and empowerment above all. It should not surprise anyone that an answer containing the word 'self' cannot possibly be the answer to a problem of our self-absorbed, self-actualized and self-centered culture. Even people who don't subscribe to so-called radical feminism have been shaped by our "you can do anything you put your mind to" culture. Trouble arrives when

ues women. To be a good feminist, a woman must be aggressive, dominant, preferably moving up the corporate ladder and using her sexuality to assert power over men, all the while claiming to be valued totally for her intellect. Feminism tells women they must break the Donna Reed stereotype only to conform to another. Feminism completely devalues traditional "women's work" and tries to steal joy and fulfillment from women who value their roles as mothers and homemakers. Ironically, a movement based on building confidence tries to steal it from those "sisters" who are not inclined to dominate the boardroom.

spouts cleverly marketed feminist ideology so as to reach the less radical. A movement whose microphone in which "empowerment" is sandwiched between tricks for 'making men do what you want' and 'beauty tips from busty models' can hardly be called legitimate. Cosmo may be stupid, but it sells. And so has the idea of feminism. The sources by which feminism is disseminated into mainstream culture also are suspect. Magazines like *Cosmopolitan* and other "fashion" magazines are poor sources for life philosophies, as are talk shows and books on pop psychology. But women eat it up. This week is Resurrection Week, a week that stands in stark contrast to what next week will be.



Next week will be a celebration of self, an attempt to encourage and inspire based on empty philosophy. In contrast, this week and always, women can rest in Jesus Christ, believe in him, be fulfilled by him, and be spiritual equals of men through him. If they are confident in him, they don't have to be confident in self. If they follow him, they don't have to conform to any worldly stereotype. The Bible personifies wisdom as a woman, and in the Proverbs 31 description of a woman of noble character says, "Strength and honor are her clothing...she opens her mouth with wisdom and on her tongue is the law of kindness...her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her."

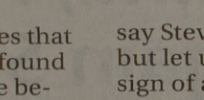
Cosmopolitan magazine, founded by Helen Gurley Brown, mover and shaker of the '60s feminist movement, is a bastion of the hypocrisy and illogical thinking dominating feminism. This magazine

people start believing in self above everything else. When a child grows up believing in herself and then fails at something, her world will be torn apart. The second greatest problem with feminism is that it deval-

Society gains entertainment, esteem at the expense of celebrities

Overdoses. A shotgun to the head. Wife-beating, adultery. What is so hard about being famous? From the outside looking in, the celebrity life seems to be the good life. But time and again that view is brought into question when someone who has achieved some measure of fame (in most cases that means an entertainer) is found out to possess destructive be-

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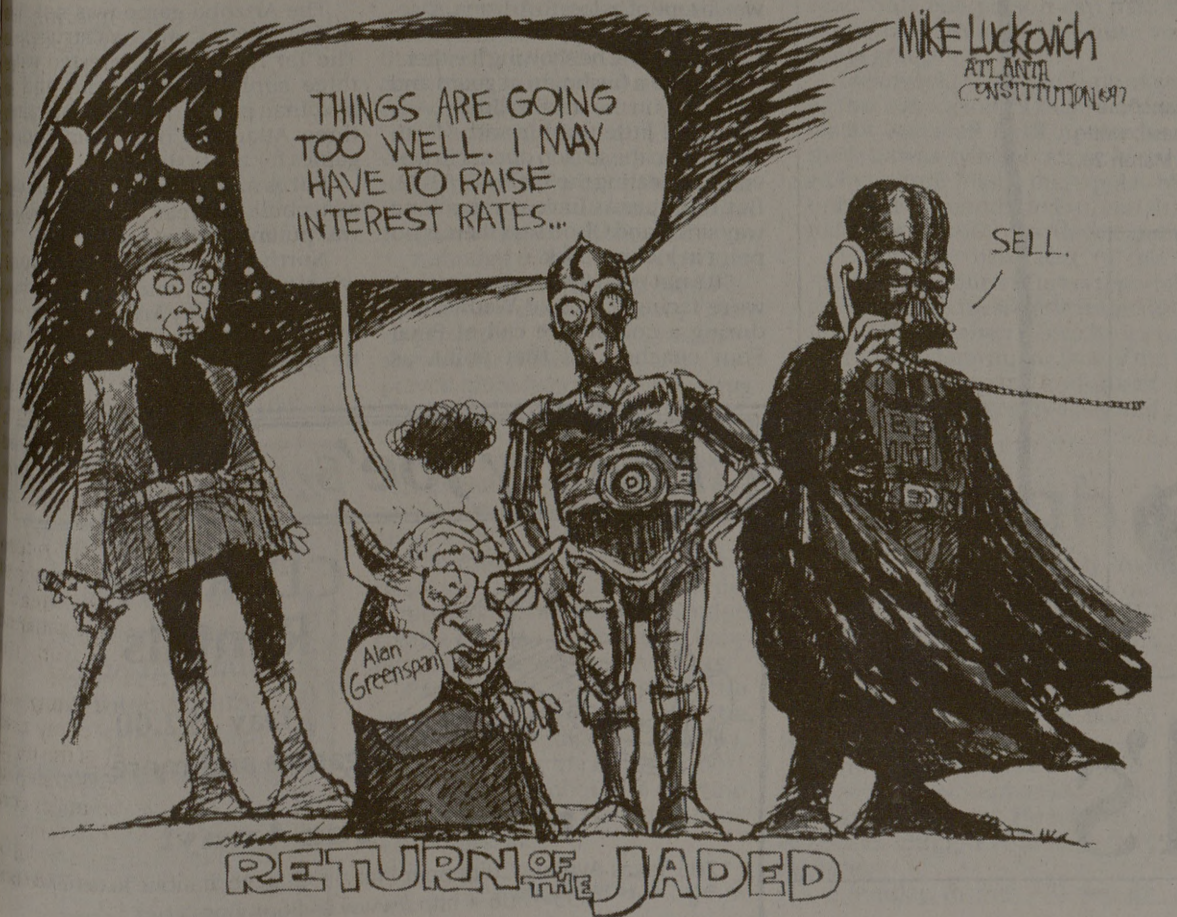
havioral tendencies. Everyone gasps in horror, "How could this happen to someone who has everything, by the way, do you have any more details?" To quote Don Henley, "We all know that trash is king, give us dirty laundry." Was it Extacy or something newer and trendier that did in River Phoenix. They say Steven Tyler is clean now, but let us know about the first sign of a relapse.

Perhaps it is insecurity over fame's fleeting nature that causes some celebrities to behave as they do. Imagine — someone does their job. It's stressful, but it is something they enjoy doing. They do their job well enough to gain recognition and exposure and eventually fame. More than they deserve. They're good, but not this good. People are going to figure it out sooner or later and then it will be all over. The same people kissing their butt today won't wave to them in three months. That's a stressful situation. Put a weak-willed person in that situ-

ation and the results may not be too good. A weak-willed person who isn't put in that situation is called "the public." As in, the public wants to know. Well, the public needs to get a life. One that isn't so inadequate that pleasure has to be (can be) derived from the mistakes of others — especially those who have it better. The prevailing motto seems to be — "I must not be that bad, if I can find people who screw up more than I do." This is an attitude fostered by daytime talk-shows which insist on parading out the stupid, the defective and

the inbred, in front of an audience that isn't much better. The purveyors of what passes for news (newspapers as well as television stations) aren't helping matters by spreading gossip. But doesn't the public have a right to know? Yes, to an extent, but no matter what someone's profession, they shouldn't have to give up their privacy entirely. Instead of their right to know, people should be exercising their right to know when not to care. Is there any way for someone famous to keep their pri-

ate life from becoming public property? No. Lawsuits are only effective in situations involving blatant slander. Besides, as I have expressed on several occasions, censorship is not the answer to anything. The only desirable way to bring about a change would be for the spreading of dirty laundry to become unprofitable. This means to greatly lessen the demand for it, and that doesn't appear likely to happen. There's always going to be a market for making people feel good about themselves, no matter how twisted the means.



MAIL CALL

Christian writers offend other faiths
In response to Alex Walters and Joshua Hill's Mar. 24 columns
The last time I checked, A&M was a public school and such a one sided endorsement of a particular religious faith in the school paper would be inappropriate. I guess I was wrong. For these two writers to be given an entire page to espouse their religious beliefs without any equal time is bigoted at worst and narrow minded at best. Furthermore, Mr. Walters' assertion that "non-Christians" want to disprove the existence or possibility of God is an insult to the Jews and Muslims who attend A&M as well as any other religion that does not subscribe to the alleged existence/sanctity of Jesus. The implication is that only Christians believe in God and the re-

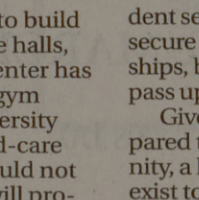
mainder of humanity is simply fodder for the "lake of fire." As an atheist I would appreciate it if The Battalion would keep the Bible thumping to a minimum in accordance with the nature of a public institution. Resurrection Week is a great opportunity for Christians to celebrate their faith but there is absolutely no need to make it the sole focus of the opinion page or use it as an opportunity to cram a particular mythology down the throats of others.
William Reeves
Graduate Student

separate faiths...". Judaism and Christianity are very different faiths. They may have similar origins but have evolved into two very separate entities. There are many reasons why Judaism and Christianity are different including: Judaism's reluctance to proselytize, a completely different interpretation of "sin," and a lack of a defined Heaven and Hell. Above all else is this: acceptance of Jesus as one's Lord and Savior is contradictory to the Jewish faith. Jews do not believe Jesus is the son or prophet of God, which is a cornerstone of Christianity. This does not make Jews atheists. A belief and worship of one Almighty God is central to the Jewish faith. Resurrection Week always makes me apprehensive because of these types of misunderstandings, and a lack of sensitivity towards faiths other than Christianity. All over campus students are encouraged to find religion. I and many other non-Christian Aggies, already did. It just doesn't happen to be Christianity. It disturbs me that others fail to respect these differences. It disturbs me even more that my faith has been falsely represented.
Chris D. Bodley
Class of '98
K. Rachelle Goldman
Graduate Student

Child care plan fails to consider community

The Board of Regents will decide this week whether to approve the proposed University Child Care Center. Though members of the Faculty Senate sing its praises, the new facility is merely another example of the University's increasing competition with private industries. As it stands, apartment owners are threatened by a proposal to build apartment-style residence halls, the Student Recreation Center has ruined business for local gym owners and now the University wants to get in to the child-care business. The regents should not approve a facility which will provide little benefit to students and staff and possibly cost local workers their jobs.

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Dave Johnston
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able future. In anticipation of the regents' decision, the Student Service Fee Allocation Board allotted \$10,000 for the Child Care Center to provide scholarships for the children of students. Now everyone from married students to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Aggies members are expected to pay for the child care of a few Aggies' children. A group of student senators have been trying to secure privately sponsored scholarships, but some students cannot pass up a chance to increase fees. Given the size of A&M compared to the surrounding community, a large number of businesses exist to support the University, its staff and its students. When the University expands into private industry, it often carries a negative impact on the community.

The Faculty Senate resolution said the new service would be cheaper and closer to campus than other area day-care centers. The resolution passed by the Student Senate left out the claim of lower prices, because it is not true. Although the center's fee would be competitive, it would not be much less than other providers in the area. A quick jaunt through the Yellow Pages shows that the proposed location will not provide a large proximity advantage, because many local churches bordering campus provide day care also. The Student Senate approved the resolution because the new center would guarantee available child care for a certain number of children of faculty and students. This requirement means the center may not always be filled to capacity. If another provider has better or cheaper service, many of those guaranteed slots may remain empty, which would cause higher prices at the University's center. Drafters of the proposal point out that it has become standard for many large universities to offer free or subsidized child care for faculty members, but those universities usually offer free football tickets and parking as well — neither of which is in Texas A&M's foreseeable future.

If the University is so intent on insuring child care for the families of faculty and students, they should at least consider subsidizing an existing provider. By using a local center, private industry will receive some sort of encouragement. It makes more sense to give money to an entrepreneur than for the University to open a small business of its own. From a social point of view, the thought of contracting out the rearing of children is an ugly notion. Children should be considered a priority. They are not pets to be left in a kennel but budding individuals to be taught and cherished. Although child-care providers work hard and are devoted, it is difficult for them to provide a large number of children with the same level of care a child would receive from his or her own parent. Even casting aside the moral arguments, the proposal is bad business and bad economics. The advantages to the University are negligible, but the impact on Bryan-College Station is potentially devastating. If the University Child Care Center isn't approved, who knows what will happen to the \$10,000 in Student Service Fee money.