

Breaking free from the bottle

Women must liberate themselves from male-dominated, sex-centered society

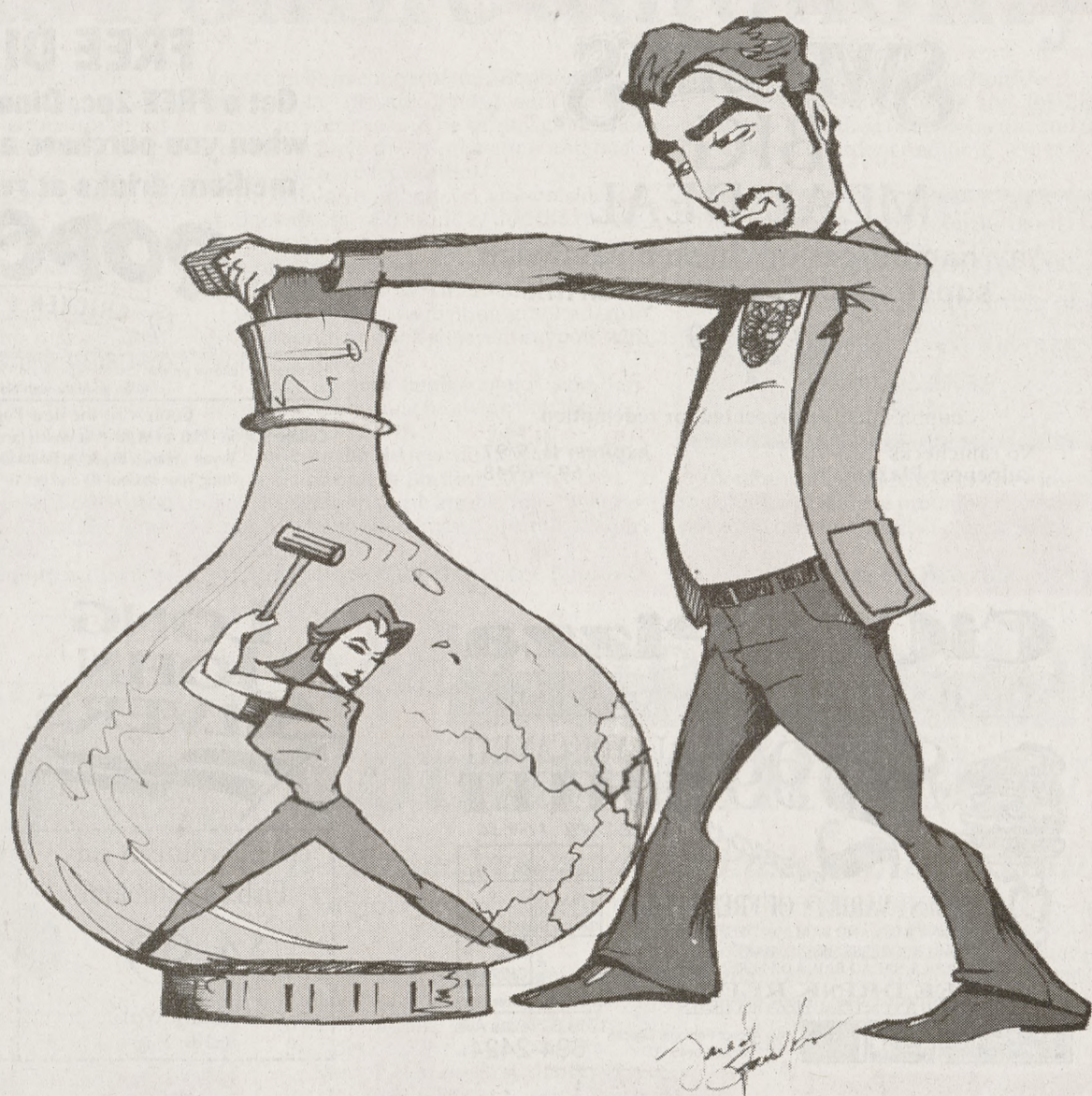


MICHELLE Voss
columnist

Men are scum. Okay, not all men. Most men are caring, sweet, kind-hearted and good friends. In a way, nice. However, the remaining five percent are pathetic scum. These are the social degenerates. They feed off of a young woman's vulnerability and leave her to decay. Listen girls, many boys who are leading you to their dorm do not just want to chat about e.e.cummings's poetry. He just want sex. Sadly, society and even our peers bombard us with messages that say something must be wrong with you if you are not having sex. Crass commercialization of sex has led to a severe distortion of reality. People are left feeling inadequate or even freaked out if they are not participating in this national orgy. The results of these dangerous images are kids who lack discretion. Like strapping young bucks off episode of "Wild Kingdom," many college boys are pressured into believing that it is their manly duty to chase after sex from any female with a pulse. Unfortunately, unsuspecting freshman girls often become the target of this disgusting circus. Like shy little kittens, sleepy-eyed and cute, freshman girls arrive to college with illusions and romantic dreams. Prancing around campus with visions of Prince Charming, Godiva chocolates, roses and the back of a hand. Ugly, warty and swarthy, the Toad prefers Taco Bell, cheap beer, and ramen noodles. It is time for boys and girls to face the music (ya know, it's that offensive and kinky disco). Many girls are caving in to the manipulation and lies of deceptive boys. Resulting from a lack of identity and self-esteem, many freshman girls naively believe that if only they

fall into bed with a guy, he will shower them with affection and his uttermost attention. This summer-camp mentality that you'll wake up tomorrow holding hands with this guy and frolicking down by the lake with daisies in your hair is just not reality. Truth is, he won't remember your favorite Sinatra tune or that you had a cat named "Mr. Fluffsky." He won't even remember your name. Boys who prey on innocent girls are cowards. They are too scared of responsibility and caring and become serial one-night-standers, luring girl after girl into their shag-carpeted, strobe-lighted, smoke-filled rooms with disco balls and mirrors. These scummy boys deserve to wear a bikini with stiletto heels and a sequin banner that says, "I'm a Sensitive Male," while serving turkey giblets at Sbis. We could call it "Empathy Day." Insecure about their self-image, many college boys feel compelled to show off their sexual prowess for the rest of the tribe. Sex becomes a contest, a safari. Who can score the most, who can bring home the gaudiest trophies. Why do boys do this? Don't they realize she is a person, not a mute, deaf, feeling-less sex thing? She is capable of wrath, of slashing tires and of degrading your name on a flying ad at a football game. In no way is the female in this situation is just a helpless victim. To the contrary, women possess incredible power. Yet, so many girls relinquish this power in hopes of gaining attention. Women simply must take control instead of being controlled. This is not just a lecture for freshman girls, this is a warning to women everywhere. Do not compromise your principles, pride and self-respect for a guy who, in the end, does not care. Boys, behave like civilized gentlemen and find some dignity. Ladies are human beings who deserve respect; they are not sexual objects. As a generation, we need to liberate ourselves from the daily assaults of enslaving filth from the media. We should feel outrage toward the revolting manner in which the media depicts women, and we need to work for change. Otherwise, we will be just a cesspool of scum.

Michelle Voss is a sophomore English major.



Women illustrate superior intelligence

It is indeed a crushing revelation, something which could shake the very foundation of society. Yes, as hard as it may be to accept, the truth has revealed itself. In matters of entertainment, technology and common sense, it has become apparent that women are smarter than men. Oh, the shame and ignominy! Although by no means inferior, recent events are proving just how far men lag behind women when it comes to the proper implementation of gray matter. Paula Jones' allegations about the, er, direction of the Presidential anatomy have forced the infamously slippery Philanderer-in-Chief to either publicly disclose some rather intimate information (thus verifying to America what half the women in Arkansas already know), or face widespread scrutiny. The WNBA completed a full season without an arrest, bench-clearing brawl or a Technical-or-chromosomes enhanced NBA counterparts. The difference is, as of yet, unexplained. Perhaps estrogen acts as a catalyst in some common-sense initiating chemical reaction. Maybe repeated exposure to Bob Uecker's World Series commentary shrivels brain cells. Whatever the reason, it has become clear that the male population of this country may be under the intellectual superiority



DONNY Ferguson
columnist

of their estrogen-laced counterparts. Television programming may be the best illustrator of the male/female intellectual gap. While networks like Lifetime offer educational, enlightening programs raising breast cancer awareness and child safety, ESPN and similar networks feature non-stop installments of midwest wrestling and "Marv Albert's Love Connection." Though more entertaining, male programming lags behind female viewing in terms of intellectual development and social worth. Woodworking tips from a bearded Minneapolis native may be handy around the house, but "How To Build Your Own Handcrafted Cedar Adirondack Chair Out Of Last Year's Christmas Tree" isn't exactly up to par with a three-part series on the life of Mother Teresa. If men are to catch up to women in terms of educational television programming, Roy Firestone will have to either schedule Maya Angelou for the next installment of ESPN's "Up Close," or convince the New York Yankee's Joe Torre to compose some improvisational poetry. Though anthropological evidence suggests men have been historically superior to women in tool making and utilization, the 20th century has seen the above-mentioned male dominance deteriorate. In the early 1900's Marie Curie discovered radium, revolutionizing the field of x-ray technology. A few decades later, men discovered Silly Putty, revolutionizing the field of goofing off. Women invented the world's first antifungal, non-toxic antibiotic, leukemia-fighting drugs and Kevlar. Men are responsible for New Coke, the Pet Rock, rubber vomit, Muzak and the Mir space station.

Donny Ferguson is a junior political science major.

March shows signs of female advances and empowerment

This past Saturday, three to five hundred thousand women gathered to form the Million Woman March. Although some people might label this event as a watered-down version of the Million Man March or an attempt to simply show that women can gather in big groups, this is just one of many instances in which women have shown the world their power.



JAMES FRANCIS
opinion editor

women of color, African-American women, discussed the abolishment of social problems such as drug use, black-on-black crime and domestic violence. With such a gathering, although it only may be the beginning, change is sure to come with influential forces such as Winnie Mandela taking the time out to discuss reform within the African-American community. And in the big-picture scope of the march, people must realize this only was a unification of African-American women. Imagine the possibilities if women of all cultures and diverse backgrounds joined to form a unified front against social ills plaguing the nation. This is the way a people rise to overcome overwhelming odds. And because women are standing their ground and making attempts to reach new heights in societal respectability, they are categorized and defamed by use of the word "femi-nazi." This description allows the image of militant outfitted women with masculine features to pervade and impede the mind. "Nazi" certainly does not convey a positive connotation. The term is simply an easy out for men to brush women aside and declare them unfit in an overbearing male society. The word "feminism," however, does play a huge part in positive acknowledgment of women. Webster's NewWorld Dictionary defines feminism as: the principle that women should have political, economic and social rights equal to those of men; the movement to win such rights for women. Notice that the phrase "hatred of men" cannot be found. This is because feminism has absolutely nothing to do with female disdain of men. It is all about empowerment, self-respect and attaining the knowledge it takes to succeed in life — emotionally, spiritually and economically. In the end, men can take a few pointers from the strides they have made in history. Rosa Parks never took a back seat in standing up for her rights. Women of today have shown and should continue this display of feminism in the true sense of the word.

James Francis is a junior English major.



Purpose of black Greeks ignored

In response to Anna Foster's column on October 28th, we first thank her knowledge on the underlying principles of black fraternities and sororities. One of their principles is to unite and support the black community. Her suggestion to consolidate projects to increase the manpower and "well-executed step" is preposterous. (Once again Anna displays her ignorance. Her shows were not done solely for entertainment purposes, but as

a reflection and reminder of our African heritage.) Since their beginnings in 1906, black fraternities have been known worldwide for continual support of all communities. This has been done successfully without the assistance of the Inter-Fraternity Council. The bottom line remains the same that there is no comparison to a group whose selection process is based upon leadership skills, scholastic achievement, and community service involvement. We do not believe that it is because they do not want to "play together," but there is no need for them to "play together." We recommend that you take the time to research the purpose of the black Greek System before you make such absurd suggestions. No we are not members of a Greek organization, but we are still able to feel the lifetime impact their service and lifetime commitments have on our communities. Tasha Coble Jamila Dardar Class of '99

Mormons exhibit freedom of religion

In response to Mandy Cater's Oct. 28 column: I compliment your writing. Yours is the one op/ed column that I can stomach. I have not read an opinion of yours which, like a multitude of others, belittles what you critique. You will forgive my flattery, but this is all the more significant since I squarely disagree with certain points in "The art of censorship." First, I sympathize with your appreciation for art, but you must admit, life has its priorities. What I mean is, the Mormon Church (of which I am, happily, NOT a participant) believes, like any religion that takes itself seriously, that the claims of art, politics, economics, etc., have nothing fundamentally "higher" to offer than what's contained in its doctrine. I, therefore, cannot agree that what BYU did is "unfortunate."

After all, this is the country not only of free expression, but also of freedom of religion. BYU officials place a higher priority in the latter, and such prioritizing is necessary in a world where, contrary to advertisements, we can't have it all. Would you not think it ridiculous for a comedian whose primary whipping-boy is Muhammad (Islam's prophet) in the local mosque? Or for the local art aficionado to stir up city council in order to display "Piss Christ" at St. Mary's Catholic Church? I grant you these are extreme examples, but I think BYU felt, on a smaller scale, the same kind of intrusion on what it holds dear. As to the truth of the Mormon doctrines, that is another matter for a different sort of publication. S. Killehua Graduate Student