

GENDERSCOPE

Literary women

Lessons and advice in women's magazines insult, deceive

They are everywhere. They stare at you in the grocery store checkout line. They show up at parties on coffee tables. They hide in waiting women's magazines. They are the Bibles by which women live out their lives. As a publicist to those who do not have the advantage of these fabulous publications, I will provide a guide to understanding the world according to women's magazines.



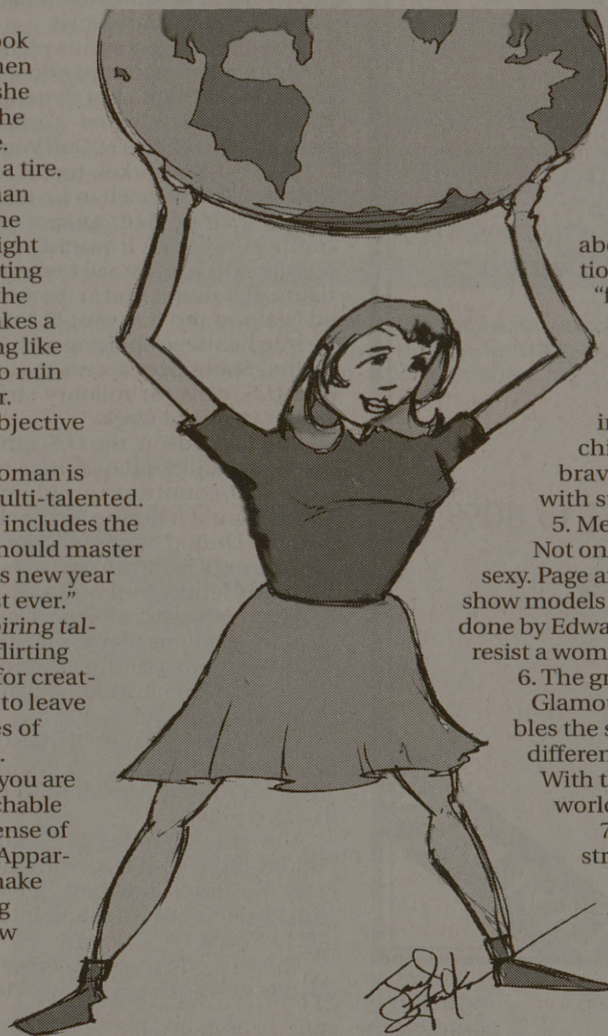
MANISHA PAREKH
columnist

Money is no object (unless it comes to finding an island). This is the most important thing women's magazines have to teach the masses. Forget about buying clothes. Go ahead and spend \$218 on a black dress for \$10 worth of fabric. (Actually, by spending every penny on clothes, you won't eat and you'll die.) Clothes are not enough, you must also have matching accessories. A pair of \$90 Calvin Klein sunglasses are absolutely necessary for today's woman. After all, according to Cosmopolitan, "They reveal the brows and eyebrows are so crucial." How low that today's woman has created a debt to rival Gates' net worth, she must find a way to pay for her season's wardrobe. (Remember, it is so wrong to wear last season's fashions.) Therefore, it is time to turn a rich man to take care of the credit card bills. As Cosmo says, "If life costs a king's ransom, I'm finding a way." Words to live by. Looking good is a 24-hour pursuit. Of course it has to be. There are meetings with the masseuse, the personal trainer, the personal buyer and the plastic surgeon, the personal buyer and the

psychiatrist. A woman has to look absolutely perfect when she wakes up, when she goes to sleep, when she takes out the garbage. Even while changing a tire. (Although if the woman really looked good, she would have some knight in an Armani suit getting his driver to change the tire for her.) It only takes a split second of looking like a real human being to ruin a woman's life forever. 3. "Talent" is a subjective word.

A truly modern woman is well-rounded and multi-talented. This month's Cosmo includes the top ten talents you should master in order to "make this new year your best and bravest ever." Among the awe-inspiring talents are "a fabulous flirting technique." One tip for creating this technique is to leave the last couple inches of your dress unzipped.

The theory is that you are simply more approachable when under the pretense of needing assistance. Apparently, most women make the mistake of looking like they actually know how to dress themselves without help. That is a no-no.



Other Cosmo talents are making the perfect martini and learning how to levitate people at parties. This should come in handy the next time James Bond drops into town and needs a little lift.

4. The meaning of "fearless" is different for women. Cosmo not only gives advice about fashion, but doubles as a dictionary. According to Cosmo, being "fearless" means red lips and messy hair. Allure defines "bravery" as taking a picture without wearing makeup.

"Perhaps it's not like flying into Iraqi airspace or enduring childbirth without drugs, but it's brave nonetheless." Who could argue with such a truthful statement?

5. Messy hair is sexy. Not only is messy hair fearless, it is also sexy. Page after page in women's magazines show models with hair that looks like it was done by Edward Scissorhands. What man could resist a woman with hair that rivals Don King's?

6. The greatest controversy. Glamour answers the question that troubles the sleep of many women: what's the difference between a slip and a slip skirt? With this knowledge, the women of the world can all sleep soundly tonight.

7. The dreaded disease that can strike at any time.

The warning signs are so subtle. A heavy purse. Too much time spent at the Clinique makeup counter. But at the first sign of these symptoms women need to run — not walk — and get

help for a disease of epic proportions. This dreaded disease, according to Allure, is being a lipstickaholic. Most lipstickaholics get hooked at a young age.

Their infatuation with finding the perfect lipstick color grows into an obsession and rules their lives. Thankfully, there is help for the millions of lipstickaholics out there. Sadly, though, there is no known cure and those afflicted can relapse at any time. If you know someone who might be a lipstickaholic, please, get them help. Their future fashion sense depends on it.

8. How to succeed in the workplace. Cosmo offers advice on getting noticed by your boss. "Leave messages at midnight. The next time you wake up to pee call your boss's voice mail and leave an important reminder — it'll give the impression that you're thinking around the clock."

Or it could give the impression that you are some sort of psycho with no life, but, hey, everyone has to take chances.

9. The greatest problem affecting the world. "As if we didn't have enough to worry about already — air pollution, disease, war, crime, financial uncertainty, the hole in the ozone layer — there's always the added stress of being exposed to those ditzy borne beauty habits known as Annoying Beauty Habits."

Finally, a magazine is brave enough to take on the epidemic of annoying celebrity habits. Who cares about the government, foreign policy or the environment when every single day Kirstie Alley flips her hair more times than Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services tow a car. What would today's woman have done without Allure's undercover expose of celebrities acting like normal people.

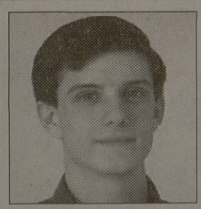
So, put down that Newsweek and pick up a real magazine. It could change your life.

Manisha Parekh is a sophomore journalism and psychology major.

STATE OF THE UNION

Immigration remains a vital asset to American economy

They streamed through America's "golden door" the millions, fleeing persecution, tyranny or simply seeking a better life in a new country; with endless opportunity. Three hundred years of American immigration, from English Puritans seeking religious freedom to Vietnamese refugees escaping a Communist regime, built a nation unlike any other in history, rich in variety and open to anyone seeking prosperity and freedom.



DONNY FERGUSON
columnist

However, the American tradition of strength through diversity is in danger. Once-dead anti-immigrant sentiments are resurrected and 52 percent of Americans support a five-year moratorium on immigration. As negative opinions grow, accusations that legal immigrants steal jobs from citizens and shun off government services are being more action than a White House intern. Such claims are, however, false. Legal immigrants are a boon to the United States, and efforts to deny them access to the American economy are no more discriminatory than the anti-immigrant laws of late 1800s and early 1900s. Anti-immigrant activists are active because they blur the line between legal immigrants, who come to America seeking work and a better life, and those immigrants who come here illegally. Efforts to restrict, or shut off, immigration to the United States, are ongoing and should be opposed. Economically speaking, immigration does no harm to the economy. Legal immigrants create, not steal, jobs and pour money into the economy, and social programs. In fact, legal immigrants pay over

\$55 billion in federal income taxes alone, add \$10 billion to the economy and pay \$28 million more in taxes than they consume.

The common belief immigrants take good-paying jobs away from American workers is another myth. Many immigrants come to America to start businesses they could not start under the massive regulations of their home countries. They create jobs and start businesses in America which would otherwise benefit other nations. It is rather ironic that those who complain the most about American industries moving overseas are the quickest to deny foreign labor from coming here.

According to the Census Bureau, of the 800,000 immigrants who enter the United States annually, 140,000 come to "fill jobs for which no Americans are available," referring to jobs such as picking fruit and washing dishes many immigrants seek and Americans refuse to do. Ohio University researchers find "no statistically meaningful relation between immigration and unemployment."

The availability of inexpensive immigrant labor (in industries which Americans do not work) allows produce and other goods and services to be produced at a lower price. Restricting immigration would make crucial goods such as food more expensive and out of the economic reach of the poor. Immigrants do not come to America to rob Americans of their jobs and take advantage of the welfare state. They find employment in businesses and farms Americans would not work in and pay much more in taxes than they consume in social services.

Above all, America has a moral obligation to open its doors to immigrants. Of the 800,000 annual immigrants, 480,000 want to reunite with family in the United States and another 110,000 are refugees fleeing political and religious persecution. To shut off our borders to those seeking family or

suffering inhumane treatment would be immoral, unforgivable and anti-American.

All people, not just American citizens, have a God-given right to seek liberty, prosperity and a better life. Foreign-born Americans are just as vital to the nation as the native born. In fact, they often appreciate America's blessings more than those whose families came over on the Mayflower and fought Redcoats at Bunker Hill. To turn away immigrants would fail our obligation as the world's most prosperous nation and greatest bastion of liberty.

Millions of Americans watched as Coast Guard boats turned back boatloads of Haitian refugees fleeing violence and bloodshed in 1992, but few were angered. Even fewer noticed when the Clinton Administration deported pregnant Chinese women who came to the United States to avoid compulsory abortions. The United States cannot close down its borders while despots still rule and human rights are violated in nations such as China, Cuba, Tibet and Nigeria.

The current national anti-immigrant sentiment is just as much the product of stereotyping and xenophobia as it was 100 years ago. Legal immigrants stimulate our economy by creating jobs, lowering prices, infusing money into the marketplace and contributing to the tax base. Immigrants are a blessing, not a curse, and to deny them entry into the United States would betray a national history written by immigrants and forfeit our national duty to support the cause of freedom worldwide.

In an era in which global interaction is increasing exponentially and cultural boundaries are falling, to adopt a national closed-door policy on immigration would cause serious, permanent damage to our nation's economy, culture and stature.

Donny Ferguson is a junior political science major.

LONE STAR LOWDOWN

Free tuition proposal leaves financing issues unanswered

Here's something that might brighten your day — John Sharp wants to pay for your college education. This is not a misprint, he really wants to pick up the check on your degree. Now before you take to the streets in celebration, read on, as there may be a catch.



JOHN LEMONS
columnist

If the state comptroller has his way, students that attended high school in Texas will receive scholarships to pay for their tuition and fees at any state university, community college or technical school. It is a deal that sounds too good to be true. Unfortunately, it probably is.

While Sharp's proposal to make public higher education virtually free is deceptively attractive, it leaves many lingering questions about its practicality.

Sharp calls his proposal the "Lone Star Scholars" program. Under the program, the kind taxpayers of Texas would cover the cost of tuition, required fees and books for up to 120 credit hours of an undergraduate degree.

Furthermore, Texas students in private universities or colleges would be eligible for scholarships amounting to the average cost of tuition, fees and books at a public university.

To be eligible, students must maintain a 2.8 grade-point ratio. They would earn one-year scholarships for each year they spend in Texas high schools. Sharp certainly deserves an A+ for creativity on his proposal. What he will receive for its practicality remains to be seen. Sharp, though, seems confident that Texas can swing the cost of paying for its children's college education. He claims that it will only cost \$485 million a year to fund "Lone Star Scholars." It is money the comptroller says Texas already has.

Indeed, lowering the price of college to one's cost of living would be a tremendous asset to college students. Many students who must work a job to attend school would be freed of that draining commitment. The "Lone Star Scholars" program appears to be a dream come true for college students. The question that needs to be asked, however, is will it be a nightmare for taxpayers.

After all, as the old saying goes, there is no such thing as a free lunch. As attractive as "Lone Star Scholars" is, it has some dangerous ramifications. First, there is a name for programs where the government compels its citizens to support the livelihood of others. It is called socialism. It is akin to communism, which the United States

spent the last 50 years fighting during the Cold War. Unfortunately, if students are the beneficiaries of socialism, they probably will not complain about it.

Of course, if you do not have a philosophical objection to socialism, there are still several practical reasons why the "Lone Star Scholars" program is dangerous. For instance, making the taxpayers almost exclusively pay for college education gives the state undue control over students.

Sharp's proposal only covers 120 hours of course work. Many undergraduate degrees require more than 120 hours to be completed. An engineering degree, for example, requires on the order of 135 hours of course work. The extra 15 hours amounts to an entire semester the program will not underwrite. So, under this program, the state will not pay for the last semester of your engineering degree because it is "excessive."

Similarly, when the state is footing the bill for students' education, it will have the ability to exert control over that education. The state will not pay for the extra hours a student will accumulate if he or she changes majors or earns a teaching certificate.

Any student who has parents forking the wad for their education will testify to the fact parents can have a drastic effect on one's class choices or even one's major choice. Imagine the consequences of having the state meddle in one's educational choices. Perhaps the most frightening question created by this program is what will it do to the demand for higher education.

As the price for a college education approaches virtually nil, the number of people who pursue a college education will increase.

This may not become significant at the university level where admission is competitive and limited. It will, however, become significant at the community college level, where admission is open to anybody. As more people pursue a college degree, the burden on the taxpayer will increase.

If the cost of the "Lone Star Scholars" program becomes too high, will Texas be able to extract itself from it? Likely, Texas will have great difficulty doing so. Consider the federal government and its dilemma with the Social Security, a system that dominates the federal budget but cannot be diminished.

Creating entitlements may be easy, but halting them is nearly impossible. Before Texas embarks down the road of virtually free college education, the state needs to look long and hard at its potential failings.

John Sharp may be the savior of Texas college students. Frighteningly, for Texas taxpayers, he may be the devil himself.

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