

ACMC needs new point of attack

The University Assembly Committee on Multicultural Curriculum — a committee from which the ASUO bowed out and in which students seem to have little interest — recently had its bimonthly meeting.

The committee met last week in the EMU for most of the afternoon. Few people came, many people left, people got mad and people quit. When the meeting finally adjourned, no one seemed any better off. It did have a few entertaining aspects, however.

The highlight was, no doubt, the ASUO and its overzealous, over-dramatized resignation from the committee. Actually, the announcement was more along the lines of "We quit," camouflaged in a colorful use of vocabulary, "because we can't do it."

ASUO President Eric Bowen said, "Originally the curriculum change was a student proposal. But it has now been hijacked from the student body and sent to a place (ACMC) where it will suffocate and die."

Faculty members have such a burning desire to solve the diversity problem that they went as far as to hijack the ASUO's intentions and spend a couple afternoons a month in meetings agonizing over a solution to a problem that supposedly needs an answer.

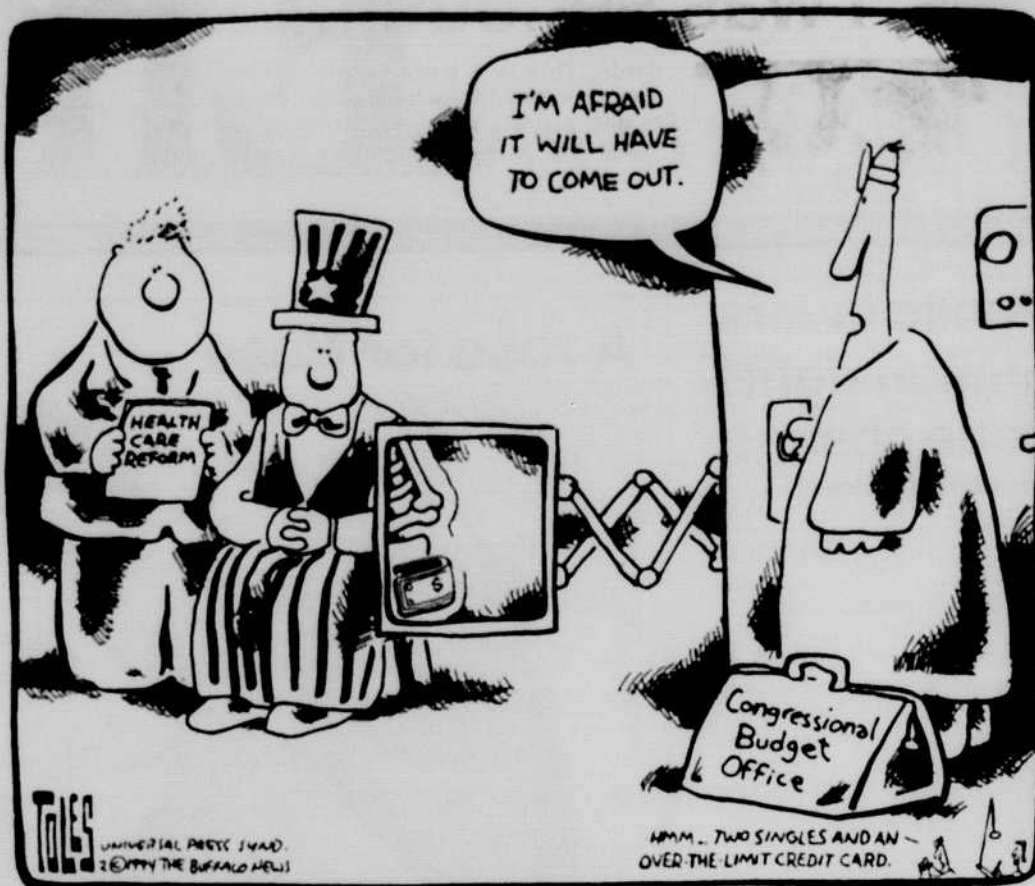
The committee (the one with the burning desire) then retaliated with the simple notion that it doesn't even want to be a committee, let alone hijack anything. The positions that are filled are comprised of faculty who have had their arms severely twisted just to get them there.

Another interesting point was brought up — money. Remember there is none. Classes are being cut, and the administration is streamlining (packing more students into fewer classes); however, an entire curriculum is being developed and classes are to be added. That's right, first reduce classes and requirements then develop a committee to add classes. But it is, after all, for the students.

Speaking of the students, where were they? They must have been in class because there certainly wasn't a large turnout at the meeting. (Maybe they were out enjoying diversity.) This strengthens the idea that the ACMC is fueled by demand from the students — demand that really doesn't exist. Maybe the interest shown by the students at the meeting should be a key factor in determining how important the ACMC really is.

Unfortunately, racism is evident on this campus, but it is evident everywhere. Yes, people need to enjoy diversity, but the solution won't be a required class. The committee's intention was to address the problem of an increasing diversity of people on campus. It is without a doubt time to scrap the ACMC and start from rock bottom.

A new class at the University teaching students how to appreciate everyone else would be a wasted class. It would not be so dynamic that people would attend. It would not substantially facilitate an understanding to all students in broad and reasonable terms effective in conquering diversity problems. It would be a large class with few students attending but with a lot of pass/no pass grade options. At least everyone would get along — everyone, of course, except the people at the ACMC meetings.



OPINION

Feminism getting bad press



LIA SALCICCIA

If I hear one more strong woman say, "I'm not a feminist," I'm going to lose it — especially if she believes in the basic feminist philosophies: equal rights and equal opportunities for women in society, economics and politics.

Feminism has gotten some harsh words and some bad press lately; some deserved, some not. Some reasons for this are as follows: Feminism doesn't do a thing for women of color, feminism is equal to separatism, feminism makes women feel like victims and, my favorite, feminism turns women into butch, hairy man-haters.

We receive so much misinformation about this social movement through the media that it's hard to know what to believe. When I discussed this subject with friends, most admitted there is an extreme type of feminism (which embraces the hairy man-hater image) and a less extreme (which they were more comfortable with). Lots of women believed they were already treated equally by society and had no need to identify themselves with feminists.

Women: If you think you are seen equally by the eyes of our world, you are wrong. Look around. What gender is the president? Who holds economic power in society? Who is judged on merit, and who is judged on looks? Who gets sexually abused and raped, most often by people who "love" them?

Are you afraid to be labeled

man-haters if you speak out? That fear is not unfounded. There are a host of nasty epithets describing women who speak their minds and take no crap. But take a look at the name callers. Would you want to be in their club?

Feminism is not about hating men. It is about liberating women from the constraints enforced or encouraged by a male-dominated society. And not one individual man does not represent the entirety of patriarchal oppression, but that doesn't mean he shouldn't be aware that it exists.

I was at a party once where a guy told me he liked my columns, but I should watch out, I could turn people off by becoming "too feminist." Obviously he doesn't understand what feminism means to me.

It means not letting people make sexist comments about me. It's about doing whatever the hell I want in life. It means taking a stand against physical and mental abuses against women by men. It means independence, strength, thinking my own thoughts and earning my own money.

One thing that feminism is not for me is a man-hating bonanza. Please, I have better things to do.

Why waste so much energy and time hating another group when I can love my own? Why rip someone apart when I can build upon myself? Why would I dwell on being someone's victim when I can be my own hero? I mean, my own shero?

Despite the fact that feminism has improved the lives of just about every woman I know, there is still a tendency to shun it, belittle it, or stereotype it.

And I'm the first to admit that feminism has a long row to hoe before it embraces the needs of all women out there. Quite overlooked are women of color, poor

women, old women, women without an education, and the list goes on. But along with the bad, there is the good that the women's movement has created not only for women, but for men as well. Feminists were first to really galvanize attention toward gender roles and gender expectations.

And men, you suffer from gender roles almost as painfully as we do. Haven't you felt inadequate when your chest didn't look like Joe Bob's in the locker room? Didn't it feel bad when your friends laughed at you for wanting to be a cheerleader? Doesn't it get tiresome to be expected to pick apart women's looks like you are a highly paid judge at a beauty pageant? Wouldn't you like to be able to cry? To show your feelings?

It's interesting to note all of the attention that alleged man-haters get, even when they aren't hating men, just trying to improve the lives of women. On the other hand, when a man perpetrates a rather obvious act of woman hating, like battering his girlfriend, we hardly bat an eye.

Which implies more hatred, arguing with men or beating up women? Yelling at a man because a commercial is sexist, or raping a woman because "she deserves it"?

It amazes me that with all the positive examples feminists have set in society, that there are still people who think that they are all madwomen, a la Lorena Bobbitt, out to cut off all of the penises in the world.

They couldn't be more wrong. If Lorena Bobbitt had been a feminist, she wouldn't have had to leave her house and her abusive marriage with her husband's penis in hand.

She would have left a long time ago.

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