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The illusion of equality

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The illusion of equality

Pragmatic realist or doubt-filled pessemist?

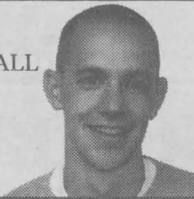
Gender equality does not exist and it may never exist. To get a few things straight before the "Letters To The Editor" start pouring in, I am not sexist and I do not look down upon women or, for that matter, men. As I see it, we are equal. Despite some minor physical technicalities, men and women are the same.

I was sitting in one of my classes about two weeks ago, and my classmates and I were engaging in a bit of free form discussion. It was the statement "we [women] don't need men" that I began my thoughts on this subject.

Could someone tell me what the hell that means? Yes, there is independence of the sexes — that's part of being an individual in this world. The second part of this eye opening conversation came with the statement, "it only takes one of you guys to keep everyone going." A statement like this is about as intelligent as going around and telling everyone they may get skinned alive tonight by some axe-wielding maniac from northern Maine in which their genitals are excised from their body while they're still conscious. But, chances are in both cases, it won't happen.

It is people who make these types of statements that keep inequality in place in our anything but perfect world. How could anyone move past a large chunk of history in which women were

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OPINION EDITOR

oppressed by negating the need for their own existence?

You know what, maybe that girl was right. Maybe all the guys in the world should just off themselves. Before doing so though, we'll all be sure to leave enough sperm behind so that women can continue without us. I mean, is that what she meant?

When I think of not needing something, I think of the times at dinner when I rationalize to myself, "Alright Marshall, you'd really like that third éclair, but you really don't need it."

The issue of inequality exists for the same reason that racism still exists: no one treats the issue with actual respect. Allow me to explain. I have never consciously and maliciously done women wrong — I'm sorry if I have. Nor have I ever consciously participated in being a racist or a bigot.

The real problem is when everyone can't decipher what's really the issue being debated anymore. For example, who invented the term "the race card?" This term holds a special place in the legal system and news media. The term is used commonly on CourtTV and CNN but is

their any respect in its implications? Like a child's card game based on luck, people compare the monolithic issue of racial inequality by summing it up with the Ace of Hearts. Stop using these kinds of subtle subversive terms. It only prolongs the process in which a group of people cannot move past an issue.

Same thing goes for the concept that women don't need men. Women need men nearly as much as men need women. If everyone was homosexual and across-sex-invitro fertilization was not permitted, we'd all die off. Remember that.

For some reason, our society has decided to pin certain groups of people as the "problem." What happened to the world working together through their differences? Instead, we say we're working for equality — keeping subtle lines of inequality comfortably in place. Maybe I'm just being idealistic — sometimes I have a tendency to do that.

However, you can rest assured that I will not allow myself to be the subject of reverse discrimination. I will not participate in using the term "the race card." I will not allow my skin color, sex or any other physical or emotional difference between someone else to be used as a reason to use poor logic and continue inequality under the guise of working for a better tomorrow.

Marshall Dury is a junior journalism major.