Feminism 101 (Student Zine, 2001)

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Please Do Not Be Afraid.

What the hell is going on here!?

The Third Wave of Feminism

FEMINISM 101
What is the Third Wave?
Checky this out:
here's what your fellow rad-ass UMaine students have to say:

How do you define feminism?

• the political/social movement in which the goal is complete equality for people of all genders, sexual orientations, races, religions, and cultures.

• very loosely...as believing in women having the same opportunities as men, and truly believing that women have the right to live their lives free from violence and injustices (implicit and explicit) based on their sex.

• the movement which resulted out of women’s realization (decision to empower themselves) that they are worthy of equality in life, labor, and love.

• standing up for women’s rights, while at the same time NOT demeaning or oppressing men.

• I see it as believing in equal rights/opportunities, but by public definition it’s usually the loud, in your face, male-bashing females (I’m not in favor of this).

• [a feminist is] one who seeks out equal rights for women. One who takes up social political activism to spread awareness of gender inequity in hopes to remedy the problem—at home, abroad, in the micro and macrocosms of the world.

• the belief that men and women are equal and have the right to equal everything.

• the belief that all people—regardless of race, class, creed, sexual preference, etc.: but most especially of gender—should be treated with equal[ity].

• the recognition that women are subject to oppression, and the desire to change that.

• the pursuit of equality and self-expression for all women.
ARE YOU A CARD-CARRYING FEMINIST?
HELL YEAH!

Third Wave feminism empowers the INDIVIDUAL

the Third Wave is radical in its expressions

Who's Afraid of the Big Bad F?
How do you view the Third Wave movement?

• like the decade it sprang from [2nd Wave in the 60's/70's], it is diverse. Not just in the obvious, unchangeable diversities...race/creed, etc....but also in what is acceptable to do under the terms of feminism. There are no more dicotomies. It is abandoning anything that says “that isn’t feminism”.

• fucking awesome...very inclusive of many different viewpoints, oftentimes very controversial to many feminists, embracing certain contradictions, not placing strict “feminist rules” on yourself, living feminism by discussing things that piss you off with the people who piss you off, learning from others, and always remembering that where you come from is completely contextual, showing gratitude to the accomplishments of women who came before you who laid the way for just about everything we are able to do now.

• I think Third Wave feminism faces a much more difficult battle because we are fighting a problem most people don’t believe exists anymore. Most young women today don’t consider themselves feminists, even the ones with traditional feminist beliefs.

• I relate to the goals of the Third Wave more than the others. I really like the fact that it seems to be more inclusive of all people, including men.
Can your sexual history haunt you?

When it comes to bedpost notches, are women still judged more harshly than men?

"I'm strong-willed at work, at school, and with friends—but I like to be totally dominated in bed. Am I weird?"

"Is it okay to return a wrong makeup shade if I've used it?"
"The more strong-willed I act on a date, the more likely it is that I will never hear from the guy again."
Their First Name Ain’t Baby

The women of New York City’s Street Harassment Project are sick of being advised to smile. They don’t care what strange men think of their asses, and they don’t want to be told about it. They, like most women we know, just want the right to walk the sidewalks of their city without being menaced, insulted, heckled, humiliated, or molested.

“Street harassment is the patriarchy flexing its muscles,” says one member. In response, the SHP is flexing back, performing public skits and chants about harassment as street theater, distributing “porno cards” (shown), and handing out educational flyers to both men and women as part of their awareness campaigns. Future plans include organizing bike patrols to confront harassers in the act. All of this, they hope, will convey their message loud and clear: It’s time for street harassers to hit the road. If you’d like to help, you can make your own porno cards and flyers from graphics posted on SHP’s Web site: www.streetharassmentproject.cjb.net. Girlbomb
What impact do you think the Third Wave is having on society right now?

- a breaking down of gender roles
- rejection of forced domesticity and the patriarchal system
- queer visibility
- fat liberation
- increased awareness, and male activism, related to sexual violence towards women (rape, domestic abuse, etc.)
- rejection of mainstream media imagery and stereotypes of women
- visibility of women’s sports
- eco-feminism
- decreasing the wage gap
- international women’s issues (i.e. sweatshop labor)
- health care/child care issues

through independant music books, magazines, websites, ‘zines, etc. produced by feminist women, there is an obvious rejection of what is “normal”, what we (as women) are “supposed to do”, how we are “supposed to act”, and what we are “supposed to think”.
I think it is making progress, although we are definitely limited by who's in power. We always are—but particularly now with the BIGGEST IDIOT EVER BORN in office... it's going to hurt our progress, which is too bad for him and his party [because it] will only make us stronger and more adamant about the changes we want to see being made.

- It's a widespread mentality... it underlies the mainstream that touches women.
- More and more women in positions of authority... in both government and business.
- College campuses are where the movement is at.
- All the grassroots activism going on around just about every issue that touches women.
- Making more people aware that the Third Wave is not the f-word. That it isn't limiting. That it's simply about equal rights for women.

...that people are aware of sexual discrimination, are more assertive, and are willing to take an 'activist' role (personally more than in the community).

Right now I have a feeling that if women had each others' backs on all issues, they could achieve a lot more than they have since the advent of the Third Wave.
The personal realization that women are victims of a horribly messed up social system.

What is the Third Wave? The refusal to live by preconceived boundaries and categories.
She Said:

“In order for the human race to continue, women must be safe and empowered.”
-Eve Ensler, from The Vagina Monologues

I always joke that I’m going to be 80 years old with my Hello Kitty cane that I’m going to hit people with...—KH
No matter what women my age believe about their rightful place in society, few are willing to risk acquiring the loaded, wildly unattractive label of "feminist."

- BUST
Third Wave continues to build on the feminist legacy, it has simply grown more complex in its undertakings.
3rd wave—get into it!

Check out some feminist and all-girl bands/artists:
Ani Difranco
Sleater-Kinney
Le Tigre
Bikini Kill
L7
Patti Smith
Liz Phair
Tracy Chapman
Luscious Jackson
Bratmobile
PJ Harvey

Websites:
www.bust.com
www.gurl.com
www.wench.com
www.webgrrl.com

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Have a nice day.

-CH and SA

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