

Student Views

We asked Trevians what they thought about international women's day, this is what they said....



Sam Heider, Sophomore

"It might be nice to hear the different opinions of all the women, but I heard they didn't speak much about feminism."



Samantha Chipman, Junior

"I don't agree with not going to work or not buying things, I don't think it does enough. I like the wearing red part though."



JP Sheridan, Senior

"I wore red, I supported it. The other 364 days honor men."



Kevin Baer, Senior

"It was a great day. I think half the days should be women days."



Caryl Henry, Senior

"I think it's a good day. A lot of progress has been made but a lot still needs to be done."

International Women's Day: the least we can do to fight sexism



by Marie O'Connor

This week when deciding what to write for this article, I was grappling with important topics such as where to get the best Thai food, the five stages of food poisoning, or the new celebrations surrounding St. Patrick's day.

Arguably, these issues aren't that important, but they would probably be a more desirable topic to read about for my fellow classmates than what this issue will actually be about. Feminism. That big F word that will most likely be the cue for half the people reading this to stop reading.

Last week on March 8, New Trier, along with the rest of the world, celebrated International Women's Day, "a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women."

The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity," according to the IWD official website.

The idea of international women's day is really important to me, as I identify as female and much more radically, I also identify as a feminist.

A day to honor the achievements and advancements of women seems more necessary this year than at any other time in my life.

Amid sexist and misogynistic comments that have been uttered during the past political campaign, a day honoring women seems like the

least we can do. Literally the least.

Women make up half of the world's population, and yet only one out of 365 days of the year is dedicated to us.

While New Trier made an effort to integrate IWD into the school day, the seminars and talks seemed to take a backseat to the normal school day. Few people knew about the speakers, and those who did didn't see the importance of attending.

While seminar day amassed

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huge controversy within the community, it also was a platform for people to start talking about race. The minimal attention given to IWD seems to speak to the idea that this issue isn't seen as important.

Within this last year my beliefs have been denied and challenged by men who think that they know what feminism means.

This past week even, a young boy I babysit told me if there is going to be a day honoring women, then there should also be a day honoring men, because that's what feminism truly means.

Feminism means "the theory of the political, economic, and social equality of the sexes" so based on the definition, is International Women's Day actually anti-feminist?

No it is not. If you disagree, I'd love to hear what you have to say, so write a letter to the New Trier News, and we'll publish your response. But for right now, this is my article, and I say no, IWD is not anti-feminist.

Along these same lines, a

few months ago I was engaged in a discussion about this same idea. In an article one of my fellow classmates had read, apparently for the past five or so years, women have been making more money and are hired more frequently than men in young professional workplaces.

Responding to this fact, I said, good for us. In my mind, five or so years doesn't nearly make up for the millenai of inequality between the sexes in the professional and social world.

However, my response was deemed "anti-feminist" because I am celebrating women succeeding over men. Feminists are not supposed to want women to be treated better than men or receive more opportunity, we are supposed to want exact equality.

I do believe that total equality of the sexes should be something that as a society we strive toward, however, having a day to honor women, or celebrating a success of women is not anti-feminist.

Hopefully, 50 years from now high school students will not need to have one day set aside to learn about the impact women have made in society, because this will be taught everyday, along with the impact men have made.

However that is not that case right now. International Women's Day is needed because even in 2017, in my AP science class, we learned male scientists are often given credit for work female scientists have done.

IWD is necessary because a classmate of mine is allowed to say that because 1 of 5 women on college campuses are sexually abused, women shouldn't even dare go to college.

International Women's day is needed so long as we have men accused of sexual assault being praised for athletic ability, winning Oscars, and sitting in the oval office.

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Millenials absent at polls



by Bella Geroulis

I live in a very politically charged home, where Sunday morning cartoons were swapped with Bill Maher reruns and MSNBC. For me, voting for the first time after I turned 18 was like my family's version of a Sweet Sixteen.

When I saw how only 40% of people aged 18-25 voted in the past presidential election, it made me realize something: it's not our fault.

We have grown up in the "Vine Culture." We have been groomed to have a shorter attention span, one that can handle six second clips and short captions of news under very large pictures. We don't sit down and read a news article or watch a broadcast.

So naturally, being raised in this fast paced media culture, it's becoming increasingly difficult to understand politics. Granted, anybody who truly cares can go ahead and educate themselves, but the sad reality of the matter is that less and less people want to put in the time.

But why? Why is it that in one of America's most dynamic political scenes ever, the people who it will all effect most don't care enough to get educated on the policies that will impact THEIR futures?

The answer lies somewhere among an American and global shift in values and focus. We no longer have the luxury of being able to read up on the most recent Supreme Court ruling or what new foreign

trade deal is being passed. Now most youngsters are dealing with the student loan crisis in the US or how they're going to be able to buy a house or a car.

When we talk about the rise of nationalism in the States, it's usually in a negative tone. But it shouldn't be thought of as completely bad.

Yes, a complete shutdown of our borders is bad and yes, minorities and different ethnic groups are essential to American values.

But we as Americans do need to focus on ourselves and our own domestic crisis.

We need to solve the issues in public and higher education. We need to help create jobs for people who have taken out thousands of dollars in student loans. We need to better the lives of people here in order to better the lives of people elsewhere.

However, the only way to do this is for young people to vote for the politicians and officials who have our best interests at heart.

Many people thought I was foolish or idealistic for voting for Bernie Sanders in the primaries, but I gave Senator Sanders my vote because I believed he did in fact have my best interests at his heart, and the interests of the millions of disenfranchised people all over this country.

Vote for whoever you want. Whether you're democrat or republican, black or white, gay or straight, just go to your polls and vote. We cannot just hope for a better tomorrow, we need to take it upon ourselves to act on these wishes.

If you don't like the people on the ballot, as many people felt this past election season, advocate for the people you DO want on the ballot. Make your future your priority, and don't let the 70 year old Floridians decide your future for you.

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