

There are very few jobs that actually require a penis or vagina. All other jobs should be open to everybody.

~Florynce Kennedy

How good does a female athlete have to be before we just call her an athlete?

~Author Unknown

Artificial Virginity Device Sparks Backlash

Conservatives in Egypt are in a lather over a new device that promises to simulate the bleeding a virgin bride experiences on her wedding night. Politicians are calling the device an assault on Islamic and Arab values. But some women say it's the inevitable result of Egypt's double standard when it comes to premarital sex.

The product promises women "no more worry," because they can restore their virginity for just \$29.95. The ad says the "artificial virginity hymen" fits in the vagina and, upon penetration, oozes a bloodlike liquid.

In Egypt, those women who can afford it may resort to surgery to restore their hymens before their wedding night. But news of this new inexpensive device sparked an intense backlash. A lawmaker from the Islamist Muslim Brotherhood said it would be a "mark of shame" on the government if it didn't keep the devices out of the country.

A sampling of opinion on the streets of Cairo found

widespread acceptance of a double standard that is hardly restricted to the Arab world: Purity applies to women, but not men.

Ahmed Rifaat, 19, says no matter how much he loved a girl, he would drop her instantly if he found out that she wasn't a virgin. When asked if it should be the same for the male, he says, "No, it's not a big deal if the guy's not a virgin. I'm not speaking about Islam — I'm just saying it's normal. But she has to be a virgin, because she's a girl. She's a girl! That's just the way it is."

"The problem with a device like this, is it makes it too easy for the woman to play by the rules of society instead of standing up and saying, 'No, you need to understand that I am a good person. And it should not all come down to this issue of a hymen.'" — Amy Mowafi of best-selling book, *Femail: The Trials and Tribulations of Being a Good Egyptian Girl*.

<http://www.npr.org>

Musical Performance Fundraiser — Blame Sally

"A unique collective of four distinct voices and musical background, Blame Sally has forged a compelling and original sound that has earned the band the well-deserved reputation as a Bay Area phenomenon. The San Francisco Chronicle raved that Blame Sally's music recall(s) the artful romanticism of Jane Sibery, the rich folk harmonies of the Indigo Girls, and the percolating soulfulness of Joy of Cooking. Listen to their music at www.blamesally.com.

They will be in concert in the Cornerstone Theatre on November 12 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets \$20 general admission and \$50 for a VIP pass. This is a fundraiser for the Women's Resouce Agency, a local nonprofit helping women attain and maintain self-sufficiency. The VIP pass entitles you to an after party with the band, Blame Sally t-shirts and VIP seating."

by Dorothy Haruyama ~Class of 2011~

Feminism..... a word daunting for me to describe. Not only used as a means for analyzing social interaction and the very concept of ourselves and this world in the pursuit of changing it for a more just and equal society but now, for me, signifies a personal journey. Feminism and those whom have espoused its beliefs have given me a precious lens when I look and interact with the world around me. It has helped illuminate some of the underlying assumptions about gender, race, class, sex, ability, sexual orientation, and so many others that are often taken for granted as inevitable facts. This lens helps clarify some of the falsehoods of our society's consciousness and the subsequent socialization of such as truth. Moreover, feminism challenges us to believe in something different than those assumptions, and work for social justice

and social change. While feminism seems like a terrifying word to some, it has helped me look more compassionately on those whom have been left out and oppressed by the systems we have created and developed. Feminism has helped me name and speak a language that works towards illuminating our systems "isms" and move towards a more socially just world. While my passion for helping people has remained constant, feminism has given me the means, language and lens to better equip myself and others for the ongoing struggle to make our world a better and more socially just place for all of its inhabitants.

Do you have a question? Are there things about feminism and gender that you don't understand? Do you want to know about resources, or want more info about something in our publication? Contact Andi:

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