

The mark of the modern woman



Rebecca Moore
Photo editor
rmoore@mail.txwes.edu

To the young and bright women of Texas Wesleyan I would like to say, "Do what you want and please stop listening to the men!"

Recently, I had an experience at work that made me more aware of how women with tattoos are viewed, and it's interesting to me that it's not all roses and butterflies out there (opinions, not tattoos).

About two months ago, a coworker of mine was listening quietly to my conversation with a friend. We were discussing my plans for a new tattoo when he cleared his throat and said, "You're getting a tattoo?"

It wasn't a question so much as a disapproving statement. I was a little thrown off, but when I asked what the big deal was he just said he didn't like tattoos. I thought silently that I had never asked for his input and went on my way.

However, when I started getting tattoos last year, I received many mixed responses. Normally I really don't listen to others' opinions that much. It's my life, not theirs. But one article from *Tucson Weekly's* Tom Danehy forced me to speak up.

Tom had a field day back in July with an article entitled "Flesh Wounds" that bashed women like you wouldn't believe. He stated that, "in the matter of tattoos on women . . . that s—t don't look good." If that article had come with a picture I'm sure we could have said the same about his face!

Tom ostracizes women in matters of equal pay and professional sports, downsizing the importance of both, and says that the only men "living, dead, and those yet to be born," that could possibly be attracted to a woman with a tattoo are lower than "white-trash" balding, biker guys, with too-tight Harley Davidson T-shirts and dentures.

It just so happens that anyone who seemed to "disapprove" of my fierce ink has been of the male origin, and I am beginning to wonder why men are so against it. Did I suddenly step through a portal that led me into the 1960s? Women are free to express themselves. How can self expression be unattractive?

It took me many years to be happy with my body and who I am, and many women are still fighting that battle. So why do men seem to love tearing us down? Ladies, we need to stop listening to men and do what we want.

Besides, by generalizing women who get tattoos you're alienating thousands of different types of women and hundreds of artists who take pride in what they do. Art is a beautiful moving type of self expression, and if I or anyone else in this world chooses to use my wall, my notebook or my body as a canvas, no one should stop me.

I don't want to make the same mistake Tom Danehy did with broad overgeneralizations. When I say men, I really mean boys. Those big burly ones who have the alpha male syndrome and can only stop beating their chests long enough to belittle us women. I thought they were all gone, but Danehy proved me wrong, and that's OK. I'm a woman, and we women can admit when we're wrong. Well, except Sarah Palin, but that's another matter.

I just felt that after years of torture in junior high and high school, I had finally found college: a place where we are all different but admire each other. And if we didn't... well we kept our mouths shut for the greater good.

Being sexist is way out of style, and I refuse to take it anymore. When I look around Texas Wesleyan I see a campus full of great minds, and 62 percent of those minds are female.

The women on this campus and in today's society are beautiful and intelligent and anyone who thinks otherwise is in for a big shock. That cute coffee girl is going to have your job one day, and all you will have is a little pink slip.

One thing Danehy said was an argument that most people seem to agree with: People get tattoos for the sake of others. They get them to be seen and not for themselves. That is simply not true.

I have four and most people never notice. I love my tattoos, but explaining why I have Swahili on my ribcage gets old really fast.

I just want everyone to stop worrying about other people and start enjoying life. Because you only get one chance to live your life and one chance to live out all your dreams. So if some guy in Tucson thinks I'm ugly, I don't really care.

I hope that you don't care either because we are beautiful when we're happy, and we're a heck of a lot nicer to each other. Maybe Tom Danehy needs a cat.

We can all learn balance, Insha'Allah

We have all heard students say "I can't afford my text books" and "I need to get an extra job." The global financial situation expresses itself everywhere, and people tend to approach the issue differently, something that became very clear to me when visiting Dubai.

Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, was opened Jan. 4. I arrived in Dubai only three days later. According to www.arabian-business.com, Dubai has an estimated debt of about \$80 billion, a fact that didn't keep them from spending \$4.1 billion on the impressive, 828-meter building.

Originally known as Burj Dubai, the tower's name was changed in honor of Abu Dhabi's ruler, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who provided a \$10-billion lifeline for Dubai. To me, it sounds like an overpriced purchase.

No matter the politics behind the scenes, the amounts being spent in Dubai are enormous. Over here, we tend to hold on extra hard to our money when times get rough. At first, the excessive money flow did not make sense to me, but when it was time to leave, I had realized something. Just as we tend to believe that people in the Middle East need to open their minds, we need to ask ourselves if we actually are as open-minded as we try to portray.

For instance, here, people are laid off due to lack of work, and a sense of panic has been almost palpable for quite a while now. At Grand Hyatt in Dubai, the workers were offered to take a two-month, unpaid vacation with a guarantee that the job would still be there when they returned. No one had to leave due to the financial crisis.

The elevator transporting tourists to the 124th floor of Burj Khalifa does so in about 60 seconds, or 2.07 floors per second, as compared to the elevator in the West Library, which takes you the three floors from the basement to the top in about 25 seconds, or 0.12 floors per minute.

I know that the average speed of elevators in no way can be correlated with different cultures in some form of exact science, but this fact still represents the point I am trying to make.



Joakim Soederbaum
Sports editor
jsoder@mail.txwes.edu

Besides the fact that it would take more than 17 minutes to reach the 124th floor of Burj Khalifa if traveling at the speed of the elevator in the West Library, the people of Dubai have an important lesson to teach: don't let anything slow you down.

Every time I got into a taxi to go somewhere, the driver repeated my request and added "Insha'Allah" as we took off. "Insha'Allah" means "God willing" and definitely constitutes a key concept in Dubai.

While we in the West tend to believe that we are in control of things, my new friends in the Middle East firmly believe that God is in control. If He wants you to get there, you will get there—no matter how fast or slow you are driving. If God wants you to get through a financial crisis, you will—no matter if you spend or save.

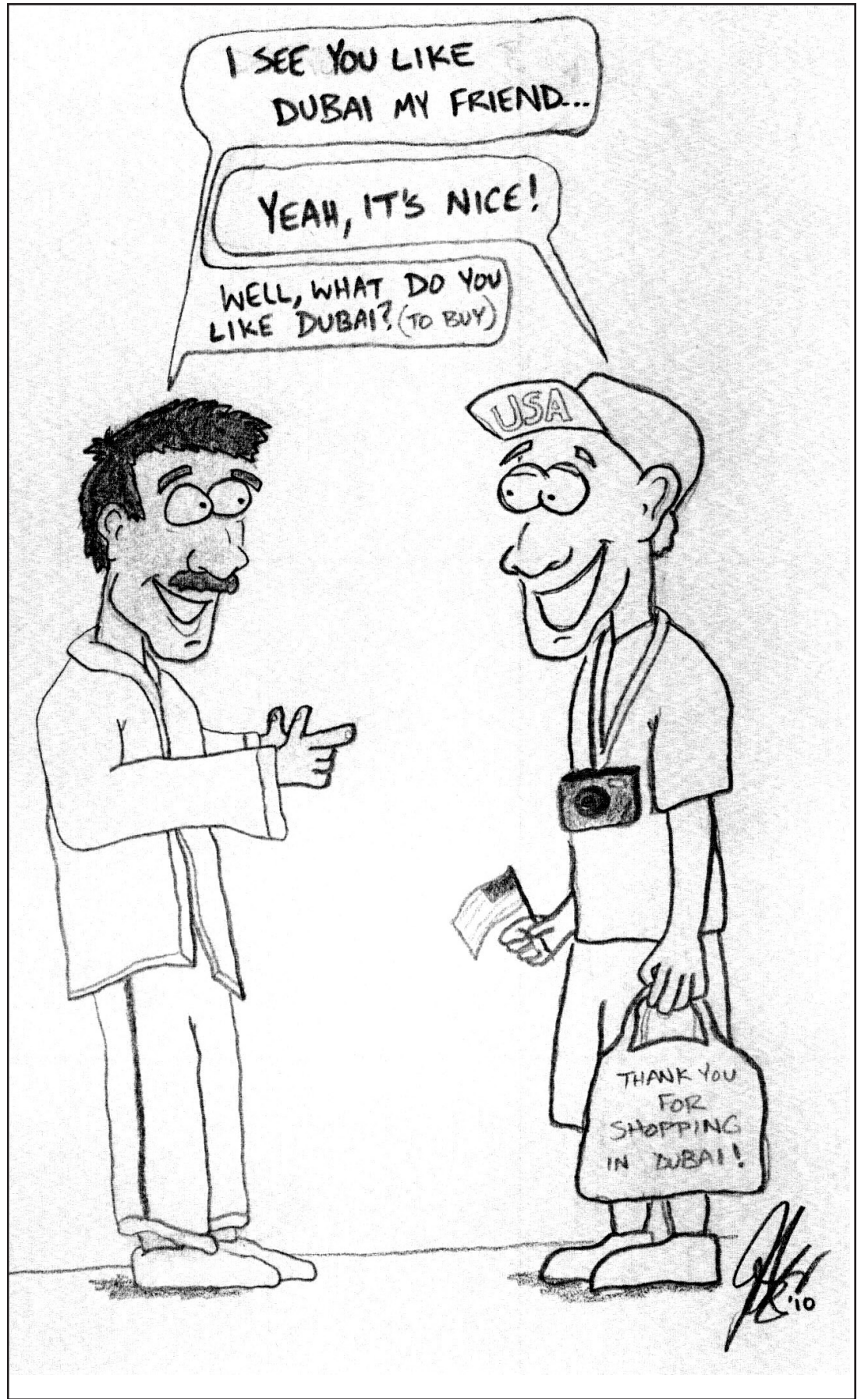
Maybe I am generalizing, but no matter what school of thought you come from, the apparent absence of worry impressed me. If your destiny is in God's hands, you can't do much about it.

However, I don't believe in extremes. I am the first one to resent people who victimize themselves, and I am annoyed with people who try to affect things they have no control over.

The concept of balance seems more important than ever; having experienced both cultures, I can only conclude that we must learn from each other. In the West, we must stop trying to control the uncontrollable.

Occasionally it feels like it is our need of control that causes us to actually lose the same. In the East, they might want to think twice before putting a brick on the gas; I remember reading somewhere that speed kills, so let's not be negligent. We can't escape individual responsibility.

Times are tough, but let's step back and get some perspective on what's going on. What can you do about some things? What can you affect at all? What do you really want to change? Also, remember that there is nothing wrong with riding life in the fast lane. Recession or not, make sure that you control what you can, and it will get better, Insha'Allah.



THE RAMBLER

Founded in 1917 as *The Handout*
Publisher: Harold G. Jeffcoat

Jonathan Resendez, editor-in-chief
Chuck Fain, opinion editor,
arts & entertainment editor
Conner Howell, college life editor,
special projects editor
Joakim Söderbaum, sports editor
Rebecca Moore, photo editor
Rachel Horton, multimedia editor
Kelli Lamers, faculty adviser
Dr. Kay Colley, faculty liaison

Member of the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association, Associated Collegiate Press, Student Press Law Center, College Media Advisers and College Newspaper Business and Advertising Managers.

Opinions expressed in THE RAMBLER are those of the individual authors only and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Texas Wesleyan community as a whole.

RAMBLER Contribution
Please send all news briefs to twurambler@yahoo.com. Submissions due by noon Friday to see brief in the following week's issue.

Letters to the editor: THE RAMBLER, a weekly publication welcomes all letters. All submissions must have a full printed name, phone number and signature. Confidentiality will be granted if requested. While every consideration is made to publish letters, publication is limited by time and space.

The editors reserve the right to edit all submissions for space, grammar, clarity and style. Letters to the editor may be subject to response from editors and students on the opinion page.

"We are not afraid to follow the truth ... wherever it may lead."

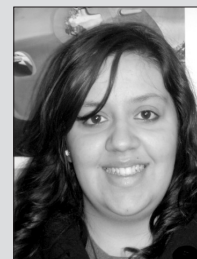
— Thomas Jefferson

Address all correspondence to:
Texas Wesleyan University
THE RAMBLER
1201 Wesleyan St.
Fort Worth, TX 76105
twurambler@yahoo.com
To contact THE RAMBLER
(817) 531-7552
Advertising Inquiries:
(817) 532-7582

Who do you like in the Super Bowl?



Ladedrick Minnifield
Freshman Theater Major
"The Saints, all the way."



Sarahi Salazar
Sophomore Undecided
"Saints, no question."



Parker Fitzgerald
Sophomore Education Major
"If it's not curling, then I don't care. Go Canada!"



Rachel Benham
Freshman Theater Major
"Peyton is the only 'Manning in my life.'"



Johnny Gonzales
Senior Business Major
"Saints, because they've never won a Super Bowl before."