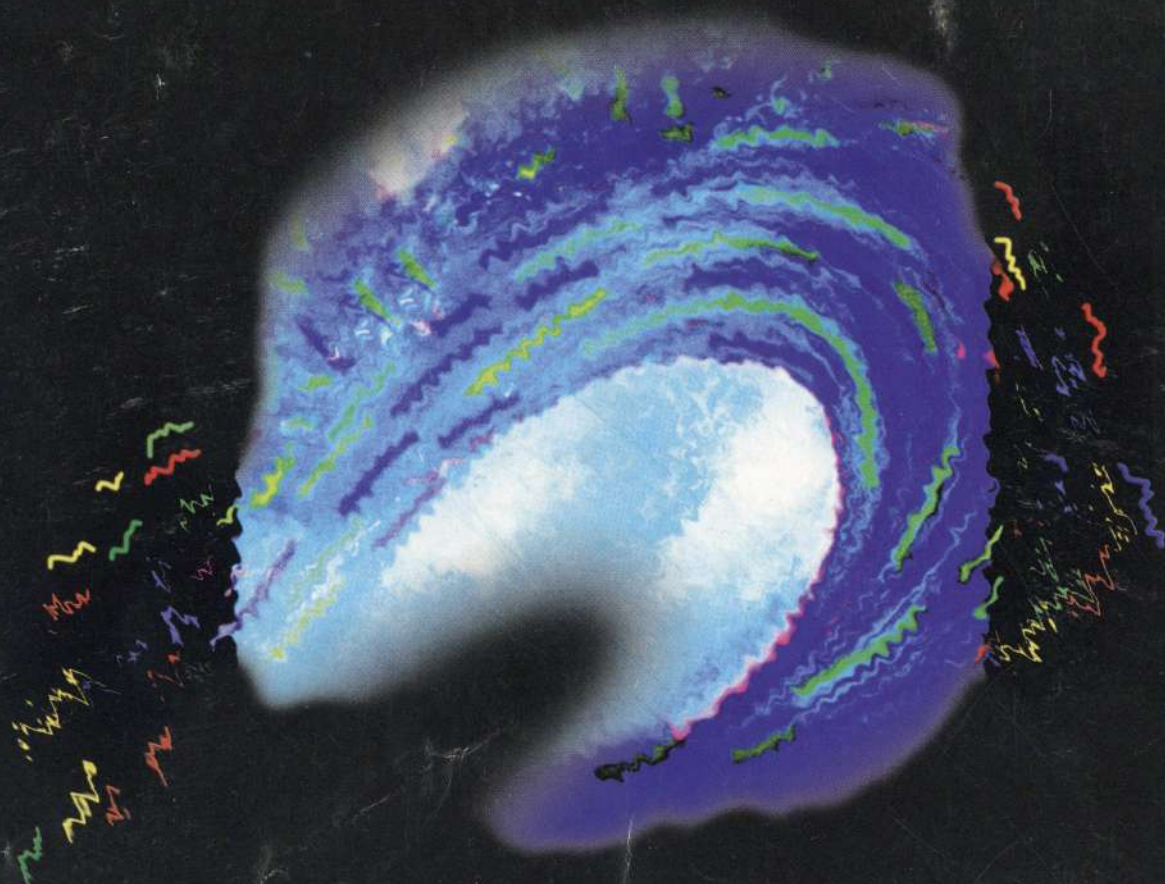


Women's universities stand at a turning point



*The wave of change is surging into
Korean educational field*

THE SUNGSHIN

MIRROR

Article Invited

We welcome readers' articles, essays, photos, and cartoons on any subject that would give collegians food for thought.

Sungshinians and coeds from other colleges are invited to join this opportunity. Selected articles will be duly acknowledged.

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Student Essay

Quality matters more than quantity

Since 1992 when the first night classes in 4 departments were launched, 13 departments with 1120 students now make up Sungshin's Evening School in 1996.

The Evening School boasts two advantages in a broad sense. One is providing workers who want to study with an opportunity to get an education after they leave the office every day, the other is to support the school authorities financially. In this respect, it is true that evening classes are good for both students and the school itself.

The reality is, however,

most night-class Sungshinians are dissatisfied with the managerial policies of school authorities including the curriculum, time schedule and other matters. For example, we are not allowed to attend day-time courses let alone get any credit. In the case of Sookmyung Women's University, contrary to ours, night-class students are qualified to receive 6 credits when they enroll in a minor subject or take a course again. The students of Seoul Women's University can join the day classes going on in the afternoon. I can't understand why our school authorities alone stick to this obsolete way of management. What's your opinion? I'd like to point out one more thing. It is 10:30 p.m. every night when the night classes are over. Imagine the uneasy situation in which students have to rush to the subway station

after school, for fear of missing the subway that takes them home! Other women universities' evening classes are over before 10:00 p.m.

As you know, four evening classes have been newly established this year in proportion to the increasing number of applicants yearly.

It is time that the school authorities should change their idle attitude in order to meet students' expectations.

School authorities should bear in mind that quality matters more than quantity.

Last but not least, a student council is essential for night-class students to guarantee their welfare at the same level with the day-time students. □

The harmony of femininity and masculinity



By Kim Tae-eum
(Senior, Korean Lang. & Lit.)

Have you ever thought deeply about "feminism"?

If you are really interested in "feminism" and have debated on this issue at least once with a man, you'll surely understand why I can call the feminist movement "the struggle against the deaf."

To our surprise, a great number of men still have the foolish notion that "feminism" is just an absurd ideology that stirs up women to throw away her duty of housekeeping and demonstrate against men. Some of them ever seem to think that woman is inferior to man, taking it for granted that men should get many more

chances than women, anytime, anywhere.

The ultimate goal of the feminism movement is neither bestowing more legal rights on women by violating men's rights, nor liberating women from daily housework. Simply put, feminism is a kind of systematic theory which aims at freeing human beings who are subject to one's role determined by one's personality.

Let's imagine that there is a capable woman who is good at taking the lead in a group activity or showing off her extensive knowledge about socio-political issues in a discussion. In that case, most men would be possibly displeased with her self-confident manner and say, "She is not womanlike, is she?" behind her back. I can't understand why women should always follow men with a passive attitude and restrain their feelings. What decides one's sex is,

of course, that sexual chromosome one receives from one's parents, but what influences one's masculinity and femininity depends upon sexual hormones—both male and female hormones are produced in a human's body, as we now know. That explains why every human being has a dual personality—a womanlike and manlike character at the same time.

A few years ago, I read a novel "Orlando" which was written by Virginia Woolf, a famous British writer. Orlando, the main character, is a young boy in the beginning of the story. After a few days in a comatose state, he is unbelievably transformed into a woman. Afterwards, Orlando is shut off from expressing her opinions and even has her property forfeited by the government authorities.

Virginia Woolf intended to describe Orlando as an ideal human being who has both man's rationality and woman's sensibilities, I think. And

she wanted to point out the widespread social atmosphere that ignored and underestimated women at that time.

Feminism is not a tool which a woman monopolizes in order to win in a war against man. If you really want to be treated fairly by someone, you first must try to see other people as they are, without any prejudice.

When we are able to harmonize femininity and masculinity within ourselves, our life will come into bloom in the end.

Now, I'd like to conclude with the final line of Goethe's 'Faust', "the eternal feminine draws us above." □