

THE TORCH

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Phyllis Schlafly is Still Right About Women and Family

By Jennifer Vermeulen, Editor



The conservative editorial magazine *National Review* marked its 70th anniversary with a firebrand essay by Rachel Lu titled “The Rise of a Populist Influencer in the Age of Print Media” in which Ms. Lu attacked the legacy of conservative activist and Eagle Forum founder Phyllis Schlafly, characterizing Schlafly as “mean-spirited and conspiratorial... a true virtuoso of the paranoid style.”

Eagle Forum quickly responded with an editorial titled, “Phyllis Schlafly Still Drives Opponents Mad” by Schlafly’s daughter and Eagle Forum Chairman Anne Schlafly Carpenter, who took up her mother’s defense: “[She] built a movement, which is the evidence of her sincerity. Thousands of women joined her organization, Eagle Forum, calling themselves “Eagles” and working tirelessly in state capitals across the country on behalf of faith, family, and freedom for years. These women, all volunteers, have not given decades of their lives to propaganda. They give their time, talent, and treasure for the truth. They stay loyal not because of manipulation but conviction. If Phyllis Schlafly were a propagandist, she would have been a flash in the pan — and she certainly would not have built a movement that has lasted generations. Propagandists only attract crowds. My mother’s political life spanned 70 years; she built a legacy at Eagle

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Forum which thrives today.”

In the wake of Lu’s article, I found myself revisiting Phyllis Schlafly in her own words, interested to see for myself how her predictions regarding the radical feminist movement had held up over the past 50 years. Schlafly nearly single-handedly defeated the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution, but has society passively permitted radical feminism to achieve their goals in the decades since? It is an important question worth pondering.

To that end, I hope fellow Texas Eagles will take this moment to hear once again from the woman who launched one of the most remarkable movements in American political history, Eagle Forum, and to remind ourselves that society’s alignment - or misalignment - with truth does not negate the truth. The same goes for our personal lives. Truth is eternal and does not care about our feelings, opinions, or preferences. Truth was established by God, the Author of All Truth, for our protection, provision, and prosperity. We ignore it and Him at our peril.

Excerpts from Phyllis Schlafly’s 1972 speech, “What’s Wrong with ‘Equal Rights?’”

Of all the classes of people who ever lived, the American woman is the most privileged, [and] our unique status is the result of a fortunate combination of circumstances.

We have the immense good fortune to live in a civilization which respects the family as the basic unit of society. This respect is part and parcel of our laws and our customs. It is based on the fact of life—which no legislation or agitation can erase—that women have babies and men don’t.

If you don’t like this fundamental difference, you will have to take up your complaint with God because He created us this way. The fact that women, not men, have babies is not the fault of selfish and domineering men, or of the establishment, or of any clique of conspirators who want to oppress women. It’s simply the way God made us.

Judeo-Christian civilization developed the law and custom that, since women must bear the physical consequences of the sex act, men must be required to bear the other consequences and pay in other ways. These... customs decree that a man must carry his share by physical protection and financial support of his children and of the woman who bears his children, and also by a code of behavior which benefits and protects both the woman and the children.

This is accomplished by the institution of the family. Our respect for the family as the basic unit of society, which is ingrained in Judeo-Christian civilization, is the greatest single achievement in the entire history of women’s rights.

The institution of the family is advantageous for women for many reasons. After all, what do we want out of life? To love and be loved? Mankind has not discovered a better nest for a lifetime of reciprocal love. A sense of achievement? A man may search 30 to 40 years for accomplishment in his profession. A woman can enjoy real achievement when she is young—by having a baby. She can have the satisfaction of doing a job well—and being recognized for it. Do we want financial security? We are fortunate to have the great legacy of Moses, the Ten Commandments, especially this one: “Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the land.”

It’s time to set the record straight. The claim that American women are down-trodden and unfairly treated is the fraud of the century.

Children are a woman’s best social security—her best guarantee of social benefits such as old age pension, unemployment compensation, workman’s compensation, and sick leave. The family gives a woman the physical, financial and emotional security of the home—for all her life...

The second reason why American women are a privileged group is that we are the beneficiaries of a tradition of special respect for women which dates from the Christian Age of Chivalry... It is not—as some youthful agitators seem to think—just a matter of opening doors for women, seeing that they are seated first, carrying their bundles, and helping them in and out of automobiles. Such good manners are merely the superficial evidences of a total attitude toward women which expresses itself in many more tangible ways...

[However,] in the last couple of years, a noisy movement has sprung up agitating for “women’s rights.” Suddenly, everywhere we are afflicted with aggressive females on television talk shows yapping about how mistreated American women are, suggesting that marriage has put us in some kind of “slavery,” that housework is menial and degrading, and—perish the thought—that women are discriminated against. New “women’s liberation” organizations are popping up, agitating and demonstrating, serving demands

on public officials, getting wide press coverage always, and purporting to speak for some 100,000,000 American women. It's time to set the record straight. The claim that American women are downtrodden and unfairly treated is the fraud of the century... Why should we lower ourselves to "equal rights" when we already have the status of special privilege?

Modern technology and opportunity have not discovered any nobler or more satisfying or more creative career for a woman than marriage and motherhood.

Many women are under the mistaken impression that "women's lib" means more job employment opportunities for women, equal pay for equal work, appointments of women to high positions, admitting more women to medical schools, and other desirable objectives which all women favor. We all support these purposes, as well as any necessary legislation which would bring them about. But all this is only a sweet syrup which covers the deadly poison masquerading as "women's lib."

The women's libbers are radicals who are waging a total assault on the family, on marriage, and on children. Don't take my word for it—read their own literature and prove to yourself what these characters are trying to do. [You will find their works to be] anti-family, anti-children, and pro-abortion, [and full of] sharp-tongued, high-pitched whining complaints by unmarried women [who view] the wife and mother as a slave... a prisoner in the "solitary confinement" and "isolation" of marriage.

To these women's libbers, marriage means dirty dishes and dirty laundry. [They] actively resent women who want to be wife, mother and homemaker—and who are happy in that role. [Indeed, their principle purpose] is to sow seeds of discontent among happy, married women so that all women can be unhappy in some new sisterhood of frustrated togetherness.

The "women's lib" movement is not an honest effort to secure better jobs for women who want or need to work outside the home. This is just the superficial sweet-talk to win broad support for a radical "movement." Women's lib is a total assault on the role of the American woman as wife and mother, and on the family as the basic unit of society. Women's libbers are trying to make wives and mothers unhappy with their career, make them feel that they are "second-class citizens" and "abject slaves." Women's libbers are promoting free sex instead of the "slavery" of marriage. They are promoting Federal "day-care centers" for babies instead of homes. They are promoting abortions instead of families.

Women's libbers do not speak for the majority of



American women. American women do not want to be liberated from husbands and children. We do not want to trade our birthright of the special privileges of American women—for the mess of pottage called "equal rights." Modern technology and opportunity have not discovered any nobler or more satisfying or more creative career for a woman than marriage and motherhood...

If the women's libbers want to reject marriage and motherhood, it's a free country and that is their choice. But let's not permit these women's libbers to get away with pretending to speak for the rest of us. Let's not permit this tiny minority to degrade the role that most women prefer. Let's not let these women's libbers deprive wives and mothers of the rights we now possess. ...

Source: Phyllis Schlafly Report 5, no. 7 (February 1972)

Image Credits: (Front) Warren K. Leffler / Wikimedia Commons; (Inside upper left) Eagle Forum Archives; (Inside upper right) Ben Olender / Los Angeles Times; (Inside lower right): Gage Skidmore / Flickr



FDA Approves Generic Abortion Pill - On September 30th, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved a generic version of the abortion pill Mifepristone despite continuous calls from pro-life advocates for a serious study of the drug. Pro-life advocates have urged the Administration to conduct a thorough review of the Biden administration's faulty approval process, the underreported harms to women, and the lax standards regarding the administration of the abortion pill. "The FDA's recent decision to approve a generic version of the abortion pill is a life-threatening mistake," Eagle Forum's President Kris Ullman stated. "Because of this action, even more babies will be killed and more women seriously harmed. At a time when the dangers of Mifepristone are at last being studied, to move forward and approve its generic equivalent is madness." In August, 22 state Attorneys General sent a letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., urging him to reinstate safety protocols for the drug because of the high rates of complications to women from taking Mifepristone. The Ethics and Public Policy Center found that 1 in 10 women have experienced life-threatening symptoms after using the abortion pill, including hemorrhaging and infection. The Biden Administration removed important safety protocols, such as requiring in-person visits both before and after women are given Mifepristone, because of the life-threatening complications that can occur. "It is time that HHS takes the dangers to women through the abortion pill seriously," continued Ullman. "Eagle Forum calls on HHS to reinstate all safety protocols on Mifepristone and ultimately revoke the FDA approvals of this drug and its generic versions. Women's and babies' lives are on the line." SOURCE: Eagle Forum Press Release, EagleForum.org, October 3, 2025.

What the Media Aren't Telling You About SCOTUS 'Gay Marriage'

- By now, you've probably seen the giddy headlines from America's propaganda media about the U.S. Supreme Court declining to take up a case that sought to overturn so-called "gay marriage." This "breaking news" is in response to an order list published by the Supreme Court on Monday detailing which cases it will and will not be taking up during its ongoing 2025-2026 term. Among those the court declined to consider is a case (Davis v. Ermold) involving former Rowan County, Kentucky, clerk Kim Davis. Davis' legal troubles began following the Supreme Court's 2015 Obergefell v. Hodges decision that opened the door for so-called "gay marriage" in America. Davis "was the first victim jailed, sued, and held personally liable post-Obergefell for her sincerely held religious beliefs on marriage," according to Liberty Counsel — the Christian group representing Davis. While it's true that Davis' petition to SCOTUS asked the justices to consider whether Obergefell should be overturned, there were many more prominent factors central to her case that made it highly unlikely the court would use it as a vehicle to revisit its ill-fated 2015 decision. The question of overturning so-called "gay marriage," however, was never the central issue at play. Rather, it was a tort liability issue. It's entirely possible a more direct legal challenge to the Supreme Court's horrific Obergefell ruling could make its way before the justices in the years to come. But to portray the high court's rejection of Davis' case as a massive win for "gay marriage" and "LGBT rights," as the media have done, is totally dishonest. SOURCE: Shawn Fleetwood, TheFederalist.com, November 11, 2025.

GREAT AMERICAN QUOTE

"The life of the nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful, and virtuous."

- Frederick Douglass

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The family has always been the cornerstone of American society. Our families nurture, preserve, and pass on to each succeeding generation the values we share and cherish, values that are the foundation of our freedoms."

- Ronald Reagan

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