Conservative Women Speak for Themselves

BY: Tylla Bradley

With the advent of more and more prominent conservative females running for office, Michelle Easton of the Clare Booth Luce Policy Institute noted that no longer do feminist leaders speak for American women. With the changing political landscape, more and more conservative women like Sarah Palin and Michelle Bachmann have stepped forward to let their voices be heard on key political issues. "One of the things the left figured out long ago was how important women are to winning the policy debates," Easton said during her remarks at the Young America's Foundation National Conservative Student Conference.

Although conservative women who dare to stand up and speak about their views are often the targets of vicious attacks by their political and ideological opponents. Easton urged her audience not to be discouraged, "The left was fit to be tied and their attacks [on Sarah Palin] continue through the summer, through the election, and they continue today. . . These folks [the Left] just hate to see a strong conservative woman doing so well."

Conservative women must remember that as they speak about the issues and values that are important to them, they also undermine the legitimacy and credibility of traditional feminist leaders such as Gloria Steinem. "When these women's ideas are dismissed, too many begin playing gender blame games." Eason gives Hillary Clinton's loss of the Democratic presidential candidacy to Barack Obama one example of this reaction. "She didn't lose to Obama because she was a woman, they just liked him better. . . This manipulation of womanhood is often used to cover up and make excuses for feminist failings."

Easton notes that their criticisms of conservative women reveal that feminists truly believe that "you can't be an articulate conservative and also be a real woman." She continued by pointing out the incredible hypocrisy that is consistently inculcated by the feminist movement such as the reverse discrimination perpetuated by the often promoted "Take Your Daughter to Work Day," incredibly flawed and falsified studies that promote gender discrimination, and their support of President Clinton to the detriment of the female staffers and interns he was accused of harassing.

Although she was quick to criticize the feminist ideology, Easton did take the time to distinguish between gender feminists or as she called it, "the Hilliary Clinton approach, 'let government be your man," and equity feminists, who believe, like Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, in basic equality under the law regardless of gender.

While feminists are quick to promote roles models that are illustrative of their aggressive political agenda, the Clare Booth Luce Policy Institute also promotes women to illustrate the conservative qualities that they support. They produce the annual Great American Conservative Women calendar which includes female conservatives such as Regnery president, Marji Ross, former Miss America candidate, Carrie Prejean, and noted political commentator, Ann Coulter.

She concluded her comments by stating, "The truth is, Conservatives have never thought our major women leaders as some form of a minority. . . they're just great leaders. But at the institute, we believe that if we fail to highlight these and other individuals it allows the left, these radical feminists, to supplant them with far less significant role models. "