

The Life and Times of J.D. Salinger

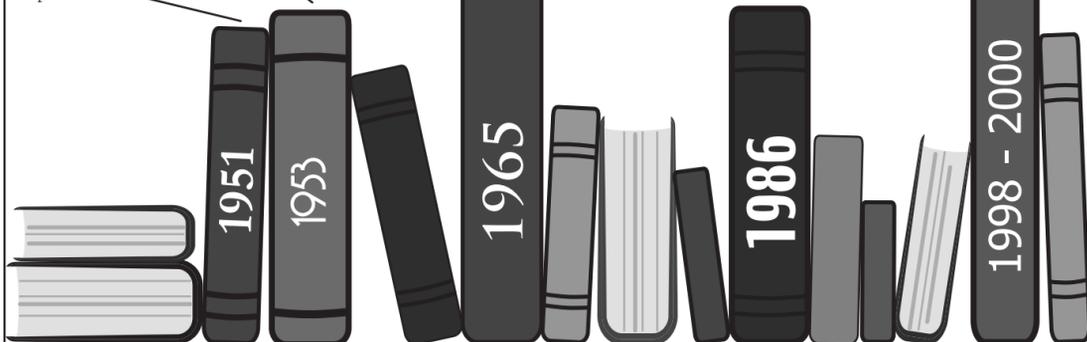
"Nine Stories," a well-known collection of short stories, was published. Salinger subsequently moved from Manhattan, N.Y. to Cornish, N.H.

The short story "Hapworth 16, 1924," was the last of Salinger's work to appear in print.

A former lover, Joyce Maynard, and Salinger's daughter, Margaret, publish memoirs concerning Salinger.

Salinger sued literary critic Ian Hamilton for writing an unauthorized biography.

"The Catcher in the Rye" was published.



Maintain Salinger's mystique



John Riti

All phonies and suffocating adults, beware — there's a possibility the beloved story of Holden Caulfield might not be finished just yet.

A new story told from the perspective of the famous protagonist from the classic 1951 novel "The Catcher in the Rye" by J.D. Salinger might soon be released, according to a Sept. 3 Guardian article. The J.D. Salinger Literary Trust has five never-before-published works by the famously reclusive author and plans to publish them between 2015 and 2020, according to the Guardian article. The literary estate, controlled by Salinger's wife and son, claims Salinger himself approved the Holden Caulfield story and four other short works for publishing before his death during 2010, according to the article.

As much as I want to devour anything Salinger wrote, I think readers might be better off not knowing the fate of beloved characters such as Holden.

If you're not an English major or a book nerd, I'll give you some background info. "The Catcher in the Rye," for most, is the quintessential adolescent novel. Holden's distinct voice has become synonymous with teenage rebellion, and the novel resonates with readers because of its themes of identity, alienation and finding meaning in life. Holden is an icon of American literature, and rightfully so. It's understandable why this news has received such hype and anticipation throughout the literary community.

Still, I can't help but worry about the nature of the intentions behind releasing new material from Salinger. The fact that Salinger's immediate family is at the helm of his estate eases my concerns somewhat. Yet for an author who was so adamant with his reclusiveness and intentionally never published anything more during his lifetime, I find myself wondering if this is a money-making scheme — the book undoubtedly would sell very well — or if it's truly about artistic integrity. As Holden might say, it just seems "phony" to me.

Additionally, despite the excitement that surrounds the release of new material, we run the risk that our adored vision of beloved icons such as Holden will be tampered with or even diminished. For works we idolize and care deeply about, especially literary ones, sometimes we're better off not having every single loose end tied. Often, the beauty of the work lies in the openness of its ending. A major part of our fascination and affection for Holden is he's immortalized in this singular and mysterious work. We don't know exactly what happened to him or what other adventures he had, which makes the possibilities more wondrously open in our minds.

I don't think it's worth the risk to lose this fascination and wonderment for a character in what potentially could just be an overhyped publicity stunt.

But you might not see where I'm coming from if you don't love the book as much as I do. Imagine if 40 years from now J.K. Rowling were to publish a book featuring characters from the Harry Potter series. I would probably detest them. As another example, what good came of adding new films to the "Star Wars" series? These characters are classic, timeless and stand on their own. Sometimes they need to remain untouched.

We'll see if these works by Salinger ever reach the public eye. Perhaps my worries will prove pointless and a new Holden Caulfield story only will reaffirm my love for his character. For now, however, I still want to keep intact the image of Holden impressed in my mind when I was a teenage reader, that of a rebellious and angst-ridden teenager whose voice completely resonated with me. While full closure can be tempting, we also can derive joy by leaving some things to the imagination.

John Riti is a senior English major from St. Louis, Mo.

Discard the label "feminist"



Sarah Muir

After much thought, I've decided to stop using the "F" word. Yep, that "F" word — feminism. It's time to stop using that word, as it only radicalizes and polarizes the issue of gender equality.

Merriam-Webster's Dictionary defines feminism as "the theory of the political, economic, and social equality of the sexes." This is the definition I am referring to when I say we need to abandon the word. This has nothing to do with using the word in reference to academic feminist theory or other forms of feminism, like radical feminism, which is an entirely acceptable use of the word.

However, giving supporters of gender equality their own term implies to me believing in gender equality somehow is radical, outside the norm.

There is a stigma associated with the word that prevents many people, who would be considered a feminist by

definition, from proclaiming themselves as such. Only 20 percent of Americans identified themselves as feminists as part of a poll published April 16 by Huffington Post. However, when they were asked if they supported equality of the sexes — the definition of feminism — according to the Huffington Post article, 82 percent said yes.

This poll illustrates how the word "feminism" is stigmatized enough to push people away from the concept. Others have noticed this trend and call for the opposite of eliminating the word.

According to Washington Post columnist Suzi Parker, people who believe in gender equality should take back the word from people who try to use it as an insult.

Similarly, according to Harvard Political Review columnist Johanna Lee, more people who believe in gender equality should declare themselves feminists to help break the stigma.

An argument for reclaiming the word "feminist" misses the point. Why cling to a word only 20 percent of Americans identify with when 82 percent of Americans already identify with the cause? The reality of the situation is far more important than the semantics — especially when the semantics drive people away from the issue.

Imagine an advertising company found out consumers negatively responded to a certain buzzword, but kept using that

word in advertisements for the sake of principle. That seems illogical and yet that is what's happening when people insist on using the label "feminist."

People who support gender equality don't need to use the label "feminist." There is no word to describe people who are not racist. It simply is assumed the average person today is not racist. They don't have to go around declaring their support for racial equality — it's assumed until proven otherwise. On the flip side, if a person doesn't support racial equality, society applies a negative label to them — they are considered a racist.

Changing the way we talk about something can change the norm. This is the model supporters of gender equality should adopt. Instead of using a word that stigmatizes supporters of gender equality, we should use a word that stigmatizes not supporting gender equality — sexist. Suddenly supporters of gender equality are the average people and sexist people are the ones who are different. This is infinitely more useful to the cause of gender equality because it switches what is considered the norm.

Sarah Muir is a sophomore political science major from Lee's Summit, Mo.

What does the word "feminist" mean to you?

"Someone for female rights and the empowerment of women."

Jeff Pircher
Junior



"There's a negative connotation ... [but it is] people who believe that women can not only compete on equal standards with men ... but also surpass them."

Brittany Thompson
Senior



"Someone who is up on issues women face in this day and age and is concerned about them."

Erin Biddle
Junior



"I think it has a negative connotation. But it means the right to empower women and moving toward that goal."

Molly Kinder
Junior



AROUND THE QUAD

Advice for easy exercise and healthy living



Mackenzie McDermott

The "freshman 15" is real. Many people told me I would have tons of free time when I went to college. While theoretically true, this statement also is misleading. Sure, some days I might only be in class for two to three hours and only have an hour or so of homework. But between classes, school work, a scholarship job and another part-time job on the side, there never seems to be time to hit the gym.

Even if I manage to get my

long list of work for the day done by 6 or 7 p.m., the gym sounds like the worst thing in the universe while Cheetos, Netflix and my bed are absolute heaven.

It's easy to fall into the class-work-sleep cycle, and I know from experience it's tough to break, but ultimately maintaining a healthy lifestyle will give you more energy to get through the long days.

There are plenty of ways to incorporate healthy living as part of your everyday routine without carving out gym time. Walking or biking to class everyday is a simple but effective way to get yourself into better shape and promote a healthy style of living — especially if you have to get up the hill from Barnett Hall to Pershing Building on your bike every day.

As a self-diagnosed television addict, I understand there are days when all you want to do is go home and relax with your favorite show. An easy way to throw abdo-

men workouts into your routine is to do crunches or leg lifts while watching your show. The commercials of Pretty Little Liars or The Walking Dead are my preferred times for exercise. I kill two birds with one stone, getting my TV fix while becoming healthier.

If you prefer to work out at a gym, the Student Recreation Center is a great resource for students who live on and off campus. They offer fun classes like hip-hop abs and yoga while also offering many machines for all kinds of workouts. Mustering the motivation to go running on the track or an elliptical, however, can be difficult. Shooting hoops with friends or getting a game of volleyball together is a lot more inviting, and you can work out just as hard without even thinking about it.

"I never really have the energy to go to the Rec by myself," sophomore Meagan Banta-Lewis said. "But I'm a lot more likely to

go when a friend drags me for a game of basketball."

Getting involved with intramural sports is another great way to stay healthy. Playing soccer, basketball or any other sport is high-intensity exercise without the dread of going for a run. Freshman Laura Chamberlain said she uses intramurals as a chance to meet people, get some exercise and have a good time.

"I played intramural basketball last year and it's a lot of fun," Chamberlain said. "You don't really notice that you're getting a workout until the game is over and you just want to go to sleep."

The biggest culprits of the unhealthy lifestyle that come with college living are Ramen noodles, Chef Boyardee, Spaghettios and a number of other tasty, dirt-cheap and fattening processed foods. It's hard to eat a balanced diet, especially for those living off campus without meal plans. There are

cheap alternatives to the temptations, though. A bowl of oatmeal has half the fat of a package of Ramen, is about as cheap and will keep you full much longer. Replacing expensive, empty-calorie chips like Doritos with carrots or cucumbers gives you the crunchy, tasty snack you crave without all the fat.

College living can allow for much more free time than high school, but it also is a lot more work. Because of this, staying healthy is a difficult task. However, if you manage to include mild workouts with your relaxation time and stay away from too many fatty foods, you should be able to fend off, or start to lose, the "freshman 15."

Mackenzie McDermott is a sophomore English major from Springfield, Ill.