

# THE NEW FEMINIST

P.O. Box 597, Station "A", Toronto 116, Ontario, Canada. Offices: 67 Huntley Street, Toronto 285

VOL. 2; NO. 1.  
January, 1971.

1971 - EDITORIAL

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FOR MEN ONLY

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Magazine Committee:

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Davisville Avenue, Toronto

THE message and philosophy of Feminism is growing in strength. Its further growth is inevitable. It will permeate and radically change our whole society.

WE anticipate that 1971 will be a year of growth for New Feminists. We hope to actualize even more, in the coming year, our fundamental belief in every woman and her right to freedom. A broadening of our horizons to encompass the needs of each individual woman interested in her own liberation, will be our goal. Our new headquarters will be open to all women who are looking for their share of space to live and grow in. It is hoped that women will use the headquarters as a place to drop in. Initially, some will find refuge, a comfortable spot to escape the ugliness of the outside world. This is important, but it is not enough. We must continue to grow and never stop growing - as individuals, as a feminist group, and as part of the world-wide Women's Liberation Movement. We must remember that there can be no stopping short of a revolutionary re-structuring of all of our society.

THERE will be increased freedom for each of us to do our own thing in the way we choose, within the context of the objectives of radical feminism. Efforts will be made to facilitate each woman's involvement in the areas of the greatest interest to her as well as to facilitate cell formation and mobility between cells. The small consciousness-raising cell will continue to be emphasized as the most effective route to an awareness of the political nature of The Movement.

IT is very important that we all share in the work which has to be done. In the past, some few women have been left to do most of the work. They have felt "used". Being "used" and exploited by a male-supremacist society is what brought us to Feminism. Each member must be sufficiently committed to give first priority to the work of our group and The Movement in general.

OTHER women have felt a strong pressure from their sisters to conform immediately and unswervingly to the views of more vocal members.

WE must be aware that in her effort to free herself from oppression by men, it is very unhealthy for a woman to feel oppressed by other women. It is equally unhealthy for a woman to take on the role of the oppressor of women. Constant vigilance is necessary if we are to avoid the danger of doing to each other what has been done to us by men.

SHARING the work, in sisterhood and mutual respect, will strengthen each of us and our group. Volunteers are needed to staff the headquarters: doing office work and answering the telephone, to work in the library and to contribute to the production of our magazine. More women must submit articles, book reviews, news items, graffiti, cartoons etc., if our magazine is to be truly the voice of women speaking out against their oppression.

THE purposes of Feminism as we see it are, firstly, to improve one's self concept in order to become self-sufficient in all ways, secondly, to share this ideal with other women and build a common feeling of regard for one another and true sisterhood and, thirdly, to develop a broad-based movement with the objective of radically changing the oppressive sexist society in which we live.

MENTAL HEALTH IS FOR MEN ONLY

"IF THE STEREOTYPED BEHAVIOUR OF THE 'NORMAL' WOMAN WERE EXHIBITED BY A MAN HE'D BE CONSIDERED MENTALLY ILL!" from Women's Heritage Calendar and Almanac

A research group at Worcester State Hospital requested a group of clinicians to answer a questionnaire which consisted of 122 behaviour traits dealing with such things as degrees of dependence, conceit, objectivity, aggressiveness, competitiveness, etc.,. Each clinician was asked to select the degree of each listed trait which he would expect to find in a healthy, mature and socially competent

- (1) adult of unspecified sex
- (2) man
- (3) woman.

A high correlation was found to exist between what clinicians consider to be healthy for adults of unspecified sex and what they consider healthy for men;

A low correlation was found between healthy adults of unspecified sex and "healthy" women.

REVEALING!!!!!!



## A GAY ALTERNATIVE

Being an only child born of well-educated and financially well-off parents I was very nicely provided for, encouraged to make the most of my abilities, and am now a professional musician. I was "straight" until two years ago when, at the age of twenty-five, I met my mate. From Junior High School I had found myself becoming emotionally attracted to other females, but being attracted to males at the same time. I thought little of this and channelled my activities in the socially approved direction.

In my senior year of College everyone was becoming engaged and I also became engaged to a very popular, talented and respected young man; these were some of the qualities by which I picked my boyfriends. My fiancé wanted to get married upon graduation but it became apparent that my musical talent made him very uneasy as he had to feel that he was the "big shot" in every way. So when I received notice that I had been awarded a teaching assistantship for graduate studies at a university having one of the finest music programs in the country, I chose to pursue my career rather than my "love".

While in Graduate School I "fell in love" with a very talented pianist. This, again, was not an equal relationship. In fact, being slightly older than he, I was a "mother image" and was needed as a combination shit-can, psychiatrist and ego-booster. My own talents consequently took a back seat and, after six months of going between Heaven and Hell, depending upon his moods, I decided to leave the scene. I taught music in the Public School system for one year before deciding I'd like to try something that would offer perhaps less security but certainly, more excitement - the life of an orchestral musician.

It was on my first orchestral job that I met my mate. I did not "fall in love" with her, but grew to love her (by which I mean "care" for her rather than the irrational, romantic state of "moonlight and roses") and this - for the first time in my life - was the kind of relationship that enabled each of us to make the most of our talents and individual personalities instead of one blocking the other. This was extremely important. Also, quite frankly, I enjoyed the warmth, compassion and sensitivity of another woman. These qualities, because of the designated roles which society places upon us from birth, are seldom found in men.

I agree with Norman Pittenger in his book, "Time for Consent", when he says that he sees a human being as a dynamic personality much more on the way to becoming herself (or himself) rather than an actualized self in the full and complete self. Thus she (or he) is always understood as moving towards the goal and open to the possibilities which conspire to promote such actualization. He therefore asks, "Does this or that relationship, whatever it is, contribute in its own proper way to the movement of these persons towards the attainment of their subjective aims?"

I wish to thank my non-Lesbian sisters in the Feminist Movement for being understanding and supportive. Men often throw out the line that all the women in Women's Liberation groups are a "bunch of Lesbians". This is a tactic used to keep women apart through the horror of being labelled, "a Lesbian". So, what is a Lesbian? She is a woman who is intellectually, emotionally and physically attracted to other women and who has sexual relations with them as

one means of expressing the foregoing attractions. "But that is UN-NATURAL!", some people will say. Considering the inhumanity in this world, it is hard to talk of what is NATURAL or UN-NATURAL. In homosexual practices there is nothing being done that cannot or is not being done in straight relationships. The only difference is that it's being done by two women, or by two men, instead of by one woman and one man.

I would also like to add that it is a shame that many straight women, once they find out that someone is a Lesbian, think they are going to be raped on the spot. This is just as ridiculous as thinking a straight woman is out to rape every man she sees. I am as much against a woman - and some do - talking about another woman in purely physical terms (e.g., "She's really stacked") as I am against a man talking about a woman in this way. Rather, the relationship should be one of caring and of tenderness so that there is no "using" present. There must be no element of coercion, undue pressure or imposed restraint which might deny the freedom of the individuals involved.

Some Feminists worry that the role-playing ("Butch" and "Fem") found in Lesbian relationships is a hindrance to The Movement. Although there is no doubt that these roles can be played out to the fullest extent - as in straight relationships - among couples I have known, the Butch differs mostly in physical appearance (clothes, hair-style, etc.,) and in physical sexual aggressiveness. In every other way (including housework), the two may share an equal relationship and, in fact, the Fem may even be more dominant in other spheres.

It is questionable whether or not, in any relationship between people, one person is not "naturally" dominant in some ways and subordinate in others. At least in a Gay relationship this is not determined by one's sex. And, contrary to popular belief, it is not solely based upon one's physique (for I have known some very petite Butches) but, rather, upon one's mental attitude. In other words, whoever wants to be a Butch can be a Butch, and whoever wants to be a Fem can be a Fem. Such freedom of choice is not found in the realm of straight relationships. In addition, it is sometimes said that in Gay circles people switch back and forth between being Butch or being Fem so often that it is hard to keep up with them. This is because many change their roles according to the individual relationship. Lastly, especially among the more highly educated and professional types of Gay people, there are relationships where people have been able to do away with the crutch of role-playing altogether.

I am not advocating that all women become Lesbians. Every alternative has sacrifices attached and this one is no different. Indeed, owing to the misunderstanding and actual cruelty of some people, a Lesbian must take pains to hide this part of her life or be subject to blackmail, loss of her job, loss of her friends, etc., Also, because of the roles society places upon women from birth, Lesbian couples are doubly discriminated against - educationally, politically, economically, socially. Remember that it is MEN who control all institutions of society. One can hardly avoid dealing with them and Lesbians are an extreme threat to their ego - to be stamped out if they can be located. It is for these reasons that I dare not sign my name to this article. I am not ashamed, only realistic!

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Over and over we hear ministers, priests, sociologists, psychologists, physicians and countless non-experts rant and rave about the terrible damage that guilt about sex has done in our society. I would not deny that this is true. But I am becoming aware that there is a trait far more entrenched, far more difficult to rout, far more dangerous for women. It is the all-powerful sense of duty.

In our society a man's duty is to work, to make money. A woman's duty is to be a "good woman" - as defined by men.

An unemployed man is often filled with guilt and shame. But a woman who does not conform, does not present herself as being devoted to her (future) husband, family, not only feels vaguely guilty, she is probably terrified; no-one will marry her, and if she doesn't marry, she is a freak.

And how many women, once entrapped, have been able to admit their misery? Or once having identified the problem, how many will keep quiet, for fear of losing what little security and social approval they have, and be acquiescent?

Quite recently I've learnt of two marriages of long-standing which are crumbling, or have fallen. In each case, the people are in their 40's or 50's. In each case there are children. In each case one of the two is a good friend of mine - which is how I came to know of the situations.

Let's take the first case: E & C have three children, the last in High School. After years of what I call gross inconsideration, but perfectly appropriate according to society, C has left his wife. A truly kind and liberal man, he fights for Black rights, admires and respects intelligent people of both

sexes --- until he walks through his own doorway.

His wife is a beautiful, active, happy woman who has been without discernible fault. Faithful sexually, she has made great sacrifices for his work, loves doing things for the children, is active in her community, holds the odd part-time job. Suddenly, at age 50, she's only a wife. Suddenly, at age 50, he finds he doesn't want to live with her. (How did he manage for 20 years?) Yet she is exactly what he and society demanded that she be. He would not have married her had he not thought she would have been a "good wife". She would not have married him if she thought that this was not really what he wanted.

And where does she go from here?

At 50 he is attractive, virile, at the peak of his career, and already living with a young co-ed. At 50, society says she should be heading for the rocking chair. How can she reassure herself of her worth considering that this has been defined totally by her attraction to men?

In the other case, the situation is much the same. After 20 years of marriage, M suddenly finds that W is not the kind of woman he can live with. He has changed - not her. He did not wake up to discover she was a prostitute on the side, or a communist, or a feminist. He just realized she was exactly as he'd expected and demanded she should be. Now he wants something else. He wants a change. He thinks things should be different, after all these years, because his needs have changed. Her needs, however, are exactly the same. But that makes no difference, nor is it important for her to change for the sake of her own happiness.

I know of other cases in which the woman wants to leave the man, but will not, for one or more reasons:

- The children. (This is not a reason to be taken lightly)
- The opinions of others.
- The fear of being alone. (So god-awful real in our society)

- Economic reasons - how many 40-year old women can walk into a \$100 a week job? Or a \$70 a week job? Or a job?
- the often insurmountable task of breaking a comfortable (in some ways) 20-year habit pattern, and a 40-50 year pattern of thinking.

This woman is trapped. No matter what she does, she will lose. At least the middle-class man has a carefully nurtured career, and probably a core of friends. Her friends are probably the wives of his friends. If she walks out on him she won't even get that great guilt-appeaser, alimony.

Probably neither of these people are to blame for what they have done. Both have fulfilled society's expectations. Both have been true to their duty up to a point. But the woman gets screwed, because her duty to society is in complete contradiction to her duty to herself as a human being; to provide herself with her own life, provide herself with her own future, see herself as the only person she can count on all her life long.

We must begin to retrain ourselves to believe that our first duty is to ourselves ---- and fuck society!

#### I, BITCH - Carol Hennessey

Carol Hennessey is a true revolutionary who suggests we put down our hand-scrawled placards and our mimeographed newsletters, stop identifying with men by dress and start sabotaging in any way we can.

#### REVOLT OF THE SECOND SEX - Julie Ellis

A handbook of U.S. Women's Liberation groups with information on where they are, what they publish, what they've done, where they're at!

#### BOOK REVIEWS \*\*\*\*\*

#### REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN CANADA

It took three years and seven months to create this sensational story of what it's like to be a woman in a rugged, vast land where men have total power over the female sex. A country of men who will not allow their women anything more than an existence of slavery - where women are aliens and where men worship their own likeness. These are men who use sexuality like a merciless sword to sadistically enslave one half of the population.

The author has shown us once again that such an unbelievable idea in his hands mesmerizes our senses - we shriek aloud, IT IS TRUE! All the stories of slavery which he has written in the past do not compare in scope with this masterful plot.

Never before has the author drawn for us such a horrifyingly realistic story of savage and brutal terror at work in the minds of men.

Queen's Printer - \$4.50.

#### THE FEMALE EUNUCH - Germaine Greer

A book on human conditioning by an Australian author.

#### THE DIALECTIC OF SEX - Shulamith Firestone

By a member of Redstockings, the first few chapters of this book cover a history of Feminism - the rest deals with radical Feminism, male/female relationships, childhood and (not omitting) Freud.



# TALKING BACK

by Dorothy



"To reason politely with men, trying to cure their ignorance, implies either that the truth of our oppression rests on male verification, or that its solution depends on male co-operation. Both alternatives, I believe, are false and action based on them only demeans us." Ann Lefler

MALE CHAUVINIST: "Why don't you feminists get involved in something more important?"

FEMINIST: "Nothing is."

- M.C. "Why don't you get interested in pollution; that's serious."  
Fem. "Men have polluted the environment and they have polluted women too."
- M.C. "Why would a sweet young thing want to get mixed up in this man's world?"  
Fem. "Like, man, did I hear you say 'thing'?"
- M.C. "There are five broads in my office, two are groovy chicks, but the other three are dogs."  
Fem. "Women are real neat people."
- M.C. "I like mine well stacked and a little stupid."  
Fem. "Try the inflatable plastic model, man. She's just your type."
- M.C. "You shoulda seen the piece of ass I had last night."  
Fem. "Your ugliness is exceeded only by your lies."
- M.C. "She had knockers like you wouldn't believe."  
Fem. "The degradation of women by men manifests itself in two other important ways: the kind of work women do and what they are paid for it."
- M.C. "A guy just naturally wants to play around, but chicks are monogamous."  
Fem. "For starters, who are you playing around with?"
- M.C. "I always treat nice broads with respect."  
Fem. "I thank you; my sister thanks you; my mother thanks you; my daughter thanks you; my sick friend thanks you; all women thank you; thanks a lot! SHIT!"
- M.C. "How would you broads like it if you didn't have men?"  
Fem. "If there were no men there would be no sluts, no prostitutes, no whores, no bitches, no hustlers, no hookers, no tramps, no lays, no action, no chicks, no birds, no broads, no dolls, no dames, no dogs,

no ball-breakers; there would just be people with different personalities, talents and potentials. Women would no longer be defined by how they fulfill or do not fulfill your miniscule sex needs. Men are so creative! Who needs it? Maybe women could begin to create themselves."

M.C. "I can buy it any time I want it."

Fem. "Bread for bed. I almost feel sorry for you."

M.C. "Well, some broads are just tramps, you gotta agree. They deserve what they get."

Fem. "What do they get? You?"

M.C. "Why should I buy a cow, when I can get all the milk I want free?"

Fem. "What the world needs now is love, sweet love."

M.C. "If a broad gets knocked up, a guy should deny everything."

Fem. "Situation Normal ALL Fucked Up."

M.C. "Birth control is a girl's business."

Fem. "That tells me a lot about you."

M.C. "That's the way the world is, you have to pay for your sins."

Fem. "Who sinned? Who pays? Is a baby a punishment?"

M.C. "Abortion is murder."

Fem. "Then your sin is worse."

M.C. "Giving birth is the glorification of womanhood."

Fem. "Childbirth is not groovy."

M.C. "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."

Fem. "Now it's rocking the boat."

M.C. "But you can't have babies without men."

Fem. "Have you heard the latest from the lab?"

M.C. "You women want to grow babies in test tubes."

Fem. "Who's doing that research?"

M.C. "Children need mothers."

Fem. "Children are so beautiful; they deserve a lot more."

M.C. "Who will look after the children?"

Fem. "If you won't help we'll do it alone."

M.C. "It will be like 1984."

Fem. "Yes, that's why we think something has to be done now."

M.C. "What do you want personally?"

Fem. "I want to be me."

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## PLASTIC MAN

by Sara Bellum

Somebody ought to invent a do-it-yourself kit,  
An inflatable plastic man complete with cock  
at 98.6F

for those of us who find ourselves  
rocking alone.

Think of the detail that could be  
accomplished with these new plastic life-like materials!  
Make it

with detachable parts  
with or without foreskin  
with a sense of realistic weight.

Infinitely preferable to the real-live stinking male  
with all his bloody complications,  
And if you ever got fed up with him  
just stick him with a pin  
and watch him shrivel up, instant old.

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### NEW FEMINISTS - COMMUNICATIONS

Thanks to Maryon Kantaroff, our new headquarters is at 43 Davisville Avenue  
(two minutes walk east from the Davisville subway station).

The last two months have been busy ones and The Media has been full of our  
news. First it was Ontario's Equal Employment Opportunity Act (which forbids  
discrimination because of sex or marital status) and then, on December 7, 1970  
the Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada was tabled  
in Ottawa.

Maryon Kantaroff had the opening of her sculpture show at the Gallery Dresdnere  
covered as a Feminist happening in the Star's society pages and also spoke to  
various groups - Jewish Women's Congress, University of Toronto Art School -  
with Marina Evans at the Earl Haig School - with Dorothy Curzon at the Bank of  
Nova Scotia Accountants' Club. Other speaking engagements have been the Rich-  
mond Hill High School (Dorothy and Marina), a group of Rangers (Marina and  
Sherrill Cheda) a Unitarian Church Fellowship (Marina and Sherrill) and two  
school engagements by Judith Masters and Iris Wilkinson.

On December 8, 1970 Bonnie Kreps was quoted extensively in the Globe & Mail  
as to her views on the Status of Women Report. Aline Gregory, and Lita-Rose  
Betcherman of the Ont. Dept. of Labour's Women's Bureau, were interviewed by  
Barbara Frumm on C.B.L. T.V.'s "Weekday" on the same day for their views on  
the Report. Sherrill was also interviewed on the same day by C.T.V. News.  
Sherrill also had a radio interview, and an hour-long panel appearance for  
the Rick Campbell Show. C.B.L.'s "Weekday" interviewed Sherrill on New Year's  
Eve for a forecast on women in the year 2000.....Right on into 1971.

# ABORTION CAMPAIGN

The February 13 ABORTION CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE is organizing a confrontation in Ottawa on February 13, 1971. This action is a follow-up of the 1970 ABORTION CARAVAN and is making the same demands - REPEAL OF ALL REFERENCE TO ABORTION FROM THE CRIMINAL CODE OF CANADA and ABORTION ON DEMAND. The Committee recognizes that the Report on the Status of Women made two recommendations on the matter of abortion, given below:

"242. Therefore, we recommend that the Criminal Code be amended to permit abortion by a qualified medical practitioner on the sole request of any woman who has been pregnant for 12 weeks or less.

"243. Further, we recommend that the Criminal Code be amended to permit abortion by a qualified practitioner at the request of a woman pregnant for more than 12 weeks if the doctor is convinced that the continuation of the pregnancy would endanger the physical or mental health of the woman, or if there is a substantial risk that if the child were born, it would be greatly handicapped, either mentally or physically."

These recommendations are an example of what is politely known as a "liberal approach" to a problem. If women wish to have freedom to make their own decision on abortion, then the recommendations are useless.

There are meetings each Monday night at Toronto Women's Caucus headquarters, 188 Adelaide Street West, to which all interested and action-minded women are asked to come. Help is needed, too, from now until February 13 with the distribution of posters and leaflets. New Feminists will have posters and leaflets and at 7:30 p.m. every night people will be going out from Toronto Women's Caucus headquarters to poster in different parts of the city. Volunteers (and cars) are needed. CALL -----368-6583

DEPARTURE FOR OTTAWA will be at 188 Adelaide Street West on February 13

People will convene at 7 a.m. Tickets are - \$10.00  
Buses will leave at 7:30 a.m. \$8.00 for students  
Buses will return to Toronto the same day. \$5.00 for children  
Child care arrangements here in Toronto will be available.

Tickets must be purchased by February 6. Please contact Lorna Morey at 767-9796, Lorna Grant at 923-2445, New Feminists or Toronto Women's Caucus.

Donations to defray costs of the campaign (\$2,000) are urgently needed. Contact Ellie Kirzner at 368-2812 or 363-9618.

PLEASE CONTINUE READING THE NEXT PAGE FOR INFORMATION ON A

PUBLIC DEBATE ON ABORTION.....



## THE CANADIAN BILL OF RIGHTS - ABORTION

January 31, Monday at 8:00 p.m. St. Lawrence Centre

"Is the Canadian Bill of Rights relevant to the Abortion Law Reform Movement?"

A presentation by Roy Lucas, an American lawyer, "who has won twelve cases that claimed violation of the American Bill of Rights by abortion laws of the United States".

The panel includes Grace MacInnes, M.P. and Eleanor Pelrine, author of a book on abortion in Canada.

THIS IS A PUBLIC MEETING

WE MUST TRY TO PUBLICIZE OUR DEMANDS

AND WE CAN DO IT HERE

WE'D LIKE TO SEE EVERY SEAT IN THE PLACE OCCUPIED BY A WOMAN

F I L M   E V E N I N G - February 4, Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

Toronto Women's Caucus, 188 Adelaide Street West

An evening of Feminist films - donations will go towards the costs of the February 13 Abortion Campaign.

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## INTEGRATION AT THE ROYAL YORK HOTEL

The integration of the Princess Room (sic) at the hotel involved threesit-ins (on all occasions Management graciously allowed us to eat) roughly twenty women, one attempt to remove the blatant sexist MEN ONLY sign (on which occasion three men manhandled the sign and tore it apart and then in true sexist fashion accused three women of the crime), numerous telephone calls to the Manager, Leone Kirkwood of the Globe & Mail, two other reporters from ---- paper who departed from the scene without a story because they arrived early at the scene and consequently alerted the maitre d' to the imminent dangers of the time of day, and a real act of bravery on the part of one determined woman who skilfully destroyed the MEN ONLY sign with a quick spray paint job. It is believed that the lone woman got a great deal of satisfaction in doing this, although we all know that laughter must sooner or later give way to remorse; we are anxiously awaiting a news bulletin on how the lone woman's succumbing under the strain. We then learnt that some mysterious female allies within the N.D.P. were at work giving eye-widening statements to the R.Y.M. about tax-payers support to the R.Y. and inevitable withdrawal of this financial support with citizen control of the hotel UNLESS integration took place immediately. It took place on a Thursday, November 12, as we know from a Globe & Mail report. The lone woman's paint job was done on November 9, 1970. (If you don't believe what you've just read, you must be anxious to become involved in an effort to integrate the sexes in the Beau Nash Room of the LORD SIMCOE HOTEL where already about four bust-ins (pardon me!) have taken place. When this one falls to the mighty Feminists.....where will the next job take place?)