

New Feminists
Cell 2- Meeting 9, August 3rd, 1970, 8:15 p.m.

Issues discussed and conclusions reached:

1. We continued to discuss "femininity"; and it was suggested that last week we were discussing "ultra-femininity" not "femininity". This led to a discussion of the terms.
2. A man(usually) wants his wife "feminine" but not "ultra-feminine", over-done, because he sees her as perhaps then giving other men the "come-on".
3. Make-up, etc., must, therefore, "turn" men on.
4. Everything about our bodies and the way we present them is, in our society, calculated to emphasize sexual difference. The "feminine" is any quality in us which overtly distinguishes us from the male.
5. Gestures, body movements, facial expressions can also be "feminine". Even feminists come on as feminine often, because of their gestures.
6. Some feminists play down the masculine in order not to appear lesbian.
7. Lesbians and homosexuals often play out the male/female roles. Is it societal, or must there always be a dominant person in any relationship?
8. A lesbian/homosexual signals that he/she doesn't fit into the "normal" often by playing out the opposite role.
9. How does a feminist signal her attitude? She has no way; it's the way she talks.
10. If we reject the feminine role, do we have to adopt the masculine one? is there any way of signalling neuter? and do we want to de-sex ourselves?
11. We discussed the attitude of young feminists to those over 30, and the whole attitude of young women to older ones. Sometimes the younger is envious of the older for being ~~XXXX~~ attractive and interesting as well as appearing young(because the youthful image is part of being "feminine").
12. We discussed the problem of living all the time with one person. That situation results in the person's becoming asexual, a friend. Exogamy in the kibbutzim probably results because of the family nature of the communal scene there; intermarriage would be incestuous!
13. We briefly discussed the "hero-worship" of young girls for older women. Perhaps we as feminists ought to encourage women to get out and do things. Do the majority of young girls admire women who marry and have children? Many do, and they want to marry a Successful man. Others search for new roles for themselves and find successful women to emulate.
14. Some of us wanted to marry an important man in order to be important thru him.
15. What is the difference between a masculine and a feminine woman? Part is usually size, bulk; part is body movement, and this is very important. Women are taught to reduce the stride, tighten and control their bodies, in order to signal inaccessibility.
16. Any kind of overt, strong hand gestures are male; women's gestures are open-handed, but containing and close to the body.
17. Gestures aren't taught, except negatively, because of the tendency to mimicry in human beings.
18. Women use facial expressions to express what they haven't the the guts to say directly. Their faces reflect their emotions. Men's don't. They

control their emotions; so their faces are not very expressive.

19. Most of the "feminine" gestures typical of women in our society are usually in fact, extensions of the inner state of women, often insecurity, passivity.

Conclusions:

1. We should work towards eliminating everything considered "feminine" by our society- That is, ideally.

2. How, then do we avoid becoming masculine?

3. The important thing is how we feel inside. We dress to that. The image we have of ourselves will dictate our outsides.

