

Stop calling this world a man's - it's our world

By NORA BRIANT

As Thomas Middleton says in Saturday Review-World (June 29, 1974), the game is rigged. It certainly is.

Being in my first year at university, my courses are "Introduction - To" courses and they are emphasizing to me that the game is rigged and it makes me wonder if it is worth playing with these kind of odds.

Think about introductory courses. Do these phrases sound familiar? "To get an overview of man in society we will begin..." "Since the beginning of time, man has always..." "How does man

view his environment?" "...the basic nature of man". I started hearing those on the first day of class and they are still coming at me.

Who in society? Man. Whose nature? Man's. Who views? Man. But I am a woman.

Man implies both men and women, you say. Of course it does and it has for quite some time now. The hairsplitting people who object to it are emotional and troubling over trivia, you say. Wrong! Trivia are little points that don't make a difference in the issue at hand. Well, the issue is equality for women and it does make a difference. I challenge anyone,

especially those who disagree, to try the following brief exercise in consciousness raising.

This exercise is taken from a tape called "Women, Culture and Marriage" put out by PSF Productions.

Read the following statements one step at a time. Feel into what you read. Just imagine, and get the feel of it; don't intellectualize. Do it slowly.

Step 1. Consider reversing the generic term man. Think of the future of woman, which includes both women and men of course. Feel into that. Sense its meaning to you as a woman; as a man.

Step 2. Think of it always being

that way, every day of your life. Feel the ever-presence of woman; feel the non-presence of man; and what it tells you about the importance of being a woman - of being a man.

Step 3. Recall that everything you have always read all your life uses only female pronouns, her meaning both girls' and boys' - both women and men. Recall that most of the faces on TV and most of the voices on radio are women's. When important events are covered, women do that. Women have late night talk shows. Women's faces. Women's voices.

Step 4. Feel into the fact that women are the leaders. Women are the power centres, and prime movers. Man, whose natural role is husband and father, fulfills himself through nurturing children and making the home a refuge for woman. It is unnatural for man not to fulfill this natural role of husband and father. Be suspect about bachelors. This is only natural to balance the biological role of woman who devotes her entire body to the race during pregnancy, the most revered power known to woman. Man participates in that of course.

Step 5. Feel into the obvious biological explanation for woman as the ideal. Obviously women are ideal. Consider that anatomy is fate. Consider her genital construction. By design female genitals are compact, internal and protected by her body. Man's genitals, inferior as they are, are so exposed that they must be protected from outside attack to ensure perpetuation of the race. Man's vulnerability obviously requires sheltering. Woman must shelter man.

meaning for a long time, but now is the time to change. RIGHT NOW.

Each individual can start by simply not using "man" and "men" to include everybody. What's wrong with saying everyone, everybody, or people? Stop calling my world man's world. It is our world or the world.

Well, that is fine as far as it goes. But what about "Everyone take out his book." Grammar is not a strong point of mine and I had no idea how to fight what is considered correct in all the grammar books. Fortunately Thomas Middleton has written a few of his "Light Refractions" (Saturday Review-World) about his and received an excellent suggestion from Amanda Smith of Durham, N.C. She argues for the use of they, their and them as singular as well as plural forms. "Did anyone forget their lunch?" That is ungrammatical but it is something English teachers have to fight against. Why fight it? This common usage of their would be much easier to accept than the manufacture of a new word. The superiority of this usage is made clear by the humorous example in "Light Refractions" Sept. 21, 1974.

Paul: Where's Jerry?
Kelly: I don't know. I don't think he knows where he is.
Paul: I don't think anybody knows where they are.
Saying "I don't think anybody knows where he is" would have an entirely different meaning. Saying "I don't think anybody knows where he or she is," leaves Jerry's gender in question. The same article outlines the historical use of anybody...their by Fielding, Jane Austen, Lord Chesterfield and others.

It is important. It could make a lot of difference. Anybody can alter their speaking habits a bit and I think everybody should. Think about the implications of Woman and Her World.

Red n' black is getting better

By KATHY RAMSAY

The 28th annual Red n' Black Revue is coming and will be here before you know it. The production promises to be a good, fast-paced, varied show. If the amount of preparation and work taking place behind the scenes is any indication of potential, then Red n' Black '74 promises to be the best show yet.

Student response and participation, as in past years, has been great. There have been many who have been working diligently since the beginning of September. Few

realize the actual time and energy involved in producing a show of Red n' Black's calibre. It is the combined effort of cast members, back stage personnel and the executive which makes it all possible. The Red n' Black executive consists of a director, assistant director, business manager, sound manager, stage manager, lighting manager, ad and promotion manager, secretary, make-up director, kick-line coordinator, skits coordinator and costumes manager. The size of the executive is in itself, enough to

indicate the immense undertaking of such a production.

However, the satisfaction gained when the final products is viewed certainly makes the effort worthwhile. Come out and see why we say "Red n' Black '74 is sure to be one of the best shows ever."

Show dates are Tuesday, November 12, Wednesday, November 13 and Thursday, November 14 at the Playhouse. Curtain time is 8:30. The tickets are \$1.50 each and will be on sale at the SUB information booth and the Playhouse at the end of next week.

Culture termed male-homosexual

MONTREAL (CUP) - "Woman in psychiatric terms are considered crazy no matter what they do," according to Dr. Phyllis Chesler, clinical psychologist and author of "Women and Madness".

"Those who accept the stereotype of the feminine woman are called neurotic, and those who don't are called other names, like castrating, or dyke."

Chesler was speaking to an audience of more than 500 at the opening of a three day Women's Health Seminar at McGill.

"We live in a male-homosexual culture," said Chesler, "one in which men are both worshipped and dominant. According to Chesler, "Women have low esteem, hate themselves, and are at least as conformist as men."

Chesler attributed these feelings to female acceptance of a male-conceived role - one that portrays women as compassionate, helpful, altruistic creatures whose work need not be rewarded, but whose failure to produce the expected (children, a clean house) is inevitably punished.

"Women are afraid of such punishment," said Chesler, "and this fear leads them to both greater self-sacrifice and masochistic feelings."

Chesler also pointed out some significant biases that she believes exist in the male-dominated fields of psychological and psychiatric therapy.

"Experts who are trained to find insanity tend to find it. No one is normal according to the experts and a standard of mental health therefore does not exist," said Chesler.

Furthermore, said the doctor, "while everybody is at least neurotic, according to the experts,

women are crazier."

Chesler also asserted that "it is the prevailing belief that for a woman to be a real woman, she must have experienced motherhood."

A final point on Dr. Chesler's list of unfounded notions among psychiatrists and psychologists was the conception that lesbianism doesn't exist. The notion prevalent is, in Chesler's words, "lesbians are simply women who haven't found the right man yet."

According to her, "it's inconceivable to most male doctors that a woman could prefer another woman to a man."

"Women need help," Chesler

asserted, "a kind of help that even the best psychotherapy can't provide." Therefore, she said, women need economic help - in the form of direct wages for labour - as well as education, child care and adequate housing.

"Ideally," said Chesler, "there should exist a society where basic needs are met routinely for all people. I don't think that the feminist vision will ever be successful without some form of communism." But the women who desire equality in our society and institutions must first achieve personal strength. Only strong people can make strong changes," Chesler said.

Capt. Submarine

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