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# RONKEES

### Zavitz Hall holds insidious concrete jungles at bay...

To the editor,

"Instead of women wanting to be more like men, why isn't the focus to make men more understanding of the women's role?"

There they are, verbatim, the words of an educated friend of mine in a recent letter. His words reflect a popular misconception of the women's movement today.

Brace yourself guys, prepare those egos—as difficult as it is to believe, I do not want my own precious little penis. I'm beginning to wonder if the worshipped penis is the only part of the male capable of any sensitivity (and he's sooooo sensitive—what a charming quality in such a pillar of strength).

I beg you to please, put your penises aside, just for a moment (no one will steal him when you aren't looking), while I explain the insensitivity of my friend's words.

Feminists are not trying to be like men. Crazy as it may sound, we are trying to be women. It's not that easy. Definitions of women's roles, of a woman's place, have come only from men. They tell us we're the "weaker vessel," the "shadows," submissive sex objects. But we just don't feel like objects, nor do we feel weak. We're discovering that we feel very strong and extremely alive.

Yet, the strength and life that feel so right to us are constantly tortured by attitudes threatening, and sometimes forcing, us back into our "place."

We resent that. It demands we taste the perceived weakness we desperately want to escape. It destroys our strength and sense of life because it haunts us with the impossibility of our ideal.

Feminists are fighting for a society free from oppression. Equality of the sexes does not mean women are the same as men but that all people are free to choose, free to define their own roles within society. For feminists, equality of the sexes is just one battle. Various races, homosexuals, the lower classes, the elderly and many other groups are also being forced to swallow the same vile taste.

Perhaps my white, male, 22-yearold, upper-middle class, heterosexual friend has simply never felt discrimination. Does that mean that he is then unable to be sensitive to discrimination and share our ideal? Maybe the only way to gain his support is to promote to him the new freedoms such an ideal society would offer men. However, the many men already supporting the feminist movement certainly do not do so for selfish reasons.

I know that my expectations are high. But without my idealism, I cannot witness the oppression of others and constructively deal with my own.

You can go back to your penis now. If yours is an advanced model—the kind with the alleged "mind of his own"—maybe you'll explain this to him.

*—Jane Kalbfleisch* Reprinted with permission from *Imprint*, University of Waterloo, February 27, 1987

### Women want right to define their own role within society

Dear Editor:

Let's bulldoze Zavitz Hall and for very good reasons:

It's a stupid name. We hate birds on campus. Birds are dirty.

Nothing important ever occurred here.

Let's save Zavitz Hall and for very good reasons:

It's is one of the few symbols that ties the past with the present and the future.

The architecture is interesting and gives us insight to changing attitudes.

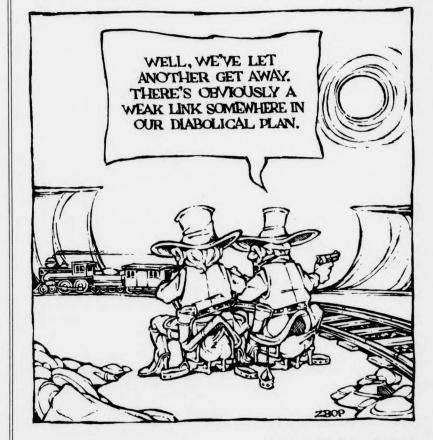
We won't destroy an "old" building in the name of progress like we did to Guelph's once beautiful downtown core.

It gives Branion Plaza lots of character.

Let's emulate the likes of U of T, Harvard, McMaster rather than to emulate the concrete jungle of York.

We rest our case. Valda A. Gillis Connie Matthews Barb Blackstock Don Richardson Beth Towner Janet Atkinson Jain Beckett Linda Kalman

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