

"The female is a female by virtue of a certain lack of qualities. We should regard the female as afflicted with a natural defectiveness."

Aristotle

Stereotypes still around



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High school young women have already adopted stereotyped sex roles for themselves, according to Susan Russell, sociology professor at Concordia University.

Russell's doctoral research focused on a grade 12 Ottawa class consisting of 25 girls and 15 boys, and showed female high school students had decided on traditional occupations.

Only four of the 25 young women were interested in non-traditional jobs. According to Russell some were at the "fantasy" stage; they wanted to do everything. Yet the majority of girls were interested in

traditional women's employment such as nursing, teaching, or secretarial employment.

She says such occupations often require little education after high school. The women in the study were not willing to spend much time in post-secondary school because they saw employment as a temporary measure.

Russell found that work "was seen as important to them but only in the short run, only as a stop-gap between high school and being married. It was sort of a time-killer. Contingency planning."

Marriage was the ultimate

goal of the majority of the girls in the study.

Being a wife and mother seen as a calling, something was "their" job. Escaping labour force was not as attractive as the young woman being loved was.

The men in the class generally more liberal than women, Russell found. Young men did not expect future wives to become homemakers. They thought when they got married wives would want to work. Many said they would not turn them back. Some said they would share the housework.

"Many women do not recognize themselves as discriminated against; no better proof could be found of their total conditioning."

Kate Millet

Women face guilt

Women who choose to return to school face problems and the biggest one may be guilt.

"Emotionally, women are conditioned to look after the interests of husband and first, therefore, one of the greatest existing problems returning to school is the

One woman, very active in volunteer community organizations for many years said she'd "gotten as far as possible in the organization and found herself repeating the same tasks year after year. Although she encountered discouragement in going back to school, she did get the feeling that her husband felt threatened by the new situation.

"Some women become more educated, and realize the basis of their marriage is security, or a desire to leave their parents' home. I am careful not to criticize my husband in light of my new-found knowledge — I keep it to myself. As a result, my husband is very supportive."

Others are not so lucky. One woman studying creative writing finds herself out of her husband's "physical and intellectual sphere." The time she devotes to her writing in solitude takes away from the emotional support her husband counted on to give.

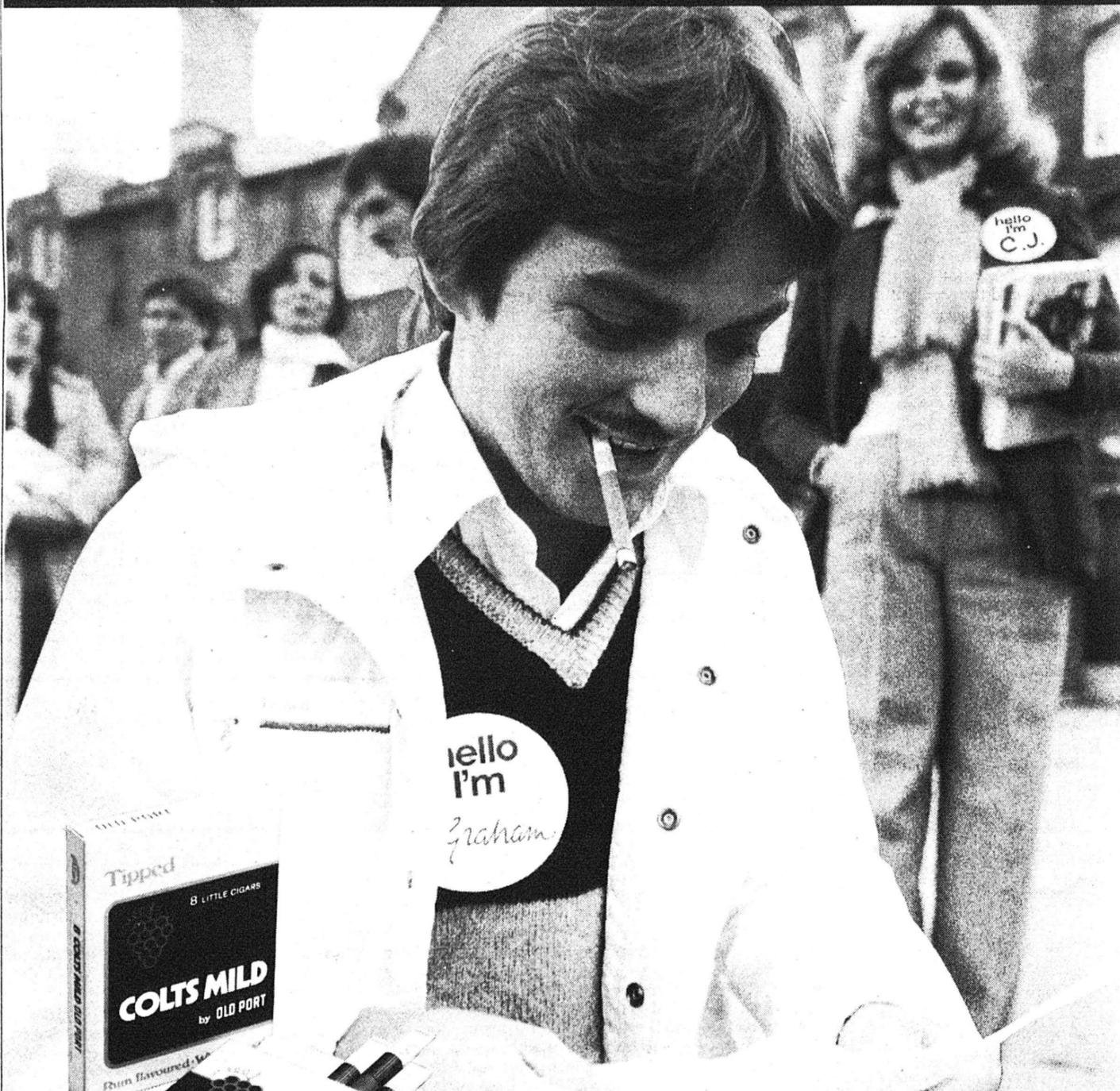
"What the relationship is predicated on is no longer between us."

Some women encounter overt hostility from friends and relatives: they are rocking the social boat. But their spheres have changed. "In my 'Women's Identity and Image' course, I, a one 40-year-old student, realized that the lack of achievement which I felt was a personal failure was largely due to social circumstances. Now I am in touch with other women of my age — I feel part of something larger than myself."

One problem common to women returning to school is lack of confidence. This problem is easily solved. They often start off with only one course, but soon as they get their first mark they realize that they are capable as any student in the class.

One effect of returning to school and doing well, is that it boost it gives to a woman's image. One woman said that at university, I am my own person interested in my own brain. I am not a wife and mother — I have my own identity, one that does not depend on other people.

Colts. Great moments in college life.



On September 8, Graham Gauntlett lit up a Colts. Paused. And reflected on the computer room-mate-match-up-slip that informed him he would be rooming with a C.J. Bright.

Colts. A great break.
Enjoy them anytime.