

# SPECTRUM

## The Wimmin's Room

# Feminism: The other "F" word

FEMINISTS! Not a bunch of angry women seeking revenge on all mankind.

by Liz A. Lautard

I am a feminist. There, I said it. Shocked? Angry? Offended? Amused? I would not be surprised with any of your responses. I've heard them all. Feminism has become the other 'F' word. It causes many of the same reactions the four-letter 'f' word does. Some

find it humorous, others, offensive and shocking. The reaction all depends on the situation it is being used in and who is saying it.

Many people have a negative and often nasty image of what a feminist is. According to those who see feminists this way, they are nothing but a bunch of militant, angry women who hate men (al-

though I do see why we, as feminists, have a reason to be upset). Feminists are, in reality, women who seek equality between women and men.

One thing that frustrates me are women who say: "I'm not a feminist but..." then proceed to state a goal or desire feminists are fighting for! The women who say this have bought into society's image of feminists, that is, women causing trouble for the rest of us

(women). According to society, feminists are responsible for everything from increases in the divorce rate to society now being unsafe, the reason why we can't walk the streets safely at night anymore.

Women fear being labelled feminists because it is an insult. Feminists' bad reputation prevents solidarity among women by pinning us against each other. Unfortunately, it is through solidarity that women find their greatest strength.

Women should not feel the need to apologize for those rights they deserve that men already have, such as equal pay, and living without the fear of rape. Feminists have become society's scapegoat and punishment for those women who step out of line. This keeps women from speaking up against the injustices from which they suffer, like sexual harassment. So, because of society's intolerance for feminism, they have made feminists responsible for society's problems. Consequently, women either speak up and face fierce opposition or keep their mouths shut.

### Women fear being labelled feminists because it is an insult.

For those of us who do not keep our mouths shut, we are faced with various reactions. Some respond positively and listen with interest, while others however, tease or ridicule us. As well, we are subjected to their collection of sexist and demeaning jokes and comments, like being told what the only thing a woman is good for!...and I don't just hear this from obnoxious guys in bars. No, I hear them from the ordinary person on the street, classmates, and even my best friend!

You would think people would give us (feminists) credit for the flak we put up with. Didn't anyone ever tell them it takes all kinds of people to make up our world, and that it is this variety of points of views that make life interesting? I see my limit is almost up. So, the next time you feel you're not getting the attention you deserve, say the 'F' word! I guarantee immediate reaction!!

## Staff Meeting

The next general Bruns staff meeting will be this Friday at 12:30pm. All current staff members and other individuals interested in joining the Brunswickan are urged to attend.



## Spiritual guides

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the growth of the person as well as the profession.

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