

What do you expect to be when you grow up little girl? It's a man's world, you know!

At this time when the rights and status of women are being examined in our society, women are often compared to minority groups such as blacks. We the authors agree with Germaine Greer who points out in the January edition of Playboy that this analogy falls down in that blacks have developed their own cultural unity whereas "women have no culture of their own. Theirs is a pale reflection of masculine culture. It's mostly a parody." Is there then a group of people whose position in society is more comparable to that of women: a group without cultural unity; a group whose opinions and ideas are rarely considered or taken seriously; a group whose responsibility is largely assumed for them; a group who depends on others for the fulfillment of economic, emotional and social needs; in short, a powerless group? Yes! - it's that large group of second-class citizens with whom we can all identify - children.

The University community, which we might have expected to transcend the notion of women as "children", is, on the contrary, a shining example of its continual perpetuation, although lip-service may be paid to equality.

WHAT ARE LITTLE GIRLS MADE OF?

When a woman enters University she begins with a deficit in that she brings with her all the stereotypes and expectations that have been enforced on her since childhood simply by virtue of the fact that she is female. As Betty Friedan points out in *The Feminine Mystique*, for those women who do enter university, the main barrier to fulfillment and growth of self through education is "their own rigid preconception which sex-directed educators reinforce, either explicitly or by not facing their own ability and responsibility to break through it." This attitude is reflected in areas of study chosen or avoided by women. For example, it comes as no surprise that in 1970-71, 50 women and no men were enrolled in the Dental Hygiene program whereas in the same year 190 men and only 5 women were enrolled in Dentistry. A similar imbalance can be found in such areas as Engineering, Medicine, Nursing, Law, Natural Sciences, Home Economics, etc.

FATHER KNOWS BEST!

Preconceived notions of role stereotype are continually reinforced after women enter University. That they are getting the message throughout their University career that the academic life is a man's prerogative is borne out by statistics which clearly show a decrease in the ratio of women to men as they progress from undergraduate to graduate degrees. For example, in the Faculty of Education the ratio of women to men taking a Bachelor's degree is about two to one; the ratio of women to men taking a Master's degree is about one to two; and the ratio of women to men in the Doctoral program is about one to five. This downward trend in the number of women continuing education obviously results in a gross imbalance in the numbers of women to men on academic staff. At this University 20 per cent of the academic staff are women and 3/4 of these are found in the traditionally female areas such as Nursing and Home Economics. What implications does this have? Women students are continually being taught, evaluated and assessed by men, many of whom believe that women's place in the intellectual community is secondary to

DUET

Let me dance for you may hallowed gentlemen,
These are not tits, they are breasts.
A dual personality.
With these your mother satisfied your infant hunger
My confirmation of your aesthetic pleasure.
Hips are part of my anatomy.
The pelvis that originally supported you
Still contains the fever of life.
Rhythm=the pulse of your proven manhood.
I will not abuse your imagination.
I ask you not to abuse mine.
The derision of your unsuccessful attainments.
Is not contained in my woman,
Prescribed by your sex.
Our project is not only love.
Your whistles paint the make-up on our faces,
Silly fillies=we are taught it is a man's world,
And lift our skirts another inch.
I will dance for you my hallowed gentlemen,
When one of you can dance as well for me.

by Gertrude Katz,
from *LOVE Where The Nights Are Long*
An Anthology of Canadian Love Poems,
McClelland and Stewart Limited, 1962.

their place in the home. This message need not be subtle. A friend of the authors', upon consulting with her male academic advisor about the possibility of her enrollment in a PhD program, discovered that his greatest concern was that she would be limiting her range of eligible men if she took the degree!

Not only are women subjected to the kind of "counseling" described above, but they can also be penalized just because they are women. One woman student at this university was denied admission to class by a male professor because she had missed the first two lectures, having just given birth to a baby. It made no difference that she had successfully registered for the class during her hospital stay. Since the birth of a baby was not considered a legitimate excuse for absence, it appears that women are being forced to compete with men as men.

CHILDREN SHOULD BE SEEN AND NOT HEARD!

Because the intellectual and academic life has been dominated almost exclusively by men, ideas and achievements as reflected in course content almost always present a male perspective. Consequently women believe that any contributions they have to make in this area are insignificant. Rather, they are taught that "behind every successful man there is a woman." They have been conned into believing that they can't be "successful" in their own right. Take literature for example. Given the above, it is not surprising that George Eliot and George Sand assumed male pseudonyms. Let's go one step further and consider how women are portrayed in literature. Typically in novels written by men, women seem to be cast into one of two roles: the Great Bitch (Lady Macbeth) or the Helpless Heroine (Ophelia). Only rarely is a woman portrayed as a three dimensional character with any depth. How sad that women are forced to choose between the two extremes, feeling they are misfits if they can't identify with one or the other.

The tragedy of having primarily a male perspective in academic courses permeates more deeply when we consider the effect on society at large. Both men and women lose because the resources of half the population are not utilized, and because an alternative perspective, the female perspective, is ignored.

MOTHER CAN I GO OUT TO PLAY?

Surely everyone is aware that visitor's rules differ for women's and men's residences. From the beginning the rules have never been equivalent. For example, women had a nightly curfew and men did not, the implication being that men could take responsibility for their own behavior and women could not. It seems that the lesson has been learned all too well, since now that students are in a position to determine their own rules, the women still allow the rules to govern their behavior rather than assuming that responsibility for themselves.

OH WHAT A BEAUTIFUL BABY!

Although fraternities no longer carry the same prestige value for women that they used to, it unfortunately appears that the need for social male contact continues to be the prime motivation force for the women who join. Many of these women are proud to tell their friends that they come to University to get their MRS. It is this same mentality that perpetuates the whole "Queen Contest" syndrome. The setting up of a woman as a sex object in such a depersonalized and dehumanized manner is true obscenity, and that it continues to receive both student and administrative support is shocking.

CHILDREN SHOULD STILL BE SEEN AND NOT HEARD!

For those women who are prepared to become involved in student activities beyond the sex trip what happens? The executive of the Students' Union is a perfect example. Of the six executive positions on council, one is a woman and her position is that of secretary. In the Graduate Students' Association one out of five executive positions is filled by a woman and in the Education Students' Association one out of three elected executive positions is filled by a woman. Need we both to state what positions they hold? One of the authors had the experience of sitting on a committee comprised of staff and graduate students and being the only woman present. The chairman simply assumed that she was the person to take the minutes and was astounded when she refused.

AM I A GOOD GIRL, DADDY?

We know that the expectations they hold for us underestimate the contributions we can make. Half the students were told by one of them that we are all aware of the game men play. What happens when women say that other women's intelligence is reaffirmed and perpetuated by us and other women.

WHEN YOU GROW UP...

By now it should be clear that we do not like what we are being told. We are being told that we are to be cast into one of two roles: the Great Bitch (Lady Macbeth) or the Helpless Heroine (Ophelia). Only rarely is a woman portrayed as a three dimensional character with any depth. How sad that women are forced to choose between the two extremes, feeling they are misfits if they can't identify with one or the other.

by Toni Johnston
and Cheryl Levine

"What else is it but
unescapable punishment, a
temptation, a deadly calamity,
delectable detriment, devil
colors."