



Women's Liberation

By Ms. Frieda W. Lovedu

Why have there not been any truly outstanding women writers, composers, or painters in the history of our culture? You may argue that there have been, particularly in the realm of literature, but their contributions have been few in number, sorely limited by the traditional concepts of the female's role in society, and often little more than expressions of that role. The factors which have inhibited the artistic development of women have been both physical (environmental) and psychological (socially conditioned).

For centuries a woman has been denied the educational facilities available to her male counterpart. What little time was allotted for her cultural development was only adequate to equip her to be a social asset to her husband - i.e. she might read to him, play for him, speak wittily in the presence of his friends - not so that she should be able to create out of her knowledge. Nor was it in most cases considered proper for a woman to contribute to (and hence compete in) a "man's field". It is said of Jane Austen that she hastily concealed her work whenever her privacy was

intruded upon. How much more difficult to conceal a painting! How many undiscovered manuscripts lay hidden in drawers, cupboards, closets and trunks!

Society has succeeded in channeling the creative instincts of its women in the direction of child bearing and rearing. In accordance with this role, they have learned to think subjectively rather than objectively, in concrete rather than in abstract terms. As a result, their work has often been derived from pre-existing philosophy, rather than expressing a new one. As classics are considered to be those works representative of a turning point in the development of a particular field, women have tended to fall short of this mark. This is not to say that women are incapable of objective and abstract thought, but to suggest that what is necessary is a redefining of woman's role in society, and a rehabilitation of her self concept.

It takes a tremendous ego to express one's creative abilities overtly. A man's ego has been externally reinforced by the position he occupies in society and the authority he is able to assume. As Sally Kempton has pointed out in her article "Cutting Loose", "...women are in a sense given their lives, since women customarily choose a life-style by choosing a man rather than a path...they do not need the self-love which is necessary to carry a man to the places he has to go... women learn in many ways to suppress their selfishness, and by doing so they suppress also their self-esteem." This self-suppression is carried into the area of sexuality - into the sex-act itself. Because a woman has learned to consider herself inately inferior to a man, she derives her emotional and egotistical gratification from the attentions paid her by this supposedly "superior" person. Because a man has learned to consider himself inately superior to a woman, he must search out additional avenues in which he can excell, gaining egotistical security from the admiration of society as a whole.

When a woman becomes an active and accepted member of society, when she can at last conceive of herself as an equal individual in her own right, she will then seek beyond husband and family for the expression of her creative self. Liberation produces enrichment both for the woman herself, and for the culture of her society.

Art centre exhibitions

Exhibitions of hand-weaving by Ramonde Demopoulos and recent water colours by Mary Pardy will be shown in the Art Centre from October 8th. The shows will open with an open-to-the-public, "meet-the-artists" evening Friday, October 8th, 8-10 p.m. Also in the Art Centre this month is an exhibition of Vera Frenkel prints, organized by the National Gallery.

 * Friday Nite Oct 1/71
 * From 9 pm to 6 am
 * SUB Ballroom
 * \$1.00
ALL NITE ROCK MARATHON
 * Static
 * Rachael
 * Good Mary
 * Friar Tuck

EUS movies start

UNB - This year the Engineering Undergraduate Society is once again sponsoring a series of films for the general tri-campus population. The series began Thursday night last with the first of three Clint Eastwood films, "Two Mules for Sister Sarah."

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Student Activity Awards Bursary

"This award fund will provide a bursary that will be awarded to an undergraduate at Convocation starting in 1971, recognizing academic achievement and participation in community activities that live up to the ideals of the required level of social interaction between a campus and the surrounding community. Applications will be called for and the award will be decided by the Student Activity Awards Committee."

Explanation:

To enhance campus community relations the UNB SRC Activity Awards Committee is offering a bursary (s) up to \$300.00. Consideration will be given to 1. community activity, 2. financial need, 3. academic achievement.

Those eligible are individuals who are presently participating or who have participated in community activities such as service groups or such organizations as Action Corps, Insight, Legal Aid, Political Organizations, Rap Room, etc. The above mentioned are only examples other committees and organizations meeting the above specifications will also be eligible.

Applications must be submitted to the SRC Office by 12:00 noon, Friday, October 8, 1971.

Application forms are available through SRC Office.

Mike Richard
 Activity Awards Chairman

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