

Women in medicine from page three

ourselves in that context.

The infrequent discussion of the women's movement could mean several things. For some of us it is an irrelevant issue. Others may find the whole topic distasteful, equating "women's lib" with butch, aggressive, bra-

burning behavior. A few have dismissed the issue, because they consider it boring and trivial, take, for example, the chairperson-Chairman controversy.

I don't think any of us feel we are discriminated against,

either by the faculty or by our male classmates. But from some of our older female colleagues we hear some not-so-nice stories about the perils that await us "outside." As well, the public's perception of female doctors as "odd," does not let us forget that we are in the midst of a "man's profession."

For all med students the academic load is staggering. An unfortunate side-effect for the single women is the lack of time

to socialize and meet people. That may sound trivial, but in our situation, a friend and companion means a lot. We get lonesome, depressed and sick of studying — several of my friends lament for a lack of love.

It's not an easy life, but it's an interesting one. My female colleagues and I assume that med school no longer separates the men from the boys, but rather tries to produce good doctors of both sexes.

Women: global view

Women's movement around the world enjoyed varying degrees of success mixed with failure this past year.

In Spain, the Ministry of Culture has formed a committee on women's rights and is drawing up laws for submission to Parliament calling for, among other things, economic equality and greater protection against rape.

Activists in the women's movement feel cheated by Spain's new constitution, which makes no reference to abortion, day care or simple incompatibility as grounds for uncontested divorce. Some women are also upset by the constitution's failure to change the country's rigid custody law, which gives husbands the absolute right of custody of children in cases of marital breakup. The constitution does provide for legalization of contraceptives, although a doctor's prescription is still necessary.

The biggest problem facing Spanish women, however, is the attitude and social fabric of the macho-style country. Voicing the prevailing attitude, one man told an American correspondent, "Our women are flying the coop. And did you ever try to get a bunch of chickens back in? I guess it's all part of the democracy thing. You give them the vote, and the first thing you know they want freedom."

In Italy the growing women's movement contributed to the rise of Tina Anselmi, the country's first woman cabinet minister, who was appointed Labour Minister in mid-1978. Also in Italy, women are moving into a job once thought to be the bastion of males—terrorism.

About 1,500 women in Greece early this year enlisted for 14 months in the Greek militia. It was the start of Greece's first ever female volunteer army.

Throughout Greece, women's groups have joined in opposing women's military service. They said they will not accept equal responsibilities with men when they do not have equal rights.

The status of women is coming under close study in Israel. A government-appointed study which produced 130 pages of recommendations shows widespread neglect of women's rights. The most important recommendation is for the creation of a government office to administer to women and monitor their status.

The study also recommended that women's right to birth control be recognized, family planning services be made available as part of the national public health services, women who claim personal or social hardship be allowed to have abortions and rape proceedings be held behind closed doors, women being assigned to hospitals and police stations. Proposed that judges of both sexes preside over rape cases.

The study found unequal training is given to women from childhood on and that they occupy high-paying positions. Generally, Israeli women's salaries are only 60% of those of men. The study recommended a law guaranteeing equal opportunity for men and women prohibiting discrimination in salaries, job availability and promotion.

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