

the flower and it's struggle

Women's Liberation could be most aptly typified by the broken crockery men are finding in their kitchens lately. Another great illusion neatly shattered. In our moment of consternation let us all be assured that this can hardly be termed a "petticoat revolution". Even the actual members of Women's Lib. would make any male in his right mind sit up and take interest as far as appearances and actions are concerned. This may come as quite a shock to the general public but Women's Lib. is not a massive union of lesbians - which would seem to be one of the more popular assertions - nor is it a gathering of freaks.

By Pepita Ferrari

But before this article even reaches the lay-out tables, demands for PROOF, WE WANT PROOF! can be heard. Like every word that has gone to press since 1450 A.D. those of the opening analysis are hardly indisputable. Imagine yourself entering rm. 103 (sub) for the weekly Monday Night gathering of Women's Lib. If you happen to be male you would be pleasantly asked to leave. Not that your support is not desired but as was duly explained male presence at these meetings has proven intimidating to discussion. It was soon obvious that Women's Lib consists of highly informed and concerned members. There is no garble. Everything was carried on with a strictly serious and business-like approach. It was most impressive to hear that included in the immediate publicity campaign was an eight minute CBC presentation. Two of the members, Sara Beyea

and Carol Hamilton-Smith were chosen to give an introductory program for the movement the next evening, to be broadcast live at 6:00 p.m. This item was noticeably surrounded with an aura of apprehension. Quite understandable, since this will be the first real exposure Women's Lib will receive in Fredericton.

Furthermore, a rap session by invitation of a St. Thomas Soc. prof is on the campaign agenda for the week, as well as a guest appearance at a Unitarian Church service. Amidst all the plans of action arose the problems of baby-sitters for the mothers in the group. The suggestion of plunking the children (minus rubber pants) in some unsuspecting male's lap was offered. A touch of reality for the cause.

Speaking of causes, this was brought up by two newcomers at the meeting. What exactly is the objective of Women's Lib? In brief it is a concentration on women's inopportunity rather than overall discrimination in the world. It follows that there is an absence of party politics in the movement. Left or Right is irrelevant.

To date woman has been orientated to derive pleasure from her wifely and household duties as opposed to the satisfaction found by males in their careers. There has always existed the economic unit of the women and children at home as the consumers and the man outside the home as the supporter. But the conditions created by today's society must be faced and not bundled up with those of yesterday's societies. For example, over-population is a pending serious threat to

our survival. By terminating women's role as the homemaker and offering her a new role in society, the situation could be greatly alleviated. Consider this point too; women are increasingly utilizing educational facilities. If women are denied equal pay and free access to jobs, a phenomenal amount of these facilities is going to the dogs.

When confining the women and children to the boundaries of the home we are also failing to appreciate the adverse affects it is having upon the growth of the child. All of society is responsible for the up-bringing of each new infant but it is obvious that in the majority of households there is a deprivation of masculine influence on the children. This only creates ideal conditions for the over-affection of the mother which has been suggested as serious hinderance to the mat-

uration of the child. Children are subconsciously initiated from infancy by their mothers to "need them". But it has been repeatedly proven that both parents have hidden desire to get away from the children. Quite a conflict in the mother.

So give the woman her career and where does that leave us? vehemently cry the male populace. All the positions will be occupied by females. Not so. Taken at face-value, woman's grand exodus from the house would seemingly leave the man with nothing better to do than wash dishes. But the fact is that women occupy the low-salary, hard-labour positions. How many men would tolerate the dictatorship that the masses of secretaries are subject to?

The matter of day-care centres was subsequently and

legitimately then discussed. Are the children of working parents destined to roam the streets? This is a major point on the Women's Lib platform. The fact is that the larger portion of juvenile admissions to hospital are due to maltreatment in the homes.

Aside from equal pay and free access to jobs as well as government-subsidized day-care centres, free abortion is under heavy discussion in Women's Lib. It was most noteworthy that Mrs. Susan Pajajri of the Social Services (Fredericton branch) has offered to set up a two-way abortion referral between her organization and the campus Women's Lib. This would make information freely available on the subject. Women's Lib is at war against coat-hanger abortions. This whole issue will be delved into on Nov. 23 at 8:00 p.m. in rm. 103 of Carleton Hall. The Women's Liberation of Fredericton have arranged to present "Illegal Abortion" (courtesy of the National Film Board) to be followed by an open panel discussion - only made possible with your support.

Maybe you've been wondering about Women's Liberation Topics covered at the meeting would fill a book with ease. It is a widely concerned organization but it is hardly out to shake the campus. Don't worry about being dragged out of your cosy corner by an armed co-ed to be tortured and brain-washed. You might even venture out and purchase some of the literature Women's Lib. have on display concerning the movement, in the sub on Thursday afternoons and evenings. You might even appreciate in some small way the advantages the fairer sex present (other than as bed-mates). Could be that society is in for another one of its changes.



photo by Jomini



Due to their demands for equality of position they have no names.

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