

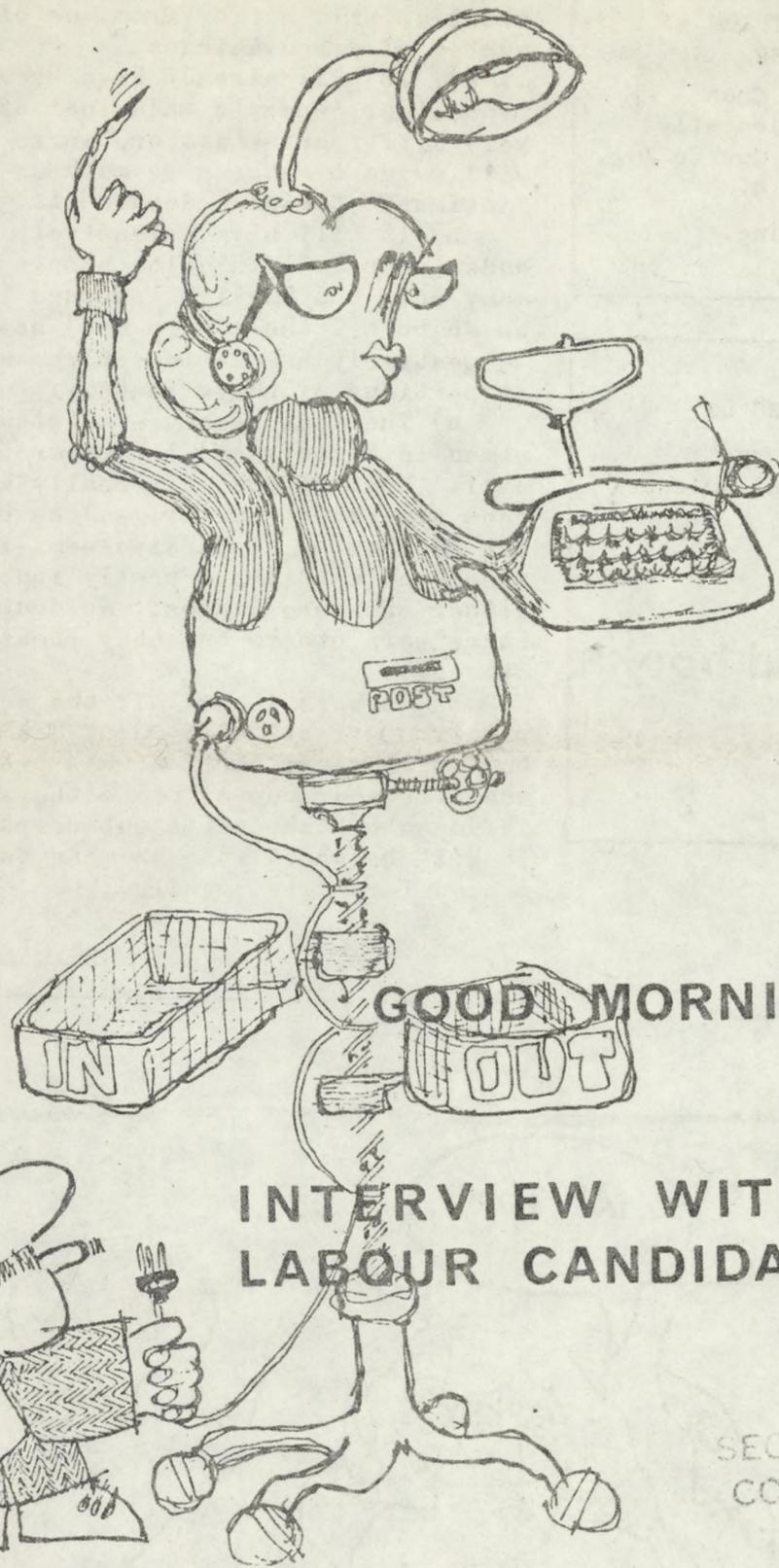
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July 1972

BROADSHEET

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GOOD MORNING MISS ROBOT.

INTERVIEW WITH MIKE MOORE,
LABOUR CANDIDATE FOR EDEN:

SECONDARY TEACHERS
COLLEGE, AUCKLAND
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PIPEDREAMS IN PONSONBY

by David Mitchell

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what's in a name?

You may not like the name of this paper. Try and think of a better one. Just trying to find a name for this kind of paper will give you an excellent idea of the way women are regarded in our society. Anything that you think up will suffer from one of a number of disadvantages.

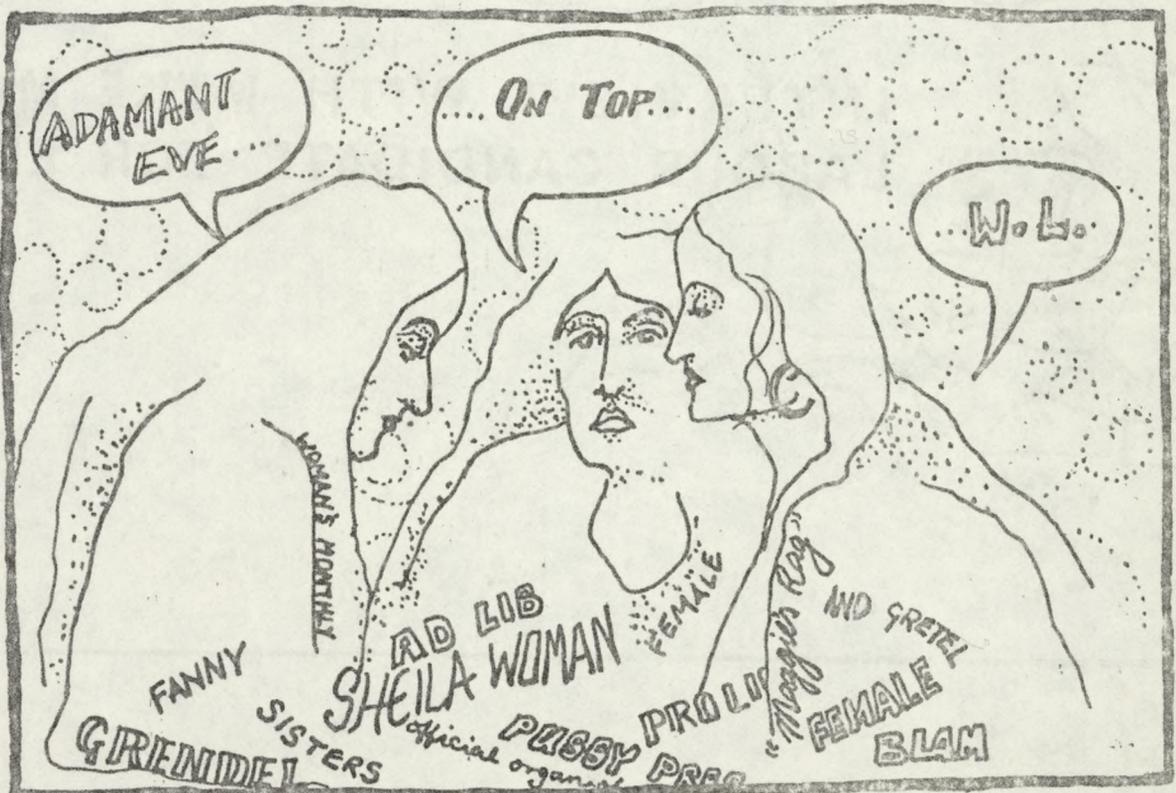
a) It will already have been used by another 'woman's magazine' of a very different nature or, worse still, will suggest nothing so much as an 'intimate' feminine deodorant.

b) It will have excessively lewd undertones. It is quite amazing how many ways the English language (and no doubt all the others too) have of suggestively snickering at women or at portions of their anatomy.

c) The last resort - outstanding women in history and literature. Yes, well. Most of the universally known ones are portrayed (by men) as out and out bitches or as passive semi-imbeciles, and we did not really fancy either of these images. No doubt there were others but they remain obscure.

So here it is. If the name puts you off all that much, don't buy it, because the contents probably won't be your cup of tea either. If it doesn't, take out a subscription. It will be worth it. We mean to be around for quite a while.

Anne Else



EDITORIAL

We were sitting round, this group of us, wondering what to do. We wanted some action but were having a spot of bother deciding where it was going to be. Someone suggested we make a futile gesture, strap on our pregnancy pouffs and threaten to throw ourselves off the top of 246 in protest at the Abortion Law. Or, we could go out and see the boys at the Henderson Squash Club - they must be good for some action no, not our scene. Well, what could we do - we could read, we could write and "Hey", someone said "we can type!"

A NEWSPAPER - that's great.

Anyway we enthusiastically set to work and here's our baby and we hope you like her. Because she's for you. We want letters (for and against), articles, news, instances of discrimination, suggestions, personal stories, in fact, anything. Our baby is going to get bigger and better but we need your help. If you think WL is important then a newspaper is important.

- 1) let the converted (or those on the way) know where the WL groups are and what they're doing.
- 2) Keep existing groups in contact and friendly.
- 3) Get at the unconverted and convert them or make them realise they were with us all the time and just didn't know it.

Tomorrow is laying out day and then BROADSHEET will be going into print. We're already on to the next issue...pity, the boys at the Henderson Squash Club will just have to wait.

Sandra Coney

AUCKLAND WOMEN'S LIBERATION.

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broadsheet report

Women For Equality

The group Women for Equality began at the start of 1971, when no Women's Liberation groups existed in Auckland; though one had existed and collapsed the year before. We decided right at the start that men were to be part of our organisation and should have an equal say in discussion and action, because we believe that people need liberating and the more men who realise the importance and value of liberation the better.

When a new group starts, it takes time for people to adjust to each other and learn how to talk and work together. We had a kind of consciousness raising, political discussion and action planning combined, when we began - and this carried on till our first action - a float in the Auckland Centennial parade. Our 2000 leaflets went in about two blocks and we were amazed at the warm response of women to us.

The Miss N.Z. Contest called for a response from Women's Liberation - we had leafletting and demonstrating outside the Town Hall, plus a guerilla theatre - drawing attention to the issue but it's always impossible to tell whether the ideas we put forward reached anyone.

The invasion of the Great Northern was neat. We prepared to take over a bar where women had been refused entry - were met by security men who started a bit of a brawl and were finally allowed in after police looked at our birth certificates! A victory we thought - as women continued to drink there in the following weeks - but the Publican then changed one of his other bars to an exclusively male preserve once more and he is allowed to do it by law.

We began a campaign for Equal Pay - leafletting and talking in factories - with some interest aroused but no strikes directly caused by our incitement yet.

1972 began with a Child Care Conference of as many interested organisations as possible. Out of this came the Child Care Action Committee, which meets fortnightly. Recently, it had a deputation to a City Council meeting, asking for a day care centre to be provided in town. We got sympathy (from some) but nothing else. However, we're hoping to be able to start a centre of our own some time.

Also this year we had a new venture - a stall in Cook St Market - we stopped it because trade dropped, but we roused a lot of interest while we were there. We had quite a few Women's Liberation books and magazine and badges, tee-shirts and bags. If anyone is interested in buying any come to our meetings at 10 Ponsonby Rd, 7.30 Wednesday nights or Ph 76956 for more information.

Bronwyn Banks

N. O. W.

Now in the fourth month of its existence, the National Organisation for Women has only just begun to get together the potential of its members. We are concentrating on collecting signatures for our National Child Care petition, which is in itself an educational process. We have concentrated so far on talking to varied groups to get our message across and on writing letters to papers, officials, businessmen and government, putting our views on items in the news, and getting a surprising amount of interest in return. We are also organising monthly meetings for members and keeping in touch through a rather sketchy newsletter.

NOW was seen from its inception as a group which would use the traditional means of getting its message across - lectures, petitions, meetings, letters, pamphlets, articles etc. - in the way that the first wave of feminism in New Zealand did in the 1880's and 1890's. Broadly our job is education - and this must include education of our members as well as of the public. Our survey of members' attitudes to abortion is part of this process and this is why our decision over a policy on abortion must not be taken too quickly since the result of the survey should give both members and the public something they must think seriously about. A too hasty decision, the executive have decided, would alienate, not educate.

There is some feeling on the executive that we may need to revise our structure in order to be able to use all the energies our members can offer - so far it has seemed that too few people are trying to do everything, and it is part of our

purpose to educate as many women as possible to have the courage in public of their private convictions.

It is important to all of us that NOW and Women's Liberation should be open to interchange of ideas. Our methods may differ, but our aims are largely the same, and both are necessary organisations, which, by working side by side, can speed up changes in society. NOW will always be open to suggestions both from inside and outside.

Deidre Milne
NOW
P.O. Box 2946
Auckland 1

Women Against The War

WOMEN AGAINST THE WAR is a contingent of the Anti-war movement in N.Z. Our aim is to reach as many women as possible with an appeal to you to join us on the Mobilisation on July 14 in the women's group.

Many women, when asked their opinion on apartheid, the war, or politics have felt obliged to say: "You'd better ask my husband." WE HAVE BEEN MADE TO FEEL THAT WE ARE JUST NEUROTIC SUBURBAN CABBAGES ; INCAPABLE OF ANY THOUGHTS AT ALL. Yet there cannot be a woman on earth who would condone the slaughter and rape of the Vietnamese people. The Pentagon Papers have revealed to us that this war is based on American lies and deceit and our government supports the vile rape, enforced prostitution and massacre of our Vietnamese sisters.

While Nixon carries on his war he makes public statements against abortion which he "cannot square... with my personal belief in the sanctity of human life... For surely the unborn have rights also." If we, as women, do not come out on this issue, then we are acting the role of the silent majority which permits our government to support the continuation of this war. We must unite, as women, together with women throughout the world, and reveal our strength in sisterhood in opposition to a war which we, as women, find abhorrent.

Cathy J Carroll
Women against the War
587 New North Rd,
Kingsland.
Ph 863399

Auckland Organisation For Women

It was only in April of this year that three friends and I first talked about starting a Women's Liberation Group. Having attended the first National Women's Liberation Conference held in Wellington over the Easter Weekend we realised through the different workshops held there, the need for many small groups in which women could talk freely to one another.

As two of us were housewives, we decided this was a good place to start. A leaflet was published inviting housewives (in our immediate area) to meet other women, housewives like themselves. The leaflet was letterboxed and resulted in our first meeting.

Word travelled and we now receive inquiries from women in Auckland and also from women in smaller cities interested in starting their own groups.

Our only publication to date is a reprint of an American article, "The Politics of Housework", but we hope to publish further articles relevant to the liberation of women and anyone interested in helping with this, we need you! Our meetings are held every Thursday at Fl 2, 20 Masons Ave, Herne Bay at 8 p.m. Men are not allowed at our regular meetings.

P.O. Box 5198 Auckland
Ph: 762876

"Quote

from Dr. A.M. Rutherford, M.B.,
Ch.B. (N.Z.), F.R.O.G.

"There are important emotional differences between men and women. Man is the dominant partner, the hunter, the lover. Woman is better at repetitive tasks, e.g. knitting, which explains her particular aptitude for mass production lines in factories, in offices, or in occupation that calls for continuous repeated small tasks. On the other hand, man is better at policy making, the making of long range plans, at seeing an objective undeterred by side issues. Woman tends to stay with the minutiae and therefore not to see the wood for the trees. Strong words? Perhaps, and there are exceptions of course, but these too tend to have manly characteristics. Joan of Arc for instance was more man than woman."

Women's Liberation

The Auckland Women's Liberation Group has been around for a year or so but most of the present members have only been meeting together since March. We meet on Tuesday evenings, fortnightly - so far we haven't a permanent meeting place but you'll find us on July 11 at 7.30 p.m. at Flat 1, 25a Princes St (opp Maclaurin Chapel). We have regular speakers or one of our members talks about some subject. A report of our last meeting is below.

Our main activity so far, has been two consciousness raising groups which meet weekly to talk about a variety of subjects. Some views from people participating in these groups will be published in a future issue. Other groups are being formed so if you're interested phone Sharyn Cederman at the number below, outside working hours. For further information about our group ring one of the two numbers below.

Sandra Coney 687887
Sharyn Cederman 74974

Report of General Meeting of
Auckland Women's Liberation held on
13 th June.

About 30 people attended the meeting which was held in the Maclaurin Chapel. It was decided to continue having rotating chairpersons for future meetings. Rosemary Ronald was appointed minute Secretary, while Sharyn Cederman is to handle correspondence and act as Treasurer. There is to be a \$2 annual sub which will also cover the cost of a monthly newspaper.

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Russell Haley

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We chose three areas of interest towards which we will direct particular attention. The group will also appoint people to keep in constant contact with Child Care Groups, the Equal Pay and Opportunity Council and other women's groups.

One groups interest will be centred around working for the repeal of the Abortion Law and also in setting up a centre for contraceptive advice for young unmarried girls.

A newspaper is to be issued regularly containing reports from groups, general comment etc.

A third group will cover a range of topics under the heading of Education and Public Relations. This group hopes to provide speakers for schools and other interested groups. A critical eye will also be kept on advertising.

We also hope to have a legal information group set up at some stage to provide information on discriminatory laws.

John Carter addressed the meeting on the new Compensation Act. A copy of this report is printed in this paper. It was decided that Betty and John Carter would send an official letter of protest from the group. Members could also take any individual action they felt necessary.

We were also addressed by Cathy Carroll of Women Against the War, a contingent of the anti-war movement. A report from this group is in this section.

I have lain
Too long
Quiescent, still,
Foetal curled,
Safely cocooned
Within your will,
You have been
Much too
Complacent,
Now you wonder
How your petted minx
Became a phoenix
And a sphinx.

Behind my mask
I find
I have a mind,
And I discover this
My lover,
We two
Are not one,
And my life
Has just begun
Inertia will not do.

OFFICE WORK

"Good Morning Miss Robot"

A curt 'Good Morning Miss Robot' and thus the day begins for some 82,000 female office workers in New Zealand. Disguising a yawn she replies, mentally ticks off the hours until 5 p.m. Friday, and armed with His newspaper and coffee, follows Him into His office. The daily routine is about to start, and here is a typical day in the life of an office worker.

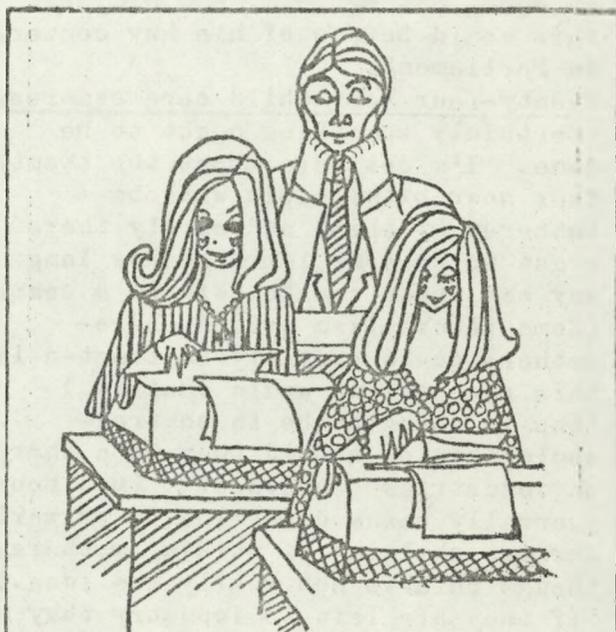
A day begins with the collecting of the mail which is a daily chore carried out before the official starting time of 9 a.m. She is generally given a leeway of a few minutes and at approximately five minutes past nine, her employer will walk into her life and expect the first of many morning coffees, made just to his liking. Depending on whether he is in good humour or not, a friendly insignificant conversation may take place for ten minutes or so, ending with 'Was there anything interesting in the mail?'. Considering the time is now only fifteen minutes past nine, during which time she has automatically been expected to have collected the mail, made the coffee, wasted ten minutes in idle chat, plus opening and dealing with the mail, this is rather a ridiculous question. 'No, I haven't got round to it yet', she replies, only to receive back an intolerant look of annoyance. On completion of the task of opening and distributing the mail, the rest of the morning is spent typing and yawning.

Lunchtime is a welcome hour which she spends as far away from the office as possible either with a friend or dealing with personal affairs. On return to the office, the rest of the afternoon is spent completing the correspondence and possibly carrying out the tedious task of filing. All these jobs are interspersed with annoying interruptions such as telephone calls, making gallons of coffee to sooth her boss's nerves, and generally making his life as easy as possible by making and cancelling his appointments. Thankfully, at five o'clock the day is over - only to be repeated again in sixteen hours. With that grim thought in mind, she hurries for the bus.

This to most people not employed in an office may seem very boring. You're right, it is! However, this routine, which becomes pure automation after a while, is not the biggest bugbear of all. It is the subservient role the female office worker is expected to play. She must always laugh at her boss's jokes (usually corny), must never offer an opinion unless it's asked for (and it is then, once given, completely disregarded by Him), never contradict anything He says as He is always right. She must also get used to being spoken to in rather patronising tones as though she, poor girl, were sub-normal.

A high percentage of women employed in office positions are well educated, intelligent, sensible people who could, if given the chance, play an extremely valuable role in a company. Until it is recognized just how important she can be to her boss, and until he begins to credit her with intelligence, then her general feeling of non-enthusiasm and apathy about work will continue.

Two Christines



**'Before I used the
Dominion Classified
I did my own typing'**

interview: with Mike Moore

Mr Moore is a bachelor in his twenties. He is generally regarded as a rising young star of the Labour Party, and his being chosen for Eden, a seat which Labour failed to wrest from National in the last election by only about sixty votes, seems to indicate that he has a fair chance of political prominence in the future. We interviewed him for this paper to see what both he and the Labour Party had to say about those issues which particularly concern women and which Parliament could take action on if it so desired. Here are his comments:

Abortion Law Reform: Mr. Moore is undecided on this issue. He used to be for repeal of the law altogether, i.e. for abortion on demand, but he is worried by the number of doctors who have come out against this. He feels some reform is necessary and inevitable but is uncertain how far this should go. 'I'm not very concerned about the single girls - it's the housewives with sagging bottoms and varicose veins that I feel sorry for.' In this view Mr. Moore is supported by such evidence as there is, which suggests that an overwhelming proportion of women who would like to obtain abortions are married.

Equal pay and opportunity: Mr. Moore was enthusiastically but somewhat vaguely in support of this in general. He pointed out that it is in fact Labour policy to implement equal pay at once, not by 1975, and did say this would be one of his key concerns in Parliament.

Twenty-four hour child care centres: 'Certainly something ought to be done. I'm not sure about the twenty-four hour bit - people will be bothered by this, and surely there ought to be some limit on how long any one child can be left in a centre! (Some paternalism evident here - mothers could probably be trusted in this respect, we would imagine.) 'Who is going to be in control - would they or should they be a charge on industries concerned?' (Mr. Moore generally assumed them to be primarily for the children of working mothers, though this is not really the idea.) 'If they are left to industry they may become another source of exploitation, for example the employer may use them to get mothers to work shifts and overtime.'

Pre-school education: 'It is Labour Party policy to provide universally available but not compulsory pre-school education. The opportunity

few who take an interest. The children who get it now are generally the ones who don't need it so much anyway. This applies to the whole of the education system.'

General reactions: 'Women's Lib seems to be doing a lot of good and I think that's fine.' This makes us sound a little like Jaycettes. 'I'm a bit worried because it has seemed to be rather narrowly based up till now, a kind of elitism, but this is perhaps being overcome. You must reach the housewife and the working woman - generally she's working in a factory - as well as middle class women, though of course they do have the time and money to spare.' Mr. Moore's Trade Union background is emerging here - actually the largest single group of female employees by far is in clerical work.

'Yes, I am aware that women can't get compensation for accidents under the new Bill - Labour would try to do something about this as soon as possible, in line with the Commission's original recommendations that everybody be included. I know they have difficulties with housing loans too. I think State Advances should consider the extended family, the commune, when it's building houses. Young people are interested in these ways of living. Then there are Polynesian families...' We finished up with Mr. Moore's present 'special interest', which is naturally politics. 'The Labour Party has put a woman, Mary Batchelor, up for its safest seat, Avon, which has a 6000 majority. It's put Dorothy Jellicich up for Hamilton West, a more marginal National seat than Eden. Alison Murphy is standing for Hauraki and Molly Clark for Papanui. And it isn't because they are women but because they are the best people. You can't put women in just because they're women, like token Maoris. Let them put leather patches on their knees and work for the party as I had to. They don't have to stay with the raffles and the housie nights (which we used to put on and which did exploit women, as well as the kids they left outside while they played. We've dropped them now).

Mr. Moore did ask whether, if National put up Mrs. Kidd to stand against him for Eden, Women's Lib would support her on principle. As this has not yet happened we couldn't say. We would however certainly try to interview her. But it is rather unlikely that she would be as sympathetic to our aims as he is.

home thoughts from a broad

The family is supposed to exist because of the strong bonds of affection between its members. It typifies, according to the Establishment, everything that is best in our culture and at the heart of this sentimental portrait of togetherness is Mother, brow furrowed and wrinkled with care, but nevertheless smiling and content as she watches her husband and children happily relaxing in the warm comfort and privacy of home. But according to Germaine Greer, the real truth is that:

'The family of the sixties is small, self-contained, self-centred. Children live their lives most fully at school, fathers at work. Mother is the dead heart of the family, spending father's earnings on consumer goods to enhance the environment in which he eats, sleeps and watches television.'

Who is right? How does the family really function in our society? It is said to have the responsibility for the emotional well-being of its members, but how well is this working? Certainly there is evidence to suggest that it works well enough for married men. According to a recent American study, they are far less neurotic and in better physical shape than single men. But for married women the opposite is true; they are worse off, mentally and physically, than their unmarried sisters, and the rate of attempted suicide among housewives is nine times as high as that for any other occupational group.

The reason for this difference is that the male is the most important member of the family in society's eyes, because he earns money, and therefore his health is important. But wives are economically important simply because they consume so much, for themselves, the home, the kids. Sometimes things get out of hand and society is briefly disturbed; after all, a suicide can't consume anything. Why does this happen? In a society where adults are ranked not by birth but by income and occupation, the 'unemployed' housewife is naturally at the bottom of the ladder, along with children and old-age pensioners. Her household duties and child rearing are unpaid and do not count as 'work'. So she has no status at all, and this shows in the state of her mental and physical health.

Eventually even the husband is affected. He finds that a neurotic, sickly wife is not amusing; he can no longer use the home as a pleasant, carefree retreat from the exhausting and impersonal world of work. So, increasingly, he opts out. The number of deserted wives in Auckland alone has risen dramatically over the last five years. Women rarely take this way out. They are too involved with their children, and they are afraid to leave their home which provides, if nothing else, material comforts and security they have little chance of finding again on their own.

This is of course to put things at their worst. A couple may manage a little better than this. They may share their worries and try to share their lives at other times than the weekends. They may resent the way in which society tries to divide them by placing all the financial responsibility on the husband and imposing a work pattern of long hours to fit this stereotype. This makes the 'woman's work' in the home lonely and depressing, and the wife's chances of taking on any worthwhile job 'outside' slight. They may deplore the isolation of the suburban family, often far from friends and relations, yet knowing nothing of its neighbours. They may even make an attempt to change all this, to set up a commune, a co-op, a farm. But mostly they just struggle on, thinking vaguely that something is wrong somewhere.

The truth is that the family in our society does not need to make its members happy in order to fulfil what is seen as its most important function, i.e. the economic one. It is important because it consumes things so well and with such efficiency, and because without it men could never bring themselves to stay in what are often dreary, meaningless jobs. The family provides the spur to get a man to work and keep him there. It then uses his earnings to buy the products of his and others' labour. It does this so energetically because it is for ever competing with other families as to who can put on the best display of consumer goods. Since the wife probably consumes better in a state of chronic dissatisfaction with her life it is in the economy's interest to keep her like this. The husband must be kept under the illusion that he is working not for the boss

but for his family, that the more he can earn and they can buy the happier they all will be. He also gets satisfaction from the picture 'his' family presents, since the better the display the higher his status in society. His wife and children themselves may become possessions to be put on show, and woe betide them if they fail to measure up.

It is hard to say who is fooling whom in this little game. There is not really any real winner. The present rate of consumption in the Western world, combined with modern industrial growth, has produced pollution on an incomprehensible scale. We are thoroughly conditioned into the system and the

prevailing family pattern from at least the first school reader which shows Father going off to work in the car and Mother waving goodbye with Baby that we are almost incapable of seriously attempting alternatives. Women especially are taught to think of themselves as primarily mothers, hence the population explosion continues.

So long as our merry-go-round economy is so firmly linked to the family as we know it, change is not likely; and women will continue to find themselves at the bottom of the social heap. Perhaps we must finally deal not only with male chauvinism but also with the whole crazy system itself.

Anne Else

pregnancy: a personal view

I'm making baby clothes while trying to continue with some lectures and waiting for my baby to be born at the end of August.

It would seem that some of my friends could not believe I would be fool enough to get myself pregnant - and the reaction of the baby's father was, initially, to put his hands over his eyes and pretend that it would go away. He has begun, at last, to warm to the idea of a son or a daughter - but he still has some difficulty accepting the fact.

But I became pregnant because I wanted to have a baby; my motives or reasons are no one's business but my own and I am sick of solicitous people, who are employed to 'help' girls like me, who will not let me enjoy my pregnancy.

I do not believe I have ever felt as well before and I find pregnancy exhilarating, but I should not enjoy it: not if I am unmarried. I want and will love my baby and anyone who does not like it can get stuffed.

While I do not have any intention of belittling the work of organisations and people who concern themselves with unmarried mothers, I am saying that many of them do not realize that some of these girls like myself are loving every minute of their pregnancy and are eagerly awaiting their babies.

There do remain, in spite of what I have just said, the girls who just cannot face the thought of pregnancy and the responsibilities of a child. In these cases the girls are entitled to have their pregnancy terminated, or be given a regular supply of a reliable contraceptive.

The Family Planning Clinic in Auckland is now prepared to supply the pill, or other means of contraception to single girls - but for many it is just too late and so they try various means of aborting themselves.

I recently read a letter in 'Time' by a doctor, who asked if the anti-abortionists would react to the preserved body of a young girl who had died from sepsis, as the result of a back street abortion, in the same manner in which they would react to a perfectly formed foetus, the end product of an abortion.

Even though I may be one of lucky. I want my baby. But for all the girls who do not feel the way I do, they need and deserve the help and compassion that trained doctors and proper conditions can provide.

KICKING AGAINST THE PRICKS

Sandra Coney

It would seem that whenever popular opinion is moving towards a liberalisation of a certain law, the judiciary toughens up the punishments meted out to offenders. So in June 3rd Star- "The time has come when imprisonment ought to be imposed on people involved in assisting illegal abortions, Mr Justice Henry said in the Auckland Supreme Court yesterday." The offender was fined \$500 for arranging an abortion out of "a misguided sense of pity and compassion" as the defendant's counsel put it.

Advertisement for Sunday film -

There are two kinds of people in his upright world; his victims and his women... and sometimes you can't tell them apart. "

Quote from Auckland Star's feature article by John Fairfax about how he and companion Sylvia Cook crossed the Pacific in a rowing boat.

I'm still old-fashioned enough to take the view that it's really not a woman's place to row across the Pacific. But... I didn't fancy spending a year in the Pacific without female company- not at my lusty age anyway.

Sylvia was fantastic. I worked her like a slave - I reckon she did 70% of all the work on the boat, because as well as cooking, washing up, cleaning, baling and keeping the boat shipshape, she also did a five-hour stint with the oars every day!

She never complained, and what I admired, she never panicked - even though sometimes like me, she was really scared out of her wits. What guts that girl has! "

And you give me a guts ache Mr Fairfax. Any takers for his next rowing marathon?



The latest fashion in America is the Pregnant Look. One of the initiators of the trend, Susan Miller says "Women are naturally maternal and the smock look makes them feel close to the earth. It's an earthy, sexy and romantic Look." Makers of a "pregnancy pouff" to be worn under the new look clothes say "Our slogan is pregnancy without fear - you can have all the fun and none of the responsibilities. People stand up in subways. Taxi drivers get out and hold the door." It has to be a put-on.

Esther Vilar's book "The Manipulated Man" has annoyed Women's Lib overseas with such statements as: "Men are human beings who work and by working support their wives and the children of their wives." It seems that every popular text these days spawns a whole rash of others trying to cash in on the original; viz. "The Sensual Woman" (then Man... why not try homosexual next?), "The Little Red Schoolbook" and all the little multicoloured ones that came trotting up behind. We hope to have a review of the book when it reaches N.Z.

Present for Sir Roy Jack - plastic blow-up female figure. Press a button and she'll say "I'm your femininity doll. Please play with me. Please keep me well polished, clean, bright and slightly oiled."

Milne's, our new antipodean Harrod's, has been bombarding the Press with a new line in advertising. So far they have managed to offend with two large adverts ... leering cigar puffing hair-dresser boasts "After an hour with no woman is ever the same." Haven't seen that ad. lately. Hope someone rammed the cigar.... To compound its sins, Milne's produced another beaut for Mothers Day - a page of pretty pretty drawings was dotted with such gems as "Mothers are for cooking dinners for daddies." In fact mothers are jolly handy people to have round the place.

An all male jury was picked to hear a Supreme Court case of obscene telephone calls to a woman. The Judge explained that women jurors had been asked to stand aside because they might have found some of the evidence-offensive. Herald. June 8th.

THE ACCIDENT COMPENSATION BILL

Before dealing with the provisions of the Accident Compensation Bill, I think it would be advisable to refer briefly to what the present state of the law is.

In general terms anyone who has been injured by the negligence of another has a right of action against that person (and his employer) to recover full compensation for the injury. This compensation includes financial loss, pain and suffering and loss of enjoyment of life. The biggest claims in New Zealand to date have been for quadraplegia (complete paralysis of the four limbs with associated lack of bowel and urinary functions and other disabilities) or 'vegetable cases' as they are commonly called have amounted to the best part of \$100,000. In addition a worker injured in the course of his employment can claim Workers Compensation (maximum \$10,000) without having to prove negligence, in respect of any injury arising out of and in the course of his employment.

Because of the difficulty of proving negligence, particularly in motor accident cases, and because of the injustice that resulted to persons who could not establish negligence a Royal Commission was set up under Mr. Justice Woodhouse to examine the present system in 19 . . . The Woodhouse Report, as it came to be known, recommended full compensation for everyone irrespective of fault. This report was then mutilated by a Parliamentary Committee under the respected Mr. Gill and a bill in draft form is about to be finalised by a select committee established by Parliament.

Numerous representations have been made in respect of the bill by interested persons such as lawyers, insurance companies, orthopaedic surgeons, and others, and the bill is likely to become law, substantially in its present form. The bill contains two distinct schemes, one to provide compensation for all those injured in all motor vehicle accidents and secondly one to provide compensation for all earners. Under the Earner's scheme, cover may be provided for all or for injury only at work. 'Earner' is defined with some care in the bill but for present purposes an earner can be regarded simply as an earner.

I turn now to the compensation provisions of the bill.

1. An earner prevented from working by accidental injury will receive for the balance of his life compensation equal to 80% of his earnings.

2. The Commission will have the discretion to award up to \$5000 maximum for any injury involving the loss or impairment of any bodily function.

3. The Commission can award up to a maximum of \$7,500 for loss of enjoyment of life (including disfigurement) and future pain and mental suffering including nervous shock and neurosis.

4. In addition the Commission has powers to make an award for other proved financial loss.

One of the major anomalies in the bill is that women who are not working and who comprise a significant percentage of the total population are excluded from compensation for future loss of income. It is submitted that this will cause severe hardship to a large number of women injured while raising a family or temporarily off work to have a baby or for any other reason. The reason given for the exclusion is on the grounds of cost. On the other hand a woman who is working and who may intend to cease working in the future will receive compensation for the rest of her life.

If you are going to be injured make sure you arrange to be working at the time.

John Carter

LETTER

Auckland Womens Liberation Group
5 Brilliant Street
St. Heliers
Auckland 5
June 13th, 1972.

The Secretary,
Accident Compensation Bill Cmtee,
Parliament,
Wellington.

Dear Sir,

At a meeting on June 13th 1972 the Group was addressed by an Auckland lawyer on the provisions of the draft Accident Compensation Bill.

The speaker outlined:

(a) the present position at common law

- (b) the Woodhouse Report, the basis of which was to be that everyone should be fully compensated irrespective of fault, and
- (c) the scope of the present bill.

The speaker emphasized that women, contrary to the intention of the Woodhouse Report, were only included in the bill in respect of injuries sustained in motor vehicle accidents, that their maximum claim was limited to \$12,500 under that scheme and that they were not to be compensated for loss of future earnings unless they came within the definition of 'earner'. It was pointed out that a large number of women are non-earners and that a woman who is injured at home will not be compensated at all (unless she can prove negligence).

The Group resolved unanimously to write to your Committee to object in the strongest possible terms to the way women had been dealt with under the bill. One particular

aspect which concerned the Group a great deal was the position of a woman who is temporarily not working. She would not qualify as an earner under the scheme and would therefore not be able to claim for future loss of earning irrespective of her intention to return to work in the near future.

It was resolved to ask the Committee to give earnest consideration to:

- (a) Including all women under S113 and S114 irrespective of how the injury was caused
- (b) Increasing the amounts payable under clauses 113 and 114 to realistic figures and
- (c) Extending clause 112 to include cases where the Commission is satisfied that the applicant would, but for the incapacity, start working in the future.

Yours faithfully,

AUCKLAND WOMENS LIBERATION GROUP

women's suffrage in new zealand

—patricia grimshaw

New Zealand was the first country not part of a federation to give women the vote, and this is the first full account of how it happened.

Mrs. Grimshaw shows that women's suffrage in New Zealand was the culmination of a movement concerned with the position of women in other spheres. The ideas behind the movement, the organisation of the campaign, the shifts resorted to by politicians confronted with it, are all revealed in a compelling and often entertaining account.

AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY PRESS / OUP
\$ 5.25

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review:

In 1893 New Zealand women got the vote, through their own enthusiasm, energy, and hard work for what Patricia Grimshaw maintains they saw as essentially a feminist cause. She examines the campaign in detail, and puts forward plenty of evidence to alter the view first taken by Reeves and followed by other historians since, that "there was no genuine suffrage movement in New Zealand. All agitation for the vote had been carried out by teetotallers in their attempt to achieve prohibition, and the main motives behind the movement were 'ulterior' ". She sees the campaign for suffrage here as part of the world-wide feminist movement then taking place, and gives convincing proof for this theory.

Through an odd combination of factors including the pioneer spirit still alive in the country then, the fluid political party structure, and the still small population (which made united efforts easier) the campaign was eventually successful. By the general elections of 1893, 80% of adult women were on the electoral role, and 85% of these voted.

And that was about as far as it went. As Grimshaw quotes W.S. O'Sullivan,

"Enfranchisement did not mark the beginning of women's real emancipation, but its end." Those who had battled for the removal of the legal and political barriers against women's freedom believed that their wider goal, the full acceptance of women as equals in society, would follow in its train.'

We know better now. In many ways our position has declined since those days: then, half the number of university students in New Zealand were women; now they make up 30%. Grimshaw looks tentatively to the present new phase of the movement to finish the task the suffragists started on with such high hopes, and which has lain half finished ever since. Her book does not always disentangle the complicated background to the 1893 Bill as clearly as it could, particularly where the political personalities are concerned, and they tend to remain a vague collection of names; but the manoeuvring of the male politicians -- is after all not her main focus.

The book is on the whole competently and interestingly written, keeping to a format which while not exactly exciting is both rigorous enough to satisfy the historian and easily accessible to the general reader. There are too many annoying misprints but the photographs and cartoons are excellent. The unchanging form of

male opposition to the movement, basically consisting of barely concealed horror at the idea that a) women might invade the male world of power, and b) men might be forced to engage in the menial tasks hitherto done for them by women, is tediously familiar, and yet another indication of how far not only women, but men also, have failed to come since then.

Today the movement for 'women's rights' in New Zealand could well do with some of the impressive women, such as Katharine Wilson Shephard, whom Grimshaw describes. But if such women could fight so courageously and so well against what must often have seemed, even in New Zealand, overwhelming odds, and succeed only to such a limited extent, how can we hope to do very much better? To some extent, this is a very depressing book.

Anne Else



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