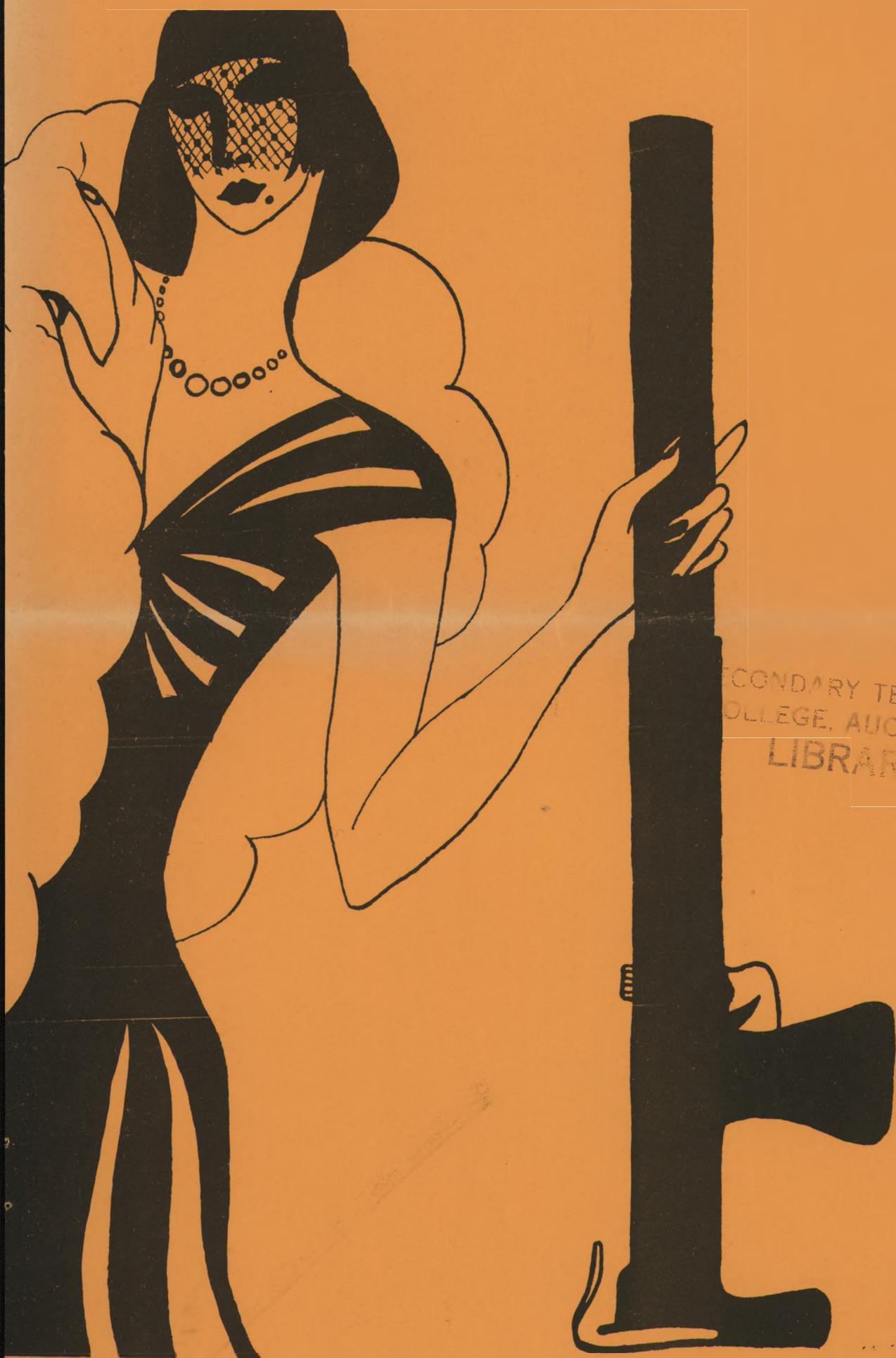


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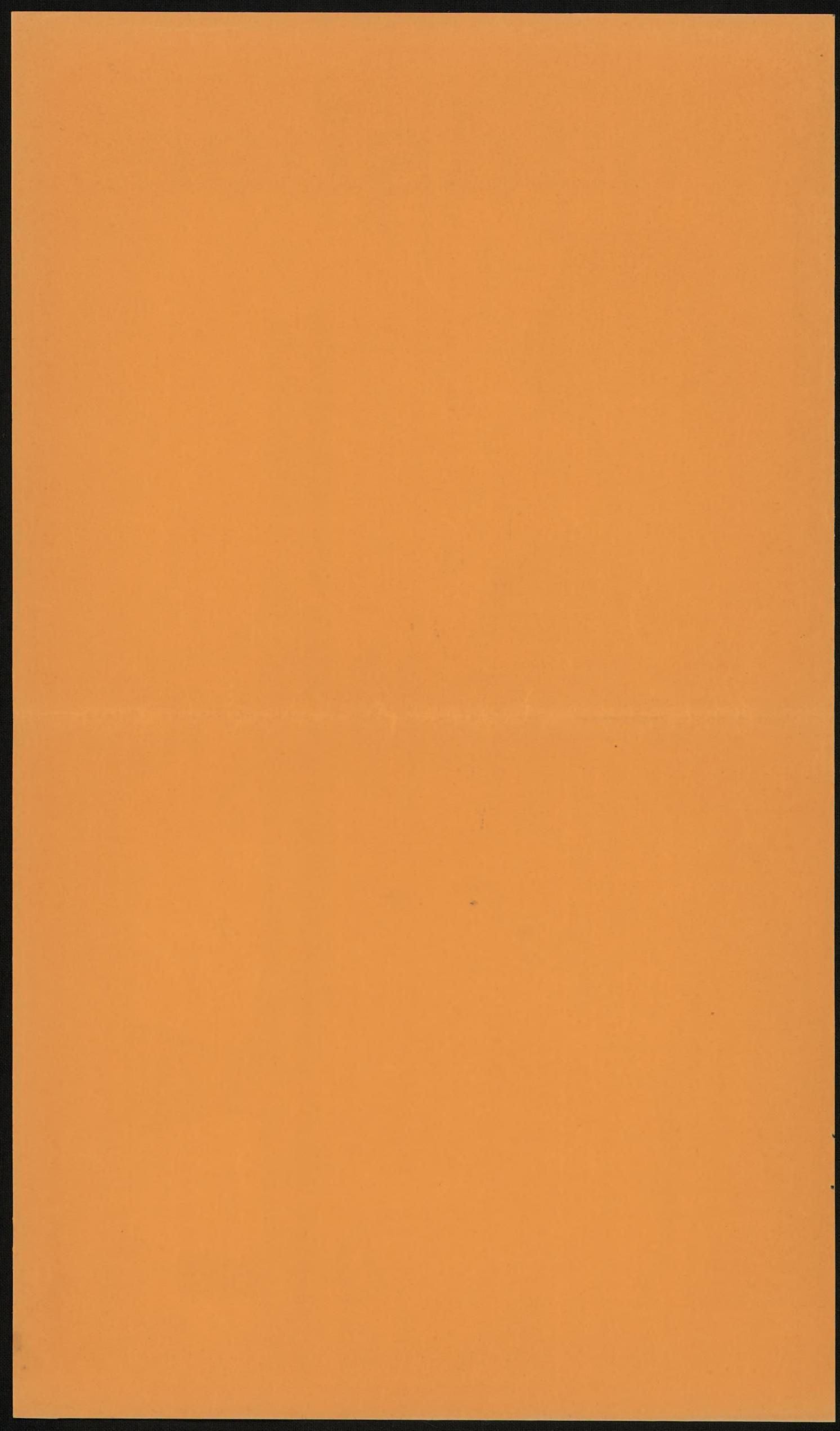
broadsheet 8



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editorial

Withdraw your toes, I'm stepping out!



"Anyone can become angry - that is easy; but to be angry with the right person to the right degree, at the right time, for the right purpose, and in the right way - this is not easy."

- Aristotle

Apparently a certain amount of anger has been expressed towards the anger which was directed at men in last month's Broadsheet. Why is it - our conditioning I suppose - that so many of us (male and female) feel distressed/angry/threatened when men as a group are seen to be the object of women's hostility? Those of you who were at the seminar will remember that "white" and "straight" people (particularly women) were on the receiving end of a certain amount of hostility. What did we do? We clapped; politely or enthusiastically, depending upon the extent of our guilt. But a suggestion of hostility toward men (exclusion from the University group) - and what an injured reaction!

But perhaps after all it is reasonable for men to be a bit sad at being excluded. After all they come with gifts (support and interest) and get looked in the mouth. The reaction of women is another thing. I believe some women have not (for any of a number of reasons) truly felt oppression at a personal level. They see or hear of sad suburban neurotics or become filled with missionary zeal, but they have not identified men as the oppressing agents and therefore feel no anger towards them.

Other women just cannot afford to rock the boat they are in. Full

realisation of a loved man as an oppressor would be a very destructive occurrence in their lives.

There are also the women who are still dependent on male approval. They vigorously oppose hostility to men - becoming often very hostile to women in the process. They must prove to the male that the movement is not really a threat to him as it is really People's Liberation; she is not one of those naughty on-the-fringe man-baters, and she can still qualify for his approval.

And if some of us, who perhaps feel our oppression more, occasionally take a swipe at those whom we see as the agents of our oppression - well, what is so wicked about that?

As for this no-men-at-meetings thing. There are reasons - good ones - particularly if the women's groups concerned are young and inexperienced ones. Women, generally speaking, have been conditioned to defer to men, and not to challenge them. It takes a long time to get over this conditioning. Women do behave differently, talk differently, when men are present. No man around really does give a feeling of restraints lifting. Men do tend to take the dominant roles. If there are no men around to do the acting and thinking, the women have to - and thereby increase their own capabilities and confidence. Also, men (their conditioning at work I guess) tend to discuss things in a more abstract, detached, objective way - when often a good dose of subjective realism is required for political growth.

Women must learn to value the company of other women. This appears to be easiest done in closed groups.

Finally - "we are (in this particular instance) the oppressed people and it is around this that we organise. Such a separatist movement in no way excludes the awareness of other oppressed groups under capitalism, nor does it pretend that society does not harm men too. The movement is largely anti-capitalist, and as such assumes the distortion of everybody's life and potential today." (Juliet Mitchell).

I see I have used the word "oppressed" a lot. To those who have in the past rebuked me for using emotive language - remember, emotion does not necessarily imply a lack of rationality. - And if it's not oppression we want to be liberated from, what on earth is the movement all about?

Sandra Fraser.

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deadline for issue 9

April 30

feminist diary

March 8 :

In Wellington women from NOW and other groups marked International Women's Day by demonstrating at Parliament Buildings. After talking with several Cabinet Ministers, the women received the impression that the Government was prepared to spearhead public opinion over contraception and sex education, but wanted to have public opinion backing any abortion changes.

March 17 :

Mr Tizard announced that a provision to allow vasectomies to be performed in public hospitals had been approved by Cabinet for inclusion in the Hospitals Amendment Bill.

April 1 :

The Equal Pay Act, passed last October, came into effect today. Employers are now required to lift female wage rates towards equality with males between now and April 1978.

April 3 :

The Australian Cabinet decided that Federal Government employees, married and unmarried, will receive 12 weeks maternity leave on full pay.

April 5 :

Near Sydney, 4 women's liberation protesters disguised as men, worked for 3 hours in the steelworks at Port Kembla to demonstrate the need for a more practical approach to jobs for women. They were undetected by security guards and foremen.

April 6 :

Hamilton Organization for Women demonstrated today against the discriminatory decision of a Hamilton taxi company to lay off female staff at 52 and males at 60.

Housewives in America are boycotting meat in a protest at its high price. In an impressive display of solidarity about 50% of housewives are taking part and some shops are reporting 50-80% drops in sales. The secretary of the Butchers' Union in America said: "A boycott is the weapon of organised labour. When women, possibly by the million, use it, it could be devastating to industry."

WANTED



Articles: Letters
Illustrations

CASES OF DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST WOMEN

broadsheet ♀

letters

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF "BROADSHEET"

It's just what some men say about women's groups you know, that they will always finish up sniping and making snide remarks about each other. It's true for me that the women's magazine that I read the most of this kind of thing in is "Broadsheet". So many times, have you or your subscribers "named" the Equal Pay and Opportunity Council, N.O.W. of Auckland and Labour Party women (and me too). We're not sacred cows of course, and you can't be many years in activity without learning to take it. But how about practising some "sisterhood" and being mature and flexible enough to realise that we'll have different methods but our goal is more or less the same; we can be equal but different.

"Broadsheet" has had help from N.O.W. in Auckland with the opportunity at our meetings to put on what has been expressed to me by members as the "hard sell" which must have helped considerably in building up a profit as I have been told of \$400.00. I offered to help Sandra Coney with her article on women in employment, supplied her with the statistics of "Women in the Work Force 1971", some Awards and told her how to get the rest, and this kind of attitude is what I expect from women's groups. But previous issues of "Broadsheet" and the latest - "Dear Ms Jelicich" for instance, are nothing but destructive. In my opinion one liberation group lost out when because of political affiliations it could not take up the obvious issue of sex discrimination at Whaketu. If sniping at Labour Party women and Government members continues without real reason and just for the sake of sniping, I would suggest that it's time for another appraisal. Don't use us please for your own advantage, and then try to destroy us. We've enough enemies but be fair enough to accept that with the New Zealand Equal Pay Act coming into force from April 1st, the Equal Pay Council has achieved a nearly 100 years claim, that N.O.W. has united a number of women for their

own and others' benefit, that Labour Party women are already making things easier for the old and young, and it's a general rule I've found that busy people don't have time for destructive criticism of others.

- Connie Purdue

BROADSHEET REPLIES :

The only time Labour Party women and NOW have been criticized in BROADSHEET (the Equal Pay and Opportunity Council never has been) was in the article "Dear Ms Jelicich", which was an individual expression of opinion with which the editors didn't necessarily agree, but felt to be worth printing. The only time we have criticized Connie Purdue was in a report on her speech in the seminar "Women in the Modern World", (last September) and we feel this criticism to be fair. Broadsheet has always tried to represent a cross-section of women's liberation views, and this is impossible to do without occasionally offending someone.

As for our mythical \$400 profit, we wish it were true. Most of this sum is accounted for in obligations to subscribers and outstanding accounts for printing etc. We sell 20-30 copies of the 850-1000 Broadsheets we have printed each month at NOW meetings. Other Women's liberation groups can sell Broadsheet and make a profit for themselves of 5c per copy if they are prepared to take 30 copies or more.



Dear Broadsheet,

I wish to disagree with some of the things Fern said in "Dear Ms Jelicich" (March issue). I can understand that she feels frustrated at the slow rate of progress being made towards

(continued...)



letters

Panmure

the true emancipation of women, but this is no excuse for advocating violence rather than persuasion. I was not quite sure what she meant when she said that violence was inevitable, but I gathered that she was using the word in a rhetorical and emotive sense, rather than that she thought men and women were going to end up on different sides of the barricades. But whatever she meant her article could well have the effect of alienating men who are sympathetic to our cause (and there are quite a few) as well as many women. We just have to accept the fact that progress will be slow when it involves changes in such deep-seated attitudes. We can't expect to change most older men and they are the ones who have the power at the moment. But we can hope to change younger people who haven't such rigid views, and of course, most hope lies in future generations. Fern seemed to imply that men are to blame for the state the world is in. I disagree with this for two reasons. Firstly, I don't think wars, racial discrimination, violence and so on have very much to do with equality between men and women - once we get the latter, the former will certainly not disappear automatically although hopefully equality has a humanising effect on people. Secondly, if woman had been in the dominant position, would she have behaved any differently than man has done? It is pointless to try to blame men; we must try to change them, and women too.

Hilary Haines



Appleby Research Orchard
Coastal Road, Richmond
RD1

Dear Broadsheet

I should like to add to your article "Occupation 'Slushie' Or The Seven Most Popular Jobs for Women" one more and that is "Home Help".

Number of workers unknown, wages and working conditions left to discretion of employer - promotion opportunities nil, but equal pay(!) In contrast to other working women who often do two jobs, their work and the housework, the "Home Help" does only one job - twice a day.

- Anja Purolainen

Dear Broadsheet

I fail to see any point to the article in the March edition entitled 'Occupation Slushie', unless it is to point out that most women are sheep with no initiative.

Why are they most likely to end up in the seven categories you state? Why, because these are the positions they train for and apply for - not because someone is twisting their arm to become a 'slushie' or typist! These days there is more opportunity for a woman but instead of taking more rewarding classes at secondary school they tend to stick to typing rather than the sciences, advanced mathematics, accounting or management.

Through those of us who come in regular contact with the public, we can further the cause of Women's Lib. I, for one, would have up to fifty male customers a day. I would keep a copy of The Sexist Society and the current Broadsheet on view. Always a conversation opener and an interesting discussion point. Over half of my customers are converts and I'm still working on the others, as well as harassing and trying to educate my bosses and the hundreds of workers here by talking Liberation with them and pinning articles of interest on the three general noticeboards..

But keep pouring out the ideas, Broadsheet, I think you're great!

Yours in Liberation
Pauline Fellowes.

BROADSHEET REPLIES :

We have had to edit this letter as it was very long. We feel Ms Fellowes has failed to grasp completely the effectiveness of feminine socialisation and stereotyping which persuades girls that initiative is an unnecessary characteristic of womanhood and that a husband should be sought instead of a career, so that by the time the girl realises (if ever) that she has been sold a pup, doing something about retraining for a more satisfactory job is going to be one hell of a grind because of lack of basic qualifications (e.g. maths at school), lack of self-confidence and drive.

We have asked the person who we interviewed as the clerical worker to reply to the criticisms of her made by Ms Fellowes. These were:

"This girl who left school at fifteen for a so-called good job,

(continued...)

letters

would not have the education or experience to be able to judge advancement opportunities, duty range or interest scope. Her absolute lack of reliability (one year only in each position) reduces her chances of ever getting out of her typist rut - no employer in his/her right mind would train a girl when he thought she'd only be staying five minutes. And if she feels the only things in life worth discussing are diets and recipes - she is definitely where she belongs. As for becoming someone's secretary - you do not have to be attractive physically, just an interesting, helpful, attractive personality. She could stick to one firm, study the firm's policy and products and when she has sufficient knowledge try for a Sales Representative job. Or hasn't she the initiative?"

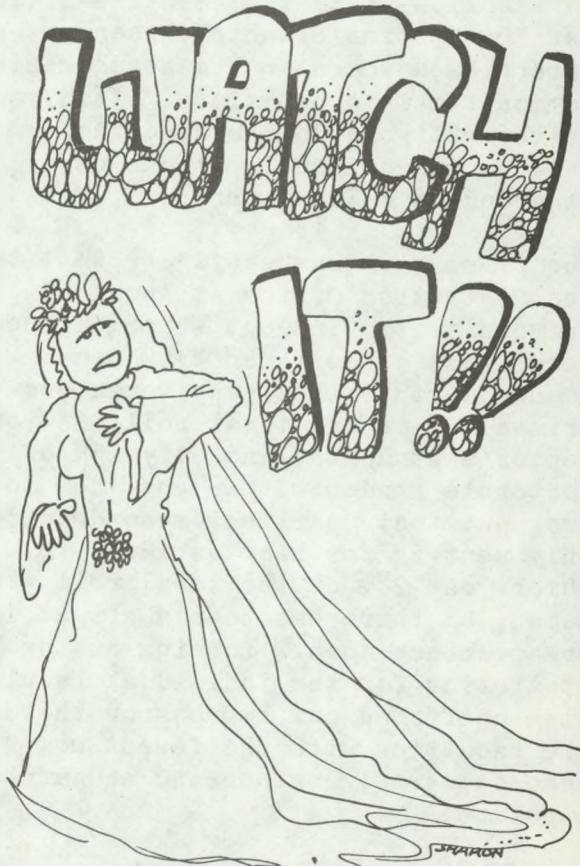
"When speaking of clerical workers not only is Pauline Fellowes apparently living in a pleasant world of fantasy but she assumes that I am totally naive. If that were true, and I were a human vegetable, I would never have expressed the opinions I did. Surely Pauline cannot be totally unaware of the level of vocational guidance counselling at schools, surely she cannot be completely unaware that some parents (in this case new immigrants) cannot afford to put their children through tertiary education without financial assistance and informed advice. It is also clear that Pauline is ignorant as to the demands employers make on their secretaries. The secretary must be attractive, always good humoured (even when the boss isn't) always bright and cheerful, and sometimes (although be no means always) efficient. Reliability is almost never mentioned - in fact, modern tendencies (as reflected in large "progressive" organisations such as IBM) are to accept a high turnover, what employers "train" girls in any worthwhile activities anyhow?. The only training I ever received was in deportment and make-up - except the basic training which I underwent at my own expense. Read "Up the Organization", and you'll discover what a real boss thinks of secretaries. I say this in ignorance of your own position - one can have worked as a secretary for 40 years without understanding the realities of the situation. A final point - why elevate the sales-women to the pinnacle of achievement and professionalism?".

review

"Down the Aisle with Caution, Please", by Nola Neas; published by Wellington Organisation for Women, Box 2663, Wellington; 10cents.

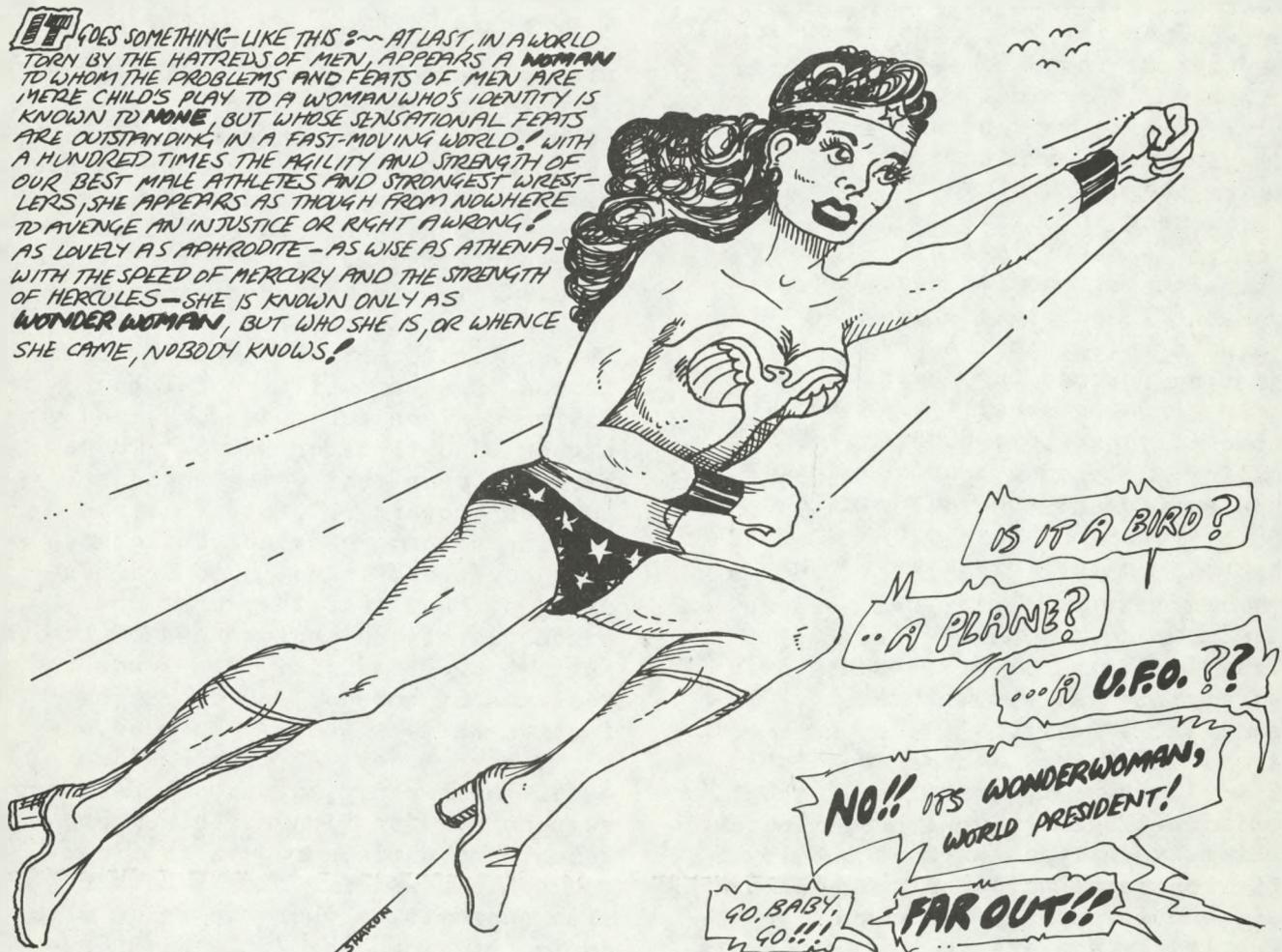
W.O.W.'s latest publication is a nine page booklet dealing with marriage in New Zealand. In it, Nola Neas explains how, in spite of great changes in New Zealand society since pioneering days, the idea of what role a woman should fulfil in marriage has remained almost exactly the same. Yet this role has grown more and more inappropriate, owing to better birth control methods, the increasing availability of labour saving devices for housework, and higher education for women. These advances mean that women spend a smaller proportion of their lives looking after pre-school children, that housework is not such a demanding job, and that they are more conscious of the tediousness of being a housewife. All this leads to feelings of boredom and dissatisfaction in most women. Ms Neas advocates the ideal of marriage as an equal partnership, with both partners responsible for finance, home management and child care. Next time you go to a wedding, don't bother with confetti, shower the bride with copies of "Down the Aisle with Caution, Please".

Hilary Haines



OUR QUEST FOR WONDER WOMAN

IT GOES SOMETHING LIKE THIS :~ AT LAST IN A WORLD TORN BY THE HATREDS OF MEN, APPEARS A WOMAN TO WHOM THE PROBLEMS AND FEATS OF MEN ARE MERE CHILD'S PLAY TO A WOMAN WHO'S IDENTITY IS KNOWN TO NONE, BUT WHOSE SENSATIONAL FEATS ARE OUTSTANDING IN A FAST-MOVING WORLD! WITH A HUNDRED TIMES THE AGILITY AND STRENGTH OF OUR BEST MALE ATHLETES AND STRONGEST WRESTLERS, SHE APPEARS AS THOUGH FROM NOWHERE TO AVENGE AN INJUSTICE OR RIGHT AWRONG! AS LOVELY AS APHRODITE - AS WISE AS ATHENA - WITH THE SPEED OF MERCURY AND THE STRENGTH OF HERCULES - SHE IS KNOWN ONLY AS WONDER WOMAN, BUT WHO SHE IS, OR WHENCE SHE CAME, NOBODY KNOWS!



We didn't know what we were letting ourselves in for when we decided to do a follow-up to last month's article, "Occupation Slushie", where we interviewed women in the seven most common female occupations. This month we thought we'd do the opposite : talk to women in occupations usually regarded as male preserves.

The first step was easy. We went to the Statistics Office at Auckland University to find out which degrees were least often taken by women. We found out that last year women comprised 32% of the total roll, 28% of master's students, and only 15% of doctorate students. We got them to drag out their earliest records which only went as far back as 1965, in which year 26% of the total roll were women, so there has been a slight increase since then. Looking at the statistics for the individual faculties confirmed our impression that the faculties with the fewest women were commerce, engineering and architecture.

So, off to these faculties to see if

they had any ideas about why so few women were enrolled in their courses, and whether there were any obstacles in the way of a woman making a successful career in these fields.

First stop was the Accountancy Department (12% women in 1972, 7% in 1965), where we didn't have much luck. The secretary did not know of any lecturer who would have any ideas on the subject. She thought that they had little contact with the students after they completed their degrees, and so would know little about difficulties confronting women in the world of commerce.

Undaunted we made for the School of Architecture (7% women 1972, 1% in 1965) where the secretary referred us to a lecturer, Arnold Neill. He said that New Zealand was backward compared to many other countries in their numbers of women architects. When he was in Australia he had observed that 10-15% of architecture students were women, mainly New Australians. The Architecture School would be pleased to see more

women enrolling, but he felt that Physics and Maths, compulsory subjects for Architecture Intermediate are often weak areas in girls' schools. (In 1967, 71% of boys, 33% of girls' took U.E. maths; 49% boys, 11% girls took U.E. physics). He saw no difficulty in female architects getting jobs although he thought firms might be wary of taking on a woman as a partner as "she might be there only five years or so".

Then on to that bastion of male chauvinism, the Engineering School (we'd seen them in action at the recent great strip-tease showdown). As we searched for the office, we saw no sign of the 1.4% female part of the roll (there were none in 1965). We found someone prepared to talk to us, but not to have his name published, and asked him, perhaps over belligerently, why there were so few women at the school. This produced a worried look, attributable to his thinking we were implying that the Engineering School discriminated against women applicants. Having cleared that up, we found that the School has been sending prospectuses to girls' schools since 1970, and in that year, The Dean, Professor Bogel, bemoaned the fact that more women did not take up engineering. "New Zealand lags a long way behind some other countries in its training and employing of women in engineering.....the prime requisite is brains not brawn". The Engineering School has a female part-time lecturer - Dr Mary Farmer - and has just employed its first woman laboratory technician.

Last visit at the University was to the Careers and Appointments Officer who informed us that the government jobs were open to women, except for a few in such fields as marine biology where one has to live on outstations where there are no ladies' toilets.

(The law says that male and female workers must each be provided with separate toilets!).

The next day found us at the Auckland Technical Institute enquiring about training courses for apprentices. We didn't manage to get any facts and figures but we did find out that no apprenticeships are closed to women. Mr McGlashan, Dean of the Engineering School there, had some harsh things to say about the "puritanical" attitudes of schools and parents who do not encourage girls to be more imaginative in their choice of careers. The lack of instruction in technical training at girls' schools, places the

pupils at a big disadvantage for many courses. Figures we found subsequently backed this up. In 1967 27.4% of boys and no girls took technical drawing for School Certificate.

An Auckland management consultant, whose firm handles the cream of managerial and executive jobs, cast a gloomy light on the picture. He couldn't remember a woman seriously applying for one of these jobs, let alone getting one. He thought that even if a woman fulfilled all the requirements for a particular position, she would probably be passed over in favour of a man. An experience of one of our friends confirms this, she went through five interviews for an executive position for which she was invited to apply, and was vetoed at the top of the line on the grounds that the job was not suitable for a woman.

Now came the hardest part of our assignment - to try to find women in these male-dominated fields to talk to about their personal experiences. We asked friends, relatives and fellow women's liberationists if they could think of any women doing "masculine" jobs, and we heard vague stories about female busdrivers, chippies, butchers, mechanics and so on, but they must be very rare species as none of them materialized. Eventually our meagre pickings consisted of an accountant, an architect, an engineering student, a sales manager and a showgrounds manager. We had hoped to include at least one woman doing a well-paid but unskilled job such as a wharfie or a freezing worker, but we just couldn't find one.

Our woman accountant decided to do a B. Comm. because the "inevitable outcome of a B.A. seemed to be teaching, which I didn't want to do. I don't know how I had the nerve to do commerce, as very few girls took it then, but I'm glad I did." At present she is an auditor, a field which women accountants do not usually enter. "When I was first visiting my company's clients, they were usually surprised to see a woman turn up, but they soon got used to me." She observed that women tend to go into the book-keeping side of accounting rather than the more prestigious jobs. When asked if there was any discrimination against women in this field, she said that some Auckland firms will not hire women auditors, but they would always be able to get a job somewhere.

Lynda Chrystal has an established architectural practice in the city. She has found "no disadvantage in being a female..... the majority of workmen are co-operative. Unfairly I feel I have a slight edge because men are brought up to be more courteous to a woman." She regrets she has not had a "boyish upbringing of handling tools, knocking things down and building boats", but now is "tremendously grateful" as she gets great pleasure out of her work. She had other mothers who came in to look after her own children when pre schoolers and do housework while she continued working, and she saw this as a legitimate use of her professional training. "You can't opt out for a few years to rear children - you would be left high and dry". She thought that the number of women training as architects had increased enormously since she did her own training, but since the degree course is a long one, she felt that many parents were "not prepared to sponsor a girl-child through university".

Because we could find no practising woman engineer, we talked to Sarah Bostock, in her third year at Engineering School. In spite of a Vocational Guidance Officer advising 7th form girls at her school to choose a career rather than go to University, Sarah started a science degree. She changed to engineering early in her course as she saw it as more of a challenge and thought it would be easier to get jobs. She said of the men at Engineering School, "They treat me like one of them", although earlier some were reluctant to accept that her answers to problems could be right when results differed. She was asked to stand for the executive of the Engineering School and topped the poll, perhaps, she felt, because of her rarity value. All engineering students must dock up 1200 hours of practical work in their three summer vacations. For her first vacation she was fortunate to have the use of some paternal influence in getting employment in a motor mower factory. Unfortunately, the influence did not extend to getting her equal pay, which meant she got \$11 p.w. less than her male counterparts. In the factory she met several girls who were attracted to the idea of engineering as a career, but had never thought seriously about going into it. Last vacation she met with some difficulty in getting a job in Auckland, but was not sure

whether this was due to discrimination or not. Vacation jobs for girls are limited because many openings are on isolated construction sites with all-male personnel, and the employers are reluctant to have women there. (the old toilet problem again?).

Elizabeth Mitchell worked as a shop assistant after leaving school and was still doing this when her marriage broke up. She felt that she couldn't do without a car and saw a company car as the only way out of this dilemma. She saw a job advertising for a male sales representative and phoned to ask them if they would consider a woman. They said they hadn't thought of it, but she should come to have an interview. Eventually she got the job, ahead of 42 men, through "enthusiasm and determination. I told them I could do it better than anyone else, in those words". She sells merchandise from Cape Reinga to the Bluff and is out of town three weeks out of four, Monday to Thursday. Most of her clients are men who are "quite delighted to deal with a woman". The other reps in the company did not take her seriously at first, but her sales record soon made them shut up. Initially she ran into problems with other reps who regarded a woman rep as an easy lay. "Other women leave for that reason, but after three years I have learned to deal with this. Paying my own way clarifies the position and they are now quite pally." She enjoys every aspect of the job except the loneliness of living in hotels. Her retainer is \$5,000 per annum, plus expenses, a car and 1½ commission on her sales.

Since her husband's death, Fay Labb has been a fairground entrepreneur on her own at shows throughout New Zealand. She sees her job as a public relations exercise, liaising between showmen and the local show associations. She has a number of male employees and has had no difficulties in her relationship with them. However, when making business calls she feels it necessary to be accompanied by one of her male managers, to lend authority to her point of view. "Although in the early stages everyone thought I would go under, I have now established that I am good in my own right." She has no regrets about having taken on sole control of the business despite the tension caused by working to deadlines all the time.

Sandra Coney
Hilary Haines

"MY FACE IS MY FORTUNE, SIR," SHE SAID....



"Please God let me be beautiful": Fervent prayer amongst young hopefuls lucky enough to be accepted as a model. Lucky? \$100 to be brainwashed during courses and many pairs of false eye-lashes later and you've really made it. Note that most of the agencies are run by women! Now that you are one of the elite, that is programmed how to speak, talk and walk, you have become the female chauvinist. To be a beautiful lady is the sole aim in life. Already you have become unfeeling - a necessary state - for you are quickly made to feel inferior and inadequate in this world of chauvinist men. So you become the plastic lady with no mind; I mean who wants to talk to you? All you have to do is look sexy, but even that is unreal, for to be professional you must be asexual. This is the stereotype - the idol.

It is a most incredible feeling to create an illusion. Often clothes have to be cellotaped, pegged and tied while you are contorted, standing on four inch heels to make it all look good. Climbing into clothing the wrong size, tearing at it, swearing when there is only three minutes to change. Frantic adjustments before stepping out slowly into the spotlight smiling; always smiling. Beauty contests are the real challenge. It is expected that you tell lies. The best liar wins. People are so interested in you they even want to know your statistics. Isn't that nice? Of course you add or subtract a few inches depending on where it's at. They even want to know about your hobbies, being a girl guide and liking people. Such a shame they don't want to know the real person: the one that smokes grass and lives with a guy and digs the Rolling Stones. Much more interesting but it spoils the image. It's almost as good as the Stud sales. Say "cheese" so that they can see your teeth (actually "bitch" looks better.)

Are we all victims of this fantasy? A female audience will often yell abuse or make derogatory remarks if a girl doesn't quite live up to the image.

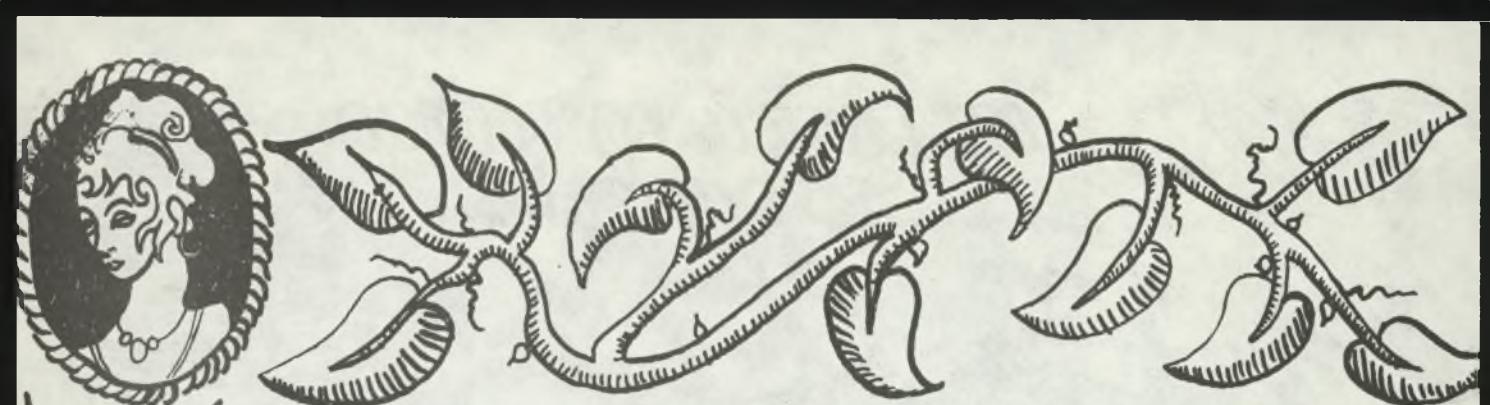
There are guys who want to know you because of the status symbol scene. He has a new sports car - you, the sex symbol have the privilege of decorating it while he deserts you to talk about the engine, and everyone says how lucky he is to own that fabulous vehicle and the bird.

Having arrived at the photographer's studio three hours after getting up is an achievement. The disguise is in place and appearing trendy and free are now socially acceptable. It's a big deal to get a job. It proves somebody likes you and the victim can feel secure. The photographer is invariably late. You don't get paid for waiting time - it's a privilege to be photographed. After a vague acknowledgement you are finally directed towards the happening and emerge reincarnated. The little man begins taking pictures with the magic machine and after much prancing around and ludicrous smiles you are exhausted and your confidence is shattered. If he is an utter chauvinist you will be sat down, scrutinised, informed you look terrible, have your make-up removed and replaced by some miracle mack. Just one more comment: you look like a schoolgirl, do something about your hair. Naturally there is nothing more important in life, so with ego completely destroyed you do it.

The myth of the stereotype. Observe her at a party. Men think either that she is a good lay and proposition her, or that she is a stuck-up bitch and ignore her. Women stare rudely and are suspicious. She is probably worth knowing and may have a BA or other qualification, but anatomy is the only important asset. We mustn't forget what the media has been telling us. To make an absolute mockery of the idolisation is the fact that most of these girls barely like men and relate more easily and more honestly to women. They can understand and at last be truthful.

Men have created a myth because the real thing does not and cannot exist. The image is destroyed, the female stereotype is not what she seems. Why do we still allow the demeaning of our minds and exploitation of our bodies?

Anne.



WOMEN

"It will not do to assert in general terms, that the experience of mankind has pronounced in favour of the existing system. Experience cannot possibly have decided between two courses, so long as there has only been experience of one."

"So true is it that unnatural generally means only uncustomary and that everything which is usual appears natural. The subjection of women to men being a universal custom, any departure from it quite naturally appears unnatural."

"What is now called the nature of women is an eminently artificial thing - the result of forced repression in some directions, unnatural stimulation in others. It may be asserted without scruple, that no other class of dependants have had their character so entirely distorted from its natural proportions by their relation with their masters."

"Men do not want solely obedience of women, they want their sentiments. All men, except the most brutish, desire to have in the woman most nearly connected with them, not a forced slave but a willing one; not a slave merely, but a favourite "

"The masters of women want more than simple obedience, and they turn the whole force of education to effect their purpose. All women are brought up from the very earliest years in the belief that their ideal of character is the very opposite to that of men; not self-will and government by self-control, but submission and yielding to the control of others... it would be a miracle if the object of being attractive to men had not become the polar star of feminine education and formation of character."

"Marriage is not an institution designed for a select few. Men are not required, as a preliminary to the marriage ceremony, to prove by testimonials that they





BRIDGES

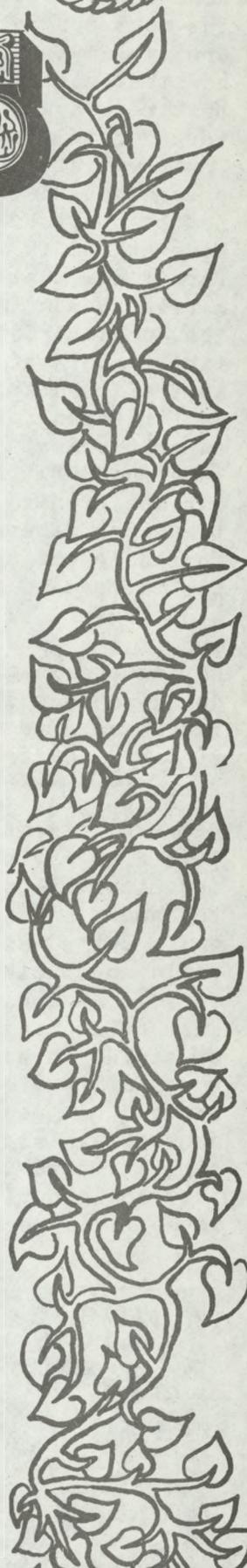
are fit to be trusted with the exercise of absolute power. The tie of affection and obligation to a wife and children is very strong with those whose general social feelings are strong ... but there are all degrees of sensibility and insensibility to it, ... down to those whom no ties will bind, and on whom society has no action but through its ultima ratio, the penalties of law. In every grade of this descending scale are men to whom are committed all the legal powers of husband. The vilest malefactor has some wretched woman tied to him ..."

"... if men are determined that the law of marriage shall be a law of despotism, they are quite right, in point of mere policy, in leaving to women only Hobson's choice. But, in that case, all that has been done in the modern world to relax the chain on the minds of women, has been a mistake. They never should have been allowed to receive a literary education. Women who read, much more women who write, are, in the existing constitution of things, a contradiction and disturbing element: and it was wrong to bring women up with any acquirements but those of an odalisque, or of a domestic servant."

"Such people are little aware, when a boy is differently brought up, how early the notion of his inherent superiority to a girl arises in his mind; how it grows with his growth and strengthens with his strength; how it is inoculated by one schoolboy upon another; how early the youth thinks himself superior to his mother, owing her perhaps forbearance, but no real respect; and how sublime and sultan-like a sense of superiority he feels, above all, over the woman whom he honours by admitting her to partnership of his life. Is it imagined that all this does not pervert the whole manner of existence of the man, both as an individual and as a social being?"

"The moral regeneration of mankind will only really commence, when the most fundamental of the social relations is placed under the rule of equal justice, and when human beings learn to cultivate their strongest sympathy with an equal in rights and in cultivation."

JOHN STUART MILL ~ 1869



kicking against the pricks

While moves to encourage women into the work force may seem enlightened at the time, the motives behind such moves are often suspect. The teaching profession seemed one of the most progressive with paid maternity leave and equal pay but see how the authorities are trying to backtrack now men are once again interested in the job because of higher salaries. Although Minister Amos assures us that maternity leave will not be abolished, his underlings have stated that there is no need for it now that they don't need married women to the same extent. The Auckland City Council has found itself short of suitable men for work as traffic officers, so has advertised for women for the job. But the superintendent of traffic Mr N.A. Lake said "But I must stress that our decision to employ women as traffic officers does not mean a wholesale employment of women". It was the same during the World Wars when women took over the jobs the men in the trenches left behind. No one ever suggested they didn't do those jobs efficiently and well, but as soon as the wars were over, it was "Back to the Kitchen, girls".

Mr H. Curnow, the headmaster of Remuera Intermediate School, is reported as having said, with regard to unisex names like Robin, Lindsay and Kim "if at assembly I read out a boy's name as a girl, it would knock his image straight away". It would be interesting to know at what age boys become aware of society's belief in the inherent superiority of boys over girls. My son and his peers seemed to start despising girls when they were about eight. There was no greater insult they could hurl at each other than to say "You're a girl!" The school

itself is much to blame with segregated play areas and playtime activities, so that girls cannot participate in the activities the boys value most - fighting, rugby, soccer and cricket.

Robert Gilmore seems to have taken it upon himself to try and prove that, a) most women are already liberated and b) women are quite happy as they are. He sticks firmly to the "equal but different" theory. In April Eve magazine he has an article on "The Israeli Jewess - She's been liberated for centuries". Like Noel Holmes in his article on women firemen, Gilmore seems more interested in the length of the "girl soldiers'" mini skirts than their ability to do the job. And I'm not sure the presence of women in the armed forces is a very good measure of liberation. Gilmore himself writes "The army assigns girls to such men-freeing military chores as driving and being medical orderlies..." In the same article he describes the Israeli divorce laws which, as Gilmore states, "discriminate severely against women.." Only the husband can apply for a divorce. To close his article Gilmore quotes the views of several of these "liberated for centuries" Jewesses on women's liberation.

"Ora Namir, head of the Working Mothers' Association, wife of former mayor of Tel Aviv: I don't think we must be equal to men in everything. The woman's place is definitely second in the family. The man is the central image, the strong one... Women deep in their hearts, even those who are fighting for the cause of equality, would not want absolute equality when it comes to washing dishes."

Sandra Coney.



broadsheet report

University Group

As part of its "Orientation" Programme the Auckland University Students' Association planned to have a performance by a female striptease artiste. We of the University Liberation group were totally opposed to the act because such an act degrades all women. We were told by the Social Controller that it would be called off if we could find 100 people to sign a petition. The petition was duly delivered to the Orientation Controller who then decided that the act would remain on the programme.

We therefore called a Special General Meeting which took place on 9 March. The meeting was stacked with reactionary male chauvinist Engineering and Commerce students en masse. When our women members got up to speak for the motion they received chanting abuse, e.g.: "What do we think of the striptease - shit hot. What do we think of Women's Lib - piss poor."

When it came to the vote our motion was defeated, but it was heartening to see that practically every woman present supported our motion.

At the moment our group is helping the Women's Abortion Action Committee to organise the Abortion March on 13 April.

We also plan to hold discussion groups fortnightly on various aspects of Women's Liberation.

We meet every Monday from 1 - 2 p.m. in the Executive Lounge of the Student Union Building.

- Janet Roth

Auckland Womens Liberation

Knowhow has started a new course of training for counsellors. Increasing numbers of calls have resulted from a widespread publicity campaign.

Members of the group have spoken on several occasions to womens groups, schools and at National Women's Hospital. Two consciousness-raising groups are just finishing and another is about to begin.

Meetings are held weekly on Tuesday, 7.30pm at Flat 1, 25a Princess St, City

Women for Equality

Over the past month we've continued with our two consciousness raising groups and we intend to start off two more groups soon to cater for new members. We feel the need for more social get-togethers as well as consciousness raising and we hope to be having these more regularly in future starting with one this coming Sunday. At our last general meeting we discussed Germaine Greer's article on rape, "Seduction is a 4 letter word". This was very interesting for most people.

We have endorsed the march for repeal of all abortion laws on Friday April 13 and we should be there in full force.

Our general meetings are every second Monday at 7.30pm at the Unitarian Church in Ponsonby Road. Anyone who is interested is welcome to come along. For further information ring Bronwyn or Jenny at 769-560.

Jenny Harvey.

N.O.W.

At the AGM held in March a constitution for NOW was finalised. Elections were held and Connie Purdue returned as President, Kay Green was elected Treasurer and Publicity Officer, Shirley Andrews - Secretary, and Mihi Strother, Co-ordinator of Groups. The next meeting will be on the afternoon of Sunday 29th. The time and place is yet to be finalised. A speaker is to be arranged on the subject of Child Welfare. For further information contact :

Shirley Andrews,
61 Ranfurly Road,
Epsom.
Ph - 603 843

Christchurch

The Radical Feminists are holding an Easter Camp at Spenser Park, a beach just out of Christchurch, from Friday 20 to Sunday 2 April. Films, discussions, speakers. Cost is 35c per night per person. Crash pads available for those who want to stay until Anzac Day. Let us know if you are coming. Write to Box 2331, Christchurch.

Coming events

United Women's Convention

Plans for the convention to be held on the 80th anniversary of Womens' Suffrage day on September 15-16 in Auckland, are progressing well. It is hoped that women from all organisation and walks of life throughout New Zealand will attend. A Planning Conference was held in February and the subjects decided on for speeches on the 1st day of the Convention are as follows :

Community Responsibilities of Women
Population Problems

Family Life

Areas of Discrimination against
Women

The Women's Movement in New Zealand
in Historical Perspective

On the second day women attending the conference will split up, to attend workshops of their choice. Subjects for workshops are:

Sexuality and Contraception for the under 16's, Housewives, Solo Parents, Rural Women, Mature Women, Single Women, Polynesian Women, Homosexual Women, High School Women, Women in Politics, Women in the Community, Living with men, The Legal Position of Women, Zero Population, Bringing up the next generation, Women working for Peace, Education of Both Sexes, Employment - pay and conditions, Employment - openings and opportunities, Retraining Women, Health of Women, The Image of Women in Advertising, Sterilisation.

And for men "Can We Liberate Men Too?" It is hoped that after reports from the workshops, women at the convention will make recommendations of importance for the future of women in N.Z. A number of overseas speakers have been invited. Katherine Whiteborne and Jill Tweedie, both English journalists, have indicated they will be attending and Margaret Whitlam and Shirley Chisholm have expressed interest.

The Conference will be held over a weekend and billets are available. Cost of the convention is \$5 including lunches. These are available now from W.E.A., 1a Ponsonby Road, Auckland.

INVITATION

THE COUNCIL FOR EQUAL PAY AND OPPORTUNITY invites you to a function to mark the introduction of the New Zealand Equal Pay Act.

This will be held in the Oak Room, Great Northern Hotel, WEDNESDAY APRIL 18th; sherry from 7pm, speakers 7.30pm with supper at 9.30pm.

Tickets \$1.00 from Connie Purdue, phone 344-53 or Miss M.A. Birkett 605-473; before April 15th.

To interprete the Act; Margaret Wilson, L.L.B.Hons. Lecturer, Industrial Law.

To comment;

Betty Holt, National Council of Women, Judy Attenberger, Woollen Worker's Union; Ella Ayo, F.O.L. equal pay sub-committee; Jim Butterworth, Engineer's Union, Mabel Robinson, Drug Worker's Union.

QUESTIONS. DISCUSSION. BOOK EARLY.

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