

ON WOMEN'S LIBERATION

"You've come a long way, 'baby, to get where you've got to today..." Now women have the right to join men in the empty ritual of okaying the choices of corrupt politicians, and to make our "freedom" complete, we have our own cigarette.

Well, we haven't even begun to get where we want to be, and voting and smoking will never get us there. Women will have freedom when we destroy the myth of male supremacy, that ancient concept that didn't even flinch in 1920 when American women won suffrage, and continues, as it has from the beginning of civilization, to destroy the human potentialities of one sex for the convenience, pleasure and profit of the other.

Ideologically drawing on an exaggeration of physical abilities, and false analogies flowing from sexual physiology and reproduction, the myth demands that people be divided from birth along sexual lines and that they be groomed to act out separate and exclusive roles. Separate and unequal. Holes in the fabric of analogy and exaggeration are patched up with mysticism and Freudian theory, unproven and incapable of proof, via magazine culture and pseudo-scientific sociology and psychology.

Oppression of women operates on the domestic and societal levels, and most women get it both ways. The self-interest of individual men and super-profits for business are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, both depending on the myth for their perpetuation.

On the domestic level, husbands use their wives as maid services, baby sitters and sexual objects. Women who work have the additional job of doing all the household tasks. Saturated from childhood with male vanity, men never consider that women demand more out of life than being pretty, pleasing and sexy for men.

Business reaps a double profit from the oppression, at the consumption level, and more importantly, at the production level. Advertising has created the super-consumer housewife by brainwashing women into believing that feminine fulfillment can be found in things, rather than in self.

The biggest profits for business, however, come from using women to depress the wage level for all workers. By conjuring up artificial sex-differentiated job categories, business excludes women as a group from entire professions and skilled job areas, relegating them to the lowest paying, most monotonous, dirtiest jobs. When women have been able to break through and work at the same jobs as men, equal pay laws are blatantly disregarded.

In the broader social context, women are denied the right to terminate their unwanted pregnancies, and at the same time are pressured into sexual relationships by the stereotypical expectations of society.

There is a fundamental denial of women as human beings, and the educational establishment panders to this by shunting women into "feminine" service schools, for teaching, nursing, and other "supportive" professions.

The condition of women is key to the condition of the entire society. As Marx put it, "social progress can be measured by the social position of the female sex." Women are the largest group of oppressed people in this country, and in the world. Nobody's freedom will be won till theirs is won.

The women's revolution will be the ultimate revolution. And we have sounded the opening gun.

Women's Liberation
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