

for ms.

Children's Liberation

After checking into the adoption laws I found that there is a great deal of discrimination against children. This discrimination is in two forms; legitimate and illegitimate.

If a child is legitimate, that means he is a real, genuine child, born or conceived in wedlock, he is accepted by society. Also, if the child was born illegitimate but adopted by a married couple then he is automatically legitimate and accepted. Society discriminates against this poor child, who did not ask to be born but still has to follow society's norms. After all, is it his fault that his parents were not married? No, but he has to pay for it the rest of his life.

Also, any person on P.E.I. of the age of 21 or over has the right to try and adopt a child. However, if the person is not married the illegitimate child does not become legitimate. He must be adopted by a couple before he is considered a real, genuine person.

Another point brought up was how can a single girl who has a child make the child legitimate? There is no way for her to do this unless she marries. If she marries then her husband is able to adopt the child, give him his name and make him legitimate. Therefore,

any girl who has a child & never marries, will have her child referred to as a bastard for the rest of his life.

Society's attitude with adoption is also quite interesting. Adoption by a married couple in a lot of cases is accepted. It is only a few at present who still look down on an adopted child. Now a single man who decides he wants a son but there is no one with whom he would like to marry. He is therefore allowed to adopt a son. What is society's opinion of this? Don't they think that he is a great man who gave this poor child a home? After all won't it be better for him to be in a home and loved by only one person instead of in an orphanage. Many seem to forget that this child is a poor girl's "mistake".

Now turn it around to the girl who decides to keep her illegitimate child because she loves him and wants to give him a home. How does society feel about this? Don't they look down on her and try to persuade her to give it up for adoption? She is no longer doing a good deed.

Since it is socially accepted for a single girl to adopt why is it wrong for her to have one of her own? Isn't a child a human being no matter what the reason for it being conceived? Did the ch-

If you have an illegitimate child, that child is a non-person.



ild ask to be born? Is he any different than any other child; physically or mentally? Why then does this child have to pay for the rest of his life for something he had no control over?

After all, how can an adoption paper and a slew of red tape make this illegitimate child a real human being if he is that the minute he is born?

Society has made these laws that discriminate against children but isn't it time they changed? Society made the ruling that to have a child out of wedlock was wrong. Any girl that makes a mistake, in society's eyes has to be punished by ill-treatment toward the innocent child. Therefore, a child born out of wedlock has to pay for society's mistake. Fair isn't it!!!!

Gil Brammer

Letters for MS.



Dear Ms.;

I feel obligated, by my own principles and my own concern against women's oppression, to take a stand on liberation, for all humans, not only women.

I would seem to me that your articles are mainly one-dimensional; concerning women's supposed preoccupation with appearance in comparison with men. Women's supposed physical inferiority which makes it "necessary" to have men open doors for her, etc.

It would not be wise to base appearances as a premise for judging what women or men think on any subject, women's liberation included. To say, or imply, that any woman who uses make-up, etc., is not a liberated woman, is prejudging: "You don't judge a book by its cover."

You, by your very articles are stereotyping women by indicating that women who improve their appearance by make-up, clothes, etc., for whatever motives, are oppressed by men.

Furthermore, your choice of excerpt from Greer's The Female Eunuch tends also to deal with the most superficial of her's and other works on Women's Liberation.

When are we women going to concern ourselves with the more important issues of liberation, that of what we feel and think as people?

We should be concerning ourselves with women's oppression in the family; i.e.

woman's responsibility to look after the children and housework without pay, while the husband is supposed to be the money-earner. Based on society's overriding economic factor (money is all important) this would tend to make a woman feel more dependent and in fact worthless than having the man open the door for her.

There is vast improvement needed in employment for women; why do women merit a lower minimum wage than men? it costs a woman as much to live as a man; why do women have to prove themselves more capable than men in male dominated professions (doctors, lawyers, etc.) before they are accepted?

Why we're exploited by the mass media in its means, the use of women in advertising, and its ends; the buying of the product. Why we're molded from the time we're children to be: models with