

Letters for MS.



Dear Ms.;

I am pleased to see that questions about women's roles and identities are being raised in the Cadre. It is time to seriously examine our stereotypes: men are breadwinners and women are homemakers, men are aggressive and women are submissive, men are intellectual and women are emotional. People who do not fit these pre-conceptions are generally viewed with suspicion or hostility. Occasionally we make heroes or heroines out of them. In either case they are exceptional.

Perhaps each of us should be encouraged to develop our individual interests & abilities fully. The sex role distinctions in our society discourage this for everyone, but especially for women. We have been particularly handicapped socially and economically. The recently released report of the Provincial Advisory Committee on the status of women, documents the disadvantages of being a woman - in the eyes of the law, in education, in the work force and in the social attitudes that prevail. The changes suggested in this report could make P.E.I. a place where our human resources are fully developed and basic human rights are extended to us all. But the attitudes of a large number of people will have to change before this is possible.

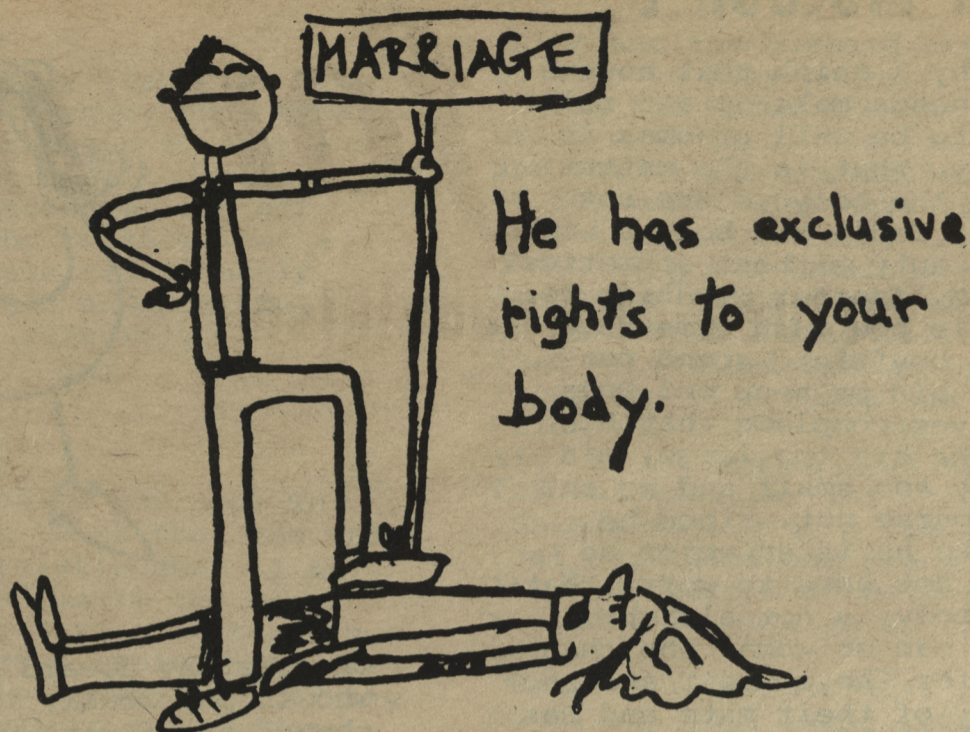
Donna Greenwood

Dear Ms.;

I find your philosophy of Women's Liberation concurrent with the fanatical bra-burners of our generation but I am relieved that you do not blame men for the whole thing.

Although I am a moderate women's "libber" myself, I might not be classed as one by some of the extremists since I do not condemn make-up or hair rollers. I don't believe that someone who wants to look attractive and well groomed is being phony and make-up in moderate amounts is not a way of kneeling down on one's knees to the opposite sex to have one's body stepped upon.

Indeed, many girls go to extremes in make-up application and stylish dress but



are they victims of society and a trend or are they merely victims of their own psychological egotism? In other words, are they any different than the girls that wear overalls with patches so they can be noticed and classed as hippies?

Are women oppressed because they conform to their mates wishes? After all, men conform too. How would people get along if they were totally independent of one another? I fear they'd become childish and irresponsible. And what would happen to the family structure? I have a feeling it would be destroyed. No other type would take its place and people would become anti-social introverts.

I agree that boy-girl relationships are very tightly knitted but it's unusual to find someone who completely disregards his or her own interests for the sake of their mates. No man expects his wife to go to a stag party. No woman expects her husband to join the CWL. Neither expects the other to stay home.

As for the common courtesy of opening doors for females, I think that this is a very

minor example. Men naturally open doors for females because they are physically more able -- I fight with the heavy glass door at the Barn every morning, which consists of throwing all 89 pounds of me against it to get out. Women open doors for people too!! Have you ever seen a mother herding her six kids through the doors of the K - Mart? Of course she opens the door for them. She probably has an armful of groceries too and will probably end up embarrassedly picking up cans of tomato soup rolling down the parking lot!

The theory that girls go to university to find a man, in my opinion is atrociously outdated. Just about everybody on this campus (excluding the few who are here for academic knowledge or a

new experience in living) are here because they can't hack the working world. Why should they when they can live off somebody else for four years?

Sure, the female graduate will go out and get married as soon as she finishes. She's at an age where marriage interests her - and that wouldn't change whether she was a spud-picker, a \$10,000. per year secretary, nurse or university graduate! And all girls looking for financial security should know that a male university graduate is the LEAST dependable, financial or otherwise. He's still a kid that never worked a day in his life.

Yes! Women are out to catch men but I wouldn't say they are not using their heads, on the contrary they only use their bodies as implements to attain their goal - marriage and security. And since sexual attraction is the first thing that two people have, it is not a society "norm" it is a psychophysiological natural-ity -- and who is going to argue with the way we're built.

Shirlene O'Brien
(a natural woman)

Dear Natural Woman;

Thank you for your letter expressing your views on "lib". It is good to hear you are not a fanatical bra-burner because there is more to woman's (and man's) liberation than that.

However, I disagree on your argument of make-up. You say only the extremists are caught up in society because of their need to be noticed but aren't you yourself caught up in society? If there were no standards of beauty put out by society why should you need to wear make-up? By the use of make-up and rollers you are saying that your body is unattractive in the real form. This

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