

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MARCH 8

WOMEN'S LIBERATION FORUM AT S.I.C.C. MARCH 7



**OUT  
OF THE  
CLOSET**

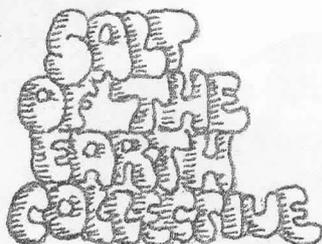
VOL. 2 NO. 4

**SPECIAL  
WOMEN'S  
LIBERATION  
ISSUE**

Loretta Argue  
 Greg Carlson  
 Bill DiBaisi  
 Steve Endress  
 Sherylle Hochman  
 Ava Makalsky  
 Michelle Mann  
 dave master  
 Anita McClain  
 Alice Neuman  
 Susan Nicosia  
 Jeanette Nostra  
 Charlie Post  
 Pat Goodman  
 Tom Arias  
 Rick Cox  
 Bill Dell  
 Jim Engle  
 Diane Rey  
 John Rey  
 Sam Wohl  
FAC. ADV.  
 Dick Currie  
 Peter Keil

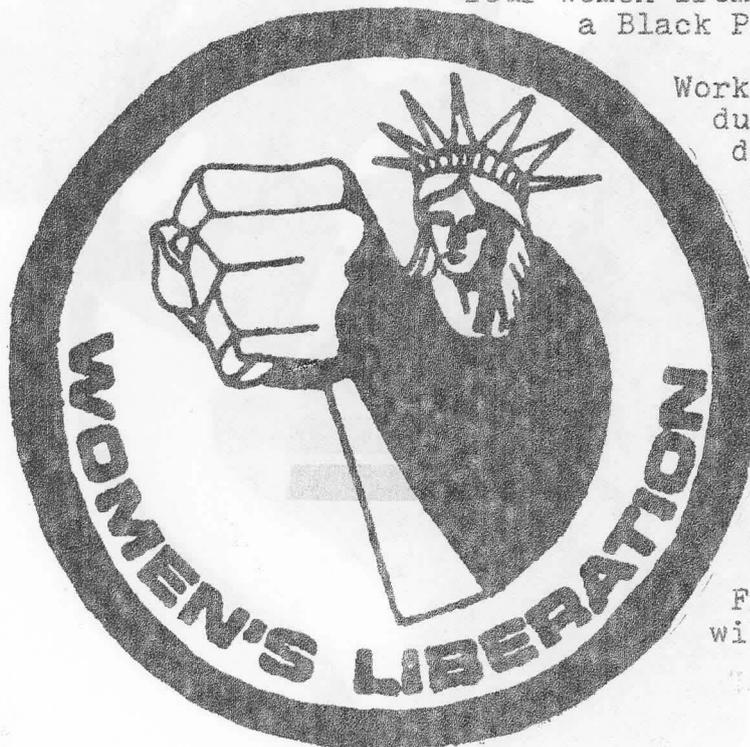
# FORUM

BY SUSAN  
 NICOSIA



The Woman's Liberation Group at Staten Island Community College is sponsoring an all day forum in their college lounge on Saturday, March 7, starting at 11:00 a.m.

Guest speakers from different factions of liberation groups include: Beth Lyons, member of Red Stockings and Rev. Tilda Norberg of N.O.W. (National Organization of Women), Nanette Raymond from radio station WBAI, four women from The Guardian, and a Black Panther sister.



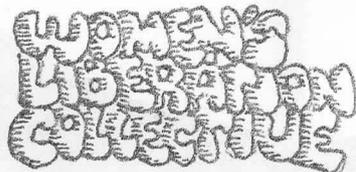
Workshops will be conducted throughout the day on such subjects as: Abortion, The Why of Women's Liberation, Economic Exploitation, and the Origin of Womens Oppression.

There will be slides, music, a Feminist Theatre Group, and a few surprises!

Free refreshments will be served!



Fran Sardone  
 Flo Robins  
 Diane Rey  
 Charlyn Wight  
 Mary Pulzone  
 Ava Makalsky  
 Florence Petoza  
 Chris MacFarlane  
 Loretta Argue  
 Sherylle Hochman  
 Susan Nicosia  
 Ellen Baranoff  
 Carolyn Melde  
 Ruth Nelsen  
FAC. ADV.  
 Clara Melman



**WOMEN'S  
 LIBERATION  
 FORUM**  
**MARCH 7**  
**11:00 AM**  
**IN THE LOUNGE**  
**AT S.I.C.C.**

### What Do Women Want?

Helmer: Before all else you are a wife and mother.  
 Nora: That I no longer believe. I believe that before all else I am a human being, just as much as you are—or at least that I should try to become one.

Henrik Ibsen, *A Doll's House*, 1879

# ABORTION

Women's Liberation takes the firm stand that women should have control over their bodies. If an abortion is desired by a woman, it should not be denied. As the law exists now, it is virtually impossible for most women to obtain legal abortion. The law varies in each state, but emotional instability, mental retardation, pregnancy through rape, or serious illness, are now the only grounds for legal abortion.

One does not necessarily have to personally endorse abortion to concede that an individual should have the opportunity to consider abortion a workable alternative. The reality about this subject is that many women do decide to go through with illegal abortions and the appalling fact is 10,000 women die yearly from abortions performed by quacks.

Women's Liberation groups are busy trying to repeal the existing laws prohibiting abortion.

In the meantime, there is some good news on the subject. The Clergymans Consultation Service on Abortion put women in touch with doctors, who might be able to help them with "problem pregnancies". The telephone number in New York City on this subject is GR-70351.

I will be no docile thing—  
But a restless eagle in space  
Threshing is better than sowing  
I have spread the seeds too long!  
Now there is a rich harvest of the unknown—  
Riot and strange thoroughfares  
There is din of thunder  
And storm in the air  
Like the rumble of guns from afar . . .  
I cannot be this ordered self forever!

Blanche Shoemaker Wagstaff, *Atavism*

Day Care has become one of the central issues of the Women's Liberation Movement. It is quite clear that free and public day care centers would be an important means for liberating women from the traditional tasks of child rearing.

The underlying reason for the failure of day care programs to develop in this country exists in the traditional ideology that young children and their mothers belong in the home. Even today a strong bias exists against the concept that day care is potentially good for children and mothers. That women should have to work and therefore have to put their children in day care centers are circumstances which are generally considered to be necessary evils in this society.

The current demand for day care by the Women's Liberation movement springs from a rejection of the ideology which says that women belong in the home. Yet the movement's present demand parallels the historical attitude toward day care in its non child centered approach. The primary reason for demanding day care is the liberation of women. While recognizing that day care is essential for women's liberation, the author's want the movement to further recognize that day care is essential for the liberation of children. Group child-care in contrast to the more isolated private home environment, has the potential of providing an environment in which children will have more opportunity to develop social sensitivity and responsibility, emotional autonomy and trust, and a wider range of intellectual interests.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION FORUM SAT. MARCH 7 11:00 AM.

# BIRTH CONTROL

In the United States there are thousands of unwanted pregnancies every year. Most of these are caused by women's ignorance of birth control methods. With more widespread birth control information and freely accessible family planning clinics, thousands of women could be saved from the heartbreak and despair of an unplanned pregnancy.

The most popular and effective means of birth control available today is the pill. When taken correctly it is 99% effective. There has been a great deal of talk lately about the harmful side effects of the pill and this should not be taken lightly. It is up to the individual woman to weigh the possible risks of pregnancy (and perhaps subsequent abortion) which may occur with other contraceptives and decide accordingly.

The I.U.D. or intra uterine device is also extremely effective. It is inserted by the doctor and remains in the uterus until pregnancy is desired. Unfortunately, the I.U.D. cannot be used by women who have fewer than two children.

The diaphragm is probably the second most effective contraceptive for the unmarried woman. A possible disadvantage is that it must be inserted before each intercourse and is therefore more awkward than either the pill or the I.U.D.

For the unmarried girl or anyone for whom pregnancy would be a disaster and absolutely out of the question, foam, the condom, and the rhythm method should not be used. The risk of pregnancy would be far too great to take the chance.

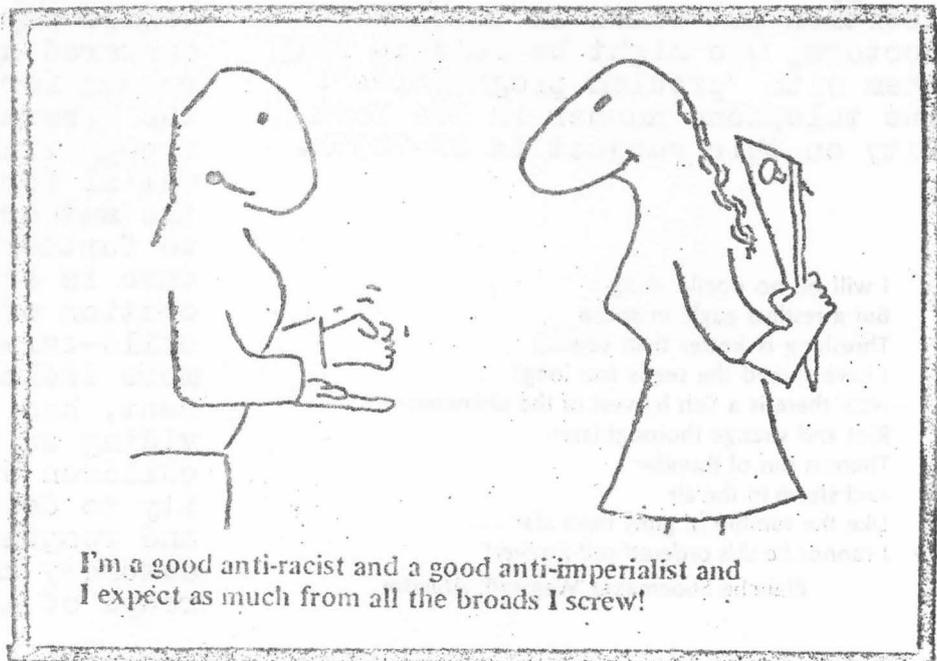
In our technological society it is appalling that birth control research has not progressed further than it has. Needless to say, studies should be continued to ascertain the dangers of the pill. An I.U.D. that could be used by all women and more effective contraceptives for men could be developed with sufficient research.

On Staten Island, free birth control information, examination and devices are available to all women at the Board of Health at 51 Stuyvesant Place. The telephone number is 727-6000.

C.M.

COME TO THE  
WOMEN'S LIB.  
FORUM

3.



# THE PLAYGROUND

A PROSE POEM

The iron gate is high and there are points. But this is a public garden and therefore treeless. The women sit and sweat over their children in the summertime. The children run under the spray in bathing suits when the spray is on, but this summer there is a draught.

Hamlet is a play about remembrance, remembrance and death. "Pray love, remember." "Rosemary is for remembrance." "Remember me."

Woman, that strange creature, strives-to be, uniquely to be. To be. What to be? How uniquely she understands the plight, victim that she is, of the great swindle. Did you say it wasn't cut off? Oh, but it was! You remind me of it everyday. Caught. In a cage. The bars of iron have tiny points to rip the little chins that climb. Alarmed. At the swellings. And the braces. At the cough. At the growing up. Alarmed. To make of every day a happy day, of every minute happiness. We gossip in the park. Castrated. We watch the children play. Castrate them. This is mine to pass on to you. Remembrance. Pray, love. Remembrance of the dead, that you may die.

And did he scream at me? And did he say you don't know what you're talking about once too often? And did I kill him? Was it time for him to die? Did he say the same old thing? Did I grow tired of he said, she said, I said? And I discovered, it took a whole generation for me to discover, that I am right. So what do I tell you? Believe them, be safe. For another generation. I don't know what that means. Is it better safe? Is safe happy? Remember. The dead want you to remember. They have long memories. They come out of the sandbox and haunt you.

Play with the ball. Leave me alone. I'm talking to the ladies. It is hot. You are hot too? Listen, I've never lied to you. I never will. Make of your life. It's not much I gave you. I found that out too late. Make a sandpile. Make a pie. Eat, 'mein kind'.

These are the ladies that push you. Into the playground and out. They don't know what they are talking about. No they don't. In their suits and their slacks and their empty voices, you hear me talk to them to pass the time. You know it's foolish. Mama, come and play with me! I would be better off, but my depression, my morbid curiosity, sticks me to the bench. What will she say, this one, that I have heard? Mommy, they just talk. I hate that talk.

So I swear a vow of silence. Mute I stand in my black robes against the wall of iron spikes that the children chin on I have heard that talk before I will not listen to another word but buy the groceries and check out at the check-out counter pick up my stamps and go. Before I go, give me one kiss. Oh, you are so sweet. Pray love, remember.

-Leah Fritz

COME TO THE  
WOMEN'S LIB.  
FORUM...  
EVERY WOMAN  
IS INVITED!

"Ain't she sweet  
Makin' profit off her meat.  
She's just America's prime commodity,  
Ain't she sweet."

(sung by Women's Liberation at the Miss America  
Pageant, 1968)

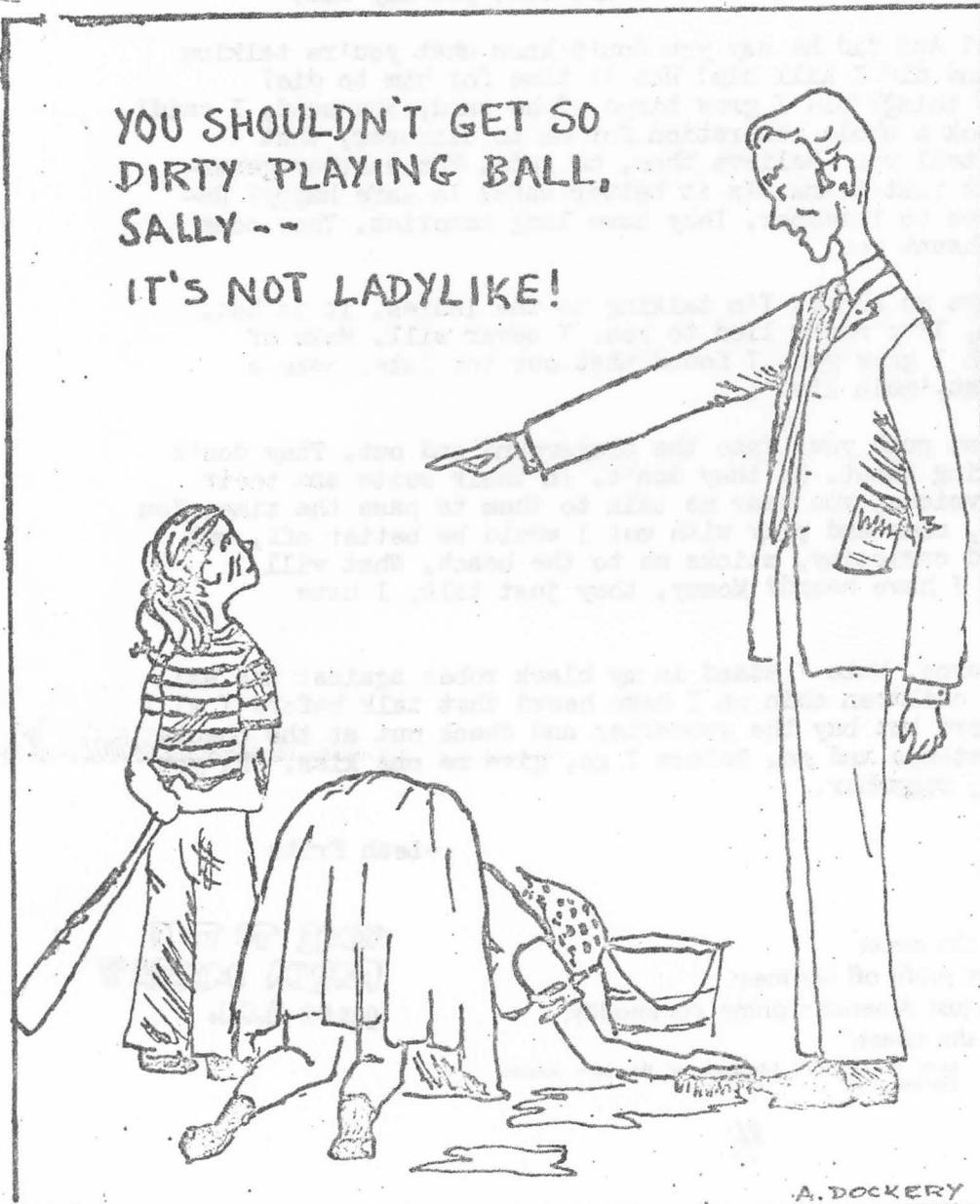
COME TO THE  
FORUM MARCH 7  
11:00 A.M.

# WOMEN'S LIB. ORGANIZATIONS

With women becoming increasingly aware of their oppression, several organizations have been formed to further the cause of women's liberation. The groups vary in aims and tactics from somewhat liberal to quite radical. Some of the more active groups in New York are:

N.O.W. or the National Organization of Women, founded in 1966 is one of the oldest and most stable of the feminist groups. It is a liberal organization and has more than 3,000 members (both male and female) in chapters across the country. Part of their platform calls for a "truly equal partnership between men and women". They are currently working on the repeal of the abortion laws and passage of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

In contrast to N.O.W. is W.I.T.C.H. (Women's International Terrorist Conspiracy from Hell) an offshoot of S.D.S., which is more radical in structure and aims. W.I.T.C.H. surfaced last year on Halloween with an Up Against the Wall Street, all-day guerilla theater procession. W.I.T.C.H. has pledged to free women from oppression and stereotyped sexual roles.



Another group, the Redstockings are dedicated to building unity among women to achieve their final liberation from male supremacy. The members participate in what they call "consciousness raising" where they get together and reveal their experiences and feelings to each other in an attempt to analyze the femaleness of their psychology and their circumstances, thereby increasing the invaluable weapon of self understanding.

For further information about these groups write to

N.O.W. National Office  
P.O. Box 114  
Cathedral Station  
N.Y., N.Y. 10025

Redstockings  
P.O. Box 748  
Stuyvesant Station  
N.Y., N.Y. 10009

# CAPITALIZE ON THE MOST POWERFUL SALES INCENTIVE EVER DEvised BY MAN: WOMAN.

Clever man, to "devise" such a profitable item. Family, TV, school, magazines, double standards in sex and work, and presto -- off the end of the assembly line comes Woman -- a totally artificial creation designed to

meet the needs of men and of capitalism. Too bad its only a mask. Too bad the real person underneath is getting angry and ripping off the mask. The best sales incentive ever invented -- down the drain.

## WOMEN'S LIBERATION AND THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY by Bobby Seale

(The Movement/INS)

At this point it's very necessary -- and the Party is trying -- to get rid of male chauvinism in all our practice and work in the Party as much as possible.

Some males will jump up and say the women are going to take over. I don't think this is the women's idea at all. The women want to be treated equal and like human beings. Out of the Connecticut 14, seven of those Black Panther members are women. In Los Angeles in that raid those sisters helped us as much as those brothers did, laid their lives on the line too. So this is very, very important to understand.

The Black Panther Party is definitely moving in every fashion and form we can to get rid of male chauvinism, to get rid of the dominance over women by males because it's directly related to the class system itself. It's cross-related to the racism that exists in America. Even back to the time of the garden of Eden, everything is blamed on the women by the male, who is continuously dominant. She is the one who supposedly got the apple which caused the so-called sin and everything which is bad, is wrong. But by respecting Huey P. Newton we turn right back around and say Adam was a f--- cat because he wouldn't even protect the garden of Eden, the land of Paradise, from the pig angel with the flaming sword.

It's important to observe this in terms of the brainwashing of the system at large. An article I read explained how women are subjected to certain kinds of jobs, ect. and they are regulated from the old male chauvinistic position that a woman's place is in her home. Now let's go back to the word "place" and relate it to the racism of the society as it's perpetrated and maintained by the hired racist killers or associates of the power structure -- the racist in society say "Keep the nigger in his place" -- it's directly related.

So, in essence, I think that we can see here the need for people to understand the oppression of women -- and, of course, the black man in The Black Panther Party realizes that the black woman is even more oppressed in the society -- not only the black woman, but the Indian woman and the brown woman. The white woman is oppressed too, but the point is that racism and chauvinism interlock and it's perpetrated and maintained by the ruling class who are invested in the Government -- the avaricious, demagogic ruling class elite.

cont. on page 9

# A CONVERSATION

(The following is a "conversation" put together from various comments made by women and men on the subject of woman's liberation.)

"Women's liberation doesn't have the immediate importance of black liberation or ending the war in Vietnam--the revolution."

"That statement shows you have no concept of the oppression of women. It's true that women are not being killed off as a group in the great numbers that black people and Vietnamese are, or in such obvious ways. But 10,000 women die each year from abortions because the men who run this country have decided that a woman may not control her own body. Women are dehumanized and put into service roles like black people. More of us can "make it" economically, if we are willing to prostitute ourselves as wives of upper or middle-class men. House niggers. But basically we are economically exploited, psychologically oppressed and socially kept in "our place" by men and by a capitalist system that has institutionalized male supremacy--in a more subtle way than the cave-man but just as destructively."

"But other people are more oppressed than you."

"That may or may not be. It seems rather futile to argue about who is the most or more oppressed. If you're being stepped on, you don't stop to argue about whether the foot on your neck is heavier than the one on the neck of somebody else. You try to free yourself. And where it's the same foot, you work together. There may be several things holding you down at once. If you're a woman, it's men and the capitalist system. If you're a black woman, it's also racism."

"Are you saying that women shouldn't fight in other struggles?"

"Of course not. Women will never be free in this country as it now exists because nobody can be. So you have to fight to change the whole thing. But we could change the economic system and women could still be victims of racism. To assure that this doesn't happen, women have to organize themselves to fight male supremacy."

"You make a lot of analogies to the black movement. How do you see your relationship to black women?"

"At the moment, our group is largely white. Occasionally a black woman will come to meetings and that's great. Our meetings are open to all women. However, there is a reluctance on the part of white women to assume that black women want to be part of an "integrated" group. We figure black women may want to get together themselves first. Furthermore, we're all sisters but some of our problems are different. Many militant black women see their struggle as a fight alongside their men for survival; some say that only middle-class white women can afford to worry about their freedom as women. Some non-white women are beginning to organize on the women issue, however, so apparently there isn't complete rejection of the idea. Hopefully all women will eventually be able to get together and fight for certain programs. This should result in a lessening of white supremacist attitudes too, as white women get together with non-white women around similar needs. We will fight such racist practises as using maids to do the personal dirty work that men should share equally with us."

"But women don't have it so bad. There are women doctors, lawyers, architects. Women are in almost all the fields open to men."

"Almost is a big word. Besides, the number of women in creative and well-paying jobs is very limited. There are black legislators, lawyers, doctors and even a black man on the U.S. Supreme Court, too, but that doesn't make the masses of black people less oppressed. Also, to rise in those jobs--just as black people do." con't on page 8

con't from page 7

## A CONVERSATION

"Don't you know that women control most of the wealth in this country? They also control individual men, not overtly but indirectly. Women have the real power, baby."

"First of all, we don't want to wield power as it is wielded under the present system--to oppress, to destroy people's humanity. But even if we did, we don't have anything like real power. Much of that wealth is held by women nominally, for tax purposes. They don't make decisions about it. They aren't on the corporation boards of directors. They don't run industry, the military machine, the governmental structures. It may be true that women exert forms of indirect control over individual men, and it's an ugly phenomenon. Women manipulate behind the scenes and use "feminine wiles" because most of them have been denied the chance even to think of themselves wielding power openly. Look how managers go through all sorts of changes with male workers if they put a woman in a position of authority. "Feminine wiles" is a product of women's struggle for survival--it's a plastic sword, a paper tiger, phoney, nothing. It's devoid of self-respect."

"But men are exploited, too. They do mostly unrewarding work. They are not allowed to be full human beings either."

"True. But men still oppress women. So in addition to fighting to change the capitalist system, women must also fight men for recognition of their humanity."

"It sounds like you hate men!"

"When a man says that, it's a self-defense tactic--trying to put feminists in a hate bag, the way whites do to black militants. When a woman says it, it's usually because she doesn't see her own oppression. She doesn't see that she lives in a world of male supremacy, not limited to the U.S.A. or to the capitalist system. From the beginning of history, women have usually been seen by men--and therefore by themselves--as the lesser of the sexes. In periods of economic necessity, women have been allowed out of the home but quickly put back when that need ended...no surprise women cannot see what has happened to them."

"Are you trying to be like man, then?"

"Our demand is not for equality. Who wants to be like men! We are trying as women to define ourselves. We not only reject the definitions that men have given us, but reject becoming like men."

"Your ideas may be all right for you personally, but why must you impose a particular life style on other women? Some women really want to serve a man in the traditional way, they just naturally want to be housewives."

"That sounds like the "happy slavo" argument for the South--a great rationalization for continuing oppression. There are at least two things wrong with your point. First, no woman in a modern Western society has grown up in the absence of lifelong pressure to seek submissiveness, to want to be a housewife, to define herself in the terms of the dominant male society. So no one can say for sure that such attitudes and goals are innate in women, that they come "naturally." Women have never had a chance to find out what they really want; no one knows what a woman would choose if she were free psychologically and technically."

"In the second place, it doesn't seem really probable that anyone would want to be no more than a housewife if all other avenues were open. Housework is uncreative, no matter what the mass media say about it in their relentless drive to sell a new cake mix or floor wax. Anyone who has ever done that kind of work for an extended

con't from page 8

## A CONVERSATION

period knows it is endless, repetitious drudgery with--worst of all --no relevance to the larger human community. It provides a pathetic sense of being needed, of identity, to many women. But anyone who thinks she feels good as she surveys her kitchen after washing the 146,789th batch of sparkling dishes isn't being "natural"; she's literally lost her mind."

con't from page 6

## BOBBY SEALE

I think that the oppression of women that exists--the overall oppression that exists of different peoples--is not going to be solved without the liberation of women.

### Suggested Reading List

The Second Sex

by Simone deBeauvoir

On Understanding Women

by Mary Beard

Born Female

by Caroline Bird

Feminine Mystique

by Betty Friedan

A Doll's House

by Henrik Ibsen

A Century of Struggle

by Eleanor Flexner

Women's Question

by Lenin, Engels,  
Stalin and Marx

"Motive"

a Women's Liberation  
Journal

An American Dilemma

by Gunnar Myrdal

Origins of Family, Private Property and The State

by Fredrick Engels

The Peaceful Revolution

by Margaret Mead

# The last word in 1970 office equipment!

She comes to your office after passing our rigid quality-control standards of testing, interviewing and checking. Operationally, she's a beauty! Turn her loose on temporary workloads of any kind and watch the work disappear.

She's the newest model in the world's most distinguished line of temporary office workers. Special Manpower training equips her to handle special assignments as if she were a permanent member of your staff. When

it comes to temporary office work, she's "with it." She's responsible, uses good judgment and has fine skills. You don't find people like this easily or often. We've got over 100,000 of them throughout the world. Try us!

## Manpower, Inc. Temporary Help Service.

TIME, JANUARY 19, 1970

World Headquarters: 820 N. Plankinton Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203

The following is a song by Frank Zappa, from the 'Mothers Of Invention' album.

# Harry, you're a beast

I'm gonna tell you the way it is  
 And I'm not gonna be kind or easy  
 Your whole attitude stinks, I say  
 And the life you lead is completely empty  
 You paint your head  
 Your mind is dead  
 You don't even know what I just said  
**THAT'S YOU: AMERICAN WOMANHOOD!**  
 You're phony on top  
 Phony underneath  
 You lay in bed and grit your teeth  
**MADGE! I WANT YOUR BODY**  
**HARRY, GET BACK!**  
**MADGE, IT'S NOT MERELY PHYSICAL!**  
**HARRY, YOU'RE A BEAST!**  
 censored censored censored  
 censored censored censored  
**MADGE... I COULDN'T HELP IT**  
 ...I... DOGGONE IT

# METAMORPHOSIS INTO A BUREAUCRAT

My hips are a desk.  
 From my ears hang  
 Chains of paper clips.  
 Rubber bands from my hair.  
 My breasts are wells of mimeograph ink.  
 My feet bear casters.  
 Buzz. Click.  
 My head  
 is a badly organized file.  
 My head is a switchboard  
 where crossed lines crackle.  
 My head is a wastebasket  
 or worn ideas.  
 Press my fingers  
 and in my eyes appear  
 credit and debit  
 zing. Tinkle.  
 My navel is a reject button.  
 From my mouth issue cancelled reams.  
 Swollen, heavy, rectangular  
 I am about to be delivered  
 of a baby  
 xerox machine.  
 File me under W  
 because I wonce  
 was  
 a woman.

--Marge Piercy

ALL WOMEN WANTED

WOMEN'S  
 LIB. FORUM

SAT. MAR. 7

11 AM

IN THE LOUNGE  
 AT STATEN  
 ISLAND  
 COMMUNITY  
 COLLEGE

ALL WOMEN WANTED

# ON EXPLOITATION

By CHRIS  
MAC FARLANE

The Women's Liberation Movement is becoming a popular and well supported group in this country. The women are not so aroused by leaders as they are awakened by existing conditions. Most women are socialized into a schizoid condition. They are taught to be dependent and submissive to the male. They never achieve a sense of self but are shells of mirrors reflecting back what others need to see. Women are beginning to realize this and also how they are pressured into being objects with no feelings, things to look at and show off. After all a pretty girl gives a guy prestige, doesn't she? Just like a car.

So much importance is placed on superficial things like clothes and make-up that women aren't thought of as being whole persons. So what happens? Women naturally begin to feel that they must live up to this image. And who creates this image? Advertizing agencies and cosmetic companies, capitalistic enterprises. The female face and figure are used to sell products which only keep them in bondage and make fantastic profits for the wealthy.

The Women's Liberation Movement is important, but we must not lose sight of the main objective, which is the liberation of all oppressed people. When women break down into their separate groups, there is always the danger that their meetings will turn into gripe sessions. Discussion of their own particular situation is good, but it is necessary to understand these situations in the proper context.

Women are exploited economically, politically, and sexually. The roots of this exploitation lie in the capitalistic system. Once we realize this, we can direct our energies to a united liberation of men and women together. As long as women accept male chauvinism, it will continue to exist to a certain extent, all males in this society are male-chauvinistic. But to cry "male supremacist" arrogantly and arbitrarily, around every corner, will not help the situation. On the contrary, it will only arouse antagonism on the part of the unaware male.

Men have been socialized under the same system as women. They too have been taught that it is normal for women to be passive and weak while the men are active and dominant. It is difficult for men to comprehend this situation because they are not the ones being oppressed. We women must explain to them how they exploit us. It is time for us to speak out against male supremacy.

COME TO THE  
WOMEN'S  
LIBERATION  
FORUM  
SAT. MARCH 7  
11 A.M. IN  
THE LOUNGE  
AT STATEN ISLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Young women, . . . you are, in my opinion, disgracefully ignorant. You have never made a discovery of any importance. You have never shaken an empire or led an army into battle. The plays of Shakespeare are not by you, and you have never introduced a barbarous race to the blessings of civilization. What is your excuse?

—Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*