

Feminism needs understanding

Thursday, February 16, 1984 O&E

(O15D)

There are those for whom feminism is a disease that the world would be better off without. For others, it is all there is.

But regardless of where we're anxiously awaiting, its demise or carrying its flag, the women's movement has happened. Not only is it a fact of life, it has proven to make a difference in the way that many people, women and men alike, look at life.

Feminism is certainly not without its antagonists. They can be found among both genders of the race and to both sides of most other issues.

But regardless of where we stand, it may be as important to understand the antagonists as it is to listen to those who are marching in the parades.

On the one hand, not unlike the plantation owners who were deprived of their workforce more than 100 years ago, many of these folks have much to lose.

WHEN THE slaves were freed, the plantation people lost much more than a handful of workers. They lost a lifestyle. That is the way it is when people call for equality in a society in which inequality has become an unquestioned way of life.

That is precisely what is at stake, and those who oppose movements of liberation know it only too well. It is no wonder they rise up in an anger born of fear.

They have much to lose and the losses go far beyond the kitchen. Corporations will never be the same. Those who pay women 41 cents to every dollar in the male paycheck stand to lose a bundle. Wouldn't you be an antagonist?

Government people can be no less blamed for their reluctance. Some of them may even be pained to put a woman here or there to whom they can point



moral perspectives
Rev. Robert Schaden

with pride. But as of now, they know that on the bottom line the men run the show.

AND THEY also know that if the parade is allowed to march on, that will change. That is a fact to be understood whether you walk in the parade or are waiting on the sidelines for it to end.

Even the churches stand to lose a lifestyle in the face of feminism. No wonder it is easier for them to preach against the very inequality that lurks in its sanctuaries.

When we consider that "God intended it this way," the challenge of the women's movement has got to be a terribly difficult pill to swallow. The very fact that there have been some inroads makes the prospect even more frightening for those who until now have thought it was all a bad dream.

Some of the antagonists are from among the female of the species. Like so many of the slaves of old, they have perhaps become so accustomed to the status quo that they can envision no other way.

After all, it is no easy thing to be told you are not free when all along you thought you were.

AND THEN there are those women who are painfully aware of their lack of freedom. They are aware, too, of the lack of freedom known to so many males and females alike. At the same time,

they are reluctant to leave the sidelines and join the parade because they do not wish to be branded as "radical."

They want to be able to be for freedom — for themselves and others — without being identified as pro-abortion. It may be that parades are not their style, and they may be beyond the anger zone. Even movements for freedom can unknowingly become a source of its deprivation.

Understanding the antagonists, of course, is one part of the problem. But not until the marchers can sit down with the spectators to understand the issues will we really know what it means that "to the image of God they were created, male and female they were created."



This weekend there's going to be some funny business going on.



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Henry Ford Museum
February 18 and 19

Repeat words for elderly

Dear Jo:

I would like to comment and perhaps, add to the column you wrote about the older gentleman who constantly asks people to repeat themselves.

I quite understand this problem as I nursed both my husband, for 11 years after a stroke, and my mother who died in her 90s. For years they both asked me to repeat almost everything that I said sometimes as many as two and three times.

Now that I am in my 80s, I find that I am beginning to have this same problem and have come to the conclusion that it is not that we cannot hear what is being said, it is that people in general speak far too quickly for the older brain to think fast enough to separate out the words in order to clearly understand exactly what is being said.

I feel embarrassed when I have to ask people to repeat themselves, but I must do so in order to understand and to give a correct reply.

So, Jo, my request to your readers who speak too quickly is for them to slow down when speaking to us elders as we are listening and to please be patient.

Mrs. V.

Dear Mrs. V.:

Your observations are excellent, and research studies support your statements. I appreciate your taking the time to write — thank you.

Also, another reader, who asked that I use her comments, but not to publish her letter, stated that the lower pitched male voice, gently and slowly spoken was the easiest to hear and understand, while the higher pitched female voice was almost inaudible.

She requested that she would appreciate it greatly if saleswomen in particular would lower their tone slightly, speak more slowly and look directly at their customers (particularly those who are older) when speaking to them.

Dear Jo:

My husband at age 81 is in poor health. My daughter and I have decided to keep him at home for as long as possible. Could you suggest one or two books on how to care for an older person such as my husband. Neither of us has any nursing training or education, but so far we are managing fine.

Mrs. G.

Dear Mrs. G.:

Your husband is very fortunate to have such caring relatives as you and your daughter.



gerontology
A. Jolayne Farrell

Two books on caring for older persons are "The Geriatric Aide" by Jane Henry Stollen (Little, Brown) and "The Aged Patient: A sourcebook for the Allied Health Professionals" by Nora Ernst and Hilda Glazer-Waldman (Year Book Medical).

Caring for a relative at home can be very trying and difficult. I hope that you are aware of the service provided by your community to assist you in your endeavours. If not, you can find out what is available through your doctor or community health nurse. Good luck.

Dear Jo:

My doctor told me to take calcium daily, but I'm not sure how much to take... what do you suggest?

J.S.

Dear J.S.:

Calcium carbonate 500 mg. is the recommended daily dose.

Dear Jo:

I am 64 and enjoy average health — my problem is that I get uncomfortably cold fingers, even on days that are considered cool rather than cold. Should I worry — or is it just my age.

Mr. R.T.

Uncomfortably cold fingers in cool or even cold weather is not a normal part of growing older. I suggest you make an appointment with your doctor. You have a medical problem that needs medical advice.

Meanwhile, you would be wise to wear wool lined leather gloves when going out and avoid placing your hands in very hot or very cold water.

Readers can write to Jolayne Farrell at P.O. Box 66, Postal Station C, 155 Queen Street East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

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