

'Liberation Is Not Imitation'

By MARGARET MILLER

Women will not find liberation by imitating men, although centuries of thinking have suggested this is the only way.

"The idea comes from Dr. Margaret Maxey, University of Detroit faculty member, former nun and articulate advocate of a different sort of liberation for her sex.

"The key is affirming one's own self-value," she told the opening session of a self-start clinic at the Northwest YWCA. Her topic was "Women: Imitators or Initiators?"

"Women have been told long enough what to do, what to be," she declared. "We should think of ourselves as neither inferior, superior or equal to men. Let's get rid of those terms."

"Every woman must assume she already has the power to define her identity. I'm going to be a woman as no one else has been."

Dr. Maxey said she has not become affiliated with liberation movements because "I think there's a silent majority of women who have another kind of liberation in mind."

"They are the ones who can't buy the idea that man is the standard, or norm, for being, but they refused to compete with men because they sense instinctively there's far more to true liberation."

But to find it, Dr. Maxey said, women must combat "four myths that the Judeo-Christian culture has visited upon them."

"I call them myths because they have no foundation in fact," she said, "yet they are so ingrained that to question them is almost to leave sanity open to question."

She listed them as:
The myth that woman is made for man.
The myth that motherhood is the crowning glory for all women.
The myth of feminine evil.
The myth of feminine inferiority.

Regarding the first, Dr. Maxey agreed that women men as well as women discount the Biblical story that shows woman as a divine afterthought, but all women are affected by "all the ideas plugged into that one."

"These are the ideas that women must dispute in relationship with a man — marriage — for social status, and that a good marriage is the only ticket to social acceptance," she said.

"Women are conditioned over the centuries to believe they are marrying for love, and of course attraction and compatibility come into it. But the fact remains that for acceptance they must find a good husband, and that translates to good provider."

She added that, considering the disparity between salaries for men and women in like circumstances, it comes out that "women place themselves in the marriage market for economic survival."

The myth of motherhood, Dr. Maxey said, involves the idea that "since women are biologically equipped for giving birth, they are therefore psychologically and emotionally endowed."

"It holds that all little girls will grow up to be mothers," she added. "They play with dolls, and get the mistaken impression that babies are like dolls, inert and passive."

But the mounting number of child abuse cases should tell us that "for some women, motherhood is anything but joy," she said.

"Why do we go on pretending that motherhood is the glory of womanhood?" she asked.

"Why can't our society liberate women from the idea that marriage and motherhood are the only way? It's an insult to women's set of options."

The "myth of feminine evil," she said, is the tradition that women are an evil influence — "they drain off man's power of achievement and keep him from productivity and creativity."

This is fostered by the Catholic church, she said, in its tradition of clerical celibacy.

"But it's only since 1007 that the church has insisted that its priests forgo the society of women to preserve their purity," Dr. Maxey said. "There are practical reasons why the church has not wanted priests to marry, but the way the church has stated the ban it indicates feminine evil."

From the myth of feminine inferiority, Dr. Maxey said, comes the idea that you really could not trust a woman to be president of the United States because of her biological makeup.

"It's admitted that Indra Ghanel is a successful president of India," she added, "but it's always pointed out that she's past the menopause."

"To find their liberation, Dr. Maxey said, women must see themselves as valuable individuals.

"We must effect our own liberation in matters of decision-making and create our own opportunities," she said.

"We must realize that it is not unwomanly to disagree and that we do not need scapegoats. We may want

amendment until 1970, and that a woman, Catherine Green, actually invented the cotton gin but Eli Whitney took out the patent because she was forbidden by law to do so.

She also stated that the average income of male attorneys is 200 per cent higher than that of female attorneys and the average income for female college graduates is only half that of male graduates.

"And as of the last election," she added, "women have no representative in the U.S. Senate and have lost five seats in state Legislatures."

"Happy Birthday" will be the password when members of the Woman's Club of Plymouth meet at 12:30 p.m. Friday, March 2, in the Fellowship Hall of St. John Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth.

It was on March 4, 1893, that the Plymouth Literary Society, later to become the Woman's Club, held its first official meeting in the home of Mrs. O. A. Fraser.

The entire 1973 program committee is making plans for the 80th birthday celebration.

Honored guests will include, past presidents and life members who hold 40 or more years of active membership. These include Mrs. John

Blickenstaff, Mrs. George Burr, Mrs. Caluds Buzard, Mrs. George Clute, Mrs. F. R. Hohesl, Mrs. Margaret Hough, Mrs. J. W. Kaiser, Mrs. M. S. Litsenberger, Mrs. Ralph J. Lorenz, Mrs. John J. McLaren, Mrs. Russe; A. Roe, Mrs. George A. Smith, Mrs. Austin Whipple, Mrs. Paul Siedman and Mrs. J. R. Witwer.

Mrs. William VonGlahn is chairman of the birthday tea committee. Members will be greeted at the door by Mrs. Jack Penland and Mrs. Robert Vorech.

Anyone interested in joining the club should call Mrs. Charles Childs, 42351 Hammill Lane, or Mrs. Rudolph Norquist, 11822 Turkey Run.

ANN ANDREW, seventh grader at St. Michael School in Livonia, is winner of the 1973 American history essay contest sponsored by the John Sackett chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution. Ann, who wrote her essay on George Washington, is a member of the Livonia Youth Choir and interested in athletics, piano and ballet.

DR. MARGARET MAXEY (center), talks about options for women with two area residents enrolled in the Northwest Branch YWCA self-

start clinic. At left is Nikki Haycock of Redford Township, and Roberta Hirzel of Farmington is at the right. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

Set March 8

Woman's Day At OCC

Women students, clerical workers and faculty on the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College are presenting an International Women's Day program on Thursday, March 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Women in the metropolitan area will be on the campus, at 27055 Orchard Lake Road, south of I-696, Farmington, to discuss a wide range of topics.

Barbara Robb, Detroit attorney, will speak on abortion. Flora Hummel will show a film and discuss natural childbirth.

Linda Ann Ewen of the Wayne State University society will speak on "The Socialization of Women," and Paulette LaBost, attorney and member of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission, will discuss civil rights.

Judy McComb, Detroit poet, will read her poetry and will invite audience members to read their poetry.

There will also be a forum for women interested in returning to college, three women's films, a cabaret luncheon with entertainment and a women's art show. The films will be "Growing Up Female," "The San Fran-

cisco Women's Film" and "Making Out."

The program is open to all interested. Child care will be provided without charge.

International Women's Day is being celebrated worldwide to affirm the struggle to change systems which deny full participation and growth to all individuals.

The Farmington program is designed to reflect the organizers' joy at being women and their commitment to providing information and opportunity for dialogue around the issues of concern to women.

The schedule is as follows:

9 a.m. - "Abortion," Barbara Robb, Poetry Reading Workshop, Judy McComb.

10 a.m. - Film and talks on "Natural Childbirth," Flora Hummel, "Civil Rights," Paulette LaBost.

11 a.m. - "Women Factory Workers," Bonnie Biederman, Gwen Roberts and Denise Stevenson will talk about their experiences working in a plant.

Working Women in Detroit, a slide-tape show presented by Coffee Bree.

Oakland University Continuum Center, Gretchen Snow.

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. - Buffet lunch cabaret, \$1.50, with entertainment.

1 p.m. - "Mary-Eve Schizophrenia," presented by Detroit Women's Theater Group.

Tai Chi Workshop.

2 p.m. - "Socialization of Women," Linda Ann Ewen.

3 p.m. - "Third World Women," Bonnie Biederman and Linda Ann Ewen on "Women in Cuba and Chile."

Three for 3 Food Coop, Donna Bish will talk about food cooperatives.

Botsford Sets Free Classes

A series of free classes in nutrition and diet therapy will be offered in Botsford General Hospital, 28050 Grand River, Farmington, beginning Thursday, March 1.

The classes will be taught by registered dietitians and will be held in the hospital from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Interested persons should call the hospital.

Topics will include weight reduction, diabetes and hypoglycemia, the diabetic child, low cholesterol and low sodium diets, feeding children and nutrition and pregnancy.

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