

VIEWPOINT

Feminists may discover that liberation is a 'con'

By GERRY LANDSBOROUGH
The big "con" of the feminist movement is backfiring. All those "liberated" young women of the sixties who didn't want to be tied down with a man and a family are now pushing middle age and are discovering that the aggressive lifestyle of the diehard feminist isn't at all what it is blown up to be.

Now don't get me wrong, I'm 100 per cent for liberation - "people" liberation that is. It was nothing but a big crock of beans to single women out.

Suggesting that the answer to female liberation was to stop waiting on the family and going out to work to wait on someone else's table as the means to personal fulfillment was one of the greatest cons of all time. And a lot of very foolish women bought it hook, line and sinker.

A friend of mine (male) put it this way: "If the answer to female liberation is get a job and men have been kicking off, on the average, ten years before women, thanks to the rat race, then I say great - let them be liberated so they can die ten years earlier, too."

Now, that might be a bit oversimplified but there is merit there. Feminist politician Rosemary Brown feels that governments and employers are trying to lure women away from the liberation movement by accusing them of destroying the so-called traditional family, of the working dad, housewife mom, and 2.5 children. (By the way, when they come out with statistics like 2.5, I could never understand how the .5 worked - I've never met one family yet with a complete half child).

Mrs. Brown told the National Action Committee on the Status of Women: "I implore you, I beg of you, let us not be conned into accepting the responsibility for the breakdown of the family."

NO DOUBT
Let's take a closer look at that statement. There is no doubt whatsoever that many homes have suffered when mother decided to get a "meaningful" job. Not all homes. A woman who wants to be a doctor, a lawyer, an Indian chief has every ounce of the same intelligence as a man. She can literally be a woman anything. However, that is not the problem.

The problem as I see it is the idea that to stay home in the role of "housewife" (which is a misnomer) is somehow more demeaning than to sling hash in a restaurant for somebody else. If you're a working wife and your home looks like a tornado hit it, your children are having problems at school, and you and hubby just aren't hitting it off lately, then the outside job might not be the answer.

Again, it's a crock of beans to suggest, "we need the money." The fault lies here. Most home managers mismanage the home budget, many are conned into believing that going out to an outside job is the only answer. The women with a family who goes outside the home to work is working two jobs. It takes one hell of a woman to do both, and not too many manage it successfully. When the quality of the home suffers, everyone becomes unhappy - father, children, and most of all "mother".

There is a difference between a career and a job. A career is rewarding and challenging and a woman should be able to make the choice. Where the con comes in is to know the difference.

The women who work at a job could, by proper management of income, stay home to their benefit and the benefit of their families. It is in the nine to five or six to four "dead-end job" that the working wife really loses. The change in "real income" isn't enough to warrant the change in the "quality" of homelife.

Real income can be defined this way - by the time a babysitter is paid, travel expense to and from the job, lunches and just a little something picked up on the way home from work, plus other working-girl expenses, what is left over is seldom worth the effort.

TRULY CONNED
These are the women who have been truly "conned". There is no fulfillment in coming home dead tired, picking up a cranky baby at a sitter's (cranky because it's dinner time), and rushing home to start dinner, the wash or to just sit and stare at the mess. Johnny and Susie come home at lunchtime to an empty house. If they're lucky, there's a Saran-wrapped sandwich in the fridge, but Saran wrap is just a plastic imitation for a human body that's interested in the morning's events at school. This is one small area where the quality of life suffers.

People need people. Family life worked in the past because while father was out doing his job, mother was home doing hers. The child who comes home to an empty house never learns to communicate his inner feelings. On his or her most important days, no one is there to listen, and after a while, feelings get bottled up inside, only to explode at a later date.

It's ironic that these kids often come home to beautiful but empty surroundings, so they become walking time bombs of hurt feelings. Not too many parents come home from a hard day and immediately rush to the kids with "tell me all about your day". So much for that kind of liberation.

True liberation is when a man could stay home or a woman - either. Just as long as

someone was there for the family.

True liberation sees men in a stereotype role, too, but it doesn't necessarily follow that "all" role-playing is bad.

True liberation sees children as people, too. Apartments which rent to adults only, divorce courts which allow the child to be a ping pong ball between hurting people, teachers who go overboard on the power plays. True liberation is another word for freedom, and freedom without rules is not freedom at all.

The so-called women's liberation movement broke a lot of

rules without looking down the road at the looming cliff - where many a mother and wife slipped into an abyss of misery.

One of the most important roles in the world was downplayed - that of "mother and wife".

I for one am glad to see women throwing off the bondage of trying to act as a man - what should emerge when the smoke dies down is a more confident woman - one who "chooses" and is not conned into any decision.

Correction

In the March 26 edition of The Herald, a Halton Hills firefighter was incorrectly identified in a column as Bernie Van Fleet. The firefighter was Paul Mercer. The Herald regrets the error.

THE EXPROPRIATIONS ACT NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL TO EXPROPRIATE LAND

IN THE MATTER OF an application by Her Majesty the Queen in right of Ontario as represented by the Minister of Government Services (expropriating authority) for approval to expropriate land being part of Lot 15, in Concession 4, New Survey, in the Town of Milton and part of Lot 15, in Concession 5, New Survey, in the Town of Halton Hills, both in the Regional Municipality of Halton in the Province of Ontario for the purpose of acquiring land for the James Snow Parkway.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made for approval to expropriate the land described in Schedule "A" attached hereto.

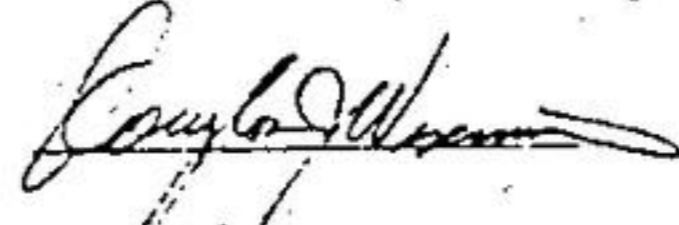
Any owner of lands in respect of which notice is given who desires an inquiry into whether the taking of such land is fair, sound and reasonably necessary in the achievement of the objectives of the expropriating authority shall so notify the approving authority in writing.

- (a) in the case of a registered owner, served personally or by registered mail within thirty days after he is served with the notice, or, when he is served by publication, within thirty days after the first publication of the notice;
- (b) in the case of an owner who is not a registered owner, within thirty days after the first publication of the notice.

The approving authority is

The Minister of Transportation and Communications
c/o Mr. T.G. Smith
Regional Director
3501 Dufferin Street
Downsview, Ontario
M3K 1N6

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF ONTARIO as represented by:



Douglas J. Wiseman
Minister of Government Services

NOTES:

1. The Expropriations Act provides that,
 - (a) where an inquiry is requested, it shall be conducted by an inquiry officer appointed by the Attorney General;
 - (b) the inquiry officer,
 - (i) shall give every party to the inquiry an opportunity to present evidence and argument and to examine and cross-examine witnesses, either personally or by his counsel or agent, and
 - (ii) may recommend to the approving authority that a party to the inquiry be paid a fixed amount for his costs of the inquiry not to exceed \$200 and the approving authority may in its discretion order the expropriating authority to pay such costs forthwith.
2. "owner" and "registered owner" are defined in the Act as follows:
 - "Owner" includes a mortgagee, tenant, execution creditor, a person entitled to a limited estate or interest in land, a committee of the estate of a mentally incompetent person or of a person incapable of managing his affairs, and a guardian, executor, administrator or trustee in whom land is vested;
 - "registered owner" means an owner of land whose interest in the land is defined and whose name is specified in an instrument in the proper registry, land titles or sheriff's office, and includes a person shown as a tenant of land on the last revised assessment roll.
3. The expropriating authority, each owner who notifies the approving authority that he desires a hearing in respect of the lands intended to be expropriated and any owner added as a party by the inquiry officer are parties to the inquiry.

R.R.O. 1970, Reg. 285, Form 2

THIS NOTICE FIRST PUBLISHED ON THE 2nd DAY OF APRIL, 1980.

SCHEDULE "A"

ALL AND SINGULAR those certain parcels or tracts of land and premises situate, lying and being partly in the Town of Milton and partly in the Town of Halton Hills, in the Regional Municipality of Halton (formerly in the Township of Trafalgar, in the County of Halton), in the Province of Ontario, being described as follows:

1. Part of Lot 15, in Concession 4, New Survey, of the said Township of Trafalgar, now in the Town of Milton, being those portions designated as Parts 1 and 2 on Ministry of Government Services Plan 853-172L, being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Registry Division of Halton (No. 20) as Plan 20R-4570;
2. Part of Lot 15, in Concession 5, New Survey, of the said Township of Trafalgar, now in the Town of Halton Hills, being that portion designated as Part 1 on Ministry of Government Services Plan 853-180L, being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Registry Division of Halton (No. 20) as Plan 20R-4679.

Letters to the editor

Crazy Boat cleanup only partial

To the editor of The Herald:
I was glad to see that the Crazy Boat Race was again a success. My family enjoyed participating in and watching the race, but I was sorry to see that some of the contestants and the Georgetown Jaycees did not heed the pleas in the open letter from Eric Symmes before the race.

Surely it wouldn't be too great a feat of engineering to string a net across the river, on the downstream side of the bridge, at the finishing line in Glen Williams, to catch the inevitable flotsam? It would also help if the contestants tried their best to salvage their paddles and other assorted belongings.

I realize this is not always feasible with the speed of the current, but it is hard to condone the deliberate litter-

ing that I personally witnessed at the finish line, as one boat crew stripped objects from their boat and tossed them into the river.

Somebody, presumably the Jaycees, did an admirable job of clearing up the river banks in Glen Williams. But did anyone travel the river and clear up the junk stuck along the route? If so, they would

have found the large pieces of at least four Crazy boats and the partly submerged hull of an old power boat called "Credit Queen I". We found these pieces still there when we canoed the river the following Saturday.

May I suggest that next year a thorough course clean-up be attempted.

Yours truly,
Pam Mitchell.

NHAMR thank you

To the editor of The Herald:
On behalf of the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded I would like to express our thanks to the Georgetown Legion for the magnificent donation of \$1,000.

This money will be used to purchase a packaging machine for use at our Workshop in Hornby.

Yours Sincerely,
Mike Evans,
President, NHAMR

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