

# Entertainment

Humor

## REAL women off the mark



Weir's View

By Ian Weir

Generally speaking, I've tried not to get too anxious about the emergence of REAL Women — Realistic, Equal, Active for Life — as a political force in Canada. Oh, the group certainly has some unfortunate ideas. It tends, for instance, to blame most of Canada's problems on "radical feminists" — when the truth, as we all know, is that most of Canada's problems are to be blamed on Pierre Trudeau. It was also a bit unsettling to read, a few months back, that REAL Women endeared themselves to a group of Tory backbenchers by treating them to home-made cookies. On the one hand, there's nothing really wrong with giving cookies to politicians. They're cheaper than appointments to the Senate. But on the other hand, a very unfortunate precedent is set if politicians start expecting home-baking from lobby groups.

"Well, the anti-cruise missile lobbyists made one or two valid points. But I've sure had better Nanaimo bars."

But the other day REAL Women went too far. Its new president, Lynne Scime, claimed that "people have been victimized by the radical feminist movement because its cut-and-dry emphasis on getting jobs is not for everyone."

Instead, she said, "we would like to look at issues such as how a woman can pick a husband to fulfill all her needs."

This is the point at which alarm-bells go off in the minds of all right-thinking Canadian men. REAL Women wants to help each Canadian woman find a husband who will fulfill ALL her needs?

Good grief. The institution of marriage has always been founded on the principle that a husband will fulfill two or three of his wife's needs, and the rest of them will go away.

This is the cornerstone of family life. If a wife complains "you never try to understand the way I feel", a husband can reply "yes, but I take

out the garbage" and the marriage sails smoothly ahead.

And now REAL Women wants to change all this — and these women call themselves pro-family?

There are a couple of questions I want answered here. To begin with: how, precisely, does REAL Women intend to help women find this mythical beast, the all-needs-fulfilling husband?

Do they envision something along the lines of Used-Husband Lots, where single women can pick the appropriate model and arrange financing with a helpful salesperson?

Are we talking, perhaps, about computer-listings of all single Canadian males, complete with the appropriate data?

"Name: Arnold Faithful. Age: Mature. Likes: Home-made cookies and remodelling the bathroom. Dislikes: Going out drinking with the boys. Hobbies: Being sensitive."

Or is REAL Women thinking of a less ambitious approach — perhaps just a handbook containing helpful hints on husband-selecting?

"Be careful of men wearing white shoes and polyester leisure suits

Studies show that such men join all-male bowling leagues and seldom unroll their socks before throwing them into the laundry hamper."

My second question is an even more fundamental one: what, precisely, are those Needs which husbands are to fulfill in their entirety? And, for that matter, do all women have the same needs?

If we're talking about a woman who needs a husband who will watch TSN and cut the grass occasionally, she can probably pick one out of the phone book.

If it's a woman who needs someone who will share Meaningful Discussions and Mutually-Nurturing Experiences, then she's looking at a considerably shorter list.

And if we're talking about a woman who needs someone who will be even-tempered, loving and unfailingly supportive, then she should probably forget about a husband and just buy a nice Labrador retriever.

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Park Public School's Creative Playground Committee is putting on a spring fashion show together with Christiane's Hairstyles and Boutique of downtown Georgetown.

Tickets are \$6 and include a hot beverage and dessert after the 8 p.m. show. Get your tickets at Christiane's or by calling Park School at 877-8901.

All proceeds will help pay for creative playground equipment for the school. The goal is to raise \$12,300, and already \$6,000 has been raised by the school.

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