



From the archives: These three articles were originally published on October 2, 1970. The Women's Liberation movement began in the late '60s and transformed the role of women in America. This movement was controversial, particularly for those accustomed to traditional gender roles. Women's Liberation ultimately inspired generations of women to demand equality. The NT News published a spread on student opinions of Women's Lib – for, against, and in between.

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The Women's Liberation movement is a step in the right direction for women who want to have some of the rights that they have been alienated from in the past, but men too are restricted by today's social immunities.

There is nothing wrong with women wanting to secure a more influential position in their society, because they themselves make up a great part of that society. If a woman wants to fill the mold of society by becoming a housewife, that is her prerogative, but simply because the greater per cent of women set this as their goal in life, the minority should not have to conform to it.

Men too are restricted by the society they live in. A man is expected to be business-like, putting the importance of his work before his human emotions. A man might be considered weak if he showed some of the strong emotions that have been hidden in the male of the species since the start of time. How can a man be considered a human being if he cannot express human emotions?

The students of New Trier East have not been directly affected by the Liberation movement as of yet, but in the future they will be thankful that their predecessors made an effort to secure the natural rights of any human being, male or female.

In this age of political issues, the human aspect is often forgotten. In order for a person to have freedom of action in his society, he must also have freedom to express and react to his own emotions, and only then will there ever be true liberation for both sexes.

Liberation for both sexes!

Women, we don't need any more of your Lib

by Greg Murphey

Women's Liberation is one of the most widely discussed subjects around today. Like most other controversies in this country, Women's Lib has an overwhelming group of enemies.

This is not unusual, because there are several undesirable elements in the movement. The protests in front of men's bars and clubs, the braless look, and the incessant cry of "male chauvinist pig" only hurt any reforms the girls may have in mind. The saddest part of the movement is the fact that most of the girls don't support it. This fact was pointed out in August. The demonstrations that were to paralyze America fizzled out into a flop. In fact, a strip tease girl stole the show away from the Women's Lib demonstration in Boston.

"What's wrong with being a sex symbol!" she cried, infuriating the leaders of the Women's Lib strike.

It is odd that the very group it tries so hard to reach, spurns it. Through their radical demands, silly protests, and

hatred of "the shackles of femininity" many girls have been driven from the movement.

The leaders claim that American women are sick and tired of being exploited. Right off, if they were, they would all get out and scream for rights. They would become wild in the streets, men would starve, and houses would go to ruin from lack of care. Even the giant in the washing machine would die from lack of attention.

What, honestly, do women need besides equal employment and education? These rights should be granted, but what about the unreasonable demands? Women's Lib wants women's magazines abolished, men to do housework, and women to ask men out.

These are the demands which anger men, and surprisingly, most of the women.

So to all girls of the revolution, put down your guns, get on a bra, and find a job. If you can't find one, join the army. In this case, many of the boys would be home.

Women deserve, need liberation

by Beth Dellow

Women, it's now your turn as a majority of the people in the United States, to obtain the freedoms that you have always been entitled to!

Ever since the founding of this country women have been put in their place—sewing and knitting at home after they've married. Their thoughts have been molded just like all the men's minds. Women are told to grow up and get married and have children, while men are told to be successful.

While in school, women are encouraged to take homemaking, typing, and stenography so that they can fill in the dull jobs that men will not fill.

Men are encouraged to take mechanics and anything that will help them learn to become a lawyer, scientist, doctor, or executive—anything that will pay good money.

The population explosion has brought on a new light to the total, role of women in this society. Soon women will be asked to leave home earlier and contribute to the working force.

If a woman does get into a position of management, she is almost guaranteed a lower salary. On the average, women get paid \$3,000 less than men in the same position.

Women make up over one-third of the work force in the United States and have shown that they are capable of



Robin Campbell (l.) explains Women's Liberation demands to News Staff Writer Kevin Coffee/Photo by Levin.

doing many of the jobs that are considered for "men only." The fact that women usually get paid less than men in the same jobs is not only unethical and illegal, but is contrary to the basic principle of equal pay for equal work, which is necessary in a free enterprise system.

There are several benefits to giving equal pay, the most important being that it would give greater job security to men. A man would no longer have to worry about losing his job to a lower paid woman.

Right now only 2 per cent of the women that are working are in managerial jobs, which is not even at a level of tokenism.

There is no doubt that women are different from men,

but not all people's skin is the same color so using sex discrimination is just as absurd as color discrimination. Women should be allowed to choose what they are going to do with their lives without feeling pressures of society making them wives and mothers. If they wish to become wives they should do so, but if they do not they should not have to feel that they have not lived full lives.

When women are given equal opportunity, then all persons will be required to serve in the military or jury service. Both sexes could claim exemption for dependents and these women could, and willingly would serve an active role in political society.

Fifty years later, Lib still relevant

by Katy Pickens

In 1970, it was not a natural assumption that American women should work outside the home. Nearly fifty years later, a lot of progress has been made for women's rights in America.

Reading these articles with a 21st century mindset was an eye-opening experience, especially the contrasts between the supporters, critics, and those in the middle.

Before you even get past the headline for the opposition article, you already feel defensive: "Women, we don't need any more of your lib." The vagueness of "we" in the title would suggest that then-senior Greg Murphey was speaking on behalf of men. But soon it becomes clear that he wasn't. Instead, he was speaking for women -- or, at least the ones he deemed decent enough to put on a bra.

"The saddest part of the movement is the fact that most of the girls don't support [Women's Liberation]," writes Murphey.

The rest of the article reads as you would expect -- the wounded griping of a 17-year-old boy who likely had never needed to do his own laundry.

"The leaders of the Women's Lib movement claim that American women are sick and tired of being exploited. Right off. If they were, they would all get out and scream for rights. They would become wild in the streets, men would starve, and houses would go to ruin from the lack of care," Murphey writes.

At this point, I honestly had to question whether the article was intended as satire. Murphey goes on to describe the "unreasonable demands" of the movement, such as men doing chores or even (gasp!) women asking men out on dates. In the era of #freethenipple, it is also a little amusing that he took such issue

with the "braless look."

Unbelievable as it is today, this is the way some men viewed women in the 1970s. Women did have to take to the streets to change it. Unfortunately, women are still protesting today, fighting for equal pay and respect in the workplace.

In contrast, the article supporting women's rights is far calmer than you would expect. Apart from the first line calling on women to take action to seize the rights they deserve, the rest of the article is very fact-based and measured.

Beth Dellow focused mainly on population growth, the wage gap, and how women should have more of a political role in society. No denunciations of "male chauvinist pigs" as Murphey had described.

CLARIFY... Their difference in tone reflects the ways it was acceptable for women to speak their minds as opposed to men.

The most surprising view? The staff editorial demanding "liberation for both sexes!" Initially, the editorial rubbed me the wrong way. At that time, women were deprived of countless opportunities automatically available to men.

In a discussion about Women's Liberation, typically you wouldn't expect an editorial to assert "men too are restricted by today's social amenities."

The phrasing wasn't the best, but the editors had a point. Discussions of toxic masculinity remain relevant today, and there is still harsh judgement against men for embracing anything that is not "macho." This is not because men are oppressed for being men, but rather may be judged for embracing behavior or roles traditionally deemed feminine.

When men openly display emotion, work in the home, or put effort into their appearances,

they are judged for it. These actions are typically designated as "girly," which for a long time was synonymous with weak. Murphey sarcastically said that women in the movement sought to escape the "shackles of femininity." He missed the point, but he was accidentally a little on the mark -- femininity is often looked down upon.

Liberation, acceptance, and equality for women means that we must eliminate prejudice rooted in gender roles. Removing negative connotations relating to femininity will allow for everyone to feel accepted and comfortable in their own skin, regardless of gender identity.

The current wave of feminism seeks to be more inclusive - not only for men, but also for all races, religions, sexualities, nationalities and gender identities. Intersectional feminism encompasses equality for all people regardless of who they are, and this is the ideal we should strive for.

Intersectional feminism embraces the different components of a person's identity can overlap in unique ways, and that an effective feminist movement needs to be cognizant of this variety. There is a difference in the experiences of women based on race, sexuality, and countless other factors.

In her article, Beth Dellow likens sex discrimination to racial discrimination. But what is the experience for women of color? Intersectionality seeks to address discrimination holistically.

A liberation movement that includes everyone -- regardless of race, gender, socioeconomic standing, or any other facet of identity -- will allow for a more equitable and tolerant future for all of us.

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