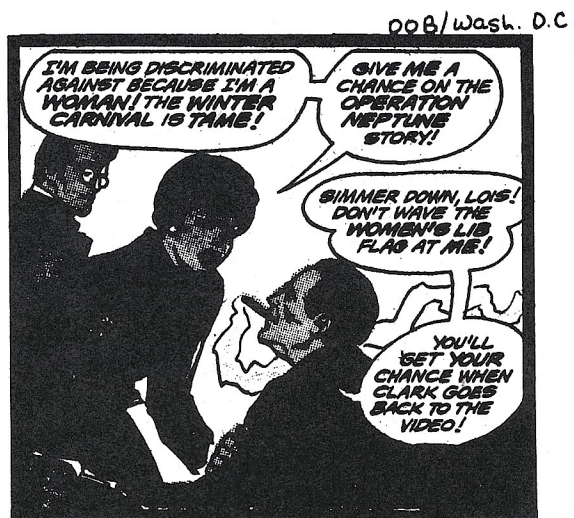


B. Myths



seize the time!

As you begin looking for a job, you may encounter one or more of the numerous myths about working women. They run the gamut from the implication that women don't need or want to work to the raging hormone theory which supposedly disqualifies us from higher level positions. These myths are dangerous distortions of reality. The facts are quite different.

- 1) Women don't need to work.
2/3 of the adult poor are women. About 40% of the working women in this country must work in order to support themselves or their families.
- 2) Women don't want to work.
43% of all women over 16 are in the labor force. More women, and female heads of households, who want to work are unemployed than men.
- 3) There is higher absenteeism among women.
Men lose more time, considering both acute and chronic ailments suffered. The work-time lost by persons 17 years of age and over averaged 5.3 days for women and a higher 5.4 days for men, over the same period. Where an individual employer's statistics reflect significantly higher absenteeism for women, it may be because he restricts his employment of women to clerical and other low-paying jobs. Men in low level jobs are out just as often. Highly trained women occupying responsible positions are seldom absent more than men in similar jobs. Women over 45 are out sick substantially less than men their age.

4) There is high job turnover among women.
 10% of the men, but only 7% of the women employed in January 1966 were working in jobs different from the ones they held in January 1965. For both men and women workers, the lowest quit rates occur among skilled, professional and managerial workers -- the highest among sales, service and unskilled workers. (These figures are from Newsweek)

5) Women can't do all jobs.
 The new technology is less and less a respecter of old-fashioned sex differences. It has eliminated the need for physical strength very rapidly and is now eliminating the need for detail work. There has never been any proof that sex differences have an innate basis.

Women's liberation is . . .



learning what you want
to learn

Women's liberation is . . .



women working together
to shape the world

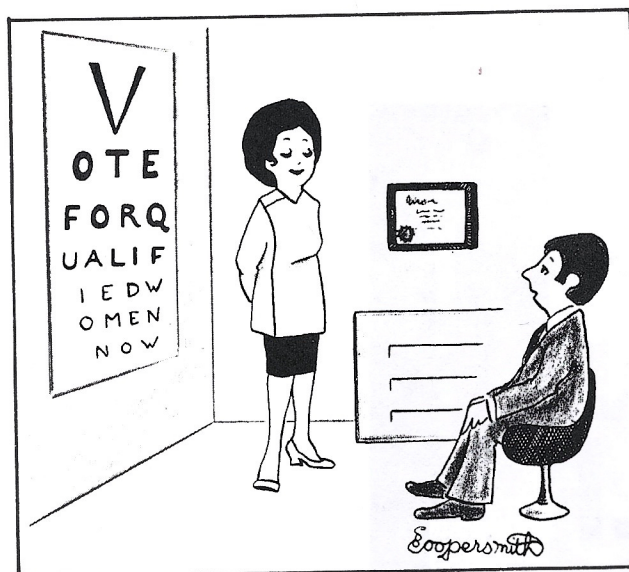
The Whole Woman Catalogue

6) Women don't make good bosses.
 A study of attitudes toward women in the Federal Service, by the U.S. Civil Service Commission, showed that men who had worked under a women supervisor were more inclined to favor a woman in management than those who had not. Also, policy-makers usually have the power to overcome any employee objections. With management support and a clear statement of authority and responsibility, employees do well with a woman supervisor.

7) Women don't qualify for better-paying jobs.
 Over half the women college graduates are in the work force, compared with only 30% of the women with an eighth grade education. But even women with degrees are hired mainly as clerks, secretaries and sales personnel. When women get well-paying jobs, they are denied titles and are promoted more slowly. Far fewer training jobs are offered to women high school graduates than to men with the same background. More women are being educated today, yet the concentration of women in lower income jobs is increasing rather than decreasing.

8) Women's work doesn't deserve more pay.

A taxi driver has to be about as skillful as a cleaning woman who can run the machinery of a mechanized home...a trained nurse has invested more time and money in her education, and her responsibility is at the very least as great as that of an electrician, but he earns more per hour. Typists must train themselves before being hired, but typewriter repairmen are trained at the expense of the firm.



10) Women need protective work laws.

Laws limiting the weight a woman worker may lift are now used to keep women out of jobs that are no more arduous than lifting a five year old child or hauling groceries. These laws would be fairer if they required tests of physical ability of both men and women. The male sex is more vulnerable to hernia. Laws regulating the shift women can work apply to manufacturing, where a night-shift differential may be paid, but don't apply to lower paid scrub women.

9) Raging hormones hamper job performance.

There is little scientific evidence that women's physiological changes effect work performance. Men also have their cycles --in a study of male factory workers Dr. Rex Hersy found that emotions varied predictably within a twenty-four hour period. Low periods were characterized by apathy, indifference or a tendency to magnify minor problems. A urine study also revealed that men experience a 4 to 6 week cycle, due to hormones.

- 11) Marriage is a barrier to job performance.
Nearly half of all American women are in the work force, and most are married. 38% of all these women have children under 18 years of age, and combine the responsibilities of motherhood and work.
- 12) Working mothers harm children.
Sociologists report that they cannot find any significant differences between children of mothers who work and children of mothers who stay at home.



No genuine social revolution can be accomplished by the male, as the male on top wants the status quo, and all the male on the bottom wants is to be the male on top. The male "rebel" is a farce; this is the male's "society," made by him to satisfy his needs.

*Valerie Solanas
SCUM MANIFESTO*

- 13) Women are treated equally.
FALSE.