

RUMPLEFORESKIN

Sexism Scrapbook



by Paul Krassner

Feminist consciousness is working its way into the funny papers.

The "Inside Woody Allen" comic strip depicts his female companion ignoring a "WARNING: Open Man-Hole" sign and falling down it as a result. "I didn't think I'd fall in," her disembodied voice explains. "It didn't say 'Person-Hole.'"

In "Gordo," a tropical fish recites a revised version of the Robert Browning poem, ending -- as the lady of the house is shown pouring food into the rectangular bowl -- "God's in Her Heaven . . . All's right with the world."

And in "Cathy," she knocks on the door of a woman with broom in hand surrounded by yowling children. This dialogue ensues:

"Hi. I'm taking a survey for Product Testing, Inc. Who in your household does the laundry?"

"I do."

"Who takes care of the kids?"

"I do."

"The dishes? The floors? The windows? The shopping?"

"I do."

"And what does your husband do?"

"Oh, he works."

The entire plot of the film **Black Sunday** hinges on a single instance of male chauvinism by Robert Shaw who, as an Israeli intelligence agent working inside the U.S., leads a search and destroy raid on the headquarters of the Black September movement. Everyone in their path gets shot except Marthe Keller, who must remain alive to spearhead a terrorist action involving a Goodyear Blimp hovering dangerously above the Credibility Gap.

First statistic: Twice as many little girls as little boys dream up imaginary playmates.

Second statistic: More women than men break their ribs during violent coughing fits.

Conclusion: Imaginary playmates are the ultimate cause of broken ribs and

should be outlawed.

"Now, if you're more of a woman, you can wear less of a bra: the new Sky Bali seamless."

The particular irony of that ad is that in Bali, where American tourists used to ogle bare breasts as though they were naked tits, those same natives began to assimilate the culture of their visitors and began wearing brassieres.

The Philip Morris people -- whose manufacture of Virginia Slims bestowed upon women equal opportunity to develop lung cancer -- is co-sponsoring with the Clairol people ("If I have but one life to live, let me live it in Aryan Sisterhood!") an art exhibition titled "Remember the Ladies."

The promotional copy reads: "It's time we got to know our Founding Mothers better . . . you'll meet them all -- the working women and society women, slaves and indentured servants, American Indian women. . ."

Unofficial slogan of this historical survey is "Better laid than never."

No, Virginia, the Chamber of Commerce was not behind that **San Francisco Examiner** front-page headline: "The Sexually Eager S.F. Teen-Age Girls" -- followed by a news item exactly the length of an erect cock.

An accompanying article pointed out that, "The tendency of young teenagers to turn to contraception only after their first sexual experience means large numbers of unplanned pregnancies."

Meanwhile, at Hayfield High School in Fairfax, Virginia, two honor students, Lauren Boyd and Gina Gambino, attempted to publish the results of their own informal survey of classmates' sex activity, but principal Doris Torrice censored their findings on birth control ignorance.

Men are not the enemy. Authoritarianism is.

Dr. Renee Richards, who brought transsexualism to the tennis court, has been labelled a *bona fide* woman as the result of three independent analyses of her cells at an Arkansas laboratory.

"I'm delighted about passing," she commented, "but on the other hand, some of my psychological advantage as a player has been dispelled. Some of the players thought I had a genetic advantage over them."

However, a book called **The Curse** cites a growing body of evidence which suggests that men are also subject to cycles -- daily and monthly -- during which their psychological stability and emotional energy vary measurably.

Or, as Woody Allen's imaginary playmate might put it: "You don't need to experience pre-personstrual tension."