

pill. The pill is said to give women the same sexual freedom that men have, as well as the same careers and opportunities.

But this portrayal is very misleading as it does not deal with the total oppression of women and the reasons why women want and have many children.

Alternatives to motherhood do not exist at present. Job situations discriminate against women. Our educational system tracks women into home economics and men into science. Woman's primary role in life is still that of wife and mother. Some are isolated in suburbia, and others are trapped in crowded working class homes. Most live vicariously through their children.

As long as women are defined as bodies to produce children; as long as a woman's goal in life is to "meet a man" and have a child, we are going to have kids—no matter how safe and effective the contraceptive devices. There is no other source of identity given women other than child-rearing and family life.

Judith Blake, chairwoman of the Department of Demography of the University of California at Berkeley, examined the American population policy in Science, May 2, 1969. She questioned those institutional policies which are pronatalist—that is, which encourage reproduction. These policies are most obvious in the family, where both male and female sexual roles are standardized in terms of reproductive functions, and in occupational roles which are defined for women in terms of child-bearing, child-raising, and complementary activities.

ON POPULATION CONTROL

She wrote: "The notion that most women will 'see the error of their ways' and decide to have two-child families is naive, since few healthy and energetic women will be so misguided as to deprive themselves of most of the rewards society has to offer them and choose a situation that allows them neither a life's work outside the home nor one within it."

When women are allowed greater diversity and freedom to pursue their own lives, then they will not feel it essential to have many children and a more humane system of population control can develop.

Population control is a socio-political issue involving the redistribution of world resources. The white middle-class male-dominated West has again tended to view population control as providing technical means to control the population growth of others, ie, Third World or Black. A more realistic solution is the redistribution of the 70% of the world's resources now controlled by 7% of the world's population (the U.S.) but this would mean extensive land reform and possible revolutions in nations where land and wealth are owned by only a few or by U.S. corporations.

Such a redistribution of resources would not only help feed overpopulated areas but also create conditions in which people could choose to limit their population growth, if this were seen as advantageous to human interests. In some nations especially socialist ones, human beings are an asset and not a deficit.

There are only two choices. One is to take a technical approach which adopts a solution that must be forced on people regardless of their choices, thereby creating an in-humane though controlled society. The other is to work now to change socio-political conditions—to work toward the liberation of women and the redistribution of world resources.

RESULTS: WOMEN'S LIBERATION SURVEY ON THE ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES

(PRELIMINARY FINDINGS FOR 750 WOMEN IN 35 STATES, 143 U.S. CITIES)

The most obvious impression obtained while tabulating questionnaires was the continuing frustrated search by women for a contraceptive that is both medically safe and 100% effective in preventing pregnancy. Unfortunately, that ideal contraceptive is not available. Those women still on the pill have one thing on their mind—avoiding pregnancy. Some have shut their ears to the dangers all together, others see no other alternative, since other methods are not as reliable and safe abortion is too expensive and difficult to obtain. Of those women who have gone off the pill, and alarmingly high number, 17%, of literate, financially stable women are using no contraceptive at all or the least effective ones (condoms, withdrawal or rhythm). This seems to indicate that women are generally uninformed about reproductive biology and birth control. (In addition,