

GROSSMAN

by Howard J. Grossman

I recently finished a book which has had tremendous impact on many persons across the country. The book, *Passages*, by Gail Sheehy establishes time as a hallmark of life and highlights crisis points at midlife and at other times which affect all of us.

Anyone reading the book will immediately associate the various change connections which mark life's

Passages

periodic cycles. The book has been critiqued in many quarters including a recent city planning publication by a former staff member of a national planning organization. He considers his lifestyle to have been significantly altered at the midpoint of his life as he achieved a major change in his career, technically and geographically.

Sheehy establishes age 40 as a major breakpoint, but also uses other sharply defined age brackets to

create a beautifully written analysis of the stages of life similar to Shakespeare's *As You Like It* with his seven stages of life.

The predictability of crisis at various stages of life parallels that of municipal governments, counties or regions. Every jurisdiction goes through a life cycle when a sudden crisis hits, whether it's the crisis of growth, the crisis of stagnation, or the crisis of being economically depressed.

How long these exist depends upon the leadership and community support which citizens arouse. The same holds true for the human being in his or her personal life crisis.

Sheehy describes the midlife passage as a dark tunnel which can go in several directions as the middle-aged person begins to think of accomplishments or lack thereof of the past and the growing feeling that life is nearing an end. The community has many dark passages with highlights reflected in new public works, a new major industry, a major development occurring, some closing of a facility or some fiscal crisis.

How long the stage exists depends upon the unpredictable factors of acceptance of change, dynamism of individual leadership, outside financial and technical aid, and the ability to use resources to the fullest as a basis for making change occur. The same holds true for the individual during the various passages of life.

Sheehy uses 115 life stories as the basis for seeking the truth about the passage of time. She states that there are predictable signs of crisis or turning points throughout life and that we go through passages of time into each stage.

Whether or not this is completely applicable to a community unclear, but vital signs can be measured in many communities throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania as to predicting the extent of health or gloom, the stages of political stagnation or healthy long range future, the coloring of economic life or the gloom of economic disrepair. Each stage can be examined, predictions made, and the future suggested, but the answers depend upon political or human judgement. *Passages* provides a unique outlook on what to expect as we grow older and either wiser or stagnant with the sameness of years. Communities have the same judgements attached to them as they shift and change with the lifestyles of the twentieth century.

Northeastern Pennsylvania should use the same analytical techniques to measure its future life. In this way, the region can adjust in accordance with what seems to be around the corner—a better life or adverse economic circumstances.



What is a woman?

It occurs to me that it must be difficult for a woman in the labor market today. She has to look like a girl, dress like a boy, think like a man and work like a dog.

And with woman's lib and ERA it's going to get tougher.

Frankly speaking, with the exception of equal pay for equal work, I think that the gal who wants equality with the male is taking a giant step backward. I can't imagine why any woman would want to lower herself to the status of man.

They used to say, "It's a man's world."

If so, how come women control the bulk of the wealth in the country? Who handles the money in your household? John or Jane? Chances are John makes all the major decisions like approving or disapproving the Panama Canal treaty or shipping arms to Israel.

Jane is charged with taking care of all the minor problems such as re-decorating the house, buying new drapes and furniture, picking out her husband's suits and deciding what color the new car will be.

On the new car, John may think he makes the decision to trade in the old pokey straight-six for the '78 smokey V-8, but without Jane's okay his chances are as good as the proverbial snowball you know where. If he chooses to go ahead anyway Jane is going to have a 'headache' for at least the next month.

'Headache'. Definition-Woman's greatest weapon-as in "Not tonight, John, I have a..."

But what is a woman? Strange and wonderful creatures.

She's someone God made beautiful so that men might love her; and unreasonable so that she might love man.

A person who can rush through a store aisle 18 inches wide without brushing against the piled-up cans,

and then drive home and knock one of the doors off an 18-foot garage.

A person who says to her husband, "I put a little dent in the fender. You'd better take a look at it. It's in the back seat."

A person who drives the same way a man does, only she gets blamed for it.

A person who when she holds her hand out a car window you know she's going to turn right, turn left, stop or is just drying her nails.

A person who stands 20 minutes talking at the door because she hasn't time to come in.

A person who believes that if you charge it, it isn't spending and if you add a cherry to it, it's not intoxicating.

A person who when she demands to know if her husband is a man or a mouse, he'd better squeak up.

A person who sometimes looks as though she was poured into her evening gown and somebody forgot to say "when". And consequently looks as though she is either on the inside trying to get out; or on the outside trying to get in.

A person who knows how to get a new mink from an old wolf.

A person who knows that if the shoe fits, she needs a smaller size.

A person who dresses for men's eyes and women's eyebrows.

A person who can't change her mind, and won't change the subject.

And, finally, my honest opinion:

A person who if God made anything nicer than, He would have kept it for Himself.

Before the letters start coming let me assure you that next week we'll take a look at man.

My wife has been reading this over my shoulder as I do my two finger typewriter exercise. "Uh, what's that, dear? You're going to bed. You've got a Whaaat?"

What'd I do now.

'Til next week, keep happy.



SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS--The recently elected officers of Lake-Lehman High School's senior class are treasurer; Kathy Stefanowicz, vice president; Donna Bonham, president; Debbie Jones, publicity; and Beth Youngman, historian. (Photo by Charlot M. Denmon)

WCTU holds 93rd annual convention

Luzerne County Woman's Christian Temperance 93rd annual convention will be held on Saturday, Oct. 29 at 10 a.m. in Wyoming Ave. Christian Church, Wyoming Ave., Kingston.

The call to order will be by president of the county group Mrs. Elizabeth Milbrodt. Mrs. Edmund John will have morning devotions.

Salute to flags is by Mrs. Mildred Garinger, greetings from local church is by Rev. Edmund John.

A three minute report will be given by county directors. Noon prayer will be followed by covered dish luncheon.

Afternoon session will begin at 1:30 p.m. with devotions by Mrs. Hilda Morris, a special song by Mrs. Morris and her daughter Sandra Michels.

There also will be a special services and election of county officers and a special song by a group from Wyoming Ave. Christian Church.

Highlights of State Convention held in New Stanton will be given by Mrs. Milbrodt.

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