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Steinem

Feminist is older, 'more radical'

United Press International
NEW YORK — Gloria Steinem doesn't fidget.

She can sit quietly through a fusillade of sharply pointed questions (as well as some well-intentioned but somewhat chauvinistic ones) and respond with unnerving calmness.

Steinem, 45 now, has experienced nearly every inquiry as a leader of the feminist movement for 20 years. But, she hasn't "mellowed out" nor subdued. That's not the way feminism operates.

"The women's movement works the other way around from other political, social movements — you get more radical as you get older," Steinem said recently in an interview in New York.

Steinem was making the rounds publicizing Ms. magazine's new book, "The Decade of Women: A Ms. History of the Seventies in Words and Pictures," published by Putnam and Paragon. A chronology of the women's movement, the book contains a long introduction by Steinem, the editor and founder of Ms. magazine.

She looks like a young fine arts teacher at a Seven Sister school — theatrically thin, wearing brown furry boots, black corduroy slacks, and a black turtleneck sweater and has large even white teeth and long blonde hair.

Have her obvious good looks helped her become the most recognized feminist of the decade?

"No. My physical appearance

hasn't helped me in the movement," Steinem said.

"The problem all women have is we are judged by our skins — the way we look. I look forward to being old. Then I'll be taken seriously. I know that's crazy — to wish away your life," she said.

Steinem said there are two alternatives worse than Carter's plan to register men and women for the armed services.

"One would be to draft only men. That would be preparing for war and perpetuating discrimination. The second would be to ask a draft for both men and women," she said.

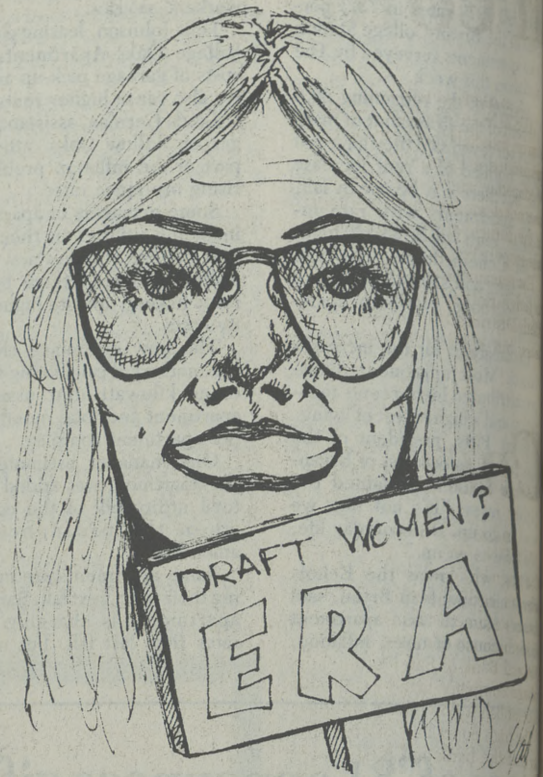
"The idea we would have a draft without ERA (Equal Rights Amendment) is really offensive. It assures that the policy of no women in decision-making positions in the military will continue," she said.

Steinem responded to the much-publicized blast from the Times of London which has decided to ban the title Ms. in its newspaper.

"It's comforting to have a critic that's wrong about everything. The English gave us Ms. The unabridged Oxford English Dictionary lists Ms. as far back as the 17th century. I thought the Times of London people would know that," she said.

Then she stopped talking for a moment. "Progress lies in the direction we haven't been," she said.

The sentence seemed to hang in the air, and for the first time during the hour, Gloria Steinem moved.



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New aerosol spray better than the pump

United Press International
WASHINGTON — A company that markets paints, polishes and other products says it has developed an aerosol spray capable of dispensing such diverse items as peanut butter, putty and perfume with equal effectiveness.

Products in the new can are expected to be in retail stores this summer.

The new aerosol propellant combines two common ingredients — sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) and citric acid. When mixed, they produce carbon dioxide, the gas that provides the pressure.

Unlike previous propellants — fluorocarbons and hydrocarbons — the carbon dioxide remains in a bag in the can. The bag expands with each use of the spray.

When the can is empty of the product, the bag fills the entire container. No gas escapes until the can is burned or crushed.

Carbon dioxide is beneficial, not detrimental, to the environment. Plants need it to live; they absorb carbon dioxide — and water and release oxygen into the air.

Most conventional aerosol spray

cans currently use liquid hydrocarbon gas as a propellant. This gas mixes with the product and escapes into the environment as the spray is used. Hydrocarbons are flammable and care must be taken not to puncture or incinerate a can using them.

Hydrocarbons came into widespread use after the government banned most fluorocarbon gases in aerosols as a threat to the earth's protective ozone layer.

The new can was developed by Grow Group Inc., of New York City. The manufacturer says it can be used for almost any kind of product, spray or solid.

"The system has been designed with an eye toward replacing current aerosols, in addition to opening up new areas of pressurized dispensing," said David Magid, president of Enviro-Spray Systems Inc., the Grow Group subsidiary that will produce the containers in a plant at Montgomeryville, Pa.

"Our system is capable of spraying both heavy and viscous materials," Magid said.

He said other alternatives do not provide the same constant pressure that hydrocarbon sprays do. That is

important, he said, for products such as spray paint, where an even coat is desirable.

At least two other aerosol alternatives are in limited use. One the product is inside a bladder balloon under pressure. The product is released as the balloon shrinks inside the can.

In the second, gas in the bottom of the can pushes upward on a piston. This can is used mainly for viscous products such as shaving cream and some shaving creams.

Magid said neither approach is satisfactory for both heavy and light materials.

The company says it will cost no more than four cents more per can than the new Enviro-Spray system. The cost difference may be offset by high volume production and savings on insurance because the cans are not as flammable as those using hydrocarbons.

Research done for the manufacturer indicates the new spray system releases 98.7 percent of the product from the can — as much as conventional containers deliver — as opposed to 95 percent from conventional aerosols.

A company spokesman said the new can was developed partly because many consumers still prefer aerosols for some products, although they went back to using hand pumps when the risks from fluorocarbon propellants were publicized a few years ago.

Russell Banks, president of Grow Group, said no decision has been made about which of his company's products, including spray paint, floor care items and insecticides, will be packed in the new cans.

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