

Jolie Haertter

Honors: US History 2

10/14/16

Steinem, Gloria. Email interview with the author. New York City, New York October 12th, 2016

Gloria Steinem is a feminist icon that contributed to the second wave of Feminism. She was a columnist for the New York Time, and she currently is releasing a book called *My Life on The Road*. She talks about her experience in being a female activist. Gloria mentioned the struggles and what she has accomplished while being devoted to feminism.

Question (Jolie): What struggles did you face while trying to fight for female rights?

Answer (Gloria): The predominant reaction to the women's movement was ridicule. It took a long time for us to be taken seriously enough to be opposed. When it came to assignments as a freelance writer I was assigned things about fashion and food and makeup and babies, or the low point in my life, textured stockings. When I delivered my articles to the editor at the Sunday Times Magazine he gave me a choice, either I could go to a hotel room with him in the afternoon or mail his letters on the way out...I just assumed you had to put up with this. I don't think I understood the need for a movement until I went to cover an abortion hearing. I had had an abortion when I first graduated from college and I never told anyone and I listened to women testify about all that they had to go through, the danger, the infection, the sexual humiliation, to get an illegal abortion and I began to understand that my experience was not just mine but an almost universal female experience. And that meant that only if you got together with other women was it going to be affected in any way.

Question (Jolie): How would/did you respond to a man that did you not treat you with respect?

Answer (Hannah-Gloria's assistant): In terms of how she addresses being disrespected by a man, one thing Gloria has said she does is when called a b***h (b-word) she says "thank you." This nips the insult right in the bud. Gloria says thank you because she understands that women who are assertive and strong willed are often called this word because they can be seen as threatening to men.

Question (Jolie): What was your motivation to start helping with female rights?

Answer (Gloria): In the very beginning, I was more subject to burnout because I think burnout is a function of naïveté. But if you realize that this is a lifelong endeavor, you can pace yourself, physically and emotionally. I don't know that anything's a cure, but there are two helps. One is accepting that this is a lifetime project, and not being naive about the depth of what we're trying to do. And the second, for me is understanding the means and the ends. So if you have a movement that is running, running, running, you'll get an end that is running, running, running. If you have a movement that has time for jokes and poetry and love, you'll have that in the end. So you have to build it in along the way.

Question (Jolie): What was the significant and/or most important thing you accomplished being a second wave feminist?

Answer (Hannah-Gloria's assistant): The question of what was the most important thing Gloria accomplished in the movement is hard to answer. The women's movement is made up of so many important people who were/are essential to it's success and growth.

Question (Jolie): What advice would you give out to someone wanting to help out with female rights?

Answer (Gloria): Telling each other our stories is the single most revolutionary act in every way...change comes from telling the truth and knowing that you're not alone.

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10/2/16

(Miller, Cindy). Interview with the author. Lancaster, PA October 2nd, 2016

Cindy Miller is a female in the '70s who was in the second female class at Lehigh University. She explains her experience. Surprisingly, she felt comfortable and made many male friends. She also experienced discrimination in work with the government. She tells stories and experiences she had.

Question(Jolie): So how are you?

Answer(Cindy): I am doing well. Yeah, I am great.

Question(Jolie): So where were you born?

Answer(Cindy): In York, Pennsylvania. And I was adopted.

Question(Jolie): You were?

Answer(Cindy): Yeah.

Question(Jolie): Okay.

Answer(Cindy): I was adopted when I was 6 years old.

Question(Jolie): Okay, wow. So where did you grow up?

Answer(Cindy): In York.

Question(Jolie): Okay.

Answer(Cindy): Yeah, yeah, that's where I spent my first 18 years and, then, I went to college. I went to Lehigh University, and I was in the second class of women.

Question(Jolie): Okay, so what year did you start college?

Answer(Cindy): That would of been '72.

Question(Jolie): Okay, and when did you graduate?

Answer(Cindy): In '76.

Question(Jolie): Okay, what did you major in?

Answer(Cindy): I majored in accounting. That would be bachellor science in accounting. Originally I was going to go for math, but it was practical for me to major in accounting,

-obmitted-

Question(Jolie): Okay.

Answer(Cindy): So that's what I did.

Question(Jolie): So a lot of guys?

Answer(Cindy): Oh yes. When I went there, the ratio was 16 to 1.

Question(Jolie): Oh okay. That's a lot.

Answer(Cindy): Yeah it is. Well, it was because it was an all male school. Lehigh was founded in 1865, so it was all male until 1971.

Question(Jolie): Oh okay. What was it like being the secound class of women?

Answer(Cindy): Well, I guess it was different emotions, you know? It was strange because there were so many guys there, and, however, the woman were all- you know we were all really bright people and it was interesting. They were all from different areas. Mainly from New Jersey and New York and Pennsylvania. The students- but I liked it. Sometimes it was over whelming though. The women I wasn't particularly close with females. I was actually closer to, as friends, a lot of the male students. I don't know what else to say.

-obmitted-

And it was challenging. And we did stand out, you know.

Question(Jolie): Was there any tension between you and the guys?

Answer(Cindy): No not really. I did not feel any.

-obmitted-

Back when I went to highschool was when they had racial riots. I was friends with a lot of African American students.

-obmitted-

Question(Jolie): Did you feel like you were treated fairly?

Answer(Cindy): As I have gotten older tho, that's when I noticed more tension.

Question(Jolie): Was there certian experiences?

Answer(Cindy): When I first started with the government, IRS, I was like the first woman that has been in the collection devision in York. I started in the York IRS office, and the guys were not that nice. And they would dump on me the cases they did not want. And they would give them to me. And I was funny.

-obmitted-

Yes, but I noticed tension definitely there. Not really at college that much, but when I started into the work force. It was definitely not easy when you were a female. This was back in the '70s.

-obmitted-

This is when female rights became a thing.

-obmitted-

Question(Jolie): What was your job?

Answer(Cindy): When I first started, I graduated. I was working- that's when the area offices on waging which is a State job- became a state agent. That's when they got off the ground. So I worked as an accountant at the York town agency. The I got a job as a stock worker. Again this is the '70s. Mary Lynch needed to hirer females because they were subject to a law suit due to discrimination against woman, and that was a very tough job because I never sold anything intangible- something you can show somebody and sell it. That was difficult. Then I got part time jobs. '82 got started with federal govenment.

Question(Jolie): Was there any diversity in the teachers at Lehigh?

Answer(Cindy): I dont't think- thinking back, I think they were all white men. Not diverse at all/

Question(Jolie): Were they all fair?

Answer(Cindy): I think they were. I never sensed anything that was not fair, but there was not diversity as for the teachers were concerned.

-obmitted-

Most positions were held by a white man.

-obmitted-

If there was any kind of active- under the radar kind of tension or discrimination. I think I was too young to realize and naive to appreciate it. However, it hits you in the face. It hit me in the face when I began working.

-obmitted-

Question(Jolie): Was there any problems being a girl in school?

Answer(Cindy): No.

Question(Jolie): Any certain experiences at work that you remember?

Answer(Cindy): I know how it feels to be passed over for promotion or whatever. I mean no one says it's because you're a woman. It's not right to assume, but when I first started with the government and a lot of things especially leave- leave for vacation. It was based on seniority. Seniority means that for the most senior people get their pick of when they want off. For example, Thanksgiving, the government did not take off.

-ombitted-

I remember that there was a guy who started after me, so I had more seniority than him because I have been there longer. And my manager at the time, who I did not like, he did not like me. I don't know if that is because I was a woman or-. I remember putting in for the day before Thanksgiving and this guy, that started after me, also put in for it. But he gave it to him. So I had to work that day, and I thought that it was really unfair. Who knows who his motive was. I think the other thing too is beside being a woman, I was unmarried. My status as an unmarried person. Back then, that kind of put me on a lower rung on the ladder. Because if there was a promotion. A guy was the breadwinner v.s. Me they would give it to the man. So, I think they still do that. I don't think that has changed much. We still have the equity with our pay. And some industries are worse than others.

-obmitted-

Sometimes it's not out in the open, but it exists. Like I knew they did it in the government. I was there for 30 years. And when people didn't get the promotion, often everyone would think it's a guy that got it or whatever. But you didn't know that. No one would- so its hard to identify specific experinces. Often it happens behind closed doors.

Question(Jolie): like they don't make it obvious because they do not want to get in trouble.

Answer(Cindy): Exactly.
-obmitted-