

AUGUST 26, 1986

WOMEN FOR EQUAL FOOTING STAGE SHOE-IN AT DAC

Detroit, Michigan...At approximately 6 o'clock a.m. today, a small group of masked women calling themselves "Women for Equal Footing" deposited a heap of women's shoes at the curb of the Detroit Athletic Club. Amid the shoes were signs saying, "Sexism Hampers Opportunities for an Equal Society", "The Real Heels Are Inside" and "Women's Equality Day 1986". Along with the shoes the women left the following communique for the DAC members:

This date, August 26, 1986, is Women's Equality Day. It marks the 66th anniversary of women's suffrage. We celebrate this day even though we are not yet equal.

The Detroit Athletic Club was established 73 years ago and continues in its tradition of sexist discrimination, refusing to recognize women as worthy of membership.

We, Women for Equal Footing, the unannointed non-members who, over the decades:

have clicked our heels in recognition of the corporate might which foots the bill for those arch conservatives who accept the dubious distinction of DAC membership while treading heavily upon the toes of their female colleagues who stride the halls of corporate enterprise but may not walk upon the Grill Room floor; and

have endured the kicks of those faint-footed brothers who argue that men must have a subsidized place wherein they can conduct business without the clacking of heels in the hallowed corridors; and

have put their best foot forward while corporate monoliths guarantee us equal opportunity even as they choose to invest the price of membership and expenses in wingtips rather than pumps; and

have plodded through the cloggy maze of "gamesmanship" and "teamwork", while searching for excellence, only to find that our sneakers are unwelcome by our teammates whose athlete's feet of clay cannot bear the honest competition of more delicate metatarsi.

Therefore, and hereby, Women for Equal Footing offer these footworn symbolic and quixotic reminders to the inhabitants of this bastion of business:

The real heels are within.

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Remember the poor, bared soles that have been heaped before you.

Watch your steps in the future as you bear witness to the unlacing of angry spirits who have publicly curbed and cast aside all comfort in the cause of fairness and equality.

HAPPY WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY -- 1986!

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