

WOMEN CRITICIZE PSYCHOLOGY UNIT  
By ROBERT REINHOLD, Special to The New York Times  
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**\$1-Million in Reparations Is  
 Demanded at Convention**

By **ROBERT REINHOLD**

Special to The New York Times

MIAMI BEACH, Sept. 5 — Charging that modern psychotherapy has perpetuated male supremacy and contributed to mental illness among women, a group of women psychologists has demanded \$1-million in "reparations" from the American Psychological Association, the profession's main organization.

The demand was made last night at a stormy "town hall meeting" of the board of directors and members of the association, which is holding its 78th annual convention here. Along with 52 other "resolutions and motions regarding the status of women," the demand was not taken entirely seriously by the 2,000 or so members gathered in the main ballroom of the Hotel Plaza.

But the complaint of the women typifies a growing unhappiness—and one that is being taken with growing earnestness—over the attitude of the professions in general toward women. Psychology, they say, has a particularly crucial role.

Psychology not only discriminates against them in employment, they say, but also, as the study of human behavior, tends to perpetuate the sexist Freudian concept of women as passive and men as dominant and elitist.

**Vehicle for a Goal**

"Both psychotherapy and marriage function as vehicles for keeping a woman in her place," said Dr. Phyllis Chesler of the City University of New York, who spoke for the Association for Women Psychologists.

"The ethic of mental health—as defined by research and clinical psychologists, most of whom are middle-class, middle-age, white men—is a masculine one in our culture. Women are perceived as childlike, churlish, emotional, intuitive—as alien to most male psychologists."

Saying that most patients in mental institutions and in psychotherapy were women, she accused the psychologists of participating in the "physical imprisonment" of countless women whom they have labeled mentally unfit because they were rebellious slaves.

Dr. Dorothy Riddle called for "affirmative action" by the association's board of directors or "we are determined to demonstrate our displeasure as publicly as possible."

**Resolutions Promised**

The executive committee of the board issued a statement this afternoon "recognizing the seriousness and importance of eliminating any existing discrimination in psychology" and promising to present the resolutions at its next meeting.

In an interview, Dr. Theodore H. Blau of Tampa, Fla., a board member and a practicing clinical psychologist for 18 years, agreed that many male therapists harbored stereotyped views of women, but he termed this "more a reflection of individual practice than a particular theoretical position."

He said that few therapists practiced like Freud and that attacking Freud was "beating a dead horse." Nevertheless, he said, "there is tremendous merit in women's liberation movement—I'm glad they brought this to our attention."

The \$1-million in reparations, Dr. Chesler said, would be used to release women from mental hospitals and psychotherapy. The other demands revolved largely around the status of women psychologists. They called for equality in employment, education and decision-making.

In an interview, Dr. Chesler complained that women spent their lives "shuttling back and forth between husbands and therapists and get no satisfaction." She agreed that Freudian techniques no longer prevailed but insisted that "the institution of psychotherapy is still set up against women."

"I feel women should stop seeing male therapists or female therapists who do not believe in female liberation," she said.

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