



Times have Changed for Women

The concept of liberty is mostly portrayed as a woman. She is represented in the United States as a statute in New York Harbor. She was seen in the front of the people leading them over the barricades in the July Revolution of 1830 in France in a painting by Eugene Delacroix. Yet French women did not get the vote until 1945. That image that symbolizes liberty had often been set-aside in subdued ways in the movement toward liberty for women.

Until 1975 in the United States, women were allowed to serve on juries without restrictions. The reasoning was that they needed or required help of a man to make decisions. It was a time when working women could be fired for getting pregnant. Many colleges would not accept a female student—Yale and Princeton did not until 1969, Harvard in 1977, and Columbia not until 1981. Even if a woman did go to college, she was taught how to host dinner parties and be a good businessman's wife as the priority. It was a time when a wife could not do business without a man's signature. If a couple divorced, the credit score went with the husband even if he did not have a job or pay the bills.

Today, women are more visible in everyday business life. They hold jobs and take care of a home at the same time. Men have started to take up their share of the home life.

Title IX in 1972 ended discrimination in women's athletics. The society has changed, and we forget the past at times. We see the past in a nostalgic setting in shows like *Mad Men* that portray life in the 1950s and 1960s.

At a recent dinner one night with friends, we were talking about college degrees, and the topic of the Ph.T., or P.H.T., came up. "What was a Ph.T.?" I asked.

It seems that while they were married, her husband was graduating from Cal Poly and she was invited to a ceremony for the wives of the graduates. It was held on a Sunday outside the library. She had refused to attend and was sent her degree for Pushing (Putting) Hubby Through (Ph.T.). It made me laugh on one level and another for the pure failure of reasonable thinking of that time period.

This was not an isolated degree in just one college. Here are some examples:

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