



In print

Steinem's message is still fresh

"Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions"
Gloria Steinem
Holt, Rhinehart and Winston
363 pages, \$13.95

Riding the fringes of several moving portraits of women's lives or fragments of their lives, Gloria Steinem delivers a message in her first full-length book, "Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions."

Most people hate message books. I hate message books. But Steinem does what is rarely done. Steinem gives you a reason to wade through the message you might normally step around, and then carry it with you.

The nuggets of Steinem's life, and the verbatim replicas of other women's lives, are worth slogging through the message. In true journalistic style of concise prose and active verbs, Steinem unfolds her mother's tortured life in "Ruth's Song (Because She Could Not Sing It)." She hits you with the memory of the lousiest job you ever had in "I was a Playboy Bunny." And she'll spatter you with

the blood and guts that drove Marilyn Monroe to suicide and Linda Lovelace to sexual slavery.

And after she's picqued your interest, she'll slap in a few sermons. But even though the message isn't sugar-coated, it does grab your attention once you begin reading it. The blood and guts she uses to profile Monroe and Lovelace are only a prelude to the blood and guts in "The International Crime of Genital Mutilation," which she and Robin Morgan co-authored.

Steinem echoes her pro-choice stance in "If Hitler Were Alive, Whose Side Would He Be On." And her sense of humour in "Rx Fantasies: For Temporary Relief of Pain Due to Injustice" is a good balance and a nice "how to" guide for daydreaming.

But of all of Steinem's sermonettes, my favorite has to be "If Men Could Menstruate." Steinem's upfront honesty and sardonic wit carry "If Men Could Menstruate." A few writers could stand to take note and marvel at that ability.

The lines are tremendously funny (especially if you've been through them) and probably more

than a little uncomfortable for a lot of folks.

"Men would brag about how long and how much."

Sanitary supplies would be federally funded and free. Of course some men would still pay for the prestige of such commercial brands as Paul Newman Tampons and Joe Namath Jock Shields — "For those light bachelor days."

Street guys would invent slang ("He's a three-pad man") and "give fives" on the corner with some exchange like, "Man, you lookin' good!"

"Yeah, man, I'm on the rag." "

Steinem first wrote "If Men Could Menstruate" in 1978 for Ms. magazine. Most of the chapters in "Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions" are previously published, "old" material.

But Steinem's "old" material is still fresh. Maybe it's the honesty. Maybe it's the way she deals with subjects most people won't approach.

Maybe it's just that it's a good book that will make you squirm, think, cry and laugh — even if you don't want to.

Debbie Howlett



At the movies

'Angelo' is a celebration of life

In 1977, Robert Duvall met Angelo Evans, a streetwise hustler and one of New York's urban gypsies. Evans was only seven.

"Angelo My Love" — now showing at Cinema 7 through Oct. 26 — is the result of that meeting: a tender, insightful look into the lives of the urban gypsies, and in particular that of Angelo, the twelve-year-old hustler who still remains a child at heart.

Writer-director Duvall took real events from the gypsy culture to

form the plot elements of the film, and in a surprise move he has the gypsies themselves portray characters, who are no doubt in part representations of themselves.

The result is evident from the first major scene in the film. At a "kris," which is an interclan trial, Angelo has accused a member of another family of stealing a precious family heirloom.

The acting in this scene is natural, and the dialogue rings

true. It's obvious from the rise in emotions and the ensuing chaos that the individuals have a real stake in the outcome of the trial.

Ultimately the ruling goes against Angelo and in favor of Palatay, the accused, a bumbling drunk who through the course of the film exhibits a surprising amount of character.

The rest of the film chronicles Angelo's search for justice with the help of his older brother

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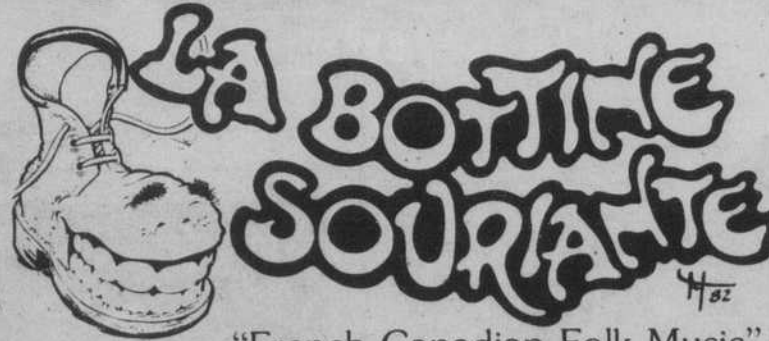
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