**Tina Interviewed by Alyssa Flynn**

**Question Script for NJ Women’s Voices Interview**

1) What is your:

Name: Tina

Age: 22

Education level: Associates Degree

Current profession: Assistant Manger to Retail Store

Marital status: Engaged

Race/Ethnicity: White

Hometown/where were you born? South Jersey

Political affiliation: Republican

Religion? (Or, would you consider yourself a religious/spiritual person?): Catholic, and yes (attend mass on a regular basis).

Relationship to me (the interviewer): Co-worker, supervisor

2) In what format did the interview take place? Email

3) Do you have children? One due in December, a boy.

4) What do you think about full-time stay-at-home mothers? What about full-time

stay-at-home fathers? If you have or plan to have children, what influenced,

influences or will influence your decision about how to manage childcare?

 I believe stay-at-home mothers or fathers (although its still odd to me to see a stay-at-home father) are extremely beneficial to a child. I was raised by a stay-at-home mother and it makes me happy I never spent a day in my life in daycare. My mother and I have a great relationship and I think it stemmed from that. Either gender can have a positive effect on their child’s life. With my own child on the way, I would love to stay home full time, but for financial reasons, I can not. From my background, I would prefer to leave my childcare with my fiancé if possible, or other family members (my parents live local), rather than strangers.

5) For you, what defines a woman? Is there anyone you can think of that embodies these qualities?

 A lot of things define a woman. I think one the most important aspects is embracing ones femininity. I love to see women who don’t feel offended by cooking and domestic activities. Some women can be so touchy on everything, I happen to think its not “degrading” at all. If I had to pick someone, it would be Martha Stewart. She loved everything domestic, and can still prove she can do the business side also and create an empire under her name.

6) What do you believe is the most challenging part about being a woman in today’s society? What personal struggles have you faced as a woman?

 The hardest part for women today would be balancing life at home and a career. If a woman wants a career, she is almost taking on two, because there will always be a home life. Everyone has an obligation to their children, but it seems harder for a woman. In only the last less than a hundred years, women have come out of the home and into the workforce and some people still find that difficult to accept. I don’t think I have faced personal struggles as a woman, really. Job opportunities have always been available to me and I have never dealt with sexism in any way. (This is part due to the fact that I have held the same job since I was nineteen and there isn’t a single male at my workplace). No feelings of being rejected in any way for my gender, that I can remember stand out.

7) Do you think we still live in a society where women are sexually exploited by or

oppressed by men? Why or why not? (What examples/evidence would you point

to support your ideas?)

 I don’t. There are definitely women who are in that position, however, generally I believe that is not the majority. Sex and sexuality are much looser than previous years, and that liberation happened years ago. Today, a woman can be open about her sexuality in comedy or even talk about it openly on television, as it is a frequent topic on The View. So, no I don’t think women are sexually oppressed. Today is not like years in the past when women viewed sex as a “duty” to her husband. It is acceptable for a women to have sexual feelings and desires.

8) Have you personally experienced sexism or know of anyone who has? If you

have, briefly describe the situation and its outcome.

 I have not had a situation of sexism happen to me that I can remember.

9) Do you believe there is still a double-standard when it comes to men’s and

women’s sexual behaviors? For example, is society still more tolerant of men who have sex with multiple partners? Are there behaviors that women can exhibit that men cannot?

 Even with sexual liberation, there is still a double- standard to men and women’s sexual behaviors. Men are seen as more powerful, more “manly” if they have sex with multiple partners, but women are seen as “dirty” and “ruined” if they do the same thing. I think this has made progress, years ago a women who was simply not a virgin on her wedding day was disgraceful; yet today women have found some middle ground. Men will go to strip clubs and watch pornography and think nothing of the women they are viewing, but I think when it comes to relationships, I think they want a women who has had as little sexual partners as possible. And I can’t think of anything that women can do and men cannot when it comes to sexuality. Women do the same things as men, as in it is common now for a woman to hire a male stripper for a bachelorette party or watch a male stripper, which were primarily male behaviors.

10) It’s often assumed that women are more emotional than men. Do you agree or disagree with that common assumption? Do you think a female president would be able to handle tough situations as well as a male president?

 I do agree that women are more emotional than men. I’m sure some women are heart of stone, but for the most part that assumption comes from a stem of truth. I still don’t know how I feel about a female President. I think it would have to be the right woman. I wouldn’t vote for a woman on the sole reason of wanting a female in office, but on political views. However, if it came down to it, I have to admit I would probably vote for a man over a woman, because of tradition or image, I’m not sure. I don’t know if I would comfortable putting my country in a fragile woman’s hands. That sounds horrible!

11) What do you know about feminism? Do you consider yourself a feminist? Why or why not? If you wouldn’t call yourself a feminist, is there another term that better describes you?

 From my own understanding, feminism is women who work towards making women equal to men. I am unclear what they are fighting for or towards today, being that we have the right to vote and jobs are equal opportunity. But, yes I would call myself a feminist. I want women to be able to do anything they want to do (who wouldn’t?) so, yes. I think I need to learn more about what a feminist really is, but from my generalization I would say so.