

Kelly Carbonaro

NJ Women's Voice Interview

November 2010

Perspective on Women

Background Information

Lorraine Traister, age 49, best friends with my mother as well as a family friend

High school degree but afterwards went to school to become dental assistant and receive her x-ray license

Divorce and looking has two sons, James Lee Traister III whose 21 years old and Zachary Lynch Traister whose 18 years old

She is Caucasian as well as Catholic and was born in Old Bridge New Jersey

The interview took place face- to- face

Questions about Feminism

What do you know about feminism?

I know that it started a long time ago with the right to vote and for equal rights for women. For the better meant of women to protect all women. For women in society to be treated right.

Do you consider yourself a feminist? Why or why not?

I guess because I believe women should be treated equally because we are just as good or better and we can do anything a man can do but maybe sometimes physically there can be some limitation.

Do you think being a feminist means giving up romance and chivalry?

No because I still want a man to open the door for me when walking into the store or restaurant.

In your opinion, what has been the greatest obstacle that the feminist movement has overcome? Has the feminist movement hurt men or women in any way? Please explain.

The right to vote was the greatest obstacle that the feminist movement has overcome. No because I felt that it helped women, some men might not agree because some men want the woman to be home and listen to what they say and whatever they say goes, but they are crazy.

What would equality for men and women entail? Can men and women ever achieve true equality? How so or why not?

I think they can but it depends on if the man would go along with that if you are married to someone and he believes that you should get him the drink and you should make him the dinner, then you're probably not going to have a change of mind.

Questions about Work and Family

How does society view housewives? If you had or have the option of being a housewife, would you consider it? Why or why not?

I think they look down on housewives, which I don't think is right either because they are doing a lot of work in a household such as taking care of the children, running the house, and cooking and cleaning. It's a hard job to do believe me. To be honest I'm practically a housewife already since I am divorced and the only way of keeping up in the house is by me of course.

When you were growing up, did a specific person in your household make the majority of the decisions or otherwise run the household? Do you think the person's gender influenced when or what types of decisions she or he made?

Yes I did, it was my mother. My mother ran everything since unfortunately my father died when I was young. I got from early on what a strong woman can do because she ran and took care of everything.

Do you think women in male-dominated professions must diminish their feminine traits in order to gain respect from their peers? Please explain.

Sometimes I think, because I feel like a man would pay attention to you more with a turtle neck on, less make-up, hair pulled back instead of a low cut shirt or short dress where they wouldn't pay attention to your ideas or thoughts just to your body parts.

Now that the United States has elected a Black male president, do you think the country will elect a female president in the near future? Please explain.

Yes, because Hilary Clinton almost got into office, I think she would be wonderful because she is an incredibly smart, strong woman.

What would you consider to be the most challenging aspect of being a female? Do you think makes share this struggle? What advice do you have for young people today?

The most challenging aspect of being a female is doing everything! Taking care of everything that's what women do. Men a lot of times, I love men I'm not putting men down but they work and when coming home to a women, which most men do, they come home and expect everything, and women who work will come home and have to clean, cook, take care of the children and still have a lot of work to get done at home. Some men do share the struggle, not all men do. My brother has always been very good and helpful with his family but I believe my mother raised him that way to, I feel it is the way you're raised to be honest.

My advice for young people today would be to stay in school, get a good education to be able to relay on yourself and not need a man.