We’ve Come a Long Way, Maybe
Women’s Stories and Social History Highlight a Half Century of Progress

When Everything Changed
by Gail Collins

Subtitled “The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present,” “When Everything Changed” is indeed an epic story of the revolution in women’s lives, and those of the United States, in the last almost 50 years.

Written by The New York Times op-ed columnist Gail Collins, the book is a narrative social history interspersed with personal stories of famous and unknown women, which is eminently readable and crammed with facts and anecdotes that highlight the massive changes these decades have brought. Collins suggests that the changes came not from a single leader or limited group of leaders or from a concerted effort based upon a singular theory or philosophy, but from a confluence of events, among them:

- Laws against discrimination, harassment and abuse, and attendant well-known lawsuits, Title IX (athletics);
- The sexual revolution the Pill, cohabitation, decline of the double standard, no-fault divorce, abortion rights, unwed motherhood, fertility clinics, rights of illegitimate children, lesbianism;
- Women’s activism clubs, NOW and more radical groups, magazine articles and books, running for office, service on government commissions, going to college, graduate and professional schools, attempts to pass the ERA, equality in marriage;
- Working outside the home, fewer children, deferring of child-bearing, labor-saving appliances, moves from farms to the cities and suburbs, the fitness movement and sharing housework.

The foregoing is not an exhaustive list, but a summary of what can be gleaned from this definitive and fascinating work. Even the effect of wearing pants and jeans, families having second cars, letting hair go natural, and the anti-war and civil rights movements are discussed as contributing to the progress made.

Even for those of us who have been involved in the movement since early on, and have stayed active, the advances seem remarkable from an historical perspective. Nonetheless, the author laments, young people do not appreciate the effort it took to get to this point and the need to remain vigilant. It must be remembered that feminism means being in favor of equal rights and opportunities, not being anti-male. With some backlash and opting out within the recent past, we must be reminded that the present accomplishments cannot be taken for granted. In short, we’ve come a long way, maybe.

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WOMEN IN 1960

Education
- Most college graduates became teachers, nurses, secretaries or housewives
- High school girls were discouraged from taking courses in or pursuing careers in science and math
- Very few in graduate and professional schools
- Quotas in some undergraduate schools
- Almost no college professors, graduate or professional school teachers, or secondary school principals
- Participation in very few sports
- Not admitted to military academies

Medicine
- Only a few doctors, usually in family practice
- Difficult to get contraception
- Illegal to get abortions

The Workforce
- No women on public corporate boards
- Very few private corporate officers or business owners
- Could not get loans or credit cards without male co-signor
- Difficult to own real estate or get mortgage; could not sell without husband’s signature
- No clergy or leadership roles in religious organizations
- No combat roles in the armed forces
- No police or public transportation drivers
- Very few in construction trades or skilled unions
- No professional athletes
- No laws against pay inequality
- Could not run or play in organized races or sports, such as marathons and little leagues
- Could not be members of private clubs, but could attend lunch meetings there
- Very few “on-air” journalists
- Flight attendants (then called stewardesses) could not be married, were subject to weight and appearance restrictions
- Separate “help wanted” ads for men and women

Law
- No partners in large law firms
- No judges at any level
- Could not wear pants in court or at most jobs
- A few senators, a few more representatives in Congress and state legislators, and no governors
- Unable to adopt a child
- No laws against domestic violence, discrimination or harassment
- Couldn’t serve on juries in many states
- Interracial marriages illegal

Source: “When Everything Changed”
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M y colleague Ralph Cappy used to say a justice has to go out of state to know if his jokes really are funny or not – one disadvantage of the job is the reluctance of others to suggest you’re capable of anything but insight and wisdom. This makes anything in the nature of critiquing the work of others a worrisome undertaking. And I thus offer this review with some trepidation. Please accept it as the thoughts of one part-time musician, a self-styled description that smacks of hubris – I couldn’t play with these guys on my best day. And trust me, you don’t have to go out of state, not even to New Jersey, to understand they’re very, very good.

Having listened to “First Take” by Standard Time, I can honestly say the members of the group shouldn’t quit their day jobs – not because of any lack of musical chops, since these guys can really play! They shouldn’t quit their day jobs because the day jobs involve being pretty good lawyers. Well, they’re mostly lawyers.

Ralph Wellington is the lead pianist at Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP, an ensemble you may have heard of. Ralph II, the bass player is, in his father’s words, “not involved in the law.” Ed Neiderhiser, the other non-attorney, does have a connection to the law it turns out – he’s chaplain at Graterford Prison. His musical talent actually has at times comprised a day job, and his manifest fluency extends to instruments beyond the trumpet he flourishes on this CD.

Rob McKinley on sax has an intellectual property practice with Klehr Harrison Harvey Branzburg LLP, the other city firm where Harrison plays second fiddle. Jake Hart, clarinetist, is like me, a recovering lawyer – he’s a magisterial judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. John Grady, the group’s drummer, practices in New Jersey but is by all accounts still a nice guy.

Together the sextet is available for booking and you wouldn’t go wrong hiring them. The six blend together quite nicely here. The instrumental mix is first-rate and uniformly pleasant to the ear. The numbers offered on this CD are diverse, allowing the musicians to display their talents with a variety of tempos and expressions that make the collaboration quite enjoyable.

The moods of the numbers range from the bluesy to the upbeat. The disc opens with Thelonius Monk’s “Straight, No Chaser,” evoking the big band sounds of World War II, with delightful hints of bubbly reveille refrains in the trumpet and clarinet riffs. One almost expects the Andrews Sisters to chime in at any moment. Lively and complex, the group handles the score with aplomb.

At the other end of the spectrum is the Billie Holiday classic “God Bless the Child,” played slow and evocative, with a healthy bite to the horns. Add numbers by Duke Ellington and Miles Davis and the result is a satisfying buffet.

This is not to downplay the original tracks offered. Ralph and Ed are each credited with authoring three numbers, and in these there is no drop-off in enjoyment. “If You Knew” begins with an evocative piano run by the composer; Ralph’s solos throughout the CD provide a nice contrast to the brass and in this listener’s mind could have been longer and more frequent. “She’s Gone” is a favorite.

“Last Time,” one of Ed’s compositions, is languid with a soothing Latin cadence. “Rancho Mission Blues” proves that simple tunes provide some of the best listening, and allows the trumpet to display techniques that enliven the product. Both clarinet and sax have especially nice riffs in this rendition.

Not every number is a triumph – one must find some fault on pain of losing status as a critic. “Take the A Train” has a spotty transition or two, and there is the occasional tardy note, but these are the exception. Of course, as Miles Davis pointed out, the glory of jazz is that if you make a mistake, you just do it again the same way and people think you meant to do it that way in the first place. These incidents are both uncommon and de minimus and don’t detract in the least from the final product.

That product is smooth and uniformly mellifluous, worthy of addition to anyone’s library. If these musicians did decide to quit their day jobs, they’d undoubtedly be able to make a nice living in the music business. And whether they do or not, you would do well to become a fan.

The Hon. J. Michael Eakin is an associate justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.
The criminal practitioner knows all too well that police misconduct issues directly bear on the investigation, prosecution, and defense of many criminal cases. Misconduct issues arise in a broad variety of circumstances—from coerced confessions to questionable searches, and from pretextual criminal charges to suborned perjury—and each circumstance must be carefully scrutinized to determine the impact on the prosecution and defense of the case.

**Police Misconduct** examines the implications of police misconduct from the crime scene, arrest, preliminary proceedings, investigation, discovery, and litigation of pretrial motions through the jury selection process and trial. Supporting legal analysis and case citations are provided together with sample motions and memoranda.

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Mr. Messing joined Kairys, Rudovsky, Messing & Feinberg in 1993, specializing in civil rights litigation and criminal defense. He has represented plaintiffs in a broad range of civil rights cases, including issues related to police misconduct, prisoners’ rights, homelessness, sexual assault victims, student violence issues, race and gender discrimination, and First Amendment violations. Mr. Messing regularly serves as a course planner and presenter for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, the Philadelphia Bar Association, and other organizations at conferences, training sessions, and seminars relating to criminal defense issues and civil rights litigation.