



Feminine Name Gets Lost in Game

Feminism was the name of the game in Supreme Court in Riverhead yesterday when a justice denied a request by Ella Donna Cooperman of Babylon to change her name to Cooperperson.

Ms. Cooperman, founder and president of Feminist Productions Inc., a film company specializing in women's liberation films, said that she would appeal the ruling to the nation's highest courts.

Ms. Cooperman, a divorced mother of a 9-year-old son, resides at 23 Whalers Cove, Babylon. She was born Ellen Donna Bloom in Brooklyn 30 years ago, formerly was married to Norman Cooperman and has been long active in the feminist movement.

Supreme Court Justice John F.

Scileppi yesterday, in a 15-page decision, said "I feel that those who insist upon eliminating the words 'man' and 'woman' from our vocabulary, and replacing them with the word 'person,' belabor a most insignificant point. I fail to see how the goals of the women's liberation movement are advanced one iota by the fetish of some people over the use of these words," he stated.

The 74-year-old jurist, with 36 years on the bench, went on to say "anatomical differences between those whom God created to become fathers and those whom he made mothers necessarily impose certain limitations on both sexes which prevents complete equality. After all, males have their right to identity, too," Scileppi said.

Scileppi added that Ms. Cooper-

man has the "common law right" to use the name 'Cooperperson,' as she does in the Suffolk County telephone directory.

"The name change proposed here would have serious and undesirable repercussions, perhaps throughout the entire country," the

Susan LeBow of Dix Hills, Ms. Cooperman's lawyer, was irate at the ruling, terming it "something out of the dark ages. He is totally out of touch with what is going on. We must appeal. The interests of all women are threatened because of his outdated decision," she said.

Ms. LeBow, a mother of four children, uses the surname of her husband, but is also active in the feminist movement. She is counsel to the Huntington chapter of the National Organization of Women (NOW).