

It's the '90s, right? Give that boy a mop

According to a nationwide poll of teen-agers, conducted by CBS News and the *New York Times*, many boys still think the woman's place is in the home. Although 86 percent of the girls polled said they expected to work when they are married, only 58 percent of their male peers agreed with them, while 19 percent expected their wives to stay at home.

This 19 percent, while not a majority, is troubling. Follow-up telephone interviews turned up some interesting examples of sexism among the boys. For example, a majority of the boys surveyed said that most of the boys they knew considered themselves better than girls. Most of the girls surveyed thought that boys were equals.

Furthermore, many of the boys who were interviewed on the phone said they favor a 1950s-style marriage, and Breton Stout, 15, of Clovis, Calif., offered this particularly insightful quote: "I think girls should do the cooking and cleaning because they're better at it, and boys should do the yard work and the planting. I know a lot of girls think it's real sexist to say they belong in the kitchen...but I think they're wrong. It's not a boy's job." Somebody give that boy a mop.

There is no evidence that women are better at cooking and cleaning or that men are better at yard work. All that young Mr. Stout can base that opinion on is socialization, and, perhaps, the situation in his own family.

It is significant that these young men, who were born when the women's movement was in full swing, should have this cave-man type of attitude. It says that although strides have been made in societal attitudes toward the place of women, many parents are actually defeating that notion by attitudes in the home.

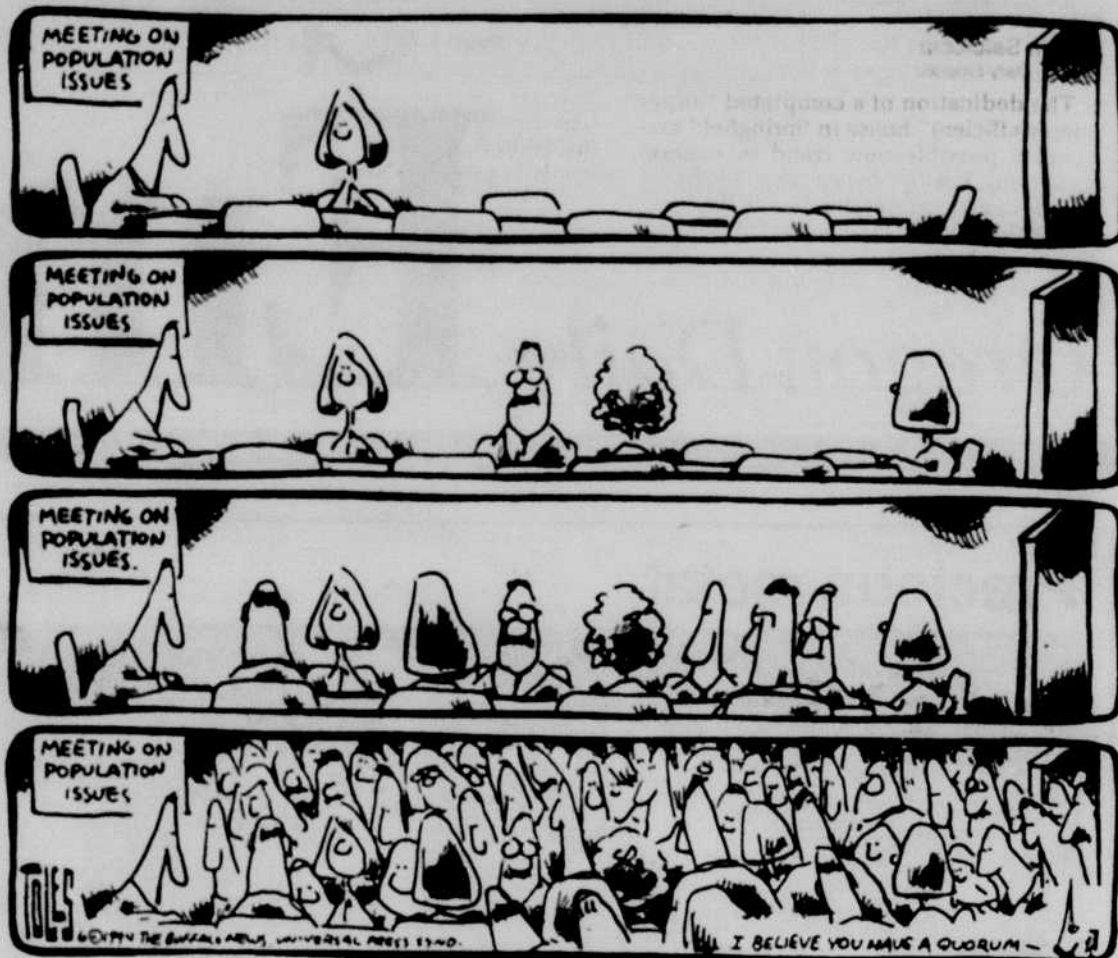
Though we have not had the privilege to enter the Stout residence, such an old-fashioned attitude coming from such a young man is suspicious. It is possible that young Breton has been influenced by a father that tells him that women belong in the kitchen, and a mother who smilingly agrees with that notion, and does all the cooking and cleaning to prove it.

It is highly probable that boys who think girls are better at cleaning have not been told to clean very much, or are angry that they have to clean when their father never does. These ideas can easily turn into a "women are better at housework" attitude.

But there is hope for those boys. They need not harbor such feelings of inadequacy in the realm of housekeeping. With a little practice, they too can become excellent cooks and cleaners like their female counterparts. After all, women have shown themselves to excel in many traditionally male fields. After being barred from those fields for so long, these women had to work hard to catch up to the skill level of the males who held those jobs, but in many cases, the women excelled beyond the men.

Rather than encouraging these young men to limit themselves to aspiring for careers in traditionally male fields like business and traditionally male chores like mowing lawns and drinking beer in hammocks, their parents should do what many of them have already done for girls: tell them they can do anything, then show them how. Those boys will show skill and expertise in cooking and dusting in no time at all, and they too can compete in the highly lucrative field of homemaking.

With the right parental coaching, these boys may even exceed the girls in the household arts, and earn themselves the right to say, "a man's place is in the home." Unencumbered by household chores, young women could pursue careers while their husbands reach new limits of equality and perfect the recipe for pound cake.



LETTERS

Dangerous

Standardized tests favor rich, white males (not necessarily intentionally). The new admission standards in Oregon will be based entirely on standardized tests of one sort or another. It is an effective way to reduce the numbers of minority, economically disadvantaged and female college students.

Grades will no longer be considered, ostensibly because high school teachers "shouldn't have to" judge students. It's easy to see why this decision was made. Teachers tend to give girls a fair chance, and may discriminate less on racial and economic grounds than the standardized tests.

Teachers are unionized and are hired locally, not by the political power structure. Therefore, their judgments are distrusted and now they will be disregarded.

Students will be required to have "the skills industry wants." This means that they can perform computer tasks, not that they will know anything. In fact, knowledge is not considered.

It's easy to see why this new system is being adopted. Since Measure 5 passed, business has given up the charade of paying taxes. As a result, they have been able to buy the state legislature. The legislature has adopted the standards industry wants, standards that create trained monkeys who don't know enough to stand up for themselves, who don't know who Franklin D. Roosevelt was, who don't know a Douglas Fir from a stick of firewood.

Somehow, these new standards have to be erased. The old standards weren't perfect, but they were reasonably democratic, and they emphasized knowledge needed by citizens, rather than skills needed by slaves. Knowledge is dangerous. Knowledge is power.

Ann Tattersall
Eugene

Take That

How sad it is that Gayle Forman is so ready to denounce the media and its "stupid" reporting of Gen X while she demonstrates virtually no trace of journalistic competence in her own writing on Eugene's '60s culture.

Not only did she forget to mention the "hippies" direct relation to environmental and multicultural awareness, alternative healing and "natural" lifestyles, she also is unaware that Eugene has more community service organizations per capita than any other American city.

She pontificates about our community's lack of "activism." Such ignorance is excusable but her pompous refusal to even visit the cultural events she is talking about destroys the journalistic credibility of her opinion.

She may wonder how accepted a "preppie Republican boy" would be at a Dead show, but if she were a serious journalist, she'd don those pearls she is pictured wearing, find a male escort as uptight as she is about drugs, and investigate what the responses were. Although she apparently feels she knows everything she needs to know about "hippies," she might be surprised.

Norton Shaw
Eugene

No sanctuary

Those in the pro-family community who believe that minority status for homosexuality won't come home to roost in their backyard had better think again. Church leaders tend to trust the opposition to leave

their safe haven of "religious freedom" intact. Some believe the constitutionally guaranteed freedom of religion will protect their sanctuary of church from the homosexual agenda to eradicate public disapproval of homosexuality.

Hidden in the pro-family's false sense of security is the notion the homosexual community will simply pack up and go home once they achieve minority status. Look at Hawaii! Once minority status was secured, homosexuals pushed to legalize same-sex marriages and the North American Man/Boy Love Association succeeded in lowering the age of consent to 14. NAMBLA wants to eliminate all age of consent laws.

Oregon's SB34 would have granted minority status to homosexuals. During the hearings, two people testified against SB34's religious exemption: 1) "We believe it's a serious mistake to exempt religion and permit them to discriminate," and 2) "There is a segment of our population that uses the Bible as a peg upon which to hang their hatred and intolerance."

One might then suppose the need for thought police to patrol the churches on Sunday to ensure no one exercises freedom of speech or religion against homosexuality.

These testimonies should make every Christian's blood run cold. It's time for the pro-family community to wake up and shake itself before it's saddled with layers of pro-homosexual legislation leaving no safe sanctuary.

Loretta Neet
Communications Director
Oregon Citizens Alliance

LETTERS POLICY

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.

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