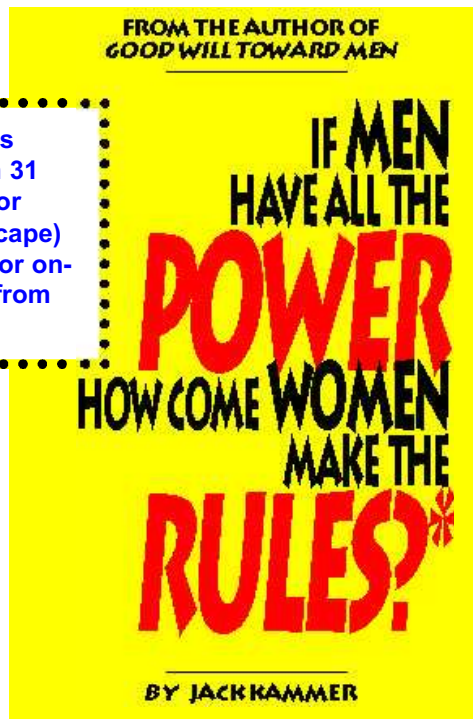


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"The contempt this book would inspire among the women in house would be immense. I'll let one of my male competitors be the one who gets pummeled."

—a VP/Executive Editor with a major New York publishing company in a letter to the author's agent
March 19, 1998

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IF MEN HAVE ALL THE POWER HOW COME WOMEN MAKE THE RULES

and other radical thoughts for men
who want more fairness from women

BY JACK KAMMER

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The Rules

a fax dated april 14, 1997 and posted on a woman's office wall in washington dc

- The female always makes The Rules.
- The Rules are subject to change at any time without prior notification.
- No male can possibly know all The Rules.
- If the female suspects the male knows all The Rules, she must immediately change some or all of The Rules.
- The female is NEVER wrong.
- If the female is wrong, it is due to a misunderstanding which was a direct result of something the male did or said wrong.
- The male must apologize immediately for causing said misunderstanding.
- The female may change her mind at any time.
- The male must never change his mind without the express written consent of the female.
- The female has every right to be angry or upset at any time.
- The male must remain calm at all times unless the female wants him to be angry and/or upset.
- The female must under no circumstances let the male know whether or not she wants him to be angry and/or upset.
- The male is expected to mind read at all times.
- The female is ready when she is ready.
- The male must be ready at all times.
- Any attempt to document The Rules could result in bodily harm.
- The male who doesn't abide by The Rules lacks backbone and is a wimp.

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The Rules

from The Rules, a book for women about how to manipulate men into marriage, a bestseller in the USA 1995-1997

- "Early on in a relationship, the man is the adversary."
"Invariably, we find that men who insist that their dates meet them halfway... turn out to be turds."
"You will probably feel cruel when you do The Rules. You will think you are making men suffer, but in reality you are actually doing them a favor... They get to experience longing!"
"[The woman] doesn't have to do anything more on the date than show up... don't make it easy for him... he has to do all the work."
"It's nice of you to care about his finances, but remember he is deriving great pleasure from taking you out."
"It's good when men get upset."
"Let him be the one to worry about the future."

The Rulers

described by olivette orme in the Wall Street Journal, may 9, 1997

The Sisterhood... dictates that in the battle between the sexes, women friends stick by each other. Men know that when the Sisterhood unites, there will be no peace until they've given up, given in or apologized and promised never to do it again.

INTRODUCTION

Though some women¹ will like it a lot—just as some men appreciated the “radical” works women were writing thirty years ago—this book is for men. Most women will hate it.

Why? Because it talks about female power.

Women like to pretend they have no power so they can't be held accountable for how they use it. They call us misogynists, women-haters, when we challenge their game.

Isn't it strange there isn't a widely used fifty-cent word for people who hate men?

Some will say this book is a male backlash against women, like a White Power movement against African-Americans. But in America, at least, there are no cultural traditions favoring blacks. There are, however, plenty favoring females. So, unlike what needs to happen in race relations, equalizing the situation between the sexes needs to be a two-way street. Denying that is a backlash against the truth.

You might hear that this book is an example of the victimhood mentality. Certainly, denying personal responsibility is unhealthy. But so is the opposite: to pretend everything is just fine when it isn't. That's the unhealthy behavior we men tend to exhibit. Sometimes the most responsible thing a person can do is recognize and acknowledge he cannot handle a problem by himself, and help motivate and organize all parties involved to fix it.

It is clear that fairness to women is a lot higher priority among men than fairness to men is among women. That has to change. We have to make it change.

¹ My apologies to these good women for the necessary generalizations in this book.

FOREWORD NOT WRITTEN BY DAVE BARRY

Don't let the title fool you. This book is not—and is not even meant to be—funny. It's meant to be succinct.

If you want to yuk it up about men's much-discussed foibles (we're “afraid” of commitment, we never ask for directions, we cling to the remote control because it makes us feel potent, and other time-worn chestnuts women love for making them feel superior), there are plenty of other books (and newspaper columns and sitcoms) that will let you do just that.

As trite and mindlessly popular as those things are, they have the very sad effect—if not the intention—of convincing us either 1) our problems with women are no big deal and should just be laughed off, 2) the problems are all our fault anyway and could be fixed easily if only we weren't so, well... male, and 3) there's nothing we can do about them even if we wanted to because women are just so much stronger, smarter and wiser than we are.

No, this book is about the seldom-discussed things women think and say and do, how they create problems for us, and how we can view those problems in a new way so we can begin to solve them.

Except for occasional instances of sarcasm and satire about women, this book is not much to laugh about. But it might make you smile in other ways.

As Dave Barry so often says, I am not making this up.

OPENING THOUGHTS

- 1 The most curious sexism in the world is women's belief that only one sex is sexist.
- 2 It is exactly because men are fair that we've listened so patiently to women's allegations that we're not.
- 3 How come men never say, “It's a man's world”?
- 4 Our greatest weakness is our facade of strength. Women's greatest strength is their facade of weakness.†
- 5 The fact that we have never spoken up is either evidence that everything is okay for us... or the perfect proof of just how bad things really are.
- 6 If men have all the power how come women make the rules?

† Thanks to Lawrence Diggs.

DEBUNKING THE IDEA THAT MEN HAVE ALL THE POWER

You probably don't feel particularly powerful. We need to overcome the sexist notion that because we're men we always get what we want.

- 7 If it's wrong to say women are airheads because not all women are airheads, and if it's wrong to say Blacks are criminals because not all Blacks commit crime, why is it correct to say men rule the world? Most men don't.

 - 8 The best way to prove that Congress is not interested in what's good for men is to imagine the furor over a Congressional candidate who says he is.

 - 9 If Congress is an assembly of men looking out for men, why is it focused on a supposed "crisis in women's health" and totally ignoring the fact that we die six years younger than women?
-

- 11 It may be true that powerful men take care of their buddies, but powerful men are far more likely to devote their power to help and protect women they don't know than men they don't know, and most men are complete strangers to the men in power.

 - 12 Thinking that men in Congress care about making things better for men is like thinking Betty Crocker was a pioneer of feminism. Like Betty, congressmen are happy and content in their traditional places, wondering whatever could the problem be.

 - 13 A chauffeur has the keys to a powerful machine, he has an impressive uniform, and he might even choose what route to take, but he isn't the one who decides where or when to travel. The men in government drive Miss Daisy wherever she wants to go.
-

"The feminists are the one constituency that President Clinton has not been willing to ruffle at all."
Cokie Roberts, NPR "Morning Edition," May 19, 1997

Some say the reason men die younger is that we have a Y chromosome and the situation can't be helped. It is inconceivable that anyone could be so cold as to say the reason women get breast cancer is that they have breasts and there's nothing to be done about it.

In 1996 the federal government funded research into prostate cancer, which killed 41,000 men, at a rate of \$2000 per death; it funded research into breast cancer, which killed 44,000 women, at a rate of \$12,000 per death.
Men's Health Magazine, September 1997

- 10 Looking at men in business and government and saying we have all the power is like looking at women in the supermarket and saying they have all the food.
-

Women in supermarkets use their food for the benefit of those they love. They aren't thinking of what they want for dinner, but rather what the kids like and what the husband needs for his cholesterol problem. Similarly, men in traditional positions of male power seldom think only of themselves, but rather how they can take care of those they love. They hardly ever think of other men.

Examples of powerful men's tendency to automatically, unthinkingly and often stupidly rush to women's aid

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott charged the Air Force with abusing [Kelly] Flinn [a female Air Force pilot facing court-martial for lying, disobeying orders and adultery], saying she should be granted an honorable discharge...

[Sen. Tom] Harkin pressed on, asking [Air Force Chief of Staff, General Ronald] Fogleman why the young aviator was being charged with adultery and not with lying and disobeying an order.

"She is!" said Fogleman, to which Harkin replied: "I thought she was just charged with adultery."

— Associated Press, May 21, 1997

"My wife has a good question," said Lott... "Where's the guy who's involved in this deal?"

—New York Times, May 21, 1997

(The "guy" was a civilian and was, of course, not charged with disobeying orders or lying to superiors.)

Women are more valuable than we are. That must be what he means.

"I personally don't think women should be in combat, but that's a personal view based on my feeling that women are too valuable to be in combat."

— former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger
"This Week," ABC News, June 8, 1997

Examples of powerful women's tendency
to go to war for other women no matter what

A group of female members of Congress [including Democrats and Republicans] demanded the Air Force grant [pilot Kelly] Flinn an honorable discharge as she has requested... Flinn admits to having had an affair with... a civilian... She also admits she initially lied to investigators... and disregarded an order from her commander that she stay away from [the civilian]... The group of female House members..., however, painted Flinn yesterday as a "trailblazer" who... should be allowed to resign without repercussions... "She has by every measure performed to the highest standards as a pilot and complied with the military code of conduct rigorously in her professional activities," said Rep. Nancy L. Johnson (R-Conn.)

—Washington Post, May 22, 1997

IDENTIFYING AND DESCRIBING FEMALE POWER

Women's power is difficult to see and measure. But we better get a grip on it. As long as women can pretend they don't have any power, we can't call them on how they use—and misuse—it. And they get to keep what they have all to themselves.

15 Pheminism² taught us that no one gives up power willingly. Especially not pheminists.

16 We know female power exists because women are not our slaves. They must be using something quite potent to counteract all the terrible powers and tendencies women themselves say we have.

² A term combining "phony" and "feminism" to denote the idea that "equal rights for women" is the same thing as "more and special rights for women."

14 Would the Senate be more balanced on gender issues than it is now if it had fifty typical women senators and fifty of the most pro-male senators you can name?

"In my house, being raised with a sister and three brothers, there was an absolute—a nuclear—sanction if under any circumstances, for any reason, no matter how justified—even self-defense—if you ever touched our sister, literally, not figuratively, literally. My sister, who's my best friend, my campaign manager, my confidante, grew up with absolute impunity in our household... and I have the bruises to prove it. And I mean that sincerely. I'm not exaggerating when I say that."

— Senator Joseph Biden
during Senate Judiciary Committee Hearings
on his bill to protect women, but not men, from violence
December 11, 1990

17 What is the power that gives a 115-pound woman the audacity to jump in the face and give endless grief to a 220-pound man, when no 115-pound man would dare to do the same?

18 It's tough to trust a person who holds a club behind her back and says, "A club? What club? I don't have a club."

The Foundation of Female Power: Women's Superiority Complex

Though they deny it as much as they can, women know they have a lot of power over us. One way they rationalize it is by believing they're better than we are. Since women think they're better, they think they have the right—even the sacred duty—to keep us under their control, and to get for themselves what they want.

The women's movement has helped men examine our attitudes of superiority over women. Now women need to look at how they think they're superior to us.

The idea of Female Superiority goes way back. Dr. John Gordon, a professor of English at Connecticut College, says that in the 1800s anti-male novels and anti-male tracts—thousands of them—“were part of a campaign to represent men as barbarians whose urges had to be leashed in by the forces of decency—meaning women—if civilization were to survive.”



The inside of this best-selling card from Hallmark says, “Excuse me. For a second there, I was feeling generous.” Incredibly, Hallmark's web site says, “We create products that help people capture their emotions and share them with one another... We strive to offer people a rich array of vivid and memorable ways to express their feelings, and their countless relationships, all over the world. Yet within this diversity, we seek, always, to honor and serve what is universal to the human heart: the need to love and be loved, to be understood and to understand, to sustain hope, to celebrate, to laugh, to heal. We are in a rare business: we help to bring people together, make them happy, and give them ways to show how much they care.”

As long as women get away with thinking we're inferior, they'll have no qualms about treating us badly. They might not even know they're doing it.

“It is an amazing thing to see in our city the wife of a shoemaker, or a butcher, or a porter dressed in silk with chains of gold at the throat, with pearls and a ring of good value... and then in contrast to see her husband cutting the meat, all smeared with cow's blood, poorly dressed, or burdened like an ass, clothed with the stuff from which sacks are made... but whoever considers this carefully will find it reasonable, because it is necessary that the lady, even if low-born and humble, be draped with such clothes for her natural excellence and dignity, and that the man [be] less adorned as if a slave, or a little ass, born to her service.”

— Lucrezia Marinella of Venice, Italy, 1600
The Nobility and Excellence of Women Together
With the Defects and Deficiencies of Men

“I married beneath me. All women do.”

— Lady Nancy Astor (1879–1964)

“I believe that women have a capacity for understanding and compassion which a man structurally does not have, does not have it because he cannot have it. He's just incapable of it.”

— Barbara Jordan, speaking to
the Women's Campaign Research Fund,
Austin, Texas, September 1991

“Boys are more likely to be scolded and reprimanded in classrooms, even when the observed conduct and behavior of boys and girls does not differ.”

— Myra and David Sadker, “Report Card #1”
The Mid-Atlantic Center for Sex Equity, American University

19 Any man would be damaged by the allegation that “he doesn't respect women.” Why is it so hard to imagine that any woman would be hurt by the charge that “she doesn't respect men”?

“What bothers me most is the visible, although often unspoken, thread of contempt that runs through women's conversations about men. The assumption very often is that men are boys who must be outfoxed, manipulated or dealt with in a calculated manner that women rarely use among themselves.”

— Phyllis Theroux in *GQ*, February 1986

“Looking at how easy it is for women to treat men in cruel ways is oddly liberating.”

— Naomi Wolf in *Fire With Fire*, 1993

Women get a lot of power just out of the fact that they expect and demand special and preferential treatment.

20 If young men were being drafted and killed, and the President said that as a sign of peace all young women would wear flowers in their hair, even for just one day, women would say “Wear flowers in our hair? We will not! That’s sexist!”†



21 Young men are subject to the military draft in case of national military emergencies. Why aren’t young women being drafted now to alleviate the day care crisis? Is one idea sexist and the other not?

22 Imagine a migrant farm worker in a steamy bunkhouse with a broken fan. Imagine a guest in a luxury hotel whose air conditioning isn’t working just right. Who is more likely to complain? Who has more to complain about?

Sometimes a complaint tells us more about the expectations of the complainer than the actual circumstances the complainer is in.

† Thanks to Fred Hayward, director of MR, Inc.

Phyllis Schlafly gets a big kick out of the story of a hoodwinked husband boasting foolishly to his friends: “When my wife and I were married, we agreed that I would make all the major decisions, and she would make the minor ones. I decide what legislation Congress should pass, what treaties the president should sign, and whether the United States should stay in the United Nations. My wife makes the minor decisions—such as how we spend our money, whether I should change my job, where we should live, and where we go on our vacations.”

— from Schlafly’s book *The Power of the Positive Woman*

25 Women get away with more bad behavior than we do because our mischief tends to rise abruptly for all the world to see. Women’s mischief hugs the terrain like a low-level bomber undetectable by radar.

Adjusting Our Eyes to See Female Power

23 There are two possible reasons why we keep hearing that we live in a patriarchy. The first possibility is that we do indeed live in a society dominated by men. The other possibility is that we live under a different kind of rule that is so strong and so pervasive that it keeps us from seeing it for what it is.

24 Women’s power is the opposite of monumental. It’s like wall-to-wall carpeting, or a snowfall, everywhere and unavoidable, not concentrated into a few narrow, vertical monuments, like men’s.



³ Snow-bound Car In Washington, January 8, 1996. Reuters/Rich Clement/Archive Photos

“Most of the damage women do is indirect. If she only bats her eyes to induce a guy into a fight, nobody’s going to blame her. Women do a lot of things that provoke and trigger responses in men. But nobody seems able to see that.”

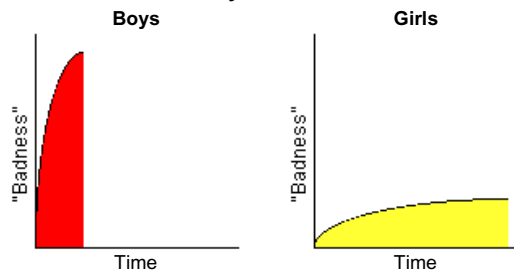
— Herb Goldberg, Ph.D.
author of *The Hazards of Being Male*
in an interview with Jack Kammer, December 2, 1990

[T]he central organizing principle of primate social life is competition between females and especially female lineages... Females should be, if anything, more competitive than males, not less, although the manner in which females compete may be less direct, less boisterous, and hence more difficult to measure... We are not yet equipped to measure the elaborations upon old themes that our fabulously inventive, and devious, species creates daily.

— Sarah Blaffer Hrdy, Ph.D.
The Woman That Never Evolved, 1981

As a new seventh-grade teacher in 1974, I drew two graphs on the chalkboard. Pointing to the graph on the left I said, "This is how a boy is typically bad. He throws an eraser, laughs out loud, or yells. He isn't bad for very long, but when he's bad there's no denying it." I turned to the other graph. "This is how a girl is typically bad. At any moment she's only doing little things like whispering or giggling, but she does it for a much longer time."

"The shaded area," I said, "shows that the total 'badness' is about the same. Boys who misbehave in my class will be punished as I'm sure they always have been. But if I should punish a girl for something much less obvious than throwing an eraser, don't complain that you weren't doing much. Consider instead how long you were doing it." Naturally enough the boys were happy with this enlightened standard of justice and discipline. But to my delight, the girls, too, liked the fact that somebody had called them on their game.



"Psychologically speaking, nine out of 10 women will take nine out of 10 men in a fight to the finish, not with direct, head-on aggression, but with guilt, shame and blame... As men we need to learn how not to be vulnerable to women when we shouldn't be."

— philosopher Sam Keen
author of Fire in The Belly

The Power of Emotions

26 Computer hardware looks impressive. Software doesn't look like much. But anyone who understands computing knows that the power is in the programming.

27 When it comes to emotions, we're like bimbo women who think they can't balance a checkbook, like utterly dependent females who run to men for their weekly allowance. We let women handle our emotions for us. That gives them a lot of control.

"A contemporary man often assumes that a woman knows more about a relationship than he does, allows a woman's moods to run the house, assumes that when she attacks him, she is doing it 'for his own good'."
— poet Robert Bly
in his book Iron John

The Power of Shame

"One of the most effective ways I have seen women using to gain power over men is by shaming men, using their tongue to put men down, to shame their sexuality, to shame their success."

Char Tosi, founder of Woman Within
in Good Will Toward Men by Jack Kammer

28 Boys grow up learning they're not sugar, not spice, not anything nice.



These signs were erected in Manhattan with permission, tools and equipment provided by the City of New York.

29 In western culture we picture women right below the angels, and men just above the animals.

30 When you hear women joking that men suffer from “Testosterone Poisoning,” remind them that similarly shallow and sexist ideas led the ancient Greeks to coin the term “hysteria” from their word for the uterus.

The Power of Sex

Society authorizes women to use make-up, fashion and jewelry to gain attention and stimulate sexual demand among men. “Nice girls” are not allowed to make sales calls, but they are allowed to advertise—as long as they don’t cut their prices too deeply. (The Sisterhood is, among other things, a powerful trade association.) A magazine ad for a women’s perfume exhibits the plan most candidly. The advertisement advises women that the fragrance “says yes. But you can always say no.”

31 Women laugh at us when studies show that we think about sex several times per hour. We could get a bigger laugh if anyone ever did a study of how often women think about being sexy.

32 Why do we have trouble relating to “the powerlessness of women” whenever we see the cover of Cosmopolitan?

“For every male-related hormonal or genetic problem, you can find a female parallel. Pre-Menstrual Syndrome or menopause, for example. So I don’t know that anybody has actually tried to come up with an accurate rating of which gender’s hormones cause the most havoc.”

Suzanne Steinmetz, Ph.D., sociologist and violence researcher in Good Will Toward Men by Jack Kammer

“Testosterone may not be the dread ‘hormone of aggression’ that research and the popular imagination have long had it... If anything, [testosterone] may be a source of very different sensations: calmness, happiness and friendliness, for example... Researchers said that... men... who... were low in testosterone described feelings of edginess, anger, irritability, aggression... Some studies even indicate another improbable source of aggression: estrogen. Yes, the gal hormone.”

New York Times, June 20, 1995

33 Women say they have to control sex because we control everything else. It makes just as much sense to say that we need to control everything else because they control sex.

34 The army’s Aberdeen sex scandal focused on sergeants who used their authority to get sex with female recruits. But what about female recruits who use their sexual power to get easier treatment from sergeants?

“Male soldiers complained that female soldiers ‘got over’ on the male drill sergeants [and] fraternized with drill sergeants... to get out of training.”

— study by the Army Research Institute, 1995 reported in the Washington Times, June 5, 1997

35 Women’s sexual law of supply and demand: the demand is hot, the supply is frozen.

36 Thirty years ago, if we heard a man telling a woman during an argument that she was “cut off,” we’d know he was controlling her financially. Today, when a woman tells a man he is “cut off” we know she is controlling him sexually.

“To be blunt, sex has historically been a commodity. It’s a valuable source of power... Traditionally... [a] woman’s most reliable currency was the potential of sex... Sexual power is... the female commodity... Buried in the recesses of [women’s] memories are years of messages telling us that sex is our most important asset if rationed, if kept out of reach.”

— sex educator Carol Cassell, Ph.D.
in her book Swept Away, 1984

37 Erotica does not glorify our sexual domination of women. It expresses our wish that women didn’t have sexual domination over us.

When we misuse our economic power over women, women legitimately react in ways we do not always like. One of those ways is to fantasize that they have achieved power over us. In the movie 9 to 5, for instance, three women laugh merrily about how they’d like to get violent revenge against their chauvinistic male boss. In the end, the trio settles for humiliating and subduing him in a dog collar and chains.



No one could reasonably say that 9 to 5 glorifies women’s domination of men in business. It is only because women don’t dominate men in business that the fantasy is popular with women who wish they did. Similarly, “pornography” does not glorify our sexual domination of women. It expresses our fantasies of overcoming women’s sexual domination of us. The fact that 9 to 5 and some of our erotica both involve people in dog collars and chains is not mere coincidence. What’s more, some of our most popular sexual fantasies aren’t about reversing sexual control at all, but are simply about equalizing it, about meeting women who participate enthusiastically in sex, who love male sexuality, and who don’t hold out for money, dinner or furs. Portrayals of such egalitarian sex don’t demean women any more than we are denigrated by stories of women and men working cooperatively in an office where men no longer think it is their right to have women fetch them coffee.

⁴ Twentieth Century Fox

The Fourth Branch of Government

A longtime lobbyist in her fifties dresses up in “tight leopard get-ups”... and then, essentially, lobbies with her chest, rubbing it against the appropriate arm...

One advocate for a liberal public interest group, when interviewing for a job at a new firm, repeatedly alluded to the senators she had slept with... She apparently believed these accomplishments represented her best credentials for getting the job.

A well-respected reporter for a major daily is known for redirecting her love interest on the Hill every time her employer switches her beat.

One staffer, intent on marrying a congressman, has allegedly attempted to have affairs with as many of them as possible in the past few years, through expert cruising of bars and fancy receptions. Just recently she hit on Congressman Right; alas, his interest waned. Now she’s threatening to expose the relationship...

Face it, feminists: Not only is there complicity on the part of some women who walk the halls of Congress, but some see sex and sexuality as legitimate professional currency... Let’s not pretend our evolution as women is complete.

— Karen Lehrman
Washington Post, December 20, 1992

Women’s “High-Volume Sexual Harassment”

38 If a person brings a boom box to a public street corner and plays a CD of carefully selected dance music at high volume, could he rightfully say, “Hey, stop dancing. I’m not playing this for you”?

39 If a businessperson advertises under “Sex” in the Yellow Pages and prints the phrase “Sexy! Sexy! Sexy!” on her business cards, should she be surprised or upset when customers call her with sex on their minds?

“If we want society to stop equating our worth with our beauty, we need to make sure that we stop it ourselves.”
— Karen Lehrman
in her book The Lipstick Proviso

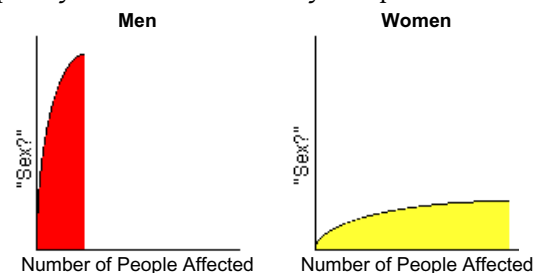
40 Women need to admit their disingenuousness when they read magazines that tell them how to be sexy, buy the products that promise them they'll be sexy, use those products as directed, and then object to "unwanted" male attention by saying, "I'm not doing anything. It's your problem if you can't keep your eyes to yourself."



41 Criticizing women's high-volume sexual harassment does not suggest that women should stop being alluring to their lovers. The key issue is who else is around.

⁵ Fashion Model for Dolce E Gabbana, March 6, 1996. Reuters/Paolo Cocco/Archive Photos

Sexual harassment forces people to deal with questions of sex when they don't want to. The distraction caused by women's high-volume sexual harassment is usually at least as great as that caused by men whose sexual harassment is typically directed toward only one person.



45 Men's typical style of sexual harassment is like a pushy salesman who won't take no for an answer. Women's high-volume sexual harassment is like a junk mailer who gives you no way to get off the mailing list.

42 If, as they claim, women dress to impress other women, not to attract men, we have a lot of lesbian hookers in America's cities.

43 Are we supposed to believe that women get breast implants for other women too?

44 Women say they wear jewelry and makeup to "please" men. Yeah, and a fisherman puts a spinner on his hook to "please" the fish.

"The mating game is powerful and primitive. There's a great deal that both sexes need to learn about that. But unfortunately right now all the blame is on men. Sexual harassment is an issue that has been controlled by women."

— Helen Fisher, Ph.D.
anthropologist and author of Anatomy of Love
in Good Will Toward Men by Jack Kammer

The Power of Defining the Terms

The person who defines the terms of a debate will always win.

If you let me define four as the number between five and seven, then I can argue that three plus three equals four and you'll lose the argument if you disagree.

Pheminist definitions of
misogyny (woman-hating) and misandry (man-hating)
misogyny: "a widely accepted social attitude in a sexist world" includes beliefs that "demean [women's] bodies... abilities... characters and... efforts."
misandry: "1) a refusal to suppress the evidence of one's experience with men; 2) a woman's defense against fear and pain; 3) an affirmation of the cathartic effects of justifiable anger."
— from A Feminist Dictionary
compiled by Cheris Kramarae and Paula Treichler

46 Women defined sexism. And they didn't define it to refer to anything they ever think or say or do.

47 Though Womenfirsters⁶ want to define it that way, equal rights between the sexes is not always the same thing as more rights for women.

48 Date Rape is defined in a way that can make only the man guilty. Guidelines on campuses require the man to have explicit consent prior to penetration. Why don't they require the woman to have explicit consent prior to envelopment?

49 When women do it it's called Self-Defense or Battered Woman Syndrome. When men do it it's called Blaming the Victim and Domestic Violence—for which there is never an excuse.

⁶ Those women and men who share a primary and overriding concern for women's interests even when they come at the expense of fairness to men and the common good.

53 Family-friendly employment policies are getting attention now because they are affecting women. They've been affecting us for centuries without being addressed.

54 Women make a big point that they do more of the house-cleaning than we do. But they define what's clean enough. How come you never hear a man complaining that his wife doesn't do her fair share of polishing the chrome on the Camaro?

Spin Control, Controlling the Agenda

Womenfirsters decide what the issues are and how they are to be understood.

50 Women want to talk about the parts of their lives in which they have a deficit, but they don't say anything about their advantages—like a shopper contesting a credit card statement without acknowledging a closet full of purchases.

51 Womenfirsters focus attention on who earns more money and who has what jobs, but a much more important question is who lives happier, more emotionally satisfying lives. Why don't they ask that one?

52 Womenfirsters count few women at the top of big companies and demand that we see only one possible cause: "male chauvinism." They don't count the women who have happily chosen other options.

A Quick Trip Through Spin City

Three sociologists working with three different types of raw material all delivered the same fuel for making men wrong.

The first sociologist commented on the fact that men still put in longer work weeks than women by saying that "men are trying even harder to maintain their superiority."

The second sociologist saw a picture of Native American women grinding corn while the men stood watch. Her interpretation: "the men were as usual leaving all the work to the women."

The third, after examining the many ways in which males, like the Indian men standing guard, took risks to protect women and children, concluded that this was another way that males maintained dominance, their own version of a "protection racket."

The process is really quite simple. "Whatever a guy does, you find a sneaky, self-serving reason."

— Frank Zepezauer, writing in *The Liberator*

“The Hite Report found that men prefer intercourse more than women; the American Couples survey by Schwartz and Blumstein found that women prefer intercourse more than men. Hite interpreted her findings to mean that men preferred intercourse because intercourse is male-centered, focused on penis pleasure, an outgrowth of male dominance and ego gratification. But Schwartz and Blumstein interpreted their findings in the opposite way: ‘We think women prefer it because intercourse requires the equal participation of both partners more than any sexual act. Neither partner only “gives” or only “receives.” Hence, women feel a shared intimacy during intercourse...’ These findings are diametrically opposed, yet both interpretations could only consider the possibility that women favor intimacy and equality, and men favor ego gratification and dominance. This is distortion to fit a preconceived image.”

— Warren Farrell, Ph.D.
author of *Women Can’t Hear What Men Don’t Say*

55 Ask a group of friends why men initiate 75% of divorces. Then ask another group why women initiate 75% of divorces. You’ll hear that it’s men fault either way.†

† The second statistic is correct, but that’s almost irrelevant here. I conducted this experiment at a university near Baltimore. Men were blamed by 88% of the men and 86% of the women who were asked to explain why men initiate 75% of divorces. Of those asked to explain why women initiate 75% of divorces, 25% of the men and 86% of the women thought that must be men’s fault, too.

Feminacentrism in the Media

For a story on August 5, 1987 reporting that 3,416 men were slain at work—82% of all at-work killings—USA Today used this headline: “732 women were murdered on the job.”

• • •

“Dr. Richard Suzman... at the National Institute on Aging... said closing the [six-year gap in male and female life expectancies] is important because ‘a very high fraction of female impoverishment in old age seems to be related to being widowed.’”

— New York Times News Service, September 12, 1997

• • •

“[T-shirts with the slogan ‘Destroy All Girls’ in very small type on the washing-instructions label] are awful... I think we’ve got to take a look at what’s going on in the culture as a whole that [anti-female] attitudes get expressed all over the place.”

— political consultant Jacqueline Salit; CNN & Company, May 19, 1997

“Roseanne started her national television career on the ‘Tonight Show’ saying, ‘Did you hear the one about the woman who stabbed her husband 37 times. I’m really impressed by the restraint that she showed.’... I think that was a big part of her appeal.”

— political consultant Jacqueline Salit; CNN & Company, May 19, 1997

Feminacentrism

Feminacentrism is another manifestation of Womenfirsters’ power to define the agenda. It requires looking at all problems exclusively from women’s perspective, or for the purpose of seeing how women are affected. It is based on the idea that women are more virtuous, more important than men. Feminacentrism is blind to the problems men face.

Feminacentrism Spin Control Makes Men Dizzy

“Did you ever notice,” a male friend asked, “that we have the word misogyny for anger at women, but we don’t have a word—except misandry, which no one knows or uses—for anger at men?”

“Yes, I have,” I answered. “Isn’t that something?”

“It sure is,” he said. “It just proves that being angry at men is simply not allowed.”

Surprised, I said, “Gosh, I came to an entirely different conclusion.”

“How could you possibly come to a different conclusion?” he asked. “It’s obvious.”

“Well, what’s the word,” I asked, “for crossing the street against a light or in the middle of a block?”

“That’s jaywalking,” he answered.

“And what’s the word for crossing the street at an intersection with a green light?”

“There isn’t any word for that. It’s just called crossing the street.”

“And so maybe,” I suggested, “the reason we have a word to spotlight anger at women is because we want to punish and discourage it, and the reason we don’t have a word for anger at men is because, like crossing the street with a green light, it’s perfectly okay.”

My friend had no response—other than to insist that surely I must be wrong.

Double Standards

Spin Control gives rise to double standards: seeing something as good or acceptable if it involves women and seeing the same thing as bad or intolerable if it involves men. There are probably hundreds or thousands of double standards operating against men.

- 56 If a woman ends a marriage, she is putting an end to a stifling and oppressive relationship. If a man ends a marriage, he is abandoning his family. If a woman decides not to marry someone, it is her choice for making her life as happy as she can. If a man decides not to marry someone, he is a “womanizer” or “afraid of commitment.”

- 57 What do you call the story of a spouse who has hot sex with a stranger while the other spouse is dutifully out of town with the kids? Well, that depends. If the cheating spouse is a man, it's another woeful tale of men's selfishness and irresponsibility. If the cheating spouse is a woman, it's *The Bridges of Madison County*, a best-selling “romance,” hugely popular among women.

Double Standards of Acceptable Media Behavior

“I personally am livid... Have you considered castration as an option?”
— NBC co-anchor Katie Couric to a bride who was left standing at the altar
The Today Show, November 25, 1997

It is difficult to imagine that a male co-host on national TV would even think of making a similar “joke” about a woman, but it is easy to imagine what would have happened if he did, isn't it?

• • •

“I think Hillary [Clinton] is a total babe, and I'd be happy to row her boat, if you know what I mean, just to thank her for all she has done with health care...”

“Are you out of your mind, Tony? That's unbelievably crude. You can't say that.”

“Why not? Nina Burleigh, a former Time magazine White House reporter wrote in *Mirabella*, ‘If [President Clinton] had asked me to continue... back in his room... I would have been happy to go there and see what happened.’ Later, in an interview with the Washington Post, Burleigh declared, ‘I'd be happy to give him [oral sex] just to thank him for keeping abortion legal.’”

— Tony Kornheiser
Washington Post, July 12, 1998

Debunking the Notion of Female Superiority

“I believe that women are the more spiritually advanced sex.”
— Erica Jong, Washington Post, December 6, 1992

- 58 If women are so wonderful and kind and loving, why are so many women saying such awful things about their mothers?

“We [women] have to start looking at our feminine shadow and own that as a part of ourselves and stop projecting it onto males and onto the masculine. It creates the idea that only men abuse. It's only men who are patriarchal. It's only men who are controlling, or greedy, or competitive, all of those negative adjectives that get attached to men and masculinity. Women are capable of just as much viciousness, cruelty and abuse as men.”
— Carolyn Baker, Ph.D.,
author of *Reclaiming the Dark Feminine*

Women are not inherently more peaceful than men.

“If you talk to the principals, they will tell you that the worst fights to try to break up are those among girls because they tend to be more violent.”
— Howard Co. (Maryland) School Superintendent Michael E. Hickey
Baltimore Sun, May 16, 1997

“In a 1993 survey of Ontario high school girls, [a] community psychologist... put the following question to them: Defining violence as broadly as they wished, who were they most afraid of? Overwhelmingly, they responded, ‘Other girls.’”
— Patricia Pearson in her 1997 book *When She Was Bad: Violent Women and the Myth of Innocence*

“Women are just as likely as men to be the first to resort to violence during domestic disputes, a University of New Hampshire researcher said Wednesday. A study by professor Murray Straus of the UNH Family Research Laboratory showed that the number of women who strike their partners first or who hit partners who do not strike back is about equal to men who become violent.”
— UPI November 8, 1989

60 When you're at a party or a bar, take a look around. Check it out on TV. Notice how many times women slap, punch or shove men who do or say something the women don't like. It happens so often we don't even see it anymore.

Female approval of husband assault remains as high now as it was twenty years ago: Twenty-three percent of women believe that “slapping the cad” is just fine.
— Patricia Pearson in her 1997 book *When She Was Bad: Violent Women and the Myth of Innocence*

Women are not naturally more caring and giving than men are.

“Fathers who are owed child support are less likely [than mothers] to receive payments, with 47 percent receiving nothing, compared to 27 percent of custodial mothers who receive nothing.”
Daniel R. Meyer and Steven Garasky
“Custodial Fathers: Myths, Realities and Child Support Policy,” Technical Analysis Paper no. 42, 1991
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

59 Blaming us for war is like blaming women for diaper rash. Both just come with the job.

If you tell a group of people that their primary mission in life is to bring home—and keep—as much bacon as they can, and if there really is no such thing as “enough,” conflict among those people is inevitable, especially when bacon is scarce.

“When I started researching this book, I was prepared to rediscover the old saw that conventional femininity is nurturing and passive and that masculinity is self-serving, egotistical, and uncaring. But I did not find this. One of my findings here is that manhood ideologies always include a criterion of selfless generosity, even to the point of sacrifice. Again and again we find that ‘real’ men are those who give more than they take.”
— David Gilmore
Manhood in the Making: Cultural Concepts of Masculinity

61 Why are the two largest male events of recent years—Promise Keepers and the Million Man March—concerned with how men can do an even better job of giving, while the two largest female efforts—NOW and the Million Woman March—are about how women can do an even better job of getting?

“Feminism: It’s all about me... Feminism today is wed to the culture of celebrity and self-obsession.”
— Time Magazine cover story, June 29, 1998

Women do not “create life.”

62 The uterus is not a magic vessel. The sperm and egg together are what generate the impulse for new life. Then the embryo takes charge of its own development, using the uterus only for stability and food.

“The experiment was testimony to the hardy independence of the embryo. One key to the embryo’s integrity is its ability to produce a placenta... The fetal placenta is a versatile, opportunistic... organ.... On an endocrine basis, on a hormonal level, the fetus appears to be totally autonomous.”
Omni Magazine, December 1985

63 An egg without a sperm is like a sperm without an egg. Neither amounts to much.

Only 14 percent of female middle managers aspire to be CEO; the figure is 45 percent for middle managers who are male.

Women’s Freedom Network Newsletter
Spring 1997

66 Most of us would be happy to say, “Sure, come on, share my money-making. And tell me you’ll love me no matter how much money I make, no matter what kind of car I drive.”

67 We know that male doctors marry female nurses. How many of us can even imagine a female doctor marrying a male nurse?

ASSERTING OUR OWN AGENDA ON OUR OWN TERMS

If, as Einstein said, all things are relative, nothing can be more relative than the relationship between the sexes. Our point of view is as valid as women’s, and is much more in need of being heard.

Jobs and Money

64 The economy was the very first equal opportunity project. It evolved to help us match the power inherent in women’s biological advantage in reproduction.

65 We earn more money because we focus more on earning money. We need to buy things women don’t, like the love and affection of the other sex.

“No matter how strong a woman is, no matter how much of a feminist a woman is, she still tends to look down on men who are not sufficiently aggressive and successful... We still want men to achieve as much or more, and we have contempt for those who don’t. They’re marginal; they’re losers.”

— writer and professor Jane Young
in Good Will Toward Men by Jack Kammer

“The divorce rate might be lower if women placed more emphasis on men’s character and less on their paychecks.”

— Donna Laframboise
author of The Princess at the Window

The 1980 version of the Report of the NOW Project on Equal Education Rights (PEER) talked about how good it would be if “a man could quit a job he hated and take time off to retool, counting on his wife’s salary to provide a psychic and financial safety net.”

In the 1981 issue of the PEER Report, that male-friendly sentiment was nowhere to be found.

68 They say a woman’s work is never done. But if a man is a primary breadwinner, when can he ever say he has won “enough”?

69 If a man is with his wife when she sees a big, beautiful, expensive house and says, "Oooh, I could live like that," the man should spot a woman with a great figure and say, "Oooh, I could make love to her." Call it sensitivity training.

70 Maybe it's true that in a race from New York to Los Angeles we get a headstart by being in Cleveland. But what if where we really want to go is Paris or London or Istanbul?

At what point does an advantage become an obligation?

71 Saying that we shape business and industry to suit our needs is like saying that water makes the bucket round.

To give ourselves purpose and value, we took on the difficult mission of economic production and political management and we adapted ourselves to accomplish it.

(An especially ludicrous example of the idea that we shape the world to suit ourselves was in Time magazine's Special Issue on Women in the Fall of 1990, which said that prison is "a system designed and run by men for men.")

Some supposedly intelligent women apparently believe that only women have to make "tremendous personal sacrifice" in order to succeed.

"Women lawyers who have succeeded often have done so at tremendous personal sacrifice. Many attribute their achievements to a willingness and ability to adapt to a work culture that is defined by and for white men. Many placed family or personal life at risk as they emulated the male model of 'commitment' to the law... By refusing to play a role created by and for men, women will ascend the mountain free of constraints."

— "Unfinished Business"
American Bar Association Report
on Women in the Legal Profession

Do the womenfirsters who wrote this report actually suppose that men are "free of constraints"?

What makes the "male model" male other than men's willingness to submit to it?

Imagine a women's prison on a hillside. There's a rebellion going on. The inmates are breaking free.

Up the hill is another building—stoic, imperturbable. From inside comes the calm, controlled, orderly chanting of deep, male voices. Nobody's leaving. Must be an Old Boys Club, the women conclude. A real male bastion.

The escapees surge up the hill. "We're going in there and nobody's going to stop us!"

They climb a ledge and peer through a grate. They see men with glazed eyes, straining to turn the heavy wheels of mammoth machines. Now they hear the words of the men's chant. "Man's world. No problems. Man's world. In control."

On the ledge, one of the women snarls, "Look at those jerks! They think they're better than us!"

Another woman asks, "What are they doing?"

A third woman gulps. "That must be how they generate power."

"Oh," the second woman responds as she first observes the transmission lines running down the hill to the pastel prison from which she has escaped. "Good! It's getting dark and I'm cold. I'm going back."

The woman who gulped speaks up, "No! We have to help them get out of there! Don't you see? They'll never do it by themselves!"

"To hell with that," the other women shout back. "Where were they when we needed them?"

72 Just as it takes money to make money, it takes freedom to make freedom. That's why there has been a women's movement and nothing much to speak of for us. Women were held in minimum security. But men are at hard labor. Society needs to keep us under tight control so we don't get away from our "important work."

"Nothing against work, money and power, but a 'man's world' just isn't all it's cracked up to be... [T]here's a reason it's called 'work.' Women aren't the only ones who don't make it to the top; most men don't either... I'll teach my daughter she can be anything she wants: the president of the United States, or the class mother, or maybe someday, both. Should my son have fewer choices?"

— Susan Estrich, USA Today, March 14, 1996

74 At a party ask your friends, "What's the most valuable thing in this room?" They'll mention expensive things: the stereo, the sofa, the TV. But a much more valuable thing is the air. Remind your friends that at least some of the best things in life are free and there are some priceless things that we might be lacking—despite the fact we earn more money.

There is a difference between something that society values and something that society pays for. Could it be that money is merely artificial valuation for work that is not intrinsically very attractive?

75 The Number One Reason we earn more money than women do: we have to.

73 Options are commodities that come with a price whether they are exercised or not. Women can't demand more options and also demand equal pay.

"As women"? Didn't they say they wanted to come to work "as equals"?

"Why should commitment [to work] be demonstrated by working 100 hours per week? As women, we have other options to explore..."

Laura Bellows
chair of the American Bar Association
Commission on Women in the (Legal) Profession
Ms. Magazine, November 1995

"The most important reasons for the 'gender gap' have little to do with employer bias. Increasingly, the gap is the result of choices women make as they seek to maximize their own happiness and achieve a broad mix of life goals."

Katherine Kersten
Newsletter of the Women's Freedom Network, Spring 1996

Saying What We Want to Say When and How We Want to Say It

I grew up believing that whenever any of my parents' friends got a divorce, it was always the man's fault. That made me feel bad about men... until I realized that it was only the women who were talking about fault.

It is "unchivalrous" for a man to discuss intimate details of his relationships with women. But no such rule restricts what women feel entitled to say about us.

"Why do you feel you have to turn everything into a story?"
So Nora told her why: "Because if I tell the story, I control the version."

— Nora Ephron in *Heartburn*,
a semi-fictional novel of her failed marriage
to journalist Carl Bernstein.

76 One of the reasons we don't talk is that women don't listen.

"As listeners, wives tended to display more negative nonverbal behavior than their husbands. Wives were negative listeners 11% of the time, compared to their husbands' 3%."

"Negative face cues" include "frown, sneer, fear, crying, angry face or disgust."

"Negative voice cues" are "cold, tense, fearful, impatient, whining, sarcastic, blaming, angry, hurt, mocking or depressed."

"Negative body position cues" are "arms akimbo (with hands on hip), tense neck or hands, inattentive, pointing, jabbing or slicing with hand."

— Notarius & Johnson
Emotional Expression in Husbands and Wives, 1982

78 One of the most effective ways women keep us quiet is by subtly threatening us with words: misogynist, woman-hater, sexist, chauvinist, misfit, troublemaker, loser, weirdo, whiner, jerk.

Newspaper columnist D.L. Stewart says that he told a good friend of his, a female police reporter, that he was writing a series of columns about workshops on Men's Issues at the University of Dayton. Her immediate reaction was, "Oh, what are you poor babies whining about now?"

D.L. says he was astounded.
Speechless.

79 Did you ever notice that when we have opinions that women don't like, they're not called opinions, but "attitudes"?

77 One of the reasons we don't talk is that we've learned that women would rather not hear what we really have to say.

"[During] a seminar I did with black men and women... the men decided they wanted to express to the women some things that they had never had a chance to say... So the men started expressing their pain and disappointment. They started expressing how they feel about not being accepted for who they are, for not having their struggle recognized, for having women respond to them in very self-centered ways where the women were only talking about what they needed, what they wanted. 'You want, want, want all the time. Can't you see that I'm working with very limited resources? I'm doing the best I can.'... And as they were in the midst of talking about that, the women lit into them. I mean they fired at them! The women started screaming and yelling at them, 'How dare they be so insensitive and uncaring!' and all the kinds of foul statements that can be made. And the men shut down. They shut down. They couldn't say another word."

— Audrey Chapman, therapist and author of
Getting Good Loving: How Black Men and Women Can Make Love Work,
in Good Will Toward Men by Jack Kammer

Twenty-one Points for Women Who Want Their Men to Express More Emotion'

A perfectly valid word for an exchange of thoughts and feelings is "intercourse." There's a good reason for this. For every complaint that women have about how men try to get sex from them, men can make a similar point about how women try to get emotion from them.

1. Don't just snap your fingers and say, "Open up."
2. Though you may feel a strong urge to "do it," men are different. Intercourse does not always have to be in and out, back and forth. Men value and enjoy non-verbal intercourse, like being understood and accepted for what they are, not what they say.
3. You can't force intercourse and expect your man to enjoy it. You might force him to fake an understanding just to get it over with.
4. Men will not hop into emotional intimacy with just anyone. Men know that women are always ready to get into somebody's head. You must convince him that he is not just another piece of mind.

[†] I wrote this piece in 1987 on assignment for Jan Warrington, features editor of the Baltimore Sun. Jan had asked for a male response to a much-publicized new book by Shere Hite which harped on women's old complaint that men don't express enough emotion. Jan killed the article because, she said, it has "an undercurrent of sarcasm and anger toward women."

5. You should let him be on top sometimes. Men are tired of being in the inferior position, especially in hot and passionate intercourse.

6. Don't perform tricks that make him feel inadequate. Remember that you have been raised with more skill in intercourse than he has.

7. Men were taught that only women are supposed to enjoy intercourse. Help him not to feel guilty and weird for doing it.

8. Let him take control sometimes. Don't insist on controlling whose needs must be met when.

9. Don't talk and tell. Don't get him to "put out" and then rush to your women friends with the intimate details.

10. If your thrusting and probing hurts him, stop immediately. Don't assume that he'll start to like it just because you do.

11. Allow him to initiate. Don't hit on him with so many requests for intercourse that he never feels the urge to start intercourse at his own pace, according to his own needs.

12. Men are often shy and insecure about their flaws and blemishes, about whether you will find them attractive. Don't expect your man to show you everything right away.

If "men don't talk," there needs to be a new rule: we get to talk and say what's on our minds without fear of being attacked or ridiculed. Women get to listen without fear that just listening signifies their acceptance of what we're saying.

13. Remember that good intercourse is not a wrestling match. There should be no winner and no loser.

14. Respect your lover as an equal partner. You don't own him; he does not exist for the sole purpose of providing your pleasure.

15. If you have ever abused him during intercourse, understand that it may take a long, long time for your man to open up to you again.

16. Keep in mind that men's and women's rhythms are different. Don't get angry if his needs don't coincide with yours.

17. If you simply want to release tension, let him know. Don't pretend that you're doing it for him. Men often resist intercourse if they feel pressured about "getting into it."

18. There is no such thing as the ideal lover. Don't try to make your partner into something he isn't. Accept your man as he is.

19. Foreplay is essential; gentle stroking of the ego can help. If you encounter a ravenous ego, remember it is ravenous not because it gets too much healthy attention, but because it gets too little.

20. Don't get hung up on achieving simultaneous understanding. Men's understandings take longer, but they are usually more intense.

21. Respect him in the morning.

The "Sensitive" Man

Being sensitive on demand is merely taking insensitivity to a higher plane. We are already too sensitive for our own good in a culture that doesn't really care how we feel.

80 It's a good news/bad news joke. The good news is that women want us to be more sensitive. The bad news is that they want us to be more sensitive to them.

A Conversation Between a Woman and a Sensitive Man

The man: "Hi. Sure is a pretty night. I've never been on a cruise before. I only wish we weren't on the Titanic. I'm a very sensitive man and before you get into that lifeboat and leave me here to drown, I'd really like to share my feelings with you. I'm feeling very sad. I'm feeling like I'm really going to miss my wife and kids back in Kokomo. I'm feeling that we should flip a coin to see who gets the last seat in that lifeboat."

The woman: "Oh, that's so beautiful. I so much admire a man who's in touch with his feelings. Have a nice swim."

81 If we suddenly became more sensitive but nothing else changed in our lives, all we'd feel is more pain.

If women think we're callous they need to recognize that calluses form to protect sensitive spots from repeated irritation. Our situation in life is like a pair of mass-produced boots that all men must wear. "Built for durability. Black only. One size fits all, no matter what you say."

82 For men, calluses are indispensable equipment.

86 We kept women out of the male domain by using laws and rules to bar them. But those kinds of barriers are obvious and easy to tear down. Women keep us out of the female domain just by festooning it with lace and pink ribbons. And women can say, "Come in if you want; we're not stopping you."

And when we go in, we can abandon the pink lace and frilly stuff, and develop our own style of parenting, just as women abandoned the severe, mannish suit for their careers in industry and asserted a female style of doing business.

Marriage and Parenting

Consider this as a definition of "family": A group of people guided by one or more adults whose purpose is to ensure harmony between the sexes for future generations by honoring fatherhood as well as motherhood, manhood as well as womanhood, masculinity as well as femininity; not necessarily the same thing as "a woman with children."

83 It is statistically true that married men are more successful than unmarried men. But are they more successful because they're married or are they married because they're more successful?

84 Men's slang expression for marriage—being "hitched"—did not arise from nowhere.

85 If marriage is as much for fathers as it is for mothers, why is it called Matrimony?

"We don't talk about it very much, but there are a lot of power and control issues in any relationship. I think that some women want control of the kitchen and nursery, and they do, on an unconscious level, shoo men away. What I hear that keeps men from being involved is that women impose their personal standards. Men tell me, 'I dress the child and she says, "Oh, she's too hot," or I dress the child and, "Oh, he's too cold.'" The natural reaction of any human being is to say, 'Well, if I don't do it to your satisfaction, then you do it!'... I think it's necessary [for women] to keep their lips buttoned sometimes and not impose their particular standards... Men and women have different styles; both are good, and kids need both."

— Gayle Kimball, Ph.D., author of *The 50-50 Marriage*
in *Good Will Toward Men* by Jack Kammer

87 Just as some men were upset by the idea that women could be competent doctors and astronauts, some women don't like the fact that we can be perfectly adequate, independent parents.

A Little Test to Give to Women

“Imagine that you are home on a Saturday afternoon, sitting quietly in your living room with your favorite magazine, content to hear your child happily riding her tricycle outside. Then you hear the child take a tumble. She is not seriously hurt, but her cries grow louder as she runs into the house for comfort for her injured knee. Your heart goes out to her as she comes racing toward you. You close your magazine and put it aside to make room for her on your lap. With arms outstretched, she runs right past you crying, ‘Daddy!’ How does that make you feel?”

“It is easier for men to take on the nurturing of children than for women to give up some of it. The greatest emotional challenge for women is to allow men to nurture children in their own manner.”

— Joan Peters, author
When Mothers Work, 1997

88 Men said that women don't belong in industry because they lack the “business instinct.” Now women are saying that we don't belong with children because we lack the “nurturing instinct.”

“The early women's movement could have been explained in simple terms as ‘women can do what men can do.’ Now we need to proceed to the next step by realizing men can do what women can do.”

Gloria Steinem
on NPR “Weekend Edition,” February 9, 1992

“When you have to work late and need someone to look after your kids until you can get home, where do you turn? You call another mother and she bails you out. When that mother discovers she needs to be out of town on the day it's her turn to drive the preschool carpool, does she ask her husband to fill in? No. She calls you, and you gladly switch with her.”

— “The Motherhood: An Unbreakable Union”
by Olivette Orme
The Wall Street Journal, May 9, 1997

Fathers should be more involved!
(But not more than mothers want.)

- Only about one mother in four thinks that fathers should play a fifty-fifty role in raising the children.
- Mothers want fathers to help more with children, but not to overshadow their role as primary parent.
- Two out of three mothers seem threatened by a father's equal participation in child rearing.
- Mothers themselves may be subtly putting a damper on men's involvement with their children because they are so possessive of their role as primary nurturer.

The Motherhood Report
Louis Genevie, Ph.D. and Eva Margolies; 1987

“The research seems to show that mothers can be real gatekeepers... that the level of contact a father has with the kids has more to do with the mother's characteristics than with the father's.”

Richard Weissbourd, instructor on childhood issues
at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government
Los Angeles Times, March 1, 1995

89 We are fathers, not babysitters.

Shouldn't She Know Better?

“I want to thank my husband who is home babysitting.”
— Congresswoman Susan Molinari
May 28, 1997
on announcing her resignation from Congress
to take a job with CBS

Who gets to stay with the kids?

Phil Donahue was on the TV in the waiting room of an auto shop where I was getting an oil change. The topic was “Men who stay home with their kids.” When the mechanic came to tell me my car was ready, he stopped to watch the show. “What do you think of that?” I asked, fully expecting him to say something about child rearing not being “real man's work.” “I'd love to do that,” he answered, “but my wife took that job. She didn't even ask. She just took it.”

“No developing society that needs men to leave home and do ‘their thing’ for the society ever allows young men in to handle or touch their newborns. There’s always a taboo against it. For they know that, if they did, the new fathers would become so hooked that they would never get out and do ‘their thing’ properly.”

— Margaret Mead
quoted in Maternal-Infant Bonding by Klaus and Kennell
Moseby Press, St. Louis 1976

“[T]oday’s working stiff really enjoys no more meaningful options than did his father, the pathetic guy in the gray flannel suit who was pilloried as a professional hamster and an emotional cripple.”

— Kyle Pruett, M.D.
a psychiatrist at the Yale Child Studies Center
author of The Nurturing Father
quoted in Time magazine’s Fall 1990 Special Issue on Women

“Traditional work patterns lock women into second rate careers and lock men out of family life, risking damage to the mental health of both sexes. There’s even more prejudice against men than there is against women if they attempt to build careers around family responsibilities.”

— Dr. Carolyn Quadrio
psychiatrist and author of a study on part-time work, 1996

91 Which would you rather have: a heartfelt Fathers Day card every year, or a slim chance of being in the history books after you’re dead?

Among 18-to-24-years-olds, 48% of men and 66% of women said that if they had the opportunity, they might be interested in staying at home and raising children.

—Time magazine’s Fall 1990 Special Issue on Women

Among 18-to-24-year-olds, 21% of men and 31% of women said they would choose to stay home full-time and care for their families if they could.

— Whirlpool Foundation Study
by the Families and Work Institute, May 1995

Imagine how we would answer if there was more social support and acceptance for fathers staying home.

90 Ask high school girls what combinations and sequences of work and parenting they can realistically imagine for themselves. Then put the same question to the boys. And then ask yourself how far we have come in our efforts to achieve equal opportunity between the sexes.

92 If raising kids is so menial and degrading, why do women fight us so bitterly in divorce for the opportunity to do it?

93 Sure women’s work is devalued. It’s devalued by women to make it unattractive to men. It’s devalued by men because, in sour grapes fashion, we try to convince ourselves that we don’t want it.

Interview with a Womenfirster:
Phyllis Schlafly

Jack Kammer: What if I was the kind of man, like a lot of men who have confided to me, who is sick to death of the corporate world and in a heartbeat would stay home to take care of their kids because they love them so much and they know the business world is a crock?

Phyllis Schlafly:... That's their problem. As I look around the world about me, I just don't find there are many [women] who really want the so-called non-traditional relationships.
— a radio interview, WCVT-FM (now WTMD)
Towson University, Maryland
January 5, 1989

94 Women staying home with the kids is not just about breastfeeding. Children don't normally nurse beyond the age of two and, besides, the pattern is the same for women, including adoptive mothers, who don't breastfeed at all.

The Men's Bureau

The Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor has a budget of \$8.4 million and 72 full-time personnel in its DC headquarters and ten regional offices around the country. Its mission is "to formulate standards and policies which shall promote the welfare of wage-earning women, improve their working conditions, increase their efficiency, and advance their opportunities for profitable employment."

It is time now for a parallel body for men. The Men's Bureau's mission would be "to formulate standards and policies which shall promote the welfare of wage-earning men, improve the flexibility of their working hours, enable their equal involvement in parenting, and advance their opportunities for rewarding parenthood and a healthy family life."

How is that a concern of the Labor Department? For one thing, women can't get equality in the workplace until we get equality outside of it. But more importantly, it will help workers be balanced and healthy. After all, a happy family life is the most effective and least expensive Employee Assistance Program of all.

96 The same folly that tells us a woman's place is in the home tells us our place is anywhere but in the home; the tragedy for us is that home is where the heart is.

95 If women can pump their breasts to leave milk at daycare centers with strangers is there any reason they couldn't do it to leave milk at home with fathers?

Does every man want to stay home with his kids, even part-time, even temporarily? Certainly not. But every man should have as much opportunity to include those options in his life as women do, just as women demand the right to pursue business careers equally with men.

There isn't any job that's going to bring the fulfillment that marriage and children and family bring... They offer many rewards... Careers are no substitute for children and grandchildren... In America it's wonderful to be a woman.
— Phyllis Schlafly
October 14, 1997

97 Here's a deal: we'll make sure that women are equally represented in corporate boardrooms when they make sure we are equally represented among employees who take family leave.

Equal Parenting Opportunity Commission

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission works "to ensure equality of opportunity by vigorously enforcing federal legislation prohibiting discrimination in employment. It uses investigation, conciliation, litigation, coordination, regulation in the federal sector, and education, policy research, and provision of technical assistance to achieve this end."

We need a commission whose mission statement substitutes "parenting" for "employment." Isn't parenting at least as important as employment?

Does anyone feel a chill?

In July 1986, I met with Anne Rosewater, Deputy Staff Director of the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families in Washington. I said that men often feel frozen out of government action on family issues.

Ms. Rosewater said nothing could be further from the truth. "Here," she said. "Take our mailing list form. Tell your people we want to know what's on their minds."

It was only when I got home that I noticed the problem.

"Listed below," the form said, "are the categories which now comprise our mailing list. Please check the three you have the greatest interest in, and return to us. We will do our best to keep you informed of the Committee's work in these areas."

The form included twenty-two categories in alphabetical order. Women's Issues was one. I looked at the middle of the list. Literacy, Mental Health, Military Families. Men's Issues? Nowhere to be found. Fathers' Issues? Ditto.

I wrote to Ms. Rosewater. She ignored my first letter, but after I sent another she wrote to say she was "reluctant" to add men's concerns to the form. "It is not possible for every group or individual to be represented on the list," she said.

Finally, I wrote to the congressman who chaired the Committee.

In April 1987, I received a new mailing list form with no cover letter, explanation, apology, gratitude or invitation to make further contact. The form listed Men's Issues—tacked on at the end, out of alphabetical order, and below Women's Issues.

I filled out the form and checked "Men's Issues," but never received a single piece of information from the committee before it ceased operation years later.

100 If someone kidnaps your children, and you save a few dollars each month on their food and clothing, do you feel that your standard of living has risen?†

101 Some people say we seek custody only as a way of bargaining for lower child support payments. An equally sexist comment would be that women seek custody only to live in the household the father will provide for the children.

102 Just as some men tried to keep women out of business by playing on sexist stereotypes of women as ditzes and bimbos, some women are trying to keep us out of parenting by playing on sexist stereotypes of us as batterers and abusers.

103 Yes, there's a backlash. And it's against us. (See NOW Action Alert, next page.)

† Thanks to Fred Hayward, director of MR, Inc.

Treatment of Fathers in Divorce

Respect for fatherhood affects all men just as equal career opportunity affects all women. Disrespect for fatherhood is based on bad stereotypes about all of us. Those stereotypes hurt you whether you're a father or not.

98 Don't be fooled by the claim that we win half of all custody battles. The men who invest thousands of dollars in the fight for custody are the ones with extraordinarily solid cases. That means that of the very most winnable cases, half still lose.

99 It is widely reported that men's standard of living goes up after divorce. But did any financial advisor ever tell you to get married, raise kids and then have your wife divorce you so your standard of living would go up?

Let's focus attention on the Standard of Loving, a measure of the affection, caring and closeness that one feels with one's children; it clearly plummets for most fathers after divorce.

ACTION ALERT ON "FATHERS' RIGHTS" National Organization for Women, 1996

WHEREAS organizations advocating "fathers' rights," whose members consist of non-custodial parents, their attorneys and their allies, are a growing force in our country; and
WHEREAS the objectives of these groups are to increase restrictions and limits on custodial parents' rights and to decrease child support obligations of non-custodial parents by using the abuse of power in order to control in the same fashion as do batterers; and
WHEREAS these groups are fulfilling their objectives by forming political alliances with conservative Republican legislators and others and by working for the adoption of legislation such as presumption of joint custody, penalties for "false reporting" of domestic and child abuse and mediation instead of court hearings; and
WHEREAS the success of these groups will be harmful to all women but especially harmful to battered and abused women and children; and
WHEREAS efforts of well-financed "fathers' rights" groups are expanding, sharing research and tactics state by state; and
WHEREAS many judges and attorneys are still

biased against women and fathers are awarded custody 70% of the time when they seek it per the Association of Child Support Enforcement;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Organization for Women (NOW) begin a national alert to inform members about these "fathers' rights" groups and their objectives through articles in the National Now Times (NNT); and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as a part of this alert, NOW establish a clearinghouse for related information by sharing with NOW state and local Chapters the available means to challenge such groups, including the current research on custody and support, sample legislation, expert witnesses, and work done by NOW and other groups in states where "fathers' rights" groups have been active;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOW encourage state and local Chapters to conduct and coordinate divorce/custody court watch projects to facilitate removal of biased judges; and
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that NOW report to the 1997 National Conference on the status and result of this national alert whereupon its continuation or expansion will be considered.

This Action Alert reveals paranoia among women terrified by the thought of sharing equally in parenting. If judges are so biased against women, why would NOW want to keep divorces in court rather than shift them to mediation?

104 The presumption of innocence in crime cases is not “forced acquittal.” Similarly, a rebuttable presumption for joint custody is not “forced joint custody.” A father should be presumed a valuable parent unless someone can prove otherwise.

105 If joint custody is a bad idea, then we need Affirmative Action in custody decisions to remedy entrenched biases against fathers.

106 Would we expect a mother without custody to continue to cook and clean for her ex-husband? Then why do we expect a noncustodial father to keep providing money, especially to an ex-wife who interferes with his visitation time? Why do we enforce child support, but not visitation rights?

107 For a man to be considered half as good a parent as a woman, he has to be two times better.

108 It is admirable that a man facing divorce is reluctant typically to say anything to sully the reputation of, as he might put it, “the mother of my children.” Why is a woman unlikely to evidence similar concern or even to use the phrase “the father of my children”?

“Herjury”: False Allegations of Sexual Misconduct

110 We’d be more enthusiastic about stamping out sexual harassment if women were more enthusiastic about stamping out false allegations of sexual harassment.

“Her testimony was an insult because she lied. She knew what the game was... and she played it to her advantage, but when she didn’t like the way it was being played, she cried ‘foul ball’.”
— the forewoman of a jury in Milwaukee, talking about a woman who alleged sexual harassment at work; Washington Post, October 5, 1997

“Male judges are mostly paternalistic, and don’t feel so strongly about a boss who fails to promote a woman, but they feel very strongly indeed about a woman who is sexually mistreated on the job. So I always advise my clients in employment discrimination cases that if the facts can support the allegation in any way they should also file a charge of sexual harassment.”
— A lawyer conducting a workshop at the 1987 NOW convention (emphasis was hers)

109 If society wants fathers to be more invested in their kids, fathers need to know their investment is protected.

Before



7 A man bonding with his baby.

After



8 A man bidding “a tearful goodbye to his son after a judge ordered him to give up custody to the boy’s mother.”

⁷ Photograph by Klaus O. Bromberg

⁸ Photograph by Kent Johnson; News-Press, Fort Myers, Florida, June 13, 1992

A Feminacentry Discussion of False Allegations of Sexual Harassment

David Brinkley: “Sam, are you saying that any woman has the power now, will under these new laws we’re talking about, the power to destroy a man by making charges that he cannot disprove?”

Sam Donaldson: “I don’t think a woman any more than a man would do that, though, simply willy-nilly. I mean it takes some sort of a sick mind to want to do that.”

Brinkley to Barbara Walters: “What do you think about that?”

Walters: “I don’t think that that will happen. I think that it will make men perhaps more conscious, this is what we have seen this week, more conscious of how women feel, not just in terms of sexual harassment, but in sexual discrimination, which has not come up here...”

“This Week with David Brinkley,” ABC News during the Clarence Thomas-Anita Hill hearings, October 13, 1991

111 A false allegation of rape can have consequences as severe as—or even worse than—an actual rape. Why is it punished so lightly, if at all?

In [1990 and 1991] women in [seven Washington, DC-area jurisdictions] filed 1,842 rape reports, and police concluded that 439 were unfounded... [One] woman said she lied because she needed an excuse for having been late to work...

—Washington Post, June 27, 1992

Ah, Chivalry...

“Our philosophy is that a woman who would file a false rape report needs counseling, not jail time.”

— Lt. Dan Davis, Howard County (Maryland) Police Department
Washington Post, June 27, 1992

113 Most newspapers will not publish the names of alleged victims of sex crimes, but will publish the names of the accused. But if the accused denies the charges, isn't he claiming to be the victim of a sex crime, namely a false accusation of rape?

The names of suspects in rape cases should be protected like those who lodge such complaints, the attorney for Dallas Cowboys star Michael Irvin said Sunday. The remarks came two days after police cleared his client, saying that a woman's rape allegations involving Irvin and teammate Erik Williams were unfounded... A police spokesman said that the department is comfortable with how it handled the case, including releasing the suspects' names on the police report—a decades-old policy.

— Associated Press, January 12, 1997

A former topless dancer pleaded guilty yesterday to perjury, admitting she alone decided to falsely accuse two Dallas Cowboys players of sexual assault.

—USA Today, September 16, 1997

“People can be charged with virtually no evidence... If a female comes in and says she was sexually assaulted, then on her word alone, with nothing else—and I mean nothing else, no investigation—the police will go right out and arrest someone... Too many prosecutors just take the word of the female—that's it—and don't investigate. I think if they did investigate, they would find false accusations... [Prosecutors] have visions, I suppose, of women's groups going to the press, of being personally attacked by women's groups... It's all a public relations issue; they're just terrified of being raked over the coals.”

— Rikki Klieman, criminal defense attorney and former prosecutor
in Good Will Toward Men by Jack Kammer

112 Women coined the emotionally powerful phrase “date rape” to identify a danger they face. We need to popularize “fake rape” to call attention to a problem that threatens us.

A Hard Man Is Good to Find

114 Women enjoy the physical experience of sex at least as much as we do. But, like Tom Sawyer getting the gullible boys to pay him to whitewash his fence, women have us paying them—in one form or another—to do what they want done.

115 Why is sex thought to be something women give and we get?

116 We need to be more selective about whom we have sex with. A woman should give a man an erection at least three times before he gives it to her once.

Taking Equal Control of Dating

117 Instead of fretting about whether our dates are the kind of women who want us to open their door, we need to decide whether we're the kind of men who want the kind of women who want us to open their door.

And if you're going to open her door, it might be worth asking what kind of "old-fashioned" things she's going to do for you.

"[The woman] doesn't have to do anything more on the date than show up... don't make it easy for him... he has to do all the work."

— Fein & Schneider, *The Rules*

118 Do we have to pay for dates because we make more money, or do we make more money because we have to pay for dates?

Here's the main point about who pays for dates. The more you pay, the more you're setting yourself up to be the one who will provide money in the relationship. The more you are the one responsible for providing money, the fewer options you will have in your future to do anything else.

When it comes time to pay for the first date, pick up the tab, smile at your date and say, "This one's on me. You can pick up the next one." Simple. Easy. Fair. And it'll help you find out quickly just what she wants you for.

And exactly why should we pay for dates?

"It's just chivalrous... It's nice of you to care about his finances, but remember he is deriving great pleasure from taking you out."

— Fein & Schneider, *The Rules*

119 Women say the rule is "You ask, you pay." Why not "You accept, you pay"?

120 If "you ask, you pay" is really women's rule, does that mean that women who place personal ads pay for the dates they get as a result?

121 How come "you ask, you pay" or "the person who makes more money should pay" isn't the rule when "girlfriends" go out together?

Choice for Men

122 If the government has no right to force a woman into being a parent for nine months of pregnancy, why does the government have the right to force a man to be a parent for eighteen years of work and child support?

A man and woman who have sex and conceive a child are both responsible for that new life.

But the woman—and only the woman—can opt out of her responsibility by getting an abortion.

And the woman—and only the woman—can decide that the other person is going to be a parent against his wishes.

Choice for Men would allow a man to have a paper abortion: nobody dies, but the man is allowed to terminate all legal connections to the child.

Suicide

123 If our lives are so wonderful, and women's are so full of oppression and degradation, why do we commit suicide 4.5 times more often than women do?

The male-female suicide ratio is bad and getting worse. For 15-to-24-year-olds, the ratio in 1933 was 1.54 to 1. In 1971 it was 3.0 to 1. In 1995 it was 6.1 to 1.

— National Center for Health Statistics
Centers for Disease Control

124 Sure, more women than men "attempt" suicide, but if they "fail" so often we have to conclude either that they're incompetent... or they didn't really mean to "succeed."

Feminacentrism in Reporting Suicide

In a story about a rash of suicides at the University of Maryland, the Washington Post on July 16, 1992 reported that "six of the eight suicides were upperclass or graduate students," that "six of the eight suicides occurred this spring" and that "none of the suicides appeared to be related."

They never reported that six of the eight victims were male.

It seems unlikely that if six of the eight victims were female the Post would be oblivious to gender, especially if the gender factor were as startling for women as it is for men.

• • •

In covering a rash of youth suicides in South Boston, NBC News on May 6, 1997 never mentioned that all the victims were male. Neither did NPR's "Weekend All Things Considered," covering the same story on June 15, 1997.

125 Why do we ignore the gender component of suicide? Because it would force us to acknowledge that this is not a man's world, and would require some changes our society would find difficult, inconvenient and threatening.

"The great bulk of non-fatal [suicide] attempts, which is to say the great bulk of female attempts, were very ambivalent about killing themselves. Men, generally, don't attempt suicide unless they are completely devoid of hope."

— Dr. David Clark, Director of the Center for Suicide Research
past president of the American Association of Suicidology,
in an interview with Jack Kammer, August 1992

"Call your mother, Gigi! Liane d'Exelmans has committed suicide."

The child replied with a long drawn-out "Oooh!" and asked, "Is she dead?"

"Of course not. She knows what she's about."

— from the French novel Gigi by Colette
translated by Roger Senhouse

STATISTICS, "STUDIES" AND OTHER SMOKESCREENS

In the Womenfirsters' campaign to get Whatever Women Want, there are lies, damn lies and femstats. The term "femstat" was coined by Asa Baber in his column in the April 1990 issue of Playboy magazine: "Feminist statistics, often gathered in a strange and cavalier fashion and quoted liberally; statistics that are used to supposedly prove the unequal status of women and the triumph of men."

"No one cares what the real numbers are. They just want to make political statements."

— Kathryn Newcomer
professor of statistics and public policy at George Washington University
in Insight magazine
commenting on widely published rape statistics

Don't fall into the trap of arguing over femstats. You'll simply be outgunned. Millions of dollars of government and foundation money each year fund bogus and biased "studies" and "surveys." Even if the studies are valid, they're often wildly distorted, misinterpreted and misquoted.

When I inquired of Miss Hoeffler how she had arrived at the 40 per cent depression figure in the face of the finding that women were enjoying life most of the time, she candidly told me she was very concerned that the Harris study not be just another study reflecting "white male norms" of research, adding that... she was doing her best to counter "phallogocentric bias." I was not surprised to find that she had specialized in feminist theory at Hunter College. According to one Washington, D.C., researcher to whom I recently spoke: "Under Secretary Shalala, Health and Human Services has been mobilized as the research and policy arm of the feminist movement."
— Christina Hoff Sommers, Ph.D., author of *Who Stole Feminism*;
in the *National Review*, September 2, 1996

When these numbers are dropped on you, you can use two tactics. The first is to challenge their authenticity by saying something like this:

"Would you believe a 'study' by an 'expert' at an economic 'institute' funded by General Motors that said auto makers deserved a tax subsidy? Then why do you expect me to believe the biased, self-serving and unscientific numbers pheminism generates to support its agenda?"

Or this:

"That pseudo-study was done by a Womenfirst zealot who used a small, self-selected group of people and (or) a daffynition⁹ to get the result she wanted. It's SLOP¹⁰. It's bogus."

Or this:

"I'd like to see the original study. Pheminism and the media have a poor record when it comes to keeping statistics on gender issues straight."

⁹ A definition that has been so flattened and cheapened as to be ludicrous. For instance, including "having sex because a man pouted when you said no" in the definition of rape or "he failed to pay you compliments" as a definition of abuse.

¹⁰ Self-selected Listener Opinion Polls. Bogus "studies" in which responses come from people motivated to respond to a particular questionnaire, not from a scientifically representative sample.

Here is an example of how reckless femstats can be. A study of violence—all violence, not just domestic violence—was conducted in a poor, inner city Philadelphia neighborhood. Twelve percent of the perpetrators of injury to women were male domestic partners. But when Surgeon General Antonia Novello said correctly that "one study found violence [all violence, not just domestic violence] to be... the leading cause of injury to women ages 15 through 44 years," it was seized upon and distorted by women's activists. A domestic violence pamphlet said "findings by the Surgeon General reveal that domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women between ages 15 and 44, more common than automobile accidents, muggings and cancer combined." The femstat was then picked up in an editorially shoddy Newsweek article, and now it is widely quoted in "everyone knows" tones.

Other examples of femstats that pheminism often uses to berate us:

- men's standard of living goes up after divorceⁱ
- one out of four college women will be victims of rape or attempted rapeⁱⁱ
- Super Bowl Sunday is the most dangerous day of the year for womenⁱⁱⁱ.

ⁱ the debunked but widely quoted work of Lenore Weitzman

ⁱⁱ the debunked but widely quoted work of Mary Koss

ⁱⁱⁱ the debunked but widely quoted work of Lenore Walker

The second tactic involves a conceptual attack on the bogus Womenfirst claim. For instance:

When she says

Women make 59 cents for every dollar earned by men.

95% of all domestic violence is committed by men against women.

40% of child support is never paid; this shows that men are irresponsible and don't care about their kids.

You say

If women really made 59 cents on the dollar for the same work as men, what business could compete by hiring any men at all?[†]

That's based on police reports. Men are embarrassed to report being pounded on by their wives.

How many women would obey court orders to continue cooking and cleaning for their husbands after they're divorced, especially if he took the kids away from her? Besides, women's compliance with child support orders is much worse than men's.

[†] Thanks to Warren Farrell, Ph.D., author of *Women Can't Hear What Men Don't Say*.

If and when you get to the point where you need your own hard numbers and statistics to use in discussions of gender issues, these four books will serve you well:

- Women Can't Hear What Men Don't Say
by Warren Farrell (October 1999)
- Ceasefire: Why Women and Men Must Join Forces to Achieve True Equality
by Cathy Young (February 1999)
- The Male Mystique: The Politics of Masculinity
by Andrew Kimbrell (August 1995)
- Who Stole Feminism? How Women Have Betrayed Women
by Christina Sommers (May 1994)

CONCLUSION

If anything in this book rings true for you, you can be sure you're not imagining things. You can put aside your haunting suspicion that because you think some things are pretty unfair for men you must have a "personal problem." You're not a malcontent, a jerk, a loser, a Neanderthal, a woman-hater or a weirdo. The fact that you have been made to feel that way is testimony to the power and effectiveness of the old advice, "Divide and Conquer." As men we've been worse than divided. We've been isolated and alienated—not only from each other, but even from our own selves and from our own belief in what we see and experience.

I hope you're saying to yourself, "Okay. So now what?"

First, the good news: all you have to do is talk about it.

Now, the bad news: you have to talk about it.

Ask other men if they've ever thought about these things. Tell them you've read this book. Give them a copy on a floppy disk. E-mail it. Tell them to download it from RulyMob.com. See what they have to say. You'll be surprised at how much agreement you'll find once you break the silence, once you overcome your fear that you're alone in what you think.

The goal right now is just to make it natural and comfortable for men to speak openly and forthrightly—even when women are present—about the changes we want and need in our lives. Nothing else can happen until that does. Everything can happen afterward.

LEXICON

"The notion of giving something a name is the vastest generative idea that was ever conceived."

— Suzanne K. Langer
as quoted by Gloria Steinem in Revolution from Within.

Front Man	A man occupying an illusory position of power who is actually operating under the control of others.
Lace Curtain	The refusal of media gatekeepers to acknowledge ideas and data that challenge pheminist ideology and statistics.
Masculism	The belief that achieving fairness and equity between the sexes requires addressing sexism against men as well as against women.
Misandry	Unreasoning, reflexive hatred, fear or distrust of men.
NOWWW	The National Organization for Whatever Women Want; American culture since the 1970s.
Pheminism	A term combining "phony" and "feminism" to denote the idea that "equal rights for women" is the same thing as "more and special rights for women."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jack Kammer is pretty much a regular fellow who believes that we should have as much happiness, joy, freedom, fairness and dignity in our lives as women have in theirs.



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¹¹ Photograph by Lisa Strickland