

The Australian Gender Report for May 2007.

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Disclaimer: The opinions of writers in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect that of the Institute. As a general policy we seek to publish articles which are pro-family, and which uphold traditional/Christian values, and are also respectful of others opinions and beliefs.

Compiled by Alan Barron, Convenor, The Memucan Institute.www.memucan.net

Odd-spot

Nothing like a freshly blended frog juice to put a spring in your step...

When next in Peru, you should try their liquid Vigara. This local brew claims it can cure asthma, bronchitis, sluggishness and loss of libido. It consists of blending hot bean broth, honey, raw aloe-vera, maca - a local root, and a freshly skinned frog thrown into the mixture just prior to drinking. Frog juice anyone? (The Age 5/5/07.)

Quotes of the month:

`Democracy is a system of government of the people, by the people and for the people.'" - Abraham Lincoln, 16th president of the United States of America.

On this day

Events

- 1495 - Friar John Cor records the first known batch of [scotch whisky](#).
- 1533 - [Anne Boleyn](#) crowned Queen of England (Second wife of Henry VIII).
- 1660 - [Mary Dyer](#) hanged for defying a law banning [Quakers](#) from the [colony](#).
- 1862 - American Civil War Peninsula Campaign: [Battle of Seven Pines](#) or (Battle of Fair Oaks)
- 1869 - [Thomas Edison](#) receives a patent for his electric [voting machine](#).
- 1910 - [Robert Falcon Scott's South Pole](#) expedition leaves England.
- 1918 - World War I Western Front: [Battle for Belleau Wood](#) starts.
- 1941 - World War II: [Battle of Crete](#) ends as [Crete](#) capitulates to [Germany](#).
- 1942 - World War II: The [Warsaw](#) paper *Liberty Brigade* publishes the first news of the concentration camps.
- 1962 - [Adolf Eichmann](#) hanged in Israel.
- 1967 - The Beatles' *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* is released.
- 1990 - [George H. W. Bush](#) and [Mikhail Gorbachev](#) sign a treaty to end [chemical weapon](#) production.
- 2003 - The People's Republic of China begins filling the [reservoir](#) behind the [Three Gorges Dam](#).

Births

- 1934 - Pat Boone, American singer
- 1937 - Morgan Freeman, American actor
- 1937 - Colleen McCullough, Australian novelist
- 1947 - Ron Wood, English guitarist
- 1950 - Wayne Nelson, Musician (Little River Band)
- 1959 - Martin Brundle, British race car driver
- 1968 - Jason Donovan, Australian actor and singer
- 1973 - Adam Garcia, Australian actor

Deaths

- 1879 - Napoléon Eugène, Prince Imperial son of Emperor Napoleon III (b. 1856)
 - 1962 - Adolf Eichmann, Nazi official (b. 1906)
 - 1981 - Carl Vinson, U.S. Congressman (b. 1883)
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News Items

*** Family Tax Benefit – helping low income families**

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News Items

Family Tax Benefit – helping low income families

Howard Government doubles working family's income! This unlikely-sounding scenario is true for single-income families with children and earning low take-home wages.

In fact, the \$25,000 a year gross wages of a breadwinner with two children and a carer/spouse, is topped up to \$37,721 net, as a result of family tax benefits. This is without taking into account any childcare payments received or the many benefits of the health cards available to those on low incomes...Most families with children, and on low to average incomes, receive more money back, cash in hand, than they pay in income tax – and rightly so. By rearing children they are performing the single most vital service for the future of Australia...

..the Howard Government has increased what is now called Family Tax Benefit A and introduced Family Tax Benefit B, which is not affected by the income of the major breadwinner and is weighted towards children under five years, to some extent encouraging one parent to remain a full-time primary carer. For this the Government has been criticised by feminists and others who believe that mothers of pre-school children should be encouraged to re-join the paid workforce.

The following scenarios, based on typical family situations, illustrate the effect of current family tax benefits. The payments have been deliberately skewed to assist single-income families on \$40,000 pa and below, and even include a lump sum payment of \$646 per child, paid at the end of the financial year, as a buffer against the consequences of families inadvertently underestimating their incomes.

- **Scenario A:**

A single-income family on an annual wage of \$40,000 has two children under five years old. They pay \$6,450 income tax, but receive for each child \$4,318 under Family Tax Benefit A and \$3,467 under Family Tax Benefit B - a total of \$15,570 of tax-free extra income.

- **Scenario B:**

A single-income family on an annual wage of \$50,000 has two children aged 5-13 years old. They pay \$9,450 income tax, but receive for each child \$2,318 under Family Tax Benefit A and \$2,511 under Family Tax Benefit B – a total of \$9,658 in tax-free extra income.

- **Scenario C:**

A family where the main breadwinner is on an annual wage of \$60,000 and the primary carer earns an annual \$8,000 for part-time work. There are two children aged 5-13 years and one under five years. They pay \$12,450 and \$300 income tax respectively, but receive for the three children \$5,485 under Family Tax Benefit A and \$6,220 under Family Tax Benefit B, a total of \$11,705 in tax-free extra income.

It will be noted that these benefits are weighted towards those families in most need and have the effect of equalising outcomes for low and average single-income families. By reducing Family Tax Benefit A by 20c per child for every dollar of family income earned over \$40,000, and reducing Family Tax Benefit B by 20c per child for every dollar earned by the primary carer over \$4,234, the government is targeting single-income families on modest wages.

In fact, the family with three children described in Scenario C would have an income of only \$1,000 more per annum if the main breadwinner earned \$50,000 than if he earned \$40,000... Of course, many Australian families are hurting, some of them as direct and indirect results of federal and state government policies. Other factors which impact on families include the cost of servicing unrealistic mortgages and paying soaring petrol prices.

Nevertheless, any assessment of the Howard Government's legacy to working Australians must start with its very generous family tax benefits regime. *John Morrissey, News Weekly, May 12, 2007, page 8.*

- * **Clash of the carers**

Parents, child-minding workers collide

Parents and childcare workers are clashing over how to raise children, a new study has found. Discipline, toileting, the value of messy play and solid food are common issues of conflict between childcare workers and parents.

Great differences between a child's child care and home life can lead to insecurity, behavioural problems, language delays and may even damage the child's connection to their family, the national Australian study reports. 'Given the diversity in caregiving that exists, it is inevitable that parents and carers will sometimes disagree on childcare matters,' study author Sarah Wise said.

The Australian Institute of Family Studies findings come as more than half of all three-year-olds are now looked after in out-of-home child-care. 'If a carer is not comfortable doing something a certain

way...the matter needs to be resolved in a positive fashion,' Ms Wise said. She also found that more than half of family day care workers and one quarter of workers in centre-based care do not talk to parents about their childrearing perspectives. Community Childcare CEO Barbara Romeril said the research pre-dated federal quality assurance processes, which meant child care and family day care centres were required to communicate with parents. She said a watering down of federal quality assurance could erode standards. (Herald Sun, 1/30/07, page 9.)

*** Heffernan sorry for 'inappropriate' Gillard remarks**

- *ABC News Online, 2/5/07 and MX, 3/5/07.*

Liberal Senator Bill Heffernan has apologised to Julia Gillard for declaring she is not fit to be the deputy prime minister because she does not have children. Senator Heffernan called Labor's deputy leader "deliberately barren" and said having children would help her understand the community better.

Ms Gillard has shrugged off the comments. "Mr Heffernan, like the Howard Government, overall is a man who's stuck in the past," she said. Ms Rudd says it is a vicious personal attack, "which belong to the 1950s, not the 21 century".

Yesterday, in defending his earlier description of Ms Gillard as "deliberately barren", Senator Heffernan argued that having a family helped political leaders understand their community. But Ms Gillard dismissed the Senator as "irrelevant. I think Australian women understand [that] modern Australian women face a set of choices. They're actually very supportive of Australian women having those choices," she said. "Mr Heffernan's a man of the past. He obviously thinks he's in a position to tell women how to live their lives. "I don't think Australian women need Bill Heffernan or anybody else to give them advice."

Western Australian Premier Alan Carpenter said Senator Heffernan's comments were offensive to all women and he should apologise. "If he's the Prime Minister's right-hand man, then that doesn't say much for the Prime Minister's judgement," Mr Carpenter said. "It's a shocking thing to be saying. He should be forced to apologise."

Treasurer Peter Costello thinks the remarks are out of line. "It's nobody's business who has children or what their reasons are," Mr Costello said. "I don't comment on it and I suggest other people don't comment on it." Environment minister Malcolm Turnbull was among government figures to turn up the heat on Heffernan today, labeling his comments "appalling" and "offensive."

Prime Minister John Howard agrees. "I don't approve of those sorts of comments and I've made that very clear," he said. Late this afternoon, Senator Heffernan issued a written apology, saying his remarks were inappropriate and insensitive.

'Unhelpful distraction'

The Sydney Chamber of Commerce says Senator Heffernan's about Ms Gillard were outrageous. Chamber spokeswoman Patricia Forsythe says the Senator has made a mistake because he has diverted debate about the real issues facing businesses. "It is very serious as we go forward to the next election that we have good public policies and we have good, strong, robust debate," she said.

"We don't need diversions, we don't need comments such as this because from today, the focus is not on public policy, it's on the comments made by an individual member of parliament about another one. From the point of view of business, it's an unhelpful distraction."

Comment: Oh please, what a beat-up! Poor Bill, the whole known universe jumped on him with both feet. It just goes to show how much the media is strongly pro-feminist and highlights yet again the lack

of male solidarity in the halls of power. I guess it was a rather inappropriate thing to say. He was within his rights to attack Gillard. But he would have been better advised to link the childlessness of Gillard to the nation's declining birthrate and the negative impact it is having on the nation's economy and family structures.

Overseas

* USA: New pill makes periods things of the past

The first birth control pill meant to put a stop to women's monthly periods indefinitely has won US federal approval. Called **Lybrel**, it's the first such pill to receive Food and Drug Administration approval for continuous use. When taken daily, the pill can halt women's menstrual periods indefinitely and prevent pregnancies.

Lybrel is the latest approved oral contraceptive to depart from the 21-days-on, seven-days-off regimen that had been standard since birth-control pill sales began in the 1960s. The new pill, manufactured by Wyeth, is the first designed to put off periods altogether when taken without break.

The pill isn't for everyone, an FDA official said. About half the women enrolled in studies of **Lybrel** dropped out, said Dr Daniel Shames, a deputy director in the FDA's drugs office. Many did so because of the irregular and unscheduled bleeding and spotting that can replace scheduled menstruation. "If you think you don't want to go down this road, this is not for you," Shames told reporters. Wyeth plans to start **Lybrel** sales in the United States in July.

The company said it hasn't yet determined a price for the 28-pill packs. The pill contains a low dose of two hormones already widely used in birth control pills, ethinyl estradiol and levonorgestrel. A study showed **Lybrel** was just as effective in preventing pregnancy as a traditional pill, *Alesse*, also made by Wyeth.

However, since **Lybrel** users will eliminate their regular periods, it may be difficult for them to recognise if they have become pregnant, Shames said. Most of the roughly 12 million American women who take birth-control pills do so to prevent pregnancy.

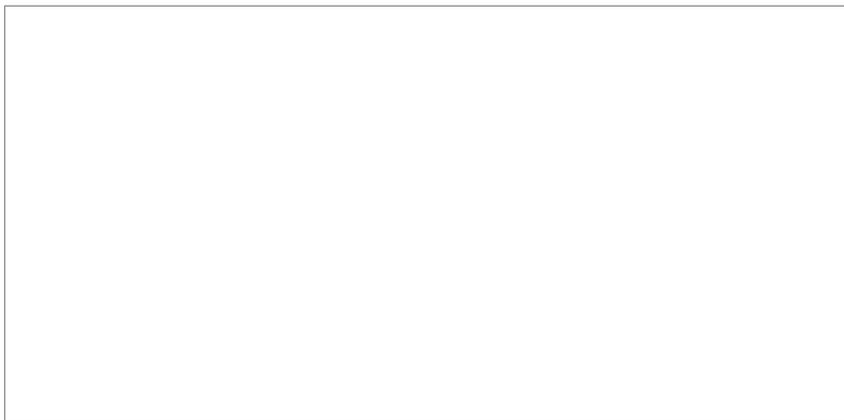
Others rely on hormonal contraceptives to curb acne or regulate their monthly periods. Some nontraditional pills such as *Yaz* and *Loestrin 24* shorten monthly periods to three days or less. *Seasonique*, an updated version of *Seasonale*, reduces them to four times a year. With **Lybrel**, in one test, 59 per cent of the women who took **Lybrel** for a year had no bleeding or spotting during the last month of the study. However, because of dropouts, that translates into only about one-third of all the women originally enrolled in the study, Shames said.

"Women who use **Lybrel** would not have a scheduled menstrual period, but will most likely have unplanned, breakthrough, unscheduled bleeding or spotting," Shames said. The bleeding can last four to five days and may persist for a year, he later added. Women who take other low-dose pills have reported similar issues. (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 23/5/07, *Fairfax Media*.)

USA: 'Life's Short. Get a Divorce.' -- Chicago Billboard Turns Heads

By Chris Francescani, ABC News Law & Justice Unit, ABC News 7 May 2007. As reported on Manunit Exchange 12/5/07.

Divorce Lawyer Calls Law Firm's Ad 'Grotesque'



Picture: A law firm's billboard in Chicago's "Viagra Triangle" area is drawing criticism from some area attorneys who say it makes light of divorce. (Fetman, Garland & Associates, LTD)

EDITOR'S NOTE: The billboard that is that subject of this story was taken down on Tuesday evening by the owners of a parking garage it was attached to, according to Corri Fetman, a lawyer whose firm paid for the advertisement, and witnesses who contacted ABC News when they saw the billboard being taken down. Updated Tuesday, 7:57 p.m EST.

An all-female law firm is turning heads in Chicago with a new billboard and a blunt message:

"Life's Short. Get a Divorce."

The billboard, sponsored by Fetman, Garland & Associates, Ltd., a firm that specializes in divorce cases, features the six-pack abs of a headless male torso and tanned female cleavage heaving forth from a black lace bra. The ad is the brainchild of Corri Fetman, who told ABC News' Law & Justice Unit, "Law firm advertising is boring... Everything's always the same. It's lawyers in libraries with a suit on and the law books behind them. They don't say anything. What, I should hire you because you have a law degree? C'mon. So we wanted to try something different."

Reaction from those who work in and around Chicago's divorce courts has been less than enthusiastic. "It's grotesque," said John Ducanto, past president of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. "It's totally undignified and offensive."

"It trivializes divorce and I think it's absolutely disgusting," Rick Tivers, a clinical social worker at the Center for Divorce Recovery in Chicago, told ABC News. "Divorce is traumatic enough without this kind of [advertising]. We try and help people go through the divorce process with as much integrity as possible. A lot of my work is helping people grieve the loss of a divorce, and their own sense of betrayal. This makes divorce seem like it's not a big deal, and it's a huge deal for many people."

Ducanto called on the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Committee of Supreme Court of Illinois to sanction Fetman. "I don't think they'll just let this pass," said Ducanto, who seemed genuinely hurt by the ad. "I have been in practice for 52 years, and I've worked my ass off to change the image of this particular area of the legal practice, and to see some punk try and pervert the whole image in the interest of lucre. ... Sure, she's got a lot of attention, but it's like a guy who spits on a table — you got the attention, sure, but what kind of attention is it?"

But the ARDC's deputy administrator James Grogan told ABC News that traditionally Illinois has been reluctant to sanction lawyers for anything short of false or misleading advertising.

USA: Pennsylvania Court Orders Sperm Donor to Lesbian Couple to Pay Child Support

Fox News, 9 May 2007 as reported on Manunit Exchange, 11/5/07.

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania - A sperm donor who helped a lesbian couple conceive two children is liable for child support under a state appellate court ruling that a legal expert believes might be the first of its kind in the U.S.

A Superior Court panel last week ordered a Dauphin County judge to establish how much Carl L. Frampton Jr. would have to pay to the birth mother of the 8-year-old boy and 7-year-old girl. "I'm unaware of any other state appellate court that has found that a child has, simultaneously, three adults who are financially obligated to the child's support and are also entitled to visitation," said New York Law School professor Arthur S. Leonard, an expert on sexuality and the law.

But Frampton, 60, of Indiana, Pennsylvania, died suddenly of a stroke in March, leaving lawyers involved in the case with different theories about how his death may affect the precedent-setting case. Jodilynn Jacob, 33, and Jennifer Lee Shultz-Jacob, 48, moved in together as a couple in 1996, and were granted a civil-union license in Vermont in 2002. In addition to conceiving the two children with the help of Frampton a longtime friend of Shultz-Jacob's Jacob also adopted her brother's two older children, now 12 and 13

But the women's relationship fell apart, and Jacob and the children moved out of their Dillsburg, Pennsylvania, home in February 2006. Shortly afterward, a court awarded her about \$1,000 a month in support from Shultz-Jacob. Shultz-Jacob later lost an effort to have the court force Frampton to contribute support a decision that the Superior Court overturned April 30.

Jacob, who now lives in Harrisburg, said Frampton provided some financial support over the years and gradually took a greater interest in the children. "Part of the decision came down because he was so involved with them," Jacob said Wednesday. "It wasn't that he went to the (sperm) bank and that was it. They called him Papa."

The process was very informal Jacob was inseminated at home. In his written opinion requiring Frampton to help pay for the child's support, Superior Court Judge John T.J. Kelly Jr. noted that Frampton spent thousands of dollars on the children, including purchases of toys and clothing. The children knew he was their biological father, but Frampton opposed the effort to compel support from him.

"We made the argument that, according to Pennsylvania law as it stands, there can really only be two adult individuals that can be held liable for support in a child-custody case," said Frampton's lawyer, Matthew Aaron Smith. Shultz-Jacob's lawyer, Heather Z. Reynosa, wants Frampton's support obligation to be made retroactive to when Jacob first filed for support. Frampton's Social Security survivor benefits may also help reduce Shultz-Jacob's monthly obligation.

It is unclear how the child-support guidelines, which assume two parents, will be adapted to account for three parents. "That's what's going to be interesting, because there's not a whole lot of guidance out there," Reynosa said.

The state Supreme Court is currently considering a similar case, in which a sperm donor wants to enforce a promise made by the mother that he would not have to be involved in the child's life. That biological father was ordered to pay \$1,520 in monthly support. About two-thirds of states have adopted versions of the Uniform Parentage Act that can shield sperm donors from being forced to assume parenting responsibilities. Pennsylvania has no such law.

France: Women to share Cabinet power

PARIS – France's new president Nicolas Sarkozy will name a government next week that for the first time will put women in as many ministerial positions as men. France will join Chile, Finland, Spain and Sweden in embracing gender parity in government. At least seven women will be named to the 15-person team Mr Sarkozy plans to unveil soon after taking office on Wednesday.

Appointments are expected to include Defence Minister Michele Alliot-Marie, 60, as France's first female foreign minister.

An inexperienced younger woman such as Rachida Dati, 41, the daughter of North African immigrants, could become justice minister.

Mr Sarkozy, who beat Socialist Segolene Royal in the May 6 presidential runoff, promised to give

women an equal share of portfolios as part of his pledge to be ‘the president of all the French’. The former interior minister won the women’s vote, according to a poll that showed 52 per cent of women had backed him against 48 per cent for Ms Royal, who’d urged voters to make history by putting a woman in the Elysee. – AFP. *Herald Sun, 11 May 2007, page 43*

Comment: When will all this nonsense over equality end? The last thing our young women need - as role models - is for women to be given an armchair ride into positions of power and influence. Why do men continually shoot themselves in the foot?

England: The BBC is being ruined by women, says Patrick Moore.

The Times (Britain), 8 May 2007, as reported on Manumit Exchange, 12/5/07.

Sir Patrick Moore has identified an alien species that threatens to destroy intelligent life – the women who have taken over the BBC. The veteran astronomer celebrated the 50th anniversary of The Sky at Night with a withering attack on the female executives he believes have dumbed down the corporation.

Sir Patrick’s outburst echoes criticisms raised by Alasdair Milne, a former Director-General, who provoked a furious response when he accused a female-dominated BBC of producing “terrible” programmes. Sir Patrick, 84, was asked by the Radio Times if television had got better or worse during a career spanning the medium’s life. The answer was worse – “much worse”. He said: “The trouble is that the BBC now is run by women and it shows: soap operas, cooking, quizzes, kitchen-sink plays. You wouldn’t have had that in the golden days.”

They have even destroyed sci-fi, Sir Patrick’s personal passion. He said: “I used to watch Doctor Who and Star Trek, but they went PC – making women commanders, that kind of thing. I stopped watching.”

And don’t sit Sir Patrick in front of a Sophie Raworth bulletin. He said: “These jokey women are not for me. Oh, for the good old days.” He recalled: “There was one day (in 2005) when BBC News went on strike. Then we had the headlines read by a man, talking the Queen’s English, reading the news impeccably.”

Fortunately, Sir Patrick has a solution. Institute a gender divide and create BBC Bloke. He said: “I would like to see two independent wavelengths – one controlled by women, and one for us, controlled by men. I think it may eventually happen.”

Soaps could then safely be produced and watched by women. Sir Patrick said: “I was in hospital once and I watched a whole episode of EastEnders. I suppose it’s true to life. But so is diarrhoea – and I don’t want to see that on television.”

Sir Patrick has an ally in Mr Milne, who ran the BBC between 1982 and 1987. He said the domination of television by women was the reason it had so many “dumb” lifestyle and makeover programmes. Sir Patrick admitted that his animosity towards his long-term employer was sparked by the scheduling of a celebratory 650th edition of The Sky at Night.

Leading roles

- Jana Bennett, Director of BBC Vision. Has overall responsibility for BBC One, BBC Two and the digital channels BBC Three and BBC Four.
- Jenny Abramsky, Director of BBC Radio & Music. Oversees Radios 1, 2, 3, 4, Five Live, digital stations, Popular Music Television.
- Jane Tranter, Controller, BBC Fiction. In charge of drama commissioning (Doctor Who, Life on Mars), programme acquisitions and BBC Films.
- Lucy Lumsden, BBC Controller of Comedy Commissioning. Hits include The Catherine Tate Show and Saxondale.

Comment Pieces:

Victoria's thinning blue line

By [Andrew Bolt](#), Herald Sun, Friday, May 04, 2007.

Lovely to read in my copy of the police *Gazette* that we've hired yet another batch of recruits. The *Gazette* even named the men and women I might one day need to call on to break up some brawl, disperse some Cronulla-style riot, smash into a gangster's house or clear some picket.

So it's hello to the members of Squad Four of 2007. From the top, hello to Kylie, Tegan, Suzanne, Leanne, Jacqueline, Clive, Rachael . . . and hmmm. There's a pattern here, I begin to suspect, being trained as a journalist to pick up subtle clues that might escape you, gentle reader. To be sure, I check the April 5 list of constables newly appointed to our Victoria Police by Chief Commissioner Christine Nixon.

Same story. From the top again, I read their names: Cassandra, Daniela, Kerry, Joel, Julia, Louise, Kristen . . .

I make calls to confirm it's true: two-thirds of these newest recruits and constables are women—and that's far from unusual now. As it turns out, that's also fortunate, since Nixon has given the force until July to make sure 25 per cent of her officers aren't men.

Wait. The people in charge don't like the way I sniff these lists. This isn't affirmative action hiring, they insist. No, it's all *merit based*. And perhaps, in a way, it is. After all, under the Bracks Government—so keen to seem progressive in a 1980s way—the tests for police recruits have been changed in ways that help women a lot. Women, that is, who want to be police, rather than to call for them.

Here are four of those changes. Once recruits had six minutes to complete their physical test; now they get an extra 30 seconds. Once they had to be able to climb a wall 1.8 metres high. Too hard, so the wall was lopped to just 1.6 metres. Even that proved too high for the ladies, so now there's no wall-climbing test at all. Also gone is that dragging of a weighted bag at speed.

And bingo! Sure, our police are now more feeble, but see how many are now women! As the Auditor-General noted in a report on police manpower: "Since 1999, the proportion of female applicants who successfully completed the (fitness) test is over 80 per cent, compared with approximately 30 per cent in the 1990s before the changes were made."

Little was spared to shoe-horn more women into our force—even women who weren't much good at policing or wanted to leave. As the Auditor-General put it: Nixon now had "special support for women throughout the recruitment process, and follow-up with women who fail stages of the process or withdraw". What other rules were bent, what other sly help given, to make sure women were hired above the men that have long been first to volunteer for the job? Never mind that. Nothing seemed as important now as smashing not the mafia, but the maleness of our police.

I exaggerate? Then note that the Australasian Council of Women and Policing, of which Nixon is president, last year gave its bravery medal to our Sen-Sgt Janet Mitchell for "challenging the strongly masculinised culture of the Police Association and her advocacy for women and cultural change".

It all worked a treat, if your main aim is to have a feminised force, rather than the most effective one. The percentage of female recruits went from 27 per cent in 2000 to 41 per cent two years ago, and is even higher now. What an abrupt change it's been—a force that was 80 per cent male only two years ago is now hiring classes of recruits that are 60 per

cent female.

But I must be fair. Nixon says more women actually make the force stronger. For a decade now she has spruiked her new doctrine—that policing is no longer about upholding the law. “Policing is about keeping the peace,” she said in 1996.

“It is only when we begin to attempt such a reassessment that we begin to see how well-suited women are for the task.”

These were honeyed words to this Government, which hired Nixon to practise on our force what she had preached, and create what she boasted would be a “non-authoritarian” culture. Of course, when you redefine policing like that, there are some things you no longer like your police to do. The most obvious, as we’ve seen, is clearing the streets of mobs breaking the law.

Note how Nixon’s force just stood back at last year’s anti-G20 riot as protesters smashed windows, trashed a police van, invaded shops, destroyed a bank’s charity box, vandalised signs, kicked police horses, blocked roads, terrified local workers, stole a policeman’s baton and injured nine officers. Just seven protesters were arrested that day, most hours after the worst damage had been done.

Only after a public outcry and months of expensive detective work were more suspects picked up in raids as far away as Sydney. It’s true that using police muscle has been made risky by crusading lawyers and activist magistrates. But the force Nixon is developing—less fit, less strong, less authoritative—may soon be physically unable to do much other than such hands-off policing. Already some male officers warn of having to protect weaker female colleagues in a brawl or take their place at picket lines that turn rough. Others claims that policewomen on patrol have called for backup at jobs two men could do on their own.

Yet others complain that women officers gravitate to desk jobs—particularly once they are pregnant—leaving men to do the hard stuff. Be clear. I don’t dispute there are many police jobs that can be done by women. I’m even sure that women tend to be better suited at some aspects of policing of the more calm-down kind. But I wonder if this rush to recruit more women is leaving us with a force able to do all we’d like. What corners are being cut? Are we hiring recruits with the right talents, or just right gender?

As you consider this, imagine another G20 style riot—this time outside your factory, shop or office. Or a gang of party-crashers in your street, out for trouble. You ring for the police to come clear the mob, and watch as the cavalry arrives. Hey, don’t go all pale. Just say hello again to Kylie, Tegan, Suzanne, Leanne, Jacqueline, Clive, Rachael . . .

Comment:

Congrats to Andrew on this article. What more can one say? People of goodwill should write to Andrew and encourage him to keep on exposing these silly policies. I can't understand why men acquiesce in this nonsense which is so detrimental to their job and career prospects – it's beyond me!

The wastage rate for police female recruits is much higher than for male recruits. So why is the Police Force persist in these noddy land practices? Because Police Chief Commissioner Christine Nixon says so? Time for men in blue to take action and rid themselves of these shackles!

|Equal Pay Day |

By Ashley Herzog, Tuesday, May 8, 2007

When Equal Pay Day arrived on April 24, I decided to ignore it and let feminists complain about the nonexistent “pay gap” without comment from me. But, after two weeks of media laments and promises by Democratic presidential nominees to promote “paycheck equity,” I came to a startling realization: people actually took this day seriously.

The premise behind Equal Pay Day is that women only earn 77 cents for every dollar that men make and that the reason for the disparity is sex discrimination. This theory is both extremely pervasive and demonstrably false. Evidence of a “pay gap” is only produced by faulty research methods that ignore the fact that men and women make different choices about education, work, and family.

First, the belief that employers get away with paying women 77 percent of what men make can only be explained by a lack

of understanding of basic economic principles. If it were true, money-grubbing employers would hire only women, since it would lower costs and increase profits. We know that doesn't happen, so feminists have invented a preposterous explanation: male businessmen care so much about keeping women "in their place" that they're willing to lose money by hiring men. Is it just me, or do people like Donald Trump seem slightly more concerned with getting rich than maintaining patriarchy? Already, the pay gap theory has serious flaws.

Second, the 77 cents to the dollar figure is calculated by comparing the average salaries of all men to all women. It does not account for occupation, education, the number of hours worked, or the different roles that jobs play in men's and women's lives. The average woman earns less because she's made different choices in life – a fact that feminists, despite all their caterwauling about the importance of "choice," refuse to accept.

What women's studies majors who lament about the pay gap don't realize is that they're contributing to it. According to economist June O'Neill, a major reason women make less than men is that they often choose college majors in lower-paying "humanities" fields, such as education, journalism, English and social work, while men are more attracted to high-paying fields like business and engineering. If women's studies majors are so outraged by the pay gap, maybe they should all drop out and enroll in the College of Engineering. That act alone would do much more to close the pay gap than blaming sexism.

After graduation, men and women often have different work priorities. Warren Farrell, a male feminist and former board member of the National Organization for Women, conducted years of research for his book, *Why Men Earn More*. He found that men were the vast majority of employees working more than 55 hours a week, were more willing to move frequently for work, and were more likely to stick with a well-paying job they hated. Women, on the other hand, tended to value things like flexibility and personal fulfillment over higher pay.

Many women also take time off to stay home with children, causing them to miss out on experience and promotions. This might bother feminists, but Farrell found that most mothers viewed the trade-off as worthwhile.

Meanwhile, no significant study has ever found that women with the same education and experience, who work the same number of hours, earn less than their male colleagues. Both O'Neill and Farrell identified several jobs where women actually out-earn men.

In a column last month, writer Carrie Lukas summed up the factors behind the pay gap. "In truth, I'm the cause of the wage gap," she wrote. "Throughout my career, I've made things other than money a priority. I chose to work in the nonprofit world because I find it fulfilling. I sought out a specialty and employer that seemed best suited to balancing my work and family life. I'm not making as much money as I could, but I'm compensated by having the best working arrangement I could hope for."

In every study conducted by a person not beholden to the feminist agenda, the gender pay gap is more a matter of women's preferences than systematic sexism. If feminists are really concerned with ensuring women "freedom of choice," why can't they accept the fact that women don't always want the exact same things men do?

Ashley Herzog is a junior at Ohio University, studying journalism, and lives in Avon Lake, Ohio.

http://www.townhall.com/Columnists/AshleyHerzog/2007/05/08/equal_pay_day