

# *Patriarchy kills.*



*The connection of sex and violence is only one part of the deadly conditioning of the young American male.*

Be a man  
Kill someone  
Kill yourself  
Be a man

*Sex Pistols, Belsen Was A Gas, 1978*

## *Men speak out against sexism*

*(in conjunction with the 1992 Riot Grrrl Convention)*

## VOICES FROM THE MEN'S GROUP

At the moment of birth, at the instant that our sex is determined, our existence begins to be slowly constricted, and by the time we reach adulthood, we are fully fucked. Sexism and the attitudes and actions associated with sexuality are destructive forces that fetter men and women, gay or straight. It is something that afflicts us all. Violence towards women and homosexuals is one of the most obvious flaws of this predetermined sexual code that Americans live under, and often tolerate. But it is something I and many other people won't stand for. But as we know there is a lot more to sexism than condemning rape and gay bashing. Just because we might not tell a sexist joke or believe that AIDS is a punishment for the gay community, doesn't mean we are not sexists. It is something that is so deeply ingrained within us since childhood that we can't deny. Maybe it has to do with the way you tense up when you stand next to two lesbians or that when you criticize a woman, you somehow manage to bring up her sex in between. The point is that sexism and our insecurities and preconceived notions about sexuality are often very subtle, but present, even among the most "open minded" of people. We have to accept it and try to change from within, and so try to change others. That is why I have chosen to be a member of the men's group, and that is why I think that there should be more members of the men's group.

---ranald woodaman

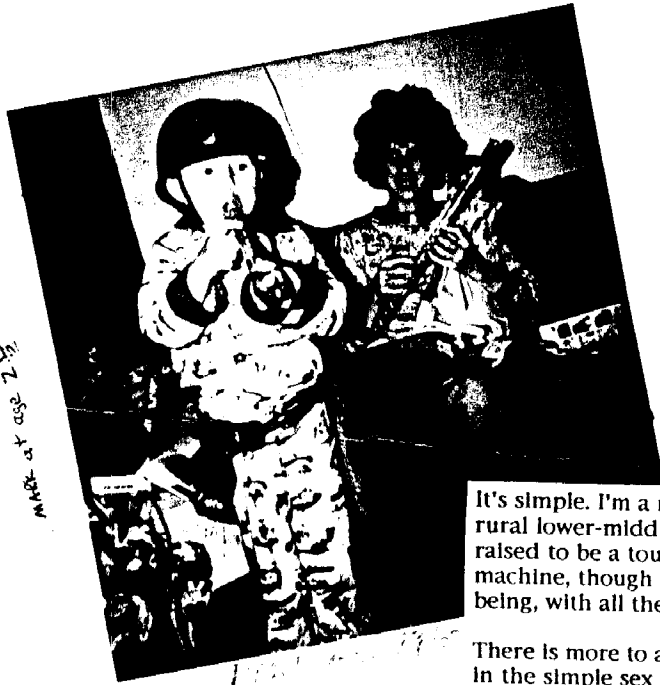
.....  
LOVE JUSTICE PEACE EQUALITY LIFE HOPE ACTION CREATION  
HONESTY SINCERITY CARING HAPPINESS THOUGHT COMPASSION  
DREAMS INTEGRITY SHARING RESPONSIBILITY ALTERNATIVES  
COMMITMENT JOY FREEDOM CHANGE LIFE POSSIBILITIES LOVE  
.....

Jon Gurr

Being unskilled in the art of creative writing, I'll keep this simple.

Regardless of sex, we all have the same potential for growth and achievement in our lives. However, our society does not seem to accept this as true. Men are placed into the role of achiever and protector and women are placed into the role of the helpless protectee (protected?). We need to look at the traditional roles that we seem to (or at least, I seem to) fall into so easily and realize that they truly are artificial and 'man-made'. I feel that honest discussion of sex-roles between men (how unusual!) as well as between women and men or women and women would be beneficial to all involved.

Brendan



**PATRIARCHY:** the prevailing system of social organization, based on subjugation of women by men, with rigid male/female roles that emphasizes toughness, aggressiveness and efficiency by men and submissiveness, nurturing and emotionality in women. This dualism appears to favor men though it destroys their humanity as well as women's.

It's simple. I'm a man. As a man--and especially as one raised in a rural lower-middle class/working class background--I have been raised to be a tough, efficient work/sex/fighting machine. I'm not a machine, though and I don't want to be a machine. I'm a human being, with all the awesome frailty and possibility implicit in that.

There is more to any individual human being than can be captured in the simple sex role prisons of male/female, boy/girl. It has long been plainly and painfully obvious to me that the female half of our human species has been obliterated, wounded, ignored, trusted, raped, trivialized, and OPPRESSED just about everywhere human creatures have walked. The abuse of those who make up just over 1/2 of the human race is an outrageous crime and must be fought on all levels by all means necessary. How I, as a man, was being deadened, desensitized, dehumanized and destroyed, however, did not become clear to me till later--ironically, as a result of feminism.

I take feminism's critique of men not as a threat, but as hope for myself as a man, chained within an inhuman, violent, dehumanizing upbringing. But even though feminism offers hope to men, it also demands action. All men need to take on a two-fold challenge: (#1, to take responsibility to change ourselves, to help stop male violence against women and to support women in their struggle against sexism and (#2, to defy male conditioning for ourselves so that we can be human beings capable of love, tenderness, and true expression, not deadly desensitized weapons or labor machines killing ourselves, others and our Earth to succeed as "real men".


*This is not an idle intellectual question--for me, it is life and death. I hope that I will have the courage to continue to confront myself, to accept criticism, to stay alive and growing. No one can do this alone. I find encouragement and inspiration from many sources, including the other men in our group and the girls/women in Riot Grrrl. I hope, in turn, to encourage other men to shed their chains/privileges and work together w/ our emulated sisters to make our lives and our world all that they can be.*

Mark Andersen

Punk means fight (sexist) bullshit. ~~fight~~ ~~fight~~

## SEXISM:

the belief that one sex is superior to the other, enforced by institutions that insure that each sex will abide by their respective role definitions or risk social disapproval, rejection, imprisonment or, ultimately, even death.

Special thanks  
to  
Sally Mathews  
for her kind donation. 

# MEN *can stop* RAPE

(a few tips  
for men on  
how to start)

(written by Mark Andersen)

**\*\*Don't laugh at jokes that make light of rape, harassment or other belittling of women or their concerns.** This helps to build the social context within which rape becomes acceptable. If necessary, calmly confront the man who is making the joke, explaining why you do not find it funny and saying that you wish he would not talk that way.

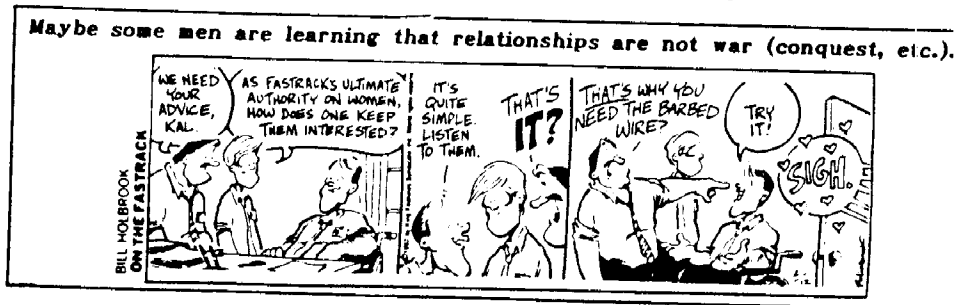
**\*\*Don't support magazines, movies, language or music that objectifies or demeans women.** Anything, from pornography to MTV to advertising that makes women seem less-than-human or makes them into a product to be consumed contributes to the psychic numbing that makes rape possible. The same process of "dehumanizing the enemy/desensitizing the soldier" that goes on in war goes on everyday, especially for men who often have not been brought to be deeply sensitive creatures in the first place. Men need to see women as they really are--not as the "other", an "enemy" or a "product" but as thinking, feeling human beings.

**\*\*Give support and acceptance to a woman/girl who says she has been raped.** Listen to them and believe them. Though there are women who have lied about attacks, there are far more who have faced the double penalty of the attack itself and then the disbelief of those who she confides in--truly adding insult to injury.

**\*\*Don't blame a woman for being raped.** Often our society blames the victim for their plight--"the poor are lazy", etc.--but we must see beyond this. Women do not ask to be raped. They should have the right to walk wherever they want, to say whatever they want, to wear whatever they want, without being raped. Rape is not a sexual act, it is an act of violence and domination. Men must be held responsible for their actions. *Nothing justifies the crime of rape.*

**\*\*Educate yourself about rape and support the efforts by women in your life to educate themselves or take self-defense or otherwise protect themselves against assault.** You have not been put on earth to be women's protector. Remember that you are simply trying to take responsibility for your own actions and those of other men. Women are also acting for themselves. Let them. Support, don't patronize.

**\*\*Be aware of how your presence as a man affects women on the street or elsewhere.** Sad to say, in our society, a woman has every reason to be suspicious of men, especially unfamiliar men in public situations. For example, it is advisable if you find yourself walking behind a woman on a lonely street at night to cross to the other side of the street. Don't be offended that a woman might be suspicious of you. Rather sympathize with her plight--after all, you as a man have not had to live your whole life in fear of physical assault.



**\*\*Demand that the police and courts take rape seriously as a violent crime.** Insist that sufficient funding is given to public and private agencies that deal with rape prevention and counseling. Demand that the legal system put the accused rapist and not the victim on trial. Rape is one of the most underreported crimes--mostly because of the social stigma attached to it and the agony inflicted upon the victim by the courts, police, etc. Many authorities pay lip service to such concerns--it's your job to see that they do more.

**\*\*Tho this may sound strange, perhaps the most important thing you can as a man do is to not rape.** This means learning to communicate openly and honestly about your desires, and insisting on that from your partner(s). It means learning to take "no" for an answer and not assuming that "no" means "maybe". Learn to communicate your feelings without violence or its threat. This may mean avoiding sex with anyone who is drunk or chemically impaired or too young or who otherwise may be vulnerable to you. A large proportion of rapes take place between acquaintances. Sex must be explicitly and mutually agreed upon, free of undue pressure, or it is rape.

**\*\*Support and, if possible, join groups such as DC Men Against Rape** who explicitly seek to encourage men to take their responsibility to help end rape. Almost without exception, it is men who rape--herce we must bear a special responsibility to help end it. Women today face an undeclared war against them. If you're a man who opposes violence against women, it's time to act--words are not enough.

DC MEN AGAINST RAPE can be reached at 202-393-2627.

# True Contra- ceptions

Stories  
for Men

CAN YOU BELIEVE THE  
NERVE OF THIS CHARMING  
DRAGLE - SHE WANTS 24  
HOURS TO GET AN  
ABORTION!



IF SHE DIDN'T WANT  
A KID, SHE SHOULDN'T  
HAVE SLEPT WITH HIM.



HE OFFERED  
TO MARRY  
HER...

...BUT MEN  
DON'T HAVE ANY  
JOBS ANYMORE.



OH  
YEAH?!

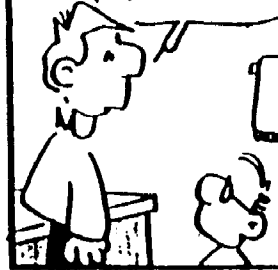
IF WOMEN HAVE TO CARRY  
AND RAISE THE BABY, THEN  
IT'S OUR RIGHT TO CHOOSE.



Y'KNOW  
MAYBE MEN'S  
RIGHT.



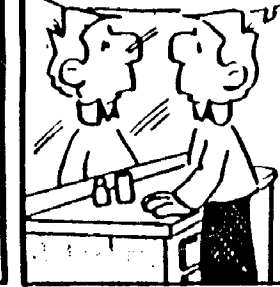
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE  
MAN'S RIGHT? IT'S  
HIS KID TOO!



HOW CAN  
WE EVEN  
BEGIN TO  
TALK ABOUT  
RIGHTS WHEN  
WE NEVER  
TAKE ANY  
RESPONSIBILITY



RESPONSIBILITY? BUT I  
KNOW MY GIRLFRIEND  
TAKES THE PILL.



YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK?  
THE KID'S RIGHT. MEN SHOULD  
BE TALKING MORE  
ABOUT THEIR  
RESPONSIBILITIES.

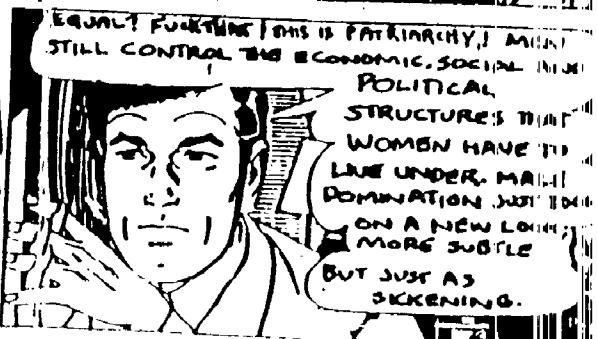
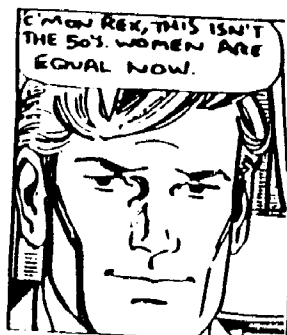
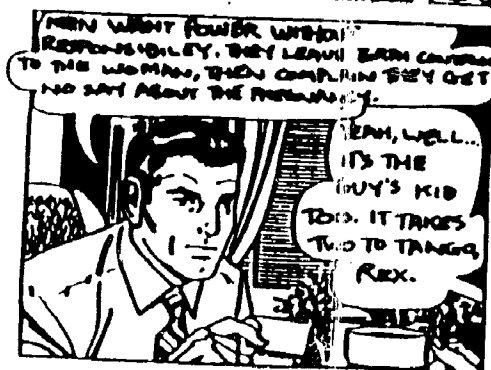
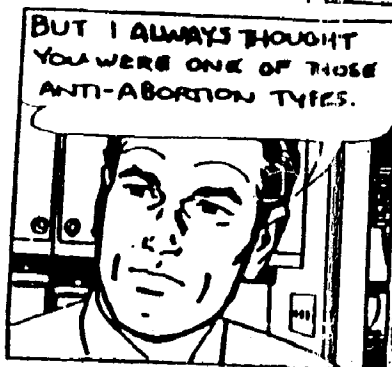
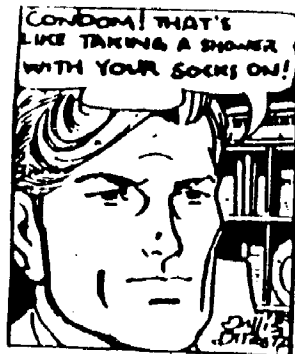


LAST NIGHT  
I FINALLY  
SCORED WITH THAT  
NEW  
SECRETARY.

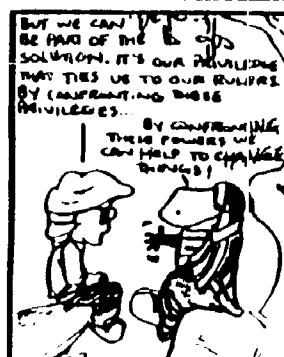
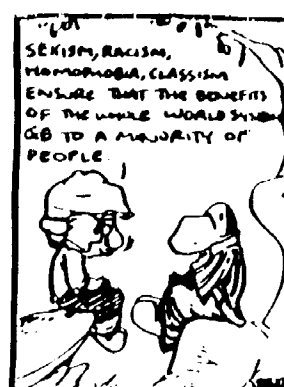
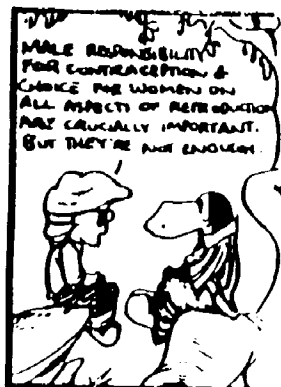


GREAT!  
BUT DID YOU  
WEAR A  
CONDOM?





These comics were produced by a bunch of anarchist men in Toronto who have been meeting regularly over the last year to discuss sexism and ways of ending it. It is up to men to confront misogyny, and we published them. For these comics we are surrounded with a glass wall. You are at our side. Please get, make your own. It's fun and easy. Well, fun at least. ©





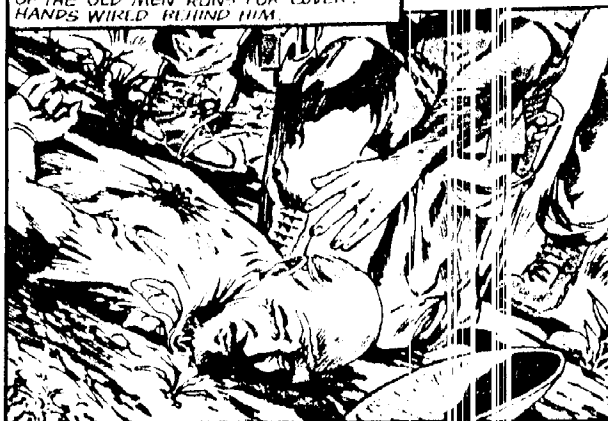


ONCE, SNEAKING WITH JEFF ALISON INTO HIS FATHER'S BEDROOM WE FOUND THE SILVER STAR, ON VELVET IN A BLACK BOX.



MY FAVOURITE TOY WAS A BATTERY OPERATED MACHINE GUN WITH A FLASHING RED BARREL. I MOWED DOWN THOUSANDS WITH IT.

BARRIER ISLAND, GO NOI RIVER, AUGUST 1967. I AM ESCORTING SIX ELDERLY DETAINEES ACROSS THE HOT SAND WHEN THE SNIPER OPENS FIRE. TURKFIELD, ONE OF THE OLD MEN RUNS FOR COVER. HANDS WIPED BLIND HIM.



I SHOOT HIM IN THE BACK, AS ORDERED.

# The National Organization for Men Against Sexism

## NOMAS

The National Organization for Men Against Sexism  
Pro-Feminist, Gay-Affirmative,  
Enhancing Men's Lives

The National Organization for Men Against Sexism is an activist organization supporting positive changes for men. NOMAS advocates a perspective that is pro-feminist, gay-affirmative, and committed to justice on a broad range of social issues. We affirm that working to make this nation's ideals of equality is the finest expression of what it means to be men.

### PRO-FEMINIST

NOMAS strongly supports the feminist movement and the continuing struggle of women for full equality. We work to end crimes and injustices toward women such as domestic and sexual violence, attacks on choice and reproductive rights, sexual harassment, lack of parity, and the global feminization of poverty. We understand pro-feminism to mean challenging ourselves and other men on the ways in which we perpetuate, and benefit from, sexist behaviors. At the same time, we are celebrating the many ways in which men are becoming caring, strong, and non-abusive.

### GAY-AFFIRMATIVE

Among the strongest and deepest anxieties of men is their fear and hatred of homosexuality. This phenomenon, "homophobia," is a major contributor to the many attacks and injustices experienced by gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals. NOMAS has a proud history of creating settings and opportunities for men of all sexual orientations to work together, develop friendships, and deepen our mutual understandings. As a national organization speaking on behalf of men, we call for an end to all forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation, and for a truly gay and lesbian affirmative society.

### ENHANCING MEN'S LIVES

Traditional masculinity has positive qualities in which we find strength and value. However, it also has negative qualities that have limited and harmed us. NOMAS believes that men can live as freer and more fulfilled human beings by challenging and unlearning many of the damaging traditions of masculinity. The traditional male role guides men into:

preoccupation with work and career, suppression of emotions, isolation from our children, lack of close friends, competitiveness, homophobia, high rates of alcoholism, drug abuse and other psychological harms.

Much male behavior takes a serious toll on society as a whole. For example, males fill our prisons and juvenile detention centers. Traditional male training has created men who rape and batter women, sexually abuse children, and are violent toward other men. As individuals, men are often healthier than the above picture portrays, but men's collective impact on society is all too often destructive.

While personal growth and change among men is beginning to happen, our institutions need to change too. *The National Organization for Men Against Sexism is one major response to that need!*

### CONNECTIONS

The vision of NOMAS intrinsically goes beyond issues of gender. NOMAS is opposed to prejudice or discrimination based on race, age, religion, size, appearance, class, physical ability, and other normal human variations. All of these unjust distinctions flourish under sexism and patriarchy, which have as a basic premise the unequal distribution of power.

annual basis since then. In 1982, the National Organization for Changing Men (NOCM) was formed by men and

### HISTORY AND ACTIVITIES

The anti-sexist men's movement emerged in the early 1970s in the U.S. with the creation of men's support groups and consciousness-raising groups. By the mid-70s, there was a growing collective sense of the need for a national forum to address traditional masculinity and the need for changes in men's lives. Activists, educators, human service providers, and artists came together for the First National Conference on Men and Masculinity held in Knoxville in 1975. National M&M conferences have been held on an annual basis since then. In 1982, the National Organization for Changing Men (NOCM) was formed by men and women working for change in male roles. In 1990, our name was changed to the National Organization for Men Against Sexism (NOMAS) in order to more clearly represent the aims and goals of the organization.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP

At a time when 81% of men see their jobs as intrinsically meaningless, when rates of rape and battering are rising, when AIDS work is ignored and underfunded, when judges force children to "visit" fathers accused of incest and abuse, when violence against gays and lesbians is clearly on the rise, and when the media continually broadcast violent and sexist role models for men, *IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE!*

The National Organization for Men Against Sexism supports men who are challenging the myths of traditional masculinity and working for positive changes in men's lives. Your membership in NOMAS is an eloquent statement of your determination to support those working for positive change in the world. It also signifies your belief that we CAN make a difference in the creation of a more equal and just society.

### NOMAS

The National Organization for Men Against Sexism  
798 Penn Ave., Box 11  
Pittsburgh, PA 1522  
(412) 371-8007

# A Quiz to Test Sex Bias in Adults

At the Principal Effectiveness, Pupil Achievement workshop in August, the Sadkers told participants that the sex bias they found in their classroom research continues into adulthood. To illustrate this problem, they split the 31 participants into five groups, gave everyone five questions from a questionnaire devised from research conducted in classrooms, private homes, offices and hospitals, and asked each group to come to a consensus on each question. The items should be marked true or false; see how your answers compare with those of area school principals:

1. Men talk more than women.
2. When people hear generic words such as "mankind" and "he,"

they respond inclusively, indicating that the terms apply to both sexes.

3. Women are more likely to touch others than men are.

4. Women use less personal space than men.

5. In general, women speak in a more tentative style than do men.

## ANSWERS

1. Although four out of the five groups said women are more talkative than men, research indicates the opposite. In one study, people were asked to describe an engraving. On average, the men talked about it for 13 minutes; the women for three minutes.

2. Two groups came up with the correct answer here—false. In the

minds of most people, words like "mankind" and "he" are not generic.

3. Women are no more likely than men to touch people. Only one group got this one wrong.

4. Every group at the workshop said women use more space because of the many belongings they carry. Every group was wrong—researchers found that women hold themselves into a tight space. Men tend to spread out.

5. This one was easy for the educators—every group said this statement is true, and in fact it is. An example is women's tendency to ask others if they are cold. Men will declare outright that it is cold.



## SUGGESTED FEMINIST READING

*Backlash*, Susan Faludi

*The War Against Women*, Marilyn French

*Sexual Politics*, Kate Millet

*Female Sexual Slavery*, Kathleen Barry

*Male Machine*, Marc Fagen-Fasteau

*The Liberated Man*, Warren Farrell

*The Hazards Of Being Male*, Herb Goldberg

*The Bluest Eye*, Toni Morrison

*Living By The Word*, Alice Walker

*Dialectic Of Sex*, Shulamith Firestone

*Is the Future Female?*, Lynne Segal

*Dreaming the Dark*, Starhawk

MS. Magazine

There is much, much more out there besides these books--this is intended just as a fairly diverse starting point for your learning....so, don't delay, visit your local library today or just call us!!

# Why Do Boys Score Higher?

## *Researchers Say They Get More Attention*

By Charlotte Sutton  
Washington Post Staff Writer

When Sue Randall was in school she thought the boys had all the brains, even though she was at the top of her class.

"I used to get better grades than the boys, but I remember thinking how intelligent those boys were. They were always doing things. I don't remember a teacher telling me what I did well. I *knew* what the boys did well," recalled Randall, now a special education teacher at Arlington's Thomas Jefferson Junior High School.

"I didn't have one special thing. That's how you build your self-esteem, when you can say what you do well."

Randall's experience is a common one. Two studies by American University education professors Myra and David Sadker showed that boys get far more attention—be it praise or criticism—from their teachers. When girls do attract a teacher's notice, it's often for their neat handwriting or exemplary behavior, not for their adroitness at algebra.

The first of the Sadkers' studies, conducted between 1980 and 1984 with a grant from the National Institute of Education, looked at more than 100 fourth, sixth and eighth-grade classrooms in four states and the District of Columbia, representing students from various ethnic and economic backgrounds. In 1984, the Sadkers began a two-year study of classrooms at American University, financed by the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education, which led them to conclude that sex bias is far worse in college than in grammar school. "The news is not that there was bias" at American, said Myra Sadker, "but that they were able

to achieve equity. Professors can change and want to—they just need training like anyone else."

At all grade levels, "what our research shows is that education is not a spectator sport," said David Sadker. "Students achieve the most when they're actively involved."

"When girls come into school, they are ahead of boys in reading and math and writing. When they leave school at the end of the 12th grade . . . boys are outscoring them. On the SAT [Scholastic Aptitude Test], not only are boys 50 points ahead on math, but for the last decade, they've been ahead on the verbal. Girls are the only group that leave school performing worse."

In their secondary-school study, the Sadkers found that boys dominate in all subject areas, not just science and math. And their domination grows as they get older.

In their classroom studies, the Sadkers looked at each interaction between teacher and student, categorizing the teacher's response as:

- Criticism. On average, this category comprised 5 percent of teacher responses.

- Acceptance. When the teacher says simply "okay" or "uh huh"—this is the most common response, turning up 53 percent of the time, more than all other types combined.

- Remediation. When a child gives a wrong answer, the teacher, 33 percent of the time, tells him or her to "keep trying" or gives a hint to help him find the answer.

- Praise. The Sadkers found that 10 percent of teacher responses were praise. This includes times when a teacher says "okay," but in a very positive tone of voice.

Whether they were visiting a school

in the District, Maryland, Virginia, Connecticut or Massachusetts, whether the school was predominately black or white, the Sadkers found that white boys received the most attention from teachers, followed by minority boys, white girls and minority girls. That pattern was not affected by the race or sex of the teacher.

And it isn't just teachers who promulgate bias in the classroom—teaching materials also promote boys at the expense of girls. The Sadkers spoke to teachers who had been taught to choose books with a male perspective, on the assumption that girls would be interested in books about boys, but boys would never sit still for a book about a girl. A survey of books that have won the Caldecott Medal, the Pulitzer of the kiddie set, shows that for every girl depicted in the books, there are 10 boys.

As the Sadkers demonstrate in their workshops and presentations, classroom observers do not see blatant sexism or racism. It is more a matter of who is being ignored. What's more, this disparity often results from the fact that girls are better behaved than boys, who, on average, call out answers without raising their hands eight times more often. The two-day workshop began, as many of the Sadkers' programs do, with a videotape that is shown to college education majors as an example of good teaching. The first time they saw the tape about two-thirds of the participants detected some bias, but didn't think it was a big problem.

But later in the workshop, when the principals, armed with score sheets, saw the film again, the balance tipped toward heavy bias. Participants noticed that the teacher in the film asked the two white boys more challenging questions and praised their correct answers or coaxed them along toward the right answer. The white girl's answers met a simple "okay," while the Hispanic girl sitting next to the teacher was almost ignored.

The Sadkers' premise, that children who receive the most attention will perform the best, is so basic that some educators have a hard time laying so much of the blame for girls' worsening test scores on bias. Several principals at the workshop voiced the opinion that "I made it through school without this [equity training] and I turned out fine."

# Schedule for Men's Workshops Saturday, August 1, 1992

10:00 AM--Homophobia (w/ Queer Nation)

11:15 AM--How Men Can Stop Rape (w/ DC Men Against Rape)

12:30 PM--LUNCH BREAK

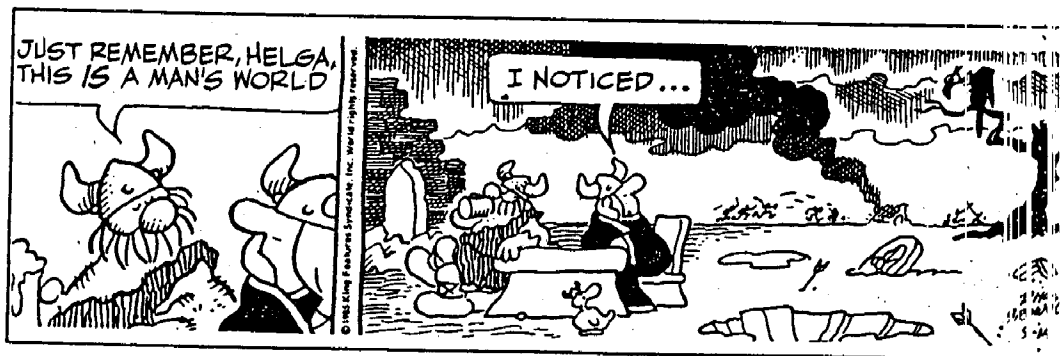
1:30 PM--Male Sexuality (w/ Mark Andersen, facilitator)

2:45 PM--What is Sexism? (w/ NARAL)

4:30 PM--Men's Lives, an award-winning film on male conditioning  
GWU Marvin Center, Room 401, 21st and H Sts. NW

7:00 PM--Potluck Dinner and video/discussion of *Thelma And Louise* at Positive Force House (2 blocks from VA Square Metro)

(ALL EVENTS AT AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE, 1822 R ST.  
NW UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED--FREE BUT DONATIONS APPRECIATED)



We are a group of generally young men who are looking to form a continuing anti-sexist, pro-feminist men's group to help critique, fight and ultimately defeat sexism within our punk community and within ourselves. We're looking to learn, to grow, and most of all, to act. If you are interested in being involved or getting more information, you can contact us through the *Positive Force House*, 3510 N. 8th St., Arlington, VA 22201 or call 703-276-9768.