

Hairy problem up to the girls

Dear Ann Landers: That letter from "Ohio Teen" could have been written by me. I am also a high school senior who hates to kiss a guy who has a moustache or a beard. But let's be honest — we girls are responsible for all that hair.

It all started when the Beatles came to this country and the teenboppers shrieked, fainted and went completely ape over the group. The American boys felt they had to imitate the Beatles to win the favor of the girls. So they let their hair grow long and the inevitable happened. In true American style "bigger is better and most is best."

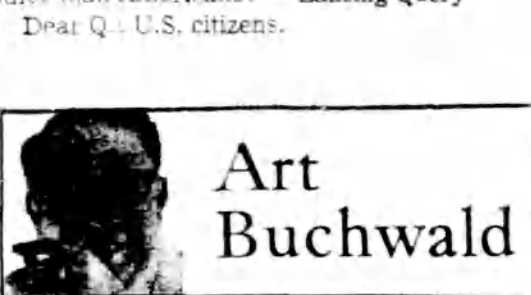
The youth of our nation became hair-worshippers. Hair became a symbol of the New Culture, independence and rebellion. Most parents hated it. Sample dialogue: "Get a haircut or leave this house."

So now it's up to the girls to get rid of the hairy problem. And it IS a problem. Keeping all that hair clean is work, and most guys don't bother. We girls must now say, "Off with the brush—or there'll be no kisses." Are you with me, Ann?—The All Clear In Eau Claire

Dear Claire: I don't need to be with you. There's nobody with a beard or moustache I care to kiss. But lots of luck.

Dear Ann Landers: A few years ago we went to Canada for a vacation. There was a guided tour — courtesy of the motel. The guide kept referring to the Canadian side of the Falls and the American side of the Falls. My father called the guide's attention to the fact that Canada is just as much part of America as the United States.

This is my question, Ann: The inhabitants of South America, Central America and North America are Americans. The inhabitants of Canada are also Canadians. The people of Mexico are called Mexicans. But what are the people of the United States called — other than Americans? — Lansing Query



Art Buchwald

Peace dividend? Don't believe it

The day after President Nixon gave his report to Congress on his trip to the Soviet Union I went over to see my friend Hannibal Stone, president of the Association for a Permanent Military Industrial Complex.

Because the President had announced agreement on the freeze of nuclear weapons with the Soviets, I expected Hannibal to be depressed. Instead, I found him euphoric.

"HANNIBAL," I said, "how can you be smiling when President Nixon and the Russians are talking about disarmament? Surely this is a blow to the Military Industrial Complex and all it stands for."

"Wrong," Hannibal said, handing me a cigar. "This is the best thing that could happen to us."

"I don't understand," I said, as he lit my cigar with a minuteman missile cigarette lighter.

"Russia and the United States have agreed to limit anti-ballistic missiles. They have also agreed to freeze land-based and submarine-based intercontinental missiles at the level now in operation. If it works, they may come to new agreements to limit arms production on other weapons now being made. This means we will have to work twice as hard to develop NEW weapons that aren't covered by the arms agreements."

"You mean we're not going to save any money by the signing of the arms treaty? I had counted on a peace dividend."

"Au contraire," Hannibal said. "We will have to spend more money now for defense than ever before."

"And forget the peace dividend," Hannibal said. "In order for the Joint Chiefs of Staff to assure us that we have adequate protection IN SPITE of the arms accord, we're going to have to spend at least another \$20 billion in new weaponry — stuff that hasn't even been dreamed of yet."

"Gosh darn, Hannibal," I said. "I thought one of the reasons the President went to Moscow was to cut down on the spiraling inflation and wasteful money both countries were spending on weapons."

"MAYBE HE did," Hannibal said. "But the fact is that at this very moment members of the Soviet Military Industrial Complex are at their drafting boards working on new weapons which are not part of the accords. We can't let the Russians get ahead of us on these weapons, or we will lose the military edge to the other super power."

"But you don't even know what those weapons are," I protested.

"All the more reason to spend money developing our weapons. I would say that the President's nuclear arms accord is actually a breakthrough for us."

"Now we can come up with any wild idea, and Congress will have to buy it. We can say that if we don't have this weapon, the Russians may have one that is much more devastating. The Soviet Military Industrial Complex is probably going to use the same ploy with their people."

I said, "President Eisenhower warned me about people like you."

Hannibal chuckled and slapped me on the shoulder. "Don't let it get you down. It's only money. Here, take the Minuteman missile cigarette lighter with you. Consider it a peace dividend from me."

Say NOW now and no one laughs

By JEAN HALL WRN Staff Writer

Would she be aggressive, humorless, dowdy, masculine, abrasive? — the cliches about women's libbers came to mind as I drove up to her home on Cedar Hill Road in Bedford to interview Ms. Gonnie Siegel, president of NOW (National Organization for Women) in Westchester.

It was a spacious, well-kept home with a brook running down from a woody ravine; nearby homes featured velvet lawns sloping to shady ponds; lush trees and shrubs sheltered joyous songbirds; kids were selling lemonade at the roadside. An ideal neighborhood, the perfect backdrop for domestic fulfillment. What MORE could woman want?

MRS. SIEGEL answered the doorbell, wearing black slacks, a sleeveless yellow, black and white flowered tunic, open sandals over her bare feet and a faint frown.

"Oh yes," she said in answer to my self-introduction, and an Abyssinian cat and I crossed the threshold. Up a staircase decorated with good copies of modern art and a framed wire construction and into Mrs. Siegel's yellow, black and white "office."

On the wall a poster shouted WOMEN NOW! Another proclaimed JUSTICE, NOT FAVORITISM! MAN HIS RIGHTS AND NOTHING MORE; WOMAN, HER RIGHTS AND NOTHING LESS.

The intelligent dark eyes were watching me as I read, eager to fathom my response. I suddenly noticed what an attractive face it was — a smidgen of lipstick, shoulder-length dark hair softening the purposeful cast of the features.

"THE ORGANIZATION is very young and terribly important," Mrs. Siegel began. "I



MS. GONNIE SIEGEL OF BEDFORD

got it started when I was thinking about going to New York for the women's liberation group's march on Fifth Avenue two years ago. I

couldn't go in that day, so I collected about 20 people to discuss the possibility of doing something out here. We contacted the consciousness-raising

NOW (National Organization for Women) was formed "to take action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society NOW, exercising all the privileges and responsibilities thereof in truly equal partnership with men."

NOWESTCHESTER describes itself as a civil rights organization, and lists approximately 35,000 members in Westchester County, with membership open to "all sexes, colors, creeds, ages." The organization has started a number of consciousness-raising groups in the county and has formed among others, committees for child care, employment, education, legislation, marriage and divorce. NOWESTCHESTER is particularly seeking membership among housewives, and will soon begin a membership drive.

ing group in Croton and we all got together and finally formed the Westchester chapter of NOW.

"The women who have been attracted to us are primarily professionals, although we hope to attract the housewife more and more. It's always been that way, if you look back in history — it was the upper middle class women who started other civil rights movements. But it's the average working woman whose life the movement has already begun to improve. Things are going extremely well. The movement's no longer a joke!"

Q — Among men or women?

"AMONG WOMEN! — well, both. I think that women don't understand that what happens to them is that they are all led down the same, identical career path of their preordained occupation as wife and mother. If this society said all men should be plumbers and nothing else, we'd be up to our ears in plumbers. Men wouldn't let that happen to men, but they have this rigid role laid down for women."

Q — But by the same token, doesn't the man have a preordained role as the provider?

"I guess his role is preordained, too, but the man is given a variety of ways in which to achieve it. The suburban housewife has long been told by society what she should be. It takes her a while to look around and realize that possessions are not important. I think any time anybody tries to be fulfilled by possessions only, she is in deep trouble. We are definitely out to destroy the rigid set of rules given both men and women. Once you free the jailed you also free the jailer."

Q — Then who will do what women did?

"We have some suggestions. There could be shared households, a restructuring of many things that could be shared. And services are coming more into play. There is a woman's cleaning service, for example. I have a woman from one who cleans my house."

Q — Then, housework isn't demeaning if someone else does it?

"WE DON'T want to enslave anybody. But if a woman wants to clean house, she

should be paid as in any other job.

Q — But could the average woman — not the upper middle class or well-to-do woman — afford to pay another woman to clean her house?

"We tell women, 'If you can afford nothing else, exchange doing something which will give you the money to pay for the housework you are now tied to.' You know, out in the business world it isn't much better. You still see the women in the office making coffee for the boss. It isn't just in the home that we want to restructure."

Q — How does your husband feel about your involvement in the feminist movement? Would you quit if it came between you?

"Well — well, we'd work it out. I heard him say to someone once, 'I'm 100 per cent with her intellectually and 80 per cent with her emotionally.' He's not a member of NOW — I've never urged him to be, although we do have men members."

Q — What do you think makes a feminist? What things in your childhood, perhaps, bent you in this direction?

"Anybody's background — their total experience — is what forms the individual. I grew up on a small farm, where we could just eke out a living. In Appalachia, West Virginia. Growing up in that kind of poverty isn't good for anybody, any more than complete affluence helps anyone. You wouldn't believe how little education was valued where I grew up. But it's interesting that separation of the sexes wasn't as blatant. Girls and boys, because we were all poor, were expected to contribute equally, both in the fields and in the home."

"I READ ABOUT the feminist movement in a history class in the fifth or sixth grade. But I quit school in the sixth grade and worked two years in a bakery. Then my aunt and uncle, who thought that was terrible, got me back to school and the principal agreed to let me graduate with the class I started with, if I could catch up, and I did. Then I went to Davis and Elkins and later to West Virginia University, working my way, although I had some scholarship help. After that, I worked

for a radio station, then for a newspaper in Lorain, Ohio, as a reporter (that's where I met my husband, who was a reporter, too) and for 12 years I was a housewife before I went into public relations as a consultant.

Q — And you work for Circulation Expert, a black firm?

"I don't work for — I am a public relations consultant to them. I met them through a black family that moved into neighborhood here. You know, we talk about equality. It's not possible to be interested exclusively in women's rights. Blacks, orientals, women — all the put-down people in the world have a common bond. There is no element of choice for a woman any more than for the others, unless you consider the so-called privileges of the physically beautiful woman, or the upper-class woman. A beautiful woman, or a movie actress is held up as the epitome of what a woman should be. She is readily fought over by males and catered to — a dreadful picture to emerge, because of all the women it leaves out."

"Men in business like to say, 'Women don't want to work for women.' This is a way of not hiring them. But the answer is, the door revolves two ways. If a woman is qualified and somebody doesn't want to work for her, she can quit."

"SO MUCH equality begins in the mind. I speak to women — to Newcomers Clubs, Y W C A's, church groups, schools — and I find they are so timid, so self-effacing. They consider a talented woman 'different.' They have no confidence in themselves. Why, a divorced woman finds her real problem is that her identity has been through someone else."

"I'm sure a lot of women get to the top by sleeping their way. But nobody stays beautiful forever. Men make women beauty-conscious because as a consumer of cosmetics, for instance, it is important they stay in this role."

Q — But women lend themselves to the image men have, don't they? They accept pay checks as air hostesses and for other things, like certain TV commercials that feminists object to.

"It's because they're timid. Women are unbelievably afraid to break loose and be themselves. Sometimes I feel angry. But no amount of anger is going to help their cause. There is no out and out conspiracy against women and much of what happens to women is with their consent. What I'm attempting is to help women to be adults, to be individuals."

"CALLING a woman 'girl' is like calling a black man 'boy.' She is never expected to grow up. And she was placed on this earth to serve men and to produce his children."

Q — Don't women really believe that, too?

"You're darned right they do — far too many. When women discover this is not true, we'll be out of business — and I'll be delighted!"

Would polygamy work?

The large number of "unmanned" black women in this country is clearly observable, if not a precisely documented fact. Estimates are around 1 million. So far, we black women have not openly defined this situation as a problem, but behind the scenes, it is clearly an area of conscious if not self-conscious concern.

If one considers the available data, American women (and men) might do well to seriously consider polygamous marriages.

THE FIRST question, of course, is where (psychologically as well as physically) are the black men? The answers are surely multiple and complex, but consider the following:

(1) A disproportionate number of black males have been ripped off by this country's contemporary war efforts. Before the draft lottery, blacks en masse did not have the benefits of academic and political deferment;

(2) A disproportionate number of black males are incarcerated. The reasons are many, but certainly political and financial backing has kept many a white man from being incarcerated for a transgression against our society;

(3) There are more black males than females and whites known to be habitual drug users. Again, reasons are complex, but certainly frustration and the general disillusionment with the system that many blacks hold contribute;

(4) Black suicides are on the increase and it is the black male who does himself in most often;

(5) There are more admitted "gay" guys (black male homosexuals, than lesbians.



Sandra Haggerty

ALL THESE situations have severely ripped off the black male population.

Add to the list the "don't look and it might go away" fact that an increasing number of available black men are openly demonstrating a preference for white women. There are many stated reasons for this — the alleged matriarchy that exists within the black family, the "white woman-forbidden fruit" syndrome, the crusaders and rejects syndrome and so on.

The high divorce rate, with infidelity as a prime cause, is another consideration. Could it be that man, indeed, is not monogamous?

Today, there is a pronounced "back to Africa" search for roots and evidence of our "being" by many blacks and we are currently using African examples in our teachings. Polygamy — still practiced in Africa — is an example worth examining.

While polygamy would surely create many logistical problems, it would solve many of the existing irritations. A polygamous relationship would be a more honest relationship. It would wipe out the need for "sneakin', hidin', slippin' and asidin'" that many spouses go through. It could eliminate much guilt.

IT WOULD provide for fa-

therless (?) children. A man would be free to completely father a child by his girlfriend as well as by his legal wife.

Polygamy would afford the "other woman" or women with the same fringe benefits — hospitalization, credit cards and life insurance policies as well as cookin' and cleanin' — as the wife.

Black women and white women will continue to seek out solutions for the "man shortage," but polygamy certainly stands out as an alternative worth examining.

Computers may help or hinder

(One of a Series) By KEN MCKENNA Gannett News Service

The structure of modern industrial society makes it inevitable that many individuals are forced into narrow, repetitious jobs.

What's more, the number of these types of jobs are on the increase. Several forces are at work here, including the ubiquitous computer.

IRONICALLY, as computers move into industry, they both help and hinder the problems of job boredom. On one end, computers contribute to the massive automation of dull jobs. On the other, because of their vast capabilities, they remove responsibilities and decision powers, thereby turning many workers into semi-robots.

Engineers are working throughout industry to break down jobs to their lowest common denominator in the name of the Great God Efficiency. Many management specialists argue that the resulting simplifications destroy job challenges, stifle freedom of action and reduce an employee to a machine rusting with boredom.

So extensive has the problem become that attempts have been made to measure just how acute boredom can become. In fact, boredom can now be tested.

NEED: Why are you bored?

The Reporter BY RYAN AND VALTMAN



"The only A I got in four years was in Agitation!"

Boredom on the job

Here's the test that tells:

How Fed Up Are You?

The boredom test is based on a job reaction study used by Ray Walters & Associates, a New Jersey management consulting firm specializing in job improvements.

- 1. Do you avoid talking to your wife or friends about your job because you think they won't be interested? YES NO
2. Do you find your job less interesting than when you first started? YES NO
3. Do you feel your job is so organized you could do it blindfolded? YES NO
4. Do you have any doubts about the quality of the work you perform? YES NO
5. Do you occasionally lose interest in what you are doing while you are doing it? YES NO
6. Do you often feel that you are marking time — just putting in time at your work? YES NO
7. Do you often feel that you have insufficient opportunities to make individual decisions in your job? YES NO
8. Is it hard to remember the last time you looked forward to a day's work? YES NO
9. Do you find it increasingly difficult to get to work on time? YES NO
10. Do you find yourself taking a day off for no other reason than you don't feel like working? YES NO
11. Does the thought occasionally occur to you that you would like to quit or change jobs because you don't like the work itself? YES NO
12. Do you feel that your present assignment is a job in which nothing new can be learned? YES NO
13. Do you dislike many parts of the work that you are actually doing? YES NO
14. Do you feel that if you quit tomorrow your job would be filled easily and company operations continued unscathed? YES NO
15. Do you feel isolated from your superiors or co-workers? YES NO
16. Do you find that you never think about your job when you are home? YES NO
17. Do you find it difficult to rate how well you do your job? YES NO
18. Do you feel a machine could do your job? YES NO
19. Do you feel your job is a dead end? YES NO
20. Do you feel that you have little opportunity to suggest ways to make your job more efficient? YES NO
21. Do you feel that when you do a good job on something, no one notices? YES NO
22. Do you occasionally feel you are working harder to look busy than in accomplishing actual work? YES NO
23. Are you confused by exactly what your job contributes to the over-all company product or service? YES NO
24. At quitting time, do you find yourself more tired from the day's routine than from any work performed? YES NO
25. Would you prefer to spend time with people other than your co-workers? YES NO
26. Do you feel your job is monotonous, that the work itself provides no basic interest? YES NO
27. Do you often lose your place in what you are doing? YES NO
28. Do you feel that an inexperienced person could handle your job as well as you can? YES NO
29. When a suggestion is made about changing the way you do your job, do you first look for what is wrong with the suggestion? YES NO
30. Do you worry that your children don't understand what you do and might go into the same line of work? YES NO
Of the 30 questions, if you answered "YES" to fewer than 15, you belong in that happy minority... Individuals who are not bored with their job, although he or she probably does not feel it perfect.
From 11 to 25 "YES" answers you are in the rather popular category of persons whose boredom with their work is a troublesome factor in their lives. Little, more persons should consider attempting to make some changes in their method of work.
From 26 to 30 "YES" answers a person might have with his job who still had large difficulties in reconciling his personal needs and his work.
Beyond 30, we have a tremendous understanding of job and individual. This person's work leaves him to sleep and life difficult to understand how he stands it.

