Sporting miscellany

The new sexual dimorphism

N C Craig Sharp

Owing to their increasing executive presence in the workforce, greater resistance to stress and the stress related fatal diseases, and to their ever increasing fitness through the fast expanding, and mainly female, aerobics movement, together with a number of factors described below, women will become the dominant sex in work and sport.

Ovum extraction, with in vitro insemination, with whole fetus in vitro culture systems, will ensure women's ability to reproduce without need for male sexual pair bonding. Indeed, as one man produces 1000 sperm per second, a very few can service the sperm bank clinics throughout the world. The decline in sperm counts will be countered by a semen Olympics, with future donors being recruited from the sperm count medallists. (Eventually, genetic engineering will remove the evolutionary need for sexual reproduction, that is, mixing the genome, except for sentiment's sake.)

Men will take to wearing the kilt (naturally without underwear), to lower scrotal temperatures and maximise waning androgen levels. However, lack of status and low morale will continually diminish the male androgen output, and shaving, baldness and body hair will become relics of the past. Men's voices will lighten (with a marked rise in popularity of male voice counter-tenor choirs), their complexions will improve, and their testes, driven by the cooler kilt environment, will retract up the inguinal canal, eventually becoming intra-abdominal. Women, by contrast, through the stresses of maintaining the desired power image at their ever more competitive workplace, will produce increasing levels of (initially adrenocortical) androgens. This will increase their facial and body hair, leading them to shave their beard, but female midlife baldness will become widespread. Female mannequins will increase in size to the point where, if alive, they once again could menstruate.

The particular physical and physiological abilities of women will be taken into account in developing or upgrading a series of new sports, such as: the keyboard marathon for speed and accuracy; the 1500 metres balance beam run; the 200 km sea swim; the 500 km desert run; and the 4000 km Himalayan altitude run; indeed, these five events could be combined into an even-more-modern pentathlon, which will be dominated by women, at least for several decades, as will equestrian sports, shooting and sailing.

The increasing strength of women will increase intra-abdominal pressures, and the ovaries will be gradually squeezed down the inguinal canal. The vagina will heal up and the labia will expand to contain the newly descending gonads. The clitoris will enlarge and eventually contain the urethra, and mammary development will become vestigial. Ova will now be extruded through the clitoral urethra, and the ova themselves will gradually develop motility, probably through a single large flagellum. Women's hips will narrow, consequently the medial inclination of their femurs will diminish, leading to a lower incidence of chondromalacia patellae, and an increase in their road running performances. Their shoulders will broaden and they will lose their upper limb valgus angle, so improving both their fast bowling and their ability to throw the javelin. This reverse sexual dimorphism will be completed in relatively few generations, and women will level out at around 15 cm taller than men.

The male scrotum will gradually atrophy, and ultimately split along the scrotal raphe reforming the original fetal vagina, while the *uterus masculinus* will progressively enlarge to meet the abdominal testes, whose vastly decreased sperm numbers will evolve into a tail-less zygote. The penis will regress to clitoral size, and the urethra will shorten and resite itself. The higher intra-abdominal temperature will modify testicular androgen to oestrogen, and menstruation will ultimately supervene. Selected males throughout the world will become pregnant. The resulting offspring will have paternally derived mitochondria, so those good at aerobic endurance sport will have occasion to be grateful to their fathers.

In time to come, the first Masculinist will demand to be served in the customary all female Fleet Street pub. And 10 year old Terence Bennett will win the right in the High Court (on appeal against section 44 of the Sex Discrimination Act) to be allowed to play soccer with girls in a historic judgment against the Football Association. This will recognise that, at that age, boys may well be bigger and stronger than girls, thus forcing the FA to change its rule disallowing mixed football for children under 11 on the grounds that boys lack the strength and aggression.

Men will demand the right to have the pole vault, hammer, and triple jump events reinstated in their athletics calendar. Led by Len

Ferris, whose multi-great-grandmother won Britain's last Olympic diving medal, they will demand the abolition of chromosomal gender verification, whereby the presence of a Barr body leads to disqualification, given the anomaly that powerful competitors with Turner's (XO) and the androgen insensitivity (or testicular feminisation, XY) syndromes gain unfair advantage over men, while feeble Klinefelter's and wimpish adrenogenital syndromers and true hermaphrodites are excluded.

The new men's sports of association football, rugby, Australian rules, and Gaelic football will slowly get off the ground, with as much as 5% of the daily newspaper sports coverage. The England Men's squash team, as a special favour, will be allowed to play in the Midland Women's Squash League, although having to start in division twenty four. The Sports Council will issue strategic studies reports on "Men and Sport", to assist the regional offices in identifying, monitoring, and assessing specific initiatives designed to encourage men to participate in sport, with the formation of "Men and Sport" working parties to try to break down the barriers caused by the possible conflict that the roles of being "masculine" and being a "sportsman" provoke.

Sporting sociologist Johnny Hargreaves, multi-great-grandson of Jenny, his famous

predecessor, will write "Sporting Males", the definitive account of critical issues in the history and sociology of men's sports, of which it will be said: "Most modern histories and sociologies of sports focus on those of women, but this book places men at the centre, and thus fills an important gap in the market. It views sport as part of a battle for control of the body, and, as such, as an important area for Masculinist intervention".

Then, to the plaudits of most Masculinists, but without the unqualified approval of Luciano Paglia (who, like his famous multi-great-grandmother, will see Masculinism as being too seduced by the false prophet Rousseau, rather than following the true voice of Sade), men will seriously take to power dressing, the boardroom, neo-rock music, and formula one grand prix driving, and will begin to steadily narrow the performance gap in the athletic track events, the Marathon, the Olympic swimming distances, speed skating, and sprint and road cycling. They will gradually lose their expertise on the balance beam in gymnastics, but will become better on rings.

And contemporary Nobel Laureate for literature, Roberta Burns, will write re "Auld Nature" that:

'Her prentice han', she tried on woman,
An' then she made the laddies O.'

High altitude research on Kangchenjunga, 1998

A J Pollard

In the post-monsoon climbing season in 1994, Charlie Hornsby and Roddy Kirkwood, two British GPs, reached the summit of Mount Everest (8848 m), the world's highest mountain, in ferocious winds. They were members of the 1994 British Mount Everest Medical Expedition, led by another GP, Dr Simon Currin, and other climbers reached the summit on Pumori and various "trekking" peaks in the Everest area. One expedition member, Dr Scott Parazynski, failed to make the trip but photographed the summit from NASA's Atlantis space shuttle instead during its 1994 flight! This was a research expedition in which a scientific team of more than 30 doctors, physiologists, and environmental scientists, led by Dr David Collier, undertook 19 research projects. These projects have since been presented at scientific meetings from Kathmandu to Cusco and from Oxford to Lake Louise. After the success of the 1994 expedition "Medical Expeditions" developed—a charitable company which runs educational courses and high altitude physiological and environmental stud-

ies. In Autumn 1998, a further scientific expedition, to Kangchenjunga (the world's third highest mountain) in Eastern Nepal, is planned. The research team will be accompanied by a cohort of 50 subjects (in groups of 10) and a mountaineering team with climbing objectives in the area. Applicants interested in conducting projects during the expedition should send an application consisting of a referenced abstract of not more than 400 words and curriculum vitae to the address below. Information about "Mountain and high altitude medicine" (18–20 April 1997, North Wales), a practical three day course covering all aspects of medicine in remote places and the special problems of high altitude, organised by "Medical Expeditions", is available by telephoning Suzanne on 01438 812671 or from the address below: Dr AJ Pollard, 12 Purcell Road, Marston, Oxford OX3 0HB. E mail: a.pollard@ic.ac.uk

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