

Kasey
KERBER

Sex, lugs and self-control

Time to find love in a girl-hates-boy world

This is a story about Jack and Diane, "two kids doin' the best they can"...but Jack fell down and broke his crown. Diane hid the body and skipped out of town.



Welcome to the war of the sexes.

Man vs. Woman. Or Woman vs. Man.

We all know the story. Our lifelong dream is to fall

in love, marry that special someone and have our parents hate him or her.

Yet we pull a good deal of fish out of the sea that we can describe only with the phrase "throw-that-butty-ugly-lookin'-thing-back-and-pray-it-forgets-how-to-swim."

This causes some of us to lose faith in the opposite sex and, well, eventually hate men or women.

Take this fact into consideration: If you enter the word "love" into the database for a Sam Goody SoundSite computer, you get a total of 16,001 song listings.

I wonder how many songs you would get if you entered the phrases "come back honey", or "I miss you almost as much as my fans"

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Don't believe me? Then take a close look at Billboard Magazine's "top five" songs in the nation.

At No. 1 we have Los Del Rio's "Macarena" (a girl cheats on her boyfriend because his "two friends were sooooo fine"). Moving to No. 3, we find Keith Sweat's "Twisted," (his girlfriend has left him).

Then there's No. 4 — Celine Dion's "C'mon Ride the Train," no wait, that's the No. 5 degrading song by the Quad-City DJ's. The name of Dion's song is really "It's All Coming Back to Me Now" (she lost her lover).

The only "true love" song in the top five is Donna Lewis' No. 2 "I Love You Always Forever," which was inspired by a novel written before she was born. Love was an

entirely different thing then.

OK, so true love is not too prominent in music, and the sexes sometimes hate each other....

The question soon arises: Why?

It's rather simple in my opinion. Men and women think on entirely different levels. Their minds just don't work the same way, and there's evidence to back up that claim.

Look at surveys for example. A survey was sponsored recently to determine how men and women felt about first dates.

In the survey, twice as many men felt the first date was a "success" if they got a good-night kiss or saw the sunrise with their date.

Meanwhile, more women felt it was a success if he called the next day or planned a second date before the first one was over.

Should we take from this that

women are more sensitive and men are more "pleasure-driven?" Perhaps. But keep in mind that the survey itself was sponsored by L'Eggs Silken Mist Hosiery, a pantyhose company. Not too many "pleasure-driven" men wear hose.

So we shouldn't necessarily base our opinions of the opposite sex on music, conversations gone wrong or surveys. What should we base them on?

Well, our judgment.

It's really time to look past the past and all the hype that's been given to the "battle of the sexes."

Women, give men a chance. Men, do the same for women. Most of us will end up together anyway. Why not respect each other's differences and feelings along the way?

Alanis Morissette put it best when she appeared at the MTV Video Music Awards. She had been labeled time and time again as a "male-hater," yet made a small speech when she accepted her award for "Best Female."

She said: "A lot of people have called this the year of the woman... but we love you men too."

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Nick
WILTGEN

The numbers game

Our rights are restricted by arbitrary ages

Try answering these three questions without answering "get a fake ID":

(1) What do you tell an eager 13-year-old who wants to work at the neighborhood grocery store but can't because the law says you have to be at least 14 or 15 to have a job?

(2) What do you tell an intelligent, well-informed 16-year-old who wants to vote but can't because the law says you have to be 18 to have any say in the government?

(3) What do you tell a responsible 19-year-old who wants to go to the bar with his or her friends for a drink after work but can't because the law says you have to be 21 just to hold a beer?

Stumped? Me too. Each of these questions deals with a different aspect of the same problem. America's youth are being disenfranchised, alienated by a government that treats them like a horde of foolish dolts.

GET A JOB
Now, when I was 13 I wasn't exactly game for a job at Hy-Vee yet, but there are kids out there who are (I'm related to some of them). They want to make their own money and get off the parental dole, but what are their options? Paperboy or baby sitter? Those are fine jobs; I was a paperboy for more than four years. But not everyone is suited to be a paperboy or a baby sitter. Unfortunately, if you're not of "working age" as defined by the government, your



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hands are tied. What does that tell a young person about the value of hard work?

Why can't parents decide when and whether their child is ready for a certain job? There is no need for a government-defined working age except perhaps for wards of the state, in which case the government serves in a parental role. But for kids with parents (be they natural, adoptive, or foster parents), the decision can be made within the family's own framework of values.

NO REPRESENTATION

When I was 16 I was definitely ready to vote. It seems that many of my classmates were ready to vote for someone else. (I shamefully admit that I was the only one in my class who supported Bill Clinton in 1992. Now I know better.) I'm well aware that college-age people are rather apathetic when it comes to voting. But is that a function of being young? Or is it the result of 18 years of political disenfranchisement?

Government makes numerous decisions that affect people under the age of 18. However, the only

"power" minors have is to mount whatever protest they can muster and hope their concerns fall on sympathetic ears. But since minors can't vote, elected officials don't have to listen to them. Thus teen-agers become accustomed to the idea that they are powerless, that no one will listen. So it should come as no surprise that once they're able to vote, they don't care any more.

A truly representative government would not disempower those affected by its decisions. Persons under 18 who care enough to vote should have that right. Again, parents can play a role in deciding when their children are old enough to participate in the democratic process.

BARRED

Back when I used to drink, alcohol was rather hard to get. I was in high school. To get beer you had to go from store to store until someone failed to card you. And nobody wanted to lug a bunch of beer outside at the end of the night or leave it in their cars where it could be found. So we usually drank as much as we could, all at once, while we

actually had it. Would it have been the same if we could legally buy alcohol whenever we wanted?

The United States has what Psychology Today recently called the most "draconian" drinking laws in the Western world. Ours is the only Western country to limit the purchase and consumption of alcoholic beverages to persons age 21 and over.

One need only look at the Prohibition Era to see what a disaster alcohol prohibition is. In the 1920s, alcoholism became a major problem and once law-abiding citizens were criminalized for their leisure activities. Today, we have the "mini-prohibition era," in which some 40 percent of college students regularly indulge in binge drinking, with high-school students following in step. Law-abiding college students must often resort to illegal means such as fake ID's just to get a beer.

The government's drinking-age laws are inexcusable and should be eliminated. Parents can decide when or whether they allow their children to drink. Adults, whether over or under 21, have an inalienable right to conduct their lives as they choose, provided they do not violate others' rights to do the same. Drinking a beer is not such an infringement.

JUST A NUMBER

Nothing special happens the instant a person turns 16, 18, or 21. All of these ages are arbitrary. If politicians truly believed in "family values" and "personal responsibility," they'd let individuals and families decide how old is old enough to work, vote and drink.

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