

OPINION PACES

Guest VIEW

The jungle

*Meat recalls should
be made public*

(U-WIRE) GAINESVILLE, Fla. — When was the last time you were sick? Did you think it was something you ate, maybe that greasy cheeseburger you had last night at a downtown bar?

Well, that might have been what it was. Records from the Agricultural Department show the public was never notified of federal recalls of more than 20.2 million pounds of meat and poultry since 1990, the Associated Press reported Wednesday.

Officials had their reasons for recalling the meat. Some was contaminated with bacteria. Other meats were peppered with bits of bone, metal or plastic. And yet others were improperly labeled, or had defective containers, USDA reports show.

Wait a second, didn't anyone read Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* in high school?

Apparently, most of the 142 recalls were on products either distributed to restaurants and school cafeterias, or were just sitting in warehouses or on trucks, and had not yet been distributed to retailers.

Since the public would not be able to distinguish which meats were tainted, the department said it simply decided to keep the information to itself. Doesn't the public deserve to know what kind of little bacterial microbes (excuse us if that is not the scientific term) are squirming about in its cheeseburgers?

Well, this is how it works: The USDA does not make a recall public unless it is likely consumers have purchased the tainted meat, or might still have it on hand. Apparently it does not matter if the public might have already consumed it.

Then, officials within the industry work together to determine where the spoiled meat is, and they privately get it out of the system.

So we are left to wonder, what kind of meat have we been eating for the past seven years?

Industry officials claim they have nothing to gain by keeping their little secret to themselves. But we are not so sure.

Why would some industry officials be dismayed over a new USDA Web site that posts details on every recall since 1990, whether they were public or not?

"It has a potentially damaging effect on the companies involved," said Bob Hibbert, an attorney for the Eastern Beef Processors Association.

Well, yeah. But a cheeseburger with bits of metal and plastic in it can be damaging too.

Independent Florida Alligator (U. Florida)

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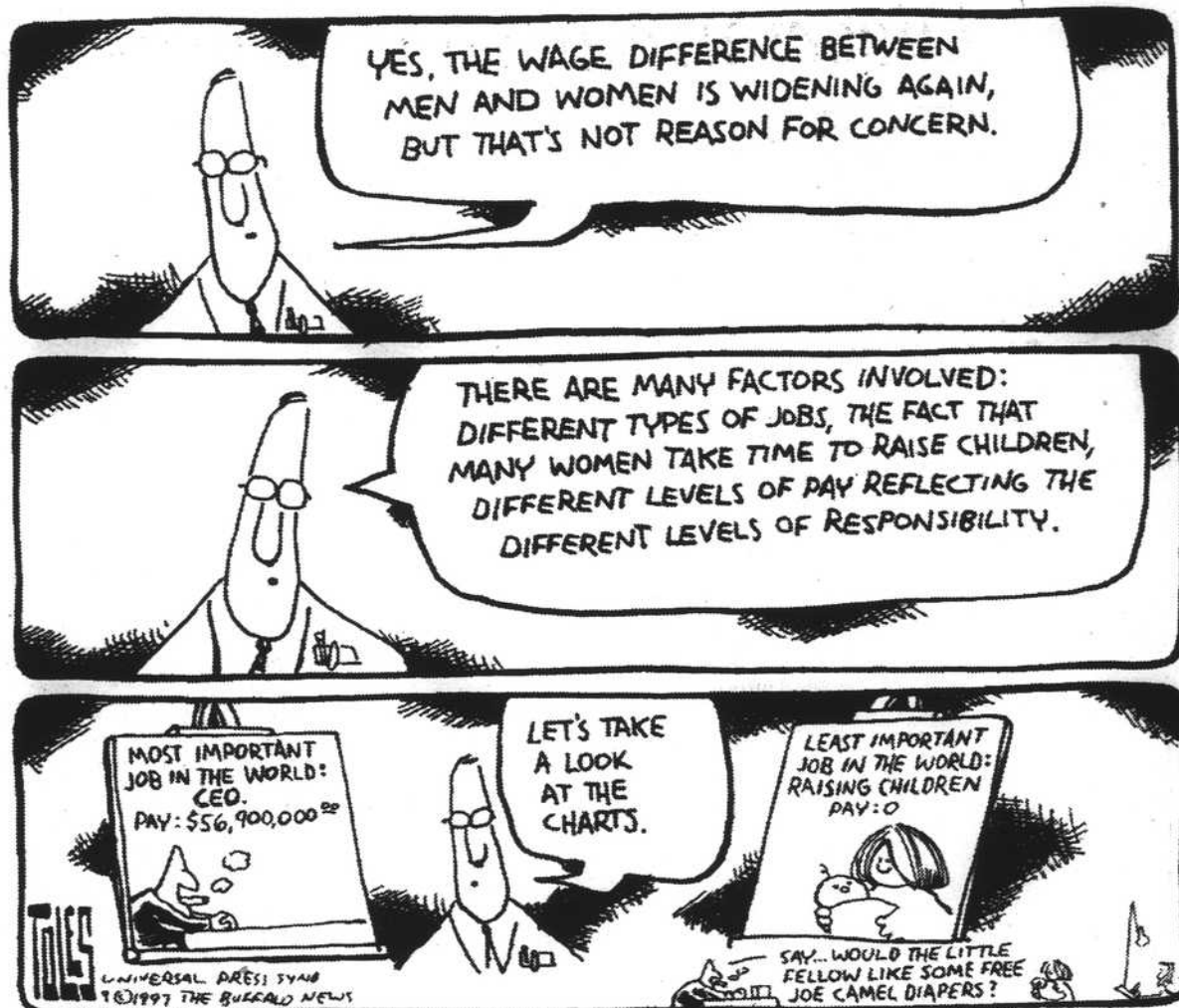
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Cartoonist's VIEW



DN LETTERS

My view

I am writing in response to "In the toilet." Yes, I am a member of the greek system. Yes, I have done my share of "sneaking" and toilet-papering. And yes, the greek system's GPA is as high as stated.

If what we choose to do to our houses offends you, I have two words of advice: DON'T LOOK. As soon as the staff of the DN starts paying my rent, they can tell me how to live in my house.

Kelly Brey
sophomore
undeclared

Another view

While I realize that Lane Hickenbottom (Thursday) did not intend that his article be read as antifeminist, I think he needs to do a little more thinking (and reading) on a couple of the points he brought up.

He makes the claim that feminism has caused a situation where people do not "feel appreciated." Perhaps he is unaware that patriarchal structures create situations where women and men are unappreciated.

Women's work goes unpaid, unrecognized, or worse, degraded. Men are forced into roles they might not be comfortable in.

He writes that "in the past, a man came home after a day's work where his wife and children were happy to see him." This is the image that conservatives would like to put forth, but underneath the veneer, there were different stories: women and children physically, mentally or sexually abused, lesbians and gay men trapped into soulless marriages, and men who had extramarital affairs.

He claims that feminism created the current economic situation, where families require two incomes to get by. This is a very difficult position to maintain, particularly if one points out that capitalism, rather than feminism, has made the cost of living

so high that in order to maintain a household of any kind, two incomes are required.

Perhaps the divorce rates are due to factors other than men and women feeling unappreciated in their marriages. Many women married young because they got pregnant, for example, before abortion was legal. Many women entered into marriages with men who later became abusive. Many lesbian women and gay men entered into marriage before gay rights issues were raised in this country.

The notion that the family can only be happy with one father, one mother, 2.4 children, a dog and a rose-covered picket fence has always been a patriarchal and heterosexist fantasy. Maybe they existed on television, in the movies and in fiction.

Lastly, I believe Mr. Hickenbottom should read current feminist thought before he declares "the feminist movement ... an old car with a constant backfiring problem." He might find that feminist critiques of society are far more cutting-edge than he seems to believe.

Robert W. Anderson
graduate student
English

Clear view

I am a student who takes the majority of my classes on City Campus, and have had the habit of spending my time in the Nebraska Union between classes. However, this a habit I am going to quickly break. The union used to be a place where I enjoyed a quick bite to eat and a chance to sit and read the DN, and it also used to be a chance for me to conveniently take a bio-break if needed. Not anymore!!

The union, in the glory of its construction, has left only seven toilet stalls for males compared to the roughly 17 we had in years past. Now, it doesn't bother me that there are only seven

stalls (all on the second floor, and one nearly overrun by construction anyway), but what does bother me is that only three toilet stalls have doors to ensure privacy. What does that mean? It means that if three people have to do their duty before me, I'm all of a sudden putting on a public performance. I CAN'T POOP LIKE THAT!!!

Pardon the pun, but this is a bunch of crap. Are you seriously telling me that the union can't afford four more doors for their bathroom stalls? Or are the construction guys playing a funny, cute prank on males? I hope someone who works in the union does something about this, so I can quit making a stink.

Jerry Ridell
sophomore
sociology



MATT HANEY/DN

P.S. Write
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