

MORE LETTERS

We Really Need A Few Good Mothers

To the editor:
Sometimes it is necessary to retrace one's footsteps to keep abreast of the times, and this Thanksgiving we had opportunity to head once again back to the nation's capital.

The first shock was viewing the home we sold in 1986 to emigrate to Brunswick County. Ours was a beautiful yellow and charcoal-gray-trimmed home with a curved wooden internal fence and tool shed with German siding in the same colors; 9 fruit trees, two white pine trees, two raised flower beds and about 20 grapevines.

Last week the house appeared in an awkward light-blue-lavender paint without window shutters and absolutely nothing else but one white pine tree grown to 12 inches thick: a desert wreck amidst neighboring homes which looked the same as ever.

In what way did we offend yuppies that the good things of life were ripped out with no thought of other replacements?

And Washington may indeed be a symbol of some optimism to election victors, but the media people still live in a dream world instead of cultural reality.

Judy Mann, a Washington colum-

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We welcome your letters to the editor. Letters must have an original signature and must include your address and telephone number. (This information is for verification purposes only; we will not publish your street/mailling address or phone number.) Letters must be typed or written legibly. Address letters to:
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Anonymous letters will not be published.

nist, now has identified a new twist to the accusation that those chauvinistic males have erected a glass ceiling to keep women from the top: On the basis of an alleged study involving 46 female and 35 male high school valedictorians of Illinois high schools who went to college, the women achieved significantly less professionally than the men because they experienced a "drop in their estimations of their intelligence."

Translated in truth terms it meant that many of the women couldn't reach for the top because they thought they would not "become the kind of mother they wanted to be."

Some of the others expected to be in the labor force continuously because they'd "aim higher."

"They expected to marry later and to have children later." (And Mann

says "they did.")
Understandably, the feminist gripe is that men "also planned to marry but saw that as irrelevant to their career planning."

But of course, this is a lie. Marriage to many of them is essential to career achievement because it is the inspiration and establishment of home and child-rearing the wives give which provides the solid footing and sanity to work as hard as is necessary to hit the top.

The feminist message is that if women devote themselves to family they have insulted their own intelligence.

Feminists continue to arrogantly demand attitudes among all women which reality dictates will only fit a few.

And make no allowance for the

miseries some bright women suffer because they waited too long to seek marriage only to find that most of the good men were caught by their less ambitious sisters.

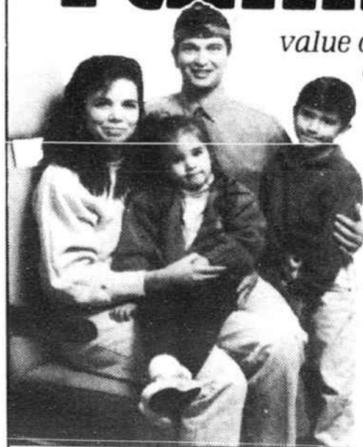
Or for that matter how many good men suffer and sometimes go wrong because so many women give them nothing but the back of their fingertips at arm's length during normal courting years.

There is also this background opinion that this nation cannot continue to compete in the world markets without utilizing all the mental resources of women in career fields. But then this achievement would be at the expense of a drastic reduction in the number of masculine contributions. It may be good social policy to keep equal opportunity for women but it is bad social policy to stampee all mentally gifted women into the feminist mold.

For, to steal a sound byte from the Marines, what this nation really needs most these days is a **FEW GOOD MOTHERS.**

Karl E. Brandt
Shallotte

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Who Needs These Gory Ghoulies?

It was supposed to be a cinematic showdown of the high-dollar ghoulies. Tom Cruise's Lestat in "Interview with the Vampire" goes *mano y mano* with Robert DeNiro's monster in "Mary Shelley's Frankenstein." Bloodsucker versus ultra-quilted cadaver. Last one to break a box office record is a rotten corpse.

According to the early returns, the hunk with the pearly-white fangs is whupping the big guy with the neck bolts. And, say the early reviews, both films are gory enough to make you lose your lunch. Just in time for your holiday moviegoing pleasure: Ho-ho-heave!

At the risk of sounding like Andy Rooney, don't you miss movies that knew how to give you a good scare without grossing you out?

It's an incongruous and inconvenient trait for a newspaper person, but I have a very low gore threshold. This could be because I grew up peeking through my fingers at Boris Karloff and not Freddie Krueger. This could be because my work entails a certain measure of unavoidable unpleasantness of the brutally realistic sort.

I don't know, but I cannot justify driving half an hour and paying \$7 to see a movie if there's any chance I'm going to walk out before it's over. And I don't walk out on bad



Lynn Carlson

movies (watched "Bonfire of the Vanities" all the way to the end); just bloody ones.

I've never outgrown, and don't expect I ever will, the love of a good thriller. But I prefer, as I once heard super-smooth Paul Newman tell an interviewer, a little something left to the imagination.

I have the fondest memories of grainy black-and-white movies watched with playmates on rainy Saturday afternoons and late at night on "Shock Theatre."

The sexiest those films got was when the Depression-era blonde staying overnight in the spooky castle would brush out her hair at the vanity table and she'd be dressed in a white peignoir set.

As gory as they got was when the vampire bat flew in the room and then you'd see the two little marks on the blonde's neck. We nonetheless got the point, even as kids.

It's fun to get scared in a safe place from a safe space—under the covers with a novel and a flashlight. In a movie theatre next to someone who likes the same kind of flicks as you and will tell you when you can uncover your eyes. (Thanks, Eric.) In your darkened living room, wide-eyed and anxious in the bluish light of the television screen.

Blind, vulnerable Audrey Hepburn outwitting sinister Alan Arkin in "Wait Until Dark" (1967) was scary. Murderous Robert Mitchum on the trail of two children in the surreal "Night of the Hunter" (1955) was scary. Anthony Perkins, in full drag and in silhouette as Mrs. Bates in "Psycho," (1960) was scary.

Luckily, "Psycho," with its infamous shower scene, was in black and white, or it would have been too graphic for me.

No, I won't be seeing Cruise bite Pitt, or Branagh truss DeNiro, until they make it to the video rental shelves. Then I'll watch at home—and if I fall asleep, fast-forward, or turn off the set in disgust, I'm out half as much money and a good deal less time. And I won't have had to wear shoes or hear anybody's baby crying during the ordeal.

I think I can stand the wait. I've read the books.

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