



MEREDITH HERALD

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Educating Women to Excel

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WEATHER

TODAY: Sunny. Low 50, High 70.

Thursday: Sunny. Low 61, High 81.

Source: www.weather.com
Information retrieved Tues.
Apr. 29 at 4:00 p.m.

Women's Roles in Society

Danielle Beck
Contributing Writer

Hillary Clinton, Sandra Day O'Connor and Maria Shriver are all women who have proved they have what it takes to do it all. All three of these women are mothers, career women and wives. What exactly is a woman's role in society today? Everybody in the world has a different answer for this question. Judy Brady, a free-lance writer, who is known for her essays on controversial issues, answers this question of a woman's role in society in her essay, "I Want a Wife." Though Brady means to be satirical, she makes good points about the heavy load women carry. She veers into excessive stereotypes and pos-

sibly could alienate her readers, both men and women.

Throughout the essay, Brady talks from a man's point of view about all the things she thinks a typical man would want her wife to do. The amount of stuff she lists is incredible. She lists things like "taking her kids to the dentist and keeping track of their appointments" and pretty much just taking care of the kids. Also she talks about caring for the husband's "physical needs." These are just a few of the things Brady mentions that a man expects his wife to complete on a daily basis. Brady is correct that, in the 'ideal' family, the wife does carry a much heavier load than the man does.

In the ideal, picture-perfect imaginary family, the only responsibility the man has is to earn the bacon and, once home, take care of all the manly chores, like disciplining the children, mowing the lawn, and fixing what is broken, while the wife is responsible for everything else. But I would have to say that in this essay Brady really does go overboard, becoming almost sarcastic in the essay about all the tasks for which women are responsible. In today's society some males are starting to take on the motherly role, taking on more of the household and family responsibilities, so the woman can pursue a career. However, there are still families like the Cleavers,

where the male goes to work and the woman stays at home to be the happy housewife, mother and slave, tending to everybody else's needs except her own, but such families are not typical anymore. The only time people see a setting like that of 1950s television is if the woman chooses to take that role.

Families come in all shapes and sizes. Not all families have a mother, father and kids. Women are carrying heavier loads than they have ever done before. The old saying is still somewhat true: a man works from sun up to sun down, but a woman's work is never done.

Brady draws out a
Society cont. on pg. 7

Unlikely Cleaning Revelations

Winn Bolton
Contributing Writer

Jane Smiley argues in her essay "The Case against Chores" that children should not be forced to do housework. She believes that children should take the initiative to clean the bathroom because they think it needs to be cleaned. Smiley's views are based upon her own upbringing. She was never forced to clean up after herself at home, but she learned the value of hard work by caring for her horse. Parents will read all sorts of books about how to raise their children, but when someone comes

along with a radical idea, such as Smiley's, they will take offense because it does not reassure their personal parenting methods. Even though I am not a parent, I like to think ahead on how I might go about such a task, and I would never let my future children lie around waiting for a cleaning revelation.

My parents never assigned me weekly chores; instead, my father would assign tasks to be completed each Saturday. These tasks ranged from cleaning my room to picking up sticks on the lawn. Under my father's watchful eye, he would see to it that we

did as he asked. Smiley believes families cannot operate the labor system properly because they do not work as a team to get the job done. She argues that chores are a form of child labor, in which parents "plan and plant the garden [and] the kids weed it." However, my father was always outside with his children, picking up the larger branches that had just fallen in the storm during the night. He stayed with us until every twig and piece of litter was picked up so our tenant could mow the lawn.

When a child reaches a certain age, she should be expected to help

out around the house. Between the ages of six and sixteen, the child should feel obliged to assist her parents in the daily chores, such as the laundry and the dishes. The period of a child's life when she is forced to clean will instill in her a desire to continue her efforts into adulthood. If a young person does whatever she pleases, how will she learn the value of hard work? Smiley was privileged to own a horse, and it was in the stable that she learned the importance of work. She claims she "saw the purpose

Unlikely cont. on pg. 10