



What if women took over

Lewis Grizzard
Syndicated Columnist

Women are simply too smart not to have eventually figured out the way to gain complete control of the country is to form their own political party.

It happened in Cincinnati at the convention of the National Organization for Women (NOW, by God!).

The convention adopted a resolution calling for a commission to study forming a new political party because of "the failure of both major political parties to address women's needs."

Said NOW President Molly Yard (no relation to the famous landscape architect, Back), "We are 52 percent of the country, and we have almost no representation."

There is the key statement. Women make up 52 percent of the nation's population, which means if there were a political showdown between the sexes, women would have unbeatable strength in numbers.

If women do go ahead and form their own party — and they are being quite foolish if they don't — here's the way a future presidential election would stack up:

The Democrats, of course, would nominate some ultra-liberal male who, if elected, would lead us into fiscal peril, while the Republicans would nominate an ultra-conservative male with a plank in his platform that called for shooting any woman who even *thinks* of having an abortion.

The new Tupperware Party, made up of all women all over the country, would counter with somebody like Rep. Pat Schroeder of Colorado, Cher or Sally Jessy Raphael.

Men would dilute their votes by splitting them between the two male candidates while women, hungry for power, would go en masse for the female candidate.

The only thing that could go wrong in the scenario would be the failure on the part of the Tupperwares to get out the vote.

They wouldn't have much trouble with career women, but they would hang around a lot of tennis court get those women to give up their morning doubles in order to go visit their sister.

Gaining the White House in a woman's Tupperware would then turn thoughts toward controlling Congress.

One by one, the Senate and House would begin to fill up with women, and the men, ousted from their seats, would have to return home to resume their chiropractic and law practices.

You could expect a lot of change women took complete charge of government. Let's look at specific areas:

• **DEFENSE:** The first thing Tupperwares would do is brighten up Stealth bomber and have its all-black interior painted mauve.

• **HUMAN RIGHTS:** Millions would be funded for research to find way for men to have babies for a while and see how they like it.

• **THE ENVIRONMENT:** Cigar smoking and belching at the dinner table would be outlawed.

• **ANIMAL RIGHTS:** Cats would be given the vote, further strengthening the Tupperware members.

• **HOUSING:** Men would be outlawed from using guest towels.

• **LAW AND ORDER:** Cagney and Lacey would be appointed co-attorneys general.

• **TRANSPORTATION:** "We'll fly the planes from now on, you go back and serve lunch."

• **FOREIGN RELATIONS:** "President Cher and Soviet Premier Raul Gorbachev met today in Geneva and decided to go shopping."

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Mail Call

School's location inappropriate

EDITOR:

How many children must be killed each year in the United States before the city councils and planners understand the significance of their decisions?

The Bryan ISD recently opened Sam Rayburn Junior High School on the Frontage Road of the Highway 6 Bypass. Highway 6 is a 4-lane divided freeway with 2-way frontage roads. This roadway is clearly an inappropriate location for a school.

The peak travel period on this facility is between 7:15 a.m. and 8 a.m., which happens to correspond with the time Sam Rayburn opens each morning. I have personally witnessed junior high students cross the bypass both on foot and bicycles during the peak period.

As a recent TAMU Civil Engineering Graduate, it is apparent to me that building Sam Rayburn at this location was a flaw of judgment. As a Bryan citizen, I fear the

consequences.

I don't believe the school administration can guarantee that students will not cross the bypass even if penalties are enforced upon them or their parents. Eventually, a tardy student will cross the road, fearing the ramifications of tardiness more than the risk to his or her health.

An overhead crosswalk is probably not a viable alternative since the cost to construct such a structure would be close to, if not greater than, the cost of the school itself. The speed limits could be better enforced, but this would not prevent accidents from occurring. After all, Highway 6 is a freeway segment designed for mobility, not pedestrian access!

I sincerely hope that the Bryan city planners use better judgment in the future to insure the safety of our children.

Dave N. Carter '88

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A little condom sense goes a long way

Last Friday I shared with you five female Texas A&M students' thoughts about birth control, sexually transmitted diseases and sex in college. Today, we'll continue our unscientific poll by hearing what the guys have to say.

• The first question, and the biggie: *Do you and your prospective partner talk about birth control before you have sex?*

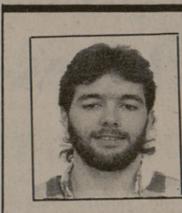
"Al," 21 years old: "I never used to ask the girl before we had sex whether she had any sort of protection. I figured if she wasn't on the pill or something, she'd tell me to stop. But now I know that girls aren't that responsible, so I always use a condom. I don't even bother asking anymore. Well, at least that's what I try to do, but sometimes I don't."

"Bill," 22: "It's easy for girls; they know without asking whether the guy is using birth control or not. I mean, he's either wearing a condom or he's not wearing a condom. But the guy has to ask the girl, and if she is on the Pill or something, she gets offended that you even asked, and if she's not protected sometimes she'll say she is anyway. And if you've been drinking, you don't give a (expletive) anyway. You just do it. It's such a game. It's like playing a slot machine or something."

(This is Scot again. I was just wondering . . . Bill, can you say "Daddy?")

"Curt," 19: "It's no big deal, really. It's, like, four or five words: 'Are you on the Pill?' If she says no or you don't believe her, then, as the saying goes, you better wrap that rascal. And if you don't believe her, then what are you doing sleeping with her anyway?"

"Dave," 23: "Sometimes I ask, sometimes I don't. Most of the time, if she doesn't say anything, I figure it's OK. It's really awkward to talk about stuff



Scot Walker
Editor

like that when you don't know a girl that well. Usually what happens is that I ask afterward. At least then I'll know next time."

"Ed," 19: "I've only had sex with one girl. I didn't ask her about birth control, because I felt really stupid talking about it. But I guess I'll feel a lot more stupid if the girl calls me and tells me I'm a daddy."

• *What about disease? For example, do you ever talk about sexual history?*

The most common response to this question was laughter. None of the guys ever asked a girl about her sexual history before they had sex. Dave did say he talked about it with some girls, but only after they had been going out for a while.

• *Have you ever tried to pressure a girl into having sex even though you both knew you had no protection?*

Only Dave admitted to this, although a couple of the others said they had heard of "friends" who did it.

• *Does drinking affect your judgment or your willingness to use birth control?*

Curt: "Not at all. Actually, I'm even more careful when I'm drunk, because I get paranoid. I don't want kids yet. Period. I don't take chances."

Bill: "Of course it does. It's dumb, but it's true, and any guy who says otherwise must be lying. And girls are the same way. They always make guys out to be the villain, but they get drunk and get just as sleazy as we do. And some girls are even worse than the guys."

(Whoa! This is Scot talking. Just want to remind you that these are not my comments. Please, ladies, don't firebomb my house or anything. Just write a letter, OK? We now return to our regularly scheduled programming.) Dave: "I don't think it really matters. I mean, those guys who are responsible are always responsible, and the rest of us never are, even when we're sober. And girls are probably the same way."

• *Researchers now say AIDS cannot be transmitted through oral sex. Do you think oral sex is becoming, or will become, more common as a safer alternative to intercourse?*

All five of the guys said that oral sex is not more common now than before. Most said they think women feel oral sex is more personal and intimate than intercourse, and therefore won't usually perform it the first time they have sex with a particular man.

I think we can see where this is

going. Most college students, male and female, just don't give a lot of thought to birth control or sexually transmitted diseases. We're theoretically in college because we want to have a better future, but we're willing to take a chance on screwing it all up for some short-lived carnal pleasure.

So what is the solution? Well, the obvious one is abstinence, but I'm not naive enough to expect any significant portion of the college-age population to abstain from sex. I'm not going to recommend that anyone do something I'm not willing to do myself. I enjoy sex. I don't think it's immoral. I intend to keep doing it, hopefully for 60 or 70 more years. I suspect that most of you are going to do the same, or at least try. If abstinence works for you, that's great, but it's definitely not for everyone.

So for those people who do partake, what is keeping them from using birth-control/disease control? It's not a lack of education; everyone I talked to knew they were taking big chances by having unprotected sex. The problem, rather, is lack of communication.

I don't think we can make people talk about things they don't want to talk about. Instead, we should make the talking unnecessary. All sexually-active

women should be on some form of birth control — the Pill, a diaphragm, foams, something. And all guys should use condoms. Period. Always. Carry a couple cases of them in your car if you need them. This way, instead of having to decide who will be responsible for "taking care of it," everyone's responsible. It doesn't matter whether your partner is protected or not, because you know you are.

We should also make it socially unacceptable to have unprotected sex. When your roommate tells you she had unprotected sex, tell her how dumb she is. And quit spouting nonsense like, "Sex without a condom is like a shower with a raincoat." Try this, instead: "Sex without a condom is like 18 years of responsibility for an unwanted child."

College students are not too embarrassed to drop their pants, but we can't bring ourselves to ask The Question, to bring up The Topic. Rather than being embarrassed by talking about safe sex, we ignore the whole subject, as if it's going to go away. Bad news for guys and gals: It doesn't go away very long — just about nine months, so.

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The Battalion

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