




**The 60/40 Gender Gap:
The Difference Between the Two Populations?
Lipstick!**



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Introduction

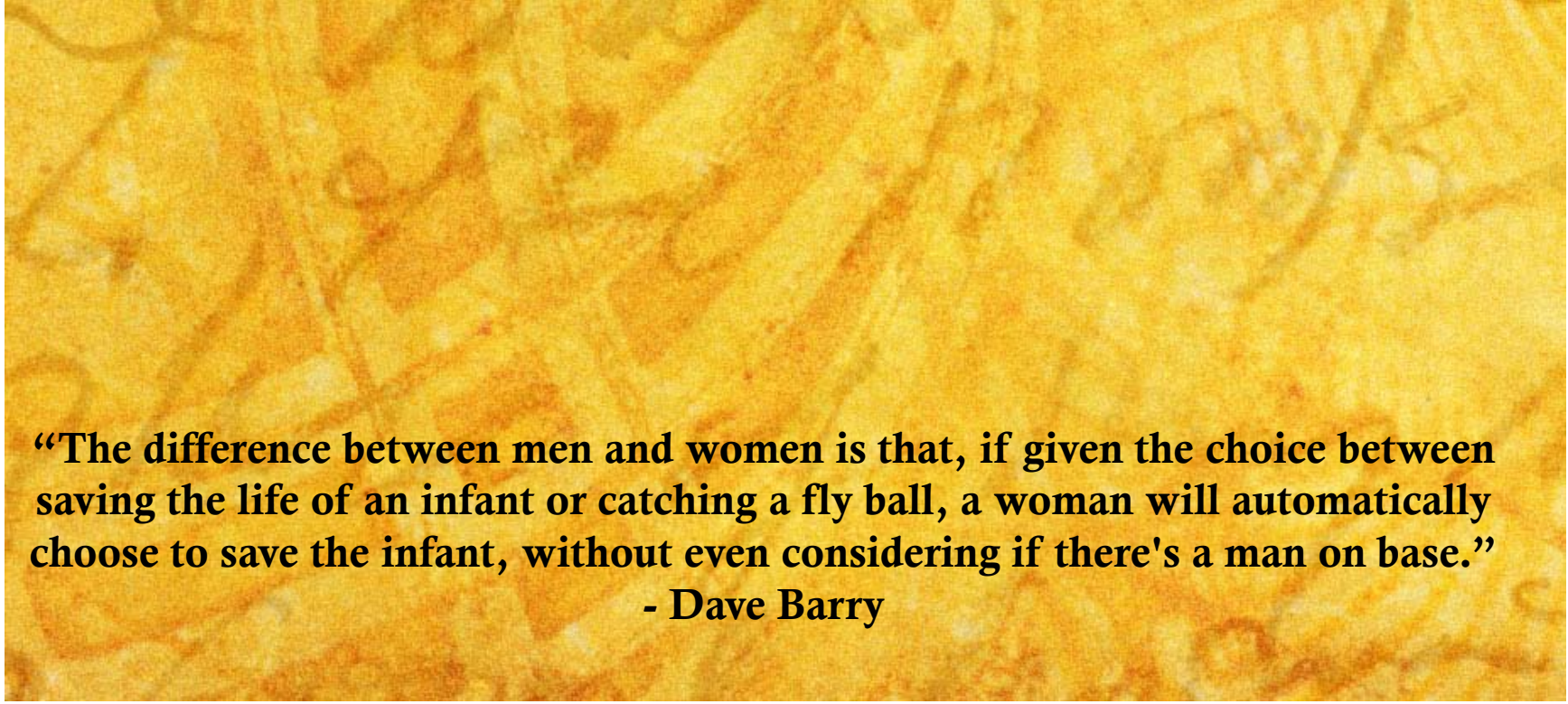
- Who I Am...a little bit functional/a little bit technical...
 - Director, Office of Management Information and Research
 - Banner Project Manager & Banner Student Team Leader
 - Associate Dean, Graduate Studies & Continuing Education
 - Systems Analyst

- Where I'm From...
 - Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU)
 - Located in New Haven
 - About 12,000 students
 - 7,366 FT Undergraduates, 980 FT Graduates (Fall 2009)

- Why I'm (and We're) Here...
 - Data and factoids about men and women
 - Current gender situation in colleges and universities
 - Common myths and future challenges



Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus



“The difference between men and women is that, if given the choice between saving the life of an infant or catching a fly ball, a woman will automatically choose to save the infant, without even considering if there's a man on base.”

- Dave Barry

The Differences Between Men and Women:

The Fun List

- **Maturity**
 - Women mature much faster than men. Most 17-year-old females can function as adults.
 - Most 17-year-old males are still trading baseball cards and giving each other wedgies after gym class.
- **Admitting mistakes**
 - Women will sometimes admit making a mistake.
 - The last man who admitted that he was wrong was General George Custer.
- **Offspring**
 - Women know everything about their children. They know about dentist appointments and soccer games and romances and best friends and favorite foods and secret fears and hopes and dreams.
 - Men are vaguely aware of some short people living in the house.
- **Bathrooms**
 - A man has at most six items in his bathroom - a toothbrush, toothpaste, shaving cream, razor, a bar of Dial soap, and a towel from the Holiday Inn.
 - The average number of items in a typical woman's bathroom is **437**. A man would not be able to identify most of these items.
- **Sex**
 - Women prefer 30 - 45 minutes of foreplay.
 - Men prefer 30 - 45 seconds of foreplay. Men consider driving back to her place as part of the foreplay.

The Differences Between Men and Women: The Serious List

- Maturity
 - Women mature much faster than men.
- Three domains of learning: Intellectual, Physical, Emotional
- Women
 - Tend to set higher academic standards for themselves than men.
 - Tend to perform better in school.
 - Tend to rely on social support and communication.
- Men
 - Tend to believe in themselves so much despite their intellectual output that they tend to disregard classroom tasks even more.
 - Tend to be abstract thinkers and analysts in ways that most women cannot seem to easily follow.
 - Tend to learn more when they are asked to show how things work instead of asking them to talk.

The Differences Between Men and Women: Data Points to Consider

- For every 100 women enrolled in college, there are only 77 men.
- While in college, women outperformed men academically, and their grade point averages were higher in every college major.
- For every 100 women who graduate with a associate's degree, only 49 men accomplish that.
- For every 100 women who graduate with a bachelor's degree, only 73 men accomplish that.
- One year out of college, women earn 80 percent of what men earn.
 - In education, women earn 95 percent as much as men earn.
 - In math, women earn 76 percent as much as men earn.
- Ten years out of college, women earn 69 percent of what men earn.

The Differences Between Men and Women: Should There Be A List?

- The Gender Gap in College: Maximizing the Developmental Potential of Women and Men (Jossey-Bass)
 - Linda J. Sax, an associate professor of education at the University of California at Los Angeles
 - Examined data from millions of students nationwide collected by UCLA's Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP)
 - Her argument: the study of gender difference primarily reinforces gender differences.
 - Differences among men and among women are greater than the differences between them.
 - Using such analysis "overstates" differences or "stereotypes" students.
 - Identifies 584 "college effects" that affect both males and females.

The Differences Between Men and Women: Findings

- The Gender Gap in College: Maximizing the Developmental Potential of Women and Men (Jossey-Bass)
 - Both male and female undergraduates are more likely to have higher college grades as the percentage of female faculty members increases.
 - The more time female students devote to exercise and sports, the higher their grades are likely to be. For male students, more time on exercise and sports has the opposite effect.
 - Women are more likely to report growth in critical thinking during college if they attend private colleges than public universities.
 - Male students tend to perform better academically when they have campus peer groups that support "traditional gender roles."
 - At campuses with a strong emphasis on the arts, male academic performance tends to suffer.

The Differences Between Men and Women: The Gender Gap in College: Maturity

- **Serious List: Women mature much faster than men.**
 - Women enter college more prepared than men
 - Males have much more confidence than females.
 - Only on writing does the female self-confidence level outpace the male level (and reflect reality).

Self- Confidence of First-Year College Students by Gender

% of Women Who Think They Are Above Average

% of Men Who Think They Are Above Average

Intellectual self-confidence

52.2%

68.8%

Mathematical ability

35.9%

53.1%

Academic ability

65.9%

71.9%

Writing ability

49.3%

45.7%

The Differences Between Men and Women: The Gender Gap in College: Further Findings

- Self-confidence
 - Female students' confidence levels go up more with positive interactions with professors.
 - Female students who feel their questions are dismissed show declines.
- Critical Thinking Skills
 - Women are more likely to report gains in critical thinking skills if they attend private residential colleges and major in the humanities.
 - Women who major in education tend to report little change in their critical thinking abilities.
 - Men at campuses with many education majors -- even if the men themselves aren't in the major -- report major gains in critical thinking skills.
 - Both men and women gain if they seek out ethnic studies or other courses that expose them to different kinds of people than themselves.

The Differences Between Men and Women: Popular Messages and Questions

- Gender equity has been achieved...
 - But with Title IX, has the pendulum swung the other way?
- Women are an academic success story...
 - But are they a career success story?
- Men are experiencing an educational crisis...
 - Or is it a social crisis?
- College Board Forum (October 2009)
 - Traditional schools aren't tuned in to the hands-on learning styles of boys
 - The media portrayal of smart young men generally is of socially awkward boys who don't get dates to the prom
 - Young male students, particular at-risk youth, lack positive male models in and out of the classroom.

The Differences Between Men and Women: College Board Forum Responses

One professor wrote:

We are raising a generation of under-achieving, knuckle-headed men. At the non-elite college where I teach, the contrast in performance between male and female students is stunning. Most of the young women take their education seriously, work hard and succeed; most of the young men put little effort into their studies and the failure rate for young men is very high. I suspect it has to do with the regional culture, where the percentage of college graduates is very low, but not too long ago those young men who managed to get through high school could count on a manufacturing job with decent pay. Those jobs are disappearing, but the message is not getting through to many of the male students, who come to college to play sports, and haven't waken up to recognize this reality. In the end, these under-achieving men are saved by the more mature, serious women who regularly marry them. Browsing through the marriage announcements in the local paper, it is now typical for the bride to have far more education (and brighter economic prospects) than the groom. My heart sinks every time I learn that one of my bright, hard-working female students is engaged to a lazy man-child who will be nothing more than an anchor to her.

The Differences Between Men and Women:

Closing Thoughts


- Men and women are different
 - Men are different from other men
 - Women are different from other women
- Men and women experience college differently
 - Certain aspects of college – such as living away from home, interacting with faculty, and learning about diversity – contribute in unique ways to women’s and men’s development.
 - Differential effects go beyond gender (ex: race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socio-economic factors)
- Clearly, more research is needed to truly understand the “gendered” effects of college.



Thank You!!! Questions?

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