

References

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"Women's Lib"

Arguments for "women's lib" appear in many publications. I can accept the shallow, subjective stuff in other periodicals, but certainly *Science* should publish arguments other than those for equal pay and maternity leave.

How about extended leave to provide offspring with the love, discipline, and care that young mammals need? Surely biologists can describe the needs of mammalian offspring generally, and the needs of man's offspring specifically.

Are certain women (a minority, I am sure) trying to repeal another of nature's laws? Haven't we bought ourselves enough problems by trying to diverge in various directions from the highways nature intended?

Women certainly deserve fair and enlightened treatment; but what should it be? What can it be—without bringing up more children who will become problems for all of us to contend with?

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Bureaucracy

The publication "Interim Description and guidelines for proposal preparation," sent to me by the National Science Foundation in reply to a letter of inquiry concerning grants under the RANN (Research Applied to National Needs) program, must represent a new high in the bureaucratization of science funding.

Even after an initial letter of inquiry, with a general description of the contemplated research, it is still necessary to submit a preliminary proposal. This preliminary proposal itself imposes formidable requirements, including an

abstract, narrative (containing a "discussion of the implications of the proposed research for national needs or societal problems"), research plan, management plan (including "a schedule indicating major accomplishment milestones foreseen in achieving the research objective"), related programs and activities of the organization, related programs in other organizations, dissemination of research results ("It is particularly important to identify the potential beneficiaries or users of the anticipated research results and to plan for effective information transfer to them..."), as well as the usual vitae and bibliographies, current support, applications to other federal agencies, and budget. However, this preliminary proposal is still to be treated only as a basis for discussion regarding the development of a formal proposal if "review indicates that the project would be a strong competitor for support by the RANN program."

Aside from the demands on the researcher's time imposed by this excessively cumbersome procedure, are not national needs likely to change considerably before the research gets done? An accelerated, rather than prolonged, application period would seem to be a more logical way to get at urgent societal problems.

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Courtesy

All those except hermits are probably aware of the current crises in job openings and funding. May I call attention to a concomitant, perhaps resultant, crisis in courtesy—courtesy among educational institutions.

Many colleges respond to job inquiry letters with Silence. If this is not an extreme in rudeness and discourtesy, it is certainly at least a failure to empathize with the job-seeking individuals in a poor job market.

Some may suggest an economic justification for this silence, but when \$6 for postcards plus a little time for printing a form letter saying "No, thank you" could relieve some of the anxieties of 100 applicants, the economic argument seems difficult to accept.

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