

Women of the Millenium Ready for Work Force

By Sarah Stover
Lion's Eye Staff Writer

In a recent study done by *US News and World Reports*, women were found to be the majority on college campuses. By 2002, women will earn 58 percent of bachelor's degrees in U.S. colleges. So where are the men?

In the close of this year alone, women are expected to earn just over 57 percent of all bachelor's degrees, compared with 43 percent in 1970 and under 24 percent in 1950.

The U.S. Department of Education presently estimated that by the year 2008, women will outnumber men in undergraduate and graduate programs by 9.2 million to 6.9 million.

With better grades, better GPAs, better resumes and a clearer sense of individuality and future goals, many females graduate high school ready to dive right back into their education on college campuses. Many males, on the other hand, remain behind and are tempted into making fast cash, preferring a \$30,000 starting salary in fields like air-conditioning maintenance and Web design, even though the male high school graduates make an average of \$23,000 less than men who stick with school and graduate college -and this income disparity is growing.

A lot of male high school graduates feel that they have had

enough of school, and many would simply prefer to jump right into the work force rather than go through four + more years of boring classes, term papers or student loans. Women tend to be more patient and dedicated to higher learning.

With an edge on education, women could eventually close the salary gap and increasingly move into positions of power as heads of corporations, presidents of universities and political leaders. This is assuming, however, that education is the key to higher success. With unemployment at the lowest its been in a generation, it is not surprising that some high school grads pass up four more years of college to go out and work.

For the men who are going to college, computers is where they are at. "If making money is your first goal, and if you are competent in high-paying skills, there's no reason to finish your degree," says Stephen Trachtenberg, president of George Washington University in Washington D.C. "We shouldn't be surprised by that. It's demonstrated to us by that on a regular basis by people who sign up with the NBA..." His son, a 1997 graduate of Columbia University, had a roommate who dropped out during his sophomore year to take a computer-related job. "By the time my son got his B.A., his former roommate was making \$100,000 a year," says Trachtenberg.

Walt Biddle, executive director of the Career Training Foundation, a nonprofit group that supports U.S. trade schools, estimates that two thirds of the people entering the informational technology industry are male. The girls, meanwhile, are concerning themselves with better grades and higher scores. "They mature sooner, so they get more serious about their schoolwork," says Delsie Phillips, director of admissions at Haverford College in PA. "It really shows up when you start reading applications. Girls have followed through and done all the things they are supposed to do, while the boys are still trying to find themselves."

In addition, girls graduate from high school at a higher rate than boys; in 1996, 51.2 percent of high school graduates were female. Girls accounted for 53.5 percent of SAT takers in that same year, and 69.7 percent of females graduate enrolled in college with in a year of graduation, compared to only 60.1 percent of boys. Boys also fail to finish high school at a much higher rate; between October 1995 and October 1996, they accounted for 58 percent of the nation's dropouts.

Interestingly enough, as early as fourth grade, according to a Department of Education survey, girls spend more time on their homework than boys and they are less likely to spend time watching tele-

vision or play the Nintendo 64 for hours on end. More girls become high school newspaper editors, honor society members and community service volunteers.

Women, however, still have a long way to go. Among the population of full time workers, women with bachelor's degrees still make only \$4,708 more on average than men holding nothing more than a high school diploma. Why? Mostly because of women's choice in majors: english over engineering, psychology over computer science, elementary education over medicine or law...this is where it matters. "Every sort of job that is associated with females is also associated with declining status," says Barbara Miller, an anthropologist and former director of woman's studies at George Washington. "They [women] are less economically promising in terms of lifetime earnings."

Even so, women are still taking the lead in the college educated work force. Every thing takes time. If college degrees remain as important to tapping into the wealth and success in the 21st century as they have in the past, males may have to get used to the lower status that women have endured for decades. "I hope the men can accommodate what's going to happen," says Mortenson, "when women become the main breadwinner in the family."

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Sounding Off on the Situation in Kosovo

By Rob Coyle
Editor-in-Chief

Imagine being forced from your home in the dead of night; your money and possessions taken from you at gun point; your very life threatened if you do not leave the country you and generations of your family have called home. Now imagine your own government doing this to you. This is the life of an ethnic Albanian in Kosovo today.

We Americans have grown accustomed to hearing these stories of hatred and genocide. It seems whenever one war ends in Western Europe, another one is scuffling at its predecessor's heels. To many, Kosovo seems like just another tragedy in a long line of tragedies. Why should we risk the lives of American soldiers to fight a war we technically have nothing to do with?

The answer to that is riddled with so much patriotism and nostalgia it is almost sickening. Unfortunately, it is also unnervingly true. The United States steps in because we feel we have to. We are like the secret service for the rest of the world...Is that a bullet? Better jump in front of it. Our philosophy of solving the problems of the rest of the world is hazardous but effective. Although we are constantly butting into things we have no business involving ourselves with, we do

tend to bring them to a close.

This Kosovo situation has been compared to the events in Germany that led to WWII. The similarities are eerily similar - a tyrannical leader with the frenzied support of his people, the attempted genocide of an entire race of people occupying the same land.

It can be said that U.S. involvement ended the war, but you only need to look as far as Vietnam to see when U.S. involvement has been anything but successful. We lost thousands and thousands of soldiers. We lost, period.

Could Kosovo be another Vietnam? Probably not. Sure, we can pour a NATO force that is measured in the hundreds of thousands into the heart of Belgrade, and we will eventually massacre our way right up to the bedroom door of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic. We will carry him out in handcuffs and try him for war crimes and atrocities in front of the United Nations. And we will make him a martyr and a hero in the eyes of his followers. We then will fly our soldiers home in bodybags and give them "proper burials" and Clinton can claim the war as yet another U.S. victory.

But what did we win? Where is our parting gift? What did the parents of the dead soldiers receive for

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