GENDER ASSUMPTIONS

Source: Why Gender Matters: Leonard Sax, M.D. Ph.D.
WHO ARE THESE YOUNG PEOPLE?

ANATOMY OF A TEENAGER'S BRAIN

THE BIRDS AND THE BEES LOBE

REBELLION CENTER

SELF IMAGE

FITTING-IN GLAND

REBELLION CENTER

SUPER TURBO

INDESTRUCTIBILITY CORTEX

INDESTRUCTIBILITY CORTEX

CENTRAL UNIVERSE CENTER

EVERY EPISODE OF THE SIMPSONS

SLANGOPEX

MEMORY FOR MUSIC

JUDGEMENT GLAND

MEMORY FOR CHORES, HOMEWORK, ETC.

PARANOID GLAND

INFLUENCE ON PARENTS

SLAM DOOR REFLEX

CAR KEYS CRANGING

PEER PRESSURE RESISTANCE

ABILITY TO BE SEEN IN PUBLIC WITH PARENTS

MARK PARISI

OFF THE MARK

www.offthemark.com

MarkParisi@aol.com
OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-VgsbvG40Ww&feature=related

2:36
CONFLICTING GENDER STEREOTYPE CLAIMS

- No innate differences between girls and boys
  - Girls and boys are emotionally the same

- Innate differences between girls and boys
  - Girls are more emotional than boys, etc.
  - Boys have a brain based advantage for math
  - Reinforces gender stereotypes

- Nature vs nurture
  - DNA versus life experience

Source: Why Gender Matters: Leonard Sax, M.D. Ph.D.
While not all girls are alike & not all boys are alike

- Boys and girls do differ from one another in systematic ways:
  - The play differently
  - They learn differently
  - They see the world differently
  - They fight differently
  - They behave differently because their brains are wired differently

Source: Why Gender Matters: Leonard Sax, M.D. Ph.D.
These differences are relevant to education for many reasons, chief of which is that girls and boys relate to teachers differently. For most boys, being friends with a teacher is a sure sign of geekdom with coaches being the exception if they are real jocks.

Source: Why Gender Matters: Leonard Sax, M.D. Ph.D.
Teenage girls are 4 times more likely to drink than their mothers were (Source: National Research Council)

- Alcohol use is no longer more of a problem for boys
- Not because boys are using less but because girls are using more (Source: National Research Council)

15 times more like to use drugs than their mothers were (Source: National Research Council)

The number of boys arrested for drug abuse has increased 50% in the last ten years (Source: FBI)

Boys under 18 still five times more likely to be arrested for drug violations than girls under 18 (Source: FBI)
While girls are having to have problems with drugs and alcohol than their mothers

Boys are struggling in school more than their fathers did
- Dramatic drop out rate close to 30%
- Average 11th grade boy writes at level of 8th grade girl
- Higher college graduation rate for women than men nearly 60/40 female-to-male ratio

Source: Why Gender Matters: Leonard Sax, M.D. Ph.D.
Are they aware of gender difference?

- If a teacher consistently reacts positively to a girl’s colorfully drawn picture of people and negatively to a boy’s picture of a black spaceship crashing into the earth, isn’t it expected that the boy will decide “art is for girls”?
- This applies to the requirement to sit down and sit still when he wants to run around and jump and yell.
“Dear Andy — How are you? Your mother and I are fine. We both miss you and hope you are doing well. We look forward to seeing you again the next time your computer crashes and you come downstairs for something to eat. Love, Mom and Dad.”
A GUY’S ADVICE TO GIRLS

- http://www.youtube.com/user/WhatJeremy?v=DFdqnf_x_m4

How to get a guy’s attention 2:24
What Jeremy
The United States is 90th in the world in terms of women in national legislatures.

Women hold 17% of the seats in the House of Representatives (the equivalent body in Rwanda is 56.3% female).

Only 34 women have ever served as U.S. governors compared to 2319 men.

- Texas: Ma Ferguson – 1925-1927 & 1933-35

Women are merely 3% of Fortune 500 CEOs.
Women in Media

- Women hold only 3% of clout positions in the mainstream media (telecommunications, entertainment, publishing and advertising).  

- In 2009, women comprise 7% of directors and 10% of film writers in the top 250 grossing films.  

- In 2011, women comprised 18% of all directors, executive producers, producers, writers, cinematographers, and editors working on the top 250 domestic grossing films.  
  2012 Media Report to women
The Message from Media

- Males outnumber females 3 to 1 in family films. In contrast, females comprise just over 50% of the population in the United States. Even more staggering is the fact that this ratio, as seen in family films, is the same as it was in 1946. Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media - http://www.seejane.org/research/

- Women are about 37% of prime-time TV characters (they are 51% of the U.S. population). Women 45 and older are only 15% of prime-time TV characters. Media Report to Women http://www.mediareporttowomen.com/statistics.htm

- Male TV characters (41%) were more likely to be shown “on the job” than female characters (28%). Men were more likely to talk about work than women were (52% vs. 40%) and less likely to talk about romantic relationships (49% vs. 63). Media Report to Women 2005

- The American Psychological Association estimates that teens are exposed to 14,000 sexual references & innuendos per year on TV.

- Between 1999 and 2009, the amount of degrading sexualization found in song lyrics tripled. Source: http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/asap/construction.html

- When men are shown in the background of a video, they are most often fully clothed. But when women are in the background, approximately half the time they are dressed in ways that expose or focus on their breasts and rear ends. http://www.childrennow.org/uploads/documents/boys_to_men_1999.pdf

- Only 20% of news articles are about women, and many of these stories are of violence and victimhood. http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/asap
CELEBRITIES

COVER OF MAGAZINES!
The Emotional Impact of Media

• Forty-two percent of first to third-grade girls want to be thinner, while 81 percent of 10-year-olds are afraid of getting fat. (Dove Real Beauty Campaign, 2004)

• Eighty percent of 10-year-old American girls say they have been on a diet. The number one magic wish for young girls age 11-17 is to be thinner. justthink.org

• The number of cosmetic surgical procedures performed on youth 18 or younger more than tripled from 1997 to 2007. http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/15/fashion/15skin.html?pagewanted=all&_r=1&

• Among youth 18 and younger, liposuctions nearly quadrupled between 1997 and 2007 and breast augmentations increased nearly six-fold in the same 10-year period. http://www.surgery.org/media/statistics

• 65% of American women and girls report disordered eating behaviors. http://abcnews.go.com/Health/Healthday/story?id=4726783&page=1
10.04.2012  - Kim Kardashian Turns To Diet Pills To Shed Pounds

"How is it that @KourtneyKardash & I have the same amount of weight to lose but she just had a baby! SMH help! LOL."
Lindsay Lohan's 'Not In A Good Place,' Friend Says (10.8.12)

Does Oprah Want Rihanna To Take Chris Brown Back? (10.8.12)

Americans Have An Unhealthy Obsession With Celebrities
Posted: 03/28/2012

Sam Champion Engaged: 'GMA' Weather Anchor Comes Out, Plans To Marry Rubem Robierb
Posted: 10/05/2012

Kanye West Sex Tapes Are No Big Deal For Kardashian Family (9.26.12)

Source of all of these articles: Huff Post Entertainment on 10.08.12
http://www.huffingtonpost.com
Who's Your Celeb Shopping Buddy? Which celeb would you have a blast shopping with? From girly girl to edgy rock star, one of our favorite celebs definitely ...
Statistics

- About 25% of girls will experience teen dating violence.

- Fifteen percent of rape survivors are under the age of 12.  
  (Crisis Intervention Center, 26 Jul 2011)

- In 2008, 57% of the rape or sexual assaults against females were committed by an offender whom they knew. Strangers committed about one third (31%) of all rape/sexual assaults.  
  (Bureau of Justice Statistics, Female Victims of Violence, 2009)

- Twenty to 25% of women in college reported experiencing an attempted or a completed rape in college.  
  (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
Self Abuse

- 65% of American women and girls have disordered eating behavior
- 17% of teens engage in cutting and self-injurious behavior
  http://www.actforyouth.net/resources/rf/rf_nssi_1209.cfm
- Studies estimate that 13% to 25% of youth have some history of self-injury, such as cutting, and most studies show that cutting is more common with girls
- While girls are twice as likely to think about suicide, boys are four times more likely to actually die from it.
**Teen Pregnancy**

- The U.S. has the highest rates of teen pregnancy in the industrialized world—twice as high as the UK, 4 times as high as Germany, and 8 times as high as Japan.


**Depression**

- Rates of depression are the same among boys and girls until puberty, but twice as many women are diagnosed as depressed post-puberty.

  (National Institute of Mental Health)

- Rates of depression among women and young girls have doubled in the past ten years.

  (National Institute of Mental Health)
The challenges of raising a Sun...

Well, as a matter of fact, the world does revolve around me...
Concern about the impact of media has prompted numerous studies about the representation of women and the representation of minorities in entertainment content.

But there’s been virtually no previous research on the representation of men and boys, perhaps because being powerful and dominant has never before been defined as a straitjacket.”
Dr. Katharine Heintz-Knowles
ON BEING A MAN

- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OmEEyeaZSd0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OmEEyeaZSd0)
  Pepsi “I’m good”  .32

- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7H_AysErbBE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7H_AysErbBE)
  Brewster “How to be a man”  3:19
According to what boys tell us, television is the most used sports medium. Highlights shows and broadcasts of competitive events are the most watched types of programming. Pro-football, basketball, baseball, and wrestling are the most watched sports. Most viewing occurs at home and it occurs in the presence of other people, most frequently with fathers.”  

Dr. Wayne Wilson
Through focused discussions on emotions and relationships, success and values, action and adventure, each panel sought to define and understand the ways in which masculinity is embodied in the media.

The themes that emerged are summarized here through five classic media icons:

- The Joker
- The Jock
- The Strong Silent Type
- The Big Shot
- The Action Hero
### Myth #1: Boys will be boys.
Where there’s testosterone there’s aggression, and where there’s aggression there will be violence or at least its potential.

Balderdash. There is not a scintilla of scientific evidence that boys or men are more violent biologically than women are. Boys are more action oriented. They tend to be more rough and tumble in their play. Many of their feelings are expressed through action, adventure, and quest, not bad aggression or violence.

### Myth #2: Boys should be boys.
They must fit a rigid gender stereotype.

This is the “gender straitjacket.” At age four or five, when boys lose their emotional voice—their connection to their inner self—they are straitjacketed into a narrow band of masculinity.

### Myth #3: Boys are toxic.
They are psychologically unaware, emotionally unsocialized creatures at birth who have to be watched over every moment lest they become aggressive.

Boys are actually more emotional than girls at birth and older boys have a yearning to be empathic and caring and connected. They express it differently than girls do.
Across racial, gender, and age lines, 98% of children say that boys and men on television are funny.

Boys are much more likely than girls to list “funny" as their top reason for choosing an individual to be one of their favorite TV personalities.

Boys are more likely than girls to watch cartoons
Overwhelmingly, children say that they rarely see men or boys showing signs of vulnerability on television.

A majority of children say that men and boys on television are often portrayed as focused on the opposite sex.

Over one third of children say that they never see television males performing domestic chores such as cooking or cleaning.
Thirty-eight percent of children polled think that "having money" indicates success on entertainment TV, but only 21% think that it is a realistic indicator of success.

Children see men on television as leaders and problems solvers, funny, successful, confident, and athletic.

Across boys’ favorite media, men are more closely identified with the working world and high prestige positions, while women are identified more often with their domestic status.

The Action Hero

- Almost three fourths of young adult male characters on TV use anti-social behaviors to solve problems.
- Some violence appears in over half the sample of television shows and movies most popular with boys.
- Almost three fourths of children describe males on television as violent and more than two thirds describe them as angry.
- One in five male characters on TV employs some form of physical aggression to solve problems.
Sports coverage emphasizes the notion that violence is to be expected.

Athletes who “play with pain” or “give up their body for the team” are often portrayed as heroes.

Commercials seen during sports programming typically play on the insecurities of the audience, convincing them that purchasing a particular product will help overcome fears, embarrassments, and shortcomings.

Commentators consistently use martial metaphors and language of war and weaponry to describe sports action.
Lance Armstrong Steps Down as Livestrong Chairman as Nike Cuts Ties
Newsmax.com (10.16.12)

Apologetic Vick gets 23-month sentence on dogfighting charges
(12.11.2007)
ESPN.com news services

Washington Redskins, New Orleans Saints had bounty systems that paid for big hits
CNN Sports (5.10.12)
Questions to Ask Ourselves

Behaviors

● How do you portray male characters as behaving?
  ▪ Are they depicted engaging in a broad range of behaviors?
  ▪ Occupations?

● Do male characters avoid stereotypical masculine behaviors?

● How is male behavior rewarded?
  ▪ Which rewards are depicted as most valuable?
  ▪ Money? Power? Possessions?

● Are men shown as admirable when concerned with home and family?

● Is comedy used to reinforce gender stereotypes?
Emotions

- Are male characters allowed a full range of emotions?
- Is anger the dominant emotion?
- Are men shamed for expressing other emotions?
- Are they rewarded for withholding feelings?
Violence

- Does action inevitably lead to violence?
- Is violence glamorized?
- Are the consequences of violence depicted?

Sports

- How do we describe male athletes?
- Are they lauded for risking their health and safety for the sake of the game?
- Is athletic competition associated with war between schools? Our school is better than their school?
ACTIVITY-
HOW FEMININE OR MASCULINE ARE YOU?

RELAX, DAD! THEY'RE NOT REAL PIERCINGS, THEY'RE TATTOOS OF PIERCINGS...

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