

Men's Health and Issues – with John Ashfield *Get Rid Of That Girly Calendar*

When you consider the incidence of accidents and injuries in male workplaces, the need for Occupational Health and Safety regulations is beyond dispute. But apparently it's not only slippery floors and frayed electrical cords that are bad; girly calendars have the thumbs down as well. And nothing so simple as the fear of worker distraction, or the "hazard" of pandemonium such images might cause in a working man's trousers. No, we are told it's because such images demean and objectify women; they serve to perpetuate men's control of women's sexuality, and suggest that all women are sexually available for men to have and to exploit at will.

Do the people who assert these kinds of views live in the real world? It would seem not. But they sure as hell want to try and shape it to their own warped ideological view of human behaviour.

Fact is, men sexually objectify women with or without all their clothes; they always have and always will. It's well known that the production of alluring sexual images is a predominantly male industry. Men and women are aroused by different stimuli. They're aroused by those senses to which their brains' priorities predispose them. Men, much more than women, are aroused by images, and they are much more preoccupied with the shape and beauty of the opposite sex than women are. Women always have, and still exploit this reality, in order to attract desirable male partners. Of course "no" should mean no, and to look does not mean to touch. But to think that women ought to be able to "strut their stuff" without eliciting male attention (as some feminists have argued) is absurd, to say the least.

It's also the case that, whatever men's state of sexual eagerness and readiness, it is women who decide whether and when sexual intercourse will take place, and by far the majority of men are properly respectful of that.

Of course men aren't objectified. The dickens they aren't! They're clearly objects of production, provision, and protection. Doesn't the rich boy often get the best girl? "Females marry up, males marry down." Of course there are exceptions, but the general rule applies; and it applies because males and females have biological agendas – even if they are too "sophisticated" or politically correct to acknowledge it.

No, you probably wouldn't want to see your daughter up there on a girly calendar. And yes, women have enough natural allure without needing to pose half naked on the bonnet of some bloke's car. But put all women in boiler suits and men will still lust after them, just as most women will always dress and present themselves to be attractive to men – including women who are prohibited by religion from exposing all but their faces in public. It's what normal human beings do, for goodness sake.

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