

In the era of all-pervading feminism, men need to stand up against a few discrepancies that they are subjected to, for any relationship to be truly equal



MAGANDEEP SINGH

Department of homme affairs

Recently the Meninist movement has been finding much momentum online. Which just goes to show what wimps the men behind this whole charade are: too scared to even step out in public and conduct a good old-fashioned converting campaign for their 'rights', preferring instead to cover online and make wimpy appeals about the loss of their masculinity. My emasculated brethren, that ship sailed when you thought such a movement was even a thing.

They did, however, have a point which they sadly didn't manage to make well enough. There is a certain perverse inequality that does exist. Here then, without further ado, are a few of the discrepancies that I feel need to be immediately rectified for any relationship to be truly equal.

Lingerie: They tell girls to marry a guy who has pierced ears since it would mean that he has experienced pain and bought jewellery, two useful experiences to have on a CV. I say marry a guy who has bought lingerie (but not to wear himself). Have you seen how expensive the stuff is? I insist that the world of inner wear be updated and someone launch men's lingerie too. We can call it Mangerie. It needn't be sexy or silk, lewd or

lacy, but comfy gear. And most importantly, it should cost a bomb so that when women have to buy us some for Valentine's Day, it is they who feel the pinch.

Hair stylists: Haven't you ever wondered why

women go to hair stylists while men go to barbers? As the years have gone by, hair stylists have progressively become more limpwristed and awkward, as if to stand out in a weird manner makes them more talented, whereas barbers have remained, well, barbers. The financial implication being that a good haircut costs in three digits whereas a hair stylist can set your fiscal status back by a couple of decades.

Never pick up the girl with the pretty hair-do at a party because foreplay will mostly comprise undoing her hair, by the end of which she will hate you for causing her so much pain and plucking her a new forehead. So, we men need to up the ante by having our own expensive hair spas. Hair stylists are still too voodoo for the quintessential man's man. Besides, given how we men can be follicle-challenged, said hair spa should cater to one and all, be it a chest-hair fluff up or otherwise. Let it also be decreed that no sane man should ever have his eyebrows meddled with, because that would simply make him look creepy and downright evil.

Clothes: The fashion industry clearly caught on early that the best way to increase profit is to sell less cloth for more money. Men clearly didn't qualify since our jackets and overcoats require as much cloth as a small tent. But a wraparound skirt is only slightly bigger than the male handkerchief and can be made by ripping up a standard male scarf right into two through the middle! With such possibilities, it was hard to resist and today, the industry of underdressing women while overcharging them has become the norm.

We men want in on it. I want a brand that makes designer gowns for men to wear at home, vests that cost more than waxed overcoats and duffels.

Bags: Let's not even get into how much women's handbags cost. Without wasting words, we need the Murse to be a formally accepted thing and yet, nobody should ever call it that. It's just a bag, no more no less. Just because we are men doesn't mean that we don't have stuff to carry. And the woes of the swollen male wallet are already notorious. Man-bags, man-totes, man-clutches, all should be incorporated into the Oxford dictionary next year so that the awkwardness starts fading with time.

The writer is a lover of wine, song and everything fine

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Still from It's Too Much

BONDS OF LIFE

'My mom treats me like a friend'

TANUJ VIRWANI

I'm really close to my mom. She treats me less like her son and more like a friend with whom she can have discussions about personal as well as professional dilemmas. After any such discussion with her, I always come away feeling much better, lighter and more certain of what I want.

As every mother would, I know that

she would fight the world for me. At the same time, she is someone who shouts at me when I am wrong and that's great because then I know where to correct myself.

She considers me a winner through and through and the best part about our bond is that we have very similar tastes which make all the time we spend together a joyride!

Tanuj is an actor

yin & yang

'Sex and love are two sides to a coin'



DR NARAYANA REDDY

Jhansi rapped Arun's hand angrily as it snaked up her back yet again while she was bent over some papers. "That's enough!" she snapped, irritated with her husband who, according to her, could think of nothing beyond sex. She went on, "You are only interested in my body! How about saying 'I love you' for a change?" Arun was taken aback and perplexed.

Men are judged harshly at times. They are often portrayed as lustful in contrast to women who are considered more effusive by nature. It is said that men give love to get sex while women give sex to get love. Is that really so? Are love and sex different or one and the same?

In a survey of college students conducted at the Bowling Green State University, Ohio, USA, many students (both men and women) responded to the question, "What is a romantic act?" as follows — kissing, candlelight dinners, giving and receiving flowers. What neither mentioned was saying 'I love you'. The study also mentions that men consider 'making love' an act of romance whereas women do not. It is almost as if, for men, actions — whether having sex or washing their partner's car — mean love.

Women tend to be sexually less inclined if the emotionality is absent. They need some sense of personal connection before having sex. For men, love-making is an emotional feeling that arises after the physical act takes place. Women, for the most part, intertwine the two. Emotional fulfilment and sexual technique are two entirely different things and confusing them can be dangerous. It is more realistic to realise that sex and love are two sides of the same coin. They are separate and yet interdependent. It is nice to enjoy good sex and it feels great to hear 'sweet nothings' too. A combination of both would be mutually wholesome.

The writer is a sexologist. Mail him at dr.narayana@deccanmail.com

parting ways



Actor-singer Rey Quinn and wife Emma Stephens have decided to part ways after three years of marriage. "Our lives, after a period of time, have gone down separate paths," Quinn was quoted as saying while he confirmed the news to the media.