

References

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dismissed as "reactionary" the application to humans of E. O. Wilson's (1975) Sociobiology. Such critics will find the current volume ideologically offensive. In the first chapter, Douglas Kenrick and Bell are to be commended for amine the differential importance for women and men assign to status, youth and beauty in sexual attraction, thereby committing thought crimes of "sexism," "classism," "ageism," and "lookism"; he relates some of his experiences in overcoming opposition.

Differences between women and men occur as a result of genetically based reproductive strategies involving the size, placement, and numerosity of gametes. Because women produce one large, "valuable" egg a month and men produce millions of "cheap" sperm a day, men and women not only look for alternative characteristics in mates, as outlined by Kenrick, but they exhibit different preferences in sexual behavior. According to Randy and Nancy Thornhill, they also experience mental pain differently. Mental pain is hypothesized to be an evolutionary adaptation, focusing an individual's attention on those events of most significance to his or her fitness, defined as reproductive success by self and kin. It follows from the valuable egg theory that men more than women suffer from sexual jealousy and women more than men suffer grief following the death of a child. Rape is hypothesized to be more traumatic for a fertile woman than for a pre- or postfertile woman and less psychologically painful for a fertile woman if she also suffers a physical beating!

This book strips the veneer from human relationships, revealing a "nature red in tooth and claw." In her chapter on spousal homicide, Margo Wilson analyzes male sexual proprietariness as an underlying motive in wife beating. Men are the violent sex; women kill spouses only rarely, typically in defense of self or children. In his chapter on parent-offspring violence, Martin Daly explains the value of analyzing unpleasant facts from a Darwinian perspective and its benefit of increased predictive power. Stepparenthood, he points out, is the single best predictor of child abuse discovered, yet it was never even discussed as a risk factor until research by him and Margo Wilson, inspired by Darwinian logic, entered the scene.

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Changing Families in Changing Times

Philip A. Cowan and Mavis Hetherington (Eds.)
 Family Transitions
 Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum, 1991. 319 pp.
 ISBN 0-8058-0784-5. \$49.95

Review by

Lawrence H. Ganong

Philip A. Cowan, professor of psychology at the University of California, Berkeley, is author of *Piaget: With Feeling and Coauthor, with Carolyn Pape Cowan, o/When Partners Become Parents: The Big Life Change for Couples*. Mavis Hetherington, James A. Page Professor of Psychology at the University of Virginia (Charlottesville), is author of the chapter "Parents, Children, and Siblings Six Years After Divorce" in R. Hinde and J. Stevenson-Hinde (Eds.) *Relationships Within Families, and coeditor, with Arasteh, o/Impact of Divorce, Single Parenting, and Stepparenting on Children*. Lawrence H. Ganong, professor of human development and family studies at the University of Missouri (Columbia), is book review editor for *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, coauthor, with M. Coleman, of the chapter "Remarriage and Stepfamily Research in the '80s: New Interest in an Old Family Form" in A. Booth (Ed.) *Contemporary Families: Looking Forward, Looking Back, and coauthor, with M. Coleman, o/Bibliotherapy With Stepchildren*.

Still Not Politically Correct

Robert W. Bell and Nancy J. Bell (Eds.)
 Sociobiology and the Social Sciences
 Lubbock, TX: Texas Tech University Press, 1989. 130 pp. ISBN 0-89672-161-2. \$25.00

Review by
 J. Philippe Rushton

Robert W. Bell, professor of psychology at Texas Tech University (Lubbock), is past council member of the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology and coeditor, with J. Elias, o/*Developmental Psychobiology and Clinical Neuropsychology*. Nancy J. Bell, chairperson and professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at Texas Tech University, is coeditor, with R. W. Bell, o/*Perspectives on Adolescent Risk Taking*, m] Philippe Rushton, professor of psychology at the University of Western Ontario (London, Canada), is a 1988-1989 recipient of the John Simon Guggenheim Award Fellowship, author of *Altruism, Socialization and Society*, and coeditor, with D. N. Hicks, o/*Scientific Excellence*.

Transitions are among the most frequently studied topics in family research. In the past several years models of the family life cycle that contained predictable, unvarying stages have yielded to a growing interest in examining the process

Tom the outset, critics valuing social equality more than scientific knowledge and of the reproductive maximization growing interest in examining the process