### Male & Female

**So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.**

***(Genesis 1:27)***

**There is no longer Jew or Greek,   
there is no longer slave or free,   
there is no longer male and female;   
for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. *(Galatians 3:28)***

**While Mary his mother was acquired for a price for Joseph,**

**before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.**

***(St. Matthew 1:18)***

**Among army ants, the commanding general is always female. (L. M. Boyd)**

**A man is a person who, if a woman says, “Never mind, I’ll do it myself,” lets her. A woman is a person who, if she says to a man, “Never mind, I’ll do it myself,” and he lets her, gets mad. A man is a person who, if a woman says to him, “Never mind, I’ll do it myself,” and he lets her and she gets made, says, “Now what are you mad about?” A woman is a person who, if she says to a man, “Never mind, I’ll do it myself,” and he lets her, and she gets mad, and he says, “Now what are you mad about?” says, “If you don’t know I’m not going to tell you.” (Katherine S. Beamer, in Reader’s Digest)**

**No more than the presence of a few atoms distinguishes the male hormone, testosterone, from the female, estrogen, yet their difference determines some considerable differences between the sexes. Male hormones are produced not only in males but also in the adrenal glands in females, and in males they are secreted not only in the testes but in the adrenals as well. From our medical experience with them we have learned that some of the functions of these hormones are interchangeable between the sexes. (Miller/Goode, in Man & His Body, p. 197)  
The first Avon lady was a man. (Avon Products, Inc.)**

**Wisdom, the masculine phase of man, needs a helpmeet or balance. Love in the soul (woman) has not yet been developed and established in substance. *(Charles Fillmore, in Mysteries of Genesis, p. 41)*  
Can barnacles choose their mates? No, but it doesn't seem to matter. Each barnacle is both male and female. A barnacle's nearest neighbor is a candidate. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Jackie Mitchell pitched for a minor league club in an exhibition baseball game in 1931 -- and struck out both Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig. Jackie was a good pitcher, she was. (L. M. Boyd)  
Several species of sea bass known as grouper--a fish prized for its delicate taste--undergo a complete sexual transformation, from mature female to mature male. This generally happens during the fish's fifth year. Another Florida species, called the belted sandfish, is a hermaphrodite that can fertilize itself. (Wallechinsky/Wallace)**

**Two Milford, New Hampshire, schools have banned male students from using bathroom urinals. The “compromise” plan is a response to girl students who have objected to sharing bathrooms with trans students who urinate standing up. Having all students use stalls, said school board member Noah Boudreault, will ensure “student safety.” (The Week magazine, February 24, 2023)**

**Does gender have a biological basis? Or are “male” and “female” merely socially conditioned “performances”? Or is gender purely a subjective experience of identity that has nothing to do with chromosomes, genitalia, aand internal plumbing? Gender has become such a radioactive issue that even asking such questions can be taboo, and trigger condemnation, professional cancellation, and threats of physical harm. As Conor Friedersdorf says this week in The Atlantic, many Americans have become “reluctant and even terrified” to publicly voice opinions on this issue, which trans activists and right-wing culture warriors have turned into a battle of dogmatic extremes. On one extreme, academics and some progressives now insist that everyday language be policed to avoid offending trans people. “Women” is out. Instead, say “pregnant people” and “people who menstruate.” If 14-year-olds announce they are trans, the proper response is “gender-affirming” care in the form of puberty blockers, hormones, and even mastectomies. To question whether such treatments are being prescribed too hastily, or to point out they can cause permanent infertility and sexual dysfunction, is to be “transphobic.” On the other extreme, social conservatives have made it a crime in 13 states to help minors transition – even after parental consent and extended periods of psychological assessment. As is so often the case, most Americans are uncomfortable with the ideological extremes. They don’t want government intrusion into parental and personal decisions – but they also recoil from replacing “mothers” with “birthing people,” and from opening women’s sports and locker rooms to athletes with penises. Reasonable people operating in good faith might find some humane middle ground on these fraught issues. But reasonable voices are in short supply, and drowned out by the loudest, the angriest, and most adamant. *(William Falk, in The Week magazine, May 5, 2023)***

**I think of my boss as a father figure. That really irritates her. (Mary Jo Crowley)**

**Woman: “How do they look?” Lady: “They're bowling shoes.” Woman: “I like bowling shoes.” Lady: “But that's all you ever wear. Why don't you get something a little more feminine for a change?” Woman: “Hey, they're pink, aren't they?” (Jerry Bittle, in Geech comic strip)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Men are generally better than women at finding their way in unfamiliar settings, and use different parts of the brain to do it, a study suggests. As for why men can't seem to ask for directions, however, that will have to await another study. The findings add a biological counterpart to prior research that indicated men and women use different strategies to navigate. The brain scans found that while both sexes used some of the same parts of the brain for the task, there were some differences. One difference involved the hippocampus, a banana-shaped structure deep in the brain. The study found that both sexes used the right hippocampus in negotiating the escape from a three-dimensional virtual-reality maze. But only men used the left hippocampus. Women used an outer part of the brain called the right prefrontal cortex. (Malcolm Ritter, in Denver Rocky Mountain News)**

**The brain isn't simply 'male' or 'female': Conventional wisdom holds that men and women's brains are "wired" very differently. But a detailed new study has found that most brains have a mix of structures associated with traditional male and female traits and behavior, making every person an individual mosaic of gender-related characteristics. Israeli researchers analyzed 1,400 brain scans of 169 men and 112 women between 18 and 79 years old, zeroing in on brain regions whose size and pattern of connections are associated with gender differences such as aggression, empathy, risk tolerance, and spatial ability. They found that no more than 6 percent of brains were composed of all "male" or "female" structures. More than half the brains studied, however, contained a mix of these structures, indicating that most people fall somewhere along a gender spectrum, with some strengths and tendencies typically considered male and others female. The findings, says study author Daphna Joel, are consistent with a growing body of research suggesting that gender identity is formed through a complex interaction of genetic, hormonal,, experiential, and environmental factors. "The idea of a unified 'masculine' or 'feminine' personality turns out not to describe real people," Joel tells LiveScience.com. "It describes stereotypes to which we constantly compare ourselves and each other, but more people are 'gender non-conforming' than we generally realize." (The Week magazine, December 18, 2015)  
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Sex changes in the wild: clown fish --change from male to female; prawns --change from male to female; stoplight parrotfish --change from female to male; blue-streakcleaner fish --change from female to male; and bluehead wrasse fish --change from female to male. (Jeanne Hanson & Deane Morrison)**

**Rah-rah-rah! In 1898 all cheerleaders were male. Now 3 percent are. (Uncle John’s Unstoppable Bathroom Reader, p. 293)**

**A chicken has ruffled feathers at a Swedish poultry farm by changing from a hen into a rooster. Owner Christel Hammar-Malmgren first noticed the transformation when she was awakened one morning by the sound of two roosters welcoming the dawn instead of one. Closer inspection revealed that a black hen named Anne Boleyn had lost most of her hen feathers and had begun growing a comb and tail. The farm’s official rooster Henry VIII, is “bloody angry” about the development, Hammar-Malmgren says, though the rest of the hens “seem to increasingly accept him or her.” (The Week magazine, August 18, 2006)  
  
What are the Chinese “yin” and “yang”? Universal influences. Yin – “female, night, lunar.” Yang – “male, daylight, solar.” The words are Mandarin. In a discriminatory age long ago, yin and yang were enunciated as negative and positive, passive and active, darkly cold and brightly hot, always in contrast, always complimentary. (L. M. Boyd)**

**A third-grade religion teacher was teaching her class the value of being a Christian gentleman. From the back of the room came a whisper: “I don't want to be a Christian gentleman,” the voice said, “I'm a girl.” (Cora Bartolome, in Catholic Digest)**

**The “pink for girls, blue for boys” color scheme is a 20th century phenomenon. Pink was once the color of choice for young boys. It was considered a lighter version of red, and red was associated with boldness and fierceness. The book Little Women mentions that it was the “French style” to tie a pink ribbon on girl babies, and a blue one on boys. By the 1940s, U.S. greeting card manufacturers followed that format when printing birth announcements. The baby clothing industry followed suit during the 1950s. (John R. Groesbeck, in Tidbits)**

**Composing a piece of music is very feminine. By comparison, doing housework is positively masculine. (Barbara Kolb)**

**Men accept compliments much better than women do. Example: “Mitch, you look great.” Mitch: “Thanks.” On the other side: “Ruth, you look great.” Ruth: “I do? Must be the lighting.” (Rita Rudner, comedian)**

**One day, I took my son Sammy (who is now 40) with me to the church while I went to confession. As I examined my conscience before entering the confessional, Sammy whispered in my ear. “Mom,” he said, “which is the boys and which is the girls?” *(Mary St. HiLaire, in Catholic Digest)***

**During the Victorian Era, the corset became a staple of every well-dressed woman's wardrobe. During the early 19th century, men, too, wore the garment. High society men were expected to look sleek and fit, and so they took to wearing corsets. Military men, especially those in the cavalry, believed that the truss helped them maintain good posture while riding. Corsets were also believed to protect the body if a soldier was thrown from a horse. By the late 19th century, however, men's clothing became looser, negating the need for a corset. Women had to wait about 50 more years. *(The Daily Chronicle)***

**In France, more men than women use cosmetics. (L. M. Boyd)**

**How many divorced men does it take to screw in a lightbulb? Who knows? They never get the house. How many divorced women does it take to screw in a lightbulb? Four -- one to screw in the bulb and three to form a support group. (Denver Rocky Mountain News)**

**Woman: “Does it disturb you guys to know that we discuss you in the ladies’ room?” Man: “It would disturb us more to know that you discuss us in the men’s room.” (J. C. Duffy, in The Fusco Brothers comic strip)**

**The IQ of the dolphin has been estimated to be 100. They like company, fall in love, are occasionally homosexual and sometimes even nymphomaniacal. (Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 105)**

**Nobody yet has explained, exactly, why boys tend to draw boats and flags while girls are more apt to draw cats and houses. (L. M. Boyd)  
  
When two earthworms mate, both become pregnant. (L. M. Boyd)  
For most of its early life -- usually the first five to eight years--the eel is sexless. Then gradually it develops the organs of both sexes. Later, one set of organs atrophies, and it ends up an immature, or “adolescent,” male or female. (Jean George)**

**The PSAT scholarship test is being changed, reportedly to eliminate gender bias. Says comedy writer Jenny Church, “Now it will be perfectly okay to stop and ask for directions.” *(Quoted in Los Angeles Times)***

**A Vermont elementary school has removed the words “male” and “female” from its fifth-grade reproductive biology class. Principal Sara Jablonski told parents the school’s “equity policy” required lessons to say “person who reproduces sperm” in place of “male” or “boy” and “person who produces eggs instead of ‘female” or “girl.” *(The Week magazine, May 12, 2023)***

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**Today is February 19, Lashes Day, a day to appreciate eyelashes. In 1902, British hairdresser Karl Nessler created the first artificial eyelashes. Long before Nessler, men of ancient Egypt darkened their lashes to shield their eyes from the sun. *(The Daily Chronicle)***

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**Men **fantasize** about having a harem, a group of women that fulfills all their wishes. Women don't fantasize about having a male harem. That's just more men to pick up after. (Rita Rudner's Guide to Men)**

**For centuries, it was only the men who adorned themselves with fancy feathers. That line about “a feather in his cap” was coined before women got serious about feathers. (L. M. Boyd)  
  
Cleaner fish: Male chauvinism is carried to extremes by this small blue member of the wrasse family. The cleaner fish is named for its obliging habit of cleaning the mouths and gills of neighboring fishes. The male enjoys a harem of two to five females, whom he terrorizes into remaining with him. The females, however, do not unite against the male; instead, they tend to keep each other in line by forming a hierarchy. It seems that the hierarchy must be preserved at all costs. When the male dies, the top-ranking female immediately takes charge and within a few days begins to develop male organs. After two weeks she is completely transformed into a patriarchal chauvinist male, and everything proceeds as before. (Wallechinsky/Wallace)**

**Flatworms don’t have to go to the trouble of having babies. After mating, they just split into two new worms. Each one is then both a father and mother. (The Diagram Group, in Funky, Freaky Facts, p. 51)  
  
Flowers may be colorful, flashy, fragrant, or totally inconspicuous, and may even be lacking in some parts. A “perfect” flower, in the botanical sense, contains both the male and female reproductive structures. A flower having only one type of reproductive organ is called “imperfect”: it is either “staminate,” having only the male parts, or “pistillate,” having only the female parts. In addition to these essential parts it may have petals, and sepals (floral leaves, usually green) forming a cuplike calyx beneath the petals. If it also contains both male and female reproductive parts, it is called a “complete” flower. The majority of flowers are perfect, but may be “incomplete.” Thus grass flowers are perfect but, lacking petals and sepals, incomplete. Examples of complete flowers are apple blossoms, strawberry flowers, and sweet peas. (Sarah R. Riedman, in Trees Alive, p. 89)  
It was his mother, Mary Georgiana Fillmore, who was to be the chief force in shaping Charles Fillmore's destiny. Life had never been easy for Mary Fillmore--or “Grandma Fillmore,” as she came to be known to the Unity workers--but she had never asked for ease. Like her son Charles, she was one of those persons who have a rich zest for life. She was not afraid to live. (James Dillet Freeman, in The Story of Unity , p. 21)\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  
Male and female have nothing to do with gender. Malein its purest sense meansinevidence or seen. Femalemeansthat which is enveloped, not in evidence, unseen or veiled. Soman is both male and female. (Arthur B. Ingalls, in Genesis & the Rise of Man)**

**Male and female have nothing to do with gender. Female in this context could correlate with intuition, feeling, awareness and introspection. Maleness is the evidence of existence, or that which is outwardly visible. So man is both male and female. *(Arthur B. Ingalls, in Genesis & the Rise of Man)***

**Does gender have a biological basis? Or are “male” and “female” merely socially conditioned “performances”? Or is gender purely a subjective experience of identity that has nothing to do with chromosomes, genitalia, and internal plumbing? Gender has become such a radioactive issue that even asking such questions can be taboo, and trigger condemnation, professional cancellation, and threats of physical harm. As Conor Friedersdorf says this week in The Atlantic, many Americans have become “reluctant and even terrified” to publicly voice opinions on this issue, which trans activists and right-wing culture warriors have turned into a battle of dogmatic extremes. (The Week magazine, May 5, 2023)**

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**In the 13th century, the word girl referred to both young males and females. Females were called "gay girls" and males were called "knave girls." It wasn't until the 1500s that girl denoted a specific gender. *(The Daily Chronicle)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Girl: “Joe!” Boy: “What?” Girl: “I've been thinking about something. God is a woman. Why does God always have to be a man? I think God is a woman! Fair is fair.” Boy: “Wait a minute, Ruthie.” Girl: “Fair is fair, Joe!” Boy: “Okay, fine! Then check this out.” Girl: “What?” Boy: “If God is a woman, then the devil is a woman, too. Sure! That ugly old creep with the red horns who's rotten and evil is a woman! Fair is fair. Fair is fair, Ruthie!” Girl: “I want it to be fair, but not that fair!” (Rick Detorie, in One Big Happy comic strip)  
Trust in God. She will provide. (Emmeline Parkhurst)**

**Bad week for: He/Him, with the Church of England’s announcement that it will form a commission to study the use of “gender-neutral language” in referring to God. A church spokesperson said that “Christians have recognized since ancient times that God is neither male nor female.” *(The Week magazine, February 24, 2023)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  
During the Gold Rush days in California, Charlie Parkhurst was a stagecoach driver, taking passengers and gold shipments along dangerous roads. Charlie smoked cigars, chewed tobacco, played cards, and drank. He shot dead two highwaymen. Charlie retired and went into the cattle business in Santa Cruz, California. On December 31, 1879, some neighbors found old Charlie dead at home. When they got around to dressing the body for burial, they discovered that Charlie Parkhurst was a woman. (Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 421)**

**Our 3-year-old great-grandson, Dylan, was visiting and it was getting close to lunchtime. When I asked him if grilled cheese sandwiches would be okay, Dylan looked up, alarmed, and said, “No! I want a boy cheese sandwich.” (Maude Buckalew, in Country Extra magazine)**

**Boy still meets girl . . . but it’s getting harder to tell the difference. (The Chateau Chatter)**

**Help-wanted ad in the Camdenton, Mo., Reveille/Lake Sun: “Singer for new rock band. Must be male or female.” (Reader's Digest)**

**High heels may be considered very feminine these days, but at first, heels were in the fashion domain of men. Heels proved effective in horse riding, helping riders' feet stay in the stirrups. They then transitioned to court fashion, worn by the rich and powerful. The first known woman to wear high heels was Catherine de Medici in the 16th century. She wanted to be taller at her wedding. Ordinary people began to wear heels in order to emulate the royal families. The stiletto as we know it became popular only after World War II, thanks to the use of steel shanks and "needle" heels in shoemaking. (The Daily Chronicle)**

**Grandpa: “You threw me off a little when you said you want to be a homemaker, Nelson. What you probably meant is a home builder, someone who constructs houses. A homemaker is someone, usually a wife or mother, who stays at home all day.” Nelson: “Oh, so are you a homemaker, Grampa?” (Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)**

**A certain amount of female hormone is normally produced in males and male hormone in females. When the level of this opposite sex hormone in the blood goes above a certain point, the liver takes up the excess, combines it with a sugar and sends the end product on to the kidneys for disposal. When the liver is damaged by disease and can no longer inactivate the female hormone, then a male patient may develop swollen breasts. (Miller/Goode, in Man & His Body , p. 129)**

**A defunct women's hosiery company has found new support in Granville, Ohio by marketing pantyhose for men. “We call it legwear. Guys who like silk boxers like these,” said Steve Katz, who with his wife, Connie Barsky, sells the ComfiLon brand waist-high and knee-high hosiery via their Internet site. Katz and Barsky, the owners of G. Lieberman & Sons, found that men wear it for climate control. “They're cooler in summer and warmer in winter,” said customer Mike Walcer, an engineer from Houston. Walcer, who wears the hosiery to keep warm while running, ordered some after trying a pair of his wife's and finding that they didn't fit. Hunters, skiers, utility workers and others wear them to improve circulation, prevent chafing or provide extra leg support. (The Pantagraph, Bloomington-Normal IL, 3-5-2000)  
Doctors also blame insufficient testosterone for the hot flashes that occasionally occur in some men. (L. M. Boyd)**

**In the introductory biology class I teach at a Texas university, we had been studying human reproduction. For an exam, one of my questions was: “Female humans are born with a limited number of eggs, while males, during their lifetime, produce millions upon millions of sperm. Why are so many sperm produced?” One young woman's answer: “Because they won't ask for directions, either.” (G. A. Pearson)**

**Cottony-Cushion Scale: This scale insect, a pest in California orchards until the citrus industry imported its natural enemy, the Australian ladybird beetle, avoids mating problems by fertilizing itself--a behavior pattern that is unusual even for hermaphrodites. Male specimens are sometimes found, but no females; it seems, it would rather not bother with an opposite sex. (Wallechinsky/Wallace)  
In China it is the men who do the knitting. (L. M. Boyd)**

The Koran refers to man being equal to woman. The word "man" appears as many times as the word "woman." *(Charlotte Lowe, in Useless History Fact-O-Pedia, p. 147)*

**Lesbian mating is practiced by between 8% and 14% of the sea gulls on the Santa Barbara Islands, off the California coast. Lesbian gulls go through all the motions of mating, and they lay sterile eggs. Homosexuality behavior is also known in geese, ostriches, cichlid fish, squid, rats, and monkeys. (Wallechinsky/Wallace)  
  
Celibacy is a way of life for 15 of the 45 species of whiptail lizards. Females are able to reproduce by parthenogenesis, or virgin birth, so there is absolutely no need for males. Thus, for these species of whiptails, no males exist. (Lowell & Kaye Christie, in FMC magazine)**

**Eve: “Lord, I have a problem!” Lord: “What is the problem, Eve?” Eve: “Lord, I know you've created me and have provided this beautiful garden and all of these wonderful animals and that hilarious comedy snake, but I'm just not happy.” Lord: “Why is that, Eve?” Eve: “Lord, I am lonely. And I'm sick to death of apples.” Lord: “Well, Eve, I have a solution. I shall create a man for you.” Eve: “What's a man, Lord?” Lord: “The man will be a flawed creature with aggressive tendencies, an enormous ego and an inability to empathize or listen to you properly. He'll basically give you a hard time. He'll be bigger and faster than you. He'll be really good at fighting and kicking a ball and hunting fleet-footed ruminants. But basically, he'll be a pretty decent creature and he'll be strong when you are weak.” Eve: “I can put up with that.” Lord: “But there's one condition.” Eve: “What is that, Lord?” Lord: “You'll have to let him believe that I made him first.” (Denver Rocky Mountain News)**

**Only in America: The M&Ms “spokescandies” are on “indefinite pause,” said Mars, following a year of right-wing criticism of “woke M&Ms.” Fox News’ Tucker Carlson complained that the coquettish Green M&M had swapped her sexy high heels for androgynous sneakers. When Mars recently added Purple, representing “acceptance,” Carlson called her “obese.” The characters were not meant to be “polarizing,” said Mars. *(The Week magazine, February 3, 3023)***

**The most interesting men I've met are the ones who are in touch with their femininity. They are the strongest men. (Madonna)  
  
The men of ancient Egypt wore mascara, too. (L. M. Boyd)  
ZARAK (male) in its purest sense means in evidence or seen.  
NEQEBAH (female) means that which is enveloped, not in evidence, unseen or veiled. *(Arthur B. Ingalls, in Genesis & the Rise of Man, p. 22)***

**Whether women are better than men I cannot say – but I can say they are certainly no worse. (Golda Meir)**

**The pandemic has caused a surge in the number of men wearing makeup. With men spending hours scrutinizing their faces on Zoom calls, Google searches for "men's makeup" have soared nearly 80 percent from 2019. Sales of men's cosmetics are booming. "People are already saying I look younger in my videos," says realtor and makeup user Ben Dixon, 42. (The Week magazine, March 12, 2021)**

**Male menopause is a lot more fun than female menopause. With female menopause, you gain weight and get hot flashes. With male menopause, you get to date young girls and drive motorcycles. (Rita Rudner)**

**In the Greek monastery of Mount Athos nothing female is allowed. Men can enter but not women; roosters but no hens; horses but no mares; bulls but no cows. The border is patrolled by armed guards to ensure that nothing feminine passes the gates. It has been this way for more than 700 years. (David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 145)**

**You can find out whether a mosquito is male or female by letting it land on you. If it bites you, it's female. Only female mosquitoes live on blood. The males live on plant juices. *(Paul Stirling Hagerman, in It's a Weird World, p. 43)***

**My 85-year-old mother, a fabulous cook, was recently astonished by today's nontraditional marital roles. Kay, my son Brian's wife, was complimenting Mom on her yeast bread. “This is just wonderful, Granny,” cooed my daughter-in-law as she popped a fluffy morsel in her mouth. “You must give this recipe to Brian.” (Edna Butterfield, in Reader's Digest)**

**A study in the Washington Post says that women have better verbal skills than men. I just want to say to the authors of that study: Duh! (Conan O’Brien)  
  
Both the male and female ostrich sit on the eggs. The female takes the day shift because her drab color serves as camouflage. (L. M. Boyd) *\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**  
European flat oyster: This tender bivalve enjoys the best of both sexual worlds. It alternates sex roles, functioning first as a male, then as a female. It can do this because it has both male and female organs, and the process is known as rhythmical consecutive hermaphroditism. In waters around Great Britain, its sex roles change in alternate years, but in warmer Mediterranean waters, it can perform both roles within one season. (Wallechinsky/Wallace, in The Book of Lists #2, p. 111)**

**Suppose it’s appropriate enough that the European oyster off the coast of Denmark changes its sex from male to female and back again just about every five years. *(L. M. Boyd, in Boyd’s Book of Odd Facts, p. 13)***

**Oysters can change gender according to the temperature of the water they live in. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Extraordinary Book of Facts, p. 10)***

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In an emergency, the male emperor penguin can suckle its young. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Girls who turn into boys have been discovered in the Philippines. The children are the victims of a rare chance gene which inhibits the development of the male hormone. They look like girls until puberty and then turn into boys and later men. Thirty-seven children have been born this way already. They have vaginas at birth, but around 13 they are flooded with male hormones and grow normal-sized sex organs. Oddly enough, the society they live in treats them like girls until the change occurs and then naturally accepts them as males. (Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 218)  
Do baby pigeons drink milk? They do, but what's more noteworthy is that milk is produced by both the male and female and is fed by both to the young. (L. M. Boyd)  
Plants, like animals, can exist as male and female--a fact detected in the late sixteenth century by the Italian botanist Prospero Alpini when he studied the date palm. It was sexual differences among plants that Carolus Linnaeus used a century and a half later as the basis for his classification of the plant kingdom. (Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts)**

**Poll Watch: 57% of Americans say someone’s gender is determined by the sex they were assigned at birth, while 43% say it can change. 68% oppose puberty-blocking treatments for trans children between ages 10 and 14. Two in three say trans women and girls shouldn’t be allowed to compete in high school or college sports with biological women. (Washington Post-KFF, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 19, 2023)**

**Mr. Potato Head has come out as "non-binary," said Amanda Arnold in TheCut.com. Hasbro -- the maker of the 70-year-old toy vegetable -- said last week it was dropping the gender from the official name and would refer to him simply as "Potato Head." A Hasbro executive explained that "culture has evolved," adding that the "Mr. and Mrs." setup was "limiting" for "both gender identify and family structure." In other words, Hasbro wants to sell Potato Heads to kids with two mommies or two daddies. Conservatives threw "a fit" in response to the news that "a little plastic potato would no longer ne known as a man," with one bemoaning the loss "of an apparently important male figure" and another contending that is was "time for Republican states to secede." On Fox News and its business channel, it was a huge story, said Alexis Benveniste in CNN.com. Mr. Potato Head was mentioned no fewer than 35 times by Fox hosts and a parade of experts who denounced Hasbro for what they saw as a "left-wing attack on traditional families." (The Week magazine, March 12, 2021)**

**In recent decades, more than 100 million female fetuses have been aborted in China, India, and other Asian nations with a historical preference for male offspring. (The Economist, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 19, 2010)  
  
Growing pumpkins: Male and female flowers grow on the same vine. You can tell the female by the baby fruit that causes a bulge at its base. Bees carry pollen from the male to the female flower. A female flower opens for one day. That is the only time it can be pollinated. (Betty Debnam, in Rocky Mountain News)  
  
Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor passed many of her happiest days on a ranch that straddled the New Mexico-Arizona border. By the age of ten she could drive a truck and a tractor. “I didn't do all the things boys did, but I helped repair windmills and fences,” she says. Recalls her cousin and girlhood friend, Flournoy Manzo, “We played with dolls, but we knew what to do with screwdrivers and nails too. Living on a ranch made us very self-sufficient.” (Time)  
Something strange is happening to the rodents at a Northern California wildlife area where thousands of birds were poisoned by toxic runoff from farms years ago. Both male and female reproductive organs were found in one-third of the 87 field mice, house mice, harvest mice and California voles trapped last year on land that once collected toxic runoff at the Kesterson National Wildlife Refuge. Just 3 percent of rodents trapped there showed such characteristics in 1995. Technically, the rodents seem to be pseudo-hermaphroditic. They appear to be males from the outside and lack a vagina but have a fully developed set of female organs internally. Some scientists say something in the environment is causing the outbreak. (Associated Press, 1999)All roses are bisexual. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Perhaps strangest of all, the male sea horse has the babies. After courting the male, the female deposits the eggs in the brood pouch of the male. That's where the eggs remain and develop. Once the tiny but fully formed babies hatch, they swim out of the male's pouch and are on their own.(James Hekkers, in Denver Rocky Mountain News)**

**I once lived in a messy apartment, and I realize it's sexist to assume that just because a woman wasn't there it was messy. So I went downstairs to borrow an iron, and I realize it's sexist to assume that just because there wasn't a woman there, there wasn't an iron there. And I came back up and didn't have an ironing board. I realize it's sexist to have anybody assume that of course I wouldn't have an ironing board, but I didn't. So I was ironing my shirt on the floor, and there was this little crunch, and I picked up the shirt and I had ironed a roach right on it. And the point of this is there are some things that just can't be ironed out. (Roy Blount)  
Some members of one kind of shrimp, the pandalids, undergo a weird sex change. They're all males at birth--but in two years they all change into females. (Ann Adams, in National Enquirer)**

**The first English royal to wear a pair of silk stockings was a man – King Henry VIII, in 1509. The stockings were a gift from Spain. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 135)*  
  
Everybody wore skirts at one time in ancient Egypt. But among the anybodies who were anybody then, the men distinguished their gender by sporting ostrich plumes in their hair. (L. M. Boyd)  
Many species of animals and plants are hermaphroditic, that is, individuals possess both male and female sex organs. In most such animal species, including earthworms and snails, elaborate mating behaviors have evolved which preclude self-copulation. The hermaphroditic European sea hare mollusk, for example, mates in chains of three or more. The animal in front acts only as a female, while others act as males for those in front and females for those behind. Among the few hermaphrodites which self-fertilize are pulmonate mollusks; species of scale insect, perches, and darters; and two black bass species of the Black Sea. (Wallechinsky/Wallace, in The Book of Lists #3)  
Most gardeners who grow spinach eat it instead of researching its reproductive habits, so we'll tell you what scientists discovered. Female spinach plants change sex if the soil becomes too dry. Botanists theorize that dry soil makes it too difficult for females to bear fertile seeds, so the young plants switch into males to produce the smaller, less-demanding pollen. (Lowell & Kaye Christie, in FMC magazine)**

**Suspenders come and go. In one fashion cycle, most men quit wearing them in 1892. Because women started wearing them. (L. M. Boyd)**

**If you want anything said, ask a man; if you want anything done, ask a woman. (Margaret Thatcher, former British prime minister)  
People think of sharks, vultures and lions as male and of deer, kangaroos and sheep as female. So say the psychologists. Almost everybody sees a buffalo as male, a butterfly as female. If you can't buy that, consider cats and dogs. Don't you think of cats as female, dogs as male? (L. M. Boyd)  
Little Miss Xao Ching-Ping of Shanghai was suddenly changed into a boy during a terrific thunderstorm. (Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance)  
Charles and Myrtle Fillmore worked together to build Unity. It was Myrtle Fillmore who first accepted the idea of divine healing; it was Charles Fillmore who edited the first magazine. It was Myrtle Fillmore who first led Silent Unity; it was Charles Fillmore who named the work Unity and developed it into the world-wide organization it is today. It was Myrtle Fillmore who led the people in meditation and prayer; it was Charles Fillmore who made speeches and wrote books. They worked together as heart and head work together, and from their united efforts grew the great movement that is Unity. (James Dillet Freeman, in The Story of Unity)**

**Originally, a tomboy was a boy, not a girl who acted like a boy. (L. M. Boyd)**

**The toxic debate of gender: “How ought we to understand sex, gender, and gender identity?” asked Conor Friedersdorf. That and related questions, including whether trans women should be allowed to compete against biological women in sports, have become so intensely polarized that many Americans “are reluctant or even terrified” to voice even “tentative opinions,” lest they violate “ever-changing taboos.” If you even ask the wrong question, such as “What is a woman?” or “Is gender a social construct?” you risk being labeled by thought police on the doctrinaire left as a “transphobic” bigot or by the panicked right as “a groomer.” When NCAA swimmer Riley Gaines recently gave a speech in which she argued that women’s sports should be limited to biological females, angry protesters drowned her out, and chased her down a hallway hurling threats. Meanwhile, in Republican-controlled states, legislatures are criminalizing drag performances and parent-approved hormone treatments for children with gender dysphoria. People “inhabit different epistemic universes” on gender, which dooms reasoned, civil debate. Extremists on both sides insist there is only one valid view on gender – and that all others must be silenced, punished, and even made into crimes. *(The Week magazine, May 5, 2023)***

**California lawmakers are considering a bill that would ban department stores from having boys’ and girls’ toy sections. Many retailers have already removed sex-based signage, but the proposed bill would make it illegal to segregate dolls, toy guns, etc. by perceived gender appeal. “I think we have kids who are figuring out their identities,” said Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia. “We want to give them that safe space to do that.” (The Week magazine, March 19, 2021)  
  
Myrtle Fillmore's religious training was strict. The family frowned upon most forms of amusement, and the children were not permitted even such diversions as playing cards or dancing. Myrtle, however, was the favorite of her father, and in lighthearted moments, when the rest of the family were not around, he taught her how to dance the Highland fling, which she loved to do. (James Dillet Freeman, in The Story of Unity)**

**When a woman goes to her closet and says, “I don't have anything to wear,” she really means “I don't have anything new to wear.” When a man goes to his closet and says, “I don't have anything to wear,” what he really means is “I don't have anything clean to wear,” (Diana Jordan & Paul Seaburn, in A Wife's Little Instruction Book )**

**Men always want to be a woman's first love; women like to be a man's last. (Oscar Wilde)**

**Every male has within him the female and every female has within her the male. This fact is admitted by physiology, substantiating the Genesis record of the ideal creation of man as “male and female,” and his expression in Adam and Eve as the male and female in one man. (Charles Fillmore, in The Twelve Powers of Man, p. 35)**

**Cyndi Lauper’s 1984 hit “Girls Just Want to Have Fun” was written by a man. *(Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Extraordinary Book of Facts, p. 1)***

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