
Despite the end of the Cold War and the expansion of global trade, most nations still believe that they should "feed themselves," and many, including Japan and those of the European Union, provide massive subsidies to their farmers. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and other agreements have only begun to open foreign markets, Duesterberg says.

A looming obstacle to U.S. farmers is the effort by "zealots" at home to ban the use of pesticides and biotechnology, which lift farm productivity without posing significant dangers to the environment, Duesterberg says. "A far-greater . . . environmental catastrophe," he writes, "would ensue if the world's farmers cut down forests equal in size to the entire land mass of South America—which is what they would have to do to meet world food demand using only organic farming." Duesterberg's formula for the 21st century might be summed up by the slogan: A free hand at home, free markets abroad.

Back to Hearth and Home?

"Are Women Leaving the Labor Force?" by Howard V. Hayghe, in *Monthly Labor Review* (July 1994), Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, D.C. 20212.

Are more and more wives and mothers getting fed up with the world of work and choosing to stay at home? The percentage of women who had jobs, or were looking for them, rose consistently for nearly three decades, but that growth

has faltered in recent years, particularly among younger women. Trend spotters in the news media have begun to rumble about what *Barron's* calls "a quiet counterrevolution." The facts, declares Hayghe, an economist at the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, tell a different story.

Although the percentage of women 16 and older in the work force fell by a fraction after 1990, it rebounded in 1992. Last year, 57.9 percent of all women were in the work force, a half-point increase over 1990. Among teenagers, however, there was a pronounced drop, from a high of 53.9 percent in 1989 to 49.9 percent last year. Among women aged 20 to 24, meanwhile, there was also a notable decline, from a high of 73.0 percent in the labor force in 1987 to 71.3 percent last year. Where did the "missing" girls and young women go? Probably to school, Hayghe believes.

If women in significant numbers were returning to the traditional wife-and-homemaker role, Hayghe points out, there should be more "traditional" one-earner families and fewer "dual-earner" ones. In fact, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, the dual-earner family in 1992, at 69.8 percent of all two-parent families, was about as common as it had been five years earlier, and the proportion of traditional male-breadwinner families had shrunk—from 26.6 percent in 1987 to 25.4 percent in 1992. What did increase during that period (from 3.9 percent to 4.8 percent of two-parent families), the economist notes, was the proportion of families in which the father was not a breadwinner at all. Hardly a sign of a conservative counterrevolution.

SOCIETY

High-Fidelity America

"Marital Infidelity" by Andrew Greeley, in *Society* (May-June 1994), Rutgers-The State University, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903.

If such fountains of scholarship as Alfred Kinsey's famous "reports," *Cosmopolitan*, and

Shere Hite's *Hite Report* (1987) are to be believed, there's a whole lot of cheating going on in America. In his 1948 and 1953 tomes, Kinsey said that about half the men in his samples, and a quarter of the women, had committed adultery. More recently, *Cosmopolitan* and Hite came up with even higher figures: Just over half of married women and 72 percent of mar-