



3. Sex Hormones (part 2)

The adolescent male is unconscious of the fast-track program to chemically coerce him into attaining the peak of his sexual potency by the age of 19. Testosterone will ensure that his mind is flooded with, and monopolised by, salacious thoughts. Effectively, he is being not so much 'brainwashed' as 'groinwashed'.

A useful insight into the plight of the freshly afflicted male may be gained in the instance of a 16-year-old Sainsbury's supermarket student worker. Every Saturday, early morning at eight o'clock, he boards a bus in order to commute to the store. Here, he experiences the cataclysmic reinforcement of several factors. First, the rocketing testosterone level at this time of day; second, the jolting, vibrating bus seat transporting the 16-year-old to his weekend job. And third, the brain dredging up lurid frames at a rate of ten times a minute from the previous week's image library of female schoolteachers (regardless of their physical qualities, so long as they qualify in using 'Ms.' before their surname) stretching or bending down for scholarly objects. Tracked on radar, with Sainsbury's at its epicentre, male pubescent workers would be seen to form a concentric pattern of nodes coinciding

with bus stop drop-off locations. Rarely would these show as requested bus stops, because the student is forced to remain aboard until he is able to allay promoting day trips to Margate by way of pointing involuntarily at the tourist board posters displayed above the bus windows. His main concern would be that of playing for time, for his groin to take on the necessary slack to enable him to disembark.

Very occasionally a node will be recorded close to the epicentre. This represents the conscientious timekeeper, who in spite of his predicament alights at the closest bus stop to the supermarket. He is remarkable for dressing in shirtsleeves, especially in sub-zero temperatures, and for draping a jacket over a forearm in order to shield the groin. The jacket-shielding is sustained for the length of time he needs to regain his dignity. Spanish matadors present themselves in a similar fashion then step aside and whip away the cape as the furious bull bears down upon them. The only bullfighters who countenance keeping the cape where it is for as long as the Sainsbury's student worker the draping jacket, are those practising voluntary euthanasia.

A sponsor of weather bulletins on British television famously proclaimed that it would deliver its product to market whatever the meteorological conditions. 'Powergen – bringing you power whatever the weather,' the energy company promised, voiced over either an image of Jack Frost or some ballerinas dancing like snowdrops (this remains unclear because it was artistic). Equally, an image that would have worked with its slogan is one of an ardent 16-year-old Sainsbury's student worker alighting from a bus at the stop outside work, dangling a jacket in front of his centrepiece, while half-drowned, half-pummelled into submission by an apocalyptic hailstorm.

Young men are worked on by an additional cycle that occurs once a week at 10 minutes to 2, Sunday morning, and notably at provincial discotheques where the like are compelled to rethink their strategy of binge drinking. This is the scheduled time for recognising their monogamous condition ten minutes before closing, a situation that may be remedied by slurring an invitation to dance a so-called 'slowie'. The slowie might be characterised typically by a kind of revolving, rocking

shuffle and grapple performed to music while the dancing partners engage in sloshing tongues together in the manner of socks in a washing machine rinse cycle. In this way, the male is able to advertise his genetic fitness via an act of dexterity in much the same way as achieving the rubbing of one's abdomen in a circular motion while patting one's head.

A successful outcome of this approach can be gauged at around 2.10 a.m. on whether the male is able to hail a cab slurring 'Takshi!' and on whether his chances of being picked up are enhanced by the taxi driver's attitude towards chauffeuring drunken, lairy unaccompanied men.

Some men record extreme testosterone levels, condemning them to greater periods of time devoted to female enticement. It seems, at first glance, that large gatherings of these construction workers must owe their behavioural disposition to their environment. However, there is evidence to suggest that workers in the building trade are genetically predisposed to function in it. For instance, we observe that one such worker can tune into certain wavelengths of sound even

when the background noise is very loud. And so, while there may be 17 jackhammers operating at once, a couple of JCBs scooping rocky terrain and 53 so-called 'geezers' conducting a high-decibel 53-way conferencing discussion on the time to knock off for tea, a scaffolder will still be able to detect through it all, the faint clicky-clacky flamenco of stiletto heels approaching from 200 yards away out on the street. This is by no means an isolated phenomenon. By pressing an ear to the ground, Native American trackers are able to detect the approach of horses several miles distant. (They are also guided by sight. Otherwise the tracker might find himself tuning in to a stationary horse hard by – like one that is engaging daintily in dressage – his head imperilled by the pressure of a hoof's surface area multiplied by one tonne of equine flesh.)

In all probability, both genetics and environment play their part in determining testosterone levels in men. Hence, it is hoped that men who suffer from impotency and those afflicted by chronic girl-shyness could benefit from sessions up the scaffolds with hard-hatted therapists.

Hormones drive the conditions for attraction, but they do not always take the scenic route. An experiment where beer is administered to male subjects in a public house frequented by East German lady shot-putters formerly active in the 1970s era, shows a direct correlation between the diminishing ability to quantify women accurately and the increase in pint consumption. Interesting to observe is the lack of attentiveness demonstrated by male subjects towards the female contingent prior to the third pint. This is the lag phase, or period of 'civilised' drinking. If a man is forced against his will or his better judgement to drink (or rather, a better judgement belonging to his wife or girlfriend), he will concede eventually by saying, 'Oh, alright, just to be civilised'. Alternatively, he will say, 'oh, alright, if you're going to twist my arm', even if the threat of that action is low. This means he will have two pints to be civilised, then a few more to forget his initial intention. At which point, upon asking the male subjects which women they find attractive, most will choose to respond by goosing the nearest, genetically unsuitable (the polite scientific term) subject. This generation of East German lady shot-putters belong not only to the

1970s era but to a gender that is the least well-equipped to reproduce with the trial's male participants.

The 'mis-goosing' phenomenon, better known as the 'Beer Goggles Syndrome', occurs when a man peers through 'amber-tinted' spectacles to form a new erroneous pattern of judgements. Less familiar perhaps is the 'Vodka Hubble Syndrome', a more extreme condition. Vodka is of course a much stronger alcoholic beverage; the Hubble, a reference to the most powerful telescope used in space exploration. However, this condition is rarely observed because a man is more likely to be ejected and banned from the public house before he can be 'optically fitted'.

