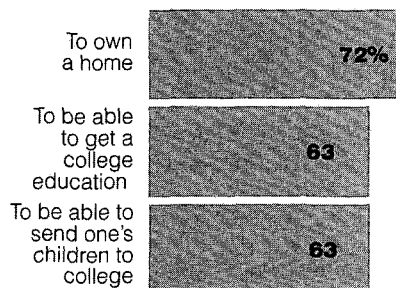


The Higher Education Imperative

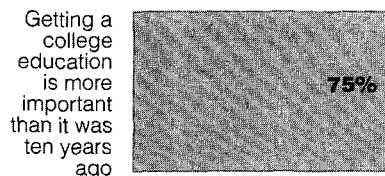
More than 60 percent of Americans say that being able to go to college or provide a college education for their children is what the American Dream is all about, and three quarters say getting a college degree is more important than it was ten years ago. The symbolic and practical value of a college degree explains why more people than in the past say that the more college-trained people there are in the country, the better off we will be.

Question: I'm going to read you some possible definitions or descriptions of the American Dream, and for each one I'd like you to tell me if that's...

Very much what the American Dream means



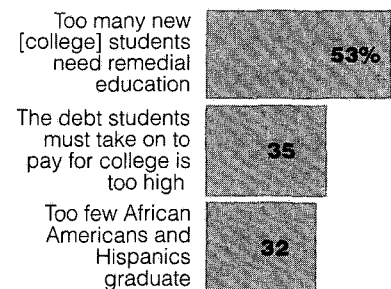
Question: Do you agree...?



Source: Public Agenda, February 1998.

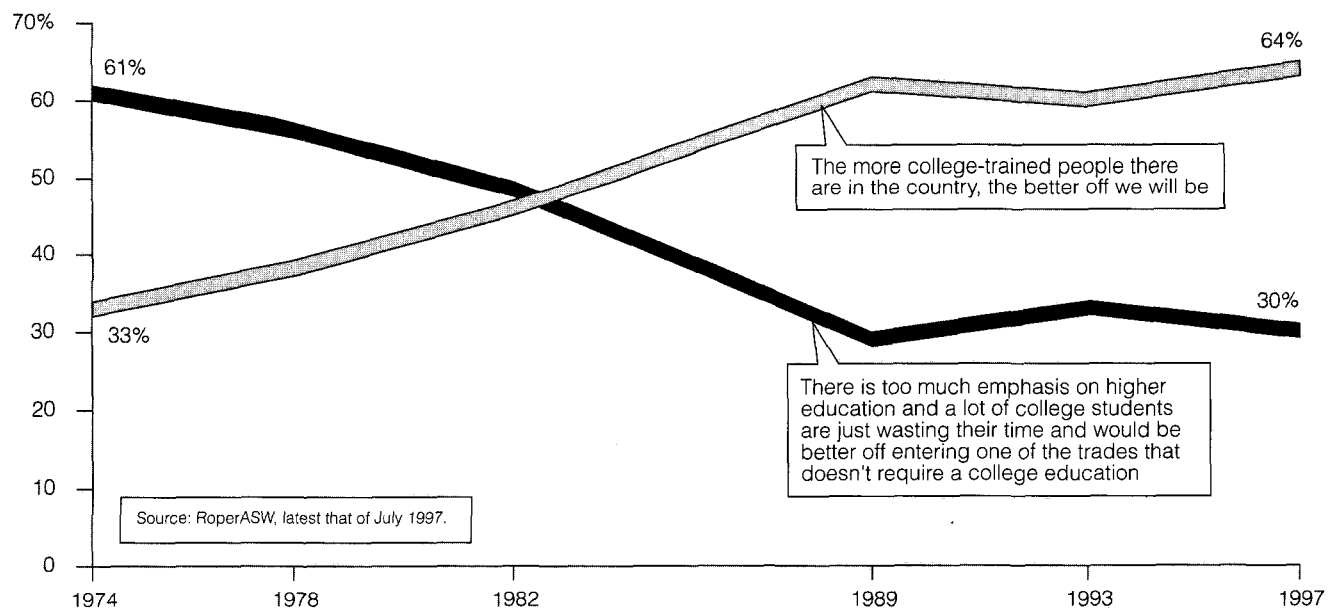
Note: Several other issues ranked higher than being able to go to college, including having freedom of choice in how to live one's life (70 percent), living in an open society in which everyone has an equal chance (67 percent), having a financially secure retirement (67 percent), and being able to get a high school education (66 percent).
Source: RoperASW, December 2000.

Question: How serious a problem is it that...?



Note: Sample is a mail survey of college professors (130 respondents), college administrators and deans (163), business leaders (146), and government legislators or advisors (162).
Source: Public Agenda, October 1998.

Question: As compared to a generation ago, a good many more young people are going to college today. Some people think this is a great thing and...?

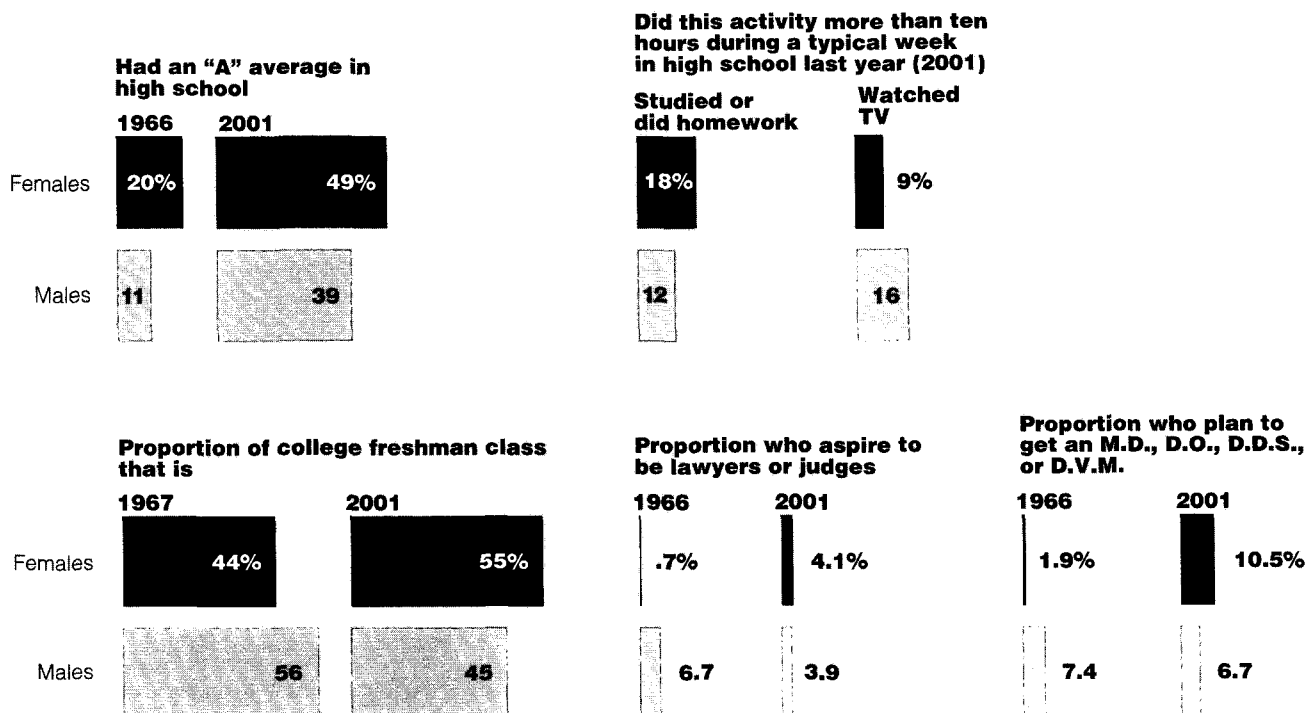


Source: RoperASW, latest that of July 1997.

Where the Girls Are

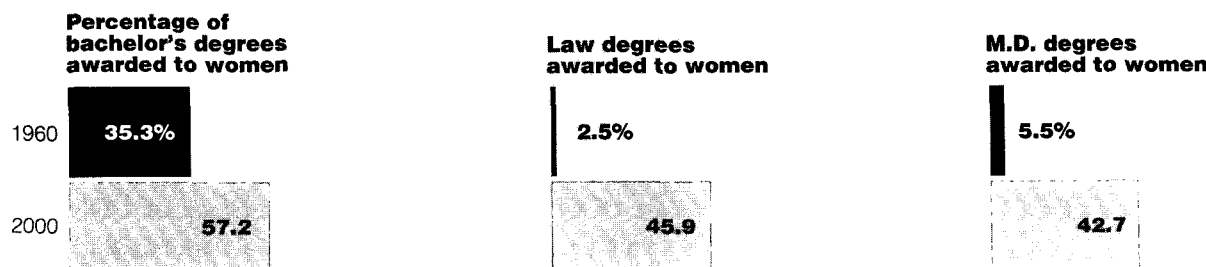
They're on college campuses pursuing advanced degrees in record numbers while young men are lagging behind. Young women appear to be working harder in high school than are young men and getting better grades. Fifty-five percent of freshman college classes are female today. Women are more likely than men today to aspire to be lawyers and to plan to get M.D. degrees. More than half of all bachelor's and master's degrees are now awarded to women. Forty-six percent of law degrees go to women, as do 43 percent of M.D. degrees.

College Freshmen



Source: Cooperative Institutional Research Program UCLA, latest that of 2001.

Actual Performance

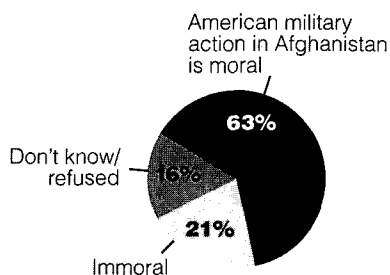
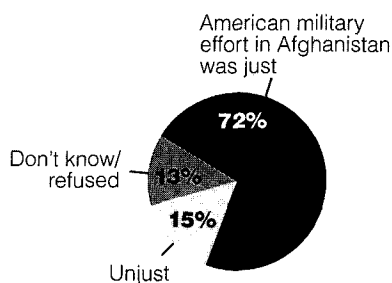


Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, latest that of 2000.

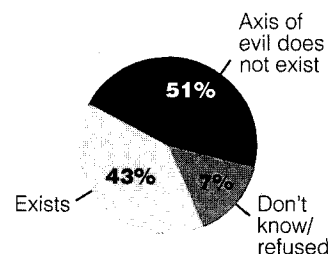
College Students' Attitudes

For years, conservatives have complained about the political views of faculty members, particularly those in the humanities. But faculty attitudes haven't radicalized students. The number of college freshmen who consider themselves far left or liberal is down since the question was first asked in 1970. Conservatives have gained a bit of ground, but most students call themselves moderates. Recent surveys show that college students support the war on terrorism and consider themselves patriotic. Majorities say they would serve, in some capacity, if drafted.

Question: Was the...?

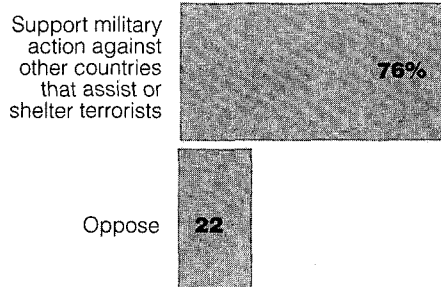


Question: President Bush used the term "axis of evil" to describe nations that mean us harm. Does...?



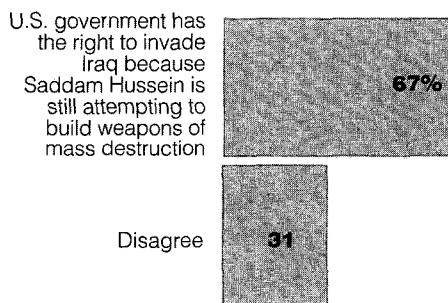
Source: Luntz Research Companies for Empower America, May 2002.

Question: Would you...?



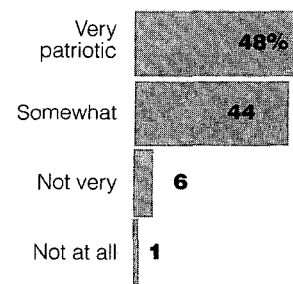
Source: SWR Della Volpe for the Institute of Politics at Harvard, October 2001.

Question: Do you agree...?



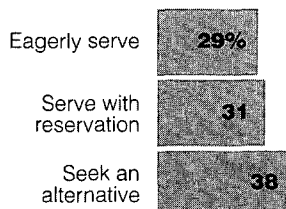
Source: Luntz Research Companies for Empower America, May 2002.

Question: When it comes to your feelings about being an American, do you consider yourself...?



Note: These responses are very similar to national ones.
Source: SWR Della Volpe for the Institute of Politics at Harvard, October 2001.

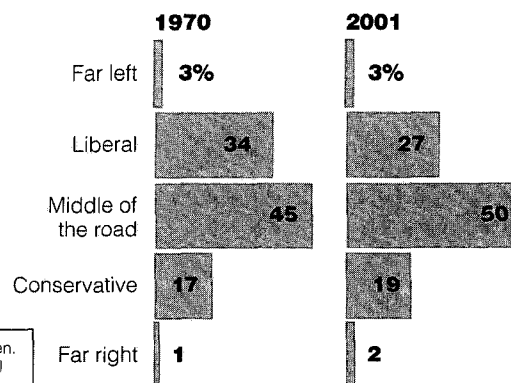
Question: If a draft was reinstated and you were selected, would you...?



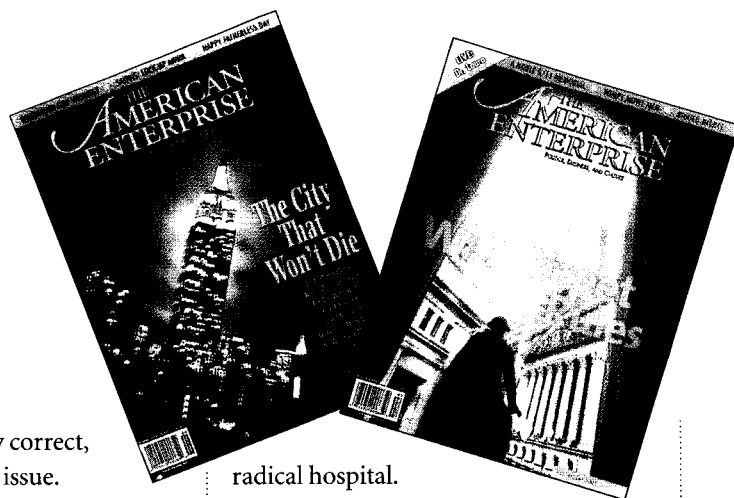
Note: A question in the Luntz poll found that 34 percent would "serve and fight anywhere in the world" if they received a draft notice, 21 percent would serve, but only if stationed in the U.S., and 37 percent would most likely try to evade the draft.
Source: SWR Della Volpe for the Institute of Politics at Harvard, October 2001.

Question: How would you characterize your political views?

Freshman attitudes



Note: Sample is college freshmen.
Source: Cooperative Institutional Research Program UCLA, latest that of 2001.



In "Wimps, Whiners, and Weenies: Men in Movies Today," (July/August), Don Feder lists lots of wimps. But his list of "real men" leaves out Charlton Heston, a major star who has sacrificed a great deal to defend the Second Amendment.

He's a real man by any standard.

Frank Miglin
Bradenton, Florida

You address correctly the problem of homosexuality in the Catholic clergy ("Catholics Need Truth," SCAN, July/August). However, you fail to address the additional problems that now confront the Catholic Church, such as a manipulative hierarchy and misappropriation and outright embezzlement of church funds.

Edward Mahoney
Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania

Contrary to what Fred Siegel writes ("Ground Zero for Big Government," June), it was William O'Dwyer, not his brother Paul, who succeeded Fiorello LaGuardia in New York's City Hall in 1947.

Edwin Stillman
Levittown, New York

Your warning on the proposed new mandate for side-loading washing machines (THE DIGEST, July/August) gave me pause.

Consider this: Buying a new side-loading machine saves only 4.4 cents per load. Given how little this is, maybe we would be better off conning women into going back to doing all washing by hand.

This is not politically correct, but it would resolve the issue.

Earl Pulver
Franklin, Massachusetts

David Schaefer's piece on my talk before the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy ("Medical Clown," SCAN, June), made me smile at capitalism's desperate attempt to defend its vulgarity by denigrating generosity.

Let me correct some of Mr. Schaefer's statements. For those who can pay, I do charge \$20,000 to give a presentation. For many lectures, like the one he wrote about, I take a dramatic pay cut. The Massachusetts talk was organized by a student who wanted the other students at the school to hear my message of compassionate, fun, and generous medical services.

In any case, the check is written directly to the Gesundheit! Institute (our foundation) not to me. I live in an office-apartment, where I work every day—from 7 a.m. to 3 a.m.—to build a free hospital in West Virginia.

This is a project on which I've worked without interruption for more than 31 years. I have no property except books and clown toys and take home \$500 or less each month. If I leave the project, I take nothing with me. I doubt if anyone else in the U.S. who makes \$1 million a year can say this.

I don't lament not receiving millions from the movie about me—I mentioned it during the long question-and-answer period after my speech in order to describe the complexity of building our

radical hospital.

I suggested that a student not pay back enormous medical school bills only after I was asked about how to serve humanity.

I gave several possibilities before I said that, for a rare few who really wanted to live a life of service, that living such a life was a "payment" of their loan.

I specifically said that under no other circumstances, except to fully serve humanity, should anyone else fail to pay his loans. It is irresponsible of our corporate federal government not to educate our doctors for free. Doing so would cost only a tiny fraction of our vulgar military budget.

Patch Adams
Arlington, Virginia

David Schaefer replies:

Patch Adams's letter demonstrates anew why he would serve humanity better by continuing in the noble cause of providing medical care to the poor than by asseverating about politics.

Earth to Adams: It is citizens, not the "corporate federal government," who actually must work to finance the government's activities.

As an ex-New Yorker who detests the place, I rate "The Insufferable Wonder" (BIRD'S EYE, June) the best thing written on New York City.

The city is utterly insufferable now and forever.

Jack Doremus
Tallahassee, Florida