

L E T T E R S

Science, Math and Women

Our cover package on the differences between men's and women's brains provoked strong responses – especially from women in science and education, who know all too well the kinds of discrimination that keep them from reaching the top in traditionally male-dominated fields

AS A WOMAN IN SCIENCE, I KNOW

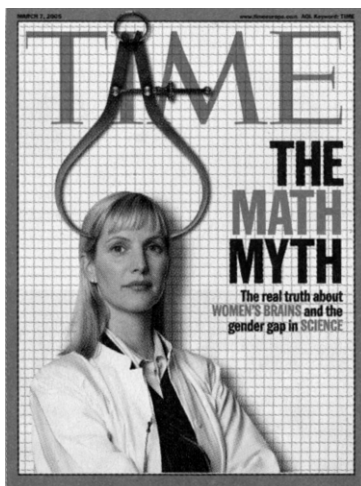
that you cannot overestimate the pervasiveness of attitudes discouraging girls from pursuing math and science. I grew up in a university town, the daughter of a female biologist, but still felt societal and peer pressure that made me believe I couldn't be smart at science. I credit my seventh-grade science teacher with encouraging me to break through my personal stereotypes and refusing to allow me to settle for Bs or Cs when he knew I could achieve As.

LAURA McLAIN MADSEN

WHY DON'T YOU PUBLISH AN article trying to explain why boys score lower than girls in verbal aptitude tests? It seems the focus is always on why girls are not as good as boys at math. If boys don't perform as well as girls in a subject, it is never controversial. In fact, no-one seems to care. Do we value math more than reading and writing?

COLIN C. BAKER

THE QUESTION IS NOT WHETHER



women lack an innate ability to succeed and excel in science (that is simply not the case) but whether there are gender-based, neuronal differences in how males and females perceive input, frame scenarios and derive conclusions. If male and female scientists arrive at identical conclusions via similar yet subtly different pathways, it suggests that

together we may reach a far greater understanding of any particular problem than through any single-gender effort. In the pursuit of scientific truth, the wealth of knowledge gained through diverse perspectives truly elevates us. I sincerely hope we're not all the same. The world would be a pretty boring place if we were.

JAMES S. LEE

WOMEN ARE AS CLEVER AS MEN?

Have you ever known a man to buy a shirt that buttons up the back?

BOB BOWEN

Time, 2005

Tekst 10 Letters

- 2p **38** Geef van elk van onderstaande stellingen aan of deze wel of niet overeenkomt met een of meer beweringen in de brieven en zo ja, wie de bewering gedaan heeft.
- 1 Als meisjes al vroeg steun krijgen van hun docenten in de exacte vakken, werkt dat stimulerend op hun zelfvertrouwen en inzet.
 - 2 Een samenwerkingsverband van mannelijke en vrouwelijke wetenschappers zal een meer diepgaande benadering van onderzoek opleveren.
 - 3 Er komt steeds meer belangstelling voor de problemen die jongens ervaren met bijvoorbeeld taalverwerving.
 - 4 Maatschappelijk gezien wordt het minder van meisjes dan van jongens geaccepteerd dat ze kiezen voor de exacte wetenschappen.
- Noteer het nummer van iedere stelling, gevolgd door "Nee", indien er geen overeenkomst is met een van de brieven. Indien er wel overeenkomst is, noteer de **voornaam** van de briefschrijfster/-schrijver.
- 1p **39** Which of the following sentences could have concluded Bob Bowen's letter?
- A Men are not creative enough to do so!
 - B Men are not interested in fashion.
 - C Men are smarter than that.
 - D Men like women to do the shopping for them.

Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.