

## Biology makes men more prone to risky behaviour

Re: *Why men do not like church*, Dec. 22.

This article was interesting and certainly worthy of the front page. It states that men are more likely to have an "underdeveloped ability to inhibit their impulses," thus passing a moral judgment on a morally neutral biological phenomenon.

It says that men are more likely than females to engage in risky behaviour. As any investor knows, risky behaviour can result in abysmal failures or great successes. Obviously, the prospect of great success is what drives individuals to engage in such behaviour. The result is that for most human endeavours, risk-takers are more likely to be found at the extremes of the success-failure continuum. These risk-takers are more likely to be male and in our society, we accordingly find that men are over-represented both among prison inmates and corporate CEOs.

Any hockey fan understands that when you are about to lose, it is sometimes worth taking a huge risk and replacing the goalie with another player. Similar risky, often aggressive behaviour does have a reason, and a biological basis makes males more likely than females to engage in risky behaviour.

It could be said that men have a "better developed ability to follow their impulses," but that interpretation would be equally erroneous. Nature has no morals, it is not there to teach us morality, and it should not be judged according to our morals.

Neither gender has under- or over-developed abilities. It is just that basic biological differences exist between males



## Simplifying life means learning less is best

Re: *How to simplify your life series*.

My husband and I simplified our lives more than two years ago so I looked forward to learning more about this.

But the article by Andrew Duffy (*Has a way-too-complicated Christmas left you stressed out?* Dec. 26) encouraged us to drink more, among other things, and Bruce Ward (*How to simplify your wife's life*, Dec. 27) encouraged me to go shopping whenever I get the urge to simplify. I can only conclude that these particular articles in your series were meant only to entertain rather than inform.

Ron Corbett's column (*We're poor if you care about money*, Dec. 28) about the couple from Lanark Highlands was much more about simplifying your life.

Simplifying your life means that "less is best." Living in a society that is hell-bent on consumerism is a challenge when you are trying to simplify your life. Simplifying your life doesn't mean you have to live in the country as did the Lanark couple: It's a philosophy of living, a way of life. It can be accomplished anywhere.

As one who has simplified my lifestyle, I use fewer energy resources and my quality of life is infinitely better as my whole focus is not on the pursuit of earning more to buy things I don't need.

My time is much better spent

### Cosway's Law

Reading about our need to simplify life, I was nodding sagely as it made me recall the law I developed in 1974 after many years in the telecom business.

I believe Cosway's Law is, and always has been, relevant. It states: It is extremely difficult to make things simple!

The corollary is: It is extremely simple to make things difficult!

W.A. Cosway, Ottawa

### Drop the hassles

I realize Bruce Ward's article on simplicity was a tongue-in-cheek exploration of the Simplicity Movement, if you can call it that, but really, the only way to simplify is to do less stuff. Drop the hassles that drive you nuts.

The simplicity industry is just that, an industry. I was very disappointed when I spent \$20 for a simplification book which I ended up tossing into the recycling.

What was I thinking? It's my life, I can fix it for myself. That's the whole point of being a grown-up. You don't have to toss out all the received family traditions. Figure out what you want; keep it, cherish it, share it. Leave the rest alone.

Joanne Cardin, Kanata

### Dubious advice