

# If women ruled the world...

by Jemima Lewis

It is meant to be flattering, I suppose - this notion that only women can save the world. But flattery, as Le Rochefoucauld observed, can be a false currency. And when an entire gender is being buttered up, it is wise to be sceptical.

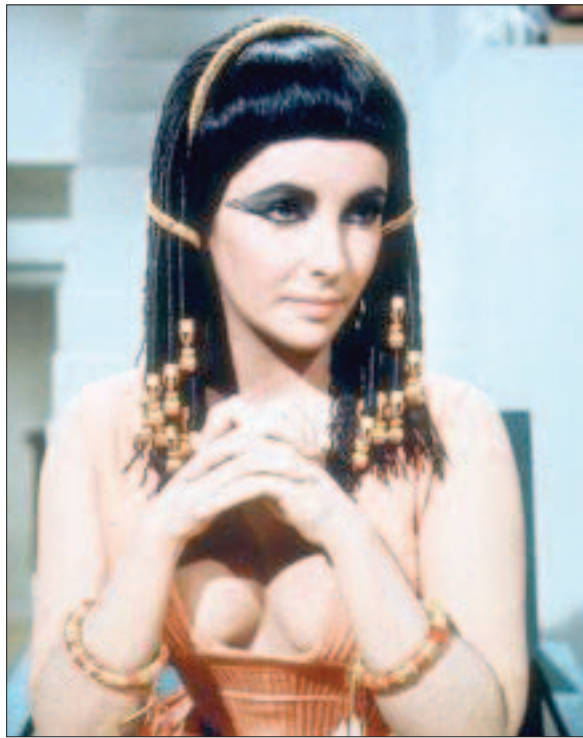
Harriet Harman suggested last week that she might use her proposed Equalities Bill to get more women into positions of power in Britain's banks. The Bill will allow employers to practise "positive action", by choosing a female candidate over an equally well-qualified male. Since this is something that everyone is free to do already, without explicitly saying so, it sounds to me like legislation of the status quo. Feel free to employ a woman - or not, if you prefer.

Nevertheless, Ms Harman seems to think it is just what's needed to cure the City of its chronic maleness - and, ipso facto, save us all from economic doom. It is now received wisdom that the credit crunch was the fault of "testosterone-fuelled" City boys and could have been averted altogether if only there had been more ladyfolk in the Square Mile.

Different hormones, you see. Men are slaves to the kind of endocrinal urge that makes you want to gamble billions of dollars on bad debt; women just want to listen, emote and build a consensus.

If this seems a little reductive, you should hear the kind of biological determinism that's being bandied about in Iceland. There, a particularly nasty credit crunch has been followed by something close to gender-cleansing in the corridors of power. Iceland's new female prime minister - the world's first lesbian premier - has put together a cabinet in which a record five of the 11 posts are held by women. Female CEOs have been put in charge of two of the country's rescued banks.

The nation looks for salvation to women such as Halla Tomasdottir, who runs one of Iceland's few remaining successful investment companies. Her



Cleopatra: not interested in communication and consensus-building Photo: Getty

trick, she says, has been to rely on "greater female values": investing in sustainable projects that appeal to her womanly conscience, instead of aggressively pursuing short-term profits like those bone-headed boys. "The [economic] crisis is man-made," she breezily avers. "It's typical male behaviour. A penis competition for my own sex, but this kind of talk makes me want to kick the sisterhood in the shins. Like the notion that there would be no more war or suffering if women ruled the world, it rests on a willful lack of self-knowledge.

Women are not chaste vessels of virtue, in matters of money or anything else. You only need to be one to know that. We may lack the testosterone surges that make little boys delight in smashing each other with sticks, but we are born - and remain - every bit as competitive, cruel and egotistical as them.

The myth that women are the less aggressive sex is disproved every day, in ordinary social intercourse. Introduce a room full of men to each other and they will quickly find a common interest - usually sport - around which to bond. Introduce a room full of women and they will circle round each other like hungry lionesses, trying to decide who should be admitted to the pride and who should be eaten for dinner.

Power-hungry and ruthless women litter the pages of history: I give you Boadicea, Elizabeth I, Cleopatra and Margaret Thatcher, for starters. If it's mere financial mismanagement you're after, the credit crunch has exposed plenty of flawed female bankers - even "superwoman" Nicola Horlick allowed one of the funds she manages to invest heavily with the fraudulent Bernard Madoff.

My point is not that all women are greedy or incompetent; merely that there is more to us than our biological coordinates. Just as men can rise above their testosterone to become philanthropists and sages, women's characters are not defined by their wombs.

To argue that we should rule the world - or the banks - because of our hormones is no better than arguing that we should be confined to the domestic sphere because of them. It is flattery so false as to be downright insulting.

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*The myth that women are the less aggressive sex is disproved every day. Harriet Harman should take note, says Jemima Lewis.*

I bow to no one in my admira-

# Barack moves up; US baby names Emma, Jacob rule



(file photo) U.S. singer and actress Miley Cyrus. (AP)

10,126 places to No. 2,409. Elvis is still aroud, though he slipped from 673 to 713.

Isha Kallay of suburban Washington named her son - born before last year's presidential election - Obama. She said she was concerned that Barack might become too popular a name.

"I wanted my baby to have a special name that other people don't have," Kallay said.

Baby naming experts said Americans are pulled by sometimes conflicting impulses when choosing names for their children. They gravitate toward the popular, wanting their child to fit in. But many also want their child's name to be unique, so they don't have to share it with four other kids in class at school.

Many turn to the Bible; others turn to TV.

Emma debuted in the top 10 in 2002, the same year that Jennifer Aniston's character on "Friends" gave the name to her TV show baby. In the latest lineup, Emma was followed by Isabella, Emily, Madison and

Ava. "They might want to emulate the stars, but if they do, the name can't be too far out," said Jennifer Moss, author of "The One-in-a-Million Baby Name Book" and founder of Babynames.com.

"You don't see many Apples," she said, referring to name actress Gwyneth Paltrow gave her daughter. There are not many Gwyneths, either.

Miley, as in popular teen singer Miley Cyrus, moved up 152 spots to No. 127. But her stage name, Hannah - as in Hannah Montana - fell from No. 9 to No. 17.

Michelle continued a steady 20-year slide, falling from No. 94 to No. 103. But that could change now that Michelle Obama is first lady. The names of the Obama daughters, Sasha and Malia, were in the 300s.

The top five boys names remained unchanged from 2007. Jacob was followed by Michael, Ethan, Joshua and Daniel. Alexander joined the top 10 at No. 6 while Andrew dropped out.

## The Saga...

From page 1

The land had belonged to the military reservation, before it was used as the Grandstand. It was first used by Governor Edward Barnes in 1821, where Colombo's first race course was established. The Colombo Club is built facing the green grounds which is surrounded by the expansive Indian Ocean, while its eastern side had faced the Beira Lake, which was subsequently filled.

A few prominent residents of Colombo held an informal meeting in early February, 1871, to get the idea off the ground, and decided to invite all heads of departments, both civil and military, the two senior officers, surgeons of each regiment, all partners of the European mercantile firms in Colombo to attend the meeting, scheduled for March 4, 1871, to constitute themselves into a Club as 'Original Members'.

The subject matter discussed at the meeting were mainly the need for immediate requirements to furnish the building with a two-table billiard room, and a room with necessary furniture, glass, crockery, linen and sundries merely for refreshments. The estimated cost was around Pounds 600. The annual subscription of Pounds 500 was earmarked for the rent, newspapers, periodicals and servants' wages.

The membership of the Club was limited to British-Europeans and it was only after the independence in 1948 that Ceylonese was admitted to the membership. It was customary for the Governor of Ceylon to be the patron and President of the Club.

Later, Ceylon Hotel School was housed in this historic building with a trainee hotel called "Hotel Samudra" was established. The name was given due to its proximity to the sea. In the 1980s it became a property of Taj Samudra hotel up to now.



### The colonial style

The architecture of the building was a unique and magnificent in its lines and shapes. It beholds any spectator by its beauty. The pillared and arched verandahs and paned windows all around it oval upper floor with a satinwood boarded floor had accommodated a ballroom. The splendid stairways leading to the finest ballroom in Colombo at that time still remains the same. The red tiled roof of the building made it prominent edifice in the surrounding environment.

At the ground floor, there were billiard, card and reading rooms. After the establishment of the Colombo Club, a smaller building was built to house the sports club.

The beautiful building, which was once surrounded by the greenly Galle Face and the Indian Ocean had attracted world renowned artists to paint and photographers to record in a later age, and the public and passers by to stop and admire its beauty.

## TV GUIDE

Adaraneeya Poornima,  
Weekdays at 9 p.m. on *Derana*



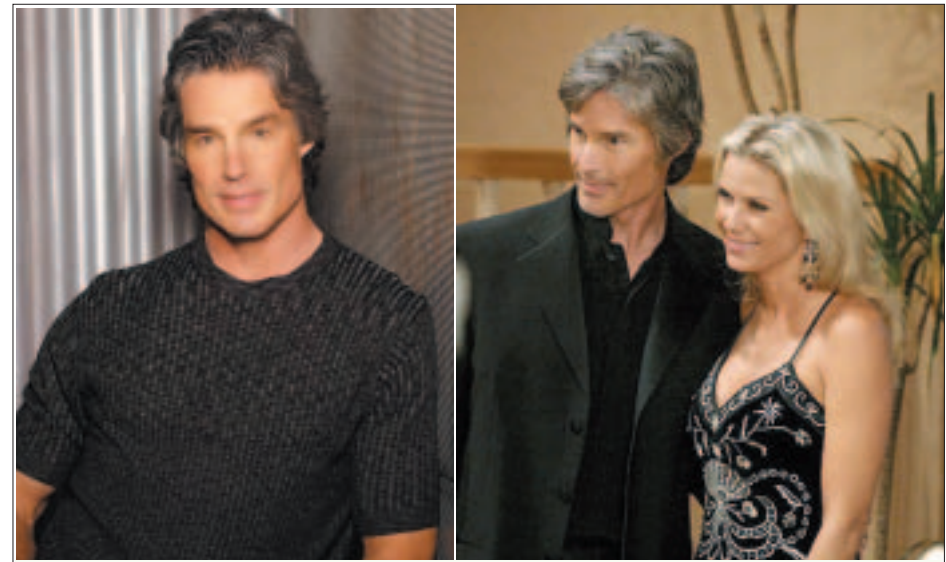
ITN	
04.30	Station Opening
04.35	Pirith Deshanaya
04.42	Jayamangala
	04.46 Davase
	04.50 Sthuvilli
	05.00 Thakshilawa
	06.00 ITN Puwath
	06.15 Davase Pathihara
	06.55 Jeevilhaya
	07.00 Jayaganna
	07.00 Hathveni Peya
	08.00 Peyen Peya
	08.05 Pahan Dora
	08.30 Sial Mal Yaya
	08.30 Peyen Peya
	09.05 Battli
	10.00 Peyen Peya
	10.05 Nimthera
	11.00 Discussion
	Noon
	12.00 Noon News Bulletin
	P.M.
	12.30 Tele Drama
	01.00 Sinhala Film
	02.00 Peyen Peya
	02.03 Sinhala Film
	03.00 PeyenPeya
	Puwath

SWARNAVAHINI		
A.M.	06.00	Ehi Passiko
	06.30	Mul Pittuwa
	07.00	Loka Silihiyama
	07.30	Bobli Dick - Cartoon
	08.00	Hello Sri Lanka
	08.30	Kids 1st
	09.00	Vanthuttangalya
	09.30	Chinna
	10.30	Chinna
	11.00	Asaigal
	11.30	Raamayanyam
	11.30	Aanantha
	11.00	Illam
	Noon	
	12.00	Live @ 12
	P.M.	
	12.30	Rasa Liya
	01.00	Hada Rendi
	01.00	Peya
	02.00	Anduru Sewanelli
	03.00	Sinhala Film
	04.00	Peyen Peya
	04.00	Puwath
	04.05	Zoo Adventure
	04.30	Deduru
	05.00	Hendewa
	05.00	Peyen Peya
	05.03	Deduru Hendewa
	05.30	Lama Puwath
	05.45	Theruwana
	05.50	Namadimu
	06.00	Jaya Piritha
	06.30	News - Tamil
	07.00	News - Sinhala
	07.30	Muthu Kirilli
	08.00	Paba
	08.30	Ithin Eela
	09.00	Api Aru Wage - Tele Drama
	09.30	News - Sinhala
	09.55	Biz News
	10.00	News - English
	10.10	Doramadalawa
	12.00	News Sinhala
	00.20	Pirith
	00.30	Close of
	00.30	Transmission

SHAKTHI TV		
A.M.	06.00	Filler
	06.30	Sangeetha
	07.00	Shakthi
	07.30	Zoro
	08.00	Kodu
	8.30	Kids 1st
	09.00	Vanthuttangalya
	09.30	Chinna
	10.30	Raamayanyam
	11.30	Aanantha
	11.00	Illam
	Noon	
	11.00	Isai Charal
	12.00	Asaltha Povathu
	12.00	Yaru
	P.M.	
	01.00	Weekend Movie
	04.00	SMS Galatta
	05.00	Sandippoma
	05.30	Aratal
	06.00	Minnel
	06.06	Isai
	06.30	Pathihara Sirashala
	07.00	News
	08.00	News
	08.30	Grand
	09.00	News 1st
	09.30	Jody
	10.00	Poruththam
	11.00	Isai Charal
	11.00	Isai Charal
	04.00	Dragon Tales
	04.30	Viva Avurudu
	05.00	Derana Cartoon
	06.00	Derana Juke Box
	07.00	U Turn
	07.30	Pibinduru
	08.00	Ada Derana
	08.30	Saraa
	09.00	Adaraniya
	09.30	Poornima
	09.30	Athivshesha
	10.00	Kottu Corner
	10.30	Vanija Vitthi
	11.00	News
	11.00	Back to Back
	04.00	Muslim Programme
	04.30	Majlisul Islam
	05.00	Documentary Programme
	06.00	Current Affairs
	07.00	Musical Programme
	07.15	News & Weather Report
	07.45	Indian Premier League - 2009
	11.30	Govi Satha Lottery
	11.45	Jayoda Lottery
	12.00	News & Weather Report
	12.25	Insight
	12.30	End of Transmission

RUPAVAHINI		
A.M.	04.48	Station Opening
	04.50	Homage to the Triple Gem & Karantiya Metta
	05.00	G.C.E. (O/L)
	05.55	Dina Asiriya
	06.00	News
	06.06	Sivudesa
	06.30	Pathihara Sirashala
	07.00	News
	07.05	Aadaraneeya
	08.00	News
	08.05	Nuga Sevana
	09.00	News
	09.05	Nuga Sevana - Contd.
	10.00	News
	10.05	Nuga Sevana - Contd.
	11.00	News
	11.05	Aluth Sri Lankawak
	Noon	
	12.00	Sanda Gomman Rae
	P.M.	
	12.30	News
	01.00	Hiru Vyana
	02.00	News
	02.05	Tele Drama
	02.30	A Documentary
	03.00	News
	03.30	Tele Drama
	03.55	News
	04.00	Cartoon
	04.30	Rathriya Vee
	04.55	News
	05.00	Tharu Davasa
	05.55	Defence News
	06.00	Vishva Nenasara
	06.30	Green Walk
	06.58	Vismitha Charika
	07.27	Sithina Kumari
	08.00	News
	08.30	Pasubalima
	08.35	Tele Drama
	09.05	Janamathaya
	10.00	Govi Satha
	10.05	Jayoda
	10.10	News - Sinhala
	10.30	Buddha Rashmi
	10.30	Pooja
	01.30	World News
	01.57	Slate of Business (3 min)
	02.00	World Report
	02.30	Larry King Liv
	03.30	World News
	04.00	World Sport
	04.30	3 Friends & Jerry
	04.57	Slate of Business (3 min)
	05.00	Adventure of Professor Th.
	05.30	World News Asia
	05.57	Slate of Business (3 min)
	06.00	Telescreen Marketing
	06.30	World Business Today
	06.57	Slate of Business (3 min)
	07.00	Top 10 Hits
	07.45	World News
	08.15	The Slate of Business
	08.30	Business Class
	08.57	Slate of Business (3 min)
	09.00	Fashion House
	09.57	Slate of Business (3 min)
	10.00	Larry King Live
	11.00	The Slate of Business
	11.30	World Report
	12.00	iReport: Caught on Camera

ART TV		
A.M.	01.30	World News
	01.57	Slate of Business (3 min)
	02.00	World Report
	02.30	Larry King Liv
	03.30	World News
	04.00	World Sport
	04.30	3 Friends & Jerry
	04.57	Slate of Business (3 min)
	05.00	Adventure of Professor Th.
	05.30	World News Asia
	05.57	Slate of Business (3 min)
	06.00	Telescreen Marketing
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	11.00	The Slate of Business
	11.30	World Report
	12.00	iReport: Caught on Camera



'The Bold and the Beautiful'