

ANN LANDERS

The heroines of the household

Dear Ann Landers:

This is for that nutty housewife in Dallas who wrote to say how hard she works just "raising a family." The truth is that the American housewife is a glorified parasite. She does nothing but amuse herself 95 percent of the time.

I wonder if you know how many hours the "average home-bound slave" spends looking at television, yakking on the telephone, kaffee-klasching with neighbors and reading trashy magazines.

It takes only a minute to change a diaper. The cooking can't require more than half an hour for supper. Most husbands don't come home for lunch any more. Laundry takes about an hour a week — and the machines do the work. So they clean the house (maybe) and wash a floor or two. This uses up an hour at the most. Big deal.

The real heroines are the women who run the house and hold down an 8-hour job besides. I have a lot of respect for them. They also seem to have independent, well-behaved kids who know how to do things for themselves. What's more, their husbands do less running around and their marriages seem to be working.

So let's hear it for the little lady who can run a house and help her over-worked husband pay the bills, which are staggering these days. Thumbs down on the lazy complainers who call themselves "homemakers" when in reality they are "freeloaders."

—Seen It All

Since your mind is not only closed but nailed shut, I wouldn't attempt to point out the foolishness of some of your statements. You make no distinction between the woman who has a single child and one who has six — and when you say cleaning the house and washing a floor or two takes an hour at the most — oh, well, what's the use?

I've let you have your say because this column represents everybody's point of view, but since it's my column, I reserve the right to have the last word. And my word to you is bull feathers, Mister.

Dear Ann Landers:

You are probably sick of letters about toilet paper by this time but I hope you will print one more. It should put an end to the hassling once and for all.

My husband works for a paper company. They sell the best known brand of toilet paper in the country. (I won't name it because I know you won't print it.) When he read all those letters from people who were explaining the "proper" way to put the roll on the dispenser, he laughed and said, "The correct way is so obvious I don't know how people can miss it." Then he pointed out that the fancier toilet tissue is embossed with designs and color. It is made so the paper comes over the top and rolls down on the outside — not to the wall. If placed the other way, the design would not show. It would be the same as hanging your printed draperies with

the pattern to the window and the lining on the outside. Now do you understand?

—Sign Me Right Side Up

Gotcha. And this is the last letter I am printing on the subject, so if anyone has anything more to say — tell it to somebody else.