

The New York Times

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Letters

Who's Afraid of Those Smart Women?

To the Editor:

Re "Should Hillary Pretend to Be a Flight Attendant?," by Maureen Dowd (column, Nov. 14):

One should be careful not to buy into outdated gender stereotypes. There is overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

Small-scale opinion surveys may hem and haw about men's preferences for subordinate women, but actions speak louder than words. According to the 2006 Current Population Survey of 50,000 households, women who have graduate degrees or top salaries are more likely to marry than their less accomplished sisters.

In addition, recent research published in *The American Journal of Sociology* has found that men are more attracted to accomplished women. Based on interpersonal relationships in 60 communities nationwide, the study concluded that women in positions of power are sexier to men than are more subordinate women.

Hillary Rodham Clinton should not pretend to be a flight attendant. Why perpetuate the damaging myth that a woman can't be both accomplished and desirable?

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Iowa City, Nov. 14, 2007

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