

7/25/07

On June 21<sup>st</sup>, our session of Human Heredity class was based on a development chapter. Professor Sheldon began to talk about something that had no mention in the textbook. I found many parts of her lecture highly offensive and unscientific. She presented this information, however, as hard science.

She said that a German study found that pregnant mice, when subjected to severe stress, would produce gay male rats. She said that the scientists cut off the pregnant mouse's tail and dipped her in scalding water. I later found a website explaining what I am quite sure is the study she was referencing. The study only used one mouse in the experimental group and one mouse in the control group. Not only that, the study did not explain how they determined that the offspring were gay.

Professor Sheldon said that there are hardly any gay men in the Middle East because the women are treated very nicely. That comment was inaccurate, baseless, and offensive. First of all, determining a gay population is very difficult, and somewhat impossible if the atmosphere in that region is completely intolerant to gays. Also, I found it offensive that she thought women who must have written notes from a man to attend school are treated nicely.

A student asked Professor Sheldon what causes homosexuality in women. Professor Sheldon promptly replied that there aren't any real lesbians. According to her, women simply get tired of relationships with men and pursue them with women.

To conclude her lecture, she addressed the men in the classroom, saying that if they want a "nice," and strong son, they should treat their wives very nicely (do things like "open doors for them"). And she said, if they wanted a "sensitive" son, they should abuse their wives.

Even after a month of waiting to cool down, I am still horribly, offended.