



Perspective

By JAMIE BUCKINGHAM

Unisex

Regardless of what happens to the ERA amendment, the idea of unisex has long outgrown the cute stage and has settled into the ridiculous.

First it was boys with long hair. Now it is girls with the boy-cut. First it was women wearing men's clothes. Now it is boys carrying purses and sporting earrings. And that picture which appeared in a Brevard County newspaper several weeks ago, of a husky man sitting under a hair-dryer with his locks in pin-curlers, was far more "kookie" and "kinky."

You can buy unisex clothes — which I assume is panties for boys and neckties for girls. Every city has its unisex hairstylist. In Los Angelos, where everything weird seems to happen first, they have just inaugurated "unisex rest rooms," which I take to mean that you neither sit nor stand but do something in between. And, of course, who among us has not shaken our head in dismay at the demands of judges who interpret our already-in-existence equal rights laws to mean that everyone is

a "person" rather than a man or woman.

If things are bad now, what will happen if ERA passes?

Hopefully, what happened last week in Woonsocket, R.I., will bring the entire matter into comic relief and allow the nation to see what it is becoming.

A month ago the Woonsocket City Council gave unanimous first approval to a personnel ordinance amendment changing "utility man" to "utility person." But this didn't satisfy a militant group of women at the city council meeting who shouted for stronger measures. The city fathers sighed, and finally said that these "utility persons" would have the responsibility of working in "personholes" in the streets.

They should have known. It only took three days before the entire nation was laughing at Woonsocket personholes.

The city council called a special meeting and backed off. Utility persons remained, but personholes was too much. They reinstated good

old-fashioned manholes in the Woonsocket streets.

Councilperson Lancot of Woonsocket drew the entire matter to a conclusion by stating, "This conclusively proves to one and all that fools sail our ship of state."

We already have TV anchorpersons, city policepersons and firepersons. Now they are talking about hiring cowpersons on the ranch and a federal judge ruled that professional football teams must open their locker rooms to all reporters, regardless of sex. I wonder if that means the head linesperson will have to go home to take a shower.

If God made us male and female, then the only logical reasoning behind this crazy push for unisex must be some kind of latent anger against Him — or as Hollywood freak Cher calls Him, Her.

So, hooray for Woonsocket. At least they drew a line around their manholes. Let's hope the circle gets bigger until it includes all personkind.