

B+B=SEX*

DESPITE the fact it's the year 2000, women are still too often judged by their looks alone. The more beautiful the woman, the less intelligent it is invariably assumed she is. Here FEMAIL challenges this age-old stereotype by talking to six stunning women who are far from stupid.

NEUROSCIENTIST

DR SARAH-JAYNE BLAKEMORE, 26, is a neuroscientist at University College, London. She lives with her boyfriend James, 26, also a neuroscientist, in a two-bedroom flat in Highbury, North London. She has a degree in experimental psychology from Oxford University and has just completed her PhD in cognitive neuroscience. She says:

THIS month I qualified as a doctor in neuroscience after completing my PhD. I quite like the idea of having the title because at least it doesn't mean I have to be Miss or worse, Ms, which I hate.

It was only when I started work that it struck me I was actually a professional scientist. My friends would introduce me as 'their medical friend', and men would look at me as if to say 'yeah, right!' because I was a woman. My friends have nicknamed me Ross, after the character in Friends, because he's known for boring people about his pet subject, which is fossils. I just talk about brains all the time.

Nearly half the staff where I work are female, but there's only one woman at the top level. It's sad, but the higher up you go, the more prejudice there is because most people expect scientists to be men.

Quite often at conferences people are shocked when they find out I am a woman. No one has ever said anything but you can tell by the look on their faces.

I think when I qualified my friends were hoping for advice on their psyche and why they choose the wrong man, but I had to explain I actually study things such as schizophrenia and autism.

We always need volunteers for research and I've now recruited several.

ROCKET SCIENTIST

NARAIET LOWELL WINKELMAN, 26, is a rocket scientist at London-based Logica Space Division. She lives in Finchley Park, North London. She has a degree in experimental psychology and a masters in artificial intelligence. Her boyfriend Gary, 26, is a software project manager. She says:

I DON'T often use the term rocket scientist but sometimes it's the easiest way to explain my work. In technical terms, I'm a software engineer working on the space crafts that are sent up with the rockets. One man I met even asked if I was an astronaut.

I enjoy the work so it's not a problem working mainly with men. Occasionally there are conversations I can't take part in about football, cars or gadgets, but sometimes it can work in my favour. If I need help with something the guys will spend perhaps a little longer with me than they would with another man.

At the moment I'm designing software for a landing craft which it's hoped will be sent to Mars in 2003. It'll carry a probe to burrow beneath the surface looking for signs of life.

My great, great, great uncle, Percival Lowell, was a famous astronomer and predicted where we should look for Pluto, before the equipment was available to actually see it. As a child, finding out about him gave me an interest which I've never lost.

I think it's a glamorous job, though a lot of it is done on computers, and besides, if I hadn't done it I would never have met Gary 18 months ago, when we worked together.

NUCLEAR PHYSICIST

KATE JONES, 24, is an experimental nuclear physicist at the University of Surrey. She is single and lives with her brother, Peter, 29, a personnel manager, in a two-bedroom flat in Clapham, South-West London. She has a degree in physics with honours and is studying for her PhD. She says:

DENISE RICHARDS'S sexy portrayal of a nuclear physicist in the

by Chris Morris

James Bond film *The World Is Not Enough* has done wonders for my profession. In fact, earlier this year I was asked to go on *The Big Breakfast* and Denise was going to pick out the real physicists from a line-up of me, a model and an actress. Sadly, it fell through at the last minute, but I use her as a good example if someone suggests what I do is boring.

Some people won't even believe me when I tell them. I think that's partly because I'm a woman and partly because I look younger than my age. It's mostly women who give a really positive reaction, but men sometimes get competitive, probably because they feel intimidated.

Occasionally I can't be bothered and say I'm a trapeze artist. They don't believe that either, but then when I say 'OK, I'm really a nuclear physicist,' they just think I'm mad. Maybe that attitude has put me off men, but I don't have a boyfriend because I'm so busy with my PhD.

My grandad was an engineer and I think he taught me a love of science when I was young. I studied physics and acoustics at university because I was interested in science and music — I play the piano, flute and guitar — and now I'm determined to do some-

RESEARCH CHEMIST

LOUISE STAMP, 23, is a research chemist. She lives with six flatmates in Cambridge. She has a Masters in chemistry and is now studying for her PhD at Cambridge University. Her boyfriend Rod, 23, is also a research chemist. She says:

I WORK in a lab every day, and though most people imagine glass bottles full of bubbling liquid, things have moved on and we now do a lot of work on computers. I wear a lab coat for safety, so I don't get too dirty in case I ruin my clothes, but socially I'm a little black-dress type.

There are only four women among 30 men on my course. The atmosphere is fine as long as you give as good as you get. I recently appeared on the front cover of the *Cambridge* magazine and the issue photographed hundreds of times and pinned it up everywhere. But it was all harmless and I just laughed it off.

I've always kept an open mind about what I wanted to do. I chose chemistry at school because it was one of my stronger subjects.

I'll become a doctor of chemistry by the age of 28, but after that I'm not sure what I want to do. My boyfriend Rod — whom I met a year ago — is also a chemist, but I know some people who've done a PhD and then gone off to be accountants or work in the City. I think I'll stick with what I've been trained to do.

SURGEON

LUCY WALLIS, 21, is an NHS surgeon at a teaching hospital in London. She lives in North-West London. She qualified as a doctor in 1993 and became a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in January 1998, and is studying for a PhD in vascular biology. She says:

I KNEW I was entering a profession dominated by men, but it's taken me 12 years to reach the level of specialist registrar and I've got the experience and the confidence not to be cowed by difficult situations. At the hospital

* ... or how Femail proved the theory that Beauty plus Brains is a very Sexy formula



From left to right: NEUROSCIENTIST ROCKET SCIENTIST NUCLEAR PHYSICIST RESEARCH CHEMIST THE SURGEON THE INVENTOR

Styling: TRUDI WALLACE
Photography: TIM O'SULLIVAN

I've been mistaken for everything from a medical student to a dietitian, but fortunately I find it more amusing than anything else.

At the moment, less than 500 of surgeons in this country are female. Of course, the training is long and becoming a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons is a big deal.

I'm on course to become a consultant by the age of 36 — it's a high-pressure job and the hours are long, but it's hugely fulfilling.

My area, in vascular surgery — operating on major arteries and veins — can often mean making a decision that could save someone's life or at least prevent an amputa-

tion. I thrive on the pressure. Sometimes people can't believe I have such an important job when I look like a student. But what else do they expect a surgeon to do?

INVENTOR

DAMONI AUMAK, 24, is an inventor. She is single and lives with friends in a four-bedroom flat in Putney, West London. She has a degree in mechanical engineering, and a Masters in engineering product design. She says:

I WANTED to be an inventor from

an early age and used to carry a notepad with me just in case I had ideas such as an automatic system for my grandmother, who couldn't get down the stairs at home.

At school, the careers teacher laughed at me until she realised I was absolutely serious — I'd been inspired by *Tomorrow's World*. Then she suggested going on for a degree in engineering.

I took mechanical engineering at Imperial College in London. I was one of only 100 of women on the course. Sometimes it was a problem being a woman because if there was a practical session, the men would give me something tri-

ng to do. I didn't feel I was taken all that seriously and even the tutors seemed sceptical of my plans to become an inventor.

I bumped into some people from the course the other day and they were shocked by what I am doing, because so few of them believed I'd ever be an inventor. It's nice to prove people wrong.

I run my own company and have just gone into partnership with an accountancy firm which is backing one of my latest designs.

My idea was to make a simple tapered groove on the underside of any spout — it prevents dripping and so solves a problem

which has baffled engineers for years.

I've been inspired by great inventors and entrepreneurs such as James Dyson, but it still disappoints me that women in particular know so little about engineering or science. For example, did you know that it was a woman — Josephine Garis Cochrane — who invented the dishwasher?

If people see me out socially, I can have trouble convincing them what I do. And they don't believe you can make a career of being an inventor, but there is a whole community of us, and I can assure you we're not all mad eccentrics.

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