

# Women are making strides, but still hurting

Women are hurting more than men.

Yes, the economy is showing some signs of life and things do seem a little better than they were a few years ago – for some.

Technology and globalization show no signs of abandoning their relentless assault on our way of life; the genie has no intention of going back into the bottle.

But as we journey ever further down the rabbit hole, women seem to be falling behind in occupational areas that increasingly matter most.

“The shrinking middle may turn out to be not just a class issue but a gender one as well,” Rana Foroohar warns in a recent issue of Time magazine. “Since the recovery began in June 2009, women have gained only 16 percent of the new jobs created.”

Then again, the playing field has never really been level.

“Both women and men are gaining jobs in the private sector,” notes Joan Entmacher of the National Women’s Law Center. “But men are getting the more secure jobs.”

Women tend to be over-represented in the public sector and as those jobs inevitably decline, women will continue to be disproportionately affected.

Since June 2009, over 600,000 public sec-

tor jobs have vanished; two-thirds were held by women.

In the long-term, the prognosis may be more optimistic. There is little doubt that in the future the best jobs will go to the more highly trained workers.

“The United States, once the world’s educational leader, is falling back in the pack,” observes New York Times columnist David Brooks. “Unemployment is high, but companies still have trouble finding skilled workers.”

Women are now earning roughly 60 percent of all college degrees awarded. So at some point, the scales will inevitably tip in their favor.

But for now, it’s business as usual.

Women are hurting more than men.

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