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I think that Barbara's reading of Shoshana's argument is wrong. Its not about women embracing traditional sex roles, but about them considering the costs and benefits of marriage. One can agree, a la Bergmann, that the costs of economic dependence are high, and still argue, a la Grossbard-Schectman that when those costs go down slightly, (as when husbands have more money and good jobs are harder to find) more married women will drop out. Yes, the decline seems negligible, and yes, its probably due in part to more women staying in school. But I don't have any problem with the logic of Shoshana's argument. And I'm happy to see some discussion of these issues in the WSJ.

Nancy Folbre

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July 7, 1994

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