

# Dilbert drawn into row over fightback by men's lib

## United States

Tim Teeman New York

Scott Adams, the creator of the popular Dilbert comic strip about a brow-beaten white-collar worker, insists that he is a feminist, "if that means both genders having equal rights".

This may surprise those who have read his blog, in which he said: "The reality is that women are treated differently by society for exactly the same reason that children and the mentally handicapped are treated differently. It's just easier for everyone."

The ensuing brouhaha has bought attention to the "men's rights" movement, which wants to redress advances made by what one lawyer calls a "feminarchy" who have campaigned to advance women's rights to the detriment of men.

Roy Den Hollander, who is challenging in court — fruitlessly, he admits — "ladies nights" in New York bars where women get cut-priced drinks, said that "men's rights" are being trampled every which way and planned a civil disobedience campaign. "You see it in court all the time. Whatever the facts of the case, women get their way," he said.

MARTIN LEE / REX



Bars are the battlefield for a new gender war

On his blog Mr Adams, whose comic strip is published in 65 countries, wrote: "You don't argue with a four-year-old about why he shouldn't eat candy for dinner. You don't punch a mentally handicapped guy even if he punches you first. And you don't argue when a woman tells you she's only making 80 cents to your dollar. It's the path of least resistance."

He told *The Times* that his critics had not read the blog in context and that the "laundry list" of inequalities had been presented by his readers: many elements of the legal system, the lower life expectancies of men,

the higher suicide rates and the growing number of government agencies that are primarily for women.

"Women have overtaken men in college attendance," he said. "If the situation were reversed it would be considered a national emergency."

Mr Adams also argued that women felt aggrieved over equal pay, that there were few women in top management jobs, and told men who complained about their rights being suppressed: "Get over it, you bunch of pussies."

Harry Crouch, the president of the National Coalition for Men, said that

men were second-class citizens at work and home, and that "supremist feminists" had presided over, among other things, a "domestic violence industry" in which the number of people working to combat it outnumbered the numbers suffering it.

Not all men welcome Mr Hollander's campaigning. Charlie Green, the manager of the Katwalk bar in New York, which serves women happy-hour priced drinks all night on Thursdays, said: "It's not only to attract more women, the idea is then more men follow them in and, y'know, everyone's happy."