news of marriage," an odd hypothesis quickly modulated to "the propitious royal match to be announced" (233)! *Parliament of Fous* is also seen as a marriage poem -- again mere conjecture, and of the flatfooted historicizing kind pervasive in the book.

On the other hand, there is a pronounced abusive/derisive vocabulary about women: a "gaggle" of court ladies (49), "shrew," "shameless baggage" (95), "slatternly" (107: this of January's May, and it is incorrect), the "cheeky" independence of businesswomen (429), and so on. The class perspective is as backward as the gender one: of the 1381 Peasant's Revolt we find "mob," "scruffy rebels" (322), "vast, shrieking, menacing rabble" (324), "scoundrel" (326), "crazed behavior" (330), "shrieking" (327), "rabble" (336), etc.: so much for the solidarity of laborers and artisans trying to end an oppressive feudal system. In a longer review one would like to explore the relation of gender and class attitudes in Howard's book.

"Chaucer liked women" (95, Howard's emphasis), we are told -- a highly debatable assertion, and a reductive, essentialist one as well, for why should anyone like or not like women as a group rather than making individual judgments? As elsewhere, we learn more about the critic's assumptions than those of the poet.

I wish that Don Howard were alive to read this review, though I don't know whether it would have changed his attitudes. But the attitudes are still with us aplenty, and it is time to serve notice that they will not be passed over tactfully in our teaching, conversations, and reviews.

Sheila Delany, Simon Fraser Univ., Burnaby, B.C., Canada

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**NOTES AND QUERIES**

Deborah Ellis (Southwestern Univ., Georgetown, TX 78626) would like to hear from anyone interested in seeing provision made for daycare during each year's Medieval Institute at Kalamazoo. She would like to know whether daycare is of concern to others.

For a study of "the feminization of the position of the medieval court poet," Elaine Hansen (English Department, Haverford College, Haverford, PA) would like help from historians who can point out "discussions of the effeminacy of men in the authoritative discourse of the period."

Verena Neuberger-Noetzli (Ebelstrasse 5, CH-8032, Zürich, Switzerland) is preparing a dissertation with the working title "Published English Prose Texts by Women: From Margery Kempe and Julian of Norwich to 1700." The thesis is to include an annotated catalogue of authors and texts. The author would like to know whether anyone has heard that a similar such
catalogue is in progress elsewhere, and she would appreciate hearing from anyone with information relevant to her project.

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