

**Date: January 18, 2012**

**Dear Prof. Entes:**

**Yesterday you asked the class this question: Is Company for or against marriage? Here is my reply: Company is against marriage. My answer is based on lines that are part of the lyrics from the show.**

**The song "The Little Things You Do Together" contains these lines:  
"Shouting till your hoarse together/Getting a divorce together." (175)**

**The song "Sorry-Grateful" contains these lines:**

**"You're/ always sorry,/You're always grateful,/You hold her thinking, 'I'm not alone./You're still alone." (175)**

**"You don't live for her,/You live with her,/You're scared she's starting to drift away -/And scared she'll stay." (175)**

**The song "Getting Married Today" contains these lines:**

**"A wedding, what's a wedding?/It's a prehistoric ritual/Where everybody promises fidelity forever,/Which maybe the most horrifying word I've ever heard,/And which is followed by a honeymoon/Where suddenly he'll realize/He's saddled with a nut/And want to kill me, which he should." (181)**

**"Let us pray that I'm not getting married today!" (184)**

**The song "Side by Side" contains these lines: "We're so crazy" and "See all the crazy married people!" (186)**

**The song "The Ladies Who Lunch" contains these lines:**

**"Here's to the girls who play wife -/Aren't they too much?/Keeping house, but clutching a copy of Life/Just to keep in touch." (193)**

**"And here's to the girls who just watch -/Aren't they the best?/When they get depressed, it's a bottle of Scotch,/Plus a little jest." (193)**

**"Shouting till your hoarse ... divorce ... always sorry ... scared ... prehistoric ritual ... horrifying word ... saddled with a nut ... crazy married people ... clutching a copy of Life ... depressed ... a bottle of Scotch." Based upon these words, which convey a rather bleak image of marriage, I have to conclude that the show itself is against marriage.**

**Source: Sondheim, Stephen. *Finishing the Hat*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2010.**

**Phillip W. Weiss**