

THE NEW PORNOGRAPHY COMMISSION: SLOUCHING TOWARD CENSORSHIP

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In June of 1986, the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography is scheduled to release its final report on the social effects of viewing sexually-explicit material. It will also describe the new laws needed to control the spread of this literature. The impact of a report from such a high-level Commission would normally be expected to be substantial, with Congress and state legislatures enthusiastically implementing its recommendations. This Commission, however, deserves no such deference because the procedures it has followed to collect and evaluate evidence have been hopelessly flawed.

Genesis of the Commission

President Reagan called for establishment of a study commission on pornography in May of 1984. He particularly wanted it to consider new evidence that he claimed had been accumulated since 1970, when a federal Commission on Pornography and Obscenity had found no evidence linking pornography to antisocial behavior and consequently had urged repeal of virtually all obscenity laws.

On May 20, 1985 Attorney General Edwin Meese announced that he was appointing an eleven-person federal advisory commission on pornography, with a budget of approximately \$500,000. There was little doubt from his speech, or the official documents from which it was created, that this Commission was to assume the invalidity of its predecessor's conclusions. The official Notice of Establishment in the *Federal Register* called pornography a "serious national problem." Moreover, the Charter of the Commission stated that a principal objective was "to make specific recommendations to the Attorney General concerning more effective ways in which the spread of pornography could be contained, consistent with constitutional guarantees." Such presuppositions left little room for alternative conceptions.

By January of 1986, the Commission had completed its public hearings to gather evidence and all but one drafting session. Hearings had been held in Washington, D.C.; Chicago; Houston; Los Angeles; Miami; and New York City.

Who Is This Commission?

A review of the publicly available information about the views on pornography held by the 11 members of the Commission reveals that evidence was carefully selected to ensure the outcome sought by the President and the Attorney General. Contrary to Mr. Meese's assertion that members of the commission did not "come to the task with their minds made up," six members of the Commission had supported antipornog-

raphy efforts. Two other members had staked out positions on key issues critical to any effort to limit the distribution of sexually explicit materials. The remaining three members had no clearly defined positions regarding the issues facing the Commission. Not a single person who was known to be skeptical about the evidence linking pornography to violence or to be concerned about the First Amendment implications of anti-pornography legislation was appointed to the Commission.

The six members with a clear antipornography bias are:

- **Henry Hudson, Chairman.** As Commonwealth's Attorney for Arlington County, Virginia, Hudson has eliminated all "adult" bookstores and theaters. Moreover, in early 1983 he began a series of well-publicized enforcement actions against those local video stores that rented X-rated tapes along with general fare. During the spring of 1983, President Reagan specifically commended Hudson's clean-up efforts at a White House antipornography meeting.
- **Dr. James Dobson.** Dobson is president of "Focus on the Family," a publishing and broadcasting organization "dedicated to the preservation of the home and the family and the traditional values growing out of the Judeo-Christian ethic." He recently told the Religious Broadcasters Convention that "Satanic" attacks on his family were caused by his work with the Commission.
- **Father Bruce Ritter.** Ritter, the founder of Covenant House, a shelter for runaways in the Times Square area of New York City, is a zealous opponent of pornography in every form. As early as 1979, he was demanding that New York police crack down on the sex industry, including pornographers. In a 1984 article entitled "The Sexual Exploitation of America," Ritter chastized governments that have "failed to recognize the role which *adult* pornography can play in harming our young." He also stated his beliefs that "children are now exposed to explicit pornography on cable TV in their own houses," that "legally obscene pornography flourishes in 20,000 book stores nationally," and that "organized crime" dominates the sex industry. He had obviously reached conclusions on most of the issues before the Commission started its investigation.
- **Harold "Tex" Lezar.** Lezar, well-known in conservative circles, was an editorial assistant at William F. Buckley's *National Review* and a Nixon speechwriter before joining the Justice Department. As a speechwriter and legal policy analyst for former Attorney General William French Smith, he was instrumental in creation of this Commission. A few months after leaving the Department and beginning legal private

practice in Dallas, he was appointed vice-chair of the Commission. Only three months into the Commission's investigation, he sent fellow Commission members a lengthy letter detailing dozens of new law enforcement efforts that should be undertaken against pornography.

- **Judge Edward Garcia.** Garcia, now a Reagan-appointed federal district court judge in California, had been a county prosecutor who brought up obscenity cases. When he was a Sacramento County, California, municipal judge, he sentenced people for violating state obscenity laws. Nevertheless, Garcia noted at a Chicago business meeting that he was surprised to see some of the material shown at the previous hearing, particularly "masochistic . . . stuff." As a public official, then, he was already suppressing far tamer material than he has been exposed to during the Commission's work.
- **Diane D. Cusack.** As vice-mayor and councilmember of Scottsdale, Arizona, Cusack has supported numerous planning efforts—such as restrictive zoning and regulation of *public dancing* where liquor is served—which are used to control *adult* businesses in the city. She has expressed opposition to violent programming on cable television. She recently told a group of antipornography advocates that they could photograph customers and record license plate numbers of patrons of an adult theater in order to drive the theater out of the community.

In addition to these six, two other members of the Commission were apparently chosen for their strong support of particular positions that would be helpful in legitimizing any censorship efforts endorsed by the Commission as a whole:

- **Frederick Schauer.** Schauer, currently a law professor at the University of Michigan, has argued in the *Georgetown Law Journal* that pornography is not at all protected by the first amendment because "the prototypical pornographic item on closer analysis shares more of the characteristics of sexual activity than of the communicative process." In Schauer's view it is not *speech* at all, but rather, analogous to a dildo or a visit to a prostitute. If pornography is not categorized as speech, there is little constitutional basis for urging that it not be controlled or suppressed.
- **Park E. Dietz.** Dietz is a psychiatrist and sociologist, now teaching at the University of Virginia Law School, whose major academic interests relate to violent crime and sexual disorders. He is a social learning theorist who is concerned that when young males masturbate to particular images involving deviant or criminal behavior, they may develop sexual disorders ("paraphilias"). He has stated in the *American Journal of Psychiatry* that he accepts the view of some observers that "sadism and masochism, in the broadest sense, play a role in all pornography." His underlying theory of human behavior could readily lead the Commission to urge suppression of *abnormal* pornography because of its role in the development and/or maintenance of paraphilia. Although Dietz's work is filled with subtlety and nuance, other Commissioners seem interested only in focusing on his bottom line of learned sexual deviance.

The remaining three members of the Commission, who had no known preconceptions on the pornography issue, are Ellen Levine, the editor of *Woman's Day*; Deanne Tilton, president of a consortium of child abuse organizations in California; and Dr. Judith Becker, a Columbia University psychologist who has written extensively about rapists and rape victims.

The Executive Director of the Commission is Alan Sears, chief of the Criminal Division of the United State Attorney's Office for the western district of Kentucky. He was one of the only active federal prosecutors of adult pornography cases over the past several years.

Those Commission members and Director with histories of antipornography opinions are not balanced by even a single member with a history of opposition to pornography restriction. Any findings of the Commission will not have been generated as the result of a clash of truly divergent viewpoints.

Moreover, the lack of moderating influences on the Commission at the outset allowed the Chairman to exercise inordinate influence over the direction of the proceedings. Even now, the agenda set is largely his own, and the Commissioners—with rare exception—can be faulted for their general complacency and unwillingness to force rigorous analysis of the data. Chairman Hudson wants the Commission to finish quickly so that it can "bless" a series of federal legislative initiatives and provide a justification for bringing them up during this election-year Congress.

In addition to these problems, the methods employed to gather and evaluate evidence have been unconscionably deficient.

Skewed Witness Lists

Although it is not accurate to claim that anticensorship groups or individuals were barred by the Commission, a number of factors helped guarantee that an antipornography witness skew was generated.

First, the numbers of witnesses for each position were far from even. Of the 208 witnesses before the Commission, at least 160 (77%) were urging tighter controls over sexually-

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explicit material. These included 68 law enforcement officers, 8 elected officials, 30 alleged victims of pornography, 14 representatives of antipornography groups, 8 representatives of local or national organizations whose policies include opposing pornography, 10 individuals who are prominent anti-pornography activists, and 22 clinicians or social science researchers who have seen patients or collected scientific data that they conclude would support suppression of some or all pornography. Only 40 witnesses (19%) urged repeal of existing laws on obscenity or even suggested that no new censorship efforts be undertaken. The remaining 8 witnesses, in clinical or academic social science fields, either disputed the claim that pornography led to antisocial conduct or felt data sufficiently equivocal so as not to be used as a basis for censorship.

There was also a curious propensity to schedule most anticensorship witnesses late in the second day of two day hearings. On the second hearing day in New York City, no anticensorship voices were heard at all until after lunch, when the press had already gone for the day.

Second, there was widely differing treatment of antipornography and anticensorship witnesses. Serious cross-examination or antipornography witnesses was virtually nonexistent. However, anticensorship witnesses were grilled about a variety of tangential issues, presumably to uncover embarrassing information that could damage their credibility, and rarely even to rebut statements actually presented to the Commission.

For example, Edward Donnerstein, whose research showed a connection between laboratory aggression and viewing of certain violent pornography and who is often cited by antipornography groups as proof of pornography's harm, rejected such facile conclusions and did not urge the Commission to impose new censorship laws. This conclusion visibly annoyed Commissioners, who then grilled Donnerstein on whether he had been paid for a recent *Penthouse* interview (he had not) and whether the pornography industry has tried to influence his work "through financial support of research or travel. . . ." He indicated "no" and said that his lectures to the Adult Film Association as well as to church groups are essentially the same, and that he remained objective. ACLU Women's Rights Project Director Isabelle Katz Pinzler was repeatedly questioned by the Chair about whether her project had ever received money from the Playboy Foundation (it had received modest grants several years earlier), as if this fact destroyed the legitimacy of her testimony about how censorship laws may actually hurt the cause for women's equality.

There was perhaps no more telling a difference in cross-examination, though, than that of ex-*Playboy* Playmate Micki Garcia compared with that of ex-*Penthouse* Pet of the Year Dottie Meyer. Garcia accused Playboy Enterprises and publisher Hugh Hefner of sexual harassment, illegal job discrimination, unlawful drug use, murder, attempted murder, prostitution, rape, and other assorted crimes. She further testified that she believed her own life and that of her family was in jeopardy because of her appearance before the Commission. Despite the serious nature of these accusations, there was no effort during her brief questioning to obtain details or evidence to support these allegations.

On the other hand, after Meyer testified that her *Penthouse* appearance was beneficial to her, there was extensive cross-examination. Commissioner Dietz, who had obtained a copy of her *Penthouse* pictorials and the captions that reportedly indicated her interests, insisted on knowing whether "you like your men rough and tumble, living on the edge of

danger" ("yes", she replied, "I married a policeman") and then inquired whether she ever made love in a car and had a personal collection of vibrators, references to two other comments attributed to her in the pictorial.

This kind of treatment, whether viewed as wholly irrelevant or merely tasteless, confirmed in the minds of potential witnesses from the pornography industry that they would not be treated seriously or fairly.

Third, the Commission's procedures generated possible criminal liability. At the hearing in Los Angeles in October 1985, the Commission expressed specific interest in hearing from witnesses from the pornography industry. However, the hearing coincided with an effort in that city to use existing pandering and prostitution laws to criminally charge pornography producers and actresses under the theory that payment was being made for sex rather than *acting*. Since the Commission has no authority to immunize witnesses from criminal prosecution, it is not surprising that individuals were reluctant to discuss their activities and perhaps provide evidence for further legal initiatives by Los Angeles prosecutors.

Fourth, the Commission launched a lopsided search for witnesses. Commission investigators went out of their way to locate antipornography witnesses, sometimes even going so far as to help write the statements of victim witnesses. On the other hand, testimony from major writers' groups and other elements of the creative community were not sought. In fact, several prominent organizations were denied an opportunity to speak, according to the Commission, due to lack of time on the schedule in New York, even though lengthy slots continued to be filled by prosecutors, religious groups, and antipornography organizations. At the close of the first morning session of the New York hearing, antipornography feminist Dorchen Leidholdt, who had already testified formally before the Commission, and a dozen other women rushed to seize the microphone and demanded that the Commission take two more days to hear the statements of what they characterized as victims of pornography. No member of the body told her she was out of order. The microphones were not even turned off. Incredibly, after several minutes the Chairman asked her whether she had a written copy of her remarks!

In addition, because the Commission began with the assumption that pornography is a national problem, it is also not surprising that only two persons who might be characterized as avid consumers of the material stepped forward to testify. Even a few of the Commissioners have acknowledged what they sensed was a "natural" skew of witnesses. Who, after all, wants to discuss one's reading habits with a group of persons who believe them to be a national problem?

Abberant Sexual Practices and Criminal Activity

The Commission's absorbing fascination with bizarre sexual practices and criminal activity is designed to establish that sexually-explicit material leads to a widespread victimization of consumers, models, and the general public. Two often-utilized procedures highlight this process.

First is what one could characterize as the search for the most offensive image. A large number of antipornography witnesses presented slide-shows allegedly depicting the extant universe of sexually explicit material as encompassing an increasingly violent and bizarre range of sexual conduct. This barrage of imagery was, not surprisingly, designed generally to show the most extreme or grotesque examples of specific sub-genres. Obviously these pictures exist. However, longitudinal studies sampling the universe of sexually-oriented material

do not support a conclusion that they represent a significant percentage of available material. The only systematic effort by the Commission itself to analyze actual changes in pornography over the years was a presentation during a business meeting in Los Angeles of a randomly selected group of slides of centerfolds from each year of publication of *Playboy*, *Penthouse*, and *Hustler*. Although these slides demonstrated the end of the use of the strategically-placed towel in the early Sixties, and the apparent discovery of female pubic hair by the early Seventies, none showed violence or aberrant sexual conduct, unless one slide of a *Playboy* model lying in a hammock while holding up a small white poodle is construed as a subliminal endorsement of bestiality.

The Commissioners were fascinated by their new finds during a field trip to three Houston peepshows in September. At one stop, the Commission staff was directed to purchase several glossy interracial sex publications and a magazine called *Young Girls in Bondage*. It is as if by finding the single most despicable scene of sexual conduct ever photographed, the Commission would be justified in urging suppression of all sexually-oriented material.

This effort fit nicely with the Commission's whole victimology approach. Throughout the hearings, there has been extensive presentation of testimony by persons allegedly hurt by pornography. In one extreme case, a witness claimed that discovering a deck of pornographic playing cards caused him to develop an obsession with stealing *Playboy* magazines and also led him to sexually abuse the family dogs. Other witnesses actually appeared anonymously behind translucent screens. There is no question that many of the life-histories of these individuals are sad tales of sexual abuse. There is serious doubt, however, as to how significant a role pornography played in their worlds, which were frequently marked by many abusive practices, including drug problems, alcoholism, physical assault, and broken homes. Moreover, when a victim-witness failed to give a sufficiently crisp connection between his or her problem and pornography, the Chair would drive home the connection through such extraordinarily leading questions as, "Do you think there came a time in your life when you were almost obsessed with the consumption of pornography?"

Sweeping Legislative Initiatives

One of the most peculiar features of the Commission's proceedings is its endorsement of a vast array of new law enforcement mechanisms to curtail pornography before it has been willing to define this universe of material. In November 1985, in Miami, they agreed to this working definition of pornography: "Any representation . . . which is designed to be sexually arousing and portrays children, pain, humiliation or sexual abuse, conduct, or organs as a dominant theme." This is in sharp contrast with the current legal definition of obscenity derived from the 1973 Supreme Court decision in *Miller v. California*, which requires (a) an intentional appeal to prurient interest, (b) a description or depiction in a patently offensive way of specific sexual conduct, and (c) on the whole, a lack of serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value. This new definition truly covers almost everything written, photographed, or filmed that deals with human sexual conduct. It covers *Playboy* as well as "enema-sex" magazines, and films ranging from R-rated beach comedies and horror movies to bestiality loops.

Many Commissioners have suggested that present obscenity law merely tracks the offensiveness of certain sexual materials and is not rooted in the harms caused by some

materials. The Chairman steadfastly refused for months to allow serious discussion of alternative definitions, apparently because he wished not only to maintain the viability of prosecuting offensive material, but also to suggest another first amendment exception for harmful sex-oriented material. He routinely indicated that if the ultimate definition of pornography adopted encompasses a larger portion of the universe of extant materials relating to sexuality than Commissioners feel is appropriate, Commissioners can remove their earlier support for any or all law enforcement efforts. This manner of working backward defies sound policy development and commonsense.

The Commission has given tentative approval to virtually every law enforcement change to control sexually-explicit material suggested to the Commission by even a single witness. These include such recommendations to legislators and law enforcement officials at every level of government as:

- treating any second conviction of selling pornography as a felony, which generally includes the prospect of longer (or mandatory) prison sentences, and higher fines.
- adopting forfeiture laws to seize the assets of any business engaged in the sale of proscribed materials, actions which could permit the seizure of an entire convenience store if it profited by the sale of a few "illegal" magazines.
- eliminating the requirement that material be transported interstate before it becomes a federal crime, substituting a presumption that it—like loansharking and drugs—affects interstate commerce.
- using pandering and prostitution laws against producers, actors, and actresses in pornography, an action which would, if successful, terminate the X-rated film industry.
- construing the use of models under the age of 21 as *child pornography*.
- using state racketeering laws and the federal racketeering statute (RICO) to obtain seizures of sexual materials.
- making obscenity prosecutions a higher priority at all governmental levels and insisting that U.S. Attorneys, who currently handle few adult pornography cases, begin prosecutions aggressively and without further delay.
- bringing state obscenity statutes at least in line with *Miller* standards if they are not there now (for example, some maintain a defense for material with educational value or require the material to be "utterly without redeeming significance").
- removing doors on film booths in adult stores.
- making it a federal crime even to possess any child pornography.
- creating a national computerized data-base on pornography investigations.
- requiring photo lab technicians to report apparent child pornography processed in their facilities.
- making it an unfair labor practice to have actors and actresses under 21 appear in simulated sexual activity.

Even though a narrow majority of the Commissioners voted against a proposed statute that would have declared dildos and vibrators obscene, the Chairman merely treated the negative vote as a deferral until some future meeting.

In the area of new technologies, the Commission has also agreed to consider at its April meeting in Washington extensive new proposals, already endorsed in staff drafts, to restrict consensual sexual conversations over the telephone, cable television transmission of much R-rated material, and computer services offering sexual information. Only a tie vote at the February business session prevented endorsement of a federal

statute providing criminal penalties for transmitting *indecent* on cable television (even though every court that has reviewed such a vague standard has ruled it unconstitutional).

Many of these approaches represent extreme measures that raise weighty and complex constitutional problems, issues that have been studiously avoided in the Commission's agenda to date. Issues such as the right to privacy or the free speech and press guarantees of the first amendment have received minuscule Commission deliberation.

In addition to ignoring such key issues, there is considerable evidence that the basic understanding of the legal issues involved is rudimentary. At a business meeting eight months into the process, Commissioner Dobson asked whether *obscenity* was always associated with sexuality. Moreover, staff memos on constitutional issues are so deceptive that they do not adequately illuminate the state of the law. In a draft on "dial-a-porn" (telephone sex), there is no acknowledgment that a series of FCC regulations proposed in October of 1985 were enjoined by a federal court last December because they raised such serious constitutional issues.

Child Pornography and Organized Crime

The use of ever-expanding and circular definitions of *child pornography* and *organized crime* seems designed to connect virtually all sexually-oriented material to child abuse and criminal activity.

Public hearings in November in Miami, Florida, were scheduled to focus on *child pornography*. As the Supreme Court crafted this exception to the first amendment in the 1982 decision in *Ferber v. New York*, it covers visual depictions of actual minors engaged in sexual situations. In Miami, and whenever this subject arose before or since, witnesses and Commission members worked hard to obscure this narrow definition and attempted to meld into the debate a variety of child-related issues. These include:

- the use of sexually-explicit material involving adults to teach children about sex or seduce them into sexual activity. (The ACLU believes that the producers of a publication cannot be deemed liable for every unintended or unpredictable use of their product. The fact that a magazine is used to lure a child does not classify it as *child pornography*.)
- the use of child images in sexual cartoons, or dressing or posing adults models to appear child-like. (The ACLU finds no basis for claiming as *child pornography* such depictions, criticized by witnesses, as boy characters in cartoons talking about sex or obviously grown women wearing pigtailed.)
- access of children to adult material in cable television, dial-a-porn, and other new technologies. (The ACLU concurs with Justice Frankfurter's statement in the 1957 opinion in *Butler v. Michigan* that laws that restrict minor's access to reading material pose the risk of "reducing the adult population to reading only those things which are suitable for children.")

By loosely lumping all these constructs with the specific concept of *child pornography*, the Commission is trying to obscure the diversity of issues and draw on general public outrage about child abuse. For example, at a business meeting during a discussion of "dial-a-porn", several Commissioners asserted that a frequent subject of these recorded messages was incest. This intra-familial sexual theme was then referred to repeatedly as *child pornography*. Even though law professor Frederick Schauer sat through this discussion, he never clarified that something is *child pornography* only if it involves use of an actual minor. Not one witness has ever asserted that minors are used to produce these recorded comments. Ironi-

cally, the Commission has repeatedly expressed concern about the ongoing harm to children of being used in child pornography; yet this has not prevented them from screening hundreds of slides of children in their public hearings. In Los Angeles, Detective Peters of the Los Angeles Police Department showed an explicit slide of a nude young girl and stated, "We were lucky enough to seize this entire film and it never got into the market." Needless to say, the slide was at that moment being exposed to the entire audience at the public hearing, and to at least four video cameras belonging to the press covering the event, all without consent from the child.

The New York hearings were to address *organized crime*. When this phrase is mentioned it generally connotes mob figures out of the *Godfather* engaged in heroin sales, labor racketeering, murder for hire, and other obviously unlawful activities. In the context of pornography however it actually takes on a distinctive and highly misleading meaning. Perhaps the frankest definition was provided in testimony by former FBI agent William P. Kelley, who has devoted most of his career to pornography investigation:

"It is practically impossible to be in the retail end of the porno industry without dealing in some fashion with 'organized crime' . . . This, of course, would presume the dealing in materials which would be determined by a judge or jury to meet the three part test for obscenity under *Miller v. California*. My reason for making such a statement is this: Where else but from 'organized crime' would a retailer obtain sexually explicit materials to sell to the customers he may possess?"

He continued that if you have

"an office, toll-free telephone number, a warehouse of some size, several salesmen, and possibly even a fleet of trucks—I call that a highly organized business enterprise, and where dealing in legally obscene materials, it is 'organized crime'."

Of course, were there no laws on obscenity—essentially the position taken by the 1970 Commission—there would be no criminal activity, and, thus, no *organized crime* involvement. Therefore, this definition, which seems to fascinate the Commission, is entirely circular: since a judge might find it *obscene*, it is an *organized crime* to produce or distribute it. As with child pornography, the organized crime rubric seems deliberately designed to confuse the real issue of what, if any, material should be considered criminal.

Inadequate Standards of Evidence Evaluation

Although a federal advisory commission is not held to the same rules of presenting evidence as a federal court and may take hearsay and other dubiously reliable data, this does not immunize the Commission from establishing a credible basis for balancing and reconciling conflicting evidence and from providing a rational basis for their recommendations.

The Commission frequently operates as if all evidence is of equal weight and that there is no reason to explain why or how conclusions are reached. Even the assertions of a single victim witness frequently show up as facts in staff drafts of tentative findings. (Ms. Garcia, the *Playboy* model who testified about a variety of crimes is the only apparent source for a draft staff-prepared report which concluded that "problems found in the porn industry for the actors and actresses include: . . . murder and attempted murder".)

Likewise, since no antipornography witnesses are seriously cross-examined there is little public testing of the truth of anyone's account. Even worse, when Commissioner Dietz expressed concern about assessing the credibility of witnesses—a process Dietz rightly perceived that any reason-

able fact-finding body is ordinarily required to accomplish— Chairman Hudson indicated there was no need to discuss the credibility of witnesses on the record, noting, “I don’t believe that type of analysis is necessary. I think it’s going to be apparent in how you vote on the factual issues.”

Also troubling is a draft of a section of the final report on “Retailers-Soft Core Pornography,” which casually mentioned that evidence showed that major American companies including CBS, Time Inc., Ramada Inn, RCA, Coca-Cola, and Warner Publisher Services were “marketing porn” through cable services. Alleged marketers of pornographic magazines were listed and include Rite-Aid, K-Mart, and nine other firms. The Director and Chairman, under mild criticism by several Commissioners, reluctantly agreed that these named companies should have an opportunity to respond. It was decided that they would have 30 days to respond, and that “a lack of a reply would indicate they did not differ” from the allegations! No serious investigative body could agree to use such star-chamber methods of weighing the truth of allegations.

The Commission is concerned with assessing the harms of pornography. To that end, they have heard from approximately 25 clinicians, social science researchers, and sociologists who have discussed the effects of viewing pornography.

Since the research and clinical evidence presented was frequently ambiguous or contradictory, it became apparent that “social scientific research” could not be the only “anchor” for findings of harmful effects. Other forms of evidence would need to be used to fill in the gaps of science.

To give a framework to this “anything goes” approach to proving harmful effects, the Commission at its February meeting embarked on a complex “tiered” analysis of visual material. Pornography would be assessed in four categories: *sexually violent material*; *explicit sexual activity which depicts submission, humiliation, dominance or degradation*; *explicit sexual activity without submission, humiliation, dominance or degradation*; and *mere nudity*. Furthermore, for each category of material, any negative effects would be evaluated on three distinct bases: *social science research*, *totality of the evidence*, and *moral, ethical, and cultural considerations*. This legitimates the Commissioners’ use as equally valid the evidence of science, anecdote, and personal bias. In the sexually violent category, the Commission found harmful effects based upon those limited laboratory studies in which subjects, after exposure to sexually-violent material, demonstrate statistically significant increases in shock intensity and duration, greater acceptance of rape myths and other erroneous attitudes, lower assessments of the value of victims, or lower judgments about the severity of punishment for rapists in mock rape trials. It remains to be seen how much attention is paid, in the narrative text accompanying this conclusion, to the many scientific witnesses who have warned against readily drawing conclusions about real-life where there are many more inhibiting factors than in these highly contrived laboratory experiments.

Based on the *totality of the evidence*, including the lack of cross-examined statements of anonymous witnesses, the Commission also found similar *negative effects*. Tying them to the catch-all category of moral considerations, the Commission voted unanimously that “sexually violent materials are immoral and unethical, and willing production, distribution, and consumption are an offense against humanity.” Having now placed the purchaser of a ticket to an R-rated slasher film in the same moral status as those who manned the ovens of Auschwitz, the Commission proceeded to the next category of

materials, that which contains degrading sexual activity.

They pursued a similar analysis of this class (which, for example, includes bondage, ejaculation in a woman’s face, parted labia, and women “acting like dogs”). Although only three scientific studies were discussed, and these had ambiguous results, it was unanimously agreed that “these studies are in the direction of showing a few kinds of negative effects. . . .” Under the *totality of the evidence* standard, there was a unanimous sense that it generated a tolerance for rape, fostered rape myths, degraded women as a class, and was harmful to the family unit and society in general. Most of these conclusions were based upon testimony of either anonymous witnesses or antipornography groups. Any claim heard that was useful to buttress the argument was accepted as true. On the moral tier, the Commission pontificated that “sexually-explicit degrading materials . . . are an offense against human dignity.”

The reaching already necessary to draw these conclusions was stretched to the breaking point in that class of material showing sexual activity without violence, degradation or humiliation. The extant studies generally supported no negative effects from this material comparable to that found earlier. On the other hand, several Commissioners felt that it was harmful to have viewers model their behavior on such images, which could, for example, increase homosexual activity or non-marital oral sex. The Chairman, eager to avoid this morass, took a vote concluding that it was not in the Charter to determine “whether certain sexual behavior was normative.” Several Commissioners pointed out that in the previous classes this was precisely what had already been decided. Faced with the stark reality of no scientific studies at all to support any harms (except one which showed a decreased feeling of attractiveness of one’s partner after massive exposure to pornography), the Commissioners were forced to vote that “analysis of social science has shown predominantly no negative effects.” Even more amazing, when several test votes were taken on whether the *totality of the evidence* demonstrated this class of material caused a tolerance of rape, the degradation of women, or negative effect on the family, the Chair could not glean majority support. In utter disarray over this class of material, which represents the majority of sexually-explicit material available, the Chair decided that every Commissioner should write his or her own section on the effects of this material! One could say that here was living proof that in matters of sexual taste, individual choice should be the order of the day.

When the Commission tackled the category of nudity without force, coercion, sexual activity, violence or degradation, it could again find no social science to demonstrate a negative effect. Even all the other evidence and moral considerations did not garner majority support for findings of specific harms.

Perhaps the most difficult task remaining for the Commission is to figure out how to enmesh their now voluminous law enforcement recommendations with these categories of material. Current obscenity law permits suppression of material simply because it is offensive, not because it is demonstrably harmful. Since Meese’s Commission has been so concerned about harms, and even they cannot demonstrate harms for much sexually-explicit material, will they be consistent and honest enough to suggest no law enforcement initiatives against any non-violent or non-degrading material? Don’t count on it. Put your money instead on finding a report in June that will seek to legitimate a return to some sexual dark-age even less enlightened than this far-from-satisfactory time of sexual awareness.

MORE ON THE SUBJECT

Misinformation on Pornography: A Lobby Disguised as an Educational Organization

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Because I conducted contract research for the President's Commission on Obscenity and Pornography of 1970, remained active in research relevant to understanding the effects of pornography, recently completed a review of Malamuth and Donnerstein's (1984) book on *Pornography and Sexual Aggression*, and thought carefully about the forensic and public policy implication of this body of evidence, I was prepared to respond to a last minute invitation to appear before the Attorney General Meese's Commission on Pornography. Recently a group called *Accuracy in Academia* has formed with the express purpose of correcting misinformation offered by so-called left-wing professors in America's colleges and universities. Recruits are being sent into the classroom to record and send professors' statements to AIA, which is to determine their correctness, ask professors to acknowledge alleged errors, and publicize the errors of the unrepentant. The American Association of University Professors opposes these activities as inhibiting academic freedom and as interference from a pressure group with a clear and narrow mind-set (Benjamin, Kurland, & Molotsky, 1985). When I am not frightened, I am amused at imagining what AIA might designate as secular error.

Lack of Scientific Knowledge

In my oral and written testimony (Mosher, 1985) to the Commission, I presented a number of arguments. Following David Krathwohl's (1985) recent account, I described scientific knowledge as that which is based on a consensus of scientists (a) formed around the interpretation of empirical evidence, (b) developed within the rules or norms. (Merton's norms of universal standards for knowledge claims, common ownership of knowledge, organized skepticism, and integrity in gathering and interpreting data), and (c) evaluated against criteria for adequate scientific research. I argued that no such scientific consensus exists currently about the effects of pornography.

Moreover, I indicated that in the absence of scientific knowledge, *personal knowledge*, an individual's subjective judgment that a relationship exists, is substituted. Different people believe they personally know quite different "facts" about the effects of pornography. Yet, the consensus of scientific knowledge required to inform public policy must be quite high, particularly if used to justify more draconian efforts at the

containment of pornography. Although science reduces uncertainty, much uncertainty and argument exists in the scientific community about the effects of pornography. Unfortunately, that does not prevent an individual from selectively using and distorting the evidence to prove cases generated by commitment to particular ideologies.

I argued, furthermore, that the vacuum of uncertainty is filled with ideology—an organized set of ideas about which human beings are at once most articulate and most passionate, and for which there is no evidence and they are least certain (Tomkins, 1965). The worst case that can be made against Attorney General Meese's Commission may be that the Attorney General's mind may already be made up, based upon his own normative political ideology. If so, selective scientific evidence compatible with his preexisting convictions can be misused to support ideological beliefs about the pernicious effects of pornography. Politicians respond to constituencies and conflicting pressures without waiting for the evidence needed for a true scientific consensus. However, if they do not want to rush judgment, the Commission can recommend and Congress can appropriate funds to do the necessary research to yield a scientific consensus.

Educational Organization or Lobby?

David A. Scott (1985) authored a purported review of recent research findings on harm to the "victims" of pornography. The handsome, soft-covered tract, *Pornography—Its effects on the family, community and culture*, was published and copyrighted by the Child and Family Protection Institute, The Free Congress Foundation, Inc., located in Washington, D.C. The Free Congress Foundation is described as a non-profit, tax-exempt educational organization. Yet, Jerry Falwell sponsors the organization. The next sentence contains the disclaimer: "Nothing written here is to be construed as necessarily reflecting the views of The Child and Family Protection Institute or as an attempt to aid or hinder the passage of any bill before Congress (Scott, 1985, p. i). The next paragraph reveals that distribution of the material was made possible (funded?) by Contact America, which is described as a syndicated radio broadcast with a concern about family life in America.

I have not investigated this organization, but it sounds like a lobby, looks like a lobby, and when David Scott talked to me, acted like a lobby. Without equivocation, I can state that, if

Scott's "review" is representative, it is not serving an educational function because it confuses opinions with facts; it misinforms rather than informs; and it uses evidence selectively to persuade rather than to educate.

Misinformation as Facts

Patrick F. Fagan, Director of the Child and Family Protection Institute, wrote an Editor's Summary for Scott's "review" and distributed to the press a "Fact Sheet on Pornography" based on Scott's review. The letterhead described the "Fact Sheet" as "news from the Free Congress Research and Education Foundation."

This fact sheet, lacking citations, footnotes, and apparently scholarly quotes, makes obvious what, unfortunately, may be less apparent to the readers of Scott's "review." People not trained as scientists often accept what appears to be authoritative science at face value. As generalizations are made when summarizing evidence, even scientists sometimes lose their cautionary habit of stressing limitations and lacunae in research evidence. When science is misused to support preconceived social-political ideology, limitations vanish and lacunae are filled with strong evidence of effects that bolster the ideology. To refute such claims by a more penetrating, scientifically skeptical, objective review and argument requires far more time, effort, and journal space than can be allotted. Instead of taking the claims seriously and responding with a scientific critique, I will treat them as cavalierly as they deserve, just exposing the ideological bias they contain.

Ideological Bias I

Everyone is subject to inherently evil mental states.

In 1868, Lord Cockburn, in the landmark case of *Regina v. Hicklin*, formulated a test for obscenity that affected the American courts for nearly a century. His now famous quote was, "I think the test of obscenity is this, whether the tendency of the matter charged as obscenity is to deprave and corrupt those whose minds are open to such immoral influences and into whose hands a publication of this sort may fall." To be depraved and corrupted by pornography implies that it creates inherently evil mental states. Although Lord Cockburn and modern foes of pornography may have other "harms" in mind, they also have *moralism* and *paternalism* on the mind. Lord Cockburn had the *patrician paternalism* that led him to want to prevent pornography from falling into the hands of corruptible (working class?) minds. Adherents to this form of paternalism believe it necessary to protect adults (I presume by keeping both hands, as well as the mind, empty) who voluntarily and without harm to others seek to experience pornographic appeals to prurient interest.

The Abelson *et al.* (1970) survey for the Commission illustrated the extent to which harmful effects are often attributed to corruptible others rather than to a more immune self. For example, about 50% of individuals surveyed believed that pornography led to a breakdown of morals and rape, yet only 1% admitted it had influenced *their* morals and no one admitted it prompted them to rape. People or governments usually want to control pornography out of fear that *others* have some special susceptibility to its alleged pernicious effects even though *they* do not. To believe pornography may harm others, but not yourself, seems to be human nature. Perhaps, if you personally hold this belief, it developed from your correct

impressions of how little you have been harmed from your own sexual exploration of pornography. This paternal group protects responsible individuals from choosing to expose themselves to pornography, and the moral are motivated to believe that pornography leads to inherently evil mental states.

The first five so-called facts [and Fact no. 7] from the Scott and Fagan, *Fact Sheet on Pornography*, are quoted below:

1. Pornography interferes with interpersonal relationships and personal moral development in everyone who uses it, normal and abnormal alike.
 2. Recent research has found virtually no support for what has been termed the "catharsis hypothesis." Researchers have found that "far from having a cathartic effect, exposure to pornography produces an enhanced interest in deviant sexuality," often resulting in a continuous, long-term potential for harmful behavior.
 3. The negative effects of pornography impact "normal persons" and their marriages, as well as individuals with a wide variety of personality disorders.
 4. Massive exposure to these materials leads to a devaluation and depreciation of the importance of monogamy, and to a lack of confidence in marriage as either a viable or lasting institution. Moreover, mature adults as well as college students exposed to these materials came to view non-monogamous relationship as normal and natural behavior.
 5. Normal, as well as disturbed people, not only become "densensitized" to soft-core materials, they also develop a fondness for more deviant materials. Both incorporate them into their sexual practices, and begin to fantasize about, and even endorse the use of force in their sexual relationships.
- [7.] Massive exposure to nonviolent, noncoercive standard-fare pornography created an appetite for more unusual, bizarre and deviant materials, including violence in a sexual context—such as depictions of sadomasochism and rape (Fagan from Scott, undated).

I dispute that these are facts; I label them *misinformation*, an alloy of scant evidence with ideological bias.

The alleged facts reveal the ideological bias that everyone exposed to pornography is subject to inherently evil mental states that undermine personal character and monogamous marriage through promoting a growing appetite for deviant materials and sexual practices. The enormity of this claim smacks of the big lie approach to propaganda. Everyone is not only susceptible, but given massive exposure or any predisposition (according to so-called fact no. 7), is easily susceptible.

Fundamentalist Christians have long been concerned with the concept of original sin and the New Testament equation of fantasy, "lust in your heart," with sexual behavior. I fear that the containment of pornography presages the containment of free inquiry into pornography and the containment of freedom to think freely so-called immoral sexual thoughts. Such an agenda is consistent with an ideology of the Religious Right that blends paternalism and moralism into a desire to control evil mental states. "To be thy brother's keeper" is becoming less a hallmark of Christian charity than a warning about potential jailers on the Religious Right who want to control both depraved or normal minds, who differ only by being already corrupted or merely corruptible by pornography.

Ideological Bias II

The problem in society is simply evil, not any complex set of social or economic conditions. Pornography is addictive and creates the evil minds and actions of dangerous sex offenders.

The next set of four (including number 7 cited previously) so-called facts gives an account that purports to link pornography and sex offenses:

6. Dangerous offenders (i.e., child molesters, incest fathers, killers and rapists) develop a fondness for deviant materials and incorporate them into their preparatory stimulation before seeking out a victim, whether it is a child to molest, a woman to rape, or an adolescent boy to assault. Rapists, in particular, report a preference for "soft-core," consenting-sex depictions before seeking out a rape victim in order to enable them to fantasize that the female they stalk will, in fact, resist.
8. A recent FBI study of 36 serial-killers revealed that 29 were attracted to pornography and incorporated it into their sexual activity, which included serial-rape murder.
9. Sex-offending, particularly for the dangerous offender, is compulsive and addictive. His mechanisms for reducing anxiety have become sexualized. Repetitive sexual molestation has become compulsive. The sex-offender's anxiety-reducing "fix" is sex with a child or an adolescent rather than drugs, alcohol or nicotine. His need for a child, or for many different children, or for the same child is just as frequent and urgent as the addict's need for chemical substances . . . (Fagan from Scott, undated).

This view of the sex offender as addicted, directly comparable to a drug addict, is not only unsupportable by scientific evidence but also plays on the fears of the public concerning crime and child sexual abuse. It is a version of Domino Theory applied to evil mental states: first, normals are desensitized and then corrupted by pornography. Second, not content just to devalue monogamy, "normals" appetite for more bizarre pornography and sexual fantasy to incorporate into sexual activity increases. Third, an addiction to ever more deviant pornography forms. Fourth, now addicted, rapists and other dangerous offenders require soft-core porn to produce the fantasies to support the act of rape. Fifth, the "fix" (porno-sex) becomes as urgent and frequent as an addict's need for chemical substances, producing massive numbers of sexual offenses.

Humans love to pose simple remedies for big troubles. It seems like such a simple remedy to contain pornography if it undermines human character, interpersonal relations, monogamous marriage, the family, community, culture, etc. It seems like such a simple remedy to prevent the complex problem of sexual crimes by containing pornography. A simple remedy for dangerous crimes like child sexual abuse, incest, rape, and serial-murder sure seems appealing, particularly when it is packaged with such symbols as God, country, and family. Too bad it is a quack remedy.

Ideological Bias III

Organized crime, the media, sex educators, and teachers market a view in which deviance is not deviant. The alleged bottom line effect, through exposure to sexual materials, is a "malignant regression to primitive and destructive psychological processes," which is mental

health jargon misappropriated to describe inherently evil mental states.

Fagan's final four so-called facts derived from Scott are:

10. "Hard-core," deviant depictions, including graphic violence without sexual content, soft-core depictions of consensual sex between heterosexual couples, and even "neutral," sex-education materials, all, differentially desensitize and habituate the viewer.
11. The bottom line effect of long-term exposure to these materials has been a malignantly-regressive "primitivization" of emotional relationships which have cut across all social strata.

The term "malignant regression," describes the primitive and destructive psychological processes of deprecation, devaluation, sadism, cruelty, envidious spoiling and shame. These are the types of psychological processes basic to the emotional styles of the characters portrayed in the prime-time serial soap operas like *Dynasty*, *Dallas*, *Falcon Crest*, and *Knots Landing*; the same ones that reappear in the familiar formats and plot outlines of both soft- and hard-core pornography; and the ones that are beginning to surface with increasing regularity in rock videos by "heavy-metal" groups and "stars" like Billy Idol, Mick Jagger and Madonna. Television executives know that this strategy is profitable. The lesson is clear from the pornography industry proper.

12. *The Assault Waves* . . .
13. *Marketing a View of Man in Which Deviance Is Not Deviant*. The pornography industry markets a view of man in which deviance is not deviant and in which abnormal behavior is redefined to be normal. It markets a line of products which supports that view: drugs, prostitution, pornographic materials and products and services that promote sexually-deviant lifestyles, lifestyles which are aggressively marketed in the media and even taught in our classrooms.

Many law-enforcement officials and media observers believe that national organized-crime groups effectively control the domestic and international distribution of adult and child pornography materials, and also exercise substantial control over their production (Fagan from Scott, undated).

Organized crime, the media, sex educators, and the schools comprise an orgy of strange bedfellows to market deviance. Scott's claim is that organized crime supplies the demand that it helped create via the addiction model of pornography, and the media materialistically markets whatever is profitable. I suppose sex educators and teachers are just secular humanist dupes. In Scott's view, exposure to any and all depictions of sex and violence produce "malignant regression" or "primitivization." Can these words be any less, or any more, than a code word for inherently evil mental states disguised as "psychological processes"?

Scott's reasoning reminds me of two colloquial expressions about monkeys: "See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil," as represented by images of three monkeys in the appropriate poses, and "monkey see, monkey do." Scott's argument is that people see, hear, and speak evil in pornography, and then they do it.

Many behavioral and social scientists deeply abhor violence. Social learning theorists broadened the accounts of forms of learning from conditioning and the law of effect to

include observational learning using studies of children. The concern with media violence led many to, what I (perhaps, a minority of one) would consider, a premature judgement of its harmful effects. By extension, research on violent pornography has borrowed the logic and methods of some of the media violence studies, but the research is not yet as extensive or as multiplist in method. For example, there are no prospective studies of effects of exposure to pornography on children or adolescents. Of course, Scott is not concerned simply with porno-violence, prime-time TV, rock videos, and sex education films that all serve, in his view, to desensitize, habituate, and resocialize. I fervently hope that all of the authors cited by Scott would not agree with his interpretation and ideological use of their research.

Human Nature as Basically Evil

Expressions of violence have never been censored in America in the way that expressions of sexuality have been. If they had, I believe exponents of the harms of media-violence would have been more cautious—fearing the wedge of censorship as the fulcrum for toppling civil liberties. The First Amendment protects freedom of expression rather than freedom of action, yet people continue to confuse expression with action or to believe that expression invariably causes action. Pornography can be described as a collective sexual fantasy. Its basic intent is to sexually arouse the reader or viewer. Humans in the modern media world are exposed to thousands and thousands of images and fantasies, many with opposing themes and potential influences. Although it would be foolish to claim such imagery has no effect, it is equally foolish to claim that such imagery has a dangerous effect. To view pornography as dangerous is to equate exposure to expression as tantamount to license or causal impulsion to action. Such a logic would suggest that you should never see or hear or read images of the Nazi evil or you would become an evil Nazi. Do you believe images of evil necessarily desensitize, habituate, and resocialize? Or that you can trust either a scientist or a judge to “know it when they see it?”

The strongest scientific evidence on the effect of pornography is that it frequently produces sexual arousal—a universally pleasurable experience, and for some, an evil necessary only to ensure reproduction and family life. No causal connection between pornography and sexual deviance or crime has been established using the criteria of science.

The lobbying campaign against pornography, as represented by Scott and the Free Congress Foundation, is based on a view of human nature as easily corruptible, in which sexual material (hard, soft, prime-time, educational) produces inherently evil mental states that invariably lead to evil sexual deviance. Of course, if this argument is correct, all sexual scientists and educators are open to corruption through the very study and use of sexual materials. Scott, do you really believe pornography has corrupted us into marketing deviance as nondeviant? And Scott, if pornography is so pernicious because it produces “malignantly-regressive” (evil?) sexual arousal and fantasy, then when do you begin the campaign to control people’s sexual fantasies? Is control of masturbation far behind? Why not eliminate all non-marital sex and sex in marriage that is not intended to procreate to preserve family life? Scott, in Houston, you asked me to read and tell you what I think of your review. I regard your so-called review as an ideologically biased selection of evidence to persuade people

of the evils of pornography—in a word, as a tract. No scientific journal would publish such misinformation.

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SIECUS Position Statement on the Censorship of Sexually Explicit Materials

SIECUS deplores violence, exploitation, and human degradation in our society and is disturbed when sexually explicit materials are used to condone or promote these negative behaviors.

SIECUS reaffirms its support of the informed use of sexually explicit materials for educational and therapeutic purposes. Furthermore, SIECUS affirms adults’ rights of access to sexually explicit materials for personal use.

SIECUS supports the legal protection of minors from exploitation in the production of sexual materials. Granted this protection, SIECUS opposes legislative and judicial efforts to prevent the production and/or distribution of sexually explicit materials, insofar as such efforts endanger constitutionally guaranteed freedoms of speech and press. Furthermore, such actions could be used to restrict the appropriate professional uses of such materials by sex educators, therapists, and researchers. Instead of legislation, SIECUS fully supports the rights of diverse groups and individuals to educate the public about the negative messages they perceive in some sexually explicit materials.

RESEARCH NOTES

AIDS: Prevention and Prospects for Control

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Between October 1980 and May 1981, five previously healthy young homosexual (gay) men were treated for *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia (PCP) at three different hospitals in Los Angeles (1). This observation was striking because PCP had previously occurred almost exclusively in patients with abnormal immune systems (2). During the same period, a rare cancer, Kaposi's sarcoma, was being diagnosed with increased frequency in young men in New York City and California (3). By July 3, 1981, 26 cases of Kaposi's sarcoma had been reported. All 26 patients were young homosexual men. Seven of the 26 also had serious infections; four had PCP.

These cases marked the beginning of an epidemic of a previously unknown medical condition, subsequently termed the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). By the end of 1985, over 16,000 Americans had developed AIDS. Thousands more have been infected with Human T-cell Lymphotropic Virus, type III/Lymphadenopathy-Associated Virus (HTLV-III/LAV), and many of these will develop AIDS. Most people reported to have AIDS have died within 2 years of diagnosis.

The virus that causes AIDS can cause a wide range of disturbances of the immune system that render the infected person susceptible to opportunistic infections (such as PCP) and cancers (such as Kaposi's sarcoma). No treatment can reverse the underlying immunodeficiency. No vaccine is available. However, studies have characterized the way the virus is transmitted and, therefore, suggest strategies for prevention.

Epidemiologic Characteristics of AIDS

Early in the epidemic, a surveillance system was established at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to monitor trends in AIDS cases. Clearly, the number of cases has been increasing rapidly. The first 1,000 cases were reported over a period of one and one-half years. The most recent 1,000 cases were reported in just one month. Cases have now been reported from every state. Although cases are still concentrated in New York and California, an increasing percentage are being reported elsewhere.

Five groups of people at risk for AIDS have been identified. Together, the five groups account for 94% of all AIDS cases in the United States. These groups are gay and bisexual men (73%) intravenous (IV) drug users (17%), transfusion recipients (2%), hemophiliacs (1%), and heterosexual contacts of members of

the first four groups (1%). Six percent of AIDS patients have other or unknown risk factors; almost half of these patients are from countries where many people with AIDS appear to acquire infection by heterosexual contact or, perhaps, by the use of needles contaminated with HTLV-III/LAV. Of the remainder, many have died or have not yet been interviewed about sexual and other exposures. Some who have been interviewed have had multiple heterosexual sex partners and may not have known that one of them was infected.

In addition to the 17,814 cases reported for adults (as of March 10, 1986), 256 cases of AIDS have been reported for children (4-7). Of the children with AIDS, 77% had a parent who was a member of a risk group, 15% had received blood transfusions, 5% were hemophiliacs, and 4% had no risk identified. Investigations are incomplete for most of the children with no risk identified. Children with AIDS whose mothers are in a high-risk group are usually diagnosed at a younger age than children who received a blood transfusion shortly after birth. This observation suggests that the children of mothers from risk groups were infected with HTLV-III/LAV before birth even though many of their mothers had no symptoms of AIDS (8).

Risk Factors for HTLV-III/LAV Infection

In October 1981, CDC conducted a case-control study to identify risk factors for AIDS in previously healthy persons (9). At that time only four living heterosexual patients had been reported, so the study was limited to gay men. Each patient was matched to four different gay men who had no signs of AIDS. There were striking differences in the number of sex partners reported by patients and their matched controls. Patients had a median of 61 partners per year; controls averaged 26. Patients were also more likely to have met sex partners in bathhouses. Histories of sexually transmitted infections were common for both patients and controls, but patients were more likely to have histories and serologic evidence of syphilis and hepatitis other than hepatitis B. The variable most highly associated with AIDS was a large number of sex partners per year.

Having a large number of sex partners increases the chance of contact with one who is infected, particularly when an infection is uncommon. The exact risk of transmission during a single contact has not been determined, but must be relatively low for HTLV-III/LAV; otherwise, we would find many more infections than we have. Specific sexual practices

have been compared in case-control studies using multivariate analyses. These studies have suggested that receptive anal intercourse, particularly with a large number of partners, is a major risk factor (10-12). However, since the virus has been isolated from a number of different body fluids, including semen, saliva, and blood, the exchange of any of these fluids during sexual contact could transmit infection.

Extent of the Problem

The incidence of AIDS for gay men is impossible to calculate because the total number of gay men is not known. Therefore, incidence has been estimated using national data for never-married men 15 years of age and older (13). Since this group includes many men who are not gay, it underestimates the true incidence in never-married gay men. Nevertheless, between June 1983 and May 1984, the annual incidence for never-married men was 175.5 per 100,000 in Manhattan, 204.5 in San Francisco, and 8.9 for the entire United States. Most people with AIDS are young: 90% are aged 20-49. AIDS is almost certainly the leading cause of death for young gay men in Manhattan and San Francisco. Incidence estimates for IV drug users in New York and New Jersey, as well as hemophiliacs throughout the United States, also suggest AIDS is a leading cause of death for other high-risk groups (13).

A prospective study of the risk of AIDS has looked at a cohort that was originally assembled to study hepatitis B infection in San Francisco (14). Between 1978 and 1980, approximately 6,875 gay men who had visited a sexually transmitted disease clinic were enrolled in studies of hepatitis B. As of December, 1984, 166 (2.4%) of these men had been reported to have AIDS. In addition, random samples were sought for follow-up interviews, physical examinations, and laboratory studies. Of the 474 who were evaluated, 21% had chronic unexplained lymphadenopathy, and 5% had other signs of AIDS. After consent was obtained, serum samples were collected and frozen; they showed an increasing evidence of antibody to HTLV-III/LAV, from 4.5% in 1978, to 67.4% in 1984.

Infection with HTLV-III/LAV is now common in some groups of gay men, IV drug users, and hemophiliacs. Most infected people have no symptoms even after five or more years of infection, yet they can still transmit infection to others by sexual contact.

Sexual Transmission in Other Groups

Heterosexual transmission from men to women has been documented (15-19). In January 1983, two infected women were reported who had not had blood transfusions nor used drugs intravenously (17). One woman with AIDS was the steady sex partner of an IV drug user; another with persistent lymphadenopathy was the sex partner of a bisexual man. Other case reports have described similar situations. Currently, 201 women with AIDS have been reported whose only risk factor was heterosexual contact with a man from a risk group. Many of these women report vaginal sexual intercourse, but deny ever having anal intercourse. Estimated risks of transmission of HTLV-III/LAV from an infected husband to his wife have ranged widely, from 10% or 2 of 21 in one study (18) to 71% or 5 of 7 in another (19).

Forty-one men with AIDS have been reported who had no risk identified other than heterosexual contact with women at risk for AIDS. In a special study, interviews with 65 men with no other risk identified found 17 (26%) who reported a history of sexual contact with female prostitutes (20). Five of

the 17 also gave a history of over 100 heterosexual partners in the previous 5 years. Studies in Africa, where infected persons deny homosexual contacts and anal intercourse, have also implicated large numbers of heterosexual partners as a risk factor for infection with HTLV-III/LAV (21).

The number of heterosexuals who will ultimately be infected depends on the likelihood of sexual contact with an infected person and the likelihood of transmission of infection during that contact. Since homosexual men have a much higher prevalence of infection, the risk of exposure (and disease) is much greater for uninfected gay men than for heterosexuals or lesbians. AIDS has been diagnosed in lesbians, but women with AIDS who have had female sex partners have also used drugs intravenously. It is difficult to determine the relative efficiency of transmission from an infected individual by heterosexual versus homosexual contact. Other sexually transmitted diseases are common among gay men (but not lesbians), suggesting that the prevalence of infection with HTLV-III/LAV among gay men will continue to be higher for them than for heterosexuals and lesbians.

There is no evidence of transmission of HTLV-III/LAV by insect bites, animal vectors, or casual contact with persons with AIDS. No cases have been reported in which the only risk factor was casual contact with an infected person. Studies of the families of AIDS patients have documented the lack of transmission of infection even after years of sharing living quarters, bathrooms, and eating utensils (22). The lack of transmission after close personal contact offers great assurance that there is no means of transmission other than sexual contact, injection of contaminated blood, or transmission from mother to child.

Prevention

Avoiding sexual intercourse with persons infected with HTLV-III/LAV, and those with risk factors who have not been tested, will eliminate any chance of sexual transmission. Since most persons infected with HTLV-III/LAV have no symptoms, it is difficult to know if an anonymous sex partner is infected. Having a large number of anonymous sex partners increases the probability of contact with one who is infected. For each person, the likelihood of infection depends on number of partners and sexual practices. Persons in risk groups and those considering a sexual relationship with a person who may be infected should consider having the HTLV-III/LAV antibody test. These tests are reliable for determining who has antibody, especially when confirmed by another test, such as the Western blot (23). However, it may take 2-3 months after infection for the test to show significant levels of antibodies (24-25). Sexual contact with an infected person is safe only if there is no exchange of body fluids during that contact. The proper use of condoms should reduce the exchange of body fluids, and may be beneficial.

Because the incubation period for AIDS is so long, it is not yet possible to assess the net effect of recommendations for risk reduction on reported cases. Nevertheless, there are indirect indications that recommendations for prevention are being followed. The rate of rectal and pharyngeal gonorrhea for men 15-44 years old in New York City has declined from 129 per 100,000 in 1980 to 74 per 100,000 in 1983 (26). Retrospective surveys of self-reported behavior of gay men in San Francisco have shown decreases in both the average number of sex partners and in the types of sexual practices known to transmit

HTLV-III/LAV infection (27). However, the prevalence of infection has increased tremendously in high-risk groups. Uninfected members of these groups must make substantial changes in their sexual practices just to keep their risk of infection from getting any higher than it was a few years ago.

Directions for Future Research

Much has been learned in the five years since the first cases of AIDS were reported: the etiologic agent has been identified (28-30), serologic tests to protect the blood supply have been developed (31), and recommendations for the prevention of AIDS have been published (32-34). As more is learned, current recommendations will be revised. Several epidemiologic studies now being implemented by CDC may be particularly helpful in guiding sexual decision-making.

A community-based study is being conducted in Belle Glade, Florida, to ascertain why AIDS is prevalent in this population and to find out how HTLV-III/LAV is being transmitted. Migrant farm workers and their families live in Belle Glade when they are not harvesting crops. Intravenous drug use, homosexual exposures, and heterosexual contacts with multiple partners may be common in certain segments of the community, and may be factors in the spread of HTLV-III/LAV as well as other infectious agents.

CDC is also coordinating a study of 2,500 women in Atlanta, Miami, Colorado Springs, Los Angeles, San Francisco and three cities in northern New Jersey who have engaged in prostitution in the United States since January 1978. The purposes of this study are to establish the prevalence of antibody to HTLV-III/LAV in prostitutes and to examine risk factors for infection. Studies in central Africa suggest that 31% of prostitutes in Kenya (35) and 88% in Rwanda (36) have antibody to HTLV-III/LAV. Preliminary reports from a prison population in Seattle and an AIDS screening clinic in Miami indicate that 5%-40% of prostitutes in the United States may be infected (37). However, many women in central Africa have been injected with unsterilized needles, and many women who have engaged in prostitution in the United States have used drugs intravenously. The proportion of female prostitutes in the United States who have become infected because of sexual exposures is unknown, but is probably low.

Steady sex partners of gay men with AIDS or HTLV-III/LAV infections are being studied in Boston and San Francisco. Some partners have engaged in high-risk sexual exposures, but have not developed antibody to HTLV-III/LAV. The reasons for this have not been established, but should become clearer when these studies are completed in the next year or two. A few partners (5%-10%) may have the virus isolated from their lymphocytes by culture, even though antibody tests are negative (38). Others may have used condoms or viricidal agents, or have engaged in sexual practices that are not as efficient in transmitting the virus. These and still other possibilities need to be explored more fully.

Conclusions

AIDS is a serious and increasing medical problem in the United States. Although the risks of virus transmission appear to be decreasing through changes in sexual behavior, these risks have not been eliminated.

Recommendations for the prevention of HTLV-III/LAV transmission depend on the infection status of persons involved in a sexual relationship. If the couple is monogamous and neither partner is infected with HTLV-III/LAV, then any

sexual activity that is mutually acceptable can be enjoyed. In this situation, the virus that causes AIDS cannot be passed from one to the other because neither has it. However, if either partner has had a sexual exposure to a third person who might be infected with HTLV-III/LAV, then the couple should consider discontinuing their sexual activities until 90 or more days has passed and the person with the possible exposure to HTLV-III/LAV has had a negative antibody test.

If one partner is uninfected and the other has evidence of infection with HTLV-III/LAV (or has a risk factor and has not been shown to be negative), extreme caution is advised. No sexual activities that might result in exposures to the potentially infectious blood, semen, or other body fluids of the infected (or possibly infected) partner should be attempted. Although the risk of infection during a single exposure to infectious materials is probably low, the consequences of infection are extremely grave. Therefore, an uninfected person should not have unprotected sexual contact with an infected person.

In some situations, both partners are infected, or very well could be. Gay organizations in many metropolitan areas of the United States advise members of their communities to assume that they are in this situation. Under these circumstances, anal intercourse without protection appears to be the riskiest possible activity for transmission of HTLV-III/LAV and of other pathogens that might promote the onset of AIDS. Anal intercourse with ejaculation into the rectum should not be engaged in. Anal intercourse when a condom is used is less risky, but all chances of infection are not eliminated due to breakage or carelessness. In fact, when one or both members of a relationship is infected with HTLV-III/LAV, any sexual activity that involves the penis penetrating the mouth, vagina, or anus carries with it some degree of risk of viral transmission. Repeated exposure to HTLV-III/LAV, exposure to a certain strain of the virus, or exposure to another infectious agent may increase the chances of life-threatening disease in persons with antibody to HTLV-III/LAV. Therefore, "safe sex" guidelines tend to encourage lip kissing, hugging, cuddling, massage, mutual masturbation, and other ways of expressing affection that avoid possible exposures to blood, semen, and other infectious body fluids.

HTLV-III/LAV can be passed between men engaging in unprotected homosexual intercourse. The virus can also be transmitted between a man and a woman engaging in unprotected heterosexual intercourse, but less is known about the risks of heterosexual transmission. To better assess the risks associated with specific sexual activities, we must await the collection and analysis of additional data.

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NYU-SIECUS 1986 International Colloquium for Professionals in Human Sexuality Caracas, Venezuela

On August 2-17, 1986, New York University and the Sex Information and Education Council of the U.S. will sponsor a cross-cultural program in human sexuality for active professionals in the fields of human sexuality, family life education, psychology, nursing, medicine, and other related areas. The colloquium, which will be held in Caracas, Venezuela, is cosponsored by the Venezuelan Center of Psychiatric, Psychological, and Sexological Research.

This fifth international colloquium is designed to bring together professionals and students from both Americas to learn about cultural influences on attitudes, behaviors, and social issues in sexuality. Cultural excursions are an integral part of the program.

The program directors are Ann Welbourne-Moglia, PhD, executive director of SIECUS, and Ronald Moglia, EdD, professor of the NYU Human Sexuality Program. Approximate costs are as follows: airfare—\$650, housing and meals—\$1150, colloquium fee—\$500.

For additional information, contact: Ann Welbourne-Moglia, SIECUS, 80 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10011, (212) 929-2300; or Professor Ronald Moglia, Human Sexuality Program, 715 Broadway, 2nd fl., New York, NY 10003, (212) 598-3926.

SPEAKING OUT

The Safe Sex Shell Game

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"One of our highest public health priorities is going to continue to be finding a cure for AIDS. We're going to continue to develop and test vaccines and we're going to focus on prevention"—President Ronald Reagan (Weinraub, 2/6/86).

It is spring in New York and one of the sure signs of the season is appearance of the "Shell Game" professionals on the streets. In Mark Twain's time they played the game with halved walnut shells and a fresh pea; today's street variation is played with three playing cards. The object is still the same: to try to prove that your eye is quicker than the hand. The dealer starts the game by showing which shell holds the pea; then deftly moves and slides them around while the players watch. Finally he stops, and it is the player's time to guess which one has the pea. The con part of the game is carried on by a confederate of the dealer, who acts as a player and usually wins. Once the average person begins to play, the odds of winning weigh heavily upon the side of the dealer. Although many people know this is a scam, the need for extra money draws them to play anyway.

The need for extra money is a concept with which many sexuality organizations can identify. In this time, with the Reagan Administration's emphasis on national defense spending and lack of appropriations for social and health issues, many sexuality programs are being forced to cut services. However, there is apparently one exception to that national policy. The Administration has verbalized its recognition of the importance of appropriating the funds needed to combat the potential spread of AIDS through sexual contact within the gay population. According to figures calculated by the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC), this disease has killed 8,801 people and has infected 17,001 others. This has resulted in the Administration's proposal for \$193 million to combat AIDS (Weinraub, 2/6/86).

In a recent document the Centers for Disease Control put forth its argument for funding these educational programs. CDC stated that "the current lack of therapeutic or vaccine methods to control the spread of HTLV-III/LAV virus infection and AIDS requires the promotion of sexual and lifestyle behaviors for individuals to reduce their risk of acquiring and spreading the virus [author's emphasis]. Behavioral science research suggests that expecting people to permanently alter any set of behaviors affecting their health is unrealistic unless the educational message provides acceptable alternatives to the behavior creating the risk. Consequently, AIDS risk reduction efforts have focused on the promotion of responsible sex practices for individuals, such as gay and bisexual men, for whom sexual activity is an important factor of risk in acquiring or spreading HTLV-III/LAV" (CDC, 12/23/85).

It is encouraging to note that one branch of this anti-sex education administration has realized the value of education and even has asked for proposals from sexuality professionals in an attempt to halt the spread of this health problem. Indeed, CDC goes on to enunciate a rationale that many sex educators could adopt for encouraging development of other sex education programs: "The adoption of 'safer sex' practices is a practical concept of AIDS risk reduction and is being suggested as a strategy intended to minimize the spread of HTLV-III/LAV infection among sexually active individuals, including gay and bisexual men. Implementing programs to promote a 'safer sex' risk reduction strategy may involve supporting the communication of suggestions using candid terms, some of which may provoke criticism in society" (CDC, 12/23/85).

CDC seems to be acknowledging that many of the practices of this sub-group of the population may not be understood or even acceptable to the majority of the national public. This seems a logical conclusion, since many Americans view homosexuality as an offensive, unnatural act. Even among the more enlightened of the heterosexual public, the frequency of anal intercourse is vastly lower than in the gay population. Therefore, CDC is absolutely correct in the assumption that there are many intrinsic differences between the groups.

Nevertheless, CDC states that this heterosexual group will be the final judge for evaluating what should be included in these educational programs for the gay population. Their guidelines state: "Such terms or descriptors used should be those which a reasonable person would conclude should be understood by a broad cross section of educated adults in society, or which when used to communicate with a specific group, like gay men about high risk sexual practices, would be judged by a reasonable person to be unoffensive to the most educated adults BEYOND THE GROUP" (CDC, 12/23, 85) [author's emphasis].

CDC then goes on to discuss the importance of not using audiovisual material that may be offensive. They are more explicit in this restriction: "Audiovisual materials and pictorials in addition should communicate risk reduction messages by inference rather than through any display of the anogenous area of the body or overt depiction of the performance of 'safer sex' or 'unsafe sex' practices" (CDC, 12/23/85). One can only surmise that CDC's logic must be that the educational value of "overt depiction" illustrations is not as important as the poten-

tial offensiveness to the populations *beyond the group*, who will never see them!

CDC's requirements state further: "Educational group sessions of any size should avoid activities in which attendees participate in sexually suggestive physical contact or actual sexual practices" (CDC, 12/23/85).

The overseers of these guidelines are a panel of good citizens who are in touch with the "prevailing community standards." This panel "of no less than five persons representing a reasonable cross section of the general community, *not drawn predominantly from the target group*" will review and approve the proposal submissions including all "written materials, pictorials, and audiovisuals and proposed educational group session activities" (CDC, 12/23/85) [author's emphasis]. Dr. Michael Quadland, a respected authority of sex education programs for the gay population, points out "that any government-backed programs directed toward other minorities, such as blacks or Hispanics, is usually administered by a majority of the particular group and that the language used in public education is usually directed toward the target group" (Adkins, 2/10/86)

These guidelines have put sexuality education organizations in a dilemma. They need this funding to develop and conduct safe sex programs, but are ethically strained to tailor their programs to CDC's restrictions. Is it possible that CDC has not heard of the President's firm commitment to preventing

and conquering this disease? Or are the President's public statements examples of what Mark Twain called *petrified truth*?

It is, after all, well known that the President has a strong record of support of policies promoted by those who consider homosexuality a sin against nature. The President's proposed 1986 budget, submitted to Congress, also contradicts his rhetoric. The amount of money now proposed for AIDS research is \$193 million, which represents a 22% cut in spending over the original figure of \$244 million (Weinraub, 2/6/86)!

In this season of shell games, it would be wise to keep in mind what Mark Twain knew: It is almost impossible to win at the old shell game because the dealer usually removes the pea before he begins moving the shells. So whichever shell you pick is always a loser, and the dealer is always in complete command of the game.

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DO YOU KNOW THAT...

Summer Graduate Workshops

Emporia State University, Emporia, KS, is offering a 3-credit course entitled "Sex Education" from June 9-26. For further information, contact: J. Jack Melhorn, PhD, Emporia State University, Sociology Building, Emporia, KS 66801.

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, is offering a course entitled "Chemical Dependency and Family Intimacy Summer Institute" from July 13-18. Graduate credit arranged. For further information, contact: Diane Campbell, Program in Human Sexuality, University of Minnesota, 2630 University SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

Call for Papers

Parenting Studies, the International Society for Research in Parenting and the Eterna International Foundation, is sponsoring a Parenting Symposium on March 26-29, 1987 in Los Angeles, California. Proposals are being sought in the following categories: research papers, model programs, instructional presentations, seminars, panels, and workshops. Proposals must be received by August 1, 1986 to be considered. Mail papers to: Parenting Symposium, P.O. Box 1344, Oak Brook, IL 60522. For more information call: (312) 969-0318.

Homosexuality and Medicine

The Gay Medical Association, in cooperation with the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights and the European Gay Health Care Foundation, is sponsoring the first international conference on homosexuality and medicine on August 14-16 in London, England. For further information, contact: Conference Organisers, Carolling Roney Medical Conference Organisers, 100 Park Road, London, NW1 4RN, England; or call (01) 723-6722.

Sexuality and Disability Training Center

University Hospital in Boston, a teaching hospital of Boston University School of Medicine, serves as a resource and referral center for individuals seeking information on the relationship of physical disability and illness to human sexuality. The center serves the disabled, health care and other professionals, agencies, schools, hospitals, and independent living programs. The center offers psychological and medical services, consultation and inservice education, internships and training, and sexual attitude reassessment (SAR) workshops. For further information, contact: Stanley Ducharme, PhD, Sexuality and Disability Training Center, University Hospital, 75 East Newton Street, Boston, MA 02118.

DO YOU KNOW THAT . . .

Annual Workshop

The Annual Workshop on Sexuality in Cazenovia, NY, is sponsoring a course entitled "Sexuality Education: Building Self-Esteem and Health" on July 7-13. A sexual attitude reassessment (SAR) will be included. For further information, contact: Alison McCain Deming, Annual Workshop on Sexuality, Box 447, Fayetteville, NY 13066.

National Abortion Federation Meeting

The National Abortion Federation will hold its 10th annual meeting entitled "Abortion Providers on the Front Line: Confronting the Challenges, Continuing the Commitment" on June 8-11 at the Hyatt Regency in Kansas City, MO. For further information, contact NAF at (202) 546-9060.

Call for Presenters

Lifestyles '86, the 12th world convention on alternative lifestyles and sexuality, is seeking proposals for its conference to be held on August 15-17, 1986 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Presentations of interest are all aspects of lifestyles and human sexual behavior in contemporary western society. Send proposals to: Robert McGinley, PhD, Lifestyles '86 Program, P.O. Box 7128, Buena Park, CA 90622-7128.

Training on Adolescent Sexual Abuse Prevention

ETR Associates, sponsored by the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, is offering free regional sex education training for 40 school districts throughout the U.S. to prevent sexual abuse of adolescents. For more information contact: Sherry Arndt, ETR Associates, 1700 Mission St., P.O. Box 1830, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-1830, or call (408) 429-9822.

\$1,000 Dissertation Awards

To encourage graduate students to conduct research in the areas of sex behavior, gender, and reproduction, the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction will award prizes of \$1,000 each to as many as three doctoral candidates whose dissertations have been accepted by accredited universities between May 1, 1985 and April 30, 1986. Applications, consisting of a copy of the dissertation, an abstract, and a nominating letter from the student's departmental chairperson must be received at the Institute by August 1, 1986. Please send applications to: June M. Reinisch, Director, Kinsey Institute for Research, 313 Morrison Hall, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405.

New Publication

Clinic News, a new publication that reports on school-based clinics, is an eight-page quarterly that addresses issues such as: how states are supporting SBCs, the role of parents and principals, start-up needs, and on-going community relations. To subscribe, write a check for \$10.00 payable to Support Center for School Based Clinics and send to: Clinic News, Support Center, Suite 1200/1012 14th St., NW, Washington, DC 20005. The regular subscription rate is \$15.00.

Resources to Write for . . .

Anatomy of a Teen Health Conference: A Practical Workbook for Human Service Professionals Working with Teens, by Katherine Whitlock, is a 1985 publication of Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania. The workbook, which was written with years of experience in reproductive health care and sex education, combines both theoretical and practical perspectives. It features worksheets, checklists, sample forms, planning tools, and summaries of what does and does not work and why. Topics covered include teen involvement in conference development, budgets, co-sponsorship and endorsement, publicity, planning committee tasks, program development, parental involvement, and evaluation. This workbook is available for \$8.95 plus \$1.35 p/h from Planned Parenthood, 1220 Sansom Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention: What Parents and Kids Should Know. . . (1984), by Linda Breitbach and Patricia Saeli, is published by the Education Department of Planned Parenthood of Buffalo. It features one-session recommended education programs for parents, preschoolers, and elementary school children. The preschool program includes a puppet skit and cassette tape of two songs designed to make children aware of and assertive about personal body ownership. This 34-page curriculum can be ordered for \$9.95 plus \$3.95 for cassette (p/h included) from Planned Parenthood, 210 Franklin Street, Buffalo, NY 14202.

Adolescent Sex-Offender Treatment Providers and Adult Sex-Offender Treatment Providers (1984) are two publications of the Prison Research Education Action Project (PREAP) coordinated by Fay Honey Knopp. PREAP has identified over 175 treatment providers for adolescents and 185 for adults in 39 states and the District of Columbia, and it will continue to expand these lists in the future. The listings are available for \$3.00 each (incl. p/h) from S.O. Program, c/o PREAP, Shoreham Depot Road, Orwell, VT 05760.

DO YOU KNOW THAT . . .

Resources to Write for . . .

A Preliminary Survey of Adolescent Sex Offenses in New York: Remedies and Recommendations (1984) was written by Irene F. Jackson for the Prison Research Education Action Project, a Safer Society Program of the New York State Council of Churches. This 87-page publication includes a description of characteristics common to adolescent sex offenders, guidelines for assessing the abusive behaviors and providing appropriate interventions, a summary of the goals of an effective treatment program, a description of some methods and components employed by treatment programs, a checklist of community safety risks that should be weighed in selecting nonresidential versus residential treatment, reasons why adolescent sex offenses are underreported, and a discussion of the lack of community-based programs for the early treatment of young sex offenders. Copies are available for \$10.00 (incl. p/h) from Safer Society Press, 3049 East Genesee Street, Syracuse, NY 13224.

Anatomically-Correct Hand Puppets are now available from Teach-A-Bodies, which also produces dolls with accurate sexual anatomy. The puppets can be used in sex education programs and in child abuse counseling and investigations. Child, parent, and grandparent puppets are available in light, medium, and dark colors with hand-painted features and removable clothes. Recommended for ages seven to adult, the puppets can be purchased for \$15.00 each (incl. p/h) from Teach-A-Bodies, 2544 Boyd, Fort Worth, TX 76109.

Fact Sheets (1984 and 1985) with the following titles are available from the Center for Population Options: "Broadcast Media, Teenagers, and Sexuality," "Contraceptive Product Advertising," "Sex Education," "Sexuality Education and Parental Involvement," "Sexuality Education in Developed Countries," and "Teenage Sexuality, Pregnancy and Parenthood." Each is printed on two sides of a legal-sized page and includes references. Single copies are free; 2-9 copies are \$.50 each; bulk rates are available. Order from Center for Population Options, 1012 14th Street, N.W., Suite 1200, Washington, DC 20005.

Venereal Disease Prevention for Everyone, an 18-page pamphlet, was revised in 1985 in its eleventh edition. In addition to information on how to avoid contracting and spreading sexually transmitted diseases, it also describes common STDs, as well as less well known ones. Single copies are available for \$1.00 each and 100 copies for \$20.00 from American Foundation for the Prevention of Venereal Disease, 799 Broadway, Suite 638, New York, NY 10003.

The Gayellow Pages (1986) National Edition No. 14, covering the U.S.A. and Canada, is now available. The publication includes information regarding national organizations and caucuses, gay publications, mail order companies, etc., as well as city by city information. This publication is available for \$10.00 (incl. p/h) from Renaissance House, Box 292, Village Station, New York, NY 10014.

International Feminism: Networking Against Female Sexual Slavery, edited by Kathleen Barry, Charlotte Bunch, and Shirley Castley, is the report of the Global Feminist Workshop to Organize against Traffic in Women held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on April 6-15, 1983. At this conference women from 24 countries formed an International Feminist Network against forced prostitution and other forms of female sexual abuse and called for refugee status for all women attempting to escape from sexual entrapment. To order this 141-page 1984 book, send \$6.00 to The Women's International Tribune Centre, 777 U. N. Plaza, New York, NY 10017.

Coming Out to Your Parents (1984) is a 16-page booklet published by Philadelphia Parents of Gays (POG) for gay men and lesbians. The author, Tom Sauerman, who is the father of a homosexual child identifies six stages of understanding—shock, denial, guilt, anger, personal decision-making, and true acceptance—many parents experience after learning their child is gay. Specific ways in which young adults can assist their parents in each of these stages are suggested, and a list of over 100 parent contact groups in 47 states is provided. For a free single copy send a stamped, self-addressed business envelope to POG, P.O. Box 15711, Philadelphia, PA 19103. Additional copies are priced at \$.25 each or \$20.00 for 100 (incl. p/h).

Working with Teen Parents: A Survey of Promising Approaches, by Holly Delany and Phyllis Nickel, is published by the Family Resource Coalition, a national network promoting the development of community-based prevention programs to strengthen families. This 135-page guide for designing services suggests how to ensure program participation, select volunteers for key roles, build community support for teen services and pregnancy prevention, and coordinate local resources into a comprehensive service delivery system. The authors mention 40 programs that have been successful in helping teens achieve healthy pregnancies, completed education, economic self-sufficiency, and responsible family planning. To order this 1985 book, send \$9.00 (incl. p/h) to Family Resource Coalition, 230 North Michigan Avenue, #1625, Chicago, IL 60601.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Mother Machine: Reproductive Technologies from Artificial Insemination to Artificial Wombs. Gena Corea. New York: Harper and Row, 1985 (374 pp.; \$18.95).

Reviewed by Robert T. Francoeur, Professor of human embryology and sexuality, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Madison, N.J., and author of the college textbooks *Becoming a Sexual Person, full edition (1982) and brief edition (1984)*.

This is the most important, unique, disturbing, and challenging study of human reproductive technologies I have encountered in the 20 years I have devoted to studying the scientific and social aspects of human reproductive technologies.

It is not the usual up-beat hurrah for reproductive technologies, sprinkled with the usual questions of ethics and cautionary notes about possible abuse. It is, instead, a meticulously researched, documented study of the actual development of artificial insemination, *in vitro* fertilization, and embryo transplant technologies from one feminist's viewpoint. It is, at times, abrasively critical of the political games of "double-speak" male researchers play with their female experimental research subjects (read "patients") and the euphoric, near-baseless claims of "no risk" and "expected success" that male researchers make to the press and government review and ethics committees to justify their experiments under the guise of "therapeutics."

In the opening chapters, Corea is abrasive, running the risk of turning off all but the most dedicated male reader. At times I was tempted to write the book off as just another radical feminist diatribe, denouncing males and blaming them for all the evils of our technological culture. Male readers may have to grit their teeth when they read a dozen sentences in sequence, each with the same subject, men, machine-gunned in

typical misandrogenous style. I particularly bristled at the grossly exaggerated, detailed juxtaposition of embryo transfer in cattle and women, and her comparison of woman—the goddess of fertility—with the cow, which denounced the entire male side of the human race for the enslavement of cows 12,000 years ago and for their current patriarchal use of reproductive technologies to exploit human females (pp. 70–72). Male researchers are portrayed as gleeful Draculas leering over their frozen embryos (p. 74). Even the use of reproductive technologies to save endangered animal species is viewed as a cover-up to allow men to continue exploiting and raping the land (pp. 77–78). Ovary bombing (with hormones), superovulation, business, efficiency, monetary value, and inexpensive are new dirty words because they are rooted in male exploitation of all females, bovine or human. Male "pharmacrats" are enslavers who use modern pharmaceuticals (hormones) to enslave women. Whether the author intended it, or not, the implication is that FARMing and PHARMaceutical medicine are just two different faces of the same patriarchal slave-holding mentality. Suggestions of limiting reproductive rights to resolve overpopulation or using artificial insemination with donor semen to avoid genetic diseases are dismissed as attempts to control women (p. 129).

I detail the abrasive side of this book, not to vent my feelings, but to urge males, who really should hear Corea's whole case, not to let themselves be put off by her strong emotions.

The Mother Machine is the most detailed history of reproductive technologies yet available. (A few areas are dated, i.e., Chapter 2 ends with 1981.) More important, however, are salient, often pungent quotes from many personal conversations the author had with researchers worldwide, from their technical publications, and from the women who are both beneficiaries and guinea

pigs of the new technologies. Corea weaves these quotations together into some of the most damning charges of unethical maneuverings and politicking I have encountered. Repeatedly, Corea shows how many ob/gyns have put aside their medical, therapeutic (healing) ethos for the mores of not too scrupulous researchers driven by some demiurge (p. 101). Her interviews reveal the constant use of healing language by physicians and hospitals seeking the right PR phase to disguise pure experimentation, hidden social control, the profit motive, and glory seeking. "Human embryo transfer is a business. Any business has a strong motivation to create and continually expand a market for its product or service (p. 95)." Chicago's Dr. Richard Seed admits, "I don't mind telling you that I expect to get the Nobel Prize" by 1988 for his 1983 success in achieving the first human pregnancy through embryo transfer and his current attempts to make a postmenopausal woman pregnant! It may be economically advantageous to be able to harvest eggs from a prepubertal calf—Corea objects to this—but is there any medical justification or healing involved in a postmenopausal woman being pregnant?

When infertility is pictured as a disease and relieving the plight of childless women held up as a justification for federal funding and approval of all kinds of experiments, Corea's juxtaposed quotes make one pause and think again about the image of this research presented by the media. When the government refused funding for experimenting with humans because there was no supporting animal research or models, the researchers ignored the experimental risks and stressed the desire of sterile couples to have families. In the argument for government approval or funding, they ignored the psychological desperation of sterile women, whose identity as childbearers drives them to pay fees in order to be part of a very experimental

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program in the blind hope that the "therapy" will solve their problem, even though the success rate was and still is very low.

Corea raises many other challenging problems and issues. But she also proposes a reasonable and realistic two-step remedy. The first step, the formation in 1984 of the Feminist International Network on the New Reproductive Technologies, with 542 women from 14 countries monitoring developments in artificial insemination, gamete storage, sex predetermination, embryo transfers, and animal/human hybrids, is already functioning. The second step involves raising the public consciousness about this research, its social impacts, and its consequences for women and men. This will require a breakthrough similar to that of the environmental revolution of the 60s and 70s. Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* triggered the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency as an independent monitor of the industries previously regulated by the Department of Agriculture, which had built-in self-interests that kept the DA from objectively evaluating the dangers of pesticides. The medical business cannot objectively evaluate and regulate its own work. Professionally planned, managed, and marketed In-Vitro Fertilization centers have catapulted the obstetric-gynecologic community into the medical industrial complex. Corea rightly maintains that the health and well-being of women is best defended, not by the male-dominated ob/gyn researchers, but by women themselves, by those consumers who are supposed to benefit from this new "medibusiness." *The Mother Machine* will open any reader's eyes to some truly new perspectives and issues that are emerging as we adjust to the revolution of reproductive technologies. **A, PR**

45—And Single Again. Mildred Hope Witkin, with Burton Lehrenbaum. New York: Dembner Books, 1985 (204 pp.; \$15.95).

Reviewed by Jane Porcino, PhD, Associate Professor, School of Allied Health, Health Sciences Center, State University of New York, Stony Brook, N.Y.

45—And Single Again was a pleasure to review and is a pleasure to recommend, not only to those in the "second half" of life who are single, but also to those in long-term marriages. This book is a

refreshingly candid approach to sex, love, and relationships. It offers many practical solutions to the difficulties arising in relationships for people in their middle and later years.

Dr. Mildred Hope Witkin studied with Dr. Helen Kaplan, who wrote the foreword to the book. She has been a private family and sex therapist for over 20 years. Her personal life also uniquely qualifies her to speak out about love and sexuality in midlife and beyond: she is over 45, divorced, and happily remarried.

The book provides a wealth of information for the 45-year-old and over, single person, who has lost a mate through divorce or death and is going through the trauma of being suddenly single again. Dr. Witkin writes that most people (two or three years after their loss) experience their world and themselves "coming together again." At this time they are ready to take control over their own lives, but all too often experience "reentry shock." They discover that although being single and 45 (or over) is acceptable in today's society, their sexuality is presumed lost along with their spouses. They are given a double message: you are too old for sex, shouldn't

want it, are laughable for seeking it, but sex is rejuvenating and enjoyable for anyone, at any age.

The book contains a unique section on the pros and cons of meeting people through singles' bars, dances and clubs, classified ads, and dating services. The author advises, "Approach new people with an attitude of exploration . . . go where it's fun, interesting for you, and where there are congenial people."

45—And Single Again describes the psychological changes in the aging body and deals with, straightforwardly, how to tell a potential partner about a mastectomy, prostate troubles, impotence, or a colostomy. This section ends with the following. "In sexual terms, we human beings are lucky. Women and men are capable of giving each other sensual, sexual pleasure in so many different ways that none of us need feel deficient if some of those ways seemed barred to us. . . . With knowledge, sensitivity, and creativity—there is enough for all.

The chapters "What Went Wrong," "Communication, Relaxation, and Self Responsibility," and "The Thrill Is Gone" are applicable to all people aged 45 and over, married as well as single. These chapters include discussion of such techniques as "sensate focus" and the "Witkin Shower," which can be used to overcome impotence and other sexual problems. One chapter, "Before Divorcing," offers some practical advice about dealing with a marriage that is stifling. What makes a relationship work, according to Helen Witkin, is three things: communication, relaxation (if we trust someone, we can be open to them), and self responsibility. All must be present. We can't automatically know what any other person wants, feels, hopes, and dreams. Because we're not mind readers, we must tell each other what we want.

Dr. Witkin is a firm believer of ardor and passion in the later years: ". . . that vibrant focusing of energy outwards. The way not to grow old any faster than we must, the way not to grow ill, or sour, or dependent, or fearful, or resentful, or disparaging, or sarcastic, or isolated, or despairing before our time . . . is to keep our sense of passion alive, to 'be in love.'" This passion is not limited to sex, but we can also grow passionately excited about the world—"rejoining the dance of life." We need to summon up our courage to find the treasures that await all of us in this world—regardless of our age. **A**

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I Wish My Parents Understood: A Report on the Teenage Female. Lesley J. Nonkin. New York: Freundlich Books, 1985 (274 pp.; \$14.95).

GirlTalk: All the Stuff Your Sister Never Told You. Carol Weston. New York: Barnes & Noble Books, 1985 (288 pp.; \$5.95).

Reviewed by Dolores Wisdom, Project Director, Girls Clubs of America, Inc., National Resource Center, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Targeted at parents, teachers, and baffled boys, *I Wish My Parents Understood* is, in the author's view, "data-based" research on teenage relationships and an "intimate journalistic exploration into the hearts and minds of teenage girls in America." Distinguishing five categories of today's female teens—20th century fast-trackers, sweet southern belles, modern traditionalists, super-sonic daters and strong individualists—Nonkin presents some interesting information on teenage romance. A variety of topics are touched upon, including success, virginity, peer pressure, and parent/teen conflict; but the book's main focus is on what teenage girls think about the male sex.

Though some may find this an intimate journalistic exploration, none could claim this is serious research on girls' special and, more pressing, needs. Based on interviews conducted with select respondents to a *TeenAge Magazine* survey (how many we're not told), the author's findings shed no light on an old subject, and occasionally confirms previous research found in numerous existing reports and magazine articles. Incredibly, the report provides no background data on the research basis—surveys and interviews—including when administered and population demographics. What's not so incredible is that parents, teachers and yes, baffled boys, will find *I Wish My Parents Understood* understandingly boring. **ET, P, PR**

Written in a non-judgmental, here-are-the-facts style, *GirlTalk* provides teenaged-girls with an encyclopedia of information on subjects ranging from sexuality to body image and health-care to choosing a college. Author, Carol Weston, eases parent-approved values into the work (don't do drugs, if practicing sex, practice contraception) without turning off the teen reader. There's

enough useful information that teens, if they take the author's advice to browse through selected chapters rather than trying to read the book cover-to-cover, will find *GirlTalk* a welcome addition to the limited library of good teen resource publications.

Somewhat disappointing is the book's visual appearance. Written for teens, aged twelve and up, it might have been more effective to break up the overbearing textbook copy with photographs, diagrams, etc., as implied by the cover. Also, the reading level may be too difficult for some teens. Despite these drawbacks, *GirlTalk* is one of those publications that adult women wish they had had back then. **ET, LT, P**

Anxious Pleasures: The Sexual Lives of an Amazonian People. Thomas Gregor. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1985 (223 pp.; \$19.95).

Reviewed by W. J. Gadpaille, MD, Clinical Associate Professor, Dept. of Psychiatry, University of Colorado Mental Health Center, Denver, CO; private psychoanalyst; and author of The Cycles of Sex.

This slender but informative and well-documented volume is more than descriptive ethnography. It is another in the growing number of corrective studies that can help create a long overdue balance to the nature/nurture controversy in cultural anthropology. In the early part of this century, all kinds of intellectual atrocities were proposed in the belief that all aspects of behavior and personality were genetically and/or constitutionally determined. The extremes of this position were so manifestly absurd to informed anthropologists that many set out specifically to disprove it. The zeal, and in some instances the misinformation of some of them, led to overinterpretation, misinterpretation, and perhaps even some skewing of the data. But such was their reputation and impact on the scientific community—among them such influential figures as Malinowski, Boas, Mead, Benedict—that they produced a complete swing. Nurture became all, nature nothing, and the theory of complete cultural determinism became the reigning truth.

Its extremes are equally absurd, and there have always been those who winced at any all-or-nothing perception of reality. It is only relatively recently, however, that scholarly and scrupulous appraisals, sometimes reappraisals, of

previous and emerging data are beginning to have an effect on the scientific community as a whole in restoring some perspective to the inevitable interaction of both the innate and the learned in the shaping of individuals and cultures. An early voice in this wilderness was W. LaBarre's *The Human Animal*. More recently, D. Symon's *The Evolution of Human Sexuality*, D. Freeman's *Margaret Mead and Samoa*, and M. Spiro's *Oedipus in the Trobriands* come especially to mind, and a brilliant multidisciplinary overview is provided in M. Konner's *The Tangled Wing*.

Anxious Pleasures is a fairly straightforward sexual ethnography of a small, centrally-located Brazilian tribe, the Mehinaku. Their society is highly and overtly sexualized both in everyday behavior, which includes nearly universal and societally sanctioned extramarital affairs, and in the sexual preoccupations of their myths and rituals. Despite their seemingly free sexual behavior, Mehinaku sexuality—especially that of the men—is fraught with anxieties, fearful beliefs, and defensive practices that the anthropologically knowledgeable will recognize to be widely shared throughout the world by the most disparate seeming cultures.

Gregor explores in detail Mehinaku male/female relationships, childrearing practices, sexual behavior and beliefs, and nonsexual behaviors that Mehinaku belief systems associate with sexuality, myths, dreams, and rituals. The author's understanding of the data is informed with the knowledge that no practice or concept exists without having a reason and meaning to be the participant(s). However, he is careful to document every interpretation of psychological meaning with specific, overtly corroborative ethnographic data.

Gregor does not attempt extensive cross-cultural comparisons in this work. Though he discusses this very generally in the introduction and draws some specific parallels with contemporary American (male) culture in the final chapter, he leaves the potential flood of comparative parallels to the reader. For this reason, *Anxious Pleasures* may not have so much broad reader appeal, but rather serves as a rather elegant piece in the much larger jigsaw puzzle of the shared biopsychological determinants of human behavior and human cultures. However, it is well written, well documented, and well reasoned, and can be confidently recommended to those with interests in this area of knowledge. **A, PR**

AUDIO-VISUAL REVIEWS

Members of the Audio-Visual Review Panel for this issue were: Carmen Reyes Aviles, MSED, Community Family Planning Council, New York City; Joan Bardach, PhD, clinical professor of Rehabilitation Medicine (Psychology), and supervisor, Postdoctoral Program in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy, New York University; Patti Britton, Department of Education, Planning Parenthood Federation of America; Rita Cotterly, graduate assistant, SIECUS Information Service and Mary S. Calderone Library, and doctoral candidate, Human Sexuality Program, New York University; Marianne Glasel, RN, MS, education coordinator for Cancer Prevention and Sexual Health Care, Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and student, Human Sexuality Program, New York University; Leigh Hallingby, manager, SIECUS Information Service and Mary S. Calderone Library; Jean Levitan, PhD, assistant professor, Health Science, William Paterson College, Wayne, NJ; Maria Matthews, health educator, Planned Parenthood of Bergen County, Hackensack, NJ; Valerie Pinhas, PhD, CSW, CAC, associate professor of Health Education, Nassau Community College, Garden City, NY; Linda Schwarz, Department of Education, Planned Parenthood Federation of America; Jan Sola, PhD, program consultant, National Board of the YWCA of the USA; Jill Tabbutt, program consultant, National Board of the YWCA and student, Human Sexuality Program, New York University. The reviews were written by Leigh Hallingby.

Love Skills 1985, 57 min., 1/2" video or Beta. Purchase, \$39.95. Available in home video stores.

This is one of the first "sexual enhancement" videos available to the home market, and the first of its genre screened by the SIECUS Audio-Visual

Review Panel. Being a group of professionals accustomed to screening audio-visuals for formal education, we had to alter our mindsets to living rooms and bedrooms where there will be no "facilitator" available. From this vantage point, we liked much of what we heard but little of what we saw.

On the plus side, *Love Skills* incorporates many good messages including: the notion that sex does not just "come naturally" and that being a good lover has to be learned and worked at; an emphasis on foreplay even to the point of leaving out intercourse altogether; information on a variety of sexual positions; techniques for sexual massage; the importance of becoming familiar with one's body, every inch of which is capable of exquisite sensual feeling; permission to talk about and act out sexual fantasies; warnings about prudent use of alcohol; and some information about common sexual dysfunctions and such palliative measures as the "squeeze technique."

On the negative side are visuals which, although erotic and technically superb, are limited to showing men and women with health club bodies making love in idealized (and expensive) settings, like a luxurious bathtub surrounded by candles. There is also a heterosexist attitude, in that homosexuality is portrayed only as a fantasy—and as a sexist one at that of one man watching two women. The section about "impotence" was colored by the use of that term and the statement that it is usually psychologically caused. Information on contraception was completely lacking.

The credits for *Love Skills* list an all-star group of consultants, including Carol Cassell, Harold Lief, Domeena Renshaw, and Barbara Whitney. The impression is that their consultation was limited to the script and the question is whether the good information and advice, which they no doubt influenced,

will be overshadowed by the visuals, which seem to have been left to the makers of "soft porn." It is the opinion of the majority of the panel that *Love Skills* is nevertheless recommended for the adult home video market. Despite its drawbacks, it has many good messages which many people may not be getting elsewhere. **A**

A Million Teenagers 1985, 4th edition, 23 min., 16mm or video. Purchase \$465 (16mm), \$235 (video); rental, \$40. Churchill Films, 662 North Robertson Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90069-9990; (213) 657-5110.

This is the successor to *A Half Million Teenagers . . . Plus*. As before, the film explains the physiology of sexually transmitted diseases, in addition to transmission, symptoms, treatment, and serious ramifications. The original animation on gonorrhea has been retained, while the section on syphilis has been abbreviated. Newly added, are sections on herpes, chlamydia and its sequelae of pelvic inflammatory disease and nongonococcal urethritis, and AIDS.

Information is presented in three ways: by teens (representing a good multi-cultural cross-section) talking straight on to the camera about their experiences with sexually transmitted diseases; by dramatized vignettes, such as a young man going to a physician to be treated for gonorrhea; and by graphics and photography. The method of using teens to talk to other teens is a credible, appealing, and highly successful technique, which the panel applauded along with much of the information that was presented.

However, there were three significant problems with this film. First, it does not include information on correct use of the condom. Second, it does not inform adolescents that STDs can be transmit-

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ted by oral or anal sex. Third, the film ends poorly with a true-false quiz in which the questions are not answered, and the audience is left hanging.

Despite these unfortunate drawbacks, the panel recommends *A Million Teenagers* to early and late teens. However, it is essential that it be shown by a facilitator who can add the important facts which the film leaves out. **ET, LT**

Where Did I Come From? 1985, 30 min., video. Purchase, \$29.95. Available in home video stores. Also available in Spanish.

This animated video is based on the well-known 1973 book of the same name, and, Peter Mayle, the book's author, wrote the script. Designed for parents and their young children to watch together at home, *Where Did I Come From?* tells the story of how babies are born. It begins with a wonderful review by children from all over the world of all the myths about where babies come from. It then goes on to tell the true story, including sexual intercourse, orgasm, conception, fetal development, and birth. Correct names, such as penis and vagina, are used for the parts of the body. Part of the love-making scene is illustrated by the use of animal characters from the quilt on the parents' bed.

The panel found the video overall to be delightful, fun, and technically superb. We did, however, find a number of points to criticize. For instance, the video gives the impression that procreation is the purpose of lovemaking. We did not care for the author's describing ejaculation as a tidal wave, showing great exhaustion after intercourse and having the mother go to the hospital in an ambulance, leaving the father standing in the street (although he is later shown at the hospital for the delivery). Furthermore, there seemed to be some anti-abortion ammunition, such as references to the fetus in utero as a "baby" or "person" or "unborn life."

Despite these reservations, however, the panel definitely recommends *Where Did I Come From* to be used by parents and children in the home, as well as in classrooms, PTA meetings, and teacher training programs. It is humorous, age appropriate, warm, and appealing, and it definitely makes learning about sex fun for the whole family. The

fact that it is also available in Spanish is a wonderful plus. **C, P, PR**

Wierded Out and Blown Away. 1985, 43 min., 16mm or video. Purchase, \$900 (16mm), \$400 (video); rental, \$50. Greytak Productions, 85 Eighth Avenue, Suite 2K, New York, NY 10011; 212-243-1228.

This documentary film intercuts segments of interviews with five people who have physical disabilities: Anne Finger, a writer who had polio; Mark Gash, a painter with brittle bone disease; Sharon Greytak, a film-maker (of this film, among others) with rheumatoid arthritis; Clark Middleton, an actor, also with rheumatoid arthritis; and Harilyn Rousso, a psychotherapist who has cerebral palsy. They talk, in response to questions asked by an off-camera interviewer, about their socialization, body images, emotional lives, professional selves, interpersonal relationships, and, to some degree, sexuality.

Many fascinating points for discussion come up in the process of the film. For instance, Ms. Rousso relates the pain of

feeling like a 12-year-old at age 26 due to her asexual socialization. She also articulates a hierarchy of disabilities in terms of their "social acceptance" ranging from diseases of white middle-class men, such as heart attacks and ulcers, down to cerebral palsy and mental retardation. The film-maker talks about how dressing fashionably creates cognitive dissonance with society's impression of the disabled. The actor is angry, arrogant, and uncooperative; a marked contrast to the stereotype of the noble hero triumphing over his condition.

The panel's major complaint about *Weirded Out* . . . was the off-camera interviewing technique, in which the disembodied voice was lower in volume and difficult to understand. They would have preferred instead that the film-maker had had the interviewees repeat the questions. Otherwise, however, we found the film to be provocative and consciousness-raising and recommended it for consumer and professional audiences from late teens up. It offers a window into the range of emotions experienced by disabled people and thereby reveals a common ground shared with many able-bodied people. Because there is so much material in it, one productive educational technique might be to assign various members of the audience to follow one particular person throughout the film. **LT, A, PR**

Postponing Sexual Involvement: An Education Series for Young Teens. 1984. Set includes 71 page leader's guide, 29 slides, and cassette tape. Purchase, \$40. Emory/Grady Teen Services Program, Grady Memorial Hospital, 80 Butler Street, S.E., Atlanta, GA 30335; (404) 588-4204.

Postponing Sexual Involvement is oriented toward reducing adolescent pregnancy by reducing the number of teens who are sexually active. The curriculum, designed for adolescents between the ages of 12 and 16, is to be presented in three sessions: the first on social pressures, such as the media, influencing sexual behavior; the second on peer pressures; and the third on assertive responses which can be used to avoid sexual involvement. A reinforcement session is to be given three months after the original series. A separate parent guide can be used to help parents understand the pressures on teens and assist them in reinforcing what their children learn.

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It was with great anticipation that the panel approached the audio-visual portion of the much-publicized curriculum. We could hardly have been more disappointed! Among the problems were unattractive graphics, poor photography, bad script, and a poor match between slides and script. For instance, one photograph of a supposedly romantic couple on a couch looks as if one person is about to strike the other. In one graphic a teen couple is shown skipping over stones which say "decisions," and yet there is nothing in the script for that slide about decisions; this is in fact not a curriculum which teaches decision-making. Another slide shows a graphic progression of phases of sexual involvement in a relationship on a flight of stairs, with increasing sexual involvement going down. The progression is "give friendly looks and smiles, hold hands, put arms around, hug and kiss, explore above waist, explore below waist, and have sex." Thus, having sex is seen on the bottom step as the lowest point in a relationship.

Although we did not object to the curriculum's basic premise that it is good for teens to postpone sexual involvement, we frequently objected to the way that that message was presented. For instance, a sentence such as "More and more grown-ups are finding they can't

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Joan L. Bardach Ph.D., Project Director
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... Choices is a film which can be used time and time again in rehabilitation facilities human sexuality programs and in any group where issues of sexual interaction and adjustment to a disability are being discussed. If both parts cannot be purchased, Part 1 is a tremendously good discussion starter and should not be missed. . . .

Pam Boyle, Coordinator: Reproductive Health and Disabilities Program of the Margaret Sanger Center of Planned Parenthood. NYC.



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have a baby because of infections they got from having sex as teens" seems like pure scare tactics. Responsible use of birth control is discounted by saying that "even if teens use birth control, they are risking a pregnancy [because] no method of birth control is 100% effective."

For all these reasons, it was the unanimous opinion of the SIECUS Audio-visual Review Panel that the audio-visual portion of *Postponing Sexual Involvement* cannot be recommended for any audience. We wondered about the rest of the curriculum and therefore asked one of the panel members to read it in its entirety and report back. Her conclusions were again negative: "The program seems to be cognitively geared with little emphasis on: a positive attitude toward sex; understanding of one's body changes and emotions; developing a confident, 'fun' relationship with the opposite sex; developing ethical concepts other than 'no'; and developing an awareness and acceptance of people's needs, responsibilities and differences. . . . The assertiveness skills and the right to say 'no' should be incorporated into a larger, more comprehensive, and integrated program. Used by themselves, they raise more questions, doubts, and problems than they answer."

SIECUS is affiliated with the Department of Health Education of the School of Education, Health, Nursing, and Arts Professions of New York University.

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