

ADOLESCENT SEXUALITY IN CONTEMPORARY AMERICA: THREE REVIEWS

by Alan P. Bell, Ph.D., Carlfred B. Broderick, Ph.D., and Sadjia Goldsmith, M.D., M.P.H.*

Adolescent Sexuality in Contemporary America. Robert C. Sorensen. New York, NY: World Publishing Co., 1973. (549 pp.; \$20).

["The Sorensen Report" has received much attention from professionals in human sexuality and from the media, for being a much-needed study of adolescent sexuality in America. Because of the potential importance of such a study to all those concerned with sexuality and sex education, we offer reviews by three highly regarded professionals who examine the value, validity and scope of this book. Each reviewer has approached the "Sorensen Report" from the standpoint of his or her professional concerns and expertise—Ed.]

Reviewed by Alan P. Bell, Ph.D.

I opened my review copy of the "Sorensen Report" with considerable anticipation. Questions about adolescent sexuality had been dancing around in my head for quite a spell, and a book of this size held out the promise of perhaps more than I had a right to expect: a better handle on the vicissitudes of adolescent sexual behavior; a clarification of those factors which might account for whatever changes occur between early and late adolescence; an identification not only of the differences among teenagers in the ways they manage their sexuality, but also of whatever might be responsible for those differences; and finally, a delineation of those factors which influence the sexual attitudes of young people, as well as the relationship between such attitudes and the ways in which they conduct their sexual lives. I had

(and still have) the feeling that the data were there, and I hung on in the belief that a relatively clear picture would emerge. When it did not, I re-read the book, pored over the tables an endless number of times, and finally ended up wishing the author had not made it so difficult for me to get a better sense of his data.

My concerns began with the description of his "random sample." Despite the assurances of his sampling consultant, the fact is that the majority of his 839 case "sample frame" refused to cooperate. Even if his sample did closely resemble the total sample frame on certain demographic characteristics (not entirely the case, since cooperation rates were higher in the Northeast than in the Midwest, and among those residing in large metropolitan areas as well as those with lower incomes), this would not alter the fact that the interviews required parental permission. Does a serious bias of this kind, not necessarily reflected in the demographic variables, destroy any claim to a representative sample? I would expect that a parent who gives permission for a son or daughter to be interviewed with regard to sexual matters is more sexually permissive than the parent who does not, and that an adolescent sample generated by such selection procedures will be of a somewhat different breed than one obtained through different procedures. In a study of this kind, it may be impossible to obtain a truly representative sample of minors. This concerns me less, however, than the author's failure to speak frankly to this issue and his naive insistence that his findings apply to adolescents everywhere in the United States.

My next concern has to do with the nature of the author's inquiry and his method of presenting the extraordinary amount of data provided by the more than 500 different items on his questionnaire. First and foremost, I was disappointed by the lack of any theoretical base from which to view the myriad findings. The statistics may show how many adolescents currently do or do not think this or that, but they fail to shed light on the relationship between adolescent sexuality and those more enduring social and psychological processes which might help us reach a greater understanding of the adolescent experience, both now and in the future. Like all such tabulations, Sorensen's will, before too long, be out of date. At the very least, I wish the author had employed some kind of strategy to reduce the number

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SPEAKING OUT

It is evident that the Federal government is moving, as President Nixon promised, to do away with the "permissive society." In particular, three recent Federal efforts have begun to tighten the noose around "obscene materials." First, the Justice Department funded a special project to investigate how best to help local prosecutors enforce the obscenity statutes currently on the law books (reported in the *SIECUS Report*, July, 1973). Next came the Administration's proposal for the codification of Federal criminal laws, "The Criminal Code Reform Act of 1973" (S 1400), now being considered by the Senate Subcommittee on Criminal Laws and Procedures, one section of which concerns "Disseminating Obscene Material." Most recently, the United States Supreme Court handed down decisions in five cases, setting new guidelines for defining and prosecuting "obscenity."

Because of the implications these actions will have for professionals working in the field of sexuality, the contents of the proposed Federal Legislation and of the Supreme Court decisions are here briefly summarized:

The Criminal Code Reform Act of 1973 (S 1400)

Section 1851 of this bill, "Disseminating Obscene Material," provides a specific and narrow definition of obscenity, including as "obscene": "(A) an explicit representation, or detailed written or verbal description of an act of sexual intercourse, including genital-genital, anal-genital, or oral-genital intercourse, whether between human beings or between a human being and an animal, or of flagellation, torture, or other violence indicating a sadomasochistic relationship; (B) an explicit, close-up representation of a human genital organ; (C) a device designed and marketed as useful primarily for stimulation of the human genital organs; and (D) an advertisement, notice, announcement, or other method by which information is given as to the manner in which any of the materials described [above] may be procured" unless this representation, device, or advertisement "constitutes a minor portion of the whole product of which it is a part, it is reasonably necessary and appropriate to the integrity of the product as a whole to fulfill an artistic, scientific, or literary purpose, and is not included primarily to stimulate prurient interest."

The only acceptable defenses to prosecution under this statute, violation of which would lead to three years in a Federal prison, are that the dissemination of the material was restricted to persons "associated with an institution of higher learning . . . teaching or pursuing a course of study related to such material;" or persons "whose receipt of such material was authorized in writing by a licensed medical practitioner or psychiatrist."

It should be noted that under the foregoing definitions, most text books, charts, and audio-visual materials disseminated to other than college and graduate, professional audiences may come under attack. The use of explicit materials in educational programs in sexuality not affiliated with a college or university, and in sexual therapy not conducted

specifically by a member of the medical profession, would be equally vulnerable to prosecution.

Supreme Court Decisions

In the majority opinion of the five-four divided court, Chief Justice Burger reaffirmed the Court's position that "obscene material" is not protected by the Constitution and indicated that the definition of "obscene material" is restricted to "works which depict or describe sexual conduct," and that "the conduct must be specifically defined by the applicable state law, as written or authoritatively construed."

To determine if a specific item is "obscene," the Court established the following guidelines: "(a) whether 'the average person, applying contemporary community standards' would find that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest; (b) whether the work depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by the applicable state law, and (c) whether the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value." Rejecting the "utterly without redeeming social value" test propounded in earlier Supreme Court decisions, the Court gave examples of the kinds of conduct which could be prohibited: "patently offensive representations or descriptions of ultimate sexual acts, normal or perverted, actual or simulated . . . patently offensive representations or descriptions of masturbation, excretory functions and the lewd exhibition of the genitals." The Court also rejected the concept of a national standard, indicating that what appeals to the "prurient interest" or what is "patently offensive" must be determined locally, not specifying if this is to be at the state, county, or municipal level.

Dismissing the contention that state laws prohibiting

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of variables he had to work with, and had indicated the relationships that might have been found among this smaller number of composite measures, a strategy that might have permitted one to see the forest as well as the trees.

Other regrets include the author's surprising omission of the N's and No Answers in the tables, the levels of significance for the percentage differences which are reported, and, above all, his use of ambiguous questions. For instance, when the respondents are asked to report their perceptions of their parents, we are not told *which* parent the respondent has in mind. Too many questions are double-barrelled, making a negative response difficult to interpret. For example, if a *false* response is given to an item such as, "I think my parents' ideas about sex are wrong, but they have a right to their own opinions," does it mean the respondent believes that his parents' ideas are right or that they do *not* have a right to their own opinions? Even the sequence of questions is not clear. For instance, were only those adolescents who do not use contraceptives asked to respond to the statement, "I don't use birth control pills or other contraceptives, because my parents might find them"? If all the adolescents responded, then the *false* answers are highly ambiguous.

As to the unstructured interviews, while I found the author's use of comments generated from these refreshing, the fact that they came from an entirely different sample and that they may not even have represented the other sample's views made me question their use or usefulness. In some instances I even had the impression that he might be using certain comments to support a bias of his own.

However, my most serious objections to the study pertain to the author's use of an adolescent sexual typology, in which comparisons are made between the "sexually inexperienced," the "sexual beginner," the "monogamist," and the "adventurer" with respect to their attitudes towards parents, religion, birth control, sexual relationships, etc. Unfortunately, a most interesting opportunity was lost here because the author did not apply certain necessary statistical controls in his analysis. Since the groups differ in age (for example, 78% of the "sexually inexperienced" are between the ages of 13 and 15, while an even larger percentage of the "monogamists" are between 16 and 19 years of age) and in the proportion of males to females (the "monogamists" are composed of almost twice as many females as males, while there are four times as many males as females among the "adventurers"), it is simply impossible to tell whether the differences reported between the various groups are related to different sexual patterns or are simply functions of age and/or sex (male vs. female) and/or any other uncontrolled variables.

Given the deficiencies mentioned, reinforced by twelve pages of my notes recording additional questions and concerns, this reviewer is forced to question the author's description of his work as "an important first step in obtaining the kinds of information . . . that . . . can lead to greater insight into . . . adolescent sexuality." However, if my frustration is more evident in this review than is my appreciation for the author's motives and for his attempt to do what he did, I only hope that he will understand and perhaps be inspired to return to what I remain convinced is a goldmine of information and come up with the nuggets that remain buried there.

Every experienced researcher knows that ideal studies occur only in textbooks and that in the real world one must make compromises between the ideal and the possible in order to achieve any difficult goal. Trying to get reliable information on the sexual attitudes and behaviors of a representative sample of American youth is a challenging and forbidding task at best, fraught with extraordinary difficulties of several kinds. Perhaps the only fair way to evaluate "The Sorensen Report," which describes the results of such an effort, is to examine a few of the major challenges and how they were dealt with by Sorensen and his colleagues.

Challenge #1: To gain access to a representative sample of 13 to 19 year olds.

Strategy Chosen:

Step 1: Let a national survey organization choose 2,042 households from 200 residential areas scattered throughout the U.S.

Step 2: Identify all 13 to 19 year olds within these households. Base sample=839.

Step 3: Obtain parental consent from as many as possible (60%), leaving 508.

Step 4: Obtain data from as many of these 508 as possible (77%) leaving a remaining sample of 393 (47% of the original sample).

Step 5: Supplement this sample with 18 adolescents not living at home or at school (runaways, etc.), for a final working sample of 411.

Advantages. The sample is likely to include more young people who deviate from the usual in-school or in-church sample than most studies. No regional biases are likely to intrude. Also, the family's right to privacy was respected through use of parental permission forms.

Disadvantages. There is every reason to suppose that the 436 dropped from the original sample include a disproportionate number of sexually conservative families who do not want their teenage children interviewed on sexual matters without knowing anything about the way the questionnaire is slanted or the exact content of the questions.

The surveyors point out that the original sample does not differ from the eventual sample "in any measurable criteria" [p. 22] (i.e., sex, age, geographic region, locality size, race, income, or size of household). Unhappily, it is not particularly relevant that they were alike in these ways if there was systematic selectivity on the basis of sexual conservatism. Thus, all of the discussions of sampling tolerance, for example, are meaningless since they assume no such bias.

Challenge #2: To find a method for eliciting from the ultimate sample full and honest responses about their sexual attitudes and behaviors.

Strategy Chosen:

Step 1: Develop a self-administered questionnaire through semi-structured interviewing of an accidental sample of about 200 teenagers.

Step 2: Send this questionnaire with a trained survey worker who waits to collect it or, if the subject wishes, will accompany him or her to the nearest mailbox, where the subject may mail it himself.

WHERE THE ACTION IS

COURT UPHOLDS SCHOOL SEX EDUCATION BUT REQUIRES PARENTAL APPROVAL AND TEACHER TRAINING

While upholding the constitutional right of a state to permit sex education in its public schools, the Livingston County (Michigan) Circuit Court ruled that parents must give prior approval for their children's enrollment in sex education programs, and that teachers of such programs must receive special training in the field.

The class action suit was brought by Hays and Vi Hobolth, seeking to enjoin the Howell, Michigan, public school sex education program, claiming that it denied parents their rights to due process under the Fourteenth Amendment and freedom of religion under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. In upholding the constitutionality of public school sex education programs, however, the court granted two concessions to groups fighting sex education: it ruled that "there must be positive permission from the parents" before a child can be enrolled in a sex education program, thereby nullifying the widespread practice of automatically enrolling students in sex education courses unless parents signed and returned "withdrawal slips." Also, having learned that the sex education teachers had received no special training in the field, the court ordered that "such practice of using unqualified, untrained teachers as sex education instructors must be terminated immediately."

With the financial assistance of Defenders of Essential Rights (DOER) a national interfaith organization which supports cases involving parental rights, the Hobolths are planning to appeal this decision in continuing attempts to stop public school sex education programs entirely.

NOW FIVE STATES LICENSE MARRIAGE COUNSELORS

The Governors of Utah and Nevada have signed into law regulations for the conduct of marriage and family counseling, including a definition of who is entitled to call him or herself

a marriage or family counselor. Together with California, Michigan and New Jersey, these states are the only states which have such regulation of the profession. Seventeen other states have introduced similar bills into their legislatures, but none has succeeded in enacting them into law.

Further information on legislation affecting the practice of marriage and family counseling can be obtained from the American Association of Marriage and Family Counselors, 225 Yale Avenue, Claremont, CA 91711.

PROPOSED SEX EDUCATION LAWS

Assemblywoman March Fong has introduced two bills in the California State Legislature to improve family life programs in that state. AB 1177 deletes the provision of the Schmitz Act which permits revocation or suspension of a teacher's credentials for failure to notify parents of a proposed sex education program or to provide them with access to the materials to be used, or for requiring a student to attend family life classes. AB 1178 would require the State Department of Education to establish in-service training in family life education for school district leadership teams of teachers, administrators, youth and community representatives, and appropriate \$200,000 for that purpose.

Additional sex education legislation is pending in Michigan (H 4219, to permit sex hygiene instruction but not birth control education), New Jersey (A 427, to authorize sex education in grades 7-12), and Texas (S 343, to provide for public inspection of sex education instructional materials). The bills in all three states would permit parents to prevent their children's enrollment in sex education programs.

Legislation requiring venereal disease programs in public schools is being considered in Connecticut (H 7756), Minnesota (H 1231 and S 1224), and New York (A 4408 and S 3062).

The Kansas Legislature is considering bills (H 1018 and S 285) which would require public schools to make

family planning and birth control information available to students.

Copies of these bills are available from the respective state legislatures, or for 75¢ each from: Coordinator of Information Services, *Family Planning/Population Reporter* (see news item on page 6).

AMA REJECTS SEX ISSUES

The House of Delegates, the AMA's legislative body meeting in New York in June, 1973, rejected a resolution urging that "state laws be changed to allow condom contraceptives to be sold openly without age restrictions." Echoing the sentiments of one delegate that the AMA has a responsibility to set the moral leadership in this country, the organization also rejected a modified resolution stating that "the AMA reaffirms and encourages traditional family values with teaching of moral and social responsibilities," and that the AMA should "investigate state laws governing the sale and distribution of condoms."

In other actions, the House of Delegates, speaking for the entire AMA membership, rejected support for the women's Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution, and refused to approve a resolution criticizing laws involving sexual relations between consenting adults and discrimination against homosexuals. The organization did, however, "affirm the traditional favorable attitude of the medical profession toward motherhood."

"PUBLIC" HOMOSEXUALS MAY NOT TEACH

A Federal judge in Baltimore has upheld the right of Montgomery County School Board officials to transfer an avowed homosexual teacher to an administrative job so that he would have no day-to-day contact with students. Attorneys for the school board indicated that the teacher's homosexuality, *per se*, was not at issue. However, the attorneys argued successfully that public knowledge of the teacher's homosexual life-style

caused by an appearance on national television could be a traumatic and negative influence on his students.

Attorneys for the defense produced expert testimony that an avowed homosexual who is also a respected teacher can serve two useful educational functions in the classroom setting: counteracting popular myths and stereotypes about the homosexual; and providing a positive role-model for homosexual students.

In its decision the court said, in effect, that homosexuals have a right to teach only if no one knows that they are homosexuals, stating "there exists not only a right of privacy . . . but also a duty of privacy."

UNWED FATHERS RIGHTS ESTABLISHED

Unwed fathers have the same basic rights as any other parents, and must be consulted equally with the mother in the disposition of an illegitimate child. This U.S. Supreme Court ruling, on a Wisconsin case, has raised problems in Wisconsin relating to adoptions and could create adoption difficulties throughout the country. Milwaukee has placed a moratorium on finalization of adoptions until Wisconsin laws are adjusted, and Milwaukee's adoption agencies are postponing placement of infants.

MINORS' RIGHTS TO ABORTION, CONTRACEPTION

- *District of Columbia*—Minors have the same rights as adults to abortion and parental consent is not necessary if the minor understands the nature and consequences of the operation, according to a Superior Court ruling of February 6, 1973.

- *Missouri*—John Danforth, Attorney General of Missouri, recently issued an opinion stating that physicians may legally prescribe contraceptives to unwed, unemancipated persons under 21 without parental consent.

- *Nevada*—Nevada's Assembly Welfare Committee killed a bill which would have permitted minors to be furnished with birth control information and devices without parental consent. The State Senate, which had previously approved the measure, also killed the bill, despite the support of county and state health agen-

cies and two state medical societies. The measure, opponents argued, would "drive a wedge between parent and child," and foster sexual promiscuity and moral deterioration.

RESEARCH IN MALE CONTRACEPTIVES PROGRESSING

Two possible approaches to chemical control of male fertility—one permanent, the other similar to the birth control pill for women—are showing promise as viable methods of contraception.

Charles Turner, Ph.D., a Boston University Professor of Biology, has developed a treatment analogous to the female contraceptive pill which stops spermatogenesis in male rats but does not interfere with mating behavior. The treatment consists of progesterin in combination with an androgen. Sperm production is suppressed but normal function of accessory sex glands is not interfered with.

The use of ethanol (grain alcohol) to produce sterility by vas occlusion is being explored by Johns Hopkins University. Drs. Coy Freeman and Donald S. Coffee, also experimenting with rats, injected ethanol into the ducts of both vasa deferentia or into the duct of one while the other was ligated. Six months after treatment, all of the rats were sterile. The ethanol produced scarring which closed off the vas deferens so that sperm could not escape.

ACOG GUIDELINES ON ABORTION PUBLISHED

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has issued medical guidelines for first trimester abortions in non-hospital facilities. After the first trimester, when abortion is subject to state regulation for the mother's protection, ACOG recommends hospital abortions only.

Among the services which ACOG recommends are preoperative instruction and counseling of the abortion patient, and arrangements for follow-up, which includes family planning advice. The policy statement affirms the physician's and patient's right to refuse to perform or to accept an abortion.

NCC DELAYS ABORTION STATEMENT

Opposition from its Greek Orthodox members, together with the fear of creating a barrier to Roman Catholic membership, has prompted the National Council of Churches to delay decision on a proposed policy statement on abortion. The statement would have supported leaving the abortion decision to the woman involved, within the guidelines set by the U.S. Supreme Court. The document will be reconsidered next year, after a one-year study by the Council's 33 Protestant and Orthodox members.

SEX: THE LAW AND THE CITIZEN— A SIECUS CONFERENCE

Ramsey Clark, former U.S. Attorney General, will be the keynote speaker at SIECUS' one-day conference, "Sex: The Law and the Citizen," on Friday, October 26, 1973, in New York City. Other principal speakers at the plenary sessions will be: David R. Hood, Dean of the University of Hawaii Law School; Ralph Slovenko, Professor of Law and Psychiatry at Wayne State University; and Mary S. Calderone, SIECUS' Executive Director.

A series of concurrent workshops, with a distinguished faculty drawn from both the criminal justice and the behavioral science fields, will deal with specific topics: Sexual Minorities and the Law; The Law and the Family; Obscenity, Censorship, Education and the Law; The Law and the Sexuality of Minors; The Law and Sexual Health Care Services; The Law and Commercialized Sex; and Sexuality and the Administration of Criminal Justice.

Full details of the conference program and registration information are now in the mail to all SIECUS Report subscribers.

"LIVING, LEARNING, LOVING" TV COURSE FOR TEACHERS

The "Living, Learning, Loving" course presented last spring over WNYE-TV of New York City offered a variety of approaches to the teaching of human sexuality adaptable for all grade levels. The fifteen-session, three-credit course was developed by the Bureau of Health and Physical Education of New York City, in cooperation with the Board of Education. It follows the Board's January, 1972 resolution to support and expand Family Living and Sex Education in the city's schools.

Over 250 teachers enrolled in nine workshop groups to watch the course, which was broadcast Wednesdays at 4 p.m. The course will be rebroadcast in the fall of 1973. Teachers were encouraged to watch all programs regardless of their grade level so that they would be aware of content and methodology at all grade levels and provide continuity in the Family Living program.

The course broadcasts combined lecture and discussion with sample lessons conducted by master teachers. Emphasis was on teacher methodology within the classroom. A teacher's manual describing each session and including suggested questions for workshop discussion was distributed to workshop leaders. The manual is available in limited quantities from the Bureau of Health and Physical Education, New York City Board of Education, 300 West 43rd Street, New York, NY 10036.

MEN APPROVE MALE CONTRACEPTIVES

Seventy percent of men surveyed in three states and in the District of Columbia said they would use a male contraceptive other than condoms or coitus interruptus if one were available. Among six suggested future methods, 15% preferred a one-night sterility pill or shot; 13%, a one-week pill or shot; 27%, a one-month pill or shot; 10%, a one-year pill or shot; 19% preferred reversible vasectomy, and 10% preferred an improved condom. Asked to choose between a pill or injection conferring sterility for up to 30 days, 25% preferred the pill, 3% the injection; 36% would use both; and 32% would use neither.

The survey was conducted by the Illinois Family Planning Council, Chicago, in locations in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Virginia, as well as in Washington, D.C. Four hundred thirty-eight subjects, nearly 75% of whom were between the ages of 20 and 39, were interviewed by questionnaire. The overwhelming majority of those questioned, 84%, felt that both men and women are responsible for contraception, and 77% said they would help, financially and morally, a sex partner impregnated because of contraceptive failure. Only 54%, however, would help in obtaining an abortion under such circumstances. Three-quarters of the men felt that anyone, regardless of age or marital status, should have access to contraceptive techniques and devices.

RIGHTS TO VOLUNTARY STERILIZATION UPHELD

- The U.S. Supreme Court, in a ruling that will change hospital policies throughout the country, has declared that a total ban on sterilization operations is unconstitutional. The ruling upholds the First Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals decision of March 17, 1973, in the case of Robbie Mae Hathaway vs. Worcester City Hospital, Worcester, Massachusetts, which required municipal hospitals to make their facilities available for sterilization procedures.

Recently enacted legislation in Maryland and Idaho gives hospitals and medical personnel the right to refuse to perform sterilization operations. These laws, like those of many other states, are now in direct conflict with the Hathaway decision. In Idaho, hospitals may elect not to admit patients for sterilization procedures, and their employees may refuse to assist or participate in such procedures on moral or religious grounds. Maryland's hospitals and medical personnel may refuse to participate in sterilization, artificial insemination and abortion procedures. The new law requires no grounds for refusal and specifies that a hospital is not required "to refer any person to a source for the performance" of these procedures.

- Family planning services, including voluntary sterilization, must be made available under Medicaid, according to HEW Associate Commis-

sioner on Policy Albert J. Richter. Mr. Richter, in a report to the Association for Voluntary Sterilization, stated that these services are required under Title XIX of the Social Security Amendments of 1972, and that "Federal matching funds for this purpose have been and continue to be available."

All states except Arizona have Medicaid programs, and most of these already pay for voluntary sterilization. The nine states which do not—California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, South Carolina, Utah, West Virginia and Wisconsin—must now include voluntary sterilization in their Medicaid Plans.

LEGAL ISSUES IN SEXUALITY: TWO WORKING/ACTION RESOURCES

News of the changing laws, current court decisions and state guidelines which directly affect professionals in human sexuality is available bi-monthly in *Family Planning/Population Reporter* and *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom*.

Family Planning/Population Reporter, published by Planned Parenthood/World Population, arms professionals in the field with news and analysis of important bills and decisions, and offers a comprehensive legislative record of all relevant bills enacted, proposed, or being considered by state legislatures. It covers family planning services, birth control (including abortion and sterilization), population policy and sex education. The *Reporter* is available from: Technical Assistance Division, The Center for Family Planning Program Development, 1660 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

Alert to questions of censorship and suppression of intellectual freedom in schools and the general community, *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom*, a publication of the American Library Association, reports on issues relating to First Amendment freedoms in speaking, teaching, publishing, film, sex education, abortion and family planning services and other areas vulnerable to charges of pornography and censorship. Subscriptions are \$5.00 per year, and can be ordered from: American Library Association, Office of Intellectual Freedom, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

BOOK REVIEWS

Facts O' Life Funnies. Lora Fountain, ed. San Francisco, CA: Multi Media Resource Center, 1972. (Comic-book format; \$.75 single copy, quantity rates on request).

Reviewed by Jean Bruce.

This is a hip, funny, and factual comic that lives up to its subtitle, "Sex Education Funnies." It teaches about birth control, VD, sexuality, and abortion painlessly through comicstrip stories written in the unexpurgated vernacular. Illustrated by well-known counterculture cartoonists, including Bobby Crumb, the comic is bound to seem crude and tasteless to some, but the information it conveys is solid. Older adults who select materials for teens and young adults should bear in mind the difference in sensibilities that is generational as well as individual when evaluating this comic.

A bibliography of suggested serious readings, and a listing of agencies offering various services and information of sexual health and sexuality is included. (The Hot Line information is not up to date.) **LT, A, PR**

The Good Life, Sexually Speaking. Sigmund Stephen Miller. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1972. (227 pp.; \$6.95).
Reviewed by the Rev. Leon Smith, Ed.D.

The title is intended, according to the author, to convey the idea "that it's possible for almost all of us to lead a good sexual life and become a sexually persuasive human being—if we can ever go back to being what we were born to be—sexually active, sexually joyful animals." Miller states that "the purpose of this book is to liberate your true sexual self in a sexual encounter by clearing away the muck, the thick encrustations, the ugly defacements, the scars and bloodstains, the smut

heaped upon the sex act for fifteen centuries."

The book's basic premise is that those who achieve this liberation will not only be healthy, functioning sexual beings, but sexually persuasive as well. More specifically, the author believes that changes in one's sexual attitudes needed to cure sexual disorders can be made best *not* through professional help, but through "*understandings*" that will come from reading this book.

Thus, the book is divided into four kinds of "*understandings*": 1. "Understanding the Sexual Influences in Your Life and How to Control Them"; 2. "Understanding the Most Recent Sexual Discoveries and How to Use Them"; 3. "Understanding the Opposite Sex and How to Improve Your Relationships"; and 4. "Understanding Your Own Real Sexual Nature and How to Live and Love With It."

The major value of the book is in the first two parts, in their effort to help overcome some sexual taboos and myths. Parts Three and Four are filled with so many biases and contradictions that their value, if any, is questionable, and many of these biases and inconsistencies appear throughout the book.

Subtitled "The Anti-Manual Sex Book," the book is *anti-* a lot of other things as well. Mainly, it is anti-Establishment, for the author blames *all* of our sexual troubles on the so-called Establishment. It is anti-professional, and especially negative toward psychiatrists and other physicians. It is anti-women, especially Women's Lib. Miller sees women primarily as sex objects or sex manipulators who can be wise enough to seduce their men into love or marriage. He even uses false procreatively based reasons to keep man in the superior position in intercourse! With all his efforts to take a free attitude towards all sex, the author's biases against both male and female homosexuality are also obvious.

Instead of encouraging openness in

communication between man and woman, the author advises ways of playing the sex game deceptively. His three sexual "tests" may be interesting for couples to take and to discuss, but they are of little real value.

No doubt many of the inadequacies of this book are because Miller is a professional writer but neither a member of the helping professions nor a sexual scientist. He had to do a great deal of reading for much of which, such as the work of Masters and Johnson, he is inadequately grounded. Thus Miller is an arrogant author who thinks he has found all the answers. He writes in a condescending manner, especially when he addresses women, saying: "If you'll all quiet down, we'll explain." He does explain, but definitely not to the liking—nor benefit—of his readers. **A**

Health and Human Values. L. Allure Jefcoat, ed. New York, NY: John Wiley and Sons, 1972. (255 pp.; \$4.95, paper).
Reviewed by Gary F. Kelly, M.Ed.

This is a collection of 31 readings, nearly all of which are reprinted from other publications, both professional and popular. It would be an appropriate textbook or supplementary readings book for college-level health courses, especially where the emphasis is on values and value clarification. There is plenty of "meaty" material to help generate discussion, and the articles place a premium on individual decision-making and responsibility. An optimistic and humanistic tone pervades; several chapters examine the searches for self-actualization, human equality, and higher levels of functioning which are being pursued by millions. In several different areas, the book calls for readers to shed preconceptions or misconceptions and to take a fresh look at their own attitudes and values.

The opening reading is a perceptive article by Herbert A. Otto on human potential and the influence which our society exerts on that potential. There

Audience Level Indicators. The bold type letter(s) following book reviews indicate the general audience level. Keys to categories are as follows: **C**—Children (elementary grades), **ET**—Early teens (junior high), **LT**—Late teens (senior high), **A**—College, general adult public, **P**—Parents, **PR**—Professionals (educators, physicians, clergy, public health workers, nurses, etc.).

is a classic Karl Menninger paper on "The Crime of Punishment." There are two lucid chapters on the changing role of women, and editor Jefcoat has written a fine chapter on birth control and the importance of responsibility in sexual behavior. The unit on drugs emphasizes the values of our drug-oriented culture and calls for a rational approach to the elusive and complex "drug problem," including views expressed by well-known experts Joel Fort and David Smith. Calvin Frederick contributes a good chapter on suicide. There are factual chapters on virus diseases, hepatitis, strokes, prostatic disease, and gonorrhoea. One would wish that a chapter on syphilis had also been included. The unit on ecology calls for attention to pollution problems with meaningful action.

A few of the papers carry a sort of popular journalistic flavor with a flair for the sensational, yet in most cases, this does not seem inappropriate. Similar collections have often been somewhat dry and pedantic. This book treats human health in the broadest sense. It is a good selection of papers which hits some significant high points in health related areas. The chapters are diverse and generally interesting, although the overall value framework is only thinly evident. **A, PR**

Introduction to Family Life and Sex Education. Rose Somerville. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1972. (393 pp.; \$9.95, cloth; \$4.95, paper).
Reviewed by Deryck Calderwood, Ph.D.

This book, aimed primarily at teachers-in-training, is really three books in one. The first 170 pages are an introduction to family life education, including a 20-page appendix of suggested activities for students related to each of the introductory chapters. Appendix II, "Teaching Approaches, Methods and Materials," consists of another 100-plus pages of creative ideas on process, and Appendix III, "Selected Readings in the History, Standards and Prospects of Family Life and Sex Education," includes nearly 100 additional pages of reprinted articles by the author that have previously appeared in *The Family Coordinator* and *The Journal of Marriage and the Family* within the past decade.

Dr. Somerville writes well. The book is very readable and the aspects of

family life she has selected are handled soundly. Definitely on the positive side is a healthy emphasis on a re-examination of women's roles. However, despite the concluding words of the first chapter "a reminder to sex educators to include the family and society in the consideration of sexuality and to family life educators to include sexuality as an important dimension of all topics," this is clearly a book by a family life educator for family life educators. There is little space given to sexuality or sex education in comparison with the space given to marriage and family life education. (There are 13 references to sexuality and sex education listed in the index compared to 156 references under marriage and family. Masturbation is not even listed in the index.) *The Family Coordinator* and *The Journal of Marriage and the Family* are recommended journal readings; *Medical Aspects of Human Sexuality* is not. There is a mere one sentence reference to Masters' and Johnson's work on human sexual functioning.

Granted these reservations on the actual content of the book, there is an educational approach used throughout on learning-by-teaching that makes this text a valuable contribution to the literature on family life education. There is a wealth of creative ideas on method in the mid-section of the book that good teachers can utilize to present whatever balance of sexuality-family life material the teacher believes to be appropriate content for his/her own students. The ideas on the use of literature in Appendix III serve as creative examples of a model teachers will also find invaluable. **PR**

The Manipulated Man. Esther Vilar. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1972. (184 pp.; \$5.95).
Reviewed by Gilbert M. Shimmel, Ed.D., M.P.H.

According to this book's jacket, the author is a physician who has also studied psychology and sociology. The mind boggles, therefore, at her total lack of knowledge of men, which is exceeded only by her abysmal ignorance of women.

Heralded in some quarters as a book which is "anti-women's lib," it is instead a book which is anti-people. A few quotes will suffice to indicate the

supercilious treatment of men and women and their relationship to each other:

"... many men are deliberately clumsy at housework and women love them for it. Such clumsiness is so adorably masculine! If a man is capable of sewing on his own button—and does so—he really is not a 'proper man at all'."

"Women live an animal existence. They like eating, drinking, sleeping—even sex providing there is nothing to do and no real effort is required of them."

"Most men will never admit the depth of their wives' stupidity. They agree that women are not terribly clever, but grant them 'intuition' or instinct instead."

"There are, however, women who still have jobs or careers at the age of twenty-five or older. There are a variety of reasons for this: a. The woman is married to a failure . . . b. The woman cannot have children . . . c. The woman is ugly . . ."

The book could have been as well written by a man—in drag—and not just a man who hates women, but one who despises all people.

If there is a real Esther Vilar, this reviewer would be willing to challenge her to a contest of cooking, cleaning, sewing and housecleaning, followed by any test of what she considers a "proper man"! Winner take all! **A**

On Being a Woman. W. Gifford-Jones, M.D. New York, NY: The Macmillan Company, 1971. (256 pp.; \$6.95).
Reviewed by Robert C. Long, M.D.

This book, as stated in the preface, is "an attempt to remove fear of the unknown. In my [the author's] experience as a doctor, I have found that women spend much unnecessary time worrying about what goes on in their bodies. A comprehensive handbook that not only explains the function of the female anatomy but also discusses the ills that the female flesh is heir to, may do much to dispel anxiety and to provide a more objective view of what being a woman is all about."

Dr. Gifford-Jones accomplishes his purpose very well indeed. This book is factual, relatively comprehensive and very well written. Most important, how-

ever, is the reassuring and optimistic manner in which the subject material is presented. Almost every physician spends countless hours in the examination and reassurance of the well and the worried well patient. This book also reassures and therefore will help the physician in this important aspect of medical practice.

Much space is devoted to the menopausal woman, the varied aspects of aging, and the therapeutic effects of hormone treatment. There is a common sense approach to sex, birth control, pregnancy, and abortion. I was especially impressed by the author's treatment of the many aspects of oral contraception.

The non-medical reader can easily understand the chapters on sterility, venereal disease and common operations peculiar to women. Dr. Gifford-Jones devotes a chapter to cancer which is both balanced and optimistic. Other problems that occur frequently and are often alarming to the uninformed are treated in a similar fashion. For the young and old alike, this book clarifies diverse views on a number of gynecological subjects and dispels many myths which the practicing physician encounters daily. **A**

Our Bodies, Ourselves. Boston Women's Collective. New York, NY: Simon and Schuster, 1973. (276 pp.; \$8.95, cloth; \$2.95, paper).

Reviewed by Evalyn S. Gendel, M.D.

It would not be too strong a statement to recommend that every individual whose involvement is with the life of our times should be exposed to this book. Although concerned with women, it touches deeply the experiences of both sexes. This book is written by women, for women, to help them to know themselves better, especially to know the delight in their bodies and to care for them, but there is hardly a section which, with appropriate redefinition of anatomical and attitudinal terms, would not be equally applicable to men.

The separate chapters are written by different non-professional women without outside assistance; the words and the music are theirs. Specialists in various fields of the behavioral sciences, medicine, social work and other areas, were asked to review the material. Their recommendations may or may not have

been incorporated; in my opinion, experts would have had little to add. Each author engaged in extensive field investigation and research about her topic. The result is a collage of educational, personal, and scientific material about human sexuality, contraception, prepared childbirth, sexual intercourse, the health care system's effect on women, abortion, lesbianism, reproduction and sexual physiology. The subjects are presented in an open-ended style, with the welfare of all women in mind. There are no holds barred in delineating mythologies in areas where restraints have impeded women from learning about themselves inside and out.

The analysis of contraception is a superior section. It surpasses the usual medical risk/benefit concept and treats in depth the various needs inherent in the differences in women themselves. Guidelines are clearly delineated for an understanding of the medical implications of any surgical or medical prescription. Women are advised on methods to be used to query physicians if they are to know about all facets of the recommendations they receive from their doctors. A similar tactic is used in the discussion of general health care for women, which outlines what is to be expected in the physician's provision of comprehensive examinations and tests.

In this book, the Boston Women's Collective has taken a long-needed step in directive consumer awareness and protection. The utilization of this concern in the dimension of health care only adds to the uniqueness of the book's contribution as a study in humaneness. Aside from their practical and unorthodox approach, the authors have developed a moving documentary of human rights and individual dignity for both women and men. **LT, A, PR**

Sexual Love Between Blacks and Whites. Beth Day. New York, NY: World Publishing Co., 1972. (376 pp.; \$8.95). (The authors of this double review jointly teach a course on "Sex and Race" at New York University—Ed.)

Reviewed by June Dobbs Butts, Ed.D.

Do not read this book for statistical quotes based on scientific data—or for chaste and "legal" verification of kinship bonds. Its primary value rests on a different plane: the subjective, status-

oriented, heritage-oriented tradition which Blacks will recognize as "blood" relationships. For it is in such a manner that for centuries Black children, as part of their socialization, have been told about their Black and White ancestry. Whereas many White children are told about individual ancestors (Grandpa so and so acquired this tract of land, or died here, etc.), Black children become acquainted with the roots and branchings of their family tree according to one event of cataclysmic proportions: what happened *before* and *after* slavery. Thus, it comes almost as a surprise that a White woman author has attempted to trace the various prunings, cross-fertilizations, etc., of the American family tree along interracial lines. Not only does she make the attempt, she carries it off, stylistically, in a vein similar to the oral tradition of Blackfolk. Thus, her book has a rolling anecdotal, undocumented flavor of real life throughout.

Beth Day is a chronicler of societal problems, a raconteuse with a message: the true kinship bonds of Black/White America today. She has (on television) described this book as "a love story." Perhaps love, in all its vicissitudes, is indeed evident in its pages. The author characterizes White sexuality as being suffused with violence and a need for dominance. She attributes this to male frustration stemming from repressed childhood and/or subsequent inhibitions of married life: "Whenever whites wish to do something illicit or immoral they still tend to visit black neighborhoods." Her interpretation of Blacks is consistently sympathetic, and at times effusively so: "It is very possible for whites simply to be attached to blacks because of what appears to them as a richer, more rewarding life style. Blacks seem to live out of their guts, without being ashamed or self-conscious about their emotions.

"Whereas the European is taught and trained to use his objective intelligence, to stay at a distance and observe the object and analyze it rationally, the African reacts to the object with his senses, according to the stimulus he receives. He is intuitive, instinctive, sensual. He participates and becomes a part, while the European watches and decides whether the object is useful. As participant, the African reaction is less ego-centric than the European observation. Americans with partial African heritage, in short, are more willing to give themselves to what moves them."

Thus, whatever the reader finally concludes about the usefulness of this book, the reading *per se* should make for a reflective learning experience. In other words, the reader will extract something of value from this book according to the awarenesses which he or she brings to it. Beth Day includes not only the aroma of the sachet bag, but the scent of the asafetida bag—equal ingredients in the memorabilia of Black/White America.

Reviewed by Deryck D. Calderwood, Ph.D.

Beth Day presents a very readable account of relationships between blacks and whites in America from the early days of slavery to the contemporary scene, with some guesses about the future. Hers is a journalistic overview, and therefore has more emotional punch than a scholarly treatise would.

Day shows how white males (slave owners who were also political leaders and founding fathers) set up a system whose disastrous effects continue to operate upon each member of what she calls "the deadly quartet"—the black male, the white male, the black female and the white female. Today, she states, "Black males are allowed to participate in American society provided that they fall into one of three categories that are comfortable for the white male's view of himself." These categories are: "The Bright Child" (e.g., Louis Armstrong); "The Black Egghead" (e.g., Ralph Bunche); "The Black Jock" (e.g., Jim Brown). Accordingly, the one area in which the black male can compete with the white male is in bed. The author makes one feel the injustice of the inhibitions and limitations placed on blacks' sexual lives in order to outlaw this competition.

The author is clearly more at home with matters of race than with matters of sex. She is uncritical of the sources she uses to present sexual material. She relies on sweeping generalizations such as: "blacks are less apt to be self-conscious and restricted in their sexual behavior" and "whereas blacks engage in the same sexual activity [in the early years] that they will carry out throughout their adult lives, whites are developing their sexuality through such sexual detours as masturbation, petting, digital play—detours that may later interfere with their spontaneity in full genital engagement."

Day's chapter on homosexuality across the color line is particularly weak and misleading. She manages to get two unfounded statements into the same sentence: "Today, with the numbers of black and white homosexuals growing, the gay life probably furnishes the greatest amount of interracial sexual union." She espouses the psychoanalytic theory for the cause of homosexuality—which then has to be reinterpreted to fit the facts of the black experience in America.

The author rightly concludes that sexual behavior is more a matter of class than of color but her selection of anecdotes does not always include information on social class. Despite its shortcomings, however, blacks and whites, males and females, can profit from reading this book. **A, PR**

Women and Sex. Leah Cahan Schaefer. New York, NY: Pantheon Books, 1973. (269 pp.; \$8.95).

Reviewed by Mary S. Calderone, M.D.

The book jacket of *Women and Sex* states that "Dr. Leah Schaefer talks in intimate detail with 30 women . . ." in a series of in-depth interviews, each totaling 12 hours. Like most book jackets, this is not accurate, for it is rather the 30 women who talk to Leah Schaefer, and in the book, she quotes them directly on such topics as their earliest sex memories, early sex education, menstruation, masturbation, initial intercourse, and their experience concerning orgasm, whether from dreams, petting, masturbation, or intercourse, both marital and non-marital. Obviously, she herself is the kind of woman whose receptivity, sensitivity, insight, and skills make it possible for them to talk as they do, and thus to "break the silence surrounding women and sex."

Dr. Schaefer came fairly late in life to her profession, with a background in the performing arts. How did she develop the qualities that made it possible for her to enable her patients to explore their own sexuality so successfully? Dr. Schaefer answers this question herself towards the end of a full-length interview with "Julia." She asks her, ". . . do you think your present life would have been richer had you known certain things?"

Julia answers, "I think I wish that as a small child there had been more awareness of sexuality, and also that there had been more affection. Do you feel that way?" Dr. Schaefer answers, "I don't know. I think if I had had more knowledge, I wouldn't have been as driven to find out more about sex, or even, for instance, to do this study."

Does this mean that, in the case of research into the nature of sexuality, the thirst for finding out develops out of one's own deprivations in early childhood? Perhaps. If so, can we look for a similar drive in a male who, with the same intense and highly keyed professionalism, will do for the sexuality of men what Leah Schaefer has done to understand the sexuality of women? Or will Dr. Schaefer do it herself?

This is a remarkable book, which should be read by women, by men, and by adolescent boys and girls. To all of these it will bring inner peace to realize that questionings, anxieties, fumbings, experimentations, cogitations, sensations—all of these are the norm to being human and sexual at any age whatsoever, from earliest memory. In particular, parents should read it, especially young parents, before they have a chance to do their well-intentioned harm to the sexual lives of their young children. Their own lives will benefit therefrom, as will their children's. **LT, A, P, PR**

ABOUT THE REVIEWERS

Reviews of books, booklets, journal articles and audio-visual material are written by present and former members of the SIECUS Board and Staff. Background information about present Board members can be found on the last page of the *SIECUS Report*. Identification of former Board members and Staff not so listed follows:

Robert L. Arnstein, M.D., Psychiatrist-in-Chief, Department of University Health, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.

Advantages. The questionnaire approach is relatively inexpensive to administer and score, highly standardized and is, perhaps, the least intrusive approach to sensitive questions. Also the confidentiality of answers seemed as well assured as it could be without leaving the client to mark the questionnaire alone.

Disadvantages. No questionnaire can be as sensitive to the understanding of the subject as a trained interviewer can be. The questionnaire stated at the beginning that the subject could ask questions about the meaning of words, but, nevertheless, with 19 pages of closely spaced questions (up to 20 on a page) it seems likely that some young people might just guess what "climax" or "have sex" or "get loaded" means. I wonder, for example, how many of the 13 year old boys and girls were certain about the meaning of the True or False item, "There are many times when I get horny but don't have anyone to ball."

Challenge #3: To present the data in a manner that is both conceptually and statistically clear and honest.

Strategy Chosen: The data were treated descriptively by topic: Sex and Love; Sex and Parents; Love, Frigidity, and Sexual Behavior; Masturbation; The First Sexual Intercourse; The New Sexual Relationship; Sexual Adventuring; Adolescent Homosexuality; Pregnancy, Birth Control, and Abortion; Venereal Disease; Sex and Marriage. A useful typology was introduced: Virgins (including Sexually Inexperienced, Sexual Beginners [i.e., petters], and Miscellaneous Virgins), and Non-Virgins (including Inactive, Serial Monogamists, Sexual Adventurers, and Unclassified Non-Virgins). The experience of each group is treated separately as well as in comparison with other groups. No more than two variables are considered at a time. For example, data may be examined by age (13-15 versus 16-19) and sex simultaneously or by degree of sexual experience and age and never by all three at once. Only percentages are used both in the tables in the text and in those in the appendix in the back of the book.

Advantages. The material is well organized and it is exceptionally easy to find a particular table or discussion.

Disadvantages. With all of the experience with cross tabulation and multivariate analysis in the field it is a shame to have absolutely no clue as to interaction effects, clusters of variables, partial correlations or any other information not included in a simple percentage table. In several instances, where the percentages are based on some subset of the entire population, this is not made clear and has led to several sensational stories in the public media. For example, on page 171 there is an inset declaring:

"98% of all adolescent girls have had their breasts felt by boys.

"46% of all adolescent girls have had their sex organs felt by boys.

45% of all adolescent girls have felt the sex organs of boys." Etc.

This sort of thing made its way into the press without noting that these percentages were based only on that subset of girls in the sample who were classified in the "beginners" category, a category which included petting experience as part of its definition.

Challenge #4: To abstract from the data conclusions that are scientifically responsible.

After a credible record in meeting the first three challenges it is extraordinary that the author should have so thoroughly transgressed every rule of scientific restraint in his response to this final point. Operating with questionnaire data from a liberal skewed sample of approximately 100 boys aged 13 to 15, 100 boys aged 16 to 19, and an equal number of girls from each age group, Dr. Sorensen consistently makes statements such as the following: "15% of all American adolescents are sexual adventurers" [p. 249]; "21% of all American adolescents and 40% of all those who have had sexual intercourse are serial monogamists without marriage" [p. 249]; "52% of all American adolescents have had sexual intercourse" [p. 213].

There are hundreds of such statements, never modified by the humility which ought to be engendered by the extreme limitations of the sample.

Another technique which is perhaps equally misleading in a quite different way is the practice of introducing each section and illustrating each major point with direct quotes from the accidental sample of interviews made before the main study was begun. These excerpts are the chief interpretive device used by the author despite the fact that they did not come from the study population at all and may not represent them in any unbiased way.

Were Sorensen's study more responsibly presented it might constitute a welcome addition to the scanty literature on adolescent sexuality. By misrepresenting his findings, however, he may actually misinform rather than inform. It can be questioned whether such a "contribution" does not actually detract from our understanding of the phenomenon we wish to study.

Reviewed by Sadjia Goldsmith, M.D., M.P.H.

"The Sorensen Report" is a study of teenage sexual values and behavior based on a questionnaire survey of 393 boys and girls, aged 13 through 19, in a nationwide sample. In addition, less structured data were obtained from 200 teenagers in tape recorded interviews. From this survey, the author has written a lengthy report on adolescents' values, parental relations, and sexual behavior—including masturbation, homosexual and heterosexual experience, and use of contraception.

Although the author interprets the teenage world with sensitivity and affirmation, there are serious faults in the study which make it difficult to obtain valid new ideas or data from the book. The overall sample is small, probably biased toward the less traditional teenager by the necessity of obtaining parental consent for the questionnaire, and also biased toward the more educated teenager by the great length and relative complexity of the test instrument. Answers are not displayed by ethnic group or socioeconomic status, although other researchers have found substantial differences in sexual experience when these variables are considered. Nowhere in the tables of results are the sample numbers stated, although there must have been considerable variation in the number of respondents answering specific questions, and one suspects that conclusions are often being drawn from small subgroups.

A major shortcoming in this work is the author's failure to compare his data and conclusions to those of prior investigators, contemporary sociologists such as Kantner and Zelnik, or any other sociologic, anthropologic or psychologic works. Without such perspective, many of his findings are difficult to interpret. For example, what does the reader conclude from the information that 17% of older teenage boys have had one or more homosexual experiences, as compared to 6% of older teenage girls? A comparison with the Kinsey data (which is not made in the report) would reveal similar figures, and would give an historical perspective which is totally lacking in the Sorensen study. Without such comparisons, the study is uninteresting at best, and at worst is seriously misleading to the average reader who may view the results with alarm or use them for sensationalist purposes.

The author's conclusions on teenage sexual values seem personally biased and opinionated in many instances. He repeatedly draws conclusions from "value questions" which were answered affirmatively by approximately half the respondents. We are left wondering why he did not argue the reverse premise for the 50% who answered negatively. The reader feels uncomfortably manipulated by the author's preconceived ideas, for which the data make only a casual fit. Examination of the questionnaire, moreover, reveals many questions which present two issues simultaneously, so that an answer indicating disagreement may mean disagreement with either of the issues and is thus unusable. Two egregious examples of such questions follow:

"I've never had sex with another boy/girl, and I'm sure I'd never want to [a question to elicit attitudes on homosexuality]."

"It's immoral to bring an unwanted child into this overpopulated world, especially now that abortions are so easy to get."

In the section on sexual behavior, data in the Sorensen study on teenage coitus differ substantially from the recent study by Kantner and Zelnik of Johns Hopkins, prepared for the President's Commission on Population Growth and the American Future. The latter study was based on data from 4,240 interviews of a national probability sample of never-married teenage women, ages 15-19. Kantner and Zelnik found that 27.6% of their sample had had intercourse, a significantly higher figure. It is a major fault in the Sorensen study that he does not acknowledge this difference or attempt to analyze it. Again, his results are likely to be used for sensationalism because of this lack of scholarly analysis and perspective.

Many of Sorensen's conclusions in the book are laudable, showing him to be sympathetic towards youth's changing values and sensitive to the needs of teenagers for greater openness with parents and teachers concerning sexual behavior and the prevention of pregnancy. He makes a series of constructive suggestions to parents, schools and birth control organizations on motivation for contraceptive use and encouragement of non-coital sexual activity (mutual masturbation) to enhance communication and sexual responsiveness in young women. The author also makes some thoughtful comments on the disappearing concept of "premarital sex" as marriage itself becomes less of an immediate goal for teenagers, and living together without marriage is more widely accepted. However, as a sociologic study "The Sorensen Report" has serious faults. As a popular interpretation of teenage viewpoints to the average reader, it is lengthy, opinionated and frequently misleading.

Speaking Out

Continued from page 3

obscene material are invalid in the absence of "scientific data which conclusively demonstrates that exposure to obscene materials adversely affects men and women or their society," the Court stated: "Although there is no conclusive proof of a connection between anti-social behavior and obscene material, the legislature of Georgia could quite reasonably determine that such a connection does or might exist," and that similar "assumptions underlie much lawful state regulation of commercial and business affairs."

It should be noted that the Supreme Court decisions, unlike the proposed Federal Bill, S 1400, do not recognize the valid use of explicit materials, however limited, in educational and professional training programs in sexuality, and in sexual therapy.

A Look To The Future

In addition to a massive assault on what many consider to be fundamental rights of adult Americans, the cumulative impact of these court decisions and the proposed Federal legislation, if enacted, will be great. They will drive the market in "obscene materials" underground into the waiting hands of organized crime. "Obscene materials" will still be available, but harder to get, far more expensive, and sold under conditions degrading and legally hazardous to the purchaser.

Many changes will be seen in all of the arts, but particularly in publishing and the cinema. With no national standard as a guideline, and the prospect of hundreds of local juries applying "community standards" staring them in the face, most producers and distributors supplying a national market will be forced to dilute or delete legitimate erotic content in their materials. Pap will again become the order of the day.

The impact on education, professional training, and therapy could well be very great. Although the Senate bill, S 1400, exempts from prosecution college or university connected educational and professional programs and sexual therapy conducted by a physician, not even these narrow exceptions are contained in the Court decisions. And which, if any, serious and professionally used sex education texts or audio-visuals do not contain "an explicit, close-up representation of a human genital organ"? Organized opponents of sex education programs below the college level will now have considerable ammunition with which to do battle again.

Perhaps that portion of the Court's opinion which holds the most disturbing portent is the dictum concerning "law by assumption." It is true that unprovable assumptions underlie many of our laws and social policies, but it should be recognized that when knowledge exists, law and policy should conform to the facts as we know them. Discarding knowledge merely because it does not conform to what we might like it to be, or because it supports an unpopular stance, may demonstrate our human fallibility, but not sound scientific or educational—or for that matter, legal—practice.

Because of the grave implications these Court decisions and S 1400 may have for all professionals working in the now widely accepted field of human sexuality, I strongly urge you to obtain copies for a thorough and thoughtful reading of your own.

Frederick E. Bidgood, M.A.

SIECUS Report, September, 1973

AUDIO-VISUAL REVIEWS

Audio-visual material is reviewed by Derek L. Burlison, Ed.D., SIECUS Director of Educational and Research Services, unless otherwise indicated.

How About You? 16mm, sound, b/w, 22 min. Texture Films, 1600 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. Price: \$290. Rental: \$35.

How About You?, the work of three young women filmmakers, carries the subtitle, "A Film About Birth Control and Sexuality." While it serves the didactic function of explaining the various methods of conception control and how they work, in a simple, straightforward manner, its more important function is to bring insight into teenage sexuality as expressed by young people themselves, freely discussing their sexual feelings and experiences or lack of them.

What the film lacks in technical slickness is more than compensated for by the authenticity of the young people we see and hear on the screen. Whose responsibility is it to provide for contraception? What does losing one's virginity mean to a girl? When you have never had sex, is it still helpful to know about contraception? Can you show interest in boys without making them suspicious of your motives? What kinds of pressures are boys under to prove their manliness? These and other questions are discussed openly and honestly under the leadership of two women counselors.

The young women are far more articulate, more responsible and realistic, than the young men in dealing with the issues of teenage sexuality this film raises. One might have hoped for a better balance of viewpoints between males and females but the rap session captured on this film probably reflects the reality of the double standard that still prevails even among today's so-called liberated teenagers.

Here is a film that moves beyond the euphemisms of "family planning" films currently on the market. It is in touch with a large segment of today's youth. Recommended for high school and youth groups who are ready to deal realistically with birth control information and male/female attitudes about sexuality.

Like Other People. 16mm, sound, color, 37 min. Didactic Films Ltd., Gatwick House, Horley, Surrey, England. Price: \$360.

This British film, financed by the Spastics Society, drew spontaneous applause when shown recently at a national meeting of sex educators in Washington, D.C. It was that moving even to the sophisticated audience who viewed it because it touched the nerve center of personhood—the need for intimacy and love of *all* human beings. This is an angry film; it is also a hopeful film. While it focuses on the problems of the cerebral palsied, the hard-hitting points it makes are applicable to any handicapped group. One hopes it will be seen by general audiences as well as by those who work directly with the handicapped in schools, institutions and social agencies.

The characters in the film are real people who live in a residential home for the palsied in England. Through their own words we come to realize their anger and frustration at society's failure to understand their need to do productive work and be paid for it, their desire to marry and care for each other, their desire for privacy when they seek it. Willie and Margaret, the central characters, allow us to share in their growing relationship. Margaret carries most of the narration of the film as we see her and Willie doing art work, preparing a meal, giving shampoos to each other, visiting a community bazaar. Other sequences feature group discussions on concerns of the cerebral palsied—about employment, marriage, and the capacity of the retarded handicapped person to give and receive love.

For U.S. viewers the palsied speech with the overlay of a British accent will take a little getting used to. In some cases the producers have wisely provided subtitles for those participants whose speech is more seriously distorted. The central impression conveyed by the palsied individuals in this film is that they really are "like other people,"

in spite of their handicapping conditions. It remains to be seen whether our social and institutional policies are ready to accept this premise. This film must be ordered from England, but negotiations are currently underway for a U.S. film distributor to handle it.

Right Now, It's A Love Trip. Sound film-strip, record, 14 min., handbook. Planned Parenthood/World Population, Alameda-San Francisco, 2340 Clay Street, San Francisco, CA 94115. Price: \$25.

This kit of A-V and printed materials describes the work of the 6-year old Planned Parenthood Teen Clinic of Alameda-San Francisco which has become a model for similar programs across the country. While presenting the counseling and clinical services of the clinic, it focuses specifically on the rap sessions which are an integral part of the program services. Participation in the rap sessions is voluntary for anyone coming to the clinic, but all are encouraged to attend because here they can meet with their peers and a skilled group leader to ask questions, discuss feelings and deal with such mutual problems as communication with parents, male and female roles, and conflicts with boy/girl friends. For many of these young people there is no other place to turn for this kind of help. The role of the group leader, most of whom are trained volunteers, is crucial in setting the tone wherein young people can deal with sexuality without embarrassment or intimidation.

The 43-page handbook offers many helpful suggestions for developing community support, finding sources of funding, selecting and training of volunteers and evaluating services. Also included is a selected bibliography of resources for teenagers. This kit can well serve as a how-to guide for social agencies who wish to provide this urgently needed type of youth service. Additional copies of the handbook are available at \$2.50 each.

JOURNAL REVIEWS

THE FAMILY COORDINATOR

(National Council on Family Relations, 1219 University Avenue S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55414)

Reviewed by Lester A. Kirkendall, Ph.D.

April 1973

Human Sexuality: A Student Taught Course. Edward S. Herold, Janice Eastwood, Charlotte Empringham, Beverly Gall, and Shirley McKendry.

Senior female students (the four last named authors) of the University of Guelph, Ontario, presented four seminars in human sexuality to freshmen coeds in a university residence hall. Questionnaires and student evaluations showed improvement in knowledge and communication.

Voluntary Childlessness: A Neglected Area of Family Study. J.E. Veevers.

Emphasis is placed on studies concerned with motivations for parenthood, the effects of children on personal and marital adjustment, and ways in which voluntary childlessness constitutes a viable life style.

A Review of Information Relevant to Vasectomy Counselors. Steven G. Cole and David Bryon.

A summarization of the growing literature on vasectomy relevant to the vasectomy counselor. The operation itself, psychosocial aspects, and legal aspects are covered.

Premarital Communication Skills Education with University Students. Brenda Van Zoost.

A five-session group communication skills program involving student couples used videotaped models and behavioral rehearsal extensively. Their knowledge about communication increased significantly, as did the amount of self-disclosure to partners.

JOURNAL OF SCHOOL HEALTH

(American School Health Association, Kent, OH 44240)

Reviewed by Gary F. Kelly, M.Ed.

March 1973

An Analysis of the Perceptions of High School Principals in Public and Catholic Schools Relative to the Importance of Sex Education in the Curriculum. Charles E. Reed, M.P.H., Ph.D.

A questionnaire on opinions toward sex education was completed by 107 principals from Catholic and public schools. Perceptions of respondents indicate general acceptance of, and positive attitudes toward, family life and sex education programs in Illinois. Except for a few minor differences, the views of Catholic and public school officials with regard to the goals of sex education seem to be in agreement with each other.

April 1973

Contemporary Sex Education: Attitudes and Implications for Childrearing. Jane D. Woody, Ph.D.

This excellent article presents seven attitudes which are potentially important to the development of a healthy approach to human sexuality. It is aimed at both parents and educators. The attitudes form a developmental continuum ranging from the highly concrete and factual to more abstract concepts of communication and feelings. There is emphasis on the importance of parents and teachers as positive behavioral models.

May 1973

Attitudes of College Students toward Selected Issues in Human Sexuality. John A. Conley, Ph.D., and Thomas W. O'Rourke, Ph.D., M.P.H.

A questionnaire was administered to 221 students at the University of Illinois to assess attitudes toward current sexual topics, e.g., homosexuality, sex education, birth control, sexual standards, divorce, marriage, and abortion. The authors note that traditional values and views of sex roles are prominent and play a large role in determining attitudes. Rather than seeing a sexual

revolution, they believe a slow evolution of behaviors, attitudes, and knowledge is in progress.

MEDICAL ASPECTS OF HUMAN SEXUALITY

(Hospital Publications, 18 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017)

Reviewed by Robert L. Arnstein, M.D.

April 1973

Marital-Sexual Factors in Alcoholism. Alfonso Paredes, M.D.

A discussion that says more about alcoholism than sex, but this is probably an accurate depiction of the relative importance of the two when alcohol is a problem. Because of the prevalence of alcoholism, however, the article is worthy of note.

Psychological Aspects of the Vaginal Examination. Prudence Tunnadine, M.D.

An excellent and sensitive discussion of the meanings of, and reactions to, the vaginal examination—a procedure that almost all women will have experienced at some point in their lives. There are several excellent commentaries in addition.

Female Orgasm: An Interview with Seymour Fisher, Ph.D.

In view of the likelihood that Dr. Fisher's book, *Female Orgasm: Psychology, Physiology, Fantasy*, will receive rather widespread comment, both positive and negative, this is a helpful question-and-answer explication of some of his findings. There are two interesting commentaries.

Viewpoints: What Are the Effects of Premarital Sex on the Marital Relationship? Beverly T. Mead, M.D., Ira L. Reiss, Ph.D., W.J. Gadpaille, M.D., Harold T. Christenson, Ph.D., Rebecca Liswood, M.D., David R. Mace, Ph.D., and Paul Popenoe, Sc.D.

Six rather general comments point out that the question does not really admit of an intelligent answer and one (Dr. Popenoe) states that the effect is clear and clearly negative. The majority

point out that the research data is slim at best and that a more specific statement of conditions would be necessary before research could be fruitfully accomplished. Those studies that have been done "have found a small negative relationship between premarital sex and marital happiness. But the relationship has been small and difficult to interpret." One commentator feels that negative effects are greater when behavior is out of line with cultural norms, so that individuals who had experienced premarital sex in a conservative culture would be more likely to have difficulty than those in a liberal culture. Dr. Popenoe, however, feels that "all evidence clearly shows, sexual experiments before marriage are damaging in every way. . . ."

Manipulative Men: Their Sexual Attitudes. Ben Bursten, M.D.

A rather interesting article and of current relevance in view of the concern about the exploitation of women and

exploitative sexual relationships in general. The author carefully defines the conditions necessary to establish "manipulativeness" but then describes individuals who do not entirely seem to fit these conditions or do so only if one assumes that certain behavior is consciously rather than unconsciously motivated.

was written by Alan P. Bell, Ph.D., Senior Research Psychologist at the Institute for Sex Research, co-author of *Personality of a Child Molester*, co-editor of *Homosexuality: An Annotated Bibliography*, and a member of the SIECUS Board of Directors.

NO RESEARCH AWARD FOR 1972-73 COMPETITION

SIECUS will not present a Research Award for 1972-73. After evaluating the papers submitted, the Research Committee found none merited receiving the Award. The Committee also agreed that the entries received were not conducted recently enough for present consideration.

An announcement about the Research Award for 1973-74 will appear in the November issue of *SIECUS Report*.

SIECUS "HOMOSEXUALITY" STUDY GUIDE REVISED

A completely revised edition of SIECUS' Study Guide No. 2, "Homosexuality," is now available. It is intended for all individuals, lay and professional, who are interested in human sexuality, of which homosexuality is but one aspect. The revised edition incorporates the best current knowledge and theory in the field. It

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Because of increased production costs, we are forced to make slight price increases in the bulk rates for SIECUS Study Guides. The new price schedule, effective September 1, 1973, is:

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