

Who is a Sex Educator—the Certification Dilemma?

by Derek L. Burleson, Ed.D.*

The announcement in January 1974 by the American Association of Sex Educators and Counselors (AASEC) of a plan for the certification of sex educators marks a stage in the development of the field that has set off both dialogue and debate. The issues of certification in this field are fraught with complications of fuzzy definitions, professional jealousy, and lack of centralized authority. What is important is that the issues be discussed, debated if need be. So let's begin.

Sex education and counseling as fields of professional concern have seen tremendous growth in the last decade. Programs, courses, symposia, workshops, and conferences at all levels of education, formal and informal, have proliferated. As a movement, sex education has had its critics, but there is little question that schools, colleges, social agencies, the mass media, and the general public have accepted the concept that sexuality is too important to be left to the secretive approaches of the past, which were too often a cover for ignorance or embarrassment.

Sexuality as a Field of Study

Concurrent with the burgeoning interest in sex education and counseling has been the development and recognition of sexuality as a legitimate field of academic pursuit with its own research and literature. As the field of psychology grew out of the field of moral philosophy, so the field of sexuality has emerged from the disciplines of the health and behavioral sciences. It is still emerging, and although it lacks the precise definition of the established academic disciplines, both its vitality and its diffuseness stem in large part from its multi-disciplinary character.

The evolution of any specialized area of scholarship includes basic knowledge, research methods for increasing that knowledge, and pedagogic strategies for imparting it. Gradually standards are established and recognized among the community of scholars as basic requirements for working in the field, be it in research, teaching, or counseling.

As an emerging academic field, sexuality and education about it are at the stage when serious and difficult questions arise: What are the dimensions of the field? Who is qualified to work and teach in it? What academic and clinical experiences are essential in the training of a sex educator or counselor?

Such questions were especially prominent a few years ago when sex education programs in the schools were a source of controversy in many communities. They are no less relevant today. Even though we can point to considerable progress in the expansion and diversification of training op-

portunities, there has been pitifully little assessment of these training programs in terms of quality or measures of competency. In the field of sexual therapy Dr. Harold Lief, a leader in the development of sex education in medical schools, has said, "The current situation is dangerous. If enough quacks or too many inadequately trained but otherwise sincere and dedicated people enter the field of sex therapy, many people may be damaged, their relationships jeopardized and the whole field placed in disrepute." (SR Nov. 1973) Masters and Johnson have publicly issued similar warnings, which hold true for sex education as well.

Like it or not, we live in a credentialized society. A consumer-oriented public like ours wants some assurance and has a right to demand, that when dealing with any subject, but especially one that is as personal and intimate as sexuality, a teacher, counselor or therapist have at least minimum qualifications. Who is to set up these qualifications, administer and enforce them? Is there any agreement on what these standards should be?

Varieties of Training Experiences

One need only to look at the variety of settings in which sex education occurs on some more or less officially sanctioned basis to see the dilemma in trying to establish a basis for certification. A primary grade teacher presenting a lesson on terminology for male and female anatomy, a volunteer church youth group leader conducting a discussion on the ethical issues relating to premarital sex, a family planning worker instructing a group of women on the various methods of birth control, a high school family life education teacher presenting a six week unit on human sexuality, a college student involved in a peer sex counseling program in the dormitory—these are just a few of the many levels where some type of sex education is taking place. Can these individuals be accurately described as sex educators? If we accept the premise that sex education is a life-long process with input and learning experiences at many points along the life cycle, then must we not accept that many individuals with a diversity of backgrounds and training will be involved in sex education? Or are we moving toward an era of specialization, already dominating so much of the academic world, that would restrict the field of sex education and counseling to those who have undergone a specific academic sequence and internship program? The practical answer probably lies somewhere in between.

There have been widespread though uncoordinated efforts to expand the training opportunities in sex education ranging from two-day workshops to graduate level special-

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SPEAKING OUT

CROWDING AND BEHAVIOR

What does crowding, human congregation in dense aggregations, do to people? We are learning what population numbers do to environment and demands on resources. But what happens to human beings when, even in countries that might be considered underpopulated in land use and resources, they must pass their lives jammed together in a cramped, unwillingly shared space?

Calhoun, in his famous series of rat ecology experiments at California Institute of Technology, allowed rats to breed in an environment of ideal conditions but fixed boundary limits. All went well until the crowding index reached a certain point. What happened then? *The rats began to behave in the ways that we see human beings behaving today in cities!* Violence in the form of unprovoked attacks on the way to and from the amply provided feeding, watering and nesting stations; rape of immature females; maternal cannibalization of young; increased rates of sterility, stillbirths or abortions; withdrawal in schizophrenia-like behavior—all of these pathologic forms of behavior are almost unknown in normal rat life.

Can we extrapolate from rats to humans? Scientifically, no; but by induction, yes, in the sense that we have already extrapolated onto the pathologic behaviors of these rats the term humanoid. Their environment was *not* urban ghetto-like: ample food and water; clean, sanitary environment—only the crowding was humanoid.

Human beings today are crowded and will be more so. Uninformed people may answer, "Yes, but only in our ghettos." The truly ignorant will add, "And those (black, yellow, chicano, Puerto Rican, *foreign*) people like to live that way." The truth is, they live that way because they have no other choice, and within the next generation many not now classing themselves with "those people" will be joining them. Consider the 2000 A.D. world (not U.S.) projections: for the first time in history more people will be living in cities than in the countryside; 275 cities of more than a million (only 75 in 1950); the fastest growing cities in the developing, not the already industrialized, countries which therefore have only 25 years to plan for and resolve the problems that attend mushrooming urban growth.

What know-how or caveats might the U.S. export to these countries in which illiterate, simple people filled with hope and infinite but undeveloped potential are leaving the land where they are starving, to swarm towards the cities where they will also starve? Our expensive, garbage-filled, vandalized, high rise slums, where they will eventually be driven to behave like the rats who were driven to behave like humans under intolerable conditions of intolerable crowding?

And what is "tolerable" crowding? That which permits a bare modicum of possibility for the development of intimacy, whether between parent and child, friend and friend, husband and wife, lover and lover? Starvation is not only of the body, but of the mind, the spirit, the emotions. The rat bodies were not starved, but their emotions were—for at death

their adrenals were found to be exhausted of the capacity to manufacture stress hormones.

Human beings in U.S. cities today show many bodily stress symptoms—high blood pressure, stomach ulcers, colitis—but they also show symptoms of emotional and spiritual starvation and stress: loneliness, fear, a craving for intimacy that results in some weird efforts to find it, impaired sexual self-image leading to over-compensatory sex behavior.

In this World Population Year, it is prudent to bear in mind that the well being of people in families depends greatly on the earliest sex education of the children provided willy-nilly by the way the father and mother treat each other as man and woman. If parents are not at peace with their own and each other's sexuality, and if they are forced to live under rat colony-like conditions, they will find no peace in each other. The sexual messages they will convey without words to their children is that men and women find only anguish and hostility in their relationships—yes, even in their sexual relationships—a message constantly reinforced by the soap operas.

To be human is to be sexual, and not to find peace and joy in one's most important relationship is to be dehumanized. Children too are dehumanized when they see this happening in their own homes.

Mary S. Calderone, M.D.

SIECUS REPORT

Volume II, Number 6

July 1974

The *SIECUS Report* is published bi-monthly. Subscriptions are sold on a volume basis only, with volumes beginning in September.

Subscription rates: Individual, \$9.00 for one year; Canadian and foreign, \$10.50. Institutional, \$15.00; Canadian and foreign, \$16.50. Single copies of any issue, \$1.50.

Queries about subscriptions and delivery should be sent to Behavioral Publications, 72 Fifth Ave. New York, NY 10011. Editorial queries should be sent to SIECUS at the address below.

SIECUS Report is available on microfilm from University Microfilms, 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

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Library of Congress catalog card number 72-627361

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WHERE THE ACTION IS

PRISON SEX

The lead editorial of the April 1974 number of *Fortune News* states, "When men and women are sent to prison, they are asked to check their emotions and their sexuality at the door." "Prison Sex: Absence of Choice" and "Women: Tears, Loneliness, Sexual Frustration" are two other articles in this issue which will be of interest to *SIECUS Report* readers. *Fortune News* is the monthly newspaper of the Fortune Society, a membership organization of ex-convicts and other interested people working for prison reform in many areas, including sexuality. For information on the group and its publications write the Fortune Society, 29 East 22nd Street, New York, NY 10010.

NEW SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mary Briggs and Linnell Hoag are the co-directors of Sexual Health Services, a new unit of the University of Minnesota Medical School Program in Human Sexuality. The initial phase of the unit's services is directed to couples and singles experiencing sexual difficulty. The main focus is to provide high quality, intensive, education-oriented services utilizing media, large and small group discussions and homework assignments. For information write: Sexual Health Services, Program in Human Sexuality, 2630 University Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

BIRTH CONTROL FACTS IN SIMPLE LANGUAGE

The *Big Book of Birth Control*, intended primarily for persons with limited reading ability, presents simple, basic, and straight-forward facts about birth control. Published by the Arkansas Family Planning Council, the *Big Book* explains in large type and capital letters about the I.U.D., "the pill," rhythm, diaphragm, rubbers, foams and creams, vasectomy and tubal ligation, and emphasizes that "Only a birth control method that is used the right way every time will keep a woman from getting pregnant." This free paperback in loose-leaf format is available from the Arkansas Family Planning Council, Inc., P. O. Box 5149, Hendrix Hall, Little Rock, AR 72205.

LATIN AMERICAN SEX INFORMATION SERVICE HAS NEW PUBLICATION

Familia Hoy (Today's Family) is the new publication of the Latin American Office of Information on Sex Education. The Spanish-language publication expects to monitor research, publishing and educational programs dealing with sex throughout the Latin American area. Subscription information is available from: Oficina Latinoamericana de Informacion sobre Educacion Sexual, Sr. Administrator, Juan de Mena No. 118, Asuncion, Paraguay.

FREE VD "HOT LINE"—(800) 523-1885

Operation Venus, a Philadelphia-based V.D. information and assistance program, maintains a nationwide, toll-free hot line dispensing basic information and literature on V.D. symptoms and signs; testing and treatment; information on establishing local V.D. hot lines; and referral to doctors, clinics or health departments in the caller's area.

The phone number is (800) 523-1885. Operation Venus' phone lines are open from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. From 9:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m., a one-minute recording gives basic V.D. information and urges callers to obtain treatment.

For further information, write to: National Operation Venus Program, 1620 Summer Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

SEX AND THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

"I'm surprised they allow people to sell beds in this state," said Rep. Constance Cook after the New York State Legislature voted down her bill to allow open display of non-prescriptive contraceptive material in drug stores. The opponents' rationale? Assemblyman Anthony Gazzara was concerned that the bill "could lead to all kinds of ramifications; children could start asking questions, and it could be embarrassing to parents." Assemblyman John Esposito said, "The New York State Legislature would be telling our young people to have a good time, and I strongly disapprove."

A BRITISH PROJECT IN COMMUNITY SEX EDUCATION

Grapevine is a Family Planning Association of Great Britain project designed to discover effective ways of making sex education, in its widest sense, available and acceptable to those young people who do not seek information and advice from statutory organizations. It's staffed by young volunteers who, in recognizing their own need for reliable information about contraception, VD and sexual relationships, have come together for training so as to be able to help others. They are supported by professional counselors and are collecting their own data on relevant community services.

Grapevine offers both personal and telephone service. For further information, write to: Janet Evanson, Project Director, *Grapevine*, 296 Holloway Road, London N7, England.

NEW PROGRAM IN SEXUALITY

The Midwest Association for the Study of Human Sexuality, an affiliate of the Midwest Population Center, Chicago, offers programs for professionals and graduate students in the helping professions. These programs are based on the pioneer researches of Johns Hopkins University, Indiana University, the University of Minnesota, and the National Sex Forum. According to the MASHS catalog, "The Association's courses are concerned with how our culture induces prejudice, bias and overreaction to sexual stimuli and how to foster a new awareness and acceptance of human sexual and sensual potential." For further information, contact: Midwest Association for the Study of Human Sexuality, 100 East Ohio Street, Chicago IL 60611.

HELPFUL NEWS SOURCES ON SEX

You should be aware of the excellent little monthly called *SEX NEWS*. Written and published by P. K. Houdek, long associated with the sex education and counseling movement, this newsletter is full of short reviews and news of publications and important events. To subscribe, send \$3.00 to: P. K. Houdek, 7140 Oak, Kansas City, MO 64114.

COUNSELING SERVICES TO TRANVESTITES AND TRANSSEXUALS INCREASE

A full-service program for transvestites and transsexuals is now being operated by Gay Community Services Center in Los Angeles, California. Their Transvestite-Transsexual Counseling Program offers many of the services of the longer established Transvestite Information Service (TVIS) in North Carolina, and plans some original projects as well.

John (Rose Ann) Prowett, also connected with TVIS, heads the Los Angeles program, which provides a hot-line, and counseling and social outreach services. In addition, the program seeks to establish and maintain a data bank on all organizations having programs primarily or in part for transvestites and transsexuals; a cross-reference file of publications, and articles relating to transvestites and transsexuals; and a list of attorneys and medical and other professionals with expertise or willingness to work in this field. Further information can be obtained from Transvestite and Transsexual Counseling Program, Gay Community Services Center, 1614 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90017.

North Carolina-based TVIS also offers personal counseling. TVIS maintains a 24-hour help-line with a TVIS member in Tennessee, and has advisors throughout the country who counsel primarily through correspondence. They advise on home and family acceptance, local laws concerning cross-dressing, appearance, sexual and other personal problems, and will counsel spouses of transvestites and transsexuals.

Transvestites and transsexuals who register with TVIS can obtain identification cards explaining that they are not cross-dressing for fraudulent purposes. Referrals are arranged for those interested in joining local chapters of the TVIC Services, a related organization. Correspondence with other transvestites and transsexuals can also be arranged on request, and the TVIS newsletter, published bi-monthly, accepts letters and articles from members.

Those interested in TVIS services can write to: TVIS, P.O. Box 276, Spencer, NC 28159.

HUNGARIANS HAVE HOT-LINE

Hungarians now have a telephone "hot-line" to which they can turn for advice on sex and other personal matters. The service, called Dr. Telephone, has been operating in Budapest since January, 1973. It is directed by Dr. Lazlo Eross, an appropriately named psychologist who specializes in sexual problems. Each week, Dr. Eross records a five-minute talk which may cover anything from coping with air pollution and hang-overs to questions of emotional and sexual health. He has advised on family planning, the "dangers of homosexuality," and stated that pre- and extra-marital sexual relations are "absolutely wrong." The service accepts written queries from those too embarrassed to talk directly with a Dr. Telephone doctor.

Dr. Telephone succeeds, a more impersonal program of telephone advice which was conducted by the Ministry of Health for 15 months. The present format was based on the response to a telephone survey of 5,000 persons and 500 in-depth interviews. The survey showed, Dr. Eross said, "that patients feel the need of a personal message from a doctor, as if the patient were being talked to by a friend." He announced that "In the spring, we are going to expand programs on sexual advice, with special talks to teenagers, parents, educators and so forth. The next stage will be a center with specialists so we can transfer calls to doctors best able to answer the questions. In the same center, the specialists will talk with patients in a kind of group therapy."

NEW PAMPHLET ON POPULATION AND THE AMERICAN FUTURE

A condensed presentation, by writer Elizabeth Ogg, of the Report of the Commission on Population Growth and the American Future is now available in both English and Spanish editions from the Public Affairs Committee, a non-profit educational organization. The pamphlet states briefly the Commission's findings and recommendations. Order from: Public Affairs Pamphlets, 381 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016. Price: 35¢ single copy; bulk rates on request.

NEW INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

The Family Planning and Population Information Center of Syracuse University has expanded its operations to become the Institute for Family Research and Education, which "is devoted to the strengthening of the American family." The Center will continue as one wing of the Institute, providing resources and assistance in sex education programs for teenagers, especially in the areas of unwanted pregnancy and V.D. Under the direction of Sol Gordon, Ph.D., the Institute will offer a broader program, dealing with parents and the family unit, as well as young people.

Say It So It Makes Sense (SISIMS), the Institute's quarterly newsletter, carries articles on sex education in the home, school, and church. Previously a limited-circulation, free publication, *SISIMS* is now seeking subscriptions to help underwrite the costs of the Institute's programs.

ED-U Press is the Institute's publishing arm, producing the newsletter and other sex education materials, including a series of educational comic books for teenagers. The latest comic, on birth control, is "Protect Yourself from Becoming an Unwanted Parent." Comics are 25¢ each. Subscriptions to *SISIMS* are \$15 for individuals, \$25 for professional organizations and libraries, and \$50 for businesses. For bulk rates and further information, write to: ED-U Press, 760 Ostrom Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13210.

NO CONTRACEPTIVE SERVICES AT MOST MID-ATLANTIC COLLEGES

A 1971 Survey of colleges and universities in the Mid-Atlantic states, conducted by Tingle C. Barnes of the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, showed that, of the 187 responding institutions, 162 offered no contraceptive services through on-campus student health services and 83 offered no contraceptive information.

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BOOK REVIEWS

Sexual Behavior in the 1970s. Morton Hunt. New York, NY: Playboy Press, 1974. (388 pp., \$10.95).

Reviewed by Wardell B. Pomeroy, Ph.D.

This book, based on research supported by the Playboy Foundation, is an attempt to compare sexual behavior in the United States in 1972 with sexual behavior a generation ago as explicated by the Kinsey Reports of 1948 (*Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*) and 1953 (*Sexual Behavior in the Human Female*).

To see how well this has been accomplished, let us first turn to the sampling procedure. The Research Guild, a professional survey organization, was selected to carry out the study, and randomly selected adults in 24 cities throughout the country. They were asked to meet in small groups to discuss the changing sexual customs of our times. Only about 17% of those pre-selected came to these meetings, and it is, therefore, difficult to know whether those who attended were truly representative of the total sample. Herein lies one of the major defects of the sampling technique.

About a third of the sample were dealt with individually. By this, I presume the author meant they were not asked to attend a group discussion but were told individually what the study was about, and given questionnaires. Of this third, 25% refused to cooperate. Hence, for the total sample, there was a 63% refusal rate. We are left wondering whether the 37% who agreed to be questioned are in any significant way different from those who refused. Are they more liberal? More 'with it'? More extrovert? Or what? I feel more could have been done to warn the reader about the sample, or at least to take into account its limitations.

Secondly, the survey was done by a written questionnaire rather than by direct interviewing. It was our experience at the Institute for Sex Research that direct interviewing minimized misunderstanding and allowed for additional exploration which often significantly changed the original answers. It is true that direct interviewing of 100 males and 100 females was done to "seek clues to the meaning of trends," but these data were not integrated with the sample or compared with it and

really only give illustrative material which make for interesting reading but, to this reviewer, do not add to the validity and reliability of the study itself.

With these words of caution, let us turn to the findings.

The same social class differences in regard to masturbation were found as in the Kinsey studies. However, both incidence and, to a slight extent, frequency of masturbation were found to have increased in both single and married males and females.

The current study finds sex education by parents, church, and school about as woefully lacking now as was the situation a generation ago. Peers are still the major source of information, although easier access to sexual materials was reported.

Petting, the elaboration of petting techniques, and orgasm in petting have increased considerably over the past generation. However, petting as a compromise for intercourse has waned in importance, hence, it is used for a shorter period of time before premarital intercourse begins. Social class differences are being muted. There is more petting at lower social levels and more intercourse at upper levels.

Attitudes toward premarital intercourse have changed significantly. Most younger males and females accept the idea of intercourse before marriage as permissible if there is strong affection. Also, there appears to be some diminution of the double standard. The author makes the interesting observation that these more liberal attitudes in the 1960s were the forerunners of the increased activity in premarital intercourse seen in the 1970s. Incidence rates, this study shows, have more than doubled in the last generation, but this great increase has been very recent, which accounts, according to the author, for why Reiss' 1967 study did not show any significant increase in premarital intercourse. Hunt concludes that "to some extent the younger generation of American men and to a very marked extent the younger generation of American women are rapidly adopting a standard of behavior different from that of their elders."

As for marital coitus, the current research finds an increase at every age

level. There is also an elaboration of petting techniques, especially in regard to oral and anal sex. Orgasms in females are also considerably more frequent in the current sample. The conclusion is, "We stand convinced that a dramatic and historic change has taken place in the practice of marital coitus in America."

Little difference in extra-marital intercourse was found between the two generations except for the young, where considerably more was found in the current sample.

It is when the author discusses "deviant" behavior that he shows a non-scientific, judgmental, moralistic bias. He claims that Kinsey used only a statistical and/or phylogenetic definition of normality/abnormality—this is far from the truth. Moral, legal, and social criteria were also used and we showed that the normal/abnormal designation depended on one's own original criteria, a point the author either overlooks or is ignorant of. The complete fallacy of Mr. Hunt's line of reasoning was explicated in an article in *Playboy*, entitled "What Is Normal?" by this reviewer some years ago.

Mr. Hunt then goes through an involved explanation of why his figures on homosexuality are far below those of Kinsey's. He estimates that only 1 to 2 per cent of American adult males are exclusively homosexual and another 3 to 4 per cent are bisexual. He cites Bieber, of all people, to support this claim, although Bieber, a psychoanalyst, does not have data to support it. Similarly, he cites William Simon who ignores the findings of the Institute for Sex Research, and who is also talking from his armchair. Such opinions, unsupported by documentation do not do justice either to the field of sex research or to Mr. Hunt's respected position as a science writer.

In stressing the lower incidence of homosexual behavior found in Kinsey's 100 per cent sample, Mr. Hunt ignores our explanation of why the Kinsey partial sample is the more accurate. This reviewer seriously questions his scientific judgement in this area.

His unawareness of the meaning of animal intercourse, sado-masochism, and incest in the lives of the practition-

ers of these activities can only arise out of the fact that he is a writer rather than a scientist who has spent years talking to people about their sexual behavior. For example, he appears to be ignorant of the very real differences between incest between adults, between adults and children, and between children, and he makes the astounding statement concerning sado-masochism and animal intercourse that "loving, fulfilling, emotionally supportive psychosocial relationships are almost never present."

What then are we to conclude from this study? First, I would suggest that the data presented in regard to so called "deviant" sexual behavior be ignored, and, second, data on sexual intercourse and other "acceptable" heterosexual behavior be considered as roughly accurate, but with a much larger tolerance for error than the author allows. I do certainly agree with his statement, which is probably a fair summary of the book, that "It is our contention, based on our survey data, that the frequent assertions that a sexual revolution has conquered America are something less than accurate, for the changes that have taken place both in attitudes and in actual behavior have not, by and large, created any real break with the fundamental Western tradition linking sexual activity with love, nor have they brought about the existence of new social institutions competing with, or preempting sexuality, from marriage and family life." **A,PR**

Dr. Pomeroy carried out 8,000 of the more than 18,000 interviews in the original Kinsey study and was a co-author of the two reports based on these interviews.—Ed.

The Sexuality of Jesus. William E. Phipps. New York, NY: Harper & Row, 1973. (172 pp., \$5.95).
Reviewed by James A. Siefkes, B.D.

This powerful little book is a pleasant surprise. It reaches even deeper than the title implies. The author focuses "on reconstructing the sexuality of Jesus from data contained in Jewish and Christian documents pertaining to the first century of the Christian era." In addition, he "examines critically a variety of ways in which the Jesus and sexuality motif has been treated by some theologians, philosophers, and literary artists in the Christian tradition." He does this with scholarly acumen (681 footnotes) and dispatch.

The message in the book reveals the bias of the author that the humanity of Jesus needs to be rediscovered and presented to the many members of our "increasingly depersonalized society" as good news (Gospel). Mr. Phipps is a biblical scholar who has a great measure of understanding, respect and love for the biblical message. He makes it exceedingly clear that this message, and with it the personhood of Jesus, has been clouded, misinterpreted, and misunderstood as it has been expounded through the eyes and under the influences of religionists, philosophers, cultists of the ancient, pre-Christian and Christian eras.

In the first three chapters he deals with questions that relate specifically to the sexuality of Jesus. In chapter 1, the "Dual Paternity of Jesus," the most important fact relates to the Jewish outlook on procreation and how it has been distorted in early church history. In chapter 2, which deals with Rabbi Jesus, he discusses the rabbinical system and leaves no doubt of the fact that Jesus, though brought up in the tradition and mores of his time, was not a captive to them. In chapter 3, "Jesus the Phylogynist," he builds the case for Jesus as the feminist of his age, seeing through sexism and the double standards of morality of his day. In these chapters Phipps deals with some other questions which one might challenge as being relevant to the sexuality of Jesus. For example: the idea that it is appropriate to relate the sexuality of Jesus to that of Mary, holding that if Mary's ovum had been fertilized by a human, then Jesus's nature would have been qualitatively different from human nature as universally experienced.

The balance and major section of the book puts together in a systematic and chronological order a perspective on non-biblical concepts that have infiltrated into the life and teachings of the church and have been passed on as biblical-ethical norms. It should be a mind-blowing experience for church folk uninitiated in such ecclesiastical historical perspectives to learn about the impacts of pre-Christian religions, non-Christian early Greek philosophers, and ascetics on present attitudes in the church. This is not to mention the kinds of counter Christian impacts in this arena by such ancient church fathers as Gregory of Nyssa, St. Augustine, Thomas Aquinas; or reformers like Luther, Calvin and Zwingli; or more modern teachers like Kant, Schopen-

hauer and Kierkegaard.

Phipps provides a lot of data that make sense. His bias is clear and he doesn't try to hide it. The reader knows with whom he or she is dealing. He does not provide answers, but he surely upgrades the questions. In the epilogue he states that "one of the challenges of the Christian life is to discern what elements of Jesus' life are dated and dispensable forms and what are integral and essential qualities of the life of God's people."

Hats off to William Phipps for sharing his "lover's quarrel" with the Christian tradition. What he has done is a model for the revitalization of biblical religion. Such will not come from "uncritical lovers" or "unloving" critics. The style with which he writes may well contain the most important message the book has to offer. **A,PR**

Love and Sex in Plain Language. Eric W. Johnson. Philadelphia, PA: J. B. Lippincott, 1973. (143 pp., \$4.95).
Reviewed by Gary F. Kelly, M.Ed.

This is a third edition of a by now classic book on sexuality for young people. It represents more than a few word changes and re-arrangements of material; instead it has been doubled in length and is a significant improvement of an already excellent work. Of particular interest are the expanded sections on homosexuality and masturbation, each being given separate chapters instead of being included in the chapter on sexual problems as in previous editions. Meaningful additions have been made to the chapter on sexual intercourse, and great improvement is noted in the expanded chapter on contraception. Meeting a special educational need of our times, Johnson has also added a chapter on venereal disease. In the chapter comparing men's and women's sexuality, the previous emphasis on differences has been toned down, and there is good coverage of learned gender identity and changing sex roles in contemporary society. The new and richly illustrative drawings by Russ Hoover are excellent.

The value stance reflected in this book remains substantially the same as in previous editions, although this time it is even more carefully delineated. It will also remain the strongest feature for many parents and teachers. Johnson asks young people to view sexuality in the context of one's total personality and of responsible, respectful interper-

sonal relationships. He encourages them to learn the value of controlling their "sexual power" toward "good" ends and to recognize the value of open communication on sexual matters.

In the section contrasting "Human Sex and Animal Sex" the author has contrived some rather shaky evidence to make his points. His primary emphasis on the dignity of human sexual expression is well taken, but to build his case by comparison to non-human behavior seems inappropriate. It is unfortunate that such a weak chapter has been retained as part of the value discussion.

In summary, this is one of the best books of its kind available for youthful readers. The strengths of this newest edition only increase the certainty with which I shall recommend it to others.
ET, LT

Personal Health Behavior in Today's Society. John J. Burt, Ed.D. and Benjamin F. Miller, M.D. Philadelphia, PA: W. B. Saunders Co. 1972. (417 pp.; \$7.50).
Reviewed by Gary F. Kelly, M.Ed.

This is a comprehensive college level text in health education. Although its format is by no means unique, the book is well organized, well written, and places critical health issues in a social context. In particular the seven-chapter section on "Sexuality and Human Reproduction" is complete, but the authors' biases show through and may be confusing. For example, after presenting the subject of masturbation in factual perspective, indicating that each individual "must work out his or her own solution to this question," they go on to make the judgement that for the individual who practices masturbation daily "the problem is an emotional one which should be discussed with a doctor or counselor."

In another section the authors admit and explain their negative bias on "Drug Abuse." The material presented clearly reflects their stated hope to make the reader "a crusader against drugs." In this reviewer's opinion, it is questionable how many college or high school students would still respond positively to such a prejudiced approach to this subject. One would also wish that in this chapter—as in several others—there were fewer lengthy quoted passages from books and papers by "experts," and instead more skillful integration of the material into the body of the text.

There are good chapters on suicide and accidents, personality disorders, nutrition and weight, tobacco, heart disease and cancer. The factual information is well researched and accurate. Each chapter in the book is followed by a good list of suggested further readings and by questions for discussion. But these mostly call for parroting of information in the chapter, although some are quite thought provoking and value-clarifying.

All in all, this represents a good textbook worthy of consideration for general health education courses at the college level. **A, PR**

Your Child and Sex: A Guide for Parents. Wardell B. Pomeroy, Ph.D. New York, NY: Delacorte Press, 1974. (206 pp., \$6.95).

Reviewed by John and Lorna Flynn.

This is a natural sequel to psychotherapist Wardell Pomeroy's books, *Boys and Sex* and *Girls and Sex*. But while these books were written for early adolescents, *Your Child and Sex* is for parents of children of all ages. As parents of an infant, we believe that we read this book at the perfect time. It strengthened many of our convictions and certainly provided us with material for discussion.

Most books for parents about children and sex fall into one of two categories: "Where did I come from?" (age 5) and "Why is my voice changing?" (age 12). Because they do not put sexuality in the context of the child's total life experience, many parents do in fact believe that these are the only times when they have anything to offer their children in the way of guidance about "sexual matters." This excellent book goes far beyond that level. It is not a question and answer book with stock clinical phrases, but a discussion which requires parents to examine their own attitudes about sex before trying to communicate about sexuality with their children.

The text is nearly always lucid, and because Pomeroy mercifully does not over-explain concepts, those parents who have been turned off by the "how to discuss the birds and the bees" approach will especially welcome it.

The book, which is divided into two major sections, is indexed and contains a brief bibliography. Part One, which deals with parental attitudes and behaviors, covers such topics as "Showing Children You Love each Other,"

"Showing Children You Love Them," "Nudity," and "Homosexuality." These concepts are carried over to Part Two, which is devoted to talking to young people of all ages, and which is divided into five sections, from the very young to post-adolescents. The two parts of the book are united by Pomeroy's major themes: the importance of communication in family life; and sex education as a part of a child's total life experience—not something "special" to be presented only at specific times and in formal ways.

Pomeroy posits that effective sex education in the home has two major components: Parents' attitudes about their own bodies and their children's bodies, and the ability of parents to talk openly and easily with their children about sex. Somewhere between the two he puts parental behavior, placing a high premium on nonverbal communication such as non-erotic physical demonstrations of affection between parents in the presence of their children, and between parents and children.

One of the highlights of the book is the thought provoking chapter on nudity in the home. Pomeroy believes that nudity "can be a positive factor in human association and that its presence in sex education at home is a liberating force in psychosexual growth. . . ." A firm believer in double beds and no night clothes for couples, he reminds those who would be afraid of exciting their children by nudity that producers of sexually arousing entertainment learned long ago that the arousal comes in the concealment of the body.

Integrated into this and most other chapters in the book, however, is the concept of the importance of privacy. This carries over to the marital bed, from which he believes children should be excluded, and into the important distinction between public and private behavior.

The book does not pretend to be all inclusive. Pomeroy gives few examples of how to answer specific questions. Topics of current concern such as sex role stereotyping are discussed only briefly, as Pomeroy's concern is with gender *identity* rather than gender *behavior*. ("A boy who plays with dolls needs to know he is a boy playing with dolls.")

One minor caveat: The anxiety tone which is especially evident in the later chapters dealing with late- and post-adolescents reminded us that much of Pomeroy's material comes from his experience as co-researcher and co-auth-

or of the Kinsey Reports as well as from his clinical experience.

We feel that this is an important book which many parents will find beneficial. We found being referred to as "parents" and child, rather than as "a person" on the same level as our "person" child, refreshing. While this distinction is made, those between mother and father roles are not, and a single parent who plays both roles will also find this book useful. *Your Child and Sex* will be excellent for the high school and college courses in parenting now being offered, for premarital counselling and in group discussion. We especially recommend it to expectant parents and parents of infants because its conclusions may well cause one to consider modifying attitudes and behavior, and that is most easily done by a new parent. **P, PR**

John Flynn, spouse of Board member Lorna Flynn, is with the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C.

The Rights of Teenagers as Patients. Theodore Irwin. New York, NY: Public Affairs Pamphlets, 1972. (28 pp., \$.35). Reviewed by Jean Strouse*

Whether or not people under 21 have the legal right to receive the medical treatment they need without having to get their parents' approval has become an increasingly crucial question in recent years. In 1970 the rate of venereal disease infection among 15-19 year-olds was twice that for all other ages. The number of unmarried mothers under 18 has doubled since 1940, and at least two out of five illegitimate children are born to teenage mothers. And yet, many states still do not allow young people who want private, confidential medical treatment or advice to be treated without the consent of their parents.

This booklet is a thoughtful, practical survey of the issues involved in the medical treatment of minors, examining the laws, practices, trends, and attitudes that currently surround the problem. Addressing an adult audience of parents and counselors, but written in a straightforward style that will be accessible to young people as well, this pamphlet presents the medical needs of minors in drug abuse and addiction, venereal disease, alcohol abuse, psychiatric and medical problems, sex guidance and birth control information, and pregnancy.

Most of the controversy centers around questions of birth control guid-

ance, and although many states have extended some rights and allowed for the provision of some services to minors in this area, a number of critical contradictions remain:

More than 55 Planned Parenthood "teen clinics" and regular birth control centers offer fertility control services to minors, on their own consent, when their "physical and mental health might otherwise be endangered." Still, even in a city like New York, which is considered by many to be "far out," two out of three voluntary hospitals that have contraceptive clinics will not service minors without parental permission. (p. 9)

In California . . . a girl of any age can consent on her own to an abortion but youngsters under 15 can't legally obtain contraceptives. An unmarried teenage mother in Illinois can give consent to medical treatment for her baby—but not for herself. In Nebraska a doctor can treat an "unemancipated" teenager for venereal disease on the youth's own consent, but then the doctor must inform the parents. (p. 17)

Both courts and legislatures, Irwin points out, are moving toward accepting the rights of minors, and a model Health Services to Minors Act has been devised allowing a minor to ask for medical treatment (including birth control) from any physician or medical facility. But many doctors who might treat minors fear malpractice suits, assault and battery charges, or charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. And public attitudes all too frequently still cling to the fear that granting young people the right to medical treatment threatens to disrupt family harmony.

Mr. Irwin's pamphlet is a persuasive counter to such fears, and should help parents, teachers, counsellors, doctors, and lawyers to think more clearly about helping adolescents to obtain for themselves the medical treatment they need. **LT, A, P, PR**

*By invitation. Jean Strouse is an editor for Pantheon Books.

What to Tell Your Children About Sex. Child Study Association of America-Wel-Met, Inc. New York: Pocket Books, 1974. (141 pp., \$1.50). Reviewed by Deryck Calderwood, Ph.D.

The first version of this book appeared 20 years ago and it has been a

help to parents over the years. The 1974 revision greatly increases its value. In a warm, human manner that is never condescending it presents authoritative sex information to assist parents with their children from infancy to adolescence. The former question and answer format has been modified to a smoother narrative style. The adolescent section has been expanded and now includes the most concise and practical information on masturbation, petting, contraception, premarital intercourse, and homosexuality that is currently available to parents. The reading list has been updated and the diagrams in the "Facts of Life Illustrated" chapter are considerably improved (although the anatomical line drawings of the male and female still remain irritatingly de-capitalized). This little paperback is a classic in the field. And a bargain. It provides parents with a resource that will be hard to beat at any price. **A, P**

Human Sexual Behavior and Sex Education (Third Edition). Warren R. Johnson and Edwin G. Belzer, Jr. Philadelphia, PA: Lea & Febiger, 1973. (294 pp., \$8.00). Reviewed by Deryck Calderwood, Ph.D.

A decade has gone by since this unique volume was published. There is no other text quite like it; the supplementary title of the new edition—*Historical, Moral, Legal, Linguistic and Cultural Perspectives*—very aptly describes the contents. The authors have attempted a coverage of a magnitude and depth of subject matter which is sometimes not appreciated in sex education circles and which is awesome to say the least. Such a broad view is both the book's strength and to some degree its weakness. Readers will be impressed with the scope but may well wish the concepts and ideas had been expanded on some points. Perhaps the fourth edition can leave biology and anatomy to other texts and concentrate even more on the cultural perspectives.

The authors have made an interesting effort to avoid a sexist bias in their writing. They explain that "rather than use such words as 'he' or 'him' to refer to a person of undetermined sex we have made explicit the heretofore implied 'or she' or 'or her.'" The attempt is not entirely successful. It makes one conscious that the "he," "his," and "him" still invariably is printed first. It also makes male oriented phrases stand out. For example, the clitoris is de-

scribed as "incapable of ejaculation." Male anatomy is dealt with first. The intentions are good and they demonstrate how hard it is to avoid bias when communicating through the printed word.

The book has much to offer and I trust its continued use will insure periodic up-dating for years to come. **A**

Sexual, Marital and Familial Relations: Therapeutic Interventions for Professional Helping. Jane Davita Woody and Robert Henley Woody. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas, 1973. (312 pp., \$11.75).

Reviewed by Laura J. Singer, Ed.D.

The authors have given us a compendium of inconsistent quality which endeavors to examine current issues and clinical practices within the theoretical framework of a "psycho-behavioral" approach. To effect a balance at once theoretically grounded, clinically sound, neither obfuscating nor simplistic, is a difficult task. And, indeed, if one can get beyond the imperious "shoulds" which the authors detail as fundamental to the psycho-therapeutic helping professional, there are some rewards for the reader.

Although clearly derivative of the communication theorists, Paul Schauble's chapter on "Facilitating Conditional: Basic Dimensions for Psychological Growth and Effective Communication," is well organized with a multiplicity of clinical examples. A facilitating relationship is analytically divided by Schauble into two parts: the behaviors of the helpee (patient) and those of the helper (therapist). "The helpee first learns to own his feelings, then becomes committed to changing, then begins to differentiate the sources of his feelings, and finally generates appropriate alternatives to action."

The helper (therapist's) behaviors include such dimensions as empathy, respect and caring, concreteness, genuineness, confrontation and immediacy. He offers a developmental model which combines the helpee and helper dimensions for learning interpersonal communication in the helping relationship. A contract between a marital pair and the helper is described, which commits the couple to practice between sessions the communications skills learned during the therapy sessions, by means of an audio recorder or cassette. Improving communication skills by means of

the above techniques may, according to Schauble, have possible implications for the prevention of marital disharmony.

Luciano L'Abate's chapter on "Psychodynamic Interventions" contains much that might be of help to the beginning practitioner. He builds upon Satir's views of marital, parental and familial dysfunctions. As part of research in progress, L'Abate offers an arthogonal paradigm, whereby "blaming is more related (negatively) to placating, and distracting correlates negatively with computing." This model is in the process of being tested, but may well provide a useful tool for furthering our understanding of interpersonal dysfunction.

A chapter on "Behavioral Interventions" includes a behavior modification approach to marital, sexual, and familial problems. It makes some simple but useful distinctions between this approach and the insight oriented therapies. The authors describe its application to obsessive-compulsive behaviors, to intimacy, and to dependence-independence. A detailed description of three approaches to the use of audio and video-tape recordings in helping to promote more desirable affective experiences, includes "interpersonal process recall, affect simulation, and recorded vicarious desensitization."

Finally, a brief overview of the "Encounter Movement" and a tease of a final chapter on the "Psychobehavioral Framework" which the authors describe as "... a conceptual set for viewing the integration of behavioral and insight theories and techniques" completes his useful, albeit uneven, volume. **PR**

Uncoupling: The Art of Coming Apart. Norman Sheresky and Marya Mannes. New York: Viking Press, 1972. (288 pp., \$6.95).

Reviewed by Laura J. Singer, Ed.D.

This book was written because of the authors' observation that the "disintegration of a marriage is almost universally ignored until it is too late."

The divorce rate of the United States is approaching fifty percent. The official figures based on the latest report from the National Center for Health Statistics place the number of divorces granted per one thousand marriages at an all time high of four hundred and fifty-five. In fourteen states, including

some of the most populous, it is well over five hundred (eight hundred and three in one, seven hundred and sixty-eight in another).

Uncoupling is replete with anecdotes about stereotypes: the grasper, the outraged husband, the cliché spouting wife, the tough, cynical, predatory lawyer. One question's inclusion of such caricatures: what about wives who eschew alimony, who are committed to supporting themselves, or husbands who insist upon paying alimony, who are convinced that their wives have worked without wages and are entitled to support? What about couples who agree on rights for each other as well as for their children, and lawyers who do not charge a fee for the American end of some of the foreign divorce proceedings?

The institution of divorce is, at the very best, painful—if not cruel. Marriage is an institution, say the authors, which was not intended to force two people to live together for fifty years. It developed as a time when the average life span was twenty to thirty years and people lived in self-sufficient agrarian units which perhaps placed fewer strains on nuptial bonds.

Perhaps the most useful, certainly to me the most interesting part of the book, concerns the model premarital contract drawn up between a fictitious couple which is entitled "A Memorandum of Understanding and Intent." It covers "full and fair disclosure to each other of those facts concerning their lives which they deem essential and significant," "full and fair disclosure to each other of their attitudes and expectations concerning their future and the future of any children born to them," and an agreement of "rights and claims that will accrue to each of them in the estate and property of the other." This is certainly an interesting, sophisticated and most thoughtful document.

Perhaps this book might be of greatest value to the about-to-be-married, for it will acquaint them with what can conceivably occur under diverse circumstances. For is not divorce an alternative to marriage? **A,PR**

Sexual Freedom and the Constitution. Walter Barnett. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1973. (ix, 333 pp., \$10.00).

Reviewed by Ralph Slovenko, Ph.D.

The adage, "Don't judge a book by its cover (title)," applies here. This book does not cover the spectrum of sex laws or the myriad forms of mating. Its scope is limited to homosexuality.

The book is a one-sided and multi-pronged legal argument against sodomy laws; it is a large legal brief. It claims that these laws are unconstitutional on various grounds: they are void for vagueness (pp. 21-51); they violate the right of privacy (pp. 52-73); they impose a rule of conduct based on religious objectives (pp. 74-93); they infringe a fundamental personal liberty, whether or not that liberty is enumerated in the Bill of Rights (pp. 94-135); they are not in accord with scientific data (pp. 136-259); they deny equal protection of the laws (pp. 260-286); and they impose cruel and unusual punishment (pp. 287-309).

The author has digested the writings on the subject and presents them in a methodical and lawyerlike way. The controversial label today, though, is not the criminal but rather the psychiatric one. Few persons have a criminal record of sodomy, but the "sickness" label can be applied to every suspected homosexual as justification for job or other disqualification. Ironically, in the 18th Century reformers urged the grammar of sickness as a replacement for the grammar of sin in order to deal more effectively, and less punitively, with homosexuality and related disorders. That philosophy has apparently backfired, at least in the homosexual's case.

Apparently as a result of pressure from gay liberation groups and others, the American Psychiatric Association's Board of Trustees recently voted to redefine homosexuality as a "sexual orientation disturbance." While the APA controversy is not covered by the author, he seems to accept the view, now often stated, that homosexuality is merely a variant sexual preference. Be that as it may, the drive is to achieve equal protection for the homosexual.

(An essay review of the book by the reviewer appears in the *Texas Law Review*, 51: 1464-1469, 1973). **A, PR**

Human Sexuality: Contemporary Perspectives. Eleanor S. Morrison and V. Borosage, Eds. Palo Alto, CA: National Press Books, 1973. (431pp., \$5.95).
Reviewed by Haskell R. Coplin, Ph.D.

The past decade has seen a burgeoning of college courses in human sexuality, with attendant need for comprehensive texts and source books that pull together relevant literature in the field under one convenient cover. This book is an excellent selection of current and readable articles related to some of the current "hot topics" in the field, with judicious selection providing a relatively balanced treatment of such areas as sexual development, sex roles, heterosexual interaction, homosexuality, abortion, pornography, and sexual life styles. The authors' stated goal, to "stimulate students to look critically and reflectively at their own sexual values, the sexual life styles of others, and at the cultural setting in which sexual functioning occurs," may well be met by this compendium of essays, reports, and articles from the recent literature. New names are included as well as some of the "classics" by such standbys as Simon and Gagnon, Steinem, de Beauvoir, McCary, May and Ellis. In contrast to those collections which hammer away at one perspective, this one attempts to present different viewpoints that will serve to provoke discussion and inquiry. Throughout, however, there is the ring of a compassionate, humanistic and existential awareness of the complexities of human sexuality that emanates from the skillful introduction of the various selections. For the college or university teacher looking for a good admixture of creative research and stimulating polemical articles this is a worthy candidate. **A**

Human Sexual Behavior: A Book of Readings. Bernhardt Lieberman, Ed. New York, NY: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1971. (444 pp.; \$11.50 cloth, \$7.50 paper).
Reviewed by E. James Lieberman, M.D.

No relation to this reviewer, the editor is professor of social psychology at the University of Pittsburgh and collected these 34 essays for the benefit of his undergraduate students. Masters and Johnson are represented first off on sexual response; the book concludes with Frank Beach's 1966 review of their first book. In between, the reader finds Freud (three segments), the Kinsey group (four selections plus six critiques), a nice range of sociologists (Reiss, three segments; Ehrmann, Broderick, Rainwater, Bartell and others). Sixty pages are devoted to cross-cultural studies. Each of six major sections has a brief introduction by the editor. Charts and graphs appear as in the originals, of course, along with references with each paper; there is no index.

The editor welcomes the present climate in which students want and are ready for serious studies on sex. He gives the reader a good range of material and the book is especially useful because it contains review articles apposite to a number of original essays. The book may seem dated because it precedes *Human Sexual Inadequacy* and gives such major weight to Kinsey material. But these are minor issues in view of the historically important selections and the challenging presentation of methodological critiques. **A**

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 and staff can be found on the back cover of the SIECUS Report. Identification of former Board members follows:

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

Ralph G. Slovenko, Ph.D., Professor of Law and Psychiatry, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan.

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.).

JOURNAL REVIEWS

MEDICAL ASPECTS OF HUMAN SEXUALITY

(Hospital Publications, 609 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10017)

Reviewed by Robert L. Arnstein, M.D.

January 1974

Reciprocity in Sexual Relations. Dennis Munjack, M.D.

A rather general discussion of difficulties between sexual partners which stresses the variations of likes and dislikes that individuals display in sexual behavior. The author stresses the importance of openness of communication between partners in resolving problems.

Virgin Men. Robert L. Arnstein, M.D.

Conflict of interest precludes any evaluative statement of this paper, but does not interfere with saying that it discusses the significance of male virginity and comments on reactions that men may have to their own virginity. There are three excellent commentaries that extend the discussion of the subject considerably.

February 1974

Viewpoints: Should a Woman Pretend to Reach Orgasm to Please Her Husband? Salo Rosenbaum, M.D., Ralph M. Crowley, M.D., Jessie Bernard, Ph.D., Burness E. Moore, M.D., E. Barbara Hariton, Ph.D., Eleanor B. Easley, M.D., Howard L. Miller, Ph.D., Joy K. Rice, Ph.D.

The general consensus seems to be "no", and a variety of reasons is presented. Most stress the undesirability of "falseness" in the marital relationship and point out that, if a problem exists, it should be recognized and dealt with rather than masked.

SIECUS Report, July, 1974

Group Rape. John M. MacDonald, M.D.

The author indicates that the phenomenon is more common than one might expect and describes some of the patterns that seem to prevail. He relates some such episodes to adolescent difficulties and cites the parallel to the "ceremonial rape" found in some primitive societies. Four commentaries give rather more complex discussions of the psychology involved and add considerably to the interest of the basic article.

Perspectives on the Need for Continuity of Physical Stimulation in Female Sexual Arousal. Elizabeth Stanley, R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

The author questions some of Kinsey's findings on the ineffectiveness of "psychological" stimulation for women and states that Kinsey's definition of psychological stimulation was too limited. She also feels that many of Kinsey's findings were the result of cultural conditioning and would be different today. She describes a case to illustrate her beliefs and the psychological stimulation used in the treatment of sexual dysfunction. A commentary by Ehrhardt cites two recent studies that show little difference between men and women in their reaction to erotic stimuli.

Variations in the Menstrual Cycle. Carlos Neu, M.D. and Alberto DiMascio, Ph.D.

A good review of the literature on the effects of the menstrual cycle on female behavior and emotions. The authors stress particularly the premenstrual tension syndrome and cite a number of studies that associate accidents, crime, and increased psychopathology with the premenstrual period. They are careful to note some conflicting reports and make clear that the reasons for these empirical findings are poorly understood. Three commentaries expand the discussion of the psychological correlates of menstruation.

March 1974

Pregnancy and Sexuality. Nathaniel N. Wagner, Ph.D. and Don A. Solberg, M.D.

A postpartum study of sexual behavior during pregnancy on a sample of 260 women. The authors review the literature conscientiously and compare their results with a similar study conducted by Masters and Johnson. The results appear to show a gradual loss of female libido as the pregnancy progresses; this does not seem to be explained by physical discomfort or the awkwardness associated with coitus. Another finding of importance was the lack of association between sexual activity late in pregnancy and premature birth, although the authors caution that there may be a small number of women "predisposed to giving birth prematurely for whom orgasm after 32 weeks is an added risk factor." Two commentaries stress the lack of risk to either mother or foetus of sexual activity during pregnancy.

Extramarital Sex Among Women. Robert R. Bell, Ph.D., Dorthyann Peltz.

Results of a survey of 2372 married women are compared with Kinsey's statistics of a generation earlier. The sample is difficult to assess because the method of selection admits to no evaluation of bias although certain data were obtained in regard to age, education, occupation, and religious interest. Interestingly the percentage (26%) who had engaged in extramarital sex was the same in the two studies, but Kinsey's figure was cumulative by age 40, whereas the mean age of the current sample was 34.5 years. The authors calculate percentages for various correlations which by and large bear out what one would expect (e.g., women who engaged in premarital coitus were more likely to have had extramarital coitus). Three commentaries point up some of the problems with the data and speculate on some of the factors that influenced results.

Sexual Problems and Personalities in Four Types of Marriage. Leo I. Jacobs, M.D.

The author characterizes four marriage pairs by diagnostic categories (e.g., obsessive-compulsive husband and

hysterical wife) and discusses the types of sexual dysfunction he has observed in each pair-type. He discusses the unconscious problems related to the dysfunction and, on the basis of these concepts, comments on the likelihood of success or failure when particular types of treatment are used. Although he recognizes correctly the factor of oversimplification in his typing, his discussion is most interesting and is an important stimulus to further thought and observation.

Viewpoints: How Do Men Contribute to Their Wives' "Frigidity"? Edward H. Olsen, M.D., Myron B. Litzin, M.D., Dennis Munjack, M.D., Maj-Britt Rosenbaum, M.D., Cornelia B. Wilbur, M.D.

The general consensus stresses the idea that both partners are involved in any instance of sexual dysfunction and that the solution is usually based on "communication". Various techniques are outlined for improving the latter. Two commentators (one male, one female) object to the term "frigidity" as pejorative and suggest that it be abandoned.

Common Errors Patients Make with Diaphragms and Foams. Mary E. Lane, M.D.

Although this discussion is addressed mostly to physicians to help them in the instruction of patients, the author writes clearly and with a lack of technical language so it should be understandable for non-physicians. Furthermore, she straightforwardly lists the problems involved in diaphragm use and points out that this contraceptive technique is particularly dependent on proper use for effective functioning. One of the commentaries also stresses the importance of the male's acceptance of this method of contraception if it is to be successful. The second commentary advances the opinion that allied health personnel are better able to instruct patients in diaphragm use than physicians.

April 1974

Mismatching. Letha Scanzoni, A.B. and John Scanzoni, Ph.D.

The authors distinguish between "initial" and "subsequent" mismatching and discuss factors that may contribute to each. They discuss how conflict can be handled in marriage and again distinguish between conflict "within the

rules" and conflict "about the basic assumptions," the latter being far more difficult to resolve.

How the "Work Ethic" Influences Sexuality. John Racy, M.D.

A somewhat diffuse discussion of the possible links between work and sex, a subject not without interest. There are four commentaries, two of which are rather more trenchant than the basic article.

JOURNAL OF SCHOOL HEALTH

(American School Health Association, Kent, OH 44240)

Reviewed by Gary F. Kelly, M.Ed.

February 1974

Sex Education and Our Core Values. Howard S. Hoyman, Ed.D.

An interesting and realistic look at sex education in the context of contemporary social values. The author delineates some of the "core values" of our pluralistic-democratic society and their implications for sex education, as well as recommending meaningful approaches to sex education for today's youth.

Contextual Sex Saliency and Sexual Activity: Relative Effects of Relatives and Peer Group in the Sexual Socialization Process. Peter Davis.

In data obtained from a self administered questionnaire on 81 male and 97 female patients in a V.D. clinic in New Zealand, it is concluded that peer groups had a greater effect than family in determining the level of sexual activity. It is also suggested that mass media were important sources of role model behavior.

March 1974

Position Paper: Human Sexuality Programs on the College Campus. College Subcommittee of the Sex Education Task Force of the New York State Coalition for Family Planning.

A Statement which encourages consideration of human sexuality on several different levels in the college community: academic coursework, counseling, health services, and student personnel services. Colleges are asked to recognize their significant role in pro-

viding opportunities which facilitate personal growth in sex-related areas.

THE FAMILY COORDINATOR

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

Reviewed by Lester A. Kirkendall, Ph.D.

April 1974

Some Psychosocial Aspects of Female Sexuality. Catherine S. Chilman.

Research pertaining to some psychosocial aspects of female sexuality is reviewed and the implications discussed. Its central characteristic is its dual nature. Many conceptions about female sexuality now need to be radically modified.

Non-Sexist Childrearing: De-Mythifying Normative Data. Gloria Tishler Hirsch.

A challenge to stereotyped and assigned sex roles. "Scientific evidence" is used to support socialization toward these stereotypes. Through group experience, the contradictions between clients' enculturated biases about man/woman behaviors can be confronted and individual change toward non-sexist behavior can take place.

JOURNAL OF MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

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

Reviewed by Diane Brashear, M.S.W., Ph.D.

February 1974

Cross-Sex Friendship. Alan Booth and Elaine Hess.

This article describes data obtained from 800 middle-aged and elderly urban residents who revealed that only a minority report cross sex friendships. Women have fewer opportunities and were subjected to more traditional constraints in respect to formation of cross sex friendships with men. Marriage appears to have major effects on the amount of interaction in intimacy.

AUDIO-VISUAL REVIEWS

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

Methods of Family Planning. 16mm sound/color, 18 min. Oxford Films, 1136 N. Las Palmas Ave., Hollywood, CA 90038

This is a straightforward, informational film describing seven methods of conception control. It opens with a good, animated sequence showing how conception occurs and then proceeds logically to show how each method works. While each method is clearly explained, with contraindications mentioned in the case of the pill and the IUD, no attention is given to the pregnancy risk factors for each of the methods. This "equal billing" approach to all methods from rhythm through sterilization may have been done in the interest of offending no one, but it avoids the fact that some methods are more effective than others, and some are more appropriate for certain life styles than others. Hopefully some of these distinctions would come up in the discussion that should follow this informational film. Recommended for high school, college and family planning centers.

Roommates on a Rainy Day. 16 mm sound, color and b&w, 28 min. Paulist Productions, P.O. Box 1057, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272. Price: \$270 color, \$135 b&w; rental: \$17.95 color, \$11.95 b&w.

This film, one of the Insight series from Paulist Productions on social and personal values, deals with the relationship of a sophisticated young couple living together, but in conflict over making a commitment to marriage. The first-rate script with the sensitive acting of Martin Sheen, Pam Murphy and supporting characters probes into the psychological factors involved in a relationship where the two partners meet an impasse in their life goals. He is content to continue the present arrangement with his "world's greatest roommate." She is looking for a more permanent commitment. After a fight he walks out, visits the nearby singles bar where he meets a buddy who tries to fix him up with a date. Recognizing the superficiality of the singles bar scene he returns to the apartment ready to come to terms with himself and his future in marriage.

Does this sound trite and soap opera-ish? It could be, but fortunately the script is well constructed, the scenes are well acted and the dialogue relevant to young people today, so that the film can lead into many serious discussions about life styles, alternate living patterns and the meaning of marriage.

The film has a point of view: it is pro-marriage. It does not, however, preach, scold, or wring hands over the fact that young people are living together out of wedlock. It simply presents a case study of a life style that is becoming more prevalent today, for viewers to dissect, analyze, speculate, argue, and judge from the specific circumstances it presents. The film's intended audience of college students and young adult groups might have some difficulty in identifying with the affluent life style of this couple in their sumptuous designer-decorated New York apartment, but as a case study of a relationship, this is rich educational material for courses in marriage and for young adult discussion groups.

Celebration in Fresh Powder. 16mm sound, color and b&w, 28 min. Paulist Productions, P.O. Box 1057, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272. Price: \$270 color, \$135 b&w; rental: \$17.95 color, \$11.95 b&w.

Ostensibly this is a film dramatization about teenage premarital pregnancy and the decision to abort, marry, or have the baby outside of marriage. What goes into this decision is the real subject of this timely educational film. Ginny, upon revealing her pregnancy to her girl friends, is subjected to strong peer pressure to have an abortion. Her boy friend, Bill, is upset and angry at her for not "taking care of herself" and is also subjected to another form of peer pressure from a cynical buddy who says he is throwing away his future if he is trapped into marriage. Out of a sense of guilt Bill does propose marriage, but Ginny has made her own decision. She calls her parents and tells them she will have her baby, but is not ready for marriage. This is how the film ends.

Some will immediately dismiss the film as subtle anti-abortion propaganda, particularly since it is sponsored by a

religious organization. This would be unfortunate because the film effectively illustrates in dramatic form how one young woman reached her personal decision with full recognition of the consequences and without compromising her own value structure. The viewer does not have to agree with Ginny's decision. In fact, the value of the film is its great potential for opening up a controversial subject by discussion and debate. It is a welcome alternative to both strident pro-abortion material and the violently hysterical anti-abortion literature now flooding the country. Use of an O' Henry twist at the end of the film when one of the girl friends tearfully confesses her own previous abortion to Ginny, while an effective dramatic device, unfortunately compromises the overall objectivity of the film as educational material. Some will reject the film on the basis of this episode alone. Nevertheless, the film should find wide use in high school, college and youth groups as a case study of decision-making on one of the most controversial moral issues of our time.

Our Birth Film. 16mm sound/color, 26 min. Milner-Fenwick, 3800 Liberty Heights Ave., Baltimore, MD 21215. Price: \$195; rental: \$25.

This is a very personal childbirth film that has far greater value for the young couple involved in its making than it does as a teaching tool. The format involves the couple watching a screening of the birth of their second child and then being interviewed about the experience some months later by Dr. John Money, the eminent sex researcher of Johns Hopkins Medical School. The delivery room scenes of the natural childbirth are explicit and beautifully photographed. To the film's credit, nothing is done to conceal the reality that giving birth is tough work for the mother.

This film can not truly be considered instructional or information giving about the birth experience. Its major asset is the vicarious experience it provides of sharing the emotions of childbirth with a couple who have willingly shared their feelings with us.

Continued from page 1

ization in human sexuality such as that offered at New York University. Many colleges and universities are now offering both undergraduate and graduate courses in human sexuality and methods of sex education, usually in departments of health education or home and family life. (See SR March & May 1974 for listings of summer school programs.) Two religious groups, the Unitarian-Universalist Association and the United Methodist Church, have developed short term but intensive training experiences to prepare leaders to conduct their own published youth programs in human sexuality. Untold numbers of in-service programs in schools, hospitals and social agencies have at least sensitized their staff to the need for sex education. At the professional training level we have seen most medical schools (See SR May 1973) and a handful of nursing and social work schools beginning to include human sexuality as part of their required course work.

The diversity of training efforts is certainly a recognition of the need among all the helping professions for involvement in some kind of deliberate training experiences if they are to deal with sexuality in either a teaching or counseling role. Such diversity can be healthy; it can also be chaotic.

The field of sex education is still young enough to need innovative approaches, to experiment with a range of training models. But given the already wide variety of these, one would be hard put to judge which are adequate to qualify personnel as sex educators. State departments of education, the traditional agents of certification for schools, have not yet demonstrated leadership in developing standards for teaching in the field in their respective states. Even if such standards did exist, state education department authority does not extend to the many settings where sex education is conducted.

The rationale of AASEC's Training and Standards Committee was that, "The time is approaching when an increasing number of persons will be known and recognized as sex educators and counselors and will spend all or most of their time at this work. It will then become important, as in other professions, for them to receive some formal recognition which identifies them as specialists, and distinguishes them from persons performing the same tasks but without comparable training and skill."¹

AASEC's certification procedure was established to identify and recognize the qualifications and experience that would warrant the title, "Certified Sex Educator." In taking this step AASEC recognized that numerous individuals, including many within its own membership, may already be involved in sex education in a variety of settings, who do not meet the requirements for such certification.

The action by AASEC is a beginning. Some feel it is premature. Nevertheless it could spur other groups, including state departments of education, to institute some kind of certification requirements for school sex education programs. Whether AASEC or any other authoritative body eventually controls the certification process for sex educators and counselors is less important than is the recognition that the field has reached that stage of maturity where professional standards must be established. There is no longer any question but that sex education can and should be taught at many levels and in many settings. However, as a field of specialization and for the sake of its future development as a profession, certification is called for.

¹AASEC. *The Professional Training and Preparation of Sex Educators*. AASEC, 3422 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007. 1972. P. 10.

Continued from page 4

UN DEVELOPING A WORLDWIDE AUDIO-VISUAL SERVICE IN FAMILY PLANNING

An International Audio-Visual Service offering a comprehensive collection of audio-visual materials on family planning is being developed by UNESCO and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) in cooperation with five other specialized agencies. A proposal for the program will be submitted to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

The centers will have materials available on loan or for purchase to anyone working in population, and will offer advice on use and selection of materials, and on selection and installation of audio-visual aids.

The Collaborative Group of advisors developing the program includes UNICEF, the World Health Organization, the British Centre for Educational Development Overseas, the East-West Center in Honolulu, and the Carolina Population Center, as well

as IPPF and UNESCO. The Group unanimously agreed at their meeting last February that centers should be established in different parts of the world so that they could respond quickly to the special cultural needs of each country. Kuala Lumpur was considered the best location for the first center. Cities proposed for later development were Bogota, Alexandria and Nairobi.

NEW STUDIES OF SEX-TYPICAL BEHAVIOR, SEX ROLES

An eight-year study of the development of sex-typical behavior patterns, to be directed by Eleanor Maccoby at Stanford University, has been funded by a \$90,300 grant from the Ford Foundation. The study, also supported by the Spencer Foundation, will follow two groups of infants through the first year of life and through a follow-up year after the children have entered school.

The Ford Foundation is funding another study, at Wayne State University's Family Research Center, on sex roles and family socialization. Re-

search training project trainees will work under the supervision of Dr. Constantina Safilios-Rothschild.

ACTING MANAGING EDITOR APPOINTED FOR SIECUS REPORT

SIECUS is pleased to announce the appointment of John Preston as Acting Managing Editor of the SIECUS Report. A graduate of Lake Forest College, he also attended United Theological Seminary in New Brighton, Minnesota.

Mr. Preston was trained by and was associated with, the University of Minnesota Medical School Program in Human Sexuality for three years. He also spent three years as Director of the Minnesota Council on the Church and the Homophile, and has been co-director of Gay Community Services of Minnesota, which was the recipient of an NIMH grant to study expansion of mental health services to the gay community. He designed and taught an undergraduate course in men's consciousness and sexuality at the University of Minnesota. He remains a member of the National Task Force on Gay People in the Church.

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