

## **"Where Did You Go?" "To the Library." "What Did You Get?" "Nothing."**

Audrey B. Eaglen

*Editor, Top of the News, Young Adult Services Division,  
American Library Association; and Librarian,  
Cuyahoga County Public Library, Cleveland, Ohio*

Not long ago I received a telephone call from a librarian who heads a good-sized branch of our library system, one that serves several middle-class, relatively sophisticated suburbs in the Cleveland area. In obviously high dudgeon, she told me that she had just received her replacement copies of *The Joy of Sex*, and was returning them to me immediately. "Why?" I asked. "You did order them, you know." "But I did not order the illustrated version, and I refuse to have that in my library." First I tried to explain, but to no avail, that the nonillustrated version of *Joy* was out of print (it had obviously not sold well!) and that all the other branches which had ordered replacements seemed willing to accept the illustrated version. Then, my curiosity piqued, I asked her why the illustrations made such a difference. "You know why," was her answer. "The only reason they want the illustrations is to use them when they're masturbating, and I see no reason why the library should contribute to something people shouldn't be doing in the first place!"

At that point in the conversation I gave up, knowing that there was no way to breach the walls of ignorant righteousness behind which this poor soul blusters, "protecting" her community's citizens from themselves and their "base" impulses. No matter that sexuality is recognized as a normal part of every human being's nature; no matter that masturbation is today regarded as a normal and almost universal expression of that sexuality; no matter that countless respectable professional organizations have spent millions of man- and woman-hours on countless research studies to dispel the clouds of ignorance which still surround the entire area of human sexuality; no matter that the results of this ignorance are shouted daily in the media, in the form of reports on the alarming increases in youthful pregnancy and the veritable epidemic of venereal disease among the young—no matter any of this, because the librarian with whom I spoke accepts none of it, and probably never will.

Sadly enough, however, she is not atypical of librarians in our public libraries. Too many librarians, whatever their motivations, have appointed themselves as guardians of the public morals (or their personal conception of what the public's morals *should* be), and act accordingly in keeping "harmful" materials out of their libraries and accepting only what is "good," thereby practicing the basest form of

censorship—a practice which librarians themselves condemn out of hand when someone else attempts it!

What is important to keep in mind, however, is that the librarian of whom I spoke has set herself up as a censor of what the adults in her community will find in her library; however reprehensible her actions are, those same adults will probably be able to obtain a copy of *The Joy of Sex* elsewhere, at another, more enlightened branch or by shelling out a few dollars at the local bookstore. But what about the young people who come into that library, who may desperately need information on their burgeoning, often to them incomprehensible, sexual feelings and drives. You can bet your bottom dollar that those same walls of ignorant righteousness erected by the librarian will not only stand between them and any good materials on sex, but will indeed have been stoutly reinforced by her own compulsion to protect the young at all costs. But these same young people do not have the alternatives that adult library patrons have; even if they had the resources to try to find materials in another library or to buy them, in many cases they do not even know what it is they want. Add to this the psychological wound inflicted on them by a librarian who makes obvious her assumption that the only reason young people want a book about sex is to use it as a sort of "print vibrator" for masturbation or some other "vile sexual activity" and you have very effectively guaranteed that the young person before you will not only never get the information he or she needs, but will probably never even dare ask for it again!

How, then, to convince youth librarians that they can best help the young by stopping their efforts to "protect" them and inflicting their own hangups about sexuality onto them, and by beginning not only to disseminate sound sex education materials, but even aggressively to promote their use by the young? After all, in most cases librarians have chosen librarianship as a profession specifically because they feel that the dissemination of information is a vitally important function in our society. Why, then, are so many willing to abrogate this function when it comes to disseminating accurate information about one of our primary human endowments—the sexuality inherent in, but unique to, each and every one of us.

In most cases it is simply out of their own assumed moral

superiority or out of fear of the consequences. I do not really know how one deals with the former. One branch librarian I know simply refuses to purchase copies of Judy Blume's novel about sexual awakening, *Forever*, because, and I quote, he "will not have such filth in my library." Regardless of the fact that *Forever* is just about the most popular of all Blume's books and is being read by millions of young women who obviously need to read an honest account of a teenage couple's sexual awakening, this librarian has arbitrarily decided that *Forever* is "filth," and will deny access to it to his large community's young patrons. (I am reminded of one of the maxims that Marvin Scilken of the Orange [New Jersey] Public Library likes to throw out—that if one of the books you buy for your library gets stolen once, buy ten new copies of it; if they all get stolen, buy one hundred more copies, because it's pretty obvious that a lot of people really need the information in that book. Since *Forever* is now the "most-stolen" book in our entire library system, it would appear that the abovementioned librarian is totally deaf and blind to the real needs of his youthful clientele!) As I said, I do not know how one deals with this kind of smug attitude of moral superiority. Even such extreme actions as court proceedings based on first amendment rights are not likely to work, since it is widely assumed in our society that the young have few or none of the rights to which their elders are entitled. It would appear that the only recourse here is strong community pressure to remove such librarian-censors from their positions—a highly unlikely undertaking since in most cases members of the community also want to see their sons and daughters "protected" from the likes of Judy Blume!

In regard to librarians' fears, those of you who are committed to furthering the cause of rational attitudes toward human sexuality must keep in mind that all librarians—but youth librarians particularly—often do have real fears of the consequences of promoting the use of good sex education materials and information, and that these fears are not totally groundless. At the American Library Association's Annual Conference in June of this year, I attended a meeting sponsored by the ALA Task Force on Women, which featured two of the authors of *Our Bodies, Ourselves* and Julia Losinski, a courageous young adult librarian from Prince George's County Public Library who has faced severe consequences from her refusal to withdraw *Our Bodies* from the shelves of the libraries whose young adult services she coordinates: among the threatened consequences were the loss of her job and a cut in the county's library budget—very real consequences indeed, and a gripping and frightening tale her experiences made. A quick glance at ALA's *Intellectual Freedom Newsletter* shows that her experience is being repeated all over the U.S., and that the cause is almost always something a public or school library has done to make educational sex materials available to young people.

The attempts to remove such materials from libraries are highly organized. In my own library system, a young adult librarian a year or so ago advertised a program in which she was going to show a fine film on sexuality (*About Sex*) to some of the library's younger patrons. No young people showed up for it, but a large group of irate adult citizens did, demanding that CCPL get rid of the film once and for all. When the demands were refused, someone cleverly checked out the film (under a false name) and never returned it. The case is now in court.

It takes a truly courageous youth librarian to keep on

doing what is right in the face of blatant community or administrative pressures regarding his/her job, reputation, etc., but such do exist. More will join the ranks of the courageous if they are given support, both moral and, if necessary, financial, by those in a position to do so. While the American Library Association has done a good job in publicizing youth librarians' problems in promulgating materials dealing with sexuality, it has been noticeably remiss in ever "coughing up the long green" to support those involved in litigation to assure the rights of the young to free access to such materials. The recent resolution on such access passed by ALA's Council is admirable. (See "Speaking Out," p. 4.) But, however admirable such a resolution, the lone young people's librarian who has done her or his best to implement it only to end up facing a hostile group of citizens in a court of law needs more than resolutions for support. That librarian needs organized support, both moral and financial.

There are many ways by which citizens can help support the youth librarian who is doing or wants to do the job of disseminating good sex education materials to young people. Briefly, some of them are:

1. Continue to provide and/or support workshops, seminars, etc., where adults, especially librarians, are helped to deal with their own sexuality. This will go far toward overcoming the insecurity that is so often the basis for the "moral superiority" stance which frequently results in the "librarian-as-censor" syndrome.
2. Work toward establishing courses in library schools that enable future librarians to develop the discrimination needed in selecting good material on sexuality, and coping with the problems that providing such material may bring. Practically nothing is being done in this area now.
3. Encourage concerned members of the community to visit their local public library to examine the sex education

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Editor—Mary S. Calderone, M.D.

Associate Editor—Frederick E. Bidgood, M.A.

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materials on its shelves. Taxpaying citizens have a right to demand that such materials be made available, and not just available but obvious. (Phyllis Schlafly's Eagle Forum supporters are given explicit instructions as to how they can get her *Power of the Positive Woman* onto a library's shelves; similar guidelines should be developed for materials on sex education.) This will go far toward supporting the youth librarian who may have met with little or no community or administrative support in his/her efforts along this line.

4. Become actively involved in the library's efforts to educate old and young regarding sexuality; professionals should give it both the benefit of their expertise and their support. As a result of a special issue on "Youth and Sex" of an ALA journal for children's and young adult librarians (*Top of the News*, Spring 1978; see the *SIECUS Report*, Volume VI, No. 6, p. 15), libraries in many areas are developing workshops, seminars, etc., for both young people and adults. Librarians should be encouraged to call on citizens for support and help with such local efforts. (Reprints of the special issue are available for \$1.75 each from ALA, 50 East Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.)
5. Above all, watch for evidence of censorship, potential or real. The very vocal minority who would burn all books that don't fit their prejudices are just that—a minority. There are also a lot of decent, enlightened people out there who just don't make waves enough, and by default let the fanatics grab all the attention.

As Dr. Mary S. Calderone put it so well in her *Top of the News* article, "the hope for adequate sexual knowledge among young people must lie in the public libraries—and especially in the courage and wisdom of their staffs." Such courage and wisdom will only come to the fore when young people's librarians have the conscientious support and encouragement of an enlightened citizenry. Courageous, wise librarians and courageous, wise citizens and educators together must work for the day when people seeking sexual information—no matter what their age—will no longer have to stick to the old, familiar script. Instead, we'll hear:

"Where did you go?"  
 "To the library."  
 "What did you get?"  
 "Just what I needed!"

### **SIECUS Has Moved!**

Effective September 1, 1978, SIECUS' new address will be:

SIECUS  
 84 Fifth Avenue  
 Suite 407  
 New York, NY 10011  
 Phone: (212) 929-2300

*Please note:* Correspondence about or orders for SIECUS publications should continue to be addressed to Human Sciences Press, 72 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011.

## **DO YOU KNOW THAT...**

### **Sex and Disability Training Project**

In 1976, under a grant from NIMH to the Human Sexuality Program at the University of California at San Francisco, the Sex and Disability Training Project began training disabled and able-bodied persons having significant contact with the disabled, as sociosexual educator-counselors for disabled persons, their spouses, intimates, families. The year-long training (20 hours per week) includes both didactic and supervised practicum experience in counseling and education relating to sexuality and disability.

As of June 1978, 20 persons have completed this training. Graduates have obtained employment with agencies including United Cerebral Palsy Association, private and county rehabilitation agencies, community colleges, and independent-living centers. If you are aware of employment possibilities for persons with training in sex and disability education and counseling, please contact Mary M. Rodocker, R.N., M.S., at the address below.

A number of persons have requested other training options—for example, training for one month in the summer with follow-up on a regional basis over several weekends during the remainder of the year. The UCSF program staff is developing a mailing list for persons who are interested in such training, to determine the feasibility of conducting programs of this type. Interested persons can write to Susan Knight, Sex and Disability Unit, Human Sexuality Program, 814 Mission Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103, specifying that they wish to be included on the *Short-Term Training* mailing list.

### **SAR Workshop at NYU**

The Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine of New York University Medical Center is sponsoring a Sexual Attitude Reassessment Workshop on October 13–14, 1978. The purpose of this workshop is to raise awareness of the participants' attitudes and feelings about their own sexuality and the sexuality of others, with special emphasis on the physically handicapped. For further information write to: Janice Gelford, Coordinator, Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine, 400 East 34th Street, Room 310RR, New York, NY 10016, or phone (212) 679-3200, ext. 3109.

### **Professional Bibliography Correction**

In the May 1978 revision of "Human Sexuality: A Selected Bibliography for Professionals," Volume I, *Brief Therapy*, of *Behavioral Treatment of Sexual Problems* by Dr. Jack S. Annon was incorrectly listed as out of print. A 1976 revision of this book is now being published by Harper and Row Medical Department (2350 Virginia Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740) at a list price of \$11.95. Volume II, *Intensive Therapy*, is still published by Enabling Systems, Inc.

# SPEAKING OUT

## ALA Resolution on Library Services for Youth

Whereas services to youth are recognized as a basic component of professional librarianship; and

Whereas library censorship problems consistently occur in connection with sex-related information for youth; and

Whereas it has been documented that the onset of puberty is occurring approximately four months earlier each decade; and

Whereas this early maturation has led to earlier sexual exploration and pressure among children and adolescents, with especially severe consequences for girls; and

Whereas adolescent pregnancy has reached epidemic proportions so as to be recognized as a target area of concern by the U.S. Public Health Service; and

Whereas social responsibility and support of intellectual freedom are acknowledged to be priorities of the American Library Association (ALA):

Therefore, be it RESOLVED THAT:

ALA hereby affirms the right of youth to comprehensive, sex-related education, materials, programs, referral and health services of the highest quality; and

ALA hereby affirms the active role of librarians in provid-

ing sex-related education, materials, programs and referral services; and

ALA urges librarians and library educators to reexamine existing policies and practices, and to assume a leadership role in seeing that information is available for children and adolescents, their parents, and youth-serving professionals at the state and local level, to assure that comprehensive sex-related education materials, programs, referral and health services for youth are available and publicized; and

ALA offers this resolution to the Planned Parenthood Federation of America Inc. for inclusion in their POSITIVE POLICY HANDBOOK of organization statements supporting sexual health and education services for youth.

Submitted by Mary K. Chelton  
Councilor-at-Large

Seconded by Diana Young  
Councilor-at-Large

Passed by ALA Council, Midwinter Meeting, 1978.

## DO YOU KNOW THAT...

### Women's Sexuality Symposium

On 27 September 1978 the Inter-Agency Committee for Women's Issues in Buffalo, New York, will sponsor its fourth annual one-day symposium. This year's subject will be "Women's Sexuality," and the topics to be discussed include female sexuality—myths and facts, female sexual dysfunction, women and the crisis in sex hormones, male response to the liberated woman, and women's relationship with women. For further information contact Jean Hutchinson or Joan Levine, Planned Parenthood, Education Department, 210 Franklin Street, Buffalo, NY 14202, or phone (716) 853-1771.

### 1979 Adolescent Medicine Symposium

The Second International Symposium on Adolescent Medicine will be held in Washington, D.C., on May 6-10, 1979. Co-sponsored by the Society for Adolescent Medicine, the Institute for Continuing Education, the International

Pediatric Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics, the symposium, under the general heading of "Today's Adolescents—The World's Future," will cover adolescent endocrinology, adolescent sexuality, psychosocial aspects of adolescence, and delivery of adolescent health care. For details, write to ISAM, P.O. Box 11083, Richmond, VA 23230.

### Adolescent Sexuality and Librarians

"Adolescent Sexuality and the Role of Youth Librarians" is the title of a workshop to be conducted by the Department of Library Science of Villanova University on October 6, 1978. Designed for librarians, media specialists, and those individuals responsible for providing information to adolescents, the workshop will provide an overview of current information on adolescent sexuality and on media and information services designed for this age group. Discussions will examine materials, censorship problems, and the library's role in I & R services.

The Young Adult Services Division of the American Library Association has cooperated in the planning of the workshop and has officially endorsed it. For further information contact: Dr. Ken Taylor, Department of Library Science, Villanova University, Villanova, PA 19085.

# AUDIO-VISUAL REVIEWS

**Sexual Anatomy & Physiology: Male and Female.** Leon Zussman, M.D., and Shirley Zussman, Ph.D. (Consultant: Sylvia Carlson, R.N., M.S.). Three color filmstrips and three audio cassettes: **Sexual Anatomy of the Female**, 80 frames, 14½ min.; **Sexual Anatomy of the Male**, 57 frames, 12½ min.; and **Sexual Physiology: Male and Female**, 68 frames, 14½ min.; Discussion Leader's Guide. Focus International, Inc., 505 West End Avenue, New York, NY 10024. Purchase, \$90; preview, \$12.

*Reviewed by Alyson Taub, Ed.D., Assistant Professor of Health Education, and Director, School and College Health Education Programs, Department of Health Education, New York University.*

This full-color, sound filmstrip presentation is a much-needed addition to the audio-visual materials available for adult audiences on the subject of sexual anatomy and physiology. It approaches the topic with the view that adequate information and positive attitudes about body image are essential for each individual, particularly those who teach or counsel in this area. The three filmstrips and cassettes cover the following topics: *Sexual Anatomy of the Female*, *Sexual Anatomy of the Male*, and *Sexual Physiology: Male and Female*. A Discussion Leader's Guide is included which provides an introduction, suggestions for use, the printed script of each cassette, and a selected bibliography. The approach focuses on three objectives: (1) to desensitize the viewer to the appearance of male and female genitalia in nonstimulated and stimulated states; (2) to assist professionals in their work by providing them with simple and accurate information; (3) to increase the ability of professionals to identify instances of sexual dysfunction.

Overall, this presentation is excellent for instruction on sexual anatomy and human sexual response cycles as delineated by Masters and Johnson. Each phase of the cycle is well illustrated and will provide a clear explanation of female and male sexual response. It

should be noted that the focus is on the external genitalia and these are discussed in some detail, but the internal reproductive organs such as the ovaries and fallopian tubes are barely mentioned. Other topics, such as the menstrual cycle, oögenesis and spermatogenesis, and hormonal influences, which might be covered in an instructional program on sexual anatomy and physiology, are not included in this presentation.

Even though there are a few technical problems with the audio portion, such as awkward pauses in the narration, this sound filmstrip presentation is one of the best available for adult audiences. The information is accurate and any opinions of the authors are plainly stated as such. Additionally, explicit visuals are used as well as diagrams to illustrate the explanations given. The photography is well done and of good quality. This program could be used with a variety of groups and will clarify many misconceptions about sexual anatomy and physiology which some adults have today.

**Three Styles of Marital Conflict, and Behavioral Interviewing with Couples.** 16mm or video cassette; sound/color, 14 min. each. Behavioral Images, Inc., 302 Leland Street, Bloomington, IL 61701. Purchase, \$175 per film, \$115 per video cassette; rental, \$32.50 per film.

*Reviewed by Ellen M. Berman, M.D., Director of Training, Marriage Council of Philadelphia; and Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia.*

These two films were made for the teaching of marital interaction, with particular focus on the behavioral and communication aspects of the marital system.

*Three Styles of Marital Conflict* consists of three brief (5-minute) vignettes illustrating particular kinds of dyad in-

teraction. The vignettes are a "slice of life"—no history is given, no solutions to the problems occur.

The first vignette, "Hidden Agenda," shows a young middle-class couple (probably professional) apparently arguing over how to load a dishwasher. The argument reflects their deeper conflict over more serious issues related to power and communication.

The second vignette, of a businessman and his homemaker wife in their late thirties or early forties, labeled "The Passive Partner," shows the reciprocal nature of the passive-dominant interaction. The particular conflict shown involves the couple's response to the man bringing home for dinner, unannounced, an attractive female co-worker from his office—so a number of issues can be illustrated.

The third vignette, labeled "Overadequate/Underadequate," shows a highly dysfunctional couple in their fifties—he, passive and a mild alcoholic; and she an overbearing, martyred, and angry woman.

The situations are beautifully acted and absolutely accurate. The argument over the dishes is guaranteed to produce guilty squirming in any and all watchers. The film is without narrative, and therefore can be used by therapists teaching a variety of models. We have found the film indispensable for teaching marital interaction/dynamics.

The second film, *Behavioral Interviewing with Couples*, shows the overadequate/underadequate couple in a first interview with a therapist (Dr. John Gottman). The film is really a skeleton interview. It shows you through the stages of a behavioral interview (discussing the decision to begin, determining goals, etc.) and illustrates the "Intent Impact Language System." It does not show the therapist really coming to grips with the couple's dysfunction, however, particularly the resistance that would arise in later interviews. This film is highly recommended for those interested in behavioral-communications models of interviewing.

# WHERE THE ACTION IS

## A Unique Graduate School in Sexology

The Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality is unique. It is not only the only graduate school in the world dedicated solely to the discipline of sexology, but it has been accredited by the State Education Department of California and authorized to grant master's and doctoral level degrees.

Founded in San Francisco two years ago, concurrently with the passage of a California state law mandating training in human sexuality for all health professionals, the Institute grants three doctoral degrees: Doctor of Human Sexuality (for sex therapists), Doctor of Arts in Human Sexuality (for sex educators), and Doctor of Philosophy in Human Sexuality (for sex researchers). The 65 students currently enrolled—including physicians, nurses, clergy, teachers, and others—are predominantly mid-career professionals working for additional advanced degrees in this specialty. More than half of the student body are women, and most already have at least one advanced degree in the social sciences. The students come from many areas in the United States, as well as from Canada, England, France, and other countries. While much of the course work for the Institute can be carried on at the students' home bases, a minimum period of 42 days per year in residence at the Institute is required, and longer periods of residence are encouraged. The minimum requirement for admission to the Institute is a baccalaureate degree, and the doctoral programs usually take two to three years to complete, with more emphasis on academic work than on practical experience.

The founder and president of the Institute is Ted McIlvenna, M.Div., Ph.D., nationally known for his work with the Glide Foundation in San Francisco and the MultiMedia Resource Center; he served a term as a member of the SIECUS Board as well. The academic dean of the Institute is Wardell B. Pomeroy, Ph.D., psychotherapist and sex therapist, formerly associated with Dr. Alfred Kinsey as his research field director and senior co-author of the "Kinsey Reports." Dr. Pomeroy is not only a past president of SIECUS, having served several terms as a board member, but is also a past president of the American Association of Marriage and Family Counselors, and of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sex. The Institute has a resident faculty of 15, and its list of distinguished lecturers includes three persons long associated with SIECUS: Evalyn Gendel, M.D., now director of the Program on Human Sexuality at the University of California Medical School, in San Francisco; Lester Kirkendall, Ph.D., professor emeritus of family life education at Oregon State University; and Mary S. Calderone, M.D., president of SIECUS.

The Institute is based on the philosophy that sexology is a legitimate area of study in its own right, rather than just an adjunct of psychology, sociology, medicine, or other disciplines. Because human sexuality is a universal attribute of the

human race, and because of the great strides that have been made in understanding it through research in the last ten years, particularly in the United States, the existence of this Institute is a significant beginning in meeting the recommendations set out in a technical report of the World Health Organization in 1975, "Education and Therapy: The Training of Health Professionals." A report on the Institute and the progress it has made in this training will be presented by Dr. McIlvenna at the Third International Congress of Sexology in Rome, October 25-28, 1978.

Individuals interested in more detailed information on the Institute, its course work and degree programs, should write to: Dr. Wardell B. Pomeroy, Academic Dean, Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality, 1523 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.

## DO YOU KNOW THAT...

### Resources to Write for . . .

**The Positive Policy Handbook**, published by Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc., is "a collection of statements affirming the rights of youth to quality, confidential, comprehensive, sex-related education and medical services." These statements are from professional, community service, religious, and government organizations. The purpose of the handbook is to stimulate more organizations both to recognize the need to provide appropriate education for young people facing sex-related decisions, and to formulate and implement policies to meet this need. To order, send 50¢ for each copy to: Youth and Student Affairs, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc., 810 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10019.

**Teenage Pregnancy: A Selected Bibliography** is a 16-page resource list compiled over the last three years. The list divides resources into core and supplementary groupings, and many of the references are annotated. The list was developed by Peter Scales, former research director of Syracuse University's Institute for Family Research and Education, and now Teen Project director of the National Organization for Non-Parents. It can be ordered for \$1 per copy, prepaid, from N.O.N., 3 North Liberty Street, Baltimore, MD 21201.

**The Journal of Current Social Issues** has devoted its entire spring 1978 issue (vol. 15, no. 1) to the topic "Sexuality and Sensibility." Subtitled "Sex Is Awful," the contents are listed under four headings: "Sources of Authority—Guidelines for Decision," "The Family and Teenage Sexuality," "Public Policy Issues," and "Resources for Further Clarification." Copies at \$3.75 each may be ordered from the *Journal of Current Social Issues*, 287 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10010.

# BOOK REVIEWS

**Sex, With Love: A Guide for Young People.** Eleanor Hamilton. Boston: Beacon Press, 1978 (179 pp.; \$3.95 paper).

*Reviewed by Lorna Brown, M.A.; member, SIECUS Advisory Panel.*

Almost ten years ago Eleanor Hamilton wrote the then (and perhaps still) controversial book *Sex Before Marriage*, in which she dared to tell her teenage readers that premarital sex could be a worthwhile experience.

Now she is back with a new book, *Sex, With Love*, which is presumably less controversial because the Book-of-the-Month Club has chosen it as a selection. This means, of course, that this book will be called to the attention of many people and not just fade away as with the many other books for teenagers.

While much of what Dr. Hamilton writes in her seventeen chapters is sound and well-intentioned, the book is uneven. At times she is addressing very naïve preteens, and at other times very sophisticated adults: she never seems to be sure just who her audience is. But what makes me most uneasy is that she does not leave anything unsaid, and while some readers will say, "At last, a book that takes away all of the mysteries surrounding sex!" I would have appreciated just one or two opportunities to make my own decisions, have my own fantasies, and decide what does or does not feel good. A staunch advocate of noncoital sexual activities for couples and individuals who are not ready for intercourse, Dr. Hamilton gives explicit instruction in masturbation techniques. Her description of orgasm could be set to a symphony—but it might not make music for everyone!

It is clear that Dr. Hamilton, who has counseled so many young people, truly wants them to have satisfying, nonexploitive, loving relationships. But her grandmotherly and professional wisdom vacillates between permission-

giving and dogmatism. For instance, she lists the following conditions which she calls the "minimum requirements" for "successful and rewarding sexual intercourse":

1. *Maturation of body, male and female (somewhere between 17 and 21).*
2. *Thorough training in the use of birth control.*
3. *Full willingness and preparedness to care for a baby, or to have an abortion, should there be an accident in the use of birth control.*
4. *Emotional commitment of one to the other whether or not marriage is intended.*
5. *Ability to acquire skills that will bring sexual satisfaction to both partners.*
6. *Economic independence, if needed, or agreement of parents to provide support.*
7. *A protected environment.*
8. *A conscience that is free of guilt, knowing that it has complied with all those conditions necessary for safe and satisfying sexual intercourse, and is not burdened with religious or other taboos.*

The book covers everything from basic sexual anatomy and hygiene (I think this is the first time I've read how to clean the clitoris), to dating, noncoital sex including massage, same-sex relationships, talking to one's parents, slang, exploitive sex, deviant sex, birth control, VD, birth, and even a bit about plant and animal reproduction. She debunks myths, gives information on how to find a counselor or therapist, and provides lists of community organizations that help teenagers with sexual concerns. The bibliography has many omissions, but it is a good start.

This book will probably be most effective when used by discussion groups (for teenagers alone, teenagers and their parents, or just parents), because a skillful group leader will be

able to make the most of Dr. Hamilton's openness. Since I would classify this book as basically one for the older teenager and since I believe that teenagers should choose their own reading materials, I won't include a caveat that parents should read it before giving it to their children. I would hope, however, that teenagers reading this book would want to share it with their parents, because most of what Dr. Hamilton discusses is applicable to all sexual relationships—premarital or marital, teenager or adult. **LT, A, P**

**Abortion to Zoophilia: A Sourcebook of Sexual Facts.** Anne Mandetta and Patricia Gustaveson. Chapel Hill, N.C.: Carolina Population Center, 1976 (82 pp.; \$2.00 paper).

*Reviewed by Eric W. Johnson, Germantown Friends School, Philadelphia, Pa.; author of Love and Sex in Plain Language and other sex education books.*

This is a concise, clear, sensible, information-packed 82-page book of facts written by a nurse and a social worker. The preface states that it is "designed as a reference for those who provide counseling related to family planning and human sexuality: social workers, nurses, health educators, outreach staff, ministers, school counselors, and others in the helping professions." This reader believes it will be useful also to any competent reader, young or old, who wants straight facts conveniently presented and well backed with references.

The book contains four chapters. The first two make a distinction commonly forgotten by too many of us, "Sexual Anatomy and Reproductive Functions," and "Human Sexual Response Cycle." Chapter 4 covers very well "Diseases and Infections." Chapter 3, "Sexual Behavior, Concerns, and Problems,"

**Audience Level Indicators:** C—Children (elementary grades), ET—Early teens (junior high), LT—Late teens (senior high), A—College, general adult public, P—Parents, PR—Professionals.

comprising about half the book, contains 67 entries, alphabetically arranged, on topics from *abortion* to *zoophilia*, and continuing from *abstinence* and *alcohol* to *vasectomy* and *voyeurism*. Some of the items, such as *necrophilia*, are simply definitions; others, such as *rape* and *sexuality and the handicapped person*, are given two or three pages of rather full treatment. The book is plainly and sensibly written, and its usefulness is increased by a 520-item index which makes it easy to read what you want to know and nothing more. In general, the text is complete enough to satisfy without being exhausting, and it's never fancy. At \$2.00, this must be the sex book bargain of the decade, and I'd recommend that every household, library, office, and school obtain enough copies for all who may need them. **LT, A, PR**

**The Menopause Book.** Louisa Rose, ed. New York: Hawthorne Books, Inc., 1977 (255 pp.; \$12.50).

**Women: Menopause and Middle Age.** Vidal S. Clay. Pittsburgh, Pa.: Know, Inc., 1977 (157 pp.; \$5).

*Reviewed by Laura J. Singer, Ed.D., in private practice of psychotherapy, New York City; member, SIECUS Advisory Panel.*

After a talk on Retirement at a YMCA conference, a woman came up to the podium and said: "For the first time in years I feel human and not a 'dirty old woman' for being 'turned on' since my menopause." She verbalized the guilt and shame that many women in our society feel about their increased erotic feelings after menopause. *The Menopause Book* and *Women: Menopause and Middle Age* are two books that go a long way toward dispelling the myths, shibboleths, and ignorance surrounding sexuality and aging, hysterectomy, ERT (estrogen-replacement therapy) and the stress and confusion that has for too long surrounded the menopause.

*The Menopause Book* is a carefully documented, highly readable compilation of interviews and writings of eight women doctors: Barrie Anderson, M.D., "Hysterectomy"; Elizabeth Connell, M.D., "Estrogen: What To Do Until the Results Are In"; Helen Singer Kaplan, M.D., "Sex at Menopause";

Nancy Kemeny, M.D., "Breast Cancer"; Malkah Notman, M.D., "Is There a Male Menopause?"; Johanna Perlmutter, M.D., "Temporary Symptoms and Permanent Changes"; Natalie Shainess, M.D., "The Emotional Element"; and Mary Catherine Tyson, M.D., "Helping Nature: Diet, Exercise, and Cosmetic Surgery." All of these women use their expertise in a manner which respects the intelligence of the readers.

Operating out of a genuine desire to shed light on a problem that has been ignored until recently, the book questions some of our culture's most cherished assumptions concerning the menopausal woman: e.g., that the cessation of the menses and of the ability to reproduce is a blow to a woman's identity, or that sexuality disappears with menopause. "I very naively thought, until not too many years ago, that your sexual appetite, desires, reactions and feelings just stopped when you had menopause. Isn't that crazy?" This quotation is from one of the seven women whose interviews are included in Chapter 10, and who constitute a varied group in personality, education, and lifestyles. The authors ask: "If women realized that they were full sexual beings and would continue being so until they died, would they plan their lives differently?"

Chapter 8, "Is There a Male Menopause?" raises some important issues concerning men and women in the mid-life period—particularly with regard to differences in their "developmental timetable." Needs and responses for men and women during this developmental phase may not be the same and may account for some of the conflicts that exist concerning work, interpersonal networks, sexuality, and the departure of children. Since the authors note that "studies show that divorces, extra-marital affairs, sexual problems and depression are most prominent in men between forty and sixty," the above is a hypothesis that may well be worth further and deeper examination.

The book concludes with a resource directory, a guide to books, organizations, and services that may be of very real help to the woman who is searching for a doctor, a sex counselor—or a job.

In *Women: Menopause and Middle Age*, Vidal Clay, writing as feminist and psychologist, has given us a book that

is wonderfully supportive, particularly of such women who may find themselves classified as deviating from the "norm"—lesbians and sexually active menopausal women, for instance. The book is laced with examples of misinformation from doctors, e.g., "You can't have hot flashes if you're still menstruating." It examines the negative and sometimes hostile attitudes of the medical profession toward menopausal women, describing them as "castrated," or "a caricature of their younger selves at their emotional worst."

Vaginal atrophy, according to Clay, has not been sufficiently studied. She asks: "What proportion of women experience it? How long after menopause does it occur, five, ten, twenty-five years? What difference in occurrence is there, if any, between sexually active and sexually inactive women?"

Chapter 5, "Estrogen Replacement Therapy," is particularly informative. It deals with ERT and heart attacks, bone loss, sexuality, depression, aging, etc.

There is a useful annotated bibliography at the end of the book, and three exercises, "Draw your own life line," "Draw your personal sociogram," and "Twenty things I like to do," which add a pragmatic dimension to this often moving, compassionate work. Unfortunately, some of Clay's personal generalizations tend to detract from the otherwise excellent content of the book.

Basically, these two books question the myths which have developed about the menopause and contribute to a positive recognition of the right of postmenopausal women to a full sexual life. **A, PR**

**The Flight of the Stork.** Anne C. Bernstein. New York: Delacorte Press, 1978 (192 pp.; \$7.95).

*Reviewed by Wardell B. Pomeroy, Ph.D., Psychotherapist, San Francisco, California; member, SIECUS Board.*

This is not just another potboiler on how to tell your children about sex. First, it is based on actual interviews with over a hundred children from three to twelve years of age. Second, it has a theoretical underpinning based on the works of Jean Piaget and Lawrence Kohlberg. The work of Gesell,



Ames, and Ilg may also have influenced this work, although they are not mentioned.

The author divides the naïveté and sophistication of children's knowledge of the birth process into six levels:

1. *The Geographers*—ages 3–7. They account for the whereabouts of the baby before birth as being in a store, a hospital, heaven, or in their “mommies’ tummies.” They also believe all grownups are “mommies” and “daddies.”

2. *The Manufacturers*—ages 4–8. They “manufacture” babies by thinking the mother swallows something and eventually eliminates the baby. The role of the father is unknown. They are confused by the egg and seed analogy.

3. *The In-Betweens*—ages 5–10. Their accounts of procreation are a mixture of physiology and technology. A father has some part in fertilization but what part he plays is still vague.

4. *The Reporters*—ages 7–12. Although this group knows that intercourse is necessary for fertilization, they do not know *why* it is necessary. They believe intercourse is for the sole purpose of making babies—hence there are no unwanted babies! They are reluctant to speculate on the rationale they have adopted.

5. *The Theoreticians*—ages 10–13. They are now willing to speculate about why sperm and ovum must unite to form new life. However, they give either sperm or ovum credit for containing a miniature embryo with the other relegated to a supporting role. (It was not until 1875 that Oscar Hertwig discovered that the sperm and ovum each had a nucleus and that the two cells would unite and become one. Prior to that, scientists were at a Level 5 interpretation, making either the ovum—Ovists—or sperm—Animalculists—responsible for the embryo.)

Level 6 puts it all together. This can happen as young as age eleven but there are many (including adults) who never reach this level. At this level, for the first time, one forms the concept that two distinct entities, sperm and ovum, can become one qualitative and unique entity. Now they know that the baby has no material existence before sperm and ovum unite. Level 6 thinkers are also aware of the moral and social aspects of reproduction.

The author gives specific dialogue illustrating how parents can raise chil-

dren from understanding one level of reproduction to the next. À la Piaget, Kohlberg, and Gesell, it becomes apparent that children pass through these levels in order and can not be expected to jump over levels of understanding.

The final chapter deals with how parents can handle situations concerning masturbation, childhood sex play, nudity, observing adults having sex, homosexuality, and adoption. This chapter is an excellent one.

I would highly recommend this book for sex educators and well-educated, sophisticated parents. **A, P, PR**

**Rehabilitation, second edition.** Gerald G. Hirschberg, M.D., F.A.C.P.; Leon Lewis, M.D., F.A.C.P.; and Patricia Vaughan, R.N., M.S. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1976 (474 pp.; \$12.95).

*Reviewed by Joan L. Bardach, Ph.D., Director, Psychological Services, Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine, New York University Medical Center, New York City.*

This is a spotty book. It deals with the “sticks and bones” of rehabilitation, replete with pictures and diagrams, which may be useful for the uninitiated. The short section on the effects of administration on rehabilitation is good. Useful, too, is the authors’ approach to goal-setting and their principles of scheduling. The book’s approach to the problems of architecture in a rehabilitation setting is humanistic.

Though the book’s references are relatively up-to-date, however, its views of both the psychological and sexual aspects of rehabilitation are behind the times and rather naïve. In dealing with organic mental impairments, for instance, there is no suggestion of a careful evaluation by a psychologist. Such things as possible visual-perceptual deficits, the influence of body-image misperceptions, the specific nature of cognitive impairments are not even mentioned in connection with brain-damaged individuals. Recent techniques for remediation of cognitive and perceptual deficits are totally ignored. Motivation is seen as present or absent with only simplistic notions for increasing it. There is no concept of removing psychological obstacles to poor motivation; depression is seen as something

to be avoided rather than as a normal and necessary process that is part of adjusting emotionally to disability. Sex is dealt with only as a possible motivator and at no time is it considered an area for active rehabilitation.

Furthermore, the influence of specific disabilities on sexual functioning is not mentioned. Factors such as problems of bowel and bladder functioning and the wearing of devices, problems of positioning, spasticity, impotence, motor weaknesses, sensation, etc., are not dealt with at all, despite the fact that there is a growing literature dealing with how to cope with these factors in the course of rehabilitation of sexual activity. In addition, sexist language is used throughout the book.

*Rehabilitation* is a book with a primary emphasis on rehabilitation medicine that is narrower in scope than the authors would like to think of themselves as being. The psychological, social, vocational, and sexual aspects are given a warm nod but are really superficially handled.

**“Will I Like It?”** Peter Mayle. New York: Corwin Books, 1977 (unpaged, \$9.95).

*Reviewed by Mary S. Calderone, M.D.; President of SIECUS.*

This is an interesting book by the author of “*Where Did I Come From?*” Its subtitle is “Your first sexual experience: what to expect, what to avoid, and how both of you can get the most out of it.” It is extremely uneven in accomplishment, and will of course be open to much misinterpretation and therefore to attack. But before moving into a philosophical discussion, here is a descriptive analysis.

One of its primary disadvantages is a lack of paging—there is no way to refer back to something one is seeking for. Another is its language—“The Greek Gods and Goddesses described by Homer were always taking time off for a little sexual dalliance” (emphasis mine, for an old-fashioned word not often heard or used by the young today).

Mayle rightfully takes the media to task for their unconscionably unrealistic portrayals of people falling into bed with each other gloriously at their very first time. A description of such a stereotypic meeting is hilarious, as is the following description contrasting

the more mundane circumstances as they probably most usually happen.

But he is realistic: in discussing the decision of whether or not to end one's virginity, he remarks, "The answer depends totally on you. If you have religious or moral beliefs that make you feel you should stay a virgin, then stay a virgin. Giving up your virginity against your better judgment will make you dislike yourself, your partner, and sex. Furthermore, it's something you can never get back. So if you have strong feelings against taking the plunge, don't. You won't enjoy it until you're mentally ready for it. . . . Giving up your virginity is a sexual and psychological landmark in your life. . . . It doesn't matter that it's been happening for as long as life itself. For you, it's the first time, and it's important." This is the closest he comes to indicating that, unlike what very young people today tend to aspire to (a kind of passionate takeover), making the first time a matter of choice and decision is really desirable.

Remember the four-letter word ---k that means intercourse? The word is *talk*, and Mayle emphasizes the need for talking—communication—between people before, as well as during and after, their lovemaking. He talks about the physical hymen, but also about the emotional hymen, discussing how a basic negative attitude can interfere with good erection in the male or responsiveness in the female. He lays to rest concerns about discrepancies in size relationships between penis and vagina, and generally answers a number of questions most people have, even after that first time.

He discusses the way the wrong reason (doing it because you think you ought to), the wrong partner (giving in to happenstance or pressure rather than to choice), the wrong place (physical and mental comforts are essential), and how not enough time, bad bed manners, and bad communication can all contribute to agreement with Lord Chesterfield that "The enjoyment is quite temporary; the cost is exorbitant, and the position is simply ridiculous!"

He then moves into the area of the positive. *When*: "In fact, clock time doesn't matter in the slightest—there is no magic hour of day or night when making love is any better than it is any other time." *Where*: he discusses cars, beaches, fields, forests, and parks in contrast to privacy, warmth, space

(highly recommending a large, rather than a twin, bed), comfort, and quiet. *Positions*: he describes four basic ones, and emphasizes in several places the need for experimentation and exploration in these and others.

He does make some surprising errors: apparently he hasn't found out that there is no such thing as a "clitoral" orgasm, and he implies that *all* women are multiorgasmic. In the section on contraceptives he recommends the condom for that first time, but fails to emphasize the need for the female simultaneously to use a vaginal foam—to heighten the safety factor as well as to make that first experience, especially with a dry condom, more comfortable for the woman.

A very decided plus is his chapter on the first time between homosexuals. He does make some errors: he confuses homosexuality with hormonal imbalance, and ends with the ambiguous sentence "There are enough 'manly' women and 'feminine' men around to encourage the mistaken assumption that all people with an unusual hormone mix are homosexual." He concludes, however, with the true fact that "homosexuality is much more likely to occur as a result of your emotional upbringing." In talking about homosexual options he states, "Whether we like it or not, we live in a society that imposes sexual conditions on us—the chief one being that we must choose between one sex or the other." He neglects the presently widely accepted fact that we don't choose, we are either hetero- or homosexual, so that the gender of one's sex partner follows naturally from whichever of these states of being has been programmed for us in early childhood. His excellent ending of this section makes up for much by remarking that homosexuals should not be ashamed, should try to find out who and what they are rather than try to force their bodies and their emotions in the other direction. He ends with a short section on venereal diseases—a gesture in the right direction but with not enough information given to make it more than that.

All told, the book is useful—but one wonders how it will reach the average 14- or 15-year-old who is considering "the first time" and whether and how to manage it. Because of its implication of seeming to give permission, most parents would probably not want their

children even of age 17–18 to have access to it. For, as with contraception, preparation appears to give condonation—or even permission. Yet the evidence is overwhelming that prime causes of sexual acting out by immature people are ignorance and anxiety. Maybe we should see whether or not allaying curiosity and useless or false fears might not work better to prevent premature, fumbling, unprotected experimentation—if only by opening the door for adolescents and adults to consider, in rational instead of hysterical fashion, the circumstances under which that "first time" might most safely and rewardingly take place. This book could be a step in that direction. **LT, A, P**

**The Dark Angel: Aspects of Victorian Sexuality.** Fraser Harrison. New York: Universe Books, 1977 (285 pp.; \$12.50).

*Reviewed by Zelda Austen, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English, C. W. Post College, Greenvale, N.Y.*

In 1862, the 26-year-old author-illustrator George Du Maurier suffered a nervous breakdown, from the combination of a two-year-long struggle to earn the thousand-a-year considered necessary for respectable marriage and for the same time span maintaining chastity. The warfare between his aspirations and his urgent sexual desires was ended only when the price of his bride-to-be was reduced to a more reasonable £200-a-year. Saving oneself for marriage and saving money had become inextricably interwoven: in Victorian slang, the word for sexual climax was "spend."

Fraser Harrison sees this linkage of money and sex as the most potent factor in the formation of the middle-class Victorian woman. She must be mild, obedient, and passive, for her own property would belong to her husband and she would produce heirs for the passage of wealth from one generation to the next. She must be idle and pursue only useless occupations for she was the visible proof of her husband's and father's wealth.

The author utilizes and then goes beyond the obvious sources—Veblen, Dickens's *David Copperfield*, Ruskin's "Of Queens' Gardens," and Patmore's "Angel in the House"—to show how

this seductively helpless female was perpetuated in the painter Frederic Leighton's captive nudes and in the works of scientists Charles Darwin and Havelock Ellis. And even during the seeming revolt of the eighties and nineties, in the novels of Grant Allen and Kipling the "new woman" must acknowledge the mastery of the beloved male or else destroy him or come to a bad end herself. This is in contrast to the emancipated woman who insists on control of her own body or of her own earnings, and who does not yearn for marriage and protection. She then becomes a "dark angel" in the latter decades of the century, a specter haunting fiction and painting.

The weakness of the first and larger portion of this book, that dealing with middle-class marriage, is exactly that it must rely for documentation of its thesis of female submission and increasingly threatened male tyranny on representations in literature and painting. As a result, we still have little knowledge of the real lives and feelings of many competent, assertive Victorian wives who actively raised large families, managed complicated households and money matters, held "salons," and were not coy, retiring, yielding harem creatures. But the fact that such women do abound in the novels of George Eliot, Mrs. Gaskell, Trollope, Dickens, and Arnold Bennett, where they are variously bitchy and benign, indicates that they must have been almost as typical as the yielding, male-adoring stereotype.

In contrast to the above and thanks to the indefatigable parliamentary commissions and to journalists like Mayhew, present documentary evidence for the real lives of working-class Victorians need not depend on fiction. Middle-class Victorians seemed as bent on revealing the sex lives of the lower orders as they were on concealing their own. Thus, in the second portion of the book Harrison is able to give us a powerful and moving picture of real working-class sexual life, or rather of how the lack of it led to its replacement by drunkenness, wife-beating, and prostitution. These were manifestations of poverty, just as middle-class sexual behavior was of wealth and its responsibilities. The author quite brilliantly shows how working-class violence and prostitution, seen by middle-class moralists as depravities, were in reality ways of retrieving self-

respect. In a life governed by the need merely to survive but amid conditions which made survival virtually impossible, we can see how the worker's blows on his wife should really be viewed as disguised or frustrated tenderness. For poverty-stricken women, too, prostitution must have appeared as a sensible way of avoiding the degradation and death of the sweatshops, for "ruin" often meant better health, food, clothing, lodgings, and companionship, and could occasionally even be a road to respectable marriage. **A, PR**

**The Mermaid and the Minotaur: Sexual Arrangements and Human Malaise.** Dorothy Dinnerstein. New York: Harper and Row, 1976 (288 pp.; \$10.95).

*Reviewed by Sonya K. Friedman, Ph.D., Psychologist, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.*

Is there a woman alive who has never experienced a moment of deep intimacy with a man only to have him turn to her seconds later and say something cruel and rejecting? Women will appreciate the contents of Dorothy Dinnerstein's book about the sexes; men will be surprised!

While difficult to read and at times quite repetitive, the messages are worthy even if the path is bumpy. Ms. Dinnerstein indicates that the source of conflict between male and female rests primarily with the heavy early mothering that most human infants have. It is the bond with this dominating mother that creates great distance between the sexes. While there is much to be agreed with, in some cases the message is overstated. While it is typically the mother who rocks the cradle, it is also the mother who sets the scene for her children to observe the parental interaction in their own homes. It is a major feat for boys who have been brought through their early and adolescent years by a dominant female to feel anything but ambiguous toward the women in their lives. Having been overprotected or overwhelmed by a mother, a boy may often be burdened by the feeling that he must meet the mother's emotional needs if the father is not present. As he grows toward manhood this male often cannot break the bonds between himself and his mother and therefore cannot take the

burdens of two wives—mother and mate.

Dinnerstein further discusses the need for the suppression of female sexuality. Males are inherently aware that female sexuality is boundless. Therefore, political and social systems are created to keep women from the freedom of sexual experience. Further, Dinnerstein discusses male ego safeguards such as the dilution of relationships so that there can be a female in his life to be a means of protecting him from facing his fears of absorption, dependency, and abandonment. (It is interesting to note that a number of women are taking on this particular male characteristic by calling themselves liberated females but, in fact, they are facing the same issues.) The inability of men to fuse sex and tender feelings is also discussed. Dinnerstein makes it clear that female-dominated early childrearing forces girls into roles of submission, obedience, and dependence, and she traces how the early powerful mother is then recreated in later relationships. Perhaps the most disturbing statements in the book relate to how women share males' antifeminine feelings.

*The Mermaid and the Minotaur* may at times seem clumsy, but it is definitely thought-provoking, informative, and worth reading. **A**

**Infertility: A Couple's Guide to Causes and Treatments.** Mary Harrison. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1977 (204 pp.; \$7.95).

*Reviewed by Mary S. Calderone, M.D., President, SIECUS.*

This book is a careful and lucid discussion of infertility, its causes, effects, problems, and possible treatments. It answers many questions that even fertile couples might want answered. Most notably, it also specifically confronts, where this is appropriate, the several ways that the infertility itself or its various diagnostic or treatment programs can affect the sexual life of an infertile couple. The author and her husband were just such a couple, and as both of them are scientists, the analysis of their own experiences as they moved toward successful fertility is scientifically based as well as enlightening. **A**

# LEGAL BRIEFS

"Legal Briefs" is prepared by Ralph Slovenko, LL.B., Ph.D., Professor of Law and Psychiatry, Wayne State University Law School, Detroit, Michigan.

## Restriction on the Right to Marry

The United States Supreme Court has struck down as unconstitutional Wisconsin's law requiring court permission before a man with a legal obligation to support children of an earlier union may marry. Under the terms of the Wisconsin statute, a man cannot marry without court approval unless he proves that he has met all support obligations for previous children, either illegitimate or of a former marriage, and must also demonstrate that such children are not likely to become public charges. In the case at bar, the complainant had admitted paternity of a baby girl born while he was a high school student and had been ordered to pay \$109 per month until the girl turned 18. For the next two years the complainant was unemployed and indigent and did not make any support payments. He then applied for a license to marry, and was turned down because of both a \$3700 arrearage in his support payments and the fact that, even if he were current in the payments, the child would still be eligible for AFDC benefits.

In holding the statute unconstitutional, Justice Marshall, writing for the majority, held that freedom to marry was "a fundamental liberty" protected by the due process clause of the Constitution, with which states cannot interfere without an important interest that is directly served by their laws. The interests asserted to justify Wisconsin's classification—the opportunity to counsel support-obligated parents and the protection of the welfare of the children—are not compelling enough to sustain the statute. There are other statutory methods of enforcing a support obligation, counseling may be provided in other ways, and for parents who are unable to support their children fully "the statute merely prevents the applicant from getting married, without delivering any money at all into the hands of the applicant's prior children."

In a concurring opinion, Justice Stewart expressed disagreement with the majority opinion that there is a "right to marry" in the constitutional sense. A state may not only "significantly interfere with decisions to enter into the marriage relationship," but may in many circumstances absolutely prohibit it. Thus, a state may legitimately say that no one can marry his or her sibling, that no one can marry who is not at least 14 years old, that no one can marry without first passing an examination for venereal disease, or that no one can marry who has a living husband or wife. But, just as surely, in regulating the intimate human relationship of marriage, there is a limit beyond which a state may not constitutionally go. Justice Stewart, like the majority, concluded that the Wisconsin law making permission to marry

turn on the payment of money in support of one's children by a previous marriage or liaison went beyond that limit. Justice Stewart stated: "The fact remains that some people simply cannot afford to meet the statute's financial requirements. To deny these people permission to marry penalizes them for failing to do that which they cannot do. . . . But the State's legitimate concern with the financial soundness of prospective marriages must stop short of telling people they may not marry because they are too poor or because they might persist in their financial irresponsibility. The invasion of constitutionally protected liberty and the chance of erroneous prediction are simply too great."

Justice Rehnquist, dissenting, maintained that the Wisconsin law was "a permissible exercise of the state's power to regulate family life and assure the support of minor children" that did not have to meet standards of the "strictest judicial scrutiny" imposed by the majority.

The ruling in the case [*Zablocki v. Redgal*, 98 S. Ct. 673 (1978)] upheld a decision of unconstitutionality by a three-judge federal district court.

### Same-Sex Marriages

In a much publicized test of the law, two men in Minnesota in 1971 attempted to get a marriage license. They were refused and they were turned down by the state's highest court [*Baker v. Nelson*, 291 Minn. 310, 191 N.W.2d 185 (1971)]. Since then there have been challenges in other jurisdictions, and courts there have also rejected same-sex marriage as being no marriage at all [e.g., *McConnell v. Noonan*, 547 F.2d 54 (8th Cir. 1976); *Jones v. Hallahan*, 301 S.W.2d 588 (Ky. 1973); *Anonymous v. Anonymous*, 67 Mis.2d 982, 325 N.Y.S.2d 499 (1971); *Singer v. Hara*, 11 Wash. App. 247, 522 P.2d 1187 (1974)].

The California legislature recently amended its Civil Code to define marriage as "a personal relationship arising out of a civil contract *between a man and a woman*" (italics added) [Section 4100 of Civil Code as amended by Chapter 339 of 1977]. Marriage was previously defined simply as "a personal relationship arising out of a civil contract." By making specific reference to "a man and a woman," the California legislature makes it clear that same-sex relationships cannot qualify for marriage licenses. The courts in the decisions cited above indicated that such language is redundant. In the course of debates in the New York legislature, one consideration in refusing to recognize common-law marriages or homosexual relationships was fear that the family

court would be called upon to mediate homosexual disputes [*New York Times*, June 11, 1977, p. 20].

### Modified Female-Male Marriages

Recently the New Jersey Supreme Court in the case of *M.T. v. J.T.* [140 N.J. Super. 77 (1976)] was faced with the question of how to tell the sex of a person for marital purposes. Involved in the case was a postoperative transsexual, born a male but now claiming to be a female, who had married the male defendant. Although knowing of the gender change prior to the marriage, the defendant sought to avoid support and maintenance when the couple separated. The defendant alleged that the marriage was void because the plaintiff was "really a man." In upholding the validity of the marriage, the court stated that "for marital purposes if the anatomical or genital features of a genuine transsexual are made to conform to the person's gender, psyche or psychological sex, then identity by sex must be governed by the congruence of these standards" (140 N.J. Super. at 87). The court turned its back on an English case [*Corbett v. Corbett*, 2 W.L.R. 1306 (1970)], apparently the only other reported decision involving the validity of marriage of a postoperative transsexual and a male person. The English court subscribed to the view that "the biological sexual constitution of an individual is fixed at birth (at the latest), and cannot be changed, either by the natural development of organs of the opposite sex, or by medical or surgical means." The English court held that "marriage is a relationship which depends on sex and not on gender" [*sic*] and it concluded on alternative grounds that the marriage had not been, and in-

deed could not be, consummated [2 W.L.R. at 1325]. (See Editor's Note below.)

### Conclusion

What is needed, it is increasingly being said, is a fresh, realistic, and humanistic approach to family law, one that is more responsive to current needs. For example, like a corporate entity, a group of elderly people living together to economize or to avoid loneliness of isolation or the impersonality of an old people's home, ought to be entitled to family status—and with it, not only legal and social sanction (which is important psychologically) but tax and other advantages that a family can get [R. T. Eisler, "Non-marital Partnerships Are Families Too," Newsletter, American Bar Association, Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities, Fall 1977, p. 1]. Family status would qualify for special fares (travel, museums, etc.); insurance; housing restricted to one-family occupancy; confidential communication privilege; and other benefits.

**Editor's Note:** The decision in this case is especially noteworthy in that it highlights that the New Jersey Supreme Court was excellently informed on the nature of transsexualism, both pre- and postsurgical transformation. In contrast, the English court is obviously not familiar with such definitive research work as reported in *Man and Woman, Boy and Girl*, by Money and Erhardt (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1972) which provided the scientific basis for the enlightened New Jersey decision.

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## DO YOU KNOW THAT...

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### Resources to Write for . . .

**Models of Human Genital Anatomy** for therapeutic and educational instruction have been difficult to locate, but some are now available. Their designer suggests that "in psychotherapeutic treatment, touching and holding the models can help desensitize clients with debilitating fears. . . . In medical examinations, they help prepare the patient for unfamiliar procedures." They can thus prove very useful not only to sex and marriage counselors but to all professionals and students in health, hygiene, medicine, nursing, sexual enhancement, and contraception. Helen Singer Kaplan, M.D., Ph.D., head of the Sex Therapy and Education Program at the Payne Whitney Clinic of New York Hospital, and an authority in her fields of psychoanalysis and sex therapy, states: "The models are accurate and useful. I can recommend them without reservation."

The hand-painted, latex set includes: vaginal model with uterus (\$75), vulvar model (\$40), flacid penis (\$40), erect penis (\$40), and vasectomy/prostate model (\$65) (complete set, \$240). For further information write: Jim Jackson, 16 Laurel Street, Arlington, MA 02174.

**Annotated Resource Guide to Periodicals in Human Sexuality**, researched and edited by David A. Shore, contains

pertinent information about more than 50 journals and newsletters which cover the entire range of current topics in the field of human sexuality. For those people interested in and/or involved in this area of study, this publication should be a valuable guide to existing resources. Copies at \$3.00 each are available from David A. Shore, M.S.W., Director, Sullivan House—S.L.P., 1525 East 53rd Street, Suite 1102A, Chicago, IL 60615.

### Training in Marriage and Sex Counseling

The Marriage Council of Philadelphia (Division of Family Study, Department of Psychiatry of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine) offers a clinically based program in marriage and sex counseling and sex education for professionals seeking training in these areas. This full-time eleven-month program is open to candidates who have had supervised counseling experience and have a master's degree or above. (It is *not* an internship for students seeking an initial counseling practicum.) This program is approved by the American Association of Marriage and Family Counselors as a training center in marriage and family counseling. Qualified applicants may be eligible for a combined doctoral program (Ed.D. or Ph.D.) in Human Sexuality Education through the Graduate School of Education of the University of Pennsylvania. For information, write to Ellen M. Berman, M.D., Director of Training, Marriage Council of Philadelphia, Inc., 4025 Chestnut St., 2nd floor, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

# JOURNAL REVIEWS

## MEDICAL ASPECTS OF HUMAN SEXUALITY

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

*Reviewed by Robert L. Arnstein, M.D., Chief Psychiatrist, Yale University Division of Mental Health, New Haven, Conn.*

December 1977

**Adolescent Sexuality: Fact and Fantasy about the "New Morality."** Richard V. Lee, M.D.

Originally an address to pediatricians, this article makes a strong plea for balance in counseling adolescents about sexuality and for a stress on individual responsibility for actions. The author deplores the current social pressure for early involvement in sexual activity and the intolerance expressed toward those individuals who do not become involved. Physicians and parents, he feels, must express their views rather than remaining silent.

**Sex and the Female Diabetic.** Max Ellenberg, M.D.

The author reports a study of 100 diabetic females, with and without neuropathy, in whom there was no evidence of sexual or orgasmic difficulty. He speculates, without too much conviction, on the reasons for the striking contrast of this finding to that with diabetic males.

**Sexual Desire and Responsibility During Pregnancy.** Harold I. Lief, M.D.

Several studies are reported that seem to suggest that sexual behavior decreased as pregnancy progressed. Two studies, however, suggested that parity affected sexuality with multiparous women increasing sexual behavior during the second trimester. The author points out that many questions remain and merit further study.

**Somatic Expressions of Sexual Anxiety.** Mona Devanesan, M.D.; Dennis J. Massler, M.D.; Martha D. Calderwood, M.A.; Herik R. Caterini, M.D.

The authors describe a variety of physical symptoms without demonstrable organic basis which they feel are largely psychogenic in origin and serve as a defense against sexual anxiety. They cite various case examples.

January, 1978

**Massive Obesity and Sexual Activity.** Thomas N. Wise, M.D.

Twenty-three individuals presenting for ileal bypass surgery were studied in regard to their sexual lives. Although heterosexual activity was limited for some individuals, this appeared to be the result of the individual's psychological attitudes toward his or her weight. No evidence of homosexual orientation was found, and those who were active heterosexually reported full orgasmic response. Several, however, reported increasing fatigue and dyspnea from the exertion of intercourse which led at times to avoidance. Thus, obesity in itself did not appear to affect sexual functioning, but had, at times, secondary consequences that decreased sexual activity.

**"Showing Off" Sexually.** Beverley T. Mead, M.D.

The range of purposes in sexual "showing off" is described with particular stress on the male. The author feels that there has been some shift from "record-setting" types of performance concern on the part of the male to concern about pleasing the partner. He feels that this is a positive trend and, therefore, concludes that, except in extreme cases, sexual showmanship may add to pleasure.

**Sexual Concerns of Mastectomy Patients.** Harold I. Lief, M.D.

A brief report of a study in which it was found that only 10 percent of women undergoing mastectomy discussed their concerns about the impact of the surgery on their sexual and marital life although two-thirds would have liked such a discussion. After mastectomy erotic sensations from the breast decreased or disappeared in 50 percent of the women, but no permanent de-

crease in frequency of orgasm was noted. The study suggested the need for physicians to initiate discussion of sexual concerns after mastectomy.

**Psychological Factors Influencing the Choice of Contraceptive Method.** Charles V. Ford, M.D.

A rather comprehensive and clear discussion of psychological factors associated with different methods of contraception. It discusses both male and female reactions although, understandably, it tends to stress the latter.

## THE JOURNAL OF SEX RESEARCH

(Society for the Scientific Study of Sex, % Mrs. Mary B. Westervelt, 208 Dafodil Road, Glen Burnie, MD 21061.)

*Reviewed by Lester A. Kirkendall, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Family Life Education, Oregon State University, Corvallis; and member, SIECUS Advisory Panel.*

Volume 13, No. 4, November 1977

**The Effects of Two Types of Erotic Literature on Physiological and Verbal Measures of Female Sexual Arousal.** Candice A. Osborn and Robert H. Pollack.

This is a check on the Kinsey researchers' view that women generally respond with more sexual arousal than men to stories of romance, men responding more erotically to hard-core pornography. Twelve female graduate students were presented with "erotically realistic" and "hard-core pornography" stories. Sexual arousal was measured by physical devices and subjective self-report scales. On both measures the hard-core stories produced significantly greater arousal. This finding coincides with other findings and so the authors conclude that the Kinsey beliefs were in error. The explicitness of the sexual material rather than its romantic content raises the level of sexual arousal in women. This is far too

small a sample to do more than raise questions. It does indicate that male and female sexuality inherently are quite similar, and the differences the Kinsey researchers noted (if they existed at all) were culturally conditioned.

### **Personality Style and Sexual Functioning Among Psychiatric Outpatients.**

David J. Kupfer, Jerrold F. Rosenbaum, and Thomas P. Detre.

This study hypothesizes that sexual dysfunctioning and psychological maladaptation are related. One hundred eighty-five psychiatric outpatients, males and females, were given a self-report questionnaire on sexual functioning and a personality-trait questionnaire which measured anxious impulsive, obsessive, and phobic personalities. Chronic anxiety and changes in sexual interest and activity were related, as were anxiety and thoughts of ending marriage. A significant degree of impulsivity was related to histories of difficulty with sexual relations. Women with spousal conflicts who experienced difficulty in sexual arousal were high on both anxiety and impulsivity. Men who were chronically premature ejaculators were also chronically anxious. The authors warn that while their findings offer partial support for their hypothesis, the nature of that relationship is still not well defined. Considerably more research needs to be done, but if further research verifies this hypothesis, sexuality will be even more integrally tied with the whole personality.

### **Sex Differences in the Vocabulary of College Students.** Dorothy Singer, Jill Avedon, Robin Hering, Annie McCann, and Cindi Sacks.

Twenty male and twenty female college students were studied to replicate an 1891 study of male-female usage of words. Each subject was asked to write 100 nouns in a 15-minute period. The nouns were then categorized: parts of the body, food, clothing, animals, nature, unique words, i.e., "cacophony," "couvade," and scientific words. The results were then compared with the 1891 study. Over time women are increasing their vocabularies. The gap between the sexes has closed in the use of animal, nature, and scientific words. Formerly women were higher on food words; now there is no difference. They are still higher on clothing

words than men. In 1891 men and women stood equal on body part words; in 1977 men listed more. Women have gained in the use of unique words. Changes in vocabulary seem one of the measures of social change affecting sexual differentiation. This is another study indicating that as old barriers are broken down, and in the absence of rigid male/female conditioning processes, the sexes become more alike. Everyone is human first, male or female afterward.

### **Sex in Lasting Marriages: A Longitudinal Study.** Ben N. Ard, Jr.

In 1955 data were collected from 161 couples who had been married for approximately 20 years and who had been participants in a longitudinal study over that 20-year period. This group had had positive anticipations of sex in marriage from the very outset, though male expectations were higher. Over the 20-year period the frequency of intercourse had dropped. Husbands continued to want intercourse more often than their wives. Differences in expectations, according to the spouses, had produced negative effects on the marriage. This study suggests that sexual adjustment can be satisfactory over a period of time with the same partner. "Familiarity did not breed contempt. . . ." With the greater stress on individual fulfillment today would the same results be found 20 years in the future? Counselors would like to know!

### **AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING**

(American Journal of Nursing, 10 Columbus Circle, New York, NY 10019)

*Reviewed by Mary S. Calderone, M.D., President, SIECUS.*

### **Volume 78, No. 2, February 1978**

### **Penile Implants for Impotence.** Robin Young Wood, R.N., M.S., and Karla Rose, R.N., M.S.N.

This is a five-page, workmanlike presentation of a topic of increasing interest. The physiology of normal erection is first discussed, in terms of innervation as well as engorgement. "Impotence . . . may be precipitated by any distortion in the innervation potential of the parasympathetic fibers, the transmission of impulses from the spi-

nal cord to the penis, or the capacity of the corpora cavernosa to dilate and fill with blood. Among the possible causes of organic impotence are vascular or neuromuscular disease; endocrine or metabolic conditions, such as diabetes, renal failure, or hypogonadism; radical pelvic surgery; trauma; or certain medications."

Approximately 90 percent of reported cases of impotence, however, result from psychogenic factors, which may "be precipitated by excessive stress in family, work, or interpersonal relationships, or by fatigue, or by discontent with past or present sexual relationships."

"The treatment of psychogenic impotence may include counseling, oral or injectable androgen therapy, and intensive psychotherapy."

The remainder of the article describes the two types of prosthetic implants now emerging as methods of treatment for organic impotence. It points out, too, that an implant "may be considered for patients with psychogenic impotence when intensive psychotherapy fails." The first of two devices available are sponge-filled silicone rods that can be surgically implanted, one in each of the corpora cavernosa. After implantation it is possible for intercourse to occur, but a disadvantage is that the penis remains in a state of semi-erection. This is not generally painful, nor does it interfere with the patient's daily activities. It may, however, be socially unacceptable to the patient or the partner.

The second device is the inflatable penile prosthesis, in which the surgically implanted silicone cylinder is hollow and connected to a reservoir of solution that is sutured into the abdominal wall. A bulb is implanted in one sac of the scrotum, and the system is connected by tubes. When the patient compresses the bulb in the scrotum, solution flows from the reservoir to the cylinders in the penis, causing an erection. A one-way check valve in the pump retains the fluid in the cylinders, and can be released when the patient wishes the erection to subside.

Excellent diagrams accompany the article, as well as a discussion of the operations themselves, how to handle postoperative pain and urination, how to plan for discharge with the sexual partner, postoperative counseling, and psychological concerns. A list of references completes the article.

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