

Sex Educator To Speak Here

"Human Sexuality, the Flow and the Ebb" will be the topic of a talk to be presented here Tuesday, Feb. 15, as one of the nation's pioneers in sex information and education addresses the university's Council on Aging and Human Development.

The speaker, Dr. Mary S. Calderone, is founder and president of the Sex Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS), a non-profit, privately-funded organization which describes itself as "a resource center and catalyst for change providing materials and information for professionals in the field of human sexuality and sex education."

She will speak at 4 p.m. in Room 1504 of the Gerontology Building.

Dr. Calderone is a graduate of Vassar College, the University of Rochester Medical School and Columbia University's School of Public Health. A prolific writer, she has received numerous national awards and honorary degrees, including a citation in 1971 as one of the nation's 75 most important women by "Ladies Home Journal."



DR. MARY S. CALDERONE



The Botany Department Greenhouse is having a surplus plant sale tomorrow beginning at 10 a.m. in room 073, Biological Sciences Building.

Items for sale include tropical foliage plants, ferns, succulents, bromeliads, orchids, flowering plants and some rare plants not found at commercial outlets.

Proceeds will be used for greenhouse supplies and the beautification and modernization of the facility.

Multi-Media Show Begins Tonight

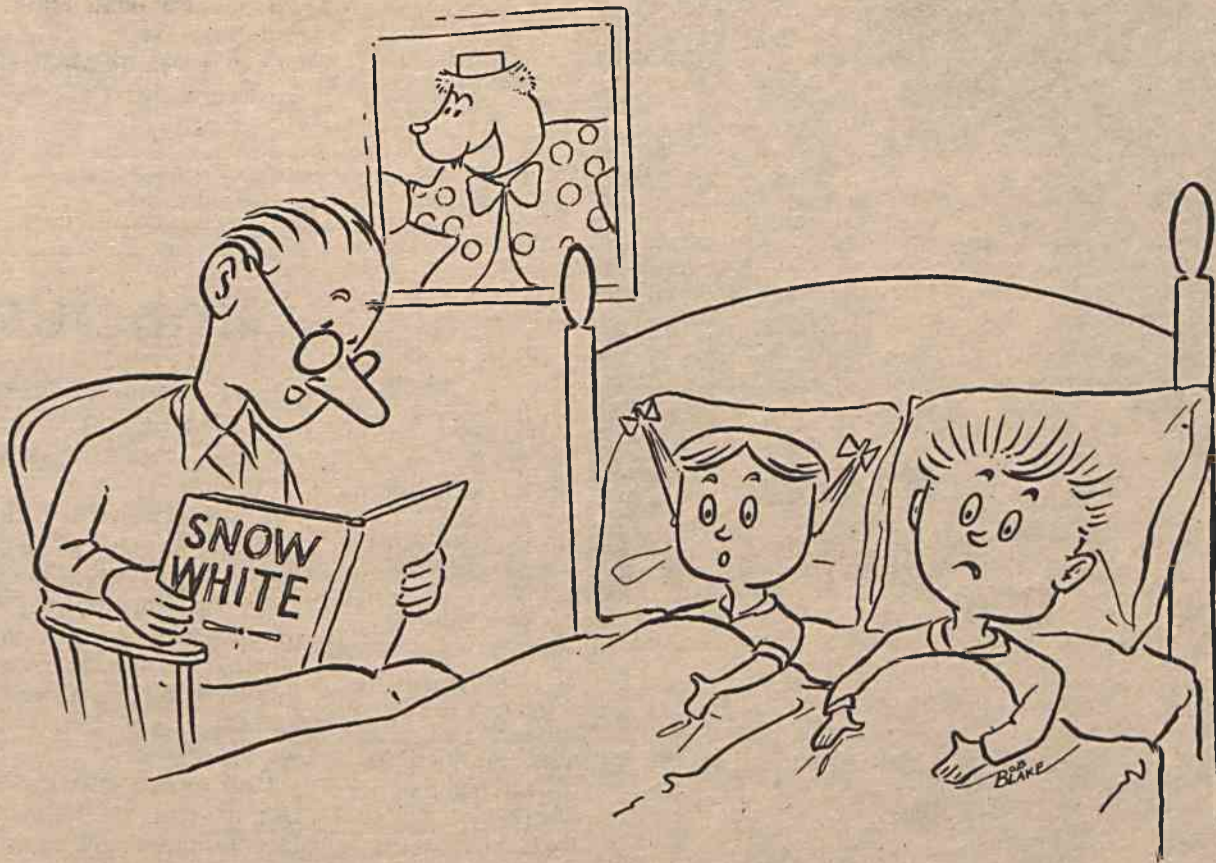
What happens when the imaginations and talents of dancers, writers, musicians, lighting and audio designers, sculptors and actors are turned loose to work together? The result is "Synergy - Cube Roots."

The three staged pieces and two lobby displays will be presented in Baldwin Auditorium on East Campus Feb. 11, 12, 18 and 19. Doors and lobby displays will open at 7 p.m. and performances will begin at 8:15 p.m.

Steve Turner, an associate in medicine at the medical center, is audio director for the program.

The project is organized and created by the Synergic Foundation for the Arts, presented in cooperation with WDBS/FM and cosponsored by the North Carolina Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Tickets for \$2.50 are available in advance at the Page box office and at Baldwin Auditorium on performance nights.



What Is Cinderella's Stand on Violence?

By David Williamson

Are Snow White and her seven short friends turning children into tomorrow's lawbreakers?

Is Rumpelstiltskin spinning a web of evil over their futures?

Could Cinderella be in part responsible for the United States' having a murder rate 35 times higher than the second most violent country?

A psychologist here who has studied aggression in fairy tales of three cultures might not go that far, but he says he can prove that the tales most read to children in this country are significantly more violent than others he has examined.

Dr. Doyle Gentry, professor and head of the Division of Medical Psychology, analyzed an equal number of randomly selected fairy tales from Japan, India and the United States.

He found that the popular Grimm's fairy tales, including Snow White, Rumpelstiltskin, Cinderella and the Frog Prince, depicted twice as many acts of aggression as the Indian tales and four times as many as the Japanese.

More Human Aggression

He also discovered, somewhat to his surprise, that although aggressive content was widespread throughout the fables of all three children, the Grimm's tales contained 50 per cent more human aggression than did the others.

"Over half of the aggressive acts were followed by either a positive consequence or no consequence at all," Gentry said. "Aggressive behavior was displayed equally by

'good' and 'bad' characters, almost all of whom were central figures in the tales."

For purposes of the study, an act of aggression was defined as "behavior which was transitive in nature and which involved the delivery of noxious stimuli, insult, threat, pain, injury, death or destruction."

Examples he cited included an elephant trampling a man's head, a crab cutting a crane's throat and in Snow White, the wicked queen salting, cooking and eating an animal heart she believed had been cut from the murdered heroine.

Why would a psychologist who spends the greater part of his days treating emotionally disturbed patients want to study fairy tales?

Why Is U.S. Most Aggressive?

"In terms of homicide statistics and other violent acts, the United States is clearly the most aggressive culture in the world," Gentry said. "A great many people are trying to find out why that's true."

Hundreds of papers have been written in the past 10 years on violence in the media and how it may affect children, Gentry said, but no one has examined fairy tales in the same light.

"Fairy tales are important transmitters of culture, found in virtually every society possessing a written heritage," he explained. "They are read to children at an early age, often before the child has developed the capacity to distinguish between fiction and reality and before the child has been systematically exposed to other forms of media such as TV and comics."

More Questions Than Answers

"Whether fairy tales are going to have any harmful effects on children, like psychologists have suggested cartoons and movies do, I don't know," he said. "This study, which is purely a descriptive one, poses a lot more questions than it answers."

"I do think, however, that if certain things make a difference in the level of violence in our country then at some point we have to identify them and rank them in order of their importance," Gentry said.

Probably an even greater problem than any direct relationship to violence is what observation of

aggressive behavior does to one's tolerance of aggression, he added. "A lot of social scientists and psychiatrists now feel that we see so much violence early on in our comic books, in our television programs and its movies that we become more accepting of it as a way of resolving conflict."

Certain Mentality

"Of course the availability of weapons in this country probably accounts in a large way for our homicide statistics, but then again there is a certain mentality that pulls the trigger," Gentry said. "Where do these people come from?"

Studies have shown that tolerance of violence is indeed high in this country, the psychologist said. The man in the street is not upset that there was a war in Vietnam, for example, but only that the United States didn't win it.

After the shooting deaths of four students at Kent State University in 1970 a disturbingly high number of parents with college age children expressed their belief that the dead young people only got what they deserved, he said.

Gentry said he believes the atmosphere in the home is the single most important factor in determining how an individual will tolerate violence in his or her own life and in society in general.

Influence of Parents

"Clearly, if a child sits and watches everything violent on television, that has nowhere near the influence as parents who fight and throw things at each other," he said.

Gentry, who said he doesn't allow his own small children to watch the Saturday morning television programs despite the fact they have been improved in the past two years, said his brief study of fairy tale violence has motivated him to take a closer look at their reading material.

Sometimes he "tones down" certain words and situations.

Still he doesn't know whether his concern will have any effect in the long run, he said, because "psychologists don't have any easier time being parents than anyone else does."

Gentry's study was published in a recent issue of *Psychological Reports*.