

Editorials

We Need Sex Education

Predicting the future of human sexuality is fraught with risks, suggests Robert Staples, a Ph.D. sociologist. He adds that sexual patterns have moved in cycles of liberal and conservative trends in concert with changes in society. The so-called permissive era of the 1960s and 1970s has apparently been replaced by a more conservative atmosphere in the 1980s. Dr. Staples' conclusions are supported by national surveys.

One survey has found that by 1982 the increasing number of teenage women having premarital sexual intercourse that was evident in the 1970s has declined. Among white women such behavior "leveled off, while it declined among blacks." Another national survey reported an increase since 1981 in the number of people who believe extra-marital sex is wrong. The survey also found other evidence of changing attitudes toward sex: 1) the number of Americans who support sex education in the public schools has declined, and 2) the number of Americans who oppose pornography has increased because of a belief that it leads to a breakdown in morals. Finally, at Miami University (Ohio), sociologists found that the percentage of female students there who claim they are virgins has increased over the last six years after decreasing significantly from the mid-1960s to the late 1970s.

Tragically and unfortunately, these evidences of a shift to a less sexually permissive historic period appear to be influenced more by social forces in our society than by our values of what is morally and spiritually right. For example, sexually transmitted diseases such as the incurable herpes and the fatal AIDS are believed to have combined with a renewed popularity of marriage to shift toward the more conservative trend in sexual behavior. While this sexual trend has not happened for all the right reasons, those of us who strive to have some sense of moral values and standards about sexual conduct can, nevertheless, be for the current direction of sexual attitudes.

Sexual Attitudes

Tragically and unfortunately, again, we must hastily add that Dr. Staples' cycle theory on sexual attitudes and social forces, not values of morality, will result in these conservative sexual trends being short-lived with a return to more liberal or sexually permissive behavior. Our assumption here, from a values or morality perspective, is based on a number of disturbing facts that are and will reverse the current sexual trend. These are:

- The median duration of marriages in the United States is only 6.8 years.
- In the past three decades, teenagers have accepted the idea of premarital sex as the norm.
- An increasing number of women have chosen to bear children out of wedlock and to raise them alone.
- Many surveys show increasing numbers of unmarried couples living together with

some even experimenting with communal living, "open marriages," and other such arrangements.

What we have attempted to point out here is a bird's eye view of sexual morality in America and the forces that have and are affecting sexual attitudes and behavior. This has been done with a particular concern for the current conflict over sex education in our local public schools. However, preceding any objective discussion of this highly emotional issue, we must realize that only part of the problem of defining sexual standards and moral values lies with young people and premarital sex.

Morality Standards

In his book "Forecast 2000," George Gallup Jr. put the central point in perspective with these words:

"Our common concern expressed about the rise in divorces and decline in stability of the family is that the family unit has traditionally been a key factor in transmitting stable cultural and moral values from generation to generation. Various studies have shown that educational and religious institutions often can have only a limited impact on children without strong family support."

Therefore, as the debate and controversy about the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System's sex education curriculum continues, we need to remind ourselves first of superintendent Jay Robinson's statement issued on August 5 in which he said in the teaching of all subjects we relay "to students the importance of the values that make up our cultural heritage and shape the quality of life in our community."

Secondly, we need to reassess our roles as parents and ask ourselves are we providing our children the support, understanding and knowledge about values and morality standards that should prepare them to cope with the issues of lying, cheating, sex education, and dating in an objective and positive way that will allow the retaining of self-pride and self-respect with dignity.

Unfortunately, too many of us as parents lack the knowledge and communication skills to discuss and educate our children about any aspect of human sexuality and their physical bodies. Undoubtedly, many parents are fearful of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School's sex education curriculum because it may require them to comment or clarify issues for their children on an issue that they have never discussed with them before. Thus, it may be time for many of us as parents to awaken to our responsibility to aid and support the school's educational program by becoming prepared to join with our children in the learning process.

This is important, too, because it is at first the responsibility to introduce the child to the subject of sex education and all its implications before he or she even enters the first grade consistent with the child or children's levels of emotional stability and maturity.

Blacks' Destiny In Own Hands



BLAMING THE POLICE FOR THE ILL-TREATMENT OF BLACK JUVENILES DOESN'T STOP THEM FROM KILLING OLD MEN AND WOMEN SITTING AROUND DOING NOTHING WON'T HELP EITHER.

Problems Of Different Pay Scales?

A dollar's worth of work deserves a dollar's worth of pay - the basis of comparable pay. If all were fair and equal in the United States, the statement would be true; unfortunately, it is not. In 1985, separate pay structures for female and male employees exist. There are some fields - teaching and nursing are a couple - that are still viewed as women's work. The women in these jobs earn less than their male counterparts. Yes, it is legal and most unfair.

In a 1983 case involving Washington State employees, the Federal Judge handling the case ruled that men and women who held comparable jobs - jobs of the same grade level - had to be paid similar wages. However, a few weeks ago, the ruling was overturned because the Appeals Court expressed the idea that the state does not have to compensate women for an injustice it - the State - did not create.

Traditionally speaking, men have been viewed as the head of the household. That was great about a century ago. Within the last 20 years more women have taken the position as breadwinner in the home due to a number of reasons, but primarily because women are now



Sabrina

more career oriented, highly educated and find themselves being single parents more often than not. In 1984, there were double the number of female heads of households than the fifteen years prior. Women now know how and do bring home the bacon and fry it, too. A claim few men can make.

Some progress is being made to correct the problem of different pay scales for men and women. It would be a mistake to create a super pay board that would state how much every employer would pay each and every employee - George Orwell's 1984 this is not. Aside from that, who wants that kind of bureaucracy?

Washington State has a plan to raise the pay of

female employees without a court order. Minnesota is giving its clerk typists an extra 23 percent pay increase to level the inequality. New Mexico, Idaho and Wisconsin are raising salaries to stop sex discrimination.

On the other side of comparable pay, there are those who say that it is a rip-off for taxpayers, consumers and the workers it is supposed to help. These are also the same people who ignore the injustice of a society that pays a woman 68 cents for every dollar a man earns.

The root of the problem is in the fact that society has undervalued the work of those in traditional female jobs: which is discrimination. The answer to solving this problem is comparable worth.

In 1973, a study was done in Washington State. It revealed, after studying 121 traditional female and male job classification, that those in traditional female jobs were paid an average of 20 percent less than in male jobs of comparable value. Nationwide studies have documented the same pattern of discrimination.

The market place conditions must change to break down the barriers of the past and future. The implementation of comparable worth is much needed. This represents a sound basis for evaluating jobs and taking the needed corrective action.

Comparable worth is here to stay as a tool to end job-wage discrimination.

Here, it is not a matter of the sexes changing roles but a matter of those of the same job grade levels being paid the same or similar wages. Pants and dresses are not the issue. It is if a man and a woman are of the same grade level in their jobs - putting aside the job title - they should be paid what they are worth to the company as valuable employees. If a man and a woman work for an airline, both are considered the same job level grade - why should the man be paid more because he is a man and the woman less because she is a woman?

With the onset of comparable worth and affirmative action, employers should now see that women are oftentimes superior to their male counterparts. Maybe women should be paid more than men anyway! Why not?

Miller Says:

Business Relationships Mean Long-Term Commitments

By Sherman N. Miller/
Special To The Post

Can long-term business relationships displace altruism as the underpinning motivation for funding local programs?

In late August, I ran across a salt and pepper team who claimed that they were helping to underwrite programs that did not receive funding from traditional sources. These chaps were attending a summer basketball league championship game. I asked them how they decided whom to fund. The white chap gushed forth, "Leonard decides where it goes."

Initially I saw no connection between Richard M. Kleger, secretary-treasurer of Diamond State Salvage Company, and Leonard C. Goode, director of community relations for Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company of Wilmington, De. They quickly assuaged my curiosity by revealing that their relationship is centered around the potential adverse impact that deposits on aluminum cans might have on their respective businesses.

Kleger declared, "Recycling can keep prices down."



Sherman

Goode echoed this same sentiment, that by "not charging for cans up front... prices of soda can be kept down."

It became vividly clear that both of these gentlemen had a need for the young chaps playing basketball. Pepsi did not wish to erode their sales volume by raising prices, and Diamond State Salvage needed scrap.

Kleger went on to say that if "people would not bring us material we would not be in business."

Kleger, leaving no doubt about his company's position on deposits on canned beverages, uttered, "We would like to show there is value in aluminum without a deposit."

Nonetheless, Kleger dampened his comments by telling me a story of a young chap who collected three bags of

cans only to learn that most of them were worthless. Kleger says there is no market for steel cans. He says that although he could not compensate the young fellow, he did give him a jersey because of his efforts.

Kleger expanded on the risk of trading aluminum cans calling attention to the fact that aluminum prices are dictated by world market conditions particularly since the market is depressed.

However, Kleger expressed some strong altruistic feelings. He said, "A business has a certain amount of responsibility to the community."

Goode corroborated Kleger's expression: "Funds from recycling go back into the community." He sees recycled dollars reaching organizations that may not qualify for the United Way funding. Goode contends they have helped senior citizens' efforts, Latin-American community programs, day care, and so on.

These two businessmen's motivation can be highlighted in four key points:

1. Recycled materials help to keep prices down and sales volumes up;
2. Businesses

have a responsibility to the community; 3. Business relationship between community groups and corporations offer the potential of long-term funding commitments; and 4. Volunteer collection of valuable recyclable materials will help to control America's litter problem.

As I pondered the four points above, I was reminded of being in a store when a late middle-aged chap came in and started searching the trash cans for aluminum cans. This man told the store owner that his store was in his territory.

When I drove away from this store I saw no aluminum cans anywhere along the road leading up to it. This middle-aged chap's actions hint at the need for price supports for recyclable materials with high litter potential. That is, the price of aluminum cans might be maintained at a price level sufficient to insure that it makes economic sense for individuals or groups to collect them. Hopefully, these price supports may become a very cost effective way to make a major dent in America's terrible litter problem.

THE CHARLOTTE POST	
North Carolina's Fastest Growing Weekly	
704-376-0496	
"The People's Newspaper"	
107 Years Of Continuous Service	
Bill Johnson Editor, Pub.	Bernard Reeves Gen. Mgr.
Fran Farrer-Bradley Adv. Mgr.	Dannette Gaither Office Mgr.
Published Every Thursday by The Charlotte Post Publishing Company, Inc.	
Main Office: 1531 S. Camden Road Charlotte, N.C. 28203	
Second Class Postage Paid at Charlotte	
Member, National Newspaper Publishers' Association North Carolina Black Publishers Association	
National Advertising Representative: Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.	
One Year Subscription Rate One Year - \$17.76 Payable In Advance	
USPS No. 985509 POSTMASTER Send Change of address to: Charlotte Post 1531 S. Camden Rd. Charlotte, N.C. 28203	

THE HOUSE OF PRAYER STORY
Special Supplement
Next Two Weeks In The Post