

# Sex Education Group Seeks To Bridge Education Gap

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journal associate editor

"How do you really help people? How do you reach them where they are hurting and make a difference in their lives? Fighting ignorance is one way -- one of the most important ways -- especially ignorance concerning the most vital areas of life. It shouldn't be hard to see that ignorance about fundamental sexual matters and a failure to understand and come to terms with normal sexuality has caused much grief and damage to many lives."

"You know the facts...statistics on illegitimacy, venereal disease, the dangers of overpopulation, deaths from illegal abortions. Sexual maladjustments are often found at the basis of behavior not directly related to sex such as child-beating, suicide, juvenile delinquency. No other area of life is so fraught with misunderstandings, repressive laws and personal pain."

Speaking these words is Dr. H. Haie Harvey, Director of the College Student Division of the Community Sex Information and Educational Service Inc., based in New Orleans, Louisiana. The organization, known as CSIES, according to Dr. Harvey, "is a private, nonprofit organization, formed by a group of local physicians, social scientists, psychologists, counselors, sex educators and lawyers who are concerned about sexual problems in the community."

"When I was an undergraduate, I knew a lot of people were having hard decisions to make about sexual problems, and I realized that there was no type of program in existence to aid people in making these decisions," Dr. Harvey has said.

Dr. Harvey, who has taught philosophy at both Tulane and Southern University in New Orleans, received his undergraduate degree from LSU in philosophy and graduated from LSU Medical School in 1966 with his M.D. degree.

Dr. Harvey has also subsequently been awarded a Ph.D. in philosophy from Tulane

and is currently working on a second doctorate in epidemiology from the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, in addition to serving as director of CSIES.

He terms what he considers a "lack of sexual information" on the campus and in the community "of epidemic proportions."

CSIES' program kicked off in December 1969 when 50,000 Louisiana college students received copies of CSIES' pamphlet, "Adult Information on Sexual Health and Disease," a six-page catalogue on birth control, information on personal sexual problems, love and marriage, and abortion. The pamphlet was over a year in preparation, according to CSIES, by more than 50 physicians, psychologists, psychiatrists and experts in the sex education field.

Dr. Harvey indicates his groups' objectives are: "to help prevent and solve adult problems and to establish a permanent mechanism whereby an adult regardless of socio-economic background can get immediate help on all problems of a sexual nature."

## Anonymous Counseling

One of the most important services offered by CSIES is the anonymous telephone consultation service, available from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., by calling 866-3671 (area code 504). A caller should state if calling long distance, then briefly state to whom he would like to speak, a medical doctor or a professional counselor. Persons with serious problems that require long term attention will be referred to the proper agencies as far as possible. The important facts: *no moralizing lectures* are delivered and the caller never needs to identify himself.

Anonymous pregnancy tests by mail are also available from CSIES, but careful instructions must be followed. Instructions can be obtained by telephoning the office. Only after a woman is two weeks overdue (at the very

earliest) can the test produce valid results. A sample of the first morning's urine (a small amount is sufficient) must be mailed to 914 Broadway Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118, air mail special delivery. Seven dollars must be included to cover essential costs. A woman may include a fictitious name or a random number of identification (no Jane Does or Mary Smiths). The results may be obtained by calling CSIES on the evening the day the sample should have been received.

Dr. Harvey indicated CSIES' pamphlet expresses the two most basic values of the group, one of which he termed as "situation ethics."

"Different goals carry with them a different type of sex life," he emphasized. He also stated the other value of CSIES as "self-problem solving," and said that people can usually make their own decisions if they can obtain the information necessary.

Noting that only about 20 universities in the country offer any kind of sex education course, Dr. Harvey ascribed the lack to administrators who fear censure and loss of financial contributions by parents and those who form the conservative element.

Dr. Harvey commented that even if sex education courses were set up in more universities, "it would be impossible to include what they know the college student needs, the kind of program we're offering, with anonymous telephone help, aid in getting birth control, pregnancy tests, and consultations about abortion."

## Students In Charge

Dr. Harvey became aware during the past year that any sex education program within the college community would have to be initiated by students, rather than faculty and administrators. He sensed too much reluctance among the latter group -- closely tied to a hesitant parent

population -- to begin anything as strikingly innovative as sex education on campus.

The same reasoning prompted the present strategy of the CSIES, which is to disseminate sex education among college students before launching into the community at large.

## CSIES First In Louisiana

CSIES began by offering its services to college students in Southern Louisiana. With the establishment of the College Student Division, CSIES is beginning to extend its program to all college students in the U.S. The previously mentioned sex information pamphlet, news releases, and special material about CSIES' services are being mailed to college newspapers and magazines in the United States. The purpose in mind, states the CSIES' "Letter of Information," is "to mobilize college students (nationally) to develop their own local sex information services patterned after ours in New Orleans."

CSIES offices at Tulane University receive on the average 400 anonymous telephone consultations each month. They report most of the consultations are about personal sexual problems which are best handled anonymously. Typical sexual problems CSIES reports as commonly dealt with are: Do I have VD? What should I do about it? Is a particular kind of sexual activity abnormal or bad? What should I do if my period is overdue? How can I get an anonymous pregnancy test? What can an unmarried pregnant girl do? Can a homosexual get help? How can an unmarried woman having intercourse get birth control help? Where can I get sterilized? Where can we get marriage counseling? Where can the poor get birth control information and help?

Dr. Mary Francis Gardner, Medical and Public Health Consultant for CSIES, noted the special enthusiasm with which females have received the Service's efforts. CSIES is largely directed at female sexual problems and has a large number of female consultants giving advice and information.

The National College Student Division of the Sex Information and Education Service is completely directed, staffed, and supported *only* by college students; however, at their

discretion they often use the expert advice of doctors, lawyers and sex educators of the CSIES.

The only immediate problem for CSIES seems to be its finances. The organization is a nonprofit one and exists entirely upon donations received. Therefore, according to CSIES spokesmen, it often finds itself barely making financial ends meet.

Yet CSIES has the dogged determination "to accept financial aid only if it allows us to continue with our rather unique values" and to remain an independent, autonomous organization.

CSIES, on campuses, in the community, across the nation is not only helpful -- it is a beginning bridge over some very troubled waters.



## AN INVITATION

The JOURNAL has received information from the College student Division of CSIES (see story above) and feels the need for such a student-directed organization at UNCC.

CSIES wants campuses to develop local sex information services for its students and has offered their aid in establishing such centers. They have indicated willingness to provide printed materials, funds, advice, sex education program outlines and speakers, pregnancy tests and abortion information. They have made the invitation.

The possibility of establishing such a UNCC Center, with our own telephone consultation service, and other functions, deserves investigation. Interested students, faculty members who would be willing to provide professional guidance and assistance in such a group program, and other interested persons can meet with JOURNAL staffers who share your concerns on Wednesday, May 6, at 3:30 p.m., in the JOURNAL offices in Union Basement, B-4.

## Sex and Politics

(Reprinted from PARADE magazine, Oct. 15, 1969)

Why do some young people grow up to become left-wingers and some to become right-wingers?

The answer lies in childhood sexual conflicts. So claims a study conducted by Arnold Rogow, political scientist at City University of New York.

Rogow declares that left-wingers are permissive toward sex, and right-wingers are "anti-permissive." On the basis of 42 case histories, he maintains, the "left-wing personality on an unconscious level has reacted against restraints on sexual behavior and his leads to a revolt against the status quo."

As children, however, right-wingers had their sex thoughts and sex fantasies restrained and "internalized," thereby creating within themselves a host of guilt feelings leading to adult feelings of restraint.

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