

Starnes: a new breed of woman

Continued from page 1

14-and-15-year-old girls asking for contraceptives and not getting them, and later returning in bad condition after illegal abortions.

"We were attacked at first on the grounds that supplying information of sex and birth control would lead to promiscuity," Lana recalled. "But our purpose was to promote not promiscuity, but the awareness of sexuality and a better understanding of attitudes, behaviors and the needs of others. Understanding and caring are a curb to promiscuity."

"We started the column with the belief that human sexuality education will make better marriages and homes, so that tomorrow's young people will learn from knowledgeable parents—not snickering friends, paperback books and X-rated movies.

"At first we selected simple questions because we had to take the middle of the road," Lana said. "Yet we couldn't sell the students short. The questions had to be realistic. The questions are legitimate. In fact, I still have every letter we've ever gotten, even the joke ones and those we couldn't answer in the column."

"After awhile we began to get the feel of writing the column," she said. "We realized the students wanted really snappy, fun replies, not just cut and dried answers."

More than fifty original columns have been written for the Daily Tar Heel. Each has marked an advancement in Lana's education.

"At first Takey and I would do the column together—I would read off a question and he would answer it. Often I would have no idea what the question was about but would go ahead and ask it, hoping he wouldn't notice my ignorance.

I would always give myself away. It would really embarrass me, but it was a lot of fun too."

This year Lana answered the questions herself using her library of pamphlets, booklets and medical texts. The column must maintain a doctor's sanction and is copywritten in both their names, so Crist checks each column for accuracy.

A column concerned with abortion was the first change from the regular question-and-answer format. It was 1971. An abortion bill was pending before the N.C. General Assembly. When venereal disease cases were cropping up at the infirmary in epidemic numbers, "Elephants and Butterflies" spread information about cases and treatment.

One column "just for fun" dealt with archaic North Carolina sex laws which were still on the books. "I had more fun going through the law books," said Lana. "We never could figure out the laws that said that stone mules couldn't run around free in the streets."

At the outset Lana and Dr. Crist contacted a newspaper syndicate about distributing the column. "They really like the idea," Lana said, "but they felt the average American community was not ready for it."

Never mind. "Elephants and Butterflies" has developed a syndication on its own. "Dr. Crist was doing a great deal of lecturing at other campuses and found that many of them are now at the point where Carolina was in 1970 when the column started. So we sent out letters to universities in North Carolina and half a dozen other states to see if they wanted to print the column."

Poetry contest accepting entries

Entries are now being received in the Annual Poetry Contest sponsored by the North Carolina Poetry Society.

The contest features seven categories, four of which are open only to residents of North Carolina, and three others open to all poets everywhere. The contest deadline is midnight, March 1, 1973.

A copy of the contest rules and other can be obtained by sending a long self-addressed stamped envelope to: Henry Reeves, NCPS Contest Chairman, Box 153, Ellenboro, N.C. 28040.

Many North Carolina schools responded yes: Guilford, Western Carolina, Pfeiffer, Davidson, Salem, ECU, UNC-G, UNC-Wilmington and UNC-Asheville. An out-of-state column is also distributed to the University of Texas in Austin.

In addition to her work with the "Elephants and Butterflies" column, Lana helped to begin the human sexuality course at UNC in the spring of 1971. She read and selected the books for the course.

Lana and Dr. Crist have written several articles for medical journals about sex on college campuses.

"I'm still very conservative," says Lana. "When the column began I started getting phone calls at all hours of the night from people needing help. It took a while to get used to."

"I never could discuss questions about sex," said Lana. "It took me a long time to be able to mention a word like 'gonorrhoea.'"

"People at the Tar Heel used to kid me about it—'Is this where the sex goddess lives?' I love it now."

How do her parents react? "When I went home to explain to my parents about the column my mother didn't say much," admitted Lana. "I guess she was embarrassed and wondered why. Gradually Mom became more receptive and I could talk to her about it and kid her—'Did you read the column, Mom? Did you learn something from it?' Now they are proud of it. Mom takes it to work and my father shows it to his friends."

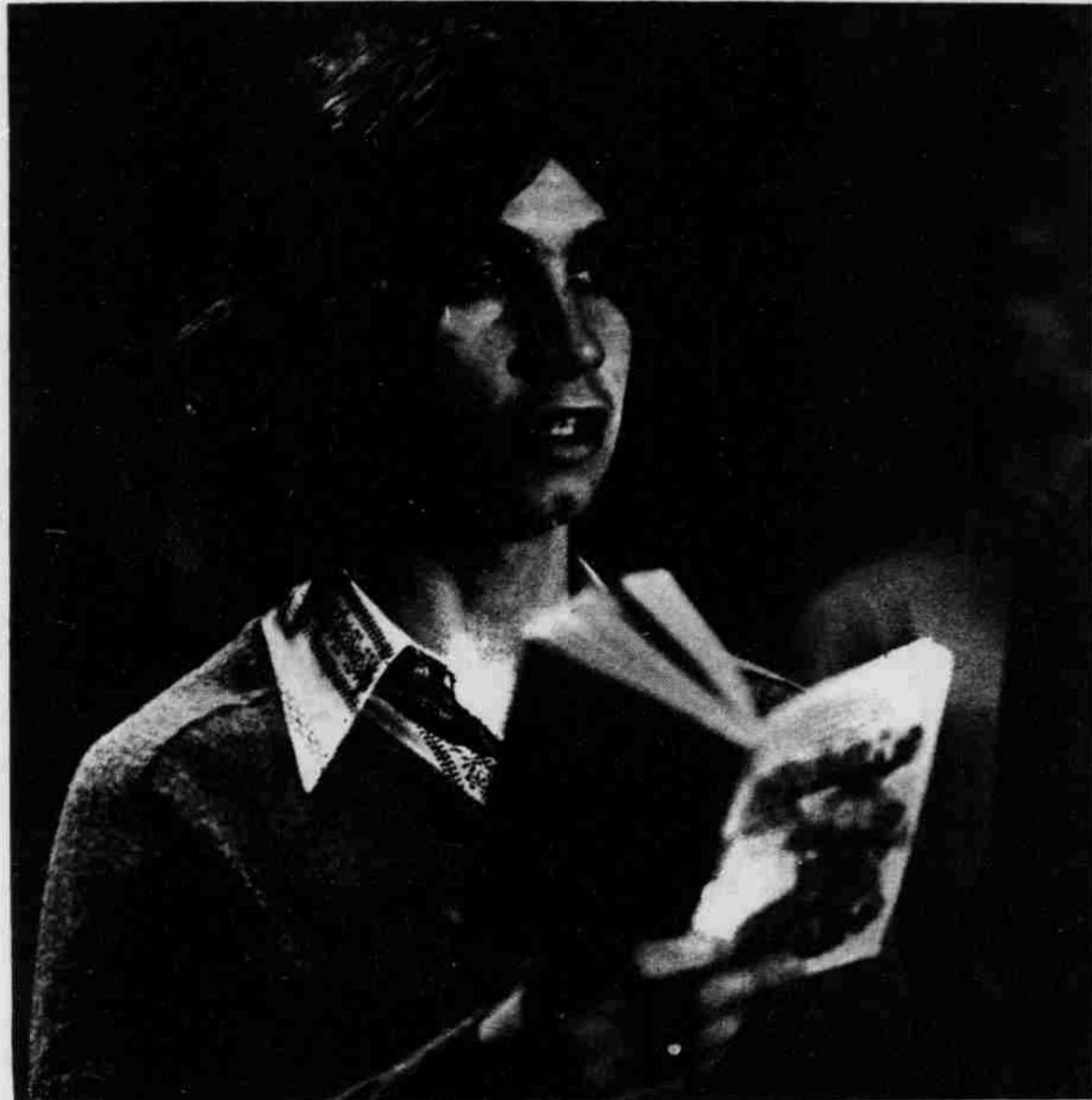
Lana now has aspirations to enter law school. Last summer she served an internship with the N.C. Department of Social Services.

"My junior year was my year of self-realization," said Lana. "I gained a new understanding of my own sexuality through the column, a new understanding of my future through my courses, and a new identity as a woman through Women in Communications, Inc., the Women's Political Caucus, and other political activities."

Lana Starnes has the "nice girl" appearance but she is a new breed of Southern woman. She is soft-spoken but her words carry purpose and direction. And she is knowledgeable and informed about the facts of life.



The St. Louis Jazz Quartet featuring Jeanne Trevor performs at 8 p.m. tonight in Memorial Hall. Tickets may be purchased for \$1.50 at the Carolina Union Information Desk. (Staff photo by Tom Lassiter)



"Indians," opening Tuesday at 8 p.m. in Graham Memorial Lounge Theatre, and playing through Sunday, is part circus, part vaudeville. The play, written by Arthur Kopit, ("Oh Dad, Poor Dad...") is a tragedy from Broadway, circa 1969. The play is done as a Wild West show, complete with Indians, Will Bill Hickock and Buffalo Bill. According to the Carolina Playmakers director, Jon Mezz, "Indians" is "one of the best written plays to come out of the American 60's." (Staff photo by Scott Stewart)

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IDOL	BOLE	ERE
POTATO	TA	ASA
CAME	LEVER	
PLEASANT	ME	
RENTS	LEA	NAN
ON	BER	EST
ATT	LES	PASTE
IT	STRIPPED	
DARES	SIRE	
RIA	IF	SERENE
ADD	LIFE	ERIN
BEE	TEAS	DATE

ACROSS
 1 Toil
 6 Gowns
 11 Goddess of the moon
 12 Worships
 14 South African Dutch
 15 Boy attendants
 17 Symbol for cerium
 18 Girl's nickname
 19 Musical instruments
 20 Owing
 21 French article
 22 Ceremonies
 23 Fat of swine
 24 Kind of fur (pl.)
 26 Rabbits
 27 Employed
 28 Temporary shelter
 29 Showy flower
 31 Dairy product (pl.)
 34 Frosts
 35 Buckets
 36 Symbol for xenon
 37 Parent (colloq.)
 38 Bazaars
 39 Greek letter
 40 Printer's measure
 41 Profits
 42 Apothecary's weight
 43 Stretches
 45 Brambly
 47 Shouts
 48 Bread ingredient

DOWN
 1 Thinner

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