



NEWSLETTER

An educational publication of Childhood Sensuality Circle for the liberation of children and youth.

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Senate Bill No. 1 (SB 1) - Nixon's Revenge, a Police State Bill that wud destroy the US Bill of Rights; also labeled A Legislation Chamber of Horrors. SB-1 is a Nixon-Mitchell-Kliendienst rewrite of the entire US Criminal Code, a legacy that these 3 Fascist-minded men wished to leave to the American people. Among its worst provisions are restoration of the death penalty, severe restrictions on the rite to strike and peacefully demonstrate, broad wire-tapping authority, prohibition of even advocating revolutionary change, wud broadly increase federal jurisdiction and impose harsh penalties for non-crimes such as drug possession and pornography. In fact the prohibitions are so general they wud affect every non-conformist and those insisting upon their civil rights. The American Civil Liberties Union and many other libertarian groups and trade unions have declared the bill is unamendable. There has been a great deal of publicity about the bill yet there is stil widespread ignorance and lack of interest in this O, It Can't Happen Here Bill. Attempts are being made to change the title and number of the bill to keep people in ignorance of its contents and stop agitation to get rid of it. Write your US Senator today and ask him to keep it from coming to the Senate floor for discussion. Any bill so obviously unconstitutional is not a fit subject for debate in US Congress.

(Information gleaned from W.I.N. Magazine and reprinted in Feminist Communications, San Diego, Calif. for April 1976.)

Recommended Book List - we now have a revised book list dated July 1976 with 37 items, many of which are nu books either on children's liberation or in some wa connected with it. Price 1.00 pp. CSC POB 5164, San Diego, Ca 92105. Checks to Valida Davila.

Parents Need Their Own Sex Education Classes - Article in the Washington, DC Star, June 29, 1976. Altho many parents are shocked by statistics showing sharp increases in illegitimate pregnancies and venereal disease among teen-agers they are still objecting to sex ed in schools and are doing nothing positive to teach their children at home about the realities and practicalities of sex. Psychologist Lonnie Barbach, a woman, co-director of clinical training in human sexuality at University of California Medical Center in San Francisco, considers that it is impossible to give children the right messages about sex if the parent has problems with cos* own sexuality; that besides being open to questions the single most important thing for the child is to see that cos parents like each other and that they are physically affectionate with each other.

Americans shy away from bodily contact and this is one reason why sex is often considered a secret, separate compartment in our lives. Whereas sex is really a part of our whole life and there should not be an abrupt shift between it and all other material functions. Barbach has found that children who get a lot of cuddling and touching are more mature and have a more natural and easy understanding of their sexuality. Barbach explains that when parents feel better about their own sexuality they will find it easier to deal with that of their children; that kids learning from their peers get misinformation and the idea that there is something wrong with sex that is not natural, it's dirty, and bad. So it is up to the parents to give their children positive values about sex. To do this may mean that they have to unlearn all the negative messages that they received from their parents. Barbach recommends that parents take classes in sex ed to learn how to teach their own children about it.

(CSC Nussgatherers' Service)

*cos - his, her

The American Civil Liberties Union is doing good work protecting and extending the rights of children. Many CSC members are also members of ACLU, including myself. I urge all of you as workers for children's total liberation to give them your active and financial support. Membership is \$15 a year. They were among the first to defend the rights of homosexuals. Now they are publishing a series of publications - (1) The Primary Report on defining and discussing the individual's right to privacy. (2) The Civil Liberties Review on the opportunities for extending and diminishing civil liberties. (3) First Principles on what to do about illegal programs government agencies use to disrupt, harass and use surveillance against people engaged in lawful political activities, (4) and most important for CSC, Children's Rights Report on the major questions in the field of children's rights, court decisions, state and national legislation developments. Publication to start September 1976, a monthly at \$15 a year. Write for full description of all these publications to: American Civil Liberties Foundation, 22 E 40 St., NY, NY, 10016

Back issues of CSC Newsletter available - A limited number of issues Nos. 5 - 6 - 7 are available at \$1.00 each. They are valuable for reference and a record of the progress of Children's liberation.

Liberating Day Care - an article in the form of an interview with three young women liberationists about their experiences in Ann Arbor, Michigan Day Care Centers, from FPS, a magazine of Young People's Liberation for March 1975. The basic goals for these young women in the child care centers were to bring a youth liberation perspective to the centers - that young people should have the right to make their own decisions and take on the resultant responsibilities and to keep the staff and young people on as equal a basis as possible; to eliminate or greatly reduce the need for child care by eliminating ageism. To accomplish this children must be seen as independent persons. In the centers the children were made to feel that they were living together with the teachers, an integral part of it. Sexism was another basic interest. The girls were helped to do all kinds of things that they couldn't do. There was a philosophy

of no punishment by staff or children punishing each other physically or psychologically. The part our CSC nusleter readers wil like best is that there were no limits or constraints on nudity and sex. Everyone cud go naked and have sex whenever they wanted in twos, threes or whatever wa they wanted. Some of the children got into trouble at home as a consequence, even to being beaten so the problem was resolved by having those children put on their clothes before their parents came and putting the children in secluded places for sex practice. Parents were induced to talk with the center personnel thru the successes of their practices and by drawing them into decision-making.

(CSC Nusgatherers' Service - Michigan)

Sexuality in Childhood - an editorial by Dr. John Money in Sexology Today, July 1976, states that more and more within the last fu years sexologists and researchers hav been turning their attention to this too-long ignored subject and that children are sexual beings has always been beyond dispute. Tho no one knows the exact degree of harm we do our children when they are punished for normal sex pla we can speculate that it is enormous and it is a fact that prohibition and punishment of this activity cud be at the basis of psycho-sexual problems affecting adults. Altho young parents are aware that their own feelings about sex will affect their children's sexuality they are only open-minded about thinking and talking about sex. But the sex organs themselves are stil tabo. It is no wonder that so many children are confused and in conflict concerning their sexual identity (feminine or masculine), their bodies and their future roles as women and mothers, men and fathers. Tho children are born with an urge to pla at sex they must learn to behave in femine or masculine ways, to experience being female or male. Their sense of sexual self isn't there at birth but develops gradually as a result of the way that they are treated by their parents and others and by observing what happens in their surroundings. Feminity and masculinity need to be learned. Children need support and encouragement in discovering their true identities thru pla. We cud begin, continues Dr. Money, to improve the present state of affairs if more research cud be undertaken but effort is needed to get it underwa. Write your senators and congressmen urging them to turn the anti-sexual, anti-scientific tide and insist that they vote in favor of sexual research, sexuality of childhood included. Everyone of us wud be beneficiaries.

(CSC Nusgatherers' Service)

Carrying out Dr. Money's suggestion to write to Congress is CSC work and wud further one of our goals - the social acceptance of the practice of childhood sexuality - Valida

John Money, Ph.D., medical psychologist, John Hopkins University and co-founder of John Hopkins Gender Identity Clinic, co-author of Sexual Signatures on gender identity and widely recognized as one of the world's leaders in research on human sexuality.

BIRTH WITHOUT VIOLENCE by Dr. Fredrick Leboyer. Published by Alfred A. Knopf, N.Y., 1975. \$7.95. With 40 black and white large photos by Dr. Leboyer, Pierre-Marie Goulet and I.M.S. Stockholm. Originally published in France in 1974.

To read BIRTH WITHOUT VIOLENCE is an emotional experience whether you have children of your own or not. We have all been through the birth experience. Most of us have suffered through it and many have never recovered from this traumatic experience. It is also full of surprises and evokes feelings of guilt that we could have been so ignorant of the laws of nature in regard to this natural process as to allow our babies to suffer needlessly. The surprises are to find that the newborn have feelings, can see and hear at birth and can communicate, that babies are already persons when they emerge from the womb.

Dr. Leboyer not only assists in the birth of babies according to the physical laws of nature but with love, kindness and tenderness. To accomplish this he creates an environment for the emerging baby as near as possible to the baby's environment within the womb, in order to help make a gradual transition from a perfect environment into a hostile and terrifying world. Body temperature warmth, semi-darkness and quiet are prerequisites during the birth process. The method is slow, slow, gentle, gentle, the least touching until the baby becomes re-oriented with no turning upside down (a crime against the baby), allowing the baby to gradually uncurl the spine. Don't cut the umbilical cord until it has ceased to pulsate, which means the child is breathing totally on its own power. Crying? A faint gurgle to establish the breathing process; not more than two or three times. Immediately upon emergence place the infant on the stomach and mother's belly. Wrap in soft cotton or wool. No clothing. Dr. Leboyer speaks to the child through his hands, as touching is an infant's way of communicating. Its understanding comes through feeling.

As a book review is for the purpose of stimulating the reader to read the book, I will stop here with this incomplete account of the birth process without violence and with love.

-- Valida

British Judge Suggests Maturity as a guide for Sexual Consent - Article in Los Angeles Times, June 24, 1976. A British judge has suggested maturity rather than chronological age should be the compelling factor in sex cases involving girls under 16, the age of consent in England. This statement came up in connection with the case of a 22year old carpenter who was tried for admitting having sex relations with a 15 year old girl with her consent. Criminal Court Judge Neil Mc Kennon put the man on probation for 12 months as it is illegal for a man to have sex relations with a girl under 16. The judge feels that is wrong to brand a man a criminal because he has behaved naturally with a consenting young woman merely because she is under 16, the legal age of consent.

Note - the legal age of consent in California is 18 and in many other states 21. Write your state representatives to reduce the age to the established age of maturity for the individual concerned. Do it NOW and report any replies you may receive from your state representatives. This is CSC work - Valida

Healthful Advice

Valida will give healthful advice to CSC members, drawing from her experience in the health movement for many years and owning a real health food store in Los Angeles in the 1950's. Healthful living to Valida means living according to the laws of nature insofar as it is possible today in an environment that is hostile to natural living. Clean air, vigorous exercise regularly, sun bathing, natural foods, adequate rest, and regular daily living habits are the essential ingredients to restore and maintain health. In asking for help bear in mind that you are the one who has to do the work to change your living habits with the advice and guidance of Valida. Send long SSAE (stamped, self-addressed envelope) with your request and state your problem clearly and concisely. Advice only on physical health. Address: Valida, 3820 46th Street, San Diego, CA. 92105. No charge.

Sex Advice

If you have a sex problem you want help with, and feel alone with it, our Jay Munro, professionally-trained teacher & researcher, will give CSC members free information or advice, by mail or personal visit (expenses paid). This is not marriage counseling. Send your problem, clearly and explicitly stated, to Jay at Box 5, Smyrna NY. 13464, with a SSAE (long). Absolute confidentiality is guaranteed, for both Healthful Advice and Sex Advice.

Dear Valida,

I am writing this letter to tell you how I feel about young people's rights. The way it is now in today's society, kids don't have any rights until they are 18. I think it really stinks, because there is no reason kids can't have rights from the day they are born. Rules and regulations should be changed so there is no age preference. For instance, if a kid wants to get a driver's license, there should be nothing on it about age. As long as a kid can drive a car physically and pass the test, the child should be allowed to drive.

According to our modern-day taboos, and by the law, a child is not a person and does not have any rights until he is 18. The problem is that the majority of kids today are brainwashed by their parents from the day they are born till the day they turn 18. They are also brainwashed sexually by their parents that sex is bad. Kids of today are very mixed up because they are being told by today's young society that sex is alright and by their parents that sex is bad. That is probably one of the main reasons that kids will not stand up for their rights. Their parents are also brainwashing them that they are not people until they are 18. Therefore kids will not stand up for their rights, and go along with the system until they are 18.

Would you please send me some information on children's liberation groups. I would also like to become a member of CSC. I am very interested in it. I would appreciate it very much if you write me back and tell me what you think of what my thoughts about kid's rights. Are there lower CSC rates for people with lower incomes?

KIDS ARE PEOPLE TOO!

Love,

Chris Freeman

c/o Robin Verner
POB. 684
Weston, Ma.02193

WHY FAMILY SEX? Reconsidering Incest

My friend Nigel had a pretty eleven-year-old boyfriend named David. David's mother, Laura, had recently found out about the sexual nature of their love affair. She started asking lots of questions one day when David showed up with a hickey on his neck. She got David to confess the details. I don't think she was really a puritan, but the idea was new to her and it was an easy opportunity to be a "good mother" so she called the cops. Nigel managed to keep the cops off his back long enough to convince Laura that he was not an ogre. He and David got back together, and of course, things were much better in the open. After that, they didn't always worry about getting caught.

It was a mistake for Laura to call the cops. She realized it later, after giving the matter some thought. That was the problem; like most parents she hadn't given such a situation any thought. She was surprised. The only similar cases she had heard of were ones in which the police were called in. She didn't realize that such affairs are happening everywhere, everyday, though they aren't talked about. She thought such things were only done by child molesters. It should have occurred to her that sexual contact is common between two people who are in love. Sure, it was against the rules, but since when did that stop lovers? And when she did find out, she assumed Nigel was the aggressor. She didn't realize how much David desired Nigel. She sure found out when she tried to tell him they couldn't see each other any more. She didn't know how horny David was because he had learned to hide his feelings from her. And here is the really important factor. David, like any other child whose spirit has not been entirely crushed, knew that he had very strong sexual desires that no one accepted. At last he had found someone who not only accepted but even enjoyed this intense part of him! David's parents' suppression was their own undoing. By rejecting an important part of his personality, they had handed over their power to the first person who would accept him.

It's time for child sexuality to be discussed openly. It's time for everyone to realize that children are horny too, and not always for persons their own age and opposite sex. They are apt to be horny for whomever they are in love with, and if they are lucky, they are still able to separate what they really feel from what the rules say they should feel.

Young children are by nature horny. Research shows that, given social acceptance of this fact, they will actively seek sexual pleasure. Very young children are not inhibited about nudity or open display of affection. These inhibitions appear only after years of living in the traditional Western-world family and social environment, and can indeed be viewed as symptoms of a social structure which does not adequately deal with human sexuality. People spend painful years learning inhibitions which they may spend painful years attempting to unlearn.

Though the science of human sexuality is perhaps more important to our mental health than any other science, it is one of the newest fields of scientific research. It's been less than a hundred years since Freud officially discovered sex and tried to make it a respectable field of study; most sex research has been done in the past 30 years. So it's not surprising that the only things our parents knew about sex were the things they read in books like the Bible or found through personal research. Therefore, it's not surprising that most of them were somewhat unenlightened about the sexual aspects of child-rearing after the conception part. But we've found there is a lot more to a healthy sex life than knowing how to conceive.

The human child is born sexually healthy and in need of a lover. The child's first lovers are the parents. Dr. Halverson was stimulated to research when he noticed that many male infants are born with erections. (The sensuous child is probably preceded by the sensuous fetus.) And infants respond with pleasure to

the stimulation of erogenous zones. Anthropologists have long observed that in many cultures young children regularly engage in sexual activity. The "sexually latent" preadolescent is simply not found in cultures that do not rigorously enforce this latency. Waiting until puberty to learn about making love makes no more sense than did the idea that you should wait until marriage to learn about making love. It is sensuous children who most easily become sensuous adults. Sensuality must be a part of our lives from the time we are born if we are to feel comfortable with it.

It is better that a person should always be sexually healthy than it is to raise unhealthy people who must be cured. Sexually healthy people are not afraid of sex, nor do they think sex is dirty or disgusting. Yet virtually all children in our generation were taught these things, including most children of parents who thought themselves careful not to teach these things. Our culture wished to prevent children from engaging in sexual activity and developed social mechanisms which attempted to control children's behavior through the use of fear and anxiety. An examination of these mechanisms of repression reveals that many are still in use today; not just in the average home, but in the culture of which we are a part.

Children in our culture are prohibited from giving or receiving sexual pleasure. This prohibition is enforced by two popular misconceptions. The first is that children have no sexual needs and so don't enjoy sexual contact. The second is that sexual contact is somehow harmful to the child's emotional development. A case can be made that children can enjoy sexual contact, and that the experience is harmful only if it is unpleasant for the child. This idea has been presented by Kinsey, Pomeroy, Holt, and others. This approach, while a necessary step in moving from fear to truth, does not adequately deal with the fact that if all humans are born with sexual needs, then when these needs are not met, emotional damage results. Emotionally, sexual contact for a child is as good or bad in its results as the total experience was pleasant or unpleasant for the child. (Just as with a person of any age.) If the child was pressured, coerced, raped, got pregnant, got VD, or was punished in connection with the activity, then the experience was probably bad. But on the other hand, if the child desired intimate contact, felt comfortable, was pleasantly stimulated and aroused to the point of orgasm, and the overall experience was pleasant and fulfilling, then a great deal of good was done. This is especially important because it is so rare in our culture where children are raised in a cold, isolated environment which does little to encourage people to come in contact, be sensitive to others' needs, and give pleasure to each other.

Kinsey was to sex research what the Beatles were to rock music. His research, a quarter century old, is still so far ahead of its time as to be shocking. Kinsey's researchers personally observed more than 300 preadolescent orgasms. (Their degree of participation in the acts goes discreetly unmentioned.) Children aged four months to puberty were studied. He speaks not only of infants having orgasms, but of infants having multiple orgasms. For example, in the case of one eleven-month-old infant, 14 orgasms were observed in 38 minutes. A four-year-old boy had 26 orgasms in a 24 hour period. Apparently, children as well as women have a capacity for multiple orgasm not usually found in the adult male.

It appears that while masturbation is common among infants and young children, the specific masturbation techniques that lead to orgasm usually must be learned through contact with a more experienced child or adult. But once a child has learned about orgasm, the experience is not easily forgotten. The child may aggressively seek further sexual contact. Kinsey's research makes it obvious that Freud's theory of pregenital and latent stages of children's sexual development was based on his observations of children raised in an ignorant, repressive society. Repression not only keeps most children ignorant of sexual pleasure, often it has more damaging effects. It was found that as a result of psychological blockage, 24% of the children studied were unable to experience orgasm despite repeated attempts.

I sometimes wonder how and why Kinsey got so involved in all this. The type and extent of his child sexuality research goes deep. He must have had some personal interest and motivation in this particular area. And some contacts as well. Like those six persons who "observed" over 300 preadolescent orgasms. Without getting involved? The circumstances which provided the opportunities for these observations are not even hinted at. He didn't bother to witness 300 adult orgasms. Just those of children.

Child sexuality has too long been a taboo subject. As long as taboos are allowed to interfere with a rigorous inspection of the traditional system of child rearing employed in our culture, that system will continue to produce persons with traditional sexual anxieties. It is a system which has historically refused to recognize and deal realistically with the sexual and emotional needs of its individuals. When you try to separate sexuality and affection, you get the kinds of conflict so evident in our culture. The earlier one's sexuality is accepted, the better.

Someone might ask, "Is not the lack of a warm sensuous lover inside the family necessary in order for the child to look elsewhere for lovers?" In the long run, no. Older children with sexual experience within the family are going to look elsewhere out of sheer boredom and the desire for adventure. Family sex, in my opinion, is not a luxury, but a necessity for healthy sexual development. It is enjoyed, therefore, in the way we enjoy everyday necessities. Having a warm sensuous family lover rather than a frigid one will make the child happier and more content. To that extent it will affect other aspects of the child's life.

--Why Fathers Keep Their Distance--

A lady friend of mine complained that her husband never showed any affection for their children. He wouldn't allow them in his lap, and never touched them. "Why?", she asked.

Well, some might answer that in our society men think they are supposed to be cold and distant, not showing their feelings. This is true, but not the whole story. Many men have discovered that strong feelings of affection for a much loved child in the lap produces a hard-on. It can be very shocking and disturbing to the man who thinks good fathers shouldn't feel that way.

Women don't have it so hard. They don't have to interpret their feelings as sexual. They can crawl all over their kid and just call it intense maternal feelings. Isn't it interesting that motherly feelings can get so intense that Mom has an orgasm? Yes, indeed, Masters and Johnson found that some mothers got so aroused while breast feeding that they actually came. Of course, most mothers get anxious before things develop so far.

additional copies \$1.00- from - Robin Verner
POB 684, Weston, Ma. 02193

La Vida De Dos Novios - (The Life of Two Sweethearts), a book by Martin Vinaver, age 11. The text is trilingual, having been written in Spanish & translated into English & French. Illustrated by the author in color & hand printed. Dedicated to all children & also to those parents who don't let them read the book. Each page is an illustrated chapter on the vicissitudes of the life of the couple, Calio & Fusia. A review in L.A. Free Press in 1973 compares the work favorably with Voltaire, Dylan & the early works of Henry Miller. This enthralling story showing up the ugliness of today, with lots of unintentional humor, & the System of Suffering we endure is just one example of the creativeness that is possible in children given free rein to express not only their sexuality but also their ideas on other matters of vital concern to society. Published by John Muir, 1972, POB. 613, Santa Fe, N. Mexico 87501. \$4.30 pp. CSC has a review written in 1973 which is on their Reprint List of 71 items. Price 75¢ pp.

LOOKING BACKWARD: A CASE OF MISSED-EDUCATION
by "J"

Sexually my upbringing, in the 1920s and 1930s, consisted of what seemed like an enormous number of no-no's: don't touch this, don't rub that, pure Christian gentlemen don't do that with nice girls, boys are dirty but girls are clean, and all the rest. My father was an obstetrician-gynecologist and might have given me some hard facts (though I doubt it; he'd been raised by a devout Roman Catholic mother, and was as uptight as anyone). And anyway, he wasn't there; my parents were divorced when I was 8 or 9, and we 3 kids (I was the oldest) lived with our mother.

I now realize, though the thought wouldn't have entered my virginal mind then, that my mother was horny, at least occasionally. At the time the missed-education incident occurred, she had been celibate for about 5 years; she had always enjoyed sex with my father, she told me later, and missed it. Her breasts and nipples were large and attractive, I knew from watching her suckle my younger sister and brother; and though I'd never seen her naked, I knew that she had a large, luxuriant bush of coppery-red hair at the base of her belly, from rare times when she'd wear a filmy, semi-transparent nightgown and the light was just right. I used to wonder what she'd look like if she had no clothes on, and I could see breasts and bush all at once.

One afternoon I found out. I'd been outdoors playing, and putting off going to the toilet until I could wait no longer. Rushing upstairs, I entered our apartment, trotted down the hall from the living room, flung open the bathroom door with my fly already unbuttoned, and was standing at the toilet before I realized that my mother was at the far end of the bathroom, in the tub. I was shocked (of course!) but Mother wasn't, particularly; she just smiled, and I had to go so badly that I went ahead and emptied my bladder, partly into the toilet and partly onto the floor from looking at my mother, who sat there washing her armpits and breasts. When I was through I pulled the chain and turned to go, starting to button my fly as soon as my back was turned on my mother (I think this says volumes about how acceptable nudity, or any sort of exposure, was in our family). Mother stopped me. "Don't go," she said, in a voice I'd not heard from her. "Come here and wash my back. I can't reach." I knew that there was a hard-to-reach place that rarely got washed on me. Mother had always washed it for me, until a few months back when I'd entered high school, and I don't think it had been scrubbed since. So that made sense.

I walked slowly over to her, reassured by the ordinariness of the request, and took the soap and washcloth from her hand, fumbling a bit because I wasn't watching what I was doing. I was noticing that her breasts were as big and pretty as I'd remembered them to be, and that the water was so deep and so clouded with soap that I couldn't see below her belly button. I soaped the cloth and slowly, slowly lathered her back and rubbed and rinsed it, wincing slightly every time my hand touched the sides of her breasts -- I thought I was being indecent, but I couldn't seem to help it. And Mother, far from objecting, just kept on smiling, and murmuring, "Oh, that feels so good."

And then I was through, I thought, and squeezed out the washcloth and handed it to her, and again started to leave the bathroom. And again I was stopped, this time by "Oh, no; I want you to dry me." And I turned back toward the tub, and there was Mother, STANDING UP AND FACING ME! She looked just lovely. I'll never forget that moment: the coppery red of her hair, above and O God below, and her nipples were the same color, and her freckles. Now I discovered that they weren't just on her face and throat and arms. I looked and looked, and couldn't look away or move, except in one place: in only a few seconds, though it seemed a long time that I stood there rooted to the spot, the front of my trousers began to be pushed out and up. And as if that wasn't shameful enough, my cock poked its head through the slit in my underwear and my unbuttoned fly. I wanted to sink through the floor. Mother didn't seem to be horrified, though. She blushed, but managed to smile at the same time, and though I knew she'd seen my cock, she pretended she hadn't -- the polite thing to do, I suppose, according to her rules. (We had a myriad of rules, rules for everything, how to cut meat, how to spoon soup, what side of a girl to place yourself at, how long to stay on a social call, who enters a room first, who gets introduced to whom, who gets served first at the table -- and now it seems I'd discovered that Mother also had a rule for what to do on seeing a gent's cock inadvertently exposed!)

I didn't stand there forever. It just felt that way. Mother held out a big fluffy towel, warm from the radiator, and said, simply, in a low voice, "Dry me." I dried her face and neck and back down to her plump, white buttocks, and then I rubbed her arms dry, and her armpits (and my wilting cock started up again; she didn't shave her armpits and the small bushes of coppery hair there looked, to my fevered stare, much like the larger bush below). And then I stopped. I couldn't dry her front! I could, though, when she smiled and asked me to, and turned to face me fully. So I swallowed hard, and found a dry place on the towel, and dried the top of her chest, and skipped to her belly (which had a nice convex pouch to it). And Mother stopped that cop-out, holding her breasts and whispering, "Dry these, too." And I did, and at her command lifted them and dried the creases underneath, and I remember how swollen and erect her nipples were, and the sunbursts they sat on. And then I went on down to her abdomen, but it was dry now, so I did her legs -- the water had run out of the tub, so I could dry all the way down to the ankle, and then she put that foot up on the side of the tub for me to dry before she stepped out onto the bathmat.

And when she put her foot up, my cock came up too, for there was her rich auburn-haired pussy staring me in the face, the outer lips parted a bit so that the edges of the inner lips peeked out, swollen and dark. My cock now was like iron, and again was protruding from my fly. Mother stared at it, and we both were still for a few heartbeats -- mine seemed to be pounding so hard it was shaking me all over -- and Mother said, slowly and huskily, "Dry me there, too, please." And smiled.

Well, that did it. I'm not sure whether I ejaculated or not -- the moisture in my underpants later could have been pre-ejaculation leakage -- but I thrust the towel at Mother, and turned and ran out

of the bathroom and out of the house and didn't come back for an hour or more, when it was time for dinner. Mother smiled at me then, and I blushed and looked away.

It was several years later that I lost my virginity, with a girl as ignorant of sex as I was, and it really wasn't very enjoyable. If I'd just kept on following Mother's lead that afternoon in the bathroom when I was 13, I'd have had the self-assurance that goes with knowing how, and knowing that one can, and knowing that the girl (or woman) enjoys it as much as you do, and some of the other good things about sex, that took me decades to learn, and several unpleasant experiences for me and my partners.

But my drilled-in inhibitions, all those Pavlovian no-no's, and catechism class and confirmation class and playground wisdom from my peers and the powerfully convincing righteous indignation of girlfriends when I'd try to touch them there -- all that combined and rose up to defeat me, and perpetuate itself, that afternoon, at the gateway to the teen years, when I turned tail and ran from what could have been the best possible sex education at the hands and in the arms of my mother.

I think that when she died some 40 years later, lingeringly, of cancer, she still had not known a man since her divorce. What a waste! Right up to her final illness, she was a warm, intelligent, beautiful woman. She deserved better of life. And of me.

Defense de Violette C

The International Tribunal on Crimes Against Women meeting in Brussels, Belgium March 4-8, 1976, with 2000 women from 32 countries participating sent a letter to a father regarding the 43 day continuing hunger strike of his 15 year old daughter Violette because he opposes her legal emancipation and because she prefers to die rather than to remain under his guardianship. The women stated that they do not believe that paternal authority gives the father the power of life and death over his children and that whatever the father's reasons may be for affirming his rights the women appealed to his humanity to return the daughter her life and health. The tribunal affirmed their complete solidarity with Violette and urged the father to emancipate her. The letter was signed by Simone de Beauvoir, famous French feminist and author and 10 other women of the Tribunal.

(CSC Nuscatherers' Service)

California law allows minor children to become emancipated at 15 years if they can show good cause - Valida

Hermes - A Magazine Dedicated to the Love of Boys. An educational publication for sharing ideas and experiences. bi-mo. \$6.00 yr. US and Can. foreign \$9.00
POB 802, No. Chicago, Ill. 60064.

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ALTERNATIVE TO ALIENATION -
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