



NEWSLETTER

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

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CLITORIDECTOMY AND INFIBULATION--THE ULTIMATE IN CHILD ABUSE

Clitoridectomy means the removal (by excision or tearing out) of the clitoris of a female child. Infibulation after amputation of the inner labia is the stitching together of the outer labia (the large schaamlippen, literally the shamelips), to prevent sexual intercourse. This mutilation is performed on female children just before puberty in the most cruel manner. The child suffers terrible pains and the operation frequently results in death. The causes of death are often bleedings and bacteriological infections--resulting from unhygienic conditions during the operation. The operation is done in some African and Asian countries for cultural reasons due to tradition and for other vague and inexplicable reasons.

The mutilation is definite and lasting. The girl can never enjoy her sexual powers and if infibulated sex becomes a very painful and almost sadistic occasion. Some rituals don't end with the infibulation but are perpetuated by the tearing open again of the vagina by the husband on the wedding night and subsequent occasions of intercourse.

The mutilation takes place against the will of the girls, nevertheless it is practiced extensively. The local people and especially older women, are fond of these rituals. In discussing the subject with local people one can find only a fanatical taboo and prejudgment laden arguments. There is no motivation. The thinking on the subject is comparable to that about marriage and motherhood in west Europe.

But protests, particularly in the cities, are rising. The church in the past attempted to exterminate these practices but for different reasons than for safeguarding sexual life. Protests are very difficult to make. Many present-day parents who refuse to allow their children to be mutilated (sometimes called circumcized) find themselves subjected to strong socio-economic pressure.

Force is frequently used to compel the parents to have the operation performed. Those in power do not hesitate to use most unethical practices. Sometimes a girl is abducted by old aunts and returned to their parents mutilated.

Where these practices were ended they are being re-instated by heads of state. President Nyerere of Tanzania reinstated it under the guise of African tradition. Fortunately an international protest movement is under way based in New York. The movement attempts to give publicity to the practice and to bring pressure with signed petitions and other protest methods to bring an end to these inhuman practices.

As a result of some publicity by "Dalle Mina Amsterdam" (Crazy Mina Amsterdam) the practice has aroused the interest of the Belgesche Studio Group Pedofilia. (Belgian Pedophile Study Group). This study group, which was originally created to study erotic relations between youth and adults has considerably widened their area of interest. They now see sexuality and eroticism as the absolute right of every individual and are particularly interested in the child. And considering the present situation they especially offer their services towards the emancipating of humankind and especially to children. They do this in various ways.

Because clitoridectomy and infibulation not only deprive the female child of her right to sexuality and the woman her totality and in addition is an aggressive and unmotivated practice the study group has adopted a fundamental position based on principles and takes action according to their ability to help exterminate this evil. They assume the right to "meddle" with cultures if the cultures are repressive. It is not only their

goal to concern themselves with objective values but with those values having a historical perspective. A culture or a component of a culture which denies in an aggressive manner the right to freedom, joy and happiness to its members is essentially repressive.

In the interest of progressive civilization the study group considers that only those methods which are not paradoxically directed against their purpose and are at all times quantitatively calculated to never draw back from a critical test on dogmatic or irrational grounds are really valued. See the corresponding political hypothesis "repressive tolerance" and "ethic and revolution" by Herbert Marcuse which is completely endorsed by this study group.

Practices such as these know no motivation and the only motivation that could be found, alas, is the motive of repression--woman subservient to man and man subservient to The System. The study group stands totally intolerant of these practices and those institutions which practice, condone or stand silently by as they are practiced. They solidly support every child in the world and will defend their rights. The study group is indignant about the methods used and especially about the purpose of these methods. Because children are the victims there is even more reason to be vigilant. Therefore they appeal to their colleagues in The Netherlands to follow their example.

The article ends with the creation myth of The Dogon in Mali with which the brochure of "Dolle Mena" opens:

"The God Amma of the Dogon, the invisible, the creator who created all life first created the earth. Then the earth was his wife. He slept with her but it was not good. This first deed of creation went awry. The member of Amma collided with the member of the woman, her clitoris, the termite hill which rises up from the earth. Amma ripped out the hill and thus circumcized the woman, and the earth became subservient to her master."

(Editor's note - I consider the word "circumsicion" is not correct. The woman was castrated.)

The book "Cradle of Erotica" by Allan Edwardes and R.E.L. Masters describes the operation of clitoridectomy, nymphatotomy (amputation of the inner labia of the vagina) and infibulation in the chapter on genitalia. One or all are practiced extensively throughout Muslim Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

Reprinted from NIKS (Toward the Integration of Childhood Sexuality) No. 11, a Dutch publication of NVSH Werkgroep Pedofile, after translation from Dutch to English.

As an antidote to the above horror article on Clitoridectomy and Infibulation, C S C is offering the following article on The Muria and their ghotuls to restore your faith in humanity.

THE MURIA AND THEIR GHOTULS

An old people living in the south of the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh live true to their tradition in allowing their children a great deal of sexual freedom. Sociologists point out this tradition as being the healthiest sex education method in the world.

As soon as Muria children become five or six years old they leave the parental home to take up residence in the "ghotul," the house of the children. Each village has such a home consisting of a large sleeping area and some smaller huts. The community is governed by an older boy "the devan" and an older girl, "the belosa," whose most important task is the deciding of who sleeps with whom. There is an unbreakable rule that no small couple may sleep in each other's arms more than three consecutive nights. Partners may not be treated unkindly even if one partner considers the other to be ugly or unsympathetic. In this way absolute equality is accomplished. Every breaking of this rule is punished. However no one is forced to proceed from mutual tenderness to sexual relations. Couples who are ready for an ongoing sexual relationship could, if they wish,

find privacy in separate sleeping areas.

According to observers this form of social intercourse does not result in an abnormally large number of unwanted pregnancies. An observable result is that many Muria children who were already betrothed by their parents at an early age get divorced later to select a partner whom they become acquainted with in the ghotul.

(Reprinted from NIKS. (TOWARD THE INTEGRATION OF CHILDHOOD SEXUALITY) NO. 11, a Dutch publication of NVSH Werkgroep, Pedofilie after translation from Dutch to English. Original article entitled MURIA.

Verrier Elwin, an Englishman and census officer of Bastas in Middle India, as well as an ethnographer, has written an exhaustive account of Muria life in a book entitled, "The Muria and Their Ghotul." He visited the hill and plain Muria from 1935

to 1942 when he studied 347 ghotuls. He found all village life centered around the ghotul and that the children would not exchange ghotul life for any offer of material wealth. To an outsider the most important part of ghotul life is the sexual relationships between the girls and the boys. But in actual ghotul life sex relations are second to the magical, religious and social aspects. Among the Muria sex is regarded on a higher plane than eating and drinking. The technique of lovemaking is developed to an almost ideal level. They treat sex not only as a source of pleasure but as something serious and sacred. For them sex has the power to transform crude material fact into a wonderful (full of wonder) spiritual experience and to throw a romantic glamour of love over the technicalities of lovemaking.

I borrowed a copy of this old and valuable work on a short-term loan from the El Cajon County Library (San Diego) in March, 1975 through their Serra-Metro Inter-Library Loan System. The book was first published by Oxford University Press at Bombay, India, in 1947 but was written in 1942.

Verrier Elwin has made extensive studies of middle Indian life and has written four other books about Aborigine life in India.

Valida

Cultural Midwife

CSC wishes to express their thanks and appreciation to Jonas Harshell of Burlingame, Ca. for translating the above article on Clitoridectomy and Infibulation and on The Muria for us from Dutch to English.

The Children's Rights Movement - Overcoming the Oppression of Young People. Edited by Beatrice and Ronald Gross. Pub - Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, NY. 1977. \$3.95 paperbk. Available in hard cover. The editors begin their introduction by stating, "A movement on behalf of children and young people seems to be taking shape in this country. There is much in it to do. Such a movement may begin to rectify the shameful conditions that lead to the damage and death of so many children. It could raise our personal consciousness about our stereotypes and hurtful attitudes toward the young. It could change our laws and institutions to recognize the fact that age is no precondition to human rights. It might provide our young people with healthier options for learning and growing. Change is needed everywhere in our minds and feelings, in our patterns of work, education, laws and politics. We urgently need to see clearly, articulate precisely and above all, act boldly on issues involving young people. This book is designed as a contribution to the job that needs to be done."

The work is divided into 6 parts:

1. Destroying children
2. The oppression of the young
3. Birth of a movement
4. Young people act for themselves, for others
5. Bill of Rights
6. Resources for consciousness-raising and action

CSC is listed as a resource on page 364.

Well-known writers have articles and many not known. Youth Liberation of Ann Arbor, Michigan and their publication FPS figures prominently. No article discusses children's sexual liberation altho it is mentioned here and there. To me this makes the work behind the times. It remains for CSC writers to repair this omission by reporting on the Children's Liberation Movement at home and abroad. CSC knows that this is happening in foreign countries due to our contacts there and in some western European countries that it is the overriding concern of the pedophile groups.

Valida

On Confronting Ageism - In our Aug. 1975, issue we printed our review of On Confronting Ageism by Norman Solomon from Edcentric Magazine No. 30, June-July, 1974. We consider this article is so important for CSC in our work to eliminate ageism and still so up-to-date that we are reprinting our review below and are offering a reprint of Solomon's entire article of six pages for \$1.00 pp.

On Confronting Ageism - An article by Norman Solomon from Edcentric Magazine. Here are some excerpts from this article that are very pertinent to CSC work to stimulate you to read the whole 6 page article.

A systematic molestation of children takes place thru well funded offices and institutions and as we lose our personal autonomy we go along with this system. Manipulation of children for purposes of adults is arrogance of power at its most intimate and basic form. It is inward as well as outward.

Ageism involves the triumph of authority. Nazi concentration camps and the war in Viet-Nam are examples of the results of authority which leads to repression and genocide.

Without confronting the family it is impossible to consider educational changes that go to the roots. And it is impossible to confront routine molestation of young people--the ongoing rape of humanity--without confronting the family. It is also useless to consider educational changes going to the roots without being willing to talk about liberation of people's entire lives. If we don't confront the bad effects of family life on each other we will continue to reproduce similar forms of personal genocide in our own lives and lives of others.

The family carries on the authoritarian system. We need to renounce the family unit as we know it and in our time, in our culture. The family ties mantles of authority around children, demanding that loving oneself be just a stage one passes thru into self repression. Unless revolution uproots the basic social organization, the biological family, the psychology of power will always be there and exploitation will never be destroyed.

To question the basic relations between the sexes and parents with children is to expose the psychological pattern of dominance-submission to the very roots. Families oppress children by making them parents' property, raised in an atmosphere of possessiveness, rivalry for love of parents and the sense that children must earn that love. Property in humans is slavery. Fearful possessiveness begins at home.

The nuclear family helps to stabilize all other forms of oppression. The liberation of all people is intimately connected: children and older people; old people and young people; black and brown, other third world people and white people; homosexual and heterosexual and those choosing not to be sexually active; women and men.

Ageism defines roles according to age and operates against old and young. We must stop treating people as age objects as well as sex objects. We must learn to see all people as human beings. This means stopping younger people chauvinism. Adult chauvinism is a coercive force. It is no accident that

children are foreigners from the rest of society, aliens but have to register with authority more than once a year. They must be watched like potential subversives. Children are truly the enemy within the status quo.

As long as authority remains its own social justification ageism is a logical consequence.

The above few excerpts will give you an idea of the importance of working to eliminate ageism in the struggle for childrens liberation and for total liberation.

There are quotes from Shulamith Firestone's *Dialectics of Sex*, R.D. Liang, David Cooper's *The Death of the Family*, Thomas Wolfe's *You Can't Go Home Again* and Su Ngun's *Begin At Start*. *Dialectics of Sex* has a whole chapter on *Childhood--Down with Childhood*.

Norman Solomon is the author of *Cockroach* published by Out of the Ashes Press. He is one of the 7 members of the editorial collective that publishes *Edcentrics Magazine*, a journal of educational change, in cooperation with the US National Students Association. Five of the members of the editorial collective are women. Six issues of *Edcentrics* are \$6. Address *Edcentrics*, P.O. Box 10085; Eugene, Oregon 97401.

Valida

The Family That Plays Together.

An article in *Sexual Freedom* for March 1978 by Frank Hawaii, age 23, on intra-familial sex formerly called incest that is practiced in his upper-income bracket family. Members of his family have university degrees or are earning them. He has very enjoyable sex with his mother, age 48, and sister, age 24. Hawaii describes in detail his love-making at home, yet all of them have sex affairs with partners outside the home. It makes me wonder when Hawaii has time to pursue his pre-medical studies. In spite of the hush-hush regarding familial sex he knows other families who practice freely and enjoyably. He believes it will only be a matter of time before familial sex becomes socially acceptable. One reason is the advent of The Pill and other birth control devices being available. Derkheim, Weinberg, Freud and others writing on incest based their published conclusions on police and court records, all negative sources. In addition, negative reports now come from clinical records of psychiatrists of people in trouble. Psychiatrists and gynecologists have known for years past that familial sex is very common thruout all classes of society.

Hawaii concludes that there is no sensible, logical or practical reason why familial sex should not become an acceptable and normal custom in our society.

Valida - Cultural Midwife

Rape Charges Against Boy 12 Reduced -

Article in The Scotsman, Scotland, Feb. 21, 1978. A 12 year old boy admitted indecently assaulting a 15 year old girl in Edinburgh and assaulting a 12 year old girl with intent to ravish her. A third charge of attempted rape on this same girl was dropped. Counsel for the defense told the court the boy had a rather abrupt awakening of the sexual impulses and desires. A psychiatric report showed the boy was two years ahead of his peers in sexual maturity. The judge was reluctant to send the boy to detention where he could come in contact with criminals and was considering placing him on probation with the condition that he undergo psychiatric treatment.

Our Scottish member who sent us this article wrote additional information. The boy is ordinary in appearance and height, is skinny but has the penis and testicles of a grown man, including pubic hair and can produce a hi sperm count. If there had been this additional information in the press the incidents would have produced some real evidence that children do have sexual capabilities and sexual feelings

(CSC Nusgatherers Service - Europe)

Nobody's Family Is Going To Change - a novel by Louise Fitzhugh, Published by Farrar, Straus and Geroux, NY 1974, Price \$6.95. Very up-to-date story of a middle-class negro family wherein the 2 children are trying to free themselves to live their own lives. Emma, age 11, and Willie, age 7, have both already chosen their professions and want to prepare themselves now. Mama and Papa decide that their children are too young to make decisions for themselves. Herein lies the struggle. Emma has gotten this women's lib thing into her head and imagines herself another Bella Abzug defending her clients in court. She applies what she knows about law and justice for the oppressed in her family situation and comes out on top for the time being and then decides that in the long run she and Willie will have to be the ones to change, to change themselves.

Valida

Latest Additions to CSC Reprint List August 1978

- No. 91 CSC List of Library Books - June 1978 - for members only
- No. 92 Table of Contents and List of Inserts of CSC Nusletters thru April 1978
- No. 93 Eroticism in Infancy and Childhood (an extension of Reprint No. 82) -
Dr. Floyd M. Martinson

Complete Reprint List for long, self-addressed envelope (SASE)

The work of CSC does not include the buying, selling and exchange of pictures.

Suspended Sentence Requested - from article in Het Vrije Volk (The Free People) of May 5, 1978, and De Volks Krant (The People's News) of the same day. The Netherlands, and reprinted in NIKS (Toward the Integration of Childhood Sexuality) No. 12 at Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

There was a public demonstration at The Hague, The Netherlands on May 3, 1978, inside and outside of the courtroom requesting a suspended sentence for a 34 year old male social worker convicted of a sex offense with boys 12-16 years old who had previously been convicted for the same offense. The prosecutor general (that's right) asked for a three months' suspended sentence with three years probation and a fine of 500 guilders (about \$250). On May 17th, the court rendered a one month's suspended sentence, two years' parole and a fine of 500 guilders. In the course of the trial a medical inspector of public health explained that children who do not receive enough warmth and affection at home often seek sexual relations with adults. Adults have decreed in contemporary society that sexuality of and with children is indecent. The defense counsel stated that the presence of parents and police at police hearings often results in these inquiries showing that parents are hostile to sex relations.

The pedophile Workgroup of NVSH (National Association for Sexual Reform), had organized the demonstration of 50 people, in favor of the social worker, a member of the group. They were demonstrating also against sections in The Netherlands Penal Code, dating from 1886, dealing with morality. They demanded that the age boundaries in the Code should be abolished. Recently a report had been published by The National Center for Public Mental Health that recommended the elimination of all age boundaries. The Melai Commission is preparing a study of the sections of the law pertaining to age prohibitions and will make its recommendations to the Minister of Justice.

The prosecutor stated that the scrapping of all age boundaries is a politically unlikely event but that we must not exaggerate the importance of these cases and that today we have brought this matter back in to perspective. He agreed with the president of the court that the police had over-stepped their bounds and that it would be a good idea to have a course for the police on the biological facts of life. A packed courtroom burst into applause at the end of the court session. (Articles translated from Dutch to English by the editor of NIKS for CSC). CSC has the original articles in Dutch and the complete translation of the two articles.

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