



NUSLETTER

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

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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD (IYC) 1979

This issue of CSC Nusleter for October, 1979, is in recognition of the 1979 International Year of the Child. For a time, we wanted to ignore it because it is ageist, is patriarchal and protective of children because they are considered not to be able to determine their own lives in any way, and because it is for political hay. CSC's program is for the emancipation of children not to make them have the status of adults, but to have rights that they are capable of exercising and still be children. What we protest is the lack of opportunity to demonstrate that children are capable of self-determination in some areas of their lives and in ways adults have never ever considered possible. We see no evidence in the IYC programs we have found that there is effort to help children make the most of their potentialities while they are children and to see to it that childhood is a time for happiness as well as a learning and growing up process.

We are presenting the following reporting on IYC, selected at random, merely as reporting on events taking place and differing opinions expressed about the IYC program.

-- Valida

UN To Study Youth Needs in IYC, 1979, At San Diego

Arts and cultural festivities, a children's olympics and a county-wide youth conference are some of the IYC activities to take place in San Diego in 1979. The IYC's purpose is to increase public awareness of the status of children and youth and to try to improve their status. The family, hunger, health and education are among the key issues each country will consider in investigating its young people's needs. And feminists will be looking for discussion of the special problems of young women, such as teenage pregnancy and of the limiting effects of sex-role socialization on both young women and young men.

In San Diego, the UN Association is spearheading planning for IYC events. There was a Children's Art Festival in January; in April, a Children's Theatre Festival. The Children's Olympics is planned for August and the Youth Conference for junior and senior high school students will be on November 2-4. There will be workshops where youth will discuss problems unique to themselves. The young people will determine beforehand workshop topics of greatest concern to them.

The San Diego IYC Committee will study legislation related to children and youth and recommend new legislation or changes in existing laws and practices.

Both nationally and locally, the status of children is ironically high-lighted by the makeup of the committee's planning IYC events. None of their members are children. IYC groups throughout the US are having difficulty getting children involved in planning. Perhaps the findings of IYC committees and conferences during the next year will shed some light on children's chosen or imposed absence in determining the direction of their year. (Information from Feminist Bulletin publication of Center for Women's Studies and Services, San Diego, California, January, 1979.)

Park Health Projects for Children Studied

Article in San Diego Union of May 1, 1979. Hundreds of children yesterday celebrated IYC by singing, dancing and watching clowns on the lawn outside the UN Building in Balboa Park, San Diego. At the same time, adults were inside the House of Pacific Relations discussing medical and health programs and how California and Baja California Norte could share parks for children's activities. The two states hope to work together to create a children's park on California State owned land. Students from SD State University and the University of Tiajuana would work together to build facilities with financial help from the Soroptimist International. The park would serve disabled children and would have special equipment for the handicapped. Mexican government programs in honor of the Ano Internacional de Nino are being expanded to include family planning, immunization and a project to attack drug abuse and especially to solve the problem of the widespread use of angel dust.

Project Parenting

KNXT, Channel 2, Los Angeles, is participating in International Year of the Child by implementing Project Parenting, a public service campaign utilizing all the programming resources of the station to promote better child-rearing. A set of broad guidelines has been constructed by Justin D. Call, Director of Child Psychology at University of California, Irvine. It is designed to assist parents in ascertaining the general psychological development of their child. This information is being distributed by KNXT. (Information from an ad in an ACLU bulletin coming from Los Angeles, California.)

Concerned Women for America have issued a professionally printed leaflet on the International Year of the Child 1979 telling what it is, who is behind it, and when it started, what the US involvement is, what the UN stated the general objectives of IYC would be and what the UN said the general purposes would be, from what children are to be "liberated" and how these goals are to be accomplished.

The following statements are, according to this leaflet:

We are told IYC was designed to put a fresh focus on children's concerns around the world, and it is represented by many to be an aid in helping the millions who suffer from malnutrition and abuse. At a quick glance, this looks commendable but it is necessary to look beyond the surface. The general objectives of IYC were stated in a resolution December 21, 1976, to provide a framework for child advocacy to meet the special needs of children; and action programs for children to be part of all economic and social development plans. The general purposes of IYC are to help promote a NEW international Social and Economic Order as planned by the UN Social and Economic Council, and for more rapid implementation of the 1959 Declaration of the Rights of the Child — 1979 is the 20th anniversary of this Declaration.

Children are to be "liberated" from traditional morals and values, parental authority, protected from practices which may foster racial, RELIGIOUS, (printed as written in this leaflet) or any other form of DISCRIMINATION, protected from Nationalism and Patriotism, Militarism and Capitalism. These goals are to be accomplished through the non-governmental organizations such as ACLU, NOW, NAACP, League of Women Voters, YWCA, YMCA, Amnesty International, Planned Parenthood and Gray Panthers, their child development centers and the educational system.

Concerned Women for America object to the above liberation of children program because it is that of social planners who have humanist values such as rejection of a supernatural being, that endorses abortion, day care, the sexual revolution, homosexuality, equality of the sexes, socialism and related values.

It further objects that children should be liberated from parental authority by stripping them of their parental rights and authority, that the primacy of the rights of the child should be recognized and enforced, that children should be freed from physical punishment, have total sexual freedom and that the authoritarian family has been challenged.

The footnotes list 14 books that would be an education on the liberation of children and women too for anyone with an open mind. Included in this list is Birthrights: A Children's Bill of Rights by Richard Faison. It Changed My Life, by Betty Freedan, Humanist Manifestos I and II, White House Conference on Children, The Family System: Progressive or Oppressive, by Caroline Lund.

-- Valida
Cultural Midwife

"Full Of Sound and Fury, Signifying Nothing"

A quote at the beginning of the editorial in Magpie, publication of the Pedophile Information Exchange in London. The description just about fits the much-vaunted International Year of the Child which, so far as the children of Britain are concerned, is likely to prove about as constructive and elevating as a tea party in a workhouse.

To be sure, there will be "safe" activities aplenty that the kids will like well enough: there will be sponsorship of bean-bag races, organized trips, painting competitions and the like. All the good old things our fusty, conservative charities know all about.

But what children really need, and what we in PIE would like to see emerging in 1979 is an entirely new attitude: one which welcomes children into society as individuals in their own right, not just as their parents' decorative chattels. There needs to be a serious consideration of the rights of children, particularly the legal right to be heard when their vital interests are at stake. Until recently, it has always been assumed that "Mummy knows best," except in the case of the most patently abusive, murderous parents, and then the local authority's Children's Department knows best, despite bureaucratic bungling and indifference. Amazingly, in most cases, nobody bothers to ask the child what he or she thinks.

If six-year old Maria Colwell had been asked where she wanted to live — with her loving aunt and uncle, or with her brutal stepfather — she would still be alive today, not battered to death in a home where she was neglected and rejected.

There have been some steps to provide for the independent representation of children in legal cases, but the movement needs to be much bolder and designed to cover ALL aspects of a child's life. If a child can have a valid point to make even on a matter of life and death, how much more should he or she be heard on lesser matters affecting his or her well-being? Why should children be expected to shut up and submit without question to everything that adults say about schoolwork, or how leisure time is spent, or what company the child keeps? There is a place in the lives of all of us (adults too) for discipline, but not the arbitrary imposition of one person's will on another, least of all when one is big and strong and the other is weak and small.

Children, then, need rights and the International Children's Year has a golden opportunity to campaign for them: there should be, at the very least, a nationwide series of conferences on the subject, sponsored by IYC, with proposals for legal reform arising from them. (Excerpted from Magpies' special issue on IYC, April, 1979.)

We are not reproducing the IYC logo because it is ageist. We feel the logo should have given out the message that a child is an independent being, not wrapped around by an adult.

Small But Persons in Their Own Right

Article in Development Forum, a UN publication for October, 1978, under international development news. The concept of childhood in most cultures is of recent growth. Today the age limit is generally considered 15-16 (but not always legally) but 200 years ago it was 7. Throughout most history, childhood was short and regarded as merely a little adult stage. At 7, most children in Europe began to work either within or outside the family, even as they do in large parts of the developing world today (and in the US agricultural fields — edit.). Industrial and post-industrial societies have continuously expanded the childhood and dependency period with important consequences for society. For the industrialized world, the consequences are at times mixed. On one hand children are recognized as persons in their own right, distinct in their interests and needs from adults, and on the other hand there has been the extended exclusion of children from responsibility and from decision-making, even on matters as intimate as clothes or choice of friends. This is one source of adolescent rebellion. The nature of the family has evolved from the rural extended family pattern, providing employment and relative security through the urban nuclear patriarchal family, through the "egalitarian" family where both parents work and share decision-making, to the single parent or communal family. All these changes have had important consequences for economic and social planning.

Other aspects of development in regard to children merit much greater and more searching attention during IYC. The first relates to the inability of many developing countries to provide from their own resources adequate health and other social services for even the majority of their children. Greater flows of international assistance for an expansion of these services is urgently needed for adequate health, nutrition and educational facilities to avoid wide-spread frustration and social discontent.

The writer, J. F. Mc Dougall, would insist that, in addition to economic growth and provision of essential services, that peace, disarmament and international understanding are also basic components of development and inescapable objectives for our own and the coming generation. The IYC is an unique opportunity to give new impetus, through books, films, TV, school programs, festivals, comic strips, etc., to the cultivation of these objectives among children.

The 10th World Congress of the International Council of Churches meeting in New Jersey denounced the UN International Year of the Child for "inciting children to rebel against their parents." ICC is apparently a small federation of Protestant fundamentalists, separate from the liberal mainstream National and World Councils of Churches. (Information from SFL Newsletter of August, 1979.)

Beware The Flourishing Trumpets

Editorial in Body Politic, Canadian Gay Newspaper, in their December 1978, January 1979, issue. The United Nations has proclaimed 1979 the International Year of the Child (IYC), and the Canadian government is distributing literature promoting the UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child and encouraging a renewed concern for children's issues. These rights include the right to love and understanding, the right to adequate nutrition and medical care, free education and even "the right to be brought up in a spirit of peace and universal brotherhood."

The key to the UN's high-sounding declaration can be found in the statement that our children are "our most precious resource." Precious or not, to call any group of people a resource is to consider them as objects to be owned and controlled by others — in this case, straight adults. This declaration denies that children have any sexuality of their own: sexuality is not mentioned in the long list of official UN rights. This means that, like women until recently, children are under the control of family and state in all sexual matters. This control is especially harsh for gay children, their parents, gay parents and their children. The power to control is also the power to oppress and those who are "protected" are rarely consulted.

This trumpet flourish comes at a time when day care, education and health care facilities are suffering serious setbacks. The government is distributing IYC publicity with the right hand while taking away children's rights to physical and mental health with the left. And if memory of International Women's Year in 1975 serves us right, we know that trumpet flourishes often announce a real decline in the quality of life of the group supposedly being honored and protected.

Year of the Child Stirs Empty Fury

Article in SD Union of June 22, 1979. The International Year of the Child is being touted with near-revolutionary fervor by children's rights advocates, according to this article. It is under attack as a sinister plot by elements of the political right. For the rest of us, continues the article, we are scarcely aware that IYC is going on. It turns out the debate has very little to do with children and quite a lot to do with politics of the two sides. IYC is supposed to deal with the exploitation of children. In fact, in many ways it constitutes the exploitation of children. Both left and right are using it for their own purposes. Sen. Orin Hatch, R-Utah, (Mormon Country), blasts IYC as a dangerous tool being used on people who are generally ignorant of its profound significance for the family unit. It appears to be a platform for pushing such liberal causes as abortion, federal funding of day care centers and expansion of the welfare state. A Republican Study Committee sees IYC as part of a plot by advocates to push their positions on racism, busing and class struggle.

How could IYC be expected to do either the good things its advocates believe in or the bad things its opponents fear? Can anyone seriously believe that IYC will lead to children being brought up in a spirit of understanding, tolerance and friendship among people, peace and universal brotherhood of children that will transcend sovereignty of nations as the IYC Proclamation fervently hopes? Or that it will lead to some pinko one-world federalism, as its right-way opponents fear. In the opinion of the writer of this article, it will do neither and it is hard to see how it will anything at all. Already, IYC is half over and most Americans are only vaguely aware that 1979 is the International Year of the Child. IYC will do no more for the problem of abuse, malnutrition, poverty and under-education of children than International Women's Year did for the concerns of the world's women.

Year of the Child is Seen as Exploitive

Column in the Florida Times-Union, Jacksonville, Florida, of June 25, 1979, by William Raspberry which states that IYC is being touted with near-revolutionary fervor by child-rights advocates of the left and is under attack as a sinister plot by elements of the political right. As for the rest of us, we are scarcely aware that IYC is going on. It turns out that the debate has very little to do with children and quite a lot to do with political agendas of the two sides. IYC is supposed to deal with exploitation of children, but in many ways it constitutes exploitation of children and sometimes is only silly.

Senator Oarin Hatch (R-Utah) blasts IYC as a dangerous tool being on people who are generally ignorant of its profound significance for the family. Seeming to have a harmless name, it appears to be a platform for pushing such liberal causes as abortion, federal funding of day care centers, expansion of the welfare state and such causes. The Pro-Life National Coalition for Children states that the heart of the controversy is whether it is government policy to treat the child as a part of the family or as a separate individual who is only incidentally and by economics, sociological and biological necessity part of the family. A Republican Study Committee sees IYC as partly a plot by advocates to push their positions on raceism, busing and class struggle.

With IYC being political, how can we expect it can be any more than an arena for the contending parties to gain their ends? It can do no more than the International Women's Year did for the concerns of the world's women.

The Declaration of the Rights of the Child

Adopted by the UN General Assembly November 20, 1959, is frequently mentioned in articles on IYC. If you are not familiar with this Declaration, we are putting it on our Reprint List as most appropriate for a children's liberation organization and offering it for \$0.75 pp. Reprint No. 101.

Amnesty For Child Sexuality

An international organization founded after the conference Amnesty For Love and Affection at Oslo, Norway, June 22 - 24, 1979, will pressure governments to alter the laws relating to sex according to modern sexological research findings. More information on this organization as we obtain it.

Young People's Theatre - Of Toronto, Canada, was founded in 1966 by its producer Susan Rubes, a former Broadway actress and soap opera star. Her theatre is the largest in the country and is dedicated to nurturing the feelings of the young. From being an exotic novelty, this professional drama for kids has spread to dozens of companies from coast to coast following Rubes' lead. In place of the pious rhetoric that the Year of the Child gives out, Young People's Theatre reaches out to the kids themselves. After a struggle of 11 years, during which time Rubes moved heaven and earth to get the city of Toronto into action, the Young People's Theatre has had a permanent home since 1977 in a 99-year old brick building formerly used as a stable. There are matinee and evening performances. The theatre is filled most mornings with 300 children bused from local schools. There is a theatre school for people between 7 and 17 with hopes to expand it into a full-scale apprentice program for boys and girls interested in a career for drama.

Before a morning show begins, the audience is a riot of color and movement, whistling and screaming. But while the play is on the vast majority of children sit rapt or silent and in between the acts, the kids go on to sing, giggle or quarrel for the theatre is a place for children where they can act like children.

The theatre enterprise includes touring shows which have taken the Company to US, Bermuda, Britain, and schools throughout Ontario Province. Some of Canada's best known playwrights have written for Young People's Theatre which seeks avidly for scripts on subjects close to the lives of teenagers.

Young Peoples' Theatre does not treat boys and girls as adults in embryo. Rubes has stated that it is time our governments made a real commitment to youth because children are first class citizens. (Information from Mac Lean's Canada, April 4, 1979.)

The Society For The Study of Alternative Life Styles

In April, 1979, a group of social scientists and lifestyle practitioners formed a unique society to study emerging alternative lifestyles, the humanistic and social aspects of human sexuality, the Society for the Study of Alternative Lifestyles. It seems to be an outgrowth of the five Lifestyle Conventions held annually in Southern California. Its goals are the communication of scientific findings and interpretations in a nontechnical manner without sacrifice of professional standards to people interested in alternative

lifestyles and to enhance awareness of alternative lifestyles and changing views of sexuality. The Society's objectives are to encourage an increased awareness of alternative lifestyles and sexuality and of their relationship to other aspects of society. There will be many programs and activities to attain this objective, including a newsletter and other publications.

Membership is open to social scientists, lifestyle practitioners and all others interested in emerging alternative lifestyles and sexuality. Individual membership is \$22, couple - \$30, student - \$17, library - \$30 and life - \$100.

CSC has taken out an institutional membership and is looking forward to a fruitful and rewarding relationship with this social change organization.

Sex Without Shame

Encouraging the Child's Healthy Sexual Development by Alyne Yates, a MD and pediatrician, is reviewed in a positive way in the Bulletin of the Office of Child Abuse Prevention of the State of California in the March, 1979, issue. The review concludes with the paragraph: "Dr. Yates presents the material in a professional, humanistic style and adds warmth, intimacy and understanding as she shares her own personal experiences. This makes Sex Without Shame informative, interesting and enjoyable to read." Dr. Yates has had considerable publicity in the mass media. All that I have read is favorable, which is surprising considering that she writes on taboo subjects to break them down.

-- Valida

Sex Ed For Blind Children

Dr. Pearl Tait of Florida State University and Carol Kessler of Temple University in Philadelphia have developed a program with tape-recorded instructions and a family of dolls which sightless children can explore by hand for sex education. The doll family consists of a female with breasts, a male with an erect penis, two dolls having intercourse, dolls in progressive states of pregnancy and a mother breast-feeding a new-born. The tape recording guides the child among eight boxes into which the dolls have been placed. At each stop co feels the anatomically correct doll parts — vaginas of quilted polyester and breasts and testicles sculpted from styrofoam. (Information from Playboy, June, 1979, p. 304.)

The tactile sensory mode would seem the one most appropriate for learning about sex, since apart from how it looks or can be described in a book, sex feels good. Apparently educators will teach children about sex by touch only when they have no other recourse — when the kids are blind.

-- Don Crestle

Asexualization Bill Is Opposed

Article from The Times Record, Brunswick, Maine, issue of April 5, 1979. Rep. Joyce Lewis introduced a bill in the Maine legislature in April requiring surgical asexualization of habitual child molesters for both men and women. The bill didn't get anywhere with the legislature, but a proposal by Dr. John Money who was present at a public hearing on the bill for hormone therapy and counselling was given consideration. Dr. Money is a medical psychology professor at John Hopkins University and has written extensively on gender identity and sex change operations. The treatment is injections of Depo-Provera, an anti-androgenic hormone, plus counseling to gain self-regulation of sexual behavior. Dr. Money claims some success in rehabilitating sex offenders without harmful side effects.

Hormone Therapy Rehabilitates Sex Offenders

Article in News American of January 10, 1979. Dr. John Money, who has pioneered in sex research and his colleagues at John Hopkins University are claiming some success in helping sex offenders through hormone injections to reduce the sex drive to the pre-pubertal level (making an adult a child sexually) and psychological counseling. This assumes that paraphiliacs, including pedophiles are over-sexed, don't have their sex drive in control, which drives them into anti-social behavior. One of Money's former students has started a similar program at the University of Texas, at Galveston, and three European countries use hormonal treatment to help sex offenders. The same treatment is proposed for rapists. A drug company donates the hormone.

Dr. Money has not been able to change the legal establishment's view that sex offenders should be punished, not rehabilitated. Civil libertarians have kept doctors from administering the treatment on prisoners because even if prisoners were willing to take the treatment some attorneys wonder whether the treatment violates a prisoner's "rights of informed consent." Money considers the treatment would be cheaper than prison for minor offenders and ease the psychological burdens of sicker sexual offenders.

Drugs for Rapists

Article in Off Our Backs, a women's liberated newspaper of February, 1979. The same treatment as for paraphiliacs described in the above article on Hormone Therapy is proposed by Dr. John Money for rapists. The rapist also receives psychological counseling that teaches the subject how to relate to women and is slowly weaned from the drug anti-androgen to reduce the sex drive to pre-puberty level. The only side effects are a slight increase in weight and a need for more sleep. Dr. Money can't get funding from the US government to experiment on prisoners.

This view of rape as a purely sexual act — only out of control — ignores the evidence that rape is generally an act of violence perpetrated by normal men such as husbands, neighbors, dates and friendly neighborhood policemen, priests and doctors.

Parents Rights Upheld

On June 20, 1979, the US Supreme Court, in a 6-3 decision, upheld the constitutionality of state laws that allow parents to commit their minor children to state mental institutions. Thirty-six states have such laws, including New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. The justices ruled that a state hospital's medical staff must independently conclude that treatment is needed before admitting the child, but rejected the two lower courts' rulings that the parents decision must be explored at a formal, adversary hearing before the child is admitted. (Info from New York Times of June 21, 1979.) These decisions are a set-back for children's rights in the US and it happened in the 1979 International Year of the Child. Evidently the Supreme Court agrees with parents that children are property and possessions of their parents or the state when acting in loco parentis, that children have no right to have a voice in a decision about their lives. This is a challenge to the children's rights movement to work to have these decisions reversed as part of a program for social change that recognizes that all human beings have rights and responsibilities regardless of race, sex or age.

Mother and Son Wed

Jean Tetreault Lillie and her 19 year old son, Marine Corps Pvt. Christopher Lillie, were married and living together until incest charges were filed against them. They received suspended sentences for unlawful marriage, a misdemeanor.

Information from Racine Journal Times, Racine, Wisconsin, August 17, 1979.

Eventually This is What They Will Say About Pedophilia

An article adopted from an anonymously written article, "Compendium of Anti-Sickness Opinions," in a gay newspaper. Fourteen opinions are stated of anthropologists, psychiatrists, psychologists, a psychoanalyst, social psychologist, and a zoologist. Available from CSC, POB 5164, San Diego, California 92105. \$1.00 a copy.

Small Children's Workshop and Child Care was conducted by David W. Smith at Family Synergy Conference Weekend, at De Benneville Pines, a Unitarian Church Campground in the San Bernardino Mountains of California. There were workshops on self-awareness, meditation, exercise, nature study, arts and crafts, touch and massage for infants and pre-teens.

Wed Brother, Sister Go To Court

Article in the Chicago Sun Times of July 27, 1979. A brother and sister who married after being separated by adoption for 20 years appeared in a Lawrence, Massachusetts, court after being arrested on incest charges. Victoria Pittorino, 24, and David Goddu, 22, were separated as infants and adopted by two different Massachusetts couples in different cities. The pair will not talk with anyone because they have an exclusive contract with National Inquirer.

Pair Guilty In Incest Case

Article in Sun Times, Chicago, of August 2, 1979. David Goddu and Victoria Pittorino, who married in May, were placed on probation after a plea of guilty on incest charges, under the condition that they seek counseling. Their marriage is considered null by the state. Pittorino was sentenced to one year of probation and Goddu was given a suspended sentence of one year and placed on two years of probation. In Massachusetts, an incest conviction carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison.

The natural father of the pair was in the courtroom. He would identify himself only as a Lawrence, Massachusetts, painter. He came to support his children

We recommend that you file all CSC Nus letters and inserts for study and reference. Reliable and positive information on children's liberation such as our material is difficult to come by. We consider parts of our Nusletter and our reprints to be source material.

The views and opinions expressed in this issue of CSC Nusleter are those of the authors of the articles and not necessarily those of CSC. This applies especially to the letter in Nusleter No. 26 written by Emmanuel Petrakes, now living in Cameroun, Africa. CSC is an open forum for the expression of opinion children's liberation and matters closely connected with it.

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