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### Newsbriefs: Women's Health / Sexuality

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one isolated course is only the start of a program that might help them achieve full integrity as sexual beings. As they experience their own developing sexuality, they are faced with confusing

<sup>4</sup>The unit also includes a variety of speakers on sexual issues; films such as *About Sex* (available from Texture Films, New York City) and *To Plan Your Family* (available from the New Jersey State Museum Film Loan Service); filmstrips available from Guidance Associates, Pleasantville, New York; and articles representing a range of views, such as "I'd Rather Be Black Than Female" (Chisholm, 1970); "Homosexuals May Be Healthier Than Straights" (Freedman, 1975); and "Ties That Bind: The Price of Pursuing the Male Mystique" (Gordon, 1980).

<sup>5</sup>The position of the American Medical Association (1972) is that parents are unable to assume the role of sex educators because of their embarrassment and "abysmal ignorance of even elementary facts" (p. 151).

adult behaviors and values and they are manipulated by the sexualization of virtually every advertisement they see. They are desperate for information and serious dialogue that will help them grow into sexually healthy persons. Without this opportunity, the strong ones will evolve their own codes, contemptuous of a society that simultaneously titillates and represses. Those who are less strong will remain confused. Many will slip into behavior that is harmful to themselves and others. What is it but our own sexual confusion that prevents us as educators from responding to this obvious need in today's youth?

*Peggy Brick teaches Behavioral Science at Dwight Morrow High School in Englewood, New Jersey, and is a new member of the Advisory Board to the Women's Studies Quarterly.*

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#### NEWSBRIEFS: WOMEN'S HEALTH / SEXUALITY

*The Society for Menstrual Cycle Research* and the College of New Rochelle are sponsoring an interdisciplinary research conference on menarche, to be held June 12-13, 1981, at the College of New Rochelle. The aims of the conference are: (1) to bring together scientists and scholars from a variety of disciplines who have studied the onset of menstruation and to provide a forum for the presentation and discussion of their work; (2) to identify gaps in knowledge about menarche and to refine research direction and methodology; (3)

to apprise those working with adolescents in health care and educational settings about new research and the role of menarche in young women's lives; (4) to publish and distribute the proceedings of the conference. Menarche will be considered from a sociocultural and a biological perspective. For further information, contact: Dr Sharon Golub, Conference Director, College of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, NY 10801.

*Laura X of the National Clearinghouse on Marital Rape (NCOMR)* is touring campuses speaking on

her successful 1979 campaign to outlaw marital rape in California. Her topic includes the Rideout case and rape law in other states. NCOMR is supported entirely by tax-deductible contributions, memberships, speaking engagements, and publications including a newsletter and a guide to over 600 files of cases and articles. Write, sending self-addressed, stamped envelope, to NCOMR, Women's History Research Center, 2325 Oak St, Berkeley, CA 94708.