

# Audiovisual Reviews

## TEENAGE SEXUALITY

1980. Barr Films, (P.O. Box 5667, Pasadena, California 91107). Four filmstrip set with cassettes and teachers' guide. Purchase \$98.00.

The emphasis of this series is on socialization and personal interaction. The presentations are frank enough to mention such controversial topics as abortion, while wisely leaving such issues unresolved. Unfortunately, however, the first filmstrip seems to fall into the very trap it warns against, as some will see in it the exploitation of women. The societal consequences of teenage sexuality are only lightly touched. Instead, the focus is on personal decisions: "To do or not to do?" seems the major question. There are moments of insightful analysis, giving the credible impression that these are real teenagers facing real teenage problems. Although the filmstrips can be used individually, together they relate a coherent story that attempts to place teenage sexuality in a decision making context by following two couples—one whose relationship is non-sexual, the other sexual and resulting in pregnancy.

The series is designed, perhaps rightly, to indicate that the student's major source of information and role models is the peer group. Experts such as counselors and clinical personnel are also involved, but at no time do the filmstrips show or even imply any relationship between teenagers and their parents. The protagonists could as well be orphans.

Although the teacher's guide poses questions and suggests activities, the series is designed as a passive viewing experience, with discussion only after a rather long exposure to a great deal of information. (Background in reproductive anatomy and physiology is assumed.) The teacher can stop for discussion at any point, but such a strategy is neither explicit nor implied in the flow of materials. Only once does the narration pose a direct question to the viewer, and that, at the end of the fourth strip, where the boy, who has just heard he is to be a father, asks "What would you do?"

At the junior high or high school level, and in the hands of a competent social studies teacher or one capable of handling sensitive questions, the series could prove exceptionally helpful to pre-teens

and teens in dealing with personal interactions and emerging sexual awareness.

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## BORN DRUNK: THE FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME

1979. ABC Wide World of Learning, Inc., (1330 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10019). 16 mm color-sound film. 10 minutes. Purchase \$160.00; rental \$20.00.

This film, originally prepared for ABC's TV news magazine, *20/20*, uses several case studies to depict the effects of drinking during pregnancy on the unborn child. Fetal alcohol syndrome is characterized by retarded physical and mental growth, wide-set eyes, a tiny nose, cleft palate, and impaired speech. An interview with a medical expert points out that the threshold level of alcohol consumption necessary for these effects to occur has not been established, although it may be as low as two drinks per day. An interview with the mother of an affected child indicates that the expectant mother is often not advised by her doctor of the possible effects of alcohol on her developing fetus. Prenatal counseling being offered in some clinics is depicted. Finally, in a comparison between the long-range effects of prenatal alcohol and prenatal heroin addiction, the conclusion is reached that, though the effects of heroin wear off about two weeks after birth, the teratogenic damage done by alcohol is irreversible.

Except for short segments in which the people being interviewed speak indistinctly and are hard to understand, the

Faith Hickman, Audiovisuals Editor, selects materials and coordinates the review process for this feature. Cathrine Monson is her assistant. Their continuing contribution to the journal is deeply appreciated.

Readers interested in becoming audiovisual reviewers are invited to write to Ms. Hickman. General inquiries on this feature should also be addressed directly to her at:

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film is well made. No user's guide accompanies the film; but because it is so short, this is no real drawback. Suitable for junior high through adult age groups, this film would seem especially appropriate when discussing chemically induced birth defects in child development, biology, health, and drug education classes.

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## TEENAGE PREGNANCY AND PREVENTION

1980. IBIS Media, (175 Tompkins Avenue, Pleasantville, New York 10570). Color slides and cassette, teacher guide. 36 minutes. Purchase \$175.00.

In the hands of a competent family living or sex educator this three-part program could be a valuable supplement to other course materials and activities. The first part, "The Problem," defines the scope of teenage pregnancy in the United States today. It gives some of the reasons a million teenagers become pregnant each year including the pervasiveness of sexual stimuli, ignorance of the human reproductive process, failure to use birth control, and early maturation of girls. This section also treats the physical, social, and emotional problems encountered by teenage mothers and the difficulties faced by teenage fathers.

The second part presents the choices available once a teenager becomes pregnant. The viewer is asked to step into the role of a pregnant adolescent, consider the options, and choose among them. The choices explored are single parenthood, marriage, private maternity, adoption, foster care, and abortion. Considerations and problems related to each choice are given.

Part three deals with possible solutions. Following a section on the emergence and expression of sexuality, the program discusses methods of preventing pregnancy. The relative merits and drawbacks of abstinence, the pill, diaphragm, I.U.D., condom, and spermicidal foams, creams, and jellies are presented.

This program is so nearly on the mark that it was difficult to determine just how it misses. The format is pleasing; the

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