

BEYOND MONOGAMY

Published by Beyond Monogamy, Inc., a non-profit educational, social and support organization dedicated to exploring and facilitating alternatives to traditional monogamous relationships.

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A Beyond Monogamy Forum:
What Makes Open Relationships Work?
Part I

edited by Jacqueline Weller

For the last two years, BMI members in Boulder and Denver have organized monthly discussions about relationship issues. These gatherings, held in private homes, are called open forums. Anyone interested in open relationships is welcome to attend.

Open forums continue to be held in Boulder, Colorado. The Denver open forums were discontinued recently to make way for new Denver BMI Sunday night programs.

The editors felt that readers who have never attended an open forum might find it interesting to read an edited version of one of these conversations. The following open forum was held in Denver in November 1981. The conversation focused on making open relationships work.

JACKIE: Let's start by each saying a little about why we are here tonight. I might as well start...Hmm...This is interesting. I've been a BMI member for two or three years, and I have not asked myself that question since I first joined! One of the main reasons I'm a BMI member is because I have friends in the organization--the social element. Also, at forums, seminars and other programs I learn interesting things.

LAURIE: I'm here because I thought there might be people in a group like this who have learned how to overcome the problems that arise in open relationships.

DEAN: I'm new in BMI, although I've been exploring non-monogamy on my own and through other organizations, for several years. I'm here to get all I can out of it.

JOE: I'm new, too. I'm attempting to define a lifestyle for myself; I feel BMI might offer some alternatives.

SHERRE: I'm here to get some help for things I'm going through in my open relationship. I need to learn, also, and find people who care.

DENISE: I'm Denise, and I care a lot (laughter). The reason I'm here is because I was involved in a somewhat open marriage, which did fail. I think the problem wasn't the concept, but the persons involved that caused the failure.

DAVE: I've been in BMI a year. I've heard



Jackie Weller

Beyond Monogamy
Feature Editor

a lot about why open relationships don't work, and I'd like to hear the positive side: what does make one work?

DICK: I've been in BMI three years now. I got my start in this while in transition between my two marriages. In 1971, I lived in a group household with three adults and six children. Then I was married for seven years and single for four. For most of my single period, I've found it appropriate to move into multiple relationships again. I really like the feeling of working at loving more than one person. I also like the variety of being close to several adults.

WILL: I've been around since BMI started. I come to forums to see who comes and what interests them. Tonight we have an interesting mix of oldtimers and newcomers.

NORMA: I've been aware of BMI since it started, although I didn't join until a year or two later. I like the concept of non-exclusivity and have attempted to live that way. I'm not a jealous person. That was part of the problem with my marriage. My husband was terribly hurt when I didn't scream, yell, pound on his chest, and tell him he was a terrible person for looking at other women. I didn't care if he looked at other women! I've been divorced for ten years. I did live with someone in a supposed open relationship for a while. I don't come to a lot of BMI meetings, but did join because I thought the idea needs to be supported.

JANICE: I'm a guest of Norma's. I'm just here as an interested observer.

JACKIE: People have mentioned jealousy management as one of the techniques in making an open relationship work. What else do you think is important?

DAVE: I think it also depends on shared ex-

pectations--knowing what you want before going into the relationship. And, being able to revise that as you go along.

JACKIE: At least if you don't share the same assumptions, you should be able to communicate--to talk about how you differ.

JOE: I come from the opposite direction. I know what I don't want. What I do want becomes clearer as the relationship progresses.

JACKIE: Who don't you want?

JOE: I've been married three times. In two of those marriages I was kicked out due to infidelity. My kids have done all kinds of things, but remained in the family structure. I don't think that was fair.

JACKIE: I guess there's a certain level of behavior expected of adults that kids don't have to meet. Even though most adults don't follow that moral code. The hypocrisy makes me angry.

DEAN: I think that's one of the hardest things for people to overcome: the gap between what's expected and what's real. We get trapped in society's expectations. But, is that what we really want? As a teenager, I noticed that many people seemed unhappy about how they were living. However, when I asked them directly, they said yes, they were happy. So my acquaintances lied first to themselves, then to me. Each of us must first be honest with ourselves.

SHERRE: But, how do we overcome our upbringing--what we're taught in the schools or through the media?

DEAN: I think the key is to make judgments from our own experience, not from what is supposed to be.

SHERRE: This is a big point for me. Self-honesty is a good theory, but does the average person have enough self-awareness to do it? We are taught to be dishonest with ourselves. Most of us have to evolve to the point of self-honesty. How do we get to that point?

JOE: It's more than being honest. It's a question of societal programming. At least I don't have it as bad as someone who has to please the world all the time.

JACKIE: Women get that a whole lot.

JOE: It's not just women. For anyone who has parents who beat the hell out of them physically or mentally, pleasing people saved their lives--literally.

SHERRE: Dishonesty breeds on itself. It is passed down from parent to child. How do we break the cycle?

DAVE: Honesty can change, however, from day to day.

DEAN: Yeah, but that's not being dishonest. Just be honest enough to say, "I don't feel the same way."

DAVE: I guess facts can fluctuate, but honesty remains.

JOE: I read in the newspaper about a man who went berserk and killed his family. He never figured out why he did it. If someone buries the honest part of himself so deep that he can't find it, how does he recognize the truth?

JACKIE: I always had an intuitive gut feel-

ing, as a kid, that something was missing in my life. What was missing was my connection to myself. I was ripped off of my body and my feelings, things that are now an integral part of my life. That nagging childhood feeling made me search--for what, I didn't know. In my twenties it all finally fell into place. Now I am connected to myself, and therefore can be very honest most of the time. Honesty is very important to me. I enjoy living my life this way.

SHERRE: But how did you cultivate that connection?

JACKIE: I did years of psychotherapy. It was the process of doing psychotherapy combined with practical life experiences in relating to others--that's what did it. It took me years, and I'm still working on it.

JOE: Do you know of any signs that might indicate movement in the right direction? For example, I used to blame other people and things for my problems. I kicked that habit. As I get rid of these things that held me back, and away from myself, I feel like I am finding out who I am.

JACKIE: When I get off my track, my body tells me. It tells me by giving me messages. Everybody, I imagine, has different signals from the subconscious. Mine are usually physical signs of tension--my shoulders or stomach becoming tense. Or anger; I'll get angry or irritable and not know why. At that point I'll realize that something is emotionally affecting me, and I'll have to start paying attention to what it is. As soon as I can, I take the time to talk to someone. Maybe 80% of the time, it will become clear as I talk it out. If it doesn't become clear at that point, then I have to become more creative about discovering what's wrong. Sometimes it will come up in a dream. I'll waken knowing what's been bothering me.

JOE: We all have this in common--our body as a biofeedback system. It might come out in different ways, but each of us has our physical symptoms. Whether we pay attention to them or not is another story.

JACKIE: Right! And, our culture teaches us not to attend to these things. Now that I've grabbed the power of self-knowledge back from the people and institutions who tried to take it from me, I'm not giving it up for anything! It's mine I'm keeping it!

I agree that we can't have good relationships unless we're true to ourselves, know what we want and communicate what we want.

DENISE: I think the best thing I've done for myself is going through group therapy. People often have to be dragged into therapy kicking and screaming: "I'm not going to air my dirty linen in front of a whole bunch of people." But, I recommend it. There are a lot of group therapy situations that tie directly into what we've been talking about--identifying your needs, taking care of your needs, figuring out options and accepting yourself.

SHERRE: What do you want out of your relationships?

DENISE: I'm not sure yet! That's partly why I'm here tonight. I'm still tied into the idea that monogamy is the right thing to do; that Prince Charming will come and knock me off my feet, and that we'll live happily ever after. I am not so sure that's what I want.

NORMA: That's a real hard one to try to give up. I'm probably twice as old as you, and I still have a lot of trouble with that one. In fact, I'm in yet another session of therapy over that very issue.

DENISE: He may not be my prince, but he's certainly charming! (general laughter)

NORMA: Or--Since you're not charming at all, how is it that I regard you as my prince? (uproar)

JACKIE: I used to be attracted to guys who would tell me that they were really horrible. I wouldn't believe them. Nowadays, I believe them. If a man says to me, "I can't give you the relationship you want. I'm emotionally cold. You'll be dissatisfied with me. You had better find someone else," or other examples of inadequacy and ways they can't possibly make me happy, then I believe them. I don't need that.

DAVE: But, is that always true? What if they are just shy or confused or muddleheaded?

JACKIE: It's a matter of degree. If it is just a little bit of low self-esteem, I can handle that and be supportive. But, there's a difference...

DENISE: There's a world of difference between, "I cannot give you what you want" and "I am a horrible person."

JACKIE: I can tell when I meet the truly hopeless ones that they're telling the truth.

NORMA: After a while you get real tired and just don't want to meet those challenges any more. "O.K., so you can't meet my needs. I believe you!"

JOE: I take that another step further. I believe people no matter what they say. If they are lying to me, I find out soon enough.

DAVE: What about saying, here's something I know that you want that I don't have, but I have lots of other things to offer you.

JACKIE: But, that's different. What I was mentioning before was someone setting up a situation where they want to struggle with you. And, if you're foolish enough to get into that struggle, it can go on like that for years.

LAURIE: It's not a question of being foolish. It's a two-sided thing.

JACKIE: Right. There's a payoff for you in the situation, or you wouldn't fall for it. I consider myself foolish, nowadays, if I fall for those old payoffs.

LAURIE: Each of us does things about which we know better. We have to just pick ourselves up and go on from there.

JACKIE: You're right. I was kicking myself in the ass. Sometimes we fall off the wagon.

LAURIE: Oh, yes, and get run over by the wheels! (general laughter) I think we need to realize that old patterns have been with us for

years and won't change overnight.

JACKIE: Yes. I find some of those things getting less strong than they were, say, ten years ago.

JOE: Are you recognizing signs of falling off the wagon? Sometimes when I'm feeling anxious, I don't recognize the specific cause.

JACKIE: In my case, I recognize that I'm repeating old behavior patterns that I no longer want to repeat. It's easier now. I can cut the pattern sooner, before it becomes full blown. But, I do blame myself. I don't ever want to feel those feelings again. Maybe that's too much to expect.

JOE: Blaming yourself wastes energy.

DAVE: Rather than saying it was foolish, take that energy and channel it into other directions. Do something else with it.

(to be continued in the March issue)

Letters from Readers

Letters Policy: We do not print full names and addresses of authors of letters unless requested in writing to do so. We reserve the right to edit letters, but we try not to pull quotations out of context.

We especially like letters which discuss your personal experiences. We also encourage you to express your feelings about ideas and questions raised by articles or other letters.

Deadline is one month prior to issue date. We cannot guarantee that your letter will be used.

Multiple Primaries?

Dear Will:

In the August 1981 issue of Beyond Monogamy ("A Beyond Monogamy Interview: On Being Single, Non-monogamous and Male"), Marv says he prefers the concept of "multiple primary relationships, which don't require placing someone in the secondary role." I really have my doubts about this working--how many really primary relationships can a person have? I think there may be some self-delusion going on. It may be semantics, but I think it is more than that. We can have multiple relationships of varying intensity and commitment, but all primary? It is nearly impossible to see other relationships as EQUALLY committed, no matter what you call them. In a capitalistic society we are influenced by the economic and political norms. At least in this society it is difficult and perhaps not even feasible to have more than one central relationship. I used to believe people could have co-primary relationships and maybe some can, but eventually it appears to me that most opt for one person more than (if not instead of) another. I don't like the primary-secondary dichotomy either, but

we have to realize that it is really idealistic to think we will love people with the same commitments and feelings, and that this will remain so over time. Maybe we need a new language structure to positively describe different kinds of sexual relationships such as sexual friendships? If co-primary relationships exist, it is likely in group living arrangements or group marriages. More than two would seem beyond belief in this society. Some people seem to fool themselves into believing that they love several people equally (because they want to or think they should) and that they are all "primary." This really is semantically and logically not a reality. It may be that in some cultures people can have several equally intense and equally committed relationships, but I am not so sure this is yet one of them. What do you think?

Roger W. Libby, Ph.D.
Center for the Family
University of Massachusetts,
Amherst

Will's reply: Marv is single and does not live with any of his intimate partners. Now, let's assume he loves Polly and Sally equally and sees each of them three times a week when possible. Perhaps he could claim they are his co-primary partners. Like Roger, I have my doubts that these relationships would remain equal over time.

Seems to me it would be a lot easier to simply refer to Polly and Sally as lovers or intimate friends and, therefore, eliminate any need for qualitative terms like primary or secondary. I would assume that he loves each woman for unique traits which cannot be quantified. We quantify nearly everything in our society--do we have to quantify intimacy too?

Does the BMI Logo Have Any Meaning?

Editors:

Just wondering about your trade mark--the seven circles--does each have a meaning?

Emroy
Nevada

Editors' reply: Each individual circle does not have a particular meaning (see logo on top left hand corner of page 1). There are two interpretations of the circles taken collectively. The first is that the large outer circle represents an intimate friendship network and the six smaller circles are six people who comprise the network. Each person is intimately involved with two other people in the network (represented by the darkened overlapping areas of the circles). Each is also intimately involved with one or more people outside the network (represented by the darkened portions of the small circles which extend outside the large outer circle).

In the second interpretation, the large

outer circle represents Beyond Monogamy, Inc. The six smaller circles are intimate friendship networks comprised of BMI members. Some people in each network are intimately involved with people in two other networks (represented by the darkened overlapping areas of the small circles). Some people in each network are also intimately involved with one or more people who are not BMI members (represented by the darkened portions of the small circles which extend outside the large outer circle).

Why six inner circles rather than five, seven, etc.? There is no special reason other than the symmetry created by having the B, M and I in every other circle. Maybe we could also say that the circles represent people in a group marriage and six is the maximum number Robert Rimmer thinks will work in such arrangements (see his novel, Proposition 31)!

The BMI logo was designed and drawn by Will Mahoney in the summer of 1979.

Beyond Monogamy receives the Dennis P. Davie Award for Socially Meaningful Journalism

Dear Folks at BMI:

I'm not sure to whom I owe the receipt of a sample of Beyond Monogamy, but I'm glad it arrived. For seven years I was a partner in an open marriage, and we could have used your magazine. We are now divorced after finding we were on different paths, but we're still friends. I went on to school and have not had such a great time. Disasterous relationship has followed disasterous relationship. Jealousy and expectations of monogamy are the main problem. Communication of my ideas on open relationships leads to rejection. I've been told that open sexual relationships can't work, that jealousy is a natural, valid and overpowering emotion, that I'm just trying to get laid, that I don't love my partner or I wouldn't suggest such things, etc. My personal ideas stem from love being a universal constant that becomes stronger when more people are loving and caring. Keep up the loving work you are doing, and send me a subscription.

Dennis P. Davie
Capitola, California

Editors' response: Letters like this one remind us why we keep working our buns off on this publication.

By the way, Dennis, we agree with the folks who tell you that jealousy is a natural and valid emotion. We also agree with sociologist Gordon Clanton who feels that jealousy does not have to be overpowering. The best way to handle jealousy is to work on understanding it as an individual and as a couple. Actually, jealousy can have a positive impact on a relationship if it serves as a catalyst for improved couple communication.

(more letters on p. 7)

Classified Advertisements - February 1982

Answering Ads: Please contact advertisers directly except for coded ads. To answer a coded ad, enclose your reply in a stamped envelope with the number of the ad written in pencil in the lower left hand corner. Mail in another envelope with \$1.00 to BMI, Box 6877, Denver, CO 80206. Letters will be forwarded unopened the day after they are received. WE WILL NOT FORWARD YOUR LETTER IF YOU DO NOT FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS EXACTLY!

Non-profit Organizations

ARE YOU TIRED OF OLD-FASHIONED, OUTDATED LIFESTYLES? Come on! Get liberated and have fun in POLYFIDELITY. Your past can't stop you. Taste the joy of best friend group marriage. Family life combined with exciting variety of lovers and camaraderie with platonic friends, plus larger tribal identity. Learn more about it. Write: Kerista Village, 543 Frederick Street, San Francisco, CA 94117 or phone 415-566-6502 or 415-665-2988.

FLORIDA Intimate friends, alternate lifestyles, all lifestyles. Personal growth & successful interpersonal relationships workshops. Send SASE. Write to Dynamind, c/o Floridyne, P.O. Box 7603, Miami, FL 33155.

NOW THAT YOU'RE HAVING MULTIPLE RELATIONSHIPS, YOUR ENTERTAINMENT BUDGET IS GOING UP! Find out how becoming a Universal Life Minister can help increase your cash flow. Cut your taxes 75%; perform group marriages for your friends! Call (303) 934-0964 for information.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ORGANIZE AN OPEN RELATIONSHIPS SUPPORT GROUP IN YOUR AREA? Run an ad in this section for only \$3.00 for 40 words & \$.05 for each additional word.

Personals

CALIFORNIA Loving Beverly Hills professional couple (married 22 years) seeking to form a living group with 6 other empowered people, to teach, learn and share, especially in exploring spirituality, parapsychology, holistic health, dreams, body energies, bodywork, and other growth areas. We would also appreciate contacts and networking with similar groups. Write 0901.

CALIFORNIA Married Couple--wish to hear from couples and M/F 50's on. Serious about country living. A caring-sharing developing intimate relationship. Vital interests, survival, natural prevention nutrition, ecology, organic gardening, raising small stock, cutting our own firewood, etc. Write 0801.

CALIFORNIA (northern) Happy healthy couple late 40's seek open relationships with other couples based on BMI philosophy. Possibly form intimate network. Please include phone number. Write 0802.

CALIFORNIA I'm looking for an open relationship with people interested in hiking, biking, sailing, music, anti-nuclear activism, alternative living styles. Non-smokers please. I'm 33, finishing school soon, live on sailboat. Dennis P. Davie, Box 651, Capitola, CA 95010-0651.

COLORADO Denver couple would like to meet bisexual female(s) interested in short-term or long-term relationship. We enjoy skiing, traveling and philosophy. Write 0803.

COLORADO Divorced Scorpio athletic male, 37, would like to expand intimate friendship network, locally and long distance. Sex is not a prerequisite to friendship. Into growth, philosophy and learning. I'm college educated, very human and full of positive energy. Interested persons please call ART, 303-777-4596.

COLORADO Single, professionally employed man, 39, seeks tall, intelligent, outdoors lady, 25-35, into some of: hiking, skiing, horses, running, dancing, music, art, sailing, touching, for close relationship. Ken Hampton, 6165 E. Iliff Ave., #107-E, Denver, CO 80222, 303-756-8150

COLORADO Independent, romantic, attractive, educated male (47) wants non-exclusive, non-possessive but warm, enduring friendship with sensitive, affectionate, articulate, assertive woman any age to share interests in science, art, nature, imaginative conversation and sex, and exploring intimate ties with other individuals or couples. Write 0804.

COLORADO Liberated Aquarian male, 46, attractive, non-smoker, successful businessperson, former airplane owner & pilot, not able to walk, seeking open relationships, close and/or intimate friendships, and women 35-55; other ages welcome to write. Love the arts, music, touching, caring, open conversation. Write John, 0805.

COLORADO, Colorado Springs -- Professional male, 35, tall, college educated, would like to meet local (and non-local) individuals with similar BMI Lifestyle interests. Also, how about carpool to Denver BMI activities. 632-0624 (weekends best).

COLORADO/ENGLAND Coloradoan temporarily plunked down in the UK wants correspondence from female/couple/triad who seek intertwining with a piquant male life force upon my return to Denver in several months. Do you enjoy, as I do, the marvelous amplification that comes through sharing of common interests with kindred spirits? How about cross-country skiing out the back door of our housekeeping cabin atop Grand Mesa in the moonlight to work off a fine evening meal? Exploring Lake Powell's side canyons too small for the power boaters? A meteor shower after our campfire dies down in the crisp, clear summer nightfall of the San Juans, as the California Chardonnay goes around? Indoor great adventures with music, art, and each other can be intensified as well. What's your favorite? Dale Wilkins, 4 Bradfields, Harmans Water, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 3NN, United Kingdom (via air mail).

ILLINOIS Gemini - tall, handsome, 31 years young, single. I'm a studio & performing musician, travel some when possible. I enjoy all aspects of art, especially music, astrology, occultism. I'm seeking a total open and honest intimate relationship with female's'. Where have all women gone? David Killman, 408 South Wall, Apt. B-1, Carbondale, IL 62901.

KANSAS Couple, 56 & 46, widely read with inquiring minds seek caring relationship with mutual respect: three (with one man), four (with a couple) or more. Sex is NOT our primary interest. Friendship IS. Interested in conversation, interplay of minds. Would like to hear from other Beyond Monogamy subscribers in Kansas and northern Oklahoma. P.O. Box 18303, Wichita, KS 67218.

MARYLAND Seek individuals, couples, organizations. Non-swinging but open networks around D.C., Baltimore please identify yourselves to me. (If none, let's start one.) Seek women or couples (NYC to Richmond) with intelligence, wide interests and abilities, and zest, for emotionally intimate friendships in which sex is delightful optional byproduct, not *raison d'être*. I'm 41, male, unattached (but have willing female friend), undiseased, vasectomized, experienced in nonexclusive relationships (the new to BMI): have above-sought traits; especially interested in contradancing, music (folk, classical, jazz), reading, languages, space colonization, bicycling; am member of folk and jazz societies, family nudist club, NOW, Mensa, L-5 Society. Pete Benson, 7441 Stoney Ridge Rd., Marriottsville, MD 21104, 301/781-6320.

MASSACHUSETTS Attractive Lexington based Harvard grad seeks warm funloving MWF in need of secondary relationship or new experiences. Couples are also invited to write. Write 0809.

MICHIGAN Tall, lean male academic, mid-fifties, wide interests seeks BMI relationship with uninhibited female interested in exploring urban-pastoral byways, innerspace, museums, music, sidewalk cafes, more, in Detroit-Windsor area. Please write Rod, Box 7887, Ann Arbor, MI 48107.

MINNESOTA Couple seeks starling sister for extended family (1 male, 2 females) to share country lifestyle. Looking for non-smoking, honest open minded individual who loves the outdoors and animals. Send introduction letter with photo/s and phone number. Will answer all replies. H.B. Wheel, Rt. 2, Box 106, Kasson, MN 55944.

MINNESOTA Minneapolis area male, 39, seeks intimate friendship with non-smoking, liberal, affectionate female. Am successful writer/video producer. Gentle, affectionate, considerate, sharing, attractive. Enjoy jazz, psychology, philosophy, photography, history, good conversation, loving. Also welcome correspondence on BMI-related subjects from anyone (M/F, any orientation) in or near Twin Cities. P.O. Box 240368, Minneapolis, MN 55424.

NEW MEXICO Married man, 43, seeks mature women, 25-50, for open friendship with attractive libran who values intimacy, sincerity. Married, single, OK. I like literature, poetry, unconventional spirituality, humor, conversation, dining. Write today, please. Route 2, Box 901, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

NEW YORK, New York City. Anglo-American couple with small daughter, young forties, free-beach enthusiasts, well travelled—usually to where the action isn't—would like to develop emotional and sensual rapport and close friendship with another couple. Write 0810.

NEW YORK Handsome tall and slim single sensitive man, 34 (nonsmoker), interested in nutrition, running, hiking, massage, movies, good restaurants, etc. would like to meet a woman interested in an intellectual, emotional and physical open relationship. All sincere replies answered. Write 0811.

NEW YORK Mid-Hudson Valley area married couple, she 27, he 34, seeks other couples for exploring intimate long term relationships and possibly the creation of an alternative family unit. PO Box 78, Gardiner, NY 12525.

OHIO Farm family of five seeks other men, women and children to join in creating a polyfidelous family and building a rural self-sufficient community. Contact Mary Winegarner & Jim Hemminger, 1402 Fox Rd., Sandusky, Ohio 44870.

OREGON Married couple would like to hear from others 50 to 60 in N.W. Oregon or S.W. Washington interested in group marriage and/or intimate network. Reply with phone number to Jim & Barb, Box 3936, Portland, OR 97208.

PUERTO RICO 43 year old professional man moving to northwest Puerto Rico wishes to contact people interested BMI philosophy, massage, social nudity, parapsychology and/or exploring local customs and geography. Write 0812.

TEXAS Bisexual woman, 48, bright, cheerful, outgoing, full of energy, love to talk, walk, play, want to meet others for conversation, dining, travel, friendships and lovers. Dorothy - Houston, TX. Write 0813.

Services and Products

Breaking the Bonds: The Reality of Sexually Open Relationships by Mary Ann Watson and Flint Whitlock (preface by Will Mahoney). Approximately 100 persons (including BMI members) share the realities of their open-relationship lifestyles in this newly published book. They discuss jealousy, finding partners, establishing ground rules, dealing with relatives and children, how to open and close a relationship, and more. A valuable, practical guide to anyone in or contemplating an open relationship. Available from BMI (use Beyond Monogamy book order form enclosed).

COUNSELING Enthusiastic student of San Francisco's Institute for the Advanced Study of Human Sexuality seeks practical experience counseling on sensuality, erogenous zones, sexological exams, the Grafenburg Spot, body awareness. Singles or couples, specify area of interest. Frequent travel to Tulsa, San Fran. Write RTS, Box 14243, St. Petersburg, FL 33733.

DENVER AREA - PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING for couples/individuals or families dealing with alternative lifestyles or personal life crises. Reasonable fees. Bryan Brook, Ph.D. 758-2512.

DENVER AREA Don't let jealousy cripple your relationships! Kai Shuman, Certified NLP Practitioner, is offering a workshop in February featuring the magical "NLP Jealousy Cure," a simple, effective way of dealing with those incapacitating painful feelings. \$25 (BMI members \$20) Call 595-0990 for more information and reservations.

BEYOND MONOGABOOKS BY MAIL!

The following books may be ordered directly from Beyond Monogamy, Inc. using the order form on the back of this sheet:

NON-FICTION:

- Alternative Relationships Songbook, D. Levin. \$2.50.
- Barry and Alice, B. Kohn & A. Matusow. \$10.95 (c1).
- Beyond Affairs, J. & P. Vaughan. \$5.95.
- Breaking The Bonds, M.A. Watson & F. Whitlock. \$4.95.
- Brief Encounters, E. Coleman & B. Edwards. \$5.95.
- Hot and Cool Sex, A. & R. Francoeur. \$4.95.
- Intimate Friendships, J. Ramey. \$4.95.
- Jealousy, G. Clanton & L. Smith, eds. \$4.95.
- Marriage and Alternatives, Libby & Whitehurst, eds. \$11.95.
- More Than Just a Friend, T. McGinnis. \$9.95 (c1).
- The New Intimacy, R. Mazur. \$3.50.
- Oneida, M. Carden. \$5.95.

FICTION:

- Come Live My Life, R. Rimmer. \$2.25.
- The Harrad Experiment, R. Rimmer. \$1.95 (used).
- The Love Explosion, R. Rimmer. \$2.75.
- Love Me Tomorrow, R. Rimmer. \$2.50.
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- Stranger in a Strange Land, R. Heinlein. \$2.75.
- Thursday, My Love, R. Rimmer. \$1.75.

c1: cloth; all other books are paperback.

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 - Personals**--ads specifying an interest in alternative relationships (e.g. open relationships, intimate friendship networks, expanded families, group marriage or similar lifestyles). Ads from singles, couples or intimate groups; heterosexuals, bisexuals or homosexuals are welcome.
 - Services and Products**--ads from individuals or businesses supportive of alternative relationships and offering relationship counseling, personal growth workshops, publications, etc.
- Swingers' ads not accepted!** We will not accept ads for individuals, organizations or businesses primarily interested in swinging (sexual mate-swapping and sex orgies). We will also not accept predominantly sexual ads. This is not a moral judgment--we merely want to provide an alternative to the many swingers' magazines already available.
- Secret affairs.** We know that a few people in existing relationships will run deceitful ads in order to meet others for "secret affairs." While we do not condone this practice, we cannot try to censor peoples' intentions.
- Who may advertise:** We only accept personal ads from BMI members and Beyond Monogamy subscribers.

- Rates (per insertion):**
- Personals and Non-profit Organizations--\$3.00 (up to 40 words) and \$.05/word over 40 words.
- Services and Products--\$5.00 (up to 40 words) and \$.10/word over 40 words.
- Coded ads**--\$1.00 extra per insertion. We will assign a number to your ad and forward mail to you unopened. People answering your ad will send us \$1 plus postage.

Deadline: First of the month preceding date of issue (e.g. March 1 for April issue).

Beyond Monogamy Classified Ad Form

Name(s) _____

Address (including ZIP code) _____

The following ad is to be placed under (check one) Personals _____ Non-profit Organizations _____
Services and Products _____ (type or print neatly exactly as you want the ad to appear):

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ insertions and \$ _____ for coding and forwarding (if applicable).

I/we hereby give my/our permission to print the above ad in Beyond Monogamy. I/we agree not to hold Beyond Monogamy, Inc. or its staff responsible for any actions which occur as a result of this ad.

Signature(s) _____

All ads must be paid for in advance. Mail to BMI, Box 6877, Denver, CO 80206.

GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS TO BEYOND MONOGAMY

Give a friend or lover a gift that may enlighten, may shock, may amuse but will not be ignored! Give them a one-year subscription to *Beyond Monogamy!*

Send *Beyond Monogamy* gift subscriptions to:

Name(s) _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Address _____

City, state or
province, zip _____

City, state or
province, zip _____

Please make your remittance payable to Beyond Monogamy, Inc. (\$9.00 per subscription). We will include the following note: "You are receiving a one-year gift subscription to *Beyond Monogamy* from _____ (fill in your name).

Send this form and your remittance to BMI, Box 6877, Denver, CO 80206.

BEYOND MONOGAMY BOOK ORDER FORM

(see back of this sheet for titles available)

Please print neatly!

Ship to _____

Address _____

City, state or
province, zip code _____

Quantity	Title and author	Price
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_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____
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Postage and handling (note new rates): _____ subtotal _____

Add \$1.50 for the first book and _____

60¢ for each additional book. _____

Payment: _____ postage & handling _____

All orders must be accompanied by a check or money order. _____

Make payable to Beyond Monogamy, Inc. Canadian orders _____

welcome--no extra charges but please send U.S. funds. _____ Total _____

Mail your order and payment to BMI, Box 6877, Denver, CO 80206. Books will be sent Fourth Class. All U.S. orders are insured. We cannot be responsible for books shipped outside the U.S.A. which are lost or stolen. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

Alternative Relationships in the 1980's: An Evening with Barry Kohn

Sunday, February 21, 7:30-9:30 PM

University of Colorado Medical Center (Denver)

(Use main entrance to Medical School on north side of East 8th Ave., 1 1/2 blocks east of Colorado Blvd. Follow signs to room 2836, the second floor lecture hall.)

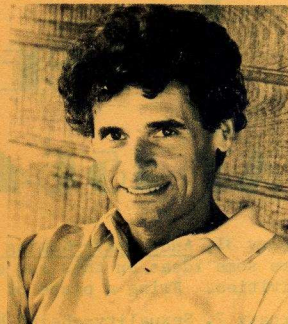
Co-sponsored by Beyond Monogamy, Inc. and

the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Colorado, Inc.

Admission: \$3.00 (BMI and GLCC members); others-\$5.00.

The influence of the Women's Movement and the Gay Rights Movement, a huge increase in divorces and the number of single persons, and a continuing change in the roles of men and women has opened a wider range of options for relationships. The traditional family--husband, wife, 2.2 children--is, in reality, a minority lifestyle today. While this shift in values and expectations presents many problems for people, it also can create unique opportunities for forming new kinds of relationships.

Barry Kohn, attorney, counselor and co-author of the book, Barry and Alice: Portrait of a Bisexual Marriage (Prentice-Hall, 1980), will speak about his own experience and the work he has been doing with people across the United States. A number of topics will be explored including independence within a long-term relationship, dealing with jealousy, developing trust, and how a third person fits into a relationship. He will also discuss some practical guidelines on scheduling of time, raising children within this new concept of personal values, and the importance of creating support for your particular lifestyle. He will also show a T.V. documentary and will be available to answer questions from the audience. Copies of Barry and Alice will be available for \$10.95 plus tax.



Boulder Open Forum Thursday, February 18, 7:30-9:30 PM. John LaBrecque's home, 2948 Shady Hollow W. (Go north on 28th St., left on Valmont. House is on left side of Valmont between 28th and Folsom.) Members-free; Beyond Monogamy subscribers and others-\$1.00. Bring wine, beer or snacks to share. An unstructured discussion of open relationship issues, ideas and experiences.

Boulder Women's Forum Tuesday, February 2, 7:30-9:30 PM. Virginia's home, 7347 Crannell (From Boulder Turnpike, go 3 1/2 mi. east on Table Mesa Dr. which becomes S. Boulder Rd. Go left on Crannell, the only dirt road heading north between 68th and 76th. Beige house with yellow porch light on left side of street). BMI members-free; Beyond Monogamy subscribers and others-\$1.00. Bring wine or snacks to share. A discussion of open relationships issues as related to women. All women are welcome to attend. For more information about the group, phone Elaine at 499-8180.

Combined Boulder and Denver Women's Forum (tentative) Tuesday, March 9, 7:30-9:30 PM. Nanci's home, 808 Racquet Lane, Boulder (go east on Baseline Rd. 1/2 mi. from Foothills Pkwy. Go north on 55th 1/4 mi. to Racquet Lane and turn right. 808 is blue house behind 800. Park on Racquet Lane.) BMI members-free; Beyond Monogamy subscribers and others-\$1.00. Bring wine or snacks to share. Same format as above forum. Denver women call Genie, 399-3326, if you would like to form a carpool.

Beyond Monogamy Mailing Party Wednesday, February 24., 7:30-10:00 PM. 658 Steele St. (8 blocks west of Colorado Blvd. and 8 1/2 blocks south of Colfax). BMI members-free; Beyond Monogamy subscribers and others-\$1.00. Wine and beer provided by BMI. We will get the March issue of Beyond Monogamy ready for the mailman. The more people who help, the faster it gets done! Join us for an exciting(?) evening.

Denver and Workshop schedules are on the back of this sheet

SUNDAY I GATHERINGS H AT 1564 MARION

7:30-9:30 PM. Doors open at 7:00 PM. Program starts at 7:30 sharp. We must be out by 10:00 PM.

1564 Marion St., Denver, 13 blocks east of Broadway, 3/4 block north of Colfax. Use parking lot across the street at southwest corner of 16th and Marion.

\$2.00-BMI members; \$3.00-Beyond Monogamy subscribers and others. Tea, coffee, plates, etc. provided.

January 31, Androgyny--Coming to Terms with Sexual Reidentification. Richard Hartnett will share some ideas on this subject followed by a group planning meeting on the future of BMI activities. Bring a plate of fresh sliced veggies and dip or a beverage to share.

February 7, Sexuality--Being Honest about Our Limits and Unrealized Dreams. Susan Wells and Harold Fields will share their insights on this subject followed by open discussion. Bring a package of frozen snacks (oven available) or beverage to share.

February 14, St. Valentine's Day Party and Pizza Festival. This holiday has been a festival since the days of ancient Rome when Juno and Pan were feted. Bring yourself and hopefully a sweetheart to a mid-winter Italian fest. Also bring a frozen or reheatable pizza (oven available) and a hearty wine or other beverage to share.

February 21, An Evening with Barry Kohn is at CU Med Center (see other side of this sheet).

February 28, New Ways to Find Intimate Friends. Bill Conklin and others introduce some simple, effective and proven ideas that work for both men and women. The following group discussion will give everyone a chance to share their frustrations and successes. Bring a fruit platter, natural snacks or a beverage to share.

March 7, ...and They Lived Happily Ever After? The Future of Open Relationships. Co-authors Mary Ann Watson and Flint Whitlock present a follow-up to their original findings--some of their most controversial material. Their new book, Breaking the Bonds: The Realities of Sexually Open Relationships, will be available for purchase and autographing. Cake and unspiked punch will be provided (bring your own vodka, etc., if you want spiked punch).

WORKSHOPS

Open Relationships. Sunday, January 31, 10:00 AM-5:00 PM. 658 Steele St., Denver. Members-\$16 (\$30/couple); others-\$19 (\$36/couple), handouts included. This workshop will evaluate the joys and pitfalls of open relationships using short lectures, discussions and experiential exercises. Teachers/facilitators: Will Mahoney and Genie Whitaker. Bring finger food to share for potluck lunch. To register or obtain more information call Will Mahoney, 399-3326.

Coping with Jealousy in Intimate Relationships. Saturday, February 6, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM, 658 Steele St., Denver. Members-\$15 (\$29/couple); others-\$18 (\$35/couple), handouts included. Short lectures, questionnaires, experiential exercises and group discussions will be utilized to enable participants to better understand and deal with their jealousy. Teacher/facilitator: Will Mahoney (399-3326). Bring finger food for potluck lunch.

Women and Bisexuality. ^(for women only) Sunday, February 7, 7:00-9:30 PM. 2826 S. Glencoe, Denver, Diane's home (from I-25 and Yale, go 1 block west on Yale and 1 block south on Glencoe). Members-\$2; others-\$4.00. Teachers/facilitators: several bisexual women. Information: 399-3326.

Open Relationships. Saturday, February 13, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM in Boulder (call 399-3326 for location and information). Member price and content same as 1/31 workshop above. Non-member price-\$22 (\$42/couple). We will likely have group lunch at a local restaurant.

Open Relationships: Theory & Practice

by Will Mahoney

Last month's issue of Beyond Monogamy included the first in a series of articles on the theory and practice of open relationships. In that article, I gave a detailed explanation of the open relationships philosophy: It is possible and growth enhancing for some people to openly have more than one intellectually, physically and emotionally intimate relationship at a time.

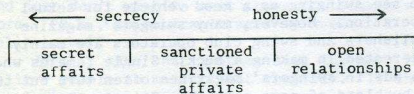
Part II: Non-monogamous and Open Relationship Typologies

What are the different types of open relationships and how do they fit into the framework of non-monogamous relationships in general? In order to examine these questions I have developed two typologies which are adaptations and expansions of those proposed by Gordon Clanton in his article, "The Contemporary Experience of Adultery: Bob and Carol and Udi and Rimmer" (in Libby and Whitehurst, Marriage and Alternatives, Scott, Foresman and Co., 1977).

Non-monogamous Relationship Typology

Clanton called this a typology of adultery, but I prefer to avoid that term because of its negative connotations. Non-monogamy seems less judgmental and also includes single people.

Non-monogamy can be divided into three categories according to the relative amount of secrecy or honesty about it among the parties involved. These categories are represented in the following schematic:

Secret Affairs

As pointed out in the last article, a majority of people in contemporary North American society are non-monogamous (whether married or not) at least part of the time. However, most of these non-monogamous people are involved in secret affairs (referred to as "clandestine adultery" by Clanton), especially if they are married or cohabitating. Even if they are single and non-monogamous, they likely do not tell their lovers about their other lovers. As pointed out by Morton Hunt (The Affair, New American Library, 1969), most secret affairs are not really secret because the "betrayed" partner usually suspects that something is going on.

Like open relationships, secret affairs can range from growth enhancing to destructive. Many people involved in secret affairs find they make inadequate marriages tolerable. They might like to be honest with their spouse about outside involvements but feel they must maintain secrecy in

order to preserve their marriage. I do not condemn secret affairs as being somehow less "moral" than open relationships. I agree with Hunt who feels that their rightness or wrongness should be based on the totality of circumstances and effects on all concerned. However, secret affairs are, by definition, obviously not open and should never be equated with open relationships.

Sanctioned Private Affairs

These affairs (called "ambiguous adultery" by Clanton) are the ole' "You fool around and I'll fool around but let's not talk about it" agreement. This type of affair is advocated by Lonnie Myers in her book, Adultery and Other Private Matters (Nelson-Hall, 1975). Myers feels that every spouse needs time away from his or her partner. During these periods, partners should be able to indulge in any activity of their choosing without having to report it to their spouse. Thus, if I want to play poker with the boys on Wednesday nights while you are off having a mad, passionate affair with the milkman, neither of us need know what the other is doing. Some people who desire non-monogamy but find an open relationship too threatening feel this is a good compromise. Like secret affairs, this type of arrangement needs to be judged on a case-by-case basis. If it works, great! But, it is not the same as an open relationship.

Open Relationships

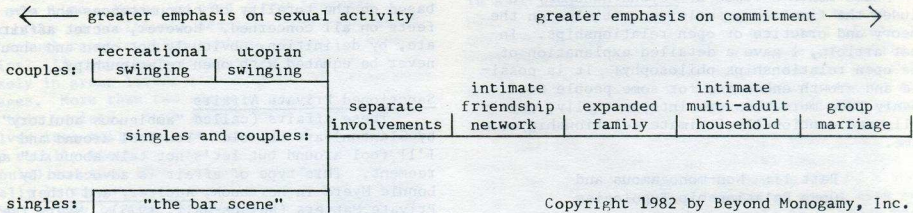
People in open relationships (called "consensual adultery" by Clanton) would agree with Lonnie Myers about the need for time away from even the best of intimate relationships. However, they prefer to know (at least in a general way) what their partner does with her/his personal time and like their partner to know what they are doing with personal time as well. This does not imply a necessity to tell all the details about other relationships. What distinguishes an open relationship is the lack of deliberate secrecy about additional intimate relationships. In looking beyond monogamy, my main interest is in open relationships so I have developed a typology which illustrates various open relationship possibilities.

Open Relationships Typology

In "The Contemporary Experience of Adultery," Clanton proposed three subtypes of consensual adultery: recreational adultery, open-ended marriage and group marriage. My typology has additional categories and includes singles as well as committed couples (Figure 1). Toward the left side of the schematic there is greater emphasis on sexual (rather than intellectual or emotional) intimacy and toward the right side there is greater emphasis on commitment in all of one's intimate relationships. Moving from left to right on the schematic, the distinction between singles and committed couples progressively disappears and merges into a committed group in an expanded family or intimate multi-adult household.

FIGURE 1

Open Relationships Typology

Swinging

This form of open relationship usually involves two or more couples who exchange partners for sexual activity. Occasionally, singles (usually female) are welcomed into swinging situations without a partner, but most swingers' clubs are very couple oriented. Swingers meet in a variety of ways and indulge in a variety of sexual activities.

The terms recreational and utopian swinging were first used by Carolyn Symonds in "Pilot Study of the Peripheral Behavior of Sexual Mate Swappers" (Unpublished Master's thesis, University of California, Riverside, 1968). In my typology, recreational swingers are people who see sexual exchange of partners as an end in itself. They usually know their swinging partners' first names only and often swing with each couple only once. They feel that swinging is less threatening to their committed couple relationship if they do not become intellectually, socially or emotionally involved with their swinging partners. Utopian swingers participate in much the same activities as the recreational types. However, they see swinging as a vehicle for meeting people with whom they can potentially develop close friendships without the sexual fantasy tension that characterizes so many couple relationships in our society. Some utopians eventually move out of swinging and into intimate friendship networks or expanded families. A few may even form group marriages.

Swinging can be a safe way for some couples to open a relationship. It enables people to come to terms with their partner having sex with someone else without having to deal with a potential emotional involvement at the same time. It can also provide them with a unique opportunity for sexual variety and enjoyment of unfulfilled fantasies.

Swinging can be useful as a transitional phase but seems to be lacking in depth as a long-term lifestyle. Recreational swinging can become rather boring after the novelty wears off. Utopian swinging can become very frustrating if one never meets potential friends. I am speaking from personal experience because Genie and I are ex-utopian swingers who were involved in a number

of "recreational" activities several years ago. It's not that swinging is somehow immoral. As long as no one is being exploited, screwing at swing parties can be as morally neutral as playing golf, dancing or window shopping. The problem with many swingers (particularly the recreational types) is their desire to exclude intellectual and emotional intimacy from any sexual relationship other than their marriage. Sport fucking has its place as an occasional diversion, but as a way of life it seems to be lacking depth. It just doesn't seem psychologically healthy to go to swing parties every week with an attitude of, "You can fuck me, but don't expect me to reveal deep personal thoughts or emotions to you. You can tell me you love my body but don't you dare say you love me!"

Another problem with swinging is its frequently exploitive aspects. A number of swingers and swing club managers are genuinely nice people who see swinging as a good vehicle for sexual liberation. However, many swingers' magazine publishers and swing club operators are mainly interested in making a buck. Single females who run ads in swingers' magazines often turn out to be hustlers of some sort ("Is Swinging Pornography?" The Gregarion, January/February 1982).

"The Bar Scene"

Since swinging is primarily a couple activity, is there any equivalent among singles? Certainly there are singles who want to be openly non-monogamous but are primarily interested in sexual variety. These are the people who cruise the bars (or parties or singles' clubs, etc.) in search of one-night stands. Obviously, not everyone who goes to singles' bars is looking for casual sex. And, even among those who are, some, like the utopian swingers, see casual sex as a means for finding more in-depth involvements. For many swinging singles, "the bar scene" is probably only a short-lived transitional phase which is followed by committed open relationships or, more likely, by temporary or permanent monogamy.

Swinging and the Open Relationships Philosophy
Swinging and "the bar scene" are included in

the open relationships typology but do they really fit with the open relationships philosophy (It is possible and growth enhancing for some people to openly have more than one intellectually, physically and emotionally intimate relationship at a time.)? Yes and no. Their most obvious departure from the philosophy is the avoidance of multiple emotional involvements. As a result, it does not appear that swinging singles and couples really have multiple holistic relationships. However, since the utopian types may be seeking multiple holistic involvements, I see justification for including them in the open relationships typology.

It is important to make a distinction between open relationships and casual recreational sex. Because swinging seems to have a "tacky" image among the general population, we need to get the public to understand the differences. We are not anti-swinging but feel a need to create an image that is distinct from it. This is why Beyond Monogamy has a policy of not accepting swingers' ads.

In the March issue of Beyond Monogamy, I will discuss the relationship styles which do more appropriately conform with the open relationships philosophy: separate involvements, intimate friendship network, expanded family, intimate multi-adult household and group marriage.

Readers' comments (pro and con) on these articles are most welcome and may be published in accordance with our "Letters from Readers" policies.

More Letters from Readers

Honesty in Advertising

Dear Will:

In the November-December 1981 issue of Beyond Monogamy, you ask, "Where are they?", meaning the surplus women in our society. I suggest that most willingness and hope has been bludgeoned out of them by experiences with a majority or nearly all of the males with whom they have had contact. Personally, I doubt that if you took a random sample of ten men from the general population that you would find even one of them 1) who would have a genuine interest in understanding any woman without an ulterior motive; 2) who has something other than sex that is more important to him about the woman he is with (if he is heterosexual); 3) who has even a half-way clear picture of where he himself is at; and 4) who would tell the truth about himself to any woman he is interested in if he thought that lying would get him further with her!

I have had a wide range of experience with this issue: from dance bands to church work, from military service to teaching, from Parents Without Partners to answers to swingers' ads. I have found that a caring, considerate, courteous man who likes women for themselves, and not for what he can get from them, is a rare bird indeed.

And, with sexual harassment on the job and male chauvinism at every turn, you are expecting too many positive responses out of the small portion of the total population that has consciously noticed Beyond Monogamy. You might reach more people, IF THEY BELIEVED YOU! In my opinion, you are fighting a credibility gap of staggering size.

How can you verify the attitude of the males who put ads in Beyond Monogamy? Their attitudes are of more influence than your attitude as editor! I agree with you that Ron Reifler comes across much better than most in his ad [see January 1982 classified personal ads for California]. But, my wife and I answered an ad (not in Beyond Monogamy) which came across as good as Ron's as far as respect for others, etc. On first meeting we found that he had misrepresented himself and his wife, their interests and what they would like to find in us. If I hadn't been a support for my wife in further attempts, THAT would have been the last time she would have been willing to consider any ad! What proportion of women have a supportive male in such situations?

We are highly impressed by Beyond Monogamy. We feel that perhaps we have finally found some kindred spirits!

Howard
Kansas

Will's reply: I'm not sure that I share quite as dim a view of men as Howard does. However, I agree that many men have much to learn if they are to relate to women as equals and not as sex objects.

It's unfortunate but true that a few people misrepresent themselves in personal ads. This probably even happens in Beyond Monogamy although we hope that our high caliber readership keeps that to a minimum. It would be foolish to place a misleading ad in Beyond Monogamy because I doubt that a deceitful advertiser would get very far with any of our readers. We assume that 99% of our ads are legit but want to know if you feel you have been "ripped off" by an advertiser.

Would You Like to Be Interviewed for Beyond Monogamy?

Dear Will:

You should interview us--our relationship deserves studying!

James and Sharon
Minnesota

Will's reply: It would be fun to gallivant all over the country, meeting our subscribers and interviewing them about their relationships. Travel expenses make this out of the question, but there is another option. If any of you with "interesting relationships" are planning to be in the Denver area, let me know in advance if you would like to be interviewed. I can arrange for feature editor, Jackie Weller, to talk to you if it appears you have an interesting story.

A Review of *Oneida*

by Will Mahoney

This book is a brief history of the Oneida Community. Oneida is of great significance to open relationship adventurers. From its founding in 1849 until 1879, community members practiced a very revolutionary form of intimate relating called "complex marriage."

Complex marriage was the brainchild of Oneida's charismatic founder, John Humphrey Noyes. While a ministry student at Yale in the 1830's, Noyes became convinced that he had achieved a state of moral perfection. He also reinterpreted the Biblical statement, "in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage" (Matthew, 22:30). Most theologians thought this indicated that there would be no sexual relationships in heaven. To Noyes it meant there would be no monogamous marriage in heaven. Every man would be married to every woman. In this way they would be able to carry out Christ's command to "Love thy neighbor." Because Noyes had achieved perfection, he felt that others could as well given proper guidance. He therefore set out to establish the Kingdom of Heaven on earth which would make the practice of complex marriage possible.

Noyes and his wife, Harriet, worked out a system of conception control which Noyes called "male continence" (sexual intercourse without male ejaculation). This made the practice of complex marriage possible without unwanted pregnancies. In 1846, Noyes instituted complex marriage among his small group of followers who lived in Putney, Vermont. Local pressure eventually forced the Perfectionists to leave Putney and settle on Oneida Creek in Madison County (near Syracuse), New York in 1849.

After enduring a few lean years, Oneida eventually prospered economically and grew to a community of over 200 adults and children. People were allowed to join the community only after they were converted to Perfectionism. Noyes proved to be an autocratic but fair leader who set the overall philosophical tone of the community while leaving day-to-day decisions to trusted central members.

People joined Oneida both as singles and married couples but once there had to forsake all exclusive and possessive relationships. Each adult member had a private sleeping room. If a man desired "amative relations" (sexual intercourse) with a woman, he would make an offer (usually through a older female) which the woman was free to accept or reject. Apparently male continence was accepted and worked because only one or two accidental children were conceived each year. There were strong sanctions against "falling in love" although the community appears to have been characterized by warmth and mutual support. Members worked, ate and played together. Self improvement and mutual criticism were a part of daily life.

In the early years of the community, intentional conception was prohibited largely for

economic reasons. There were children in the community who were brought there by parents when they joined. In 1869, the community launched a scientific breeding experiment. Participants were chosen by the central committee based on good physical characteristics and devotion to Perfectionist ideals. Over the next ten years, about 45 children were born to parents of these community sanctioned unions.

In 1879, the community abandoned complex marriage largely due to external pressures and internal conflict over choice of a successor to Noyes who was growing old. Oneida continued as a joint stock corporation with many members remaining in the community to manage or work in the successful business enterprises. Under the leadership of Noyes' son, Oneida became noted for its progressiveness in labor-management relations. It survives today as a major silverware manufacturing company.

Nineteenth century Oneida does not provide a model to be copied today. Its significance is that the complex marriage system did work reasonably well for 30 years. We are often told that open relationships will not work in North American society because of peoples' strong monogamous conditioning. However, Noyes and the Perfectionists were able to work out a radical departure from monogamy at a time when conception and sexually transmitted disease control were largely unknown, and when social and legal constraints to such experiments were far more severe than they are today. The Oneida experiment worked as long as it did largely because of a mutual commitment to a religious philosophy which sanctioned non-monogamy and to a strong, charismatic leader (J. H. Noyes). Thus, the frequent failure of open relationships today may not be so much the fault of cultural conditioning. It is more likely the result of inadequate preparation and lack of philosophical commitment to an ideal by all involved parties.

Authoritarian religions (like Perfectionism) and authoritarian leaders (like Noyes) will be unacceptable to most contemporary open relationship enthusiasts. However, my personal observations indicate that a "do your own thing" approach does not work very well in committed relationships. Is there a workable middle ground? Is the answer a humanistic philosophy which relies on situation ethics and decision making based on consensus? You and your intimate partner(s) will have to answer that for yourselves!

Carden's book provides a good introductory summary of the Oneida Community experiment. It does not, however, provide an in-depth understanding of the day-to-day workings of complex marriage. Some of that information is available in more detailed accounts (e.g. *Oneida Community: An Autobiography, 1851-1876*, edited by Constance Noyes Robertson. Syracuse University Press, \$9.95, pb.).

Carden, Maren Lockwood. *Oneida: Utopian Community to Modern Corporation*. Harper & Row, 1971 (available from Beyond Monogamy, Inc.--use book order form in *Beyond Monogamy*).