

# 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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P.O. Box 6877, Denver, CO 80206 (303) 399-3326  
Subscription rate: \$9.00 per year (6 issues)

Volume III, Number 7

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September-October 1982

## THE FAILURE OF ALTERNATIVES

by Larry L. Constantine

Keynote Address at the  
Family Synergy Annual Conference  
Palm Springs, California  
July 10, 1982

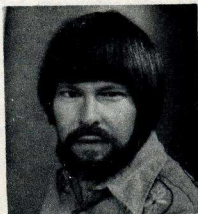
It would be silly with this group to waste time establishing my "alternative lifestyles credentials." I guess you could say I am an insider, and I have come here to do something which I don't think an outsider could do as well. I am here to kick ass. We are, after all, friends and colleagues—fellow-travellers on life's deviant byways. And, tonight it's time for a night march along them—double time.

I want us to take a truly critical look at alternative lifestyles in a critical period in history. I'd really like to be a nice guy about it, but we have a lot of ground to cover. The best I can do is to try not to leave any of you out when it comes to offending people. If I miss anybody, please tell me afterward while there is still time to kick ass.

I think we enjoy the blessed curse of living in interesting times. The riptide of change which swept alternative lifestyles onto the scene, now rushes out, leaving us stranded with Reagan's polyester politics, while the misnamed and misbegotten Moral Majority threatens to shift Time's tide altogether. The seas boil. Tiny creatures with still tinier minds scuttle the Equal Rights Amendment. The Secretary of the Interior rapes the very land as born-again businessmen look on and chant. The leviathan edges into shallow waters to gorge upon the victims: the old and the still young, the black and the poor, the foreign and the female.

What an image! This is where our march begins.

Don't misunderstand me; I am no Jeremiah. I would not trade these times for any in history. Our species now faces the most important questions in its history. "To be or not to be, that is the question." There is good cause for optimism. The Nuclear Freeze Campaign suggest that there is some potential for the human race



Larry Constantine

Co-author of Group Marriage and one of the founders of Family Tree

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finally to leave its stormy adolescence and begin to grow up.

Our cowboy president has been our unwitting friend. Reagan has given us a mythic image upon which to focus, a scapegoat, a visionless death's head in which to recognize our own folly. But a catalyst takes no part in the reaction it catalyzes. The millions of common citizens, first in Europe and then in America, have been the reagents, acting and reacting to be transformed and to transform.

We are all the experiments by which human society evolves, but we are also the experimenters. Unlike the other blind victims or beneficiaries of random chance, we are aware. We can learn from our failures, and we can choose. And paramount among the lifestyle choices we can make is the choice to matter.

That is what I most want to talk about tonight: mattering. Do we matter? Does what we are doing matter? Are we to strut and fret our hour upon the stage and then be heard no more? Is the account of alternative lifestyles in the last third of the Twentieth Century to be "a tale, told by idiots, full of sound and fury, but signifying nothing?"

If it is to be otherwise, then we must explore our own failures—recognize them, own them, grok them. The road we march up tonight—hup, two, three—has three main sections, as well as some frustrating detours. First, we come to individual failures: the failures of individual persons and of specific lifestyles. Next, we will turn to explore the failures of our organizations. Finally, we will come to alternative lifestyles as a movement.

The Failure of Individuals and Specific Life-styles

Enlightenment begins with suspicion. One begins to suspect when the same few success stories keep being used over and over again. When communes are being discussed, Twin Oaks is always named. When the topic is the viability of group marriages, a certain triad in Los Angeles is always mentioned.

Certainly some alternative lifestyles have been richly rewarding for a few. But what about on the average? For instance, do couples who have open marriages stay together longer? Do they have fewer problems? Are they any better with their children? If open marriages are not really better, on the average, for people who are just plain people rather than superstars or trained therapists, then how can the extra complications they clearly entail be justified? Are we talking about privileged lifestyles for a chosen few, or tumultuous temporary arrangements for a few more?

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When Joan and I were researching group marriages, we were always hearing that group marriages were a failure because they didn't last very long. We had an armload of answers to that one. You've probably heard some version of most of these arguments: "Sure, group marriages don't last long, but then most conventional marriages don't last all that long either." Or, you point with pride to some couple who've been in a sexually open marriage for fourteen years, or to the commune that has been going since 1972. Then there is the argument that longevity is not really a legitimate measure of success, that the real measure of success is not how long it lasted but what people got out of it. After all, most people only stay in college four or five years. Does that make colleges failures? Because some companies in high tech industries have rates of personnel turnover that match those in communes, can either be called failures?

These are reasonable and generally persuasive rationalizations, but the facts are that the majority of experiments in alternative relationships and lifestyles have been just that: experiments. That a few of them do last does not excuse us from coming to grips with the much larger number that don't.

We are facetiously critical of the claims of conventional lifestyles. We laugh each time Liz Taylor announces that "This time is forever." We cite divorce statistics as evidence of the failure of conventional marriages. Do we use

the same skeptical scrutiny on the claims of alternatives? What about the couple who are perpetually "looking," always just in the process of finding "the right people" for their expanded family? Or the people starting on their third group marriage attempt? We must be able to see the failures in shortlived group marriages and communal living arrangements, in unsuccessful "secondary" relationships which last only months. At least most conventional couples seem to be willing to call it failure when they reach divorce.

True, some wonderful relationships are brief, and some lifetime pairings are perfectly awful from the word "go." But, on the average, things that work really well last longer than those that don't. At the very least, we need to understand why so many alternatives are so shortlived.

Could it have anything to do with the people who are "into" alternatives? It is interesting that so often people coming in contact with an alternatives group for the first time have been struck by how many "losers" there are. They are surprised by people who seem to lack rudimentary social skills, by organizational ineptitude, or by the inability of people to stick with relationships and make them work. Of course, these critics are often outsiders, or New Englanders reporting on Californians, or West Coast people returning from the East. One takes their views with a grain of salt. Sour grapes produce vinegar. Then, too, especially from "straights," one often hears a note of disappointment, a hint of deflated fantasy. Certainly, they imagine, among these brave pioneers one would expect to find the best and the brightest.

I usually do my "aw-shucks-we're-all-just-people" bit and change the subject. The turkeys are probably no wilder and no more prevalent in Family Tree or Family Synergy than anywhere else. But wait, why should it be that way? If the stuff we have been preaching about personal growth and open relationships has any substance, shouldn't we be more sensitive, more aware, more creative, more versatile than the run of the mill? Maybe we are, maybe we aren't. But why is so much space in our newsletters devoted to "problem people"? Why are insensitive behavior and sexual etiquette at parties the subject of so many letters and editorials and the focus of so many rules and regulations? We have to admit that some of us can be pretty crude, banal, or stupid, even cruel. Not me, of course, or even you, but those others who didn't come this year. (Oh, yeah, I forgot--except for that one nerd this afternoon who kept loudly inviting women to help him find which jet in the jacuzzi gave the best stimulation, while clipping his toenails into the pool.)

I want to talk about some other F's on our report card: fads and flakiness. Some highly prejudiced Easterners might make cracks about the classic California flake, but I'm not among them. Some of my best friends are Californians. Besides, California has no monopoly on either fads or flakiness.

You know what I mean. You bump into this couple at the therapeutic touch session on toes and tushies. They are eager to tell you how they finally, really and truly, got it together through Neuro-Linguini Programming. Their lives have been changed; they've made it. Now they understand where they've been wrong all these years. Of course, you thought they were into Esoteric Seminars Training. Ah, but no, that was ages ago. Last year they had thought they had really found it with the 40-day Eroica program. That was after they had become disillusioned by His Eminence, Sri Marakesh Goldbrach and his Haifa Yoga. True, they did once naively believe they had found enlightenment through Bio-emetic Therapy, but what did they know then? What matters is that this time, they really have found it. Just like last year.

I am not, of course, doubting the existence of Astrobrionic Sidharthas, nor their value in aligning the 13 chaulkets of the spine. I am not questioning the validity of Bilateral Roling as a treatment for puppeteer's arthritis, nor will I debate Tibetan Ludditism as a psychotherapeutic model. What I am really concerned about is a kind of "apostolic promiscuity," which, at best, probably wastes more energy than the Exxon world headquarters and, at worst, is a symptom of advanced mental mush.

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"Those among you who have known me--some in the Biblical sense --will also know that I am no neo-Puritan. Sex is fun. I can recommend it quite highly for many reasons, as well as for no reason at all."

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We need to become a lot more critical and rigorous about our own "new age" fancies: at least as critical as we are of the old stuff we claim to be supplanting. We need to use the consciousness we are supposedly expanding. Yes, I am talking about reason and logic. "Think" is not a dirty word. I know that the sense of all this stuff is to transcend the thinking mind and rediscover the meta-cosmic spirit. Or was it the innate wisdom of the skeletal musculature? Still, it has always seemed to me that whether the guillotine severs the head from the body or the body from the head, the results are equally debilitating, and, whether you cleave the right brain from the left or the other way around, it is still a commissurectomy.

For all those bouncing from this guru to that institute and on to another ashram, always looking for the answer, I would like to recommend the work of the brilliant contemporary philosopher, Douglas Adams. In his Hitchiker's Guide to the Galaxy, Deep Thought, a powerful computer the size of a small city, handily computes the Ultimate Answer to Life, the Universe, and Everything. The Answer is 42, which makes no sense

at all to the programmers and the philosophers of the super race which made Deep Thought. Deep Thought cannot explain further, because what they really need to know is The Ultimate Question, and that requires a computer many orders of magnitude more powerful.

Easy answers are always just that: easy. Like most things in great abundance, their value is low. What we really need are more hard questions, which, being rarer, are also the more valuable.

And, to those people whom we all know, the ones who are perpetually "finding themselves," Douglas Adams would probably say, "You're here, you're here. So, where are we going for lunch?"

I have one more F to talk about. Yes, that's right, F is for fornicating. And S is for sex. Maybe people in alternative lifestyles are no more sexually obsessed than the average American, but it certainly is hard to tell. Perhaps they are just more obvious or more talkative about it.

There is an elaborate rhetoric with its own well-developed jargon designed to direct attention away from obsession. For example, "sensual" is to be carefully distinguished from "sexual." The erections seen at sensual massage parties are to be ignored, as is any post-party "locker-room" talk about Abe's cute ass or about how turned on Jean was.

Those among you who have known me--some in the Biblical sense--will also know that I am no neo-Puritan. Sex is fun. I can recommend it quite highly for many reasons, as well as for no reason at all.

However, while we are screwing, we are not doing. And so much needs to be done. How easy it is to miss the fact that the economic conditions which provide the time to screw in hot tubs and the socio-political conditions which permit a clothing-optional convention are in danger of extinction. Rome is burning, and we are neither fighting fires nor assembling and training the fire brigades we need.

I told you I was going to kick ass.

### The Failures of Organizations

Our fire brigades, the organizations dedicated to promoting alternative lifestyles, could not be called outright failures, but they do seem to lack imagination. Most of them, even though dedicated to innovations in lifestyles, are themselves completely uninnovative. They are organizationally indistinguishable from the local garden club. They have the usual committees, the standard slate of officers. Their bylaws, allowing for some judicious substitution of terms, could be used by the Del Mar Rotarians or the Glendale Historical Society.

It is wonderfully ironic that the organizations built by those advocating the radical restructuring of the family, those who daringly experiment with new styles of interpersonal relationships, are so boringly conventional in structure. Perhaps it never occurred to them to be an alternative.

A few alternative organizations have taken the conventional alternative and rejected conventional organizing outright, going to a laissez faire extreme, welcoming one and all to do their spontaneous thing. One of the earliest alternative lifestyles groups, based in Boston during the late Sixties, was an example. Its constituency was so paranoid and anti-organization that, over their entire year-and-a-half history, they never even got as far as choosing a name. They were identified by the "Harrad Letter," which served as their unofficial organ. But, in true libertarian fashion, the publisher insisted it was merely his thing. He encouraged anyone else so inclined to start their own.

True pluralism always contains a streak of anarchism. Groups with a single, simple cause have it easier. Those pluralists who really do support choice among many lifestyles also have many problems. They are a diverse and divergent lot. Their problems are similar to those of organized anarchists. You probably haven't heard too much about them. You see, as a political force, anarchy is not very well organized.

The conventionality of our organizations and organizational procedures cannot be defended for lack of models. There are many to choose from; creative alternatives to stodgy or nervous anarchy. Among these are the various decentralized and consensual decision-making models, like the charette used by community activists, the Quaker meeting with its moderator and "minutes," or the inverted hierarchy found in some open schools, where the principal and staff report as a service to the teachers.

I admit to some chauvinism about the Coordinating Council model pioneered by Boston's Family Tree. I am especially excited that now, after three successful years in our organization, our approach to distributed power and decisions by unanimous consensus is being tried by another alternative group which is making their own creative adaptations.

The activities of most alternatives organizations are almost as uninspired as their bylaws. Allowing for substitution of hot tub parties for car washes and of "new games" for bridge, hardly anything found on the calendars of these groups would so much as raise an eyebrow with the Women's Club of Our Lady of Miraculous Agility.

I personally really dig potluck suppers, and I would never knock book discussion circles. Such things serve useful functions; in the mumbo jumbo of sociology, they help maintain social cohesion and facilitate intragroup communication. But how much do they really matter? Or, for that matter, do sensual massage parties, or so-called personal growth workshops?

The vast majority of what most alternative lifestyle organizations do with their time is what Eric Berne called "pastimes," things to pass the time. Pastimes structure time without altering content. They fill the spaces between games. Closed, conservative organizations encourage pastimes--like pancake breakfasts and cookouts and camping and knitting and Bible reading and dances--because, for the most part, they don't

matter. They structure time that might otherwise be used to think. Idle hands and idle minds are the devil's playground. And, remember, it was the devil who encouraged people to become as gods, to know good from evil. Not-thinking is the first essential tool of the status quo. Not-talking is only the second.

More disturbing than irrelevance is when an organization allegedly dedicated to promoting tolerance and understanding instead practices intolerance and prejudice. I have always been one to call a spade a spade, whoever may be swinging it. The blatant sexism of some alternatives organizations is appalling.

One alternatives group recently promulgated new procedures for becoming a member. No restrictions were placed on females, but males had to join along with a new female member, after having brought female partners to a certain number of "gender balanced" events. Such rules are outright sexism. They are no less sexist because they are directed against men or because they were published in a newsletter which pushed the ERA. Not only do such rules discriminate against men by making it more difficult for them to join, but they objectify women by making them into a kind of "scarce commodity" which men must bring to social events.

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The issue of "gender balance" has been one which has concerned other organizations as well. It reminds me of a sixth-grade tea-dance, where the seating must be "boy-girl-boy-girl." Such a puerile preoccupation with the numbers reflects badly on alternative organizations in general. So what if more men than women show up at an event? Or the other way around? It seems to me, good people are good people, fun to be with whatever their gender or sexual orientation. I think the real growups just don't waste time worrying about whether there are too many men or too many women at a party.

Of course, a sensual massage is different, isn't it? After all, I might end up with some man's hand rubbing oil on my thigh, maybe even my inner thigh. Horrors! Or should I say, horse potatoes. Why do so many alternatives organizations worry about gender balance in general and insist on it for massage workshops? Because we don't want people to be uncomfortable. Maybe it would be better all around if they didn't feel that way, but most people are still uncomfortable being massaged by someone of the same sex. Right! The status quo, again; more evidence that passing time is the central function of most alternatives organizations.

When we look closely at the gender-balance silliness, we find that the real issues are far more serious; sexism and homophobia. Homophobia is nearly as endemic among the "social deviants" as it is in the general population. Sexual alternatives have an egregious record of homophobia, beginning with swinging, the virtual epitome for which the term "homophobic" might well have been coined.

Which brings us to another serious problem for alternative organizations: swingers. What to do about them, what to do? "If we're not careful, they'll take us over. We must screen potential members very carefully not to let any of them in. Of course, we advocate cultural pluralism and support the full variety of alternative lifestyles, but swinging is not really a lifestyle. It's just a form of recreation. What we support is committed sexual relations, not predatory sex. Caring, liberated people are welcome; sexual hunters are never welcome."

Once again, if we bravely turn the critical eye on ourselves, we see the arguments to be specious, self-serving, and hypocritical. When Family Tree was forming, we debated the "problem of swingers" almost to death. Slowly we learned. One problem is that it can be hard to recognize a swinger even when you trip over one in the bedroom. You can't really tell the non-swingers without a "score" card. Some people in our organization were particularly vocal in their concerns. They wanted screening committees and strict standards for admission. If you asked us now who were the "swingers" among us, many fingers would point to the same loud advocates of protectionism. Of course, these people don't call themselves swingers, they just act like them.

I hesitate to say, but I suspect one reason that so many people in alternative organizations are uncomfortable with the thought of swingers in their midst is that they are uncomfortable with admitting to their own "swinging." They might have to recognize the extent of casual, recreational sex among themselves. It is a new variant on the old double standard. Sociologists refer to the now-prevailing sexual ethic as "permissiveness with affection," meaning: "It's okay to copulate, if you care." In practice, this often means learning the rhetoric of commitment well enough to fool your partner, maybe even yourself.

Thus the roots of swingerphobia are probably similar to the roots of homophobia. Fear of homosexuality arises from the inability to come to terms with one's own homosexual feelings. Maybe when you can admit that you sometimes like to swing, to do some simple, no-strings-attached screwing, maybe then you won't worry so much about membership screening or definitional hair-splitting.

Our failure to establish a national organization is a grand-scale one. We cannot be faulted for lack of trying. Several regionally focused groups have tried unsuccessfully to "go national." More than one rugged individualist has tried to honcho a national group from scratch

with little more than a newsletter and a proclamation. I hope I don't hurt any toes when I say that a smattering of scattered members does not a national organization make, any more than does claiming the title on a newsletter masthead.

Over and above the organizational limitations of our local and regional groups, there are some very good reasons for the failure of a truly national group to evolve. The needs at the local and regional level are very different from those at the national level. Area-based groups are needed as networks, as support groups, to serve social and recreational functions, and to facilitate personal contact and communication on a frequent and continual basis. Only people down the block or in the next town over can do that.

The conflict emerged clearly when several East Coast groups decided against affiliation with "National" Family Synergy. There were just not enough benefits that Family Synergy out in California could give to people in Boston to even come close to justifying \$15 per year. The same would be true for every other organization. Newsletters are not enough. None of them would score very high as a periodical in its own right. The contents are mostly of local interest and unevenly edited. If the editorial content of Beyond Monogamy could be added to Family Synergy's correspondence and PALS clippings and general press coverage, all done with professional-looking design and composition of the Family Tree Newsletter, then we would have something.

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"An open and democratic coalition, run through representatives from each of its constituent groups, could become a vital factor in the future of the alternative lifestyles movement."

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Which brings us back to a national organization. Publishing an interesting, vital, attractive, contentful national newsletter or magazine would be a legitimate function for a national organization, but no area-based alternatives organization is up to such a task.

The premise seems to have been that either an existing area-based organization becomes the national one (by edict or evolution) or a new national group is started, building its membership from scratch. There is at least one creative, already-proven alternative: the coalition, an organization of organizations. A coalition would not compete for members with any of the existing groups, but would immediately start with the full clout of the combined membership of all its member organizations. An open and democratic coalition, run through representatives from each of its constituent groups, could become a vital factor in the future of the alternative lifestyles movement.

The Failure of the Alternative Lifestyles Movement

Did I say "alternative lifestyles movement"? This mostly mythical movement is probably the failure on the grandest scale of all. Alternative lifestyles are not dead, as Time magazine prematurely pronounced them back in 1974, but on the societal level, they come awfully close to being a dead issue. They are barely visible, having virtually vanished from the media and the collective consciousness long before the rise of the new right and born-again militancy. No national organization promotes lifestyle pluralism. There is no movement for choice in lifestyles.

A movement is, above all, people. What have the people in alternatives been doing? Screwing, brewing, chewing, stewing, printing, sprinting, minting, who knows? But they have not been organizing into an effective voice (or voices) for alternatives.

One major reason for our invisibility and political impotence is our failure to build alliances with other groups who ought to be our comrades. Homophobia prevents us from linking with gay activists. We remain aloof from any organization catering to swingers. It is harder to understand why we have not joined hands with single-parent organizations. Are they too tame? And what about communal living associations, like the Federation of Egalitarian Communes?

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What we have in common with all such groups is that, however divergent our personal lifestyles, as they fare, so do we. The tolerance and understanding which enhances their viability, enhances ours; the oppression which threatens them, threatens us. Thus, our natural allies include also the entire gamut of libertarian and humanistic associations. Yet, we have not actualized these alliances. Indeed, most of these people do not even know we exist.

Our visibility is also limited because we have let anxiety dominate vision and the moment conquer tomorrow. We have not learned from other movements about activism. In Family Tree, for example, there have been quite a few with a real "fear of being found out." Some members seem almost deathly afraid that "outsiders" will learn they have an open marriage. So they put up a good front and try to stay quiet. Public relations and advocacy by the organization is, therefore, discouraged.

But the history of gay liberation shows the folly of the low profile. The least vulnerable

are actually the more visible. Homosexuals only began to make progress in securing their rights and achieving some social acceptance when they came out of the closet. Real safety lies in collective visibility, yet another argument for a national coalition. A national group of groups can afford to be visible in ways local groups cannot.

Of course, all activism carries a price tag. Alas, as a group, we have not put our money where our mouths are. We bemoan the rise of electronic evangelists whose fat purses underwrite the new right. We complain about the influence of conservative churches with their weekly coverage on TV. But we conveniently forget where much of the money comes from. Viewers of the 700 Club, week after week, send in their \$5 and \$10 donations. Churchgoers tithe their income to advance what they believe in. Millions of dedicated middle-income laborers, not the handful of well-heeled businessmen, are the financial mainstays of these groups.

And what do we in "alternatives" do? We bitch at dues of \$20 a year. How many of us tithe our incomes to the causes we believe in? How much have we who dislike the Moral Majority and its influence given so the messages of liberal tolerance, such as the American Humanist Association radio spots, can be carried on the same airways?

The striking successes of the Moral Majority can be discouraging. A tiny minority has been able to wield enormous power and substantially limit the rights of the majority. But there is another way to look at this. It proves something about what a tiny handful of dedicated people can do if they have the determination to go for it. We may want to increase potentials rather than restrict them, but we do have one thing in common with the radical right. We, too, are a small minority.

Now, what do we do?

Sometimes therapists become stuck and can't think of what to do next. A colleague with whom I used to train family therapists once discovered a remarkable thing. She found that if therapists who had become stuck just stood up, they almost invariably thought of something to do. She had a theory about this, having to do with the blood circulation being cut off by being seated. She concluded that anatomists had for centuries been mistaken about the location of the human brain. Which is why I came here to kick ass.

The old military motto is right, I think, even if the military means to implement it may not be. "The price of liberty is eternal vigilance." Are we going to be vigilant or are we going to screw around and screw it up? Are we going to learn from our failures?

Before you answer, I'd like you all to stand up. I did say I came here to kick ass. I also said I wanted to get you thinking. If my old colleague was right, you can't use your brains when you're sitting on them. Looks like a good start.

Thank you.

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## NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

**Open Relationships** How do couples work out successful open relationships? Is it possible to openly have more than one intellectually, physically and emotionally intimate relationship at a time? We will examine open relationship issues such as jealousy, sexism, ethics and ground rules, sexual and emotional intimacy with more than one partner, establishing and ending non-traditional relationships, and effects of alternative lifestyles on children. The class will include short presentations, group discussions, and individual and group processes. Any couple or intimate group is welcome to attend regardless of current lifestyle. The class will NOT include "touchy-feely games" or sexual activity.

**Facilitators:** Will Mahoney and Genie Whitaker have successfully balanced freedom and commitment during their eleven year open marriage. They have been teaching this class since 1977. **Limited to couples or intimate groups of 3 or more people.** We will focus on non-monogamy within the context of existing committed relationships.

**Date and time:** Six Sunday nights starting October 10, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

**Location:** the Congress Park area of east Denver. Call Will Mahoney, 399-3326, for details.

**Tuition:** \$44/couple, \$22 for each additional member of an intimate group. \$3/person discount for Beyond Monogamy subscribers. A 50% non-refundable deposit is required by Monday, October 4. Send to BMI, P.O. Box 6877, Denver, CO 80206.

**Coping with Jealousy in Intimate Relationships** Jealousy is best viewed as simply a protective reaction to a perceived threat to a valued relationship. We will examine this issue using short presentations, questionnaires, discussions and an individual process.

**Facilitator:** Will Mahoney, M.A., has been teaching jealousy workshops for three years.

**Date and time:** Tuesday, October 19, 7:00-10:00 P.m.

**Location:** the Congress Park area of east Denver. Call Will Mahoney, 399-3326, for details.

**Tuition:** \$10/person. \$2 discount for Beyond Monogamy subscribers. A 50% non-refundable deposit is required by Wednesday, October 13. Send to BMI, P.O. Box 6877, Denver, CO 80206.

## BEYOND MONOGAMY CLASSES IN DENVER

**CALIFORNIA (Bay Area)** Young professional couple has formed an open relationships support/discussion group. We have a core group of interested and interesting people who meet monthly within a safe and comfortable environment to share ideas and experiences to help each other better understand and deal with issues around alternative lifestyles. We have discussed open marriage, extended families and the particular problems of bisexual open marriage. We look forward to a steady inflow of new people. We are not a meeting place for swapping, etc., although friendships formed in the group can and will extend outside the group to shared activities. For information, write P.O. Box 33, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

**FAMILY SYNERGY NATIONWIDE NETWORK** CLCC, the Family Synergy Communal Living Clearing Center, welcomes your call if you are interested in offering or finding space to share to co-live according to your own vision and values, or if you seek people for dialogue or networking about co-living. Call Lyn and Phyllis Ehrnstein at (213) 275-3730 (answering machine--leave your address, too).

**FREE** For a business-size stamped envelope: sample issue of ENLIGHTEN, a loving network newsletter for people who want to expand the limits of social intimacy. We specialize in long-distance correspondence. Free personal ads to subscribers (\$10/year). Send SASE to Joshua Bagby, 16837 President Drive, San Leandro, CA 94578.

**CHICAGO BI-WAYS** is a local group of men and women who meet about twice monthly to provide peer support for those dealing with bisexual feelings or living a bisexual lifestyle. We sponsor informal drop-in discussions open to anyone who is interested as well as other social activities such as parties, potluck dinners, picnics and weekend retreats. We publish a newsletter periodically which contains a schedule of our events and other information of interest to the bisexual community in the Chicago area. For more information, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Chicago Bi-Ways, P.O. Box 8330, Chicago, IL 60690.

**INDIANA** We are forming a small rural egalitarian commune aimed at increasing individual self worth. Private lake and gardens for natural swimming and gardening. We are especially looking for women with feminist and communal experience; children welcome. We are into open relationships. Bring your tent and visit us. Send SASE for flyer on Chrysalis, P.O. Box 61, Helsingburg, IN 47435.

**THE FORUM CENTER, INC.**, a not-for-profit organization working with same-sex and mixed-sex environments, serves as a resource on sexuality and relationships for people of all sexual orientations, with a special emphasis on bisexuality. THE FORUM CENTER, INC.'s varied program of activities includes workshops, educational and social groups, educational materials and counseling services. For introductory information about THE FORUM CENTER, INC. please write to THE FORUM CENTER, INC., P.O. Box 686, New York, NY 10028.

**EAST TENNESSEE** Four good friends, sympathetic to BMI philosophy, seek others to organize a serious support/discussion group. All lifestyles, ages, sexual preferences welcome. INITIAL MEETING IN MID OCTOBER--SOONER, IF DESIRED. Dwight, 3937 Greenleaf Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37919.

**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.

## PERSONALS

**ARIZONA** Attractive, well-educated, gentle and passionate heterosexual male with zest for living, age 31, seeks to expand circle of intimate female friends in Phoenix area. Areas of interest are psychological/spiritual growth, running, business administration, touching, and a compassionate approach to all of life. Prefer attractive, happy, emotionally-secure, caring, non-smoking women who have careers and/or interests of their own. Honesty, mutual respect, non-possessiveness and a desire for both of us to grow as a result of our relationship are prerequisites. Write 1401.

**CALIFORNIA (Bay Area)** Professional/academic couple, in our early 40's and committed to each other, hoping to meet another couple to explore a relationship built on mutual trust and affection that could include sharing sensual as well as intellectual and cultural pleasures. Write 1302.

**CALIFORNIA (Bay Area)** W/C liberated, enjoy meeting and communicating with BMI type people ages 38 and 40, have two children, dogs and horses. Interested in earth sheltered housing, co-owning, mechanics, walks, hot tubbing, good conversation, sharing. We want to meet people, to know and enjoy, tired of keeping up with the Jones, and paying too many taxes. This is just scratching surface. Write Jim and Carol, 23135 Saklan Road, Hayward, CA 94545.

**CALIFORNIA (Bay Area)** Bisexual couple, new to BMI, 28 year old MSW-therapeutic bodyworker/36 year old sales manager-student, seeks other bi couples to form intimate friendships, and perhaps expanded family. Looking for safe, comfortable and genuine relationships within a warm and growing environment. (Non-smokers preferred.) Interests include children, politics, films, books, good food and interesting people. We like doing things together--we're each other's best friends. Please send letter with photo. P.O. Box 33, Walnut Creek 94596.

**CALIFORNIA** Gentle, quiet, well-adjusted, attractive Northern California male, 30, likes playing guitar and singing, hiking, sunbathing, massages, hot tubs, skiing, Tae Kwan Do, easy listening and rock music, movies, and eating out, would like to meet independent, caring woman for a loving, non-monogamous open friendship. Let's exchange photos and feelings. Write Brian 1402.

**CALIFORNIA** Independent, athletic, attractive male, 33, seeks open-minded and open-ended female relationships. I live alone in a treehouse in the Sierra Foothills and find my positive, creative energies weakened by a lack of female input. Please write, Tom, 1403.

**COLORADO** Warm, sincere, Caucasian bi-female, 30, seeks friendships, open loving relationships with bi-females, bi-couple, select single bi-males. Intelligent, sensitive, easy-going, I'm a Gemini who values honest, open communication. I'm casual, reasonably attractive, overweight and soft and sensual. Enjoy swimming, reading, good music, the theatre, intelligent open-minded conversation. Also massage, and lots of affection. Boxholder, P.O. Box 1783, Colorado Springs, CO 80901.

**COLORADO** Creative professional male, 37, seeks lady non-smoker for friendship and good conversation. I enjoy natural foods, camping, hiking, massage, folk dancing, gardening, and cross-country skiing. Wine is an open relationship lifestyle, and I'm a non-parent by choice. Write 1315.

**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. I am also in need of a housemate, female or male. Requirements are honest, clean, intelligent and an acceptance of BMI philosophy/lifestyle. Interested persons please call ART, (303) 777-4596 or write 51 Washington #B, Denver, CO 80203.

**FLORIDA** Hoping for two couples (youthful) for corporate marriage; who, like us, are light-hearted, serious-minded and commitment-oriented (Big Words!). We endeavor to incorporate marriage, business, interests and creative abilities into a small tropical island resort. Those wishing to join our quest for truth, knowledge and understanding within a loving, sharing framework, please write to: Explorers, P.O. Box 636, Port Salerno, FL 33492 and discover us!

**GEORGIA** Non-smoking, sensitive, caring, curious woman seeking additional intimate friendship. Currently in an open relationship. Enjoy reading, backpacking, music (from rock to jazz to classical) and romantic dinners. Deeply committed to good nutrition, world peace, environmental concerns, open-minded exchange of ideas, and happy-hearted humans. Prefer a man 30-48, a non-smoker who truly loves life, loves people and loves loving. Write 1404.

**ILLINOIS** Hopefully romantic creative feminist male near Chicago, 54, slim, attractive, seeks similar sensuous lady to share some or all of my life which includes frequent travel, solar energy development, world peace, playing and loving, open relationships, possibly communal living. A woman between 30 and 45 preferred. Let's exchange photos, write Box 341, Wheeling, IL 60090 or call (312) 459-0710.

**MASSACHUSETTS** Married professional w/m (42) interested in establishing female friendships. Mutual respect, patience and intimacy important. Principle interests: behavioral psychology/criminology and a quiet simple atmosphere for mutual exchange of ideas. Also would be interested in joining/forming alternative lifestyle in this area. Photo please. Write 1405.

**MICHIGAN** Detroit area married male; age 35, professional, wishes to find individuals/group in area interested in longterm friendships/sexual relationships. Reply to Box 34, Dearborn, MI 48121.

**MINNESOTA** Married woman, 31, seeks friendship with man, 25-40. Interests include psychology, progressive politics, meditation, massage. Write 1307.

**MISSOURI** Single white male, 35, 5'8", 170 lbs., brown hair, blue eyes. Seeking females 25 to 35 for companionship and outdoor activities such as swimming, boating, hiking, picnics. I am seeking someone special to be alone with. I live in north St. Louis County area. Open relationships possible. Write 1406.

**NEVADA** Three loving friends in Las Vegas seek social and intimate contact with BMI minded persons in this area. We are all intelligent, considerate and adult. Jed, Jean and Joyce, 1813 Wengert Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89104. We will answer your letter.

**NEW ENGLAND/EUROPE** Multifaceted, intellectual, athletic, attractive, professional male, 40's seeks bright, sensitive, sensuous, adventurous female traveling companion for European trips and whatever else develops. Share expenses or better. Write 1407.

**NEW JERSEY** Gentle, well adjusted, attractive divorced male, 52, doesn't smoke or drink, looking for same who can put meaning into talking, reading and writing. Seeking a non-traditionally religious BMI oriented woman who expects little. Write 1408.

**NEW JERSEY** (Central) Male, 54, is interested in establishing female friendships. I especially enjoy art, movies, photography, investing, gardening, cooking, wine, and intimate companionship. Seeing old movies and visiting NYC art galleries are especially interesting. Write 1308.

**NEW MEXICO** Heterosexual, dual career, Albuquerque couple, 30's, excellent relationship discussion skills, not swingers, want to cautiously develop an emotionally warm, caring relationship with one similar couple. Enjoy interesting food, mountains, psychology workshops. We definitely prefer slow action beginnings. Write 1309.

**NEW MEXICO** (South Central) Married, professional man, 53, wishes longterm intimate friendship with slender, non-smoking, sensitive, physically active woman who has humanistic philosophy like mine. I am shy, gentle and tolerant with many interests. Write 1409.

**NEW YORK** Gentle, alive Northern Westchester couple, married and happy, with great children, 9 and 6, seek other couple for open, sharing relationship. Ed and Adele, P.O. Box 255, Shrub Oak, NY 10588.

**NEW YORK** Couple, happy, warm, open and sharing, 37, 41. Interested in meeting couples only who combine the best in conventional with all that's good in alternative lifestyles. Please tell your interests and photo if possible. Write 1410.

**NEW YORK** Male, 50, seeks sensitive relationship with one or two women who are independent, sensitive, sincere and honest. At home in country or city living, enjoy closeness, good food, the arts as well as everyday living. Explorative and willing to learn, teach. Write 1311.

**NORTH CAROLINA** Married professional man, 35, European, new in U.S.A., intellectual, non-conformist, with much to give and take in friendship, sex, intellect, sympathizer BMI philosophy and practice seeks correspondence, friendship, intimacy, love with "non-nogamous" intellectual couples and females. Age, race no barrier. Write, Edward, P.O. Box 101, Hickory, NC 28603.

**OHIO** Farm family seeks people to help build rural, self-sufficient community and an extended family on 75 beautiful, secluded acres. Work beautiful, free spirited, open minded, creative, energetic folks with or without children. M. Winegarner, RR 2, 1716 Remelle, Monroeville, OH 44847.

**OKLAHOMA** (W.F.) Couple, early fifties, active in business and "creative" community, seek couples and singles with a warm and intelligent and loving BMI approach to life! Chief objective: intellectual, spiritual, sensual interplay and growth. Non-smokers; social drinkers (dry martinis at sunset); readers; people watchers (and appreciators!); sun worshippers; very well educated; believers in tactility as a highly pleasurable and efficient mode of communication. Particularly like people who have high standards and put them to use in the selection of friends. Spiritually, mentally, sensually

adventurous human beings in NE Oklahoma, SW Missouri, NW Arkansas, SE Kansas, we invite you to write. A photo would be appreciated and promptly returned. Almost forgot... bisexual couples and individuals especially welcomed to write! Life is short. Let us hear from you today, please. What is there to lose but boredom? Write 1209.

**TEXAS** Couple wishes to form a suburban commune on our several acres near Houston, and would like to meet others who relate to "Beyond Monogamy." We are humanists. Write 1109.

**TEXAS** Houston, Galveston, USA. Underwater lifestyle will, by necessity, be communal. Help build forced air ventilated, shallow, sheltered reef residence, duration: decades, for dolphin contact (performed music), subsistence mariculture, social/ecological studies, extra-terrestrial travel/contact preparation. Oilfield diver (32, M.S., Peace Corps, humanist, heterosexual) seeks technical, material support. Box 7211, Pasadena, TX 77055. Mermaids write, so alone tonight.

**TEXAS** Male, 39, W/C, divorced, professional, desires intimate friendship with women or open couples. Affectionate, sensual and romantic. Not bad looking. Write 1411.

**VIRGINIA** (D.C. metro area) Male Ph.D student, 29, dissertating in Linguistics and Anthropology, in open marriage for seven years. Seeks to meet women and couples 25-45 interested in intimate, non-possessive sharing. Likes to listen, talk, touch and explore with people. Other interests: music (plays cello), the outdoors, languages, and far more. Let's correspond and exchange photos. Might even travel. Write 1412.

**VIRGINIA** (Richmond area) Attractive, intelligent, somewhat shy bachelor, 32, seeks non-possessive friendship with woman about same age. Interested in history and languages (I read a lot), swimming, sunbathing, hiking. Hates to wear coat and tie. Self-sufficient but not materially ambitious. Involved in anti-war and anti-nuclear movement. A good cook. Call Richard (804) 233-3184.

**WASHINGTON** Couple 30's w/children and open lifestyle seek couple or w/f singles for communal living. Persons answering must be pioneer type, like outdoor, farm life and children. Only persons not afraid of hard work and close relationship need answer. We offer honesty, trust and love in exchange for the same. Let's make a life together. Jim and Betty, P.O. Box 1801, Tacoma, WA 98401.

#### SERVICES AND PRODUCTS

**WHO ARE YOU?** An astrological chart shows in practical, usable terms your greatest potentials and opportunities for love(s), self-expression, self-knowledge, growth, career and finance. Life is more exciting when you know what you've got, where you're growing and where you're going! A 1 1/2 hour cassette-taped personal astrological chart analysis by Phillis Firak, astrologer for ten years: \$50. Or, \$50 for an analysis of the compatibility of two, three or four individuals. For more information or astrological reading requests send birth date, time and place to P. Firak, 200 Washington St. #1, Denver, CO 80203 or phone (303) 744-9600.

**Fantasies Can Set You Free** by Stan Dale and Val Beauchamp shows how we can replace our negative fantasies with positive ones that will transform us and our relationships. Order this book from Stan Dale, 719 N. Dutton Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95401. Mention *Beyond Monogamy* and Stan will autograph your copy and absorb the sales tax and postage charges. Make your \$7 check payable to Stan Dale.



The following books may be ordered directly from Beyond Monogamy, Inc.

## NON-FICTION

Adultery and Other Private Matters, L. Myers & H. Leggett. \$15.95 (cl). An examination of the need for a "private compartment" in marriage: private time for each spouse to engage in any outside activity which is morally acceptable to him/her as an individual.

Alternative Relationships Songbook, D. Levin. \$2.50. Music, guitar chords and words for "Three in Love" (subject: triads), "Community" (subject: expanded families), "A Second Love" (subject: open relationships) and "I Never Knew" (subject: female bisexuality). Written by a BMI member.

Beyond Affairs, J. & P. Vaughan. \$5.95. A very honest account of a couple's experiences with secret, extramarital affairs and open marriage. Looks at personal motivations for affairs; feelings of anger, guilt and hurt accompanying affairs; guidelines for communication with intimate partner.

Breaking the Bonds, M.A. Watson & F. Whitlock. \$4.95. 100 people (including BMI members) share the realities of their open-relationship lifestyles. They discuss jealousy, finding partners, ground rules, dealing with relatives and children, how to open and close a relationship, and more.

Brief Encounters, E. Coleman & B. Edwards. \$7.95. Advice for making the most of short-term friendships, love affairs and chance meetings in today's highly mobile society. Also discusses formation of supportive friendship networks and techniques for improving long-term relationships.

The Civilized Couple's Guide to Extramarital Adventure, A. Ellis. \$2.50. A noted psychologist shows how to use the techniques of rational-emotive therapy to work on jealousy, anxiety, guilt, depression and hostility. Examines secret affairs, swinging, open relationships and group marriage.

Intimate Friendships, J. Ramey. \$4.95. An examination of intimate relationship options for singles and couples; parents and non-parents; heterosexuals, bisexuals and homosexuals. Topics include personal growth, commitment, ground rules, gender equality, sexuality and intimate networks.

Jealousy, G. Clanton & L. Smith, eds. \$5.95 (cl). Collection of articles on experiencing jealousy, internal mechanisms of jealousy, effects of culture on jealousy and management of jealousy to lessen its negative impacts. Useful for people in conventional as well as non-monogamous relationships.

Marriage and Alternatives, R. Libby & R. Whitehurst, eds. \$14.95. The best, most up-to-date alternative relationships anthology. Includes 27 articles on creative singlehood, cohabitation, infidelity, open marriage, swinging, group marriage, bisexuality, parenting issues, ground rules, jealousy.

Marriage & Morals, B. Russell. \$6.95. A reprint of the 1929 classic attack on traditional morality by the noted British philosopher. Proposes a new sexual morality based on scientific/medical advances, reason, situation ethics and the realities of modern society.

More Than Just a Friend, I. McGinnis. \$5.95. A study of the positive and negative aspects of extramarital affairs. Written by a veteran marriage and family therapist and based on his experiences counseling people who were coping with their own or their spouse's affairs.

The New Intimacy, R. Mazur. \$3.50. A positive evaluation of open-ended marriage, a relationship in which partners "enjoy intimacy, sensuality and sometimes sex with other friends." Topics include gender equality, lifestyle options, divorce, jealousy and coping with monogamous society.

Oneida, M. Garden. \$5.95. A history of upstate New York's Oneida community/corporation. The first half of this book examines the community's fascinating group marriage experiment which flourished from the 1840's until 1879 under the charismatic leadership of John Humphrey Noyes.

## FICTION

The Byrdwhistle Option, R. Rimmer. \$14.95 (cl). Available after September 20. Bob Rimmer's latest novel concerns a mail-order company devoted to the "play ethic." Explores humanistic management practices and open relationships in the workplace. Humorous as well as insightful.

Come Live My Life, R. Rimmer. \$2.25. The story of two couples who exchange partners, homes and families for a two week period each year. They have been brought together by a voluntary and experimental couple-matching service called LovX-change.

The Love Explosion, R. Rimmer. \$2.75. A man and woman with prudish spouses have an extramarital affair and conspire to bring their families together at a West Indian resort. This results in intense conflict, but the prudish spouses eventually become sexually involved with each other.

Love Me Tomorrow, R. Rimmer. \$2.50. People cope with the energy shortages, high cost of living and runaway inflation of 1996 by living in Love Groups of up to four couples with open relationships. They belong to the Unilove Church which performs erotic ballets and tantric sex at its services.

The Premar Experiments, R. Rimmer. \$2.50. An expansion of the Harrad College idea to include vocational and minority students. Participants room with four different members of the opposite sex over a two to four year period. Like most of Rimmer's books, it includes and extensive bibliography.

Proposition 31, R. Rimmer. \$1.95. The adult members of two traditional middle class suburban families become sexually involved. After resolving the resulting conflicts, they form a four-person group marriage and lead a fight to legalize group marriage in California.

Stranger in a Strange Land, R. Heinlein. \$2.75. A science fiction classic about a Martian with super-human abilities who organizes a free-love subculture on earth. The later chapters contain interesting insights into jealousy, open relationships and group marriage.

cl: cloth; all other books are paperback

USE ORDER FORM IN BEYOND MONOGAMY CLASSIFIED SECTION

**EXQUISITE NEW MUSIC THAT NURTURES MIND AND BODY** composed by Steven Halpern, enhances and supports sensuality and intimacy. Free brochure describes his best-selling long playing tapes and records. Great for massage, candlelight dinners, and love-making. Halpern Sounds (dept. BMI) 1775 Old County Rd. #9, Belmont, CA 94002.

**HELEN AND STAN DALE SEX WORKSHOPS** create a warm, supportive nurturing atmosphere and community in which to experience a new concept of that old bug-a-boo, sex. Learn what your feelings are all about. Learn new tools of communication and sensuality that will help break the barriers that some have built to prevent us from really enjoying ourselves. The next two workshops take place in the San Francisco Bay Area on the weekends of October 15-17 and 29-31. For more information write Helen and Stan at 719 N. Dutton Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 or call (707) 528-3093.

Published by Marilyn Ferguson, the author of The Aquarian Conspiracy, **LEADING EDGE BULLETIN** is unique in its focus on transformation--news of the reemaking and renewal of society and our lives. To serve our readers, the agents of change for this "new world," we emphasize those areas in which **LEADING EDGE BULLETIN** can be a catalyst--by reporting on successful ideas and strategies, by identifying networks, by giving critical information on tools, resources, books--and by weaving strands of events into a meaningful pattern, showing important connections. **LEADING EDGE BULLETIN** is published every three weeks except the first week in August by Interface Press, Box 42247, Los Angeles, CA 90042. Phone: (213) 223-2500. Subscriptions: \$20 per year (\$24 first class mail) in North America. Send self-addressed stamped #10 envelope for sample copy.

#### SITUATIONS WANTED

**GENIE WHITAKER and WILL MAHONEY**, co-editors of Beyond Monogamy, seek employment in the San Francisco Bay Area. Los Angeles or Denver also considered. Genie, 31, is presently employed as a regional accounting and office services manager for a major corporation. She is seeking a management position which will afford her new challenges and career advancement. Will, 36, is seeking part-time employment to enable him to continue publishing Beyond Monogamy. He has a number of organizational, sales and technical skills and is open to a wide range of opportunities. We are NOT interested in multi-level marketing or full commission sales. Genie or Will may be contacted at (303) 399-3326 or write P.O. Box 6877, Denver, CO 80206.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Classified Advertising Policies -- Please read carefully!**

**Content:** In addition to your message, you may include an address and/or phone number. Anonymous ads o.k. or list your first and/or last name(s). If concerned about confidentiality, place a coded ad--we forward letters to you (see coded ad rate below). We accept ads in the following categories:

**Non-profit Organizations**--ads from alternative relationships organizations publicizing classes, workshops, conferences, seeking members or promoting publications. People wanting to start new alternative relationship discussion groups, organizations or social clubs in their area may also advertise in this section. Ads from personal growth/human potential non-profit organizations which are supportive of alternative relationships are also welcome.

**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.

**Ads for secret affairs not accepted!** These are outside the scope of an open relationships publication.

**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. October 1 for the November-December issue).

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_ City, state or \_\_\_\_\_  
province, zip \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

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BEYOND MONOGAMY BOOK ORDER FORM

(see enclosed 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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Postage and handling: \_\_\_\_\_ subtotal \_\_\_\_\_  
Add \$1.50 for the first book and \_\_\_\_\_  
50¢ for each additional book. Maximum charge: \$4.00. \_\_\_\_\_ postage and handling \_\_\_\_\_  
Colorado residents: add \_\_\_\_\_  
appropriate sales tax \_\_\_\_\_

Payment:  
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.

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.

## CALIFORNIA REFLECTIONS

Every trip I take to California for a Family Synergy Conference is an adventure, and this year was certainly no exception. For those of you unfamiliar with Family Synergy, it is a Southern California-based alternative relationships organization with chapters in Los Angeles, Orange County and the San Francisco Bay area. The group was organized in 1971 and has been hosting annual conferences for several years. The last three have been held in an air conditioned, resort hotel in Palm Springs. The activities for the 275 or so people include a variety of workshops and structured and unstructured playtime. Clothing is optional at the conference: you can literally run around in your choice of street clothes, underwear, or your birthday suit. There is a lot of public physical affection happening, but public fucking is a "no-no."

I flew into Los Angeles two days before the conference primarily to conduct interviews with Family Synergy members. The first was with a couple that has an interesting open marriage and the second was with five members of an intimate friendship network. Both interviews will be appearing in upcoming issues of Beyond Monogamy. I was chauffeured around L.A. and Orange County by an old friend from Denver, an ex-dentistry professor who had freaked out on drugs, found Jesus, moved to L.A., and is now recording rock music about "the Lord" and "the Devil." He talked practically nonstop about the merits of "being saved" and expressed concern for my soul since I am doing the Devil's work publishing Beyond Monogamy and living an "adulterous" lifestyle. I managed to listen patiently and remain relatively undefensive--after all, I rather enjoy having eccentric friends!

I got from Orange County to the Palm Springs conference in the back of a van with Lili, Bob and Paul, three very nice people who are part of the friendship network I interviewed. Shortly after arriving in Palm Springs, I ran into Morrie Indman who conducted a jealousy workshop I had attended three years earlier. Morrie said, "Oh, hi, Will. There's someone here who'd like to meet you." Standing next to Morrie was an attractive woman with a warm smile. My eyes caught a glimpse of her name tag--it was Illijana Asara. She had written "A Feminist Perspective on Non-monogamy," an article which appeared in the last issue of Beyond Monogamy. She and I immediately hit it off and wound up spending much of the weekend together. It was like the first time Ellen Bursten and Alan Alda met in the movie, Same Time Next Year: they really dug each other, they knew their time together would be short, so they poured a lot of energy into getting close while the clock kept ticking. Now that the conference is over, we're maintaining our friendship with the assistance of Ma Bell and the U.S. Postal Service. (Illijana and I live a thousand miles apart.) And, we're luckier than Alda and Bursten's characters--we don't have to hide it from our spouses.

It was a rather busy weekend for me. In addition to spending time with Illijana, I ran two workshops: "What Kind of Alternative Relationship is for You?" and "Emotionally Open Relationships: The Last Frontier?" (the latter workshop was taped and will be included in an upcoming issue of Beyond Monogamy). Each workshop was packed with about 50 enthusiastic participants. I also sold open relationships books and Beyond Monogamy subscriptions and talked to a number of intriguing people.

Many positive things can be said about Family Synergy. First of all, they are well organized. It was obvious to me that the conference committee had expended considerable effort so that the weekend would run smoothly. Furthermore, Family Synergy has numerous members who are warm, open and doing very creative things with intimate relationships.

However, like most alternative lifestyle organizations, they have their share of problems, and I'd like to focus on one of them. I'll illustrate the problem with an example.

On Friday night, Illijana and I went for a soak in the hotel's hot pool. We were sitting in the pool talking when suddenly a guy she'd never met before walked up in front of her and began rubbing his hand on her thigh. She immediately looked him straight in the eye and said in a very assertive voice, "I'm not comfortable with your doing that." Instead of apologizing, he continued to rub her thigh and said, "Well we certainly don't want to make anyone in Family Synergy uncomfortable, do we?" He finally got the hint and removed his hand. She continued talking to him for a few minutes hoping he would understand that she wasn't rejecting him--only his behavior. However, while he stopped being physically aggressive, his verbal "come-ons" continued, so she and I left the pool area to find some privacy.

Most members of Family Synergy and other alternative lifestyle groups would never engage in obnoxious "come-ons." At the same time, I don't feel this was an isolated incident (see, for example, Larry Constantine's comments on page 2).

One of the primary objectives of alternative lifestyle organizations ought to be the elimination of sexist and aggressive behavior in female/male interactions. Perhaps groups can accomplish this by education and confrontation. I also feel prospective members need to be screened and boorish members expelled if they refuse to make positive changes in their behavior.

Let's I sound to self-righteous, I must point out that we have had similar problems (particularly at hot tub parties) with Beyond Monogamy, Inc. in Denver. We did not deal with the problems effectively in the past and lost some good people as a result.

*Will Mahoney*

## A DISCUSSION OF UTOPIAN SWINGING Part II

edited by Jacqueline Weller

This is a continuation from the July-August issue of a seminar on utopian swinging presented to BMI by Larry and Sue, a married couple active in couple swinging.

**LARRY:** Part of what I wanted to accomplish by doing this seminar was to reach out to couples who are interested in "emotional swinging." I don't like the term "utopian swinging" because the phrase has a connotation of something that cannot be attained. Sue and I have certainly attained what we want in our relationship.

**AUDIENCE QUESTION:** How about "caring swinging?"

**SUE:** We've groped for a long time for a term to describe what we do.

You know, the history behind us giving this seminar goes back to when we first got involved with BMI. Larry and I went to Harold's class on sexuality and found that the other students spent half the time quizzing us on swinging.

**LARRY:** One of the women at the class asked us, "Isn't it a shame to have two classes of friends: those who are straight, and those who are swingers?" She suggested it might be better to approach friends with whom we are already comfortable with the idea of opening our relationship.

In our experience, however, the answer to that idea is a resounding "no." We've found it freaks people out so badly that you lose them as friends.

**AUDIENCE QUESTION:** All of them?

**LARRY:** Everyone we've known who's tried it--100%, have lost good friends.

**SUE:** And that's a tragedy.

**WILL:** It's hard to tell. Even with people who are politically liberal, who support social causes like women's rights and racial equality, bringing up the topic of open relationships often freaks them out.

**HAROLD:** It depends on how you do it. If your first approach is to say, "This is what we do, and we'd sure like to do it with you!", then you may lose friends. But if you explain it slowly and gradually, friends begin to understand. They'll say, "We know you guys are weird, but we can live with that."

**CYNDY (HAROLD'S SPOUSE):** I don't think we've ever lost any contacts because of telling the truth.

**LARRY:** You're the only people we've ever met who got that response. We've talked to many couples who've met the opposite reaction. It may be that they're from a much more conservative background.

**HAROLD:** Yeah, this is probably one of the more conservative things we do! Everything's real way-out!

**AUDIENCE COMMENT:** It depends how you define straight. People usually go along with the crowd in terms of morality. When you're good friends, you just better leave it at that. Harold and

Cyndy probably have a fairly kinky circle of friends to begin with.

**OTHER COMMENT:** I suspect that part of it has to do with the fact that Harold and Cyndy are fairly open about the way they choose to live. When you meet them, it doesn't take but a few minutes to understand that they do some things they know a lot of other people don't do.

**SUE:** Yes, they're open about it from the beginning. With most of our friends, it's a shock: "God, did you know they did that? How horrible!"

**LARRY:** In the type of business I do, I couldn't possibly be that open because I would be unemployed before very long. My company is primarily owned by Mormons. They're nice people, but they don't understand anything that's ...

**AUDIENCE INTERJECTION:** And they, of all people, should!

**AUDIENCE QUESTION:** So it wasn't all your choice that you didn't relate to friends. It was because of their reaction and rejection of your lifestyle. Do you feel upset that you can't share your swinging activity with friends? I've felt that if my friendships are contingent upon my erecting an artificial sexual barrier, then there's something wrong with those friendships.

**LARRY:** I agree with you, but I am unable to overcome that barrier.

**AUDIENCE COMMENT:** There's a difference between saying "Do you accept my lifestyle?" and "Will you share my lifestyle?"

**SUE:** Oh, definitely. Nowadays the people we meet tend to share our way of thinking.

**AUDIENCE COMMENT:** Of course, it's because you're choosing to meet a preselected group. On the other hand, it might surprise you to meet your boss at a swingers' club.

**SUE:** Larry had a particularly uncomfortable experience at the Golden Circle, when he met a business customer there one night.

**LARRY:** The only thing that made it okay was that he was as embarrassed about it as I was. Of course, if you think about it, he wasn't going to report it to anyone, and neither was I.

**AUDIENCE QUESTION:** Would you share some of your ads with us?

**LARRY:** Sure. This is one of earlier ones:

Discreet couple, 32 and 35, looking for couples interested in swinging and having a good time with friends. She's 5 ft. 8, 125 pounds, with a firm, sexy figure. He's 5 ft. 8, 165 pounds, with a nice long, thick cock, handsome, athletic and sensuous. We enjoy quiet, candlelit dinners, wine, mellow smoke, erotic photo sessions and longlasting sex. We can visit or entertain. Recent nude photos of both, and a letter telling about your interests, will bring a speedy reply.

This is a more recent ad, from the March 1982 issue of Odyssey. It simply says:

Slim, attractive couple in their thirties, anxious to establish sincere and honest friendships with highly erotic,

caring and considerate couples. We enjoy candlelit dinners, wine and mellow smoke, friendly times and photography. We like most adult pleasures and we are open minded and receptive to new ideas. Only recent nude photos insure quick reply.

**SUE:** You see how the tone of this ad changed?

**LARRY:** There's less statistical information. We change the ad and the picture's each time we place it. It's interesting to see what happens.

Neither of these ads elicit many replies. We are quite happy with that. I don't want to spend all night, every night answering letters. We're happy with the fact that the ads automatically select out a lot of people.

For your information, ads that solicit single males get a tremendous response--up to 200 responses from a single ad.

**SUE:** We've had a lot of very nice letters.

**AUDIENCE QUESTION:** Is there any correlation between quality of the letter and the probability of establishing a relationship with that couple?

**LARRY:** Yes, we feel there is. The argument can be made that we're screening out too many people through the use of letters.

**SUE:** But, then again, we're picky.

**LARRY:** And we have limited time to do anything else. We don't want to meet twenty couples a month. We'd much rather be selective. Our logic is that if they're really interested, they'll take the time to write a careful letter.

**AUDIENCE QUESTION:** Is there a connection between good spelling and being good in bed?

**SUE:** No, not that, but that's not our primary consideration.

**AUDIENCE COMMENT:** I'm just teasing you.

**LARRY:** No, but if they're really a poor speller, we may not get along with them intellectually. So we generally don't meet them.

**SUE:** When all you have to go on is a letter, then that's what you go on. Generally, people who are reasonably intelligent and write a nice letter are going to be the type of people we want to meet.

**AUDIENCE COMMENT:** You've honed a technique to a fine edge, and it sounds like it works for you. You can't argue with success.

**AUDIENCE QUESTION:** When you get a letter you feel is unsatisfactory, do you respond?

**SUE:** Yes, we have two or three sample declines, and depending upon the tone of the letter, we'll choose one. One favorite is: "Thank you for your nice letter. Circumstances have arisen since we placed the ad making it impossible to meet at this time ..." We try to make it as nice as possible.

**LARRY:** It's a lie, but, personally, I'd expect more or less the same thing.

**AUDIENCE:** You don't correct the spelling and send it back to them? (Laughter)

**AUDIENCE QUESTION:** What about the photograph? I suspect it's not that significant.

**LARRY:** Yes. Generally we can tell a lot more about the person from the letter.

**SUE:** I look at the background behind the person in the photo because they're usually in their home. It gives me an idea of the atmosphere they live in.

**AUDIENCE QUESTION:** Do you ever get photos that are not authentic?

**SUE:** We never have.

**LARRY:** Although, we've talked to some people who received pictures of someone from an earlier time--say, a year ago. We heard of one case where a guy had put on a lot of weight in that year! Of course, that's one of the advantages of doing nothing intimate the first night ...

**AUDIENCE QUESTION:** Do you exchange several rounds of letters before meeting?

**LARRY:** Generally, no. We'll reply by letter to their letter, simply to give them more information about us.

**SUE:** That gives them a chance to back out if they want to. After all, it has to be a mutual thing.

## THE BISEXUAL WINDOW

A Bimonthly Column by Barry Kohn

Alice and I just acquired a VHS video recorder and have had the opportunity to view the Donahue Show that we appeared on in December 1979. In seeing ourselves again, I realize how courageous and probably naive we were in appearing on that show. The reactions of the audience were very hostile for the most part and people seemed shocked at hearing us be truthful about our open marriage and our bisexuality.

Now, two and a half years later, it appears that little has changed in people's beliefs about the number of people who are bisexual or the willingness of other bisexuals to share their lives. It is interesting that this silence continues even though we have supposedly undergone a major sexual revolution in the past twenty years. However, the truth remains that we live in a society that is very repressed and puritanical in its attitudes toward sexuality.

If we look at the Kinsey statistics of 1948 and 1953, which have been validated in recent studies, we are, conservatively, talking about a population of 30-40 million bisexuals in the United States. (See The Bisexual Option by Fred Klein, Priam Books, 1978, p. 117.) That is an incredibly large number of people who are walking around with an important secret about themselves.

I would like to share with you one of the many letters I received after appearing again on the Donahue Show in March 1982:

Dear Barry,

I work night shift in a hospital, and as I was going off to sleep the other morning my phone rang and a friend's voice said "Phil Donahue, Channel 4." So I staggered downstairs and turned it on--this particular friend wouldn't call unless there was some importance attached.

She knows how ugly I get if my sleep is disrupted. Anyway, there you were and there I sat, fascinated.

You see, my husband is bisexual. We've been married now for 8½ years. I knew about his past experiences, in a general fashion, when we married. I saw some of his conflicts. Our hardest times came out during my pregnancy and postpartum period—he chose then to really come out. We came close to separating then, but somehow we both decided that the love we had shared and the special closeness we had meant a whole lot, and didn't deserve to be left lying mortally wounded by the wayside. We were advised by the local Gay Counseling Center, near our home at that time, that divorce was the only answer. My response to the counselor, after he'd told me to get out of my husband's life, was to tell him to get his prejudices out of my life! I got a whole different line from the pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church. He told me he'd been married, but his being gay hadn't necessitated a breakup. Other factors had, but his general approach was one of support and encouragement in the direction of following our feelings. There's no denying there was pain involved—A LOT—but both of us grew far closer together and we remain so.

The movie, Making Love, was very shallow. So much was glossed over by money and Hollywood hype and no attention at all given—beyond lip service—to the idea of saving their marriage. It was pretty far-fetched in terms of the confrontations I experienced in my life.

My husband and I did some kidding about our having become fashionable all of a sudden, particularly since a few days later your name appeared in Cosmopolitan magazine. In any case, when we've (rarely) encountered people like ourselves, we've encouraged them to remember they generally got married because they cared for one another. We did correspond with GAMMA (Gay Married Men's Association and its satellite, Straight Partners) for some time, and found support in their literature. We found them through The Advocate. And I'm glad to note, at least among my friends and acquaintances, that we're getting increased tolerance from gays these days. There used to be a big black line that men with gay feelings were expected to cross in only one direction. Now it's become quite narrow and dotted, allowing space for living and loving, on both sides of the fence.

It's been six years or more now, and our life continues to improve. I guess we get the same setbacks others do. But, when I remember the doubts that other people worked so hard to instill in me, I guess it helps that I'm a male about choosing my path.

We encountered some conflicts at times about Mike's choice of companions. Generally the men he saw felt that marriage made him more "masculine" but refused to acknowledge or accept his commitment to me, although they could accept his fatherly responsibilities. About one year ago he met someone very special and our lives took another turn. George turned out to be exactly the right person. He was divorced amicably,

calm, a father, honest and accepting of Mike's being married. When I saw things going beyond friendship, I spoke to Mike about meeting George and to my surprise, he agreed with enthusiasm! So, we set it up and George and I had an intense 9 hour one-to-one and came out of it liking what we'd learned. George became a frequent visitor and about ten months ago, he came to live with us. There were adjustments, decidedly, and some tense time while we got used to one another, but a new sort of family seems to have been forged. We all view it as a permanent thing. Some people we've told and others we haven't. My son looks on George as a sort of resident uncle and climbing device, and George and I are close and supporting friends—nonsexual but affectionate. Both of us care for Mike and for one another's welfare, to the point of carefully assuring everybody of spells of undivided attention from everyone else. For us, this is the arrangement that's worked out. I don't see myself advocating it for others unless they're very open people. In our case, the relationships are solely within the family, and contrary to what some might think, we're not a gang of sex maniacs, and we live a very average life in terms of chores, kids, and so on.

Thanks for having the courage to be an advocate for all those couples who've chosen to stay together and really work at caring. I'd be very interested in any information you might offer. Best wishes in your work.

Beth

Dear Beth,

Thank you very much for your beautifully written letter and for sharing your own marital situation with me. From your letter, it appears that we have gone through many similar experiences. I am glad that you have been able to work out a viable relationship with your husband.

In support of your open relationship, I would first suggest that you read our book, Barry and Alice: Portrait of a Bisexual Marriage. I would also suggest a newsletter called Beyond Monogamy which comes out bimonthly from a group in Denver, Colorado. It is the best ongoing publication that I have found dealing with a whole range of issues in an open relationship.

Another suggestion is to consider starting a support group for people who are in similar situations. It is very difficult to have an open relationship in a culture where you feel very isolated and don't have other people to talk to who are going through similar situations. I describe beginning a support group and it's importance in my own relationship in our book. There are some groups for bisexual people in New York City sponsored by the Forum Center. You could find out about their activities by calling (212) 988-7626.

Sincerely,  
Barry S. Kohn

Barry Kohn is an author, counselor, bisexual activist and former attorney. You may write him directly at Box 941, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464.

## 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.

## Should Every Truth Be Revealed?

Dear Editor:

I am an American journalist and writer who has been living in Europe for over ten years. I subscribe to the overall philosophy of Beyond Monogamy--indeed for most people, endowed with even a modicum of imagination and curiosity, monogamy is an unnatural condition, a veritable mental and psychological prison.

However, you people in the United States, including the editors and most subscribers to Beyond Monogamy, have merely substituted one unnatural state of being with another, both of which cause pain and distress. Strict and forced adherence to monogamy is stress-producing. We all agree! But overtly and openly having a love affair with another partner, besides your present one, is also stress-producing, and doomed to failure. You are merely substituting one torture for another.

I have chosen to adopt the way this problem is resolved in France. Monogamy--no! But, absolute discretion--yes! There is a beautiful saying in France--"toute vérité n'est pas bonne à dire!" (Every truth is not good to reveal!)

In the building in which I live here, I am quite sure that, at least, six women (there are probably many more) have lovers, whom they see during the daytime. But when their husbands are home at 8 or 9 p.m., there is a sumptuous meal on the table and a lot of affection and passion afterwards in bed. By the way, why is the husband home from work so late, when he normally finishes work at 6 p.m.? Well, "toute vérité n'est pas bonne à dire!"

The divorce rate here and in neighboring Italy is very low--the non-monogamy ratio very high, and virtually no one ever goes to visit a psychologist nor a psychiatrist here. Who has the time when a woman has one or two lovers and still is a traditional wife and mother and even still darns the socks; and when the man has one or two girlfriends, but is, above all, a good husband and father?

Charles  
Nice, France

The Latest on Herpes from Beyond Monogamy's Medical Consultant

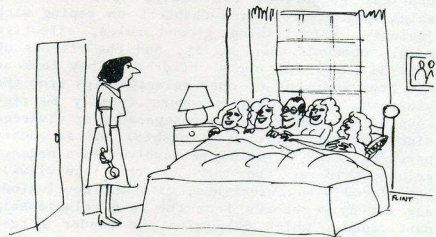
Dear Will:

This letter is to inform Beyond Monogamy readers about Zovirax<sup>R</sup>, the new anti-Herpes ointment recently marketed by Burroughs Co., and approved by the F.D.A. Acyclovir, the generic name, is a "synthetic acycline purine nucleosidase with in-vitro inhibitory activity against Herpes Simplex types 1 and 2." The ointment works best on new cases of herpes, treated early and every four hours. This helps shorten the illness and may help prevent recurrence. It is less effective in recurrent herpes and it is quite expensive (about \$15/15 grams). Oral and IV forms are being reviewed by the F.D.A. and are expected to be available next year.

For the first time we have a tool to fight a common and frustrating malady. Acyclovir is the first of many anti-viral drugs. Side effects seem to be minimal. Acyclovir resistant herpes strains may develop. Other anti-viral drugs are expected.

Nature and man seem to reach an equilibrium or truce in these situations, but at least now we have a tool to fight back. There is no substitution for common sense and good hygiene.

James J. Bachman, M.D.  
Colorado



*"Edmund, I pride myself on my ability to successfully deal with irrational feelings of jealousy, which are merely manifestations of an inferiority complex. However, your flagrant flaunting of multiple relationships has finally gone too far."*

by Flint Whitlock from  
Breaking the Bonds by  
Watson and Whitlock.



A REVIEW OF BREAKING THE BONDS

by Will Mahoney

When I first thought of writing a review of Breaking the Bonds: The Realities of Sexually Open Relationships, I felt it might be inappropriate for me to do so having written the book's preface and because Beyond Monogamy, Inc. is the distributor for it. Recently, however, excellent and critical reviews of Breaking the Bonds have appeared in two local alternative group newsletters: the Family Tree Newsletter, May 1982 issue (published by a Boston-area group) and the 21st Family Newsletter, July/August 1982 issue (published by a recently-formed group in Portland, Oregon). Thus, I will draw on these two reviews for criticism of the book. Fair enough?

Breaking the Bonds was written by Mary Ann Watson, Ph.D., a Denver clinical psychologist and college professor, and her husband, Flint Whitlock, a writer and ad agency director. The book is based on Watson's interviews in 1977-78 of about 100 people involved in open relationships as "primary" or "secondary" partners. She tells me that most of the study participants were discovered by word of mouth in the Denver area (her study was conducted before Beyond Monogamy, Inc. was formally organized in Denver). Watson and Whitlock do not, themselves, have an open relationship, but I personally find them supportive of those who do.

Instead of simply reporting and analyzing data from the interviews, Watson and Whitlock use this information to give their readers some practical guidelines for making open relationships work. There are chapters on coping with jealousy, establishing ground rules, effective couple communication skills, and the effects of this lifestyle on one's children. They look at the pros and cons of open relationships from the viewpoint of primary partners (mostly married couples or couples who have separated or divorced since opening their relationship) and secondary partners (none of whom were involved in a primary relationship at the time of the interviews). Interlaced with guidelines, data and conclusions are extensive quotes from the open relationship participants which help give the reader a feel for their lifestyles and personalities. Watson's interview data is concisely tabulated in the appendices. Also included are her interview schedules and results of psychological tests given to the participants.

Peter J. Benson, a Beyond Monogamy reader in Maryland, writes that Breaking the Bonds is "... very good ... given the limited number of people studied. It should serve as an excellent introduction to the concepts of open relationships, I think, for those contemplating that lifestyle or starting in an open relationship as well as those who have had enough experience at it to have worked a lot of things out for themselves but who would like to know what experiences others have had."

I'm not so sure this book's problems result from the limited number of people studied. Perhaps, Joan Constantine, writing in the Family Tree Newsletter, pinpoints the problem more accurately: "While I loved the cartoons, enjoyed seeing the works of well known researchers cited, and was interested in what others experienced, I was definitely aware that the sample represented a narrower cross-section of people in open relationships than in Family Tree and BMI. Missing were any openly marrieds involved with other openly marrieds; instead they were involved with singles. And what of singles involved with singles?"

While most participants in Watson's study seem to have found their secondary relationships valuable experiences, few of these extramarital liaisons lasted very long. From a personal perspective, I'm not surprised. I'm in an open marriage, and over the past seven years, I've been involved with seven single women. Ultimately, in each case, their needs were different from mine, since I already had a very satisfactory primary relationship. It's interesting to contrast these relationships with the only one I've had with a woman who is in a successful open marriage. We've been involved for 4½ years, care a lot for each other, support each other's marriages, like each other's spouses, and have similar needs, values and interests. It's too bad that Watson did not interview some people like us, but I suppose she simply couldn't find any.

John Ullman, writing in the 21st Family Newsletter, feels "... Watson and Whitlock advance the idea the open relationships are often destructive and, at best, a limited way to cope with extramarital sex. Those of us with long term successful open relationships know there is much more to the lifestyle than that." He also attacks the authors for giving "... equal weight to anyone espousing the lifestyle, regardless of their degree of success or commitment. There is something of interest to be learned from the people who tried open relationships briefly and naively, but surely there is an immense amount more to be learned from the one couple in the study who were 'continuously involved in an active open marriage.' Watson and Whitlock dismiss this couple with a single sentence in their chapter describing a follow up of their initial interviews three years later. This is tantamount to interviewing early experimenters in powered flight and dismissing the Wright brothers as statistically insignificant."

Despite my agreement with Constantine and Ullman's criticisms, I feel that Breaking the Bonds is worthwhile reading. It is the most extensive study I've seen of people in open primary relationships who are involved with singles. While the people in the study are not very good role models, we can learn from their mistakes!

Watson, Mary Ann and Whitlock, Flint. Breaking the Bonds: The Realities of Sexually Open Relationships. Tudor House Press/Beyond Monogamy, Inc., 1981. \$4.95 (paperback).