

# BEYOND MONOGAMY

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## A VISIT WITH KERISTA VILLAGE by Will Mahoney

Last month I was in San Francisco and had an opportunity to spend an evening with 14 of the 17 members (9 women, 6 men and 2 small children) of a very unusual family. The group calls itself "The Purple Submarine." It is a "Best Friend Identity Cluster" (B-FIC) within Kerista Village, a utopian organization founded in 1971. The Purple Submarine could be called a group marriage, but its members prefer to avoid the term "marriage." They feel they have transcended jealousy, possessiveness and some of the other less desirable aspects of traditional marriage. At the same time they appear to have a strong commitment to their philosophy and to each other.

A B-FIC is no "do your own thing hippie commune." The Keristans are very interested in giving structure to their utopia. The structure may initially appear inflexible to an observer, but it has carefully evolved with time and changing circumstances.

All adult Keristans are employed either at outside jobs or in Keristan businesses such as their house cleaning service. They pool most of their incomes which gives the B-FIC tremendous economic power. They have developed their own religion in support of their lifestyle.

Members of the Purple Submarine live in two large neighboring apartments in the Haight-Ashbury area of San Francisco. No one has their own room. Instead the Keristans are on a rotating sleeping schedule. Each of the six adult males shares a room with a different one of the nine adult females every night for nine nights. At present, therefore, each female sleeps by herself one out of every three nights. Optimally, a B-FIC will include 12 women, 12 men and 12 children. Keristans practice polyfidelity -- they are sexually intimate only with members of their B-FIC. The Purple Submarine is a heterosexual B-FIC, but the Keristans feel that homosexual or bisexual B-FIC's are a possibility. Within heterosexual B-FIC's, strong same-sex friendships are encouraged -- a concept known as starling brotherhood or starling sisterhood. The term "starling sister" was used in Victorian erotic literature to refer to women who shared the same lover or lovers. (Bluejay Way, "The Sophisticated Eroticism of Starling



Geo, Tye, Eve, Way, Mik, and Lil, six of the nine starling sisters of the Purple Submarine.

Love," *Beyond Monogamy*, Nov.-Dec. 1981, p. 3).

Conflicts and other interpersonal problems within the group are handled through an encounter process called "Gestalt-O-Rama." It seems to resemble the mutual criticism process used by members of the Oneida Community more than 100 years ago. Kerista also resembles Oneida in its opposition to romantic love, replacing it with dedication to close friendship among all members of a B-FIC.

The Keristan philosophy includes a number of ideals. They oppose sexism, ageism, racism, classism and war. They are dedicated to rationality, tolerance, multiple parenting of children and verbal communication. B-FIC's are run by participatory democracy.

Keristans dream of a world full of utopian B-FIC's. Realistically, they know that very few people are presently willing to consider this lifestyle. Still, they spread their message and seek new members, particularly in the San Francisco Bay area. They publish a quarterly newspaper, *Utopian Classroom*, and hold public Growth Co-op meetings four nights a week. In order to join

a B-FIC or start a new one, an individual must complete a course of study at Kerista's University of Utopia, which operates at their storefront in the Haight-Ashbury. After the student has a thorough knowledge of Keristan philosophy and the Gestalt-O-Rama process, she or he must go through a six-month period of transitional celibacy (Yes folks, this means no sex with anyone -- it sure eliminates people who are there mainly to fulfill candy store fantasies). During this time she/he develops platonic friendships with members of various B-FIC's (at present, there is only the Purple Submarine). Transitional celibacy is a sort of "courtship" period (without romance). At the end of six months, he/she may be invited to join an existing B-FIC or elect to form a new one.

I knew some of the foregoing information when I arrived at the door of one of the Purple Submarine's flats on Stanyon Street. I had also heard that they were quite confrontative with outsiders, so I was somewhat nervous but determined not to get defensive if personally attacked. I reminded myself that I was there to learn more about their lifestyle and to see what they were like as people.

I was met at the door by Eve, creator of the Keristan comic strip, *Far Out West*. She introduced me to her starling sister, Tye. We were soon joined by Jud, Kerista's elder philosopher. I noticed that these three were very talkative but didn't want to waste any time with idle chit-chat, which was fine with me. This became more evident when we were joined by Way. She seemed delightfully outrageous New York Jewish verbal. She immediately blurted out, "So Will, tell us. You have this open marriage and you and your wife fuck other people, right?" Not wishing to be classified as a mindless sex maniac, I proceeded to explain that there is more to my lifestyle than "fucking other people." They wondered why Genie and I seem to have difficulty making our other relationships last very long. I told them about my 4 1/2 year relationship with Mary Ann. They couldn't understand why Mary Ann doesn't live with us if we have such a good relationship. I finally had to admit that I would like more from my relationships and found their lifestyle very appealing, at least in theory. They seemed pleased with my interest.

I did find the Keristans confrontive, but chose not to get upset about it. Besides, I found their confrontations useful in getting me to examine some of the contradictions in my thinking. Perhaps some people find the Keristans abrasive. They are, however, quite adept at quickly cutting through people's facades to determine if they are worth any further investment of time and energy.

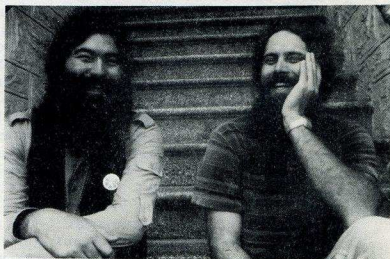
The room was quickly filling up with attractive, vibrant women and men in their 20's and 30's. The men all had bushy beards and the women had long, straight hair, but I wouldn't call them Kerista clones. Each seemed to have retained his or her own distinctive personality. This was not a cult of mindless sheep headed for

Jonestown. I began to assess my personal resistance to polyfidelity. I looked at the seven women in the room (two were out of town) and wondered why I would bother even looking at any other women if I were involved with a group like this. I also looked at the six men and wondered how long it had been since I had six close male friends at one time. High school or maybe college?

Near the middle of the room was three-year old Liberty bouncing up and down on a chair. One of the women spoke to Liberty in a very assertive, adult-to-adult manner telling her that she was going to hurt herself or the chair. She was to sit quietly or go into the playroom. Liberty complied. It was a very "clean" interaction. There was no nagging, yelling, talking back or pouting. I was impressed.

When you get thirteen very verbal Keristans in the same room the atmosphere becomes very intense. I got a headache. I also began to feel a sense of euphoria. Here was a large group of intelligent people living out a fantasy I'd been carrying around for nearly fifteen years. Wow!

After dinner, I headed down the block to Kerista's storefront with Loki, one of the more quiet members of the group (a welcome respite!). She showed me the model of the huge home they hope to build on some land they recently purchased in northern California. We were soon joined by two of the men, Luv and Ram, and watched one of their numerous videotapes about Kerista Village. Around 10:30, we parted company expressing a mutual interest in staying in communication. It was a warm, clear San Franciscan night, so I opted to walk back to Stardance, the cooperative house where I was staying about one mile away. After walking a few blocks, I paused for a moment at the corner of Haight and Ashbury Streets where "flower power" was born back in the 1960's. My mind traveled back to April 1968, the first time I had stood at this historic intersection while a private in the U.S. Army. It was a couple weeks later that I had first read Robert Rimmer's *The*



Azo and Ram, two of the six starling brothers of the Purple Submarine

Harrod Experiment and had become firmly committed to a non-monogamous lifestyle. Since then I had earned two college degrees, changed careers about three times, lived in eight states, lost my religion (Roman Catholicism), abandoned some of my middle class values, had many friends and lovers and found a partner for an open marriage. Had I finally arrived "home"?

Maybe yes and no. Genie and I are seriously considering a move from Denver to San Francisco. Whether we do or not, I would like to stay in contact with Kerista Village as I am very interested in learning more about their philosophy and lifestyle. I would also value a friendship with such an interesting group of social innovators. At the same time, I'm not quite sure I want to join or start my own polyfidelitous B-FIC. I'm not totally comfortable with the Keristan style and a few of their ground rules. And, while my current lifestyle may include too much privacy and not enough community, I'm afraid that theirs would be just the opposite.

Still, I feel the Keristans are deserving of my wholehearted support. Considering all of the failures of non-monogamous experiments (see Larry Constantine, "The Failure of Alternatives," Beyond Monogamy, Sept.-Oct. 1982, pp 1-6), the Keristans have created and are continually refining a model that is workable for at least some people. Kerista Village works because it is based on a rational, flexible structure and because of the commitment of its members, most of whom have been involved with the group for several years.

I would strongly recommend that anyone interested in non-monogamy take a hard look at the Keristan model, particularly if you are considering intimate group living. You may join their Utopian Society for \$12 per year, which includes a subscription to The Utopian Classroom. If you are in San Francisco, I'd suggest attending one of their introductory Growth Co-op meetings. For more information, write Utopian Society, 543 Frederick St., San Francisco, CA 94117 or phone (415) 566-6502 or 665-2988.

#### AN INTERVIEW WITH A FAMILY SYNERGY COUPLE

by Will Mahoney

On the evening of July 7, 1982, Family Synergy newsletter editor Bernard Knighton made his San Fernando Valley home available to me for an interview with Ed and Helen, a couple in their 40's who have a successful open marriage. With the sounds of Bernard and several of his friends swimming and hot tubbing in the background, Helen and Ed shared many of the details of their intimate lives with me. What follows are some of the highlights of that conversation.

WILL: You've mentioned that you have both been previously married. Can you tell me about these marriages?

HELEN: My first marriage was not open but

the second one was.

ED: My first and only other marriage was not open until close to the end. It became somewhat open and that was what caused us to finally split.

WILL: Was it your idea to open up the marriage?

ED: It was definitely my idea to open it up first. But that didn't happen. My ex started having an affair. So I thought I'd go have some affairs of my own, too. We slowly got into arguments over that. She thought I shouldn't have sex with women that I wasn't in love with. She only had sex with men she was in love with.

WILL: Were you open with each other about the affairs?

ED: Yes, very open.

WILL: Did you ever reach any agreement about your affairs?

ED: Yes, the agreement we reached was to get a divorce.

WILL: Was that the only issue that led to your divorce?

ED: Yes, other than that we got along fine. The ultimate blow came one day when she was seeing this guy, Bob. She said, "Bob doesn't want me to have sex with you any more." I said, "Fine, we can take care of that." I moved out!

WILL: Helen, your first marriage was monogamous?

HELEN: Yes, I was very young when I got married and had two children. He's a nice guy who is not too bright and I just outgrew him. He was a very irresponsible kind of guy. I had an affair and realized there was something better. So I left that marriage and was single for about four years. Then I had a marvelous marriage for eleven years with my second husband.

WILL: Did you go into your second marriage with the agreement that it would be open?

HELEN: Not really. I met him at a nudist park so we were both open kind of people. He had been living in a nudist park in a very open sort of lifestyle. When we got married, I don't think he planned on us having an open marriage. But at that time he was managing show business groups and met a lot of women that he wound up sleeping with. I was very shocked at that at first. We talked about it and thought about getting into swinging. We met some swinging couples, but that was not satisfactory for us. We didn't enjoy that. We also belonged to Sandstone I. Although a lot of people thought that was a swing club, we didn't. We found it to be a warm, accepting family, especially John and Barbara Williamson, the founders. Then, for economic reasons we moved up to Modesto, California. In Modesto we found we were all alone in our openness. So we answered some ads in swinging magazines and created our own group of friends. For a while, my husband even ran a swing club in Oakland called the Meeting Ground. We were very much into Robert Rimmer and thought we would like to have a group marriage or an expanded family. We lived in a triad for two years with another man. I'm still friends with him and his wife, although we don't see each other

very much now because they live several hundred miles from us. Then we moved back to southern California and became involved with Family Synergy.

WILL: Was the swing club mainly a business or was it a way you hoped to meet potential partners for a group marriage or expanded family?

HELEN: Both. Don was a dreamer. He really believed in this lifestyle and was searching for it in a deep committed kind of way. He really wanted to have an expanded family, and I think we do in Family Synergy. When Don died Family Synergy was absolutely marvelous. I certainly lived a different lifestyle than other widows. I have friends who have been widowed and their other friends try to hide their husbands from them as if they are going to try to steal them. The night Don died, Lili said, "I want George to stay with you."

ED: George was Lili's husband.

HELEN: I never went through a time where I sat home alone. Of course, my children were a great help, but it was really a lot of Family Synergy People, both men and women, who really came through doing caring, wonderful kinds of things.

Ed and I were married ten months later. We knew ahead of time that we were going to have an open marriage. I don't think I could live a monogamous lifestyle. I don't believe people really do.

WILL: Well, some try although I don't know how well it really works for most of them.

HELEN: But when you've lived for 10 years in an open marriage, it's very hard to say to someone else, "I'm never going to look at another man or be interested in another man again." I don't think that's really honest.

WILL: Helen, I'm interested in hearing more about the triad you mentioned. That lasted a couple of years?

HELEN: Don and I became really close friends with a couple, Jim and Jan. They lived about 20 minutes away from us when we were in Modesto. We saw them every weekend and usually once during the week. My children were about 11 and 13 at the time and they had a little girl who was about 2. We became really family for each other and spent every holiday together. Then I became director of a school in San Francisco and gave Jim a job. He was just going to stay with us until he got a place to live, but it became so comfortable that he stayed with us for two years. He went home every other weekend. On the other weekends, Jan would come up to San Francisco and sometimes not. It was very nice for us because it gave all three of us an awful lot of freedom. I felt if I wanted to go out in the evening without either of them, I didn't have to feel, "Oh gee, I'm leaving my husband or my son alone." My daughter was then living with her father, but it was great for my son because he had two "fathers" around who thought he was wonderful. For example, if Don was working late, Jim might take my son to a basketball game. The men were also very good friends.

WILL: It's been said that a problem with triads is that the opposite sex person gets 200% and the same sex people only get 50%.

HELEN: That wasn't true for us. For one thing, there was never any question that Don was my primary relationship. And I always felt that the more attention I got, the more energy I would have to give to both of them.

WILL: Did Jim feel slighted because he was only "number two?"

HELEN: I don't think so. He had a wife and a child. And, the times when I was with him, he was "number one." Actually, his marriage was not in very good shape at the time. I think that his being away for that time actually strengthened their marriage because they are still married ten years later.

WILL: So the triad really came about due to geographical considerations?

HELEN: And that's why it ended. When we decided to come back to southern California, Jim had to decide where he wanted to be.

WILL: And that was difficult for him?

HELEN: It was difficult for all three of us. We wanted to come back here because I had gotten a very good job offer.

WILL: Do you have any interest now in having a group marriage?

HELEN: We're not interested. We both like having other people in our lives but we don't want to live with them.

ED: We like having our home to ourselves.

WILL: So you consider what you have to be an expanded family. Can you tell me what makes it a family?

ED: In a sense, the whole membership of Synergy is our expanded family. Of the 600 or so members in this area we know maybe 50 to 100 people really well, and I guess that's what we would really consider our expanded family, maybe even less.

HELEN: I think much less than that. We have a group of people with whom we feel very close. We find ourselves relating to them often sexually and non-sexually. And I feel it's more than what is considered friendship in the "outside world."

WILL: It's easy to see that it is more than friendship with the people you relate to sexually. What about the people you don't relate to sexually? How are those relationships better than traditional friendships?

HELEN: We find that people really stick by each other. In a regular friendship, if I call someone up at 3:00 in the morning and say, "I'm so depressed, I feel like I'm going crazy," They would say, "Why are you bothering me in the middle of the night?" I can't think of anyone in our group who would say that.

ED: But back to your basic question, Will. In this group we call an expanded family, we relate to all of them sexually to one degree or another.

WILL: So, by relating sexually, do you mean that you might be nude or do massages with all of them, but not necessarily have sexual intercourse with all of them?

ED: Mostly, I'd say we have intercourse.

HELEN: Not with all of them.

ED: Most of them, and occasionally with all of them.

WILL: In addition to the sex, would you say that you had an emotional bond with these people?

HELEN: Most certainly.

ED: It's like traditional aunts, uncles and cousins. Except I think our bonds are stronger, at least in my case.

HELEN: With my children being brought up in an open lifestyle, they seem to openly relate to our friends and receive caring from them.

WILL: What kinds of lifestyles do you think your children will choose or is that clear at this point?

HELEN: My son is 24 and still single. He is very shy so I think it would take a lot of change for him to have an open lifestyle. My daughter, who was just married recently, is 22. She says she doesn't think she could have an open marriage now, but maybe someday. One of her friends is having a secret affair and she says, "That's not right. If you want to have an affair, you should open up your marriage."

WILL: Do you have children, Ed?

ED: I have three children.

WILL: Do they know much about your lifestyle?

ED: Not a whole lot. I don't try to keep it a secret from them. My oldest boy, who is a ballet dancer, is 27, and he lives quite an open lifestyle himself. My daughter, who is just a year younger, is married and lives a very conventional lifestyle. The youngest boy is 22 and still floundering. I think in general that younger people—people in their 20's—are not particularly interested in the lifestyle. I feel the need for this lifestyle hits people in their late 30's.

WILL: I think that's true in most cases, although it's been true for me since I was about 22 and probably before that.

ED: I think for me it was true when I was about 5 years old. When I first got married, I said to my ex-wife, "Looking at other women turns me on." Well, that really upset her no end. I don't think I ever mentioned it to her again, but I didn't stop looking.

WILL: With your expanded family, do you ever feel fragmented because you have so many people that you are trying to be close with?

ED: Just the opposite.

HELEN: Not only with Ed but when Don was alive and we were not newlyweds anymore, our romantic love was so much more than other couples married 10 years and in monogamous relationships. They seemed bored with each other. And Ed and I have been married two years. When either of us has been with someone else, we are very turned on to each other, and glad to be back together. Now, if I were sneaking around on him, I think I'd feel uncomfortable and guilty. Or, if he were sneaking around and I knew it was happening, I think I'd be hurt.

WILL: Do you find that other people in your expanded family have a relatively easy time making

this lifestyle work?

HELEN: I think most people have a fairly hard time.

WILL: But you seem to have a fairly easy time.

ED: We started from a totally different perspective. We both knew what we wanted before we were married. Whereas, a lot of people who are involved in this lifestyle are trying it as a patch-up of a bad marriage or a last resort.

HELEN: Some women would probably argue that I feel this way only because it's my situation. But I feel that women who are successful in a career are much more comfortable in this lifestyle than women who stay home and watch soap operas. The key to a good open marriage is self-confidence. You have to like yourself. I can't imagine that Ed would leave me for anyone else, because I'm wonderful. (laughter)

Maybe that's an exaggeration, but at least I'm not sitting at home wondering if my "meal ticket" is going to leave me. Also, if you are out in the business world, you need to keep yourself well groomed, so again that builds your self-confidence. I think the same holds for men who are successful in a career.

WILL: Do most of your friends who make this lifestyle work have egalitarian marriages as opposed to male-dominated ones?

ED: I don't know from observation but to me it seems almost axiomatic that you would have to have a more equal partnership.

HELEN: Now if you're talking about who cleans the house and who fixes the car, I don't know. In our house, I do very traditional things like cooking and laundry and Ed takes care of the car and the garage. We pay someone to do the cleaning!

WILL: Within your network, are most of the people either married or cohabitating?

HELEN: Mostly. Although, Jean is becoming a very close part of us and she's single and lives alone.



"Have you ever noticed that open marriage doesn't work for anyone except us?"

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

WILL: Do you find that single people are somehow not getting fulfillment if they are relating to people in a couple relationship? Do you think most would be better off getting married and then having an open relationship?

HELEN: I don't think everyone is meant to be married, open or not. Some people are better off single. They are happier that way. Some people do just fine living by themselves. Single people who come into our lives really enjoy us because we're so affectionate with one another.

WILL: When you're relating to single people, do you include them in your lives as a couple or do you tend to date them individually?

HELEN: We do very little individual dating.

ED: Only when it's convenient.

HELEN: Like when one of us is traveling or if I'm off and Ed is working.

ED: Normally when we relate to single people we do it together as a threesome.

WILL: And what about the sexual involvement?

ED: Same thing.

WILL: Are you both bisexual?

ED & HELEN: Yes.

WILL: Do you have problems finding people that you are both interested in being involved with?

ED: I wouldn't say problems. A lot of people don't fit with us. But there is a world full of people.

HELEN: If one of us is interested in someone that the other one can't stand, I don't think it would be that important for us to pursue them. Some people do have some problems with us if they want to date Ed or me alone. If it's convenient, it's all right, but if not, that's not our style.

WILL: Do you find yourselves having most of your nights and weekends busy with intimate friends?

HELEN: We almost never go out or entertain during the week. We both work very hard.

ED: We spend most of our evenings at home.

HELEN: Even though there are many other people that we're involved with, sometimes we're not with anyone but each other for a month at a time.

ED: You shouldn't get the impression that we live a continuous wild party. Typically, we'll see people on Friday and Saturday nights.

WILL: By just seeing people on Friday and Saturday and sometimes not for a month, are you able to maintain close relationships with them?

HELEN: I don't think the quantity of time we spend with others is all that important. The time we spend with other people is quality time. Although, I might talk to some of my friends on the phone during the week.

WILL: How would you respond to people who might accuse you of being merely more sophisticated or more intellectual swingers?

ED: On a practical level, I don't worry about it. I personally don't find anything wrong with swinging. It's not a bad word to me. We occasionally even go to a swing party.

HELEN: For me, the difference between our group and swingers is that people see each other

at a swing party on Saturday night and they're not concerned about anything else. But I feel we really care about the welfare of this family.

ED: I feel that swingers get more "press" for being impersonal than they really are. From what I've seen, swingers often become friends and quickly get past the first-names-only basis.

HELEN: Maybe I'm wrong. Maybe we are swingers.

ED: I hope we are! (Laughter)

HELEN: When Don and I were involved with the Meeting Ground, I certainly did not have the feeling for those people that I have for my Family Synergy friends.

ED: Actually, I kind of like recreational sex.

WILL: So you see a place for both recreational sex and committed sex and you can enjoy both at different times?

ED: Yes, I think they merge. All they need is a little time. And if they don't merge, you forget about that particular person.

WILL: Oh, so a lot of your close relationships start out as casual sexual encounters?

ED: Yes. There are certainly a lot of people in Family Synergy who have sex with someone only one time because they don't hit it off. I don't see much difference between that and what happens at a swing club.

WILL: Do you ever find yourself falling madly in love with someone new?

ED: I don't find that it happens as strongly as when you're living in a monogamous relationship. I've thought about it at times--someone walks in the door and I say, "That's all, Helen! This is it for me." I really can't imagine that happening.

WILL: I wasn't really thinking about you wanting to choose someone else. I just wondered if you ever get involved with someone new and it's really a terrific emotional high.

ED: Well, some are better than others.

WILL: What effect does that have on your other relationships?

ED: I think it's enhancing...

HELEN: Especially to our relationship.

WILL: Do you find yourself spending less time with your other, older relationships?

HELEN: Oh, sure, I think that happens, and maybe it takes something from those other relationships for a time. But it doesn't hurt our relationship

WILL: Your answer to this question will depend on how you define this word--do you see anything "spiritual" about your lifestyle?

ED: I would say definitely. To me, "spiritual" is something that enhances the quality of life. I'm not religious, so I define the word differently from traditional religious people.

HELEN: I think I believe in our way of life as much as anyone believes in a religion.

WILL: That sounds spiritual to me!

Do you have any "words of wisdom" for our readers who are trying to have an open relationship but find it to be a formidable task?

(continued on p. 7)

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#### DIRECTORY OF OPEN INTIMACY ORGANIZATIONS

The organizations listed below appear to support and facilitate the philosophy of Beyond Monogamy (It is possible and growth enhancing for some people to openly have more than one intellectually, physically and emotionally intimate relationship at a time.) However, the listing of an organization does not imply an endorsement by Beyond Monogamy.

The street addresses listed are mailing addresses only--not public offices. Do not stop by unannounced. Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope when writing for information. Phone numbers are listed only for those organizations which have asked us to do so.

#### CALIFORNIA

Bay Area Family Synergy, P.O. Box 173, El Cerrito, CA 94530. (415) 524-5949 or (415) 386-1735

Enlighten Loving Network, P.O. Box 1656, Los Gatos, CA 95031

Family Synergy (Los Angeles), P.O. Box 2668, Culver City, CA 90230 (213) 376-5995

Family Synergy (Orange County), 6812 Canterbury Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92647. (714) 897-1561

#### COLORADO

Beyond Monogamy, Inc., P.O. Box 6877, Denver, CO 80206. (303) 399-3326 (inactive except for publishing Beyond Monogamy)

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, MARYLAND, VIRGINIA

Potomac Area Life Styles, P.O. Box 438, Falls Church, VA 22046

#### MASSACHUSETTS

Family Tree, c/o Arnie Rosenthal, 26 Concord Ave., #513, Cambridge, MA 02138. (617) 492-0019

#### NEW JERSEY/PENNSYLVANIA

Delaware Valley Synergy, P.O. Box 1961, Philadelphia, PA 19105.

#### NEW YORK

New York Synergy, c/o Ray Noonan, 516 E. 11th St., #1B, New York, NY 10009

Upstate New York and Area Synergy, P.O. Box 229, Schenectady, NY 12301

#### OREGON

21st Family, P.O. Box 444, Lake Oswego, OR 97034 (503) 232-3220

Organizations primarily involved with swinging are not listed. Swing clubs are listed in two publications which have been very supportive of Beyond Monogamy:

Gregarian, P.O. Box 29191, New Orleans, LA 70189 \$9.00/yr. (couples only)

Odyssey, P.O. Box 8504, Denver, CO 80201. \$24/yr., sample issue - \$6 (couples & singles)

#### DENVER BMI NEWS

#### WOMEN AND BISEXUALITY SEMINAR

A woman does not have to choose to be either a lesbian or a heterosexual! We will explore the joys and problems of bisexuality in a non-threatening atmosphere with other women. Thursday, November 4, 7:30-9:30 p.m. in southeast Denver. Tuition: \$5 (\$3 for Beyond Monogamy subscribers). For more information, phone Diane at 629-0853

TRISHA JORDAN and LINDA MARTIN have been in the hospital recently. They are now home recovering. We encourage their friends to cheer them up!

#### NON PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

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.

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 or values, or if you seek people for dialogue or networking about co-living. Call Lyn & Phyllis Ehrnstein at (213) 275-3730 (answering machine--leave your address too).

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, Helmsburg, Indiana 47435

VIRGINIA (northern): You are invited to share the experience of a group project. We are looking for people interested in developing a Bob Rimmer style love/care group or other alternative living arrangements. Other project ideas include living off the land, building energy-efficient houses, cooperative living, nudist campground, workshop center, or other creative methods for making a small amount of land work for us. Write: Expanding Alternatives, P.O. Box 2951, Reston, VA 22090

#### 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) W/M 34, W/F 33, educated, well-dressed two-career couple seek couple to share continuing multi-level friendship. Interests: travel--foreign and domestic, theatre, films, books, restaurants, x-c skiing, video games, massage, enjoying life. Please write R.D., 200 Center St. #1324, Berkeley 94704

CALIFORNIA As a couple, both 33, we are committed to creating a group marriage and are looking for others to join and/or help us. Our shared ideals include a strong commitment to emotional release work and clarity in our relationships (we use co-counseling extensively as well as radical therapy). We are both bisexual, anti-sexist, food conscious, on positive spiritual magical patens, and filled with joyous humor. The vision includes an eventual 6-8 adult bisexual family, land and appropriate technology based, with shared parenting as well as shared financial, sexual, emotional, intellectual and spiritual experience. Correspondence welcomed and visits can be arranged. Contact "Solstice", Illijana or Jim, 401 Redwood Dr., Santa Cruz, CA 95060 (408) 427-3475

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** 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 St. #6, Denver, CO 80203

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA** John Reed seeks Louise Bryant. Washington, DC - area wanderer would like interest pricked by letter, photo. I'll respond. Write 1501.

**FLORIDA** Forming new alternative friendship discussion group. Any help you can give, such as outline material, ideas or personal assistance, will be greatly appreciated. John Underhill, 550 N.W. 27 Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, FLA 33311. (305) 792-2828

**GEORGIA** White Male, N.W. Atlanta, Non-Smoker, 46, 6'2", Non-Drinker, 195, Masculine, Professional, Well-Built, Handsome, Gentleman, Leo, Slow-Lane, Sexy, Aware, Educated, Open, Clean, Safe, seeking single, divorced, separated or married woman for open intimate sexual friendship. John T. Sax, 4351 E. Kings Point Circle, Dunwoody, GA 30338

**IDAHO** Boise couple interested in starting (new) alternative lifestyle group(s). Prefer any persons or couples sincerely interested in group meetings and private dinner parties, etc. Let's find our special someone's together, in family-oriented groups. Please write or call. Box 5571, Boise, ID 83705 (208) 345-3479.

**ILLINOIS** Hopelessly 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

**ILLINOIS** Handsome (I'm told) 50 y/o married business man would like to develop phone or mail relationship with attractive slender, sensual, outstanding lady. Marital status unimportant. P.O. Box 6421, Rockford IL 61125

**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.

**MINNESOTA** Minneapolis area married man, 39, seeks "Compartment Four" intimate friendship with non-smoking, sensitive, liberal women. Compartment Four? See book review, p. 8, March Beyond Monogamy or I'll send you a copy. Many humanistic and some technical interests. Am shy, gentle, sharing. Tom, P.O. Box 240368, Minneapolis MN 55424

**MISSOURI** Single white male, 35, 5'8", 178 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.

**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** (very near NYC) Couple especially interested in expanded families. We're both very fond of children. But more than that, we have very strong feelings about children's liberation. We are strongly anti-ageist and feel that children and pre-teens suffer most from society's inconsistencies and taboos in all areas of interpersonal relationships, most particularly the affectional and sexual. If your feelings coincide with ours, we would love to hear from you. Joan & Tom LaVerge, P.O. Box 604, Bloomfield, NJ 07003

**NEW JERSEY** Central New Jersey area male, 54, is interested in establishing female friendships. I especially enjoy art, movies, photography, investing, gardening, cooking, wine, and intimate companionships. Seeing old movies and visiting NYC art galleries are especially interesting. Write 1308.

**NEW MEXICO** Heterosexual, dual career, Albuquerque couple, 30's, excellent relationship 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 motion beginnings. Write 1309

**NEW MEXICO** Bi-sexual Senior Citizen seeking partner (partners) for sharing ski-slopes of Colorado & New Mexico Intermediate in ability but difference in ages less important than difference in urges.. No drugs; non-smoker preferred. Interests include Nature-study, writing, philately, travel and fuller living. Can contact at El Paso ski swap. Write 1502

**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 life styles. Please tell us your interests and photo if possible. Write 1410.

**NEW YORK** 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 AMERICA** For an outstanding experience of a lifetime, an experienced tour guide has available a four week tour of the U.S., Mexico and Canada on a BMW motorcycle. \$12,000 will cover all expenses. Tour guide is an attractive, intelligent, 22 yr. old bachelor

**OHIO** Farm Family seeks people to help build rural, self-sufficient community and an extended family on 75 beautiful, secluded acres. Want healthful, freespirted, open minded, creative energetic folks with or without children. M. Winegarner, RR2, 1716 Remelle, Monroeville, OH 44847

**OHIO** Man (43) & woman (32) who know the joys of expanded family living, cooperative sharing, and peer relationships seek couple or woman (with or without children) to join them and share 132 acres of hilly farm land which is being developed into self-sufficient, organic homestead. In addition to our garden, animals, and very rural surroundings we love music, crafts, books, and fun times with family and friends. Interested? Call (513) 549-2241 or write Middle Earth, 1250 Sullivan Road, West Union, Ohio, 45693.

**OKLAHOMA** (N.E.) Couple, early fifties, active in business & 'creative' community, seek couples & singles with a warm & intelligent & loving BMI approach to life! Chief objective: intellectual, spiritual, sensual interplay & growth. Non-smokers; social drinkers (dry martinis at sunset); readers; people watchers (& appreciators!); sun worshippers; very well educated; believers in tactility as a highly pleasurable & efficient mode of communication. Particularly like people who have high standards & 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 & individuals especially welcomed to write! Life is short. Let us hear from you today, please. What is there to lose but boredom!! Write 1209

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

## NON-FICTION

Alternative Relationships Songbook, D. Levin. \$2.50.

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 Beyond Monogamy staff member.

Barry and Alice, R. Kohn & A. Matusow. \$5.95 (cl). A very personal account of a couple who came to terms with an open, bisexual marriage after several years of traditional monogamy. Includes valuable insights into sexual fidelity, jealousy aloneness and fighting.

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 Beyond Monogamy readers) 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. \$8.95. 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.

Group Marriage, L. & J. Constantine. \$8.95 (cl). The results of an extensive study from the early 1970's of 26 different three, four, five and six person group marriages. Contains interesting personal accounts of group marriage participants. Out of print—only a few copies available.

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.

Marriage and Alternatives, R. Libby & R. Whitehurst, eds. \$14.95. The best alternative relationships anthology. Includes 27 articles on creative singlehood, cohabitation, infidelity, open marriage, swinging, group marriage, bisexuality, parenting issues, ground rules, and 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, T. 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 the 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. Carden. \$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). 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, experimental couple-matching service called LovXchange.

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 year period. Like most of Rimmer's books, it includes an 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

## GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS TO BEYOND MONOGAMY

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

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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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(see enclosed sheet for titles available)

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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.

SOUTH CAROLINA Married man, 38; tall, athletic, attractive; professional and personal interests overlap: theatre, film, publishing, writing; interested in intimate friendship and possibility of long-term relationship with confident, attractive, emotionally and physically uninhibited woman, 20s to 40s; in Carolinas and Georgia; suggest exchange of correspondence, photos. Write 1503.

TEXAS We are looking for a serious person/persons who is/are ready to explore making a commitment to an expanded family kind of lifestyle. Such persons would enjoy a rural setting; organic farming and gardening; self-sufficiency; emotional and sexual intimacy among the adults in the expanded family; hard work; outdoors; animals; plants; and crafts. We are looking for a couple with or without children or a woman with or without children. Our basic philosophy is friendship, love and understanding. We hope to establish a community of such families in the Ozarks - however we have not made a firm commitment to that area. Four Seasons, P.O. Box 71, Call, Texas 75933

TEXAS Couple wishes to form a suburban commune on our several acres near Houston, and we 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, extraterrestrial travel/contact preparation. Oilfield diver (32, MS., Peace Corps, humanist, heterosexual) seeks technical, material support. Box 7211, Pasadena, TX 77505. Mermaids write, so alone tonight.

VIRGINIA - DC area. Attractive couple, 21 & 32, seeking contact with other BMI supporters, would like to establish an intimate friendship support network. Sensitive and well-educated, we are committed to alternative lifestyles. Honesty and emotional good health are essentials. Discretion assured, photo and phone please. Write 1504.

VIRGINIA, DC 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 and 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 women about same age. Interested in history and languages (I read a lot), swimming, sun-bathing, 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 m/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 & Betty, P.O. Box 1801, Tacoma, WA 98401

WASHINGTON Couple with open 11 year marriage wish to meet non-smoking couples and single women in Olympia, Tacoma, Seattle area interested in exploring alternatives to the monogamous relationship; object friendship. Our interests include listening to all but hard rock music, camping, fishing, nature photography, reading intelligent conversation, and liberal politics. I'm 37 and slightly overweight; my wife is 49 going on 21. Please call Ron & Liz (206) 491-9625

WASHINGTON Creative self-reliant couple 40's seeking couples to share secluded land in Okanogan highlands. Interests: Raising food, generating energy, hunting, prospecting, mountaineering, expanding sexual awareness and developing a good working relationship with people on the land. Wayne & Dolly, 281 Frosty Creek Road, Tonasket, WA 98855

#### S E R V I C E S   A N D P R O D U C T S

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 Phyllis Firak, astrologer for 10 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.

SEND \$2 for sample copy of new singles magazine before visiting Florida. SSSM-(22), Box 880, Boynton, FL 33435

EXQUISITE 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, candle-light dinners, and lovemaking. Halpern Sounds (Dept BMI) 1775 Old County Rd. #9, Belmont, CA 94002

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 \$7.00 check payable to Stan Dale.

Classified Advertising Policies -- Please read carefully!

**Content:** In addition to your message, you may include an address and/or phone number. Anonymous ads OK or list your first and/or last name(s). If concerned about confidentiality, place a coded ad--we will 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 al alternative relationship discussion groups, organizations or social clubs in their area may als 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 value judgment--we merely want to provide an alternative to the many swingers' magazines and sexually oriented publications already available.

**Ads for secret affairs not accepted!** These are outside the scope of an open relationships publication. We are not passing any moral judgment on these types of relationships, however.

**Who may advertise:** We only accept personal ads from Beyond Monogamy subscribers.

**Rates** (per insertion):

**Personals and Non-profit Organizations**--\$3.00 (up to 40 words) and 5¢/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 ad (not 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. December 1 for the Jan.-Feb. 1983 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.

ED: It's like any other endeavor in life. There is nothing magical about the lifestyle that is going to straighten your life out for you. You have to do that yourself. We're not evangelizing or trying to convince anyone that this is the way to live--it probably isn't the way to live for most people. Apparently very few people are successful with it.

HELEN: I also think that very few people are successful with marriage; very few people are successful with relationships.

ED: And the thing that holds people back from open relationships is traditional values.

HELEN: Most of us, especially those of us in our 40's and 50's, have been so traditionally programmed that it's hard to change and live differently. You can change the programming if you really want to. A lot of people give lip service to wanting to change. Some men say, "I want to have an open marriage." What they really mean is they want to have an open marriage; they don't want their wife to. Or, vice-versa. The woman says, "Oh, he's cute. I'd like to sleep with him. John, you stay home and watch the kids." Or it comes to the point where one of them says, "I didn't think I'd mind him or her fooling around, but I do."

I think one thing to do is negotiate, and be willing to put in the time necessary to do this. People say, "Well, we don't have the time. Our lives are too busy with other things." But if you want to change from a monogamous relationship to an open lifestyle, you need to take a lot of time to talk and really listen. You need to make a contract (not necessarily a written one) about what's OK and what's not OK and really be willing to change that contract, renegotiating and renegotiating until you find something you are both comfortable with. And maybe you'll never find something you're both comfortable with, but you surely won't if you don't negotiate. Whether dealing with your boss, your child, your mother or your spouse, you've got to communicate. Communicating doesn't only mean talking...

WILL: It means listening, too. You also need to have a commitment to making your open relationship work.

HELEN: The first commitment has to be to each other, and your basic relationship has to be in very good shape. You don't go into an open relationship because you are angry with each other, thinking, "I'll show him. I'll screw this guy, and that guy, and that will show him!" You do it because you feel it will bring something into your lives that will be more fulfilling and exciting, and take some of the pressure off trying to fulfill everything in each other's lives.

ED: And you always have to remember that you may be wrong.

WILL: You mean when negotiating?

ED: I mean with anything that comes out of your mouth!

WILL: What are your aspirations for the future? Are you satisfied with your lifestyle the way it is now?

HELEN: I'm very satisfied.

ED: Just continuing the process.

HELEN: I consider myself lucky to have Ed and Family Synergy people who are caring and supportive. It's like any other family. I get very angry at some of my brothers and sisters, but we make up!

WILL: It sounds to me like you two have worked out your lifestyle quite well. It's nice to hear that you are satisfied with where you are right now. You're not dreaming about the future when you are going to have a close expanded family--you've got it!

#### 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.

#### Trichimonis and Multiple Sexual Partners

Dear Will:

Last week was my first real encounter with V.D. A woman friend was diagnosed as having Trichimonis. I didn't have any symptoms. She did -- itching. Now I am depressed. Another woman friend tells me she has nothing. I thought she was the source. The first woman says she has had no other sexual contact. But she was willing to go to the clinic just on the principle of sexual hygiene, social consciousness, etc. The second woman, and the source of my suspicions, refused, and fought the idea of going. She seems to have gone anyway. I have had sexual contact only with those two. The second woman has contact with many men. The first, only with me. Where did the Trichimonis come from? I am a bit puzzled and wondering what you and your friends do about this. I have decided, along with a new female friend, not to have sex with anyone until they have an exam at a clinic. She does not want to have sex with me until we do this. After a week of taking Flagyl, I seem to be cured, as did the first woman. We will be having regular exams once a month. We are trying to create a situation where anyone involved in this, how shall we call it, sexual pool, can determine who has been getting themselves examined regularly, and if each person is OK. It has been very difficult to get people to join in. So far, only five people have agreed. So, I will be interested to hear what you have to say about this.

Richard  
Massachusetts

Dear Richard:

Will passed along your letter to me for comment. As a physician who has dealt with sexually transmitted diseases in the context of multiple relationships, I find your questions both interesting and important. They force me to get into some basic concepts of sexually transmitted infections.

Richard asks about a female friend of his who he suspects gave him Trichomonis. She's asymptomatic and has other sexual contacts. Richard was asymptomatic also, but seems to have passed on this invisible microbe to his only other sexual contact. She develops itching. Richard becomes depressed. He wants to know where the Trichomonis comes from.

The answer, Richard, is that it may have come from one of the other partners of your second female friend. She then in turn could have carried it, without symptoms, giving it to you, and you could have given it to your first friend, who developed symptoms. Or, it could have come from one of your prior partners, with you being the asymptomatic carrier. Or finally, it could have come from one of the first woman's prior sexual contacts.

Trichomonis, as it turns out, can at times be one of the many microbes that doctors call normal flora. There are dozens of microbes that inhabit the female vagina and the male urethra. Some never cause symptoms and are actually beneficial. Some are usually asymptomatic and harmless at times while at other times cause discharge, itching, and burning, like trichomonis. Others, like gonorrhea and syphilis, are never normal. While they may be asymptomatic for a while, they always lead to symptoms if left untreated.

So what determines who gets symptoms? Well, for some people, the Trichomonis does not multiply that quickly. It finds its own niche, kept in check by this person's body defenses and by the other normal populations of microbes. Things like diet, stress, birth control pills, and medical conditions like pregnancy and diabetes can disturb this equilibrium, and the Trichomonis multiplies in great numbers, causing discharge and itching. When Trichomonis causes symptoms, Flagyl is the drug of choice. Contacts need to be treated or else the patient will be reinfected.

Richard also asks about a new sexual partner. They have created a "sexual pool" for consenting adults who seek regular medical exams as a means of VD prevention. I think this is a good idea, but probably is not necessary more often than once every year or two in an asymptomatic person. Many sexually transmitted diseases like gonorrhea and syphilis can be detected with screening exams. PAP smears, and the breast and testicle self-exam can also detect early cancer. Trichomonis can also be detected, but is not always significant.

The best prevention is knowledge. We live in an equilibrium with many microbes that inhabit our bodies. Some are friends, like lactobacillus (the yogurt bug); some are not. Getting to know

these microbes and our bodies will help. Developing open and honest relationships where these things can be discussed will greatly aid in treatment and prevention.

James J. Bachman, M.D.  
Colorado

#### Sexism and Gender Balance

Dear Will:

I would like to respond to two points in the September-October issue which are related, although they are not treated in the same article. In his otherwise excellent--and feisty as hell--critique, Larry Constantine lights into an organization (which I believe is the Delaware Valley Synergy) which recently instituted "gender balance" policies. Larry blames this on sexism and homophobia. As a former member (for three years) of DVS, I can attest that there is quite an active bisexual subgroup in the DVS, and I think the homophobic charge is too strong. The main reason for the gender balancing at DVS is described quite nicely in your closing editorial "California Reflections," in which you describe a boorish chap who wouldn't go away. Well, imagine a room with 30 women--and 120 or so of these boorish chaps, and you'll have an idea why people get "uncomfortable." I've been one of those women at BALANCED parties, and let me tell you, there are always a few of them who manage to find a "date" and slip in to annoy the hell out of me and the other 29 women. Not all men who would show up without a date would be boors or turkeys, of course. But we found that a good many of the men who showed up alone at unbalanced events were alone for a good reason--necessity. Many single men wanted to join Synergy to get laid.

At the time, there were those who said that the women should be more assertive, and let those men know in no uncertain terms when they are not welcome. This is a good point, and I know for many women that making an outright rejection is hard to do. "Excuse me, I'm really into this private conversation right now" works pretty well if the interloper is breaking into something like you described. There is, however, the different problem of physical overtures. In a group where everybody kisses everybody hello, how do you NOT kiss someone when he attempts it? Do you? At a more sensual event, a woman can be involved with several men whom she knows and likes. If a third man enters the scene, figuring the more the merrier, how does she induce him to go away?

Instituting gender balanced membership may be an easy way out for this sort of problem, and there may be better solutions. I've been out of DVS since they instituted the revised membership restrictions, so I don't know how well they are working. However, I hope I've shown that they are an attempt at alleviating a problem that's a bit more complex and pervasive than it looks.

Martha  
Philadelphia

# LOVING WITH AN OPEN HAND

by Regina Carlson

Hooray, I'm 39 years old! The happiness and wisdom I'm achieving delight me. I attribute much of my happiness and growth to my choosing to live and love inclusively, instead of exclusively. In response to discussions in Beyond Monogamy on what makes open relationships work, I'd like to share my beliefs.

I have been married 19 years and I am the mother of three children, now 10 to 15. Our marriage has been an open relationship for six years. During that time, I have developed seven intimate friendships. I am currently involved with five of these friends, whom I have known for one to five years. They probably will be friends for life. My significant others -- spouse, children and friends -- include people of both sexes (heterosexual, bisexual and gay) and range in age from childhood to retirement.

I believe that it is important to value open relating as a philosophy and a way of life for open relationships to work. My standard is for my love to enrich my friends' lives, not to impoverish their lives. We're all happy to send our children off to have fun with others. Most of us can share the pleasure of our friends being with other people. Open relating just extends that. It means sending my intimate friends and my spouse off with a smile whether it's for bicycling or sightseeing or lovemaking. As my friend Matt says, "We demand from our spouses and lovers more than we'd ever expect from our friends." Well, I treat my husband and lovers as well as I treat my acquaintances.

I have experienced insecurity -- still do -- but I've learned some interesting things and come to my own accommodation with jealousy. Initially, I expected my security would come from seeing my spouse or lovers "come back to me" after experiences or involvements with other people. I was surprised to discover I felt more secure through my own loyalty. Other people's actions can only be observed by me while I can directly experience my own feelings. Thus, knowing I could continue to love my husband even though I fell in love with someone else was more potent than observing his fidelity to me.

In fact, only through open relationships can I have the security of knowing my husband, lovers and friends choose me even though they know, love and experience others. I've learned my charms are great enough to "stand up to competition."

Knowing that has led me to a new plane of security. I don't want my spouse, friends or lovers to choose to be with me because they're "supposed to." The only reason for someone to be with me for a moment or a lifetime is because they want to. What if my husband fell in love and left me because of our open relationship? If he really found someone else or someplace else he preferred to be, he should be there and I'd like to support him in that.

We just adopted a Seeing Eye puppy to raise for a year, and then it will be trained as a guide dog and placed with a blind person. I've been astonished at how many negative reactions we've gotten. People immediately respond with, "How can you give it up?" It seems that in our society people grasp other people and animals they say they love, even if it means keeping them from their destiny. I want to "love with an open hand" as my friend Bert puts it. I know now that I can. I have chosen to love people I knew were moving to California. We still love each other. The fact there is a continent between us, as my friend Fred says, is just a detail.

Sometimes people in open relationships talk about "primary partners." I don't like that idea. First, if my spouse is my primary relationship, that sounds like all my other intimates are second-class friends. Second, how do you compare people to determine who is primary? One friend is more important to me in some areas but that same person shares less of another important aspect. The idea of primary relationships is supposed to help resolve conflicts, but in my six years experience, either/or choices have been rare. Those choices are a part of life, but that's true whether I'm dealing with my spouse and one of my lovers or my spouse and my job or my children's conflicting wishes. Besides, my primary relationship is with myself! That's more apparent when I consider one of my friends who is open in her relationships but who has no intention of marrying or forming any kind of pair bond. Who is her primary relationship?

Another important lesson for me has been to learn to take what people have to offer. For instance, Matt doesn't linger on the phone but he really loves to discuss ideas in person or by letter. Jack isn't into philosophizing but he calls me several times daily. So I've given up my myth of the perfect friend or the perfect relationship.

I used to want almost everyone to know the whole me -- friend, lover, worker, dancer, child, celebrity, mother, daughter, seamstress, etc. Now I know that only I know the whole mosaic of me. In fact, some parts of me emerge with only one other person. For me, this is an issue of accepting my ultimate aloneness.

I've learned to "find my clientele." To some people I'm unorthodox, intrusive and sexually outrageous. Others find me courageous, energetic and delightfully sexual. With group A, if I try hard to hide my real self, I can have a fairly pleasant time but not be myself. Or I can be with group B and be myself. So I've decided to hang around with the people who enjoy the real me!

For a long time I felt I was masquerading as a grownup. I'd go to PTA meetings or do a TV appearance and inside I felt like I was "play acting." But, I'm really a grownup now. I'm making choices, making my part of the world the way I want it to be. I don't have a "lifestyle." I have a life. I think my way of life is good.

I encourage my children to consider loving inclusively. I start at a basic level like asking

my son why he would want to compel his girl friends not to date other people. Or telling my ten-year-old daughter that I think her friends should be glad she was invited to Nantucket for a week with a friend instead of saying they won't play with her afterwards if she goes. My children's response? "Aw Mom, you're wierd. You just don't understand!"

But I know now how I want to live. I offer it to others for their consideration. I'm happy to share it here with kindred spirits.

# THE BISEXUAL WINDOW

A Bimonthly Column by Barry S. Kohn

9/30/82 Sullivan's Island, SC; Sunny,<sup>o</sup>70

I feel tremendously anxious this morning. I haven't written my column for Beyond Monogamy and I don't know what to write about. It always seems that when I am in a lot of upset I tend to withdraw and not share. I feel like my mind is racing inside and turning over. I feel that I want to cry, want to run, sleep, escape. Everywhere I look there is disarray, nothing's in control or order and everyone around me is upset. At moments like this I want out, I want to flee all the turmoil, to end my marriage, to fall in love with a boy and just be held in his arms where I can be peaceful. It's all going by too fast -- how can I slow it down? I want to vomit. I'm unhappy. I can't stand Alice complaining again about me talking on the phone to someone. I want my own house away from her -- I need it. She is right; we need space from each other. We're too close, there is no room to breathe with her -- I invade her space and she invades mine. It all seems so sad that this is what our 16 years together has come to.

What can I write today? I don't think a thing -- I don't know anything -- that's the truth. (The above passages are from my diary.)

One of the major problems I face as a married bisexual is finding other people who understand my situation and who are willing to talk about it. Most of the letters I receive and the people who call me from around the country are struggling with the same issue. People feel very isolated. They may not talk to anyone about this issue or they may just talk with their spouse. Rarely do they get a larger perspective or hear how other people are dealing with the many problems that arise. It's not easy to be bisexual and married in 1982. There is little agreement in the culture for this type of marriage. Most people living this lifestyle are secretive and have not yet made contact with each other.

I want to share a letter with you that raises many of these issues:

Dear Barry,

My name is Robert and I live outside Houston, Texas. I have read your book and saw you on the

Phil Donahue Show twice.

The main reason I am writing is that I am married and am a bisexual. My wife is strictly heterosexual, yet is fully aware of my feelings and activities. She does not approve of them at all but she does accept them and most importantly she accepts and loves me. I really love my wife and I want to stay married to her because I want to share my life with her. My wife also wants to stay married, yet at the same time she is very hurt and confused.

My father is a minister in a very strict and conservative denomination. They feel that homosexuality and bisexuality are sins and if you practice them you will go straight to Hell. I had my first homosexual experience when I was about six years old. When I was growing up I had an average of one or two experiences a year. After each experience I would feel really guilty and my "conscience" would bother me. So I would tell my parents about each experience. At first they were understanding and tolerant of my activities. Then, during my teenage years they dealt very harshly with me and became intolerant. The last time I told them that I did anything was when I was about 17 years old. I am 28 now.

During the first three years of college, nothing much happened. However, during the summer before my senior year I got a car and things really changed. I found out about "gay bath houses" where men go for sex, and I went there quite a number of times during my senior year. After I graduated from college, I moved back home and I continued to go to the baths. But I never told my parents, so I think they believed I had outgrown or gotten over my feelings and desires.

About a year and a half after I graduated from college I met my wife, but during the first few months that I knew her I still went to the baths. When I felt really serious about my wife and fell in love with her, I stopped all of my sexual activities with men. We then became engaged, and I told her all about my homosexual feelings and activities.

She was very hurt at the time. To comfort her I told her all of that was in my past, which at the time I felt was the truth. Maybe I just wanted to believe it was over, but at the time I thought it was. This is probably the one thing that bothers my wife the most because she thinks I outright lied to her. We both believe in total honesty in our relationship and we have never kept anything from each other.

So we married with both of us thinking that my homosexuality was over. During the first year and a half or so, everything was fine, but then my feelings and desires started to come back.

I started to tell my wife about them, but when I did she became very upset. I tried to keep the feelings to myself, but they became stronger so I told her again. Eventually, I explained to her that I wanted to act on these feelings and go to the baths. The first few times I actually went, I watched the gay X-rated movies. I also watched other men having sex. Then I began to have sex there myself. On the average, I go

there every four to six months. In a way it is not worth it because my wife will not have sex with me afterwards until I am checked for VD, and that takes a few weeks. During those weeks I really miss not having sex with her. In spite of everything else we have a very good sex life. I must admit that if my wife would allow me to have sex afterwards with her, I would go to the baths much more often.

My family, my friends, and my wife's family do not know anything about my homosexual feelings or activities. All of this is just between my wife and me. Sometimes this causes a great strain for both of us because we both need someone to talk to about this issue. I do know some gay people, and I made up a story about a brother of mine who was gay in order for me to talk to them about homosexuality. I did not tell them about myself because we live in a small town and my wife does not want this out. She needs to talk to someone about it. I have suggested a local minister but that might not be a good idea because he would probably tell her what my father has told me all my life, but at least she would be able to talk to someone.

The main reason I go to the baths and not elsewhere is because I feel they are safer. I don't drink, so I don't need the bars; I just need casual sex to satisfy an emotional need. I only want casual sex because I don't think I could have a steady, long-term relationship with another man. I find that I need and want the companionship of my wife rather than another man.

Once in a while, my wife brings up the idea of us separating for a while. At first I was really against it, but the more I think about it, it might not be such a bad idea. I know of a gay man who lives about 10 miles from me. I might be able to stay with him and my wife could stay in our apartment. I wouldn't mind it for a month or so. But if it was any longer, I would really miss her. We have not really talked about it much, so I'm not sure if we'll do it or not.

Before I close, I want to ask you two questions:

1. Do you know of any support group for bisexual men in my area? If so, I would appreciate your telling me how I could get in touch with them.

2. Do you know of any books that my wife and I could read about bisexuality, etc. If so, I would appreciate if you would send me a list.

Thank you for your concern,  
Robert

P.S. I was really impressed by something your wife said: "The more you are open and honest with people around you, the fewer little games you have to play and the fewer white lies you have to tell." Someday, I would like to be as honest and open about my bisexuality as you have been about yours.

Dear Robert,

Thank you for your beautifully written letter and for sharing about your marital relationship.

I can certainly understand many of the feelings of frustration that you expressed and I want to acknowledge you for being honest with your wife and for pursuing your relationship the way that you have. There are not very many supports in this society for staying together when bisexuality is an issue. I know that many times one questions whether it's all worth it. Also, it appears with your religious background that you have had to do a lot of thinking for yourself in deciding what your values are. This is not an easy road to take, yet I believe one must follow one's own conscience.

I do have several suggestions. It seems very important to me that your wife talk to someone regarding her own feelings. She might want to talk to my wife, Alice, in a phone counseling situation. You didn't mention whether she had read our book. I certainly suggest that you give it to her to read.

I also suggest that you both read The Bisexual Option by Fred Klein, Open Marriage by Nena and George O'Neill, and Breaking the Bonds: the Realities of Sexual Open Relationships by Mary Ann Watson and Flint Whitlock. I am enclosing a copy of Beyond Monogamy which I believe is the best ongoing newsletter of its type. It addresses many of the issues that couples deal with in having non-monogamous relationships. You also might want to consider starting your own support group where you live since I do not know of any group that exists in your area. As you may remember, I described organizing a group in my book. Since our book was published, support and discussion groups for bisexual married people have sprung up in many cities across the country. These groups are important because they give people the opportunity to talk to other couples in a non-judgemental atmosphere.

Sincerely,  
Barry S. Kohn

Since I have moved to South Carolina from Philadelphia, I feel more isolated. I do have family and friends with whom I can share and be honest. However, I do not have a support group of people who are living a similar lifestyle. Recently, I have been meeting a number of people who are bisexual and married. Therefore, a support group in Charleston may not be too far away. Perhaps from writing this column today I realize how much I miss one and need it for my own well-being.

Editor's Note: Barry Kohn is an author, alternative lifestyles counselor, bisexual activist, and former attorney. You may write him directly at P.O. Box 941, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464.

Barry and Alice: Portrait of a Bisexual Marriage is now out of print. We have, however, obtained a few copies from the authors. You may order them from Beyond Monogamy, Inc. (use book order form in center section of Beyond Monogamy) for \$5.95 (originally \$10.95) plus postage and handling.

A REVIEW OF  
THE BYRDWHISTLE OPTION  
 by Will Mahoney

Bob Rimmer strikes again! The author of The Harrad Experiment has given us his ninth alternative lifestyle novel in eighteen years. This latest magic carpet ride concerns the Byrdwhistle Corporation, a Boston-based mail order company which practices the "play ethic" as opposed to the work ethic. The suave, 62-year old manager, H.H. Youman, runs the company using the Theory Z management philosophy of humanistic psychologist Abraham Maslow. Theory Z proposes to make work fun while retaining the profit motive. Rimmer has created a work environment at Byrdwhistle that would have many of us beating down the door to apply for a job if such a company existed!

Not everyone, however, can qualify for employment at Byrdwhistle. Only married couples can work there and both must pass an entrance examination to determine whether they can adapt to the permissive environment. If a couple is accepted for employment, they are each paid \$22,000 per year (the local median family income). Everyone rotates jobs on a regular basis. Work hours are flexible, but employees average 50 hours per week because they are having so much fun in the Byrdwhistle environment. The company includes an S-shaped swimming pool which connects offices, and employees are expected to do at least two laps a day to keep in shape. Clothing at the office is optional. In the summer, most employees work either in the buff or wearing towels snapped around their waists. They have a cafeteria which serves free vegetarian breakfast and lunch. Speak Your Mind Participation Meetings are held twice a week to enable employees to blow off steam, suggest new products or comment on management policies. Elmer Byrd, the company president, writes Broadway musicals which are staged by Byrdwhistle employees.

One of the more intriguing aspects of Byrdwhistle is the "Love Rooms" located on the top floor of the building. Each of these private rooms is equipped with a bed, bathroom and sunken tub. Employees may use the rooms to "play" with their spouses. Extramarital liaisons also take place in the Love Rooms, provided each person has the permission of her/his spouse to engage in sexmaking with the other. Many employees use the Love Rooms frequently but selectively.

In the context of this loving, expanded family environment, Byrdwhistle turns handsome profits. Trouble begins when the chairman of WIN, a thriving international conglomerate, decides to buy out Byrdwhistle. Of course, the chairman does not approve of Byrdwhistle's permissive atmosphere and Youman's Theory Z style of management. Youman is fired and replaced by a hard-nosed WIN vice-president, Ronald Coldaxe. The plot thickens as Youman secretly subverts Coldaxe's efforts to turn Byrdwhistle into a "respectable operation."

The Byrdwhistle Option is quite entertaining. It includes numerous funny incidents such

as the members of Youman's commune getting Coldaxe drunk and enticing him to play the part of a Puritan elder in a skit. There are also many scenes of innovative sexmaking, especially between H.H. Youman and Coldaxe's wife, M'mm. As with all Rimmer novels, the characters expound on the Rimmer philosophy of life and loving at every available opportunity. And, Rimmer's graphic descriptions of the Byrdwhistle work environment are very intriguing.

Rimmer is obviously a voracious reader and a great student of life. In order to write this novel, he has digested voluminous information on the mail-order business, corporate management theory, Broadway musicals, homemade cosmetics, human longevity and tantric sex.

As with all Rimmer novels, we must ask whether his utopia is achievable. Perhaps a select group of self-actualizing people could function and be highly productive in the Byrdwhistle environment. But how many couples do you know who would be comfortable with nudity on the job? Furthermore, how many could really handle open permissive sexuality in the workplace? Covert sex among fellow employees is rampant in the contemporary workplace and causes problems. Would open sexuality be any less of a problem? Could even the Byrdwhistle environment stand the strain of jealousy, envy and rejection? Ideally, a clothing optional and sexually permissive environment would defuse the sexual tension in an office by removing the "forbidden fruit" syndrome. Unfortunately, I doubt that any manager would be willing to turn his office into an open sexual laboratory, especially with the present conservative economic and moral climate.

Rimmer gives us a vision of what life could be like if we could only transcend our personal hang-ups and pettiness. Unlike the mythical Byrdwhistle employees, most of us cannot, and we are therefore stuck with mediocrity both at home and in the workplace. Too many people who have tried to actualize Rimmer's dreams have failed because they were unwilling or unable to work out the inevitable personality conflicts which arise from the alternative lifestyle he proposes. Rimmer has given us some fascinating models including Harrad College, the Hersheas' group marriage in Proposition 31, LoveXchange in Come Live My Life, the love group in Love Me Tomorrow and now the Byrdwhistle corporation. Sure, the models may need some refinement and modifications, but what is really needed are adventuresome, self-actualizing people willing to commit themselves to making his utopias a reality. And, why should we want to go to the necessary effort? Read The Byrdwhistle Option and allow yourself to become inspired by its possibilities. You may never want to face the old 8 to 5 routine again!

Rimmer, Robert H., The Byrdwhistle Option. Prometheus Books, 1982. \$14.95 (cloth). Available from BMI -- use order blank in the center section of Beyond Monogamy.