

Point of View

To Be Equal

School Clinics Can Help Teen Pregnancy Problem

by John E. Jacob

School-based health clinics are an important part of the drive to cut the alarming rates of teenage pregnancy. There are over 60 of them operating across the nation today, with more on the planning boards. They provide comprehensive health care services to youngsters, many of whom haven't seen a doctor in many years.

But many also provide sex education information and family planning information, and that has led to strong criticism, especially directed against those that dispense prescriptions for contraceptives or directly provide youngsters with them.

A firestorm of protest recently made New York's school system reconsider the role of its health clinics. Many people believe sex education has no place in the schools and the clinics.

But the clinics play an important role in providing

access to comprehensive health care for young people who would not otherwise



John E. Jacob

have that access. It's estimated that up to 30 percent of youngsters served by the school clinics have previously undiagnosed health problems, some of them severe.

John E. Jacob is President Of The National Urban League

And sex education can't be separated from good health care for adolescents. The clinics often offer counseling on nutrition, alcohol and

drug abuse, and provide other services to youngsters in low-income areas.

Sex education has to be part of that since young people are also at-risk for premature pregnancy, as well as for sex-related health problems.

Critics charge that sex education and availability of birth control devices just leads to promiscuity and increased sexual activity. They advocate teaching "values" and helping teens to learn to say "no."

But the available evidence suggests that the clinics do not encourage promiscuity. One study released by the Washington-based Center for Population Options found no evidence that clinics result in

more sexual activity.

And a John Hopkins University study indicated that students in schools served by health clinics waited seven months longer to have sex than students in schools without access to a clinic.

Preaching old-fashioned values to kids is sensible, but may not work. It didn't in bygone days when those values were unchallenged by freer lifestyles and teen subcultures -- teen birthrates were actually higher thirty years ago than today.

Relying on values teaching alone won't curb sexual activity among teens as much as it will increase teen birth rates. And that means children will continue having babies -- to the detriment of both underage mothers and their children.

Even the conservative U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. C. Everett Koop, recently stated that young people "are not receiving information that is vital to their future health and well-being because of our

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NNPA FEATURE

COPING

by

Dr. Charles W. Faulkner



The Emotionally Destructive Game Played by Singles

The so-called "Game" is an inherent part of human relationships. All of us play it - in love or in friendship. The "Game" is the psychological ploy in which one person, in order to avoid being rejected, presents the appearance that they think will impress the person in whom they are interested.

The paradox is that they encourage the other party's interest with indications of status through extra efforts at improved appearance and sophisticated mannerisms. Yet, when the other party responds favorably to the facade, they project an air of nonchalance and disinterest even though they are, in fact, overwhelmed with the reaction of the other person.

There is another side to the coin, however. The game player might display overwhelming interest by giving or accepting the other person's phone number but refusing, ultimately putting it to use. There are many people who make a game of building their own sense of

self-worth upon the number of phone numbers that they give or receive. Sincerely personal interest is not the point. The point is to collect telephone numbers (or give them out) and to use this as a criterion of self-worth.

W.C. Fields, the late comedian, is purported to have become quite interested in joining a particular social club, and acutely hurt when rejected for membership. After a hard fight, he was finally accepted. However, as soon as he was accepted, he lost interest in the club, feeling that it was no longer good enough for him. He said, "I don't want to belong to any club that will have me as a member." The point was that when he was initially rejected, it was because the club was of a higher status than he, but when he was accepted for membership, the club was, suddenly, on his level. I refer to this as the "W.C. Fields syndrome" or, W.C.F.S.

Many single individuals

are, unknowingly, proponents of the W.C.F.S. They display an interest in someone whom they want desperately to like them because of the high status they consider that person to be on the same level as they are and, thus, not good enough for them. We want what we cannot have and, when we get it, we no longer want it.

There are those who, indeed, get more "kicks" out of playing the game than they get out of exchanging love and affection. This is reflective of the competitive insecurity that be-devils each of us and which reflects the infighting that occurs generally within the black race.

This socially-conditioned need to compete and win keeps black singles apart, ruins most marriages and initiates physical abuse of females. Until we overcome this competitiveness, which is the child of perceived inferiority, the singles scene is likely to continue to be a psychological battleground.

BUSINESS IN THE BLACK

Wonder Where You Will Land At The Mad Tea Party

Taxes Are A Basket Case

By Charles E. Belle
Business Editor

"I didn't know it was your table," said Alice. "It's laid for a great many more than three." --Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.

A rather rick and famous investment advisor once was quoted as to how to get rich. Bernard Baruch probably bit his tongue and exclaimed "Put all your eggs in one basket - and watch the basket." But his rather daring advice cannot be adhered to in this ridiculous Ronald Reagan era. The Tax Reform Act of 1986 in fact

creates "three (3) baskets." It is important that you do your tax planning in order to lower your income tax liability for next year with a keen eye on this year's investments. What you sow, you also shall reap. You no longer can afford to be a "passive" participator only in the profit game.

While there were some 650 "transistion" loopholes, such as the one which will

save the cities of San Francisco and Oakland about \$12 million by allowing them to issue tax-exempt bonds to finance construction of sports stadiums, don't you think for a second you personally will be protected from taxation. Tax shelters that permit investors to write-off losses from payroll and other earnings are restricted to only certain

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Words of Marcus Garvey

By Kofi Tyus

"All of us were created lords of the creation, and whether we be white, yellow, brown, or black Nature intended a place for each and every one."