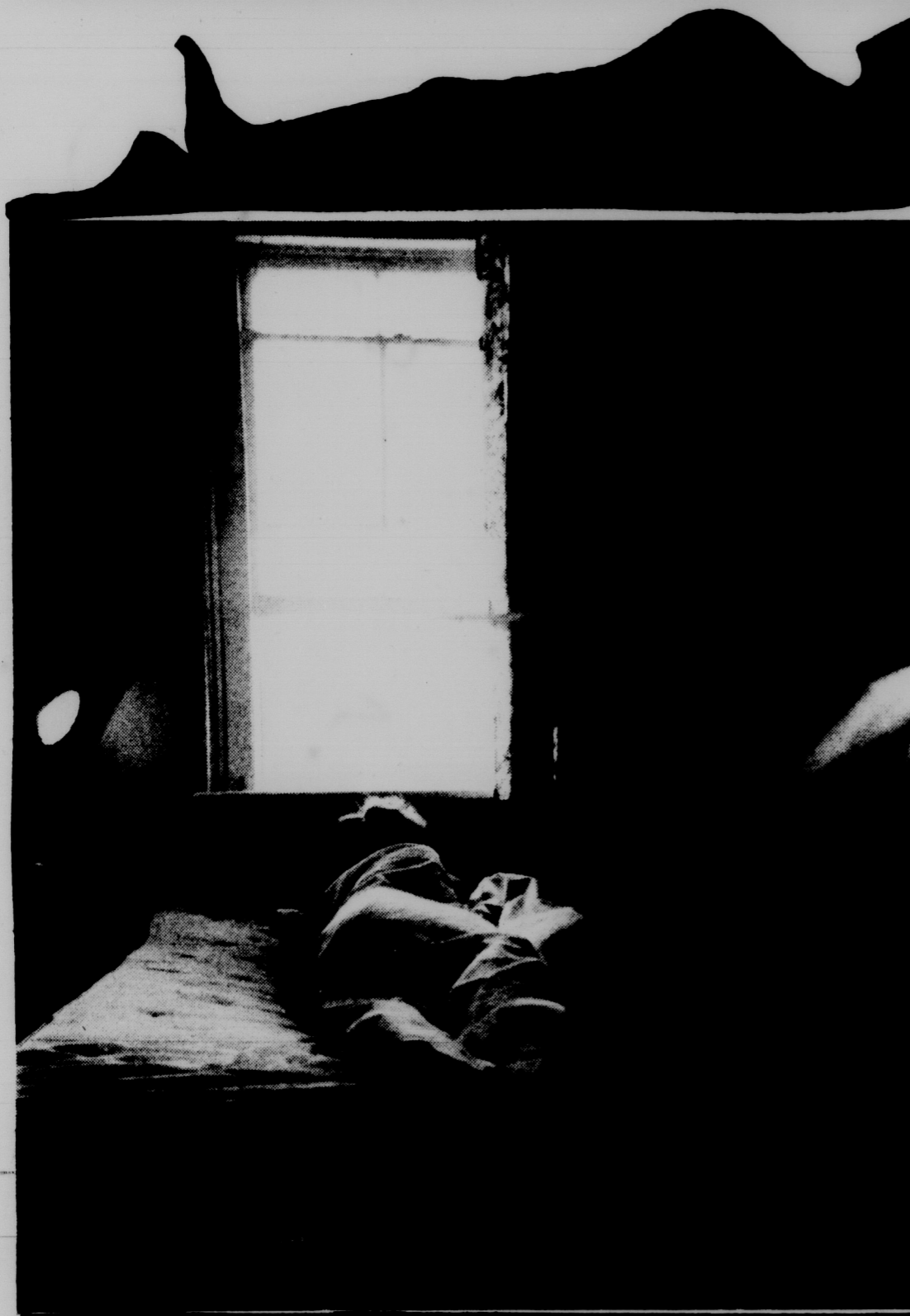


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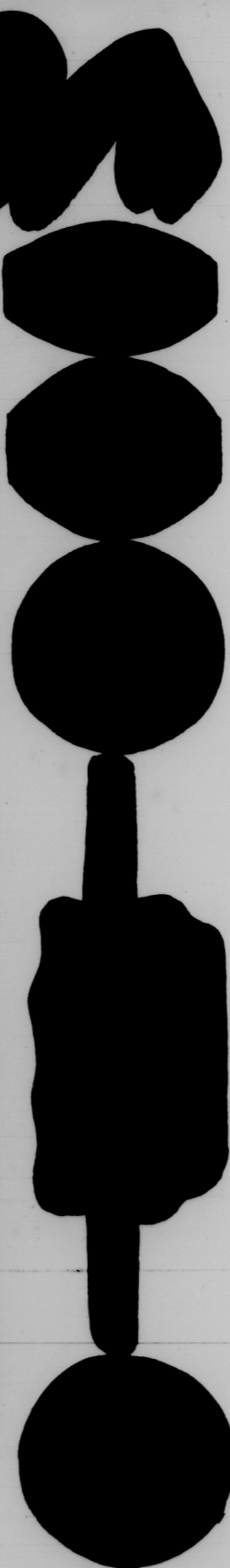
February 20, 1969







Modern contraceptive devices shown on page 4 from left to right are: (top) a diaphragm, two brands of sequential and one brand of combined birth control pills; (center) a variety of condoms; (bottom) vaginal foam, vaginal jelly, vaginal cream and vaginal suppositories with an applicator and two types of intrauterine devices with an insertive instrument used by physicians.



*"American culture is living a lie in its attitude to sex; it proclaims one set of values; it lives by another."*

*"Premarital Dating Behavior,"*  
Winston Ehrmann

*We have attempted a sensitive approach to the realistic questions confronting the college student today in various areas concerned with sexuality. We have tried to cover what seems to us the most pertinent areas.*

*Hopefully this special issue will open the Pandora's box for many who have heretofore been afraid to consider their own values and those of their parents and peers. This issue is not intended to force anyone to change his views, but rather the issue is intended to present to the questioning student possible modern-day viewpoints on sexuality.*

Co-directors . . . . . Phyllis Zimble  
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**ARTWORK**

Cover photo, Gordon Moore  
Title, Sandy Moffat  
Photos, pp. 2, 5, 8 by Gordon Moore  
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Art, p. 2, by Sandy Moffat  
Art, p. 5, by Doug Huston  
Art, p. 12 by Jim Yousling  
Art, p. 9, by Shelley Sutton  
Photo, pp. 6-7, by Gordon Moore





1  
*Phony he said  
i love it she said*

*and taking her plastic smile  
and plucking her up by her reality.  
her eyes--like pencilled poems--  
smearing with sweat.*

*he dashed all  
violently against the walls  
of his own fears  
and when they made love  
he was whole again  
and climbing down from where he had hung himself up  
he remembered the wetness of her eyes  
and long legs staring  
back  
at  
him*

*i love it he said  
Phony she said*

*Replay  
replay  
replay  
replay*

2

*one day  
girl  
one day*

*oh i'll catch you wandering  
without a word  
shedding convention like a bedroom bra  
and your thighs will talk to me  
not of high style  
but in their artless way will  
hike up my imagination  
past your fabric smile  
(stretching like obscene plastic men).*

*when you find me  
it will be  
without the pretense of politeness  
you knowing human limits  
me knowing  
lime mixed with orange  
(no ice cubes please)  
in a tall wet shaker.*

--David Gilbert



## CONTRACEPTIVES

## The search for certainty

By GEORGE BULLARD  
State News Staff Writer

Birth control pills, with the possible exception of absolute abstinence, are the most effective form of contraception developed.

"From a medical standpoint, they are the best form of birth control available to this (American) society," Dr. Lawrence Mannausa, Lansing physician, said in a State News interview.

Pills are available in two types, the "combination" pill and the "sequential" type. Both pills prevent conception by affecting the menstrual cycle of the woman.

Combination pills contain the hormone estrogen and progesterone-like substances. The pill produces its primary effect in the same way nature does during the last half of a menstrual cycle when further ovulation is inhibited by the body's own processes.

The sequential technique involves using a tablet containing only estrogen for around 15 days followed by a combination of estrogen-progestin for the next five or six days.

The sequential technique relies upon estrogen to suppress production of hormones sufficiently to prevent egg cells from maturing. Because "escape" ovulation is possible under certain conditions, the sequential method may not inhibit ovulation with the same degree of certainty as the combination method.

Judgment on the type of pill a woman should use depends on the individual, Mannausa said. Generally, sequential pills cause less weight gain and this becomes a factor in choosing which pill to prescribe, he added.

Mannausa said that weight gain appears in two types: a temporary

increase in body fluid and a more lasting increase in appetite. Weight gain varies between the 19 brands of the pill currently on the market, he said.

Mannausa answered other questions on contraception.

Q. Do pills make women more fertile after discontinuance?

A. Fertility after the pill varies from woman to woman. Findings indicate that many women do not get pregnant during the first six months after discontinuing use of the pill.

Q. What are the prospects for oral contraceptives for men?

A. Such a pill would have to suppress sperm activity. Marketing of such an oral contraceptive for men is a "long way off."

Q. How do intrauterine contraceptive devices (IUCD) work?

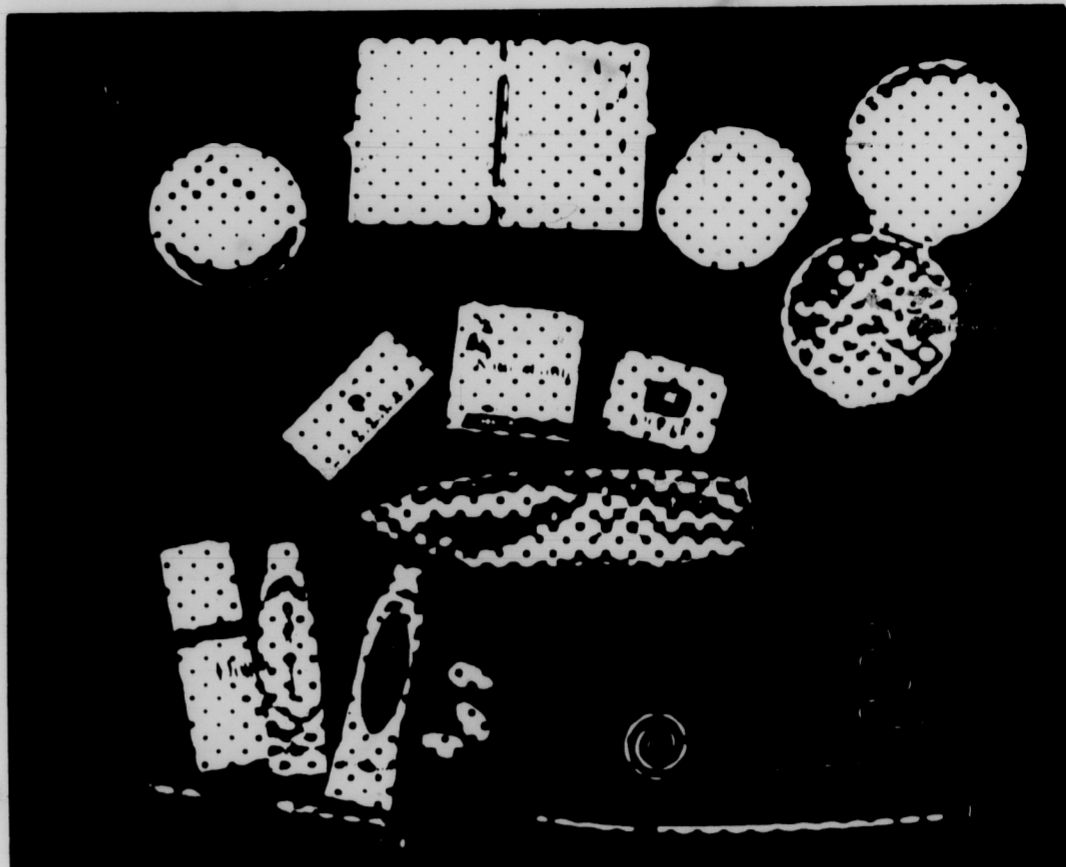
A. They speed up the action of the egg through the tube. If the egg is fertilized, they tend to separate the egg from the lining of the uterus. All of IUCD's effects are not fully understood.

Other contraceptives, less effective than the pill, but on the market include mechanical devices, aerosol vaginal foam, vaginal suppositories and spermicidal jellies and creams.

Rhythm and withdrawal (coitus interruptus) are also used for birth control with varying degrees of effectiveness.

Forms of contraception, in ranking order of effectiveness, are oral pills, mechanical devices, aerosol vaginal foam, jellies and creams, rhythm, withdrawal, suppositories and douches.

Modern contraceptives evolved from crude attempts at birth control antedating the birth of Christ.



Ancient prescriptions have been found for mechanical, chemical and oral contraception.

A common prescription for mechanical control in ancient times called for females to use crocodile or elephant fat mixed with pasty substances.

A Chinese prescription dating from 2700 B.C. recommended: "Take some quicksilver. Fry it for a whole day in oil, take a piece about the size of a lozenge and swallow it on an empty stomach. The taker will never become pregnant."

A 10th century Persian manuscript advises mixing salt with oily materials. Salt was used as a spermicide.

Other attempts at chemical control

used by women included fumigation with vapors and douching.

Ancient mechanical barriers to be inserted before coitus were made from wool tampons, chopped grass and a pomegranate halved and cleaned out inside.

Beeswax was also used to form a crude diaphragm.

Ancient Romans used condom-like devices made from animal bladders. The condom itself was developed in the 17th century by an English physician.

Arsenic, iodine and seeds have also been unsuccessfully taken orally to prevent births. In some instances, such solutions unexpectedly terminated the life of the user.

## JUDGMENT AT OLIN

## Pill, pregnancy or abortion?

By BARBARA PARNES  
State News Staff Writer

At MSU 3.3 coeds become pregnant every day, Lawrence R. Krupka, associate professor of natural science, said.

Krupka said his source was a taped interview between one of his students and Dr. James S. Feurig, director of Olin Health Center. Krupka himself estimated that this would be 900 coeds a year.

"I would imagine that 800 of the 900 pregnancies result in abortions," Krupka said.

Feurig refuted Krupka's figures and said that they were statistics which dated back from over a year and a half ago.

"The present situation is not truly known because of the change in the University's pregnancy policy," Feurig said.

The previous pregnancy policy at MSU required that a pregnant coed withdraw from the University following the completion of the term. From the number of girls withdrawing for this reason statistical evidence could be determined.

The present policy, Feurig said, allows the pregnant coed to remain in school provided that certain requirements are met. This change in policy makes it difficult for health center officials to determine the number of pregnancies.

However, Feurig estimated that one MSU coed per day gets pregnant. He said that this supposition can be made with "a fair degree of reason."

Feurig noted that about 1.4 of these pregnancies per week end up with abor-

*"It seems clear that American society is characterized by confusion, contradiction and hypocrisy in the general area of sex . . . American values suggest that the American girl can be sexually attractive but not sexually active."*

*"Premarital Sex in a Changing Society,"*  
Robert R. Bell

tion. And the death rate from illegal abortions across the country is growing as more and more are being performed, he said.

Olin Health Center has not rushed to prevent these unwanted pregnancies. According to Feurig, Olin's present policy is consistent with the policy followed by all state family planning centers.

Olin, which keeps no stock of pills itself, prescribes oral contraceptives only to married and engaged coeds.

The engaged applicant for birth control prescriptions must present some kind of proof that she is in the immediate pre-marital condition, such as a blood test report or an announcement.

Determination of whether an individual is actually engaged is left up to the individual doctors, Feurig said. It is all a matter of judgement.

Olin, which is designed to meet the medical needs of MSU students, bases its policy on birth control prescriptions on the assumption that if the coed does not fit into either of the specified categories, it is her responsibility to come to school already equipped with these "necessities." Feurig said that these coeds should consult their family doctors and not a state agency to obtain the contraceptives.

The fact that a private physician may prescribe the birth control pills to any individual whom he feels is in need of them does not always resolve the unmarried or unengaged coed's dilemma. One MSU coed said that it sometimes takes perseverance to find a willing physician and many coeds give up before they find one.

Not every school follows the same policy as Olin. One of the first schools to prescribe birth control pills to unmarried and unengaged coeds was the University of Chicago (U-C).

The U-C has no specific university policy concerning the prescription of these contraceptives. The decision to prescribe the pills is left to the physician and his patient. The only re-

striction is that the patient must be 18 years old.

One of the most recent schools prescribing birth control pills to unmarried coeds is the University of Florida in Gainesville, Fla.

In part the new policy states, "The issuance of such a prescription is a medical decision made by the individual physician in full accord with the ethics of the medical profession."

The policy of the infirmary for dispensing the birth control pills is that the recipient of the prescription not be a minor. An exception to this can be made in the case of an emergency.

Feurig does not anticipate a change in the present Olin policy in the immediate future. Even if the state law did not exist, doctors are still governed by what Feurig terms the "law of minority." This law holds the doctor accountable to the parents for any action performed on a person under 21 years of age.

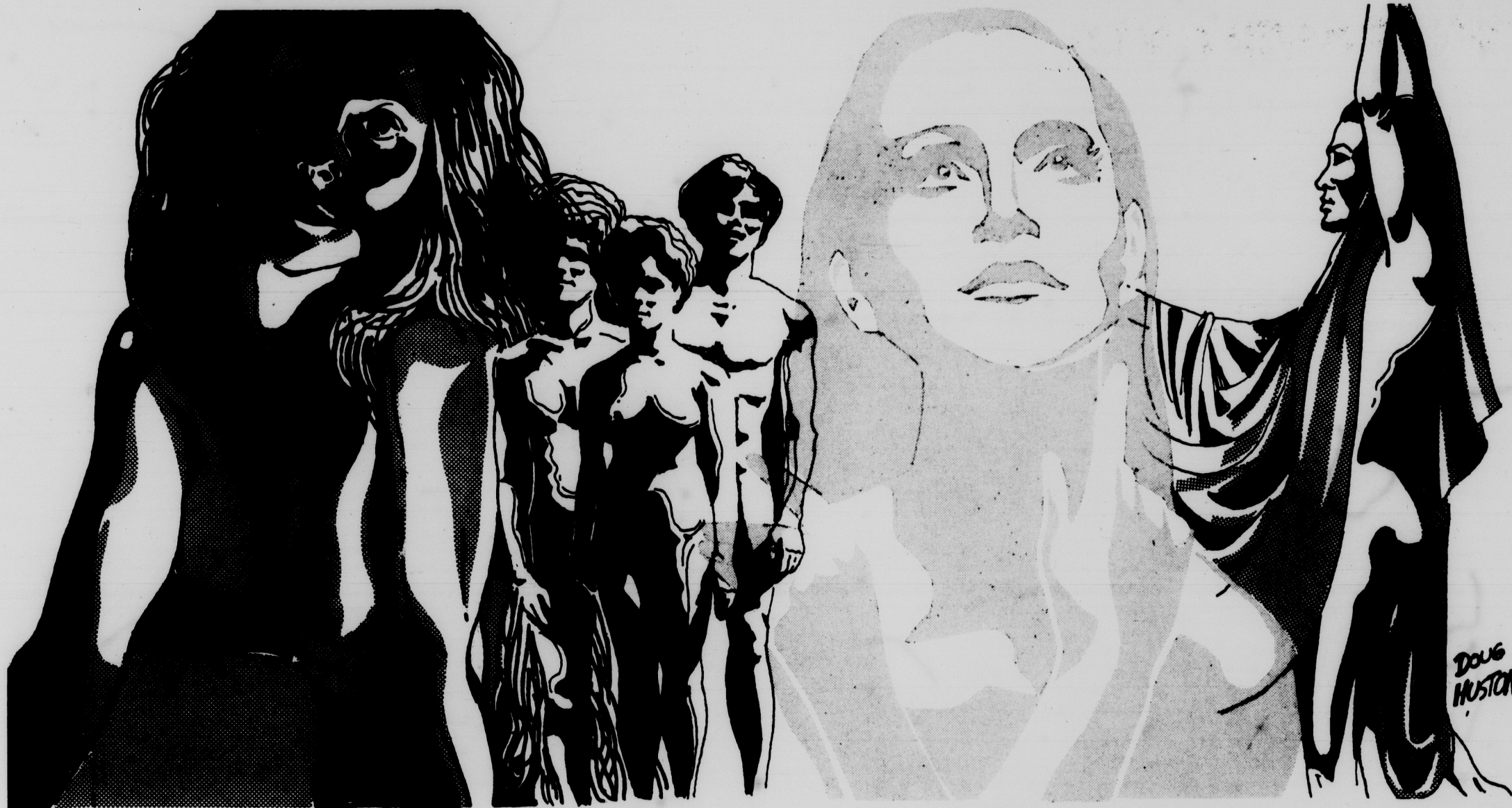
And where does this leave the MSU coed?

By blocking an accessible legal process of procuring effective contraceptives, many university health centers force coeds who become pregnant to seek illegal abortions. Thus the block to legal action leads to illegal action.

Feurig does not believe that this is a valid argument in favor of altering the present Olin policy. He believes that it is the individual's own action and not Olin's policy which causes the coed to get herself into this type of situation.

The dilemma remains unsolved . . .





# Bared breasts and GMRX

By JIM YOUSLING  
State News Reviewer

On March 29, 1965, a relatively obscure actress named Thelma Oliver made cinema history by exposing her breasts. The female bosom had been glimpsed before on the silver screen—a French girl named Bardot had been displaying hers for nearly a decade—but this time the situation was quite different. This film was "The Pawnbroker," and for the first time, an American movie had challenged the Production Code's ban on nudity and walked off with a Seal of Approval.

The Motion Picture Assn. of America's late found discovery that there might be some distinction between nudity and obscenity represents only one of a series of censorship breakdowns which have suddenly and drastically altered the nature of sex in the movies.

The Production Code, which graphically spelled out the portions of anatomy, the actions and themes and the words (including "girlie, goose, homosexual and virgin") which were forbidden to film makers, was replaced in 1966 by a new code which does little more than suggest guidelines of taste.

The Catholic Legion of Decency, which once could make or break a film, has been reformed into the National Catholic Office of Motion Pictures, whose "edits" are more like neighborly advice.

Film making has, then, been largely liberated from the censors. And suddenly the rush is on. Producers now find nude scenes a fashionable necessity. "The Fox" brought on a veritable rash of homosexuality films.

And now that "I Am Curious, Yellow" has won its censorship case, the movie-going public can truly expect the day when it will witness the first Hollywood copulation scene, explicit and in cinerama, technicolor and stereophonic sound.

So where is all this leading us? To art or to stag movies? Those of us involved with the arts, opposed to censorship by nature, would surely defend this liberalization. The mothers of Topeka, however, just might feel a bit differently.

This brings us to the new movie classification system known as GMRX. Anyone truly concerned with cinema will notice the inaccuracy, short-sightedness and general stupidity with which these ratings are dished out: "The Impossible Years" may be free

of swearing and nudity, but no child should be exposed to its sneering, leering view of adolescent sexuality. A film like "Ulysses," on the other hand, with all its swearing and nudity, projects an honesty and sensitivity which should be seen by people far below its 18-year-old restriction.

But even though the GMRX system will be mismanaged, it ironically offers a great freedom to film makers, if not to film goers under 18 (who might well consider the constitutionality of the X rating, which will not admit anyone under 18, accompanied by a parent or not). This freedom is indeed guaranteed by the rating system because it provides a crutch for the mothers of Topeka.

The mass public, which does not bother to inform itself about movie content, can no longer complain, "I don't know what sort of trash my children are exposed to these days," because the rating system assures them that their kids will not be admitted to films with a high sexual content.

One can indeed argue this point of morality. But let me quickly point out that the much more liberal cinema of Europe, which has always been held up as the hallmark of artistic freedom, has been under a modified GMRX system for a great many years. This is why Miss Bardot's breasts made their debut 10 years before Miss Oliver's. (The Europeans, I might add, have more realistically applied their ratings to violence, as well as sex. France, for example, you must be at least 16 to see "King Kong" and most Westerns.)

But in the final analysis, less censorship simply means more honesty. Certainly, sex and violence will be flagrantly misused in the coming years. Already we have witnessed the epidemic of "I, a Woman" exploitation films, the unnecessary seduction scene tacked onto "Sister George" and the unmotivated nudity of "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush."

But they will be properly used, too, as in "Ulysses," "I Am Curious, Yellow" and "The Fixer." Hollywood no longer has to resort to the veiled innuendoes of "The Children's Hour" or the euphemisms of "Suddenly Last Summer." And perhaps when that cinerama fornication scene does arrive, the audience will fall asleep unless it is sensitive, artistic and well-motivated.

Authors note: For those of you who wish to explore this subject further, I strongly recommend Alexander Walker's excellent "Sex in the Movies" (originally published in hardcover as "the Celluloid Sacrifice"), which is now

available as a Pelican paperback, as well as Arthur Knight and Hollis Alpert's massive "Sex in the Cinema," series, which has appeared in Playboy during the past four years and will soon be published in book form by the Playboy Press.









LULLABY

*Night's a hispered lullaby  
Come creeping with the tide  
Across the unsuspecting sand.  
The choir's all in crepe  
And brushing soft across the beach  
With God and ghost and incense dancing  
Smoky through the psalm,  
They're reaching out to hold the waves  
Pulled kicking from the shore.  
And listen in the puffing wind,  
Or in the sand grown warm  
Between their toes, for whispers  
From your silk and touching thighs.  
One last fall kite hangs dying  
On its cord;  
And where the licking  
Cat's-tongue tide comes  
Curling velvet round her feet,  
The child stands  
And holds it in her eyes.  
The blue and yellow pendulum  
Swings in and out of sight  
Among the puffs of night and gog  
Above the beach.  
But still she watches; still  
As darkness wraps and ties  
In whispered silk and satin bows  
Her day beside the sea.  
Still like paper-kited clouds  
Hung soft and windless  
Doldrumed in the night.  
Or curled around a driftwood stick  
And pocket tucked to carry from the shore.  
The shaking of her turned cuff jeans  
Is all the lullaby she'll carry home.*

--Tom Samet

Tonight I feel sad,  
my friends  
    joke  
and without their knowledge,  
I understand . . . .  
  
but to me,  
    is serious more  
than they can comprehend  
not having had  
    ingrained  
into themselves,  
    the values  
of my, my own,  
    my own personal way of life.

--Kelly





# Colloquy: sex in perspective

By SHARON TEMPLETON  
State News Staff Writer

*"America has come alive again. And with the social revolution has come a sexual revolution as well. Gone is much of the puritan prudishness and hypocrisy of the past. But far from being representatives of a moral decline, as some would like us to believe, we are in the process of acquiring a new moral maturity and honesty in which man's body, mind and soul are in harmony rather than in conflict."*

*Hugh M. Hefner, The Playboy Philosophy, Installment 3.*

Everyone, from the college student to the professional psychologist, is aware of the social and sexual revolution which we are now experiencing.

Faster than ever, technology is advancing, educational standards are rising, the pace of life is quickening. No longer is a high school diploma or even a bachelor's degree in some areas adequate training for the technological employment offered today.

This quickened pace of life and change in social structure has caused an even greater effect on the sexual codes and ethics of our society today. Just as our academic education has adapted to new technology, so must our sex education. No longer is an unstructured, behind-closed doors sex education sufficient for achieving meaningful male-female understanding and relationships.

To meet the challenges of our changing society, this winter term MSU is sponsoring the sexuality colloquy entitled, "Sexuality, a Search for Perspective." The colloquy was organized by the University in response to the questions of youth today seeking clarification and information on an important and timely subject.

The sexuality colloquy program states:

"The topic of sexuality is of ultimate importance and it is timely. From the overall University standpoint, the questions being raised regarding sexuality indicate clearly the importance of this topic to all members of society. The University, as it should, will respond to such persistent questioning, for to abdicate this responsibility would be to leave instruction and consideration to the commercial interests of our society."

The sexuality colloquy has one goal—a search for perspective of a complex subject, a subject that could never have been so freely and openly discussed five years ago.

What has brought about this revolution in attitudes and evolution in behavior among the youth of America today? Has there really been such a marked change in moral standards or is the open discussion of sex today just revealing what has been happening in America for years?

Will an open discussion of so-called taboo subjects and additional information about ourselves as sex-

ual human beings influence the behavior of youth today?

These are questions the sexuality colloquy is attempting to answer through study and discussion of physiology, cultural perspectives, sexual roles, sexuality and the law, premarital behavior, marriage and the family and values for decision making about sex.

"We are not attempting or expecting to change anyone's value system through the sexuality colloquy. We set no standards and can therefore expect no real change," the Rev. Donald J. Ward, director of United Ministries in Higher Education at MSU and co-chairman of the colloquy,

"We want to provide a climate for learning through a free atmosphere of ideas and information, so that each person can choose from all options of behavior open to him to achieve his life style," Rev. Ward said.

"Most collegians are sincerely searching for a life style which will give meaning to their actions, and concern with sexuality is necessarily an integral part of this search," the sexuality colloquy program states.

"Intentional behavior change is not a goal of the colloquy. We hope to stimulate thought by providing the necessary information, which may lead to behavioral change," Rev. Ward said.

"The real influences of the sexuality colloquy and the open discussions of sex will be seen 10 years from now on the attitudinal influences from parent to child," he said.

The idea for a colloquy on human sexuality began two years ago when Rev. Ward, who has been involved in sex education and counseling pro-

grams for MSU students, noted the lack of information about sexuality among the students he counseled. He pointed out that national statistics reveal a high pregnancy and abortion rate among students.

"Tragically, up to one third of the unmarried women who have abortions are not pregnant at the time," Rev. Ward said. The kind of abortionist an MSU student encounters ranges from the licensed doctor from Detroit, who will perform the operation under relatively antiseptic conditions, to the unqualified person whose victim may die, he said.

These observations prompted Rev. Ward and his wife, Barbara Ward, instructor in Justin Morrill College, to begin conducting sexuality lectures in the individual residence halls. The growing response to these lectures and the persistent questioning of students influenced Rev. Ward to propose a symposium on sexuality.

The idea caught on and several colleges of the University expressed interest. Soon a cross-section of the campus was brought together in a committee chaired by Rev. Ward and William H. Knisely, director of MSU's Institute of biology and medicine.

***"While recognizing the importance of moral rules, parents and teachers must take into account the fact that young people are increasingly unlikely to accept the old black-and-white distinctions between 'moral' and 'immoral' behavior. Rigid and absolute do not offer much appeal in today's complex world, particularly since thinking in absolute terms is more and more contradicted by the results of research and experience."***

***"Sex in the Adolescent Years," Lester Ruben and Lester Kirkendall (eds.)***



***"More and more young people are questioning the belief that the social definition of marriage can and should provide the only social context for full sexual expression. Many of them are questioning whether being married makes as much difference as has been traditionally assumed."***

***"Premarital Sex in a Changing Society," Robert R. Bell***

From Jan. 1 to April 1, 1967, a steering committee of faculty, students and other top administrators met on a weekly basis to consider and define issues pertaining to the life of the University. During this period, the colloquy provided a common meeting ground between students and faculty for the sharing of concerns and planning strategy for innovative expressions in higher education.

"The discussion of the colloquy helped create better communications between students and administration. Both saw themselves in conflict with cultural attitudes and worked together

to help solve these differences," Rev. Ward said.

Ward said it was necessary to demythologize sex and discover its intrinsic value to human experience.

"Men can't really have a sure way of telling if a woman has had intercourse, masturbation really isn't harmful and the residence halls don't really put saltpeter in the food to suppress sexual desires," he said.

The colloquy is designed to reinforce and complement courses relating to sex education as well as

the student organization discussion pro-

grams normally held during any academic year.

The human sexuality course is being taught by 35 faculty members and 21 guest lecturers and represents another first in offering classes in classrooms in residence halls for credit as well as being offered in classroom buildings such as Wells Hall.

The guest speakers, chosen from a list compiled by deans of several colleges, include nationally-known theologians, physicians, scientists and writers, such as Albert Ellis, author of "The American Sexual Tragedy" and "Sex Without Guilt," and Allen F. Guttmacher, president of Planned Parenthood-World Population and author of "Birth Control."

Whether the colloquy will have any influence on the thoughts and behavior of students remains to be seen. Spring term will be devoted to summarizing the colloquy by printed word, television tape and making the summaries available to various groups as a continuing education service.

The colloquy on sexuality, if successful, will serve as an organizational guide and model for other colloquies on social problems such as drugs.







# In terms of black and white

## Color and the Opposite Sex

"Although some of my friends want to date white girls because they *are* white, it never made me any difference. I look at the person first. It may sound ideal, but that's the way I believe. Black girls turn me on as much as white girls."

"I can't see myself playing a role. I never thought of him as being black. Never in the two years that we've been friends have we talked about it (racism). We haven't felt much prejudice. College students try to be as liberal as they can on the outside--no matter what their real feelings are. We haven't received any dirty looks--that sounds like a no-no--except from Negro girls . . . but I can understand why."

"When I first came to State, it was a novelty to date white girls. Now I don't really look at color. I date people I like. To me there's no difference between dating a white girl or a black girl. A couple of times, though, a girl would date me just to say she was with a black athlete."

"I was physically attracted. He seemed so much more masculine, so much more virile than any white boy I'd ever dated. Maybe even sexy is the word. He reminded me of an untamed animal . . . like a panther. Maybe that's why the black militants call themselves the Panthers. Sure, I'm still attracted to him, but it's more because we share the same feelings."

"One girl dated me because she was rebelling. It was subconscious, though. She was always talking about her parents mollycoddled her and I related it to me."

"I might have been exploited because of the mythical sexual prowess (of the black male) but I didn't know it."

"One guy dated me because he wanted to see what it would be like to go to bed with a black girl. He had the wrong idea about me."

"Some white girls think I'm more exciting. Dating a black guy is a new experience for a lot of them. Some just date me so people won't say they are prejudiced. They say, 'I'm in the IN crowd. I dated a black guy.' Because I dated this cat I'm OK. One girl wanted to go out with me because she felt really bad that the black race had been treated so bad."

"A lot of black girls don't like me. They think I'm rejecting my blackness by dating white guys. They are resentful when they see a black chick with a white guy. They feel I don't like being black and they get uptight about it."

**Is it the way the wind plays with her hair?**

**Is it a warmth in his eyes?**

**What attracts a man and a woman to each other?**

**Does skin color matter?**

**Interracial dating . . . what does it mean?**

Denise Fortner, special writer for the State News, talked to people--"a lot of people: black; white; male; female; none hostile; all questioning . . ." She based her interview on questions she asked herself. The quotes she has used reflect the feelings of some of those she talked with . . . their fears, their doubts, their inner searchings; perhaps looking for the answer to the question:

**Is it the way the wind plays with her hair?**

**Is it the warmth in his eyes?**

**Does skin color really matter?**

## Rejecting Blackness

"I was in the Student Alliance but I quit. It was a cold group that wasn't really doing anything. I love human beings more than I love black people. I didn't feel that being black was any better than being white and they did."

"They said, 'Let Whitey take care of his own.' I think everyone should take care of everyone. They are working up to being proud of being black, whereas I was proud of being black when I was little, now I'm working toward being proud of being human."

"It's just as easy for me to love a white guy as it is to love a black guy. I can't see asking a white guy to love me as an equal and having me turn around and love blacks more."

"I don't feel as accepted in black company as I would like to. But it's because they feel that you have to love blacks more and I can't."

"A black person can date a white as long as they remain black and don't try to be white. But I have no desire to date a white boy because of my involvement in the Black Power movement. Blacks shouldn't try to be white. They should just be black. Whites resent it when they see a mixed couple. Maybe it's not right but that's the way it is."



# What does it mean?

Black girls think you reject them. They think that once you get in that bag (dating white girls) you never get out.

Most black girls on campus feel that the black boy who dates a white girl is cheating them and neglecting them.

## And Outside Pressure

My parents didn't see anything wrong with my dating her because they were young. But the older generation, my grandparents looked down on it.

It bothers me some times but I say, "so what?" I'm not going to let society dictate my feelings.

Whenever I feel uneasy, it's a tense situation. I lived in a small town where there was never any interracial dating. I asked a white girl to the prom. When we came in, everyone turned and looked at us if a green elephant had walked in. You have to take the bitter with the sweet though.

"One time I just wanted to scream. We were at a bar and some black guys had been watching us all evening. They weren't college students, though. They followed us out and called us every name in the book. I really felt bad because I'd never been in a situation like that before."

"My parents are from a strict New England background, but they never raised eyebrows about it. They always realized it was just a friendship. But they didn't want me to bring him home for Christmas."

My parents were afraid I didn't like being black because I dated white girls. They were especially upset when I dated a Jew, they said Jews aren't black so white they're different.

A couple of times I had to stop dating a girl because of the pressure from her friends. They wouldn't sit with me at dinner.

We used to laugh when people would look at us. We made a joke of it and didn't let it get us down. We would pretend like we could hear what people were saying. She would say, "That was me saying, 'Look at that slut with that black guy.'" And I would pretend that a guy was saying, "Look at that nigger with that nice white lady."

## Marriage?

I've dated black guys, but I'd never let myself get serious about one. I know this may sound rude but you have to take it to consideration, the children. There are enough problems just to grow up without having to add that one. They wouldn't see the benefit of grandparents either because both are parents and I've got their daughter and now a black one.

I dated a white girl for a year and a half. We always thought we could put away the pressures and that we could make it. If we got married we thought the only solution in raising kids was to teach them not to let other people get them down. We felt the only problems we would have would be the regular things that most young couples have. We're no longer dating but not for inter-racial reasons.



