

'Hite Report' on Female Sexuality



Shere Hite

By DEBORAH WYRICK

THE HITE REPORT: A Nationwide Study of Female Sexuality, by Shere Hite. Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc.: 1976. 438 pp. \$12.50.

Shere Hite emerges from this book as a twentieth-century Lysistrata. Aristophanes' heroine urged women to withhold sex from their men for political purposes. So does Shere Hite.

In her case, the political purpose is not to end the Peloponnesian War but to end "sexual slavery," her term for male-dominant sexual relations. "Intercourse and male orgasm (are) not necessary in every heterosexual contact.... We do not have to cooperate with a man if he will not cooperate with us." Every woman has a "right" to enjoy orgasm as often as she wants.

Although the strident feminism of this book is irritating and the majority of the questionnaires on which it is based were completed by members of the National Organization for Women (N.O.W.) and by

readers of Ms. magazine, there are some observations of importance buried in the verbiage of liberated polemic. Ms. Hite convincingly refutes Masters' and Johnson's findings that many women's failure to achieve orgasm during intercourse is an "inadequacy" or a "sexual dysfunction." Instead, she believes this failure is a result of a lack of understanding of female sexuality, attributable to our social and cultural structures and to misleading Freudian psychiatric models. She questions the benefits to women of the sexual revolution — "it has merely put pressure on them to have more of the same kind of (male-oriented) sex."

Finally, the women who answered Ms. Hite's questionnaires appear to have been honest and open to the point of excruciating detail on the subject of their sexual experiences and attitudes. Although many, perhaps most, women could not be as frank in responding to sixty-three intimate inquiries, the act of looking over the ques-

tionnaires and the "representative" responses cannot help but aid a female reader in evaluating her own sexuality.

At least *The Hite Report* does not tell a woman how she should feel (except that she should feel cheated if her love life is not satisfactory). It has asked women to share how they do feel. And many of them do not feel very good. "Most of my partners never gave a thought to what pleased me." "They've read those awful manuals and take a very mechanical approach." "I always fake orgasms. It just seems polite." "I am frustrated to tears." "Celibacy is glorious... I feel I am in total control of my body and my life."

It might be wise for men as well as women to read *The Hite Report* — or they, like the Athenian warriors two millennia earlier, may be barred at the bedroom door.

(Deborah Wyrick is a Raleigh reviewer.)

'Utopian' Hite takes research seriously

By KENNETH TURAN

Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — "Sometimes," says Shere Hite, a bit archly, "I feel like hitting reporters over the head with my master's thesis."

Never mind that close to two million copies of her study of female sexuality, "The Hite Report," are in print. Never mind that it has been written about in every magazine from the New Statesman and Paris Match to Modern Romance, that it's being translated into 10 languages, including Portuguese, Hebrew, Dutch and Japanese.

Never mind even that it received perhaps the ultimate in acceptance when "Otto Preminger told Arthur Godfrey on 'The Merv Griffin Show' that he ought to read it."

Shere Hite is still concerned, still very concerned in fact, that she be taken seriously.

Sitting in her Watergate Hotel room the day before appearing at the National Town Meeting, Shere Hite suddenly pauses in midthought and tells a photographer "Please don't wait until I smile to take a picture. My work is very serious. I don't want some silly looking picture."

The photographer attempts to reassure her, mentioning other people he's photographed in amiable poses. "They're men," she replies half-amused. "They can smile."

It is possible to be very wrong about Shere Hite, to see her on TV with the little words "sex expert" under her name and think of her as unbending, humorless. She is neither, but getting where she is — at age 34 — has been a struggle, not to say a strain, and the marks of it are definitely there.

She is established now in the way she prefers to see herself, as "a quiet researcher." She has a contract for a book on male sexuality, due out in 1979, for which she has already received 2,500 questionnaire replies from men age 13 to 92.

After that comes a book on love, "on what love is, to put it simple," all of which should occupy her for the next 10 years of her life.

Yet when she talks about what her success has meant, she talks with surprising feeling about how "now I can eat regularly and I know I'll be able to eat regularly for a number of years. And I don't have that horrible lurking feeling whenever I go out of my apartment, that fear that I'll run into my landlord."



SHERE HITE WROTE THE 'HITE REPORT' ON SEXUAL ATTITUDES
... she prefers to see herself as a 'quiet researcher'

It all started, quirkily enough, as a result of some modeling Ms. Hite did in 1971, after temporarily abandoning both Columbia University and her doctorate program in the history of ideas.

"I was in a commercial — I did it while throwing up — about 'The Olivetti Woman,' which was about how this typewriter was so smart the girl who used it didn't have to be smart at all. I'd been interested in the women's movement before, but I thought as a model they'd scoff at me. But when NOW picketed that commercial, I went to see them."

Talks with NOW (National Organization for Women) members about how nothing they had read about female sexuality made them say, "Yes, that's us" led to a preliminary questionnaire that led to responses that were so "electrifying" that she persevered until

"The Hite Report," with its from-the-heart replies from 3,000 women became a reality.

Except it wasn't that easy. Money became an enormous problem and Ms. Hite was \$35,000 in debt with no assurance she would ever be able to pay it off.

"Going three or four years with that kind of debt makes you nervous," she said. She at some point posed for photographs that were recently resuscitated by Playboy and Hustler and about which she refuses to comment.

She borrowed money on her credit card and from banks. A doorman of a neighborhood building she'd talked to at night while walking her dog ended up giving her a good chunk of his life savings, and one friend even "put on his best suit, went down to the bank to ask for money, and when

they seemed a little reluctant, said, 'I'm getting married, you have to give me this loan.'" They did.

So it turns out that the best way to look at Shere Hite has not that much to do with clinical types like Masters and Johnson. Think of lonely garrets, of people out to change the world, of Karl Marx, even. Think of Shere Hite as a searcher after perfection, a Utopian.

This is why letters written in response to her book, to her key finding for women to achieve orgasm, have been so important to her. "I've got drawers full of these great letters, thousands of them, saying 'Oh yes, I'm gonna explain it to him, we're gonna change,'" she said. "I just felt gratified, I don't know what the word would be. It's important to ask these questions, to get people thinking about society."

"Because we can change. The idea that 'It's always been that way, human nature is rotten, blah, blah, blah,' well I don't think that's really true. Utopians are what conservative historians call people who believe in social change. They say 'They tried it in Russia, see what happened, so get out your flags, this is the best country in the world, you can do anything you want, except you can't fornicate in certain ways.'"

Viewing things from this angle, Ms. Hite shrugs off criticism that her methodology, her ways of choosing the women who responded to her questionnaire, may be suspect.

"People thought it was going to be another Kinsey report, but I never intended it to be a survey. Poor Kinsey had a whole book written about him, about how his wasn't a valid survey, and he died an early death from all those attacks. I don't think that's the point. The idea was to ask a lot of women how they felt and see what they had to say."



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Orgasm...it's such a political issue for women... and for men

FEMALE SEXUALITY

... Shere Hite explodes the myth

By Karen Hall
Family Page Editor

DETROIT — Shere Hite breezes into the University of Detroit student ballroom 30 minutes late and wonders where the press is.

Her look is guarded and she tells you that's because the media is to blame for most of the hype surrounding Shere Hite "the person" and the controversial, provocative "The Hite Report" that she wrote. So she doesn't want to discuss any subject other than the book.

"No questions about what I do, how the book relates to me and whether I go to discotheques," she says. "And I know as well as you do that there's been reaction to my book. We're all in the midst of a new social change and this book reflects it. I don't think I could say much else."

Well, Shere Hite has just laid down the law — the same way she laid out a new path to the study of feminine sexuality when she started working on The Hite Report project five years ago. She's here first and foremost to give a Wednesday speech to a small group of students and the audience, to her delight, is a 50-50 mix of men and women.

But not everyone here has read the report, and explanations are in order. The Hite Report, she says, is a vast collection of candid, anonymous comments from 3,019 women who responded to a questionnaire asking about their sexual successes, disappointments and attitudes.

Hite sent out more than 100,000 essay-form questionnaires, and admits the response was more than she ever bargained for. And because the response was totally anonymous, it gave women the opportunity to open up about their sexuality and talk, for perhaps the first time, with blunt honesty.

"When I started this thing I never expected to write a book," she tells her audience. "It was just after the Masters and Johnson book came out and we were talking about it. We didn't agree totally with it, but we couldn't get down to specifics. I thought we could do an essay-questionnaire, keep it anonymous and maybe talk about the results."

From there the project mushroomed, and

Hite now calls the results "historical and revolutionary".

The great difference between this book and others, she says, is the direct input from the women questioned. "About nine-tenths of the book is in quotes. I couldn't imagine writing a book without them," she says. "Other books have been based on 'expert analysis' but never really told the way women feel. We were always told that if you wanted to know how women felt about orgasm, you should go read Hemingway. You know — the earth moved."

And what did the book reveal about women and the way they feel about orgasm? Most significantly that most women don't achieve orgasm through sexual intercourse and that the 30 per cent who do have "their own way of getting to orgasm."

"I think that the orgasm aspect has been the most publicized part of the book," says Hite. "and it probably should be. The cultural goal seems to be orgasm. We've stereotyped men to perform and women to be submissive. But intercourse isn't always the end all and the be all. I think of vaginal penetration as a passive thing for women. Like a jet bomber coming in for a landing."

And the sexual revolution? "If there is a sexual revolution, why hasn't it hit the older woman?" asks Hite. "You find that many women reach 40 and are bored with 'sex'. I put sex in quotes because I think it means gender and not intercourse. It's a reproductive activity and the whole of society's definition of sex is sexist. One of the women in the book summed it up when she referred to intercourse as 'insert A into B.'"

"That has to show the way some women are feeling right now," she says. "You know, most women are not so sure that they're happy with this freedom they have from what's called 'The Sexual Revolution'. They like that they're able to talk about how they feel, but there seems to be a cheapness about it. There's also pressure on them now to say yes to sex. Women have always been told not to have sex, and now everything has been turned around."

But The Hite Report goes further than just the social implications of a move toward sexual equality.

"Freud said that orgasm through sexual intercourse was the only mature way to fulfill-

ment and all the others were immature," says Hite. "People believed that for years. This report shows that for most women intercourse is an ineffective way to achieve orgasm. Women thought there was something wrong with them if they felt that way, but now they know there isn't. Finally women could come out and say that they need some kind of clitoral stimulation to achieve sexual satisfaction and that they do masturbate."

The Hite Report, in fact, starts the book with a section about masturbation — a section she says her publisher hesitated to use as the introduction.

"He turned red in the face and said no one would like it. I said that I liked it, and that women masturbate to orgasm often, and did it even back when Kinsey made his report and they had to talk to him face to face. It's not an aspect to be ignored."

But some of the most poignant points about sexuality came not from discussions about intercourse and stimulation, but from the sense of closeness between two people, says Hite.

One woman told her she gained more satisfaction from a tickle on the back than from intercourse, and another said she preferred the intimacy of holding someone closely and talking instead of genital sex.

"There seems to be a pattern that you go from step to step and the ultimate is intercourse," says Hite. "Some people are almost afraid to touch or kiss because they feel it has to go on to something else. A man feels he has to perform or the woman will think there's something wrong with him. It's a very political situation."

Hite, interestingly enough, is in the process of compiling another report — this one based on the candid, anonymous comments of men and how they feel about sexuality. She says together the information could help prove that most of our ideas about sex are cultural and not biological.

But one step at a time. Right now Hite's on the lecture circuit to, as she says, "let women define their own sexuality. It may make them think about the way they feel and give us all a chance to redefine or change."

And Shere Hite, still guarded with the press, smiles for the camera. End of lecture.

Was Where Hite Ripped off?

By John M. McGuire
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Shere Hite's blond hair was swept-up and braided, a prim, Nordic style somehow in harmony with the gentle hills of Lawrence, Kan.

Although very stylish, the hairstyle was also rather ironic — hardly what one might fantasize for a sexologist from New York City who gave the world "The Hite Report," a best-selling compendium on female sexuality, 400-plus pages on orgasms and masturbation.

Published in 1976, her book, which also made the best-seller list in 16 countries, was an outgrowth of Hite's studies for a doctorate at Columbia University. The questionnaire format that she used was the same one designed for her master's thesis.

"The Hite Report" was titillating enough to make the banned lists of Argentina, India, Pakistan, Malaysia and eventually Brazil, after it had been a top-selling book there for six weeks. Shere Hite was in Lawrence earlier this month to attend the first convention of an organization called the National Women's Studies Association, a group of feminist educators who gathered at the University of Kansas campus to discuss such things as teaching women's studies in the Bible Belt, violence, power and the abuse of women, voices of the lesbian community and teaching the history of women of the West. (She participated in a panel discussion on her female sexuality project, asking the question, "What is scientific?")

For Hite, the convention was an opportunity to get away from the legal uproar she created by her unusual New York Supreme Court lawsuit filed against her publisher, Macmillan, Inc. She charged that Macmillan has withheld from her about \$780,000 in "Hite Report" royalties, for a book that she calculates should have brought her \$1,160,000.

So far, she has earned only \$85,000 on the book that has sold 350,000 copies in hardcover. In addition, Macmillan sold the paperback rights for \$800,000. Hite

Men's Views on Sex

"What is the earliest sexual experience you can remember?"

"How big a part do activities like sunbathing, cuddling up in a bathrobe on the couch, sleeping next to someone's warm body, petting your animals, etc., play in your bodily joy? What do you like especially?"

"Do you find kissing feet sexual?"

The questions above are just three of the 108 things that Shere Hite has asked the men of America to respond to, as she prepares her "Hite Report," part II, this on men's sexual attitudes. Her new book is due to be published in the spring of next year.

Her lengthy questionnaire on male sexuality had to be reworded in places, since she felt some of the questions were vague. The reprinted version still has a few head-scratchers, such as: "Is sex political?"

Nevertheless, the thing that has concerned sexologist Hite is her feeling that men have traditionally been more reluctant to talk their problems and innermost feelings.

"In that sense, this book was more difficult than the women's report," she said. "But they've opened up more than I thought they would."

Indeed, some of them have been quite candid. One of her favorites, so far, has been a 77-year-old man who, according to him, is still leading an active sex life. "He's a former stagecoach driver," said Hite, "and he even remembers what his father told him about women."

A few years ago when they put the finger on cigarettes, I quit smoking and turned to music for entertainment.

Someone said, "Cooped up in here all day listening to all those debchels will make you deaf."

I went to the beach. Someone said, "The water is polluted and the sun will cause skin cancer."

I go around feeling cans to see if they're bent, spitting on my finger to lick stamps, holding my breath around smokers, boiling my water and avoiding X-ray machines at the airport (my luggage doesn't look too good and I'm suspicious).

Lord knows I've tried to please everyone.

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On the proposed title, "Sex As We Like It": "I had to fight them on that to keep them from downplaying the serious intent of the book."

said she received nothing from this sale, and accuses the big publishing company of taking unfair advantage of her.

It is all rather odd, a legal fight over a sex book that involves money. In the first place, Hite said she never expected her book to become a best seller, even though it dealt with some matters that have proved to be of interest to people in the past.

But the contract with her original publisher, Alfred A. Knopf, did not have an income limitation clause, which is the issue in her lawsuit. When the book contract was bought by Macmillan after Hite's editor, Regina Ryan, moved there from Knopf, Hite agreed to the \$25,000 income limitation provision (for tax purposes, she was told) and that has brought about the lawsuit and controversy.

At the time, she had neither a lawyer nor an agent. But neither party, she admits, had any idea that the book would take off the way it did. But at no time did Macmillan officials tell her that the money limitation provision might be harmful to her interests, she said.

"I was sure the book would appeal only to academics and feminists," said Hite, in a recent interview at a Lawrence health food restaurant, the Sister Kettle. "Originally, I was going to do a one-day conference with a group of women. Then later, I decided on the broader, questionnaire method. I

thought it was one way to use my academic background as a cultural historian to deal with that rigid institution — sex.

"I didn't think Masters and Johnson told the whole story."

Hite came to Macmillan as a first-time author in a big financial bind. "The Hite Report" had put her deeply in debt. The year before her book was published, Hite had a poverty level income of \$5,000, with loans outstanding of about \$5,000. She was so strapped, in fact, that at one point she borrowed \$12,000 from her editor's doorman, his life savings.

She admits that at the time of Macmillan's offer of \$25,000 in twice annual royalty payments seemed like a large sum. "I never thought it would have widespread appeal," she said. "Then Time and Newsweek did stories, and the book became a sellout."

Initially, Macmillan wanted to print only 4,000 copies, "which is like killing a book," she said. However, her editor went before Macmillan executives and salesmen and talked them into a 14,000 run.

"Meanwhile, I had no money at all, no money for clothes for the promotional tour," she said. "And they would not advance me any. I don't know how to understand their hardness attitude. I'm very fortunate that my European publishers are not that way."

"I've been living off their advances and my American publishers' advances for my new book on male sexuality; about \$300,000." Alfred Knopf and Ballantine, Inc., have the rights to the new Hite report.

What rankles her about the Macmillan deal is the large sum of money from her book (Macmillan has earned about \$875,000) that she claims the publishing company has co-mingled with other income; it is not held in an escrow account, she said. She wants the

income limitation agreement voided and is asking for \$1 million in punitive damages because Macmillan has misused her earnings with other corporate funds for its own benefit, she said.

"They can invest it anyway they want; even a dumb investment is still going to be a bonanza for them. They still have all the principal."

There is a state-of-mind element to the Hite contract dispute. At the time of the negotiations that led to the income limitation plan, Shere Hite was more concerned with other matters. She recalled that the people at Macmillan wanted to title her book, "Sex As We Like It."

"I had to fight them on that, to keep them from downplaying the serious

intent of the book."

Her extraordinary legal action, she believes, is merely the opening shot in an authors' revolt. "There are a lot of authors in my position," she said. "Maybe they haven't made as much as my book has, but it's still sad to see authors sit back and get blanketed by publishers."

"Publishers write the contracts, we don't. They're big corporations; they have the attorneys, you don't. With most of them, it's become a question of making a buck, not quality. And the small publishing houses and independent paperback publishers are all being merged into the big corporations, and the opportunities for young, unknown authors suffer."

"I closed my eyes when I read it," he said.

Hite's trip to Lawrence, Kan., which is not far from her hometown of St. Joseph, Mo., was one of the first times she's ventured from her Central Park West apartment since her promotional travels for "The Hite Report." Those travels were exhausting, she said.

"I don't want to sound abnormal, but I like staying home. I have a nice view of Central Park. But I've decided not going to have to move because people are beginning to find out where I live. (She did not elaborate on the 500+ problems that causes.)"

Hite still has the same boyfriend, she said, "but I'd rather not get into details on that." Her extensive female sexuality study did not change her own sex life, she said. "But now I have more time."

In the two years of nearly constant travel promoting the book, Shere Hite said she lost count of the thousands of press interviews and speeches that she gave, but she could usually expect two questions from interviewers: "Why did you do it?" And, "What was your main finding?"

At the Lawrence feminist conference, she once again faced questions about the "how" of her book. Her research methods, she said, were never meant to be a traditional survey, but rather a new kind of social science. Some 3,019 women answered her long questionnaire. They ranged in age from 14 to 78 years of age.

"I wanted a large form in which women would speak out freely, giving everyone reading those replies the chance to decide for themselves how they felt about things."

After her Lawrence stopover, she spent several days with her grandparents in St. Joseph, her first visit to her old hometown since 1970. The inevitable questions about her book were raised. "I think my grandparents wished I hadn't written it; but we're still close," she said. However, Grandmother Gertrude Hirt praised her granddaughter's efforts.

"I'm proud of her for being able to write a book that releases women from the bonds of servitude," said Grandma Hirt. "Jesus Christ released women when he was here, but we just haven't accepted that yet." Her grandma has read segments of the book.

Hite's grandfater, Alex Hirt, was more Midwestern about the whole thing.

"I closed my eyes when I read it," he said.

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Shere Hite among the tools of her trade in New York.

PHOTO BY RIKKE ANDERSEN

Talking with Shere Hite

It must be hard to be Shere Hite these days.

Flying across the country and promoting a book called "The Hite Report on Male Sexuality." Being interviewed by reporters who don't understand what it's about. Worrying that readers won't take it seriously, that they'll think it's a book about sex rather than ideology.

By the time she gets to Boston — only the second city on her tour — she's testy and a little tired. We meet in the dining room of the Ritz. She's refused to let the photographer take her picture.

"She's not feeling well. The heat ..." her publishing company escort has apologized.

Hite is 38 and striking. Thin and delicate, her soft complexion seems bleached of all color. Her hair is long and wispy, literally golden. Having been warned that she can be difficult, I start by asking her how to pronounce her name. Is it Sher or Sherrie?

"I don't know any more," sighs Hite. "Nor do I care."

We order the meal and she mentions that Time Magazine's review of her book is full of inaccuracies. For example, Time noted that her first book, "The Hite Report" makes a "subliminal claim of equality to Kinsey."

"Subliminal claim," she snorts. "I think my book is as good as Kinsey."

Hite says she has a BA and MA in history from the University of Florida. She later went on to Columbia to study the history of ideas, but felt the atmosphere was unstimulating ("they only studied male thinkers"), so she quit. I ask her how she became interested in sex research.

"I'm not doing sex research ... I feel I'm a cultural historian. I'm documenting an ideology. Sex research is more limited than what I'm doing." If she were a sex researcher, all she'd do is tabulate behavior. "I'd say how many people masturbate, how many people ..."

Her work, she said, deals instead with "how men and women see each other ...

Sexuality is the stronghold of a lot of ideas."

The tuxedoed waiter brings Hite her salad. She sends it back. What she wants, she says in a cranky voice, is for the lettuce to be cut up in small pieces.

What were some of the surprising findings in her book?

Hite says she doesn't like the term "surprises" because she doesn't want to discuss how she feels about the findings; the book is not about her personal observations. She asks me what I thought the biggest surprises were. I say I was surprised that 72 percent of men married two years or more have had sex outside marriage.

She says that's not so surprising, considering her figure is only 20 percent higher than Kinsey's and now there's so much more emphasis on sex in society. The mores of the culture have changed.

What motivated her to write the book?

"I didn't write the book. I compiled it. I don't consider myself a writer."

What were some of the other findings of the book that she considers important?

"How ambivalent men feel about their role."

She adds something about men's sexual roles and how it "doesn't seem that it's women insisting."

I tell her I don't understand. Of course, you don't understand, she says, riled. She had just started explaining. She thought it would be nice if we could have a few bites of our meal.

We eat a few bites, in silence.

After several minutes, Hite says that she often can't get across to the interviewer what it is that her book is about. I ask her what she would like to get across. She nods.

"The main point," she says, "is how do men feel about how they're supposed to feel."

Eventually, she said, for husband and wife, "the relationship is really frozen ... Men feel they have to be providers, they have to be successful ... and women feel

they have to please men ... anger hardens into a ... a thing. But don't say 'thing'. Into a ..."

Her escort suggests "problem."

"Into a problem," says Hite, relaxing in her chair.

I ask her about a remark in Time Magazine that says, "Hite keeps hinting that men should give up intercourse altogether", and tell her someone I've spoken to who has read her book got the same impression. What are her feelings about intercourse?

She becomes impatient. "I'm saying it should be a choice ... If people get the idea I'm against intercourse, at least it makes them think 'why should someone be talking against intercourse?'"

I start to ask her about the section on homosexuality.

"Did you find anyone who liked my book?" she interrupts.

I tell her that people I spoke to felt it was an important piece of work.

"Of course it's important."

Some people say her work has a feminist bias. Does she agree?

"Every research has a bias ... If you have a status quo point of view, that's not considered a bias."

I ask her about the criticism of her book, such as the fact that she uses few citations.

"Masters and Johnson don't cite anyone," she says, adding that if she used citations people would just criticize her for not saying anything new. "Whatever I do, I'm going to be criticized by someone."

"We're here to talk about my work. All we've done during this lunch is talk about criticism."

The meal is over. We are waiting for the check and she asks if there is anything else I want to know. I ask if, after so many years, she is tired of the subject of sexuality.

"Sexuality is not my subject," growled Hite.

LINDA MATCHAN

How males think of sex

By Linda Matchan
Globe Staff

You might wonder what sort of man would take the time to answer 173 questions — essay format, please — about his sex life.

Shere Hite found 7239 men, ages 13 to 97, who were willing to oblige. Their replies — sometimes emotional, sometimes exuberant, sometimes raging with resentment — make up Hite's comprehensive new "Hite Report on Male Sexuality," all 1129 pages and four pounds of it.

It's been five years since New York cultural historian Shere Hite first ventured into sexual territory with "The Hite Report" on female sexuality. In that work — a nationwide survey of more than 3000 women — she challenged stereotypes and made headlines by reporting, for example, that most women surveyed didn't experience orgasm as a result of intercourse (they required stimulation of the clitoris) and that women know how to have orgasms whenever they desire (95 percent said they could have orgasms easily and regularly through masturbation and clitoral stimulation).

These findings started her thinking about men's perceptions of sexuality and intimate relationships, she explained during a recent interview in Boston. So she set out to find out what men are thinking, feeling and doing in the bedrooms of America; to see whether sexual practices and feelings are changing; and, as she states in the preface to her book, "to see how men's sexual behavior relates to their larger view of themselves and the world."

She continues: "Male sexuality is central to the definition of masculinity — and masculinity is central to the world-view of the entire culture — in a sense, is the culture."

Hite distributed 119,000 questionnaires in all; 6 percent were returned. She sent them to organizations across the country, including church, university, sports and men's discussion groups. Magazines such as "Sexology" and "Penthouse" printed the survey for its readers. Articles about "The Hite Report" in newspapers and magazines, and programs on TV and radio, invited men to send for it.

The respondents answered questions such as: "What is the importance of masturbation in your life?" "Do you find kissing feet sexual?" "Can you have sex without an orgasm?" "What position is most satisfying to you?" and "Do you assume HITE, Page 66

Survey on men's sex views

■ HITE

Continued from Page 65

that every time you have sex it will include intercourse?" Respondents discussed, for example, their feelings about the sexuality of older men, rape, pornography, paying women for sex, and sex between men.

They answered from all parts of the country, from major cities like New York, Los Angeles and Boston (where 51 men responded) to the hinterlands of America ("I was sitting here bored in Bethel, Alaska, and this survey lifted me out and distracted me," confessed one male voice.) All comments were published anonymously.

The findings are broad in scope and, in many cases, rich in detail and very specific. Hite said some men's replies ran more than 100 pages.

Among Hite's findings:

- Among men married two years or more, 72 percent had had intercourse outside of marriage.

- Most men said sex in marriage "became boring eventually."

- The majority of men said they had closer relationships and were more comfortable being close to women than to male friends.

- Only 1 percent of the men who answered did not masturbate. But 51 percent who said they had sex daily also said they masturbated from two to seven times a week.

- Most men said they usually have their strongest orgasms during masturbation, not intercourse.

- 71 percent of men said they didn't get enough foreplay.

- Most men in their 70s who answered were still enjoying sex, with or without intercourse.

One clear message is that men are troubled and dissatisfied with many aspects of their sex lives, Hite said in the interview. "Men feel very conflicted about who they are supposed to be sexually ... At the same time, they found their sex lives more satisfying than any other aspect of their lives."

Much of their dissatisfaction centers around the act of intercourse. On the one hand, men say they enjoy intercourse, for several reasons. Many, for example, said intercourse made them feel loved and accepted. As one man put it, "It is the closest you can be to a person, and for a moment or an hour it overcomes the loneliness and separation of life."

On the other hand, they complained that aspects of intercourse make them feel put upon, that they feel encumbered by the stereotyped role (having *great* intercourse, *all* the time) today's male is expected to play. They described many pressures: Fear of not having an erection, anxiety about reaching orgasm too soon and about women not reaching orgasm at all, concern about not having intercourse frequently enough.

One exasperated male lamented: "Although I like intercourse, psychologically, intercourse for me is work; it's not a pleasure. It's pleasant work, of course, but it is still work ... And the immense pressure ... is just too, too much to do right each and every time out."

What's worse, even though many men said they enjoyed other forms of sexual activity, such as fellatio or manual stimulation, most said that women didn't do it very often or very well and didn't take the initiative enough. Men admitted that sometimes they were reluctant to diversify their activities, feeling that a "normal" man should want only intercourse.

Hite suggests that men are in a trap: They resent the pressures of intercourse and don't fa-

vor making intercourse an option during sex. "Why," Hite asks in her book, "should men feel that, if they don't want intercourse, they are not 'real men'?"

She later explained in an interview: "I'm saying it should be a choice."

She emphasizes that her book is about ideology, not sexual acrobatics. The cover of the report hails its "cultural interpretation" of male sexuality.

Much of this interpretation appears in the chapter "Intercourse and the Definition of Sex." Here Hite concludes that intercourse "is at once one of the most beautiful and at the same time most oppressive and exploitative acts of our society."

It is beautiful, she said, because both men and women say they felt closest to their partner during intercourse. But at the same time, Hite writes, intercourse "has been symbolic of men's ownership of women ... for approximately the last 3000 years."

"Without the accompanying cultural symbolism," writes Hite, "intercourse would become a matter of choice during sexual activities, not the *sine qua non*" As for the biological component of intercourse - whether there is such a thing as "sex drive" - Hite takes up the issue in four paragraphs in one chapter. "Although both male and female do have a need (or 'drive') for orgasm from time to time, there is no evidence that men biologically 'need' vaginas in which to orgasm, or that there is anything hormonal or 'instinctual' which drives men toward women or vaginas," Hite asserts.

□

Alfred A. Knopf, the company that published the book, has great expectations for "The Hite Report on Male Sexuality," despite its daunting \$19.95 price tag. It's been designated a Book-of-the-Month Club featured alternate, and according to Knopf president Robert Gottlieb, who edited the book himself, its first printing (125,000 copies) is "huge" for a book of such length.

"My expectation is that people will read it in increasing numbers as other people have read it and are discussing it," Gottlieb said, adding that the book has a "scope and authority that we haven't seen before."

Some of the book's reviews have been less generous. Time Magazine, for example, derided some of Hite's "bizarre" theories and "muzzy notions" - such as her contention that many men seek sex outside marriage because they come to see their wives more as mothers than as sex objects and the incest taboo inhibits sex with mothers. New York Magazine declared it "a travesty of sex research," denouncing its "fundamentally wrongheaded approach and inexcusable inaccuracies." Positive reviews include, for example, Discover magazine, which called the book "a liberating tour of human experience."

Reaction to the book from authorities in the field of sexuality and sex therapy has been mixed but strong.

Bernie Zilbergeld, a California psychologist and author of "Male Sexuality" allowed that "the good part" of the Hite Report was that Hite let men speak. "Some of the replies are fairly long ... It's hard to get those kinds of statements elsewhere."

But he took issue with Hite's cultural interpretation of the role of intercourse in society.

"It's not only to men that intercourse is the ultimate sexual act," he said. "Intercourse is not a male institution." He said Hite's interpretation of intercourse contradicts his own clinical experience as a sex therapist. "If a man is having an erection problem and I suggest no intercourse for the couple to take the pressure off,

Continued on next page

Sex researcher needs love, too

By CHERYL LAVIN

Chicago Tribune Service

CHICAGO — Sex researcher Shere Hite is waiting for Prince Charming. But until he comes along, she has to put up with the trappings of being a celebrity.

A photographer wants to take her picture in her hotel room.

"I'm a sex researcher, and I don't take pictures in my room because I find when I do the bed always shows. You understand."

So Shere (pronounced SHARE) Hite has her picture taken looking solemn, standing against a pillar in the hotel lobby.

"I don't smile in pictures. I spend five years researching each of my books. My works are serious. Men never have to smile."

"The Hite Report," published in 1976, found that the majority of the 3,019 women, from ages 14 to 78, who responded (three of whom listed their occupation as slave) were dissatisfied with their sex lives. Seventy-four percent did not regularly have orgasms during intercourse without additional clitoral stimulation. The 26 percent who did, managed it through acrobatic feats that would challenge a gymnast.

"The Hite Report on Male Sexuality," published in 1981 (a more complete paperback edition has just been brought out by Ballantine Books, \$4.50) found that the majority of the 7,239 men, from ages 13 to 97, who responded experienced stronger orgasms from masturbation than intercourse (so did women; they just felt guiltier about it), did not marry the women they were passionately in love with, cheated on their wives, had occasional erection problems, and resented always having to be the sexual aggressor.

"I never started out to be a sex researcher," says Shere Hite, 39, smoking unfiltered Pall Mall's ("a man's cigarette — what can I say?"). "I wanted to be a classical composer, but how many women have you ever heard of becoming composers, right? So the second choice was trying to figure out how society got where it is and why it is so irrational. I studied history, but I had no idea how I would use it. I was in graduate school at Columbia at the time; so I took a leave of absence."

This was 1971. The women's movement was just getting off the ground. Hite got a modeling job playing a dumb blonde in an Olivetti ad. The caption was "The typewriter that's so smart she doesn't have to be . . ."



Shere Hite calls herself a cultural historian.

The National Organization for Women picketed Olivetti.

"This was about the time Masters and Johnson's second book came out, 'Human Sexual Inadequacy.' They said women needed clitoral stimulation but that they should get it during sexual intercourse. We were all too shy to discuss it . . . So I wrote a questionnaire asking the most basic questions, which eventually became the first book."

Hite is single. She lives alone in a very large Manhattan apartment overlooking Central Park. The offices of Hite Research occupy two floors of an 18th-century-style building. The two men she has been involved with since she has written her books have never read them.

"They refused to . . . This is going to sound awful, but I don't care. I feel like the princess in the stories who is always waiting. I'm waiting to find a man who is courageous enough so that it doesn't matter who I am."

"I'm not interested in sex unless I'm in love, and I think most women are the same way, despite all the talk about how women are going to be just like men and just want sex. Women in my studies always want to be in a relationship, and men do, too, if the truth were told."

Shere Hite doesn't like to be called a sex researcher. She prefers cultural historian, and she says sex per se doesn't interest her.

"I want to get married and settle down. I never intended to spend my entire life doing this. I always saw it as three books (a third on teen sexuality), but not my whole life's work."

Shere Hite Speaks in Natchitoches On Female, Male Sexuality Reports

By Donna Brown-Hawley
Town Talk Staff Writer

NATCHITOCHES — Women's sexual responses have been shrouded in mystery, said Shere Hite, author and researcher of "The Hite Reports on Female and Male Sexuality," but women's sexuality is "anything but dirty."

Ms. Hite was speaking Wednesday to a packed audience in the remodeled Northwestern State University's A.A. Fredericks Center for the Creative and Performing Arts Auditorium.

Before giving her two-part speech, Ms. Hite asked several questions involving a female's reproductive organs and the women's social and political movement. These were to show how little is really known about female anatomy and to point out how a woman once thought of her body in terms of a man's definition.

Ms. Hite launched into the first part of her speech — female sexuality — while handing out two detailed pen and ink sketches of a woman's reproductive organs.

"The Hite Report: A Nationwide Study of Female Sexuality" was published in 1972 and surveyed women between the ages of 14 and 78.

For the first time women were asked how they felt about sex, instead of defining it as a response to a man's activities, Ms. Hite said. "Playboy and other magazines always talk about a man's sex drive," she pointed out. "Women are never credited with having their own sex drive."

Before, she said, the clinical definition of sex used male responses as descriptions. The only inclusion of women was for men to "prolong as much as possible" to satisfy them.

Ms. Hite said this definition was directed toward reproduction and it was considered the "right way to have sex."

Most of the 3,000 women who re-



Shere Hite: Spoke to a packed audience Wednesday at Northwestern State University's A.A. Fredericks Center for the Creative and Performing Arts Auditorium. (AP File Photo)

sponded to the first survey thought the definition should be changed, Ms. Hite said.

With the publication of her book, it did.

"I thought only women would read it and it would be in the library," she said. "I knew it was radical, but I never expected it to get the response it did."

The significant part of her study, Ms. Hite said, was that women could achieve orgasm without actually having what was clinically defined as sex.

In the second half of her speech, Ms. Hite discussed her second book, "The Hite Report on Male Sexuality." In this study, published in 1981, 7,000 men aged 13-97 sent in answers to a detailed questionnaire.

Before talking about what she called the "most surprising part" of her study, Ms. Hite asked the audience questions about relationships, a major topic in her second

book.

In her study, Ms. Hite said, a large number of men mentioned an inability to express emotions. They associated being emotional with being "sissy."

"There is a lot of pressure on women to be less emotional, too," Ms. Hite added, saying that when women become emotional, men say, "Her hormones have gotten to her."

The first part of her survey had men define masculinity because "masculinity defines their sexuality."

In this way, she found that many men were not close to their fathers, although most assumed others were.

"Most said they never had heart-to-heart talks with their fathers, like you've read about, or seen on 'Father Knows Best,'" she said. They were never asked if they had girlfriends, etc. Most conversations were restricted to business, sports or politics. They never heard their fathers talk about problems or emotions.

Because of this, Ms. Hite said, many men "began to feel they shouldn't burden anyone with their troubles. This transferred into a lack of feelings."

"Men learned from their fathers you don't talk about how you feel. There are no emotional outbursts. When you need to talk, you go to your mother."

But this presented its own conundrum, she said, because when asked how most men felt about their mothers, the respondents said they didn't respect their mothers. "They thought they were weak for not standing up for themselves," she said.

After learning to conceal their emotions, Ms. Hite said, men reported they became uneasy when they found themselves in love.

"One man called it a disease.

That's dis-ease because he was uncomfortable in love, he felt out of control."

When experiencing this flood of feelings, men began to fear they were wrapped around their girlfriend's little finger, she said, adding, "This causes a lot of fights."

She also found that 72 percent of the respondents married more than two years had sex regularly outside of marriage.

Ms. Hite also discovered men didn't marry the woman they were most in love with. They ended up marrying the woman they felt the most comfortable with, she said, because they felt more in control.

"I was astounded," she said. "I assumed they were in love with this person. But they were not. They choose someone they had some sort of relationship with already, such as someone they work with." They choose someone who would not interfere with their marriage, she said.

Most men reported they felt "ripped off — they didn't feel satisfied" with their lives, Ms. Hite said. "They felt they were not given enough choices and had not allowed themselves to be themselves." The amazing thing, she pointed out, is that today, men are still saying the same things about losing control and not marrying women they love passionately.

"Men are taught marriage is the end of life," she said, adding that today's society keeps people apart. "You're supposed to be physically cold unless you're having sex with someone," she said, which she believes is a reason for dissatisfaction in physical relationships.

Ms. Hite's speech was sponsored by the university's Distinguished Lecture Series. She is working on another study of female sexuality. This book will deal with a woman's views of love, relationships, marriage and monogamy.

the first time

MOST girls, even today, go into their first experience of intercourse, thinking that they should have "more pleasure than they've ever had"; that the pleasure should be much greater than during "just petting" or masturbation. But they are often used to having orgasms during these activities, and are shocked when they do not have orgasms easily during coitus — and find the feelings so different from the clear-cut orgasms they are used to.

The Hite Report on Female Sexuality first demonstrated (in 1976) that it is not the "norm" for women to orgasm from simple coitus, but rather from exterior or clitoral stimulation — and that this should become a standard part of sex that, many women were faking orgasms during intercourse, feeling terribly guilty and "abnormal" if they did not have them, never daring to tell their partner, but instead going into the bathroom to masturbate privately for orgasm after sex.

With the continued depiction of women in videos and movies as "coming" from intercourse, in the same way and at the same time as men do, the reality of most women's need for clitoral stimulation to orgasm has begun to be obscured, and now girls (who have little information about their mothers and rely mostly on magazines, films, and their sexual partners) are again having to go through sometimes several years

When girls imagine their first sexual encounters, they fear pain and dream of pleasure, writes **SHERE HITE**, in her new book, *The Hite Report on the Family*, based on more than 3,000 responses to her questionnaire. *The Herald's* exclusive extracts of the 1994 Hite Report continue all this week.

of experimentation and worry before feeling confident and comfortable with their bodies.

Research for this study demonstrates quite surprisingly that most girls do not experience pain or bleeding on first coitus; the perception of those who do is quite low. In fact, 18 per cent of women felt any painful tearing or saw any blood on first intercourse, or at any time earlier in their lives. This would imply that a belief in the prevalence of a full hymen in girls is a myth, and a dangerous one at that, especially for women in cultures that punish women if they are not virgins on marriage.

do in-depth or detailed vaginal examinations. Therefore, is the assumption that "normal girls" have hymens, simply based on hearsay, or "learned" in medical textbooks? On what body of knowledge and investigation, if any, are these texts based? According to my research, only 18 per cent of women felt any painful tearing or saw any blood on first intercourse, or at any time earlier in their lives. This would imply that a belief in the prevalence of a full hymen in girls is a myth, and a dangerous one at that, especially for women in cultures that punish women if they are not virgins on marriage.

THE HITE REPORT



PART TWO

Boys together, girls alone

The 1994 Hite Report has turned up some surprising findings about boys' relationships with members of their own sex.

ONE of the most startling findings of my current research is the increase in the number of boys who, as teenagers and older children, are having sexual experiences with other boys.

This number has increased substantially since my research done between 1974 and 1981, and since Kinsey's research in the '40s.

To hear how easily and naturally many boys share sexual activities with each other is truly surprising. Though some boys worry a little, for most, these activities seem to be remarkably free of guilt and conflict. Indeed, most boys do not wonder if they are "gay"; they don't seem to worry much about anything, they simply enjoy the pleasure and camaraderie. The biggest worry is HIV.

In the 1940s, Kinsey reported that 48 per cent of the men in his sample either masturbated or had sex with other boys as adolescents or in their early teens. In my own work for *The Hite Report* on Male Sexuality, I found that 43 per cent of the sample were doing this. Now, in the 1990s, the figure in my sample has increased to almost 60 per cent.

cent. Does this mean that the number of boys masturbating together is increasing, or are these percentages all in a range hovering around the 50s percentages? On average then, approximately 55 per cent of boys?

Girls, on the other hand, rarely learn about sex together. However, girls form intensely emotional and sometimes romantic friendships around the same age, in an atmosphere of strong feeling. They create great intimacy verbally, in a way that boys almost never do, despite boys' greater physical intimacy.

The spread of pornography and explicit television programs has probably encouraged boys not to hide their sexual feelings and bodies from each other; and what is responsible for the increase in shared sexual activities?

However, many boys who feel they are "homosexual" (as opposed to those who just feel

they are having sex with other boys for fun) still report feeling very isolated with regard to their sexual desires for other boys, especially if they live in very small towns. Said one respondent: "All through junior high and high school I was frightened. I was not aware of anyone else who was gay. I saw my sexual feelings as a barrier between me and everyone else, and felt completely alone with these feelings. I would hear the ordinary innuendoes or jokes that every kid hears about gays. This deepened my isolation. I was frightened of having any of that scorn or hatred directed at me."

What is really surprising is the kind of sex boys are now having together. According to my 1970s data, this contact was mostly mutual masturbation, often without touching each other. Now, it is much more common for boys to touch each other, masturbate the other boy, and 36 per cent of

boys also perform fellatio together. 19 per cent have experienced anal penetration, or penetrated another boy. Very few kids.

Judging from these replies, it is almost as if shared sexual activity is a secret reality for men, part of the bonding process. Or perhaps it is a new way in which men, and especially boys, are beginning to open to each other. It is a more "female" style of intimate conversation still "off limits" to men, while "sex" is not.

On the other hand, this increase in the incidence of boys loving boys could imply an impending denial of women, part of the current backlash against women's rights. Is men's politeness towards women a charade, a pose, in a hypocritical world where men know they are closer to each other than to women? Is this a revival of the completely male-dominated world of societies like classical Greece?

From *The Hite Report* on the Family by Shere Hite, to be published in Australia on May 20 by Bloomsbury (RRP \$39.95).

The answers to the Herald's Treasure Hunt and Great Australian Quiz will be in the Hite column have been held over.

How Hite reports a new revolution

Shere Hite's work has created controversy since the first *Hite Report* was published almost 20 years ago. Her findings — and even her methods — are still attracting criticism. **HELEN O'NEILL** writes from London.

SHERE Hite is used to taking flak. When the American feminist's last report, *Women And Love*, was published in 1988, press reaction was so ferocious that despite the efforts of a 12-strong defence committee, including feminists like Gloria Steinem and Kate Millett, Hite moved out of the United States. "People will tell you controversy sells books but it depends on the kind of controversy," says Hite, who now divides her time between homes in Cologne, Paris and London.

"The paperback rights to that book would have been the seed money for the next project and no-one [in the US] would bid on the paperback rights because the attack was so fierce."

"Everyone got very, very nervous..."

"And the controversy wasn't about the issues in the book."

"That was the tragic part to me, because I think that the issues are really important, and to this day, they haven't really been discussed."

Hite pauses and a wicked smile begins to play on the corners of her lips.

"But women are moving on anyway, so it doesn't really matter."

Since she started publishing her work, Hite has been the target of a trail of controversy in her wake.

BLASTING a body of research that is gaining almost epic proportions, Hite, in person, is something of a surprise.

Immaculately turned out, irrepressibly curious, and looking two decades younger than her 51 years, she exudes tremendous energy and the mischievous charm of a child.

The researcher discusses her marriage to a 31-year-old German pianist, Friedrich Horik, with an open enthusiasm, and breaks into peals of laughter quickly, and often without warning.

She gives the impression that however seriously she debates her cause, all she really wants to be people to have fun.

Hite says this report, *The Hite Report on the Family* has yet to



"Women are moving on" . . . author and researcher Shere Hite.

of a diversion [to] attack on some other grounds.

"Mind you, she adds, it has yet to be published in the US."

Even so, Hite threw quite a stone into the pond with *Women And Love*, and six years on, the ripples are still visible.

The magazine section of *British Daily Telegraph* printed a profile of Hite, raising questions about her methodology.

The newspaper itself ran a review of the new report under the headline "Shere Hite Blames Men For Failings In The Family".

"If you read the [review], there wasn't one word of blame and in fact I'm sticking up for men; I

of a diversion [to] attack on some other grounds.

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"If you read the [review], there wasn't one word of blame and in fact I'm sticking up for men; I

which she quizzed a journalist about how young she was when she had her first orgasm.

"She never answered me," Hite laughed.

"I still don't know."

Does she mind not knowing? "Well," and a touch of pounce creeps in, "everybody seems to know everything about me."

HITE seems genuinely amazed by the conclusions she finds herself drawing from her work.

What are we seeing, socially, she says, is a "transformation you don't have to read a disaster scenario into it."

"At the end of centuries, often, there are these fatalistic, end of the world discussions that go on, and I think it's just a bunch of silliness really."

"[But] it's very dangerous for women, in particular, because it's very mediaeval in its approach to women."

One of the most difficult things about her work is that so little has been surveyed before," she says. "Who has ever done this research?", she demands.

Does this surprise her? "Yes. The things that there are in this world that we haven't looked at are amazing."

"That you have to sleep alone for 10 years. Which is so bizarre."

She is thinking about the fact that children are usually forced to sleep alone in this culture, and that most don't like it.

"There must be some purpose to all that sleeping alone that society wants it," she muses.

"I wonder what it could be."

Shere Hite invites readers of *The Sydney Morning Herald* to participate in her future research. Please, write to her at: *The Herald*.

From a feminist point of view . . . you can't believe boys have it worse, but boys really do suffer.

think they have a tough time of it too," Hite shrugs in exasperation.

"I was really wiped out by that headline."

The other issue, Hite's methodology, is one that has been plaguing the researcher for some time.

Her use of lengthy questionnaires inviting essay-style replies has been called non-scientific and likely to attract mainly introspective, middle-class respondents.

"In general, there has been a lack of understanding of what the research methods are," Hite says. "The defence committee said, and I agree, that the attacks on my methodology were really more like a smokescreen."

"You can't attract someone who is trying to propose equal rights for women, you can't attack on most of the grounds of the things I say."

"It seems easier and also more

second-class . . . but boys and men were telling horror stories about the kinds of things that they'd gone through and complaining over and over that girls have it better."

"From a feminist point of view, that's an amazing statement, you can't believe boys have it worse, but boys really do suffer."

The American researcher now wants Australian readers to know they can help her with her next survey, although she isn't entirely sure what that may be.

She typically works on several strands of research at once and says she is thinking about comparing how women felt about sexuality 20 years ago and how they feel about it now.

Her appetite for research seems insatiable.

She asks questions — any questions — every opportunity, and recalls a recent incident in

For kids, advice or silence



Some do and some don't: talk openly at home about sex . . . Maria Pakis, Bianca Burrows, Silvia Liwan, Andrew Jacana and Tristan Jones. Photo by TROY HOWE

Andrew Jacana, 16, talks regularly about sex and girlfriends with his mother.

Andrew, a student at the International Grammar School, said it's been the result of his mother's advice and influence which has made him tackle the sensitive issue with maturity.

Although Andrew's mum likes to meet his girlfriends he never usually talks about what happens on the first date with her.

"I don't discuss what happens on the first date with mum but over the past year we have talked about everything that happens on dates and sex comes into the discussion nearly all the time," he said.

Andrew said he probably would tell his mum he had sex

THE VIEW FROM HERE

with a girlfriend only after the event.

"I would rather do it and have fun and then tell her," he said.

Silvia Liwan, 12, has been dating her boyfriend, also a student at the school for the past seven months.

She said that because of her Asian culture it was difficult to talk about sex in her family.

"My family don't agree with me having a boyfriend because they think I'm too young," she said.

Maria Pakis, 17, was only about 13 when she went on her

first date with a guy nearly 10 years older.

Maria remembers she was scolded by her mother after neighbours caught her jumping into his Porsche outside her house.

"In the Greek culture the first boyfriend is the one you get married to. It's not difficult with my mum but if my relatives see me out on the street I have to be careful," she said.

Tristan Jones, 17, also in year 12, has been the boyfriend of classmate, Bianca Burrows, 17, for the past 18 months.

Tristan said although his parents joked about sex they were conscious about getting across the safe sex message.

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DESIGN & DECOR • FIXTURES & FITTINGS

REDEFINING THE 10th ANNUAL HOSPITALITY EXHIBITION

FOOD & BEVERAGE • EQUIPMENT & SERVICES

ONCE A YEAR, THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY MAKES AN EXHIBITION OF ITSELF.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 1ST AUSTRALASIAN TOURISM/HOSPITALITY AND CATERING CONFERENCE.

This premiere event, now in its 10th year, is the only one of its kind in the country for hospitality industry professionals.

In the one venue, under one roof, you'll find the latest innovations from over 150 of Australia's foremost hospitality suppliers. From furniture to wall coverings, from bar accessories to cash registers - it's all displayed for your viewing convenience.

You'll also see the hottest new products in computers and communication equipment.

So if your business is hotels/motels, restaurants/clubs, hospitals/nursing homes or colleges - don't miss it.

FREE TRADE ADMISSION

Applies to Convention & Exhibition only. Valid until 31st March 1994. Book March 1st, 10am.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- All Hospitality Industry Professionals. Who hold trade passes.
- Accommodation proprietors • Restaurateurs • Club managers.
- No hoteliers, Designers & Decorators.

10th ANNUAL HOSPITALITY EXHIBITION

DARLING HARBOUR, MARCH 1st - 3rd 1994