

Harrison, "Child Custody and Parental Sexuality: Just Another Factor?" **Refractory Girl**, no. 20-21 (October 1980), 7-14; and Robyn Plaister, **Lesbian Mothers**, Campaign, no. 42 (April 1979), 13-14.

3901. HARRIS, BARBARA S. "Lesbian Mother Child Custody: Legal and Psychiatric Aspects," **Bulletin of the American Academy of Psychiatry and Law**, 5 (1977), 75-89.

Summarizes the major reported cases, discussing misconceptions and how they can be dispelled by scientific research findings.

3902. HITCHENS, DONNA. "Social Attitudes, Legal Standards, and Personal Trauma in Child Custody Cases," **JH**, 5 (1979-80), 89-95.

Lesbian mother cases and gay father visitation cases are increasingly successful in the courts. The main hurdle continues to be the lack of objective legal standards that could make the outcome of these cases predictable.

3903. HITCHENS, DONNA, and BARBARA PRICE. "Trial Strategy in Lesbian Mother Cases: The Use of Expert Testimony," **Golden Gate University Law Review**, 9 (1978-79), 451-79.

On the value of expert testimony in rebutting commonly held misconceptions about the consequences of raising children in a lesbian household.

3904. HUNTER, NAN D., and NANCY D. POLIKOFF. "Custody Rights of Lesbian Mothers: Legal Theory and Litigation Strategy," **Buffalo Law Review**, 25 (1976), 691-733.

Summarizing current law, argues that advocates should work toward establishing a requirement that a specific logical nexus be shown between a mother's lesbianism and her ostensible unfitness as a parent before she can be denied custody based on her homosexuality.

3905. LEITCH, PATRICIA. "Custody: Lesbian Mothers in the Courts," **Gonzaga Law Review**, 16 (1980), 147-70. Focusing on Washington State, surveys lesbian mother cases, esp. *Schuster v. Schuster*.

3906. MILLER, SUZANNE. "Rights of Homosexual Parents," **Journal of Juvenile Law**, 7 (1985), 155-59.

Even though societal tolerance for alternative lifestyles seems to be growing, the courts still tend to feel justified in restricting the amount of exposure a child may have to an overt homosexual relationship on the part of the mother.

3907. PAYNE, ANNE T. "Law and the Problem Parent: Custody and Parental Rights of Homosexual, Mentally Ill, Mentally Retarded, and Incarcerated Parents," **Journal of Family Law**, 16 (1978), 797-818.

Offers a comparative analysis, including elements of subjectivity and bias that often enter into legal proceedings and decisions in these spheres.

3908. RILEY, MARILYN. "Avowed Lesbian Mothers and Her Right to Child Custody: A Constitutional Challenge That Can No Longer Be Denied," **San Diego Law Review**, 12 (1974-75), 799-864.

Provides a detailed exposition of the constitutional arguments against allowing a mother's lesbianism to influence custody cases when no specific nexus of harm can be demonstrated. Reviews professional literature on sexual orientation as it serves to buttress the argument.

3909. SMART, BARBARA. "Bezio v. Patenauda: The "Coming Out" Custody Controversy of Lesbian Mothers in Court," **New England Law Journal**, 16 (1980-81), 331-65.

Discusses a Massachusetts case in which a lesbian mother sought to regain custody of her two children from a female friend. The mother was successful on appeal in a decision that set limits on the trial judge's discretion.

3910. SUSOEFF, STEVE. "Assessing Children's Best Interests When a Parent Is Gay or Lesbian: Toward a Rational Custody Standard," **UCLA Law Review**, 32 (1985), 852-903.

Gay and lesbian parents seeking custody of their children have met with increasing success in American courts since the California Court of Appeal instructed a trial court that it could not rule that a mother's homosexual orientation made her unfit to have custody of her child. See also: Catherine Rand et al., "Psychological Health and Factors Court Seeks to Control in Lesbian Mother Trials," **JH**, 8 (1982-83), 27-39.

3911. WHITTILIN, WILLIAM A. "Homosexuality and Child Custody: A Psychiatric Viewpoint," **Conciliation Courts Review**, 21 (1983), 77-79.

Although a specific incident will often trigger a legal battle, its course may be determined by societal attitudes (including homophobia) and the kind of research evidence that is brought to bear.

#### E. CHILDREN OF LESBIANS AND GAY MEN

The increasing visibility of households headed by lesbian and homosexual single or coupled parents has evoked fears that the children's psychological health might be adversely affected. Little if any support has been found for this assumption of environmental determinism.

3912. GANTZ, JOE. **Whose Child Cries: Children of Gay Parents Talk about Their Lives.** Rolling Hills Estates, CA: Jalmar Press, 1983. 245 pp.  
Concerns five American families raising children in openly gay homes. "Written from the perspective of the children, who range in age from seven to seventeen."
3913. GOLOMBOK, SUSAN, et al. "Children in Lesbian and Single-Parent Households: Psychological and Psychiatric Appraisal," **Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry and Allied Disciplines**, 24 (1983), 551-72.  
Concludes that rearing in a lesbian household per se does not lead to atypical psychosexual development or constitute a psychiatric risk factor.
3914. GREEN, RICHARD. "The Best Interests of the Child with a Lesbian Mother," **Bulletin of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law**, 10 (1982), 7-15.  
Concludes that difficulties experienced by children in lesbian mother households stem from reaction to divorce and not from the mother's lesbianism. See also his: "Sexual Identity of 37 Children Raised by Homosexual or Transsexual Parents," **American Journal of Psychiatry**, 135 (1978), 692-97.
3915. HOFFER, BEVERLY. "Children's Acquisition of Sex Role Behavior in Lesbian-Mother Families," **American Journal of Orthopsychiatry**, 51 (1981), 536-44.  
Using Block's Toy Preference Test no differences were found between children of lesbian and single heterosexual mothers. The writer suggests that children's peers have the greatest influence on their development.
3916. HOTVEDT, MARY E., and JANE BARCLAY MANDEL. "Children of Lesbian Mothers," in: William Paul et al. (eds.), **Homosexuality: Social, Psychological and Biological Issues.** Beverly Hills, CA: Sage, 1982, pp. 275-91.  
Examines several areas of research, including impact of divorce, father absence, and children's adjustment.
3917. KIRKPATRICK, MARTHA, et al. "Lesbian Mothers and Their Children: A Comparative Survey," **American Journal of Orthopsychiatry**, 51 (1981), 545-51.  
In this study of 40 children raised by lesbian and single parent mothers, no significant differences were found in sexual or gender identity between the groups. The lesbian mothers were more concerned with providing male figures for their children than were the heterosexual mothers.
3918. KWESKIN, SALLY L., and ALICIA S. COOK. "Heterosexual and Homosexual Mothers' Self-Described Sex-role Behavior and Idea Sex-Role Behavior in Children," **Sex Roles**, 8 (1982), 967-75.  
Similarities in sex-role behavior and attitudes of hetero-

sexual and homosexual mothers far outweigh the present subjects differences when determined by self-description and attitudes toward ideal child behavior.

3919. LEWIS, KAREN GAIL. "Children of Lesbians: Their Point of View," **Social Work**, 25 (1980), 198-203. Interviews with 21 children in the Greater Boston area brought out several major problems. Early family discord and the mother's lesbianism generated severe ambivalence, yet the children generally desired to accept the mother's new lifestyle.
3920. MAYADAS, NAZNEEN S., and WAYNE D. DUEHN. "Children in Gay Families: An Investigation of Services," **Homosexual Counseling Journal**, 3 (1976), 70-83. Argues that social service agencies and clinicians should reexamine their value premises.
3921. MILLER, JUDITH ANN, et al. "The Child's Home Environment for Lesbian vs. Heterosexual Mothers: A Neglected Area of Research," **JH**, 7 (1981), 49-56. Children of lesbian mothers tend to live in a less affluent socioeconomic setting. A strong child-development orientation was found among lesbian mothers, undermining the stereotype of lesbians as aloof from children.
3922. NUNGESSER, LONNIE G. "Theoretical Bases for Research on the Acquisition of Social Sex-Roles by Children of Lesbian Mothers," **JH**, 5:3 (1980), 177-87. Theories from developmental, behavioral, and social psychology are applied in order to distinguish between the acquisition of sex-typed behaviors and the actual performance of those behaviors.

#### F. PARENTS OF GAYS AND LESBIANS

The increasing number of gay men and lesbians who have "come out" to their parents, has led to the formation in many cities of North American of support groups for these parents. The literature being produced by these groups enables one to understand the psychic process of resistance and acceptance that these mothers and fathers undergo in confronting the child's orientation.

3923. BACK, GLORIA. **Are You Still My Mother? Are You Still My Family?** New York: Warner Books, 1985. 236 pp. Advice to parents of gay men and lesbians with an account of the sex-session workshops which the author conducted before her death in 1985.