According to older stereotypes, lesbians and male homosexuals do not, with a very few exceptions, have children. We now know that there are many lesbian mothers who are bringing up their children either singly, or with a female "significant other." The disapproval that these arrangements sometimes incur unleashes custody battles; see XVIII.D. Another issue is artificial insemination, an option chosen by some lesbians who wish to have a child without having sexual relations with a man.

Experiences of two lesbian mothers who are raising two boys and two girls; they stress candor and basic parenting skills.

Suggests that women may function as fathers in the newer family forms.

Resource pamphlet for lesbian mothers by the maker of the film of the same title.

Black lesbian mother living in the Midwest speaks of her relations with her parents, her white lover, and her son.

Sympathetic account of a much-publicized Texas case in which the divorced heterosexual father used economic pressure and the courts to alienate a son's affection from his mother.

In a two-year study of heterosexual and lesbian mothers, found that similarities far exceeded differences. Lesbian mothers did need, however, to work through their sense of guilt.

3871. HALL, MARNY. "Lesbian Families: Cultural and
showing that the feminist and gay movement have fostered
greater openness among lesbian mothers and their compan-
ions, Hall urges social workers and other professionals
to be supportive so as to promote self-esteem.

3872. HANSCOMBE, GILLIAN E., and JACKIE FOSTER. Rocking
the Cradle: Lesbian Mothers: A Challenge in Family
Based chiefly on English experience, offers considerable
attention to artificial insemination (AID) and the con-
troversy this procedure has aroused. See also: Roger
Higgs et al., "Lesbian Couples: Should Help Extend to
AID?" Journal of Medical Ethics, 4 (1978), 91-95; and
Donna Hitchens, Lesbians Choosing Motherhood: The Implica-
tions of Donor Insemination. (San Francisco: Lesbian
Rights Project, 1984); and D. G. Wolf, below.

3873. HITCHENS, DONNA J., and ANN G. THOMAS (eds.),
Lesbian Mothers and Their Children: An Annotated
Bibliography of Legal and Psychological Materials.
Second ed. San Francisco: Lesbian Rights Project,
Useful handbook covering legal aspects (including case
reports and law review articles) and social science as-
pects (functioning and adjustment of lesbians, mothering
among lesbians, mental health, and children). Annota-
tions are detailed and critical; some sections preceded
by "Introduction and Summary."

3874. JULLION, JEANNE. Long Way Home: The Odyssey of a
Lesbian Mother and Her Children. Pittsburgh: Cleis
Personal account of the international campaign of a Cali-
ifornia lesbian to recover custody of her two boys.

3875. KLEIN, CAROLE. The Single Parent Experience. New
"Homosexual Parents" (pp. 77-90) argues that American
society is growing more receptive to alternative concepts
of sex role and sexual identity, which tends to make them
more accepting of lesbians and male homosexuals as par-
ents.

3876. LEICK, NINI, and JOHN NIELSEN. Om lesbiske fam-
iliere. Copenhagen: Studenterradet ved Københavns
A study of Danish lesbian families undertaken in the
psychology department of Copenhagen University.

3877. LEWIN, ELLEN, and TERRIE A. LYONS. "Everything in
Its Place: The Coexistence of Lesbianism and
Motherhood," in: William Paul et al. (eds.), Homo-
sexuality: Social, Psychological and Biological
Reports on a four-year study in the San Francisco Bay area
of adaptive strategies employed by lesbian and heterosexual single mothers, which disclosed substantial similarities between the two groups (maleness of motherhood, support from kin, role of friendship ties, intimate relationships, relations with ex-husbands, and threats to child custody). See also: Lebin, "Lesbianism and Motherhood: Implications for Child Custody," Human Organization, 40 (1981), 6-14.

Comparison of lesbian and heterosexual mothers showed remarkable congruence, with one exception: the lesbians were disturbed by persistent custody fears. Court-awarded custody is never final and can be challenged from a number of sources.

3879. MUCKLOW, BONNIE M., and GALDYS K. PHELAN. "Lesbian and Traditional Mothers' Responses to Adult Response to Child Behavior and Self-Concept," Psychological Reports, 44 (1979), 880-82.
Analyses showed no difference in response to children's behavior or in self-concept of lesbian and traditional mothers.

In the case presentation of a lesbian couple and their two sons in treatment, the therapist holds that unresolved conflict about sexual preference may produce therapeutic problems both for the adults and the children.

While both groups reported oppression in the areas of freedom of association, employment, housing, and child custody, the degree of perceived oppression was greater for lesbian mothers.

Present results of four years of research of lesbian motherhood, based on a questionnaire filled out by lesbians who have children, together with interview.

Five essays review the literature from a variety of perspectives, and a comprehensive bibliography includes some 500 annotations of materials published between 1978 and 1984.

3884. SHAVELSON, EILEEN, et al. "Lesbian Women's Percep-
In a comparison with heterosexual mothers, differences were found concerning sex-role adherence, with lesbian women being more masculinely sex-role typed and more satisfied in their sex lives.

Discuss the nature of the right to reproduce; birth technology and homosexual, lesbian, transsexual, single, and unmarried parents; the mentally retarded as parents; and custody of and access to children.

On legal problems which may arise for lesbians who choose to have children through artificial insemination or sexual intercourse. Reviews both the U. S. Supreme Court cases concerning parental rights and the provisions of California's Uniform Parentage Act.

The number of lesbians who are choosing to have children through artificial insemination is small but growing. The situation gives rise to two needs to which the health care profession should respond; 1) a much greater flexibility with hospital routine so that the mother's psychic needs are considered; and 2) a health model of birth.

C. GAY FATHERS

Gay fathers are less likely than lesbian mothers to seek full custody of their children, but they do generally aspire to visiting rights. In many cities of North America support groups of gay fathers have come into existence, providing practical and emotional self-help for these men.

Interview data indicate that identity congruence evolves over time as the men participate in both the world of fathers and the world of gays. See also his "Gay Fath-