

B. LESBIAN MOTHERS

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.

3865. ABBITT, DIANE, and BOBBIE BENNETT. "Being a Lesbian Mother," in: Betty Berzon and Robert Leighton (eds.), **Positively Gay**. Millbrae, CA: Celestial Arts, 1979, 123-29.
Experiences of two lesbian mothers who are raising two boys and two girls; they stress candor and basic parenting skills.
3866. AGBAYEWA, M. OLUWAFEMI. "Fathers in the Newer Family Forms: Male or Female?" **Canadian Journal of Psychiatry**, 29 (1984), 402-06.
Suggests that women may function as fathers in the newer family forms.
3867. BLACKMON, MARY K. **In the Best Interests of the Children**. Binghamton, NY: Iris, 1977. 21 pp.
Resource pamphlet for lesbian mothers by the maker of the film of the same title.
3868. EBERT, ALLEN. "Lea Hopkins: Just Different," **Essence**, 10:12 (April 1980), 88-89, 122, 124, 127, 128, 130, 134.
Black lesbian mother living in the Midwest speaks of her relations with her parents, her white lover, and her son.
3869. GIBSON, CLIFFORD G., and MARY JO RISHER. **By Her Own Admission: A Lesbian Mother's Fight to Keep Her Son**. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1977. 276 pp.
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.
3870. GOODMAN, BERNICE. "The Lesbian Mother," **American Journal of Orthopsychiatry**, 43 (1973), 283-84.
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

Clinical Issues," **Social Work**, 23:5 (1978), 380-85. Showing that the feminist and gay movement have fostered greater openness among lesbian mothers and their companions, 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 Living**. Boston: Alyson, 1982. 153 pp.

Based chiefly on English experience, offers considerable attention to artificial insemination (AID) and the controversy 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 Implications 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, 1983. 67 pp.

Useful handbook covering legal aspects (including case reports and law review articles) and social science aspects (functioning and adjustment of lesbians, mothering among lesbians, mental health, and children). Annotations 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 Press, 1985. 272 pp.

Personal account of the international campaign of a California lesbian to recover custody of her two boys.

3875. KLEIN, CAROLE. **The Single Parent Experience**. New York: Walker, 1973. 241 pp.

"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 parents.

3876. LEICK, NINI, and JOHN NIELSEN. **Om lesbiske familier**. Copenhagen: Studenterradet ved Kobenhavns Universitet, 1973. 162 pp.

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.), **Homosexuality: Social, Psychological and Biological Issues**. Beverly Hills, CA: Sage, 1982, pp. 249-73.

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 (salience of motherhood, support from kin, role of friendship ties, intimate relationships, relations with ex-husbands, and threats to child custody). See also: Lewin, "Lesbianism and Motherhood: Implications for Child Custody," *Human Organization*, 40 (1981), 6-14.

3878. LYONS, TERRIE. "Lesbian Mothers' Custody Fears," *Women and Therapy*, 2 (1983), 231-40.

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.

3880. OSMAN, SHELOMO. "My Stepfather is a She," *Family Process*, 11 (1972), 209-18.

In this 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.

3881. PAGELow, MILDRED D. "Heterosexual and Lesbian Single Mothers: A Comparison of Problems, Coping, and Solutions," *JH*, 5 (1980), 189-204.

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.

3882. SAPHIRA, MIRIAM. *Amazon Mothers*. Ponsonby, New Zealand: Papers, Inc., 1984. 86 pp.

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

3883. SCHLESINGER, BENJAMIN. *The One-Parent Family in the 1980s: Perspectives and Annotated Bibliography*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1986. 284 pp.

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-

tions of Their Parent-Child Relationships," **JH**, 5 (1979-80), 205-15.

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.

3885. SOMERVILLE, MARGARET A. "Birth Technology, Parenting and 'Deviance,'" **International Journal of Law and Psychiatry**, 5 (1982), 123-53.

Discusses 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.

3886. SUTTON, STUART. "Lesbian Family: Rights in Conflict under the California Uniform Parentage Act," **Golden Gate University Law Review**, 10 (1980), 1007-41.

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.

3887. WOLF, DEBORAH GOLEMAN. "Lesbian Mothers and Artificial Insemination: A Wave of the Future," in: Margarita Artschwager Kay (ed.), **Anthropology of Human Birth**. Philadelphia: F. A. Davis, 1982, pp. 321-39.

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.

3888. BOZETT, FREDERICK W. "Gay Fathers: Evolution of the Gay-Father Identity," **American Journal of Orthopsychiatry**, 51 (1981), 552-59.

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-