

A · N · N · U · A · L E · D · I · T · I · O · N · S

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY



96/97

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY 96/97

Editor

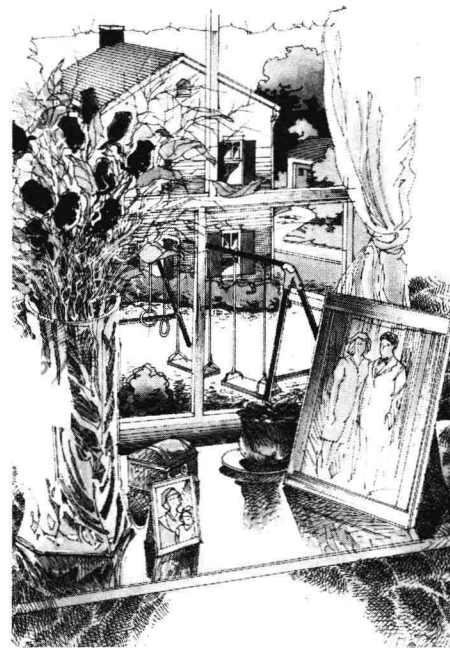
Kathleen R. Gilbert
Indiana University

Kathleen Gilbert is an associate professor in the Department of Applied Health Science at Indiana University. She received her B.A. in Sociology and her M.S. in Marriage and Family Relations from Northern Illinois University. Her Ph.D. in Family Studies is from Purdue University. Dr. Gilbert's primary areas of interest are loss and grief in a family context, trauma and the family, family process, and minority families. She has published several books and articles in these areas.

Twenty-Second Edition

Annual Editions

A Library of Information from the Public Press



Cover illustration by Mike Eagle

**Dushkin Publishing Group/
Brown & Benchmark Publishers**
Sluice Dock, Guilford, Connecticut 06437

The Annual Editions Series

Annual Editions is a series of over 65 volumes designed to provide the reader with convenient, low-cost access to a wide range of current, carefully selected articles from some of the most important magazines, newspapers, and journals published today. Annual Editions are updated on an annual basis through a continuous monitoring of over 300 periodical sources. All Annual Editions have a number of features designed to make them particularly useful, including topic guides, annotated tables of contents, unit overviews, and indexes.

For the teacher using Annual Editions in the classroom, an Instructor's Resource Guide with test questions is available for each volume.



VOLUMES AVAILABLE

Abnormal Psychology
Africa
Aging
American Foreign Policy
American Government
American History, Pre-Civil War
American History, Post-Civil War
American Public Policy
Anthropology
Archaeology
Biopsychology
Business Ethics
Child Growth and Development
China
Comparative Politics
Computers in Education
Computers in Society
Criminal Justice
Developing World
Deviant Behavior
Drugs, Society, and Behavior
Dying, Death, and Bereavement
Early Childhood Education
Economics
Educating Exceptional Children
Education
Educational Psychology
Environment
Geography
Global Issues
Health
Human Development
Human Resources
Human Sexuality

India and South Asia
International Business
Japan and the Pacific Rim
Latin America
Life Management
Macroeconomics
Management
Marketing
Marriage and Family
Mass Media
Microeconomics
Middle East and the Islamic World
Multicultural Education
Nutrition
Personal Growth and Behavior
Physical Anthropology
Psychology
Public Administration
Race and Ethnic Relations
Russia, the Eurasian Republics,
and Central/Eastern Europe
Social Problems
Sociology
State and Local Government
Urban Society
Western Civilization,
Pre-Reformation
Western Civilization,
Post-Reformation
Western Europe
World History, Pre-Modern
World History, Modern
World Politics

Cataloging in Publication Data

Main entry under title: Annual Editions: Marriage and Family. 1996/97.

1. Family—United States—Periodicals. 2. Marriage—United States—Periodicals. I. Gilbert, Kathleen, *comp.* II. Title: Marriage and Family.

ISBN 0-697-31711-0

301.42'05

74-84596

© 1996 by Dushkin Publishing Group/Brown & Benchmark Publishers, Guilford, CT 06437

Copyright law prohibits the reproduction, storage, or transmission in any form by any means of any portion of this publication without the express written permission of Dushkin Publishing Group/Brown & Benchmark Publishers, and of the copyright holder (if different) of the part of the publication to be reproduced. The Guidelines for Classroom Copying endorsed by Congress explicitly state that unauthorized copying may not be used to create, to replace, or to substitute for anthologies, compilations, or collective works.

Annual Editions® is a Registered Trademark of Dushkin Publishing Group/
Brown & Benchmark Publishers, a Times Mirror Higher Education Group company.

Twenty-Second Edition

Printed in the United States of America

Editors/ Advisory Board

EDITOR

Kathleen R. Gilbert
Indiana University

ADVISORY BOARD

Gloria W. Bird
Virginia Polytechnic Institute
& State University

Judy Bordin
California State University
Chico

Sari G. Byrd
Suffolk County Community College

Marie J. Corey
Michigan State University

Bernard Davidson
Medical College of Georgia

Preston M. Dyer
Baylor University

Linda E. Enders
Iowa State University

Anita Farel
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill

David J. Hanson
SUNY at Potsdam

Fred Hoffman
Chaffey Community College

Dennis Johnson
Monterey Peninsula College

Narendra Nath Kalia
Buffalo State College

Rita Krasnow
Virginia Western
Community College

Marcia Lasswell
California State Polytechnic
University, Pomona

Janette K. Newhouse
Radford University

Catherine Norris
Carson-Newman College

Florence Rose
Chaffey Community College

Dorothy Seiden
San Francisco State University

Aysan Sev'er
Scarborough College
University of Toronto

Kenrick S. Thompson
Northern Michigan University

Robert M. Walsh
Illinois State University

Karen Wilson-Sudberry
Texas A & M University

Members of the Advisory Board are instrumental in the final selection of articles for each edition of Annual Editions. Their review of articles for content, level, currentness, and appropriateness provides critical direction to the editor and staff. We think you'll find their careful consideration well reflected in this volume.

STAFF

Ian A. Nielsen, Publisher
Brenda S. Filley, Production Manager
Roberta Monaco, Editor
Addie Raucci, Administrative Editor
Cheryl Greenleaf, Permissions Editor
Deanna Herrschaft, Permissions Assistant
Diane Barker, Proofreader
Lisa Holmes-Doebrock, Program Coordinator
Charles Vitelli, Designer
Shawn Callahan, Graphics
Lara M. Johnson, Graphics
Laura Levine, Graphics
Mike Campbell, Graphics
Libra A. Cusack, Typesetting Supervisor
Juliana Arbo, Typesetter
Jane Jaegersen, Typesetter
Marie Lazauskas, Word Processor

To the Reader

In publishing ANNUAL EDITIONS we recognize the enormous role played by the magazines, newspapers, and journals of the *public press* in providing current, first-rate educational information in a broad spectrum of interest areas. Within the articles, the best scientists, practitioners, researchers, and commentators draw issues into new perspective as accepted theories and viewpoints are called into account by new events, recent discoveries change old facts, and fresh debate breaks out over important controversies. Many of the articles resulting from this enormous editorial effort are appropriate for students, researchers, and professionals seeking accurate, current material to help bridge the gap between principles and theories and the real world. These articles, however, become more useful for study when those of lasting value are carefully collected, organized, indexed, and reproduced in a low-cost format, which provides easy and permanent access when the material is needed. That is the role played by ANNUAL EDITIONS. Under the direction of each volume's *Editor*, who is an expert in the subject area, and with the guidance of an *Advisory Board*, we seek each year to provide in each ANNUAL EDITION a current, well-balanced, carefully selected collection of the best of the public press for your study and enjoyment. We think you'll find this volume useful, and we hope you'll take a moment to let us know what you think.

The purpose of *Annual Editions: Marriage and Family 96/97* is to bring to the reader the latest thoughts and trends in our understanding of the family, to identify current concerns as well as problems and possible solutions, and to present alternative views of family process. The intent of this anthology is to explore intimate relationships as they are played out in marriage and family and, in doing this, to reflect the family's changing face.

The articles in this volume are taken from professional publications, semiprofessional journals, and popular lay publications aimed at both special populations and a general readership. The selections are carefully reviewed for their currency and accuracy. In some cases, contrasting viewpoints are presented. In others, articles are paired in such a way as to personalize the more impersonal scholarly information. In the current edition, approximately 50 percent of the articles have changed from the previous edition upon updating and responding to reviewers' comments. As the reader, you will note the tremendous range of tone and focus of these articles, from first-person accounts to reports of scientific discoveries as well as philosophical and theoretical writings. Some are more practical and applications-oriented, while others are more conceptual and research-oriented.

This anthology is organized to cover many of the important aspects of marriage and family. The first unit looks at varied perspectives on the family. The second unit examines the beginning steps of relationship building as individuals go through the process of exploring and establishing connections. In the third unit, means of finding and maintaining a relationship balance are examined. Unit four is concerned with issues of crises and ways in which these can act as challenges and opportunities for families and their members. Finally, unit five takes an affirming view as it looks at families, now and into the future.

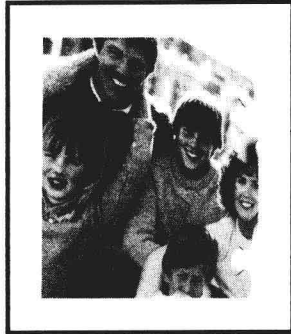
Instructors can use *Annual Editions: Marriage and Family 96/97* as a primary text for introductory marriage and family classes, particularly when they tie the content of the articles to basic information on marriage and family. It can also be used as a supplement to update or emphasize certain aspects of standard marriage and family textbooks. Because of the provocative nature of many of the articles in this anthology, it works quite well as a basis for class discussion about various aspects of marriage and family relationships.

I would like to thank everyone involved in the development of this volume. My thanks go to those who sent in *article rating forms* and comments on the previous edition as well as those who suggested articles to consider for inclusion in this edition. Finally, to all of the students in my Marriage and Family Interactions class who have contributed critiques of articles, I would like to say thanks.

Anyone interested in providing input for future editions of *Annual Editions: Marriage and Family* should complete and return the postage-paid *article rating form* at the end of this book. Your suggestions are much appreciated and contribute to the continuing high quality of this anthology.



Kathleen R. Gilbert
Editor

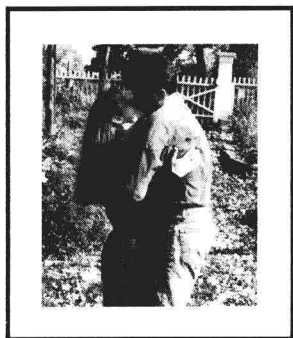


Unit 1

Varied Perspectives on the Family

Six articles explore different views on where our images of family come from and how they are influenced by our life experiences as well as societal and cultural constraints.

To the Reader	iv
Topic Guide	2
Overview	4
1. Is the Family Obsolete? Leon Eisenberg, <i>The Key Reporter</i> , Spring 1995.	6
Comparing the United States to other nations, Leon Eisenberg looks at the problems faced by families today. <i>Social policies that support the family and promote child health</i> , based on "active intervention to promote the welfare of the family, teaching adolescents to nurture younger children" are proposed.	
2. The New Crusade for the Old Family , Arlene Skolnick and Stacey Rosencrantz, <i>The American Prospect</i> , Summer 1994.	10
Family restorationists agree on the elements that lead to the breakdown of the family . Yet, their arguments may be overstated. Problems in the research that serves as the basis for their statements are discussed.	
3. The New Family: Investing in Human Capital , David A. Hamburg, <i>Current</i> , July/August 1993.	16
<i>Working parents, single parents</i> , child care, families <i>separated from extended-family supports</i> , families in <i>poverty</i> , parents unprepared for parenting, and children unprepared for school are realities of today's family life. David Hamburg calls on us to respond in ways that <i>support and strengthen families</i> .	
4. Bringing Democracy Home: Shere Hite Reports on the Family , Shere Hite, <i>Ms</i> , March/April 1995.	25
An optimistic picture of the family moving from <i>patriarchal control</i> to <i>democratic family functioning</i> is portrayed in this article.	
5. The Ache for Home , Monica McGoldrick, <i>The Family Therapy Networker</i> , July/August 1994.	31
<i>Diversity in family life</i> , its benefits, and its pitfalls are discussed in this essay. Monica McGoldrick describes her personal journey toward seeing those things that had been invisible to her as she grew up: <i>culture, gender, class, and race</i> . Suggestions on taking advantage of the richness of diversity are made.	
6. Growing Up in Black and White , Jack E. White, <i>Time</i> , May 17, 1993.	36
Jack White discusses the societal factors that influence <i>images of self-identity</i> , particularly in young black children. Their view of themselves and their race comes from television, movies, and children's literature, which seductively "link everything beautiful and alluring with whiteness while often treating blacks as afterthoughts."	



Unit 2

Exploring and Establishing Relationships

Thirteen articles address factors that influence the formation of close relationships, both romantic and generative.

Overview

38

A. EMOTIONS AND RELATING

7. **Love: The Immutable Longing for Contact**, Susan Johnson with Hara Estroff Marano, *Psychology Today*, March/April 1994. 40

A deep and abiding need for connection underlies a **lifelong desire for love** in close relationships. **Attachment theory** explains the varied nature of the way we act on this powerful force.

8. **What Makes Love Last?** Alan AtKisson, *New Age Journal*, September/October 1994. 45

What are the keys to **long-term relationships**? One of the keys is in how the couple handles disagreements. **Validating**, **volatile**, or **conflict-avoiding** interactional styles can all contribute to relationship longevity.

9. **Why Don't We Act Like the Opposite Sex?** Anthony Layng, *USA Today Magazine* (*Society for the Advancement of Education*), January 1993. 52

Although cross-cultural variability of **sex roles** exists, the emerging field of sociobiology has found a significant proportion of similar attitudes and behaviors that suggest **men** and **women** will continue to **behave differently**.

10. **Back Off!** Geraldine K. Piorkowski, *Psychology Today*, January/February 1995. 56

Are our **expectations** for **close relationships** too high? Partners in any relationship need time for themselves as well as for each other, but recognizing this is a subjective **balance** reached by the partners.

B. FINDING A PARTNER

11. **Choosing Mates—The American Way**, Martin King Whyte, *Society*, March/April 1992. 59

Based on **soaring divorce rates** and other indicators of trouble in American marriages and families, many wonder if the "**youth-driven**" dating system for finding **Mr. or Ms. Right** is part of the problem. Martin Whyte traces the history and features of the American dating and mate-selection process.

12. **The Mating Game**, *U.S. News & World Report*, July 19, 1993. 66

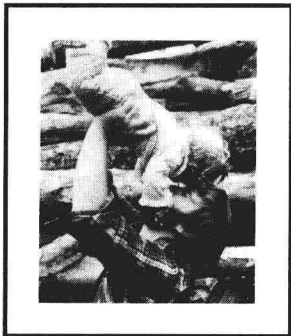
From Romeo and Juliet to Tristram and Isolde to Julia Roberts and Lyle Lovett, not much has changed in the mating game, according to scientists. The **chemistry of attraction**, the **dances of intrigue**, assessment, negotiation, and the patterns of male and female **arousal and behavior** are age-old.

C. SEXUALITY IN RELATIONSHIPS

13. **Psychotrends: Taking Stock of Tomorrow's Family and Sexuality**, Shervett H. Frazier, *Psychology Today*, January/February 1994. 70

The sexual revolution is far from dead. In fact, in the next 20 years it will be fueled by the same forces that saw its origin and will lead to interesting changes in sexuality, **family**, and **intimate relationships**. Shervett Frazier perceives these changing attitudes as progress for people and **families**.

14. **Choosing a Contraceptive**, Joseph Anthony, *American Health*, April 1994. 75
Which contraceptive is best for you? The choice is not always easy, as each has its **strengths and drawbacks**. Joseph Anthony discusses the **contraceptive methods** available in the United States, and he evaluates their **effectiveness** for preventing both pregnancy and the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).
 15. **Men, Sex, and Parenthood in an Overpopulating World**, Aaron Sachs, *World Watch*, March/April 1994. 78
Family planning efforts have failed worldwide, some say, due to men's **sexual attitudes**. What will it take to change sociocultural attitudes that value fertility, but not responsibility? The **politics of contraception** are complex, but *World Watch* and international population efforts say the potential for change exists if **gender differences** are recognized.
- D. THE NEXT GENERATION**
16. **Baby Love**, Rickie Solinger, *In These Times*, September 19–October 2, 1994. 85
The desire for a baby can lead to expensive **fertility treatments**. Opposing views on the use of these technologies are presented by Rickie Solinger.
 17. **What a Baby Really Costs**, Jessica Rosenthal Benson and Marija Johnson, *Parents*, April 1994. 88
A recent government study suggests that it costs about \$8,000 for the first baby to join a family. The first year estimate does not include the \$4,500–7,500 for **prenatal care** and delivery! This points to the need for **appropriate health insurance** to defray the expenses as well as the implications for finding proper **child care** when the **parent(s)** go back to work.
 18. **Adolescent Childbearing: Whose Problem? What Can We Do?** Diane Scott-Jones, *Phi Delta Kappan*, November 1993. 90
Young people become biologically mature at very early ages, putting biological forces at odds with social ones. **Teen pregnancy** is not just a minority youth or a female problem. Diane Scott-Jones addresses what society can do about the **epidemic of children bearing children**.
 19. **The Lifelong Impact of Adoption**, Marlou Russell, *USA Today Magazine (Society for the Advancement of Education)*, July 1994. 100
Young adults who were adopted, who relinquished a child to **adoption**, or who adopted a child share common bonds. According to Marylou Russell, all of these people have **felt a loss** (biological, parental, child, fertility). All grieve without a ritual of support, and all search for members of the adoption triad.



Unit 3

Finding a Balance: Maintaining Relationships

Twelve articles consider the complex issues related to keeping a relationship going. From marriage to parent/child relationships and in our sibling relationships and the "grand" alliance, relationship maintenance requires thought and commitment from members.

Overview

102

A. MARRIAGE AND OTHER COMMITTED RELATIONSHIPS

20. **What's Happening to American Marriage?** Norval D. Glenn, *USA Today Magazine* (Society for the Advancement of Education), May 1993. 104

High **divorce rates** . . . declining **remarriage rates** . . . people **waiting longer** to get married—is marriage **no longer valued**, or are married people **less happy**? The answers are complex and **reflect changes in the expectations, values, and experiences** of today's Americans.

21. **Peer Marriage**, Pepper Schwartz, *The Family Therapy Networker*, September/October 1994. 107

What is the nature of a marriage when the couple creates a **truly egalitarian relationship**? In this article, Pepper Schwartz reports her sometimes surprising findings on the benefits and drawbacks of peer marriage.

22. **Receipts from a Marriage**, Margaret K. Ambry, *American Demographics*, February 1993. 112

Although it is common for married couples of all ages to look at each other and ask, "**Where does our money go?**" Margaret Ambry says couples at different marital stages spend their money very differently. From a **childfree** stage through the **parenting** stage to an **empty nest stage**, **spending habits shift**. You may be surprised how and why.

23. **Staying Power: Bridging the Gender Gap in the Confusing '90s**, Melinda Blau, *American Health*, May 1994. 118

Melinda Blau explores how to have a 1990s relationship in a world that is structured for the traditional. **Breaking out of the stereotypical husband/wife**, mother/father roles is discussed.

24. **But What Do You Mean?** Deborah Tannen, *Redbook*, October 1994. 121

Do **men and women speak the same language**? Linguist Deborah Tannen provides a list of seven conversational traps couples may face and methods of avoiding them.

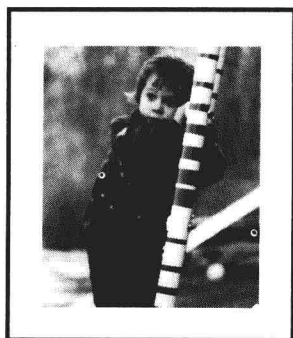
25. **Saving Relationships: The Power of the Unpredictable**, Barry L. Duncan and Joseph W. Rock, *Psychology Today*, January/February 1993. 124

Relationships, like small engines or teams, run smoothly until something or someone changes. Any one change causes effects, often leading to other changes. **Predictability and unpredictability, action and reaction**, blame, hurt, and silence can kill relationships. This article applies **systems thinking** to saving relationships.

B. RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PARENTS AND CHILDREN

26. **Vanishing Dreams of America's Young Families**, Marian Wright Edelman, *Challenge*, May/June 1992. 129

Young **families**, according to this article, are having more than the usual uphill struggle as they get established in **jobs**, marry, start a family, and buy a house. Marian Wright Edelman argues that every child is entitled to a fair start, a healthy start, and a head start in life.



Unit 4

Crises—Challenges and Opportunities

A wide variety of crises, normative and catastrophic, are detailed in thirteen articles. Ranging from broad cultural factors impacting on families to the intimate crises of infidelity and divorce, these articles provide accounts of devastation and hope.

27. **Effective Fathers: Why Are Some Dads More Successful than Others?** Ken R. Canfield, *The World & I*, June 1995. 136

Why are some *fathers successful in their role* while others abandon or are overwhelmed by it? Ken Canfield identifies *seven aspects of effective fathering* in this thought-provoking article.

28. **The Family Heart**, Robb Forman Dew, *Good Housekeeping*, June 1994. 141

Robb Forman Dew candidly presents one *mother's account* of her experiences when her son came "out of the closet." In a heart-warming, insightful, and, most importantly, an honest way, this mother talks about the steps she went through to gain an *understanding and acceptance* of the fact that her *son is gay*.

29. **"I Don't Sweat the Small Stuff Anymore,"** Jan Goodwin, *Ladies' Home Journal*, May 1994. 144

By opening their home to *foster children who tested positive for HIV* (the virus that causes AIDS), one *family learned a lesson* about themselves and society. Jan Goodwin tells what this family has done to help children nobody else wants.

C. SIBLINGS: ANOTHER LIFELONG RELATIONSHIP

30. **Siblings and Development**, Judy Dunn, *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, February 1992. 147

Although siblings grow up in the same family, they are often very different from each other. One major reason is that *siblings may not experience the "same" family* due to parents' differential treatment of their children. The "Mom always liked you best" perception leads to differences between siblings as well as *sibling rivalry*. Sibling differences also arise because of the ways siblings treat each other.

31. **The Secret World of Siblings**, *U.S. News & World Report*, January 10, 1994. 151

The importance of *siblings* is being recognized by scientists because siblings are taking over *parental roles*. Why siblings are similar yet different and how and why siblings develop *relationships* in childhood and adulthood are being scrutinized.

Overview 156

A. FAMILY VIOLENCE

32. **Helping Children Cope with Violence**, Lorraine B. Wallach, *Young Children*, May 1993. 158

"Children who grow up in violent communities are at risk for pathological development because growing up in a constant state of apprehension makes it difficult to establish trust, autonomy, and social competence."

33. **After He Hits Her**, Jane H. Wolf-Smith and Ralph LaRossa, *Family Relations*, July 1992. 164

According to the authors' analysis of interviews with 50 battered women, "interactional dynamics" affect the likelihood that abuse will continue. Understanding a continuum of behaviors, including the abusers' "aligning actions," the victims' "honoring" (or rejecting)

of these disclaimers, and their contribution to a "hitting license," appears important in *recurring violence*.

34. **Where Do We Go from Here? An Interview with Ann Jones**, Gloria Jacobs, *Ms*, September/October 1994. 170

Battery is a major health problem for women. What should the focus be in ending this violence? In this essay, Ann Jones, a leading author on this topic, is interviewed regarding the need to *change public attitudes* and *reform batterers* rather than focus on the behavior of the battered women.

35. **Passion Kills**, Louise Farr, *Redbook*, October 1994. 176

Whether it is directed toward oneself or another, *violence* that comes from *obsession* with a love interest can result in *tragedy* that impacts on the entire family.

B. SEXUAL ISSUES AND INFIDELITY

36. **Beyond Betrayal: Life after Infidelity**, Frank Pittman III, *Psychology Today*, May/June 1993. 180

Although most first *affairs* are accidental and unintended, some people, according to the author, planfully and regularly violate their marital vows. With commonly believed myths about *infidelity* and a typology of infidelities, Frank Pittman exposes the realities of this often-damaged script.

37. **Sex in America: Faithfulness in Marriage Is Overwhelming**, Tamar Lewin, *New York Times*, October 7, 1994. 187

An authoritative new study of American sexual practices "paints a more subdued picture of *marital fidelity*, *few partners*, and *less sexual practices*" than was revealed in earlier studies. Tamar Lewin examines these new data on Americans' sexual practices.

C. WORK/FAMILY STRESS

38. **The Myth of the Miserable Working Woman**, Rosalind C. Barnett and Caryl Rivers, *Working Woman*, February 1992. 189

A number of myths about working women are dispelled in this informative article. The media have portrayed *working women* as stressed, unhealthy, and unable to cope with both working and *family responsibilities*. Recent research, on the contrary, indicates just the opposite seems to be true.

39. **Family, Work, and Gender Equality: A Policy Comparison of Scandinavia, the United States, and the Former Soviet Union**, Elina Haavio-Mannila, *SIECUS Report*, August/September 1993. 193

A look at *family and work roles* of men and women across several cultures shows some surprising differences. The author identifies the United States as unique in its reluctance to address *family and gender roles* and asserts that these policies discourage people from having and rearing *children*.

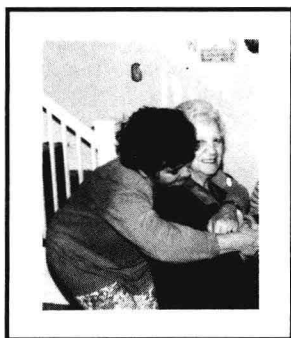
D. THE STRESS OF FAMILY CAREGIVING

40. **Caregiving: Continuities and Discontinuities in Family Members' Relationships with Alzheimer's Patients**, Catherine Chesla, Ida Martinson, and Marilou Muwaswes, *Family Relations*, January 1994. 198

What impact does daily care of a family member suffering from Alzheimer's disease have on *family members providing that care*? This report looks at ways in which the relationship remains *continuous, continuous but transformed, and discontinuous*.

41. **The Long Road Back: A Daughter Deals with Her Mother's Stroke**, Patricia K. Lynch, *Family Circle*, May 17, 1994. 205

Patricia Lynch provides moving insight on the *mother-daughter bond* through the care she is providing for her stroke-affected mother.



Unit 5

Families, Now and into the Future

Four articles look at means of establishing and/or maintaining health and healthy relationships in families.

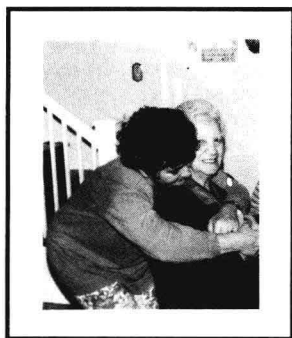
E. DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

42. **Should This Marriage Be Saved?** Elizabeth Gleick, *Time*, February 27, 1995. 207
Preparing for marriage, anticipating problems, recognizing the negative effects of divorce on children—a wide variety of programs that have been developed to **reduce the likelihood of divorce** and efforts to **reduce the impact** of when a divorce takes place are chronicled by Elizabeth Gleick.
43. **Lessons from Stepfamilies**, Virginia Rutter, *Psychology Today*, May/June 1994. 210
At least in part because of their greater complexity, stepfamilies serve as a testing ground for the makings of **successful relationships**. Such issues as **myths of remarriage**, the difficulties of **coparenting**, **divided loyalties**, and the need for **acceptance** are addressed by Virginia Rutter.
44. **The Myths and Misconceptions of the Stepmother Identity**, Marianne Dainton, *Family Relations*, January 1993. 216
“*Hansel and Gretel*,” “*Cinderella*,” and “*Snow White*,” three of the Brothers Grimm’s most familiar fairy tales, have something in common: **a wicked stepmother**. According to Marianne Dainton, this myth and its flip side, **the myth of instant love**, are detrimental to stepmothers and blended families.

Overview 222

45. **Trace Your Family Tree**, Ruth Papazian, *American Health*, May 1994. 224
How important is knowing your **family’s medical history**? Research shows an extremely high number of diseases are hereditary. Learning how to **chart your family health tree** now could save your life later.
46. **Happy Families: Who Says They All Have to Be Alike?** Susan Chollar, *American Health*, July/August 1993. 229
The **quality** of relationships, the **level** of conflict, and a **willingness** to acknowledge and work on problems are more significant factors in the **health and happiness** of families than the number of parents or the resemblance to the nostalgic Cleavers or Nelsons.
47. **Rewriting Life Stories**, Geoffrey Cowley and Karen Sprin- 232
gen, *Newsweek*, April 17, 1995.
We experience **life as stories**, and a novel approach to therapy shows how rewriting these stories can lead to the recognition of **hidden strengths**.
48. **Rituals for Our Times**, Evan Imber-Black and Janine 236
Roberts, *New Age Journal*, September/October 1992.
Families develop rituals for any number of reasons: to **heal broken relationships**, **honor rites of passage**, **celebrate triumphs**, **mourn losses**. Rituals provide **connection and membership** to family members and can be incorporated throughout the life of the family.

Index	241
Article Review Form	244
Article Rating Form	245



Unit 5

Families, Now and into the Future

Four articles look at means of establishing and/or maintaining health and healthy relationships in families.

E. DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

42. **Should This Marriage Be Saved?** Elizabeth Gleick, *Time*, February 27, 1995. **207**

Preparing for marriage, anticipating problems, recognizing the negative effects of divorce on children—a wide variety of programs that have been developed to **reduce the likelihood of divorce** and efforts to **reduce the impact** of when a divorce takes place are chronicled by Elizabeth Gleick.

43. **Lessons from Stepfamilies**, Virginia Rutter, *Psychology Today*, May/June 1994. **210**

At least in part because of their greater complexity, stepfamilies serve as a testing ground for the makings of **successful relationships**. Such issues as **myths of remarriage**, the difficulties of **coparenting**, **divided loyalties**, and the need for **acceptance** are addressed by Virginia Rutter.

44. **The Myths and Misconceptions of the Stepmother Identity**, Marianne Dainton, *Family Relations*, January 1993. **216**

"Hansel and Gretel," "Cinderella," and **"Snow White,"** three of the Brothers Grimm's most familiar fairy tales, have something in common: **a wicked stepmother**. According to Marianne Dainton, this myth and its flip side, **the myth of instant love**, are detrimental to stepmothers and blended families.

Overview **222**

45. **Trace Your Family Tree**, Ruth Papazian, *American Health*, May 1994. **224**

How important is knowing your **family's medical history**? Research shows an extremely high number of diseases are hereditary. Learning how to **chart your family health tree** now could save your life later.

46. **Happy Families: Who Says They All Have to Be Alike?** Susan Chollar, *American Health*, July/August 1993. **229**

The **quality** of relationships, the **level** of conflict, and a **willingness** to acknowledge and work on problems are more significant factors in the **health and happiness** of families than the number of parents or the resemblance to the nostalgic Cleavers or Nelsons.

47. **Rewriting Life Stories**, Geoffrey Cowley and Karen Sprin- gen, *Newsweek*, April 17, 1995. **232**

We experience **life as stories**, and a novel approach to therapy shows how rewriting these stories can lead to the recognition of **hidden strengths**.

48. **Rituals for Our Times**, Evan Imber-Black and Janine Roberts, *New Age Journal*, September/October 1992. **236**

Families develop rituals for any number of reasons: to **heal broken relationships**, **honor rites of passage**, **celebrate triumphs**, **mourn losses**. Rituals provide **connection and membership** to family members and can be incorporated throughout the life of the family.

Index	241
Article Review Form	244
Article Rating Form	245

Topic Guide

This topic guide suggests how the selections in this book relate to topics of traditional concern to students and professionals involved with the study of marriage and family. It is useful for locating articles that relate to each other for reading and research. The guide is arranged alphabetically according to topic. Articles may, of course, treat topics that do not appear in the topic guide. In turn, entries in the topic guide do not necessarily constitute a comprehensive listing of all the contents of each selection.

TOPIC AREA	TREATED IN	TOPIC AREA	TREATED IN
Abuse	32. Helping Children Cope with Violence 33. After He Hits Her 34. Where Do We Go from Here? 35. Passion Kills	Culture	1. Is the Family Obsolete? 5. Ache for Home 6. Growing Up in Black and White 15. Men, Sex, and Parenthood 18. Adolescent Childbearing 23. Staying Power 28. Family Heart 32. Helping Children Cope with Violence 39. Family, Work, and Gender Equality 46. Happy Families 48. Rituals for Our Times
Adolescence	11. Choosing Mates—The American Way 13. Psychotrends 18. Adolescent Childbearing	Dating/Mate Selection	7. Love: Immutable Longing for Contact 8. What Makes Love Last? 11. Choosing Mates—The American Way 12. Mating Game 35. Passion Kills
Adoption	19. Lifelong Impact of Adoption	Divorce	2. New Crusade for the Old Family 20. What's Happening to American Marriage? 36. Beyond Betrayal 42. Should This Marriage Be Saved? 43. Lessons from Stepfamilies
Aging	13. Psychotrends 22. Receipts from a Marriage 40. Caregiving 41. Long Road Back 45. Trace your Family Tree	Family Systems	4. Bringing Democracy Home 5. Ache for Home 21. Peer Marriage 28. Family Heart 30. Siblings and Development 31. Secret World of Siblings 41. Long Road Back 43. Lessons from Stepfamilies 46. Happy Families 47. Rewriting Life Stories 48. Rituals for Our Times
Biological Issues	7. Love: Immutable Longing for Contact 9. Why Don't We Act Like the Opposite Sex? 13. Psychotrends 16. Baby Love	"Family Values" Conflict	1. Is the Family Obsolete? 2. New Crusade for the Old Family 3. New Family: Investing in Human Capital 4. Bringing Democracy Home
Children and Childcare	1. Is the Family Obsolete? 3. New Family: Investing in Human Capital 6. Growing Up in Black and White 7. Love: Immutable Longing for Contact 17. What a Baby Really Costs 18. Adolescent Childbearing 19. Lifelong Impact of Adoption 21. Peer Marriage 26. Vanishing Dreams of America's Young Families 27. Effective Fathers 29. I Don't Sweat the Small Stuff Anymore 32. Helping Children Cope with Violence 44. Myths and Misconceptions of the Stepmother Identity 46. Happy Families	Gender Roles	4. Bringing Democracy Home 9. Why Don't We Act Like the Opposite Sex? 11. Choosing Mates—The American Way 12. Mating Game 13. Psychotrends 15. Men, Sex, and Parenthood 16. Baby Love 21. Peer Marriage 23. Staying Power 24. But What Do You Mean? 25. Saving Relationships 27. Effective Fathers 33. After He Hits Her 34. Where Do We Go from Here? 38. Myth of the Miserable Working Woman 44. Myths and Misconceptions of the Stepmother Identity
Communication	7. Love: Immutable Longing for Contact 10. Back Off! 12. Mating Game 23. Staying Power 24. But What Do You Mean? 25. Saving Relationships 27. Effective Fathers 43. Lessons from Stepfamilies 46. Happy Families		

TOPIC AREA	TREATED IN	TOPIC AREA	TREATED IN
Health Concerns	13. Psychotrends 14. Choosing a Contraceptive 15. Men, Sex, and Parenthood 16. Baby Love 28. Family Heart 29. I Don't Sweat the Small Stuff Anymore 34. Where Do We Go from Here? 40. Caregiving 41. Long Road Back 45. Trace Your Family Tree	Poverty	1. Is the Family Obsolete? 2. New Crusade for the Old Family 18. Adolescent Childbearing 26. Vanishing Dreams of America's Young Families
Infidelity	12. Mating Game 36. Beyond Betrayal 37. Sex in America	Pregnancy/Childbirth	15. Men, Sex, and Parenthood 16. Baby Love 17. What a Baby Really Costs 18. Adolescent Childbearing
Intimacy/Romantic Love	5. Ache for Home 7. Love: Immutable Longing for Contact 8. What Makes Love Last? 10. Back Off! 11. Choosing Mates—The American Way 12. Mating Game 20. What's Happening to American Marriage? 21. Peer Marriage 25. Saving Relationships 35. Passion Kills 36. Beyond Betrayal 37. Sex in America 46. Happy Families	Race/Ethnicity	5. Ache for Home 6. Growing Up in Black and White 18. Adolescent Childbearing 26. Vanishing Dreams of America's Young Families
Laws/Governmental Roles/Policy	1. Is the Family Obsolete? 2. New Crusade for the Old Family 3. New Family: Investing in Human Capital 16. Baby Love 18. Adolescent Childbearing 26. Vanishing Dreams of America's Young Families 34. Where Do We Go from Here? 39. Family, Work, and Gender Equality	Remarriage	43. Lessons from Stepfamilies 44. Myths and Misconceptions of the Stepmother Identity
Marriage	8. What Makes Love Last? 11. Choosing Mates—The American Way 20. What's Happening to American Marriage? 21. Peer Marriage 22. Receipts from a Marriage 27. Effective Fathers 36. Beyond Betrayal 38. Myth of the Miserable Working Woman 42. Should This Marriage Be Saved? 43. Lessons from Stepfamilies 46. Happy Families	Sex/Sexuality	12. Mating Game 13. Psychotrends 14. Choosing a Contraceptive 15. Men, Sex, and Parenthood 18. Adolescent Childbearing 21. Peer Marriage 25. Saving Relationships 36. Beyond Betrayal 37. Sex in America
Parents/Parenting	6. Growing Up in Black and White 7. Love: Immutable Longing for Contact 17. What a Baby Really Costs 18. Adolescent Childbearing 21. Peer Marriage 22. Receipts from a Marriage 26. Vanishing Dreams of America's Young Families 27. Effective Fathers 28. Family Heart 42. Should This Marriage Be Saved? 43. Lessons from Stepfamilies 44. Myths and Misconceptions of the Stepmother Identity 46. Happy Families	Siblings	30. Siblings and Development 31. Secret World of Siblings
		Single-Parent Homes	1. Is the Family Obsolete? 3. New Family: Investing in Human Capital
		Values	1. Is the Family Obsolete? 5. Ache for Home 6. Growing Up in Black and White 11. Choosing Mates—The American Way 15. Men, Sex, and Parenthood 20. What's Happening to American Marriage? 21. Peer Marriage 28. Family Heart 39. Family, Work, and Gender Equality 42. Should This Marriage Be Saved? 46. Happy Families 48. Rituals for Our Times
		Work and Family	3. New Family: Investing in Human Capital 21. Peer Marriage 26. Vanishing Dreams of America's Young Families 38. Myth of the Miserable Working Woman 39. Family, Work, and Gender Equality

Varied Perspectives on the Family

Our image of what family is and what it should be is a powerful combination of personal experience, family forms we see, and attitudes we hold. Once formed, this image informs decision making and interpersonal interaction throughout our lives. It has far-reaching impacts: On an intimate level, it influences individual and family development as well as relationships both within the family and without. On a broader level, it affects social policy and programming.

In many ways, this image can be positive. It can act to clarify our thinking and facilitate interaction with like-minded individuals. It can also be negative, as it can narrow our thinking and limit our ability to see other ways of carrying out the functions of family as having value. Their very differentness makes them “bad.” In this case, interaction with others can be impeded because of contrasting views.

This unit is intended to meet several goals with regard to perspectives on the family: (1) to sensitize the reader to sources of beliefs about the “shoulds” of the family: what the family should be and the ways in which family roles should be carried out, (2) to show how different views of the family can influence attitudes toward community responsibility and family policy, (3) to show how views that dominate one’s childhood can influence awareness of alternative ways of structuring family life.

The first article, “Is the Family Obsolete?” explores the problems faced by families of today and advocates a social policy that promotes child health and supports families. The next three articles provide dramatic examples of the changing face of the family. The first two

address broad societal responsibilities for these “new” families and their members. In the third, “Bringing Democracy Home: Shere Hite Reports on the Family,” an alternative view is provided—an optimistic picture of the family moving from patriarchal control to democratic family functioning. The next two articles look at the ways in which images of family can be restrictive and possibly harmful. In “The Ache for Home,” family therapist Monica McGoldrick describes her personal journey toward awareness of culture, gender, class, and race, all of which had been “invisible” to her as she grew up. “Growing Up in Black and White” looks at the societal factors that influence images of self-identity, particularly in young black children. Unless they are countered by images that encourage these children to value themselves, these factors can do serious damage to the self-images of these children.

Looking Ahead: Challenge Questions

If you had the power to propose a government program to support today’s families, what would it be? What image do you have of families that would take advantage of that program?

What type of intervention would you propose to help children growing up in troubled families?

Discuss why you are—or are not—hopeful for the future of children and families.

How would you go about expanding your ideas of what is acceptable in terms of family relationships and family roles? How far do you think you should go in this?

