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MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

97/98



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Twenty-Third Edition

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Editors/Advisory Board

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 that you will find their careful consideration well reflected in this volume.

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Indiana University

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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. Many of these articles 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 *academic editor*, who is an expert in the subject area, and with the guidance of an *Advisory Board*, each year we seek 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 that you will find this volume useful, and we hope that you will take a moment to let us know what you think.

The purpose of *Annual Editions: Marriage and Family 97/98* 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, a number of new articles have been added to reflect reviewers' comments. As the reader, you will note the tremendous range in 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 crises and ways in which these can act as challenges and opportuni-

ties 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 97/98* as a primary text for introductory marriage and family classes, particularly when they tie the content of the readings to basic information on marriage and family. This book 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 essays in this anthology, it works 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 appreciation goes 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

Five 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.

UNIT 2



Exploring and Establishing Relationships

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

To the Reader Topic Guide

Overview

1. **The New Crusade for the Old Family**, Arlene Skolnick and Stacey Rosencrantz, *The American Prospect*, Summer 1994. Family restorationists agree on the elements that lead to the *break-down of the family*. Yet, their arguments may be overstated. Problems in the research that serves as the basis for their statements are discussed. 6
2. **The Family: Home Sweet Home**, *The Economist*, September 9, 1995. *Government family policies*, both official and unofficial, have *intended and unintended effects on families* and their members. By contrasting the policies of the United States and Britain with those of Germany and Sweden, this essay points out some needed changes. 12
3. **The Way We Weren't: The Myth and Reality of the "Traditional" Family**, Stephanie Coontz, *National Forum*, Summer 1995. The view that we need to return to "the good old days" for strong, healthy families is *based more on myth than on the reality of the past*. Stephanie Coontz, a family historian, reveals that *family dysfunction has existed* in every period and family type and that *family types are time- and situation-specific*. 15
4. **The Family under Siege by Its "Friends,"** Kenneth Chafin, *National Forum*, Summer 1995. What are "*family values*" and who should determine them? Kenneth Chafin argues that this term should be expanded beyond its common identification with the Christian Right to *reflect the diversity of current family forms*. 19
5. **African American Families: A Legacy of Vulnerability and Resilience**, Beverly Greene, *National Forum*, Summer 1995. Opposing the general view of the African American family as dysfunctional and breaking down, Beverly Greene presents a picture of *resilience and adaptive coping* in the face of *racism* and the social assumption that the African American family can only fail. 22

Overview

A. EMOTIONS, RELATING, AND MATING

6. **Love: The Immutable Longing for Contact**, Susan Johnson with Hara Estroff Marano, *Psychology Today*, March/April 1994. 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. 28
7. **What Makes Love Last?** Alan AtKisson, *New Age Journal*, September/October 1994. What are the keys to *long-term relationships*? One key is in how the couple handles disagreements. *Validating, volatile, or conflict-* 33

8. **Why Don't We Act Like the Opposite Sex?** Anthony Layng, *USA Today Magazine (Society for the Advancement of Education)*, January 1993. 40
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 that *men* and *women* will continue to *behave differently*.
 9. **Studies Put Genetic Twist on Theories about Sex and Love**, Chi Chi Sileo, *Insight*, July 3–10, 1995. 43
The latest research on *human sexuality and love* takes into account *animal behavior studies* as well as *feminist hypotheses* and the dictates of science.
 10. **Choosing Mates—the American Way**, Martin King Whyte, *Society*, March/April 1992. 45
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.
 11. **The Mating Game**, *U.S. News & World Report*, July 19, 1993. 52
From Romeo and Juliet to Tristram and Isolde to Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman, 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.
 12. **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. GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN RELATIONSHIPS**
13. **Choosing a Contraceptive**, Joseph Anthony, *American Health*, April 1994. 59
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).
 14. **Men, Sex, and Parenthood in an Overpopulating World**, Aaron Sachs, *World Watch*, March/April 1994. 62
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.
 15. **Staying Power: Bridging the Gender Gap in the Confusing '90s**, Melinda Blau, *American Health*, May 1994. 69
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.

UNIT 3



Finding a Balance: Maintaining Relationships

Fourteen articles consider the complex issues related to keeping a relationship going. From marriage to parent/child relationships to sibling relationships, relationship maintenance requires thought and commitment from members.

16. **Albanian 'Virgins' Wear the Pants in Their Families**, Barbara Demick, *Indianapolis Star*, August 25, 1996. 72
Countering the assumption that gender and gender role are dependent on one's biological sex, some young Albanian *women take on the role of men* to fill the void when men are not available.

C. THE NEXT GENERATION

17. **What a Baby Really Costs**, Jessica Rosenthal Benson and Maija Johnson, *Parents*, April 1994. 73
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. 76
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. 86
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.

Overview 88

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. 90
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. 93
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. **Who Needs Love! In Japan, Many Couples Don't**, Nicholas D. Kristof, *New York Times*, February 11, 1996. 98
Traditional *Japanese marriages* emphasize *commitment and duty*. *Happiness and love are not seen as necessary*, or even relevant. Although there has been some movement toward a more "westernized" marital relationship, this movement has been quite limited, by Western standards.

23. **For Better or Worse?** Jonathan Rauch, *The New Republic*, 101
May 6, 1996.
Marriage serves the purpose of *stabilizing relationships* and should be the choice of couples intent on maintaining their commitment, regardless of their *sexual orientation*, writes Jonathan Rauch.
 24. **Receipts from a Marriage**, Margaret K. Ambry, *American Demographics*, February 1993. 107
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 at how and why.
 25. **Saving Relationships: The Power of the Unpredictable**, 113
Barry L. Duncan and Joseph W. Rock, *Psychology Today*, January/February 1993.
Relationships, like 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 118
Wright Edelman, *Challenge*, May/June 1992.
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.
 27. **A Nation (Still) at Risk?** Jay Belsky, *National Forum*, Summer 125
1995.
Jay Belsky, a long-time student of the *effects of child care on young children*, expresses concern about the growing numbers of children who experience *early, extensive, and continuous day care*.
 28. **The Myth of AWOL Parents**, *U.S. News & World Report*, July 127
1, 1996.
The assumption that *parents spend less time with their children* than in the past is based on *questionable interpretation of data*. In fact, it appears that today's *parents are spending as much, if not more, time* with their children as parents did in the 1960s.
 29. **Family Affair**, Sophie Littlefield, *Internet World*, February 129
1996.
The *Internet* has been seen as threatening to parents and their children. But Sophie Littlefield describes how it is being used by some parents as a *means for sharing child-rearing experience and advice*.
 30. **Effective Fathers: Why Are Some Dads More Successful 132
than Others?** Ken R. Canfield, *The World & I*, June 1995.
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.

UNIT 4



Crises— Challenges and Opportunities

A wide variety of crises, normative and catastrophic, are detailed in fourteen 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.

31. **Fathers Strongly Influenced by Culture**, Tori DeAngelis, *APA Monitor*, April 1996. 137

Parenting roles are assumed to be innate. Yet, evidence from various cultures indicates that although *mothers and fathers share many similar characteristics*, their *interpretation of these characteristics differs*.

C. **SIBLINGS: ANOTHER LIFELONG RELATIONSHIP**

32. **Siblings and Development**, Judy Dunn, *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, February 1992. 139

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.

33. **The Secret World of Siblings**, *U.S. News & World Report*, January 10, 1994. 143

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 148

A. **FAMILY VIOLENCE AND CHAOS**

34. **After He Hits Her**, Jane H. Wolf-Smith and Ralph LaRossa, *Family Relations*, July 1992. 150

According to Jane Wolf-Smith and Ralph LaRossa's 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*.

35. **Behind Closed Doors**, Bonita Brodt, *Chicago Tribune Magazine*, September 15, 1996. 156

Described here is *one family's descent into chaos and filth*, the result of the parents' unchecked *alcoholism*. With the help of a *supportive community*, they cautiously reclaim a sense of *order and normalcy* in their lives.

36. **Helping Children Cope with Violence**, Lorraine B. Wallach, *Young Children*, May 1993. 165

"*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."

37. **Resilience in Development**, Emmy E. Werner, *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, June 1995. 171

Many of the studies that focus on *children and youths who overcame great odds* have been relatively short term. Emmy Werner discusses a study that analyzes *child resiliency* and development over a period of three decades.

B. SEXUAL ISSUES AND INFIDELITY

38. **Beyond Betrayal: Life after Infidelity**, Frank Pittman III, *Psychology Today*, May/June 1993. 175
Although most first *affairs* are accidental and unintended, some people, according to the author, planfully and regularly violate their marital vows. Frank Pittman exposes the realities of this often-damaged script, discussing commonly believed myths about *infidelity* and a typology of infidelities.
39. **Sex in America: Faithfulness in Marriage Is Overwhelming**, 182
Tamar Lewin, *New York Times*, October 7, 1994.
An authoritative new study of American sexual practices "paints a more subdued picture of *marital fidelity*, *few partners*, and *less exotic sexual practices*" than was revealed in earlier studies. Tamar Lewin examines these new data on Americans' sexual practices.

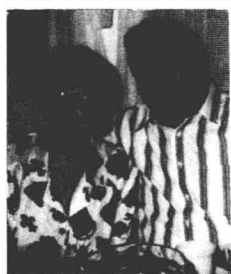
C. WORK/FAMILY STRESS

40. **The Myth of the Miserable Working Woman**, Rosalind C. 184
Barnett and Caryl Rivers, *Working Woman*, February 1992.
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, though, indicates that just the opposite is true.
41. **Look Who's Talking about Work and Family**, Rosalind 188
Barnett and Caryl Rivers, *Ms*, July/August 1996.
Long seen as a "women's issue," the relationship between *men's health and happiness* and the *balancing of their work and family life* is stronger and more complex than previously thought.

D. DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

42. **Should This Marriage Be Saved?** Elizabeth Gleick, *Time*, Feb- 191
ruary 27, 1995.
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 a divorce are chronicled by Elizabeth Gleick.
43. **The Politics of Divorce**, Rob Gurwitt, *Governing*, May 1996. 194
The high divorce rate in the United States and apparent negative impacts on children have moved those in the *legislatures and courts* to consider what can be done to *lower the rate of divorce* and to *reduce the negative impact of divorce on children*. But how should this be done, and what are the central issues? Should divorce be *seen in moral terms* or should we be concerned with *how divorce is conducted*?
44. **Lessons from Stepfamilies**, Virginia Rutter, *Psychology Today*, 199
May/June 1994.
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.

UNIT 5



Families, Now and into the Future

Four articles examine ways
of establishing and/or
maintaining health and healthy
relationships in families.

45. **The Myths and Misconceptions of the Stepmother Identity**, Marianne Dainton, *Family Relations*, January 1993. 205
"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.

E. CARING AND CAREGIVING

46. **Caregiving: Continuities and Discontinuities in Family Members' Relationships with Alzheimer's Patients**, Catherine Chesla, Ida Martinson, and Marilou Muwaswes, *Family Relations*, January 1994. 211
 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 may remain *continuous, continuous but transformed, and discontinuous*.
47. **Hard Lessons**, Ellen Pulleyblank, *The Family Therapy Networker*, January/February 1996. 218
 The disabling *illness and death of her husband* was devastating to psychologist Ellen Pulleyblank. Here, she movingly describes her *painful journey through the depths of loss and grief* and the glimmers of hope and joy.

Overview 222

48. **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.
49. **Happy Families: Who Says They All Have to Be Alike?** 229
 Susan Chollar, *American Health*, July/August 1993.
 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 family's resemblance to the nostalgic Cleavers or Nelsons.
50. **Rewriting Life Stories**, Geoffrey Cowley and Karen Springen, 232
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*.
51. **Rituals for Our Times**, Evan Imber-Black and Janine Roberts, 236
New Age Journal, September/October 1992.
 Families develop rituals for any number of reasons: to *heal broken relationships, honor rites of passage, celebrate triumphs, or mourn losses*. Rituals provide *connection and membership* to family members and can be incorporated throughout the life of the family.

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MARRIAGE AND FAMILY 97/98

Twenty-Third Edition



Editor

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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.

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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.

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| Aging | 24. Receipts from a Marriage 46. Caregiving 48. Trace Your Family Tree | Health Concerns | 13. Choosing a Contraceptive 14. Men, Sex, and Parenthood in an Overpopulating World 41. Look Who's Talking about Work and Family 46. Caregiving 47. Hard Lessons 48. Trace Your Family Tree |
| Bereavement | 19. Lifelong Impact of Adoption 47. Hard Lessons | Infidelity | 38. Beyond Betrayal 39. Sex in America |
| Children and Child Care | 2. Family: Home Sweet Home 6. Love: The Immutable Longing for Contact 17. What a Baby <i>Really</i> Costs 18. Adolescent Childbearing 19. Lifelong Impact of Adoption 21. Peer Marriage 26. Vanishing Dreams of America's Young Families 27. Nation (Still) at Risk? 30. Effective Fathers 35. Behind Closed Doors 37. Resilience in Development 45. Myths and Misconceptions of the Stepmother Identity | Intimacy/Romantic Love | 6. Love: The Immutable Longing for Contact 7. What Makes Love Last? 10. Choosing Mates—the American Way 11. Mating Game 12. Back Off! 21. Peer Marriage 22. Who Needs Love! 23. For Better or Worse? 38. Beyond Betrayal 39. Sex in America |
| Communication | 6. Love: The Immutable Longing for Contact 8. Why Don't We Act Like the Opposite Sex? 12. Back Off! 15. Staying Power 21. Peer Marriage 25. Saving Relationships 30. Effective Fathers 44. Lessons from Stepfamilies 47. Hard Lessons 49. Happy Families: Who Says They All Have to Be Alike? | | |
| Dating/Mate Selection | 6. Love: The Immutable Longing for Contact 7. What Makes Love Last? 9. Studies Put Genetic Twist on Theories about Sex and Love 10. Choosing Mates—the American Way 11. Mating Game | | |

| TOPIC AREA | TREATED IN | TOPIC AREA | TREATED IN |
|----------------------|--|---------------------|---|
| Marriage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7. What Makes Love Last? 8. Why Don't We Act Like the Opposite Sex? 10. Choosing Mates—the American Way 20. What's Happening to American Marriage? 21. Peer Marriage 22. Who Needs Love! 23. For Better or Worse? 24. Receipts from a Marriage 30. Effective Fathers 38. Beyond Betrayal 40. Myth of the Miserable Working Woman 41. Look Who's Talking about Work and Family 42. Should This Marriage Be Saved? 44. Lessons from Stepfamilies | Resilience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. African American Families 37. Resilience in Development 44. Lessons from Stepfamilies 49. Happy Families: Who Says They All Have to Be Alike? 50. Rewriting Life Stories |
| Parents/Parenting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Love: The Immutable Longing for Contact 17. What a Baby <i>Really</i> Costs 18. Adolescent Childbearing 21. Peer Marriage 24. Receipts from a Marriage 26. Vanishing Dreams of America's Young Families 27. Nation (Still) at Risk? 28. Myth of AWOL Parents 29. Family Affair 30. Effective Fathers 31. Fathers Strongly Influenced by Culture 42. Should This Marriage Be Saved? 43. Politics of Divorce 44. Lessons from Stepfamilies 45. Myths and Misconceptions of the Stepmother Identity 49. Happy Families: Who Says They All Have to Be Alike? | Sex/Sexuality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Studies Put Genetic Twist on Theories about Sex and Love 11. Mating Game 13. Choosing a Contraceptive 14. Men, Sex, and Parenthood in an Overpopulating World 18. Adolescent Childbearing 20. What's Happening to American Marriage? 21. Peer Marriage 23. For Better or Worse? 25. Saving Relationships 38. Beyond Betrayal 39. Sex in America |
| | | Siblings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 32. Siblings and Development 33. Secret World of Siblings |
| | | Single Parent Homes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Family: Home Sweet Home 43. Politics of Divorce 49. Happy Families: Who Says They All Have to Be Alike? |
| | | Values | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Family: Home Sweet Home 3. The Way We Weren't 4. Family under Siege by Its "Friends" 10. Choosing Mates—the American Way 14. Men, Sex, and Parenthood in an Overpopulating World 16. Albanian 'Virgins' Wear the Pants in Their Families 20. What's Happening to American Marriage? 21. Peer Marriage 22. Who Needs Love! 23. For Better or Worse? 28. Myth of AWOL Parents 42. Should This Marriage Be Saved? 43. Politics of Divorce 47. Hard Lessons 49. Happy Families: Who Says They All Have to Be Alike? 51. Rituals for Our Times |
| Poverty | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New Crusade for the Old Family 18. Adolescent Childbearing 26. Vanishing Dreams of America's Young Families 37. Resilience in Development 43. Politics of Divorce | | |
| Pregnancy/Childbirth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Men, Sex, and Parenthood in an Overpopulating World 17. What a Baby <i>Really</i> Costs 18. Adolescent Childbearing | | |
| Remarriage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20. What's Happening to American Marriage? 44. Lessons from Stepfamilies 45. Myths and Misconceptions of the Stepmother Identity | Work and Family | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21. Peer Marriage 27. Nation (Still) at Risk? 40. Myth of the Miserable Working Woman 41. Look Who's Talking about Work and Family |

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, and (3) to show how views that dominate one's culture can influence awareness of ways of structuring family life.

First, "The New Crusade for the Old Family," addresses our understanding of the reality of "family breakdown," particularly as this term is understood and researched. The positive and negative impacts of government policies,

intended to help strengthen families, are documented in "The Family: Home Sweet Home." The accuracy of our memories of "the good old days" is discussed by historian Stephanie Coontz in "The Way We Weren't: The Myth and Reality of the 'Traditional' Family." "The Family under Siege by Its 'Friends'" chronicles the sometimes damaging effects of well-intentioned efforts. The final reading in this unit, "African American Families: A Legacy of Vulnerability and Resilience," debunks the stereotype of African American families as uniformly dysfunctional, pre

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?

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?

In what ways can we be responsive to the needs of members of society while also encouraging responsibility?

Several of the readings suggest that many of our ideas about families, past and present, are based on myth and stereotype. If this is true, how do we overcome it?

UNIT 1



THE FAMILY

The New Crusade for the Old Family

Arlene Skolnick and Stacey Rosencrantz

Arlene Skolnick, a research psychologist at the Institute of Human Development at the University of California (Berkeley), is the author of Embattled Paradise: The American Family in an Age of Uncertainty. Stacey Rosencrantz is a graduate student in Stanford University's psychology department.

What is the root cause in America of poverty, crime, drug abuse, gang warfare, urban decay, and failing schools? According to op-ed pundits, Sunday talking heads, radio call-in shows, and politicians in both parties, the answer is the growing number of children being raised by single parents, especially by mothers who never married in the first place. Restore family values and the two-parent family, and America's social problems will be substantially solved.

By the close of the 1992 presidential campaign, the war over family values seemed to fade. Dan Quayle's attack on Murphy Brown's single motherhood stirred more ridicule on late night talk shows than moral panic. The public clearly preferred Bill Clinton's focus on the economy and his more inclusive version of the family theme: "family values" means "valuing families," no matter what their form—traditional, extended, two-parent, one-parent.

Yet Clinton's victory was quickly followed by a new bipartisan crusade to restore the two-parent family by discouraging divorce as well as out-of-wedlock childbearing. The conservative right has for years equated

family values with the traditional image of the nuclear family. The new crusade drew people from across the spectrum—Democrats as well as Republicans, conservatives, liberals, and communitarians. Eventually, even President Clinton joined in, remarking that he had reread Quayle's speech and "found a lot of good things in it."

While the new family restorationists do not agree on a program for reducing the number of single-parent families, they generally use a language of moral failure and cultural decline to account for family change. Many want to revive the stigma that used to surround divorce and single motherhood. To change the cultural climate, they call for government and media campaigns like those that have discouraged smoking and drinking. They propose to make divorce harder or slower or even, as the late Christopher Lasch proposed, to outlaw divorce by parents with minor children. And some have also advocated restricting welfare benefits for unmarried mothers or eliminating benefits entirely for mothers who have an additional out-of-wedlock child.

Focusing attention on the needs and problems of families raising children could be enormously positive. But the current crusade draws on the family values scripts of the 1980s, posing the issue in a divisive way (are you against the two-parent family?) and painting critics into an anti-family corner. Restricting legal channels for divorce, cutting off welfare to unmarried mothers, and restoring the old censorious