P.S. to the NEWS
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FORCING KIDS TO FACE FACTS

Visiting recently in Dallas, I was struck by a front-page banner headline which covered two news stories with equal billing: "DISD wants to force kids to face facts." (DISD stands for Dallas Independent School District.) The left-side story announced the plan to face Dallas kids with the comprehensive facts about sex and sexuality, while the right-side story announced the plan to face them with the facts that, if they can't read by the end of the third grade, they will be flunked.

School Superintendent Linus Wright predicted that the anticipated failures will be a "tough pill to swallow." No pun intended, but the left-side article told of plans to teach pupils that the pill is "the most reliable non-surgical method" of birth control.

The Dallas public schools have found it difficult to teach reading (46 percent of third graders perform below their grade level), so they now want to teach sexuality instead. It's so much easier, it requires less concentration, and the learning process continues so rapidly in non-classroom hours because the homework doesn't have to be assigned.

The teaching of reading requires adherence to some standards of accuracy and accountability. A handful of words have more than one meaning, but most English words have only one correct definition.

The teaching of sexuality, as contemplated in the Dallas and other public school programs, is not required to confirm to standards of accuracy, accountability, truth, or morality. The sexuality course lets grade and high school pupils set their own sexuality standards.

"These standards should be arrived at on a personal basis -- each person should arrive at his/her own selective standard," says the curriculum guide. "It is important that we not impose our sexual standards and biases on other people."

So the children are taught about dating, parenthood, reproduction, homosexuality,

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and abortion, but without any moral standards or biases. Sexuality courses won't ever need to endure any criticism about social promotions; nobody can flunk a sexuality course because there are no wrong answers.

One out of every four third-graders in the Dallas public schools will now have to repeat the grade because of not learning the skill of reading. But it's easy to get pregnant or VD without learning any skills at all.

One of the most inexplicable facts about the sexuality courses taught in the public schools is their failure to teach much of anything about venereal disease. Pupils should be taught all about VD, especially about the uncomfortable, incurable varieties which today plague millions of Americans who have swallowed the propaganda that any sex act is okay if you feel good about it.

The new Dallas sexuality studies, which will be taught as a three-week course in the fifth and seventh grades and in high school, "grew out" of a 1978 conference sponsored by the March of Dimes and the PTA. It is not generally known that sexuality courses could be a result of the March of Dimes.

The same week that the sexuality courses were announced, Dallas television featured a "war" of TV spots among highly competitive sellers of blue jeans. The ads were not designed to sell their product because of its price or durability, but were aimed at making teenagers think of sex when they see blue jeans.

Smart advertising? Harmless? Maybe. But the same week, a 16-year-old girl named Sheryl Fergeson wearing blue jeans was grabbed in the Bellville High School where she had gone on Saturday morning with her team to participate in a volleyball tournament. Her raped and strangled body was found in the auditorium balcony at 11:45 a.m.

A current best-selling book has made a fortune for its author by enthusiastically describing the moral changes during the 1970s when sex-oriented massage parlors and other commercial and experimental sex began to be accepted in our society. The profitable pornography which promotes changing morals and new lifestyles, however, never tells its reader that the results can be death or disease.

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