

Johannes Expatriatus - "Sex and a Single Observation" – Vol. II No. 2 pg. 5, January 28, 1968

In the midst of our local and statewide discussions of dorm intervisitation, it occurred to me that a historical aspect of sexual mores should be pointed out.

- 1.1. Humans become biological adults roughly between the ages of twelve and fifteen.
- 1.2. .In a rural society, such as America's a hundred years ago or so, humans became full economic and social adults roughly between the ages of fourteen and eighteen.
- 1.3. In addition to and partly because of that, humans were allowed to begin exercising their adult sexuality (in marriage) somewhere between the ages of fifteen and nineteen or so. (Girls who were not married by the time they were sixteen or seventeen were looked at askance-something must be wrong with them.)
- 1.4. Thus, in a rural society such as ours once was, the waiting time between the onset of puberty and the full adult experience of sexuality was an average of about three or four years.
2. A fairly reasonable arrangement, all things considered.
- 3.1. Today, the biological facts remain the same (how about that!), although there is some evidence that the age of puberty is even lower to a slight degree.
- 3.2. But, because of the highly complex character of contemporary society and the necessarily (and desirably) greatly extended amount of time it takes to master the skills to be a full participating adult economically and socially, that participation does not occur until the age of twenty-two as a minimum.
- 3.3. At the same time, we are still operating our cultural mores in a way that closely links being an adult sexually and being an adult economically and socially.
6. There are only two sensible alternatives.
- 6.1. Either encourage people to get married at sixteen, seventeen, eighteen. And I mean not just disapproving of early marriage, but encouraging it with income grants. etc., to those who get married while they are getting their vocational training.
- 6.2. Or encourage premarital sex. This is perhaps more sensible, since we have the pill and since marriage is a big step as they say.
- 6.3. One could combine these two approaches. Any other alternative is either unnecessarily complicating in an already complex society, or repressive of natural human functions. Are we going to ask twice as much sexually of these people today as we did of great-grandma?
7. Thus, intervisitating is one sensible and simple way of dealing with this dilemma by encouraging premarital sex. This means that the approved wait- We should then have some administrative office dispense either pills or marriage licenses (or both); and then fully integrated dorms, etc., etc., etc.