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Le formulaire d'inscription est à
l'intérieur de la revue.

Editorial

Johanna Stuckey

Although we in our rich, privileged culture think of adolescence as not only a normal but a universal phase of life, in fact it is not; adolescence is a luxury only the most affluent societies can afford. In most "traditional" cultures girls at puberty pass out of childhood into adulthood, aided by rite and ceremony, and take their place as productive members of their group. In our society, on the other hand, we do little to help girls make the difficult transition. We give them minimal information and almost no ritual affirmation of their new status. Indeed we continue to treat them as children while complaining that they are not behaving their age. We expect them somehow to muddle through until they are supposed to "come of age" at 21. We force them to live in our world without giving them adequate training, self-esteem, or a sense of belonging. We cannot even provide all of them with jobs.

Studies of their situations abound. We know that teenage pregnancies are on the increase, that sexually transmitted disease is almost epidemic among adolescents, that teenagers make up a horrifyingly large percentage of prostitutes, and that joblessness among adolescents is the norm.

One way our culture can help our girls (and boys) become adults more easily, without the over-long, painful, obligatory ordeal of the "teens," is to recognize that teens are no longer children; that they are sexual beings who desperately need adequate, accurate information about how the reproductive system, male and female, works; that they need to feel worthwhile as human beings and an important part of the world they live in. Above all, girls growing into womanhood need training and encouragement to take control of their lives. And the only way we will achieve that end is to train girls from childhood to become independent human beings.

To all women who remember what it was like and are trying to help and to all girls growing into womanhood, the issue is dedicated.

Correction

In the Spring, 1982, issue of *Canadian Woman Studies* (Vol. 3, No. 3), Sharron Corne's painting *Double Rape* was inadvertently printed upside-down. We regret the error and apologize to the artist.