

The 19th WAS World Congress for Sexual Health in June 21-25, 2009

Latest Update for Australian and New Zealand

20+ Aussies and Kiwis are attending the conference.

We are planning a group dinner one evening.

Please check notice board or contact Margaret Redelman for information. Suggestions for venue are welcome.



Reports from Educational Meetings

Dr. David Ribner - Unconsummated Marriages Among Ultra Orthodox Jewish Couples 16/02/2009

Orthodox Judaism expects new brides and grooms to engage in sexual intercourse on the first night of marriage or soon thereafter, despite stringent norms forbidding premarital physical contact. Any delay for more than several weeks in consummating a marriage is seen as problematic and worthy of rabbinic or professional attention. Culturally determined issues included marriage at an early age, minimal prior or current access to accurate sexual information, discomfort with the language of physical intimacy, modesty as a behavioural constant, masturbatory guilt, and specific gender role behaviours. This in a context of religious and communal standards strongly advocating procreation and sexual intercourse as normative aspects of a couple's marital life.

Both spouses are obligated to fulfil each other's desire for intimacy, and sexual

satisfaction is a right guaranteed to the woman in her marriage contract. Few rules dictate the actual nature of sexual activity between a husband and wife, and the general view is that any sexual act that does not involve purposeful emission of semen outside the vagina is permissible. There is an explicit traditional expectation that both marital partners be entirely naked during sexual intercourse, with nothing coming between them.



Dr. David Ribner

Reference: Ribner, DS & Rosenbaum, TY (2005), 'Evaluation and Treatment of Unconsummated Marriages among Orthodox Jewish Couples', *Journal of Sex & Marital Therapy*, vol. 31, pp. 341-353.

**Bettina Arndt - The Sex Diaries: Why Women Go Off Sex and Other Bedroom Battles
31/03/2009**

Amusing stories from the diaries were shared eg. the story of the 68 year old man who would keep a colour-coded calendar to document his sexual encounters with his wife or the stories of the celery sticks and the juicy tomatoes.

Overall the stories confirmed Arndt's belief that mismatched libidos are at the frontier of marriage woes. She explained how she felt the sadness of these frustrated men, who according to her did not just want sex, but wanted to feel desired and loved.

Most intriguing was her overall conclusion: Women should 'just do it!' Or in other words, women have to make a conscious decision to put sex back into their lives and to just do it.

Not surprisingly, this conclusion sparked some debate amongst us. Bettina acknowledged that it may not be as simple as 'just doing it'. Obviously a reasonable

relationship is necessary so it becomes meaningful in the bigger picture of the relationship for the woman to have sex.

Furthermore, Bettina ended the evening with a great sense of humour, stating that when all else fails we can always fall back on humour and she joked:

"He is trying to get her aroused and pauses to ask: 'Are you nearly there?' She replied: 'That's difficult to know?' He said: 'Imagine it were a journey from here to Tokyo, where would you be now?' To which she replied: 'The kitchen'."

Reference: Arndt, B (2009), *'The Sex Diaries, Why Women Go Off Sex and Other Bedroom Battles'*, Melbourne University Press.



Bettina Arndt

Interesting Snippet

Australian Doctor May 1 2009 - **Report under-age sex or be fined** Chris Kennedy

NT doctors fight to protect teen privacy. Doctors are risking criminal sanctions in an attempt to protect the privacy of teenage patients in the wake of criminal laws forcing them to report under-age patients believed to be sexually active.

The NT Health Department 'Care and Protection of Children Act' requires the reporting of all children under 16 believed to be sexually active even if not at risk. Criminal sanctions may also apply for pharmacists and supermarkets selling condoms.

Doctors claim that if these laws are followed young people will stop seeking advice on STIs, contraception etc, and are an infringement of human rights.

The NT Minister for Child Protection claims these measures will end the alleged under-reporting of child abuse in the NT.

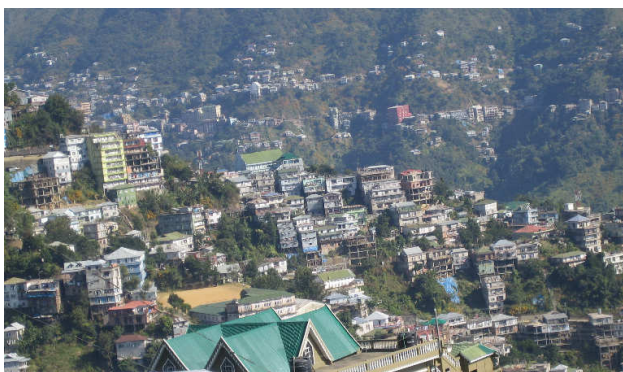
What do you think?

Member Activities

UNSW Centre for Refugee Studies—UN Activity to Assess Refugee Problem Dorothy Harding

Mizoram, an Indian state bordered by Burma (Myanmar) and Thailand and separated from India by Bangladesh, bears scant evidence of its Indian heritage. With a tourist population that rarely climbs above 350 per annum, the arrival of 15 Australian women in one hit attracted attention. It is my introduction to human rights training to work with these men for the initial session.

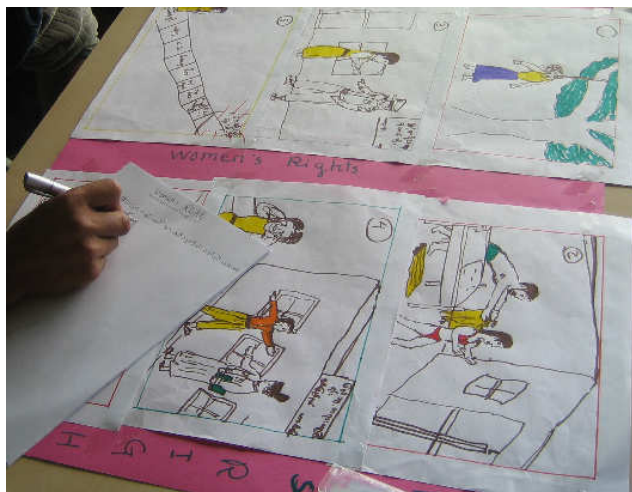
Stories illustrated in graphic detail; men emasculated by the Burmese militia by assaults on themselves, their families and their communities – their women raped and beaten, their children forced into labour camps while the men were tortured and persecuted.



View of Aizawl

Working with the women was no less traumatic and more confronting; women witnessed husbands, fathers, brothers cooked alive, beaten, tarred and forced to dance, humiliated in front of villagers, children forcibly removed from school to work building roads, clearing paddocks and breaking rocks; churches and places of community gatherings razed.

Women who are raped and sexually assaulted are often ostracised by their communities a consequence of which forces them into prostitution.



Therapeutic drawings by victims

Girls, often as young as 14, are removed from school and used for the sexual gratification of the military while others are traded as sex slaves and smuggled into Thailand where they work for years without the means to escape or return to their homeland. Unwanted pregnancies and STDs along with severe psychological trauma are rife.

Both men and women described the high incidence of suicide amongst sexually abused women overcome by shame and the prospect of being perceived as “damaged” and not worthy of marriage while abused wives unable to cope see it as their only salvation.

Despite overwhelming adversity these people live in hope and believe in humanity eventually winning out against such overt injustice. A follow-up group will travel back for a second consultation and assessment later this year.



Dorothy Harding

Media Snippets

'The widows of Wall Street slip into a great depression' Ravi Somalya

SMH January 30, 2009

'Dating a Banker Anonymous' is a support group founded to help women cope with the inevitable relationship fallout on Wall ST from the global financial crisis. Join if your monthly Bergdorf's allowance has been halved Layoffs and shrinking bonuses place stress on relationships and 'there aren't funds or time for mistresses '. Repercussions could be acute for wunderkinds who defined their identities through their jobs titles and pay packets. There are some men who respond to a crash on the stock exchange by wanting more sex.....

'The porn ultimatum' Nick Galvin

SMH March 5, 2009

Impact of male partner being busted for porn can have catastrophic emotional fallout. The growing ubiquity of porn. The woman is shocked (am I loved, affair, loss of intimacy) and the man taken aback that she sees it as such a big deal. Men may think they are doing the right thing dealing with their 'excess sex needs' quietly by themselves. Loyal because no affair or prostitutes. Women see the issue as a matter of trust. Naomi Wolf believes men get too accustomed to stylized air-brushed versions of sex and women. ... " the power and charge of sex are maintained when there is some sacredness to it, when it is not on tap all the time." Some men are conscious that the material they are watching isn't actually nice or respectful towards women. Men may feel out of control. However, there can be a place for the use of porn ...

'Mathematical formula for love accentuates positive, eliminates negative' Caroline Gammell

SMH March 27, 2009

Oxford University professor, James Murray, created a model for calculating whether a relationship will succeed. Studied 700 couples to be able to predict divorce rate with 94% accuracy. Based on 15 minute conversations between couples on contentious issues such as money, sex or relations with in-laws. Conversations were recorded and positive (affection, humour, happiness) and negative points (contempt, belligerence) were awarded for what was said. The point of intersection of plotted lines indicated chance of successful relationship. 5 categories of couples: validating, avoiders, volatile, hostile and hostile detached. Forecast for divorce over 12 years was 100%.

'If men want more sex, they could try improving their appearance' Wendy Frew

SMH April 3, 2009

Women told to "Just do it" ie "wifely duty. The new euphemism for Australian women "just put the canoe in the water and start paddling". Men are sad at not getting enough – Bettina Arndt. Could male attractiveness be at fault? Maybe some women shy away from sex with their partners because "they're just not into them". Maybe the blokes have lost their sex appeal? Cocooned in marital bliss, fed and watered, beer bellies grow, body parts droop and personal hygiene wanes? Men need to get real about their sex appeal and not let themselves go....

Interesting Stuff

1. Interesting Links

Sex instruction book *Where Did I Really Come From?* aimed at toddlers

News.com.au May 04, 2009

<http://www.news.com.au/story/0,27574,25422558-421,00.html>

Female Viagra in Sight

SMH April 29, 2009

<http://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/wellbeing/female-viagra-in-sight-20090429-ammb.html>

African Villages Denounce Female Circumcision

CNN April 15, 2009

<http://edition.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/africa/04/15/niger.mutilation/index.html>

Sex Wives and Libido

The Age, Goodweekend, 28/2/09

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/lifeandstyle/lifematters/sex-wives-and-libido/2009/03/03/1235842367573.html>

What do women want?

January 22, 2009

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/25/magazine/25desire-t.html>

Libidos Crushed as Crisis Enters the Bedroom

The Australian March 16, 2009

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/business/story/0,,25190407-20501,00.html>

2. Interesting Information

Email scam targeting therapists and other helping professionals. A person posing as a prospective client, or who claims to represent a prospective client, will contact you to pre-arrange a series of sessions. May claim the client is travelling to your area from another country and will be in your area only a short time. They propose to pre-pay and send a check. Shortly after, they cancel and demand an immediate refund. After sending refund you realize the original check was fraudulent.

Possible variations: fraudulent check written for an amount greater than agreed and refund request is for the overpayment, check appears to come from a third party in the USA. Therapists are vulnerable because the situation described sounds plausible, and we want to help. It is also attractive because the series of sessions/treatment requested amounts to a great deal of potential income.

Beware of anyone who requests to pre-pay for services before you have met them. Do not issue a refund for payment before you are certain the payment has completely cleared your bank. These and other common sense precautions will ensure that you do not fall victim to monetary scams.

3. Interesting Website

Great free sex education vignettes:

<http://sexsmartfilms.com/articles/using-sexually-explicit-media-to-educate>