

Sex Study Claims Parents Are Ignorant

By Ronn Brackin
Religion Today

Cherry Hill, N.J. — Are your school board members talking about the SIQ? If they are, they may vote on it. And if they approve it, it will be used on your children. You might not be pleased.

SIQ is the acronym for Sex Imagery Quotient. Its inventor is Dr. William Block, a general practitioner from Cherry Hill and the author of "Dr. Block's Do It Yourself Illustrated Human Sexuality Book for Kids."



Block claims "most parents are ignorant. The only thing that's

changed in the last 18 years or so is they know how to spell the words."

Block also claims, "All children are sexually-handicapped."

Based on these premises and a dedication to humanism, Block has come up with a program of sex education. But before one can teach, one must first find out how much the student already knows. Hence, the SIQ.

School Products News describes the SIQ as "a total program which provides assessment with a selected group of non-verbal images; an individualized psycho-sexual evaluation with a prescription for remedial sex ed; a curriculum for general sex education for a full school system, a class, a group, or an individual. Concentration is on child dominance. Materials are game-play structured."

The SIQ is a slickly-packaged assortment of slides, cassettes, cartridges, cards, pictures, forms and booklets. Some of the images can even be felt.

It is designed for children eight to 18 years of age. Says Block, "We have attempted to wipe out age levels, because it

Mother Angelica to Speak May 9

Mother Mary Angelica Francis, superior of Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala., and founder of the Eternal Word Television Network, will speak at 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturday, May 9, at St. Agnes High School, 300 East River Road.



MOTHER ANGELICA

founder of the Catholic Family Missionary Alliance, a movement that prints and distributes thousands of mini-prayer books a month.

Mother Angelica will also attend 4:30 p.m. Mass at Good Shepherd Church that day.

The television network is the first Catholic satellite earth station in the United States that has been licensed by the Federal Communications Commission, and is the first time an FCC license has been issued to a religious order.

Mother Angelica is also the

has been evaluated that some eight-year-olds are more advanced and more aware of sexuality than some 15-year-olds."

The SIQ, then, is employed to find out where the child is sexually. The Science of Imagery had not been used in basic sex education until now. There has been too much community opposition.

It works rather like a computer. We all have stored in our minds every image that has ever entered through our senses. To recall these images from a computer memory bank, we push buttons. To recall these images from the human mind, the SIQ shows the children pictures and related images. Whatever is recalled is the child's Imagery Quotient, baseline or starting point.

Conceivably then, all of the sex magazines the child has seen in the drugstores, convenience stores and bookstores, whatever he or she has absorbed from television or radio or out behind the school, return to his or her consciousness. And the child is told that these things are parts of his or her current sexuality.

At this point, a course of study is prescribed to advance the child's sexual knowledge from that base point.

Block explicitly spells out what the children will be taught under his program. Fifty "storyboards" are part of both the SIQ program and Block's do-it-yourself book for kids.

The titles include: Genitals in Use (male and female), Masturbation, Abortion, Venereal Disease (I, II and III), Sexual Options (I, II, and III) and Reality of the Improbable Me.

These storyboards are presented in the form of games, puzzles, cartoons, mental imageries and exercises — fun for all ages, as it were.

"The remarkable fact about this new program," Block says, "is that every child advances when exposed to imagery-concept teaching."

Even the "basic sex ed stuff" which follows the measurement of the child's Imagery Quotient, has been "totally revised to meet the new dual-brain technique of learning." In short, what Block teaches, your children have no choice but to learn.

The SIQ has been available for about one year. Block says, "the program originally was designed for the private school systems, for the institutions for the handicapped, for the retarded, for special education." He says he has had little or no trouble getting the SIQ, or at least parts of it, accepted there.

The public sector, on the other hand, has been a bit slower to run with it. "In the public school system," complains

Block, "it's a terrible ordeal of politics and doubletalk and everybody trying to decide what kind of program they're going to use and stalling as long as they possibly can."

Nevertheless, he says the SIQ is being considered by about 100 public school systems across the country. It is already used in the Denton State School in Denton, Texas, and in Harmony Hills School in Providence.

Parts of the SIQ are used in the Fontana Unified School District in California and in half a dozen institutions in New Jersey. A school for the handicapped (Thera Studies) in Canada uses the system. And it has been in use for some time at Haifa University in Israel to teach persons who are studying toward a career in social services.

One of the main proponents of the SIQ is Planned Parenthood. This group already has purchased a number of packages to circulate as part of its teaching program.

As a humanist, Block echoes the teachings of the humanist manifesto. "Sex education," Block says, "is life education." The common denominator of that equation is the word "education." Remove it, and you reach the core of the SIQ: "Sex is life," and vice-versa.

Helping Out Works Two Ways

Three afternoons each week, five clients from the Adult Program of Holy Childhood, a non-denominational school for the mentally disabled, travel to St. Mary's Hospital where they work as volunteers. Accompanied by Ms. Beth Haggerty, instructor in vocational preparedness, these five individuals perform such tasks as labeling, banding, and repacking hospital supplies.

situation which caters exclusively to the needs of the mentally handicapped."

The work involved, furthermore, helps Holy Childhood's clients with visual discrimination, fine and general motor skills, and independent judgments.

"The St. Mary's Hospital experience," Ms. Haggerty said, "offers our clients an invaluable opportunity to practice, develop and use their personal and social skills in a real work world. This experience is further enhanced by the full cooperation and enthusiastic support of Ms. Annabelle Pugliese, director of the St. Mary's Volunteer Department."

"Having the opportunity," said Ms. Haggerty, "to work alongside non-handicapped volunteers is a wonderful experience for our people. They are mainstreamed into society, interacting in a metropolitan hospital environment, rather than a

CORRECTION

"In Defense of Life," by Bishop John J. O'Connor, vicar general of the U.S. Military Vicariate, is available through Daughters of St. Paul bookstores for \$3. The cost reported 4/15/81 was incorrect.

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