

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Betsy_Oneill@Brown.edu

John Nicholas Brown Center, Brown University

<http://www.brown.edu/Research/JNBC/BirdsBees.html>

Brown Students Tackle "The Talk" through the Decades

Providence, RI – Students in Brown University's Public Humanities Masters Program unveil a new exhibit on the history of sex education this week. *Beyond the Birds and the Bees: Sexual Education in the 20th Century* opens April 8 at the John Nicholas Brown Center (JNBC) Carriage House Gallery, 357 Benefit Street. The opening reception will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

The exhibit explores how Americans have learned about sex over the last 100 years. It examines five places teenagers learn about sex: in the military and schools, from parents and friends, and through popular culture.

"This exhibit takes a sophisticated approach to analyzing the history of sex ed. It's not just about curriculum or policy," said Steven Lubar, Director of the John Nicholas Brown Center. "It acknowledges both the official and unofficial ways that young people learn about sex, and considers the ways that sex education has changed over the course of the last century, and why."

The exhibit features:

- a military barracks during World War I, when the army worried mostly about avoiding sexually-transmitted diseases;
- a bedroom from the 1960s, where learning might have involved parents, books, magazines, or friends;
- a basement hangout from the 1990s, where kids learned about sex from TV, popular music, and magazines; and
- a classroom from the early twenty first century, a place to examine current debates about controversial topics including abstinence-only education and whether sex education should even be taught outside the home.

The last part of the exhibit is a resource and feedback area. Curators are building a Resource Room to support the exhibit with up-to-date books, magazines, pamphlets, and web links on public and personal health and current curricula. The feedback area will have a place for visitors to respond to the exhibit.

In addition to the April 8 opening reception, the exhibit will be open to the public free of charge Monday – Friday, April 9 through May 23 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. The project organizers are also planning public programs including a panel discussion and lectures to accompany the exhibit.

Co-Sponsors:

Brown University Department of Education

Graduate Student Council

Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women

Sarah Doyle Women's Center

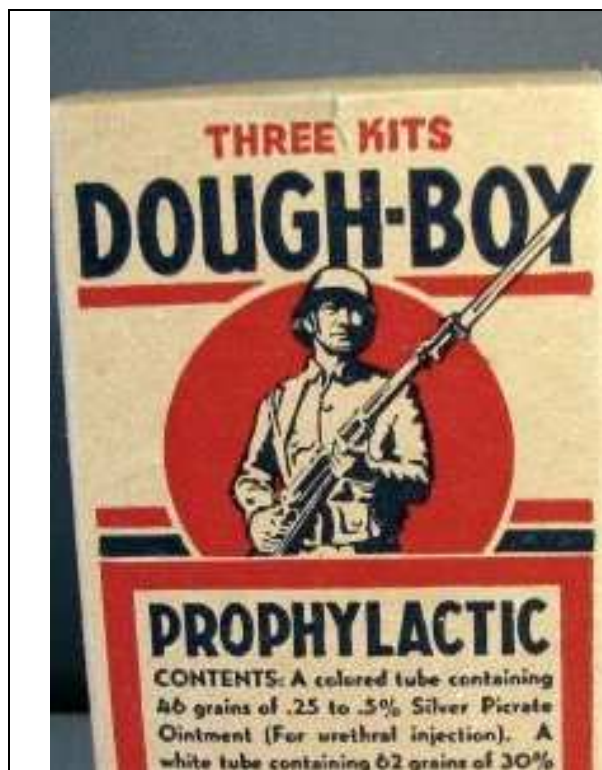
Taubman Center for Public Policy & American Institutions

Related Programs:

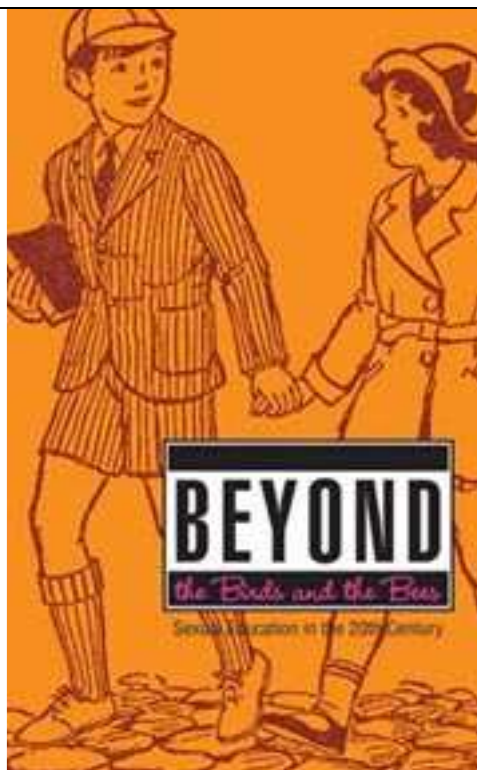
Keynote address: Norma Swenson, adjunct lecturer at the Harvard School of Public Health's Department of Society, Human Development, and Health, will speak about her experience as co-founder of the Boston Women's Health Book Collective and co-author of the book, *Our Bodies, Ourselves*. Swenson has four decades of experience teaching about sexuality. Her talk will take place on Thursday, May 1 at 7:00 pm in Smith-Buonanno 106, Brown University. It is free and open to the public.

Panel discussion: On Tuesday, April 15, *The Birds & the Bees* presents a panel discussion on sexual education in Rhode Island. Panelists include Steven Cohen, Executive Director, RI Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance and a teacher at Classical High School; Dr. Patricia Flanagan, RI Teen Pregnancy Coalition; and Kristina Diamond, Director of Public Relations and Community Affairs, Planned Parenthood of RI. This panel will discuss the current battles, in Rhode Island and nationally, over what students should learn about sex, and what sexual education materials are appropriate and responsible. Panelists will explore how national debates about the use of abstinence-only sexual education materials have played out in Rhode Island, and will delve into the future of sexual education in Rhode Island. It will take place at the John Nicholas Brown Center, 357 Benefit Street. It is free and open to the public.

Presentation: On Wednesday, April 23, the exhibit presents *Confessions of a Sex Educator* featuring Megan Andelloux from Miko Exotic Wear in Providence. Andelloux acts out, explains, and demystifies what preteens and teenagers really ask, really know, and really do in a sex ed classroom. A veteran sex educator, Andelloux worked for nine years teaching sex in classrooms in New Jersey and Connecticut, moving on to Planned Parenthood and finally, Providence's "Friendly Neighborhood Sex Shop," Miko. Her talk will take place at the John Nicholas Brown Center, 357 Benefit Street. It is free and open to the public.



Prophylactic Kit for Soldiers.



Promotional poster for exhibit.

The Birds & the Bees: Calendar of Events

What: *Beyond the Birds and the Bees: Sexual Education in the 20th Century*

Where: John Nicholas Brown Center (JNBC) Carriage House Gallery, 357 Benefit Street, Providence

Opening Reception: April 8, 6:30-8:30 pm

When: April 9-May 23

Times: Monday-Friday, 2:00 – 5:00 pm, free and open to the public

More Info: <http://brown.edu/Research/JNBC/BirdsBees.html>

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

7:00 pm

Panel Discussion: The Politics of Sex Education in Rhode Island

Date: Tuesday, April 15

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: John Nicholas Brown Center, 357 Benefit Street, Providence, RI

Admission: Free & open to the public

Moderator: Leah Nahmias, Masters Student, Public Humanities, Brown University

Panelists:

- Steven Cohen, Executive Director, RI Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance & Teacher, Classical High School
- Dr. Patricia Flanagan, RI Teen Pregnancy Coalition
- Kristina Diamond, Director of Public Relations and Community Affairs, Planned Parenthood of RI

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

5:30-7:00 pm

Speaker: "Confessions of a Sex Educator" Featuring sex educator Megan Andelloux from Miko Exotic Wear

Date: Wednesday, April 23

Time: 5:30-7:00 pm

Location: John Nicholas Brown Center, 357 Benefit Street, Providence, RI

Admission: Free & open to the public

Thursday, May 1, 2008

7:00 pm

Keynote Speaker: Norma Swenson, Co-Founder Boston Women's Health Book Collective; Faculty, Harvard School of Public Health; and Co-Author, [Our Bodies, Ourselves](#)

Date: Thursday, May 1

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Smith-Buonanno 106, Brown University

Admission: Free & open to the public

The John Nicholas Brown Center administers the Department of American Civilization's Master of Arts program in public humanities. Students in this program gain a thorough understanding of the history, theory and methods of the public humanities and the practical skills needed for jobs in museums, historical societies, and other humanities and cultural-resource organizations. By applying the methods and skills of humanities scholars and cultural heritage professionals to the ideas and traditions of diverse communities, students in the M.A. program will help to broaden the ways that Americans understand their cultural heritage.