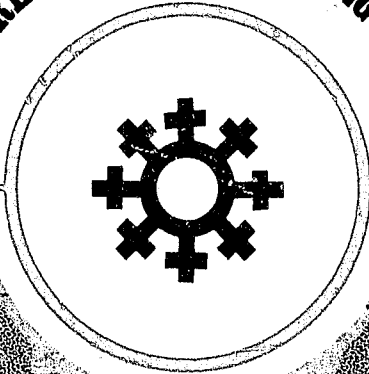




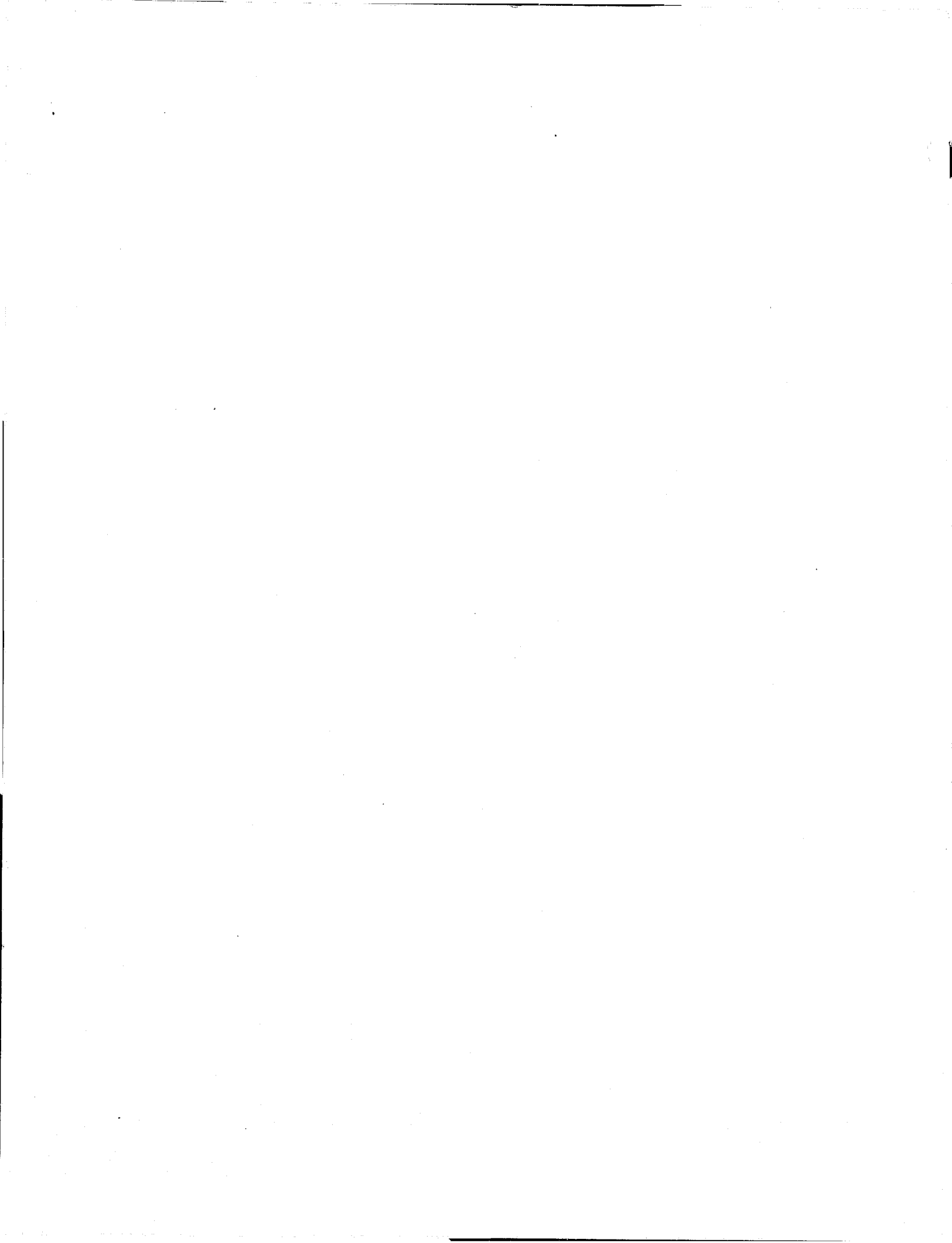


**ARE MY DREAMS TOO MUCH TO ASK FOR?**  
**NEW DIRECTIONS FOR YOUNG WOMEN**



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X ARE MY DREAMS TOO MUCH  
TO ASK FOR?

By  
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and  
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Dedicated to  
the Staff and  
Young Women of  
New Directions . . .

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*And finally, the fifty young women who were kind enough and patient enough to withstand and open up to a tape recorder in order to give me, on the following pages, a unique insight into their special and quite personal world as young women.*

DR



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## Foreword

Have you ever experienced a time when your mind was relatively free of details and pressures, when neither future plans nor past deeds crowded in on that comfortable emptiness? In this rare moment, a thought flashes and matures in your mind. A project has been conceived. You hear yourself saying, "I'll do it. It doesn't seem that difficult." That's how this book began. It's hard to believe that these interviews were taped, transcribed, edited, and published in less than six weeks time.

Are My Dreams Too Much To Ask For? was inspired by a similar book by Gisela Konopka which deals with the views of young women on a variety of subjects and which includes interviews with young women from across the United States.

The young women represented in this book have been actively involved with *New Directions for Young Women* over the past eighteen months. Fifty of them were kind enough to be interviewed and agreed to the taping of their comments. Many at first felt awkward with the tape recorder, but after awhile, they were speaking freely and openly.

Because their comments are so personal, they chose fictitious names to accompany their remarks. The average length of each interview was forty minutes, although some were as short as ten minutes, and others as long as three hours. Their comments in these pages were selected from almost 400 pages of transcribed interviews and were edited as little as possible, and then only to condense for clarity.

The young women are 13 to 18 years of age. Their reasons for coming to *New Directions* were varied. Some came from group homes, foster homes, and detention centers; others came from a "normal home situation." Some had dropped out of high school because they were jobless, single parents, and therefore unable to pay for day care services which would have allowed them to remain in school. Others left high school because, for one reason

or another, their school situation did not meet their needs as young women. Some are currently in school but find enrichment classes at New Directions, such as job readiness and assertiveness training, useful. Still others have discovered that New Directions is simply a comfortable place to be- a place to talk, laugh, and as one young woman put it, "just to put your feet up!" The young women interviewed were from differing backgrounds- Black, Native American, Anglo, Mexican American- which represent the major ethnic groups in the Tucson area.

It is not my goal to offer an analysis of each young woman's statement, but rather to offer what I believe to be more valuable; an unencumbered look into the thoughts and emotions of young women today, as these reflect their concerns and their needs.

DR

IN THE BEGINNING . . .



New Directions for Young Women had its beginnings in the minds of a few progressive thinking individuals at the Pima County Juvenile Court. With the support of persons such as Ruth Crow and Dave Parslow, our program began as one part of a larger "dream experiment" which was seeking new ways to deal with young men and women under 18 who, as juvenile delinquents, found themselves immersed in the inconsistencies of our juvenile justice system. They were placed in detention although their "criminal" acts would not be considered crimes if they were over 18 years of age.

Parents, teachers, and law enforcement officers in our community, as in most communities, had been using the juvenile court as a dumping ground for the youth they could not "handle." In other words, youth were locked up not because of crimes, but to protect them against themselves.

The need for an alternative to this system grew out of the realization that the responsibility for these problems should rest with the community, rather than the courts. "Deinstitutionalization of status offenders" (not locking up juveniles in institutions) was born. That juveniles should not be locked up for running away nor for incorrigibility, truancy, or sexual delinquency was indeed novel.

The practices of this system are, at best, ambiguous, paternalistic, and discriminatory for all youth. Young women suffer the additional effects of the double standard within juvenile justice. We use the euphemisms of health, welfare, and morals and of incorrigibility against girls who have experienced sexual relations. In the name of "protection," they are detained far more often and for longer periods of time than their male counterparts. In fact, the juvenile system is only a microcosm of the world all women face.

However, the thought of an alternative was not merely progressive. It was scary. What alternatives could we provide, especially for young women?

We began finding answers in the broader context of the women's movement. Here was a blueprint for women talking to each other, for sharing our skills and our problems, and for beginning the long road toward building self-confidence. And within the perspective of the movement, we found the roots of the problems young women were and are still facing. Little exists in their environment from which they can gain positive self-images and the knowledge to have control over their bodies. Therefore, we set our goals on expanding options for young women, promoting assertiveness and self-confidence, and providing the kind of knowledge they need to make informed decisions.

Progress toward our goals has been slow, at times excruciatingly slow. Those first few months after New Directions opened were frustrating ones as we began the process of building trust in the community, fighting fears of "feminism," trying to bridge cultural gaps, and experiencing often painful changes in our own organization and our own feminist development.

My own expectations were high and progress often seemed nonexistent, although in retrospect I can see some monumental successes. We have not made feminists out of all the young women who have walked through our doors, nor was this our goal. Instead, we have learned how to communicate and share our experiences as women with these younger women. We on the staff have remembered our own youthful dreams and fears, as well as the issues we have had to face as women, and we have used these as a basis for creating positive programs for young women.

Most importantly, I believe, we have shown that our experiment can work. We are committed to expanding our efforts in ways that will affect the lives of more young women and to continuing the growing awareness in the community of the double standard and disparate treatment which still exists for young women. Our goal is to provide the all-necessary options a young woman needs to reach her potential. I believe we have made a successful beginning.

Carol E. Zimmerman  
Executive Director



When I first came to New Directions, I had just graduated three weeks before from the University. I had heard when I was at school (majoring in the ever so popular "Art Education") that there was a glut of teachers on the market. Well, thought I, that may be true, but they don't know Debby Rosenberg. So upon graduation and certification, I went to Tucson District One to pick up my job assignment and sign a contract. I was ready!! No job. A minor set back to someone that was not trained in anything else but Art Education.

Sheltered, spoiled, frustrated, naive, fat, and confused, I went to a counselor. What do I do, I asked her. Direct me. Tell me where to go, what to wear, and who to ask for. The idea of being unemployed three weeks after graduation was more than I could bear. What do you want to do, she asked me. God, I was paying this person \$25.00 an hour and she wasn't doing what I paid her for. You tell me, I whined. She didn't. I finally told her that I had a friend that was the director of a place called New Directions and that I wanted to volunteer because I thought it sounded neat. I went on to explain that they would probably not accept me because I wasn't a feminist. Oh how I wanted to be a feminist at that time! But I wasn't sure what you said, did, dressed like, or anything. I imagined that New Directions had enough volunteers and didn't need me. I cried at the thought of being rejected again. We ended that session by my promising to go to New Directions that afternoon and volunteering. We would meet the next week to hear the horrid details of my first visit.

The hardest thing about my first week at New Directions -- volunteering two hours a day and answering the phone -- was trying to remember to say "young women" instead of girls. For some reason, it didn't seem natural until it was explained to me that its derivation represents a level of respect. Seventeen-year-old men weren't called boys, and it was pointed out that young women had always had put-down names like ladies, broads, girls, chicks, dolls. My first feminist thought and it didn't seem that scary.

About three weeks after volunteering and developing a quasi-G.E.D. program which consisted of helping two women every afternoon, I was informed that there was money to pay me at least for two hours a day. Ah, gainful employment. That money grew as my hours increased along with the growth of the G.E.D. program and by the end of October, now two months after graduation, I was the "part-time" G.E.D. Coordinator. Having a title was almost better than making \$162.68 every two weeks!!

My program was growing and without much awareness at this time on my part, I found that I was growing, also. I was learning in these winter months about assertiveness, our bodies (my body), but most importantly, how to share insecurities as well as discoveries with women that I had only known for a few short months. I felt like a feminist cripple next to my new co-workers. They had philosophies, they expressed their "needs," and they seemed so comfortable. I was in those days trying so hard not to be sexist, submissive or to show my "milk toast" nature. I was trying so hard to be like each and every one of them that I was exhausted. When, I wondered, would I be a feminist, an expert, a public speaker....

My next developmental stage surfaced when I least expected it. The G.E.D. program had grown to about sixty people (young women) and I was good. I was confident and young women were coming to me for "direction" because they valued my opinion. Before I realized it, I was providing these young women with expertise. They provided me with the feeling that I was all right and trustworthy and had the makings of being a friend. Oh, Elation!!

Young women have always puzzled me. I have to honestly say that as a student teacher in a high school setting, I saw most of the young women as trivial, mindless whimps whose cares were only in boys, make-up, and the back-biting cattiness that took place among each other. The boys, on the other hand, were the leaders and had the reputation of being

academically competent and capable of endless careers. I have just recently realized that New Directions and I have been successful in making the above situation totally opposite from what the young women at New Directions have experienced. The young women that I have met at New Directions in the last eleven months are still interested in men. But they will be the first in line to hear about non-traditional career experiences, join an interesting group that will offer them some personal growth, and be sure their own needs are met when dealing with men, family, and school, as well as the staff at New Directions.

I have touched the lives of a hundred young women and these words cannot express the change, growth, and love I have received from them and the staff of New Directions. New Directions has been successful in these few months in impacting the environment of all young women that have been fortunate to realize their needs and seek "new direction."

Debby Rosenberg

I believe New Directions provides a place where young women can be involved in a different environment. I try to create that environment by telling young women how things were for me as a young woman. For example, women, especially black women, did not have the right to make certain decisions. But women should be free to choose what they want out of life. They should be free to decide if they want children, and when; they should be free to decide not to bear children. No one should be allowed to tell me to keep an unwanted child, not even a man. As a kid growing up, I didn't understand this, nor was there anyone to talk to about myself as a woman discovering what life was about.

I think women should have an education if they choose. They should have the right to knowledge. When I was born, black women were just being given the right to an education.

In working at New Directions, I have the chance to talk with young women and express my views, as a struggling Black woman, on what an education means today. New Directions teaches young women how to be assertive and to speak up for and against the things that effect them in their everyday lives.

Pamela Hurd

New Directions, New Freedom, New Challenge  
New Expression, New Experience  
New Responsibilities

Women have come of age in this decade. But the change has been difficult for many, especially for young women. Many young women have readily grabbed the New Freedom but are not as willing to accept the New Responsibilities.

My concern is with Chicanas. I feel it is doubly hard for Chicanas to function in any Anglo situation, let alone in a very new situation. Our Chicano culture and our traditions, many times, clash with the New Women's Experience. Often these young women are asked to participate in situations that strip them of their identity. And without an identity or self-worth, functioning is impossible.

There are ways to merge the old with the new to create a positive experience. That is my challenge. Young Chicanas must not be stripped of their culture. They must be able to blend the strength of their culture with the strength of the women's experience to emerge as Proud Women. I want to be part of that metamorphosis.

Cecelia Cruz-Baldenegro

I remember clearly my first day of school -- the excitement, the anticipation, and especially the curiosity about life. However, somewhere along the road that excitement and curiosity died. I felt trapped sitting in endless classes, reading endless texts, and studying people and things that had no meaning or relation to my life.

If we expect young women to remain in our educational systems and not be truant or drop out completely, we must make some changes now. I'm excited about my position at New Directions because it provides me with an opportunity to work with some excellent teachers, counselors, and administrators and, with them, to make some of those necessary changes.

Young women need to read about what is happening to women in the context of realistic life situations and to be provided learning experiences which are meaningful to their lives. The junior high and high school years are critical to the future of young women for what they enable them to understand about human relations between women and men and among members of families, and for what they enable them to envision of the world of work.

Schools are not fulfilling their role of preparing young women for the future if they do not include family life courses along with career guidance. Young women must be prepared to handle both career and family aspects of their lives. Even though most young people will at some time in their lives be parents, they receive little or no training in effective parenting. Thus, they are ill prepared for a major part of their future.

To bring balance and reality to the life preparation of young people, options need to be expanded encouraging them to prepare to participate equitably in home responsibilities and to consider the implications of a dual career family.

I strongly believe that differences in the career aspirations of young men and young women is due, at least in part, to the lack of female role models in every area of study, a lack of courses such as Family Life and Sex Education that have a direct relationship to young women's lives, and finally,

a lack of career guidance that is free of sex biases and that encompasses both the career and family aspects of their future.

Terry Shield-Fouly

When I started working as a counselor for New Directions, I was very enthusiastic. This, I thought, was an ideal agency for me to work for since most of my experiences in counseling had been with young women. New Directions is an agency that was created around the needs and problems that young women face.

My own concerns as a youth varied from trivial matters to very serious decisions. There were times I needed someone to talk to, someone who would listen and give me the opportunity to look at a situation from a different perspective. I try to be that someone for the young women at New Directions.

As a Chicana, I ran into many cultural and ethnic barriers in school, employment, and relationships with other people. In turn, I know what many young women of my culture and other cultures come across in their daily life. For many of them, their home lifestyle is totally different from that of the society in which they must live. I feel these encounters at New Directions enable me to work with and understand young women, for I once experienced these conflicts, and still do.

Norma Grijalva

New Directions began operation almost a year and a half ago with high hopes of being something new, unique and helpful to young women.

It was exciting! To be in on something from the beginning. To be able to inject my ideas and my energy into a project whose philosophy matched my own personal biases about what was important, unusual, and welcomed. I felt as if I had a part in a growing, effective organization.

Those first meetings and first months were times of sharing and groping for a consensus of our ideas. We thought we had an idea of what we were

supposed to do. But trying to operationalize it and make it concrete was sometimes hard.

I felt, and still do feel, that we're sincere in our efforts, although along the way things have not always worked out as well as we would have liked. Gears have shifted numerous times to meet immediate needs (or what we perceived as immediate needs), to adjust to something that sounded good, or to satisfy personal desires. I do wonder how much shifting an organization can take before its staff begins to wonder, where is all this going?

We have served many young women in ways as small as a game of ping pong or a friendly word and as important as aiding in re-establishing a young woman's feelings of self-worth or helping a family live together in a little more satisfying way.

There have been frustrations along the way, and I hate those. But I also realize that intermittent frustrations and disappointments are a constant in life. It's frustrating to see a young woman floundering, yet unwilling to reach out. It's frustrating to watch a young woman ignore the future and its consequences and it's frustrating never knowing if your real aim (of having young women be independent, decision-making, self-motivating people) is ever really achieved. I want a lot for young women. I want them not to be manipulated and oppressed by society's limited definition of female, not to buy social indoctrination about their looks, not to feel they can't do something just because they are a girl, not to focus their attention on getting a male, and not to feel second class because of their sex or race or both. But it's frustrating, for so many of them don't see it.

I feel like there's a lot more I could say about New Directions, the organization, but maybe it's not as important as the young women. So I'll end here.

Linda Kegerreis

## I WANT TO SHARE MY LIFE WITH YOU

*I want to share my life with you,  
and maybe you could pretend  
that you were in my place,  
and I was your best friend.*

*When you were born  
you were happy as could be.  
Of course you understand  
that this was really me.*

*Then you lived on through  
the years and stopped at six.  
Many wrong things seemed to happen  
which you felt you had to fix.*

*Soon you went to school;  
you learned to read and write,  
and when you were afraid,  
you'd show your mood, and fight.*

*The next exciting year  
was when you reached thirteen.  
This is when the boys  
helped you feel like a loving queen.*

*You lived on with dreaming thoughts  
of how fifteen would be;  
but when it came along,  
you didn't want to see.*

*By the way,  
when you had lived this year,  
you were very popular,  
but your mind wasn't very clear.*

*At the age of sixteen, you were sad  
because things with everybody went wrong.  
So soon you turned against everything,  
but mostly your parents; you blamed them  
so long.*

*You didn't feel comfortable at home,  
so you didn't stay.  
Then you weren't greeted nicely  
when you went home the next day.*

*The rest of sixteen was o.k.  
But why?  
Was it because most of the time  
you wished you could die?*

*Soon your seventeenth  
year came along,  
and you feel like your whole  
seventeen year went wrong.*

*Now all you wish is to  
turn eighteen quick,  
because life altogether  
is making you sick.*

*You dream for tomorrow  
and think of the past,  
for maybe someday,  
you will want now to last!*

Carla White  
(17)



# FAMILY

## *Teach Your Children*

*You who are on the road  
must have a code  
that you can live by  
and so become yourself  
because the past is just a goodbye*

*Teach your children well  
their fathers hell did slowly go by  
and feed them on your dreams  
the one they pick's the one you'll know by*

*Don't you ever ask them why  
if they told you would cry  
so just look at them and sigh  
and know they'll love you*

*and you of tender years can know the fears  
that your elders grew by  
and so please help them with your youth  
they seek the truth before they can die*

*Teach your parents well  
Their children hell will slowly go by  
And feed them on your dreams  
the one they pick's, the one you'll know by  
don't you ever ask them why if they told you would cry  
so just look at them and sigh  
and know they'll love you*

*Graham Nash*

## FAMILY

Boys and girls are born with an equal potential for development; biologically, intellectually, emotionally, and socially.

The results of growing up for boys and girls are drastically different. Our culture artificially imposes traditional gender roles on them from birth. From the moment that a girl baby is wrapped in a pink blanket, her future is destined toward fulfilling the myth that females are weak and inferior.

The development of masculine and feminine traits is a process of socialization. We raise our boys to be independent, aggressive, self-confident and strong, while we instill in our daughters those qualities which make them unfit to achieve a productive life in an aggressive society. To be emotionally "healthy" young women must adjust to and accept the behavioral expectations of her sex---passivity, self-sacrifice, lack of ambition, acquiescence; qualities which our society considers undesirable for and inferior to its high demands of achievement.

As parents we must take time to ponder what growing up female means to our daughters. We have a tremendous influence over the kind of lives our children will lead and the kind of persons they will become. It seems inconscienable to deny our daughters the full potential with which they were born, simply because they are female.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR MOTHER? DID YOU FIGHT?  
WERE YOU CLOSE? WOULD YOU CONSIDER HER A FRIEND?

We fight almost every day. You know, argue.

Virginia Quevedo, 14

It's getting a lot better since her divorce because my dad would never let me be with my mom alone.

Julie Anderson, 16½

I love my mother very dearly. She's my world, but we have arguments because of my stepfather. He comes from a farm and his relatives raised their girls like farm girls. They lived in a little town and they were sweet and innocent and healthy and they graduated from high school. Well, he wants me to be like them and I'm not. I'm not his blood. It's just not me.

My mother is the way she is because of my father and satisfying him and me at the same time. My personality and my father's personality clash really bad. She can't satisfy both of us at the same time. So me and her have arguments. I love her; I don't want to hurt her. Just now I'm four months away from being 18 and I want to move out because there's too much hassle. I mean my mother can't satisfy me and she can't satisfy my father at the same time. So whichever one she can't satisfy, that person gets mad. That's really selfish on my side, but it's selfish on my stepfather's side, too. I know I'm selfish as well as he. I'd just as soon move out.

Charlene Davis, 17

We're not too close. It's not like a regular mother-daughter should be. I can't sit down and talk to her and explain to her about my problems. I can't do that. I can talk to her, but not about my problems. I'd rather visit her and take flowers and things like that. But not like a regular daughter and mother should be.

Candy Pierce, 17

I used to disagree with my mom a lot. I wouldn't let her in my world. Now I'm showing her what I like to do.

Laura Johnson, 13

She is always telling me what to do and I don't like that. But otherwise, we get along okay.

Sonia Martinez, 17

It's more like a sister relationship.

Suzie Smith, 17

Our relationship is really good for my mother because she gets what she wants from me. I am her friend. I listen to what she says and listen to all her problems. Then, if she wants advice, I give her advice and I give her support if she wants support. I ask her how things are going. So for her, I think it's a good relationship except when I get mad about it. For me, it's not because I don't really get from her what I give to her. She does not ask me a whole lot what is going on and if everything's fine or not fine. And she doesn't really take a lot of time to listen to me because she is very concerned with her own problems. So we do fight a lot, mainly when I get really mad about our relationship.

Susanna Michaels, 16

We're not close at all. We don't get along at all. She is just really weird.

Adriadne Arethuse Landau, 15½

Right now it's good. My mom thinks that I really know, that I can take care of myself, which I can. I tried so damn hard to make her realize before that I could take care of myself. I fought a big war with everyone. My family beat me. Not actually beat me. They hurt my feelings at the same time. I was only trying to be myself and say, "Hey, I'm old enough. I can take care of myself. I know it may seem wrong to you what I do, but I know I'm doing it for my own good." I guess now it's okay though, because I already won the war.

It's kind of hard for my mom to say, "I love you," unless you force her into it.

Shawntle Collins, 16½

I guess it's good most of the time. Once in awhile we have arguments. Sometimes she spansks me.

Sally Vega, 17

Real cool, but she gets after me. I ran away and came back to the house. She sat down and she told me, "Just don't get into trouble smoking pot."

Myra Feliciano, 17

I'm not saying that I don't love her because I do very much. One reason is because she is my mother and another is because she has done a lot for me.

Carla White, 17

Argue, yes. Every once in awhile a few words back and forth, but that was it. Not really fight. She's the best friend I have.

Chantanee Abreel, 17

We got along really well. If I needed something, she'd be happy to get it for me which my dad wouldn't. She's really nice that way. But she's got an awful temper.

Torie Black, 17

I used to think I hated my mother but I don't know any more. It was just that I would get mad at her. Now that I'm older, she doesn't tell me what to do so much. So naturally, I'm not as resentful to her and I get along. I've been trying to get along with her a lot better, but every time I try, she wants me to do something for her. It just seems like she doesn't want me getting close to her.

Rhianan Collette Garbeau, 18

My real mom or who? Yeah, she's a good friend. I feel that I can talk to her about anything, even sex.

Araiann Hartman, 18

My relationship with my mother is good right now. I can talk to her about anything. I know she won't condemn me, and she will help me understand what's going on. That's good.

Taren Smith, 18

It's hard to explain. We fight a lot but I love her. She's gone through hard times. I don't know, I'm really close to her. She doesn't really want to be by herself. She's taken it pretty good. I guess you could say I'm helping her but I'm going through a lot of things, too. So it's hard to say. She's a friend.

Anne Williams, 17

She always bitches at me.

Kristy Chastain, 18

I haven't lived with her for a year. During that time, we never saw each other or talked to each other. Not until recently. I saw her in court, but even then, we didn't talk. But I have respect for my mother 'cause I've done her wrong and she's done me wrong. I have respect for her. I hate to say this, but I don't love her.

Regina Alvarez, 17

It is okay but we are always arguing.

Sally Leon, 17

I haven't lived with my parents since I was 14. I love my parents an awful lot. It has helped me understand and respect them a lot not being with them. So I care about them. I care about my mother. We get along. We respect each other. We don't get in each other's way. We've gotten through all the little teenage arguments about things. We don't do that any more. We just know what each other can take. So we get along fine.

Adele Annala, 17

Before I couldn't talk to her. She always had to be yelling at me. She wasn't able to explain things to me. And if I didn't do things right, she thought I was too young. It's very hard right now. We're just getting to where we can talk.

Anna Rodriguez, 17

My mother and I have a very unique relationship, I think. She doesn't try to mother me too much. She's more like a friend. She's like a mother and a friend who I can talk to about anything. It doesn't have to be one certain thing. I can talk about anything.

Jamie Brown, 17½

I never knew my real mother. My stepmother and I don't really have that good a relationship 'cause she and my father just got married a few years ago. I never really been able to accept her because she's a very insecure person and I believe the only reason she married my father was because she had two small children and she needed some security. My father represented that, just like he married her because I was 14 and my brother was 15 and he wanted a mother for us. That's all. I guess she used to really try to force me into trusting her and calling her mom and everything. I couldn't. I mean like today, we communicate but I don't call her my mother. If somebody asks me who my mother and father are, I have to say it because under the law, she is. But to me, she isn't.

Carol Warren, 17

WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP DO YOU HAVE WITH YOUR FATHER? DO YOU FIGHT?  
WERE YOU CLOSE? WOULD YOU CONSIDER HIM A FRIEND?

I could tell him all the good things about me. But I can't tell him all the problems I'm having because I feel like he'd say, "That's dumb," because he still categorizes me no matter what anyone says. He lost my little sister and I'm his only daughter. He still sees me as some little tiny baby in a crib. I can't have my own opinions and he can't accept it if I do. I guess we don't communicate. I'm really scared of my dad. See, when I was little he used to knock me around.

Carol Warren, 17

Never had one.

Sally Leon, 17

He tries to do problems instead of just turning away and punishing me for it. You know, the logical type. He also used the forming of the mind. He deals with people in the mistakes. If someone screws up, he has to tell them, talk to them about it, or whatever. I can tell my dad things about my past and when it's over, he just says, "Well, I hope you don't do it again. It's bad for you." I wouldn't never tell him anything at the time when I was doing it.

Rhianan Collette Garbeau, 18

There wasn't one. I never saw him.

Charlene Silvain, 17

My dad doesn't really have a temper. He gets mad but not like my mom. If something bothers him, he gets it off his chest and it's over with.

Laurie Smith, 16

It's not good at all. We both have to be right. It's not good at all.

Suzie Smith, 17

I'm not close to him. He's more quiet; he's not so affectionate. He's just sort of....I don't know....far out.

Sally Vega, 17

We're close, closer than my mom is. That's for sure.

Kristy Chastain, 18

He's a little bit more remote. He knows I love him, too, and he loves me. But we don't talk that much. I know how to talk to him and make him feel good. We don't have the kind of relationship I'd like, like with other people. But just as far as loving him, it's all right.

Adele Annala, 17

What relationship? I don't really have a relationship with my father. He's just some man I call every once in awhile when I don't have anything else to do.

Jamie Brown, 17½

I can't talk to him.

Lupe C., 16

I can talk to him about certain things, not all things.

Araiann Hartman, 17

I don't have a relationship with my father. He's completely eighteenth century all the way. I feel there is nothing that we can talk about.

Taren Smith, 18

I talk to my father a little bit more than I talk to my mom. But it's still not a great deal.

Teresa Soleno, 17

He was just a dad. He was somebody that was there. He watched TV or read the paper and ate dinner and went to work. We never really got close to my dad up until my parents started splitting up. Then I got close to him.

Anne Williams, 17

I'm not too hep on him. He's not my father; he's my stepfather. And we don't really talk. There is nothing that I have to ask him. He doesn't give me permission for anything. We talk because he's there.

Nadine Henry, 17

I don't even remember except he didn't like me too much. I can't live with my mother. There's no reason for me to stay there. There's nothing.

Sasha Stone, 18

Me and my dad don't have to talk a lot but we understand each other.

Jessica Moreno, 17

My father me get along pretty good. It's all right. He's gone most of the time. I don't even know when I will see my father again, until like maybe next month. He's in California. He's a superintendent and he works out of town a lot. He usually came home on weekends, but now he works in Albuquerque and it's too far and too expensive to come home now. But it's a job and that's all he needs.

Shawntle Collins, 16½

We don't get along at all. He accuses me of stealing his money when he is drunk.

Myra Feliciano, 17

I lived with him for two years and the whole time, it was like we fought a lot. But he wanted it that way. He says that he has the best relationship with me out of all the kids -- all three of us -- because my two brothers wouldn't fight back. And he wanted them to fight back with him. He was very hot tempered.

Susanna Michaels, 16



I've never gotten to know him. He left my mom when I was about three months old.

Anna Rodriguez, 17

My father never really wanted me. So there's no love lost there because there was no love given.

Barbara Valenzuela, 17

ARE ANY OTHER ADULTS IN YOUR FAMILY SUCH AS AUNTS, UNCLES, AND GRAND-PARENTS SPECIAL OR HAVE THEY HAD ANY INFLUENCE ON YOUR LIFE?

My grandmother raised me, also. From her I gained my philosophical views and religious views. I really look up to her a lot because she's really special -- like setting a type of foundation.

Taren Smith, 18

I'll tell you. My grandmother on my mom's side died in 1974. I loved her more than anybody in this world. I would be able to sit down and talk to her and any thing. I talked to her and she would tell me what she thought about it, if she thought it was right or wrong. But she wouldn't tell me to stop it. She'd try to help. She could help me to get along and to understand better. My dad's mom is real nice, too. I mean she will go out of her way. I don't want things that she can give me. I want to show them I really care and will do anything for them.

Carla White, 17

My grandmother on my father's side was pretty special. She still writes me.

Barbara Valenzuela, 17

They're all duds. I just have one cool uncle. He's cute.

Myra Feliciano, 17

One of my aunts sticks out. I can only remember her faintly because I was about four years old when she died. But she really sticks in my mind. I can picture her right now. I was really close to her and I was close to her daughters. She used to do a lot of things for me. When I was little, I was closer to my aunt than I was to my mom.

Connie Larson, 15

My dad's sister helps me with all my problems. That's who we're staying with right now.

Julie Anderson, 16½

My grandparents. I guess I was their first granddaughter. I'm the one that is spoiled. They will give me everything. I snap my fingers and they are there. I've tried to get rid of that habit.

Nadine Henry, 17

My grandmother's very special. I like to be with her. I like to help her because she can't walk -- her arthritis. But she can talk. When she was small, her mother didn't let her eat lemons because it gets you a lot of pimples. That's what her mother said. When she was sitting down and eating them at school and her mother caught her, she spanked her for eating lemons. Just for a little slice.

Melanie Rivera, 14

I feel a lot towards my grandma. I just respect them and I love them for what they are.

Adele Annala, 17

I have a special aunt. She is married to a Mexican man and they have a child together. I lived with them for two months in Chicago and I learned a lot from her. I depended on her for two months. I got a lot out of it.

Layla Dvonne Brock, 17

My uncle's nice. He takes us out. He treats us. He's nice.

Virginia Quevedo, 14

# SCHOOL

## *You've Got To Be Taught*

*You've got to be taught to hate and fear.  
You've got to be taught from year to year.  
It's got to be drummed in your dear little ear.  
You've got to be carefully taught.*

*You've got to be taught to be afraid  
of people whose eyes are oddly made  
and people whose skin is a different shade.  
You've got to be carefully taught.*

*You've got to be taught before it's too late,  
before you are six or seven or eight,  
to hate all the people your relatives hate.  
You've got to be carefully taught.  
You've got to be carefully taught.*

*Rodgers and Hammerstein  
"South Pacific"*

## SCHOOL

The role of the schools is to educate. Equality in education is a right. Yet the crucial goal of educational equity is being stymied. It is clear that our educational system and its policies have failed to meet the needs of over half the population: women.

Many career counselors have outdated perceptions of the reality of the job market and lifestyle opportunities available in today's world. Choices of acceptable careers are few. All of these choices result in low paying, dependent, subordinant positions.

*"Of the 136 Office of Education instructional titles, young women comprise a majority of only 48 occupational areas. Only 33 of these female-intensive programs are wage earning courses. Home economics accounts for 49% of the female enrollment."*<sup>1</sup>

Most women will combine a career with a family life. Approximately thirteen million women in the labor force are women with children. Thus, it is critical for sex-fair education programs to encourage serious, long-range education and career planning for young women as independent rather than dependent persons.

For young women the drop out rate is high. This can be attributed to a lack of encouragement by teachers and curriculum which fails to deal with the complexity of skills and career options women need to succeed. In addition, young women are affected by rigid pregnancy policies, unresponsiveness, and lack of respect by educators.

Schools train women to accept the traditional subservient roles which only serves to suppress intellectual achievement. Very rarely is she prepared in the same way for leadership and authority roles as her male peers. Courses in non-traditional areas may be "open", but dissuasiveness by educators is apparent through comments such as, "If you're a girl, you would probably rather handle curlers rather than tools."<sup>2</sup> Counselors and educators have received a barrage of information on Title IX and its implications and applications, yet the destructive effects of sex-role stereotyping are still rampant.

DO YOU FEEL YOUR SCHOOL EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE? WHY?

Negative because I didn't really learn anything. I learned things I will need in my life outside of school better than I did inside of school.

Araiann Hartman, 17

I learned a lot. To me, it did me a lot of good until I got married and dropped out.

Nadine Henry, 18

High school, I felt, was negative for me because at the time, I just didn't believe in anything that was there. I was just off on a cloud. I had ideas of what was real and school wasn't real to me at that time. I wasn't learning what I felt was important at all.

Adele Annala, 17

Negative, because I never went to class.

Teresa Soleno, 17

It was positive at first. I really enjoyed school all the way up to the seventh grade. After seventh, I sort of lost interest.

Candy Pierce, 17

A very negative experience. Teachers kept getting hired and fired. The school had a very bad drug problem. The teacher didn't give a shit; neither did the deans. So you'd go to the smoking area and smoke up and take pills. Then you'd go to class and the teacher would bitch at you. They'd bitch at the girls like me and a couple other girls. But you didn't see them bitch at a Black girl and a Chicano girl because the teachers knew they would get their asses kicked out of school.

Jamie Brown, 17½

In some things, it was positive and in some, it was negative. Like my dance class. It was a positive experience. It gave me something I wanted to do to further my education. But some things were a waste of time. I had a history class in my junior year. I knew the history teacher and I made straight A's in it all the time, even when I didn't deserve it. It was a waste of my time.

Charlene Davis, 17

I think school's good. Teaches you what you want to be when you grow up.

Louise Harkerbarker, 15

Negative. The teachers gave me a lot of hassles. Like when everybody walks in class talking, they used to think I started it all.

Sally Leon, 17

It's just learning. You've got to learn something.

Torie Black, 17

Negative, because the teachers didn't like me.

Kristy Chastain, 18

I vary. Sometimes I learned and other times I felt like I wasn't learning anything. I don't know. I'd rather get in an organization such as this (New Directions).

Carla White, 17

I think it's a positive experience because, for one thing, you learn how to relate to people, especially your own age, although you do learn a lot of crap in school. Still, you learn some good things. I think it's a good experience. I've been out of school for awhile. It's hard not being in. It's hard if you leave before most other people do.

Susanna Michaels, 16

I enjoyed school up to the point when I went to several different high schools. When I got into the tenth grade, I went to three different high schools. By that time, I was so confused about school, I didn't even want to go any more. It was stupid.

Layla Dvonne Brock, 17

Positive. I like the teachers. I like to learn. My favorite subject is my wood shop class. I like to work because I don't have to deal with other things.

Melanie Rivera, 14

Mostly negative because of the atmosphere -- just the whole way it was run. I didn't like it at all. The teachers weren't friendly and I felt the whole reasons I was there was not to learn. It was to make grades. The social things were really too much for me -- the friends and everybody trying to have more friends than everyone else.

Ariadne Arethuse Landau, 15½

I think the part that is negative is that it didn't deal fairly with boys and girls. They're trying to change it now, but I think that was the negative thing.

Sally Vega, 15

Actually, it depends. If I took a positive attitude in school, I could have made it. But I took a negative attitude toward the people there. If I tried, I made good grades. It just was the people.

Shawntle Collins, 16½

Positive in the sense to learn. But negative with social lives.

Taren Smith, 18

In a way, I think it is positive because I learned a lot. I'm going to get a lot out of it in the long run. But the time that I'm there, I hate school. I hate it. I really can't get myself up in the morning to get there and be there.

Connie Larson, 15

Negative 'cause I didn't feel like the teachers took the time to really teach the kids individually. You know, deal with their problems. Most of the teachers I ran into were there just because they were getting paid to do our class. They'd do something like write on the board and if you ask a question and say, "Could you repeat that?", they just say, "Why don't you pay attention the first time?" So I didn't get anything out of it because sometimes I need to have something explained to me more than once. Sometimes I need it on an individual basis. I wasn't really getting it and they were passing me through their class. I wasn't doing anything because I really couldn't understand the work.

Carol Warren, 17

Positive 'cause I enjoyed being there. You get to know lots of people.

Virginia Quevedo, 14

DO YOU FEEL HIGH SCHOOL YEARS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT YEARS FOR YOUNG WOMEN? WHY?

Yeah, because it makes you feel smarter.

Barbara Valenzuela, 17

Because that way you can get a better job.

Lupe C., 16

It depends. High school is definitely very important to a young lady, but it depends upon what kind of person you are. If you don't like high school, you shouldn't go. Like me, I didn't like high school and I didn't got. I'm doing okay. I think it is definitely very important as long as they have the right attitude.

Shawntle Collins, 16½

Yes and no. I guess because she goes through certain changes and she becomes more interested in the opposite sex and dating. But sometimes she becomes interested before or maybe afterward.

Charlene Davis, 17

High school is important in the way that you have to get a diploma or else there is no way that anybody will accept you. I would have to say high school years because there's more you can get into when you're in high school. It's not like elementary or secondary. It's not like walking into school and somebody's going to say, "Hey, let's get a cut." It's more into the drug scene and the sex scene.

Candy Pierce, 17

I think high school screws people up a lot. It's not really an important time. But I'd say it was a big pressure -- social pressure, especially where kids are -- if you aren't strong enough to stand up to it. The structure, I thought, was bullshit. If you're not strong enough, you will be pretty unhappy. I think any time is important to your development.

Adele Annala, 17

I think high school is the important years. I guess because of boys.

Melanie Rivera, 14

That's when you go through a lot of changes in growing up.

Araïann Hartman, 17

Yes, I think the high school years are. That's when you need and make a lot of lasting friendships. You learn about life and that's when you get most of your educational information through the stuff that you carry one. When you go to the eighth grade, it's just basic things. You know you're going to use them, but you really apply things that you learn in high school through your life.

Carol Warren, 17

Yes, I guess because high school is when you get to meet a lot of people. You get to know how people are and different ways.

Jessica Moreno, 17

Yeah, because that's when you are growing up. You're very emotional and at school, you get attention about social life and doing what you're supposed to do. In that way, you learn a lot from school.

Myra Feliciano, 17

No. I think college is more important than high school. In high school, I think it is just like preparing. But when you are in college, you are really going into your life's vocation.

Sally Vega, 15

That's when you do most of your maturing. You see what is really happening in your life and what you are going to do from there on.

Nadine Henry, 17



I feel that they're important. But I also feel that in high school, you develop to some extent. But when you get out of high school, you really have to think for yourself. You have to decide what you want to do with your life. So I think the time right after high school, when you're in college or getting a job, is more important in developing yourself.

Susanna Michaels, 16

WHAT DO YOU THINK TEACHERS COULD DO WITHIN A SCHOOL EXPERIENCE TO STRENGTHEN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STUDENTS AND TEACHERS?

I think you can really be too rigid, too strict, too cold, and too moral. That is a problem with a lot of teachers. They're afraid of the kids. If you can get rid of that and treat the kids more like they're your equals, that's really important. They can think just as much as you can and what they think means something. Give them a chance to do things on their own instead of making everything really rigid.

Susanna Michaels, 16

Show that they care. Most teachers say, "I don't care. It's up to you whether you learn or not. I don't care."

Renee Valentine, 15

Be like Mrs. F. That's all I can say. Man, that lady was so nice. She had a lot of love inside of her. That's what it takes, man. If I'm in a class, at work, or at home -- anywhere -- if the environment has love, an output of love like she had, shoot, I can do anything I want.

Shawntle Collins, 16½

I think that they should take out the majority of the class and get a new teacher and have a small class. That's the way I like it best because you get more attention and you're not as embarrassed to speak out.

Carla White, 17

I don't believe in the open school system at all. I feel that once the teacher becomes a student's friend, she or he loses authority. I don't feel the traditional is that good as yet because we proved it's not working. But I don't feel that open education is the answer, either.

Taren Smith, 18

I think talk to them more, get to know them better--the way they think--so they can understand the way they work.

Jessica Moreno, 17

They could look at kids on an individual basis. Maybe your mother really does get sick at night and you don't have time for your homework. You have to take care of her. You shouldn't get punished for that. A teacher should understand that even though you have responsibility at school, you have responsibility to your family, too.

Most of the teachers in my school had been teaching for years and years. We didn't have a face or nothing. We were just bodies that were sitting there.

Carol Warren, 17

I think that they should not have so many kids in their classes so that a teacher can get to know their people and talk to them. Somebody that you can talk about anything to and not just the subject that they are teaching.

Araian Hartman, 18

I think a lot of teachers look at you and if you dress up all the time and look real cute, teachers look up to you. But if you just wear jeans, then they don't.

Suzie Smith, 17

I think that if you push them too much, they aren't going to do it. If you let them go slow and at their own pace, it would be better.

Regina Alvarez, 17

Being understanding and understanding students. Just be cool.

Myra Feliciano, 17

Try to understand the kids more. Not all of us are going to come in and be in the same mood the teacher is in. Two days after my father's funeral, one of the teachers came in and really started hasseling me. I told him, "Look, I just lost my father. I don't want to hear your mouth. I've got my own problems to worry about. Let me get over the grief of his dying before you start pushing school work down my throat." It was just like they didn't understand. They were worried about putting education in your head.

Tracy Hanby, 15

I would say to cut out the student teacher role and present things in a realistic way, things that are right there instead of things you just read from books and study from papers.

Sasha Stone, 18

Some teachers don't have to be so sarcastic to the kids. Miss T. talks to you real nice. She doesn't try to act like you're small and I'm big and I'm going to teach you and have you learn.

Melanie Rivera, 14

Not play each student upon another, saying "you should be like this student because they're popular, or because they make better grades, or they study harder." Accept each individual the way they are.

Layla Dvonne Brock, 17

Not be go grouchy and leave more people's things alone.

Louise Harkerbarker, 15

I think if the teachers met the students more on their level, that it would make it a lot easier. You wouldn't mind learning from them so much. We called our teachers by their first names and it made you feel a lot more comfortable with them. They were still our teachers and you had to have respect for them, but it made you feel a lot more comfortable in class. You could feel more like yourself. You could be more comfortable to talk out and voice your opinion. I think teachers shouldn't ask you questions that they know you're not going to know -- embarrass you so you will study harder. It doesn't work that way. It just makes you resent it more.

Rhianan Collette Garbeau, 18

Over here the school system gives me a laugh. They don't teach you like they used to explain it. I think it would be better if they take more time and really teach you what you want to know instead of making you give up and drop the class. If they didn't just give you a lab book and say, "Here, do this and when you're finished, I'll correct it for you," I would have liked it better. If they would have explained the stuff instead of you reading it because it's all confused because they use big words, I would have liked it better.

Barbara Valenzuela, 17

For one thing, things should be more relaxed. You should get to know your teachers for what they are, not just as a teacher. In that way, you make contact and that is what is important.

Adele Annala, 17

The teachers don't have enough say so. They just go by what they are told to do. But I think some teachers could be a little easier on some students and some teachers could be harder. Like, there were some teachers that let you out twenty minutes later. I mean, when you get in the classroom, they let you out. I think they should be a little harder. I think that is what happened to me. If my teachers had been a little harder on me, I would have had a better opportunity.

Candy Pierce, 17

Act themselves; not try to be different. We're supposed to be like teachers. We have to be strict; we have to do this and that. To be able to talk to the student and be able to see where he is coming from.

Nadine Henry, 17

I think that instead of trying to be your teacher, they ought to try and be your friend, too. Not always telling you do it or else. If you don't want to do it, ask you at least why -- maybe there's a reason -- instead of jumping onto a conclusion that something's wrong.

Carisa Rivera, 17

IS/WAS THERE ANY TEACHER(S) THAT YOU WOULD CONSIDER A FRIEND? IF YES, WHAT WAS SHE/HE LIKE?

Yes. She was my first black teacher. She was real sweet. I was having some trouble with a few of the black girls in school because they wanted me to ditch school with them. I told them yes. Then I thought about it and I said, "Well, get smart. Do it yourself. You've got to stand up and tell them no. You can't do it. You've got to make up a lot of work that you missed." So I told them no and they were after me. They wanted to beat me up. And I had trouble with them. I knew all of them and she talked to them. I told them I could go to her with anything. That was my English teacher. So it got straightened out because of her. I couldn't do it without her.

Connie Larson, 15

Yes, my writing teacher. He was a real open-minded type of person. He was young and he understood me a lot. He used to talk a lot.

Adele Annaia, 17

She was nice. She was like a friend more than a counselor. She was easy to talk to. All the other counselors, whenever we would go to them, would have your file on their desk and take down everything you said. But she didn't. We could talk to her at any time.

Sonia Martinez, 17

Yes, a woman, because she used to talk about her problems and I could tell her my problems. She would understand.

Cecilia Lopez, 17

I can't think of any teachers. But my counselor, Mr. H., I think he changed my whole life. He helped me get out of school and then he showed me New Directions to study to get my G.E.D. I've learned a lot since I got out of school.

Suzie Smith, 17

It was a man. He was middle aged. He was about 28 to 30, around in there. If I had problems with schooling, I could go to him and talk to him. He kept me straight as well as a friend. He didn't jump back or insult me or upset me or anything. We got along really well.

Tracy Hanby, 15

There were a few. Mrs. J. was one. She was my English teacher in my sophomore year. She also was a speech teacher. She treated her class like they were her family. There was kind of an informality there. You knew that she was the teacher and from now on what she said went. I got to be really close to her because I was really popular in that class. So she liked that a lot, being a speech teacher. So we got along really well and we were very close. Then another particular one, Mr. D., was my eighth grade teacher. But he was an English teacher, too. He was just really nice. He conducted his classrooms really openly. You did a lot of stuff independently. Well, I was absent a lot in eighth grade and he really cared a lot about me. I ended talking a lot to him after classes.

Susanna Michaels, 16

Oh, definitely. Mrs. F. was my cooking teacher and she was my child development teacher. And Mr. M. was my personal development teacher. If you got him mad, boy, he'll swing you around the room. That's his technique of teaching. He's a bastard when he wants to be. But Mrs. F. was my best teacher because she had a lot of love, a lot of love. Man, she was such a beautiful lady. She was so beautiful. I love her to this day.

Shawntle Collins, 16½

I had one. She was kind of wierd, too. A lot of people didn't like her. She was my English teacher. She was really nice. When she would go on vacation, she'd write to me and she was really concerned about me, you know. If I would miss a day of school, she would ask if there was anything that she could help me with. If I had problems, she would always talk to me. She knew I liked to write stories and poems and she would assign me to that certain part of it.

Aranea Jaramillo, 18

There were some teachers that I thought were kind of all right. But it just seemed like they were offering pretty much the same as far as school went. The whole atmosphere -- I just didn't feel really comfortable talking to any of them.

Ariadne Arethuse Landau, 15½

Yeah, but that was in elementary. I used to stay after school a lot, clean up blackboards. She used to give us candy.

Jessica Moreno, 17

My English teacher. A woman. She was nice. She acted like one of the students.

Cindy Cardines, 18

My dance teacher. I could always confide in her. She always understood. I could talk to her about my mother. My mother always had these expectations for me and I couldn't tell her -- I still can't tell her -- things she doesn't want to hear because she gets real mad and jumps on me. I can't tell her my problems because that's not what she wants to hear. So my dance teacher, she's beautiful.

Charlene Davis, 17

It wasn't in high school. It was in junior high. Does that count? She took time to show me what I was doing wrong and how I could do it right, because I got really bad grades. I never really tried until she gave me a lot of compliments and things. She actually was shocked one day because I got a really bad grade on a test. That's why she started really helping me.

Anne Williams, 17

There was a couple. Mr. M. I had him for my eighth grade science. He was the type of person I had a lot of fun with. I just needed someone to talk to. My best friend at the time lived away. I didn't really have anybody to talk to, anybody older that could help me. So I went and talked to Mr. M. because he was always one of my favorite teachers. I really got along with him.

Rhianan Collette Garbeau, 18

All my teachers hated me.

Laurie Smith, 16

He was my sixth grade teacher, Mr. W. In seventh grade, after I graduated from sixth grade, we became real close because he understood where I was coming from -- my past life through my parents -- and he used to talk to me a lot and give me a lot of support. When I ran away the first time and was locked up the first time, he visited me in Juvenile, talked to me and tried to get me straight.

Layla Dvonne Brock, 17

She didn't get on my ass for everything. She treated everybody in the classroom fair. That's what I liked about her.

Jamie Brown, 17½

One of them was my English teacher. She was a teacher but she didn't act like it. She acted like one of us, more or less. She understood when we were tardy and late and we explained. She wouldn't jump on our case. She would just say, "let's not let it happen again." Other teachers right away would say you're not supposed to do this or you're not supposed to do that. She got along with us; she kidded around with us.

Nadine Henry, 17

Yes. She's kind of old. She's about in her forties. She takes time to explain to you what you're supposed to be doing.

Vivian Rodriguez, 13

She was really nice. If I had problems with my work, she'll sit down and help me and explain it. If I'm high, she'll know when I'm high in class and tell me, "Why don't you go and see a counselor. She would send me and I would go somewhere else instead of my counselor. Then after class, she'll talk to me. She was real nice.

Myra Feliciano, 17

She teaches chemistry and she helped me a lot. She told me to just think of her as my best friend. It helped me learn a lot. I love her.

Carla White, 17

WERE THERE ANY GROUPS OR ORGANIZATIONS THAT YOU JOINED IN HIGH SCHOOL?  
WHY DID YOU GET INVOLVED?

I enjoy all sports but I didn't get involved. I more or less didn't go to school hardly at all. I just screwed around a lot. I ran in the alley and got pot. I'm being honest. That's about all. There is a lot of sports in high school that can keep your mind. High school is very important.

Shawntle Collins, 16½

I like football but you couldn't ever get football tickets.

Araïann Hartman, 18

Not really organizations. I wrote poetry for our magazine.

Adele Annala, 17

Spanish Club and Black Americans.

Anna Rodriguez, 17

I was in the Business Club because there was no choice.

Laurie Smith, 16

Ninth and tenth grades, I used to play trumpet. Now I hate to play it. Marching band - I wanted to be the announcer.

Carla White, 17

There were some, but it was so hard to get into them because of the way the systems were set up. There were so many other people who wanted them, too. You know, I didn't really get a chance to get into anything.

Ariadne Arethuse Landau, 15½

Cheerleaders for wrestlers.

Virginia Quevado, 14

I've never joined any group or sports.

Barbara Valenzuela, 17

I was on the gymnastics team in my freshman year. I really liked it because I like sports. The people who were on -- most of the girls, the little jockettes -- had to dress better than you and tried to outdo you. They were really stuck up. I think that drives a lot of people away from sports because they don't want to get stuck with the type of a jock because they think people will think they are stuck up, too.

Rhianan Collette Garbeau, 18

It's distributed education something or other. It's supposed to help you with your jobs -- how to be a better employee. It's like retail to help you get a job and if you do, you get credit.

Anne Williams, 18

Archery and chorus. I really enjoyed that and that's about it.

Carol Warren, 17

Almost all of them. I was on the leadership committee. I was always at football games and basketball games. Anything to do with sports, I was there because I loved them.

Nadine Henry, 17

WHAT ARE THE PEOPLE LIKE THAT YOU HANG AROUND WITH IN SCHOOL?

They were the freaks -- the guys that wore their hair long and jeans and T-shirts.

Carol Warren, 17

They're different than I am. I sort of like it because they have different interests that I get to share.

Sally Vega, 15

They're all like me.

Patsi Verdugo, 14



There were about twenty of us who hung around together -- guys and girls. We weren't into things like pot. We were all straight kids. We just liked to joke around, pull jokes on people, put tacks on their chairs, and kid around. You know, have a good time at other people's expense.

Nadine Henry, 17

The people that I know, that hang around with, usually are smart, do well in high school, don't have a hard time relating to other people. They're friendly. Usually, I think, they come from families where both parents work.

Susanna Michaels, 16

Most of them like to party a lot and I didn't really like doing that. But they were my friends and I didn't want to turn them off.

Candy Pierce, 17

Bitches.

Adele Annala, 17

Freaks.

Charlene Silvain, 17

They didn't care about school. It seemed like I got mixed up with the wrong crowd. They did too much ditching, going to parks, getting drunk or smoke some dope.

Myra Feliciano, 17

When I was in school, I was always the littlest one. They were like me, just that they were taller.

Araiann Hartman, 18

I didn't hang around very many people in high school. But those people I hung around with just didn't really care. I noticed that, definitely. The people that I felt comfortable around, we partied. I always partied, but they had no goals in their life. That's another reason why I had to get away.

Shawntle Collins, 16½

Tough.

Jamie Brown, 17½

We were all into drugs and we were country people. We didn't fit into anything. They were people who like to fight and do things like that.

Adele Annala, 17

Cool and happy. You know, real nice.

Melanie Rivera, 14

Very independent and self-reliant and undisciplined.

Layla Dvonne Brock, 17

Crazy.

Jessica Moreno, 17

They're quiet.

Vivian Rodriguez, 13

People who like to go out and have fun. You don't have to get drunk or high just to go out and have fun. You're really happy. You're really crazy or goofy and you're always having a good time.

Connie Larson, 15

Oh, we were crazy, willing to find out new people. Not rowdy, very mellow.

Anna Rodriguez, 17

My school hours was the only time I spent with them, like lunch time. Because outside of school I was always out with older people, out to clubs and dancing. I didn't hang around with them except at lunch and those people, mostly the blacks, and I ate lunch. We learned new dances from one another and stuff like that. I was never around with a quiet bunch because I'm a real hyper person.

Charlene Davis, 17

We all cared. We all had a protective attitude towards each other. We got along really well. We could talk to each other. If we had problems, we talked to each other. I myself, I can talk to men and one person. You know, on a one-to-one basis. I can talk easier, work things out easier. I'm closer to men than I am women. I've always been.

Tracy Hanby, 15

Bad. This one friend of mine, nobody liked her. She really had a bad reputation. She was kind of crazy. I was really attracted to her the first time I met her. I decided I would be her best friend and we hung around each other. We were really close. She got pretty popular afterward. Not on account of me. But she started hanging around with the wrong kind of people.

Aranea Jaramillo, 18

Mostly what people call nobodies, people that were nobody popular. Most of all they were just friends from the school I had gone to before.

Ariadne Arethuse Landau, 15½

Well, they're called criminals. So I guess that's what you could call them. Criminals. I didn't hang around. There was one person that I hung around with. We were together. We lived in the neighborhood. We stole motorcycles together.

Sasha Stone, 18

They were all older than I was. They were all into drugs. I guess that's how I got involved.

Regina Alvarez, 17

Potheads. They like to party. That's about it. Only two of my friends graduated from high school. The others decided to not go.

Anne Williams, 17

WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF TO BE POPULAR AS FAR AS THE SCHOOL SOCIAL SCENE IS CONCERNED?

25%	Yes
61%	No
14%	Undecided

Sort of, but not in school because in school, I was more to myself. I talked to people but I never hung with people I went to school with. I hung with people outside of school.

Tracy Hanby, 15

Not real popular. I have an average amount of friends like most people do.

Suzie Smith, 17

A lot of people knew me but I wasn't friends with a lot of people.

Connie Larson, 15

In my freshman and sophomore years, I was. Then in my junior year, I turned towards the freaks. Now I'm in between. I don't want to be popular because of the way popularity is handled. It's terrible. See, I used to be and even when I was pretty popular, most of the people were just your friend until someone else came along.

Carla White, 17

I started making a lot of friends when I got in high school. Most of them ditched -- didn't go to their classes or didn't go to school at all. I went along with what they did.

Candy Pierce, 17

Pretty much so. I knew most of the people. Sometimes, but not always, I got a lot of attention. But it wasn't a major thing in my life.

Charlene Davis, 17

I really didn't get along with nobody, the teachers especially. They were too hard on me. I know one teacher didn't like me at all.

Myra Feliciano, 17

Actually, I was not very popular at all. But if I took the right attitude, I would have been.

Shawntle Collins, 17½

# FRIENDS

## *Best Friend*

*It's someone who's close and really cares.  
It's someone that you can count on.  
It's someone you can confide all your  
secrets to, and know that they won't  
go any further. It's someone you  
love just like a sister, and someone  
you can run to when you're sad. It's  
someone you trust with all your heart,  
and from them you hope you'll never  
have to part. You care about each other  
dearly, and you know that if anything  
should happen to either one of you,  
no one could take their place.  
Friends come and friends go, but you're  
happy as long as you know you can  
always depend on them, whether it  
be in rain or snow. Friends are close  
as close as can be, and sure there are  
times when they're both in misery.  
But if one hurts, the other one does  
to; because if you're friends, you'll  
go through thick and thin for each  
other. I never thought I'd have a  
friend like the one I described, but  
boy was I lucky. I ended up with  
the best friend anyone could ever have.  
She's dear; she's sweet; she's very  
meek, 'cause she's just like me--she's  
a little sneek. Boy, we're great  
friends. We have a lot in common  
'cause when it comes to having fun,  
we're the first at the party and the  
last to go home!*

*Nadine Henry  
(17)*

## FRIENDS

Young women often have a strong feeling of solidarity, compassion and commonality with their peers. Young people, especially young women until they are 18, have very few decisions which they are allowed to make. It is usually decided how they can and cannot look when they leave the house, who they can and cannot go out with on a date and at what time they shall return. Decisions within friendships and peer relationships are one area that young people have control. Friends often do not make the same value judgments or rules as parents, and can offer validation and support for a young women.

Recognizing this informal support, we at New Directions have developed peer facilitation of groups of young women for purposes of leading discussion and conducting the group with their peers. Often rap groups can best be facilitated by peers and offer a great sense of relief to a young woman who has felt that her concerns were isolated ones. The group provides a growing awareness that young women can share their experiences with other young women with similar problems and feelings.

Girls are taught at an early age to feel competitive and distrust other females. It is our goal to facilitate the process of young women learning to value each other as human beings.

WHAT KIND OF PERSON, IN YOUR MIND, MAKES UP A GOOD FRIEND?

A good friend is somebody that is there when you need them. You can call them up or go over if you really need to talk to them. They'll be there. Also, somebody that you feel is understanding about your problems and isn't going to be judgmental. And if you ask for advice, they'll give it; but if you don't, they won't. Somebody that isn't critical of what you do and doesn't try to change you.

Susanna Michaels, 16

Somebody that I can share things with. Someone who won't go and tell everybody else. They can do the same with me. And doing real fun things. Even if it's not fun, it means just doing things together.

Connie Larson, 15

Not to lie, not to steal, not to break secrets. If I get into a fight, she will back me up.

Myra Feliciano, 17

I don't know. To me, people aren't perfect. They're gonna mess up and you have to accept that. Your best friend isn't going to be perfect. I think they have to be strong and stick things out and say we're not going to let this hurt our friendship.

Charlene Davis, 17

Somebody that can stay by you even when you've got hard times and you don't got no money. They're just there. They're not a good-time friend. They're there when you've got money and you're happy. Somebody you can trust. When they see you doing something wrong, they don't just turn their back and say, "Well, it's her life. Fuck her." They can come to you and say, "Heh, can't you see what you're doing?" They're not saying it to hurt you. They're saying it to help you.

Carol Warren, 17

Friends are friends to me. You don't have to have certain things before you are my friend. I'd just like them to be a little bit like me -- a little groupie, a little lady -- and have a good sense of humor because I'm always laughing. And to be able to confide in a person and not have it go any further. Maybe that's the main one.

Nadine Henry, 17

The thing I rely on most is honesty and trusting each other. Communication.

Taren Smith, 18

They have to be not real flirty. They have to have a good personality. They don't have to, but it's always nice. Somebody that will laugh. I guess they have to be able to talk to people without making me be embarrassed when I introduce them to other people. Just be themselves and not try to be something they're not and try to put shows on to impress people.

Araiann Hartman, 17

A person that will sit there and listen to you, listen to your problem if you have a problem. Or talk things out with you and try to give you advice. And not snitch on you if you're going to do something. It's important if the person feels it is going to hurt you. Just trusting another person and for her to understand.

Candy Pierce, 17

I'd want a person who is different from me, but we have a lot in common. If somebody started shoving me, they were right there, they showed me that they were my friend, and that they wouldn't let anybody hurt me. If I moved, which I'm thinking about doing and I'm waiting for a letter, they would write to me. They would call. Money wouldn't be a matter to me. I'll call them in a minute and talk for hours on the telephone. I look at it this way: I'll get the money sometime. I'm sure I can get my mother to lend me the money. So I can pay her back.

Tracy Hanby, 15

Someone I can be as crazy as I want with, say anything I want to, without having to worry about what they are going to think. Somebody you can talk to. They will keep my secret confidential. Someone I can have a good time with.

Rhianan Collette Garbeau, 18

You have to understand one another.

Lupe C., 16

Someone that you can trust and that you can talk to. You don't have to tell them that you're tired. When you are tired, they know.

Teresa Soleno, 17

You've got to be able to trust them. They have to be somebody you can talk to and to get along.

Sonia Martinez, 17

They have to be understanding. They have to want to listen. They have to want to be able to tell you their problems. They have to have some kind of love for you to understand you.

Carisa Rivera, 17



I find so many people that just write scripts for a relationship and paint these big pictures and write up these expectations they have for you. They've very disappointed because you're not like that. I think that's the only thing. If people would stop doing that and be open. At least try.

Shasa Stone, 18

They like to do different crazy things. Like you're walking down the sidewalk and all of a sudden you do a cartwheel. You know, just crazy things.

Laura Johnson, 13

A person's got to be mellow, friendly, and do things with you. They have to be able to talk to people and joke around a lot.

Anna Rodriguez, 17

They've got to care about each other.

Claressa Farmer, 15

Someone you can go talk to about anything and they won't go off and talk about you to other people.

Kristy Chastain, 18

To me a friend is a person who will take your word no matter what you say. They will believe you no matter what the thing is that you're telling him. They will be around whenever you want to talk to them or reminisce.

Layla Dvonne Brock, 19

Someone who's going to be there.

Rachael Tone, 16

I feel that they should be honest and in some respect, they should care. I feel that they should have some respect for you. If you're down or they're down, you should be able to make them happy.

Carla White, 17

As long as they're fun to be with.

Sally Leon, 17

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND THAT YOU'VE GONE THROUGH HARD TIMES WITH? CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THAT PERSON?

Linda is my sister except for blood. We've been through a lot. She's understanding. I tell her about mine and I listen to hers. We never get mad at each other for something. Nothing hurts our friendship. We just let each other know if we disapprove of something and we respect each other's opinion, which is great.

Charlene Davis, 17

It's more like a series of friendships I've gone through. Most of all my friends I've gone through hard times with have had the same characteristics as me. The most important thing is realizing spiritual fullness and things like that -- you know, deep and not just partying. People that understand feelings and like to get deep into somebody.

Adele Annala, 17

It seems like she is always there. She always understood. She always wanted to listen. And she always tried her best to give me her best advice that she could. I think there ought to be more people like that.

Carisa Rivera, 17

She's kind of something else, you know. She's been through with me in just about everything. I remember one time when I got into an argument with my brother. He was ready to throw me out and she came along and took me in. That was pretty cool of her. There's been a lot of fights that we got into. We pulled each other out of it without getting into the fights. So that's pretty good.

Anna Rodriguez, 17

She is really nice. We ran away together. We shared each other. We'll cry on each other's shoulder.

Myra Feliciano, 12

I don't know what I really like about her. She's my really very first friend. I've only known her since the tenth grade, but she's the only one I ever got involved with. We have fights like every day. We get in fights over little things, but we're still good friends. She hurts me a lot; she insults me, and I guess I do the same thing to her. She and me wanted to get a job together, but all of a sudden, she decided no after she encouraged me to. We get along pretty good, I guess, but she is very jealous. She was friends with this one girl and then they broke up. That's sort of when I came into the picture and she blames me for breaking her up with the other girl. That girl and I became good friends, and now she is jealous.

Torie Black, 17

Me and her used to be best friends in elementary. We would always play together and just talk a lot. She hasn't been over. She is 17 now and she thinks she is pregnant again. Her baby is ten months old.

Rachael Tone, 16

I remember one person and that was C.S. I met her in Girl Scouts. Two years ago I went over to her house after school. She and I ran away together -- she was 17 and I was 15 -- and we hitchhiked to Chicago by way of all different kinds of men. We went through quite a few scary experiences together in the mountains and on the highways.

Layla Dvonne Brock, 17

I could go to her and she would try to help. She could talk and I knew what she was talking about and she knew what I was talking about. She'd make me happy. I'd go out of her house laughing.

Carla White, 17

Julie is a friend of mine in Santa Fe. I've gone through a really bad period, really from last summer through about April. But the time that I really was hurt, where she was really close to me, was when I really told her what was going on because I wanted to see her. I felt like I was ready for a nervous breakdown and I left school. I didn't want to go back and I didn't know how to get to where I wanted to go because I didn't think that I could handle it -- school or anything. So I went up there and I told her about what had happened to me.

I went to school with her for a couple of days. She was helping with this play and I was there all the time. I hadn't been around people for a long time, except for my family, because I had just dropped out of school, dropped out of everything. I started being around everybody, all these people. Julie had told them all about me. She helped me a lot. She wanted me to come with her and everything. So they all had a pretty favorable opinion of me to start with. That was really good for me to be around all these other people. I knew that I could tell her anything and that she would understand. And she did understand. Just knowing that she was around and that I could talk to her and go to Santa Fe any time I wanted to really helped.

This summer she's been going through a really bad time, like what I was going through except it's before I dropped out. It's like the time before when I was so nervous. She's going through that now -- pushing yourself too hard. But it's hard to know what to do.

Susanna Michaels, 16

She's the lead guitar in the group and she really likes to do things. The only thing that keeps her back is her mother. She's a quiet person and she thinks being all huffy and puffy isn't nice.

Laura Johnson, 13

This one girl I was raised with -- I've known her for eleven years -- we used to go with each other a lot. I saw her through her marriage and divorce. I saw her go through a miscarriage. She has gone through hard times of mine, too. Like the time when I was sick, she saw me through and it worked out really well.

Taren Smith, 18

There are some experiences that we have gone through. They may not be bad experiences. We've been in some group homes together, foster homes. We just mostly understand what one person is like as far as parents are concerned and families, and we know the moods they go into. We've known each other for so long. We've been kicked out of places together and going back together. It's just, you know, knowing somebody really good and you can tell everything to.

Araiaann Hartman, 17

Right now, we don't talk to each other. She's married. She used to be like me, but she's different now. She's changed.

Lupe C., 16

She's a funny person and I tease her a lot. But when it comes to being disappointed, she sits there and listens to me and she talks to me. It makes me feel better. Lets me know she cares.

Barbara Valenzuela, 17

She lives next door. I've known her for about three years now. I didn't go to school and she always had to go to school and then work after school. We would get in fights. I'd want her to come with me to a lot of places and she didn't really have the time. But now I realize that.

Julie Anderson, 16½

All my life, all my friends lied. M.'s the only one who hasn't lied to me. She's the only good friend I have ever had. Other friends, they come and go.

M. used to be at the Kelly House. Whenever I was having an argument with somebody, she'd always talk to them and get us back together. I was going out with this one guy. We had a fight because I got jealous because he was dating this other girl. She called him up one day and she goes, "F., you had better call my sister because she is really hysterical. She is crying over you and about ready to have a heart attack." I think that really scared him. So he called me up and we got back together. He thought that she was my sister. He didn't realize that we just called each other sisters. Any problem that I would have, she would help me out. When I ran away last month, she came down and visited me. She's the one who really made me decide to go home.

Laurie Smith, 16

We went to elementary, junior high and high school. We got into a lot of trouble running away. She's one of the best friends I ever had. But she's gone. She left town.

Chantane Abree1, 17

She doesn't sit there and go blabbing to the girls when I talk to her about the other girls. Or if I talk to her about something that happened to me, she doesn't go around telling all the other girls. I do the same for her.

Jamie Brown, 17½

One of them is very unique. She is a very shy person. She's not very outspoken. She'll tell me what she wants and I gather her materials. I've got to do the speaking up for her. When her mom died, I was there. I helped her get through it more or less. Then when her grandmother died, I was there, too. So all she's got now are her aunt and her brother and her closest freinds, which, I guess, I'm one of.

And the other one, she's short tempered and very outspoken. She's completely different and opposite of the other one. And she's got to be calmed down at times. I've known her for 13 years, and we've gone through hassles; we've gone through fights; we've gone through when her aunt died. She's like a sister to me.

Nadine Henry, 12

ARE THERE THINGS YOU HAVE TOLD YOUR BEST FRIENDS, BUT HAVE NEVER TOLD YOUR PARENTS? IF SO, WHY?

My parents live a totally different lifestyle than I do. Not lifestyle, but their attitudes in life. Your friends are more like you. My mom's ways are totally opposite of mine. If I tell my dad, he's going to tell my mom and she's just going to get all excited about it, whatever it is.

Rhianan Collette Garbeau, 18

Everything I tell my best friend. But I don't tell my mother. My mother started to find out what I do when I started being arrested. That was the only time she found out. She still don't know what I do. It's like she's in the dark. I'm out flying high, you know. I think she has an idea of what's happening.

Tracy Hanby, 15

Yes, because I know that it would hurt my parents in some way, or they wouldn't understand it. The things I haven't told, usually I feel bad about. I don't want to tell anybody.

Adele Annala, 17

I can't tell my mom. I can't tell my parents things. I can't. No way! Take it as that, man. There's a lot of things I will not tell my parents.

Shawntle Collins, 16½

Sometimes I'm able to talk to my best friend, sometimes to my parents, and sometimes not to any of them. So I just keep it to myself.

Sally Vega, 15

I don't know what my mom thinks of me, but I wouldn't want her to think any less of me if she found out. Mothers aren't meant to be told everything. She's old-fashioned.

Aranea Jaramillo, 18

Because my parents wouldn't understand, I don't feel easy asking them questions.

Torie Black, 17

My parents talk behind my back. I have a bad relationship with my parents.

Teresa Soleno, 17

If I told my mom half of the things that I told my friends, she would have whipped me.

Nadine Henry, 17

There's things that I told my mom. I told her most everything about what I feel. But not my dad. He doesn't know.

Toren Smith, 18

M. pretty much knows how I feel about everything. Probably because he'd understand better and I think I trust him better. There are some things you just don't tell your parents.

Anne Williams, 17

You can tell your friends, but you got a hard time telling your parents. That's embarrassing.

Virginia Quevedo, 14

If I told my best friend, I know that she wouldn't yell at me like my mom. She looks down on me while my friends try to talk to me.

Anna Rodriguez, 17

If you tell things to your best friend, they can't scold you and punish you. Tell your mother and you're in trouble.

Barbara Valenzuela, 17

I think my parents would get mad at me.

Melanie Rivera, 14

You can trust your friends more than you can trust your parents.

Charlene Silvain, 17

I think my mom knows everything I do.

Jessica Moreno, 17

I was never able to talk to my mother the way I should have. I didn't feel like I could sit down and talk to her.

Candy Pierce, 17

When my mom and dad were going through problems with me, I could never talk to either one. So I would go to my aunt or my friends and talk to them.

Julie Anderson, 16½

They would misunderstand. I know they'd be against it.

Suzie Smith, 17

It just seems there's a lot of things that your parents wouldn't understand, that they hadn't never gone through. So they couldn't understand them. They couldn't help you because they wouldn't really know what it was like.

Carisa Rivera, 17

My parents would probably feel a little hurt if I told them I was interested in someone a different color because I think they are prejudiced. And I think they would be hurt if I told them some of the things I tell my friends.

Layla Dvonne Brock, 17

My parents are the type of people that if they think you are doing something bad, and you're the one who told them, they'll be hurt. So they will punish you. Friends are the kind of people that can try to stop you from doing it, or they can join in with you. They won't punish you. If they get mad enough, they don't call the police.

I do remember that there are things that I haven't told anybody. I have a diary, or else I write it into a poem.

Carla White, 17

My mom is all right but she's old-fashioned and doesn't understand. She's all right, but there is something wrong.

Myra Feliciano, 17

I don't tell my mom nothing because she just throws it back in my face every time. I'd tell her anything; she'd take off and tell all her friends about this kid. She don't like us. We're a nuisance to her.

Kristy Chastain, 18

I can't think of anything I haven't told my friend.

Laura Johnson, 13

I've told my friends some things and I've told my mother. But I didn't tell my dad.

Jamie Brown, 17½

ARE THERE THINGS YOU LIKE TO DO, EITHER BY YOURSELF OR WITH A GROUP OF FRIENDS? WHAT ARE SOME OF THOSE THINGS?

There's a lot of things I would rather do by myself than with people, like reading a book. When I go places, at parties, I'd rather go with a crowd. Otherwise, I like to be by myself.

Sally Vega, 15

It all depends on what you mean. I like to have small dinners with friends, cook my own dinner for them, and talk. Or get together and play music.

Adele Annala, 17

Go to movies. I like science fiction. I'm going to "Star Wars" tomorrow. I like funny ones with a little bit of seriousness in them.

Laura Johnson, 13

I know I'd travel if I could. I would travel all over the world; go wherever I want and do what I want.

Torie Black, 17

I like to read alone. Most of the time I like to be with people.

Cindy Cardines, 18

I like to go to parties. I like to draw.

Louise Harkerbarker, 15



Lots of things. I like to play in the rain and go horseback riding and do a lot of outside activities. Sometimes I like to go to the mountains with people and sometimes I like to go by myself.

Carol Warren, 17

I don't like to do anything by myself. I always like to have somebody with me out in public. Usually I go with one person and we end up with some others, too.

Suzie Smith, 17

Roller skating, dancing, horseback riding, going to a park on a Sunday night. Almost everything I like to do around people. I'm not a loner much.

Nadine Henry, 17

It depends. I'm the type of person who can learn. I'm proud of myself for what I've learned. So at times, I really feel like I'd rather be alone, and at other times, I just want the perfect friend to be there.

Carla White, 17

By myself. I like to sit and think a lot of time. I like to listen to music. I like to spend time with myself so I can listen and get things straightened out. to find myself. what's going on inside me so I can see it by myself and work it out. And I take walks by myself sometimes. With people. I like to travel and go places. I like to go to movies with people. Some people I just like to be with. They don't even have to say anything. Just being with that person. Going for a walk with people. Just being around people -- dancing, sitting, partying, or eating dinner.

Susanna Michaels, 16

Taking a walk or going bike riding or going uptown just to look around. That's really fun. That doesn't take too many people.

Anna Rodriguez, 17

I'd probably travel by myself alone, unless I pick up someone somewhere.

Jamie Brown, 17½

I like to be by myself. Maybe with a friend or two.

Torie Black, 17

By myself, I like to walk, read a book, or play the piano, or write poetry. When I'm with other people, I love to go horseback riding, swimming, and sports like volleyball, tennis, or backpacking.

Layla Dvonne Brock, 17



## DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

King H

*Hey, King H, another win,  
Your old friend came back again.*

*Your hold is strong and always true.  
It's easy for her to be in love with you.*

*You fill her arm and then her head,  
But you ain't done until she's dead.*

*She runs to you when she's alone,  
For as she nods, she feels at home.*

*Whenever she feels painful fear,  
She knows you're always very near.*

*How did you take mama's angle?  
Do you offer more than her mama's cradle?*

*She's left, you know, but her blood runs cold,  
But she'll be back to feel your hold.*

Sharon  
(17)

## DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

Much time has been spent and volumes written on the ever increasing drug and alcohol problem which the youth of our country face. The reasons given for why the problem exists are as numerous as the different treatment methods devised.

New Directions was not created as a drug therapy facility. However, we would be remiss not to recognize and deal with the widespread use and influence which drugs and alcohol have on the young women we see.

Using drugs means something different to each young woman, but repeatedly there seems to be two consistent underlying reasons for the destructive use of drugs.

The first is the strong influence of peer pressure. Using drugs is one reflection of that pressure. For young women, the reasons for succumbing to that pressure are often the need for acceptance, friendship, love and a sense of importance, as well as a lack of assertiveness to make her own decisions.

The second crucial factor is the use of drugs as a symptomatic relief to feelings of low self-worth. There is little in the lives of many young women for which they feel "good" and little for which they receive positive reinforcement and credit.

DO YOU FEEL YOU KNOW ABOUT MOST DRUGS?

74% YES  
16% NO  
10% NOT SURE

WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR INFORMATION ABOUT DRUGS?

It depends. If your friends are using them, they know. Once you get into the drug scene, you just pick it up. The word goes around.

Adele Annala, 17

A lot of it is through friends. But I'd say at least an equal amount is through school, through health classes.

Susanna Michaels, 16

From people in Tucson High.

My father worked as a security guard in the military. He did a lot of teaching and gathering books and stuff. I learned a lot from that during my high school years.

Carisa Rivera, 17

In my opinion, I think in high school because that's where I found out about it.

Shawntle Collins, 16½

They teach you at school. There's a lot of kids who do it.

Lupe C., 16

Mostly my friends in school and just around at parties.

Sonia Martinez, 17

Here I was the summer before ninth grade and I'm out here with all my friends, and I started hanging around with high school people. I've always hung around with kids older than me. Here I am now going into high school, and they're saying, "Hey, let's get high. Let's pop a couple of pills. Let's go do some acid." Stupid me. I knew what they were. I read about them in school. But man, they made it sound neat. Wow, that's where it's at! So I went out and I was popping pills and shooting up. Things I didn't like, I didn't do again. And things that I did like, I did again.

Tracy Hanby, 15

Mostly we studied it first semester in school.

Vivian Rodriguez, 13

My friends.

Torie Black, 17

Experience, I guess. I was in junior high.

Rachael Tone, 16

HAVE YOU EVER TRIED ANY DRUGS, INCLUDING CIGARETTES?

YES	72%
NO	8%
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS	8%

HAVE YOU EVER TRIED ANY ALCOHOL?

YES	80%
NO	8%
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS	2%

WHAT DRUG DO YOU MOST FREQUENTLY USE?

CIGARETTES	84%
MARIJUANA	58%
PILLS	24%
SPEED	18%
ACID	14%
COCAINE	6%
HEROIN	4%

WHAT ALCOHOL DO YOU MOST FREQUENTLY USE?

BEER	42%
VODKA	10%
WINE	6%

HAVE DRUGS AND/OR ALCOHOL PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN YOUR LIFE?

NO	42%
YES	36%
NOT ANY MORE	18%
DO NOT KNOW	4%

DO YOU FEEL YOU KNOW WHERE TO PURCHASE DRUGS?

YES	80%
NO	14%
NOT SURE	6%

DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO PURCHASE DRUGS?

I know where I can get a lot. Where is the best place? Well, when I go to the clubs, I know a lot of the guys and they sell it and where to get it. So if I wanted it, it would be no problem.

Charlene Davis, 17

At school but not any school. There's some real straight schools in Tucson. But the one I went to, people are always selling pot. And there were a few that sold acid.

Candy Pierce, 17

On the streets.

Carisa Rivera, 17

Not every kind there is, but a lot of kinds. I used to do it a lot when I was in girls' homes. It was sort of a running away. In the institute you could get heroin; you could get coke; you could get pot. You couldn't get any alcohol in the institutes, but in the girls' homes you could. Every day you could get acid or whatever.

Araiann Hartman, 17

From people, through your friends. You just hear from the street, I guess. Mainly Mexican immigrants where I live.

Nadine Henry, 17

Oh, everything was available. But the people I hung with, most of us, we sat around and did nothing. But if we wanted drugs, it was two doors up.

Tracy Hanby, 15

Most of the people I hang around with are older, and we go to bars a lot on weekends. For sure, we drink. Drugs...Well, you can get pot just about any place. Just call up most street people in town. And acid is easy to get a hold of. There is certain people who I could call up and they'd have three or four connections for junk if I ever want to do that, which I've never done, and I don't ever intend to! Some people will have like five or six different kinds of drugs at any time. It's not hard at all to get to you. And at school, definitely that's the place to get drugs.

Sonia Martinez, 17





## SEXUALITY

### *You Need Him*

*You need him.  
He asks you out.  
You both start growing on each other,  
then you make love.  
You go get a test;  
find out bad news.  
Where do you turn?  
Parents? NO  
Friends? NO  
Teachers? NO  
You turn to each other, but  
he isn't there. You're all alone  
just the way you started.  
You have your child.  
It cries; it gets on  
your nerves. You hit it HARD--  
didn't mean to, you just did.  
It's a vicious circle;  
it will never end. You're  
still all alone.*

*Jamie Brown  
(17½)*

## SEXUALITY

*The high teenage pregnancy statistics are alarming and painfully real for most of the young women who come to New Directions. No amount of ignoring, blaming or parental disapproval will change the fact that over 50 percent of teenagers under 19 will have sexual intercourse.<sup>3</sup> Regardless of anyone's moral views, these decisions are being made with virtually no knowledge about birth control, VD, pregnancy, or abortion. More than one million 15-19 year olds became pregnant last year.<sup>4</sup> For the young woman who becomes pregnant, the choices in her life become drastically reduced. Three out of four teenage mothers will never finish high school; only one out of nine can find a job.<sup>5</sup> For those who marry because of pregnancy, nine out of ten will get divorced. Day care is often unavailable for infants under two and usually is too expensive for a jobless teenage mother. Being pregnant also means she may have to face the painful decision of abortion or giving up her child.*

*Many of the young women at New Directions are pregnant or have an infant during the time they struggle to prepare for the General Education Diploma (G.E.D.), learn survival skills, find a job, and discover their own identity. A young woman's self-image is confused by society's imposed double-bind which tells her that her worth is based on her attractiveness, sexiness, and having a boyfriend. She can be jailed or institutionalized. Worse yet, she can become pregnant, a victim of this double-bind and her own ignorance. She has no facts, no information, and she has little access to resources which would give her control over her own body.*

THE WORD SEXUALITY MEANS MANY THINGS TO MANY PEOPLE. WHAT DOES THE WORD MEAN TO YOU?

If I can put it into words, it means...Well, it's a part of you. It's how you feel about being a woman, being the sex that you are.

Susanna Michaels, 16

Sexuality? It means liking myself. It makes me feel like I'm one whole; I'm female. And sometimes when you have that attitude, you can have a lot of fun.

Araiann Hartman, 18

A woman's sexuality is what she stands out to be, what she is. I really can't say much about it. I really haven't thought about it.

Connie Larson, 15

Sexuality means, for one thing, if you're male or female; and another thing, the opposite of making love. There's no feeling with sexuality. I may be wrong. That's my opinion.

Layla Dvonne Brock, 17

Your own sex. How you feel about your own sex.

Jamie Brown, 17½

I don't know.

Carol Warner, 17

You want to know what sexuality means to me? Sexuality means -- bluntly putting it -- being pretty or a nice face and a good body, plus, more than anything else, having a good heart and knowing how to show your feelings. There's a lot of guys that take girls out and they expect it. But (sexuality) is an inside thing.

Shawntle Collins, 16½

A girl and a boy. That's all it is to me.

Tracy Hanby, 15

Just sex.

Barbara Valenzuela, 17

Having sex, I guess.

Sally Leon, 17

I think it's okay if you know what you're doing and can take care of yourself if you don't want to get pregnant. I think it's fine, but you've got to know.

Regina Alvarez, 17

I guess it means freedom.

Taren Smith, 18

I guess it's all right. Everybody's doing it.

Carisa Rivera, 17

I went through a lot of stuff like that. It's real bad. I'm giving up on it now because I went through a lot of rough stuff.

Julie Anderson, 16½

Having a close relationship with a guy.

Anna Rodriguez, 17

DID YOUR PARENTS OR ANYONE ELSE EVER TALK TO YOU ABOUT SEX? COULD YOU TELL ME A LITTLE ABOUT WHAT YOU FOUND OUT?

The first person that ever talked about sex was my foster father in the first foster home I was in. He sat down and told me the facts of life.

Candy Pierce, 17

No. I sort of learned by error.

Nadine Henry, 17

Yeah, my mother did. I told her that I was having sex with this guy. I told her about some things when I was taking drugs and she really got upset. She said I was too young. That wasn't really a discussion. But she said I was too young and I didn't know what I was doing.

Adele Annala, 17

No, they never talked to me. I got most of my information from books and stuff. When I came to New Directions, I learned quite a bit from movies. Well, I knew some things, but I didn't know if it was true or not. It's just what I heard on the streets or at school.

Araiann Hartman, 18

The first time anything ever happened to me, I was raped. I was 14.

Regina Alvarez, 17

I learned it myself.

Sally Leon, 17

Yes, my sister. She explained to me about a lot of things and if I ever did it, to come to her if I was in trouble.

Anna Rodriguez, 17

My mother talked about being close and loving very much, like a father or stepfather and uncles, and not to have babies by them. My mother said that her mother told her.

Sally Vega, 15

I already knew in school, in health class.

Louise Harkerbarker, 15

No. Maybe my sister. There were some questions I was too nervous to ask. But I used to hear some.

Jessica Moreno, 17

No, not really. I used to hear my brother and his friends talking about it when I was 14 and 15. Then in school, too, it was a big thing. But I never actually knew what happened 'till I was in that situation.

Carol Warren, 17

Yeah, my mom. In the fourth grade.

Jasmine Igou, 16

Sometimes my mother did.

Lupe C., 16

My mother. It wasn't exactly a conversation. I could walk out and if there was a question I wanted to know, I could ask her. She would give me a straight answer. I really didn't have to ask her anything about sex. She told me it all.

Jamie Brown, 17½

I learned it by doing it.

Tracy Hanby, 15

The first time I was told about sex was in Chicago with my mother after her divorce. I asked her what sex was and she told me what rape was. That was a guy who got you in a dark corner and made you do things that you weren't used to doing.

My foster sister was the one who explained sex to me in a way that I could understand. I think I was 12. Her definition of sex was not the same way I feel about sex. But my experiences with sex are the getting together of a male and me and engaging in something to let out frustrations. But I guess I really don't understand sex yet to its fullest extent.

Layla Dvonne Brock, 17

Yeah, my mom and grandfather used to read things out of the newspaper. They'd say, "Come here. I want to read you this part. This girl got raped. She's not careful. Yet you might be walking to your friend's house in the night and it might happen." Telling me all kind of stuff.

Glynda Romero, 13

Both my parents talked to me about sex.

Taren Smith, 18

Yes, my father. It was kind of scary because I didn't realize all that stuff. It was really true. It was really happening. At first, I didn't understand it because I was only 13 and I wasn't ready to have sex with nobody. I guess he just decided it was time for me to know, so he sat down and started talking to me. He asked me a lot of opinions, but I didn't know what the answer was. I didn't really understand it.

Candy Pierce, 17

I learned it in school. My parents told me.

Carla White, 17

If I asked a questions, I would get an answer. Also, sex education in high school. But I knew pretty much what was going on by then.

Susanna Michaels, 16

My mother just told me it was wrong. It wasn't right. That's all. And M. and me shouldn't do it because we're nice.

Barbara Valenzuela, 17

It's wrong.

Sally Leon, 17

Well, that's personal.

Chantane Abree, 17

Oh, my brothers and sisters; reading dirty books. That's how my father explained it to me -- giving me dirty books.

Connie Larson, 15

Just from friends.

Suzie Smith, 17

My mother has always told me things I should know about myself. My dad has always warned me.

Torie Black, 17

In grade school, I saw a movie about it. So then I knew. They showed me what a tampon is, sanitary napkins, all these other things. My sister T. did, and C. They told me if I ever had sex or anything, to talk to them and they would take me to the doctor and check to see if I'm pregnant, and if I'm not. They're going to get me some pills or some kind of birth control.

Shawntle Collins, 16½

My sisters told me about my period; my mom didn't. It came as a shock, too. I guess they told me what would happen and things that I really didn't understand.

Anne Williams, 17

Friends when I was little.

Julie Anderson, 16½

My dad talked to me when I was nine because I was asking a lot of questions by then. He tried to tell me his ideas on what he thought about it and he thought that sex should be within marriage. My mom talked to me. That was last year. She thought that sex should be something enjoyable and something mature, and not something just to fool around.

Taren Smith, 18

*Seventy per cent of the young women stated that they had obtained information on sex from sources other than their parents. They stated that their parents had offered no information and the young women were left to learn what they knew from friends, books, health classes, by experience in having sex, or from New Directions' "Our Bodies, Ourselves" classes.*

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF PREMARITAL SEX?

I feel that any person, whether young or old, if sex is right and they can be mature about the decision and take on the responsibility, I feel it's all right.

Taren Smith, 18

I think it's all right. I agree with that.

Shawntle Collins, 16½

It would depend on who the guy is. If he just wants to have sex with me and leave me, then that's a pretty bad situation. But again, if you're really into each other and you go ahead and plan to get married, then it's pretty cool to get to know each other.

Anna Rodriguez, 17

I've never thought of sex before marriage. I think if you're going to have sex with somebody, do it right. Do it with somebody you really care about and he cares about you. Don't just go into it for the physical pleasure of it. Care about that person.

Anele Annala, 17

I have a lot of different opinions. I guess you could call me old-fashioned. A lot of people make love. There is a difference between making love and making out. I don't think you should ever - you know - just get it on with someone.

I think when you make love somebody, it should be making love. That's your body. They have an expression, "loose as a goose," and that always goes through my mind. I don't want to say whore around because I don't think anybody should call a chick a whore. That's the way a lot of people feel about sex.

Rhianan Collette Garbeau, 14

I think it's okay. I think that people, if they don't plan on having children, should use birth control or rubbers, etc. They should really watch out what they do because I'm not against abortion, but I think that people should control themselves more.

Carla White, 17

It's fine.

Jamie Brown, 17½

I think it's okay if you have the right person.

Claressa Farmer, 15



I have nothing at all against it. As a matter of fact, I'd rather have sex before I get married.

Tracy Hanby, 15

When I was growing up, my mom used to tell me that I shouldn't make out with the guys before I got married. But I never listened to her. I always felt that if a person -- two people -- couldn't be married for some reason, and they really had strong feelings for somebody, then I don't think it's wrong for them to make out with each other, to make love.

Candy Pierce, 17

That's one reason why I got married. I wouldn't advise anyone to do it. I did it and I did it, I regretted it. I thought it was a big mistake.

Nadine Henry, 17

It depends on the girl, really. I don't think I would do it before marriage.

Sonia Martinez, 17

I think it's all right.

Lupe C., 16

As long as you're careful, there's nothing wrong with it.

Connie Larson, 15

I think it's better than getting married.

Cecilia Lopez, 17

It happens sometimes.

Araiann Hartman, 18

I think that if a guy really loves a girl, it's okay to have sex. But if she is just giving sex because she is afraid he's going to leave her and she is just hanging onto him, I don't think she should do it.

Sally Vega, 15

I don't think it's wrong. I believe in birth control. And I believe if people think they're old enough and responsible enough to have sex, then they should think, "Am I old enough to have a baby and raise a baby? Can I accept the consequences if I'm going to go to bed with somebody?" I'm going to protect myself. I don't think it should be all the woman's responsibility, because if a man cares about me, he's gonna talk about contraceptives. If he doesn't care, he's just going to bed with you to get his rocks off. He's not going to give.

Carol Warren, 17

WHAT IS YOUR PARENT'S OPINION OF PREMARITAL SEX?

My mom tells me, "If you're really in love and going with somebody, it's okay. Just don't give yourself up." If you wanna do it, it's up to you.

Myra Feliciano, 17

They think it's not right unless it's supposed to be a lifetime thing.

Carisa Rivera, 17

They disapprove. I mean, I was so sore the next morning from being knocked around that I could hardly pull myself out of bed.

Charlene Davis, 17

Of course they want their little girl to stay a virgin until she marries. But my mom found out I wasn't a virgin and she took it pretty easy. I don't think my dad knows. I have four sisters and none of them waited until they married.

Anne Williams, 17

My parents are totally against premarital sex, except for making babies.

Carol Warren, 17

My mother thinks you have to be married. She's very religious.

Sasha Stone, 18

My mother thinks it's a sin. If you do it and she finds out about it, she's going to bust your face.

Anna Rodriguez, 17

My father would say it's something that children shouldn't be doing.

Connie Larson, 15

My mom would say, "What the hell. Go to bed with him."

Candy Pierce, 17

My mom thinks that you should be married and then have sex. Not before.

Cindy Cardines, 18

They say get married and then do it.

Rhianan Collette Garbeau, 14

My mom doesn't have anything against premarital sex if you're over 18.

Tracy Hanby, 15

It's a sin most of all.

Aranea Jaramillo, 18

DO YOU NOW, OR HAVE YOU EVER, USED ANY FORM OF BIRTH CONTROL? IF YES, WHERE DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR INFORMATION? IF NO, DO YOU FEEL YOU KNOW THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR SUCH INFORMATION?

I was on the pill.

Tracy Hanby, 15

I was on the pill, but that was not because I was messing around. It's because I had irregular periods and the doctor wanted me to get regular. So he put me on the pill. The pill made me have my regular periods.

I know most of them. I heard about Planned Parenthood. I used to go there every six months to get a checkup. That was when the doctor found out what my periods were like and that was when he put me on the pill.

Candy Pierce, 17

Yeah, I know where to go, just how to get it, and everything. It's just that I can't motivate myself to get up and go over there.

Connie Larson, 15

Yes, from New Directions and from Planned Parenthood.

Chantanee Abree, 17

I used to take the pill.

Laurie Smith, 16

Yes. I heard about it in the group home and from books. I was using birth control pills at one time. Then I was using foam. Now I use the diaphragm.

Araiann Hartman, 18

Yes, the rhythm way. I don't really believe in birth control. Well, I believe in birth control, but I won't use them for fear that I'd get breast cancer or a yeast infection. I had trouble with discharge below.

Layla Dvonne Brock, 17

I've used foams and jellies. I have a diaphragm now, but I don't like it so I don't use it.

Adele Annala, 17

I'm on the pill. That's the only way nowadays that girls learn. By getting pregnant, abortion, miscarry, something to do with getting pregnant, that's the only way we learn.

Aranea Jaramillo, 18

Well, if I really wanted to know, I'd ask my mom or my doctor. I do want to have a baby. Sometimes I'm scared I'll get pregnant.

Jessica Moreno, 17

Yes. The doctor told me I could get it and my parents wouldn't know about it.

Melanie Rivera, 14

One of my friends -- she was married -- said, "Hey, listen, I don't want you to get pregnant." There are things that I did. She was taking these classes to train them to be something like a nurse, I think. She had all these pills and she got this book out and opened the book to a page and showed all kinds of birth control and what it is.

Rhianan Collette Garbeau, 14

I feel that I know pretty much about it, but I'd like to know more.

Carla White, 17

I was on birth control pills but they affect me real funny. During my periods, I feel real strange.

Regina Alvarez, 17

HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF YOU FOUND OUT YOU WERE PREGNANT?

That's probably one of my greatest fears -- to be pregnant with a kid. I've seen so many women, really young women, pregnant and all the shit that they have to go through.

Sasha Stone, 18

I'd probably be scared. I really wouldn't know what to do. If I have a baby right now, say in nine months, can I give that baby the right home, the kind of home I believe babies need, the kind of support? I don't even know in my mind how to be a mother. I've had so many problems and my nerves are just shot. I don't know if I could take having a child and raising a child. I don't know if I could have such an emotional experience.

I certainly wouldn't want to ever abuse my children, or not be the kind of mother that I think I should be. I believe you could find an agency, like Jewish agencies, where there are a lot of people who want children (but) one of the couple is sterile or can't have children. So they would have the thrill of adoption. Oh, I believe in that.

Carol Warren, 14

The first thing I would do would be to get a clinic -- some sort of clinic -- and talk to a counselor because I went through that before, but it was when I was 16. I wanted to have a baby with this guy I was in love with -- puppy love. But right now, if someone were to say that, I'd be pretty scared because I'm pretty much sure of what I want in life. And I DON'T want to have a kid without having a father to help raise it, someone who would love the baby and me. I wouldn't want a child to interfere with what I have planned for myself and a couple of other people.

Layla Devonne Brock, 17

Wow. I really don't know what to do. Cry or something.

Myra Feliciano, 17

I'd probably be pretty upset about it. I'm not ready to have a child. I'd probably have to get an abortion. I'm really against abortion but the way things are right now, I don't think there's any way I could have a child. There's too many living.

Anne Williams, 17

I would be terrified. I wouldn't know what I wanted to do, whether I'd want to have an abortion. I think I probably would have an abortion. That depends on the pregnancy. But if I did have it, I would give the child up for adoption.

Susanna Michaels, 16

Take care of myself. I'd have the baby.

Jessica Moreno, 17

I don't know. I would depend on how it happened. My parents would be mad. Some kind of freaky thing like Mary when she had Jesus, then I wouldn't mind it. But it ain't going to happen.

Torie Black, 17

It depends on when I found out. Right now I know I won't get pregnant. But if I found out I was pregnant, I'd be very upset because I don't have a man. Well, I could always call up F. and say, come home. But I won't get pregnant. If I found out I was pregnant right now, I'd probably think twice, maybe three times, about an abortion.

Shawntle Collins, 16½

I don't know. I wouldn't be happy about it because I'm not ready to take care of a baby. I wouldn't have an abortion. I'd probably just have the baby. But I don't know what I'd do with it.

Suzie Smith, 17

I wouldn't feel good. I have been pregnant before. I have a child. I never wanted to have it. I didn't want to believe I was pregnant.

Cindy Cardines, 18

I'm still a virgin. It would be all right if I was pregnant. If I did it out of my own free will, I wouldn't mind.

Torie Black, 17

I'd feel kind of happy. But then again, I'd feel kind of depressed because I've got a lot to look forward to. At my age, having a baby could ruin my body. It could ruin a lot of what I have achieved so far in getting my head together. And it could do a lot. It could break up a relationship with the person I had sex with. It could really depress me a lot more than it would make me happy.

Connie Larson, 15

I'd probably be scared. I'd have the baby, I think. Abortion is dumb because they want to make babies and just kill them.

Glynda Romero, 13

I'd go into shock!

Anna Rodriguez, 17

Oh, wow! I would be happy. I really want a baby. It would be like a dream come true. I don't feel my dreams are too much to ask for. I know I could take care of a baby and I know that the guy who got me pregnant would be right there by my side the whole time.

Tracy Hanby, 15

Oh it would be a drag. I wouldn't mind it if I had a lot of money or enough money to support a baby. Right now, I wouldn't want to get married. I wouldn't want to have an abortion and I wouldn't want to put the baby up for adoption.

Rhianan Collette Garbeau, 14

I was pretty happy. I wasn't really sure quite what it was. It was something new to me. It was mostly the joy of thinking that I'd really get a baby.

Carisa Rivera, 17

I'd handle it one day at a time.

Taren Smith, 18

I'd die because I already have a child.

Rachael Tone, 16

I'd feel trapped. Oh my God, I'd go, why? why? why? Why is this happening?

Adele Annaia, 17

IS THERE ANYONE YOU WOULD FEEL COMFORTABLE TALKING WITH IF YOU BECAME PREGNANT?

Yeah. I would either go to one of my friends or to my boyfriend, or tell one of my sisters.

Teresa Soleno, 17

Yes, T. and probably you at New Directions. And maybe my mom after it shows.

Araiann Hartman, 17

Jim's mom. I could talk to her. She has her shit together pretty much. She's aware of what's going on.

Rhianan Collette Garbeau, 18

I guess I could talk to my mom after I got up enough courage.

Nadine Henry, 17

Yes, anybody. I mean, not just anybody, but most of my friends.

Adele Annaia, 17

Maybe someone from New Directions. But nobody else.

Sonia Martinez, 17

I could talk to my sisters -- one or two of them -- and I guess I could talk to some of my friends, and my parents.

Sally Vega, 15

HOW WOULD YOU DEAL WITH THAT PREGNANCY?

I'd have the baby because I feel that the minute you have life in you, it's life. It's a person; it's a being. It's not just a mass of something. It's a part of me; it's a part of a person. It would be hard to have it, I know. But I'd still have it because it has a right to live just as much as I have a right.

I'd probably give it up for adoption to give myself time to get my head together, and have kids when I'm old enough that I can teach them right from wrong and give them a good lifestyle. If I gave up the baby for adoption, maybe it would have a better lifestyle and more money. And the parents that I gave it to would have more things to offer (it).

Connie Larson, 15

Well, I wouldn't go for an abortion. I think that (it) is an innocent child. I'd try to get it to miscarry. But if I couldn't, I would just face it. It's your fault, you know. I'd take it as reality.

Anna Rodriguez, 17

It's just the fact of having an unwanted child. The mind of a child starts growing when it's inside of you. If they feel that they're not wanted, they're going to have that in the rear place of their mind. Plus, when a child is out, they always feel things. When they're nine months old and out in the world, they always know everything that you do to that child. Everything they feel is in the base of their mind. I wouldn't want to have a child that I didn't want. I'd have to give it up for adoption or even kill it.

Shawntle Collins, 16½



I would probably keep it to myself for the first few months, unless I decided I wanted an abortion. But I don't like abortions. So I'd probably keep it to myself for the first few months. Then, when I started showing, I'd probably explain to whoever I was living with. Like at Kelly House, if I got pregnant, I wouldn't tell them at first. But I would eventually have to because I would start getting big. And if you get pregnant there, then you have to leave. You can't stay there pregnant because it is not for pregnant girls.

Candy Pierce, 17

I would probably have the baby and give it up to a foster home here in Tucson.

Layla Devonne Brock, 17

I know that right now, I can't support it. I only get \$5 a week allowance.

Rhianan Collette Garbeau, 14

I would tell my mother first.

Cecilia Lopez, 17

I'd have the baby and keep it.

Charlene Silvain, 17

WOULD YOU FEEL YOU HAD ANY OTHER ALTERNATIVES?

To give it up. That was my alternative. But I never even thought about it. I was scared because my mother said she could put me in a home and make me give up the baby. But I called Legal Aid and I found out she could probably make me go to a home, but nobody could make me give up the baby.

Aranea Jaramillo, 18

I think that abortion is murder. Well, not, it's not murder. I think that some women have no alternative but to abort the baby because of personal problems and closer sexual confrontations.

Layla Dvonne Brock, 17

I probably would (have alternatives) when I got down to the nitty gritty of an abortion or stick it out. I would probably stick it out because I can't kill. I can't kill nothing except when I walk down the road, stepping on ants and killing them.

Shawntle Collins, 16½

Abortion; adoption. I feel that if you can't take care of it financially and mentally, you can put it up for adoption.

Renee Valentine, 15

It's really sad if it has to come to abortion and I think it only comes to that out of stupidity and ignorance. It's terrible to end a life that's already begun. But if the person's life is going to be a mess right from the beginning, maybe it's better to have the abortion instead of going through a whole lot of pain for everybody involved.

Susanna Michaels, 16

To have a miscarriage on purpose. But I wouldn't want to do that, either. Most likely I would keep it and then I'd give it up for adoption. That would be hard for me, too. But I would think of my child's future, and not just myself.

Candy Pierce, 17

Yes, I would have alternatives, but I don't think I would select them.

Araiann Hartman, 18

My alternatives would be to keep it, to terminate my pregnancy, to give it up for adoption. I'd keep it. But I know my mom would try her hardest to get me to terminate it.

Nadine Henry, 17

I'd get an abortion right away. That's the only alternative.

Adele Annala, 17

## CAREER AND LIFE PLANNING

### *Rivers Flow Into Me*

*Rivers flow into me, and I  
flow to the sea.  
I am the river*

*flowing, flowing pass the  
time, faster than years.*

*I once was a young river,  
a brook, but I  
grew.*

*I am the river of youth.  
Young, young, I am young.*

*I shall never stop. A river  
shall not stop. Stopping is death.*

*I shall flow, flow until I  
am an ocean. I will be  
old and full and restless and  
calm. I will grow to  
be a sea.*

*Sharon  
(17)*

## CAREER AND LIFE PLANNING

Young women have little preparation, and therefore no confidence in exploring alternatives to the career choices that have predominated among women in our society. Our educational institution has perhaps the greatest impact on our lives by training us for future work, while helping us form the goals and aspirations that may be with us for a lifetime. Women work out of economic need.

Two-thirds of the working women work either because they are heads of households or because their husbands earn less than \$7,000 a year.<sup>6</sup>

Ninety per cent of all women work at some time in their lives. A married woman will average 25 years in the labor force; a single woman, 45 years.<sup>7</sup>

Yet despite the fact that women work as much and for the same reasons as men, the attitude still continues that women do not need to be academically trained for a career, nor encouraged to pursue the most significant and lucrative position within that career choice, nor once they are employed will they receive equal pay.

Of all persons working year round, full-time women, regardless of race or ethnicity, earn less than Anglo, Black, or Spanish origin men.

Women's median income after four or more years of college is less than the median income for men who have completed only one to three years of high school.<sup>8</sup>

Although young women have grandiose life goals, reality for most is a limited choice conditioned by our society's sex-roles. This is a dismal picture for young women and cannot help but affect their self-concept and career aspirations.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU WILL DO WITH YOUR LIFE IN THE FUTURE?

I want to do two things. I want to go back to school and I want to find a job. As far as school goes, I want to go to Pima and finish what I started. Yet I know I need a job because my dad's not working and I have to help.

Nadine Henry, 17

I want to go to computer school and be a computer programmer. If not that, I'll probably just end up being a housewife. But I don't want to be. I'd rather get into school.

Araiann Hartman, 18

I'd like to be a ballet teacher and maybe go somewhere with it.

Suzie Smith, 17

I'd like to be a professional photographer, or make furniture.

Torie Black, 17

Modeling.

Kristy Chastain, 18

I like photography but I also like working with people. Like you guys are doing rehabilitation.

Anne Williams, 17

I'm planning on taking the G.E.D.

Sasha Stone, 18

I want to be an interpreter if I can.

Teresa Soleno, 17

I'm going to be getting married soon. I want to be a good wife, a good mother. But I want to work, too. I've always wanted to work in a store. I did want to be a dentist but it's so hard to get into dentistry school.

Jessica Moreno, 17

No. I plan to do some traveling, instead. Maybe school later. Some of my friends and I tried to get a rock group started. I play the guitar and we have a lead singer.

Laura Johnson, 13

I plan on getting a medical degree in nursing or laboratory technology.

Taren Smith, 18

If I had enough money, I'd be a singer.

Aranea Jaramillo, 18

I had two ideas but one is going to take a long time so I dropped it. That was physical therapy. The other was data processing.

Nadine Henry, 17

I want to be a nurse.

Candy Pierce, 17

I really can't think that far ahead. Right now my main goal is just to get my G.E.D.

Regina Alvarez, 17

I'm really interested in photography or something like that. I will just have to look around for a long time until I decide exactly what I want to do.

Ariadne Arethuse Landau, 18

I want to be a counselor.

Jamie Brown, 17½

I want to become a mechanic.

Tracy Hanby, 15

I've been thinking about home economics because I like to sew. It is something I would enjoy doing. I would never get bored with it.

Regina Alvarez, 17

I'm going to be a doctor - a pediatrician. In my spare time after I get started working regular, I'm going to do hair. I'm going to go to beauty school before I become a doctor. And I'm going to be a clerk in my spare time.

Sally Vega, 15

I want to be an electrician and maybe some day have my own electrical contracting firm. It depends if I get on-the-job training or not. I like to travel. I really want to travel and see Europe, Hawaii. Go all over.

Rhianan Collette Garbeau, 18

I plan to go to college and take some psychology courses, but not become a probation officer. Hopefully, I want to be an interior decorator or something to do with inside house decorations.

Layla Dvonne Brock, 17

I wanted to be a teacher because teaching's kinda rough, especially when you first come. That's how our teacher was. It was a guy. None of the kids would listen to him. They'd go out of the room. He didn't do nothing.

Glynda Romero, 13

I'm interested in becoming a waitress in a big fancy restaurant, or being an airline stewardess.

Anna Rodriguez, 17

I want to be an actor.

Connie Larson, 15

I'm thinking about going to a beauty college. That'll take me ten months. I have to take my G.E.D. before, which I plan on doing. Then I plan to go to beauty college. Then I'll have my degree in cosmetology and a beautician. Then I can use the money I make as a beautician to study dance. I'll have two careers. Dance is my main goal.

Charlene Davis, 17

I want to go back to school. I don't want to be in an office.

Chantane Abree, 17

The only thing I know that eventually I have to do or become is spiritually conscious. You know, become free. That is what I think life is all about. But as far as businesswise, I'd like to do something that's creative, that comes out of you. Something in the music field or a writer.

Adele Annala, 17

Teaching second grade and a beautician.

Vivian Rodriguez, 13

I'll start with ones that I'd like to come true, but probably wouldn't because there's too many of them. One thing that I thought about a lot is becoming a surgeon. I'd really like to, but I'd have to put all my energy into that and I'm not really willing to do that. Another thing is becoming an architect. I'd really like to do that. I really like houses and I'd like to help design my own sometimes. I wanted to be a veterinarian for awhile. I still do in a way. In a sense, I think they will come true if I want them to. That's the way I feel about it. Like drama, acting, directing. Some of those things. I feel if I put everything into them, I could work. They would come true. I could do that for a living. Also, I'd kind of like to write, too, like screenplays and plays. The other thing is law. I'd like to become a lawyer and that could also come true. It just depends on which way I go. I'm not really sure yet.

Susanna Michaels, 16

I wanna get my G.E.D.

Myra Feliciano, 17

Actually, I want to take ballet, art and secretarial work. That's just in case I need a good job. I'll be good at secretarial work. I can do anything I want. But I want to find the right man and I want to get married. I still want to have these two hobbies -- ballet and art -- because I dig music and I dig art. I like to dance. I want to get married. I want my husband to be nice and I'll keep house nice and tight. But I also want to teach young kids ballet, or counseling. In counseling, I have a better tendency to do right.

Shawntle Collins, 16½

Next summer I'm going to go to Chicago and stay with my aunt and help her run her store. I think if something ever happened to her and I had to make a quick change, I'd go into some sort of art, like drawing pictures on the wall. That may look dumb and seem dumb to some people, but I think it's cute. I like it; I'd like to do it. Or go into some kind of carpentry making furniture. I'd gain experience by working.

Carla White, 17

I want to go to law school. I want to be a juvenile lawyer with high school kids that drop out.

Virginia Quevedo, 14

Yes. Social worker.

Sonia Martinez, 17

College, I suppose.

Lupe C., 16



**CONTINUED**

**1 OF 2**

IS THE IDEA OF MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN A POSSIBILITY, EITHER NOW OR LATER?

I don't really believe in marriage. To me, I couldn't live with somebody for a long time. I'd have to be free. I need a lot of space, some place I can retreat to. But I don't know about children. I've thought about that a lot and I just don't think that I really want children.

Adele Annala, 17

I had a chance but I turned it down because I know I'm too young. That was when I was 15.

Julie Anderson, 16½

Later. Before it was always definitely get married and have kids. But I've seen a lot of my friends have gotten married and divorced. I'm definitely not going to get married until I'm a little bit older and more sure of what I want in life....Yeah, I want kids. Whether I get married or not, I want kids.

Rhianan Collette Garbeau, 14

Not really. I don't plan on getting married until I'm about 24 or 25.

Candy Pierce, 17

I think I'll get married again. I don't know when. I like having kids a lot. But I wouldn't have any more right now. I couldn't afford it. I don't have very much patience with babies, just when they get a little bit older.

Aranea Jaramillo, 18

No way. Never.

Sasha Stone, 18

Definitely I want to have kids and I want to get married.

Susanna Michaels, 16

Children, yeah, but I don't know about marriage.

Kristy Chastain, 18

As soon as I get out of school, I'm getting married. Marriage is a possibility; children aren't. I will be married in June.

Barbara Valenzuela, 17



It depends. I haven't done much acid or anything that would deform a child. If I decided to have a child, I would want to make sure before I would have my child that I would at least for a year clean out my whole body system -- no ciqarettes, no alcohol, no nothing. Maybe pot once in awhile. So my kid would be healthy. I think that there's too many children in the world that don't have any parents. Like young kids. They need to be brought up in love. Even if I don't bear a child, I think I really would adopt one instead, because they need some help.

Shawntle Collins, 16½

I've changed my mind so many times in high school. In freshman year, I thought, well, maybe. I was pregnant and had a miscarriage. I think it would be great to have twins.

Carla White, 17

I just might get married. I really don't know. I'm not that much in love.

Myra Feliciano, 17

Not any more because I'm not married any more. I'm divorced. I plan to have children.

Nadine Henry, 17

Children, yes; marriage, no.

Taren Smith, 18

Sometime in the near future. Since I was 15 I was running around with girls older -- like 19 or even older -- and now the girls my age are just starting to go to bars and clubs and go with older guys. I've already done all that. I've dated a lot of older guys and I'm tired of that. I'd like to settle down, marry somebody I care a lot about.

Charlene Davis, 17

It's a possibility to get married, but not to have children for awhile.

Jamie Brown, 17½

Yes, but not for a long time.

Araiann Hartman, 18

I think that I want to have a child. I'm not sure about getting married, though. I think that I'd like to have a child -- somehow.

Ariadne Arethuse Landau, 15½

IF YOU WERE ABLE TO CONTROL THE SEX OF YOUR CHILDREN, WHAT SEX WOULD YOU WANT THEM TO BE AND WHY?

Boys, 'cause in a way I think that males have it easier in our society, even though things are getting a lot better for women. Boys do have it better, comparing my life to my brother's. I've gone through a lot of things. I got sent up to an institution because I was messing around. He went out and got some girl pregnant. He was only 17 and he never got into any kind of trouble for it. She did, but he didn't. It's just a hassle to raise girls because you've got to worry if they get caught doing something. Like if two teenagers get caught having sex, then of course it's the girl that gets arrested on an unlawful morals charge. What do they do to the guy? Nothing. It's just like in the family. If a man's daughter comes home and her hair's all messed up and her shirt's unbuttoned, he calls her a little slut. But if a boy comes home and tells his dad he made it with someone tonight, he says, "Oh, that's good. That's my son." That's just how it is.

Carol Warren, 17

I'd like to have both but I guess I would rather have a daughter than a son. I guess because I'm a daughter, too.

Sally Vega, 17

Girls, Mothers and daughters have a good relationship.

Renee Valentine, 15

I wouldn't want a girl to go through the trouble that my mother went through with me.

Regina Alvarez, 17

Female. They are more fun to put their hair in curls and stuff. It would just be neat to have a little girl to do things with.

Araian Hartman, 18

I don't think I would want to control it. Whatever came up, that is what was supposed to be. I'd be happy with it just as long as they are healthy.

Nadine Henry, 17

Boys, because they are easier to take care of.

Claressa Farmer, 15

Girls, because girls obey.

Virginia Quevedo, 14

Girls, because I wouldn't like to have a boy. Not really. You're got to be careful how you talk to them. You spoil them and they turn out to be gay.

Teresa Soleno, 17

Boys. I think they are more intelligent. I really do.

Aranea Jaramillo, 18

Female, probably because I'd want them to be like me. There are things I do to try to make them understand the things that I did were wrong. Maybe they could be a better person.

Carisa Rivera, 17

I would like to have at least two, probably two boys and one girl. It seems like everybody is always wanting girls. But I think boys are easier to talk with and to understand. Boys are easier to cope with. You can talk to girls, but boys aren't that much to hassle with. Usually boys go out on their own. It's not like a girl. When she gets hurt, she comes crying to mom. Boys don't do that.

Candy Pierce, 17

A girl, because every girl wants to have a girl.

Charlene Silvain, 17

It doesn't really matter. A child is a child and it's just a bundle of love.

Barbara Valenzuela, 17

Girls. I don't think I could raise a boy. I have a niece and she is spoiled, a baby, and a sissy. And I don't think I could raise a boy to be like a guy. He might grow up and be a "fag" or something.

Myra Feliciano, 17

I don't know. I like girls. They're harder, but I like them best.

Sally Leon, 17

I think that I'd like to have both. I wouldn't really want all girls, but I wouldn't want all boys, either. I'd want to mix them together.

Torie Black, 17

I would want a little boy to begin with. Then I would want a little girl maybe two years later.

Tracy Hanby, 15

DO YOU HAVE ANY OPINIONS CONCERNING RAISING YOUR CHILDREN? HOW WILL IT BE FOR THEM? FOR EXAMPLE, WILL YOU RAISE THEM DIFFERENTLY FROM THE WAY YOU WERE RAISED?

I want to have my own kid. It just seems that there are so many guys not that just have a whole wrong attitude about women. I think that it's in the home that they get these ideas, in part from society. Still, I think it would have a lot to do with the way I raised it. I think that I should raise it so it would have different ideas about women, about how their relationship should be and things like that.

Ariadne Arethuse Landau, 15½

Yes. I'll give them more discipline than I had. I had no discipline at all. I got to do anything I wanted to do; got to go anywhere I wanted. My mother never made me stay home. I think that is what happened. That's why I was in foster homes.

Candy Pierce, 17

I would talk to them and see if they had any problems.

Cecelia Lopez, 17

Yes, I'll try to understand. When the kid is about eleven he should learn that he is a separate person and they are going to be different than their friends. I'll try to understand because kids then are probably going to be a lot different from me. I'll try to understand their changing. I was changing from my parents. My kids are going to change, too. So I'm just going to try to understand and do what I think is right.

Araiann Hartman, 18

I'll try to give them more than I had. Give them a good education.

Cindy Cardines, 18

I guess I'll raise my children according to their needs and according to the way the world is when they are born, and let them sort of get the feel of the outside.

Layla Dvonne Brock, 17

I'll make damn sure my child knows that they have respect for me, have love, and have understanding and friendship, which my mom didn't do. My mom expresses her love in the way that she says: "I buy you things. I love you." Not the way: "Come here. I want to tell you something, man." I'd come over and say, "I love you." I share my love.

Shawntle Collins, 16½

First of all, I'd never give them a lot of freedom. I would be strict.

Regina Alvarez, 17

My mom never really took time to do things with me. Hopefully, I'll take time to do things with my children so that they'll have a happy childhood. My mom babied me a lot.

Anne Williams, 17

Yes, I probably will. I was brought up to where you couldn't go nowhere; you couldn't even step outside your door. They were very strict. I had to obey right away, otherwise I'd get busted in the face. They weren't able to talk to me. They would say things behind my back.

Vivian Rodriguez, 17

I'm very open-minded. I would show them by my actions that if they had a problem -- if they were smoking pot or something -- I'd want them to come to me and tell me, so that we could work something out. Maybe if it was legal, I would allow them to smoke it in my house so they wouldn't have to go out and get arrested for it and get sent up. I'd try to be more open-minded. Of course, there'd be the discipline. A parent has to take discipline with their kids. You can tell them what's right and wrong. But when they reach a certain age, they start having to see things. They start having to go through things themselves.

Carol Warren, 17

I'd want them to feel that they were not lower than their parents, that they are all equal.

Renee Valentine, 15

My kids would have enough freedom that they wouldn't feel like they were pinned down and they had to do certain things. I would get angry, but I wouldn't hit my kids. If my kids want to drop out of school, they can. But they're the ones who are going to find out. I can only do so much.

Connie Larson, 15

First of all, I will try to teach them manners. I will try to talk to them more often because I don't talk to my parents hardly at all.

Teresa Soleno, 17

It's more that I would do what my mom hasn't done, or that I wouldn't do what she has done. I'd like to really show my kids a lot of love. I know that my mom loves me. What I mean is, to just show them how much I love them and hug them a lot. I don't think that I would hit my kids. There are other ways of dealing with that. My mom has hit me a lot. It hasn't been often. The other thing is that I would make sure that I was really paying attention to my kids and to what was going on and that I was giving them time. That's really important, I think, because I feel like my mom never gave me enough time.

Susanna Michaels, 16



I think that subconsciously I would raise them the way I was raised. I think I'd share my kids more than my parents have, and encourage my kids to do things because when I wanted to do things, my parents would think I was spoiled. If I want something, I usually get it. I'd make my kids work for it. You have to stand on your own two feet while you're still young.

Torie Black, 17

My dad was an alcoholic. I'm going to make sure that whoever I marry will be good to my kids.

Julie Anderson, 16½

I'd be more lenient on them instead of being more hard on them. And try to understand them.

Jamie Brown, 17½



## SOCIAL ISSUES

### *We Are Women*

*Yes, we're women - a minority.  
Women's understanding - a minority.  
We've progressed the decades consistently,  
And have been discriminated persistently.  
We learn from each other; our knowledge is growing,  
And our feminine ways are forever showing -  
Our need for mutual equality,  
And the importance of our sexuality.*

*Layla Dvonne Brock  
(17)*

## SOCIAL ISSUES

*"The personal is political." That is the conclusion which many women, young women included, have reached in their frustrating attempts to gain control over decisions which affect their lives so personally. Women are constantly faced with social and legal barriers which deny them the rights to make their own decisions. We have laws which say young women cannot decide the future of her pregnancy and which restrict their access to resources, such as birth control, which might prevent those pregnancies and the consequent painful decisions that then follow.*

*A teenage woman engulfed in the often anxiety-laden growing up process may have a limited awareness of social issues and of the political decision-making process which affects her life. She often does not realize that her particular situation has meaning in the broad political context. Because of her less than adult status she is often unable to speak out in her own behalf, to articulate needs, or protest oppression.*

*Until the restrictions on the personal lives of young women are lifted and until they can seek their rightful options, young women will continue to be faced with serious decisions for which they are ill prepared.*

HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY DEMONSTRATIONS, PICKETS, RALLIES, OR POLITICS OF ANY KIND? HAS ANYTHING YOU HAVE READ IN THE PAPER OR HEARD ON THE NEWS LATELY AFFECTED YOUR WORLD AS A YOUNG WOMAN?

They are making it difficult for poor people to have abortions and making it easier for rich people. People under 18 are not being able to have an abortion without their parents' consent. I think it should be more for the age of 14 because when you're that young, a lot of girls don't know anything about birth control. They get infatuated with some guy, make love, and they get pregnant. A 13-year-old, it's going to be really hard for them to tell. Older girls, I think, know more what they're doing. Your parents, when you're younger, should not get so excited and be able to face the problem.

I think they should make it not so hard for girls to get birth control. I don't agree with the abortion laws. I think you should be able to do what you want. When you're about 16 and up, you know more about what you want out of life. When you're young, you had a lot of thought like I'm going to be rich and famous. Then you start realizing it's a tough world out there!

Rhianan Collette Garbeau, 14

Abortion, I guess. I think it's terrible myself. I see what it can do to people. Well, when I was at school, they showed movies of what doctors do -- how they take them out. It's not the babies' fault that they were going to be born to this world. Why should you kill them? It's your fault. You did your thing and you should be responsible for what has happened.

Nadine Henry, 17

Abortion. A lot of girls today get pregnant and then they can have abortions. A lot of people have had abortions about five times. They don't think nothing of it. So they should do something about that.

Sonia Martinez, 17

I was concerned about abortions. I feel that if a girl and guy wanted to go to bed with each other, they should use something. If they have to use a rubber, they should use something in order not to get pregnant because they've got to think of themselves and their child. If they do get pregnant, what are they going to do after that? She could get pregnant and he could leave her. Mostly, that's how most guys are. When they get pregnant, they just take off and say it's your fault. They've got to learn to do things, use precautions when they go to bed with each other.

I'm against abortions anyway because to me it's a killing. It's really mean to a kid. You can go all the way though, and have the baby, and then give it up for adoption if you don't want the baby, instead of just killing it because that's not nice. It's not fair to a kid, either. Most people want to live, and they want to have a chance in life.

Candy Pierce, 17

Elvis Presley's death really bothered me.

Charlene Silvain, 17

I just went to one rally -- the Farrah Fawcett thing. I guess that's the only one.

I don't really listen to the news that much, but I think they should keep abortions legal on account of there are so many young girls who are going to be a mother. They're pregnant. I think there should be a limit. If you have already had an abortion, too bad. You can't get a second one. I don't think abortion should be a type of birth control. But then if you get an abortion, they should just put you in a type of meeting that would teach you about birth control.

Aranea Jaramillo, 18

Women in rape. I look at it this way: I've run into a lot of men who have wanted it and threatened to rape me. X asked me, "Haven't you ever had men try and rape you?" and "Have you ever been raped?" Well, I've been raped. I was raped one time and I wouldn't want to go through it again. But I feel that God did it for a reason. God let the man do it for a reason. But usually what I feel a young woman should do is learn how to defend themselves if a man is going to...Well, look at me. I just look at the guy. If he says, "I'm going to rape you," I'll look at him and say, "You can't rape the willing." Usually the man is going to feel about one-fourth inch big and say to himself, "Wow, this ain't going to be worth it! This ain't going to be any fun. I can't smack her around," which is what they usually like to do. They usually like to sit there and smack the woman around when they feel that they have the authority over her. But I feel that a woman, by saying that, is putting the authority down. If they still proceed to grabbing on you, haul off and slug them. Take out self-defense if you want to get anywhere or get yourself in the predicament like me. I don't know self-defense, but I can put up a good fight. I'll put up a good fight against it.

Tracy Hanby, 15

Decriminalization of marijuana and gay rights. I was involved in the Christopher Street West parade. I was involved in gays. I was in the gay parade in Los Angeles for the Gay Proud Week at Christopher Street. I was at the gay carnival. I was involved in that demonstration. I've been a lifelong lesbian so that's always been my concern. It's like in the south, there's not any sort of movement down there. The gay scene is just all involved in the bars and nothing else besides that. I didn't know the freedom that the gays have until I came to California. It really made me aware of a lot of things.

Sasha Stone, 18

Sometimes when a person gets raped or dies, or someone gets married. Something like that. But when they start telling you about politics -- Carter this and Ford this and Nixon this -- I could care less.

Vivian Rodriguez, 17

The only thing I was concerned about was the Son of Sam case.

Melanie Rivera, 14

It seems like they're talking about the energy crisis and they want us to conserve our little things, our little energies that we use. But they use so much on things like race car driving. I don't see any reason in going to see the moon and going to see Mars.

Carisa Rivera, 17

When I was in fifth or sixth grade, I walked in more than one peace march because my father was involved in it. So was I. Really. I was young but I understood what was going on and why. Last fall I went to the concert. It was a benefit for children, for the people of Chile because the military had taken over. I guess it was to try and help all the political prisoners and try and get things changed around there.

What's going on in Israel is really frustrating to me and the whole thing with Dennis D. trying to get land. I think people should be able to have their own homeland. It's really upsetting to me because I think Israel is good in a lot of ways. But they don't budge at all in directions that I think they should budge in.

Eusanna Michaels, 16

I helped campaign for Joe C. for council.

Anne Williams, 17

I was in a rally at school for our football team. We finally won a game!

Anna Rodriguez, 17

On busing because I use the bus a lot. It's getting too expensive for me to be paying 15 cents more.

Vivian Rodriguez, 13

I was in a rally. I guess it's called a rally. Well, really it was a conference, and I gave a speech supporting the group homes and explaining exactly what a group home is to parents. I think there may have been a couple of political people there.

Layla Dvonne Brock, 17

What is ERA? What does that mean? Oh, I know. About women's lib and things like that? Actually, I like male chauvinism. But I can dig going out and doing construction and whatever kind of anything that turns me on, no matter what it is. Construction, digging ditches, and stuff like that really turns me on. I think it's cool. But some women carry it too far. Burn your bra.

Shawntle Collins, 16½

Some things sound crazy and there's some things that need changing -- like when Mayor M. voted against the ERA.

Laura Johnson, 13

Charles Manson murders. It made the front pages for a couple of days. I don't like to read about it, but I read about it.

Suzie Smith, 17

The bus fare. That's a real gripe. I, for one, can't afford to take the bus every day. I'm sure there's a lot of other people. They should lower it for a student.

Regina Alvarez, 17

I think that the ERA is okay. But abortions...I don't think there is a church that can allow it. I think they should leave it up to the woman and just to the woman who is going to have a baby because she knows if she is going to be able to care for it or whether she is not going to be able to. If she can't, it should be her decision to put it up for adoption. It's hard now, but better in the long run.

Sally Vega, 17



*New Directions*

*N is for something New in the community.*

*E is for Excellent women working here.*

*W is for Working together for all women.*

*D is for Directing young women.*

*I is for Individual thinking.*

*R is for Reaching out.*

*E is for an Excellent thing to do.*

*C is for Collecting all the women in the world.*

*T is for Teaching the world.*

*I is for not Icy people.*

*O is for an excellent Opportunity.*

*N is for not Negative people.*

*S is for Searching.*

*Jamie Brown  
(17)*

## YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

*It has become quite apparent that youth organizations serving females need to update the manner in which they address the concerns of young women. During a time when women are beginning to redefine their aspirations, their desires, and their self-identity, we cannot afford to ignore the goals of a young woman. She is no longer satisfied merely with traditional roles. The reality of her life demands a more complex approach, one that combines skills needed for both a career and a family. Youth agencies need to provide these skills through job counseling, assertiveness training, non-sexist counseling, access to information such as birth control and educational alternatives for young women for whom school has not proved meaningful.*

*Youth organizations should accept the challenge of social change advocates to provide a support system for young women as well as actively working to increase the responsiveness of institutions that young women will encounter.*

*Very few women are taught to feel good about themselves as persons having female bodies or as potentially achieving human beings. Here lies the problem, and the goal for those of us who wish to successfully serve young women.*

CAN YOU TALK ABOUT THE EFFECT OF NEW DIRECTIONS OR ANY OTHER YOUTH ORGANIZATION ON YOUR LIFE? ALSO, HOW COULD NEW DIRECTIONS MORE EFFECTIVELY MEET YOUR NEEDS?

New Directions helped me because you're behind me, even though I only come for G.E.D. (help). I can get counseled, plus you're really friendly. You feel comfortable. You get away from a lot of pressure when you come here, relax, and put your feet up.

Carol Warren, 17

I can come to school now and I like it better. And the YWCA and New Directions got me jobs and I made a lot of money out of it.

Cecilia Lopez, 17

I like New Directions to be doing what you're doing right now -- interviewing people to see how they would want things run and what they feel would be helpful to them.

Tracy Hanby, 15

I love it. New Directions for Young Women, YWCA, Young Women's Company, everything that has anything to do with helping the youth, helping the teenagers that have problems, like I do, to keep them out of the streets, keep them safe, and let them know they have some kind of security within themselves in the group. I love it.

Shawntle Collins, 16½

When I was going to school, I always wanted to be a social worker. Then when I got kicked out, I didn't think I was going to be able to make it. Now that I am coming to New Directions, I think I can.

Sonia Martinez, 17

When I was at New Directions, I like it because no matter what little thing you did right, the counselors were backing you up, saying that's good, you're doing something, even if it's a little thing. Backing you up all the way and giving you help where you needed it.

Nadine Henry, 17

At New Directions, I learned that there are a lot of things you're supposed to do and it can be important to not just have fun.

Vivian Rodriguez, 13

Young women want to know how to find jobs.

Louise Harkerbarker, 15

I guess New Directions has counselors that you could talk to. That would be like friends. Maybe some things to keep you off the street so you wouldn't get into trouble.

Carisa Rivera, 17

I think it's a good idea to have people near your own age to be counselors to give help or advice and counselors that know their business. Also, it might be a good idea if there were some kind of an organization that offered the kind of service that New Directions offers young women to young men who get together on some of the classes, co-ed classes or groups like that. I think that would be good.

Susanna Michaels, 16

I think if you had something where you could just sit down and discuss problems, just being able to talk in a group, people can make suggestions on how to work it out.

Torie Black, 17

I'd offer a recreational program or occupational therapy and a group program, sort of like a nice home, a reconstruction of a house with different programs involved.

I think the most people who come to youth groups in New Directions or any youth center are the people who have been through a whole helluva lot and are trying to look ahead instead of behind and doing something for themselves, rather than living in the past. I've lived mostly with these kind of people, and I feel that they're the most honest and are trying the hardest to be socially accepted and like they were a couple of years before.

Layla Dvonne Brock, 17

I think young women want jobs mostly more than a place to dance.

Sally Vega, 17

New Directions helped me see a lot of things I didn't before. It helped me face up to reality just to talk about things.

Chantane Abree1, 17

I like the skill classes at Young Women's Company. They helped me a lot. I like the landscaping.

Myra Feliciano, 17

Since I've been coming to New Directions, I can feel the change in me. But I can't explain it. I don't get into that much trouble and I stay home. I don't run away. I have things to do.

Jessica Moreno, 17

**THREE STORIES . . .**



A bunch of us had been out to Sabino Canyon. Everybody got their money all together and went down and got some Coors and the forest rangers weren't going to let us bring in the Coors so we went down to this guy's house and we had to leave there because there were too many people in this small house. So we went to 18th Street Park and one of my friends thought another one of my friends ripped him off and so he picked up a hammer and bashed in a window and started hitting this guy on the head. Luckily the guy was able to protect himself or else he would probably be dead now. So he jumped out of the car and jumped on the bike and hit Terry a couple of times, and well, Terry was bleeding and stuff. The other guy didn't have... he had a couple of cuts on him, but not really that bad. Terry was passing out, and he was still trying to fight, and I was holding him back and told him, "Cool your shit, come on, be cool, you know, you're going to die." He passed out on the street, as a matter of fact, when I was trying to hold him up once. I had my arms around him like this and then he fell and I fell and scratched the bottom of my arms from falling. And so the ambulance came up--someone called the ambulance--and there was mass confusion while they were fighting. Everybody was trying to break them up. Then they got to the ambulance and Terry was all freaked out about it. So me and this other guy went to the pig car, and he had his window a little bit below half way down, and I crossed my arms and leaned down, you know, and I was saying, "OK, there's a fight the ambulance driver's trying to take care of them, and one of them's really freaking out. You can get him at the hospital. That's where they're going now." And about that time the door flew back, and I staggered back, he knocked me practically down on the ground. The pig jumped out and threw me against the car and hit me right in the bend of my leg and threw me in his car. You know, my feet were still on the ground, but he threw me so hard that it bent my legs, and I tried to stand up and said, "What the hell's going on?" He grabbed my hair and smacked my head against it, and grabbed my arm and twisted it behind me, and about that time, Greg, you know this guy who was standing next to me, started punching the pig because

he didn't know what was happening, and neither did I. So he just slapped the old handcuffs on Greg and took out a second pair for me. And then Greg said that we had the handcuffs on so tight that my hands were getting the circulation cut off. And then he took the cuffs off. I felt like, you know, oh blood in my fingers finally!!

I said, "What the hell's going on?" And he just told me to shut up and he kept telling me to shut up, and it was really making me mad. And then he called me a little bitch. "Shut up, little bitch" and "up you," you know. After that I was really mad. And I don't get mad, I get pissed off; but I very seldom get really mad. But I was definitely mad because he didn't have any right to call me that. And when he had me in the car, he said, "Oh, yeah, I'd like to go to bed with your mother," and all this stuff. And I said, "Up you." God, he really made me mad. And he was telling me -- they had us in separate cars -- and they told me they busted Greg for columbian. It wasn't pot, you know. If it was, that maggot was holding out on me. And Greg just yelled at that time, "Don't say a thing." And I said, "OK." They were just trying to get me to say, "Oh, you found his pot," you know, or something like that. I didn't know what their problem was about that. Anyways he didn't even have any pot on him. They were just really being so rude to us. When we got out of the car down at Juvie, this one guy -- there was this one policeman who was really nice -- and I was sitting there, you know. I said, "Hey, man, these cuffs are about to kill me. Couldn't you just loosen them just one notch; I'm not trying to go any place." Eight pig cars around, I'm sure I'm going to run with handcuffs on! And so, he loosened them and said, "they were looking pretty tight." And he was being really nice to me, and I said to him -- talking about the other pig -- "that fucking pig is going to get his ass shot" and he said yeah he is. I don't know exactly what he said, you know, but you could tell he didn't approve of how the other guy was acting...I got out of the car, the Juvie dragged me out, and I had to stagger to my feet. He just grabbed me and



jerked me out. They weren't like, when they put us in the car, they said, "OK, get in", and opened the door and pushed you in, and hopefully, you land on the seat. And I got out of the car, and I didn't have any shoes on. I had on a pair of pants that were about three sizes too big for me, and anyways, I was having problems keeping those up. We had been up to Sabino and I had on cutoffs, but I got really cold, so I put on one of my friend's pants, but then I didn't have any shoes on either. So this babe steps on my foot, you know, and I said, "oh, you're on my foot!" "Shut up." "You're on my foot -- get off." "Shut up, you little whore!" "Fuck you, get off my foot before I kick you in the balls." Then he got off my foot, and I looked down, and my toenail was bent half way back from his shoe scraping my toenail and bending it back. It was all bleeding and stuff. The first thing my boyfriend said -- well, afterwards my dad say where do you want to be dropped off because he knew it was party night, and he knew I would want to party, you know, and so I told him and we went down to where all my friends were. So I went, too, and I crossed my legs, you know, and my boyfriend said "what happened to your toe?" And I go yeah, I know, it's really gross looking. Earlier, there was a lawyer that used to come and talk to our friends and I told him what happened, and he was, like, telling us our rights we have if we ever get arrested or something. You know, just like, about being in public places and what the laws were on different things. I was telling him what happened, and he said if I would get the guys' names who arrested me, that he could have something done about it.

No, I never called down to Headquarters to get the Police Officers name, you know, I never got around to it, because at the time I was really busy. I was working for the opera company and stuff, and I just never really had that much time, because that was the time during the productions. It was a drag -- I had to miss a night's work, you know, a day and a night -- that afternoon and that night, and I thought, oh God.

Rhianan Collette Garbeau, 18

When I was five years old, I was living here in Tucson, and I was living on Tenth Street or Tenth Avenue. We were living over there, and I was living with my father -- my stepfather -- not my real father -- and at the time my real mother and him just got a divorce, and she was living with another man. I was living with my father and also my brother, my older brother, Albert, and my sister Carolyn, and my younger brother Jimmie were living there. And my older brother Albert had a sex problem. He was crazy in the head. He acted as though he always had to have sex. So one night or one day, when everybody was gone, he sat me up on my bed and was talking to me and took my clothes off and raped me. And then after he did it, he put my clothes back on. You know, I guess he...popped my cherry, and I started bleeding hard, and I started bleeding really bad. He didn't know what he had done, I guess he was insane or something, but he called the police, and I was only five--I didn't know nothing. I didn't even tell the police the truth. My brother had told em to tell them it was some old man, you know, by the apartment every day, because there were so many in front on the apartment every day--so I told them that and my brother never got caught. All the way from the age up to about ten, my brother used to mess around with me. He used to do things. Stuff like that. I didn't like it, I never said anything to anyone in my family, because I felt that if I had, he would do something that would really hurt me. And then when I was about ten, the reason it ended, is because I went to live with my sister, because she had taken me, and he couldn't have done it with my sister there. So that is the only reason it ended.

He's in the Kentucky Dorm--he's got heart problems, and he's only got about a year to live. And he's married now and has two kids. The last I heard of him, he is all right.

I'm not close to him at all. I won't even talk to him when he's around. He's come to visit a couple of times, but I always took off. I never stayed around to talk.

No. I really don't want to talk to him. I don't like him.

Yeah, I finally told someone when I was ten. I went to live with my sister Martha, and I never told my sister Martha about it, but I lived with her until I was about twelve. When I went into my second foster home -- I was about fourteen -- I finally told my sisters and my mother that it was my brother who had raped me when I was five. And they couldn't believe it. They didn't believe me at first. I told them he did it, and they finally believed me. They said if they ever found him or caught him, they were going to really come down on him because he shouldn't do that. He has some problems. A sex maniac. He's come to visit a couple of times but he never has said anything about it. So I think maybe he just wants to push it out of the way. He's only got a year to live, so what the heck, why make his last year miserable?

Candy Pierce, 17

My parents got divorced when I was a year old and I lived with my grandparents 'till I was five. Then my father joined all these lonely hearts clubs when I was about four and a half and he got all these cards on people. There was this one woman in Florida and from her background and everything, my father thought she would be a good mother. They wrote two letters and they decided to get married. So he went down to Florida and she was in a mental hospital at the time, but the doctors said they wouldn't release her on her own. They said if she would get married to someone who was sane, who could maintain her and could help her to take care of her, that, and spend a lot of time with her, that they would release her. They released her to my father's custody and they got married. We moved away and we never really had any problems. Then everything started happening at once.

My father told my new mother that he didn't want her to get pregnant because he didn't love her. He married her because he needed a mother for his two

kids. But she got pregnant anyway. She refused to take her birth control pills. Then she had the baby and after she had the baby, she stopped even talking to me and my brother. She started kicking us around and busting us really bad, and then she'd put us down and say, "You guys are a bunch of fuckheads." She'd sit down there with her little daughter, hold her and praise her, saying, "You're the most beautiful thing in the whole world," We were always being put down and that little kid was being built up.

They stayed married for nine years, but they got in big fights and she would leave. We'd be so happy and say to ourselves, please let them get a divorce. But it never happened. She just left a couple of weeks and dad would have a hard time taking care of us. So he'd write her and tell her, "I'll never do this again." He never even realized all those times she'd beat us. She put me in the hospital about five times. She put my brother in about five times, too. She seriously injured my eye when I was about six years old. Every time that she and my father got into an argument, it was our fault. What can a five- and a six-year-old kid do to cause that big of an argument? My dad is really violent. He tears things and he smashes things because he's got to get it out of him.

They had a fight and he had left to go to work. I heard her in the room and she was beating my brother with the belt. I was scared because she really hurt me when she beat me. She wouldn't stop. I crawled between the bed and the dresser. I didn't think she could see me and then I looked up and she was standing over me and the belt buckle was hanging down. When she swung the belt buckle at me, that thing that goes in the hole went into my eye and it blinded me instantaneously. I was blind for a year.

She didn't call an ambulance right away or nothing. In fact, the whole thing, if I can remember....She wasn't scared that I was hurt at all. The

only thing that bothered her was that I was going to tell my father she had done it and she threatened me. She told me, "if you tell him that I did it, I'm going to kill you." Then she called the doctor about an hour later because I totally lost sight of this eye and then about five or ten minutes later I noticed that everything was real blurry in this eye and I couldn't see at all. The next thing I couldn't see. I kept telling her it's so dark, I can't see and she wouldn't let me go until she had made up this story and made me repeat it back about five times. Then she called an ambulance and I went to the hospital.

Then he got remarried to the lady he's married to now. I didn't like her and I told him, "I'm not going to live in this house" because she'd be so sweet to me, and then I'd go in my room. Her mother from day one, the day she moved into the house, moved in with her. I hated her guts, you know, and she would put me down. She'd say, "Oh, you're so sweet," and I'd go back to my room and she'd go, "That little bitch; that little slut." I used to get so mad and it got to where me and stepmom would get into fights, But they weren't verbal fights, they were physical fights. She'd hit me and I'd hit her back.

When I reached fourteen, I decided once and for all that nobody was ever going to hit me again. When he divorced her, nobody was ever going to get away with it. So the first time she took a swing at me, I took a swing at her. Then I realized, when she told my dad, I had to barricade my door in my bedroom. My dad almost broke my door down and I decided there was no way I was going to be able to live there. So I took an overdose of pills and I just got real dizzy and I just passed out. I hit my head on the toilet and my mom heard and like she called my P.O. And my mom had to break the door down because I had it locked. Then she pulled me out of there and I was unconscious and they took me to the hospital and pumped my stomach out.

They called my brother's psychologist and they put me in St. Mary's psychiatric unit and I was up there for two months. I told them, "You guys have to find a placement for me because I can't go back there." They wouldn't listen so they sent me home, and so two days later I took and overdose again. I told them, "You know, one of these days I'm going to have to kill myself before you guys are gonna listen to me. I can't stay at home." They took me up to St. Mary's and they examined me and everything and my parents were saying that I was mentally insane.

My parents just decided to take it into their own hands and they signed me into a mental hospital. They put me into Camelback Mental Hospital in Phoenix for seven weeks and I guess I told myself, if they think you're insane, then you're insane. For the first four weeks I was there I was totally fucked up. Nobody could talk to me. I wouldn't talk to anybody. I wouldn't eat, you know, and I just made myself all weird out and insane.

Well, people could place their kids under Champus if they could prove they needed it. So after seven weeks were up, my parents placed me in New Foundations. I was there for three days. I don't believe that a program should be able to change a person's physical appearance just because they do something wrong. They caught me smoking dope. I had a joint and I was smoking it. My hair had been half way down my back, and it was my one thing in the whole world that I was pleased with because there was nothing about myself that I liked, except my hair. They cut it. They cut it off real short and they didn't style it or nothing. They just cut it straight off. When they did that I just said, "Forget it." I said, "Fine. You cut my hair and I know I can't fight you, but you can't make me stay after you cut my hair." They cut my hair and I went back to the place and I washed it and I left. I went back to the mental hospital and they took me to Juvie in Phoenix, and they sent me down to Tucson.

A place called Browndale sent out some of their representatives down to interview me. It was the first time I'd ever had an interview and my step-mom was there. I had decided that I was finally going to deal with how I felt about her. I was going to be totally honest. I told her, you know. She was thinking of all these excuses and everything and then she started yelling at me. She gets all these asthma attacks and she started laying this trip on me and my P.O., who was J.A. at the time, we brought on these attacks. I looked her right in the face and I said, "I refuse to accept the responsibility of your sickness and about these excuses, how it makes me feel. You know you don't give a fuck what happens to me. You really don't. That's why you're thinking of all these excuses. If you cared, you'd try to be here no matter what, 'cause I know if I had a daughter who was in a situation and I cared, I'd be down here through anything." Then my mother got all huffy-puffy and everything and she said, "Well, I thought we were going to court today." My P.O. said, "no" and she said, "fine," and she stood up and she walked out on me. It's like they say, the truth hurts. And for once, I told her really how I felt and I didn't say it violently or nothing. I was crying when I said it because it hurt, because I had to face that myself. It was one of the things I'd been striving for most of my life -- to make my father proud of me -- and it never seemed like he was. Finally it just seemed like he hated me. So why not fuck up? Why not make him hate me for a reason? It's better than nothing.

Then they decided to place me in Browndale and I was in Browndale for six months. They'd been on the verge of closing and I'd gotten a job, and I'd stayed pretty clean and everything from alcohol and stuff. Then I got a job and I started really fucking up.

I had worked myself to where I was the most trusted person in my house. I didn't have any set curfews. I didn't have to be there at any certain

times of the day. It was my decision when I was there, and when I wasn't. And they could accept it because I kept at the right times. But then I'd get paid and I'd be out all night. I'd come home at four or five o'clock in the morning. They couldn't have that, you know. Then they saw me driving and I was only fifteen. So they had to cut that out, too, and then they took all my privileges away from me. I could only go out just like everybody else, but I'd still go out and get drunk. So then they decided to put me on restriction, and took everything away from me because, they said, "You're messing up. You're fucking up. You're screwing up." I said, "Fine." So I went and had my friend buy me two lids and they brought it to the house. And I sat right there on the front porch and I got stoned and I told them, "You know, if you don't let me go down to the park and do it, I'll do it right here." Then they had a room search and they found it and they found my pipe. They threw it all away and everything. I got real pissed off and, (sigh) I don't know, everything started happening. I had an argument with one of the relief counselors there and I told him, "I'm gonna take a walk because I gotta get away from here. I'm so mad I gotta get it out." And he told me, he threatened me, he actually said, "If you step outside this door, I'm going to call you in as a runaway." Then -- I guess I've never reached that point of being that mad again and I never had before -- I just totally went out of my mind. I put my hands through the window and I cut the artery in my hand and I busted the window all over the place.

Then they put me in Americare Hospital, a mental hospital. I was in there for awhile and then they released me. The night they released me, the same relief staff at Browndale started putting pressure on me all over again, and I told him about three times, I said, "I can't handle this. I just got out of there. I've gotta slowly come back into things, you know. I've gotta keep my shit together." He just wouldn't get off my



back so I locked myself in my room and I started just throwing things. Then he decided, after he pushed me that far, he was gonna go stick me back in that hospital.

They put me in a foster home. The people were real religious and everything. They were good people, but they could never understand other problems that I had. I stayed there about a month, and I ran away. I was gone for about six weeks and then I got caught. Then I went to juvenile detention. They gave me an examination and told me I was pregnant, which was exactly what I needed at sixteen years old. They had to decide what to do with me so they decided to send me to this place in Phoenix, a pregnant, unwed mothers' home.

I was there for about six weeks and I got in a fight with this girl. While we were fighting, she knocked me on the floor and she sat on me. Then I bled and I knew that I'd lost the baby, but I didn't say anything to anybody. I waited for about two more weeks and then I went to the doctor and he examined me. He told me, "You're just about as pregnant as I am," and I said, "Fine."

I went home, and I packed my clothes, and I ran away again, because I knew if I wasn't pregnant, if I didn't have that excuse, I'd go to Patterdale. Then I was living with my boyfriend down here for two or three months. And then my P.O. busted me one morning when I was asleep. They took me to Patterdale for sixteen months, and then to Residential Intervention Center in Tucson. That's where I am now.

Carol Warren, 17

## DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVES

#### DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVES

*This section provides an introduction to some of the alternative groups and methods that we have found effective in working with young women. It is not our intention to provide a detailed course description or working model for use, as that would require the space of several more books.*

*Many excellent resources exist which can be used to help develop programming in social service agencies and school curriculum. Programs suggested here have been adapted from similar groups used by adult women.*

#### CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING

*This group is not to be considered therapy but rather a process of sharing and discovering for young women to learn about each other and their mutual problems. The goal of this group is to allow freedom of expression, provide a supportive, non-judgmental atmosphere and explore alternatives to dealing with all young women's concerns.*

*The group is usually limited to ten (10) young women. It is designed for women only so there will be no inhibitions about discussing any feelings. Group members make a commitment to the group to attend the meetings. Rather than information giving, the group works toward building trust and equal participation. Topics for discussion can include: 1) What I like or don't like about being female 2) Friendships 3) Sexuality 4) Parents and relationships with them 5) Peer pressure 6) Drugs 7) Racism/Sexism 8) Dating.*

*An emphasis is placed on sharing feelings and experiences about these topics.*

#### ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING

*A young woman is taught by society and authority figures in her life that girls are to be quiet, soft spoken, and above all passive. Because of*

*this conditioning, assertiveness is a difficult concept for young women both to grasp and to use. One of the first things she must recognize is that assertiveness means learning how to speak up for herself, thus aiding in meeting her needs more effectively.*

*The facilitator must not only clarify the meaning of assertiveness, but also let the young woman know both the positive and negative aspects of being assertive. Eager as the young woman may be to learn how to speak up, she's also fearful of the consequences. Assertiveness in women is a trait which many find threatening or "unbecoming".*

*Once the young woman understands what assertiveness is and what it may mean in her life, she is ready to apply assertive principles and to identify road blocks to assertive behavior. Now the young woman is ready to practice assertiveness in specific areas such as dealing with family, friends, and relationships.*

*Many times assertive behavior is hindered by a lack of confidence and major goals of any assertiveness group must be to instill a young woman with a sense of self worth and a knowledge of her own strengths.*

*An assertiveness group usually ends by going from the specific to the general, with the hope of leaving the young woman with a sense of being part of a greater struggle for independence common to all women.*

#### OUR BODIES, OURSELVES

*The goal of this group is to provide information and allow discussion around the areas of sexuality which will provide a basis to allow a young woman to make informed decisions about her body. The group begins with discussions about how young women feel about their body and how they feel about themselves as women. Topics covered include anatomy and physiology of sexuality and reproduction, making decisions about the responsibilities of sexuality, birth control, pregnancy and health care resources available in the community for taking care of her body and dealing with problems.*

*This course can be easily adapted into most school and agencies programs.*

RESOURCE: *Our Bodies, Ourselves*, a book by and for women by the Boston Women's Health Book Collective, Simon and Shuster, New York.

#### CULTURAL AWARENESS

*In the cultural awareness group, the young women are provided with basic information concerning various cultures and the diverse concerns and roles women experience. The facilitators role should be to point out the differences and similarities of these cultures as well as examining the issues of discrimination faced by minority women. The goal is to promote awareness of one's own heritage or roots and the values and roles inherent in that heritage. Emphasis is placed on sharing experiences and developing understanding between young women of different cultures. This group is suitable for a small discussion format in schools, informal gatherings or within agencies. Topics may include: family, relationship to society, roles of minority women, civil rights movement, women's liberation movement as it relates to the varied cultures of the Black, Chicana, and Native American woman, sexuality, self-image, education, priorities, lifestyles, and specific topics of interest within cultural representation.*

#### CAREER AWARENESS AND LIFE PLANNING

*Making the best possible decision about one's life plan and career has significant impact on one's future. Adequate planning can make the difference between a satisfying career or continued ambivalence about what path to pursue.*

*We feel it is important for high school young women to become more aware of the planning process and self understanding for they are at the initial stages of their educational or work careers. Additionally, it seems important for high school women to increase their knowledge of the expanding and changing roles of women in the world of work, for new opportunities are*

opening daily.

The career awareness program is designed for young women at the senior high level. The program is aimed at accomplishing development of heightened awareness and understanding of oneself by participants, plus accepting an integrated and adequate picture of herself and her role in the world of work.

Exploration will begin by clarifying values and learning more about self; our interests, skills and abilities. Following values clarification, the group will explore the occupational world; jobs available, characteristics of jobs including educational requirements, nature of work, pay and demand, plus a profile of women's participation in the labor force. After sufficient background knowledge is obtained the young women then learn skills to aid in life planning including decision-making, filling out applications, interviewing techniques, job hunting, apartment hunting, etc.

The last stage of the group would entail actual practice- in group and outside the group- of those new skills previously acquired. With the support of the group, young women take the first step toward making those decisions affecting their course of study, part-time work plans, post graduation employment seeking, and eventual career and personal satisfaction.

#### FEMINIST COUNSELING

Feminist consultation is a non-traditional model of counseling based on "empowering" women. The counselor/client relationship is non-hierarchical, and the two women share experiences and skills with each other. The feminist consultant helps a young woman get in touch with who she is and what she really wants. Other parts of this dynamic process involve support and skills sharing. The woman is encouraged to be as much in control over her life as possible and to take herself seriously. During this process a woman finds her own identity, instead of living through or for someone else. A balanced woman is a whole woman.

The counselor provides support and a positive atmosphere for the client. S/he uses self-disclosure and sharing as techniques and expresses respect for the worth of the client. The counselor is a resource person to the client and is an advocate for problem solving when needed on matters of child care, sexuality, pregnancy, welfare, etc. The counselor encourages independence and positive self-image. The counselor is non-judgmental about the client's lifestyle and instead presents options. When appropriate, the counselor exposes feminist theory and the impact of sexism on the group or individual.

It is our hope that you will not only utilize the resources available within this book, but also feel free to contact the staff of New Directions for any further assistance.

## YOUNG WOMAN'S POETRY



Kathleen

I see my niece in her  
mother's arms,  
There's nothing in the world  
she could bring harm.

I creep in to see her while  
she is asleep.  
There's nothing in my life  
I'd like more to keep.

Yet if I had the chance to  
take her right now,  
I couldn't do that to Eileen,  
I just don't see how.

My sister took the time and pain  
to bring her to birth.  
Kathleen is the prettiest thing  
on the face of this earth.

Sharon  
(17)

One Special Day

One special day, in the enormous  
"Kingdom of Heaven," the Lord decided he  
would create something wonderful, and  
beautiful, something so full of love  
and happiness that it would bring you to  
all around it (no, not Farrah Fawcett).

So he bundled it up in a ball of  
white downy skin. He painted little rosy  
cheeks and touched it with bright brown  
eyes. Then the Lord breathed a tiny  
breath of air into the tiny body and sent  
it to me that special day. And now I'll  
always have this bundle of joy. His  
name is Damian Rey.

Aranea Jaramillo  
(18)

*Climbing*

*climbing*

*the gates of the moon  
into echoed laughter.....*

*waves of stench rise...from the dead*

*and decaying...*

*piled behind faded realities...*

*frothing dogs circle restlessly*

*eyes gleaming hungrily*

*in the wane light...*

*fighting over exposed entrails*

*lying like yellow snakes*

*coiled inside*

*warm bodies*

*draining rays*

*pulsate*

*from the glowing moon*

*drawing me closer to the madness*

*encircling me*

*in the festered*

*womb*

*of hell.....*

*Adele Annala  
{17}*

The Teenage/Adult War  
The Delinquent Group Home

Here I am in my new home,  
Surrounded by people, yet alone.  
We're individuals yet we've something in common,  
Adults consider us strange phenomenon.  
For how many times has a parent said,  
If you're not like me, you're absolutely bad.  
We're not supposed to make mistakes,  
But perfection's a hard role to partake.

Teenage and adult; two sides at war,  
Each only interested in what he himself stands for,  
And each unwilling to swallow self-pride.  
Listen, don't be shy; don't pretend or hide,  
For we're all too different to always agree;  
We each have different moralities.  
The reason God put us here  
Was for us to live, grow, love, learn and  
reason in harmony.

For if there were no different personality traits,  
There'd be no variety, the life line'd be straight.  
We'd all be striving for the same thing,  
And all too soon that one thing would be extinct.  
Face it. No two people are the same;  
Each is playing a different part or game.  
No one person should take fault or blame,  
We are all influences on one another.

Layla Dvonne Brock  
(17)

Loneliness

Hello, loneliness  
my friend,  
It seems you're  
visiting again.

I know you're always  
coming here,  
But there's no warning  
when you're near.

Maybe the answers  
will come someday,  
So I may turn and  
walk away.

Sharon  
(17)

Ramblin' On

Lost in the guitar's flowing  
love song,  
Who'll I love? Who'll love me?  
What if I'm wrong?

Will I be alone, will I be happy,  
or someday be wed?  
If I bear children, how many,  
or will I be dead?

I'll have a home in L.A. or a  
tiny southern farm,  
Am I strong enough to stand, or  
will they bring me harm?

I'll not be fooled by some  
lover's dream,  
Will I sit in some cell, and  
forever scream?

Or maybe, forever I'll ramble  
along,  
And once again I'm nowhere,  
'cept lost in some song.

Sharon  
(17)

Gazing

gazing out into above  
I feel myself being pushed  
and shoved. I feel as though  
I am coming down into solitude  
where there is no sound.  
Peace is with me, and the pain  
is gone; I am free from all that  
surrounds.....

Regina Alvarez  
(17)

*The Trails of Life*

*The trails of life go in many  
ways,  
They all hold remembrance of  
younger days.*

*Some are filled with bubbling  
streams,  
Some hold sweet, but unfinished  
dreams.*

*Many hold my childish  
fears,  
Still others recall unhappy  
years.*

*Walking them all inside my  
memory,  
I gather them up to be always  
with me.*

*Sharon  
(17)*

*Who Am I*

*rotting in hell is too easy for me  
and fighting in heaven I just can't see  
but who knows or cares I just  
don't give a damn I'm just here  
wondering who and what I am*

*Regina Alvarez  
(17)*

*Sighs*

*sighs*

*come sailing forth*

*wrapping around my*

*outstretched arm.....*

*nibbling like fish at food*

*slowly I bring them*

*to my mouth*

*pouring their liquid whiteness*

*down*

*my*

*throat*

*testing their bitter afterthoughts*

*swallowing.....whirling*

*thru my gut they blow*

*trapped....*

*angry....*

*I*

*face*

*another*

*night of mind indigestion.....*

*acids burning away*

*at my soul*

*until a pile of ashes*

*remain*

*to be swept away.....*

*by*

*the*

*cool night*

*breeze.*

*Adele Annala  
(17)*

*The Gift*

*If I could, I would give you a red rose.  
Also I would give you a white dove.  
I would also give you a key to unlock  
all the chains that bind you.  
Most of all, I would give you hope and love.*

*Jamie Brown  
(17)*

*When I Looked Into Your Eyes*

*When I looked into your eyes,  
Saw you falling,  
Watched you bleed.  
Now I look into your eyes,  
See you cryin',  
See you need.*

*The need of someone  
warm and strong,  
to help you stand;  
Stand and face the  
whole world,  
lend a hand.*

*I saw them hurt  
you deeply  
scar your mind.  
Now you need some  
loving, just to  
help you find.*

*Find some reason to  
be someone, or  
to even live.  
Find a place to be you  
to see what your  
life can give.*

*I wish I had the things  
you need, I  
would freely share.  
But all that I can tell  
you is, I will  
always care.*

*Sharon  
(17)*

*My Man*

*My man is wonderful.  
He has lots of charm.  
I know that he'd never  
do me wrong.*

*Yet there are times I  
hate his guts,  
Because sometimes he  
acts very stuck-up.*

*He doesn't know if he's  
coming or going,  
And if he does, he  
thinks its loving.*

*He comes and goes as  
he pleases, never knowing  
if anyone needs him.*

*I need him I know and I  
won't deny it,  
'Cause he's part of my life  
and I can't live without him.*

*Nadine Henry  
(17)*

*I Love You For What You Really Are*

*I love you for what you  
really are,  
Not for what you might pretend  
to be, or for what someone  
else might like you to be.*

*I love you when you  
forget to pretend,  
You act like yourself and you  
smile, because I love  
you for what you are.*

*Sharon  
(17)*



*First Love*

*Your first love seems to be the hardest to forget  
You try and try but still it remains.  
You think of him both off and on,  
then you start to wonder where he's gone.  
You ask yourself, was it a mistake,  
or was it all just a fake?  
You ask yourself if your love was real,  
and if it was, why didn't it last.  
Questions come and questions go,  
but is there any way you'll ever know?  
You wish at times that he was at your side,  
so you could lean on him when you cried.  
You dream of him now and then,  
and wonder if your love could start again,  
and if it did, where would it lead --  
sweethearts, married, or just friends.  
I've thought of these things so many times,  
and all the time I try to lie.  
I say that he wasn't important,  
but deep inside I know I lied.  
But God's been good to me;  
he's given me a chance to try again.  
So if you lose someone you love very much,  
don't give up and never fear.  
'Cause if God wants it, it will be.  
Just keep in mind that you need to try,  
and always keep God at your side.  
I never thought I'd have a chance,  
but look at me now -- I've got my first love back!*

*Nadine Henry  
(17)*

*Mist of Ages*

*mist of ages....  
floating softly  
into shapes  
of  
yesterday.....  
echoing sorrowfully....  
down the canyon  
searching for days  
and nights....  
disjointed....  
mutated for  
eternity.  
crying for reunion....  
aching for the embrace  
of sanity.*

*Adele Annala  
(17)*

*The Cage*

*Have you ever looked inside yourself, I mean really looked inside yourself? What did you see -- Love, Hate, Bitterness, Happiness, Sadness? Maybe a mixture of things? Do you feel sometimes you're in a cage like prisoners are? You have the key to get out of the cage, but they don't. They have to serve time for society. You don't. You only spend time in yourself.*

*Jamie Brown  
(17)*

FOOTNOTES

1. U.S. Department of Labor, 1975 Handbook On Women Workers (Follow-up Data: Vocational Advisory Council).
2. Women on Words and Images, Help Wanted: Sexism in Career Education Materials, (1975, E.P.I.E. Institute)
3. 11 Million Teenagers: What Can Be Done About the Epidemic of Adolescent Pregnancies in the United States, (1976, The Alan Guttmacher Institute, Planned Parenthood Federation of America).
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. U.S. Department of Labor, op. cit.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.

## RESOURCES

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of Women.
- Our Bodies, Our Selves, Boston Women's Book Collective
- Women and Madness, Phyllis Chesler
- The Counseling Psychologist, Counseling Women, Vol. 4, No. 1, 1973
- Getting Clear: Body Work for Women, Anne Rush Kent, 1973
- V.D. Handbook, Donna Chemiak
- Sexism in School and Society, Nancy Frazier and Myra Sadler
- Unlearning the Lie, Barbara Harrison
- Feminism as Therapy, Anica Vesel Marden and Anne Rush Kent, 1974
- Feminine Psychology, Karen Harney
- The New Feminism, Lucy Komisar
- Daughters in High School, Frieda Singer, 1974
- The Feminist Papers: From Adams to de Beauvoir, Alice Rossi, 1974
- High School Sexuality: A Teaching Guide, Women's Educational Project
- High School Women's Liberation, Youth Liberation
- Sex Discrimination Against Students: Implications of Title IX of the  
Educational Amendments of 1972, Margaret Dunkle and Bernice Sandler
- Sexism in Career Education Materials, Women on Words and Images, 1975
- 11 Million Teenagers, What Can Be Done About the Epidemic of Adolescent  
Pregnancies in the United States, Planned Parenthood Federation  
of America
- Practical Guide to the Women's Movement, Deena Peterson

**END**