

Sex attitudes more conservative

MONTREAL (CUP)—Quantitatively, sex is not what it used to be.

The sexual attitudes of youth have become rapidly more conservative within only the last few years, according to a study just completed by sexologist Joseph Levy of the Universite du Quebec a Montreal (UQAM).

UQAM is the only university in North America with a department of sexology.

There are significant differences between what young adults thought in 1978 and 1982 (the last date for complete figures). In 1978, 54 per cent of young men said they would have sex if they were in love. In 1982 only 46 per cent said the same. If love was not present, 33.5 per cent said, in 1978 they would be glad to have sex, where only 15 per cent said they would do so in 1982.

Similarly, in 1978, 35 per cent of young women thought it was fine to

women with problems in their sexual relations. Most of the women that come to her don't enjoy sex and rarely if ever have an orgasm, she said. Godin says women won't let sexual relations recede to what they once were. "It is very rare I encounter women who are upset about losing their virginity," she said. "Women want to have sex and have pleasure from sex. It is finally becoming part of their

identity."

The most frequent problem among men is premature ejaculation, she said. "These men have to change their way of looking at sex," she said. "They are not capable of getting much pleasure from touching, even though in their head they may think they are."

Many 'young men' do want a stable relationship now more than before, she said. However, because

the economy leaves many without stable jobs, they feel they can't have a relationship. "Many men still believe they must somehow be able to support a woman. In their head, they still see women as dependent," she said.

Students at the University of Waterloo recently attended a workshop about sexuality, "Can We Talk." Most students came because of worries about contra-

ception and sexually transmitted diseases.

The 30 students split into four groups to discuss the next move of a young university couple deciding whether or not to become sexually involved. But at the end of the discussion, none of the groups reported taking birth control or diseases into consideration.

The program's organizer said this was the usual response.

IT'S NOT AS FUN AS IT USED TO BE, EH?



have sex if they weren't in love. However, in 1982 only 16 per cent thought so. The only statistic which has not changed is for women having sex they are in love. 54 per cent thought it was fine in 1978 and almost the same number thought so in 1982.

Levy said this trend towards more conservative sexual relations contradicts previous studies during the late 1970s. One study by two researchers at UQAM predicted that by the year 1994, 95 per cent of young people will be having premarital sex.

"Now we have new conditions and a return to sexual conservatism," said Levy.

"The problem of sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS in particular has brought more care to the sexual dimension," he said.

Levy attributed the changes to several interrelated factors including the mass media, a high divorce rate, and the economy.

"When there are such economic problems as now, people want to limit their instability," he said. "It is the same for children from divorced families. They look for security, both men and women, in monogamous relationships." However, he added, this does not mean they will not have several relationships, but that they won't sleep with more than one person at the same time.

Levy said society isn't moving back to "the old days". Only a small minority of youth view sex through religious values, while most know much more about sex, birth control and sexually transmitted disease than any other generation, he said.

Guilt, however, is also a by-product of conservatism in sex. "The more restrictive attitudes towards sex also breeds more anxiety towards sex itself and towards using contraceptives," he said.

The problems students face with sex haven't changed significantly, according to Giselle Godin, a sexologist and sex therapist at a Montreal health clinic for young people. Godin counsels young men and

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