

## ***D. Fordney Settlege, MD***

### **Your Biography**

You were born in 1940. You became an American physician and sex therapist best known for your work on sexual function and dysfunction. Your BS is from the University of Arizona (1960) and your MD (1964) from University of California at Los Angeles.

You began your career looking at sperm motility after intercourse, but you've also been interested in the sexual experiences among teenaged girls.

You are currently working on a comprehensive overview of heterosexual dysfunction. You served as Assistant Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology Division of Reproductive Biology at the Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center.

You were an early critic of gynecologist James C. Burt, sometimes called the 'Love Surgeon' and his involuntary surgeries on the vulvas of patients. Burt performed a number of reconstructive surgeries (perhaps hundreds) on women who had recently given birth, when they were still under the effects of episiotomy. In his words "Women are structurally inadequate for intercourse. This is a pathological condition amenable to surgery." In franker terms, he also said that his surgery would turn women into "horny little mice" and asserted that "the difference between rape and rapture is salesmanship." (1957, quoted in a 1988 NY Times article following his censorship by the Ohio Medical Board). You, as D. Fordney-Settlege has said, "Dr. Burt is a nice person but he is a zealot and that makes him dangerous."

During your tenure at the University of Arizona Medical Center's fertility clinic, you assisted in helping hundreds of couples with fertility issues bring babies to term. During the course of your career, a debate ensued as to whether the availability of contraceptives was promoting pre-marital sex.

You conducted a study of 500 unwed teenage girls (aged 13-17) that had sought professional help in obtaining contraceptives. Your findings provided sound grounds to conclude that not only did the availability of contraceptives fail in promoting sexual behavior, but that a lack of contraceptive availability would not deter teenage girls from participating in sexual behavior. The study demonstrated the sexual behavior in teenage girls pre-dated the use of contraceptives, and that when available, teenage girls would make use of such options in order to prevent unwanted pregnancy, impediments to future and current education, forced marriage, illegitimacy, and abortion.

### **Game Objectives**

Your primary objective is to get on the Spitzer taskforce to advocate for psychosexual disorders in the new taxonomy. Make certain that female sexuality is not maligned as a psychological disorder in the DSM-III or the definition of 'mental health.' Your secondary objective is to advocate for women's sexual health more broadly. You have a long-standing friendship with both Richard Green and Harold Lief.

There is very little research on women's sexuality. Kinsey's famous study causes a good deal of consternation. Even today, the issue of homosexuality seems largely to be about *male* homosexuality, with lesbianism hardly mentioned as an afterthought. Work with Leona Tyler in her efforts to get a Committee on Women in Psychology, and more importantly for you, the Committee on the Psychology of Women.

The issue of female sexuality has become particularly hot recently with the popularization of oral contraceptives. While most people favor contraceptives for women who are already sexually active, there is a great controversy over whether allowing young women access to contraceptives will *make* sexually active. You are interested in settling that question.

You are neutral on the **definition of mental illness**, so long as it isn't gendered in some tacit way.

### **Specific Assignments**

In 1972, propose to the research committee a study on the sexual experiences of younger women who are seeking contraceptives for the first time, based on her actual 1973 paper.

As you straddle the fence between the MD and PhDs, the Medical doctors and the Psychologists, you are in the unique position to create a compromise between Albee and \_\_\_\_\_ regarding the rights and duties of the psychologists and psychiatrists in the treatment of patients in 1972.

In 1975, give a paper critiquing the history of psychiatric and psychological theory of sexuality as overly focused on male sexuality. You should be specific here – the game book appendices contain the small amount of work by Freud on Lesbianism, and Krafft-Ebbing's *Psychopathia Sexualis* contains a brief mention at the very end. Jung's theories of female homosexuality are worth exploring as well. Consider how 'normal' sexual maturation has been defined in male terms, and how the explanations are unequal (i.e. compare the 'Oedipal complex' to the 'Electra complex'). This will take some work. Be specific and as thorough as you can – it will be important to consider as the DSM-III is considered.

**Fission:** Join R. Green in founding the International Academy of Sex Research

### **Must Read**

DS Fordney Settlage, Baroff S, Cooper D 1973. Sexual experience of younger teenage girls seeking contraceptive assistance for the first time. *Family Planning Perspectives*, Vol. 5, No. 4 Autumn, 1973, p 223-226 (available on Jstor)

Fordney-Settlage DS 1975. Heterosexual dysfunction: Evaluation of treatment procedures. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, Volume 4, Number 4 / July, 1975 (DOI: 10.1007/BF01541722)

### **Secondary Sources**

[http://www.museumstuff.com/learn/topics/Diane\\_Fordney::sub::Selected\\_Publications](http://www.museumstuff.com/learn/topics/Diane_Fordney::sub::Selected_Publications)  
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