

of privacy between the members of the mated pair?

Part of the answer to this is our very high level of

sexuality, which demands constant expression and outlet. It was developed to keep the pair together, but

now, in the stimulating atmosphere of a complex society, it is constantly being triggered off in non-pairbond situations. But this is only part of the answer. Sex

is also being used as a status device—a well-known manoeuvre in other primate species. If a female monkey wants to approach an aggressive male in a nonsexual context, she may display sexually to him, not because she wants to copulate, but because by so doing she will arouse his sexual urges sufficiently to suppress his aggression. Such behaviour patterns are referred to as re-motivating activities. The female uses sexual stimulation to re-motivate the male and thereby gain a non-sexual advantage. Similar devices are used by our own species. Much of the artificial sexual

sign y\_ is being employed in this way. By making themselves attractive to members of the opposite sex, individuals can effectively reduce antagonistic feelings in other members of the social group.

There are dangers in this strategy, of course, for a pair-bonding species. The stimulation must not go too far. By conforming to the basic sexual restrictions that the culture has developed, it is possible to give clear signals that 'I am not available for copulation', and yet, at the same time, to give other signals which say that 'I am nevertheless very sexy'. The latter signals will do the job of reducing antagonism, while the former ones will prevent things from getting out of hand. In this way one can have one's cake and eat it.

This should work out very neatly, but unfortunately there are other influences at work. The pair-bonding mechanism is not perfect. It has had to be grafted on to the earlier primate 'system, and this still shows through. If anything goes wrong with the pair-bond situation, then the old primate urges flare up again. Add to this the fact that another of the naked ape's great evolutionary developments has been the extension of childhood curiosity into the adult phase, and the situation can obviously become dangerous. The system was obviously designed to work in a 80