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SCHOOLS FEAR SEX!

***The Politics of Lust*, by John Ince A Radical New Perspective On Sex**

“The Canadian system of sex education, although far better than the abstinence based programs prominent in the United States, still fails our youth,” says Vancouver sex educator John Ince, author of *The Politics of Lust* (pub date: September 2003). “The key problem is that students learn all about the dangers of sexuality and nothing about its pleasures.”

Ince contends that far from being the sexually open and hedonistic society that the media often portrays, most people are sexually squeamish. Ince shows that though thirty years have elapsed since a supposed “sexual revolution” negative attitudes are still prevalent toward a vast array of sexual issues, including nudity, masturbation, honest sexual dialogue, sex education, sex toys, erotic art, homosexuality, anal sex and many other issues.

Formal sex education programs contribute to this sex-negativism. “The curriculum is not balanced. Kids learn that sex can ruin your life, which is true, but they hear little about the joy of sex, about fun and healthy ways to experiment with sex. The idea that students could learn creative ways to explore their own sexuality is totally taboo in the Canadian education system.”

Along with others, Ince is an advocate of teaching “sexual gradualism,” a step-by-step process of sexual learning. First, students learn how to talk about sex, how to overcome the sexual language barrier that grips our culture. Next, the program encourages masturbation and even shows creative ways of doing it. Finally, kids learn the key elements of healthy and satisfying sexual liaisons, such as building trust and emotional intimacy. The program emphasizes the importance of non-coital erotic experimentation, such as kissing, petting, and mutual erotic massage, weeks and month before intercourse.

Innovations in sex education are always the most controversial of any curriculum change. School officials have a long history of capitulating to the most vocal opponents of sex education. The politics of sexuality in Canada ensures that our children are denied meaningful sex education.

But social policy on sexuality is in transition. Who would have guessed even a decade ago that gays would be marrying in 2003. Canadian society is beginning to confront its sexual fears. Ince shows that intolerance against sex will ultimately have the same fate as prejudice against women, and racial and ethnic minorities. Sex education policy will not lead this reform, but it will benefit, and as a new generation of Canadian youth acquire a sex-positive education, the sexual revolution will finally complete.

The Politics of Lust (Pivotal Press, 2003, \$24.95, softcover, 336 pages, ISBN 0-9696567-1-8)

Ince’s tour schedule:

Vancouver: Oct 6-10, **Calgary** 12-14, **Toronto** 15-18,

Montreal 19-22, **Ottawa** 23-25, **Winnipeg** 25-27, **Edmonton** 28-30

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