

WHAT VALUE SHALL WE PLACE ON OUR SELVES ?

In every city across this country, in every community, whether poor or middle class, black or white, inner city or suburb, a growing number of young girls, from the age of 12 upwards, are today having sex relations and getting pregnant.

With no concept of Self-Worth except through the eyes of a male, these girls have only one thing on their minds - how to attract the attention and affection of a man. Making themselves an easy mark, they exhibit their young bodies in the most seductive ways, dancing the most seductive dances, wearing the most revealing clothes. In a sense they are acting like burlesque queens or Playboy bunnies - except that they are doing it "for free" or (as they say) "for love."

Some, without any hope for their own lives, seek "Instant Identity" through sex or bearing a child by a football or basketball star, a dope pusher, a pimp or a musician, regardless of what kind of person he is, as long as he has a "hip" personality. Others become pregnant to get away from home or to prove to their parents that they are "grown."

Scarcely a week goes by without one of these youngsters being found in an alley, beaten, raped or shot to death, usually by some man whom she has just met or who has gotten tired of her attentions and wants to push on to new, unconquered territory. Many, left pregnant and confronted suddenly with the realities of motherhood, have nervous breakdowns before or after giving birth to a baby. Some settle down with older men who are less reluctant than young ones to accept ready-made families. In most cases they are stranded for life, ending up on the ever-growing Welfare rolls or as prostitutes, addicts, go-go dancers. Often their children do not know their fathers at all - or relate only fleetingly to fathers who have other unloved and unwanted children by other girls in the neighborhood.

Almost every family in the community is affected by one or more of its female

