''(c) LIMITATION ON APPLICABILITY.—With respect to an aircraft operated by a foreign air carrier, the smoking prohibitions contained in subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only to the passenger cabin and lavatory of the aircraft. If a foreign government objects to the application of subsection (b) on the basis that it is an extraterritorial application of the laws of the United States, the Secretary is authorized to waive the application of subsection (b) to a foreign air carrier licensed by that foreign government. The Secretary of Transportation shall identify and enforce an alternative smoking prohibition in lieu of subsection (b) that has been negotiated by the Secretary and the objecting foreign government through a bilateral negotiation process.

''(d) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe regulations necessary to carry out this section.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the 60th day following the date of the enactment of this Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 3333

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.

In the case of a state that, as of the date of enactment of this Act, has in force and effect State hazardous material transportation laws that are inconsistent with federal hazardous material transportation laws with respect to intrastate transportation of agricultural production materials for transportation from agricultural retailer to farm, farm to farm, and from farm to agricultural retailer, within a 100-mile air radius, such inconsistent laws may remain in force and effect for fiscal year 1999 only.

AMENDMENT NO. 3334

On page 79 of the bill, in line 21 before the period, insert: ''*Provided further,* That the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, shall by January 1, 1999, take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that each air carrier (as that term is defined in section 40102 of title 49 U.S.C.) prominently displays on every passenger ticket sold by any means or mechanism a statement that reflects the national average per passenger general fund subsidy based on the fiscal year 1997 general fund appropriation from the Federal Government to the Federal Aviation Administration: *Provided further,* That the Secretary of Transportation, acting through the Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure the placement of signs, on each Federal-aid highway (as that term is defined in section 101 of title 23, U.S.C.) that states that, during fiscal year 1997, the Federal Government provided a general fund appropriation at a level verified by the Department of Transportation, for the subsidy of State and local highway construction and maintenance.

AMENDMENT NO. 3335

(Purpose: To require the National Transportation Safety Board to reimburse the State of New York and local counties in New York for certain costs associated with the crash of TWA Flight 800)

At the appropriate place in title III, insert the following:

SEC. 3 . REIMBURSEMENT FOR SALARIES AND EXPENSES.

The National Transportation Safety Board shall reimburse the State of New York and local counties in New York during the period beginning on June 12, 1997, and ending on September 30, 1999, an aggregate amount equal to $6,059,000 for costs (including salaries and expenses) incurred in connection with the crash of TWA Flight 800.

AMENDMENT NO. 3323, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Transportation to ensure that there is sufficient signage directing visitors to cemeteries of the National Cemetery System, and for other purposes)

At the appropriate place in title III, insert the following:

SEC. 3 . SIGNAGE ON HIGHWAYS WITH RESPECT TO THE NATIONAL CEMETERY SYSTEM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAY.—The term ''Federal aid highway'' has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 23, United States Code.

(2) NATIONAL CEMETERY SYSTEM.—The term ''National Cemetery System'' means the National Cemetery System, which is managed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(3) STATE.—The term ''State'' has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 23, United States Code.

(b) FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAYS.—The Secretary of Transportation may encourage States to take such action as may be necessary to ensure that, for each cemetery of the National Cemetery System that is located in the proximity of any Federal-aid highway, there is sufficient and appropriate signage along that highway to direct visitors to that cemetery.

(c) STATE HIGHWAYS.—Nothing in subsection (b) is intended to affect the provision of signage by a State along a State highway to direct visitors to a cemetery of the National Cemetery System.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I know of no further amendments to the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there are no further amendments, the question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the yeas and nays be ordered on final passage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. SHELBY. I ask unanimous consent that the vote occur on passage at 9:15 a.m. on Friday, and that paragraph 4 of rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SHELBY. In light of this agreement, there will be no further votes tonight. The next vote is scheduled for 9:15 a.m. Friday morning.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes action on S. 2307, the fiscal year 1999 transportation appropriations bill, that the bill not be engrossed and be held at the desk.

I further ask that when the Senate receives the House of Representatives companion measure, the Senate immediately proceed to its consideration; that all after the enacting clause be stricken and the text of S. 2307, as passed, be inserted in lieu thereof; that the House bill, as amended, be read for a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider the vote be laid upon the table, that the Senate insist on its amendments, request a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and that the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate, and that the foregoing occur without any intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SHELBY. I further ask unanimous consent that when the Senate passes the House companion measure, as amended, the passage of S. 2307 be vitiated and the bill be indefinitely postponed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of routine morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SENATOR TIM HUTCHINSON RECEIVES GOLDEN GAVEL AWARD

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, yesterday, Senator HUTCHINSON presided his 100th hour of this Congress and, therefore, is the latest recipient of the Senate's Golden Gavel Award.

Senator HUTCHINSON and his scheduling staff have consistently adjusted their schedule to assist whenever presiding difficulties have occurred. For these honorable efforts and for the Senator's continued commitment to his presiding duties, we extend our thanks and congratulations.

CORRECTION OF THE RECORD

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, in my speech of July 16, 1998, titled ''Anniversary of the Great Compromise,'' on page S. 8295, in the first column thereof, the word ''unilateral'' in the second line of the second full paragraph should be ''unicameral.'' ''Unicameral,'' instead of ''unilateral.''

I ask unanimous consent the permanent RECORD show the correction.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

KIDS AND SEX

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I rise today to express my shock and utter amazement regarding the cover story in the June 15 issue of Time magazine. It is entitled ''Everything your kids already know about sex.''

Now, I know that any octogenarian like myself is going to be immediately viewed as a dinosaur and a prude on a

subject such as this, but I tell you that this article should alarm every parent and shake up every community in America.

The piece opens up with an account of a 14-year-old couple, who walk into a Teen Center in Salt Lake City, Utah (of all places) and inquire about steps which they might take to heighten their arousal during sex. This is a 14-year-old couple, I remind Senators. It continues with example after example of youngsters as young as 9 years of age who are experienced sexually, and who have had multiple sexual partners before ever reaching the legal age of consent. Here we are talking about youngsters as young as 9 years of age. Many of these sexually new-age babies (and that's what they are, babies) claim that they get all the information they need to be proficient in the sexual world through such prime time TV shows as ''Dawson Creek,'' which boasts of a character, Jen, who loses her virginity at 12, while drunk, or another favorite show, ''Buffy the Vampire Slayer'', in which Angel, a male vampire, ''turned bad'' after having sex with the 17-year-old Buffy.

What, in the name of common sense, I ask, is going on in this Nation? Why are we letting our kids watch this morally degrading, thoroughly demeaning, junk on the airwaves? Why in heaven's name don't the purveyors of such trash feel any sense of responsibility toward the youth of our nation?

Have the parents of these kids just given up trying to guide and protect them and teach them some sense of moral responsibility about their own bodies? I am afraid I have no answers, only legions of questions about what sort of a society is going to evolve from all of this unhealthy glorification of sex.

I know this much. We have got to find a way to inject some measure of spirituality into our culture, some sort of reverence for something besides erotica, and we have got to find some kind of counterpoint to the cheap, amoral, directionless, thoroughly disgusting popular mores which are blasted daily at our kids over the airwaves.

I believe one thing we could do in this Congress is to find an acceptable way to return prayer to our schools and to encourage religious values in the life of this nation.

A lot of people who believe this have been driven into a closet. They won't say these things probably because they will be viewed as old fuddy-duddies and as being behind the times and old-fashioned and all that. I know of no other course which might provide a strong counterpoint to the hedonistic viewpoint which so dominates everyday American life.

All of our poor children face the prospect of growing up, do they not, with no appreciation of anything but the seamy side of life and no understanding of the spiritual values that so enrich and refine human existence and have played such a vital and important and prominent part in the history of our country, history of our Nation since its beginning?

Does no one worry about the steady diet of crass perversion we are feeding to our youngsters? Surely the American people expect us to address the moral bankruptcy that is eating away at common decency in this Nation. We have spent weeks publicly gnashing our teeth about our children's health. We hear these speeches all the time here about our children's health, and rightly so. Rightly so. And the evils of smoking, and again rightly so. We should. But what about their mental health? What about their spiritual health? I hear little said on these subjects. What about the sexually transmitted diseases which such casual sexual behavior fosters? I tell you, I am worried, and I believe we need to come to grips with the ugly reality of a society that is sliding further into decadence and decay right before our very eyes.

On February 6, of last year, I introduced a constitutional amendment that could foster voluntary prayer in our schools and in public assemblies. I believe that it may do so without doing violence to the prerogatives of those who, as is their right, do not wish to pray. The amendment is simple, and I read it: ''Nothing in this Constitution, or amendments thereto, shall be construed to prohibit or require voluntary prayer in public schools, or to prohibit or require voluntary prayer at public school extracurricular activities.''

I hope that the Judiciary Committee of the Senate—and I urge the Judiciary Committee of the Senate—will at least hold hearings on this matter. I am sure they could find some time on the calendar to hold hearings on this important subject, if not this year, certainly next year.

We have reached a point of crisis in our land, and to continue to ignore the mounting evidence is blatantly irresponsible on the part of those of us who claim to be leaders.

I know that there are concerns about the first amendment, and I hesitate to offer an amendment that would, in effect, amend the first amendment in some respect, but I am worried a great deal more about the destruction of our Nation. As far as I am concerned, if something about the first amendment needed to be modified or changed to save this very Nation, then I am willing to at least discuss it and debate it and make a determination on whether we should. I do not view the first amendment as being absolutely sacrosanct. I am becoming very concerned about the trend that we see happening in this country and about the direction in which the Nation is going and in considerable measure because of some of the interpretations of the Constitution, some of the interpretations of the first amendment that we have seen emanating from our courts.

I urge all Members of the Senate and all parents to read the Time magazine piece and wake up and smell the coffee. The alarm bells are ringing all over America, and we have got to come to grips with what is happening and try to answer the call.

Now, I will not be around on this globe many more years perhaps, but I do have children and I have grandchildren. Incidentally, I have a grandson who acquired his Ph.D. in physics yesterday at the University of Virginia. And he has a brother just 3 years older than himself who secured his Ph.D. in physics from the University of Virginia 3 years ago. So these are outstanding examples of the fine young people we have in this country, wholesome young people. They are not all bad, by any means. Most of them are not. But we do not often enough hear about the good things our young people are doing. They are in the laboratories. They are in the libraries. They are studying, trying to get ahead, and we are not as aware of what they are doing as we are of those who make mistakes, and we all make mistakes, but of those who perhaps are not doing as well.

I am concerned about the future of the Nation. I am concerned for my own posterity's sake, as I say. I do not have the answers. A blind man can see that something bad is happening to our society. One does not have to travel far to find out what is causing a large part of it. One has only to go to the living room and turn on that tube and watch for a day the junk that has been programmed. They will see from what source many of our problems are emanating.

I ask unanimous consent that the article entitled ''Where'd You Learn That?'' be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Time Magazine]

WHERE'D YOU LEARN THAT?—AMERICAN KIDS ARE IN THE MIDST OF THEIR OWN SEXUAL REVOLUTION, ONE LEAVING MANY PARENTS FEELING CONFUSED AND VIRTUALLY POWERLESS

(By Ron Stodghill II)

The cute little couple looked as if they should be sauntering through Great Adventure or waiting in line for tokens at the local arcade. Instead, the 14-year-olds walked purposefully into the Teen Center in suburban Salt Lake City, Utah. They didn't mince words about their reason for stopping in. For quite some time, usually after school and on weekends, the boy and girl had tried to heighten their arousal during sex. Flustered yet determined, the pair wanted advice on the necessary steps that might lead them to a more fulfilling orgasm. His face showing all the desperation of a lost tourist, the boy spoke for both of them when he asked frankly, ''How do we get to the G-spot?''

Whoa. Teen Center nurse Patti Towle admits she was taken aback by the inquiry. She couldn't exactly provide a road map. Even more, the destination was a bit scandalous for a couple of ninth-graders in the heart of Mormon country. But these kids had clearly already gone further sexually than many adults, so Towle didn't waste time preaching the gospel of abstinence. She gave her young adventurers some reading material on the subject, including the classic

women's health book Our Bodies, Ourselves, to help bring them closer in bed. She also brought up the question of whether a G-spot even exists. As her visitors were leaving. Towle offered them more freebies: ''I sent them out the door with a billion condoms.''

G-spots. Orgasms. Condoms. We all know kids say and do the darndest things, but how they have changed! One teacher recalls a 10-year-old raising his hand to ask her to define oral sex. He was quickly followed by an 8-year-old girl behind him who asked, ''Oh, yeah, and what's anal sex?'' These are the easy questions. Ronda Sheared, who teaches sex education in Pinellas County, Fla., was asked by middle school students about the second kweif, which the kids say is the noise a vagina makes during or after sex. ''And how do you keep it from making this noise?''

There is more troubling behavior in Denver. School officials were forced to institute a sexual-harassment policy owing to a sharp rise in lewd language, groping, pinching and bra-snapping incidents among sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders. Sex among kids in Pensacola, Fla., became so pervasive that students of a private Christian junior high school are now asked to sign cards vowing not to have sex until they marry. But the cards don't mean anything, says a 14-year-old boy at the school. ''It's broken promises.''

It's easy enough to blame everything on television and entertainment, even the news. At a Denver middle school, boys rationalize their actions this way: ''If the President can do it, why can't we?'' White House sex scandals are one thing, but how can anyone avoid Viagra and virility? Or public discussions of sexually transmitted diseases like AIDS and herpes? Young girls have lip-synched often enough to Alanis Morissette's big hit of a couple of years ago, You Oughta Know, to have found the sex nestled in the lyric. But it's more than just movies and television and news. Adolescent curiosity about sex is fed by a pandemic openness about it—in the school-yard, on the bus, at home when no adult is watching. Just eavesdrop at the mall one afternoon, and you'll hear enough pubescent sexcapades to pen the next few episodes of Dawson's Creek, the most explicit show on teen sexuality, on the WB network, Parents, always the last to keep up, are now almost totally pre-empted. Chris (not his real name), 13, says his parents talked to him about sex when he was 12 but he had been indoctrinated earlier by a 17-year-old cousin.

In any case, he gets his full share of information from the tube. ''You name the show, and I've heard about it. Jerry Springer, MTV, Dawson's Creek, HBO After Midnight . . .'' Stephanie (not her real name), 16, of North Lauderdale, Fla., who first had sex when she was 14, claims to have slept with five boyfriends and is considered a sex expert by her friends. She says, ''You can learn a lot about sex from cable. It's all mad-sex stuff.'' She sees nothing to condemn. ''If you're feeling steamy and hot, there's only one thing you want to do. As long as you're using a condom, what's wrong with it? Kids have hormones too.''

In these steamy times, it is becoming largely irrelevant whether adults approve of kids' sowing their oats—or knowing so much about the technicalities of the dissemination. American adolescents are in the midst of their own kind of sexual revolution—one that has left many parents feeling confused, frightened and almost powerless. Parents can search all they want for common ground with today's kids, trying to draw parallels between contemporary carnal knowledge and an earlier generation's free-love crusades, but the two movements are quite different. A desire to break out of the old-fashioned strictures fueled the '60s movement, and its participants made sexual freedom a kind of new religion. That sort of reverence has been replaced by a more consumerist attitude. In a 1972 cover story, TIME declared, ''Teenagers generally are woefully ignorant about sex.'' Ignorance is no longer the rule. As a weary junior high counselor in Salt Lake City puts it, ''Teens today are almost nonchalant about sex. It's like we've been to the moon too many times.''

The good news about their precocious knowledge of the mechanics of sex is that a growing number of teens know how to protect themselves, at least physically. But what about their emotional health and social behavior? That's a more troublesome picture. Many parents and teachers—as well as some thoughtful teenagers—worry about the desecration of love and the subversion of mature relationships. Says Debra Haffner, president of the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States: ''We should not confuse kids' pseudo-sophistication about sexuality and their ability to use the language with their understanding of who they are as sexual young people or their ability to make good decisions.''

One ugly side effect is a presumption among many adolescent boys that sex is an entitlement—an attitude that fosters a breakdown of respect for oneself and others. Says a seventh-grade girl: ''The guy will ask you up front. If you turn him down, you're a bitch. But if you do it, you're a ho. The guys are after us all the time, in the halls, everywhere. You scream, 'Don't touch me!'' but it doesn't do any good.'' A Rhode Island Rape Center study of 1,700 sixth- and ninth-graders found 65% boys and 57% of girls believing it acceptable for a male to force a female to have sex if they've been dating for six months.

Parents who are aware of this cultural revolution seem mostly torn between two approaches: preaching abstinence or suggesting prophylactics—and thus condoning sex. Says Cory Hollis, 37, a father of three in the Salt Lake City area: ''I don't want to see my teenage son ruin his life. But if he's going to do it, I told him that I'd go out and get him the condoms myself.'' Most parents seem too squeamish to get into the subtleties of instilling sexual ethics. Nor are schools up to the job of moralizing. Kids say they accept their teachers' admonitions to have safe sex but tune out other stuff. ''The personal-development classes are a joke,'' says Sarah, 16, of Pensacola. ''Even the teacher looks uncomfortable. There is no way anybody is going to ask a serious question.'' Says Shana, a 13-year-old from Denver: ''A lot of it is old and boring. They'll talk about not having sex before marriage, but no one listens. I use that class for study hall.''

Shana says she is glad ''sex isn't so taboo now, I mean with all the teenage pregnancies.'' But she also says that ''it's creepy and kind of scary that it seems to be happening so early, and all this talk about it.'' She adds, ''Girls are jumping too quickly. They figure if they can fall in love in a month, then they can have sex in a month too.'' When she tried discouraging a classmate from having sex for the first time, the friend turned to her and said, ''My God, Shana. It's just sex.''

Three powerful forces have shaped today's child prodigies: a prosperous information age that increasingly promotes proudcts and entertains audiences by titillation; aggressive public-policy initiatives that loudly preach sexual responsibility, further desensitizing kids to the subject; and the decline of two-parent households, which leaves adolescents with little supervision. Thus kids are not only bombarded with messages about sex—many of them contradictory—but also have more private time to engage in it than did previous generations. Today more than half of the females and three-quarters of the males ages 15 to 19 have experienced sexual intercourse, according to the Commission on Adolescent Sexual Health. And while the average age at first intercourse has come down only a year since 1970 (currently it's 17 for girls and 16 for boys), speed is of the essence for the new generation. Says Haffner: ''If kids today are going to do more than kiss, they tend to move very quickly toward sexual intercourse.''

The remarkable—and in ways lamentable—product of youthful promiscuity and higher sexual IQ is the degree to which kids learn to navigate the complex hypersexual world that reaches our seductively to them at every turn. One of the most positive results: the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases and of teen age pregnancy is declining. Over the past few years, kids have managed to chip away at the teenage birthrate, which in 1991 peaked at 62.1 births per 1,000 females. Since then the birthrate has dropped 12%, to 54.7. Surveys suggest that as many as two-thirds of teenagers now use condoms, a proportion that is three times as high as reported in the 1970s. ''We're clearly starting to make progress,'' says Dr. John Santelli, a physician with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's division of adolescent and school health. ''And the key statistics bear that out.'' Even if they've had sex, many kinds are learning to put off having more till later; they are also making condom use during intercourse nonnegotiable; and, remarkably, the fleeting pleasures of lust may even be wising up some of them to a greater appreciation of love.

For better or worse, sex-filled television helps shape young opinion. In Chicago, Ryan, an 11-year-old girl, intently watches a scene from one of her favorite TV dramas, *Dawson's Creek*. She listens as the character Jen, who lost her virginity at 12 while drunk, confesses to her new love, Dawson, ''Sex doesn't equal happiness. I can't apologize for my past.'' Ryan is quick to defend Jen. ''I think she was young, but if I were Dawson, I would believe she had changed. She acts totally different now.'' But Ryan is shocked by an episode of her other favorite show, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, in which Angel, a male vampire, ''turned bad'' after having sex with the 17-year-old Buffy. ''That kinda annoyed me,'' says Ryan. ''What would have happened if she had had a baby? Her whole life would have been thrown out the window.'' As for the fallen Angel: ''I am so mad! I'm going to take all my pictures of him down now.''

Pressed by critics and lobbies, television has begun to include more realistic story lines about sex and its possible consequences. TV writers and producers are turning to groups like the Kaiser Family Foundation, an independent health-policy think tank, for help in adding more depth and accuracy to stories involving sex. Kaiser has consulted on daytime soaps General Hospital and One Life to Live as well as the prime time drama ER on subjects ranging from teen pregnancy to coming to terms with a gay high school athlete. Says Matt James, a Kaiser senior vice president: ''We're trying to work with them to improve the public-health content of their shows.''

And then there's real-life television. MTV's Loveline, an hour-long Q.-and-A. show featuring sex guru Drew Pinsky (see accompanying story), in drawing raves among teens for its informative sexual content. Pinsky seems to be almost idolized by some youths. ''Dr. Drew has some excellent advice,'' says Keri, an eighth-grader in Denver. ''It's not just sex, it's real life. Society makes you say you've got to look at shows like Baywatch, but I'm sick of blond bimbos. They're so fake. Screenwriters ought to get a life.''

With so much talk of sex in the air, the extinction of the hapless, sexually naive kid seems an inevitability. Indeed, kids today as young as seven to 10 are picking up the first details of sex even in Saturday-morning cartoons. Brett, a 14-year-old in Denver, says it doesn't matter to him whether his parents chat with him about sex or not because he gets so much from TV. Whenever he's curious about something sexual, he channel-surfs his way to certainty. ''If you watch TV, they've got everything you want to know,'' he says. ''That's how I learned to kiss, when I was eight. And the girl told me, 'Oh, you sure know how to do it.'''

Even if kids don't watch certain television shows, they know the programs exist and are bedazzled by the forbidden. From schoolyard word of mouth, eight-year-old Jeff in Chicago has heard all about the foul-mouthed kids in the raunchily plotted South Park, and even though he has never seen the show, he can describe certain episodes in detail. (He is also familiar with the AIDS theme of the musical Rent because he's heard the CD over and over.) Argentina, 16, in Detroit, says, ''TV makes sex look like this big game.'' Her friend Michael, 17, adds, 'They make sex look like Monopoly or something. You have to do it in order to get to the next level.''

Child experts say that by the time many kids hit adolescence, they have reached a point where they aren't particularly obsessed with sex but have grown to accept the notion that solid courtships—or at least strong physical attractions—potentially lead to sexual intercourse. Instead of denying it, they get an early start preparing for it—and playing and perceiving the roles prescribed for them. In Nashville, 10-year-old Brantley whispers about a classmate, ''There's this girl I know, she's nine years old, and she already shaves her legs and plucks her eyebrows, and I've heard she's had sex. She even has bigger boobs than my mom!''

The playacting can eventually lead to discipline problems at school. Alan Skriloff, assistant superintendent of personnel and curriculum for New Jersey's North Brunswick school system, notes that there has been an increase in mock-sexual behavior in buses carrying students to school. He insists there have been no incidents of sexual assault but, he says, ''we've deal with kids simulating sexual intercourse and simulating masturbation. It's very disturbing to the other children and to the parents, obviously.'' Though Skriloff says that girls are often the initiators of such conduct, in most school districts the aggressors are usually boys.

Nan Stein, a senior researcher at the Wesley College Center for Research on Women, believes sexual violence and harassment is on the rise in schools, and she says, ''It's happening between kids who are dating or want to be dating or used to date.'' Linda Osmundson, executive director of the Center Against Spouse Abuse in St. Petersburg, Fla., notes that ''it seems to be coming down to younger and younger girls who feel that if they don't pair up with these guys, they'll have no position in their lives. They are pressured into lots of sexual activity.'' In this process of socialization, ''no'' is becoming less and less an option.

In such a world, schools focus on teaching scientific realism rather than virginity. Sex-Ed teachers tread lightly on the moral questions of sexual intimacy while going heavy on the risk of pregnancy or a sexually transmitted disease. Indeed, health educators in some school districts complain that teaching abstinence to kids today is getting to be a futile exercise. Using less final terms like ''postpone'' or ''delay'' helps draw some kids in, but semantics often isn't the problem. In a Florida survey, the state found that 75% of kids had experienced sexual intercourse by the time they reached 12th grade, with some 20% of the kids having had six or more sexual partners. Rick Colonno, father of a 16-year-old son and 14-year-old daughter in Arvada, Colo., views sex ed in schools as a necessary evil to fill the void that exists in many homes. Still, he's bothered by what he sees as a subliminal endorsement of sex by authorities. ''What they're doing,'' he says, ''is preparing you for sex and then saying, 'But don't have it.'''

With breathtaking pragmatism, kids look for ways to pursue their sex life while avoiding pregnancy or disease. Rhonda Sheared, the Florida sex-ed teacher, says a growing number of kids are asking questions about oral and anal sex because they've discovered that it allows them to be sexually active without risking pregnancy. As part of the Pinellas County program, students in middle and high school write questions anonymously, and, as Sheared says, ''they're always looking for the loophole.''

A verbatim sampling of some questions:

''Can you get AIDS from fingering a girl it you have no cuts? Through your fingernails?''

''Can you get AIDS from '69'?''

''If you shave your vagina or penis, can that get rid of crabs?''

''If yellowish stuff comes out of a girl, does it mean you have herpes, or can it just happen if your period is due, along with abdominal pains?''

''When sperm hits the air, does it die or stay alive for 10 days?''

Ideally, most kids say, they would prefer their parents do the tutoring, but they realize that's unlikely. For years psychologists and sociologists have warned about a new generation gap, one created not so much by different morals and social outlooks as by career-driven parents, the economic necessity of two incomes leaving parents little time for talks with their children. Recent studies indicate that many teens think parents are the most accurate source of information and would like to talk to them more about sex and sexual ethics but can't get their attention long enough. Shana sees the conundrum this way: ''Parents haven't set boundaries, but they are expecting them.''

Yet some parents are working harder to counsel their kids on sex. Cathy Wolf, 29, of North Wales, Pa., says she grew up learning about sex largely from her friends and from reading controversial books. Open-minded and proactive, she says she has returned to a book she once sought out for advice, Judy Blume's novel Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret, and is reading it to her two boys, 8 and 11. The novel discusses the awkwardness of adolescence, including sexual stirrings. ''That book was forbidden to me as a kid,'' Wolf says. ''I'm hoping to give them a different perspective about sex, to expose them to this kind of subject matter before they find out about it themselves.'' Movies and television are a prod and a challenge to Wolf. In Grease, which is rated PG and was recently re-released, the character Rizzo ''says something about 'sloppy seconds,' you know, the fact that a guy wouldn't want to do it with a girl who had just done it with another guy. There's also another point where they talk about condoms. Both Jacob and Joel wanted an explanation, so I provided it for them.''

Most kids, though, lament that their parents aren't much help at all on sexual matters. They either avoid the subject, miss the mark by starting the discussion too long before or after the sexual encounter, or just plain stonewall them. ''I was nine when I asked my mother the Big Question,'' says Michael, in Detroit. ''I'll never forget. She took out her driver's license and pointed to the line about male or female. 'That is sex,' she said.'' Laurel, a 17-year-old in Murfreesboro, Tenn., wishes her parents had taken more time with her to shed light on the subject. When she was six and her sister was nine, ''my mom sat us down, and we had the sex talk,'' Laurel says. ''But when I was 10, we moved in with my dad, and he never talked about it. He would leave the room if a commercial for a feminine product came on TV.'' And when her sister finally had sex, at 16, even her mother's vaunted openness crumbled. ''She talked to my mom about it and ended up feeling like a whore because even though my mom always said we could talk to her about anything, she didn't want to hear that her daughter had slept with a boy.''

Part of the problem for many adults is that they aren't quite sure how they feel about teenage sex. A third of adults think adolescent sexual activity is wrong, while a majority of adults think it's O.K. and, under certain conditions, normal, healthy behavior, according to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, a nonprofit, reproductive-health research group. In one breath, parents say they perceive it as a public-health issue and want more information about sexual behavior and its consequences, easier access to contraceptives and more material in the media about responsible human and sexual interaction. And in the next breath, they claim it's a moral issue to be resolved through preaching abstinence and the virtues of virginity and getting the trash off TV. ''You start out talking about condoms in this country, and you end up fighting about the future of the American family,'' say Sarah Brown, director of the Campaign Against Teen Pregnancy. ''Teens just end up frozen like a deer in headlights.''

Not all kids are happy with television's usurping the role of village griot. Many say they've become bored by—and even sent—sexual themes that seem pointless and even a distraction from the information or entertainment they're seeking. ''It's like everywhere,'' says Ryan, a 13-year-old seventh-grader in Denver, ''even in *Skateboarding* [magazine]. It's become so normal it doesn't even affect you. On TV, out of nowhere, they'll begin talking about masturbation.'' Another Ryan, 13, in the eighth grade at the same school, agrees: ''There's sex in the cartoons and messed-up people on the talk shows—'My lover sleeping with my best friend,' I can remember the jumping-condom ads. There's just too much of it all.''

Many kids are torn between living up to a moral code espoused by their church and parents and trying to stay true to the swirling laissez-faire. Experience is making many sadder but wiser. The shame, anger or even indifference stirred by early sex an lead to prolonged abstinence. Chandra, a 17-year-old in Detroit, says she had sex with a boyfriend of two years for the first time at 15 despite her mother's constant pleas against it. She says she wishes she had heeded her mother's advice ''One day I just decided to do it,'' she says. ''Afterward, I was kind of mad that I let it happen. And I was sad because I knew my mother wouldn't have approved.'' Chandra stopped dating the boy more than a year ago and hasn't had sex since. ''It would have to be someone I really cared about,'' she says. ''I've had sex before, but I'm not a slut.''

With little guidance from grownups, teens have had to discover for themselves that the ubiquitous sexual messages must be tempered with caution and responsibility. It is quite clear, even to the most sexually experienced youngsters, just how dangerous a little information can be. Stephanie in North Lauderdale, who lost her virginity two years ago, watches with concern as her seven-year-

old sister moves beyond fuzzy thoughts of romance inspired by *Cinderella or Aladdin* into sexual curiosity. ''She's always talking about pee-pees, she sees somebody on TV kissing and hugging or something, and she says, 'Oh, they had sex,' I think she's going to find out about this stuff before I did.'' She pauses. ''We don't tell my sister anything,'' she says, ''but she's not a naive child.''

Mr. BYRD. I yield the floor.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, July 22, 1998, the federal debt stood at $5,536,743,281,758.09 (Five trillion, five hundred thirty-six billion, seven hundred forty-three million, two hundred eighty-one thousand, seven hundred fifty-eight dollars and nine cents).

One year ago, July 22, 1997, the federal debt stood at $5,366,067,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred sixty-six billion, sixty-seven million).

Five years ago, July 22, 1993, the federal debt stood at $4,340,981,000,000 (Four trillion, three hundred forty billion, nine hundred eighty-one million).

Ten years ago, July 22, 1988, the federal debt stood at $2,552,070,000,000 (Two trillion, five hundred fifty-two billion, seventy million) which reflects a debt increase of nearly $3 trillion—$2,984,673,281,758.09 (Two trillion, nine hundred eighty-four billion, six hundred seventy-three million, two hundred eighty-one thousand, seven hundred fifty-eight dollars and nine cents) during the past 10 years.

RECOGNITION OF NEWT HEISLEY

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I begin my statement today describing a powerful and emotional sight that moves us to the core of our faith and beliefs about America and about those who have served in the Armed Forces of our nation.

Many of us have visited one or more of the military academies that train our future military leaders. These academies have varied missions and yet all of them share in the critical task of developing leaders for their particular service and our country. On the grounds of each academy is a chapel, a spectacular place that at once identifies itself as a place of worship.

In each chapel, a place has been reserved for the Prisoners of War and the Missing in Action from their particular branch of service. A pew has been set aside and marked by a candle, a powerful, symbolic reminder that not all have returned from battle. This hallowed place has been set aside so that all POWs and MIAs are remembered with the dignity and honor they deserve. It is a moving and emotional moment to pause at this reserved pew, to be encouraged by the burning candle, to recall the valor and sacrifice of those soldiers, sailors or pilots, and to be inspired today by what they have done.

Back in 1970, a wife of a soldier missing in action made a simple request to have a flag designed for a small group of families whose loved ones were prisoners or missing in action in Southeast Asia. As a member of the National League of Families she felt the organization needed a symbol. This symbol, a black and white flag, with a silhouette of a bowed head set against a guard tower and a single strand of barb wire, was designed by Newt Heisley.

Congress has officially recognized the National League of Families POW/MIA flag. This flag has become a powerful symbol to all Americans that we have not forgotten—and will not forget. Since its creation, the flag has flown over numerous state and federal buildings, and has even been adopted by similar organizations in Kuwait, Chechnya, Bosnia, and other countries.

Newt Heisley made the sketch of this symbol over a couple of days in a New Jersey advertising studio, never imagining the impact the design he created almost 27 years ago would have. Mr. Heisley used the inspiration of his ill son returning from Marine training at Quantico, Virginia for the silhouette. Otherwise the flag was just a quick sketch that wasn't even supposed to be black and white. Mr. Heisley planned on adding colors but the black and white motif remained.

Mr. Heisley, first realized how popular the symbol had become when he moved to Colorado Springs in 1972. Only two years after he made the design he was touring the Air Force Academy when he saw the flag on display at the visitors center. Today, the flag is a national symbol that is seen on everything from ball caps to bumper stickers.

A veteran of World War II, Mr. Heisley knows of the importance of his design. We must never forget those who gave their lives for our country. Mr. Heisley never felt the need to profit from the POW/MIA flag design. The image was never copyrighted and today is used by many companies and organizations. Mr. Heisley was simply glad to create a symbol that honors veterans and the sacrifices they made for our country and freedom.

Mr. President, the United States has fought in many wars and thousands of Americans who served in those wars were captured by the enemy or listed as missing in action. In 20th Century wars alone, more than 147,000 Americans were captured and became Prisoners of War; of that number more than 15,000 died while in captivity. When we add to this number those who are still missing in action, we realize the tremendous importance of their presence through the POW/MIA flag. The POW/MIA flag is a forceful reminder that we care not only for them, but also for their families who personally carry with them the burden of sacrifice. We want them to know that they do not stand alone, that we stand with them and beside them, and remember the loyalty and devotion of those who served.

As a veteran who served in Korea, I personally know that the remembrance of another's sacrifice in battle is one of the highest and most noble acts we can offer. Newt Heisley has inspired this remembrance and honor and I thank him, personally, for this tremendous symbol that shall endure forever.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:32 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 1260. An act to amend the Securities Act of 1933 and Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to limit the conduct of securities class actions under State law, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 6) to extend the authorization of programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints the following Members as the managers of the conference on the part of the House:

For consideration of the House bill (except section 464), and Senate amendment (except sections 484 and 799C), and modifications committed to conference: Mr. GOODLING, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. PETRI, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. CLAY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MARTINEZ, and Mr. ANDREWS.

For consideration of section 464 of the House bill, and sections 484 and 799 C of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. GOODLING, Mr. TALENT, Mr. SHAW, Mr. CAMP, AND Mr. LEVIN.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3616) to authorize appropriations for fiscal 1999 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints the following Members as the managers of the conference on the part of the House:

From the Committee on National Security, for consideration of the House bill, and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. SPENCE, Mr. STUMP, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. KASICH, Mr. BATEMAN, Mr. HANSEN, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. BUYER, Mrs. FOWLER, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. JONES, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. RILEY, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. SISISKY, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. PICKETT, Mr.