



Jocelyn Krieger

My children could teach the sex ed course

Why worry about explaining sex to children? Kids have all the answers.

At least mine do. They manage to reveal their knowledge only in public places when they have the world for an audience.

It must show I offer a tremendous amount of security as a mother. Otherwise, these kids would fear abandonment.

Sitting in a crowded doctor's waiting room, my then 10-year-old daughter Evelyn once asked me a question that lifted everyone's eyes from their magazines.

"Do I have to take the pill when I'm 14 so I won't get pregnant?"

Quietly engaging her in further discussion, I discovered Evelyn had read a newspaper article dealing with the subject of teen-age pregnancy. To this 10-year-old, "getting pregnant" was something like getting the mumps or measles.

ONLY A FEW years before this scenario, Evelyn

had caused me to sit immobile with fear as all eyes turned in her direction.

"Let's play having a baby!" my darling suggested to her brother, throwing her body supine on the floor.

I wished the chair had a trap door and would swallow me into the floor. Just as I was about to grab my daughter, I realized they were only practicing natural childbirth exercises for breathing.

Once I nearly left a doctor's office without them. As I entered the waiting room from the examination area, I encountered an anatomy lesson in progress.

"There!" Evelyn pointed while both boys pulled up their shirts and edged their pants below waist level. "There is where you were connected to Mommy."

They stared at their belly buttons with fascination, as did everyone else in the waiting room.

AS A 10-YEAR-OLD, Evelyn always seemed to

assume sex education was her responsibility.

Visiting the State Fair that year, I temporarily "lost" three children. Then I heard a familiar small voice leading what sounded like a lecture tour.

"Look at that big pig," Evelyn instructed her younger brothers.

The boys moved forward for a closer view of a fat sow, lying on her side, grunting away while surrounded by squealing, nursing piglets.

A fair-sized crowd of people also became interested. Evelyn threw in the clincher: "I want you to see how Mamma fed you boys when you were babies."

The teen years didn't inhibit Evelyn. Most memorable was her very audible comment made when passing a drugstore display of baby bottles. Noting the formula kits labeled "The Nurser Most Like Mother Herself," Evelyn exclaimed, "Gee, that doesn't look a thing like you, Mom!"

OUR SECOND daughter Shoshana continued Evelyn's tradition. Shoshi was 6 when she seized a

supermarket expedition as the ideal time to tutor her younger brother about sexual identity.

The new baby slept soundly in a cloth baby carrier strapped to my chest. Side by side, the two children helped me maneuver the shopping cart between busy shoppers.

"The baby won't find out if he's a boy or girl until he goes to shul (synagogue)," Shoshi informed Avram.

"That's not so," protested Avram. "How's he gonna find out if he's a boy or girl when he goes to shul?"

Before I could gag Shoshi she answered, "If he sits on the side with Mamma and the ladies, he's a girl. If he sits on the side with Daddy and the men, he's a boy."

It wouldn't faze me if the school sent home a note announcing sex education classes. My kids would probably be teaching the course.

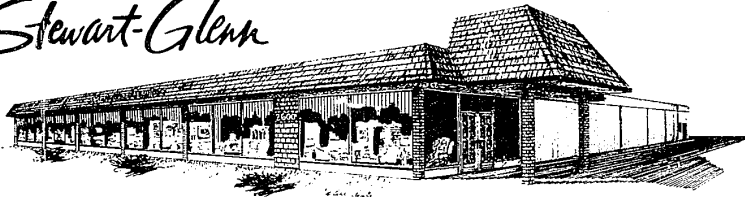
Jocelyn Krieger is a Southfield resident, music teacher and actress in broadcast commercials.

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