

Sex Education At The U. Of M. Medical School 1967 Politics 2012

I arrived at the University of Michigan as an undergrad in the fall of 1961. The boys lived on one side of the campus and the girls on the other side. The billiards room in the Michigan Union did not allow girls, nor were they allowed in the study hall across the hall. The cheer leaders for the football team were all men, and the same for the world famous Michigan Marching Band. The co-eds had a 10:00 P.M. curfew on week nights and 11:00 on Saturday night. Undergrad girls were restricted to living in the dorms or sororities. On the first day we were told that expulsion was the punishment if you were caught with a girl in your room. Cigarette smoking was pervasive. Reefers had not yet arrived at the "U". It cost \$0.15 for men to rent a towel and take a swim in the Michigan Union swimming pool. Bathing suits were not allowed, and I was warned that the non-swimmers were there to take some free looks. Boys entertained themselves by going on panty raids. All this was tradition, and it dated back many years. On the surface all was well and change was not anticipated.

However, the sixties had arrived and change was coming whether the "U" wanted it or was ready. JFK was the president. He has not stood the test of time concerning greatness, but he represented youth, change, and sexual energy. The birth control pill was approved by the FDA in 1960, and it started the sexual revolution. The Vietnam War slowly heated up. Agitators, protesters, and hippies were one result of the war. They caused unrest and change.

After three years of undergrad I entered The University of Michigan Medical School in the fall of 1964. The curriculum was the traditional two years of basic science followed by two clinical years. The first two years were uneventful. I learned a lot of basic science. The lectures and teachers were very good. The students were top notch. We were told our class was the brightest to date. Ten percent or about 20 of the 210 students were female, a record number. During the third year at the VA Hospital I saw a lot of old cantankerous emphysematous World War I Vets smoking Camels. They all stated their shortness of breath was due to being gassed in WWI. I asked them about France, and they stated they never left the States. My Ob-Gyn training was at Wayne County General Hospital. It was brand new and air conditioned. During my two weeks of Gynecological Surgery the OR was down due to a lack of clean linens. Every day we would see the septic girls in the ER who fell down while pregnant, and somehow presented with a uterus stuffed with gauze. The police were never called to investigate the back alley butches who performed those terrible abortions. The Ob patients were youngsters with multiple pregnancies and no prenatal care. "What about birth control."

In 1967, the third year, the med students were getting restless, rebellious, and tired of going to lectures. At the time there was talk amongst the students that we had not

received any sex education in medical school. We knew that big sexual changes were taking place, and felt that we were missing the excitement and the knowledge due to the traditional medical school curriculum. The psychiatry lectures had started, and were poorly attended. The lecturing psychiatrist had a brilliant idea on how to increase the attendance at his lecture. He let it be known that his lecture on a certain date would be all about sex. Excitement returned to the medical school.

The lecture hall was packed for the big sex lecture. The moment of titillation arrived as the great psychiatric sex educator strode to the lectern. He then spoke. "All of you will encounter many sexual things during your course of practice. Some may rub you the wrong way and go against your moral values. Unless violence is involved, it is not your role to make a moral judgment." That was his main message. He then followed with a word about homosexuals. He said, "Consider giving heterosexuals psychotherapy to turn them into homosexuals."

The stunned students looked at each other. "That's it. We came to hear this about sex." The psychiatrist then gave the grand finale. "What is the best position for sexual intercourse he asked? Any position that works." He then turned off the lights and projected many photos of couples in various positions. His comment was the same for each photo. "They look happy. It works."

At the height of the 2012 political season what do I make of my experiences and the 1967 sex lecture. I remember the lecture because the psychiatrist knew how to deliver a very simple message. Be tolerant and accepting was his message. There is more than one correct set of ways concerning sexual activity. Respect the individual. It is not our role to pass judgment unless violence is perpetrated.

The 1960s were a time of great change. The psychiatrist got it right and delivered a great lecture for the 1960s, and for all time.

Unfortunately, certain Republican politicians, Governor Snyder and Representative Tom McMillin, who subsequently attended the accounting school at the University of Michigan did not get the message of that 1960s lecture. They know their numbers, but what about sex and the individual. They are uncomfortable with the subject. Governor Snyder has stated many times that he has no social agenda. His actions indicate that he is merely following Representative McMillin, and acquiescing to the far right conservative social agenda. The accounting school should include in its curriculum a few good psychiatric lectures. When I debated Tom McMillin in 2008 he stated he was a great accountant and read accounting ledgers before bedtime.

My campaign is about the sanctity of the individual. I want the government to respect the individual and not abuse the individual or allow others to abuse the individual. You will only gain respect if you empower yourself through the democratic process by electing officials who will honor and respect you as an individual and demand the same from your government. I am the only candidate proposing constitutional changes to our state government that will empower the individual and enable you to gain respect from your government.

Ted Golden, M.D.

I know something about numbers. I got an “A” in calculus at the University of Michigan. My son got married in 2011 in the old segregated study hall in the Michigan Union, the room across the hall from the once segregated billiards room. At the wedding the girls looked great in the old study hall. Many positive changes have occurred since I started at the “U”. The *Golden Legal Oversight Amendment*, a Michigan constitutional amendment to have an independently elected board police the Michigan legal system instead of the Michigan Supreme Court, will be a very positive change for you, Michigan, and the country.

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