

# GOAL: Psychosexually Functional Heterosexual Parent

**Sexual Signatures: On Being a Man or a Woman**, John Money and Patricia Tucker, Little, Brown, Boston. 250 pp. \$6.95

*A Review by Dennise Brown*

*Sexual Signatures* is a "layperson's guide" to the most recent conclusions about the relationship between sex and gender — and as any transsexual will have explained over and over, they are *not* the same. A basic discovery in this research is that there are not two roads to maturity (one female, one male) but that there is one road with many gates — at *each* gate, we incline toward either the female or the male. We *become* female or male by stages, learning bits of gender-appropriate behavior as we go. Most people consistently turn in either just the female or just the male direction at each gate on this road of psychosexual development — but it is those of us who do not who have made these studies possible! Mr. Money says that if you're "normal" you proceed along this road, passing through each gate properly (consistently female or consistently male, whichever matches your chromosomal and genital pattern) and ultimately reach Goal: You Are A Mature, Psychosexually Functional Heterosexual Parent. The idea that you may not even *want* to reach Goal isn't considered.

And yet there are contradictions in the book. Mr. Money deploras sexist

language at length in one chapter — but throughout the book the male is always mentioned first, the female second, if at all. There's a chapter on

male genitals, additional hormones are needed (without added androgen, all babies would appear to be female, even if chromosomally male). The most

the age of 3 or 4 years — by this time, *you* know if you're a girl or a boy (even if you disagree with the rest of the world). Later you learn what behavior is expected both of your sex and the opposite; and ultimately, you learn sexual attraction (to the opposite sex only, Money hopes).

Money thoroughly defines hermaphroditism, homosexuality, transsexuality, and transvestism. He includes a brief history of homosexuality, defining it as "erotic response to individuals with the same kind of external sexual anatomy as oneself...(which) may or may not include overt homosexual behavior and physical contact." *Sexual Signatures* concludes with the chapters on those who are happy with something other than Goal — men's-, women's-, and gay-liberationists; "pioneers" seeking different lifestyles and forms of sexual expression for young people, old people, married and single people. Money then summarizes the challenge all this change offers to the present society.

*Sexual Signatures* is maddening at times (you will surely disagree with parts of it — and he does only seem to have met transsexuals who wish to stay within current sex stereotypes) but still it merits reading. We need to know the latest research the straight medical world has come up with (after all, they could use it against us as easily as for us) and we need to know what picture the straight world is being given of those of us who are "different."



"pioneers" — people working for liberation of women, men, gay people, etc. — that is admiring in tone — but through the rest of the book, Goal is assumed to be right for all. And the basic contradiction is that if everyone chose the proper gates, this research would never have been done!

Some of these critical 'gates' take place before birth — first your chromosomal sex is established at conception, then if you are to have

crucial 'gate' occurs when you're born and permanently labelled "girl" or "boy" because this begins the long and complex process in which the people around you *treat* you as a girl or a boy. This fact is entered on your birth certificate, and even your name probably announces to strangers which sex you've been assigned. Actually, Money believes that the gender identity gate usually stays open for a year or so after birth, but is almost always closed by