

## **Dr. Mary Calderone lectures on "What Made You the Sexual Person You Are Today" as part of the Simon and Helen Edison Forum**

**March 24, 1981**

Dr. Mary Calderone, president and co-founder of the Sex Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS), will present a free public lecture as part of the Simon and Helen Edison Forum Tuesday, March 31, at the University of California, San Diego.

Dr. Calderone will speak on "What Made You the Sexual Person You Are Today" at 8:15 p.m. in the Revelle Cafeteria.

Considered a pioneer on behalf of sex education in the public schools, Dr. Calderone has worked in the field of public health since she received her M.D. from the University of Rochester in 1939.

As medical director of the Planned Parenthood Foundation of America, a position she held from 1953 until 1964, she was a crusader for birth control and family planning as a public health measure.

During her years at Planned Parenthood, Dr. Calderone became increasingly aware of the widespread confusion and anguish caused by sexual ignorance. Through questions asked at public lectures and in private correspondences, Dr. Calderone became convinced that people were in need of an information source which could help them with their sexual problems.

"They were desperate for information on how to teach children about sexual behavior, how to handle out-of-wedlock pregnancies, questions of this sort," she says. "The terrible accumulation of their guilt and anxiety was deeply disturbing."

SIECUS was founded in 1964. Part of the stated purpose of the agency is "to promote man's sexuality as a health entity," a mission which includes promoting sex education in the school system and lobbying for public and private support of research on sexuality and human reproduction.

Dr. Calderone is the co-author of "The Family Book About Sexuality" and "Questions and Answers About Sex and Love." She is an honorary life member of the American Medical Association and she holds a number of honorary degrees and honors.

Dr. Calderone is speaking as part of a lecture series funded through a gift by Mrs. Helen Edison, widow of Simon Edison. The lecture series was established with the intent of bringing the community and the campus together on topics of common interest.

For more information contact: Leslie Franz, 452-3120

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