

Family Magazine

I was highly amused to read Joy Gargett's predictably hysterical comments on my letter (June *Mensa*) about "adult" matters and the youth of some of our members. Joy's letter (Aug/Sept) is more a personal rebuke than a genuine criticism, so I feel I must put the facts straight.

She accuses me of wishing to see *Mensa* reduced to a state of "kiddies rule, OK". This is not my intention. My argument is that the *Mensa* magazine should be 'fit' for children to read, as they do, without coming across articles of such subject matter that they may yet be too young to be exposed to.

The magazine should, of course, remain an 'adult' publication but this does not mean it should preclude itself from family readership. I can name a dozen or more journals and serious daily newspapers, all of which are intended for an adult only readership. However, they contain no material that would cause offence if it should happen to be read by a minor.

Transvestism is a fascinating subject and along with other sexual phenomenon undoubtedly deserves further discussion and research. However, the place to hold such forum is not within the pages of a family magazine.

I suggest that those such as JG who wish to indulge in more perverse (sic) debate should form a Special Interest Group, open only to members over the age of sixteen perhaps, where in such matters, as would not befit the pages of *Mensa*, its readership composed as it is of the young and the unsolicited, could be raised.

I hope this has helped to clear my name since I would not like to be branded as a prude or a would-be censor. I merely wished to remind the editors of this journal of their responsibility to *all* the members who read it, and I hope that if such matters are raised again that they are dealt with in a more academic and neutral manner rather than appearing as an open invitation to indulge.

Sexuality is a difficult bag to handle, when we are young especially, and it is surrounded by myth and emotion—little to do with intelligence (therefore, although I acknowledge the importance of sexual

phenomenon as an area of debate—I do question its 'active' association with this society).

I would not like to think of our younger members slipping into "fishnets" before even leaving their nappies!

Graeme Sutherland
1 Tomlins Avenue
Frimley
Camberley
Surrey GU16 5LJ