

## **SEXUAL POLITICS**

### **Introduction**

I have selected the articles in this issue in order to give readers an opportunity to look at an inner and an outer world approach to personal growth and change, with particular regards to the issues of power and control in personal relationships. As Sheila Young points out, there was a time when it was heretical for someone in the Women's Movement to admit to an interest in therapy. It was the world out there that needed changing! And yet how difficult it can be to move in ways that may be counter cultural without the support and encouragement of a therapeutic situation.. The growth of feminist consciousness has meant that women in particular have met their sexual and emotional needs. We know that Freud never comprehended the needs of women and would have regarded most feminist demands as evidence of maladjustment. Many of us would see this maladjustment as evidence of health and would validate the woman who is maladjusted to a patriarchal society. At the same time we would wish to give support and insight when she flounders in the space between political and personal solutions. It is vital to recognize that the intellectually satisfying solution may conflict with emotional needs which are built on a more complex base and I hope this issue may go some way towards exploring a resolution of this conflict.

I realize that the articles represent the views of women more than those of men and I am aware that both men and women are making changes in the politics of their relationships. I can only say that this leaves room for a further issue where we give more attention to men and the changes they are experiencing and making.

**Mary Charleton**