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I have always admired the title Senator Fulbright used for one of his books: *Old Myths and New Realities*. It says a good deal to me about current brain-crunching problems that are so refractory. While entangled in the old myths, we are unable to attack the new realities. Nowhere is this so apparent as it is in education. We may talk about new methods in the classroom, but the *idea* of the classroom remains inviolate.

Everett Reimer is one of those few, like Ivan Illich and John Holt, who have been able to escape the old myth. He has written a fascinating, thought-provoking book called *SCHOOL IS DEAD: Alternatives in Education*. Reimer is against traditional schools, which he feels impede true learning. He argues for universal access to knowledge, ways for children to learn without the deadening influence of an arbitrary and graded curriculum. And he suggests a number of new approaches that shook me out of my Calvinist notion that a structured school is the only desirable one. *SCHOOL IS DEAD* has made me see that there are many effective ways to get an education, and that the antiquated system we now employ may be the least productive and most expensive of those ways.

We have some interesting advance comments on *SCHOOL IS DEAD*. Jonathan Kozol, author of *Death at an Early Age*, wrote us: "Reimer has composed a revolutionary statement but his voice remains the calm and steadfast voice of scholar, humanist, man of reason." John Holt said: "Reimer points out how the worldwide institution of universal schooling both cuts men off from the society they live in, and makes them helpless and dependent within it." And an 11th grade student I know at New York's Dalton School said that "*SCHOOL IS DEAD* deals with problems of education that have been stifling students and teachers as long as I have been going to school."

Some of Reimer's ideas have been discussed in the pages of this magazine. Reading the whole argument, pondering the alternatives, is a different and exciting way to raise your consciousness—and your children's too.

L.L. Day
Editor-at-Large

SCHOOL IS DEAD (\$5.95), by Everett Reimer is published by Doubleday & Company, Inc., 277 Park Avenue, New York 10017. Copies may be obtained from your own bookseller or an; Doubleday Book Shop, one of which is located at 8131 Forsythe Blvd., Clayton, Missouri 63105.

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**Educating Women:
No More Sugar and Spice**

Articles by Florence Howe
and Janice Law Trecker

Cover art by Arthur Shilstone

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