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COVER-DENNIS WHEELER photo by AL FRENI 1-ANTHONY DONNA 4, 5, 6, 7-BRUCE DAVIDSON from MAGNUM 12-ELISABETH SPEIDEL 18-RICHARD CHILDRESS, FRED LYON from RAPHO-GUILLET 19-HARRY BENSON from BLACK STAR, MICHAEL MAUNEY 20, 21-charts by JOHN F. GEIST 22-IL. JOHN LOENGARD-HENRY GROSSMAN-PETER ANDERSON from BLACK STAR; rt. LAWRENCE SCHILLER-GORDON TENNEY-BILL RAY 23-l. IL. TERENCE SPENCER; rt. ROBERT W. COTTROL-JOHN ZIMMERMAN-J. R. EYERMAN 24, 25-drawings by RICHARD ERDOES 26, 27, 28, 29-LEE BALTERMAN 32, 33-ARTHUR SCHATZ 36, 37-CARLO MAURI 38, 39-ENRICO SARSINI 48B, 48C, 48D-BOB PETERSON 51, 53-RALPH CRANE 54-VINCENT MAGGIORA for THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE 56 through 61-FRANCO PINNA from RAPHO-GUILLET 62-U.P.I.

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A Stolid Square in Scandinavia

Mike Durham, the LIFE correspondent who was given the challenging task of surveying the marital scene in Scandinavia, brought back one firm conclusion from his trip: a permissive attitude toward sex does not diminish interest in it. In fact, he reports, the eight young adults who informally married each other and set up communal housekeeping in Denmark tend to be "unendingly introspective about sex. They study each other's reactions. They worry the subject to death like a dog with a bone. Then they end up asking each other why there doesn't seem to be much fun left in life."



MICHAEL DURHAM

For Durham, there was a remarkable contrast in sexual attitudes between Copenhagen or Stockholm and Paris, where he has been living for the past four years. "Perhaps at one time—maybe during the lifetime of the Mademoiselle from Armentières—the French were more permissive than other nations. But compared to the rest of the world today, Paris is prudish. I'd have to say I prefer it that way. A French girl flirting is a joy to behold—even if you don't happen to be the target of her attentions. But the Scandinavian girls I met during this story were something else. I seldom had to ask questions because most of them had some kind of compulsion to explain their attitudes and their actions in the starkest clinical terms. And when somebody talks to you clinically, you end up listening clinically.

"The Scandinavians seemed to be onto a number of things that made a lot of sense. The day-care centers in Sweden for the children of working mothers—married or unmarried—at least offer women a choice about working or not working. But I'm just enough of a stolid and square and over-30 American to think that the normal family has even more to offer. The cribs in the day-care centers, all lined up neatly in rows, reminded me too much of the Army barracks I've known."

Durham, who has been with LIFE eight years, was square enough to have married—if not the girl next door—the girl in the next office, a fellow LIFE reporter. Their third child was born while Mike was off studying the mores of the Swedes and the Danes. When he returned and offered to update their marriage Scandinavian style—"I told her she could have a lot more equality if she were willing to give up a few of the trappings of chivalry"—she answered him firmly. "Never mind equality," said Mrs. Durham. "What this house needs is considerably more chivalry."

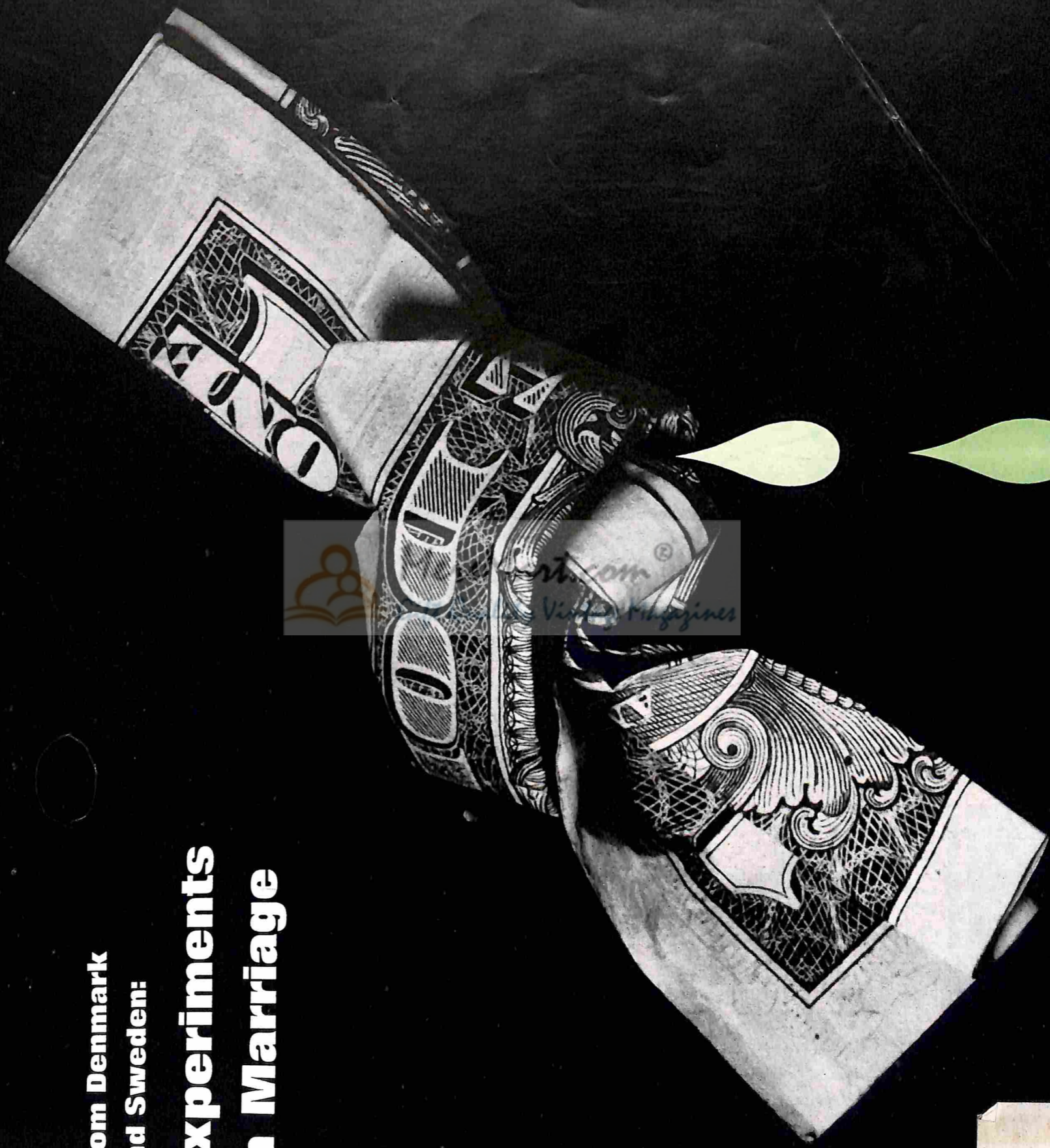
RALPH GRAVES
Managing Editor

LIFE

High taxes and high prices
make everybody feel poor

THE DOLLAR SQUEEZE

From Denmark
and Sweden:
**Experiments
in Marriage**



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