

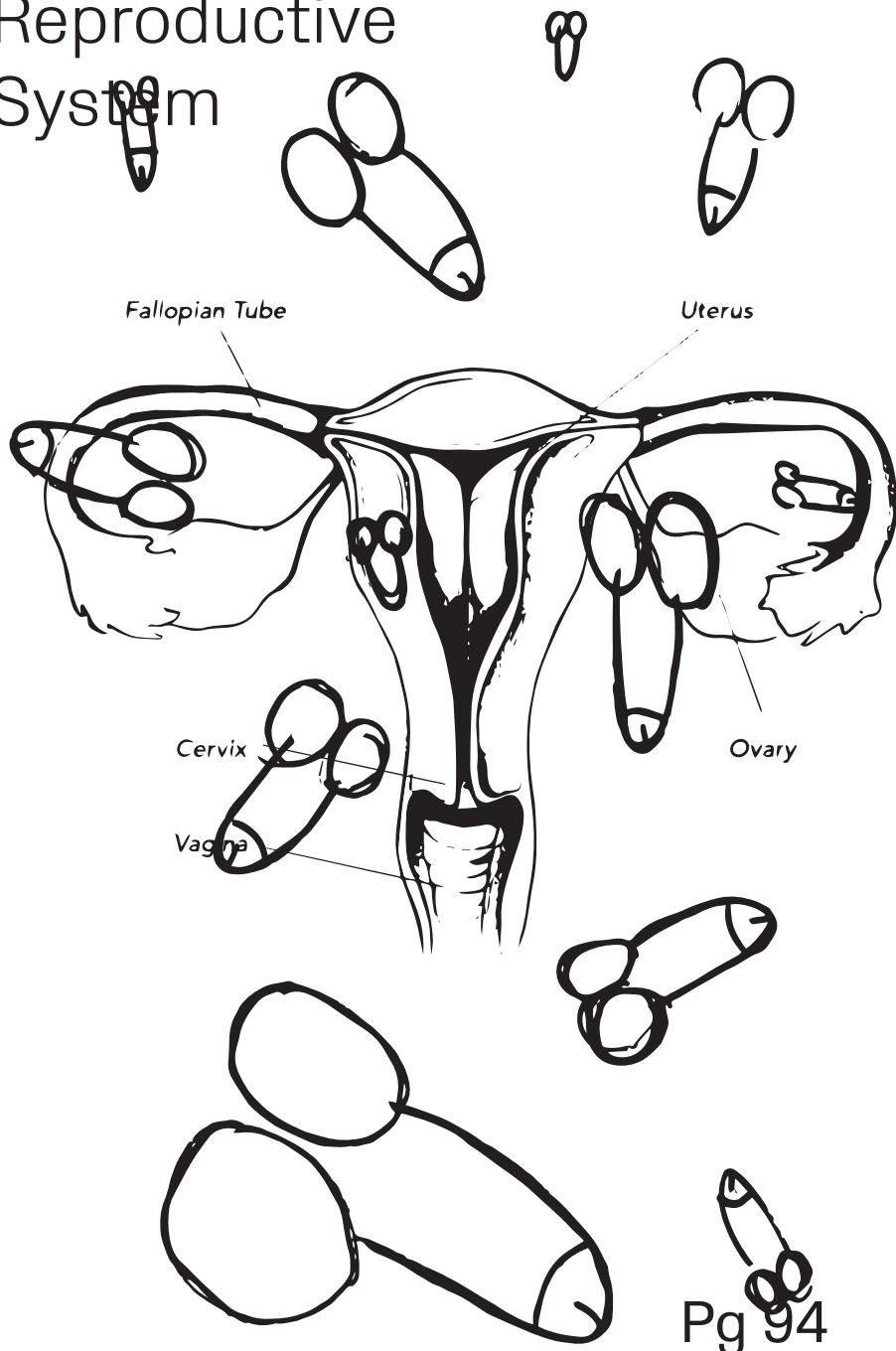
Tenth grade health class

I grew up in a relatively small and, as I'm learning more and more, fairly conservative town in Michigan. The extent of sex ed in my freshmen year of high school boils down to just don't do it. Abstinence was key and it was a terrible idea to even consider sex before you were married. Sure they mentioned condoms and birth control as other methods. Well, those were options if you wanted to be a delinquent who ended up as another statistic for teen pregnancy. Want to know where to get condoms? How to properly put one on? How to get access to birth control? How to navigate and find resources for family planning around teen pregnancy? Well you better ask someone other than the teacher cause they legally can't tell you. Abortion was so far off the table as a topic that it was reserved for our ethics debate in social studies. Also, I'm pretty sure whoever wrote the text book that we used didn't know not being straight was a thing. To the extent that I don't think gay was even a word used in the book, let alone labels like bisexual, pansexual, asexual, or aromantic. What I'm getting at here is I think a lot of people had a similar experience with sex ed in high school; then discovered that sex and relationships, and the definition of family are way more complicated and varied and broader than what we were told. I think it's time sex ed started actually doing what it's name entails. Teach young adults about sexuality and the multitude of topics that it covers.

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The Female Reproductive System



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