Homosexual Behavior

&

Pedophilia

By Frank V. York and Robert H. Knight
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Homosexual Activists Work To Normalize Sex With Boys

Frank V. York and Robert H. Knight

INTRODUCTION

Although most homosexual activists publicly deny that they want access to boys, many homosexual groups around the world are working aggressively to lower the age of sexual consent. Their cause is being aided by the professional psychiatric and psychological associations, which have moved in recent years toward normalizing pedophilia, much as they did with homosexuality in the early 1970s.

Kevin Bishop, an admitted pederast (pedophile), is promoting the work of the North American Man-Boy Love Association (NAMBLA) in South Africa. Bishop, who was molested at the age of six, is also an admitted homosexual who is blunt about the relationship between homosexuality and pedophilia. “Scratch the average homosexual and you will find a pedophile,” said Bishop in an interview with the Electronic Mail & Guardian (June 30, 1997).

This pedophile/homosexual activist began studying pedophilia while a student at Rhodes University. He also discovered Karl Marx there, as well as other literature that helped form his worldview. His views are being echoed around the world by homosexual activists who are seeking what they call “sexual freedom” for children.

Bishop is on a crusade in South Africa to have “age of sexual consent laws” abolished, and he is looking for help from NAMBLA to accomplish his goal. He says children must be empowered “by teaching them about loving relationships at an early age, and giving them the opportunity to make an informed decision about having [sex].” He also approves of incest, noting, “Two women psychologists in America say the healthiest introduction to sex for a child should be with their [sic] parents, because it is less threatening and the emotional intimacy more comfortable.”

Bishop agrees with NAMBLA that the next social movement in Western politics will be an attack on “sexual ageism,” which prohibits sexual contact based on age differences. The movement already is well under way in Europe and Canada.
SEXUAL ‘Liberation’

Homosexual activist groups around the world are working to lower or abolish age of consent laws in order to “liberate” children from the constraints of a patriarchal society. Kate Millett, a radical feminist and Marxist theorician, described this philosophy in an interview first published in “Loving Boys” in 1980. It was later reprinted in The Age Taboo, published by Alyson Publishers, a homosexual publishing house in Boston. Millett claims, “[O]ne of children’s essential rights is to express themselves sexually, probably primarily with each other but with adults as well. So the sexual freedom of children is an important part of a sexual revolution.” Millett says the sexual revolution begins with the emancipation of women and also includes ending homosexual oppression.

She views the incest taboo as an instrument of oppression. “The incest taboo has always been one of the cornerstones of patriarchal thought,” says Millett. “We have to have an emancipation proclamation for children.”

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Pat Califia is an American advocate of total sexual “freedom.” She is a self-proclaimed lesbian sexual radical who has written extensively on the importance of “liberating” children from sexual oppression. Her book, Public Sex, contains two essays on age of consent laws, “The Age of Consent: The Great Kiddyo-Porn Panic of ’77” and “The Aftermath of the Great Kiddyo-Porn Panic of ’77.” Califia argues that all age of consent laws should be abolished and supports NAMBLA’s efforts to legalize adult/child sex. Califia is a columnist for The Advocate, a "mainstream" homosexual magazine.

Gaining access to children has been a long-term goal of the homosexual movement. In 1972, the National Coalition of Gay Organizations adopted a “Gay Rights Platform” that included the following demand: “Repeal of all laws governing the age of sexual consent.” David Thorstad, a spokesman for the homosexual rights movement and NAMBLA, clearly states the objectives: “The ultimate goal of the gay lib-
eration movement is the achievement of sexual freedom for all – not just equal rights for ‘lesbians and gay men,’ but also freedom of sexual expression for young people and children.” This goal has not changed since it was articulated in 1972.

In 1982, the International Homophilics Institute, a homosexual organization producing homosexual biographies and homosexual historical materials, voted to support a worldwide age of consent for sexual acts at first menses for females and first ejaculation for males. According to Gary A. McIntyre, a member of the IHI’s “ethics committee,” the organization still maintained this position as of 1997.

In 1985, the Second International Gay Youth Congress met in Dublin and issued a declaration that stated in part: “As young people, we must be free to choose our own identities and lifestyles. We oppose ages of consent and all laws which restrict consensual sexual activity because, as young people, they limit our sexual freedom and deny us the right to choose who we relate to sexually.”

As part of the effort to normalize sex with children, some homosexual activists are promoting the idea that keeping children from sexual activity is actually a form of child abuse. In fact, one homosexual magazine hailed pedophiles as prophets of sexual freedom. An editorial in the July 1995 issue of Guide magazine declared:

Surrounded by pious moralists with deadening anti-sexual rules, we must be shameless rule-breakers, demonstrating our allegiance to a higher concept of love. We must do it for the children’s sake.

The late Jim Kepner, founder of the International Gay and Lesbian Archives in Los Angeles, once expressed his close affinity to pedophiles. His views were posted on a homosexual website. Kepner wrote,

Many of the men who picked me up so lovingly would today be stigmatized as pedophiles. They were all kind and respectful and were very important to me. ... I am not a pedophile, but I feel they are often more victims of harm than the perpetrators of it. ... Too many in our movement, victims themselves of prejudice and discrimination, pass those hatreds and fears to drag queens, pedophiles, bisexuals, leather men and women, transsexuals, and many other minorities in our community.

Sexual Ageism and “Age of Consent” Laws

Homosexual organizations around the world have embarked upon a vigorous campaign to lower sexual age of consent laws by claiming that current laws are discriminatory against homosexuals.

In England, for example, a major push is underway to lower the age of sexual consent for homosexuals to 14. OutRage!, a homosexual organization that operates much like ACT UP in the United States, has been leading the crusade. In a statement published on the Queer Intelligence Service website, OutRage! claims that “under-age queers have rights too. They are some of the most vulnerable members of our community. We have a special responsibility to protect their interests and welfare.”

The goal of lowering the age of sexual consent is thus couched in human rights terms and masquerades as a concern for “vulnerable” members of the
homosexual community. OutRage! is proposing that homosexual sex should be permitted between children 14 and older, provided there is no more than a three-year age difference between consenting teens.

The British homosexual group Stonewall launched its campaign to lower the age of sexual consent in 1992. It brought a case before the European Court of Human Rights, arguing that differences in the age of consent laws between heterosexuals and homosexuals was a fundamental infringement on the rights of homosexual people.

In July 1998, members of the British parliament engaged in a heated debate over lowering the age of consent for homosexuals from 18 to 16. The effort was defeated in the House of Lords, but the House of Commons in November 1998 again approved a bill that lowers the age to 16. As an attempt to appease critics, the bill also provides guidelines to protect teens who are in boarding schools or the armed forces. Employing incrementalism, homosexual activists will continue to push toward abolition of all laws governing sexual consent.

An article in the British Daily Mail in October of 1998 indicated that the government was considering lowering the age of consent for heterosexuals to 14, but British Home Secretary Jack Straw denied the report, saying, “The government has never considered lowering the heterosexual age of consent to 14 and has no plans to do so in the future.” It was Straw who introduced the measure to reduce the homosexual age of consent to 16. The age of consent for homosexuals had been reduced from 21 to 18 just four years ago.12

Even the venerable Times of London has run columns sympathetic to the pedophilic agenda. On March 30, 1999, an article by Dr. Gary Slapper of the Open University attacked a proposed law to criminalize statutory rape involving “people who abuse positions of trust,” such as teachers. Slapper, who called the proposal “remarkably draconian,” wrote that

in the past such law has taken a narrow-minded unindulgent attitude to sexual relations, so much so that we are now in the process of liberalizing many laws, not making them more intolerant. … [T]he suppression of immorality is not the business of the criminal law.13

Dutch homosexuals have achieved remarkable successes in normalizing homosexual behavior. They have also been successful in fighting “age of consent laws.” In Holland, the age of sexual consent is now 12 unless the preteen complains to the authorities about the sexual encounter.

The Dutch Association for the Integration of Homosexuality (DAIH) takes credit for helping to change the laws in Holland. It lobbied successfully for the abolition of a 1971 law prohibiting sexual contact between those older than 21 and those younger than 21. The laws were amended in 1987 and again in 1991. The current law allows sex between a child and adult if the parents of the child approve. According to the DAIH, the new age of consent law “leaves more room for the young person, the parents and the adult friends to come to a satisfactory arrangement of a sexual contact. Nobody is allowed to interfere as long as the situation is mutually agreeable. …”14

Homosexual activists in Holland won another victory in mid-November 1998, when the Dutch Cabinet approved a plan to allow homosexuals to
adopt children, if the homosexuals had lived together for three years and had cared for the child for at least one year.\textsuperscript{15}

Several homosexual and pedophile websites maintain extensive lists of “age of consent” laws in order to keep their constituents updated on changes in the laws.\textsuperscript{16}

\section*{Homosexual/Pedophile Efforts in Canada}

Ontario, Canada, has already reduced the age of consent to 14 for both heterosexuals and those identifying themselves as homosexuals. In May 1995, Rosalie Abella of the Ontario Court of Appeals lowered the age of consent for anal sex to 14 because she concluded that the Ontario sodomy law denied men under 18 a “basic form of sexual expression.”\textsuperscript{17}

That same year, the Supreme Court of Canada asserted that a person’s sexual orientation qualified him or her for special protection under Section 15 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, as “analogous” to race, sex, national or ethnic origin. Thus, homosexuality in Canada achieved special minority status. In addition, in May 1999, the Supreme Court struck down Ontario’s Family Law Act and ordered the provincial government to redefine the term spouse to include same-sex partners. The ruling was widely seen as a major step toward same-sex “marriage.”

In 1995, the Alberta Report/Western Report, a conservative Canadian magazine, reported that the Globe and Mail, Canada’s national newspaper, apparently had taken up the cause of pedophilia. In March 1994, the Globe had run a favorable piece on lowering the age of sexual consent, written by Gerald Hannon, a journalism teacher at Ryerson Polytechnical University in Toronto.\textsuperscript{18}

In November 1994, the Globe and Mail also ran a sympathetic piece on an imprisoned pedophile who was considered to be one of the most infamous child molesters in Canadian history. And in March 1995, the paper ran a negative story by Hannon about the police chief in London, Ontario, who had prosecuted a network of confessed pedophiles.\textsuperscript{19}

Hannon’s name is significant because he is an admitted homosexual, as well as a defender of NAMBLA and what he calls “intergenerational sex.” In 1977, Hannon wrote an article titled, “Men Loving Boys Loving Men,” for Body Politic, a homosexual magazine. In January 1994, Hannon wrote an article for Xtra, a homosexual biweekly, comparing child sex rings to hockey teams for children. “I could never understand before how children’s hockey differed from an organized child-sex ring,” wrote Hannon. “Both involved children and adults. … Both involve pleasure. Yet we approve of children’s hockey but deplore child-sex rings.”\textsuperscript{20}

In 1996, Hannon’s contract at Ryerson was not renewed after he admitted he also had worked part-time for eight years as a homosexual male prostitute. The Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives website has a detailed chronology of Hannon’s career and controversy as an outspoken homosexual advocate of pederasty (male homosexual child molestation).\textsuperscript{21} In addition, the site provides the reader with a history of the efforts of Canadian homosexual activists to change the criminal code (dealing with sodomy and age of consent) from 1971 to the present day. In March 1995, judges ruled that Ontario’s anal sex law was unconstitutional because it set a higher age of consent for anal sex than for other sex acts. In September 1995, the court struck down all age differentials for sex acts in Ontario, making 14 the age of consent for all sex acts.

Arnold Beichman, a Hoover Institution Research Fellow, described Hannon’s case and the campaign to normalize pedophilia in a 1996 column in the Washington Times. Beichman noted, “Changes in morality do not occur overnight. They seep into society, often silently, like flood waters into a basement. Once abominated personal behavior somehow over time becomes acceptable, tolerable and even praise-worthy. … I am thinking of the quiet campaign to make pedophilia acceptable if not respectable.”\textsuperscript{22}

Judy Anderson, former president of the pro-family group Real Women Canada, wrote a lengthy rebuttal to Hannon’s attack on the London police chief and submitted it to the Globe and Mail for publication.
The article was rejected, but the gist of it was printed in the May 15, 1995, issue of Alberta Report/Western Report. In it, she noted that since the Canadian government was then on the verge of adding “sexual orientation” to its human rights code, it was likely that pedophilia would also eventually be considered a “sexual orientation” and protected by the code. She observed that it would be easy for Canadian courts to strike down any laws banning sex with children.

Anderson also pointed out that there is an ongoing campaign in Canada to gain social acceptance for adult/child “love.” For example, a sex education pamphlet being distributed in Toronto schools showed a boy having sex with a man. The caption beneath the picture read, “Having sex with men can be as scary as coming out. But just like being gay, having sex with men is natural.”

**Efforts to Normalize Pedophilia in the United States**

In the United States, homosexual activists are more circumspect about their efforts to gain access to children than they are in Canada or Europe. While NAMBLA has regularly marched in homosexual pride parades in New York, San Francisco and other major cities, homosexual activists publicly disassociate themselves from pedophiles as part of a public relations strategy.

Yet homosexual groups are actively recruiting “gay youth” through such groups as the Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League, the Hettrick-Martin Institute, AIDS service providers and various agencies that assist runaways. A concerted effort to change age-of-consent laws has not yet emerged, but some ominous signs portend an eventual effort. When U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was an attorney for the ACLU, she co-authored a report recommending that the age of consent for sexual acts be lowered to 12 years of age.

The public still has a revulsion against child sexual abuse. In fact, whenever there is an attempt to show a connection between pedophiles and homosexuality, the standard response from the activists is that as many as 97 percent of all pedophiles are heterosexuals and/or married men. Thus, they deflect attention away from their own proclivities to have sex with children.

There is some truth to the claim that many pedophiles are heterosexually oriented men. To be accurate, *pedophilia* is the crime of sexually molesting a child of the opposite sex. *Pederasty*, on the other hand, is the crime of molesting a child of the same sex. The term *pedophile* is typically used as a general term to describe a person who molest any child, and the term *pedophilia*, however, is commonly used to refer to child sexual abuse in general. The homosexual who molest a child of the same sex, therefore, technically is guilty of pederasty, rather than pedophilia – yet both are child sexual abuse.

Homosexuals deny that there is a high incidence of child molestation among them, but the statistics tell another story.

First, we need to look at the statistics on child sexual abuse in general. The National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse (NCPCA) has published the following information:

1. Reports of sexual abuse are on the increase in our nation.
2. Between 80 and 95 percent of all child molestations are committed by men. The NCPCA notes, however, that there is a "dramatic increase in the number of adolescent offenders who have committed sexually aggressive acts against other children."
3. Girls are more likely to be the victims of molestation than boys. Males account for 25 to 35 percent of child sexual abuse victims.
The Gay Report, published by homosexual researchers Jay and Young in 1979, revealed that 73 percent of homosexuals surveyed had at some time had sex with boys 16 to 19 years of age or younger.\(^27\)

Although homosexuals account for less than two percent of the population, they constitute about a third of child molesters.\(^28\) Further, as noted by the Encino, Calif.-based National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH), “since homosexual pedophiles victimize far more children than do heterosexual pedophiles, it is estimated that approximately 80 percent of pedophilic victims are boys who have been molested by adult males.”\(^29\)

A nationwide investigation of child molestation in the Boy Scouts from 1971 to 1991 revealed that more than 2,000 boys reported molestation by adult Scout leaders. (Note: The Scouts, who have 150,000 Scoutmasters and assistant Scoutmasters, ban hundreds of men each year from scouting out of concern that they might abuse boys.)\(^30\)

A study of Canadian pedophiles has shown that 30 percent of those studied admitted to having engaged in homosexual acts as adults, and 91 percent of the molesters of non-familial boys admitted to no lifetime sexual contact other than homosexual.\(^31\)

Judith A. Reisman, Ph.D., and Charles B. Johnson, Ph.D., conducted a content study of the personal ads in the Advocate, the “national gay and lesbian newsmagazine,” and discovered that “chickens,” a common term for underage boys sought for sex, were widely solicited. Many of the advertisements in the magazine solicited boys and teens from within a larger pool of prostitution ads, which constituted 63 percent of all personal ads.\(^32\) The authors also note a statement from a book review by homosexual activist Larry Kramer that the work, “like much canonized male homosexual literature, involves sexually predatory white men on the prowl for dark-skinned boys to gratify them.”\(^33\)

In a 1985 study of the rates of molestation among homosexual pederasts compared to heterosexual pedophiles, Dr. Paul Cameron found the following:

- 153 pederasts had sexually molested 22,981 boys over an average period of 22 years.
- 224 pedophiles had molested 4,435 girls over an average period of 18 years.
- The average pederast molested an average of 150 boys, and each heterosexual pedophile molested an average of 20 girls, a ratio of 7.5 to one.\(^34\)

**David Thorstad Connects Pedophilia to “Gay Rights”**

NAMBLA leader David Thorstad gave a speech on the history of pedophilia and the homosexual rights movement to a Mexican homosexual/lesbian group, *Semana Cultural Lesbica*, in Mexico City on June 26, 1998.

Thorstad detailed the long, interwoven history of pederasty and the homosexual rights movement. He noted that pederasty was an integral part of the new homosexual movement that emerged in Germany during the late 19th century. The first homosexual journal in the world, according to Thorstad, was *Der Eigene*, published in 1896 by Magnus Hirschfeld, a pederast who later founded the Scientific Humanitarian Committee.
the first homosexual rights group.

As Thorstad traced what he viewed as an important linkage between pederasty and homosexual rights, he also lamented the fact that the modern homosexual movement in the United States has tried to distance itself from NAMBLA and boy-love in general. In spite of this distancing, however, Thorstad said,

Pederasty is the main form that male homosexuality has acquired throughout Western civilization. ... Pederasty is inseparable from the high points of Western culture – ancient Greece and the Renaissance. Pederasty, like homosexuality, has existed, and exists, in all societies that have ever been studied. Homoeroticism is a ubiquitous feature of human experience, as even efforts to repress it confirm. Men and youths have always been attracted to each other, and, like homosexuality in general, their love is irrepressible. ... It will continue to find its way to expression despite all the efforts to suppress and demonize it.35

**USING PSYCHIATRY/PSYCHOLOGY**

Homosexual activists are softening public opinion on the issue of adult/child sex by using a variety of institutions: the media, the educational system, and particularly the psychiatry/psychology establishment.

In 1994, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) quietly revised its *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual IV* (DSM-IV) by redefining long-standing definitions of what constitute “paraphilias” or sexual perversions – including pedophilia.36 The APA added a new requirement for someone to be diagnosed as having a paraphilia: The person’s behavior must now “cause clinically significant distress or impairment of social, occupational or other important areas of functioning.”37 The change is significant, says Dr. Jeffrey Satinover, author of *Homosexuality and the Politics of Truth*:

In other words, a man who routinely and compulsively has sex with children, and does so without the pangs of conscience and without impairing his functioning otherwise is not necessarily a pedophile and in need of treatment. Only the man who suffers because of his impulses is a pedophile requiring treatment.38

The 1994 decision was a significant breakthrough for pedophiles, and helps provide them with a cover of normality.

In 1998, a study published by the American Psychological Association claimed that sex between adults and children is not only less harmful than believed but might even be positive for “willing” children. Calling the study “garbage science,” Dr. Laura Schlessinger, who has a background in medical physiology, compared the APA’s action to the American Psychiatric Association’s 1973 decision to take homosexuality off the list of mental disorders.

The APA article proposes ceasing to use terms such as *child abuse, molestation, and victims* and instead deploying nonjudgmental terms such as *adult-child sex.* “A Meta-Analytic Examination of Assumed Properties of Child Sexual Abuse Using College Samples” was written by Temple University psychology Professor Bruce Rind, University of Pennsylvania education Professor Philip Tromovitch, and Robert Bauserman, a psychology professor at the University of Michigan. Bauserman also wrote an article for the *Journal of Homosexuality* in 1990, “Male Generational Intimacy,” which questions the “taboo” against man-boy sex.

The newer study, published in July 1998 in the APA’s bimonthly *Psychological Bulletin,* was severely criticized in a paper, “The Problem of Pedophilia,” published by the National Association for the Research and Therapy of Homosexuality. On May 27, 1999, Dr.
Steven M. Mirin, medical director of the American Psychiatric Association, wrote a letter to Family Research Council severely criticizing the Bauserman article and expressing the Psychiatric Association’s “strongly held position that sex between adult and child can never be condoned or considered ‘normal’ behavior. … Academic hair-splitting over whether the act should be considered adult-child sex or child sexual abuse, depending upon whether or not the child feels abused or suffers subsequent trauma, is not in the public interest and obfuscates the moral issue involved.”

On June 9, under intense pressure, the American Psychological Association changed its position, admitting error in publishing the article. In a letter to Majority Whip Tom DeLay (R-Texas), APA Chief Executive Officer Raymond D. Fowler promised an “unprecedented” and “independent” review of the article and stated: “We do not support the ‘normalization’ or ‘decriminalization’ of any form of sexual relations between adults and children.”

DeLay, along with Reps. Matt Salmon (R-Ariz.) and Dave Weldon (R-Fla.), had denounced the article at a May 12 Family Research Council press conference. In his letter, Dr. Fowler, who had earlier defended the article as “a good study” on national television, acknowledged that the article was “inflammatory” and included opinions “inconsistent” with the APA’s policy on child protection issues. He admitted that the APA had “failed” to “evaluate the article based on its potential for misinforming the public policy process.” He pledged that the APA would create legal briefs attacking misuse of the article in the courts, and he included a board-approved resolution in which the APA “repudiates and disassociates itself from any organization or publication that advocates sexual interaction between children and adults.”

On the other hand, the North American Man-Boy Love Association (NAMBLA), which advocates sex between men and boys, hails the study on its website in “The Good News About Man/Boy Love.” NAMBLA states, “Sex does not pose the danger to minors claimed by police, prosecutors and prudes crusading against man/boy love.”


The religion editor at the Washington Post writes, “There is some bravery in NAMBLA members keeping all their activities above board. …”

“Our movement today stresses the liberation and empowerment of young people. Instead of pedagogy, democracy,” demanded David Thorstad, in a June 1998 speech:

Rather than a Greek love mentor-relationship, the companionship of independent and autonomous individuals. In place of male supremacy, a vision of sexual, economic, and political liberation for all. Freedom is indivisible. The liberation of children, women, boy-lovers, and homosexuals in general, can occur only as complementary facets of the same dream.

This view mirrors that of Alfred C. Kinsey, whose Sexual Behavior in the Human Male (1948) included data from the molestation of 317 boys, some as young as two months. Kinsey concluded that chil-
dren were sexually viable from birth and that molestation was harmless unless parents exhibited “hysteria” over the incidents. The Kinsey view of child sexuality has influenced three generations of sexologists and educators.

Baurer and his colleagues summarize,

One possible approach to a scientific definition ... is to focus on the young person’s perception of his or her willingness to participate and his or her reactions to the experience. A willing encounter with positive reactions would be labeled simply adult-child sex, a value-neutral term.45

NARTH’s paper described this conclusion as follows: “When sexual contact is not coerced, especially when it is experienced by a boy and is enjoyed, it may not be harmful at all.”46 In the same paper, Dutch psychologist Gerard van den Aardweg points out that

‘non-coerced’ sex [between adults and children] is a misnomer because there is always an element of coercion – involving a misuse of adult authority, and a misuse of the child’s need for affection. If a researcher sees no harm, ‘it may be because he is using the wrong glasses ... not because there is nothing to see.’ Even adult-child sex which is mutually enjoyed ... is always an intrinsic injustice to the integrity of the person.47

Dr. Laura Schlessinger, whose daily program has an estimated listening audience of 18 million, said she had discussed the issue at length with Dr. van den Aardweg, who explained how the pro-pedophilic movement has grown within the APA.

According to the Washington Times, APA spokeswoman Rhea Farberman acknowledged that Dr. Schlessinger had “some valid criticisms,” but was quick to add that, “The bridge [Dr. Schlessinger] builds between this study and the so-called attempt to normalize pedophilia is ridiculous. ... It is clear to us that child sexual abuse is harmful.”

Satinover observes, “Does it seem absurd to think that the taboo against pedophilia ... will soon come under broad social attack? It is beginning already.”48 He quotes from the May 1995 issue of the New Republic, where Hanna Rosin reviews the movie Chickenhawk (slang for a pedophile who hunts for children on the street). Rosin questions whether there is anything wrong with mutual consent between boys and men and says that the pedophile perspective on age of consent laws should be considered in light of a child’s autonomy rights. She writes, “There is some bravery in NAMBLA members keeping all their activities above board. ... After all, it is still heresy to consider the possibility of the legitimacy of their feelings.”49 (Rosin is currently religion editor at the Washington Post.)

In a special report on psychological claims in child custody cases, Insight magazine quoted Richard A. Gardner, a clinical professor of child psychology. Gardner, who is often cited in cases in which fathers charged with abuse are seeking custody, wrote, “[S]exual encounters between an adult and a child are not universally considered to be reprehensible acts. The child might be told about other societies in which such behavior was and is considered normal. ...”49 As for the abusing father, he “has to be helped to appreciate that, even today, [pedophilia] is a widespread and accepted practice among literally billions of people” and that “he [the father] has a certain amount of bad luck with regard to the place and time he was born with regard to social attitudes toward pedophilia.”49

The increasing academic and professional ambivalence toward adult/child sex is encapsulated in a book jacket statement from Moral Panic: Changing Concepts of the Child Molester in Modern America (1998) by Philip Jenkins, who holds the title of distin-
guished professor of history and religious studies at Penn State. Jenkins “argues that all concepts of sex offenders and offenses are subject to social, political and ideological influences and that no particular view of offenders represents an unchanging objective reality.”

In other words, there are no binding concepts of right and wrong regarding child molestation. Although Jenkins also notes that he is “not minimizing the sexual abuse of children,” he clearly takes a relativistic viewpoint, writing, “It is not self-evident that a sexual act between individuals of widely differing ages constitutes immoral or criminal behavior, that it causes grave harm to either participant, or that it involves a compulsive psychological condition.”

The trend toward normalizing pedophilia within the field of psychology is evident in an interview with Dr. Michael Wertheimer, conducted by Dr. Joseph Nicolosi, executive director of the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH). Wertheimer is a longtime member of the American Psychological Association, has served as president of four APA divisions and has been the author or editor of more than 40 psychology books.

Wertheimer believes that “normal” behavior is defined not by objective reality, but by the culture at any particular time in history. In other words, concepts of normality are socially constructed. When asked by Nicolosi, “Could a pedophilic relationship ever be ‘good’?” Wertheimer replies, “I know of no convincing evidence that even pedophilia is harmful to the boy. In ancient Greece, for example, a pedophilia relationship with a young boy was viewed as the ideal kind of relationship for an older man. What’s the actual evidence – not just principled moral prejudgment – that such a relationship is damaging to the boy?”

Dr. Nicolosi writes, “I’ve always said that the restraints against pedophilia would be the next to fall within the American Psychological Association, and I think the social-constructionist view leaves the door open to acceptance of a range of behaviors that fifty years ago would simply have been unimaginable.”

CHILD ABUSE “EXPERTS” PROVIDE COVER FOR PEDOPHILES

Not only have the American Psychiatric Association and American Psychological Association weakened in their concern over pedophilia, but others within the psychological community also seem to be providing a protective covering for pedophiles who are caught molesting children.

Dr. Ralph Underwager and his wife, Hollida Wakefield, have exerted a significant influence over the field of child abuse for the past two decades. Underwager is a Lutheran pastor and founder of the Institute for Psychological Therapies in Northfield, Minnesota. He and his wife have written a number of books on child abuse and investigative techniques used in child abuse cases. They also edit a quarterly journal, Issues in Child Abuse Accusations.

Underwager is one of the founders of the False Memory Syndrome Foundation and is a member of the National Council for Children’s Rights. Underwager and Wakefield have served as expert witnesses for accused child molesters in dozens of cases in the United States and around the world. They maintain that most child abuse cases are the result of faulty investigative techniques or false memory syndrome.

The January/February 1997 issue of Treating Abuse Today featured an in-depth look at the theories of Underwager and Wakefield. The author, Stephanie J. Dallam, notes that the two maintain that most mental health and forensic professionals who interview children employ improper techniques that often lead to false allegations of child abuse. They also claim that child protective services are seriously flawed and that a considerable proportion of the professionals working in the child abuse field are biased or corrupt.

Underwager and Wakefield have a disturbing view of sexual relationships between adults and children. In a 1993 paper, “Antisexuality and Child Sexual
Abuse,” they write of adult/child sex:

Even if the behavior is gentle, tender fondling by an older and bigger person within a context of a caring and loving interaction and is experienced by a younger and smaller person as a rewarding and pleasant genital stimulation, it is defined as abusive, traumatic, and a stressor experience that may lead to dissociation, numbing, hopelessness, and all the possible negative effects of sexual abuse.

The authors postulate that the current system designed to protect children from sexual abuse “promotes an antsexual view of human sexuality” that is ready to “define a sexual or affectionate interaction as abusive.” They believe this “antisexual” view has negative consequences for children, adults, and society.

In 1993, Paidika, a Dutch “scholarly” journal on pedophilia, published a Question and Answer interview with Underwager and Wakefield. Here is a sampling of what they had to say:

PAIDIKA: Is choosing pedophilia for you a responsible choice for the individual?

UNDERWAGER: Certainly, it is responsible. ... Pedophiles can boldly and courageously affirm what they choose. They can say what they want is to find the best way to love. I am also a theologian and as a theologian, I believe it is God's will that there be closeness and intimacy, unity of the flesh, between people. A pedophile can say, 'This closeness is possible for me within the choices that I've made.'

PAIDIKA: Isn't it a reasonable wish for pedophiles to want to see pedophile sex decriminalized? It may not be realistic right now in the U.S., but does that make it less legitimate a goal?

UNDERWAGER: Oh yes, sure, sure. I mean Jesus said, 'I really don't want to do this. I don't want to go up there onto Calvary.' But when it came down to it, he said, 'Well, okay, I'm going to walk the steps.' As for decriminalization, the question is really if you're not there, how are you going to get there.

PAIDIKA: Any advice?

UNDERWAGER: Take the risk, the consequences of the risk, and make the claim: This is something good. Pedophiles need to become more positive and make the claim that pedophilia is an acceptable expression of God's will for love and unity among human beings. This is the only way the question is going to be answered, of whether or not it is possible. Does it happen? Can it be good? That's what we don't know yet, the ways in which pedophiles can conduct themselves in loving ways. That's what you need to talk about. You need to get involved in discourse, and to do so while acting.

In late 1993, after the Underwager and Wakefield interview was publicized, Underwager was asked to resign as a board member of the False Memory Syndrome Foundation, but his wife remained on the board. Underwager and Wakefield have established a close working relationship with VOCAL (Victory Over Child Abuse Laws), and in June of 1998, Underwager wrote a “Litany for Fathers,” published by the American Coalition for Fathers and Children (ACFC).

Dr. Richard A. Gardner is another psychiatrist who has a disturbing view of child abuse and childhood sexuality. He is a practicing child psychiatrist and is clinical professor of child psychiatry at the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University. Gardner is considered an expert in forensics and has an extensive career in evaluating alleged child abuse during divorce proceedings.

Stephanie J. Dallam, writing in Treating Abuse Today (Jan./Feb. 1998), profiles Gardner’s views on pedophilia and child abuse as follows:

Gardner proposes that many different types of human sexual behavior, including pedophilia, sexual sadism, necrophilia (sex with corpses), zoophilia (sex with ani-
mals), coprophilia (sex involving defecation) ... can be seen as having species survival value and thus do not warrant being excluded from the list of the “so-called natural forms of human sexual behavior.” Gardner believes that all of these forms of sexual behavior create sexual excitement in males and females and thus help perpetuate the human race.

Gardner believes that Western attitudes toward pedophilia are culturally determined. Although he says sex between a child and an adult is “reprehensible,” he does not believe it is “inextricably so; in other societies and other times it may not be psychologically detrimental.”

Gardner wrote an article on pedophilia and sexual behavior for Ralph Underwager’s Issues in Child Abuse Accusations, in which he notes:

Many societies ... have been unjustifiably punitive to those who exhibit ... paraphilic variations and have not given proper respect to the genetic factors that may very well be operative. Such considerations might result in greater tolerance for those who exhibit these activities. My hope is that this theory will play a role (admittedly small) in bringing about greater sympathy and respect for individuals who exhibit these variations of sexual behavior.55

Like Underwager, Gardner is also closely associated with the American Coalition for Fathers & Children. He was one of the authors of their ACFC membership manual.

The Kinsey Pedophilia Agenda

While Doctors Underwager and Gardner are, however unwittingly, helping protect child molesters from prosecution, there is another social force at work within the psychiatric and sex industries that has an enormous impact on cultural attitudes about sex and children as sexual beings. The Indiana-based Kinsey Institute has long promoted the idea that children are sexual from birth. A review of Alfred Kinsey’s work reveals that his research was designed to normalize homosexual behavior as well as to provide justification for all forms of sexual contact, including sex with children.

Alfred Kinsey is the author of two books on human sexual behavior that have had a major impact upon our culture during the past 50 years. The two volumes, Sexual Behavior in the Human Male (1948) and Sexual Behavior in the Human Female (1953), purported to present scientific evidence proving that Americans were much more sexually active than we had previously thought.

In Sexual Behavior in the Human Male, Kinsey reached the conclusion that 95 percent of American males engage in some form of criminal sexual offense and that most males engage in sex before marriage. In fact, he concluded that almost 17 percent of American males were engaged in some form of sexual activity with animals! He also claimed that his findings proved that children were sexual beings from birth – and that they could enjoy orgasms even as infants.56

His studies legitimized the idea that children should be taught about sex at an early age, largely overthrowing Freud’s theories about the latency period in childhood when children show no interest in sex. This has justified the growth of a sex education industry that now promotes the teaching of “safe sex” and homosexuality to elementary schoolchildren.
Kinsey maintained that 10 percent of the American population was homosexual and that sexual orientation is on a continuum, with bisexuality being the middle ground between homosexual and heterosexual behavior. Incredibly, he concluded that only 4 percent of the population were strictly heterosexual, with another 4 percent being exclusively homosexual. The rest, he said, were bisexual.

Kinsey’s two volumes revolutionized how we view sex in our society. His research was used to change sex crime laws in the United States. In 1955, the American Law Institute, an arm of the American Bar Association, established the Model Penal Code (MPC), which was presented to state legislatures for passage. The MPC used Kinsey’s research to argue for the elimination of many sex crimes and reductions in sentences for many others.

Kinsey’s colleagues helped establish organizations such as the Sex Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS) to promote sex education in the public schools. In April 1999, SIECUS – now the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States – issued a report attacking abstinence education and recommended that such programs be defunded.

In addition, Hugh Hefner credits the Kinsey reports with inspiring him to begin Playboy magazine, thus opening America to gradual acceptance of pornography.

Now, more than 50 years after publication of his books, Kinsey’s work is being exposed as one of the biggest scientific frauds of the century.

**Judith Reisman’s Research**

Major credit for this exposure of Kinsey is due to Dr. Judith A. Reisman, who co-authored *Kinsey, Sex and Fraud: The Indoctrination of a People* (1990) and wrote *Kinsey: Crimes and Consequences* (1998). Two powerful videos have also been based upon her studies: The Children of Table 34, produced by Family Research Council, and *Kinsey’s Paedophiles*, produced by independent British filmmaker Tim Tate. His hour-long documentary was aired over Channel 4, Yorkshire, a privately owned British TV service, in August 1998. Tate is negotiating with PBS to air the program in the United States.

Reisman came upon Kinsey’s studies while conducting research on the impact of pornography upon males and females. She had done a content analysis of *Penthouse* and *Playboy* and had discovered disturbing themes of child molestation. She presented her findings in 1977 at a conference on women and pornography in Wales. During this conference, she clashed with an editorial director of *Penthouse*, who argued for child pornography and the sexual “rights” of children. Others expressed similar support for pedophilia. At the same conference, she met a Canadian psychologist who urged her to read *The Sex Researchers* by Edward Brecher if she truly wanted to understand why so many members of the conference seemed to favor child pornography. The Canadian told her that he had worked with Alfred Kinsey and Wardell Pomeroy. One (Kinsey), he said, was a homosexual; the other (Pomeroy) was a pedophile.

Reisman read *The Sex Researchers* and then began researching Kinsey’s materials to see why so many psychologists and sexologists defend pedophilia. In 1981, while going through *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*, she was studying Table 34, which listed statistics on the rates of orgasms of infants and children. It dawned on her that she was looking at a table describing the ongoing sexual molestation of children.
Her research eventually led her to write, with co-author Edward W. Eichel and editors J. Gordon Muir and John Court, *Kinsey, Sex and Fraud* in 1990. The book shows how Kinsey used prisoners and pedophiles as sources for his conclusions about sexual behavior. The “research” had been based largely on skewed samples and the sexual molestation of children.

Reisman’s latest book, *Kinsey: Crimes and Consequences* (Arlington, Va.: The Institute for Media Education, 1998) goes into great detail about Kinsey’s efforts to use his work to normalize homosexuality, pornography, bestiality, pedophilia, and more. One of her most shocking discoveries is that Kinsey routinely corresponded with a Nazi pedophile who sent Kinsey his diaries describing in detail his child molestations. In addition, Kinsey used the diary of American pedophile Rex King, a man who, according to the documentary *Kinsey’s Paedophiles*, molested more than 800 children.

Kinsey’s sex theories have been passed along to many in the academic community who are attempting to destigmatize sex with children.

### Academics Work to Normalize Pedophilia

James Kincaid, a tenured English professor at the University of Southern California (USC), Los Angeles, is an academic who is attempting to provide intellectual justification for adult/child sex. Kincaid is author of *Child-Loving: The Erotic Child and Victorian Culture* (1992) and *Erotic Innocence: The Culture of Child Molesting* (1998).

Kincaid was a speaker at a USC “Gender & Sexuality Week” last year, which included Annie Sprinkle, a former prostitute and porn star who describes herself as a “multimedia whore.” The conference was cosponsored by the Human Rights Campaign, America’s largest homosexual activist group.

Cornell University is offering a course called “The Sexual Child,” taught by English professor Ellis Hanson. The content of his course was recently featured in Accuracy in Academia’s *Campus Report*. The syllabus for “The Sexual Child” reads like a “Who’s Who” of pedophile “scholars.” It includes the writings of Theo Sandfort, a former board member of *Paidika*; Daniel Tsang, editor of *The Age Taboo*, published by the homosexual Boston-based *Allyson* Publishers; and Pat Califia, the “sexual outlaw,” as well as a photo book of naked children.

Hanson told Michael Capel of *Campus Report* that his course was designed to “undermine preconceived notions about what a child is, what sexuality is, and what it means to love a child.”

One of the readings in Hanson’s course is by lesbian feminist author Gayle Rubin. In her essay...
“Thinking Sex,” she observes, “Like communists and homosexuals in the 1950s, boy lovers are so stigmatized that it is difficult to find defenders for their civil liberties. … In twenty years or so, when some of the smoke has cleared, it will be much easier to show that these men have been the victims of a savage and undeserved witch hunt.”

Hanson told Michael Capel of Campus Report that his course was designed to “undermine preconceived notions about what a child is, what sexuality is, and what it means to love or desire a child.”

Although Hanson denies that his class is pro-pedophilia, it challenges the belief that adult sex with children is evil.

In the same Campus Report article, Capel notes that the New York University Press has published Out of the Closets by Carl Wittman, a book widely used in homosexual studies programs. According to Wittman, “Face it, nice bodies and young bodies are attributes, they’re groovy, … [K]ids can take care of themselves, and are sexual beings way earlier than we’d like to admit. Those of us who began cruising in early adolescence know this, and we were doing the cruising, not being debauched by dirty old men.” New York University Press has also published Lavender Culture by Canadian homosexual/pedophile Gerald Hannon, who writes about the importance of fighting age of consent laws.

Public Schools Are Recruiting Grounds

The homosexual rights movement has targeted teenagers for years, but only recently has there been a more concerted effort to target elementary schoolchildren. The stated goal of homosexual activists is to protect “their” children from a homophobic society, but they are really using the public schools to introduce children to the idea that sexual orientation is an inborn characteristic no different from being left- or righthanded. The message is that heterosexuality, bisexuality, homosexuality, and even being transgendered (a mixture of male and female) are equally valid choices.

In 1997, two lesbian activists produced a 78-minute video, It’s Elementary, which uses actual footage of five schools to show teachers how to introduce the topic of homosexuality to children. The film was slated for airing on San Francisco’s PBS affiliate and has been offered to PBS stations around the nation. It has also been endorsed by the National Education Association and the American School Counselor Association. A 37-minute edition is being distributed by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN). This video is designed to teach children that “gay is OK” and elicits the sympathy of children by portraying critics of homosexuality as “gay bashers.”

One of the most notorious homosexual recruiting programs is Project 10, founded by Virginia Uribe, a lesbian high school teacher in Los Angeles. It has been duplicated in high schools around the nation. Teens who believe they are homosexual are encouraged to get into peer counseling as well as to connect with older homosexuals who will serve as mentors to them. Project 10’s website provides teens with links to various “support” groups to help them “come out” to their parents and friends.

Project 10 has promoted the purchase of pro-homosexuality books for high school libraries. One of its main selections has been One Teenager in Ten: Testimony of Gay and Lesbian Youth, a book that teaches teens that they can choose whatever sexual orientation they wish and move back and forth across a continuum of sexual behaviors. This book contains an essay describing the seduction...
of a teenage girl by her lesbian high school dance teacher. *One Teenager in Ten* was recently removed from several Seattle high schools for review after a parent complained about it.

Helping to further normalize homosexuality among teens is the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network. This group conducts a “Back to School” campaign, which evaluates and grades schools on how well they are doing in creating a “safe and affirming Learning Environment” for homosexual students, teachers and staff.

GLSEN held a “Queer” Education Conference in Oakland, California, in late October of 1998. The conference leaders told the assembled that “the younger you start, the better,” and urged homosexuals to begin teaching “gay-affirming” lessons to kindergarten students. Jaki Williams, a GLSEN activist at the Packer Collegiate School in New York, said that kindergarteners are “developing their superego” and “that’s when the saturation process needs to begin.”

One workshop was titled “Castro Clones: Legitimate Lesbians, Bona Fide Bisexuals, True Transgenders: Being an Authentic Queer?” The presenter told his teenage audience that sexual identity is like a piece of clothing: When it doesn’t fit, you put on another one.

During the conference, one homosexual teacher suggested charging parents with educational neglect if they ask to have their children removed from homosexual-affirming classes. As one teacher noted, “We’re in the business not to educate just the kids, but to educate the community, too.”

Entertainment Industry Popularizes Adult/Child Sex

In 1998, the film industry introduced at least three movies dealing with adult/child sex. The House of Yes, produced by Miramax, a Disney subsidiary, was a comedy about incest. Lolita, starring Jeremy Irons, was rejected by every major Hollywood studio but was picked up by the Showtime channel and Samuel Goldwyn Films. It did not do well in theaters, but was shown on cable TV and is available in some Blockbuster video stores.

The latest offering on pedophilia is *Happiness*, which won the Critics’ Prize at the Cannes Film Festival. Universal Pictures’ subsidiary October Films was originally going to distribute the film, but eventually severed the relationship. *Happiness* was eventually picked up by a smaller distribution company and played in more than 15 cities. The main character in *Happiness* is a homosexual pedophile who victimizes his 11-year-old son’s male friends. He is presented as a normal, upstanding member of his community.

While none of these movies has done well at the box office, their cultural influence will survive at video rental stores. Each contributes in its own way to the normalization of adult/child sex. In addition, television has taken the case for pedophilia directly to teens themselves, with the WB’s “Dawson’s Creek” portraying a sexual relationship between a 15-year-old boy and his high school teacher. The program was more condemning of adults who objected to pedophilia than it was of the pedophilia itself.

University of Illinois philosophy Professor Richard D. Mohr wrote of the growing pedophilic influence within the media in his essay “The Pedophilia of Everyday Life,” published in the September 1996 issue of Guide, a homosexual publication available on the Internet. Mohr notes that Tommy Hilfiger ads have displayed young boys in sexually provocative poses and that Havanna Joe Boots ads show a naked boy bent over, wearing only a pair of boots.

Mohr comments on Larry Clark’s Miramax movie *Kids* as an example of pedophilic images gone mainstream. Clark’s previous photographic works included *Teenage Lust*, which includes a photo of a naked boy with an erection pointing a gun at the figure of a nude, bound girl, and *Die Perfekte Kindheit*
(1993), which includes photos of Clark himself cavorting naked with naked boys in a fountain. *Kids* ends in a teenage orgy of sex and drugs. “With Clark,” says Mohr, “the swarm of naked male flesh hugged and caressed by the remote camera is kiddy flesh, all deployed for a good cause.”

**Conclusion**

The homosexual rights movement has tried to distance itself from pedophilia, but only for public relations purposes. In fact, homosexual activists around the world are working aggressively to lower the age of sexual consent for children and to normalize sex with children. They are accomplishing their goal through legislation, psychiatry, the courts, academia, and the entertainment industry.

What will the future bring? One thing is certain: The major cultural institutions in our society are committed to normalizing homosexuality, and some of them are also becoming committed to normalizing “consensual” sex with children and teens. The ultimate goal is total sexual liberation from any moral restrictions.

Planned Parenthood, for example, launched a Web magazine for teenagers in late February 1999. The March 1 issue contained a number of features on sex, including an article teaching teenage boys how to put on a condom. Another feature, “Am I Gay If I Dream of Girls?” gives advice to teenage girls who may have erotic dreams about other girls. The article observes, “[I]f girls start popping up in your daydreams and fantasies, it may say something about your sexual orientation. The truth is this: If you’re lesbian, gay, straight, or bisexual, that’s what you are, and it’s a fine thing. Don’t sweat it, accept it, because no amount of denial is going to change what makes you hot.”

As more teens engage in homosexual conduct, we will see a rise in the number of teens infected with HIV. As more are drawn into the homosexual lifestyle, we will also see more teens die painful and unnecessary deaths. The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported January 29, 1999, about an emerging trend among younger homosexuals: “Russian Roulette” or “ Barebacking” parties. Groups of young homosexuals are meeting for sex orgies that have three rules: No clothes, no condoms, and no talk of HIV infection. In addition, at least one of the men must be HIV-infected. AIDS has been romanticized to the point where these young men are willing to risk death for a sexual encounter.

This is the future we face, unless there is determined opposition to the homosexual/pedophile movement. A homosexual activist, writing under the pen name of

Michael Swift, looked to the day when homosexuals would control our culture. He challenged heterosexual society with these words:

> We shall sodomize your sons, emblems of your feeble masculinity, of your shallow dreams and vulgar lies. ... Your sons shall become our minions to do our bidding. They will be recast in our image. They will come to crave and adore us.

All churches who condemn us will be closed. Our holy gods are handsome young men. We adhere to a cult of beauty, moral and esthetic. All that is ugly and vulgar and banal will be annihilated. Since we are alienated from middle-class heterosexual conventions, we are free to live our lives according to the dictates of the pure imagination. For us, too much is not enough.

Too much is not enough. Those words should remind us that one of the primary goals of the homosexual rights movement is to abolish all age of consent laws and to eventually recognize pedophiles as the “prophets” of a new sexual order.
Frank V. York, a former editor at Focus on the Family, is a freelance writer living in Southern California. He is the author of nine books, including When the Wicked Seize a City and Send a Message to Mickey, a book about the Southern Baptist Convention’s boycott of the Disney Corporation. Robert H. Knight, director of cultural studies for the Family Research Council and a former Los Angeles Times news editor and writer, wrote and directed the videos Hope and Healing: Stories of Overcoming Homosexuality, and The Children of Table 34, about Alfred C. Kinsey’s child sex research. He is the author of The Age of Consent: The Rise of Relativism and the Corruption of Popular Culture (Dallas: Spence Publishing, 1998).
APPENDIX

Letter from the American Psychological Association to the Honorable Tom DeLay, Majority Whip. Enclosures include “APA Resolution Opposing Child Sexual Abuse” and “Recent Efforts of the American Psychological Association on Behalf of Abused and Neglected Children” p. 22-27

Letter from the American Psychiatric Association to Robert Knight, director of Cultural Studies, Family Research Council p. 28
June 9, 1999

The Honorable Tom DeLay
Office of the Majority Whip
H – 107 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative DeLay:

I want to begin by commending you for your strong personal and professional commitment to the serious problem of child abuse. We especially value your sponsorship of the Child Abuse Prevention and Enforcement Act (CAPE). The American Psychological Association strongly supports this bill and will continue to work for its enactment.

We believe, as we know you do, that the sexual abuse of children is a criminal act that is reprehensible in any context. The Association, through its national programs as well as the work of its members, devotes considerable time and resources to protecting children from being victimized by such abuse. The Association is proud of its record in the area and will continue to devote substantial resources to the prevention and treatment of all childhood abuse, including sexual abuse.

The Association has always condemned the sexual abuse of children. This position is absolutely fundamental to our organization and is demonstrated by our strong record of advocacy on behalf of abused children and our work to educate the public, health professionals, and others about the prevention and treatment of such abuse. **We do not support the “normalization” or decriminalization of any form of sexual relations between adults and children. Such behavior must remain criminal and punishable to the full extent of the law.**

The Association has been publishing scientific articles of the highest quality for over 100 years. We take very seriously the responsibility of maintaining a rigorous and independent peer review process for our 37 scientific journals. However, the peer review process was never designed to consider the public policy implications of research conclusions, a point illuminated by the current controversy surrounding the article, “A Meta-Analytic Examination of Assumed Properties of Child Sexual Abuse Using College Samples,” by Bruce Rind, Philip Tromovitch, and Robert Bauserman.
We acknowledge our social responsibility as a scientific organization to take into account not only the scientific merit of articles but also their implications for public policy. Some of the language in the article, when examined from a public policy perspective, is inflammatory. Clearly, the article included opinions of the authors that are inconsistent with APA's stated and deeply held positions on child welfare and protection issues. It is the position of the Association that sexual activity between children and adults should never be considered or labeled as harmless or acceptable. Furthermore, it is the position of the Association that children cannot consent to sexual activity with adults. These inconsistencies between the conclusions the authors suggest and positions of the Association should have caused us to evaluate the article based on its potential for misinforming the public policy process. This is something we failed to do, but will do in the future.

Additionally, concerns have been raised that the aforementioned article and the inferences drawn from it could be viewed as support for pedophilia and used by pedophiles as a legal defense. There is no defense for pedophilia; it is always wrong. To ensure that APA's position is known to the courts, public policy officials and parents, we are undertaking the following actions:

1. Our Board of Directors has approved a resolution that clearly reaffirms our long-held positions condemning the sexual abuse of children. This official statement represents the views of our organization, which is comprised of 159,000 members and affiliates. (A copy of the resolution is enclosed.) This resolution reflects the Association's long-standing commitment to addressing the problem of child abuse, a commitment demonstrated by the enclosed brief summary of recent Association activities.

2. Our General Counsel is preparing amicus brief materials that could be adapted for use in any court of law to challenge any efforts to use the data in this or any other study to justify, condone, or "normalize" sexual interactions of any sort between children and adults. These materials would also serve to refute any claims that the American Psychological Association in any way condones sexual relations between children and adults or any form of abuse of children.

3. We will seek independent expert evaluation of the scientific quality of the article and will make those results known. This is unprecedented in the Association's history of scholarly publishing, but, in view of the criticism of this study by various groups and individuals, we believe that such a review is appropriate.

4. We are strengthening procedures within the Association to assure that journal editors will fully consider the social policy implications of articles on controversial topics. We will also increase efforts to encourage scientific comments, rebuttals or refutations from researchers and practitioners with expertise in child sexual abuse in an upcoming issue of one of our premier journals.
5. As part of the Association’s long-time initiative to prevent child abuse, we have published numerous materials on treatment and prevention targeted at both the professional and the public audiences (see enclosed brochure). To build upon these earlier publications, we are in the process of creating a public information brochure that will give parents and other caregivers practical, actionable information on how to protect their children from sexual abuse. We hope to enlist religious organizations, child protection and advocacy groups, education and mental health associations, youth service organizations, and our state psychological associations to lend their support to this project and to assist us in the distribution of the brochure. Our goal is to distribute this brochure to parents across the United States during the Fall of this year.

In addition to the specific actions outlined above, the American Psychological Association will continue to support the prevention of child sexual abuse and the treatment of its victims. Thousands of our members work in child abuse prevention programs, and thousands more provide therapy and family support to the victims of this reprehensible behavior.

The American Psychological Association will continue to work with the many members of Congress and those in the advocacy community who have called for an end to child sexual abuse in our society and full punishment for all sex offenders. We pledge our intention to be active participants in this effort.

If you have questions or concerns about APA’s position on child sexual abuse or our work in the area of prevention and treatment, please feel free to contact me at (202) 336-6080.

Sincerely,

Raymond D. Fowler, Ph.D.
CEO/Executive Vice-President

Enclosures
APA RESOLUTION OPPOSING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

WHEREAS, the American Psychological Association is steadfast in its stand against the sexual abuse of children, and

WHEREAS, the welfare, appropriate treatment and protection of children is a priority of the highest order for the American Psychological Association, and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families of the American Psychological Association was established in 1986 to "...contribute to the formulation and support of policies that facilitate the optimal development of children and youth within families...", and

WHEREAS, children who have been sexually abused often experience health problems, eating disorders, learning difficulties, behavioral problems, fearfulness, social withdrawal, anxiety, depression and suicidal thoughts, and

WHEREAS, psychologists as researchers, educators, service providers and policy advocates have played important roles in advancing knowledge regarding the consequences, effective treatment, and prevention of child sexual abuse, and

WHEREAS, the vast body of research studies published by the American Psychological Association over the past 20 years has advanced the field and contributed to the development of sound public policy, and

WHEREAS, the American Psychological Association repudiates and disassociates itself from any organization or publication that advocates sexual interaction between children and adults,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the American Psychological Association reaffirms its long established position that sexual relations between children and adults are abusive, exploitative, reprehensible and properly punishable by law.

May 1999

750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242
(202) 336-5500
(202) 336-6123 TDD

Web: www.apa.org
RECENT EFFORTS OF
THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
ON BEHALF OF ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN

Organizational Activities

Programmatic Efforts Related to Child Abuse and Neglect

1995. Established the Section on Child Maltreatment as part of APA’s Division of Child, Youth, and Family Services.
1991. The APA Council of Representatives adopted as official APA policy the APA Resolution on the Psychological Issues Related to Child Abuse and Neglect, which established working groups on child abuse and neglect prevention, treatment, legal issues in child abuse and neglect, and implications for education and training.
1989. Forwarded the report of the ad hoc Committee on Child Abuse Policy to the APA Board of Directors.
1988. Established the ad hoc Committee on Child Abuse Policy.

Publications

1999. *Children Exposed to Marital Violence,* which includes chapters addressing:
- Children as Invisible Victims of Domestic and Community Violence
- Correlates of Adjustment in Children at Risk.
1998. *Violence Against Children in the Family and the Community,* which contains three chapters on child sexual abuse:
- Developmental Consequences of Child Sexual Abuse
- Individual and Family Characteristics Associated with Intrafamilial Child Physical and Sexual Abuse
- Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Programs that Target Young Children.

(over)
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American Psychiatric Association

1400 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone 202.682.6000
Fax 202.682.6850
E-mail apa@psych.org
Internet www.psych.org

May 27, 1999

Robert Knight
Director of Cultural Studies
Family Research Council
801 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Knight:

Thank you for including our American Psychiatric Association Fact Sheet “Pedophilia” among the materials handed out at your May 12 National Press Club press conference. We appreciate the Family Research Council’s acknowledgment of pedophilia as a mental disorder as described in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Illnesses, Fourth Edition, and our strongly held position that sex between adult and child can never be condoned or considered “normal” behavior.

As you may know, we strongly disagree with the implications of the authors’ conclusions contained in the journal article “A Meta-Analytic Examination of Assumed Properties of Child Sexual Abuse Using College Samples,” Psychological Bulletin, 1998, Vol. 124, No.1, 22-53, that not all sexual contact between adult and child should be considered abusive. From a psychological perspective, sex between adult and child is always abusive and exploitative because the adult always holds the power in the relationship and the child does not. Such exploitation destroys the child’s trust that the adults in his or her life will not harm them. For the same reasons, sex between doctor and patient always is considered exploitative and unethical. Academic hair-splitting over whether the act should be considered adult-child sex or child sexual abuse, depending upon whether or not the child feels abused or suffers subsequent trauma, is not in the public interest and obfuscates the moral issue involved.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Mirin, M.D.
Medical Director
ENDNOTES


2 Ibid.


5 Kate Sefton, “Pushing the Limits,” a review of Public Sex by Pat Califia, Vol. 2, Contemporary Women’s Issues Database, December 1, 1996.


16 For instance, one such list can be found at http://www.actwin.com/eatonohio/gay/GAY.htm.


18 Ibid.

19 Ibid.


24 Ibid.

25 “Sex Bias in the U.S. Code,” Report for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, April 1977, p. 102, quoted in “Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s Feminist World View,” The Phyllis Schlafly Report, Vol. 26, No. 12, Section 1, p. 3. The paragraph reads as follows: “Eliminate the phrase “carnal knowledge of any female, not his wife, who has not attained the age of 16 years” and substitute a federal, sex-neutral definition of the offense. ... A person is guilty of an offense if he engages in a sexual act with another person. ... [and] the other person is, in fact, less than 12 years old.”


Ibid., p. 523.


Steven M. Mirin, M.D., letter to Robert Knight, director of Cultural Studies, Family Research Council, May 27, 1999.


Fowler, op. cit.


Quoted in "The Problem of Pedophilia," ibid.

Satinover, op. cit.


Ibid.

Ibid.


A homosexual activist writing under the name of Michael Swift, quoted by Frank York and Charles and Donna McIlhenny in *When the Wicked Seize a City* (Lafayette, Louisiana: Huntington House Publishers, 1993), pp. 212-213.