

Canadian Court Ruling May Expose Pre-School Children To Homosexual Literature

by Roy Waller

Public schools cannot ban books with gay-friendly themes from kindergarten classes, said Canada's Supreme Court in a December 2002 ruling.

The ruling was the result of a lawsuit brought by a gay kindergarten teacher who wanted to introduce a book entitled "One Dad, Two Dads, Brown Dads, Blue Dads" to kindergarten and first-grade students. The story appeared on Reuters news service.

The school board of Surrey, Vancouver, British Columbia, was criticized by a group of parents – including Catholics, Protestants, Hindus, Sikhs, and Muslims – who objected to the book's contents on the moral grounds of their respective faiths.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Beverly Mc Lachlin, writing for the majority, acknowledged while "religion is an integral aspect of people's lives, and cannot be left at the (school) boardroom door." However, she went on to say that "what secularism does rule out, however, is any attempt to use the religious views of one part of the com-

munity to exclude from consideration the values of other members of the community."

The Surrey School Board had argued that five- and six-year old children are too young to be exposed to literature dealing with sexual themes, to which Mc Lachlin replied, "Tolerance is always age-appropriate."

On the other side of the issue, Justice Charles Gonthier noted that the books went beyond expressing tolerance because they imply that all relationships are morally equivalent.

Judge Gonthier added that Canadians should not be banned from expressing moral disapproval of homosexuality. He said that pluralism should not transform tolerance into "mandated approval or acceptance."

A group that argued on the side of the parents, the Catholic Civil Rights League, maintained that the ruling denies a voice to parents of conservative, traditional moral values in shaping what is essentially public policy.

"Sexual Variety" and S&M Are Part of What Makes Gay People "Distinctive and Valuable," Says Psychologist

A revealing review of gay psychiatrist Jack Drescher's new book, "Psychoanalytic Therapy and the Gay Man," was recently published in the *Archives of Sexual Behavior* (Aug. 2002, vol. 31, no. 4, pp. 380-383, untitled). The reviewer is Kenneth Lewes. Like Drescher, Lewes is an openly gay man and a noted gay advocate.

Lewes says that Drescher's book fails to recognize the very real differences between gay men and straight men.

Drescher's book does not, Lewes says, address such common issues as gay men's —

"amazing search for sexual variety and frequency, the importance to them of fantasy and sado-masochistic scenarios, the abuse of drugs to heighten sexual experience, their apparently adolescent narcissistic physical display...Therapists working with gay men hear about these behaviors frequently (p. 383)."

Why does Drescher's book fail to acknowledge these commonalities of gay life? Perhaps, Lewes says, because of "political reasons for not wishing to discuss these issues at the present time; but I, for one, cannot agree with them."

Lewes thinks it's a mistake to whitewash the differences between gays and straights, because by ignoring or denying these proclivities to make homosexuality more acceptable to the straight world, gay advocates risk "erasing identities and styles" that really do characterize gay men.

In fact, Lewes says that these, "very 'asocial' traits of our patients"—and he places quotes around the term "asocial," implying that promiscuity and sado-masochism are not necessarily contrary to society's interests at all—"are aspects of what historically has made gay people distinctive and valuable."