

Making Schools “Safe” Means “Refashioning Values” in Massachusetts

The following pages are a transcript of an audiotape, “The Homosexual Agenda in Massachusetts Schools,” courtesy of Parents’ Rights Coalition, email office@parentsrightscoalition.org or PO Box 541612 Waltham, MA 02454

The two speakers on this portion of the tape are Michael Chuisano and Brian Camenker, the parents’ rights activist who was interviewed in our last Bulletin issue.

The two men describe school programs which devalue sexual self-restraint, tradition, and the authority of adults mentors in the teenager’s life. An inner-directed decision-making process is favored, and children are invited to consider the rejection of their parents’ values.

*At the same time, most such programs encourage children to test out a broad range of sexual options, and to base their judgments about those options on a combination of health considerations and personal feelings. Such programs are typically introduced as essential for **making schools safe**.*

(To order copies of this tape, which also feature ex-gay Anthony Falzarano and researcher Brian Burt, call 781-433-7106.)

Introduction by Michael Chuisano, Concerned Parent:

My name is Michael Chuisano; I own a small business, have a wife and two children, and live in a suburban community in Massachusetts. Several years ago, I stumbled onto something strange that was happening at my daughter’s public school.

Our family was sitting around the dinner table, and quite without guile or any particular intention, my daughter—then age 13—told my wife and me about mandatory assemblies she had attended, without request for my permission, as part of “Homophobia Week” activities. In these assemblies, gay men described their political goals and agendas and how they wished to have the right to marry and adopt children.

A Catholic priest had been brought in on the last day as a pretense to balance, but he was almost booed off the stage—so effective had been the pro-gay speakers.

My daughter mentioned that perhaps I “was homophobic,” if I did not agree with the gay activists’ goals.

During the next few months, I took a “crash course” in homosexual political activism. This was a world that I did not think existed. To me, homosexuality was a behavior pattern on the fringes of society, not something to be introduced to teenagers at the onset of their sexual maturity. I soon discovered a vast network of homosexual-activist groups, ranging from elite Washington-based lobbyists who have the personal ear of the president, to such bizarre groups as “Digital Queers,” who are homosexual computer programmers who donate their time and expertise to homosexual activism.

Perhaps most troubling of all was the group, “GLSEN” (Gay/Lesbian and Straight Education Network). GLSEN started as a group of gay teachers, but is now a nationwide network of activists dedicated to advancing homosexual ideology within public schools—and largely succeeding, I might add. Keep in mind that we are talking about groups which are targeting children.

Despite their public pronouncements to the contrary, the goal of homosexual activists is not tolerance for themselves, or even tolerance of children who declare themselves gay or lesbian—whatever that can mean in the case of unfocused teen sexuality.

Targeting the Next Generation

No, the true goal is saturation and conversion, leading to a redefinition of sexual norms and a world of gay celebration and affirmation. Because adults are not likely to change their views, these gay activists know that their best chance of succeeding is to change the hearts and minds of children, largely by undermining the values taught by their parents. Therefore subversion, not tolerance, is their goal.

Our first speaker is Brian Camenker, a father of two who has himself seen the power of homosexual activism in public schools.

Speech by Brian Camenker, Citizen Activist:

During the past fifteen or twenty years, we’ve been seeing things happen that I don’t think have ever been seen before at any time in history. In the public schools, what we’ve called “the homosexual agenda” has become particularly distressing to parents.

I know myself, because I have a sixth-grade little girl in the middle school in Newton, Massachusetts. I had to take her out of Health Class because one of the class's goals was to help the children understand and appreciate their sexual orientation. I felt that maybe for a sixth grader, this is a little too much, but I got an argument from the principal. He said that he believed in this approach, but if I had a religious reason, maybe he would consider letting me pull my little girl out. I said I didn't think I needed a religious reason; so I said, "She will be showing up at your office tomorrow instead of going to class," and that was that.

But the situation has gone far beyond that, if we look at just a small percentage of the kinds of things we've seen throughout Massachusetts over the last few years. Take a Jeff Jacoby column published on March 7, 1995 that talks about Ashland's middle school. There, children were assigned gay roles for a play on discrimination.

Two boys had to pretend they were a homosexual couple seeking to adopt a child. One boy's line was, "It's natural to be attracted to the same sex." Two girls in the class were told to hold hands and act out the roles of lesbian partners. Parents learned of this only when their children mentioned it afterwards.

Test Period of Gay Sex Suggested for "Early Teenagers"

At Silverlake High School in Kingston, Massachusetts, the ninth grade textbook teaches that "sexuality is a matter of trial and error and personal choice," and among its lessons is as follows:

"Testing your ability to function sexually and give pleasure to another person may be less threatening in the early teens with people of your own sex."

"You may come to the conclusion that growing up means rejecting the values of your parents."

Homophobia Week at Beverly High School featured guest lecturers from a gay and lesbian speakers' bureau; students heard presentations in support of homosexual marriage, and the right of gays and lesbians to raise children...and it goes on and on.

"But are You Really Heterosexual?"

One of the things we see a lot are surveys. For instance in Framingham, students were asked the following:

"Is it possible that heterosexuality is a phase you will grow out of?"

"Are you heterosexual because you fear the same sex?"

"If you've never slept with anyone of the same sex, how

do you do know you wouldn't prefer it? Is it possible you need a good gay experience?"

Such a survey was given to teenagers at the high school in Framingham, Massachusetts and the principal said, and I quote, "This was not advocacy—just thoughtful and constructive lessons in tolerance."

As part of the same sensitivity curriculum, students were taught that oral and anal sex are "methods of birth control that preserve the concept of virginity."

The Reshaping of Social Mores

In Amherst, Massachusetts, they had an exhibit for young children that featured photographs of homosexual households—part of the current effort to reshape what people think about marriage and family.

And a school committee member agreed that parents should not be able to keep their children from seeing this; they said it would be a direct insult to lesbian and gays.

So much of this has been supposedly to create "safe schools," but it always seems to involve something more than that.

In Brookline High School during Gay and Lesbian Awareness Month, students were invited to "tell someone about your homosexual fantasies or experiences." They were asked to wear pink cardboard triangles imprinted with the word, "ally." This was supposedly to help children who were confused.

Sexual Identity Confusion is Common

These are children, by the way, who are naturally confused—because adolescence is inevitably the most confusing time of a person's life.

I have in front of me here the homeroom questionnaire presented at Dedham High School. It says, "Do you know anyone who is gay, lesbian, or bisexual? Should they be allowed to serve in our military? Should they be allowed to marry?" and on and on and on. "Do you feel comfortable with them?"

And again, another survey that was handed out in a Massachusetts high school: "When and how did you decide that you were heterosexual? Is it possible that heterosexuality is a phase that you will grow out of?"

Imagine children being questioned this way, over and over again.

Last year throughout Massachusetts schools, there was a photo exhibit widely circulated called "The Shared Heart," from the Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian

Youth. It was an exhibit of so-called homosexual teenagers, in order to reinforce the idea among children that homosexuality is another natural part of life. This exhibit was sponsored by the State and went through high schools throughout Massachusetts. It was exhibited in the State House with quite a bit of fanfare.

What's behind a lot of this? Over and over again we see this group called "GLSEN" (the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network), which is a national organization that has been very, very active in the public school system, and has been the recipient of a lot of state funding.

Gay Clubs Seek Confused Students to Give Them a New Identity

Some of the programs that have gone through dozens and dozens of public schools through GLSEN are gay/straight alliance clubs where students are encouraged to celebrate their homosexuality. We see confidential homosexual counseling, surveys, speakers, gay history where famous figures from history are described as actually having been homosexual, gay library collections, and proclamations by politicians.

These gay clubs, in particular, I have found to be very, very distressing. These clubs meet after school and are run often by people who are not involved with the school system—essentially, young gay adults. The meetings are encouraged to be confidential, they are very well funded, and they often sort of "go after" or try to bring in children who are on the edge who are going through a confused time in life, and they bring them in and give them an identity.

Now who runs all of this? Massachusetts Governor William Weld established the Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth several years ago, and through its activist administrator, David La Fontaine, it has blossomed into dozens and dozens of schools. La Fontaine first came into prominence as one of the group of gay demonstrators that screamed profanities and threw condoms at priests in a church during a Catholic ordination ceremony. He was also arrested at the State House for disrupting a press conference on the subject of homosexuality.

During a televised debate where I personally debated him, La Fontaine said that in these confidential homosexuality counseling courses, they take a child they feel is confused about his sexuality and without his parents' knowledge and consent, they bring him to a homosexual counselor to help him talk through this. In fact, on the tape, he told me that he defends this practice, because parents' values need to be improved upon.

David La Fontaine has also said things that are very uncomplimentary to religion and to religious people. And this is the person who continues to run the state of Massachusetts'

programs!

I am told that when the city of Holyoke, Massachusetts' school board saw this tape, they discontinued their gay programs.

Now, exactly what is the Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth? As I said, it is extremely well funded. They put out a book on the topic of "making school safe"...everything is supposed to be part of that effort to "make safe schools."

But safe for what? Safe for things like children whose dress does not conform to gender expectations? In their opinion, it should be a crime to be bothered by children dressing in opposite-sex clothing!

The Governor's Commission is also developing numerous types of courses, of methods of coming into various schools. They offer techniques showing how to confront a school committee, how to confront parents, how to bring the message to schoolchildren in Massachusetts. And if you look at their recommendations, it's pretty frightening stuff.

This is a public commission that recommends conducting confidential surveys with students, doing outreach into the schools, and numerous things that are essentially more of what I already talked about.

And then, of course, there's their annual event—the Gay/Straight Youth Pride March—which starts at the State House, and is usually attended by several hundred of these gay/straight alliance clubs from around Massachusetts.

Boston Mayor Sponsors Gay Prom in City Hall

Last year I attended. They had some very, I would consider, inflammatory speeches. They marched down to the esplanade, and then they finished the evening with a gay prom, for which the mayor of Boston gave over the entire first floor of Boston City Hall. These children, often hand in hand, were led into these rooms—adults were not let in—and there was music and dancing.

One of the more bizarre parts of this was their head of Security, who we talked to for a bit. He was a guy with open sores on his face and a dog collar...I kid you not. And he talked about his having been homosexually raped as a young child, and he now was an active homosexual.

When you talk about the numerous high schools and groups that have become involved with this movement, and the kind of money that is going into this, it's really quite frightening. The Governor's Youth Commission actually proposes addressing the problem of anti-gay feelings beginning in grade school. It's gathered a momentum that makes

it almost unstoppable.

Will Politically Incorrect Thought Become the Next Hate Crime?

I was reading in the paper this week that Governor Celucci has now appointed a gay man to be the first Students' Civil Rights Director for the Governor's Task Force on Hate Crimes in high schools and middle schools. Now how do you suppose they are going to define hate crimes?

When you didn't think this thing could become more frightening, it has. Governor Paul Celucci has quadrupled, according to this article, Governor Bill Weld's appropriation to these programs. *They now have one million dollars to spend.* And I can tell you from what we've seen since August, that one million dollars is going a very long way. Everything we've seen in the schools has become more and more aggressive and more encompassing.

Governor Celucci is no stranger to the gay movement in Massachusetts. His photo is often featured in the gay press with statements describing how he feels that gay youth ought to be coming out. Here is his picture with David La Fontaine, who I discussed earlier. Here is his picture proclaiming May to be Gay/Straight Student Pride Month in Massachusetts...he's not your usual Republican governor.

Where's that million dollars going? Let me just discuss my local high school, Newton North High, which had "Be GLAAD Day" a little over a month ago.

What is "Be GLAAD Day"? Entire classes were led to anti-homophobia workshops. There was a transgender panel at the school which children were encouraged to attend. Transgender is a medical situation where people believe that they're of a different sex, and they have their bodies mutilated and changed to reflect that. This was in high school. There were teen panels on "how I came out and found my new identity."

"Shaming" Is Used to Create Gay-Affirming Network

I talked to some of the students who went through this, and it was a strange experience, even for them. At both main entrances of the school, kids were given pink triangle stickers, and the purpose was to show solidarity with the homosexual movement. And if you didn't have a pink triangle sticker, it was evident that you didn't show solidarity....and of course that was considered bad.

Entire classes were taken to these assemblies, and pamphlets were handed out and there were signs all over saying, "One in 10 people are gay."

In fact one pamphlet said, "More than that are gay—they just don't know it yet."

Again, another pamphlet: "How do you know you're not gay if you've never slept with someone of the same sex? You may like it."

Another said: "Homophobia is a disease."

And a little off the subject, "One out of seven wives is raped by her husband."

Is Failure to Be Gay-Affirming Equivalent to Racial Bigotry?

There was the constant theme that the persecution of gays in America today is exactly the same as that of blacks before the civil-rights movement.

There was a sign outside: "10% of all gay students in this school have been spat on," and it went on and on and on.

There was some more...another said, "If you've never kissed another man, you may not know what your real sexual orientation is."

"Be GLAAD Day" was actually repeated to a lesser degree in the junior high schools. A student from junior-high school told me about a history class where the teacher asked the following:

"Do you know someone who is gay? If so, move to the other side of the class."

"Have you ever thought about being gay? Then, move to the other side."

"Are you pretty sure you might be gay?...Move to the other side."

These are *junior high-school* kids.

This is become more aggressive, it's become more enveloping, and all of it, again, is under the excuse of "**making schools safe.**"

The average parent has to say, "What is going on here?"

For the "piece de resistance," we must look at the coverage in the school newspaper of this event. This is a school newspaper in a local high school.

Here's one article that starts out: "In kindergarten and first grade, the heterosexual mainstream begins its recruiting process— 'One day, class, you will grow up and marry someone of the opposite sex'" (meaning to do otherwise is wrong).

Then we have the whole spread on "Be GLAAD Day" describing the workshop on discrimination. Then "coming out to your children," where they brought supposedly gay

parents to describe their family relationships.

Here is a gay father in the student assembly, which is called "Transgendered People Discuss Their Insights." It says, "Students to give a wake-up call about homophobic language being insulting."

Students Called Bigots for Not Affirming Homosexuality

I heard many stories that, if students say anything at all that might be construed as being insulting to homosexuality, these people were screamed at and called bigots, and treated terribly for having the wrong opinion.

And of course there's the homophobic language seminar. ...

Here's an eighth-grader finding out that she's really gay, and writing about this.

And then we have the lesbian teacher who's an advisor and role model. Let me read this here: "Another facet of the teacher's contribution to the school is that she is an 'out' teacher and feels comfortable explaining to her schools that she is gay. 'Kids are naturally curious about teachers' lives,' she said. 'When I say on the first day of class, 'Who has questions?' they might ask me if I'm married. And I say, 'I can't be, because I am a lesbian.'"

And it goes on and on.

Governor Weld's million dollars has been an unbelievably effective tool for the gay movement. ■

Parents' Rights Coalition Scores a Win: But Coalition's Brian Camenker Now Threatened by a Lawsuit

The Parents' Rights Coalition was catapulted into the spotlight recently when its Executive Director went undercover to secretly tape a graphic seminar for teenagers which was sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Education.

In an interview with the *Boston Herald*, a Democratic senator from Massachusetts, Edward Clancy, agreed that the instruction at the workshop would "politely be called salacious." The state's Education Commissioner agreed, saying the discussion was "prurient."

The Parents' Rights reporter who taped the proceedings had even stronger words about the conference, which provided continuing education credit to teachers. The seminar was, he said, a "shock that words can barely describe."

Sponsored by GLSEN (the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network) the seminar included a workshop called "What They Didn't Tell You About Queer Sex and Sexuality in Health Class: A Workshop for Youth Only, Ages 14-21," during which gay and lesbian teenagers were taught in graphic detail the precise how-to's of engaging in "fisting." The students were told that fisting would be an enhancement to sexual intimacy.

Educators Fired

After transcripts of the tape reached the media, the two women instructors from the State Department of Education were fired for their role in the controversy. One of those educators was Margot Ables, a lesbian activist and HIV/AIDS educator who said the seminar was "typical" of others she has given with full knowledge of the Department of Education. After her dismissal, she gathered about 100 supporters to protest the firing in front of the Department of Education headquarters.

The third presenter was a self-identified gay man from the Department of Health.

"We've all seen people like this," said Parents' Rights Coalition's Brian Camenker. "We used to call them 'dirty old men.' They would love to sit around and talk dirty with young children. Now we pay them to do it, and we put them in our schools. If you listen to the tapes or look at the transcript, it is sickeningly obvious that these people were having a great time leading the kids into the discussions."

The *Boston Herald* reported that the controversy surrounding the secret taping of the conference "created a flurry of negative publicity" for the state's gay and lesbian education programs.

Judge Issues Gag Order Against Camenker's Coalition

In the wake of that unflattering publicity, GLSEN fought exposure of the content of the workshop, claiming that taping it was illegal. GLSEN was successful in obtaining a restraining order against Parents' Rights Coalition to prevent PRC from distributing the tapes or discussing the workshop's content.

"They do not want the public to hear this," Brian Camenker told *New York Post* columnist Rod Dreher. In retaliation, he said, GLSEN is "trying to ruin us personally and financially."

Americans for Truth is now distributing the audiotape. To obtain a copy, request at info@americansfortruth.org or write to P.O. Box 340743 Columbus, OH 43234