

NARTH BULLETIN

NARTH Fact Sheet Opens Public Debate

Recently NARTH sparked a debate which was given wide exposure through radio host Dr. Laura Schlessinger.

Last fall, NARTH discovered a major study in the American Psychological Association's prestigious *Psychological Bulletin* which found little or no harm—and sometimes benefit—in consensual pedophilia between men and boys.

To publicize this study and warn of its implications, NARTH produced a Fact Sheet called "The Problem of Pedophilia" and based it on three points: the new *Psychological Bulletin* study in which the A.P.A. offered a platform to pedophile advocates; the A.P.A.'s change in the diagnostic criteria, which has left room for the possibility of the psychologically normal pedophile; and a 1990 *Journal of Homosexuality* double issue called "Male Intergenerational Intimacy," which made the case for man-boy sex.

We sought to make the point that pedophile advocates are now being heard in influential places.

A New Group Demands Inclusion: —By What Logic Do We Say 'No'?

"Recently, pedophile advocates—like gay advocates and radical feminists—have been arguing with convincing force from the postmodern perspective that there *is no* natural order, no moral law, and no objective truth," said Dr. Joseph Nicolosi. "From this perspective, man can fashion himself

as he chooses. Gender is seen as a social construction, and psychology can no longer operate from a logically consistent foundation which recognizes the naturalness of male-female design and the family unit."

"Those ideas have taken over the academy with little resistance, but now we move to the next stage: pedophile advocates also want their logical share of the benefits of this thinking. They are saying the taboo against pedophilia is, like gender, made up for the purpose of keeping a particular group—the sexually privileged—in power.

"They argue that psychological research like the *Psychological Bulletin* study proves that since there is little or no psychological harm to the child, then the taboo is in no way good, or necessary."



Dr. Laura Schlessinger

In a recent issue of our own *Bulletin*, NARTH interviewed former A.P.A. "insider" Dr. Michael Wertheimer, who made a similar case against the pedophilia taboo—saying he saw no convincing evidence of harm, and no evidence that traditional moral sanctions against it were more than a social construction. Similarly, the *Journal of Homosexuality* has just recently given lead-article status to another defense of man-boy pedophilia (to be reviewed in the next *NARTH Bulletin*).

"Dr. Laura" Enters the Picture

This angered radio talk-show host "Dr. Laura" Schlessinger. She received an outraged letter from a listener which described a different radio program on which one of the authors of the *Psychological Bulletin* study had gone on the air to make a case for man-boy sex.

Dr. Laura receives NARTH literature, including the Fact Sheet, "The Problem of Pedophilia." Disgusted at the increasing boldness of pedophile advocates, she used her next one-hour show to read the NARTH Fact Sheet along with a prepared statement from our Scientific Advisory Board member Dr. Gerard van den Aardweg of Holland. Dr. Laura has as many as 18 million listeners.

The Field of Discussion Widens

Then the *Washington Times* published an account of the debate, and

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the Family Research Council, a Washington-D.C.-based public policy organization, scheduled a press conference on the subject. Counselor Richard Cohen, M.A., is slated to represent NARTH at that conference, where he will describe his own experience as a former gay man and also as a childhood sexual-abuse survivor.

World magazine featured an article using the information in NARTH's Fact Sheet. In an essay entitled, "Tossing the Last Taboo: Psychologists Hail the Benefits of Pederasty," by Gene Edward Veith (4-10-99, p. 28), *World* noted that 42% of the male college students surveyed retroactively viewed their abuse as "positive" while a substantial proportion also thought it had a positive influence on their current sex lives.

"If so many of the men considered their abuse to have been a good thing and a 'positive influence on their lives,' this is simply more of the abundant evidence that child molesting turns its victims towards homosexuality," the newsmagazine commented.

NARTH's Fact Sheet also had an effect in Washington: House Majority Whip Tom DeLay told the Associated

Press that he was "appalled and sickened" by the conclusions in the A.P.A.-published study. DeLay's views were expressed in an April 15th AP article, "DeLay Criticizes New Professional Views on Child Sex Abuse."

In the DSM III-R, acting on a pedophile impulse was by itself, sufficient to cause a diagnosis of pedophilia; in the DSM IV, a person must also experience distress and social disability. However after NARTH brought this change to public attention, the A.P.A. issued a public-information sheet which *contradicts* this diagnostic criterion—stating that the molestation of a child would by itself, generate a diagnosis of pedophilia. To its credit, the American Psychological Association has also recently denounced child molestation in very strong and clear language—interestingly, on moral grounds as "wrong."

Yet at the same time, the Association was offering a major platform to normalization advocates in a world-renowned journal.

For a copy of our Fact Sheet, see our website www.narth.com, or write us; for a small donation, we will send it directly. ■

NARTH Seeks Program and Resource Officer

NARTH has experienced remarkable growth in the past year, expanding from a professional group to a nationally known public-policy association.

We are now seeking a new employee with energy and creative vision. This person should have passionate commitment to our goals and objectives and a "roll-up-the-sleeves, get-it-done" attitude. This is an opportunity to join a very hard-working and committed team, and to help drive NARTH into the forefront of the national debate this year.

That person will—

- *Serve as chief fundraiser to develop a broad donor base from individuals and charitable foundations;*
- *Manage financial and administrative matters;*
- *Move NARTH into every arena of the public debate—in education, mental health, media, legislation, parenting, religion, and public health by making contact with the national leaders in those areas.*

This person will work directly under Executive Director Joseph Nicolosi in the NARTH office. Salary will be competitive. Please send your resume to NARTH