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**Will the APA Applaud the Spitzer Study?**  
***A Call for Freedom of Scientific Inquiry and Publication***

*(Unpublished letter sent by NARTH members to the A.P.A. Monitor.)*

To the Editor of the *Monitor*:

A.P.A. President Noreen Johnson (President's Column, July/August, 2001) makes an ardent defense for freedom of scientific inquiry. She uses as an example, a study purporting to show little or no harm in pedophile relationships. Such research recently elicited a firestorm of controversy.

Let's truly embrace this freedom that APA's president champions. Would APA provide an open letter of support to Dr. Robert L. Spitzer—the prominent psychiatrist who crafted the 1973 decision to remove homosexuality from the DSM? Spitzer's recent research is very controversial and concluded that homosexuality is not invariably fixed, and some people can and do change.

If Spitzer's research is not too controversial for the scientific community to acknowledge, then let's move yet farther forward into a full and open discussion which should

include the viewpoint of sexual-reorientation therapists before Gender-Identity Disorder is removed from the DSM. A similar full and open discussion should take place before "Footnote 4" (universities with religious sponsorships) is disallowed for the accreditation of APA-approved programs.

There is a growing body of psychologists who share our view and who want to send a clear message to APA: "Let's open an active debate on controversial issues like abortion, affirmative action, religious diversity and sexual orientation." We need to be inclusive not only of controversial research, but of the broad spectrum of value systems that reflects the client populations we serve.

—A. Dean Byrd, Ph.D.  
—Joseph Nicolosi  
—Christopher H. Rosik, Ph. D.