

Washington Watch

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His photographs

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Lazy Days of Summer

Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.
 —MICAH 7:7

A Father Speaks

Testimony of Darrell Scott

Rachel Joy Scott was one of the victims of the massacre at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. The following is the testimony of her father, Darrell, given before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, May 27, 1999. Although Mr. Scott's testimony (edited for length) does not necessarily reflect the views of the Family Research Council, he speaks powerfully about the spiritual warfare that is ongoing in our culture.

Mr. Scott: Since the dawn of creation there has been both good and evil in the heart of men and of women. We all contain the seeds of kindness or the seeds of violence. The death of my wonderful daughter Rachel Joy Scott and the deaths of that heroic teacher and the other children who died must not be in vain. Their blood cries out for answers.

The first recorded act of violence was when Cain slew his brother Abel out in the field. The villain was not the club he used. Neither was it the

NCA, the National Club Association. The true killer was Cain and the reason for the murder could only be found in Cain's heart.

In the days that followed the Columbine tragedy, I was amazed at how quickly fingers began to be pointed at groups such as the NRA. I am not a member of the NRA. I am not a hunter. I do not even own a gun. I am not here to represent or defend the NRA because I don't believe that they are responsible for my daughter's death. Therefore I do not believe that they need to be defended. If I believed they had anything to do with Rachel's murder I would be their strongest opponent.

I am here today to declare that Columbine was not just a tragedy – it was a spiritual event that should be forcing us to look at where the real blame lies! Much of that blame lies here in this room. Much of that blame lies behind the pointing fingers of the accusers themselves.



Columbine father Darrell Scott testifies before Congress

APR Photos

APA Does Turnaround on Pedophilia Article But Trouble Lies Ahead

by Charles A. Donovan and Robert H. Knight

In June, the American Psychological Association did an unusual turnaround over an article that says child molestation with "willing" children might not be harmful.

Facing public outcry that ranged from Dr. Laura Schlessinger's radio talk show to the halls of Congress, the APA promised an independent inquiry to be published in a special edition of its premiere journal, *American Psychologist*. The APA also pledged to draft legal briefs against the article for use in court cases, and warned the pro-pedophile North American Man-Boy Love Association not to cite the article to justify molestation.

The storm broke in March over "A Meta-Analytic Examination of Assumed Properties of Child Sexual Abuse Using College Samples" by Bruce Rind of Temple University, Philip Tromovitch of the University of Pennsylvania, and Robert Bauserman of the University of Michigan, published in the APA's July 1998 Psychological Bulletin.

The authors suggest in considering non-coercive sex that: "A willing encounter with positive reactions would be labeled simply adult-child sex, a value-neutral term." One of the



Dr. Laura Schlessinger

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APA Does Turnaround on Pedophilia

(Continued from cover)

authors, Bauserman, has written an article on "intergenerational sex" for the *Journal of Homosexuality*, as well as an article for *Paidika: The Journal of Paedophilia*, a Dutch pro-pedophilia publication.

Last November, a National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH) report criticized the APA article, but it failed to get public attention until Dr. Laura labeled it "junk science" on March 22. A listener to Dom Giordano's Philadelphia radio talk show on which he interviewed article co-author Philip Tromovitch had tipped her off. On May 12, Dr. Laura, Giordano, Majority Whip Tom DeLay (R-Texas) and Reps. Matt Salmon (R-Ariz.) and Dave Weldon (R-Fla.), along with author Dr. Judith Reisman, Childhelp USA President Bill Steiner, FRC's Janet Parshall and Legal Studies Director Janet LaRue, Bob Flores of the National Law Center for Children and Families, and NARTH's Richard Cohen denounced the article at a Family Research Council press conference. Rep. Salmon unveiled a Congressional resolution condemning the article.

On May 27, Dr. Steven M. Mirin, Medical Director of the American Psychiatric Association (not to be confused with the other APA), wrote a letter to FRC severely criticizing the Rind article noting that, "sex between adult and child can never be condoned or considered 'normal' behavior."

In Alaska, state representative Fred Dyson introduced a resolution calling on the APA to repudiate the article. It was quickly approved by the legislature and became a model for similar efforts in Pennsylvania, California, Delaware and in the U.S. Congress.

On June 6, the APA threw in the towel. Chief Executive Officer Raymond D. Fowler hand-carried a letter to Capitol Hill addressed to Rep. DeLay in which the APA admitted error in publishing the "inflammatory" article. In a June 22 letter to FRC, Fowler said the APA planned a special edition of *American Psychologist* (circ. 100,000) to handle scientific critiques of the Rind article. There is plenty to criticize. Former American Psychiatric Association President Paul J. Fink asserts the article has major flaws.

More than half the data were drawn from a single study done more than 40 years ago, although 59 studies were cited. The authors include data involving mild adult-child sexual interactions with no physical contact, such as encountering a sexual deviant in a public place. "It is as if a study that purports to exam-

ine the effects of being shot in the head contained a majority of cases in which the marksman missed," Dr. Fink writes. "Such research might demonstrate that being shot in the head generally has no serious or lasting effect."

In 1994, the American Psychiatric Association paved the way for the current controversy by revising its Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. To require that for pedophilia to be a mental disorder, the subject must have "clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning." As NARTH President Joseph Nicolosi puts it, "A person is no longer a pedophile simply because he molests children or fantasizes about molesting children. He is a pedophile only if he feels bad or anxious about what he's doing, or if it impairs him in an important area of functioning."

The APA's turnaround on pedophilia is refreshing, but serious problems remain. The June 1999 *American Psychologist* includes "Deconstructing the Essential Father" by Louise B. Silverstein and Carl F. Auerbach of Yeshiva University. This article asserts that the idea of the two-parent, heterosexual, nuclear family as the best unit for raising children is a myth. Drawing from data on fathering by gay couples, the authors are "convinced" that "neither a mother nor a father is essential" for positive child development and that supporting the traditional family "discriminates against cohabiting couples, single mothers, and gay and lesbian parents."

Another APA-approved study, "Is Homophobia Associated With Homosexual Arousal?" (1996 Vol. 105, No. 3 *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*) purports to show that people who object to homosexuality are really aroused by it, unlike people who aren't "homophobic." This is akin to the slur that anyone opposing homosexual activists is "obsessed" with homosexuality. The article moves the APA one step closer to labeling as mental illness any moral objection to homosexuality.

The new FRC Insight paper "Harming the Little Ones: The Effects of Pedophilia on Children" by Timothy J. Dailey, Ph.D. examines the abundant scientific evidence that sexual experiences during childhood are harmful. For a copy, call 1-800-225-4008. [www](http://www.frc.org)

Witherspoon Fellow Christopher E. Brown contributed to this article.

Get Ready to Pray for the Children.

This nationwide grassroots initiative involves parents and communities of faith in the fight against drugs and will be observed Oct. 22-24. Events will focus on prayer for children to be drug-free and safe. Last year, Pray for the Children was observed across the nation as well as in Australia and Bermuda. To learn more, go to www.prayforthechildren.com, call 630-420-1766, or call the fax-on-demand line at 800-899-7279.

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