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APA and Pro-Pedophilia Propaganda

by Robert H. Knight

So now, child molestation is no big deal – as long as it is okay with the child. That's the conclusion of a three-author study published by the American Psychological Association.

Dr. Laura Schlessinger took an hour of her radio show on March 22 to blast the study, which says that sex between adults and children is not only less harmful than believed but might even be positive for "willing" children.

Calling the study "garbage science," Dr. Schlessinger, who has a background in medical physiology, compared the APA's action to the 1973 American Psychiatric Association decision that took homosexuality off the list of mental disorders.

When the sex is consensual, the APA article says, such terms as "child abuse," "molestation," and "victims" should be abandoned in favor of "value-free" terms such as "adult-child sex." One of the sources cited as an authority on sexual history is Vern Bullough, who is listed on the editorial board of *Paidika*, the *Journal of Paedophilia*, which advocates adult-child sex.

Temple University psychology Professor Bruce Rind, University of Pennsylvania education Professor Philip Tromovitch, and Robert Bauserman, a psychology professor at

the University of Michigan, wrote "A Meta-Analytic Examination of Assumed Properties of Child Sexual Abuse Using College Samples." Bauserman also wrote an article for the *Journal of Homosexuality* in 1990, "Male Generational Intimacy," which questions the "taboo" against man-boy sex.

The new study was published last July in the APA's bimonthly *Psychological Bulletin*. It was severely criticized in a paper, "The Problem of Pedophilia," published by the Encino, California-based National Association of Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH).

Homosexual activists around the world are working to lower or abolish the age of consent laws in order to "liberate" children. At the 1999 U.N. Population Conference in the Netherlands, about 130 youths from 111 countries signed a sexual rights manifesto that calls for the "right" of children as young as 10 to have sex with anyone.

The North American Man-Boy Love Association (NAMBLA), which advocates sex between men and boys, hails the *Bulletin* study on its website, noting, "[S]ex does not pose the danger to minors claimed by police, prosecutors and prudes crusading against man/boy love." Note the fraudulent use of the term "love" in lieu of sex.


NAMBLA's view mirrors that of Alfred C. Kinsey, whose *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* (1948) includes data from the molestation of 317 boys, some as young as two months. Kinsey concluded that children were sexually viable from birth and that molestation was harmless

unless parents exhibited "hysteria" over the incidents. The Kinsey view of child sexuality has influenced three generations of sexologists and educators.

APA spokeswoman Rhea Farberman told the *Washington Times* that publication of the article does not imply endorsement by the APA. "It is clear to us," she said, "that child sexual abuse is harmful." Given today's habit of linguistic hair-splitting, could it be that the APA doesn't consider "consensual" pedophilia as "abuse?"

Farberman's statement notwithstanding, the APA has a history of promoting some causes while excluding other viewpoints, says Linda Nicolosi, co-editor of the NARTH *Bulletin*. "They will not, for example, offer a platform to anyone who says that homosexuality is disordered."

In 1996, the American Psychiatric Association reclassified paraphilias (sexual deviancies) in its Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-IV). Sadists, masochists, exhibitionists and voyeurs now are considered disordered only if they feel bad or anxious about what they're doing, or if their paraphilia impairs them in some way. So the well-adjusted molester is considered psychologically sound, unlike those who experience guilt.

What is especially troubling about these APA pronouncements is that they are often used as a basis for counseling, court opinions, and policy proposals that can affect all American families. 

"To make a DSM-IV diagnosis, the psychiatrist assesses the individual for either clinically significant distress or clinically significant impairment. Most individuals with psychiatric symptoms experience a subjective sense of distress which may include feelings such as pain, anguish, dysphoria (unpleasant mood), shame, embarrassment, or guilt." – "Criteria for Pedophilia"

DSM-IV