



Photo by Joseph Silverman/The Washington Times

Rep. Tom DeLay assails the APA's "lack of judgment" for publishing a study that condones some pedophilia.

Hill joins pedophilia-study critics

Lawmakers urge professional journal to disavow report

By Julia Duin
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A controversial academic study of pedophilia was roundly condemned yesterday by several congressmen, who chastised the American Psychological Association for publishing its findings.

House Majority Whip Tom DeLay and GOP Reps. Matt Salmon of Arizona, Joseph R. Pitts of Pennsylvania and Dave Weldon of Florida yesterday co-sponsored a resolution calling on President Clinton to join Congress in condemning the report, which suggests that sex between adults and children may not always be harmful.

"We as a society are not shocked by anything anymore," Mr. Salmon said. "And now we have a so-called credible psychological organization in this country that purports to say that maybe sex with children isn't so bad."

Published last July in the APA's *Psychological Bulletin*, "A Meta-Analytic Examination of Assumed Properties of Child Sexual Abuse Using College Samples" was roasted by members of Congress and conservative activists for suggesting lowering legal standards for sexual abuse of children.

"The lack of judgment shown by the American Psychological Association

in publishing it absolutely confounds me," said Mr. DeLay, Texas Republican. "I will not equivocate on this issue. Sexual activity between an adult and a child is criminal all the time and in all cases."

He challenged the APA to admit it erred in publishing the article, "and do it publicly," he added, "so that subscribers to the North American Man/Boy Love Association Web page and their defense attorneys won't quote your journal in their closing arguments."

NAMBLA, a pedophile group, has touted the report as "good news" in a press release and refers to it twice on its Web site. That has caused headaches for the APA.

"NAMBLA is distorting the results of this study," APA spokeswoman Rhea Farberman said. "The APA in no way supports NAMBLA's position."

The House resolution escalated the running battle between the APA and conservative groups since the story broke in early March on Dom Giordano's radio talk show on WWDB-FM in Philadelphia. It was picked up by nationally syndicated talk-show host Laura Schlessinger.

"What really terrifies me," Miss Schlessinger said yesterday by satellite feed from Los Angeles, "is the idea that the . . . study will now

be used to normalize pedophilia, to change the legal system and further destroy the family. . . . It is the policy of the APA that scientific data should be used to influence public policy."

The APA will not retract the article, Miss Farberman said, but does not endorse it.

"There's nothing in this article that suggests pedophilia is not harmful," she said. "The article tried to determine whether there are varying degrees of harm, if the child's age, resiliency and family environment were factors."

"I don't get it," Miss Schlessinger said. "If it's science, then why aren't they endorsing it? And if it isn't science, why did they publish it?"

The APA released a statement yesterday from the authors of the study, Bruce Rind, a psychology professor at Temple University; Philip Tromovitch, a doctoral student at the University of Pennsylvania; and Robert Bauserman, a psychology professor at the University of Michigan.

"If adverse childhood events are found to be less psychologically harmful than previously thought, or in some cases not measurably harmful at all, researchers have an ethical duty to report this," they wrote.

Article in American Psychological Association Journal Says Few Children Harmed If They Consented

Pro-Child Advocates Challenge Study Legitimizing Pedophilia

BY JOSEPH A. D'AGOSTINO

Infuriated by the American Psychological Association's publication of a study that says few children experience lasting "harm" from molestation if they "consent" to it, the Family Research Council (FRC) gathered congressmen, scientists and victims of pedophiles at the National Press Club May 12 to rebut the study.

Addressing the crowd via video, radio talk show host Dr. Laura Schlessinger strongly condemned the paper. The psychological association has made a point of saying that it has made no "endorsement" of the study, despite publishing it in the *Psychological Bulletin*. "If it's science," asked Schlessinger, "why aren't they endorsing it? And if it's not science, why are they publishing it?"

The study's authors researched whether abused college students currently suffer from psychological harm because of their history of sexual abuse as children and concluded that they rarely do if the abuse was "consensual," and especially if the abuse was between a man and a boy. The study suggests that a "willing [sexual] encounter" between an adult and a child should "be labeled simply 'adult-child sex,' a value-neutral term," instead of "abuse."

"A study which tells psychologists not to assume that sex between nonrelated adults and minors is harmful is irresponsible," said House

Majority Whip Tom DeLay (R.-Tex.). "What I am about to say is so self-evident that I never would have imagined a need to say it," said Rep. Dave Weldon (R.-Fla.). "It is morally wrong for adults to have sex with children. Children are not capable of giving consent to sexual encounters with adults."

Schlessinger said powerful forces are at work to undermine the consensus in American society that pedophilia is wrong. "Much of Hollywood entertainment features borderline pedophilia now," she said. "The American Library Association discourages any use of filters to protect children from sexually explicit material. It even recommends for teenagers a website called 'Go Ask Alice!' which contains instructions on how to clean a cat-o'-nine-tails after sadomasochistic sex."

Same Tactics Were Used To Impose Homosexuality

Richard Cohen, a member of the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH), said that the American Psychiatric Association and the American Psychological Association are moving toward the legitimization of pedophilia. Both groups use a book produced by the psychiatric association called the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM), now in its fourth edition. "First,

pedophilia was listed as a mental disorder," said Cohen, who said he experienced sexual abuse as a child. "Now, in the DSM IV, it is listed as a disorder if it causes personal mental distress. This is the same pattern they used on the way to normalizing homosexuality."

In fact, the DSM now defines all mental disorders subjectively: They are considered disorders only if the subject is distressed or impaired. Under "Pedophilia," the DSM IV, published in 1994, lists three criteria for diagnosing a pedophile and states in the second criterion that a pedophile should be diagnosed as such only if his "fantasies, sexual urges, or behaviors cause clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning."

In contrast, the previous version of the DSM, the DSM III-R (1987), has almost exactly the same criteria except that criterion No. 2 says, "The person has acted on these urges, or is markedly distressed by them." Thus, in DSM IV, acting out pedophilic urges no longer makes someone *ipso facto* a pedophile.

At the press conference, Rep. Matt Salmon (R.-Ariz.) promised to introduce a resolution condemning the study, called "A Meta-Analytic Examination of Assumed Properties of Child Sexual Abuse Using College Samples." Bob Flores, senior counsel for the FRC, pointed out that "this study will be used



Dr. Laura Schlessinger

in court" by defense lawyers because it was published in a reputable journal.

Dr. Judith Reisman, author of *Kinsey: Crimes & Consequences*, traced the increasing acceptance of sexual deviancy among American scientists and the public to Alfred Kinsey, the famous researcher who published books in the '40s and '50s claiming that sexual deviancy was common. Reisman, who pointed out that Kinsey's study samples were weighted heavily with prisoners and college students, noted that "the sexual torture of 2,035 children" in the name of science formed the basis for Kinsey's conclusion that children from a very early age desire and seek out sexual activity, and that this is perfectly normal.

For more information, call NARTH at 818-789-1801 and the Family Research Council at 202-393-2100.

Mr. D'Agostino is an assistant editor of HUMAN EVENTS.