

*Sees No Harm in NAMBLA*

## ***New Republic Ignores Dangers of Pedophiles***

BY ARNOLD BEICHMAN

Martin Peretz, editor-in-chief and publisher of the *New Republic* ought to be ashamed of himself. I have just read of his magazine's endorsement of one of the more egregious sex organizations that pollute American life, the pedophilic North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA). Its 1,500 members are dedicated to seducing boys into various forms of sexual activity.

And if Peretz objects to my saying the *New Republic* endorsed NAMBLA or if he insists that the author of the article, Hanna Rosin, was merely reporting a state of existence, then he ought to find some other line of work than owning and editing what purports to be a serious weekly magazine.

The article is titled "Chickenhawk," which is also the name of a movie that Rosin reviews in the magazine's May 8 issue. The film is about pedophiles. It is presently making the rounds of "alternative" movie houses. Her

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view of the activities of these awful monsters is that they are harmless eccentrics. In fact, she says, NAMBLA functions "mainly as a support group for fantasizers with the requisite forums for victim-bonding."

It is Rosin who is fantasizing. Has she ever seen the NAMBLA publication? Has Peretz? The organization's magazine includes articles on how to seduce young boys and lists those foreign countries, primarily in Asia, where a pedophile is safe from arrest and prosecution, unlike in the United States.

### **Pedophiles Are Left's Newest 'Victim' Class**

In the October 1993 issue of *Reader's Digest*, there appeared a special report by Paul Ehrlich titled "Asia's Shocking Secret." I recommend that Peretz read this ghastly story of "sex tourism"—sexual abuse in Burma, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, where the child-sex industry thrives. According to the *Readers Digest* report, NAMBLA is "the most visible and influential group"

Guinea tribes also practiced cannibalism, others clitorotomy.

## Gay Video Dealers Refuse To Stock NAMBLA Film

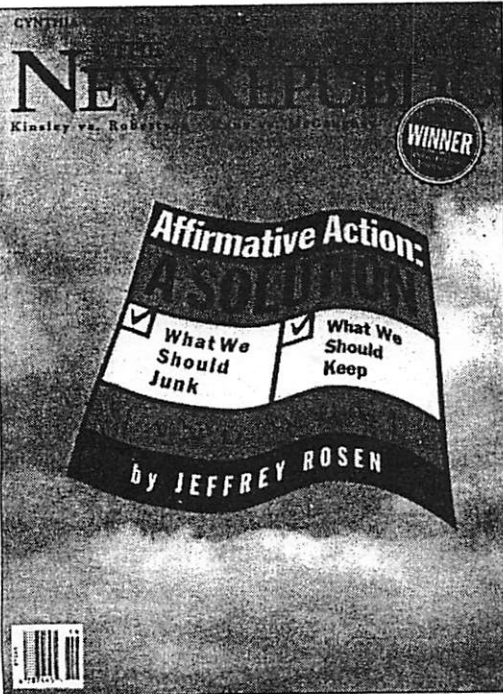
Hanna Rosin describes the difficulties the movie *Chickenhawk* has had finding theaters that will show the film. She says the film's producers "have the unenviable task of deviliifying their reviled subjects." Gay video distributors refused to stock the film, she reports, "fearing they would trigger associations between homosexuality and pedophilia." And then she adds: "Luckily, it will finally be released on home video next month." Luckily for whom? For tormented boys living with square parents?

Martin Peretz may think his magazine and its editor, Andrew Sullivan, are being courageous in facing up to the "issue" of pedophilia. In fact, they are not being courageous at all. They have challenged the sense of human decency and the meaning of family based on a moral code that arises out of the Judaeo-Christian tradition. And for that challenge a price will be paid.

stand" pedophiliacs à la the *New Republic* why not "understanding" for incestuous fathers or brothers? Why is it a crime for a father to molest his 12-year-old son but not, by Hanna Rosin's standards, a crime when the same 12-year-old is seduced by a male stranger?

## Journalists Leaving New Republic for Other Side

What is going on at the *New Republic*? The magazine has just lost one of the finest journalists in the Washington press corps, Fred Barnes. He is going over to the projected neo-conservative magazine, the *Standard*, which Rupert Murdoch is financing. I feel sure there will be other staff resignations. No parent can calmly contemplate a world in which pedophiles are viewed with multicultural understanding because of the alleged man-boy relationships among Spartans, Greeks, samurai and the tribes of New Guinea, as the film predictably points out, seeking support in classical and aboriginal civilizations. Adds the *New Republic* in an ethnological aside, these are "cultures where men initiate boys into the ways of the world." Some New



The *New Republic* must have shocked even many of its liberal readers by running an article defending the pedophile North American Man/Boy Love Association.

among pedophile organizations. Groups like NAMBLA "are central to the growth of the child-sex trade in Southern Asia," says *Reader's Digest*.

The *New Republic* reviewer in a burst of respectful understanding wrote: "There is some bravery in NAMBLA members keeping all their activities above board (their phone number in New York is published). After all, it is still heresy even to consider the possibility of the legitimacy of their feelings."

Would Peretz or Hanna Rosin say: "After all, it is still heresy even to consider the possibility of the legitimacy of the Michigan Militia's feelings"? If someone out there in the *New Republic* heartland were trying to organize the North American Necrophiliac Association, or NANA, would the *New Republic* recommend we consider "the possibility of the legitimacy" of the feelings of necrophiliacs?

Rosin suggests that boys may want to have sex with older men and she asks: "But is the idea of mutual consent so absurd?" Not absurd—indecent, scandalous. And she quotes with a certain amount of intellectual sympathy an unnamed NAMBLA member: "I think children in this society should be treated in a different way. Children are human beings. They need responsibility, love and recognition." On which Hanna Rosin comments sympathetically: "Certainly a self-serving view, but still plausibly on the continuum of, say, a defense of children's legal autonomy."

Yes, boys need love, but the love of their parents, siblings and other family members isn't enough for Hanna Rosin. For the *New Republic*, little boys have a right to the "love" of chickenhawks in the name of "children's legal autonomy." Why the sympathy for pedophiles in the *New Republic*? In the name of "children's legal autonomy," perhaps we should not only legalize pedophilia but incest as well. If it's one's duty to "under-