

NUMBER 2 Year 4

SUMMER 1992

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International Paedophile and Child Emancipation

Newsletter

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EDITORIAL

In this newsletter you can read about a Ukraine hockey coach or trainer who, in Canada' western culture, "kissed and cuddled" his winning team, boys 12 - 14 yeras old. Quite normal in the Ukraine culture, a 'hot item' for press and politicians in the western culture. Some journalists interrogated the man intensively and tried him to admit he WAS a paedophile...

So if you kiss and cuddle boys in western culture, you ARE A PAEDOPHILE and THUS everything is wrong. You have to thrown out of the country if you are a foreigner, and out of society if you are an inhabintant.

Two things are wrong: first this aspect of the western culture and second... the concept 'paedophilia' as an identity label.

You can read how an active Québec group handled with the matter and what was the outcome of this action.

IPCE stands for 'International Paedophile and Child Emancipation' to be followed by 'Newsletter' or 'meeting'. Aim is to exchange experience and ideas. The several new groups can learn from older ones, older groups can pick up fresh ideas and information from new groups. Especially COURAGE can be exchanged and isolation can be broken by IPCE.

This Newsletter is made up a bit in a hurry to work away the backlog and to be fore the IPCE Meeting 7, 8 & 9 july in Amsterdan (NOT 17, 18 & 19 july because of the ILGA conference!)

The letter and the staps are PAYED by the EMPTY cashbox of the nvsh-lwgp, IN FACT from the monthly invalid pension of your secretary. SO PLEASE bring in or send some MONEY on NL Postbank or 5431155, NVSH-LWGP, Delft, The Netherlands!

Please send in your copy and documentation for the next Newsletter before 15 august 1992 and see the next letter in september 1992. Frans Gieles, secretary.

Questions

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by Ken Olsson

"From my own perspective, it seems that an in-depth discussion within IPCE is needed. You will remember Hans' statement, "IPCE: are we ready for the future", in which he criticises several unnamed people for failing to do what they had promised the previous year. I <u>seriously</u> doubt that this question was answered to the proper extent.

In front of me I have a copy of the leaflet, "Introducing the Paedophile Information Pool". It states that "(PIP) will not take formal positions or engage

in overt political activities."

As the PIP was the forerunner of IPCE, I assume that this statement is still valid If so, why would the IPCE meeting in Haarlem waste its time by discussing the "Definition of Paedophilia" that Martin put forward, when IPCE itself says that it will not take "formal positions"?

If the member groups of IPCE "agreed to keep in contact, in the interests of mutual support and more effective strategies and analysis", what does this mean in reality? "(IPCE) will function to distribute items of interest to member organisations": what interesting items?

How much, and what kind of information, will be (or should be!) passed around the member groups and what information must be sought from the individual group?

It has been several years since the IPCE began with 7 member groups: only 2 of these groups effectively exist and participate in the IPCE - NAMBLA and the Danes.

Maybe the time has come for these and all the new member groups and individuals to sit down and to ask themselves a few questions.

1) How much help do we require from other groups and individuals abroad, and how much help are we willing to give to them in return?

2) How much and what kind of help (or requests for help) should be given via IPCE

and how much individually?

3) Should IPCE take formal positions on certain issues? Etc, etc. Quite basic, but necessary, questions which I don't think anyone is yet able to answer."

An Answer

by Frans Gieles, IPCE secr.

"IPCE stands for 'International Paedophile and Child Emancipation' and the letters IPCE should be followed by 'meeting' or 'Newslettter NOT 'organisation, league, union, association...'. The meeting and the Newsletters are both a medium for exchange, not more. Exchange of experiences, ideas, strategies, analyses.... feelings of hopelessnes and frustration.... and feelings of hope and courage. It is this exchange which supports the members. IPCE should not grow to 'an organisation' with 'a board' and 'positions' or 'resulutions' nor 'actions'. The action is to organise exchange betweenautonomous organisations. Action is undertaken by each autonomous organisation or person in each own situation in each own country and under each own responsibility.

Discussions about 'the concept paedophilia' are to be seen as an exchange of ideas, not as a search for a formal position and decision. It is good to exchange what is thought if one uses the word 'paedophilia' AND it is good to exchange different opinions about using the concept - not using the word at one side, proudly using the word at the other side. Some think, using the word'paedophilia' about 'platonic love and friendship', others think about 'a sexual act, relationship' or 'a sexual desire'. It is good to exchange these ideas and to understand each other in stead of coming in a Babel-like confusion.

Each of the members can ask for support and can give support. Isolated members can correspondent with each other; members in nearly the same position (by exemple: the new groups in the former communistic world) can support each other especially. Richer groups (rich in ideas, information, books, copy machines or money) can help poorer groups. Beginning groups can be supported by the ideas of 'older' groups who has already a strategy and a 'phisosophy'. New groups can offer important information and new fresh ideas to other groups.

The most important support is the knowing: 'Keep courage, you are not alone!'

Ken's Letter continued:

I have been having quite a serious discussion with.....myself!
And I came to two conclusions.

- If I come to the decision of forming a group here in Sweden, its purpose will be to 'support' other paedophiles, to help them get through the least enjoyable moments of their lives. No campaigning work should be done! Except in specific circumstances, or if the group is directly challenged. The most that should be done would be to urge other groups, organisations and individuals to make their voices heard.
- 2) What part do I play (and what part would a Swedish group play) within IPCE and the general paedo-"movement"? What use are we to the outside world and what use is the outside world to us? Before I can make a decison regarding this matter, I must first have my questions answered by IPCE and the individual groups. I don't think that writing to the member groups is such a good idea: very few replies will sent to me! So, what do you think?

Is it maybe a good idea to put such questions to the groups in the "Newsletter", and then follow this up with an in-depth discussion at Minich?

Can we not sit down together and find out what each delegate needs in terms of help or support or information, find out what each of us expects from IPCE, what we expect from each other, etc?

Some news items

by ken olsson

Two men were arrested in Poland last summer for having produced pornographic material involving 25 boys in the age group 12-14 years. The photographs and video films were directed at the British (!) 'market'. The two are expected to be brought before the courts in late November and risk up to 10 years' imprisonment. A long-term seltence can be expected. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the statement made last year by the President, Lech Walesa, to the effect that all gays should be

executed!

It appears that an attempt at creating the first gay organisation in Estonia failed when it became clear that the main organiser was rather too interested in building up his own harem of young boys!

Now, there are two groups competing with each other and there are hopes that a pedo group can be formed within one or both of these groups.

The above information courtesy of Peeter Martson.

Sweden has opened its first 'hotline' for abused boys, which appears to be directing itself to sexual abuse first and foremost. The project, run by Rädda Barnen (Save the Children), will be open,provisionally,for two years. The data collected will be analysed and the results published in 1993. This will be the first book of its kind published by a Swedish organisation.

The property is planning the publication of a Danish language newsletter: the similarity in languages means that this will be a publication that has the potential for covering the entire Nordic area - Norway, Sweden and Finland.

The newspaper BLICK decided to chop up an old story and served them to the public one piece at a time: "Zürich child-sex ring shattered - over 50 boys abused", "Sex with children - the nastiest business in the world", "The Zürich boy-abuser is walking aroung free", etc,etc. British-style headlines are becoming popular!

New publications:

"Bachelors of Art: Edward Perry Warren and the Lewes House Brotherhood."
by David Sox, Fourth Estate Books, at 19 Pounds Sterling. (See: Paidika No.4
Autumn 1988)

"The Great Mirror of Male Love." by Iharu Saikaku (1642-1693)

translated and introduced by Paul Gordon Schalow.

Published by Stanford university Press - ISBN 0-8047-1893-4

This constitutes the first English translation of Nanshoku Ōkagami:
40 stories concerned with young kabuki theatre actors and their middle-class patrons and the relationships of samurai with boys.

A 12-year-old boy due to give evidence against a man accused of "indecently assaulting" him, locked himself in a toilet at the Old Bailey criminal court building in London! and refused to come out! The Prosecution offered no evidence and the accused man, denied the charges, was freed.

KINDERUNFREUNDLICHKEIT.

Specifically to bring social practices into line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the German Parliament has proposed tough new legislation barring parents from "nagging, spanking, boxing ears or withholding affection." If this law, or indeed that which ensures a minimum 'pocket money' level, is broken the child can sue the parents.

Under the new law, kids will be informed of their rights from kindergarten on and encouraged to report parental transgressions.

Another 'Dear IPCE! (*see IPCE Newsletter) by Ken

I must be the only one! but maybe its due to my living in Sweden that I have some difficulty viewing 'paedophilia' as a "political" issue: even the term "socio-political" seems rather too strong.*I am sure that Frans' term has more relevance when used in reference to Great (!) Britain.

Having listened to, and observed, certain events at last years ILGA conference in Stockholm I was rather surprised at the inordinate amount of time (amongst other things) that was given to squabbling (or was it 'debating'!) over the apparently trivial details, such as the terminology in use. I suggested and hoped that these terminological differences could be resolved, to some extent, within the IPCE forum, at least for the benefit of ILGA.

(To concentrate on ILGA for the moment, would it not be expedient, after appropriate discussion, to produce a leaflet listing the relevant key-terms in use along with the definitions of each? This, if accepted, would counter the need for any incessant debates over the definitions given resulting in the wasting of precious (?) time and the trying of everyone's patience. Just a thought!)

One of the problems that has arisen in the past, and continues to do so, is, most certainly, the language that we use. This can be shown clearly by Martin's point in regard to last years ILGA conference discussion of paedophilia. He states that, "One or two of the vomen even said that the relationships we described with 12,13 and 14 year old boys were not paedophile relationships at all, because the boys were too old." "The problem." he goes on to say, "is a cultural one. In applying a feminist definition of paedophilia, they used Scandinavian values to define 'child'......"

Very imaginative , but wrong!

It was by no means a "cultural" problem, but one of language. The term 'paedophilia' is restricted in Sweden to referring to relations with FRE-pubertal children - thereby making boys of 12,13 and 14 years of age indeed "too old"!

This problem can also be shown with the use of the word 'relationship': whilst in English this does not infer any sexual involvement, the direct Swedish translation is "förhållande" which does imply sexual involvement! Thus, two persons can be caught up in an argument when there appears to be no reason.

Again,in the context,of "personal space", Swedes and Arabs are very much at the opposite ends of the scale. When an Arab notes that each time he wishes to speak to a Swede and, quite naturally, stands very close to him the Swede takes a step backwards. This happening several times create a certain amount of discomfort for both and animosity can soon arise.

One problem is language, the other is cultural: note the difference! and note these problems when dealing with 'foreigners'!

With regard to Martin's "useful definition of paedophilia" I must err on the side of Frans: I would also be less-than enthusiastic in 'admitting' to feminists that the driving force behind my desire for leading a "paedophile lifestyle" is SEX!

Not only because it simply is not true, but with the extra consideration that they would chop my balls off for saving so!!!

I'm afraid that I am one of those old people that Frans mentions as still using the term 'paedophile': it is a self-perpetuating label.

Those who come to the realisation that their emotional needs differfrom those of 'normal' people and that these needs are of great importance feel compelled to search for a term by which they can 'define' themselves in such a way that they fully acknowledge this difference.

I,myself, searched for such a term....... found "paedophilia", I also found "paedophiles", and "paedophile groups", "paedophile publications", etc, etc: self-perpetuating!

Maybe in a perfect world I, nor anyone else, would feel the need for selflabelling: I would simply be a person who happened to enjoy the company of boys.

I have absolutely no interest whatsoever in the origins of the term 'paedophilia' A medical term coined so as to oppress us? Fine! No problem! Society's illogical hatred of us does not come about as a direct result of the term 'psedophilia' or, indeed, anything that we do or do not do. Along with Frans' phrase "call a spade a spade", another comes to mind -"Don't judge a book by its cover". Changing my 'label' does nothing to alter my emotions; doing so would only be a tactical move to deflect the hatred of my aggressors for a few brief moments, a mere camouflage of experience. It is the prejudices and misconceptions of the public that will have to change before I am prepared to cast away the label that hangs around my neck. In the meantime, however, my name is still Ken, I am still a paedophile

If you've bothered to read this far, you deserve to go out to the park for a nice walk with a little warm hand in yours!

THE INDEPENDENT" (UK): 1991-11-29

VERNMENT IGNORES YOUR RIGHT.

PROPOSALS

and I am still quite proud of the fact!

A. W. British Government intends from early 1992 that it will become LAW under the National Curriculum for all school children from the age of 11 to be compelled to study AIDS.

It will impose an inescapable duty on schools to include the subject. There will be NO exceptions, NO respect for the rights of parents or children and NO discretion given to LEAs, school governors or teachers.

Unless provision is made for exemptions, this dictatorial Order will be a grave violation its nam rindividual's ... conscience before God, run-

legislation and a long held ance in Great Britain. by

GOD'S LAW

The Holy Bible, God's inspired Word, teaches us as God-fearing citizens and believers on our Lord Jesus Christ that: 'For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, ... men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet Romans 1 v.18-27; 'But yet I will have good, and simple concerning ning counter to previous evil Romans 16 v.19, But this responsibility to others.

fornication, and all uncleantradition of religious soler- ness, of coverousness, let it not be once harmed among you,Eptiestans 5 v.3; 'Hold aloof from every form of wickedness' 1 Thessa-Ionians 5 v.22.

MORAL DECLINE

The study of AIDS will be morally damaging to young people nationwide and can only accelerate the rapid decline in moral standards already so evident in this

Upright parents will not shirk the obligation of instructing their own children at you wise unto that which is home as to the dangers of evil. nor will they wish to abdicate

DON'T SURRENDER! CHILDREN DESERVE PROTECTION. WRITE TO THE PRIME MINISTER, THE EDUCATION SECRETARY, YOUR OWN M.P. TO STOP THIS LAW. DO IT TODAY OR IT MAY BE TOO LATE.

Aids cases 'to rise tenfold by end of 🕏 the century

This advertisement is placed by individuals of a worldwide Christian fellowsnip known as Plymouth Brethree P.S. Green J. Corruth R.J. Fear J.L.M. Guller ejo 99 Green Lane, Hounslow, Middlesex

FIVE THOUSAND people are infected with the HIV virus every day, and the number of Aids suffr.ers will-increase tenfold by 2000, the World Health Organisation warned yesterday, writes Liz

Its latest figures show that about 10 million people worldwide now carry the virus. Of these, about L5 million have developed full-blown Aids. But by the end of the century about 18 million people out of a total of 30 million to 40 million infected will have the disease.

extremists. Charles Oxley, the man who Plymouth of puritanical 02 remember that PIE, Small You may rememb "infiltrated" Brethren:

Greetings from ...

This year several new groups or persons entered IFCE.

... Brasil:

PROJETO ARQUIVO MINOS This project tries to gather information and to inform those who are open for it and interested - not more than this.
'Fighting for rights' is not a real aim in Brasil, wrote Marcos.
Marcos tries to write a book to show how universal attraction to kids/boys was and is. He asks for correspondence and information.

CAIXA POSTAL 09.2927, BRASILIA DF BRASIL

... Mosow

'GANYMEDES' is a new group, formed by Michael, out of a gay group named 'Consul'.

De group asks for help: copying leaflets & papers or a simple copying machine. Alsoo books & magasins 'from the West'.

Sectori 'Poste Restante'

Main Post 101000 MOSCOW

... Estonia

Peter has formed a little informal group to meet on personel level. Peter asks for literature 'from the West' because it is nearly impossible to get western books because of the economic poverty of the country and the people.

... Hungary

Lajos asks for correspondents.
"It's a big taboo here and people are extremely intolerent."
Write to the IPCE's secretary.

... Tsecho Slowakia

Rudolf tries to start a bulletin en wants to exchange information. Write to the IPCE secretary.

... Spain

RISING LOVE P.O. Box 171 20400 TOLOSA GIPUZKOA SPAIN we would like to receive some information about your activities or anything you want.

Here, in Spain, the situation is really represive. What's the situation in your country?

Well, we hope you can send us something. We are waiting for you!!

Breaking the isolation... In love and liberation.

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LOVERALSERS

Man/Boy Lovers Organize in Finland

New Helsinki group forms in the shadow of the gay movement

The following is from correspondence to NAMBLA from maniboy love activity Erkki Lietzen in Helsinki.

We have started a new man/boy love in Finland. We are a very small group so farseven men-meeting once or twice in three months, mainly in Helsinki. The variation of interest is from boys and girls just under puberty to boys in their late teenage years. Some of the members like also young adult men. As a group, we do not have any official position or status in the Finnish gay and lesbian movement, but some of us are members of the Finnish National Gay and Lesbian Organization. SETA. I myself am vice-chairman of that group.

The general atmosphere tow--pedophilia is nor ver favorable in Finland. but at least we day, have the intense witchhunging found in the USA or Britain. The media discusses the matter very seldom. with bigger headlines only in some of the scandal papers. The legal age of consent is 16 for heterosexual acts and 18 for homosexual acts, but the law is often used only if the minor or parents want to press charges. For first timers, the sentence might be something like a year in prison or on . probation, or at most, a few years in prison. Naturally, there are very few convictions annually because we are a small countryonly five million people.

For a long time the gay and lesbian movement did not have an official opinion about pedophilia. It was known that there are both supporters and people strongly opposed. Last autumn our group started preparing a basic information paper for social and youth workers and for others to who might be interested. A draft was leaked to the press late this spring and for the first time in many years pedophilia popped up in papers nationally. The question made small inside headlines for about a month in the newspapers, but not other media. The general attitudes were somewhat negative, but only two evening tabloids were quite nasty.

More important was the reaction inside the gay and lesbian movement. Many lesbians expressed very negative feelings toward pedophiles and tried to stop any of their connections to the movement. That would have meant that a social worker could not have been a contact person for the pedophile group or give them professional help if they asked for it, the gay and lesbian help line could not handle pedophile phone calls, and the national gay magazine could not have printed information about the group's address. Also, the board of the biggest local gay and lesbian organization voted to scart preparations to change the constitution to exclude pedophiles from the organization.

Most of the Finnish local gay and lesbian organizations are not restricting themselves only to gays and lesbians; we talk about ourseives as sexual minorities. That includes gays and lesbians, bisexuals, transvestites, transsexuals, fetishists, s/m people. and so on. One reason for this is that we are a small country and we can't afford to split into smail, specialized groups. That is why we have also only one national organization- SETA- of which almost all of the independent, local, or special organizations are members. As I said earlier, the pedophile group is an independent group and it is not officially part of the SETA or any local organization.

Luckily, the big majority of the members of the board of the national SETA is quite reasonable. The national SETA gave a press release where it stated that it does not accept any kind of sexual exploitation. But it also said that, in principle, it does not approve sexual relationships between an adult and a child under puberty because it claimed that kind of relationship cannot be equal. In the end, SETA left the door open to working with and assisting people who have sexual feelings toward children. The board also did not like the idea of changing the constitution of the local organizations to exclude pedophilia. It is better first to arrange a thorough discussion about the principles and the aims of the movement. they said: it could be disastrous to the movement to start to exclude some groups by naming them in the constitution.

Even if our group didn't feel ready for discussions about pedophilia in public and in the gay and leabian movement, in the end, it was good. The taboo has been broken. Now we have a better chance to have a real discussion with arguments and faces, not just emotions. For that discussion we are finishing our information paper about pedophilia.

LA 'DOUCE' FRANCE

'Tantale Magazine' is forced to stop after its 7th number. The magasin had only 30 subscribers and existed sice 1978. The editor, Christian, is prosecuted for making and selling magasins against good morality because the magasin accepted and 'promoted' sexual intercourse between adult and youth..

Some organisations 'for good morality and child protection' had complainted by the prosecutor because Tantale defended paedophilia. Among others a league 'safe life', extremely right wing and connected with Front National. A journal wrote Tantale propagated 'anti-natural sexual behaviour' and defended this behaviour with 'socio-psychological jargon' which made his common sence doubtfull.

If Tantale-had been forbidden, it could had been edited under another name. So the editor was prosecuted. The court session was in april. The prosecutor mentioned Christian as a spoiler of youth who was more dangerous than a terrorist. The lawyer mentioned the mentality of the modern youth, who does not wait till someone seduce them. The verdict was: six month on parole on five years probation.

(Dr. E. Brongersma; translated by FG.)

Québec city, 7 february 1992

from CANADA

Dear friends.

In spite of the coldness, activists are actually very active in Québec. By mid-november, we produced a second report Le naufrage de la protection de la jeunesse: L'îceberg, which impacts have been significantly positive.

By the end of november, a first governmental answer (Comité Camil Bouchard: Un Québec fou de ses enfants) to our first report (La pédophille n'est pas le problème) did not identified pedophilia as a critical problem for children. In their analysis of the child's needs for protection is predominant the importance to fight poverty and hunger, and to enrich the intellectual stimulation of very young children before school. According to the authors, sexual and physical abuses may be expected to decrease by 25 percent mainly with a general program of mental health and family support which is not specifically targeted to pedophiles.

By the beginning of december, a second document (Rapport du comité Boucher-Harvey) was produced by the social services department which is very critical against the sexual abuse professionals. The document points out professional corporatism as an objective that seems now more important than youth protection. It blames the importance of ideology over realism, and it does not forget to critic how the public hysteria is manipulated to maximalize sexual traumas. Of course, with such conclusions, the social services department did not make that document public, but we had a chance to look at it confidentially for a few hours. It does not deny the accusations we: ade in our first report.

A third legal document is expected in february where a committee of judges (Comité Jasmin) will suggest which modifications of the laws should be made. We have no idea at all about its content.

Meanwhile, on november 18th, a social workers lobby tried to save their jobs by the mean of an hysteria about youth prostitution. On november 19th, this leaded to the suicide of one of our activist, a father of three. The anger, hatred and incitations to violence then expressed by some pedophiles eventually incitated the justice department to publish a court decision that was not expected before many months; Bouchard vs Bombardier (see papers enclosed). Alain Bouchard is a gay psychologist in Montréal that supported pedophiles during a symposium on Childhood and Sexuality in 1979. In 1983, he protested when the newspaper La Presse pretended that pedophiles were exploiting sex-rings in Québec (see transcript papers enclosed). This started a long conflict between Alain and the T.V. journalist Denise Bombardier who insinuated that pedophiles were nazis. The judgement blamed the journalist because she said that someone who makes the apology of pedophilia is necessarily a pedophile and should be denunciated ... as a nazi. The court recognized that the scientific debate over pedophilia is not ended, that some other psychologists do not necessarily estimate it as an abuse, and that denunciation should follow the usual legal procedures instead to become a motive to publicly express hatred (Le Devoir: ... attention aux excès dans la dénonciation), If you mention that judgement in O.-K., it may be important to avoid names (write about a gay psychologist confronted to a female journalist) since the journalist asked the permission to go in appeal and we do not want to interfere too much.

A recent judgement brings us even more support. A judge stated that a teacher was not a pedophile in spite of the fact that he sexually fondled 10-12 years old girls during three years. On the basis of the psychological evaluation, the judge underlined that the affection of children was not a need central to the personality of that man. He was rather looking for the girls when he was drunk. As it was obvious that the sexual fondling was not based on love, the judge wanted to stress on insanity rather than on pedophilia as the critical factor to define the abuse. We have been unformally informed that the actual policy of the justice department is to help young pedophiles who are in a growing process. This means that a negative sexual experience will not be condemned severely, or prosecuted at all, if this was mainly the consequence of an unfortunate unskilled behavior of a pedophile who try to positively cope with his sexual orientation. Incarceration should be avoided when a personal growth seems to occur. Of course, this will not allow to avoid a compensation for the prejudices against a child, but this means that an emancipation process may worth better than jail. This is a direct impact of our second report.

Another positive impact is the support some female sexologists are actually expressing in favor of the acceptance of homosexuality for boys between 12 and 15 years old. On a daily T.V. show, they answered questions of boys about gays, how long homosexuality last during adolescence, what is sodomy, how lubrification is important, where to find condoms, and ... what is a glory-hole! According to them, kids have the right to know what are the choices they have, this does not imply that any activity is recommended. Monday, one sexologist suggested that acceptance and love, rather than a therapy, was the best attitude for a mother of a 15 years old boy who want to dress as a woman. On a previous day, a 14 years old boy testified that a negative sexual experience with his mother's uncle stressed him a lot, but it did not ruined his life. The boy wanted to speak on T.V. because he wanted to say that youngs may often be strong enough to cope with their own experience. An impressive testimony. A further program is announced as entirely dedicated to positive testimonies of adolescents about their early homosexual activities.

As you can see, we are optimistic. Actually, we are writing a third report (Le mal de l'éraste) where we make the political autopsy of the youth prostitution hysteria that happened in november. We hope to empty that question for a long time since we have all the informations needed to explain how some gay social workers manipulated the social services department on the basis of false documentation and testimonies. So, we are keeping on riding ...

Amically,

A one year follow-up evaluation of pedophile activism in Québec

Québec city and Montréal, 26 may 1992

In Québec, the coordination of peoples, who work for the sexual emancipation of youngs — and hence to make useless the oppression of pedophilia — still cannot go through a formal association. Too many divergent opinions exist, for instance about what should be our attitude with some "problematic" peoples. Actually, our main difficulty is to avoid a split between "good" and "bad" pedophiles. In Québec, as in many other countries, this conflict is typical when a better social acceptation seems imminent or in progress.

According to a radical point of view, the insane behavior of some isolated pedophiles is a problem that does not concern us, as a specific social group. This should rather be the concern of those who stimulate that alienation, and whose responsibility is to prevent it otherwise than with inefficient general laws. The emancipation of pedophilia is then interpreted as a question of absolute individual rights.

On contrary, according to a more dominant point of view, the demands for rights are worthless if we do not succeed to demonstrate that a sexual emancipation is realistic without weakening the protection of youth against insanity. It is considered that the oppression obviously produced some damages in mental health that should not be underestimated. Our demands for emancipation should take into account that youngs may become vulnerable against peoples who lived too much time inside their phantasms' world and who finally develop an exclusive self-centred sexuality. A sudden suppression of all laws about minor/major sexuality would not be without negative outcomes ... of course beside many more other positive outcomes. Our emancipation is then interpreted as an endeavour to find how pedophiles, as a social group, may contribute to the welfare of their communities.

In that divergent context, many ethical issues raise conflicts because peoples in minority on one issue are also often those who are put in minority on many other issues. As we do not succeed to find a central position where the concessions are more fairly distributed, we still remain a coalition of small groups rather than an association. Nevertheless, with weeks of negotiation, we reached an agreement upon our interpretation about many dramatic events related to pedophilia that happened in Québec during 1990-91. Specifically, in reaction to violent acts against youngs attempted by a few marginal pedophiles, we wrote a first memoir intituled La pédophilie n'est pas le problème (Pedophilia is not the problem, 10 june 1991). We criticized the corporatist hold over pedophilia and underlined how a power structure, called social heroism, requires that pedophilia should be a social problem. Nevertheless, one assumption was that, in spite of the eighties' influence, the social services in Québec were still enough honest to fairly analyze our interpretation. During the fourth I.P.C.E. conference, that attitude was questioned by most activists. This letter is the follow-up of our first memoir.

As it was addressed confidentially to the top decision structure of the social services, the public impacts were hard to demonstrate. However, some of us, who are working in constant contact with a large part of the social services, observed that a group of anti-pedophiles colleagues, hereafter called the social heroism lobby or simply SHL, became more careful in their statements about pedophilia. Judges and lawyers were less eager to consider pedophilia as a crime without excuse, but rather as a social difficulty. By the mid-autumn 91, although

nobody except a female sexologist tried publicly to defend pedophilia, a larger tolerance was in fact noticeable among professionals without any raising popular hostility. This supports the hypothesis that most social workers and other psys condemn pedophilia mainly on the basis that they believe this is the attitude expected by their governments. When no such authoritarian cues are present, the extreme negative attitudes against pedophilia remain marginal.

Of course, the SHL did not remained inactive when their powers became seriously questioned, and a major strategy of massive hysteria have been undertook on mid-november 91. As most clinicians were reluctant to support doubtful ideological statements upon the aversion therapies, a popular support was solicited by the means of terror and irrational fears. Six major waves of hysteria have been att mpted, but none of them succeeded to force the government to start an unwanted witchhunt.

- 1) The ghost of juvenile prostitution appeared on november 18th-19th during a T.V. show when some homosexual social workers stated that many pedophile networks were active in Québec and were exploiting 5-8 years old kids whose parents were not at home soon after school. As we were previously informed of that unethical strategy, our coalition sent a second memoir, Le naufrage de la protection de la jeunesse: l'iceberg (The wreck of youth protection: The iceberg, 18 november 91). Hopefully, this memoir was sent on the same day that this T.V. show started to attempt to frighten the Québec's population. In that document, we precisely described the ideological context that linked many events that happened in the next weeks. Our predictive efficiency brought us a greater impact on decision-takers and they questioned even more the ideology of the SHL. But dramatically on november 18th, one of our activist killed himself after an imposed therapy session when he was falsely pointed out as a spiritual leader of juvenile prostitution. Since the resulting pressure became extreme within the next days, a long-waited judgement was published on november 25th which allowed a gay psychologist a \$12,500 compensation from a female journalist who slandered him because this psychologist wrote in 1983 that 'the child has the right to know everything about his sexuality, and pedophilia belongs to this". For the SHL, the shock was important as the judgement was explicitly underlying that the scientific debate over pedophilia is far to be ended, and that denunciation of pedophiles should not fall in a free for all. Another judgement from the appellate court also clearly broke a condemnation of a man whose trial have been qualified as a political retaliation.
- 2) During the following weeks, accusations of sexual abuse reached a level without precedent as some social workers of the SHL were screening every possibility to get a "victim". A few days before Christmas, the coup de théâtre happened when three men were accused to be the presumed providers of an important juvenile prostitution and pornography network. Rumors, from an unidentified source (!!!), soon implicated a coalition of doctors, teachers and politicians. The police inquiry gradually ruled out this latter hypothesis and found that the money implied was a ridiculous amount. No charge have been raised about a few video cassettes produced in Mexico and in Québec since this was describing "bad-taste" rather than harmful behaviors. But, as the scandal was bringing down, two adult gays complained that a former vice-president of the House of Common, the local federal representative, raped them and they further identified a few boys who presumably had sex with the representative. After a police inquiry leaded by a judge, six accusations have been raised but the representative was not arrested. On contrary to an analog situation happened a few years ago, no politician accepted to capitalize on that event and the leaders of three federal political parties underlined that every person is innocent until the accusation is proven. During all that story, that lasted from december to march 92, the governments - provincial and federal - refused to contribute

to any horror elicitation, no professional corporation tried to get a benefit, no police department (except one local) suggested a massive inquiry and no crowd asked for inquisition. In spite of the gutter press alarmism and in spite of several following denunciations by feared boys who falsely believed they were trapped in a sex-ring, that operation failed.

- 3) The third wave happened in february, at the end of an important international hockey tournament, when the coach of the winner ukrainian team was accused to kiss and to fondle his 12-14 years old players. The lack of competent translators allowed the most fantasist interpretations, especially that the boys may never come back in Ukraine ... that was a suggestion that these east-europeans boys were prostitutes to be sold in north-america. In a serious newspaper, whose editor eventually had temporarily lost his mind, the outstanding cohesion of that winner team was interpreted as the result of the hypnotic power of the coach over these boys! But, the population is not stupid and most peoples understood how this was mainly an ideological accusation when two radiomen undertook an inquisitorial trial on the air and asked three times to the coach to admit that he was a pedophile. The radiomen had to apologize after the police found no single evidence of misbehavior ... other than an affection acceptable according to the ukrainian cultural standards. In fact, the Québec city police was previously informed of the attempt to imply this tournament in an international prostitution scandal, so policemen were constantly around to testify that the boys have never sent a single cue that they need protection. While it would have been easy for the government to avoid political risks and to get the boys back to Ukraine, the immigration department allowed the team to extend their trip in Canada for a few additional weeks.
- 4) The day after the radiomen had to apologize, two famous exploiters of "sexual deviance" gave an interview where they stressed the fact that most "abusers" would commit an average of 200 sexual abuses before to "benefit" of their denunciation. The intent was to frighten parents who should become suspicious about pedophiles never arrested. Indeed, why not, they may actually commit their one hundredth or more rape on children. This unscientific statement incited us to write a 7 pages reply, Les enjeux idéologiques de l'incitation au suicide de Jean Bégin et de l'affaire Pravilov (the ideological stakes of the Jean Bégin's incitation to suicide and of the Pravilov scandal. 26 march 92), where we underlined how these events have been solely motivated by the ideological needs of the SHL.
- 5) Because we are accusing two therapists to be responsible for the suicide of our friend, the police started a serious inquiry that worry a lot many clinicians of the SHL. In answer, this lobby found deep in their drawer a new case of a "large network of pedophiles", far on the north coast, in a very small village along the Saint-Lawrence river. Within a week, we replied with another 7 pages reply, Le besoin des scandales pédophiles au Québec au secours de l'idéologie de l'héroisme social: du fantôme de Charles Roy jusqu'à Terminator II (The need of pedophile scandals in Québec to the rescue of the social heroism ideology: from the ghost of Charles Roy up to Terminator II. 14 april 92) in which we identified the unclear sexual interests of some social workers who exploit youngs as sexual victims and who maintain them in a suicidal trend. Many of us were reluctant to use that last strategy, but we proceeded on the basis that peoples denunciated were former activists whose apparently main actual motive is: if you cannot fight them (SHL), join them. This severely broke the image of purity of the SHL and hence their, sometimes unexplained, unconditional support from the professional corporations.
- 6) The actual credibility of the SHL was tested at the end of april when they undertook an international meeting on Street kids. Their statement that 8,000 juvenile prostitutes were

active in Montreal was qualified by most social workers as clearly exaggerated. The population was also sceptical. The social services then remind that many sexually active adolescents between 14-17 years old are often looking for an adult partner, and this should not be falsely classified as prostitution. It was underlined that the age of consent in Canada was 14, so one should not get confuse with adolescents who, perhaps unskilfully, experience multiple partners. To a male adolescent, the identification as a juvenile prostitute may also hide a shameful homosexuality.

All along these six waves (we do not include scandals implying the catholic churches), we constantly noticed that the decision-takers of the social services avoided to blame pedophiles as a social group. Indirectly, by the mean of educational T.V., the sexual rights of youngs have been fully explained including the acceptability to experience a consensual homosexuality. For instance, astonishingly and illegally (!), youngs have been explained that injuries during sodomy are mostly the results of a bad lubrication rather than the narrowness of the rectum. A further 45 minutes program was exclusively dedicated to the youngs' homosexuality between 12-15 years old and its acceptance as an optional growing process. In spite of all the noise of the SHL and the gutter-press, it would not be true to conclude that most social workers and psychologists agreed with the anti-pedophile hatred. Most quebecois believe that a sexuality exploration is a part of a healthy youth, although they fear that their kids may be implied in unwanted experiences or, worst, implied in a public scandal over which they would have no control.

Without any doubt, the social services are actually questioning the golden decade of the ideology of sexual abuse (1981-90) and its unethical exploitation by social heroes. A recent study made by Statistics Canada indicated that sexual aggressions against minors increased by 144 percent during 1981-90 while the physical aggressions increased by a smaller 57 percent. This is particularly a deception since, among all publications across the world, one research out of four allowed to the psychological study of pedophiles have been granted by the canadian government. Obviously, something have to be corrected. This new trend is confirmed by the new thesis of the SHL according to what the sexual aspects of pedophilia are relatively less important than some presumed personality disorders. Since the idea of sexually active youngs do not suscitate anymore the horror they need, social heroes go a step further in nazism when they accuse a complete social group as affectively deficient. We answered to the newspaper Le Devoir with a summary of our 4 preceding documents, and all hysteria upon pedophilia fell flat since. It is far to be clear that a paranoid anti-pedophilia is a part of the dominant ideology in Québec.

SUCCES FOR DON MADER:

It's ART, no pornography

Don Mader was sentenced for making and exhibiting of 'kiddy porn', so judged the lower court.

In appeal he won his case. The higher court judged it was not his intention to 'titilate the senses' but to make art and to documentate the development of boys to man. Had the lower cours said: making such photo's is an act of 'sex with a minor'; the higher court wrecked this judgement.

The case is widely be seen as a testcase for the relatively new Dutch law on kiddyporn.

CHILD PORNOGRAPHER?

the war against nudity comes nome

By BILL ANDRIETTE

Can the FBI raid your home on account of the books you own? Can the police shut down a library or museum or research institute because it contains publications the state rules impermissible?

As of November 29, 1990, when George Bush signed the Comprehensive Crime Act, the answer to those questions is ves. Buried in that legislation is a clause making it a felony to knowingly possess three or more books, magazines, videos or other

matters that visually depict persons younger than 18 "engaging in sexually explicit conduct real or simulated." The maxi-mum sentence for violators is five years in prison and a

On the face of it, the bill seems a use-ful weapon in the cru-sade against the sexual abuse of children. The logic behind the law is simple: If you can't stop the creation of the image the actual abuset, penalize the demand tithe market for images of the abuset. But since the

\$250,000 fine.

Government began a concerted campaign in 1977, the already-limited market for child pornography has virtually dried up: About the only people still selling pictures of children and adolescents having sex are Federal law-enforcement agents conducting sting operations. In some cases, the agents succeeded in finding evidence of ongoing sexual abuse—trophy shots of victims—and under the new law, possession of those photographs is as serious a crime as actual abuse.

But in their zeal to discover new child pornographers, the Feds have now also criminalized a range of images that no one could possibly view as harmful to society or to children. The new law broadens the definition of sexually explicit conduct to include "lascratous exhibitions of the genitals or pubic areas." In other words, it now says that simple child nudiry may be illegal. It allows for no distinction between the sweaty collection of a pervert or pederast and the coffee-table art of a responsible parent. If your family album contains pictures of your newborn having his or her diaper

The law tries to establish malicious intent where none may exist. If the local Fotomat turns over your family photos to the FBI, and upon searching your house, agents uncover a bootleg video of Bernardo Bertoluci's 1900 (which includes a scene of a bov masturbating), your interest in Marxist cinema puts you in jeopardy. If further searching uncovers a collection of old Penhouse magazines, including the September 1984 issue with then-underage model Traci

Lords posing naked, you could go to jail. Under the law, your family photos, 1900, and an issue of

Penthouse. become the three necessary items for conviction. Antiporn crusaders in and out of the Government avow zero tolerance of child nudity. (It is noteworthy that the Justice Department tried to make possession of a single image a felony.) Last year, Dennis Barrie, the

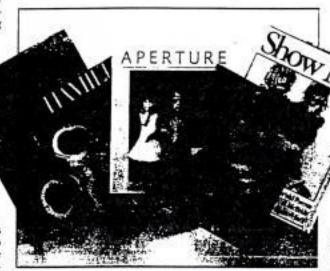
director of the Cincin-

nati Contemporary Arts

Center, was prosecuted

for showing Robert Mapplethorpe's child nudes, among other works. And in April 1990, internationally known photographer Jock Sturges, who took pictures of families at nude beaches, was victimized by a raid in San Francisco. In both cases, the models came forward and said that the photos depicted innocent behavior. Evidently, artistic value or moral innocence offers no insurance against hysteria.

Bill Andriette is features editor of The Guide, a Boston-based gay magazine.



Coffee-table art or a Federal rap for child pora?

changed, taking his or her first bath or lying nude on a bearskin rug, you can be sent to jail.

The determination of lascivious conduct, the courts have ruled, depends on such subjective subtleties as the camera angle (does it showcase the genitals?), the position of the legs (are they parted?), the expression on the face (is there a seductive glint in the eve?), the style of attre (is it provocative?) or even the setting (is it a bedroom?). With such vague criteria, prosecutors can—and do—make the case that practically any photo of a naked minor is pornographic.



North American Man/Boy Love Association

The North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA) is an organization founded in response to the extreme oppression of men and boys involved in consensual sexual and emotional relationships with each other. Its membership is open to all individuals sympathetic to man/boy love in particular, and sexual freedom in general. NAMBLA is strongly opposed to age-of-consent laws and other restrictions which deny adults and youths the full enjoyment of their bodies and control over their own lives. NAMBLA's goal is to end the long standing oppression of men and boys involved in any mutually consensual relationships.

NAMBLA condemns sexual abuse and all forms of coercion. But we insist there is a distinction between coercive and consensual sex. Laws that focus only on the age of the participants fail to capture that distinction. Differences in age do not preclude mutual, loving interaction between persons anymore than differences in race or class.

NAMBLA calls for the empowerment of youth in all areas, not just sexual. We are against arbitrary constraints on the rights and freedom of all, young and old.

NAMBLA calls for an end to the oppression of gay-youth by society's homophobia. We also call for the gay and lesbian community throughout the U.S. to support gay-youth. The gay community has for to long disassociated itself from gay-youth for fear of being labeled child molesters, this has isolated gay-youth. Gay men do not become gay on their 18th birthday—there are gay 13-year-olds, and gay 16-year-olds, and gay 10-year-olds. Gay-youth must be recognized as members of the gay community, and supported by the gay community.

WHO WE ARE

The North American Man/Boy Love Association is a non-profit civil rights/political organization. We support men and boys in consensual relationships with one another and help educate society about them.

Founded in 1978, we grew out of the Boston-Boise Committee, which was formed to resist the political witch-hunt in 1977 in Revere, Mass., of men and boys involved in relationships.

Membership is open to anyone sympathetic to man/boy love, and anyone may attend NAMBLA meetings. Members include youth, men, and women. NAMBLA activities include speaking to other groups, public forums with guest speakers, leafleting, media appearances, support of political prisoners, and publication of a Bulletin, Journal, leaflets and books.

Although NAMBLA members hold diverse individual political views, as a group we have a progressive stance on the rights of the young, and on issues that affect the sharing of affection between boys and men. These include racism, censorship, forced military service, imperialistic wars, nuclear weapons, prostitution, laws requiring parental notification of contraception, clitoridectomies, routine circumcision of male infants, and the exploitation of young people by schools and social welfare agencies.

NAMBLA does not provide referrals or assistance for people seeking sexual contacts, nor do we engage in activities that violate the law. We unequivocally condemn all coercive acts, sexual or otherwise.

We believe sex is good. We support the rights of youth as well as adults to chose the partners with whom they wish to share and enjoy their bodies. We encourage young people to rebel against the anti-sexual prohibitions imposed on them by authorities; parents, school officials, so-called "moral" crusaders, the church, the law, the news media, and the state.

EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people have very few rights, not even the basic civil liberties most adults take for granted. Society sees young people as the property of their parents or the state, unable to give consent to the most basic acts, including sexual ones.

We believe young people must be empowered, not disempowered. To be able to say "no" implies the power to say "yes." Young people must win the civil rights they are capable of exercising on their own and be helped to responsibly use other rights which they could exercise independently if our culture did not deny them participation. To this end, NAMBLA supports a detailed platform for the emancipation of youth.

AGE-OF-CONSENT

We oppose age-of-consent laws. We believe they straitjacket youth into a false sense of protection that denies them the means to make decisions about their own lives.

The scientific literature on child sexual abuse clearly shows that when young people's consensual sexual relationships with adults come to light, the younger partners are harmed by the reactions of the adults around them, not by the relationships themselves. (Larry Constantine, "The Effects of Early Sexual Experiences: A Review and Synthesis of Research," in Children and Sex: New Findings, New Perspectives, Boston: Little, Brown, 1981.)

Men accused of consensual sex with a youth even one year under the age-of-consent (which is 18 in California and 16 in three-fourths of the states) are, legally, charged with an assault or rape.

Young people accused of consensual relationships with adults are often cajoled or threatened into testifying. Even prosecutorial authorities admit that interrogations and subsequent court appearances are often traumatic, unlike the sex acts themselves.

Even as our society intensifies its prohibition against young people's sexuality, professional studies in countries where man/boy rela, anships do not have to be reported to police show that young people benefit far more than they are harmed. (Theo Sandfort, Boys on Their Contacts with Men. Amsterdam: Global Academic Press, 1988.) Such studies are not possible in the United States.

Because we believe that the ban on any sexually expressed relationship between an adult and a young person causes much more damage than it prevents, we call for the abolition of age-of-consent laws. At the same time, we call for the strengthening of laws prohibiting the use of coercion or force in all relationships.

POSITIONS ADOPTED BY NAMBLA

A selection (F.g.)

FIRST STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- That NAMBLA take a public position that, while opposing any age of consent laws, we do not lobby for changes in the law at this time:
- That we favor complete sexual freedom in all cases not involving coercion, and are actively seeking coalitions with other groups working for sexual freedom in North America.

ON MILITARY CONSCRIPTION

The North American Man/Boy Love Association views the draft as an extension of our society's attitude toward children as property—children as the property of the family, and youth as the property of the nation, to be disposed of in whatever way it chooses. In view of the Carter administration's efforts to whip up war hystena, and in the face of its plans to draft America's youth into involuntary servitude. NAMBLA condemns any attempt to reintroduce registration and the draft, and supports the youth of America in their resistance against such efforts.

ON PORNOGRAPHY AND EROTIC MATERIALS

NAMBLA supports all voluntary, non-violent sexual activity. The depiction of such activity is not harmful, so long as those involved agree. NAMBLA calls for the abolition of all laws which limit freedom of expression, including child pernography laws.

NAMBLA condemns those who exploit children and others for profit in pornography and demands just compensation and the full informed consent of those depicted in cases of the commercial distribution of erotica.

NAMBLA condemns pornography which furthers racial and sexual stereotypes and oppression.

ON HUSTLING AND COMMERCIAL SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS

Teenage hustling is one of the most visible forms of man-boy sexual encounters. NAMBLA strongly supports boys and men who voluntarily choose to participate in these relationships.

NAMBLA believes that there should be no legal sanctions of any kind against hustling or prostitution. Such laws encourage violence and create victims. NAMBLA also opposes all other laws, such as those against solicitation, on age of consent, on curriew, etc., used against men and boys who take part in sexual relationships, including hustling.

NAMBLA opposes all laws restricting the full employment of youth, and supports all attempts to provide atternatives for those who hustle out of economic need. NAMBLA supports fair access to employment for youth and minority groups in our society. NAMBLA supports economic and racial justice, especially for gay youth who are often doubly oppressed. Wherever forms of hustling thrive on racial or economic inequality—especially in Third World countries where impenalism is involved—NAMBLA condemns the inequality and imperialism and calls on men and boys to work actively against them.

Hustlers and their clients are human beings and should be treated with the same respect and dignity accorded all people who engage in voluntary, consensual relationships, and should not be treated as merely sex objects or sex rejects.

Hustlers and their clients have the right to full information about and treatment of all sexually transmitted conditions, including HIV infection and related diseases.

ON REPRESSION OF SEXUALITY BY THE STATE

The North American Man/Boy Love Association opposes all attempts by the state to interfere with consensual and noncoercive sexuality. If therefore declares its opposition to efforts of the Reagan Administration to legislate antisexual morality, including:

- its attempts to deny reproductive freedom to females under 17 by obliging doctors and health clinics to inform a girl's parents if she obtains contraceptive devices from government-funded programs, or if she seeks an abortion;
- the Schweiker "Teen Chastity Bill," which seeks to discourage sexual activity by young people.

While claiming to favor less government interference in private matters, the Reagan Administration is actually seeking to expand the state's repressive role.

NAMBLA believes that children need the right to control and enjoy their own bodies. The government and moral crusaders have no right to deny them that freedom. Young people need free and confidential access to accurate information about sexuality and contraception.

Sex is fun, it is beneficial, it is universally desired and enjoyed. Sex, as such, results in no harm to the individual, providing it is consensual.

NAMBLA wishes to stress the tack of wisdom in the government's position. First, by informing a girl's parents of her sexual activity without her consent, the government does not "protect" her, but rather exposes her to possible recrimination at the hands of unsympathetic parents, and increases the risk of unwanted pregnancy or childbirth—thereby compounding the state's legalized child molestation.

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO OBTAIN SEXUAL INFORMATION, CONTRACEPTIVES, OR ABORTIONS WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THEIR PARENTS. THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE THEIR OWN DECISION ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT TO ENGAGE IN SEXUAL ACTIVITY, AND WHETHER OR NOT TO INFORM THEIR PARENTS.

Second, government interference will not discourage young people from having sex, nor will it facilitate a discussion of sex between children and their parents.

Third, the government's claim to protect minor girls from the risks of pregnancy or childbirth (which are reduced to a minimum with the use of contraceptives) is hypocritical in view of the special vengeance the state reserves for the consensual sexual activity of boys and men. The boy's sexual pleasure with other boys or with older men, after all, entails no harmful side-effects, let alone the risk of pregnancy, and contraceptives are superfluous.

The government should stay out of the bedroom. The attempts to repress and control sexuality have caused untold harm both to individuals and to society as a whole.

SEXUAL FREEDOM IS A BASIC FREEDOM.

NAMBLA calls for the replacement of existing age-of-consent laws with laws EMPOWERING children. As an immediate goal, we call for the adoption of laws that both protect children from unwanted sexual experiences and advances, and at the same time leave them free to determine the content of their own sexual experience. Age-of-consent laws deny children this right, and are presently on the books in all parts of Canada and the United States. In addition, the laws of twenty-four states still prohibit lesbian and gay sexual relationships, regardless of the ages of the partners involved. These repressive laws should be abolished.

Laws presently exist in all provinces and states to protect people of all ages from rape, intimidation, coercion, and abuse. Such laws are weakest in their application to children, in that they fail to adequately empower children to initiate and sustain legal proceedings against those who mistreat them. Much child abuse, both physical and emotional, results from this anti-child bias in the law, and is perpetrated largely by parents, other relatives, school and social service personnel, and by the police. Laws that are designed to protect people from mistreatment should be accordingly strengthened to protect children equally. Ageof-consent laws do not accomplish this, however, as they do not protect children from mistreatment but rather from sex itself. Sex is a good, healthy, and for most people, a necessary part of life, and should not be denied to children any more than they are denied nourishment, education, and the freedom to explore the world around them.

The sexual emancipation of children, and of all people in our society, is only a part, albeit an integral one, of the broad struggle against oppression of all forms, and for self-determination for all people. This struggle does not begin with, nor end with, the replacement of age-or-consent laws. Children especially, and all people in general, must be empowered to have control over all aspects of their lives, so far as the exercise of that control does not infringe on the rights of others.

Children in our society are presently denied that control, and are treated in the law and in fact as virtually the property of their parents and wards of the state, to be used as their parents and the state wish. Consequently, our children are unaccustomed to making decisions of importance which affect themselves and unaccustomed to learning from the results of such decisions. Out of this unfamiliantly with decision-making arises the belief that children are incapable of responsibly controlling their own lives. Children in other cultures where society allows them greater self-determination are in fact more functional and capable than our own children at the same chronological age.

Sex education should be made available to children as early as children wish. The child who has studied sexuality is in a better position to make an informed decision whether, when, and with whom to have sex than one who has not. The informed child is also more capable of exercising control in situations in which he or she is confronted with another person's undesired sexual advances.

Sexual freedom for all!
We shall be free—every last one of us!

ON CHILD AND YOUTH LIBERATION

Young people in our society are denied nearly all the human rights adults possess, and are presumed to be irrational and incapable. The policy of protection toward children growing out of this philosophy assumes that parents or their state-appointed substitutes can only relate to children from the standpoint of benevolent domination.

Children are subject to abuse as a result of this hierarchical relationship. Their humanity is demeaned and their growth stunted.

SINCE children possess rights because they are human beings;

AND SINCE these rights are being denied largely for the convenience and economic advantage of adults,

NAMBLA subscribes to the following resolution to empower young people:

I. Self-Determination

Children should have the right to conclusively decide all matters that affect them.

II. Equal Civil Rights

- A. Civil rights are inalienable. Young people are necessary participants in democracy, entitled to the full benefits of self-governance and to full protection from both the government's and parents' abuse of power.
- Children must have equal Constitutional rights with adults, including, but not limited to.
 - complete freedom of speech, press, assembly, religion, and privacy;
 - 2) equal protection against discrimination:
 - freedom from involuntary servitude (such as forfeiting wages to parents, forced attendance at school, and military registration and conscription);
 - the right to due process:
 - protection from illegal search and seizure:
 - 6) the right of equal participation in political processes; and
 - the right to serve on juries.

III. Alternate Home Environments

A. Children should be able to choose from a variety of arrangements, e.g.: residences operated by children, child-exchange programs, twenty-four hour child care centers, and other schools and employment opportunities.

IV. Self-Education

A. Children should be free to design their own education, choosing from among many options the learning experiences they want, including the option not to attend school. Compulsory grades and tracking must end. Schools must be run democratically, with curricula, personnel selection, and disciplinary procedures decided collectively.

V. Freedom from Corporal Punishment

Children have the right to be free from corporal punishment.

VI. Economic Power

A. Children should have the right to work, to acquire and manage money, to receive equal pay for equal work, to gain promotion to leadership positions, to own property, to obtain guaranteed support apart from the family, and to achieve economic independence.

VII. The Right to Information

A child must have the right to all information ordinarily available to adults.

- A. Society must accommodate itself to children's size and to their need for safe space.
- IX. An End to Racism, Sexism, and Ageism
- X. Sexual Self-Determination
 - A. Children should have the right to conduct their sexual lives with no more restriction than adults. At a minimum, they must have the unhindered right to have sex with members of any age of the same or opposite sex, and to identify themselves as homosexual, heterosexual, bisexual, transsexual, or any other sexual preference or orientation.

ON CORPORAL PUNISHMENT, KIDNAPPING, RAPE AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

After five years there is still confusion among many groups and individuals over what age-of-consent legislation does and what NAMBLA's position on such legislation means. This paper is submitted as an attempt to clarify NAMBLA's position on this and other related matters.

As a group which focuses on relationships between adults and minors, NAMBLA is concerned about the issues of corporal punishment, kidnapping, rape, and sexual exploitation of the young, particularly by adults.

Corporal punishment, like the term "spanking," is a euphemism for physical assaults on the young, usually by parents, teachers, guardians, and other so-called "responsible" adults, which they justify as necessary for discipline and the successful integration of the young into society. No scientific data exists

to support their claim. By teaching children that our society accepts physical violence as a legitimate means of problem solving, corporal curlishment encourages young people to seek violent solutions to their own problems.

CCRPORAL PUNISHMENT IS CHILD ABUSE. Laws which permit it in the United States should be declared unconstitutional on the grounds that it constitutes cruel and unusual punishment. NAMBLA advocates legislation which prohibits corporal punishment and calls on all adults to use positive, loving, non-threatening attitudes in relating to, educating, and disciplining others, especially the young.

Kidnapping is a crime rooted in the concept of children as property. It is the theft of "another person's" child. Since the child is viewed as property, no attention is given to the wishes of the child in defining this crime. No distinction is made between the forcible removal of a child and aiding or assisting a child who has been formented, threatened or abused by a parent or legal guardian.

Parents and legally appointed guardians are permitted to force minors in their care to go to places and stay in places the minor objects to. Everyone, including minors, should have the right to go or not to go, and live where they choose. In some countries, governments have ombudspersons who act as children's advocates and help them escape from unwanted living arrangements. In a nation officially opposed to slavery for over 100 years, NAMBLA calls for an end to de facto child slavery in this country, by instituting similar child advocacy legislation here.

Rape is the use of force, threats or coercion to gain access to the body of an otherwise unwilling person. Current legislation treats rape as a sexual act and considers establishing the use of force as secondary to establishing the occurrence of so-called "sexual activities." In cases of consensual sexual activity involving a minor and an adult, age-of-consent legislation is used to totally ignore the presence or absence of force, threats or coercion. It equates rape with all sex. Rape is not sex and it is not love. A person who forces, threatens or coerces a boy is not a "boy-lover," and it is inaccurate to refer to him or her as such. The same is true of anyone who kidnaps, exploits or assaults boys. Existing scientific data on man/boy relations indicate that such adults comprise a very small percentage of the adults attracted to boys. Most rape is done by men attracted to adult women, regardless of the age or sex of the rape victim. Almost all unwanted sexual activity involving minors is male-female, and most of this is father-daughter. (This does not mean that all parent-child sex is unwanted by the child.)

NAMBLA has always opposed any form of abuse or coercion, and has supported the liberation of everyone from sexual prejudice, stigmatization, and oppression. NAMBLA CONDEMNS RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT. Age-of-consent laws, however, are not "rape laws for minors," but are anti-sex legislation designed to prevent minors from engaging in any type of erotic activity. This is why NAMBLA has always joined youth liberation groups and responsible members of the scientific community in the call for a replacement of age-of-consent legislation with legislation empowering youth. Having this type of legislation is no excuse for inadequate rape legislation and should not be justified as such.

NAMBLA also condemns surgical and chemical castration of rapists and other "sex offenders" as barbaric.

Sexual exploitation is the use of physical assets of one person to play upon the fantasies of another in a way that intentionally takes from one or both persons more than they receive.

EXPLOITATION, SEXUAL OR OTHERWISE. IS NEITHER APPROVED OF NOR PRACTICED BY NAMBLA. Laws focusing on sexual exploitation are used to divert attention from many other types of exploitation, pretending that they are less serious. NAMBLA recognizes that exploitation occurs in the areas of hustling and the publication of erotica and has called on its members to help eliminate exploitation in these areas. Exploitation of the young occurs just as frequently in many other areas, most notably in youth shelters and service programs such as Odyssey House, which has devoured huge sums of government and private monies in unwarranted salaries and obscene expense accounts, while forcing bizarre treatment regimens upon young people held there against their will.

NAMBLA CONDEMNS CORPORAL PUNISHMENT, KIDNAPPING, RAPE AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION. NAMBLA condemns the attitudes and legislation that portray corporal punishment as an act of love, and that confuse kidnapping with assisting, rape with consensual activity, and non-sexual exploitation with harmless activities. Participation in corporal punishment, kidnapping, rape, and sexual exploitation is contrary to NAMBLA's statement of purpose. It is grounds for expulsion from NAMBLA, as provided for in NAMBLA's constitution.

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