

I p c e

# NEWSLETTER

Number E 28, June 2010

Ipce is a forum for people who are engaged in scholarly discussion about the understanding and emancipation of mutual relationships between children or adolescents and adults.

In this context, these relationships are intended to be viewed from an unbiased, non-judgmental perspective and in relation to the human rights of both the young and adult partners.

Ipce meets once every one or two years in a different country, publishes a newsletter and a web site, co-ordinates the (electronic) exchange of texts and keeps an archive of specific written publications.

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## Introduction

Here you are: Ipce's Electronic Newsletter # 28, dated June 2010. The former issue, # 27, was published in July 2009 - a long period between both Newsletters. The reason was that the eyes of your webmaster more or less refused their sight in April 2009.

What followed was a year in with four eye surgeries and three new glasses - lots of costs. This ended in a recovered sight, at least of a great screen with great fonts. However, my eyes are quite quickly tired. After viewing the morning newspaper, I have to take some rest. Working is difficult in these conditions. I also have problems with my spine, my breath and my shoulders. And with my mind: I have become somber, I feel a lack of vitality, a lack of energy. I am preparing my departure from this earth. I am just cleaning up my house: lots of archives have already been moved or deleted.

Thus, I am growing older and my health is quite diminishing. Thus, I have to hand over my tasks. Within Ipce, there is already formed a task force to manage this. The next Ipce Meeting 2010 will take the necessary decisions. The internal reports - and proposals - for this Meeting are part of this Newsletter.

For Ipce's web site, there has already been made a test version of a new website "Ipce Two", including the first website with its three libraries, and a Library 4, which allows to be maintained by a team of webmasters and moderators, and which automatically makes a register by author, subject and year of publication.

In the internal papers, you will read a proposal to stop the Newsletter, because there are scarcely a few subscribers to the paper version of it. Number 29 will give the report of the Meeting and some articles, number 30 will be the last one, with an overview of all Newsletters, including the non-electronic ones - which will be scanned by a volunteer and than be published on the new website - and a final collection of absurdities, and that's it. Internal papers can easily be published in a section of the new web site.

Anticipating the Meeting's decision, I have already stopped with collecting documents. Receiving, reading and selecting about five documents or articles each day, this was too much for me. So, you will not find the usual Lists of the Documentation Service here. Nowadays, it is easy to find documents on the Internet. And you can find lots of documents, news items, and more, on  
< <http://newgon.com/> >.

In this Newsletter, you will see a next article about 'Fear of Images', a section about 'Panic and Hysteria' and some 'Mixed Articles'.

Fear of images, panic and hysteria, nowadays these are still relevant. Irrational fears and other emotions have still to be counter-balanced by rational reasoning and solid research data. A wide spread myth is the 95% recidivism rate of sex offenders. Solid research actually found about 3%, to give an example you can read here in this Newsletter.

The concluding article is about the 'ped-priests' - a problem for the Catholic Church, but not correctly interpreted by the same church. It is not the problem of 'a small group of servants with a distorted sexuality', as a bishop has said; it is the problem of *a church with a distortion: an obsession with sexuality*, labeling sexuality as sin, dirty, guilty. The abuse told about is of all means abuse *of power*. Offer the priests a therapy, but do change the church as a whole.

The work of Ipce might be go on, new teams will be formed and do their job, I will retreat and realize my 'Ipce-pension' during the coming year - after 25 year of volunteering for Ipce,

Still your webmaster,  
Frans

## Statement

### **The Boylover as Society's Screen for Shadow Projection**

by Romhildt Weimar, NAMBLA Updates December 2009 - edited version, with thanks to the author and NAMBLA

It turns out that there is a good reason why the boylover is vilified by society: They can't help it. Modern society's hatred for the boylover is a natural by-product of society's own love for boys. The problem is that they just can't admit to themselves that they do in fact love boys. The most they can allow themselves of this pleasure is the occasional adoration of famous boy actors and such. They will not permit themselves to see boys as they truly are: beautiful noisy playful expressions of Eros.

For unfortunate and complicated historical reasons, there is just no room in the current world culture for that kind of natural freedom to love boys. And so, if the culture can't accept their own innate impulse towards the love of boys, if they cannot accept the wisdom of love, then it turns into hate, and is projected onto others - and preferably where it sticks the best, i.e. on a boy lover, or the strange friendly guy who hangs out with boys all the time.

This seems to be the basic human strategy to deal with stuff that we don't like about ourselves: We put it all in a collection called 'the shadow' of the personality, and then we systematically project these shadow elements onto other people whenever possible. This is automatic and unconscious; it happens silently and secretly.

The idea behind this strategy is that now instead of hating ourselves (which is too painful), we instead hate other people. And it seems to work, but it really doesn't. It's actually a very bad strategy because the hate energy is still there inside of you.

The only way to end this harmful charade is to re-own your shadow by loving yourself as yourself. Then there is nothing to project.

Pretty much everyone does this. And it literally fill world with hate. Which is not so good.

Here's a simple way to tell when you are projecting your shadow: If another person affects you -- like puts you in a bad mood, deeply bothers you, disgusts you, or really gets on your nerves -- then you are projecting what you hate about yourself onto that person. On the other hand, if a person simply informs you -- for example, you notice that they are loud or annoying or disgusting or rude or angry -- then you are not projecting, you are just noticing how that person is acting. It's scary how simple it is, considering that this is a fairly sophisticated psychological mechanism that we're talking about.

People do this on an individual level, but they also do it in groups with their collective shadow. And this is what society has unconsciously decided to do with its natural love for boys.

Everyone loves boys.\*

\* This is not to say that girls are not universally loved as well; this author knows several really cool little girls. It is just beyond the scope of an essay about boy love, which is this author's expertise and burden.

For one, because they are children, they are cute. That element is hardwired into our biology so that we don't kill and eat all the children. As well, because they are children, they have not yet been fully indoctrinated by society's stiff and certain rules, and thus are still able to be free and true. This truth is beauty.

Plus, boys are generally boisterous and rambunctious and exuberant, and this can be great fun to be around. And they never talk about money or politics because they have none -- although they will occasionally talk about God, which is always interesting.

Boys are just great, and they're easy to fall in love with -- Granted that boy lovers make the same mistake common to sexual relationships in that often the sex is used as a substitute for love, rather than an expression of love. And everyone knows it.

The historical record of the ancient and universal love of boys is no accident. People love boys because they are lovable. Who wouldn't mind a happy snuggle with a cute little guy? But in general, this is not allowed.

Why? As said above, society hates that it feels attracted to boys. It does not want to own that part of itself. And so it insanely projects its own shadow of self-hate onto people it suspects are boy lovers. But then they are not 'boylovers' anymore; they are child molesters, sexual predators, monsters, criminals.

The fact that there are indeed morally corrupt child molesters out there only serves to confuse and complicate this point. The existence of these malignant and violent forms of what perhaps began as genuine boy love is unfortunate; it takes the whole 'love' part out of boy love.

But I suspect that the ridiculously hostile environment that has been created for boylovers (thru the collective demonizing projection) simply crushes the psyche of some people, resulting in sociopathic or at least ultra-selfish sexual behavior. And this is the general demerit for shadow projection: It fosters a hostile environment for everyone.

In other words, society's extreme hatred of the boy lover is only society's hatred of what it cannot accept about itself: that it loves boys too. Otherwise society would just barely notice the boy lover and the happy boy, would shrug its collective shoulders, and would move on to the real criminals.

## **Section 1: Ipce's Internal Matters - Report for the Meeting 2010**

### **1. Report of the secretary**

Members who were enduring unreachable are removed from the members' list. New members have been added to the list. The result is a list of now, June 15, 2010, 54 members in 18 countries. In addition, we have one pending member and three guests.

Because my growing age and quite diminishing health, I am no longer able and willing to be Ipce's (only) secretary.

### **2. Report of the webmaster**

In the course of 2009, the whole Ipce website is hosted by another provider as it had before. The former sub-domain can be removed now. The new provider is good and cheap.

Moreover, there is made a test version of a complete new Ipce website, containing the existing Ipce web with Library [1], Library 2, Library 3 and a new Library 4. The latter will make it possible to maintain the website with a team. It also automatically creates a register by author, subject (tags), and year of the publication.

This is done because my age and health does not able me to be the (only) webmaster any longer. Ipce needs a team of web workers. Next year, I can be one of the moderators; then I want to hand over my tasks.

Ipce's website has six sections now:

Section	Files	MB Room
<b>Ipceweb</b> [*]	456	8.2
<b>Library Two</b>	202	10
<b>Library 3</b> [**]	720	35.5
<b>Library 4</b>		Test version
<b>Newsletters</b>	> 270	15
<b>Host</b>	330	13.5
<b>Booksreborn</b>	104	68
<b>Total</b>	<b>2082</b>	<b>145.7 MB</b>

[\*] With Library (1), Statements, Documentation lists, Links and all registers

[\*\*] With "New" and the Ipce Magazine. We also have our internal forum IMO: Ipce meets

Online, placed by our third provider, with 34 members on June 15, 2010

The Ipce Magazine is started in January 2007. This is factually an update of the website, be it concentrated on one theme. The first theme was Laws, the second one Women and 'pedophilia'.

The Newsletter is on the website, but is also made in a printable Word version, sent by paper post, especially made for those who have no connection with the Internet.

However, there are only a very few subscribers for the paper version. My proposal is to stop the Newsletter after # 29 (Report of the Meeting 2010) and # 30 (giving a ;ast collection of absurdities and looking back in an overview). Then, an internal section can easily be added to the new Ipce website.

In the year we overview now, June 2009 - June 2010, there have been only one Newsletter, only one Magazine and only some normal updates. Lots of files are still waiting. This is mostly due to the great problems of the webmaster with his health, especially the sight.

The last pages of each Newsletter presented a list of documents which can be sent on request. I propose to stop the documentation service together with the last Newsletter. Nowadays, its is easy to find and to gather documents from the Internet.

### **3. Two teams**

Ipce has two teams, to be (re)installed by the annual Meeting.

A Conflict- & Emergency Team, but there has been no conflict and no emergency since the former report and meeting.

A Membership Team: five members who invite and accept new members after some kind of acknowledgement by them, if possible also by a member from the same country or speaking the same language. The

criteria for admission can be found in the Report of the Meeting in October 2007, section 2.

This team has worked reasonably well in the year we overview now. The Meeting will be asked to reinstall such a team.

#### 4. Financial Report

About the half of the members have paid their dues. Because the members who have paid usually haven't given more than had been asked, the paying members have compensated the not paying members.

<b>Financial Report Ipce</b>				
<b>May 8, 2009 &gt; June 15, 2010</b>				
	<b>Report</b>	<b>Expect</b>	<b>Repor</b>	<b>Expecte</b>
	<b>2008-</b>	<b>2009-</b>	<b>2009-</b>	<b>2010-</b>
	<b>09</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Starting balance</b>	534,84	547,39	1.047,39	857,03
<b>Income</b>				
Dues	503,49	500,00	352,63	400,00
Gifts	1.185,63	500,00	261,93	300,00
Other: rent	0,36	PM	0,56	PM
<b>Total income</b>	<b>1.689,48</b>	<b>1.000,00</b>	<b>615,12</b>	<b>700,00</b>
<b>Start + Income</b>	<b>2.224,32</b>	<b>1.547,39</b>	<b>1.662,51</b>	<b>1.557,03</b>
<b>Costs</b>				
Newsletters	-100,23	-150,00	-37,55	-120,00
Meeting	-283,15	-200,00	100,00	-200,00
Secretarial costs:				
Postbox &	-50,85	-75,00	-62,65	-70,00

stamps				
& copies				
Web site				
Providers *	-572,70	-409,00	477,02	-300,00
Other costs	-170,00	-90,00	-0,00	-0,00
Paid articles			-59,39	-100,00
Publications **			-68,87	-500,00
Various costs	0,00	PM	0,00	PM
<b>Total costs</b>	<b>1.176,93</b>	<b>-924,00</b>	<b>805,48</b>	<b>1.290,00</b>
<b>Final balance</b>	<b>1.047,39</b>	<b>623.39</b>	<b>857,03</b>	<b>267,03</b>
ASN Account	77,07		0,00	
PayPal account			40,00	
ING account	970,32		817,03	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.047,39</b>		<b>857,03</b>	
Reserv for publ **	500,00		431,13	
<b>Normal costs</b>	<b>547,39</b>		<b>425,90</b>	
<b>* Providers</b>				
Xs4All	-403,20	-108,00	111,67	0,00
KN Online	-69,50	-21,00	-90,35	0,00
Bluebox	-100,00	0,00	-10,00	0,00
BCCP		-210,00	265,00	-300,00
Redirection	0,00	-20,00	0,00	0,00
Domain names	0,00	-50,00	0,00	PM
<b>Total</b>	<b>-572,70</b>	<b>-409,00</b>	<b>477,02</b>	<b>-300,00</b>

\*\* Reserved for publication ...



... of a book 'Positive Memories' by T. Rivas. The ISBN is already bought and paid. The text is nearly ready. To have printed and promoted it, the reserved money will be not enough. Gifts are welcome.

Because of my growing age and diminishing health, I am not able and willing to continue my task as the treasurer.

### **Proposals to the Meeting 2010**

- Accept this report and so the work and policy of the secretary, the webmaster and treasurer in the year 2009-2010.
- Appoint a new secretary and a new treasurer.
- Appoint a steering committee for Ipce.
- Reinstall the conflict- & emergency team.
- Reinstall the new-members team.
- Appoint a team of webmasters and moderators and start the test version of Ipce's web site.
- Stop the Newsletter after # 30, then open an internal section on the new web site.
- Stop the documentation service together with the last Newsletter.

## **Section II: Theme: Fear of images**

### **Fear of images**

In a former Newsletter, we presented articles about 'Fear of Photos'. There is more to tell.

### **Old ladies**

#### **Apology to pool photo pensioners**

23 July 2008, BBC News, UK

A council has apologised to two women after a worker ordered them to stop photographing a deserted paddling pool over fears about child protection.

[...]

Betty Robinson, 82, and Brenda Bennett, 69, were taking pictures when they were ordered to stop by a female worker.

[...]

"I said is it because we might be paedophiles? There were no children in the pool but she pointed to a man and boys in the distance and said we could come back later at 6pm when the park was closed.

"We are just a couple of old ladies who wouldn't hurt children and we are certainly not paedophiles."

Mike Harris, head of leisure and culture at Southampton City Council, said in a statement:

"[...] We have to walk a fine line between protecting the children who use this popular paddling pool and the interests of the community as a whole. A lot of people are more concerned about the safety of their children these days so it is appropriate that our staff are aware of who is taking photos."

## **Angry mob**

### **Man chased off Croydon tram by angry mob after taking photo of child**

03-August-2008, This is Croydon Today, UK

A man was chased from a tram by an angry mob, punched in the face and left with a broken jaw after passengers thought he took a photo of two children. The mini-riot broke out at Waddon Marsh tram stop when Dimitri Petrov, in his early 20s, was called a paedophile after taking a photo. After he was chased on to the track he was punched by Terrence Crawford, 18, who broke his jaw.

[...]

He said: "There were a couple of children on board and some passengers seemed to think he had taken a picture of one of them on his mobile. He later admitted he had taken a picture of a child. The word 'paedophile' was bandied about."

A number of youths started to hit him as he was chased off the tram at Waddon Marsh.

## **Gymnastics**

### **Parents warned on gymnastic photos**

Marc Horne, 03 August 2008, Scotland on Sunday

Fear of paedophiles on the internet has prompted Scots sports chiefs to warn parents and coaches not to photograph young athletes in their gym gear. Controversial new advice from governing body Scottish Gymnastics says photographs of youngsters should only be taken if they are wearing tracksuits.

The child protection guidelines are drawn up to prevent "unsuitable images" appearing on the internet" also suggest parents should destroy existing photographs showing children in a "potentially provocative" pose.

[...]

Others claim it is a needless overreaction that will do little more than help spread fear.

[... ..]Professor Frank Furedi, a sociologist with the University of Kent, believes the growing trend of restricting photographs of children at public events is unnecessary and counter-productive.

The author of Paranoid Parenting said:

"The assumption that pictures represent a significant threat to children has acquired a fantasy-like grotesque character. We rarely dare ask the question: what possible harm can come from taking pictures of children? Dark hints about the threat of evil networks of paedophiles are sufficient to corrode common sense.

"Tragically, what the dramatisation and criminalisation of the act of photographing children reveals is a culture that regards virtually every childhood experience from the standpoint of a paedophile.

The default position is to always expect the worst."

## **Fairy children**

### **Photographer prosecuted for fairy 'child porn'**

9th August 2008, Yorkshire Post, UK

A "naive" photographer employed by parents to take pictures of their young daughters to turn into images of fairies has been prosecuted because the photos fell under the definition of child porn.

Under the legislation, the images of the two girls - aged 10 and 12 - were classed as level one child pornography, despite the fact their parents had asked for the pictures to be taken and were even present at photo shoots. Dr Marcus Jonathan Angus Phillips, a keen photographer and administrator at Sheffield University, was hauled before the courts after "concerned" staff at a branch of Bonusprint reported his pictures to the NSPCC.

At Sheffield Crown Court yesterday Judge Lawler QC [...] sentenced the 38-year-old, to a 150-hour community service order [...] The judge added:

"What is clear is that you had no base motive, no sexual motive and there was not any question of deriving sexual gratification from what you were doing."

[...]

Bonusprint staff were concerned by images which showed the girls topless and on September 12 last year Phillips's computer was seized by police. [...]

## **Disturbing images**

December 29, 2006, Wordpress.com

"The state must declare the child to be the most precious treasure of the people. As long as the government is perceived as working for the benefit of the children, the people will happily endure almost any curtailment of liberty and almost any deprivation." - Adolf Hitler, Mein Kampf

Perry [... is] a single, 31-year-old male kindergarten teacher in Oakland County, Michigan. [...]

What was shown in the photos and videos seized from Perry's home? Certainly not child porn. The photos were mostly of Perry's half brothers and of Perry's students at school and on school field trips.

Perry was apparently the unofficial photographer for school events and field trips. The videos, and this is where it gets real juicy, were of such children's staples as The Lion King, Harry Potter, and Little House on the Prairie. The prosecution has stated that the last, Little House on the Prairie, constitutes "non-pornographic erotica" for pedophiles.

[...]

An Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor, Andrea Dean, reportedly described these images as "very disturbing".

[...]

In the Perry case, the prosecution wanted to present innocent photos and videos as evidence of the accused being a pedophile. [...]

## **No cameras in playgrounds**

11/09/08, Limerick Post

[...]

Westbury-based Labour Cllr. Pascal Fitzgerald, said the problem of children being approached by strangers outside schools after school hours, needs to be monitored as there is growing concern that unknown paedophiles could be stalking them. His recommendations for the bye-laws follows on a decision by Kerry County Council to introduce bye-laws. According to the Kerry bye-laws only family members will be able to take photographs of children in Kerry playgrounds. Video cameras, mobile phone cameras and standard cameras can now only be operated by family members in the playground. Adults will not be allowed into a playground area unless accompanied by a child.

Kerry County Councillors voted unanimously to adopt the new bye-laws [...].

Fitzgerald said [...]

"Schools should be wary of mobile phones in particular, as they are the same as a camera. Children shouldn't be allowed to use them during school time," he concluded.

## **Photos of a school**

### **Man snapping pictures outside school caught after foot chase**

Jim Patten, Eagle Tribune, October 23, 2008

A Wakefield man claimed he was standing outside a local school snapping photos of students for a documentary, but after a foot chase through backyards [...].

"We don't know what his intention and purpose was around the school and the kids," said police Lt. James Hashem.

[...]

Police received a flood of 911 calls from parents and soon the school called. A gym teacher tried to talk to Olivio, who fled toward the high school, police said.

Camenker said Olivio realized he was at the wrong school and jogged over to the high school to get the picture.

[...]

He said a police officer there at the high school called him a pedophile or child molester as he was walking away. Some kids in the area had heard the officer's comment and began chasing him on foot, and at one point assaulted him, Camenker said. Camenker said Olivio also was chased by students in a car.

[...]

"He was walking back to his car and the cops were there and handcuffed him," Camenker said.

[...]

Olivio was charged with disorderly conduct.

### **Spying threat**

#### **Parents fear units pose spying threat to Wynnum school**

Alison Sandy, December 11, 2008, Courier Mail, Australia

The height of a proposed high-rise development has been slashed because parents fear pedophiles will be able to spy on children from the top storeys. The Brisbane City Council has agreed to reduce building heights around the Guardian Angels Primary School in Wynnum - but parents are still wary.

New developments bordering the school will be limited to five storeys instead of the eight originally proposed following concerns that

"highrise buildings will provide opportunity for residents to observe, photograph and film children".

### **Holiday photos**

#### **Warning over kids' holiday photos on internet**

Catherine Woulfe, - Sunday Star Times, New Zealand, 04 January 2009

Experts are warning parents not to put holiday snaps of their children online because they could end up in a child porn collection.

NetSafe spokesperson Lee Chisholm says authorities have found holiday photographs of children, pulled off the internet, in collections of child abuse images.

And Auckland psychologist Nathan Gaunt, an expert in online sex abuse and pornography, says some men who view child abuse images are actively trawling the internet for "child-next-door images".

"There has definitely been huge interest in 'normal' images of children," Gault says. "There are people out there who do have an interest in school websites, or holiday snaps. These pictures are very real to people, so of course people who have a sexual interest in images of children find that quite interesting," he says.

Gaunt and Chisholm are calling for parents to think twice before putting any photographs of their children online, particularly summertime shots where children are naked or in swimming togs.

"But then again, pictures of children in school uniforms, [or] in just everyday clothing, can be attractive to some people," Gaunt says.

[... ...]

Check there are no identifying details in the photo or the site it's going on. Check for things such as road signs, school uniform badges, certificates, buildings in the background, or car number plates.

[...]

Regularly check the photo galleries on your child's school website, and their sports club websites. Be particularly wary of photos in which children are wearing gymnastics or swimming costumes. If you are concerned, ask the school/club to remove the picture.

Ask your friends and family to check with you before putting any photos of your children online.

### **Section III: Articles - Panic and hysteria**

#### **The Big Question:**

#### **Have we taken child protection measures too far in Britain?**

Nigel Morris, Home Affairs Correspondent, 12 August 2008, The Independent, UK

#### *Why are we asking this now?*

Surrey County Council has been criticized by Ofsted over its "unacceptable and dangerous" efforts to vet staff working with children, warning that youngsters are being put at risk as a result. The issue of checking teachers, youth workers and others responsible for youngsters' welfare has steadily risen up the agenda during the last decade, and the Government is preparing to launch an agency that could result in a quarter of the adult population being vetted for any criminal past.

But there are signs of a backlash against the increase in child protection measures, with claims that it is poisoning the relationships between the generations and deterring law-abiding members of the community from volunteering to work with children.

#### *When did the current checking system start?*

Fears grew in the 1990s that children and vulnerable adults had little protection from people that sought to abuse them. As police did not have the time or resources to look into the background of job applicants, the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) was set up in 2002 to carry out rapid checks.

But the same year the CRB failed spectacularly when it allowed Ian Huntley, the school caretaker who carried out the Soham murders, to slip through the net although he had previously been accused of rape, indecent assault and burglary. The result was a dramatic tightening of the checks faced by all people whose work - either as a paid employee or volunteer - brings them into contact with youngsters.

*What sort of employees are we talking about?*

The CRB says that includes teachers, care workers, scout and guide leaders, registered child minders, sports coaches, youth club workers, foster carers or adoptive parents.

[...]

*What checks are carried out?*

The CRB, which has carried out more than 15 million checks since it was set up, describes itself as a "one-stop-shop", checking police records and, where relevant, information held by the Department of Health and the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

For its standard check, it will trawl the Police National Computer for details of current and spent convictions, cautions, reprimands and warnings, as well as lists of people banned from working with children and vulnerable adults.

Its "enhanced" checks - aimed at anyone in sole charge of youngsters - also covers "any relevant and proportionate information held by the local police forces".

In its early days, the CRB faced heavy criticism for delays in scrutinising applicants' backgrounds. Today, more than 99 per cent of standard checks are carried out within two weeks, and 95 per cent of enhanced checks within four weeks.

*Is so much checking a good thing?*

The Home Office, which has responsibility for the CRB, is in no doubt, describing it as a "vital safeguard". It points out that about 20,000 people a year are barred from working with vulnerable individuals as a result of the checks, which it says is "a success in anyone's book".

[...]

*What do critics of the checks say?*

They warn that the pendulum has swung so far in the drive to protect children that a general "atmosphere of mistrust" has developed in society. It means that adults are reluctant to interact with other people's children - for example, comforting a toddler who has fallen over - for fear of being labelled a paedophile.

Frank Furedi, leading sociologist and a professor at the University of Kent, argues that the checks have expanded arbitrarily to encompass "virtually any adult who wished to come into contact with any children". He says volunteers at school parties and church events are increasingly being told they cannot help out unless they have been checked by the CRB.

He published research which discovered 28 per cent of people said they knew someone who had been deterred from volunteering by the CRB process.

Martin Narey, the chief executive of the children's charity Barnado's, strongly supports checks on adults' backgrounds. But he has warned:

"I am likely to usher my wife forward if a child falls over in the street, lest my picking up the child could be misinterpreted. Adults - particularly men - should not routinely be seen as potential child abusers."

#### *Is the CRB deterring volunteering?*

Some charities confirm they are struggling to recruit men, with the children's charity NCH saying only 20 per cent of its volunteers are male, forcing it to use women in roles where men are preferable, such as mentoring boys without a male role-model.

A poll by NCH and the volunteer group Chance UK found that work commitments and lack of time were the most common reasons given by men for not volunteering, but 20 per cent said they did not want to be checked by the CRB and 13 per cent said they were frightened of being branded paedophiles.

Sir Al Aynsley-Green, the Children's Commissioner, recently warned that organisations such as the Girl Guides found it difficult to attract volunteers because of CRB checks. He said:

"I do not deny the importance of this, but it is perceived to be a real obstacle for adults working with children."

He added that they often "flounder trying to find their way through the morass" of gaining clearance to work with children.

There is also anecdotal evidence, but no firm proof, that some primary schools found it almost impossible to recruit male staff because of the suspicion men might feel they face because of choosing to work with the under-11s.

#### *Will the checks be scaled down?*

No. There is no prospect of any government willing to take the risk of being labelled soft on protecting children. Next year sees the launch of the new Independent Safeguarding Authority, whose establishment was recommended by the Soham investigation. It will hold up-to-date lists of adults cleared to work with children and those barred from such posts. Eventually it could hold details of more than 11 million people, or one quarter of the adult population.

#### *Is so much checking a good thing?*

Yes...

- You can never be too careful with the safety of children and vulnerable adults
- The Soham murders were a tragic example of the consequences of lax vetting



- Paedophiles are skilled at inveigling themselves into the lives of children

No...

- An atmosphere of mistrust has developed towards to any stranger who talks to children
- Men are being deterred from volunteering to work in community groups and schools
- Adults increasingly think twice about coming to the aid of a child in distress

### **Sex offender scheme will 'create climate of mistrust'**

Samantha Payne, 15 September 2008, Kent Online, UK

A Kent-based professor has expressed his horror at a new Home Office scheme that will allow parents to check if someone close to them is a sex offender.

Frank Furedi, a sociology professor at the University of Kent, said he fears the pilot projects will create a "powerful climate of mistrust" within communities. He said:

"I think it is a horrible idea. It creates all kinds of precedents. If you create a situation where you can go to the police to get information on somebody else on one issue, why not on something else?

It's likely to create a very powerful climate of mistrust and create a danger where people will maliciously use the information to get back at others.

It is going to lead to an explosion of confusing information circulating in communities and a lot of people are going to be hurt by this."

Under the measures parents will be able to check whether a person who has access to their child, such as a child's nanny, neighbour or a mother's new boyfriend, has convictions for child sexual offences.

[...]

Home Secretary Jacqui Smith said:

"Giving parents the ability to find out if someone close to their child poses a risk will empower them. It will also help them to understand how to better protect their children."

The pilots are the result of the Government's Child Sex Offender Review which was published in June 2007. They have been developed with advice from charities such as the NSPCC.

Currently anyone can register a concern about an individual and/or child, which will be investigated. But there is no standardized process or mechanism for the public to make an inquiry or receive relevant information.

Diana Sutton, head of policy at the NSPCC said:

"We will have to wait and see if the pilot programmes help to keep children safe from sex offenders and do not just create a false sense of security.

We strongly urge people to remain alert to the fact that not all child abusers have criminal records because many are not caught and charged with an offence. Someone might be given a clean bill of health by police because they do not have a criminal record but may still pose a threat to children.

We must have a package of measures which include public education, people reporting any concerns they have to police or the NSPCC and effective treatment for offenders. Only then can we cautiously begin to feel that children will be safe from sex offenders."

### *How it will work*

The police will run two types of checks on the individual - a priority check within 24 hours and a full risk-assessment within ten working days.

If the person is found to have convictions for sexual offences against children the case will be referred to a MAPPA panel made up of police, probation, prison service and other relevant agencies to make the final decision on disclosure.

If the person poses a risk of causing serious harm to the child involved, there is a presumption that this information will be disclosed to the parent, carer or guardian.

It may be the case that the subject is not known to the police for child sexual offences but is showing worrying behaviour or is known for other offences that might put children's safety at risk, such as serious domestic violence. In this case the police will work with parents to protect children and provide advice and support under safeguarding children procedures.

## **A policy of panic, not purpose**

### **New moves allowing parents to know if paedophiles are looking after their children will do little to protect them**

Rowenna Davis, The Guardian , UK, September 16 2008

A new pilot scheme is giving parents the right to ask if individuals in contact with their children have a history of sex offending. This highly political move may provide a popular illusion of security, but the sad reality is that it is likely to make our children less safe.

The public assumption is that safeguarding children and protecting sex offenders are mutually exclusive goals. Reduce the rights of the sex offender, and child safety moves up a notch. The real equation is not so simple.

Organisations that work with sex offenders have proven that community engagement is the best way to reduce re-offending. But if the police start disclosing private information about sex offenders' pasts, this will no longer be possible. Individuals will be penalised, victimised and driven underground. They will have fewer normal relationships with those who could hold them accountable for their actions and they will be less able to conceive of themselves as anything but offenders. In short, protecting children may involve protecting sex offenders' from the social exclusion that comes with disclosure.

Sex offenders are already required to notify the police if they get a job, volunteer in the community or start a relationship. They are obliged to attend regular meetings with an assigned probation officer who monitors their movements, and the consequences for offenders who fail to notify the authorities with relevant information are strong.

Moreover, if parents have independent worries about someone in their area, they can register their anxieties with the police, who have a responsibility to follow up their concerns. There is no need for public vigilantes.

Disclosure would not be considered a viable policy strategy for any other crime. Murderers and torturers may cause just as much pain to their victims, but we do not clamor for our "right to know" about their life after incarceration. Paedophilia is one of the crimes, including murder, or rape, where we judge the perpetrator as well as the act; where we brand and punish the offender for life beyond the prison walls.

This attitude says more about our inability to cope with the widespread prevalence of child abuse in our society than it does about the specific nature of the crime.

According to an NSPCC study in 2000, one-in-six children in the UK experience sexual abuse before the age of 16, and 90% of sexual offenders are known to the victim.

Instead of dealing with these phenomenal rates of abuse responsibly and openly through social work and education, we suppress the problem and demonise the few who get caught. Labeling convicted sex offenders as monsters is convenient, because it "other"-ises the problem, and leaves those crimes taking place in the dark corners of our homes untouched.

If we really want to protect our children, we need to start engaging with this issue rather than stigmatising it. Disclosure might provide the public with more information about individual offenders, but without greater public understanding of the issue as a whole, sex offending will be allowed to continue in the dark.

**Paedophile hysteria preventing men applying to work in primary schools ...**

**... a Government advisor has said.**

Graeme Paton, 30 Sep 2008, Telegraph, UK

The lack of male teachers may be having a serious effect on boys' performance in the classroom as many miss out on strong role models at a young age, according to Tanya Byron, the child psychologist. She said the shortage particularly hit children from single-parent families who often went without father figures in the home. The comments came as a campaign was launched by the Government's Training and Development Agency for Schools to recruit more men into the primary sector.

According to official figures, fewer than one in eight primary school teachers are male, and numbers plummet to just one in 50 among those working in reception and nursery classes. Dr Byron is the presenter of a television show on problem children called Little Angels, as well as a Government advisor on internet safety. She said paranoia about child abuse was driving many men out of the classroom.

"There is this paranoid, over-the-top concern about paedophilia and child molestation - that it is not safe to leave children with men," she said. "These themes are running through society to such an extent that attitudes have become skewed and our anxiety does ultimately discriminate against men. This puts men off from working in primary schools because they are concerned about how they will be viewed and what parents will think of them. We have to challenge these negative and unhelpful belief systems."

Research by the TDA showed almost half of men believed male primary school teachers helped them develop at a young age. In a survey of 800 adults, it was revealed a third were challenged to work harder because of men in the primary years, while 50 per cent were more likely to report problems such as bullying to male teachers.

Dr Byron said boys - many of whom struggle to sit still at a young age - worked better with men. They also needed more exposure to males in school to show that learning was not a feminine virtue, she said. She added that positive male role models were particularly important for boys from single-parent households.

"The need for strong male role models as constants in the lives of young children is more apparent than ever in light of the increasing numbers of children experiencing breakdown of the traditional family unit, growing up in single-parent families or not having a male figure at home," she said. "Male primary school teachers can often be stable and reliable figures in the lives of the children that they teach. They inspire children to feel more confident, to work harder and to behave better."

[...]

In 2006-07, fewer than a quarter of primary and secondary school teaching qualifications were obtained by men - the lowest figure in five years.

**Fear and suspicion are no way to build a good society  
Instead of protecting us, a rule-bound, risk-averse, box-ticking  
culture is making us passive and increasingly inhibited**

Jenni Russell, The Guardian, 4 February 2009

Regulation is fashionable. Applied to bankers and markets, we are freshly aware of its virtues. Yet while we have been under-regulating financiers, we have been over-regulating the social sphere. It is having an insidious, destructive effect on the way we engage with one another.

In schools, public services and in our dealings with strangers, our rule-bound, box-ticking, risk-averse culture is designed to protect us from one another. Instead it is making us steadily more fearful and passive. Rather than building a safer or more cohesive society, this tide of regulation is steadily snapping social bonds.

This week I was talking to a teacher - let's call him Simon - about the barriers he is instructed to put up between himself and his teenage pupils. He and his colleagues are warned by the school never to engage with pupils emotionally, ask a lone child to stay behind for a talk after class, or respond to any confidences about their lives.

A fear of paedophilia has morphed into a general panic about adult-child relations. The priority isn't pupils' well-being but to protect teachers from any accusations - either of sexual misconduct or of responsibility for pupils' subsequent behaviour.

Last year the school had an urgent call from a psychiatric unit. A pupil had made a suicide attempt because he was so unhappy at home; the only person he wanted to talk to was his teacher.

Simon was only allowed to call on condition that a senior member of staff was also in the room, writing down his end of the conversation. He was forbidden to show any emotional concern; he was not allowed to ask how the child was, only the facts.

With a distraught boy on the phone, all Simon's instincts were to offer human sympathy. Instead, he tried to convey warmth in his voice. When the call was over the head instructed him to forget the whole thing and not even to think of writing to or visiting the distressed child. Since he was neither a therapist nor a counsellor, he was told he had no role in the child's life outside class.

This emphasis on physical safety and professional [???] boundaries creates invisible barriers between people that are psychologically damaging but which can't be measured, and so are ignored. Simon's pupil had no idea why he was being held at a distance and rebuffed. All he has

learned is that in a crisis he turns to the one person he wants to trust, and gets apparent indifference in return. Simon was very distressed.

"Lots of kids in our school are desperate to find an adult to relate to. I see why so many of my colleagues have cut off. You aren't allowed to use your judgment, and the sense that you shouldn't care breeds a sense of hopelessness."

The boy has yet to return to school.

This cold professionalism is neither the way we imagine teachers to be, nor the way they had to be in the past. Thousands of people have had lives transformed by teachers who gave them a sense of their worth by being interested in the whole child, not just their classroom performance.

Two friends of mine would never have left the confines of their council estates without teachers who listened to them, and introduced them to a world of thought and conversation. The social and human contact gave them confidence and hope.

Yet an insistence on systems rather than humanity is becoming the norm all over the public sector.

A woman, "Barbara", who works for a northern council is responsible for managing carers for the disabled. Recently one told her the man he was looking after had been desperate to go on holiday for months but that his social worker was too busy to arrange it. Seizing the initiative, Barbara arranged the holiday herself. When the social worker discovered what she had done, official fury was unleashed. Barbara had overstepped the boundaries. The message was: no initiative will go unpunished. Barbara has been cowed.

Everywhere there are examples of people retreating from engaging with others because official restrictions discourage it. Local street parties, informal children's football clubs and church camping groups are all closing, casualties of criminal record bureau checks, risk assessments, indemnity insurance and other rules that tell us we cannot trust others and cannot be trusted ourselves.

In 1999 we found that the proportion of British adults trusting each other had halved in 40 years, from 56% to 29%. That is a horrifying trend. None of this makes headlines because it is almost impossible to measure. Our safety-first culture has been driven by horrors such as the Soham killings or the Climbié death. But we don't stop to ask about the invisible costs being incurred by our reaction - the events that don't happen, the trust we don't build, the sense of loneliness, alienation and apathy that's created when people don't feel free to be spontaneous or open. We aren't building a good society this way, but a sick one.

This government clings to the fantasy that rules can eliminate risk. They can't, but they can destroy our faith in one another. We have to work out how to reverse this trend. European countries haven't chosen this path of endless suspicion. Why have we?

## Section IV - Mixed articles

### Foley breaks silence on sex scandal

#### AP Interview

Brian Skoloff, Associated Press & Yahoo News, Nov 12 2008

Even today, two years after Mark Foley's very public fall from grace, the former congressman can't explain why he sent lurid, sexually explicit computer messages to male teens who had worked as Capitol Hill pages. Sitting in his room at the Four Seasons Hotel in New York this week, the Florida Republican, wearing a yellow tie with blue elephants, finally broke his silence.

"I'm trying to find my way back," Foley said in an interview with The Associated Press, his first public comments on the scandal since resigning from Congress on Sept. 29, 2006.

Foley insists he did nothing illegal and never had sexual contact with teens, just inappropriate Internet conversations. Investigations by the FBI and Florida authorities ended without criminal charges.

And while he concedes his behavior was "extraordinarily stupid," he remains somewhat unwilling to accept full public scorn. These were 17-year-olds, just months from being men, he insists.

"There was never anywhere in those conversations where someone said, 'Stop,' or 'I'm not enjoying this,' or 'This is inappropriate' ... but again, I'm the adult here, I'm the congressman," Foley said. "The fact is I allowed it to happen. That's where my responsibility lies."

Foley had built a national reputation as an advocate for tougher penalties against child sexual predators. As co-chairman of the Congressional Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus, he helped craft a law to protect children on the Internet. Still, he said, there was no hypocrisy.

"The work I was doing was involving young children ... You know, you hear the term 'pedophile.' That is prepubescent,"

Foley said, noting a "huge difference" from lurid chats with teens on the brink of adulthood.

"At the end of the day, they were instant messages that were extraordinarily inappropriate,"

he added, breathing a heavy sigh, his eyes wandering toward the ceiling.

*So why talk now? Sympathy? Forgiveness?*

Nope. Just to free himself from the media clamoring for his first interview.

"I believed I owed my constituents an apology," Foley said. "I embarrassed them and I embarrassed my family and I wanted to have a chance in a public setting to lend my voice to what happened, not through an attorney, not through a spokesperson, but from myself."

Today, he's a pariah in Congress and the Republican Party. The affable man who reveled in the spotlight finds himself branded a pedophile, at best, a creep. Three former staffers refused comment because of their disgust with his behavior. He makes his living investing in real estate and other business.

"In public life, you dream of the day they'll name a hospital after you, or a bridge or a post office," Foley said, twisting a gold band on his ring finger identical to one his high-society dermatologist boyfriend wears.

"If I had a post office named after me today, they'd probably return to sender," he said. "It's not a pleasant place to be. It's not what I envisioned ... working this hard all my life to end up in an ash heap because of a momentary lapse of judgment."

But Foley carried on the computer conversations for months, asking about masturbation, sex, and other details.

Shortly after his resignation, his attorney announced that Foley was gay and an alcoholic and had been molested by a priest as a teenage altar boy in Florida. Foley then checked himself into a treatment facility.

"I loved my early life, and then along comes a priest ... who forces me into a sexual relationship at the age of 12. And right shortly thereafter, I fail eighth grade, I start drugs, I start drinking, I start smoking," he said. "My entire life ... implodes."

He was elected to the U.S. House in 1994 as a popular hometown boy who kept busy in glitzy Palm Beach, Fla., attending lavish parties and fundraisers with the likes of Donald Trump, Jay Leno, and actress Bo Derek.

While his homosexuality was said to be the worst-kept secret on the Hill and around Palm Beach, he cloaked himself in a false public persona, appearing at events with beautiful women. He drank a lot and spiraled into darkness.

"Those demons that were inside me, by not addressing them, caused me to spin out of control," he said.

He doesn't feel fully responsible for Democrats taking over the House in 2006, but owns up to his role and calls his behavior "profoundly regrettable."

"They had the Republicans on a number of ethical scandals and, you know, I served up for them the moral dilemma," he said.



A Republican won back Foley's congressional district last week after the Democrat who replaced him was caught in an adultery scandal. It's become known as "The Curse of the Mark Foley Seat."

"It's not what I had hoped would be my lasting legacy," he said, pausing to brush away tears.

So what does the man who once was such a popular figure in politics and high-society do now?

"I don't know. I don't know," he said. "I'm just going to take it a day at a time."

### **Baby P exposes our need to believe in the perfect parent**

People swallow hogwash about evil cults but find it hard to accept the realities of child abuse in the family

Catherine Bennett, The Guardian, The Observer, UK, November 16 2008

Public expressions of relief, following the announcement that no children's bodies are buried beneath the Haut de la Garenne home in Jersey, have been notably restrained. In fact you would never think, from the muted response, that, between February, when the discovery of a piece of skull was first announced and last week, it was widely regarded as more or less fact that as many as five or six children had met their deaths in or around 'underground chambers' at the home.

What doubts could there be, after all, in the light of regular police disclosures relating to 'milk teeth', 'shackles', a 'large bloodstained concrete bath', and 'at least 30 charred human bone fragments', some thought to date from the 'early 1980s'?

This story did not, for the most part, change until last Wednesday, when police officers recently assigned to the case announced that Haut de la Garenne was not, after all, a vast charnel house. Or even a small one. There was no evidence that any children had been murdered at the home, nor that any bodies had been destroyed. The 'underground chambers' were holes in the floor. The bath, which had not been used since the twenties, was not bloodstained. The shackles were a piece of rusty metal. Of the 170 bone fragments found there, burnt or not, the majority were from animals, and were uncovered in a place belonging to the 'Victorian era'. Only three of these fragments were possibly human - two of them thought to date 'from 1400 to the 1600'. The original skull fragment is neither human nor animal: most probably a piece of Victorian coconut.

Although the newly arrived policemen regretted that inaccurate information had been placed in the public domain, one pointed out that this big non-murder story was, really, something we might want to celebrate. Six children had not, after all, been killed by a putative child-abusing and murdering ring. 'That's actually good news,' he said, 'something I think people should be very pleased about.'

Except, of course, that the good news exposes so many people as credulous on a scale that has not been witnessed since the eighties and early nineties, when organised, often highly placed Satanists were widely believed to be abusing and killing our children, drinking their blood and throwing dismembered babies on bonfires.

Accordingly, children were removed from allegedly satanic rings; psychotherapists, such as Dr Valerie Sinason, now of St George's Hospital, instructed fellow clinicians on 'treating survivors of satanic abuse'; and policemen and other self-styled experts on this hogwash urged social workers how to be alert for key 'indicators', viz, any talk of masks, blood-drinking, animal beheadings, and other goings-on so unspeakable that therapists who heard of them would sometimes fear for their own safety. (Mercifully, all appear to have survived.)

For all this terror, there was not much obvious relief or rejoicing in 1994, when Professor Jean La Fontaine, who had been asked to investigate by the Department of Health, found no evidence of satanic abuse. In fact, La Fontaine suggested, more harm had been done to children by the preoccupation with this imagined form of abuse:

'An excitingly dramatic but uni-causal explanation replaces careful assessment of the many causes of their disturbing behaviour.'

It remains to be seen what impact the tale of the non-murders and non-missing children will have on continuing investigations of historic child abuse at Haut de la Garenne.

It can only be unsettling for former residents who, until a few days ago, were repeatedly being asked how they felt about the excavations.

In September, for instance, two survivors were invited on BBC's Woman's Hour to discuss - along with Valerie Sinason - how they felt about the 'grim discoveries', which, the programme reminded listeners, included 'children's bones and teeth', and had prompted islanders to 'question why and how such things could have happened in their midst'.

Now, following the police reversal, islanders may also be questioning why the media were so willing to promulgate, and in some cases embellish, the implications of Jersey's untested finds.

The writer Richard Webster, who has previously exposed the hysteria and false accusations generated by the Bryn Estyn children's home investigations

(and who this year became one of the first to establish Jersey's celebrated skull fragment was of vegetable origin),

thinks the uncritical reporting demonstrates, rather, 'the insatiable human appetite for narratives of evil'. Yes, he says, the press should have been more sceptical, 'but people are so desperate to believe in these stories'.

Moreover, where designs on children are involved, it seems to take dismayingly little to make intelligent adults suspend all disbelief. No narrative of evil, children's home nor cult need be involved. In those

periods where no threat can be detected from organised Satanists, subterranean torture chambers, or even from bog-standard neighbourhood paedophiles and their paediatrician apprentices, parental panic readily attaches to less extreme sources of harm and corruption.

Great gusts of outrage have been provoked in the recent past by government sex education, pre-teen problem pages, computer games, a poem by Carol Ann Duffy, lyrics sung by Gary Glitter, pole-dancing kits, Grand Theft Auto, Bratz dolls and junior thongs. Indeed, long before he became interested in routine child protection, David Cameron was something of a standard bearer for the anti-thong movement, with his condemnation of BHS kiddy bras and other influences that are often described, following Sue Palmer's book on the subject, as 'toxic' to childhood.

Perhaps the most appealing aspect of the thong/telly/computer/fatty food threats is that, with all their unquantifiable ill effects, they originate outside the home, from mighty commercial forces too overwhelming for a parent to resist. For what Cameron cannot do, without betraying his opposition to top-down state intervention, is suggest to British parents that their techniques might be so collectively poor as to merit more, not less, external monitoring, and in many more extreme cases, of child removal.

Even with the current commitment to keeping children, where possible, with their parents, outraged stories from the unfairly accused generally exceed tributes to social workers who have successfully removed children from lethal families.

In 1994, Professor La Fontaine concluded that one reason for belief in evil cults was their relation to 'powerful cultural axioms', specifically about families.

'People are reluctant to accept that parents, even those classified as social failures, will harm their own children, and even invite others to do so,' she wrote, 'but involvement with the devil explains it.'

No less than the Haringey social workers, who are said to have fallen into a fixed, though erroneous view of Baby P's best interests, the British have retained their stubborn faith in parental probity, and matching suspicion of interference and outsiders: in this case, Baby P's social workers.

If the public's weakness for preposterous cults tends to fluctuate, its belief in parents remains unshaken by regular child murders, even though everyone knows these eclipse in number anything the police ever invented in Jersey.

### **You Might Be a Sex Offender If ...**

Derek "The Fallen One" Logue, November 11, 2008; Once Fallen

Links to the cases mentioned here below are here:

<http://www.oncefallen.com/youmightbersoif.html>

One of the prevailing myths in society is that everyone on registries are all violent rapists or pedophiles.

However, landing on a sex offender registry (or even the prospect of landing on the registry) is a very real threat. Over the years, I have collected some very outlandish cases which have either landed someone on the registry or have at least made them potentially subject to placement on the registry.

Some are sad, some are ludicrous, others leave you questioning the laws. However, it is important to keep in mind how easily one can be caught up in the registries. Think about that next time you look at a sex offender registry.

Thus, in the tradition of another popular comedy skit, I present to you the following cases as "You might be a sex offender if ..."

- You might be a sex offender if... you ever paid for a prostitute in New York
- You might be a sex offender if... you use a stolen credit card to hire a stripper in New York
- You might be a sex offender if... You had sex with a teenager while you were a teen yourself
- You might be a sex offender if... you ever got drunk at a party and videotaped yourself having
- sex with your teenage girlfriend
- You might be a sex offender if... you have ever given your kids too much information when giving 'the birds and the bees' speech
- You might be a sex offender if... a topless woman has ever talked you into unwrapping your whopper in a public park
- You might be a sex offender if... anyone has ever accused you of a sex crime in Ohio -- thanks to a 'civil' registry, you don't even need a criminal conviction, only a civil conviction
- You might be a sex offender if... you ever participated in 'slap butt day' in school
- You might be a sex offender if... you allow your teenage daughter to have sex or don't do enough to stop her from getting knocked up
- You might be a sex offender if... you touched the knees of another man over 60 years ago

- You might be a sex offender if... you have ever taken a picture of your child playing in the bathtub, or if you have bathed a baby in your tub
- You might be a sex offender if... you've ever simulated sex on the sidewalk
- You might be a sex offender if... you had sex with a picnic table (note: why was the person who videotaped this person NOT charged with creating obscene material? Hm...)
- You might be a sex offender if... you are a teen and you take pictures of yourself and send it to other teens
- You might be a sex offender if... you have ever chatted with a teen online, even if you never planned to meet them [unless, of course, you're a senator and/or John Walsh's friend]
- You might be a sex offender if... you have oral sex with an intoxicated partner
- You might be sex offender if... you look at a child too long in Maine
- You might be a sex offender if... you are caught urinating in public multiple times [courtesy of a blogger at Reddit]
- You might be a sex offender if... you grab the arm of a 14 year old girl to chastise her for stepping in front of your moving car (assist to Ian for this gem)

The Following is not an actual case, but the author poses a REALLY good point here:

- You might be CONFUSED FOR a sex offender if... you leave your lights off and don't pass out candy at Halloween!  
One can't ignore the damn holiday without possibly getting accused of being an offender. For years I've safely ignored the holiday. Now, what will the neighbors think? Will they assume that the light is off because a sex offender lives here?

### **Is Halloween a pedophile's favourite holiday?**

Ian Mulgrew, Vancouver Sun. October 26, 2008

Across the U.S., in advance of All Hallows' Eve, authorities are also conducting crackdowns on convicted sex offenders, ensuring they are meeting their parole requirements. It happens every year at this time. Many American states require convicted sex offenders to observe a curfew on Halloween or post a sign saying, "No candy at this residence." With all the tough talk about crime in Canada, can we be far behind?

*Knock-knock: Is Halloween really a pedophile's favourite holiday?*

After 364 days of telling their kids not to talk to strangers, many parents next week will turn their children loose to blithely approach anyone's door with the invitation: Trick or treat? And, from sea to darkened sea that evening, who knows who will open that door? It could be a very real predator. Not likely - except in Hollywood's and every parent's imagination.

As a result, many American states are demanding convicted sex offenders stay home, turn off their lights and don't answer the door on the most magical night of the year.

- South Carolina and Virginia last year told sex offenders to report to a parole office at 5 p.m. and remain there until 10:30 p.m.
- California imposed a 12-hour curfew during which paroled sex offenders were not permitted to answer the door or have an outside light turned on.
- In Texas this year, registered sex offenders must turn off porch lights and eschew exterior decorations between 5 p.m. and 5 a.m. Lone Star state parole, probation and police officers will work overtime checking to ensure they comply.
- Convicted sex offenders in Maryland face similar restrictions and must display a bright orange pumpkin bearing the message: "No candy at this residence."  
If they don't, they risk violating parole and a return to prison.
- Missouri passed a law imposing the same kind of conditions this summer, though finally someone said enough is enough.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Eastern Missouri filed suit in that state Wednesday on behalf of four sex offenders over the requirements that they avoid all contact with kids on the night of the ghouls, remain inside their homes and post we-don't-got-no-loot signs.

All four of the plaintiffs, including a woman, either have custody of their children or regular contact with child relatives.

Anthony Rotherth, an attorney handling the case for the ACLU, explains on the ACLU website that the law is bad on several counts - it imposes punishment retroactively, for instance, by imposing "house arrest" (however briefly) for a crime committed before the law was passed. The statute is also "vague and unclear" and leaves his clients wondering whether they are allowed to even celebrate Halloween with their own children.

It promises to be an important case.

Across the U.S., in advance of All Hallows' Eve, authorities are also conducting crackdowns on convicted sex offenders, ensuring they are meeting their parole requirements. It happens every year at this time.

I can't help but think that under our new tough-on-crime government in Ottawa we'll soon see similar kinds of laws proposed and that kind of approach here.

In recent years, we have generally made it more difficult for sex offenders to blend back into the community by keeping the spotlight trained on them.

We have witnessed Internet sites, registries and police-supported publicity campaigns chasing high-risk offenders from neighbourhood to neighbourhood.

Why wouldn't we demand such parolees be under extra scrutiny on a night when youngsters are vulnerable?

I don't really have a good answer - I guess it's always good if you can better protect kids under any circumstance.

I still think it's fear-mongering: If these men are a danger, it is not only for a few hours a year on an usually chilly autumn night.

I believe these laws prey on people's fears. They make politicians think they're doing something useful to combat crime and make parents wrongly feel safer. A no-candy-here sign protects no one.

Far better to get to know your neighbours and accompany your kids on Halloween, or whenever they're wandering door to door talking to strangers.

Child safety should be a 24/7, 365-day concern.

## **We need a change in approach to sex offenders**

Richard Johnson, November 16, 2008, Tribune News

Most people seem to believe that sex offenders have a higher re-offending rate than any other category of criminal. A figure I hear tossed around a lot says that 95 percent of sex offenders will commit another sex crime if they get the chance.

If this is true, then it is evidence that most sex offenders - almost all of them - will continue to commit sex crimes. If this is true, then it means that most sex offenders can't help their behavior. They will never change. They are beyond help.

If sex offenders really cannot and will not change, then society is justified in wanting to lock them up and throw away the keys. After sex offenders serve their time and get out of prison, it is right that they should be required to register on a database for the rest of their lives. Again, this sounds fine to me; at least, it would if that 95 percent re-offending rate was true.

*It is not true.*

A study done by the U.S. Bureau of Justice in 1994 says so.

There were 9,691 male sex offenders released from prison in 1994, representing two-thirds of all sex offenders released from custody that year. This was not one of those studies where they interview 100 people and then stretch their conclusions to cover 100,000 people. This was an excellent study with a huge sample, whose conclusions can be trusted. Let me highlight a few of its conclusions.

➤ First,

only 5.3 percent, or 517 men, of released sex offenders tracked in the study were arrested again for another sex crime. Only 3.5 percent, representing two-thirds of those arrested, were convicted. While I absolutely agree that 3.5 percent is still 100 percent too many, it's a whole lot smaller than that 95 percent figure so many of us throw around.

➤ [Second,]

The 9,691 men in the study included 4,295 child molesters. Of these, 3.3 percent, or 141 men, were arrested again for another sex crime involving a child; again, hardly 95 percent. Half of the child molesters were 19 years of age or younger when they committed their crime. And 60 percent of their victims were children 13 years of age or younger.

➤ [Third,]

The study goes on to show that released pedophiles with more than one arrest for molesting a child were three times as likely - 7.3 percent to 2.4 percent - to be arrested again for child molesting than those with only one prior arrest. This seems to indicate that the sooner pedophiles are caught, the less likely they are to re-offend.

➤ Finally,

sex offenders (including child molesters) were less likely to be re-arrested for any kind of crime after their release than non-sex offenders - 43 percent for sex offenders versus 68 percent for non-sex offenders.

OK, we've got some figures and statistics to look at here, but so what? How does this help us prevent sex crimes? How does this help us stop sex offenders from re-offending? How can we find a way to reduce the number of victims, especially children, who are being abused by some very sick people?

For starters, if we're going to reduce sex crimes, then we ought to have good intelligence and gather the best information possible. We need to understand the true nature and actual scope of the problem. We need to deal with facts, so we can develop a plan of action based on those facts. The figures given in this study help us get there.

- As long as most people believe that 95 percent of sex offenders will re-offend;
- as long as too many of us think that sex offenders cannot and will not change;
- as long as we lump all sex offenders into one category and fail to take the exact nature of each offense into consideration;
- as long as we let our emotional responses to a truly heinous crime drive our public policy (especially our anger and outrage); and
- as long as we think that putting every sex offender into a public database will solve our problem:

We will not be ready to craft an effective response to this tough and emotional issue.



Almost every day, someone asks me, "What can we do about sex offenders?" That's too short a question, and the answer is quite long - too long for one column.

For the moment, let me just say that something can be done. Change is in the air, and a change in our overall approach is needed. But before we can start discussing solutions, we've got to get the rest of the facts out on the table.

In the weeks ahead, I will do my best to bring facts to this public forum in the hope that our community can find a reasonable and effective way to deal with sex offenses, and the people who commit them.

In the meantime, please don't shoot the messenger.

## 'Pedophile' priests?

### The RC Church & sex

Tegenwicht (Counterbalance) weblog # 129,



March 15, 2010The Counterbalance Cat →

### The early church

Recently, a book full of translated text from early Christianity, the Apocrypha, is published in Dutch, edited by Jacob Slavenburg. These old texts give a good view of the inside of early Christianity.

The texts date back from the first until within the fourth century. Many texts are attributed to the apostles, but are actually much later written by other authors. These old texts give a good view of the theological discussions in those ages.

Until the start of the fourth century, Christians have been persecuted in the Roman Empire. Thus, one had to write cautiously in order to avoid criticism by the Romans. But suddenly emperor Constantine was converted to Christianity, and Christianity became the state's religion of the Roman Empire.

Suddenly, everyone was Catholic - regrettably, because from then on it went wrong with the church, which organized itself along the model of the Roman Empire. Suddenly, there was power - but power corrupts. Constantine demanded that the many persuasions should be changed in one and only one doctrine. This should benefit his empire. It was he who convened the Council of Nicea in 325. There are cut the knots, doctrines declared to be heresy, and formulated the one and only true doctrine, still to be read in the Credo.

Moreover, the Mother-God Sophia, until then widely respected - one believed in God as Father, Mother and Son - was changed in The Holy

Spirit: a man, not created by a father and a mother - with the help of the obscene act of sex - no, remarkably enough "originated by the Father and the Son" - *filioque*, which word and the "-que" in it became the cause of the split between the western and the eastern church, a still nowadays existing spilt.

Originally, there were only the Mother-God and her Child; Father-God turned up much later in the human mind.

By doing so, the woman was effectively removed out of the theology. And with her also sexuality - so was imagined. Men do not have sex with each other - so was imagined.

*Shakti* (Sanskrit), *Isis* (Egypt), *Chokma* (Israel) en *Sophia* (Greek) disappeared. Her Spirit, *Ruach*, Hebrew, later *Pneuma*, Greek, all female words, changed into *Spiritus*, Latin, male. Maria Magdalena became 'the sinner', the other Maria was only accepted as a virgin, thus only without that obscene act of sex - Ugh! Shame! Sinful!

### **Sexuality in the early church**

For the modern mankind, many of those texts are appalling. Especially the sermons attributed to Petrus are extremely female-hostile, while also Paulus is never at a loss in this respect. So are also Jacobus and the more mild Thomas. Petrus advises to have married your sons as soon as possible in order to curb their lust.

Every form of sexuality is seen as sinful and dirty. Only necessarily, the only exception is the monogamous marriage, but only on specific days and only to father offspring.

About one quarter of this thick book full of ancient texts concerns the necessity of chastity, if one wants to ever reach the eternal life unlike in hell. Early Christianity is obsessed with sexuality.

Supposedly, one has combated the quite loose morals in the then Rome, but one has overshoot this. Sex is seen as sin, 'thus' the very reason of pain, illness, misfortune and so on. Passage after passage chastity is preached. Even sex within a marriage is labeled as "the dirtiest act".

The classic and frequently told story is that an apostle starts his preaching somewhere; usually, the spouse of the consul or king is the first who converts to Christianity, *id est* incite to chastity, *id est* complete abstinence. The sovereign misses his spouse in his bed, becomes angry and starts to prosecute, if not kills the apostle.

The clerical officers are advised to refuse a woman as servant, but to prefer boys as servants. The evidence is that also the great prophets refused woman but preferred boys as servants.

Speaking about clerical officers, also remarkably for the modern reader is the strong emphasizing of the nearly absolute authority, thus power, of those officers, the bishops and their (once) *primus inter pares* the pope. It

was the pope who crowned the emperors and who received the label of infallibility.

Nevertheless, many a pope had fathered children and did know what to do with his male and female servants. Yet, the first infallible dogma was the virginity of Maria - thus no sex, no dirty and sinful fuss.

Speaking about boys, remarkably often in those ancient texts, Jesus makes his appearance to the apostles as 'a wondrously beautiful child' or idem boy, often nude.

A remarkable passage describes a vision in which the one sees Jesus as a beckoning little boy, another one sees him as 'a well formed beautiful man' with 'an attractive face' and 'scarcely a small flaxen beard'. A third sees Jesus as an old man 'with a bald head and a full flowing beard'. In another vision, Jesus takes Johannes at his breast. In a third vision, Jesus is 'a small man' and nude. Apparently, each has a vision according to his own preferences - never a woman, often wondrously beautiful cute boys. Apparently, the young church is good in managing power, but does not know how to go about with women and sexuality.

### **The celibacy**

Neither the Gospel, nor the young church knew celibacy as a plight. This appeared just in the eleventh century, and against a storm of protest. Petrus was married. Monks voluntarily accepted celibacy, but now it became a command for all priests.

The former married priests may already have been a bit unworldly, now priesthood became a cast, feeling it high elevated above the common people - with which one gradually lost the contact.

Our (Roman Catholic) bishops look alike: as completely unworldly, alienated from common life and society. They still they reject the use of condoms and other contraceptives; they still label gays, unmarried and even remarried couples as sinners, not worth to receive the Holy Bread. Some bishops are more mild and modern, but they work within the same system.

### **The education of the priests**

Until recently, priests have been educated in closed communities of exclusively men and boys. This is of course asking for problems. The option was to gradually extinguish sexuality. Contrarily, sexuality was extra incited - as an obsession.

The education has changed now, but still there is scarcely attention for individual emotional and social growth, for social abilities and for one's own sexuality.

Sexuality is still often simply kept silent, denied, suppressed. The consequences are: underdeveloped men, who emotionally, socially and sexually still are pubescent. 'Puberty' is 'maturing', but they are all but mature.

The aim of the seminaries with only men and boys was, supposedly, to extinguish sexuality in view of the celibacy, by means of banish girls and woman. But no. One forgot homosexuality and did not see that just repression of sexuality incites an obsession for the same.

## Sexuality

Nowadays, we know that sexuality better neither can be denied, nor suppressed. Sexuality is founded deep in the human genes - not too difficult to evolutionary explain this. It always will return. The aspirant priests knew this - as well as their educators, but they kept silence.

Is the point here whether, as a Dutch bishop said, 'a small group of fathers and sisters with a distorted sexuality' - individuals with a distortion? I don't think so. The point is here a church with a distorted sexuality and, moreover, an obsession with sexuality since the first ages of its existence, a church that denies this distorted obsession in its system, a church that project its obsessive distortion on individuals, on 'a small group' of its servants.

Supposedly, the celibacy is one of the working factors, but other factors are as well working:

- the rejection of sexuality,
- the denying of it,
- the one-sidedness and the closeness of the communities,
- the inadequate education,
- the very unbalanced proportions of power,
- the idea to be elevated above the common people and thus
- the alienation from the same people.

In my family, we called this 'the Father's syndrome': the fact that the priests we knew all had a typical one-sidedness and were quite unworldly. They never are corrected by an equivalent partner or by up growing teenage children.

## Hypocrite

The church is crying crocodile tears. Already in 1962, and again in 2001, in a *Epistula de delictis gravioribus* (Letter about serious crimes) is ordered that the now challenged behavior as a *secretum Pontificium* (a secret of the pope) only intern had to be managed in a *silentium perpetuum* (eternal silence). The priests concerned were simply replaced. Strange. A church that, following the chastity rules, refuses the Holy Bread to gays, unmarried and even remarried people, keeps the priest who has violated celibacy and other chastity rules in function as pastor. The same church that disqualifies its servants who have violated the *silentium* rule (thus also exclude from heaven - the pope has a line with

God) maintains the functioning of its servants who have violated the chastity rules.

As earlier, the church reacts slowly. First, the facts are ignored, then denied, then played down and reduced onto incidents with distorted individuals.

The church makes the 'small group of fathers and sisters with a distorted sexuality' a scapegoat, whilst the whole system has a distorted sexuality, or at least never could cope with it. Sex has always been connected with sin, guilt and shame.

Those are the feelings of the people who now denounce the priests in their past: guilt and shame. But this are not individual characteristics, it are the characteristics of the whole system.

Such a system is also our society today; it cannot cope with the combination 'child' and 'sexuality'. In the meantime, most youngsters do have their sex. Also here crocodile tears.

## **Nuance**

It is good that the negative narratives are brought up now. It is good that it turns out how much power can corrupt. Thus, do not strive to power but to good and equivalent contact.

Some nuance may find its place here. Of course, there have been lots of fathers and sisters, the great majority, who honestly have loved the children they had in care, and who have unselfishly committed themselves to this task, in spite of the shakiness of the system they had to work within. Undoubtedly, there is educated with care and love, clothed, fed, bathed, comforted, embraced and hugged, and maybe a bit petted.

The preference boy-father couples were well known at my secondary school; they never have been seen as a problem. I appreciated the intimate talks with 'my' father, including the subject of sexuality. It is unbelievable if the then leaders now say that they have not known it. The whole school knew.

One of the fathers had a great painting of a beautiful child in his room. We discussed: is this a girlish boy or a boyish girl? What was the preference of that father? I visited the father and touched the question in passing. It was a girl. We knew what we wanted to know. We, boys, had no reason to visit him anymore.

One of the fathers guided me in my hobby. Going to him, I kept wearing my gym shorts, or I wore my shortest shorts. He was able to cope with this. I felt love but did not have sex. The only problem was that this father suddenly was replaced. All could pass without any problem, despite the idiot system around us.

One might also remark that is not only have been the priests who have misbehaved. The rates of misbehavior of 'the normal heterosexual man' are quite higher. Be it, that you do not expect such behavior of priests who have made their vow of chastity.

What now has come into public attention is only one side of the story: the negative feelings, the abuse of power. There are also neutral and even positive feelings, then and afterwards, about intimacy experienced in childhood.

The research of Rind and his team (see Counter balance Statements\* # 11, # 13 and # 15)

\* < <http://www.tegenwicht.org/contents.htm> >

tell us that, on an average,

- for the girls, the feelings afterwards were
  - for two-third negative,
  - for one-sixth neutral, and
  - for one-sixth positive;
- for the boys, those feelings were
  - for one-third negative,
  - for one-third neutral, and
  - for one-third positive.

Asking for pervasive harm, they found 4% (thus not 100%), especially in the case of girls who are forced to sex - by a pedophile? - no, by there fathers.

Thus, we may suppose that there are also neutral and positive feelings afterwards - but they do not appear in the public media, and in the cases of the priests, we do not know the exact rates.

Reasonably spoken, not every intimate contact can be labeled as sexual abuse. For the time being, we might accept a zero-hypothesis that the rate is a normal curve; if not, try to test and to find the falsification of the zero-hypothesis with facts and arguments.

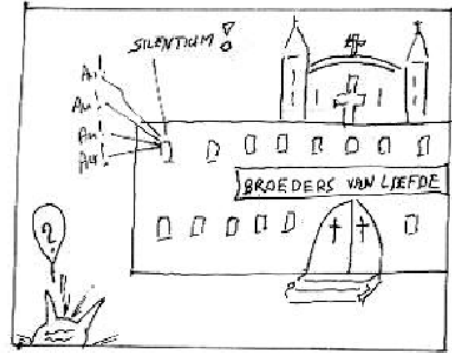
I myself have been privately bathed by our father (pastor), who, remarkably enough, planned his house visits just on Saturday afternoon. The father did this carefully and loving, without sexualizing the situation. He took all the time for his favorite altar boy, he was loving but neither erotically nor sexually. This is possible.

### **'Abuse' ...**

Language and thinking influence each other. 'Sexual abuse' is a strange and illogical concept to interpret and to think about the problem here concerned. Does 'sexual use' also exist? And 'educational abuse' or 'use'? Strange use of words.

It might be better to speak about 'unwished intimacy', 'misbehavior' or 'abuse of power'.  
... of power

The sexual aspect receives most of the public attention. But do not forget that the narratives of the victims also tell us about pure physical violence and sadistically looking punishments, also about humiliation, emotional pressure and neglect; loneliness, homesickness, lack of contact, banning of real friendships between the children.



'Brothers of Love'

### **The sexual revolution?**

Historically incorrect is the defense of Bishop Walter Mixa from the German Ausburg, that not the church but the sexual revolution is guilty here. Most of the behavior concerned here is dated before that revolution, just in the age of the taboo. One also cannot claim that the sexual revolution of the sixties quickly has reached the churches. There, the taboo maintained. It is just the break-down of that taboo that made the openness nowadays possible.

### **Openness; be open**

There is only one way out of these problems: speaking openly and being open for all experiences and aspects, the negative, the neutral, and the positive ones. This creates room for a constructive and critical dialogue, room for rethinking and change. But not only for the individual priests, also for the whole system that has formed them, has deformed them and that has hold them imprisoned in very unnatural situations and communities.

There might also be attention for an unhealthy theology that sex associates with sin, guilt and shame. Our Creator must feel shame now for his servants as well for his theologians. They have misunderstood or not accepted that is said that the human is created along the image of God - thus good just as the human is. Don't label all sexuality - love, creation - as evil, dirty, unchaste, sinful, guilty. Better to search for the correct ways to experience the beauty of human beings. And speak about that.

### **Becoming self-critically**

Of crucial importance is that the church will change itself in some respect. The chance is not too much, but let us at least mention the most important points - and let's try to fulfill them in our life:

- A different attitude concerning body, love, women and sexuality,
- abolishment of the celibacy as a plight and the monopoly of men,
- giving up power, as Jesus did,
- starting a dialogue,
- abandoning the believed infallibility and the dogmas;
- by all means: become keep being self-critically.

### **Literature**

Dear Catholic Church, please, read the gospel...