



Reflections by Judith Glassgold, President, Division 44

The summer of 2003 will long be remembered as a time of significant progress in lesbian, gay, and bisexual rights. First, the US Supreme Court struck down sodomy laws in *Lawrence v. Texas*, then the Ontario Appellate Court (Canada) affirmed the right of same-sex couples to marry, and finally the Episcopal Church voted to elevate Rev V. Gene Robinson, an openly gay man, to Bishop. We are in the midst of changing times that are the result of the conscious actions and sacrifices of many individuals and organizations.

This year also marked an important anniversary for lesbian, gay, and bisexual issues in psychology and APA. In Toronto we

marked the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Association of Gay Psychologists (AGP, to whom we owe our existence as an organization) and the first-ever APA program on affirmative lesbian and gay psychology. Prior to this activism, panels at APA focused on changing sexual orientation; AGP advocated for the affirmative policies in APA that we now take for granted.

The Division has changed as well. As we approach the 20th anniversary of the vote that established the Division in August, 1984 and our first convention in 1985, we have over 850 members and represent a diversity of ages and generations, as well as genders, gender identities, sexual orientations, ethnic/racial groups, families, nationalities, national origins, geographic locations, languages, histories, professional affiliations, religious and spiritual beliefs, social classes, abilities and disabilities, and many other variations.

Without our trying, the Division has grown and evolved. It is time for the Division to evaluate how it serves this changing membership, and to purposely change and develop with its members. A colleague reminded me of this with a quotation from a Buddhist teacher: "When you notice how much you have changed and developed even without consciously trying, you can see how much you could grow if you made a real effort to change" (Tarthang Tulku). Some of these changes may be new goals and some a recommitment to our core ideals, but even these ideals have new meaning in these times. Two of these

key principles are inclusion and member services.

After a discussion with members last year who felt disconnected and at times excluded from the Division, I chose my theme: "Creating Allies & Nurturing Relationships." This recognized a two-fold need: first, many of our goals in policy, science, education, and practice are complex and rely on creating allies with other divisions and groups, and second, how to serve our members. Many of us already have professional interests and personal interests in a wide variety of divisions, and our division must forge ties in those areas. Some old opponents have changed their minds about sexual orientation issues and have become new friends, such as Division 39, Psychoanalysis.

However, we need to strengthen the sense of inclusion in our own division and our commitment and responsiveness to our members, thus, nurturing our own relationships. As our division has gotten older, we now span different age cohorts and generations. Some remember times before Stonewall; some came out comfortably in adolescence; we live in very different communities and face a variety of challenges. However, all our needs are equally valid and we must find ways to make all feel welcome. My primary goals for members are as follows:

Service. I hope that the Division provides you the members with a welcoming place where you can get invigorated, network, make friends, or end isolation. Our suite at Convention

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DEADLINES Feb 15 (Spring), May 15 (Summer), Sept 15 (Fall)

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Special Issues of the Division 44 Newsletter: Call for Submissions

Last year our two special issues of the Newsletter were very well received. This year we will again have two special issues, with articles covering the following special topics: Spring 2004: **Affirmative psychoanalytic perspectives on LGBT issues** (submission deadline February 1); Summer 2004: **Ethnic and Cultural Diversity** (submission deadline: May 1).

Please note that submissions should be quite short compared with journal articles, as we have very limited space in the Newsletter: 500-2000 words is best, although you are welcome to contact me about length issues. Note that deadlines for submission of special issues articles are two weeks before the normal deadlines, to give me a chance to review submissions and ask for revisions. I prefer submissions via email, either as attachments (e.g., Word, WordPerfect, or rich text) or in the body of an email. Send them to liddlbj@auburn.edu. Email me or call (404-297-5777) if you have further questions.

The Executive Committee has decided that we will continue to have special issue topics for future newsletters. Generation of future topics will be a team effort that will ensure multiple input from many sources, including the Committees and Task Forces, Presidents, and the Executive Committee. Topics and material will be proposed that respond to Presidential themes, Committee and Task Force concerns, and emerging issues in LGBT psychology. The final responsibility for selecting the theme and implementation will be that of the President and Newsletter Editor. **If at any time you would like to propose a theme for a future issue of the Newsletter, please contact the Newsletter editor or the Division president.**

- Becky Liddle, Newsletter Editor

APPORTIONMENT! APPORTIONMENT! APPORTIONMENT!

What is APPORTIONMENT? The means by which APA apportions to divisions and state associations the number of representatives each will have on the Council of Representatives.

When you receive your ballot from APA this fall, PLEASE ASSIGN ALL TEN (10) VOTES TO DIVISION 44.

This will help ensure that the Division retains all three seats on Council and maintains a strong presence in APA. Without your votes we could lose one of those seats.

Why is this important? Council rules on all matters of policy and resources for the entire association. It also elects all members of the Board of Directors as well as most of the other Boards and Committees.

- Given the important issues, e.g., the ban on military advertising, resolutions on transgender and parenting,
- Given the need to elect lgbt-supportive members to boards and committees, and
- Given the need to have as many effective representatives to lobby Council members for support for our concerns and initiatives,

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, ASSIGN ALL TEN APPORTIONMENT VOTES TO DIVISION 44!

Announcement of the results of Division 44's elections

President-elect: Michael R. Stevenson, Ph.D.

Treasurer: Susan Kashubeck-West, Ph.D.

Member-At-Large: Marge S. Schneider, Ph.D.

Council Rep: Doug C. Haldeman, Ph.D.

Congratulations to our new officers, and thank you to all who ran for office!

Relationship Satisfaction, Coping, and Stress in Same-Sex Couples with Civil Unions

Summary of Research by Jelica Todosijevic, Scrivner Award Recipient

Author's note: "I am much honored to have been chosen to receive this highly prestigious research grant. I wish to thank you for acknowledging the importance of my work and for helping me do the best job possible." The original title of the work was, "How Does Homophobia Affect Relationship Satisfaction in Same-Sex Couples with Civil Unions."

On July 1, 2000, Vermont became the first state in the United States of America to legally recognize civil unions between same-sex couples. Building on a state Supreme Court decision from December 1999, which ruled that denying gay couples the benefits of marriage was unconstitutional discrimination, this ground-breaking law granted the same state benefits, civil rights, and protections to same-sex couples as to married couples who live in Vermont. Although this legislation is legally not equal to heterosexual marriage and is not recognized outside of Vermont, civil union is a same-sex institution that is closest to heterosexual marriage. So, for the first time in the history of the United States, we are able to reliably identify and learn more about same-sex couples whose commitment to being in a relationship has been legally documented.

So far there is reasonable evidence indicating that same-sex couples are as likely to have happy and functional relationships, as are heterosexual couples (Cardell, Finn, and Maracek, 1981; Dailey, 1979; Duffy & Rusblut, 1985; Kurdek & Schmidt, 1986, 1987; Peplau, Padesky, & Hamilton, 1982; Ramsey, 1978 in Peplau, et al., 1982). The review of the general literature indicates that some of the relationship satisfaction correlates in heterosexuals involve partner homogamy on demographic factors and affectivity of partners (Beals & Peplau, 2000; Bentler & Newcomb, 1978; Caughlin, Huston & Houts, 2000; Davila, Bradbury, & Fincham, 1998; Karney, Bradbury, Fincham, & Sullivan, 1994; Kelly & Conely, 1987; Lewis & Spanier, 1979). But the very few studies on same-sex couples that explored these issues at all produced mixed results (Duffy & Rusblut, 1986; Jordan & Deluty, 2000; Kurdek, 1994; Kurdek and Schmitt, 1987; Oetjen & Rothblum, 2000; Peplau, Padesky, & Hamilton, 1982). Studies on lesbian and gay-specific relationship correlates such as "outness" also revealed inconsistent findings. While some studies support the notion that the discrepancy in the degree of outness between the partners negatively affects the quality of their relationship (Berger, 1990; Caron & Ulin, 1997; Jordan & Deluty, 2000; Murphy, 1989), other research indicates no such connection (Beals & Peplau, 2001). However, there are several serious methodological issues warranting further exploration of factors that affect the quality of committed same-sex relationships. First, few studies clearly distinguished between the casual dating/non-committed cohabiting couples and those with long-term involvement in a relationship. Second, no studies clearly defined "committed relationships," and relied on the self-evaluation of the respondents. Third, most of the studies used non-empirically validated assessment tools, failing to provide reliable scientific data. Finally, the available data were

collected from small, non-randomly recruited convenience samples.

The stress and coping literature on same-sex couples is even less developed. Most of the information on these issues comes from qualitative studies, or studies using non-empirically validated measures of stress and coping (Bernhard & Applegate, 1999; DiPlacido, 1998; Gillow & Davis, 1987; Pagelow, 1980). So far, only one study on gay- and lesbian-specific stress used an empirically derived and statistically validated assessment tool to explore types of stressors endorsed by lesbians and gay men (Lewis, Derlega, Berndt, Morris, & Rose, 2001). Their findings indicate that male and female couples report differences in what they experienced as stressful. Whereas gay men reported more stress arising around violence and health issues, lesbians experienced more distress when exposed to family and partner-related stressors.

The general literature indicates that coping relates to relationship outcomes in heterosexual dyads (Bouchard, Sabourin, Lussier, Wright, & Richer, 1998; Bowman, 1990; Ptacek and Dodge, 1995), but our knowledge on this issue in connection to lesbian and gay couples is almost non-existent. In particular, we know very little about the styles of coping employed by same-sex couples, and whether or not those differ between lesbian and gay dyads. Furthermore, although we have some evidence that similarity between same-sex partners on multiple aspects of the relationship relates to greater relationship satisfaction (Duffy & Rusblut, 1986), we are not at all familiar with whether or not coping styles in same-sex couples also affect relationship quality.

This study has three major goals. The first goal is to explore the connection between relationship satisfaction and similarities on demographic factors (age, education, income and outness), personality related factors (affect), and coping among same-sex partners with civil unions. The second goal is to determine which types of lesbian and gay specific stressors are most commonly reported by male and female couples. The last goal is to explore whether lesbian and gay couples differ in choice of coping strategies when encountering stressful situations.

Methodology: Participants for the study have been recruited from the 2,300 gay and lesbian couples who had civil unions in Vermont in the period between July 30, 2000 and June 31, 2001 (the first year this legislation was available). A total of 467 couples were sent a questionnaire that asked each partner for their demographic data (age, gender, ethnicity, education, and income), information about their relationship (satisfaction with their relationship, length of relationship, degree of outness, etc.), types of experienced stressors, and strategies that they use to cope

with stress. The following measures were used: Dyadic Adjustment Scale (Spanier, 1976); Outness Inventory (Mohr & Fassinger, 2000); Positive and Negative Affect Scales (Watson, Clark & Tellegen, 1988); Measure of Gay-Related Stressors (Lewis et al., 2001); Coping Orientations to Problems Experienced Scale (Carver, Scheier, & Weintraub, 1989). The number of couples in which both partners responded was 313, indicating a 70% response rate. Lesbian couples comprised 64% of the participants (199) and gay male couples 36% (114). Only 16% of respondents were from Vermont. The rest were from 37 different U.S. states rendering this a national sample. The data has been analyzed using a series of correlational analyses (addressing relationship satisfaction and its correlates) and two separate multiple analyses of variance (assessing differences in reported stressors and coping in gay and lesbian couples).

Results and Discussion: While the existing knowledge on relationship satisfaction, stress and coping in same-sex couples is mainly based on studying convenience samples and couples with unspecified degree of commitment to their relationships, this study is one of the first to provide empirically derived data regarding these issues in lesbian and gay couples who have made a legal commitment to remaining in their relationships.

The results indicate that similarity between partners on income, education, and outness was not significantly related to relationship satisfaction in couples with civil unions. In this respect, same-sex couples with civil unions may be more similar to other same-sex couples, than to heterosexual couples. Similarity in age proved to be a significant factor for both lesbian and gay couples, but in different ways. Greater similarity in age between partners predicted greater relationship satisfaction among male couples, while lesbian couples were, somewhat surprisingly, better off if the age difference between partners was greater.

Another significant predictor of relationship satisfaction was the degree of similarity in coping among partners. In lesbian couples greater similarity in the use of both emotion-focused and problem-focused coping predicted greater relationship satisfaction. In gay couples however, only the greater similarity on the use of problem-focused coping was related to greater relationship satisfaction. As expected, couples who reported more positive affectivity (e.g. feeling strong, enthusiastic, alert, active, etc.) on average, tended to report higher satisfaction with their relationships than those who reported more negative affectivity (e.g. feeling ashamed, nervous, scared, hostile, guilty, etc.).

Relative to gay male couples, lesbian couples reported experiencing significantly more stress related to family reaction to their sexuality and significantly less stress surrounding the issues of HIV/AIDS, and violence and harassment. Lesbian couples reported using more emotion-

focused coping than their male counterparts in dealing with everyday stressors.

The recent increase in visibility and (dare I say) acceptance of same-sex couples in this culture opened many doors and brought on many questions to which we have yet to find the answers. Since most of our current knowledge relies either on descriptive or small and methodologically idiosyncratic studies, an effort should be made to establish a broader knowledge base with the emphasis on the use of standardized measures and empirically sound research methods. Only that way will we be able to reliably identify and further explore the factors that help maintain (or pose a threat to) healthy and happy lesbian and gay relationships.

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When Orientations Conflict: The Role of Religious Orientation, Depression, Personalized Homonegativity, and Religious Conflict Among Predominantly Caucasian LGBT Individuals

By Nicole A. Noffsinger-Frazier, Malyon-Smith Award Winner 2002

Until recently, the consideration of spiritual and religious contributions to mental health has been peripheral within the field of psychology (Sue, Bingham, Porche-Burke, & Vasquez, 1999). Spiritual and religious issues pose unique concerns for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) individuals, particularly when they are struggling with both religious beliefs and sexual identity issues (Gage Davidson, 2001; Schuck & Liddle, 2001). Understanding the influence of religious conflict and orientation on the mental health of LGBT individuals may help prepare psychologists to better meet the needs of LGBT clients.

The purpose of the current study was to investigate the relationship between religious orientation and depressive symptomatology, personalized homonegativity, and life satisfaction among LGBT adults across various religious affiliations. According to Allport & Ross (1967), individuals with an intrinsic orientation see religion as a guiding force in their lives, having internalized their religious beliefs such that it affects every aspect of their lives; people with an extrinsic orientation view religion as utilitarian and as a tool to meet their own needs. A second aim of the study was to specifically examine whether internal religious conflict predicted dysphoria, internalized homonegativity, and low levels of life satisfaction; alternatively the study explored whether affirmation by one's faith group would predict life satisfaction and low levels of internalized homonegativity and dysphoria. The specific research questions were: (1) Does intrinsic religious orientation predict life satisfaction, low levels of dysphoria, and low degrees of personalized homonegativity among LGBT individuals? (2) Does extrinsic religious orientation predict dysphoria, personalized homonegativity, and low levels of life satisfaction among LGBT individuals? (3) Does religious conflict predict dysphoria, personalized homonegativity, and low levels of life satisfaction among LGBT individuals? (4) Does religious affirmation from faith community predict life satisfaction, low levels of dysphoria, and low degrees of personalized homonegativity among LGBT individuals?

Procedure: Participants were recruited to complete an on-line survey regarding LGBT experiences of religion and spirituality via the Internet. The Internet was used for data collection due to the often hidden nature of LGBT populations, and the difficulty in obtaining a large and representative sample through traditional community survey methodologies. Various LGBT listservs and websites were contacted, in particular LGBT affirming listservs, with information about the study and the survey's

website address. Participants were informed that the purpose of the study was to gain additional information about the role of religion and spirituality in the lives of LGBT persons.

Participants: A total of 1257 participants completed the online survey. For the purposes of the current study, participants were restricted to those who were currently affiliated with a religious faith group and were North American, resulting in a group of 489 predominantly Caucasian (89%) participants. Participant age ranged from 18 to 79 with a median age of 39. The majority of the participants were male (n=302, 62%); 38% (n=187) were female. Eighty-eight percent of the participants reported being totally gay or lesbian (n=430); 12% reported being bisexual (n=59). In addition to their LGB identity, three percent of the sample also reported being transgendered or unsure. In terms of religious affiliation, the largest percentage of the group (42%) identified themselves as Protestant, 35% identified as other (including those affiliated with gay affirming faith groups, Wiccans, and Pagans), 8% were Catholic, 2% were Jewish, 2% were Atheist, less than one percent were Agnostic, less than one percent were Muslim, and 10% did not respond to the question. Sixty-one percent (n=298) reported belonging to a gay-affirming church or faith group.

Instruments: Depressive symptomatology was measured using the 20-item Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale (CES-D, Radloff, 1977). Religious orientation was assessed using the Intrinsic/Extrinsic-Revised Scale (I/E-R, Gorsuch & McPherson, 1989), which resulted in a total score for both Intrinsic Orientation and Extrinsic Orientation subscales. A 5-item Early Faith Struggle Scale measured conflict between sexual identity and religious beliefs (Lease, 2002, unpublished instrument). An 11-item Faith Group Affirmative Behaviors Subscale measured the degree to which one experiences his or her faith group to be GLBT affirming (Lease, Horne, Noffsinger-Frazier, 2002). Personalized homonegativity was measured using the 15-item personalized homonegativity subscale of the Revised Nungesser Homosexuality Attitudes Inventory (NHAI, Shidlo, 1994). Finally, the 5-item Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS; Diener, Emmons, Larsen, & Griffen, 1985) assessed life satisfaction.

Results: Three hierarchical multiple regressions were performed to test the influence of religious orientation upon depressive symptomatology, personalized homonegativity, and life satisfaction. Each regression took

the same form with demographic variables (age, gender, and sexual orientation) covaried out by being entered into the first block. Included separately in the second block was religious conflict at time of coming out. Religious conflict at time of coming out was separated from the other religious variables for temporal reasons, and in order to determine any additional variance explained by this variable. Finally, religious variables such as intrinsic and extrinsic orientation along with religious affirmation were entered into the third block.

The results of the hierarchical multiple regression for *depression* indicated that the second block of variables produced a nonsignificant change in the variance; thus contrary to the proposed hypothesis, religious conflict did not explain any additional variance in depressive symptomatology. However, the third block of religious variables did produce a significant change in variance. In the final block, it was found that age, extrinsic orientation, religious affirmation, and sexual orientation were significant predictors of depression. Higher levels of extrinsic religious orientation and identification as bisexual (as opposed to gay or lesbian) was associated with higher levels of depression. Increasing age and greater levels of faith affirmation were associated with lower levels of depression.

The regression results for *personalized homonegativity* indicated that all three blocks explained a significant amount of variance. For the final full model, religious affirmation, religious conflict, gender, sexual orientation, and age were all significant predictors, in order of magnitude. Neither intrinsic nor extrinsic religious orientation was found to be a significant predictor at any stage of the model. Higher levels of personalized homonegativity were found to be associated with identifying as bisexual, experiencing high levels of religious conflict, and identifying as male. Lower levels of personalized homonegativity were associated with increasing age and greater degrees of religious affirmation.

Finally, the third hierarchical multiple regression, examining *life satisfaction*, found that the second block of religious variables produced a nonsignificant increase in the variance, but the third block evidenced a significant increase in the total variance explained. In the final full model, only religious affirmation and extrinsic religious orientation were found to be predictive of life satisfaction. These findings indicate that high degrees of religious affirmation are associated with greater life satisfaction, and that an extrinsic religious orientation is associated with lower levels of life satisfaction.

Conclusions: In accord with previous literature (Bergin, Masters, & Richards, 1987; Donahue, 1985), the current study found that an extrinsic orientation was predictive of depressive symptomatology among LGBT persons; however, contrary to previous research with heterosexual populations (Koenig, George, & Peterson,

1998; Richards, 1991; & Ross, 1990), an intrinsic orientation was not found to predict lower levels of depressive symptomatology. In addition, intrinsic orientation was also not predictive of high levels of depressive symptomatology for LGBT individuals as might be expected due to the heterosexist attitudes and beliefs of many traditional Judeo-Christian faith groups (Haldeman, 1996). It appears that for LGBT persons an intrinsic orientation may serve as neither a protective nor risk factor for depressive symptomatology. Because affirmation of faith group was found to negatively predict depressive symptomatology, the results of this study suggest that membership within a gay affirming faith group may be more of a buffer against depressive symptomatology than an intrinsic orientation may, at least for these LGBT persons.

Neither intrinsic nor extrinsic religious orientation was found to be predictive of personalized homonegativity among LGBT persons. Since the majority of the participants were affiliated with affirming faith groups, it may be that in such faith groups where LGBT members are accepted and valued, an intrinsic religious orientation does not serve as a risk factor for internalized homonegativity as it might among LGBT individuals who are in non-affirming faith communities, which should be investigated in future research. The finding that religious conflict at time of coming out predicted internalized homonegativity was an extension of previous research, and makes sense given that many Judeo-Christian religions have strict prohibitions against same-sex relationships (Haldeman, 1996).

Results indicated that religious affirmation predicted life satisfaction among LGBT persons. Interestingly, intrinsic orientation was not predictive of life satisfaction, but extrinsic orientation was found to predict lower levels of life satisfaction among the current sample. Again, these findings suggest that affiliation with an affirming faith group may be more salient for LGBT individuals than an intrinsic religious orientation in predicting life satisfaction as well as protecting against depressive symptomatology.

Results of the current study should be interpreted with caution. Web-based research often excludes participants who may not have access to a computer technology, thereby limiting the sample to middle and upper socioeconomic status. Additionally, the current sample was limited with regard to ethnic and racial diversity, and the results of this study should not be generalized to ethnic and racial minority groups.

Directions for Future Research: A growing body of literature has demonstrated that many LGBT persons have experienced conflict between sexual identity and religiosity, but few have addressed fully the process whereby this conflict is resolved. Future research should explore the process of religious conflict resolution among LGBT persons. Additionally, there is further need for

exploration of the experiences of LGBT persons within non-affirming religious groups who are struggling with resolving these religious conflicts, and how these conflicts impact their lives and subsequent well-being.

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Congratulations to this year's Division 44 Award Winners!

(in alphabetical order by award)

Certificate of Appreciation

Gregory M. Herek, Ph.D.

Distinguished Book Awards

Adrian Coyle, Ph.D.

Lesbian & Gay Psychology: New Perspectives

Celia Kitzinger, Ph.D.

Lesbian & Gay Psychology: New Perspectives

Kathleen Y. Ritter, Ph.D.

Handbook of Affirmative Psychotherapy with Lesbians and Gay Men

Anthony I. Terndrup, Ph.D.

Handbook of Affirmative Psychotherapy with Lesbians and Gay Men

Distinguished Contribution to Education & Training

Ruth Elizabeth Fassinger, Ph.D.

Distinguished Contribution to Ethnic Minority Issues

José Toro-Alfonso, Ph.D.

Distinguished Professional Contribution

Janis Bohan, Ph.D.

Glenda M. Russell, Ph.D.

Distinguished Scientific Contribution

Perry N. Halkitis, Ph.D.

Larry Kurdek, Ph.D.

Distinguished Service Award

Steven E. James, Ph.D.

Distinguished Contribution by a Student

Francisco J. Sanchez

Kathy Banga

Presidential Citations

Gender Identity Clinic

Clinton Anderson, MA

LGB Officer, American Psychological Association

Robin Shahar, Esq. & Fran Shahar, Ph.D.

New Study Shows Newspaper Coverage of Priest Scandal Reinforces Anti-Gay Stereotypes

News Release from Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies

Amherst, MA – Prominent media coverage of the Catholic Church sexual abuse scandals has reinforced inaccurate and misleading stereotypes of gay men as child abusers. That was the conclusion of a study released by the Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies (IGLSS).

The report, entitled “Subtle Stereotyping: The Media, Homosexuality, and the Priest Sexual Abuse Scandal,” analyzed the content of 1,326 news articles reported in the *Boston Globe* during the first year of the scandal. Throughout the year’s coverage, *Globe* readers were exposed to an average of two articles per week that linked homosexuality and child sexual abuse.

The study’s authors, psychologists Glenda Russell and Nancy Kelly, suggest that the *Globe*’s linkages between homosexuality and child sexual abuse were not necessarily intentional. However, as Russell adds, “Linkages don’t have to be intentional to be harmful. The stereotype of gay-man-as-pedophile gets used in many policy contexts to justify discrimination and violence against gay people.” In their study, Russell and Kelly separately applied a research technique designed to study implicit messages in written material. The two authors’ independent analyses of the articles were in agreement more than 95% of the time.

“When Catholic Church spokespeople began to place the blame for the abuse explicitly on gay priests,” points out Russell, acting executive director of IGLSS, “the *Globe* reporters often—but not always—directly refuted those claims. Independent social science research is quite clear that gay men are not more likely to commit child sexual abuse than non-gay men.”

More subtle or indirect connotations of homosexuality and child sexual abuse occurred more frequently and were rarely challenged within articles. As an example, Russell noted an article that describes several incidents of priests abusing children, yet begins with a description of a sexual encounter between two adult men. Placing stories of the scandal alongside descriptions of other inappropriate behaviors and emphasizing the victims’ sex also help to create a misleading association between homosexuality and abuse, according to the report.

Before news of the Catholic Church scandal broke, public perceptions of gay men as pedophiles had begun to fade, the authors note. When news media reopen old and unsupported stereotypes, they may inadvertently renew the use of such misinformation. Therefore, the report argues that journalists and editors have a responsibility to become more aware how they contribute to stereotyping.

The report concludes with recommendations for media professionals who wish to ensure accurate and fair coverage of the ongoing scandal. Recommendations include reporting on the stereotype itself, exercising greater vigilance to eliminate indirect connotations, and consulting with communication specialists.

The Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies is a nonprofit, independent think tank based in Amherst, Massachusetts. IGLSS provides policy-oriented research on issues of importance to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities. To obtain a copy of this new report visit IGLSS online at www.igloss.org or contact Glenda Russell, Russell@igloss.org, 413-577-0145.

The Carolyn Payton Early Career Award

The Carolyn Payton Early Career Award is sponsored by Section One, the Psychology of Black Women, of the American Psychological Association’s Society for the Psychology of Women (Division 35). The award recognizes the achievement of a Black woman in the early stages of her career. The applicant must be no more than **ten** years post doctorate and the submitted work (article, book chapter or book) must be published. Although a submission need not focus exclusively on Black women, the specific concerns of Black women must be a focal point of the submission. Papers may be theoretical or empirically (qualitative or quantitative) based. Each submission will be evaluated on its creativity and must distinguish itself as making a major contribution to the understanding of the role of gender in the lives of Black women. If there are multiple authors, the applicant must be the first author. A \$500 prize will be awarded. The award winner will be announced at the Division 35 social hour at the APA Convention in August, 2004. To be considered for the award, please send a cover letter, your vita, one hard copy of your scholarly work, a copy of your paper on a disc formatted for IBM PCs in Word, and two self addressed stamped envelopes to: Dr. Ruth L. Hall, Dept. of Psychology, The College of New Jersey, P. O. Box 7718, Ewing, NJ 08628-0718

POSTMARK DEADLINE

April 1, 2004

Public Policy Update on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues

Lori Valencia Greene, M.S. and Diane L. Elmore, Ph.D., Public Policy Office, APA

Sexual orientation and gender identity issues have recently been making headlines at the local, state, and federal levels. This has certainly not gone unnoticed by policymakers. APA's Public Policy Office has been working with the Public Policy liaison of Division 44 to bring the contributions of psychology to bear on these issues. We need Division 44 members who are willing to partner with our office as we advocate on issues regarding the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities. Below, we have highlighted some of the policy issues that we have been following:

Federal Legislation

The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act (LLEEA - S. 966 – "Hate Crime Bill") was re-introduced in the Senate on May 1 by Senators Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA), Arlen Specter (R-PA), and Gordon Smith (R-OR). This legislation, which has 49 original co-sponsors, would add protections for crime victims who are targeted based on sexual orientation, disability, and gender to the current law (which currently only includes crime motivated by race, color, religion, or national origin). In addition, this legislation would remove the requirement that the hate crime be committed while the victim is engaging in a federally protected activity (e.g., voting), authorize the U.S. Attorney General to make grants and provide technical assistance to state and local law enforcement authorities, and allow for federal prosecutors to bring federal charges if the state and local law enforcement authorities are unwilling or unable to properly investigate or prosecute hate crimes. Members of the Public Policy Office staff represent APA on the National Hate Crime Coalition here in Washington, D.C., which works to support and strengthen federal hate crime legislation. The coalition is currently working to increase the number of cosponsors of the Senate hate crime bill and to ensure the re-introduction of the companion bill in the House of Representatives as soon as possible. In addition, discussions are underway with Senate sponsors to ensure coverage of the transgender community as the bill moves through the legislative process.

The Employment Nondiscrimination Act (ENDA) would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, thereby providing basic protections to ensure fairness in the workplace. ENDA has not yet been re-introduced in this Congress, however, discussions are ongoing regarding the inclusion of specific language to ensure that transgender individuals are also protected under this legislation.

Science versus Political Ideology - On July 10, Rep. Patrick Toomey (R-PA) offered an amendment to the appropriations bill that funds the Department of Health and Human Services that would defund five National Institute of Health (NIH) peer-reviewed research grants on sexual

behavior. Among the targeted grants were projects related to sexual orientation and HIV/AIDS. APA's Science Policy Office worked diligently alongside others in the behavioral science community to educate members of the House of Representatives about the importance of the peer review process in an effort to persuade them to vote "no" on this ideological amendment. In addition, science policy staff mobilized APA members from around the country who contacted their members of Congress to urge them to protect the peer reviewed research. With strong advocacy from APA and others, the Toomey amendment was narrowly defeated by a vote of 210-212.

Additional efforts by the APA Science Policy Office and their coalition partners to educate members of the Senate about the importance of sexual health and behavioral research, warded off a similar amendment being offered during the Senate debate on the same spending bill.

State and Local Efforts

In addition to the federal efforts on sexual orientation and gender identity issues, individual states continue to make tremendous legislative strides. Some of the most recent issues of interest at the state and local level include:

Sodomy Laws - Lawrence v. Texas (decided June 26, 2003). The U.S. Supreme Court ruled a Texas sodomy law to be discriminatory and unconstitutional. This decision, based on decriminalizing same-sex relationships, could have an impact on many cases involving same-sex couples. APA submitted an amicus brief in opposition to the Texas statute, arguing that the sexual contact proscribed by the statute is a normal part of many Americans' intimate relations. The brief underscored scientific evidence that homosexuality is not a disorder and that same-sex couples are frequently in committed, long-term relationships. The brief also argued that suppressing sexual intimacy would deprive gay men and lesbians of the full human experience and that anti-sodomy laws reinforce prejudice, discrimination, and violence against gay men and lesbians.

Gay Marriage - As you well know, *The Defense of Marriage Act* was signed into law in September 1996 and purports to give states the right to refuse to recognize same sex marriages performed in other states and creates a federal definition of "marriage" as "a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife." Since the signing of this law, state courts around the nation have been hearing cases urging states to recognize the right of same-sex couples to marry. Currently, 37 states have enacted anti-gay marriage laws. In contrast, the state of Vermont allows civil unions for same-sex couples that extend the more than 300 benefits available to married couples. Advocates have been working diligently to ensure that same-sex couples have the opportunity to share in the rights and responsibilities of marriage.

AZ - *Standhardt v. Superior Court*. In July 2003, a same-sex couple filed suit demanding a state marriage license. Because AZ currently has a defense of marriage act, the couple has challenged its constitutionality under both the AZ constitution and U.S. constitution. The case is currently pending before the Court of Appeals and a decision is expected by October.

CA - *The Domestic Partner Rights & Responsibilities Act of 2003* passed the State Assembly and Senate and was signed by Gov. Gray Davis in September. This legislation will grant registered domestic partners in CA nearly all of the state level legal protections and rights previously available only to married couples.

IN- *Morrison v. Sadler* (dismissed and appealed). In August 2002, the Indiana Civil Liberties Union filed suit on behalf of three same-sex couples seeking issuance of marriage licenses. This case is now pending in the Court of Appeals.

MA - *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health*. The Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders filed a suit in April 2001 on behalf of seven same-sex couples after each of the couples were denied marriage certificates solely because they were same-sex couples. The court is expected to make its decision at any time.

NJ - *Lewis et al. v. Harris et al.* In June 2002, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund filed suit on behalf of seven same-sex couples claiming that the law violates their equal protection under the law and denies their fundamental right to marry.

WI – On September 11, the Assembly Committee on Judiciary passed Assembly Bill 475, Wisconsin's Defense of Marriage legislation. This legislation declares that marriages between same-sex couples are not recognized in Wisconsin. The companion bill in the Senate, SB 233, is still in the Senate Judiciary Committee awaiting action.

Canada – In June, the Court of Appeal of Ontario ruled that same-sex couples have a right to marry. The decision was based on the principles of human dignity and anti-discrimination. The Canadian government decided not to appeal this and similar cases, but instead proposed same-sex "marriage" legislation, which is now pending before the Supreme Court of Canada. An opinion on the legislation is not expected until 2004.

Hate Crimes - Several states have included both sexual orientation and gender identity in their hate crime laws, including CA, HI, MN, MO, NM, PA, VT, and DC.

Violence Against the Transgender Community

Members of the transgender community have long been targeted for discrimination and hate violence. In 2002, 27 transgender individuals were killed, while countless others were violently attacked nationwide. According to the Washington, D.C., Transgender Needs Assessment Survey (1999-2000), as many as 43% of transgender individuals have been the victims of violence and/or crime, including assault, robbery, and sexual

assault. It is estimated that transgender individuals living in the U.S. have a one in 12 chance of being murdered as compared to the average person's risk of one in 18,000.

Recent Violence in Our Nation's Capitol – Over the last year, in Washington, D.C. alone, the transgender community has been under attack. Six individuals have been murdered, six seriously assaulted, and countless others attacked and harassed. Three of these assaults have occurred since August, including the murders of two transgender women and another attack that left a third transgender woman in critical condition. These recent crimes act as a reminder of the way in which the transgender community is particularly vulnerable to hate crime and violence.

The Gay & Lesbian Liaison Unit (GLLU) - In 2000, the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) created the GLLU to provide 24-hour police response to members of the GLBT communities and the MPD. The unit advises the Chief of Police on issues surrounding the GLBT communities; serves on the Hate Crimes Task Force and as a representative for the MPD at community and other functions, offers support to gay-owned/operated businesses and other groups, assists law enforcement investigations involving members of the GLBT communities, operates a MPD recruiting booth at local pride festivals, provides training and education to the MPD and GLBT communities, serves as mentors and peer counselors to members of the GLBT communities (youth and adult); and supports and participates with the D.C. Gay Officers Action League (GOAL-DC). The GLLU is the only full service GLBT unit in the country to provide these comprehensive services. For more information about the GLLU's work, please visit their website at: www.gaydc.net/gllu.

Get Involved with Federal Advocacy Efforts

We urgently need the support and assistance of APA members on a variety of important issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity. The Public Interest Policy Office welcomes your assistance with activities including meeting with your members of Congress locally and in Washington, D.C.; responding to action alerts and other requests to contact the offices of your members of Congress; serving as an informational resource for APA and congressional staff; and presenting at congressional briefings and hearings.

If you are interested in partnering with the Public Policy Office to advocate on behalf of LGBT issues or want more information on becoming involved in APA advocacy efforts, please contact Lori Valencia Greene at lvalencia-greene@apa.org or Diane Elmore, Ph.D. at delmore@apa.org. We also invite you to visit our APA Public Policy website at <http://www.apa.org/ppo.html> for more information on LGBT issues and to become a member of our electronic Public Policy Advocacy Network (PPAN).

Engaging with Abraham, Jesus, Mohammed, and Buddha: Igniting Conversation between Religions and the LGBT Community

James Fitzgerald, Ph.D.

APA Division 44 Presidential Address, August 8, 2003

Note: “...” indicates significant portions omitted here due to space constraints.

Full address, with slides, is available on the Division 44 web site at <http://www.apa.org/divisions/div44/PresidentialAddress.pdf>

I grew up in rural Virginia. In a little spot in the road called Chester. You've all been to Chester, or to a place like it. Oh, it may have been called Bean Bottom, Kentucky, Welfare, Texas, or even Hot Brambles, Wyoming. But you've been there. The house I knew as a child was built by my father and three older brothers. It had five rooms. The kitchen had a wood stove for cooking while the living room had a wood stove for heat. There was no heat in any other part of the house including the attic, where I slept with two brothers. There were eight children in my family. Two girls and six boys. I was number seven – in the middle of the second litter of kids.

There was only one official bedroom in the house and that was reserved for my parents. We used curtains for doors inside the house and had very little privacy. We had a radio, but couldn't afford a TV set. We literally took Saturday night baths in a galvanized washtub with water heated on the stove. There was no inside bathroom. We used an outhouse that we boys would dig. At the appropriate time, when the hole was full, we would carefully lift the wooden structure and move it to a new location. Our drinking water came from a well that my brothers dug when we first moved to the property. Of the eight children, only four of us finished high school. Three of the four went to college but only one finished. Of course, that was me.

Despite its small size, Chester, Virginia had 13 churches... And every time the door opened, my mother, my brothers, and I walked into the Kingsland Baptist Church. My father had the good sense to stay away from that place. The first pastor

I remember was Pastor Jimmy Russ and I had a crush on him. But, the second pastor, the one who struck terror in my heart, was Frank LaPierre... The religion I learned from the Reverend LaPierre was one of hellfire, damnation, and condemnation. If he didn't send at least two people in the audience to hell every sermon, I'm sure that he thought he was letting the Lord down! I recall times in that church, especially during revival meetings, when I heard the pronouncement that “Avowed Homo-sex-u-als” were going to hell! Of course, so were whores, card players, drunkards, dancers, pool players, motorcycle bikers, people with tattoos, moviegoers, and onanists. Onanists? Don't you recall the sin of Onan? Onan was the guy who was struck down by God for masturbating rather than procreating. Naturally, masturbation, along with all the other wickedness, was a *major* no-no! There was no doubt that my spiritual cradle played a discordant lullaby for me!

...In a tiny rural Virginia community governed by a frightening religion, there was no real opportunity for my identity to find exploration and maturity. I had weird notions of what being gay meant, primarily from the church but also from the media. For instance, I thought gay men wore dresses. I didn't want to wear a dress. I knew I was different and I knew that difference was significant. At a minimum, I knew I liked men. ... To escape Chester, *and* my family, *and* the oppressive religions around me, I entered the armed services. ... During my eight years in the Air Force, I was introduced to the gay community. I dabbled with the possibility that I was gay, but after three years of dabbling,

I became “convicted” by my religious conscience that what I was doing was *wrong*. And so, I stopped dabbling.

When I got out of the Air Force I moved to Louisville, KY and started going to a fundamentalist church. Shortly thereafter I confessed my sin of homosexuality to the pastor, my sister, and my brother-in-law. They advised me to find a good woman and get married. Then – and only then – would God relieve me of the sin of homosexuality, because then it would be covered under the blood of Jesus. They introduced me to a good woman in the church named Jeannette. I married her. She is still a good woman. She was a victim of my oppression.

I was married for 12 years. During that time, I never had any excitement about the relationship. It was something I had to do. It was expected. I was fulfilling everybody's expectations, especially the expectations of Jesus! But I didn't fulfill my own expectations. As Jeannette and I lived together we realized that this was a passionless relationship. As time went on, we both got more and more depressed. At night, I would have erotic dreams about men. But I concluded that they had been sent from Satan to torment and tempt me. I prayed the same prayer over and over: “God, when are you going to turn me straight?” Then, I had a real life sexual incident that confirmed that my attraction to men was beyond temptation, and beyond religion. It was me. It was a moment of revelation. And panic. After that incident, the realization that I was gay brought on incredible depression. I was married. I was going to graduate school. I was gay. I was going to a

fundamentalist church. I felt trapped. I felt alone.

My wife was also depressed but did not really know why. So, we went to couples therapy. I said that I was attracted to men. That therapist concluded that I was bisexual. He didn't know the difference between sexual behavior and sexual orientation, and didn't ask. I was not bisexual and at that point I discounted that therapist. Next I went alone into Rogerian therapy. I told my therapist my story of Chester, and my family, and the church, and the marriage, and the trap that I felt engulfed me. And my therapist cried. As I relayed my story, she sat there and she cried. I realized that those were *my* tears. The story was *my* story. But I wasn't crying. It shook me profoundly to see her cry over my story. And it confused me even more that I wasn't crying.

This helped me truly understand the conflict that I was in. It helped bring me to a new awareness that I was a gay man, like it or not. And an awareness that maybe -- just maybe -- being gay wasn't so wrong. Then, driving to work one morning, I heard the old hymn, "Just as I am without one plea." It hit me like a ton of bricks. Just as I *am*. No need to justify myself. Just as I *am* -- Gay and *all!* Of course the irony of self-realization based on a fundamentalist hymn was amusing! But, next, I faced the dilemma of making a transition. What would this mean to my wife? What would this mean to my career? Didn't being gay mean incurring

God's wrath? How would I be punished?

Without answers to those questions, I took my wife out to dinner to tell her. She knew something was up. I said, "I need to let you know that I'm gay." She looked up and said, "I need to tell you I'm pregnant!" We both got even more depressed. There was no way I could leave her while she was pregnant. She knew, however, I would leave her at some point. Through all of this, I had literally no one to talk to other than my therapist. I knew no gay people.

I'd prayed hundreds of times for God to deliver me from my supposed sin of homosexuality. But it didn't happen. Soon, the thought of going to church made me physically sick. I dropped out of church. I had no social contacts. The only thing that kept me going was the knowledge that if I stayed in the marriage, I would die emotionally. We divorced when my son Patrick was two. I had to have a chance to survive emotionally, spiritually, and personally.

When I came out, it was with a *splash*. Hell be damned! In fact, at that point I started to realize that if I was going to be punished by an angry god for being who I was, then I might as well have fun doing it. I began to recognize an important truth. There is an obvious sequence for those of us from religious backgrounds. We begin with what looks like religious clarity -- often in the guise of fundamentalism. That fundamentalism inflicts a type of

religious terrorism on us. And the result is a clear and pervasive post-traumatic stress disorder. ... As I launched my practice, I heard the same stories of religious terrorism and bullying that inflicted PTSD on my clients. ...

I've shared my history with you to help you understand how I came to the messages I want you to know. The experiences I've described have led me to conclude that fundamentalist religions have propagated a series of lies that have caused huge injury, pain, and death to untold millions of LGBT people over the centuries. Today, these lies continue to inflict harm, sometimes pain *and death*, and typically result in classic symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. Today, I will review these lies, identify the resulting PTSD symptoms, and counter the lies with what I *know* to be the nine LGBT Truths. Heck, if there can be ten commandments in the Old Testament, five Pillars of Islam, four Noble Truths of the Buddha, three principle Gods of Hinduism, 13 Articles of Faith, and 66 Books of the Bible, we can claim nine Truths! Let's begin with those nine truths (see box to the left). Then we'll go back and see why we need them in our LGBT community today.

Most fundamentalist religions believe that there is only one way to worship, love a deity, live a good life, love another human being, and go to a prosperous afterlife upon death. Ironically, most people acquire their religious belief on the basis of where they were born. If you were born in the U.S., you are most likely Christian. If you were born in Iran, you are most likely Muslim. If you were born in Thailand, you are most likely Theravada Buddhist. And, no matter where you were born, there is a *very high probability* that the *particular brand* of your religion was based upon the household into which you were born. In the Protestant U.S., the particular brand might be Methodist or Baptist. In Muslim Iraq,

Nine LGBT Truths

1. There may be many right ways. Ours is one of them!
2. All are welcome to learn of our spirituality in our lives & in our places of worship!
3. Marriage is only for people who are committed to each other. Marriage has nothing to do with gender.
4. All people choose to live authentic or inauthentic lives.
5. We must always love each other and create welcoming communities.
6. We are one of the creator's chosen peoples.
7. People who hate us are an abomination to God.
8. STDs are health issues.
9. Most child sexual abusers are pedophiles living otherwise heterosexual lives. We have a great responsibility to protect society's children.

the brand might be Sunni or Shiite. Most of these religions promote the idea that theirs is the only way to attain religious fulfillment. ... Most of the representatives of these religions condemn LGBT peoples in one way or another. ... We are naturally perplexed: How can our religion be the one right way and condemn us to death, or hell, or at the very least suffering? The LGBT Truth we must claim here is that there may be many "right" ways. *Our way is one of them.*

The second big religious lie is that LGBT people are welcome in the various fundamentalist houses of worship. I find this lie insidious and destructive. Did you catch what the Southern Baptist Convention announced this year in Phoenix? They announced a new initiative to have their members be more compassionate toward LGBT people so *we* can come to *their* churches and learn just how sinful and destructive our lifestyle is! According to Richard Land, the head of their policy arm: "homosexuals can find freedom; they can be redeemed. They can be liberated!" Since the Southern Baptist convention is the biggest Protestant denomination in the U.S. (with 16 million members), we need to pay close attention to this lie. The traumatic effect for me and for millions of other LGBT people is that we have been welcomed into such congregations only to be victimized and traumatized by their psychological terrorism. More than a few of you have heard yourselves be condemned to eternal damnation during a church service.

I am reminded of the old psychiatric term "schizophrenogenic parent." Remember that? It was when a very disturbed parent said to a child, "come here sweetie, I want to shower you with love." And as soon as the child approached the parent, the parent said, "you are a disgusting brat and have to change or I can no longer love you!" If a parent engaged in that kind of behavior with a child today, it would be considered verbal and

emotional abuse, but many organized religions get away with it because it is directed toward LGBT people. ***In contrast, we LGBT people must provide a welcoming community.*** In a recent Division 44 Newsletter, Michael Schroeder and Ariel Shidlo reported on a study of what motivated people to seek conversion therapy. They found numerous reasons, but one big surprise -- a profound sense of alienation and failure to connect with either LGBT or straight communities. We must provide a far more welcoming and supportive community for LGBT people and especially questioning people in their journey for sexual identity. So, truth number two is, ***All are welcome to learn of our spirituality in our lives and in our places of worship!*** ...

In Georgia, in a recent statewide poll, 45% favor legal marriage for gay couples, vs. 43% against, a trend more favorable than national polls. Of those respondents who never attend church, 69% favor *allowing* gay marriage. Of those who attend church weekly, 72% *oppose* it. We must keep educating. ***We must say that marriage is only for people who are committed to each other. Marriage has nothing to do with gender!***

"Being gay is a choice." We're all acquainted with this lie. ... The conversion therapy advocates promote a full range of unethical and unprofessional services. They can't seem to figure out the difference between sexual behavior and sexual orientation. They encourage LGBT people to marry, thus fooling themselves that a straight relationship will cure the gay person. This unfairly enrolls another person in their dilemma. The whole false marriage ends up as one long avoidance of temptation from evil and a feeling of personal failure because they cannot stop the same-sex urges and attractions. ... The PTSD result of this struggle can be low self-esteem, false relationships, and inauthenticity. And the LGBT Truth we *must* use to combat the lie is that ***all people***

choose to live authentic or inauthentic lives. Our sexual orientation is set very early, probably with significant genetic and biological variables as correlates. No matter what leads us to be LGBT, our single most important choice is one of authenticity. ...

"Homosexuality is unnatural and perverted." This religious lie is so worn out that it goes in one ear and out the other, barely stopping to register. But, the emotional consequences still make their presence known through nausea, feelings of rejection, anxiety and self-loathing. I remember in the 1980s reading a brief report on the results of a U.S. Department of Agriculture study attempting to increase breeding rates among sheep. In a serendipitous finding, they discovered that almost 10% of the rams were attracted to each other in spite of available females. Now we have a book available that reports the same-sex attractions of many different species of animals, almost as if God must have planned it that way. ... ***Our truth is knowing that we are one of the Creator's chosen peoples.***

A major corollary of the fundamentalist lies so far is that if they are the *only* right way, that being gay is a choice, and we are sinful, surely their God could not love us. They say we are an abomination to God.... In fact, our truth must be that those who hate us for being gay are an abomination to God! This is especially true because most of the fundamentalist religions have the Golden Rule as a central core. Would God have created you an abomination? Would She have created you this way to torture you? Here's the truth: ***People who hate us must be an abomination to God.***

"Any STD, especially AIDS, is a punishment from God for being LGBT." This hideous lie isn't new. Some of you may think it came around in the early 1980s with Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson. But they were preceded by others like Billy

Sunday, Billy Graham, and a host of others who claimed that all STDs were punishments from God for sin. My mother's father died of syphilis, the AIDS of the 1920s, after leaving the family for another woman. To this day, she believes that it was God's punishment. The emotional consequences of these pronouncements continue to be feelings of inferiority, shame and fear. There is a pervasive fear of catching an STD because it becomes so much more than just catching a disease. It becomes a manifestation of God's rejection and shame because you are now "marked" as a "low life." Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, and Fred Phelps continue to be the biggest promoters of this particular form of religious terrorism in North America. ... We must lay claim to the truth here. **STDs are health issues.** Period.

"LGBT people are child abusers and should never be permitted to associate with children." This is one of the harsher terrorist statements coming from several religions. Some of us have children because of marriages. I have a son who is now 23 years old. I'm very proud of him. (And, by the way, despite what the fundamentalists would like to believe, my son turned out to be straight. Go figure!) Some of us would willingly provide loving and safe homes for society's foster children. There are over 500,000 foster kids in the United States and homes for only half of them! Recent new laws in Florida and Mississippi and existing laws in several other US states forbid us to provide foster homes. Similar laws exist regarding adoption in a variety of places around the US. Why? Because of the lie that we are more likely to be child abusers and molesters. These links have typically been forged by organized religions. The data are crystal clear. **Nearly all cases of sexual abuse of children are inflicted by pedophiles living otherwise heterosexual lives.** They are rarely gay, lesbian, bisexual, or

transgender. ... The adults we must watch are almost always *men leading heterosexual lives*. And since this is the case, why does society so blithely encourage these men to be scout troop leaders, camp counselors, teachers in school, priests who instruct our children, and so on? ... We must redirect that spotlight to the far more likely perpetrators.

There are three additional thoughts I want you to remember. First, ***we are the experts on sexual orientation***. We should not allow heterosexuals, religion, churches, or *anyone* or *anything* to define who we are or how we should live our lives. We understand the choice issue, they don't.

Second, we need to take a very strong stand on the conversion therapy issue. We are the experts on sexual orientation pathways. Individually, we come to understand the role of choice in our lives -- to live or not live authentic lives as LGBT peoples. ... In that recent statewide poll, 61% hold the view that it is unlikely that sexual orientation can be changed in either homosexuals or heterosexuals while 32% believe that it can be changed. Of those who attend church weekly, 55% believe that change is *likely*. Of those who never attend church, 82% believe that changing sexual orientation is *unlikely*.

Third, some elements of religion have "seen the light" before! Some denominations and religions have made huge strides on women's issues and civil rights based on race and ethnicity. Some denominations and groups that once rejected African-American and Mexican peoples at the front doors of their churches now openly embrace these groups. They have changed their theology in light of new understanding - without believing that they compromised their beliefs. They came to realize that their theology was wrong. They no longer believe that the earth is the center of the universe, that the earth is flat, that witches should be burned at

the stake, that African-Americans should be slaves, or that women are second-class church members. They have modified their theology in light of new understanding. Their mistake is the continuing belief that in any given period of time they have *all* the *truth*. And they feel no particular shame, and have no memory of past misdeeds, when it turns out that their theology was flawed and people suffered as a result, even died at their hands. They can change their theology again. And they can come to understand what we know about sexual orientation. We need to educate them, not allow them to dictate wrong beliefs to us. We are the experts!

Does It Matter?

By an anonymous high school student
Read in closing by Cisco Sanchez

My father asked if I am gay
I asked Does it matter?

He said No not really
I said Yes

He said get out of my life
I guess it mattered

My boss asked if I am gay
I asked Does it matter?

He said No not really
I told him Yes

He said You're fired, faggot
I guess it mattered.

My friend asked if I am gay
I asked Does it matter?

He said not really
I told him Yes

He said Don't call me your friend
I guess it mattered.

My lover asked Do you love me
I asked does it matter?

He said Yes

I told him I love you

He said let me hold you in my arms
For the first time in my life something
mattered

My God asked me Do you love yourself?

I said Does it matter?

He said Yes.

I said How can I love myself? I am Gay
He said That is the way I made you
Nothing again will ever matter.

**Association for Women in
Psychology's Distinguished
Publication Awards Announced for
2003:**

**Deborah Tolman
Stephanie Shields**

The recipients of the 2003 Distinguished Publication Awards are Deborah Tolman and Stephanie Shields. In her book, *Dilemmas of Desire: Teenage Girls Talk about Sexuality* (Harvard University Press, 2002), Tolman interviews both urban and suburban young women and listens for what is missing as well as what is said about their experiences of their own sexual desire. In her book, *Speaking from the Heart: Gender and the Social Meaning of Emotion* (Cambridge University Press, 2002), Shields shows how highly gendered scripts about emotional expression determine who can "speak from the heart" and be taken seriously. Shields, a professor of psychology and women's studies at Penn State University, and Tolman, Associate Director and Senior Research Scientist at the Center for Research on Women at Wellesley College, will be invited to present award addresses at our next conference in Philadelphia.

Each year, the Distinguished Publication Committee for AWP meets and announces awards in recognition of significant and substantial contributions of research and theory that advance our understanding of the psychology of women and that promote the achievement of feminist psychology. A list of previous award winners can be found at <http://www.pitt.edu/~frieze>.

Nominations of books and articles published in 2003 which have made a distinctive contribution to our understanding of the psychology of women and gender are now being accepted by:

Irene Hanson Frieze
Department of Psychology
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
e-mail: frieze@pitt.edu
voice: 412.624.4336
fax: 412.624.4428

Deadline is April 15, 2004.

**Call for Proposals: Hyde Graduate Student Research
Grants in the Psychology of Women & Gender**

Proposals are being sought for Hyde Graduate Student Research Grants. These grants, each up to \$500, are awarded to doctoral psychology students to support feminist research. The grants are made possible through the generosity of Janet Hyde, Ph.D., who donates the royalties from her book, *Half the Human Experience*, to this fund. Past recipients of Hyde Graduate Student Research Grants are not eligible to apply. Because the purpose of this award is to facilitate research that otherwise might not be possible, projects that are beyond the data analysis stage are not eligible.

Requirements:

1. Cover-sheet with project title, investigator's name, address, phone, fax, and e-mail address;
2. A 100-word abstract;
3. A proposal (5-pages maximum, double-spaced) addressing the project's purpose, theoretical rationale, and procedures, including how the method and data analysis stem from the proposed theory and purpose;
4. A one-page statement articulating the study's relevance to feminist goals and importance to feminist research;
5. The expected timeline for progress and completion of the project (including the date of the research proposal committee meeting). The project timeline should not exceed two years;
6. A faculty sponsor's recommendation, including why the research cannot be funded by other sources. This letter (5 copies) should be included with the proposal materials. Please do not send it separately;
7. Status of human research review process, including expected date of human research committee submission and approval. Preference will be given to proposals that have received human research approval;
8. An itemized budget (if additional funds are needed to ensure completion of the project, please specify sources);
9. The applicant's curriculum vitae;
10. Two self-addressed, stamped envelopes;
11. All sections of the proposal should be typed and prepared according to APA style (e.g., please use 12-point font). Five copies of all documents are required. Proposals that fail to meet the guidelines set forth above will not be reviewed.

Send to: Silvia Sara Canetto, Ph.D., Chair, Hyde Research Award Committee, Department of Psychology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1876
Phone: (970) 491-5415, FAX: (970) 491-1032
E-mail: scanetto@lamar.colostate.edu.

**Proposals should be postmarked by either of
these deadlines: March 15th or September 15th.**

For more information see:
<http://www.apa.org/divisions/div35/hyde.html>

COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

COMMITTEE ON BISEXUAL ISSUES

The committee is pursuing several projects that were raised at our well-attended discussion hour at this summer's convention in Toronto. We are creating an email group that can serve as a way for members to dialogue about bisexual issues throughout the year. In addition we are exploring the possibility of collaboration with other interest groups in designing programming to propose for next year's convention in Hawai'i, and looking into making both our short and more extensive reading lists more available by putting them on the Division 44 website. Our symposium on Resent Research on Bisexuality at this summer's convention included Cheryl Dobinson, MA, reporting on a survey of bisexual health and wellness issues, Kimberly Balsam, MA, discussing comparisons between bisexual and lesbian/gay adults, and Tammy Hietpas, MA, on the level of knowledge and attitudes about bisexual issues of faculty who train mental health professionals.

We are also continuing to act as a networking point for those seeking and offering expertise about many aspects concerning bisexuality. Please contact us if you or someone you know is involved with academic, clinical, research, or community projects, including publications and presentations that relate to bisexual issues and the interface of LGBT issues.

- Ron Fox, Ph.D., Co-Chair, ronfox@ronfoxphd.com
- Emily Page, Psy.D., Co-Chair, em@emilypage.com

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee would like to thank Deborah Liddi Brown for her years of service as co-chair of the committee. Deborah remained co-chair for a longer term than usual and the Division is indebted to her for her hard work. Kate Kominars is the new membership co-chair and we welcome her. Membership in the Division has increased somewhat since last year. We have 50 new members and 85 new student members. The total membership in the Division has increased by only 29 members, indicating that we have lost members over the past year as well. The membership directory should be included with this newsletter. Haworth Press has agreed to trade printing and mailing for a full-page advertisement in the directory. The committee would like to thank them for their generosity in helping with the directory again this year.

- Christopher R. Martell, Membership Co-chair

TREASURER'S REPORT

The consolidated financial report for Division 44 dated June 2003 consolidates data from 3 different accounts, a State Street Research Mutual Fund (initiated March 1998), an account that holds the balance of the Malyon-Smith quasi-endowment, and a checking account.

As of June 2003, the Division's assets totaled \$68,501.58 and our income for 2003 was \$31,177.02. For comparison, at the end of FY02, the Division's assets totaled \$73,126.53.

The Malyon-Smith fund is held in two accounts. Our mutual fund with State Street Research Funds was valued at \$18,475.05 as of 6/30/2003. Our initial investment (1998) was \$20,000, which represents a loss in value of \$1,524.95. The remainder of the fund was valued at \$14,354.58, as of June 2003. As a result, our current quasi-endowment total is \$32,829.63. This represents a net loss since June 2002.

Year-to-date dues income (as of June 03) was \$28,185. In FY02 dues income was \$28,355. In FY01 dues income was \$29,632. Dues income has decreased annually since at least 1999. We have also experienced significant reductions in interest income.

Year-to-date (as of June 03), we have received \$1852.02 in additional resources. Gross income from the 2003 annual campaign to date was \$3300 (including a gift of \$3000 from Haworth Press). Doug Haldeman has underwritten the visibility campaign (\$477). Division pins were purchased as premiums for contributors to the Division. (Annual and visibility campaign contributions are not fully reflected in official year-to-date figures.)

The 2002 convention fund raising dinner netted \$2184.74 in donations. For comparison purposes, the 2001 figure was \$2876.25, the 2000 figure was \$3644.50, and the 1999 figure was \$1650.00.

Year-to-date income figures (\$31,177.02) fall far short of our projected FY03 operating budget (\$41,000). As of June 2003, expenditures totaled \$13,457.06. Of this figure, \$9451.96 was spent on the 03 midwinter meeting. (The 02 midwinter meeting figure was \$9803.70). Net Multicultural Summit expenses (\$34,455.54), The Division's total expenditures for FY02 were \$30,885.05 (which was well under budget and reflects a net gain for the year primarily due to \$5523.92 in proceeds from the 01 Multicultural Summit).

In short, our attempts to contain expenditures continue to be successful. Despite decreasing income and market losses, Division leadership continues to consider more cost effective ways to apply the Division's resources in the fulfillment of the Division's mission. My sincere thanks to all of those who helped make this possible.

- Michael R. Stevenson, Ph.D., Secretary-Treasurer

COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Firmly rooted in the belief that the Council delegation that plays together creates great legislative strategy together, your Division 44 Council team met prior to Convention for a retreat at Niagara Falls. The only significant controversy proved to be a fight among the three of us over who got to be the “Maid of the Mist” as we toured the natural (and synthetic) wonders of the region. Our decision to spend a few days in pre-Council strategy mode proved useful, given the breadth and intensity of the Division’s current legislative agenda.

It is our pleasure to announce the submission of a Council New Business item to create a Task Force on Gender Identity, Gender Variance, and Intersex Conditions. We look forward to its approval by APA governance and Council as this long overdue initiative convenes a group to address issues of research, practice and policy in this area. The Task Force will also make a recommendation for where Transgender psychologists, students, allies and others interested in trans issues may find a “home base” within APA to do their work and to bond as a group. The resolution was developed by the Gender Identity Work Group, and we are especially grateful to Nick Embaye, Randall Ehrbar, James Cantor, Nancy Baker, Ellen Cole, and Gary Harper for their input. And just in case you were wondering what Council thought of the whole idea – we obtained 70 co-sponsors for the item, spanning Divisions from Practice, Science, Education and Public Interest, as well as a sizable number of State, Provincial and Territorial representatives.

The Division’s Joint Task Force with Division 19 (Military Psychology) awaits approval from BAPPI (Board for the Advancement for Psychology in the Public Interest) and the APA Board of Directors before commencing its work. We intend to address the discriminatory implications of the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy for LGB service personnel, as well as the effects of this law on psychologists working with them. Among other issues, the Joint Task Force hopes to make recommendations for APA’s most effective response to the law, including the future of the ban on advertising by the Department of Defense in APA publications.

Under the leadership of Chris Downs, Division 44’s Committee on Children, Youth, and Families Co-Chair, we plan to submit a resolution on the status and rights of LGB custodial and foster parents. A recent study suggests that the primary legal issues facing LGB individuals today are their rights as parents, foster caregivers, and guardians. This resolution will be a valuable resource for those doing forensic work with cases involving the custody and guardianship rights of LGB people, as well as for psychologists making public comments on this important issue.

You will be pleased to learn that APA is well on the road to recovery of its precarious financial health, largely due to the multi-faceted plan developed by the Board of Directors, Finance Committee and CFO. After two years of deficits, a budgetary surplus, albeit a small one, is projected for the next fiscal year. After reducing Board and Committee meetings to one per year as a cost-savings measure, Council voted to reinstate the second round of Consolidated Board and Committee meetings for 2004. This is particularly good news for those serving on these governance groups who have been challenged by attempting to conduct business with very limited face-to-face time. Additionally, Council voted to approve changes in the Guidelines adoption process put forward by the Board of Professional Affairs. These changes are favorable to the development of APA guidelines, according to the criteria set forth by APA’s Committee on Professional Practice Standards (COPPS). COPPS was chaired by Kris over the past two years, with Armand serving as a member.

Council has a number of Caucuses, which are political organizations that are organized around a number of different issues and interests. A good amount of the work of Council is prepared and polished in Caucuses, and our delegation continues to be very visible in a number of them. Earlier this year, Armand was elected Member-at-Large of the Executive Committee of COUNT, the Caucus for the Optimal Utilization of New Talent. This follows his election as the first openly gay President of the Illinois Psychological Association. At the August Council meeting, Kris was elected Treasurer of the Women’s Caucus, and Doug was appointed to be the Implementation Chair of the Association of Practicing Psychologists (directing the Practice Caucus’ legislative agenda). He also continues as Chair of the Public Interest Caucus, and as a member of the Committee on the Structure and Function of Council (CSFC).

We are visible on the floor of Council as well. At the August meeting, Armand gave a report on the International LGB Conference of 2001, and Doug was asked by APA President Bob Sternberg to comment on the confirmation of the first openly gay Bishop of the Episcopal Church. In APA and in the culture at large, it has been a good summer.

In closing, we want to remind you that the influence and flexibility we enjoy is due in large part to the fact that we have three seats on Council. Please remember to give all ten of your votes to Division 44 when your Apportionment ballot comes this Fall, and keep our voice for LGBT issues on APA Council strong. We invite your comments or questions about anything related to the Division’s legislative agenda, or APA governance issues in general. As always, it is a great pleasure to represent you.
- Doug Haldeman, Kris Hancock & Armand Cerbone

BOOK REVIEW

Diversity in Human Interactions: The Tapestry of America

Edited by John D. Robinson and Larry C. James. 2003.
Oxford University Press. 224 pp.

Review by Lisa A. Orban

Editors Robinson and James have assembled a prominent group of authors to create an incisive, thought-provoking book examining the many different facets of human diversity and interaction. The scope of the book is most impressive, especially given its succinctness, as it not only addresses the visible factors of diversity (i.e., the presence of difference) but also factors that are not readily apparent, such as sexual orientation, religion, and, at times, disability status. Its core theme is that our perceptions of

these differences affect the quality and effectiveness of our interactions with others.

While clearly a scholarly piece, the book is remarkably accessible and engaging, as the authors effectively use personal anecdotes as well as empirical evidence to vividly demonstrate a spectrum of human difference. The book is designed to serve as a guide in understanding diverse populations as well as a tool for human-relations training across multiple settings. Furthermore, it is also suitable for use as an introductory textbook on human diversity.

The book begins with a solid introduction by Robinson and James, followed by Greene's excellent in-depth exploration of the social context in which human dimensions of difference are shaped and understood. Greene sets a nice foundation for the chapters that follow, which examine human difference in terms of ethnicity, race, disability, aging, sexual orientation and religion. Additionally, the final chapter by Turner and Beidel addresses the need for cultural sensitivity in all aspects of research.

While the book uses wide brush strokes in illustrating American diversity, several common themes resonate. Each chapter presents a brief historical overview of issues impacting various groups, including stereotypes, prejudices and sociopolitical changes. Chapters also provide a comprehensive review of issues relevant to groups, such as core cultural values and health and societal issues, and their implications for human service professionals. Issues of identity are also addressed throughout the book, with attention paid to the complexities associated with classification.

Some chapters are more model-oriented or wide-ranging than others, but overall, the editors do a fairly neat job of breaking down the book into digestible pieces while challenging the reader to further chew on the contents. One limitation is that the editors do not devote a chapter exclusively to gender, but forwardly admit that while the topic of gender is important, it extends well beyond the scope of this book.

The book does a particularly nice job of highlighting unique issues that are often overlooked in diversity training. For example, Haldeman and Buhcke capture the high degree of diversity within sexual orientation and explore the complexities associated with multiple minority statuses, while Cannon offers a conceptual framework for the intricacies of the biracial experience. Overall, the most impressive aspect of this book is the attention to within-group differences, as the authors discuss the many gradations of identity as well as the common themes among group members.

Given the richness of the topic, it becomes impossible to include every issue or group in one succinct book. Rather, each chapter should be thought of as a "snapshot" of a particular group. Still, this insightful book manages to include much highly useful information, and serves as a valuable aid in better understanding issues of difference. While the book accomplishes its scholarly purpose in describing the many colors of the diverse tapestry of America, it was refreshing to find this work accomplished in a colorful manner as well.

Footnote 4: Additional question added to *Graduate Study in Psychology* questionnaire

As most of you know, Division 44 has long taken issue with "Footnote 4" in the APA accreditation guidelines, which allows an exception to the statement "Further, the program avoids any actions that would restrict program access on grounds that are irrelevant to success in graduate training."⁴ Footnote 4 allows programs with a religious affiliation to adopt "admission and employment policies that directly relate to this affiliation or purpose so long as (1) Public notice of these policies has been made to applicants..." The APA's Council on Accreditation voted unanimously this year to retain Footnote 4, partly based on relevant U.S. Supreme Court decisions. However, concern remains that student applicants be aware prior to application when Footnote 4 has been invoked. At the suggestion of John D. Robinson, a Division member, the Board of Educational Affairs agreed to add the following question to the annual program survey that compiles information for the publication *Graduate Study in Psychology*: "Does your university, college, department, or program of psychology require students to sign a statement about personal behavior and/or religious beliefs as a condition for admission and/or retention? If yes, please provide information on how students may access the full text of the statement." This additional question will flag programs that invoke Footnote 4. This is an important step in informing potential students and employees of program policies that might affect their equal access to and acceptance in such programs. This is a nice example of how action (in this case, a single well-placed letter) by an individual member of APA can have substantive results.

Another Rousing Fundraising Dinner Success

Robb Mapou, Ph.D., A.B.P.P.

Attendance at APA may have been down, but dinner attendance remained strong. There was essentially no drop in our numbers from the last few years. Sixty-two people gathered for a great (albeit warm) time at Slack Alice in the GLBT village of Toronto. Thanks to James Cantor for setting up the initial arrangements. We do not have the final figures yet, but expect that we will have made more than last year, as dinner costs were lower.

The Division would like to thank the following individuals who served as Mentors to students (\$150 level):

James Cantor
Armand Cerbone
Chris Downs
Jim Fitzgerald
Judith Glassgold
Michael Haley
Steve James (Also donated additional dinner)
Christopher Martell
Arlene Noriega
Michael Ranney
Frank Wong

We would also like to thank the following individuals who were Sponsors (\$130 level):

Nancy Baker
Sari Dworkin (Dinner donated to overseas guest)
Ruth Fassinger
Randy Georgemiller
Terry Gock
Doug Haldeman
David Martin

I am already making plans for next year, in Hawai'i. We hope to have a special dinner, with much aloha, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of "Removing the Stigma" of homosexuality (the 1974 term). I would very much like to find a local home close to Waikiki, where we could hold a catered event, perhaps a luau. I have some connections in Oahu, but want to check out all possibilities. So, if you know people who could help out with finding a venue, please contact me via E-mail (mapuna@earthlink.net) or phone (301 565-0534, x264). Mahalo nui loa (thanks very much) for your help and support of our efforts. Aloha until next year!

Fundraising Success!

In response to the fundraising letter/request this summer, Division 44 received a generous contribution of \$3,000.00 from The Haworth Press, Inc./Harrington Park Press. This contribution is above and beyond the "in-kind" contributions they make in producing and mailing the Newsletter.

In addition, the following individuals contributed \$50 or more: Doug Haldeman, Howard Kurtzman, Marilyn Turner, Dennis Debiak, Tom Zangas, Michael Stevenson, Judith Glassgold, and Allen Omoto.

The following individuals contributed royalties from their work: Doug Kimmel & Linda Garnets; Kurt Debord, Kathleen Bieschke, & Ruperto Perez. Thank you all! Your generosity makes the work of the Division possible!

The Association for Women in Psychology Announces the Annual Lesbian Psychologies Unpublished Manuscript Award DEADLINE: postmark by May 31, 2004

The Association for Women in Psychology encourages theoretical and empirical scholarship that addresses the psychology of lesbians. Any unpublished manuscript (e.g., conference paper, thesis, dissertation) focusing on a topic relevant to the psychology of lesbians and that has not been submitted for publication is invited. Both sole and jointly authored papers are eligible. Manuscripts must be no more than 50 pages.

Include four copies of the manuscript, a cover sheet (including the author's name, address, phone number, and title of the paper) and two self-addressed stamped legal size envelopes. The author's name should not appear anywhere on the paper itself. If possible, please include a Windows file of your paper on floppy disk. Send to: Julie Konik, Psychology Dept., University of Michigan, 3268 East Hall, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1109, jkonik@umich.edu.

A panel of AWP members will conduct a blind review of the manuscripts. Submissions will be evaluated on the basis of sound methodology, clarity of writing, and relevance to the advancement of the psychology of lesbians.

The winner will be announced at the 2004 APA convention, will be invited to present the manuscript at the 2005 AWP conference, and will receive up to \$250 in transportation expenses.

Thematic issue of the
Journal of Lesbian Studies on
LESBIAN COMMUNITIES

by Esther Rothblum and Penny Sablove

The Journal of Lesbian Studies will be devoting a thematic journal issue and book on the topic of lesbian communities. Are there still lesbian communities? Have they changed or diminished since the 1970s? How do we find and create communities? How do they get started? Are communities only for meeting needs, or are there more creative aspects? What if we don't want someone in our community? How do we "fire" a member of our community? How do we leave our communities when we need to? How do lovers and ex-lovers serve as anchors for or interfere with our communities? When lesbians become heterosexual, what is their relationship to our communities? Do lesbian communities meet different needs than other communities (e.g., churches, neighborhoods)? Do we have expectations of our lesbian communities that are based on a heterosexual concept of community? What is the intersection of lesbian communities with other communities of which we may be a part? What about communities of color, disability communities, intergenerational communities, etc.? These are just some examples of possible topics.

If there is a piece you wrote then, you may want to submit it with some commentary of how things stand now. We welcome contributions, including personal accounts, oral histories, feminist theory, research, fiction, poetry, etc. Authors may use a pseudonym if they prefer.

Please send a one-page overview of your proposed contribution to Esther Rothblum at Esther.Rothblum@uvm.edu by December 1, 2003. Proposals will be evaluated for originality and writing style, as well as how all the contributions fit together. Please let your friends, colleagues, and members of your community know about this project.

All thematic issues of the Journal of Lesbian Studies are simultaneously reprinted in book form by Harrington Park Press, the book affiliate of Haworth Press. We hope that the resulting book will be used in lesbian studies courses and will be available in feminist bookstores.

We hope you will consider writing about your lesbian community experiences, so that this important topic receives attention from many angles.

In Sisterhood,
Esther Rothblum and Penny Sablove

Announcement and Call for Submissions:
**International Perspectives on
Bisexuality**

Special Issue of the *Journal of Bisexuality*

Guest Editors: Leo Goetstouwers,
Maria Palotta-Chiarolli, and Ron Fox

Additional contributors are sought for a special issue of the *Journal of Bisexuality* on international perspectives on bisexuality. This volume will be published simultaneously as a special journal issue and as a book by Haworth Press.

This special issue will include articles that focus on theory, research, psychological, sociological, and anthropological perspectives, cultural and literary theory and analysis, history, and political and community endeavors. The volume will also include personal essays and interviews that explore and describe the experience of being bisexual in diverse cultures around the world.

Potential topics of interest include, but are not limited to: bisexual identity, coming out bisexual, bisexuality and cultural diversity, attitudes toward bisexuality and bisexuals in diverse cultural contexts; bisexual relationship and family issues, including monogamy, non-monogamy, polyamory, mixed orientation relationships, and alternative family structures; bisexual youth and older bisexuals; bisexuality and disability; bisexuality and spirituality; bisexuality and transgender experience; counseling, education, and community outreach regarding health concerns, including primary care, mental health issues, and HIV/AIDS outreach, prevention and treatment; histories and experiences of bisexual support groups and communities; and bisexuality in the context of local, regional, national, or international LGBTQI organizations and advocacy.

Deadlines

A 500 word proposal/description/abstract is required by March 15, 2003. A first draft of the manuscript will be due by July 15, 2004, and final manuscripts of those selected by the editor will be due by December 15, 2005. The volume will be published in June, 2005. Inquiries are welcomed by the editor, and submission guidelines are available via email to: ronfox@ronfoxphd.com or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Ron Fox, Ph.D.
P.O. Box 14306
San Francisco, CA 94114-0306

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: 2004 CLGBC OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Committee on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns (CLGBC) of the American Psychological Association annually presents one or two Outstanding Achievement Awards to recognize psychologists for significant contributions to the mission of CLGBC. This mission is to

- (a) study and evaluate on an ongoing basis how the issues and concerns of lesbian, gay male, and bisexual psychologists can best be dealt with;
- (b) encourage objective and unbiased research in areas relevant to lesbian, gay male, and bisexual adults and youths, and the social impact of such research;
- (c) examine the consequences of stereotypes about lesbian, gay male, and bisexual adults and youths in clinical practice;
- (d) develop educational materials for distribution to psychologists and others; and
- (e) make recommendations regarding the integration of these issues into the APA's activities to further the cause of the civil and legal rights of lesbian, gay, and bisexual psychologists within the profession.
(APA Association Rule 150-4).

Nominees may have made significant contributions to CLGBC's mission either through direct CLGBC service or through independent work. The contributions may be of a scientific, professional, educational, leadership, or political nature.

All nominations should include (1) a letter of nomination including a brief description of the specific achievements and contributions of the nominee (500 word maximum), (2) a current curriculum vitae, and (3) the names of three people who have been asked by the nominator to write reference letters. No current members of CLGBC or staff of the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns Program at the time of the award are eligible for consideration. The deadline for receipt of nominations is **May 1, 2004**.

Prior recipients of the CLGBC Outstanding Achievement Award were the following:

1986 Evelyn Hooker, PhD, Stephen Morin, PhD, Anne Peplau, PhD, and George Weinberg, PhD
1987 Kristin Hancock, PhD, and William Paul, PhD
1988 Gerald Davison, PhD, and Alan Malyon, PhD
1989 Laura Brown, PhD, and Douglas Kimmel, PhD
1990 Martin Rogers, PhD
1991 John Gonsiorek, PhD, and Barbara Sang, PhD
1992 Gregory Herek, PhD, and Adrienne Smith, PhD
1993 No Awards Given
1994 Linda D. Garnets, PhD, and Eduardo S. Morales, PhD
1995 Anthony R. D'Augelli, PhD, and Patricia Hawkins, PhD
1996 Beverly Greene, PhD, and Harold Kooden, PhD.
1997 Charlotte J. Patterson, PhD
1998 Connie S. Chan, PhD
1999 Oliva Espin, PhD
2000 Catherine Acuff, PhD, and Christine M. Browning, PhD
2001 Robin A. Buhrke, PhD, and Terry S. Gock, PhD
2002 Douglas C. Haldeman, PhD, Howard S. Kurtzman, and Esther D. Rothblum, PhD
2003 James M. Croteau, PhD

Send nominations and supporting materials to:
CLGBC Awards
Public Interest Directorate
American Psychological Association
750 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002-4242

Become a Fellow of Division 44!

The Division 44 Fellows Committee is seeking nominations and applications for Fellow status in the Division. Self-nominations are welcome.

Next Deadline: December 1, 2003 (due date for materials, *not* postmark date)

Fellows Committee Chair: Laura Brown, Ph.D., Lsbrownphd@cs.com or lbrown@argosyu.edu.

Please send all requests for materials by email to avoid delays.

Two Paths to Fellow : There are two paths to Fellow status in the Division.

First path: Members of Division 44 who are APA members but are not yet Fellows of APA may apply for Fellow status in APA through Division 44. These members are known as "New Fellows" applicants and must meet both APA criteria and Division 44 criteria. Second path: Any member of Division 44 who is already a current Fellow of APA may apply to become a Fellow of the Division. These applicants are known informally as "Old Fellows."

To see a list of current fellows, please go to the APA members' page, go to the "your tools" section, log-on, click on Division roster link in the "quick links" section, and follow the directions from there. Current Fellows can be good resources for information about being and becoming a Fellow. Letters from current Fellows are also required for those applying for Fellow Status.

APA Fellow Criteria

- (1) Five years of acceptable professional experience beyond receipt of the doctoral degree.
- (2) Membership in APA for at least one year
- (3) Unusual and outstanding contributions that have had national or international impact in psychology. Contributions may take the form of scholarship, innovations in practice, or leadership within psychology, or some combination of these three. Active alliance or political action work will be evaluated favorably as well.

Division 44 Fellow Criteria: Division 44 requires evidence of unusual and outstanding contributions that have had national or international impact in LGB psychology. Leadership in Division 44 and other psychological associations are also relevant. In either case, evidence of accumulation of impact and performance over time is required.

Process for New Fellows: Applicants for New Fellow status in Division 44 will be evaluated initially by the Division 44 Fellows Committee. Those receiving a positive recommendation will have their applications forwarded to the APA Fellows Committee for review and decision.

Process for Old Fellows: The Division 44 Fellows committee, with respect to the Division 44 criteria, evaluates old Fellows of APA who apply for Fellow status in Division 44. Current Fellows of APA who are Division 44 members and wish to become Fellows of the Division should send a self-nominating letter to the Fellows Chair outlining how your work applies in some way to that of Division 44. There is no further level of evaluation.

How to apply: Applications for New Fellow status in Division 44 require a completed APA application form, letters from three current Division 44 Fellows, as well as other materials that are supplied or explained in the application packet. Application packets (including required forms for the applicant to send to her or his recommenders) are available from the Division 44 Fellows chair. The Division 44 Fellows chair must receive completed applications (including all letters of recommendation typed on the APA required forms, which recommenders send directly to the Fellows Chair) by December 1st. No faxed or emailed materials are acceptable.

Applicants for Old Fellow status should submit a personal statement detailing their contributions to LGB issues in psychology, and letters of recommendation from two current Fellows of Division 44. The Division 44 Fellows chair must receive completed applications (including all letters of recommendation typed on the APA required forms, which recommenders send directly to the Fellows Chair) by December 1st. No faxed or emailed materials are acceptable.

How to Succeed: Your personal statement should be a detailed account of your contributions. It is not the time for modesty; be explicit and direct about the contributions you have made and how they are unusual and outstanding ones. Ask your letter writers to be similarly specific. It can be very helpful to have letters from people who do not know you well personally, but who are familiar with your work, thus attesting to the impact you have had beyond your immediate professional network. The prestige of a letter-writer is secondary to the depth and specificity of what she or he can write.

Please submit all materials to:

Laura S. Brown, Ph.D. ABPP, Fellows Chair, Argosy University Seattle, 1019-8th Avenue North, Seattle WA 98109

(continued from page 1)

has been the hallmark of that process. Some of our members have suggested ways to make the suite more open by having more Division leaders as greeters, making leadership more available at parties or meetings, and not asking for donations to attend Suite functions. As always, we would like your feedback on how to improve the Suite.

We are trying to honor your accomplishments and make Fellow status easier to attain by putting the information on our website and making the process more accessible.

This last year, our Division Newsletter had a series of special issues that make the newsletter more informative. Please let us know your perceptions of those changes, and how we can continue to improve the Newsletter. Past issues are available on our web site. We also are involved in a publishing venture with APA press, under the editorship of Gregory Herek, Ph.D., and will be offering two volumes, hopefully in this next year, at a substantial discount to members.

We will need your input on how to improve the Division and welcome your comments.

Inclusion. Last year and this year people approached me with concerns that the Division was still cliquey and exclusionary. As someone who has felt that in the past, I was troubled that this feeling still exists. This feeling of exclusion is of concern for a division that sees itself as a family, and I hope to make the Division feel more inclusive and be more representative of the diversity of the community.

I hope that by becoming more service-oriented, recognizing the contributions of its members, and focusing on expanding the opportunities for meaningful involvement, those issues are reduced. The Division has discussed this before, but we need to revisit these issues, and examine the structure and process of the Division to see if there are inadvertent barriers to inclusion. We need to focus more on creating a

pipeline of a new generation of members and leaders. We have several committees and task forces that can become a pipeline into the organization and these groups can be more involved with Division decision-making and leadership. I am open to hearing your concerns and trying to find concrete remedies.

As we are a part of APA and thus a non-profit organization, we have to be aware of how those organizational obligations affect our processes and can conflict with the sense of a family-run organization. We have some strong traditions as an organization that we wish to keep, but we may need to re-evaluate our policies and bylaws after 20 years. We have many policies and customs that are not written down; inadvertently this presents challenges for individuals entering the organization. Unwritten rules and policies also pose challenges for the transparency needed for non-profit organizations, and can create problems for accountability.

Professionalism and Responsibility. My involvement with other organizations has led me to believe in collective responsibility, which means that the entire leadership is responsible for the success of our various activities. If an activity is unsuccessful, it is up to all of us to step in, which is one definition of a "team." In addition, I hope we all remember that the "family" ties necessitate that we think of the impact on others as we perform Divisional business and remain respectful in all our contacts. I know I will try to improve as well. I also promise other volunteers that though the Division makes demands, I will not ask you to work harder than I do, nor do jobs I would not consider doing myself. I welcome your honest feedback about my performance.

Future Directions. Our Convention in Hawai'i offers us a special opportunity. Native Hawaiian culture consists of a deeply spiritual community manifested by the Aloha

spirit, which is so essential it is codified into civil law, The Aloha Spirit Law (Hawai'i Revised Statutes, section 5-7.5 L 1986, c 202, §1) and is an obligation of government officials, citizens, and even visitors.

The Aloha Spirit is the coordination of mind and heart within each person. It brings each person to the Self. Each person must think and emote good feelings to others. In the contemplation and presence of the life force, **Aloha**, the following **unuhi laulâ loa** (free translation) may be used: **Akahai** (kindness, expressed with tenderness); **Lôkahi** (unity, expressed with harmony); **Olu'olu** (agreeable, expressed with pleasantness); **Ha'aha'a** (humility, expressed with modesty); **Ahonui** (patience, expressed with perseverance). These are traits of character that express the charm, warmth and sincerity of Hawaii's people. It was the working philosophy of native Hawaiians and was presented as a gift to the people of Hawai'i.

Aloha is more than a word of greeting or farewell or a salutation; **Aloha** means mutual regard and affection and extends warmth in caring with no obligation in return; **Aloha** is the essence of relationships in which each person is important to every other person for collective existence; **Aloha** means to hear what is not said, to see what cannot be seen and to know the unknowable.¹

These values clearly have the potential to spearhead positive transformation for us all. I hope that you all consider coming to Hawai'i for the next Convention and that we think about what lessons we can learn from the native Hawaiian culture so that this experience becomes one of growth for us all. Aloha kâkou! (May there be friendship or love between us! Greetings to you and me!)²

¹ <http://www.geocities.com/~olelo/alohaspiritlaw.html>

² <http://www.geocities.com/~olelo/shelties/mahalo-aloha.html>

Getting involved in APA

At APA this summer a very productive meeting was held bringing together those involved in State and Provincial Psychological Associations, Division 44, CLGBC and other LGBT Committees and Task Forces of APA divisions. This was one of the first times these groups had met and begun to discuss ways to work more closely together. There are many ways to advance LGB issues, through state and provincial associations, Division 44, other divisions, and APA committees and boards.

Take the next step:

- If you are already involved in LGB issues at the state or provincial level or are interested in bringing LGB issues to your local association, join CLGBC's state/provincial listserv and stay connected: contact Christopher Martell (c.martell@comcast.net).
- If a division of primary interest to you has a LGB Committee or Task Force, join it. (The list of those Divisions is available at the CLGBC website: www.apa.org/pi/lgbc.) For instance, Divisions 17, 27, 35, and 39 have very active committees or interest groups. If your Division does not have such a group, please consider trying to establish a liaison relationship to Division 44 and get some ideas how to start such a group. Contact Judith Glassgold (drglassgold@yahoo.com).
- Get involved in Division activities. Division 44 has several committees and task forces listed on page 2 of this newsletter. Contact the chairs and see what opportunities exist for involvement.
- Get involved in other divisions. Many Division 44 members are also officers of other divisions. This division is proud of these individuals' accomplishments, and they remind us that our members are active in a variety of fields in psychology.
- Many Division 44 members are serving or have served on APA committees or boards, including: APAGS, Committee on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns, Committee on AIDS, Committee on Women in Psychology, Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology, Committee on Ethnic Minority Issues, Committee on Professional Practice & Standards, Board of Convention Affairs, Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest, Committee on Structure and Function of Council. For a full list of boards and committees go to the last page of our Spring newsletter (<http://www.apa.org/divisions/div44/vol19nu1.htm>). Then go to the committee and board websites to find out more about their activities (available at the APA website). To place your name in a database for potential nominees fill out the form on the following page and send it to CLGBC or contact Judith Glassgold.

Malyon-Smith Scholarship Call for Proposals

A scholarship totaling up to \$1,000 will be awarded to selected graduate students in psychology submitting proposals for research into psychological issues of importance to gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered individuals, groups, or communities. Proposals must be postmarked by February 1, 2004. Application materials are available on the Division 44 website at <http://www.apa.org/divisions/div44> or from:

Dawn M. Szymanski, Ph.D.
Division of Counseling, 469 Marillac
University of Missouri-St. Louis
8001 Natural Bridge Rd
St. Louis, MO 63121-4499
Email: dawnszymanski@msn.com

Please Complete Survey on End-of-Life Issues

Judith Stillion, Ph.D., Chair, APA Ad Hoc Committee on End-of-Life Issues, has asked that the Division ask our members to complete a survey on end-of-life issues. The designated website is (<http://watson.apa.org/eol/divmem/>) and the five-minute, online survey that has been developed specifically for division members.

Results from the survey will be summarized and posted on the APA website at the following location: <http://www.apa.org/pi/eol>. Individual responses to the survey will be confidential and only aggregate data will be made available. This survey is being disseminated through multiple communication channels and thus you or your members might receive it more than once. We ask that the survey be completed only once.

Thank you for your time and effort in helping APA learn more about what our profession is doing in the areas of dying, suicide, bereavement, traumatic loss, and end-of-life issues. If you have any questions, please contact:

John R. Anderson, Ph.D., Staff Liaison for End-of-Life Issues
APA, 750 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002-4242
202-336-6051, janderson@apa.org

**American Psychological Association
COMMITTEE ON LESBIAN, GAY, AND BISEXUAL CONCERNS**

**Nominations to APA Boards and Committees and Awards
Database Entry Form**

The Committee on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns seeks to build a database of APA members who are both expert in some area of lesbian, gay, and bisexual concerns AND interested in serving on APA Boards and Committees. If you meet these two criteria, please complete the form below and return it to the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns Office, American Psychological Association, 750 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002-4242 or Fax it to (202) 336-6040. To obtain additional copies of this form, contact lgbc@apa.org.

Name: _____ Degree(s) _____

APA Member Number _____

Contact Information

Email address: _____

Work Phone: _____

Home Phone: _____

Please list the APA Boards and Committees on which you are interested in serving and describe briefly how your professional background and interests relate to the mission of each Board and Committee you list. To find the mission statements of APA Boards and Committees, you may search the APA website (www.apa.org) for the names or go to www.apa.org/governance to read the Bylaws, which contain the mission statements of Boards or Standing Committees, and the Association Rules, which contain the mission statements of Continuing Committees.

Board or Committee Name	Related Professional Background and Interests
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Boards and Committees on which you have previously served:

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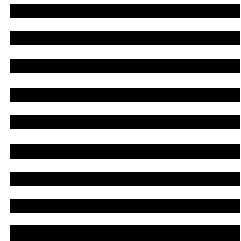
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