

Division 44

NEWSLETTER

Volume 10, Number 1

June, 1994

Happy Father's Day

FOCUS ON LESBIAN AND GAY PARENTS PART I: GAY FATHERS

Published by
The Society for the
Psychological Study
of Lesbian and Gay
Issues

*A division of the
American
Psychological
Association*

IN THIS ISSUE

From the
President... 2

APA
Central Report... 3

Student
Column ... 6

Convention
Preview... 7

OUTlook... 9

Book Reviews... 10

Division 44
Election '94... 12

Feature:
Modern Day
Gay Dads... 22

Papers and
Presentations... 26

Call for
Contributions... 27

Job Listings... 27

From the President

From the Windy City to the Science Leaders' Meeting Division Continues to Increase Profile and Visibility

by *Oliva Espin, Ph.D.*

I write this column from Chicago, where I am looking for an apartment this weekend. As I prepare to move to Chicago for my sabbatical year beginning in June, I prepare for my last months as Division 44 President. At the end of the Summer, Armand Cerbone will be the new Division President. Both of us will be living here next year, so perhaps we should name Chicago capital city for Division 44....

Since the first time I wrote for this column, Division activities have continued at a steady pace. The Executive Committee held its mid-Winter business meeting in San Diego in February. Once again, I was impressed by the dedication and hard work of the EC members. Some representatives of Committees and Task

Forces who are not members of the EC also attended the meeting and informed us of their continued work for the Division. We had long working sessions and some fun, in spite of the fact that San Diego received EC with one of the few rainy weekends of the whole year. Bill Hare and DeeDee Denniston, my students at CSPP, made all the logistics arrangements so that the meeting could run smoothly and efficiently. CSPP-San Diego hosted a cocktail party for us on Friday night before the meeting started.

In the last few months, aside from the usual flow of business such as letters to answer, phone calls to return, and other "maintenance" activities, a few items that have demanded my attention deserve separate mentioning.

We have been invited by the APA to send a representative to the Science Leaders' Meeting sponsored by the Science Directorate. The Science Leaders' Meeting will convene for the first time in Los Angeles on August 11 right before the Convention. The Science Directorate requested that a member of the EC be appointed Cynthia Gomez, the newly elected member-at-large, agreed to serve in this capacity for three years. This is another step toward increasing our profile as a Division concerned with Science issues. The new Science Task Force has also agreed to serve as a resource to Clinton Anderson by providing research data and information to assist him with his work.

I believe that in the near future we will also need to increase our visibility within the Education Directorate. We need to influence new institutional processes of psychological education and certification aimed at certifying Psychologists on specific areas of expertise,

such as the National College of Professional Psychology and other similar efforts. We have already given our input to the process of developing this new entity. It is essential that we seize the opportunity provided by these new bodies to educate our colleagues and to ensure that accurate knowledge about the psychology of lesbians, gays, and bisexuals is incorporated in the training of psychologists at all levels.

Plans for the Second Public Policy Institute ("You Said You Want a Revolution") that will take place before

Stonewall 25th anniversary in New York are underway. This is another way in which the Division helps to educate interested psychologists in ways to effectively influence legislative activity.

"It is essential that we seize the opportunity provided by these new bodies to educate our colleagues."

Regretfully, I just heard that Bill Bailey, who was involved very actively in the Division's Institute that took place before the March on Washington in April 1993, has passed away. From his position as a staff member of the APA, Bill was a friend and supporter of the Division. His presence at the June Institute, APA Convention and other Division activities will be sorely missed.

Finally, I want to remind you that allotting your 10 apportionment votes to Division 44 insures that you will have representation in the APA Council of Representatives in the next year. This apportionment ballot is one of the most effective ways for APA members to exercise their power as "citizens" of the Association. Do not miss this opportunity. And, even better, encourage your friends and colleagues to do the same...and encourage them to become members.

We became a Division of the APA in Toronto and presented as a division for the first time in Los Angeles. This August, let's show our strength, our presence, and our commitment. I look forward to seeing you there.

APA Division 44 Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian and Gay Issues

Executive Committee

President

Oliva Espin, Ph.D.
Department of Women's Studies
San Diego State University
San Diego, CA 92182-0437
(619) 594-3739

President-Elect

Armand Cerbone, Ph.D.
990 W. Fullerton, Suite 490A
Chicago, IL 60614

Past-President

John Gonsiorek, Ph.D.

Secretary/Treasurer

Esther Rothblum, Ph.D.

Members at Large

Robin Buhke, Ph.D.
Alex Carballo-Diequez, Ph.D.
Cynthia Gomez, Ph.D.

Representatives to APA Council

Leah Pygetakis, Ph.D.
Doug Kimmel, Ph.D.



Membership

Steven James, Ph.D.
P.O. Box 900
Lynnfield, MA 01940-9991

Student Affiliates

Karen Jordan
4210 Maryland Place
Baltimore, MD 21229

1994 Convention Program

Terry Gock, Ph.D.
Patricia Rozée, Ph.D.

Standing Task Forces

Accreditation
Families and Youth
Public Policy
Science
Standards of Care



APA Liaison

Clinton Anderson
750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC, 20002
(202) 336-6037



Newsletter Editor

Craig Kain
Antioch University
13274 Fiji Way
Marina Del Rey, CA 90292
(310) 578-1080 x231

APA Central Report

(Income feed)
from 9 (3)

Efforts Shift to Implementation of Military Policy; Resolution on Anti-Gay State Legislation Approved

In the following report, Clinton Anderson, Division 44's APA Liaison, describes Association events of interest to gay, lesbian, and bisexual psychologists.

CLGC Discusses Research with National Institute of Mental Health Officials; Receives Strong Encouragement to Prospective Researchers on Lesbian and Gay Issues

In March, the Committee on Lesbian and Gay Concerns met with four staff persons from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH): Delores L. Parron, Ph.D., Associate Director for Special Populations; Eve K. Moscicki, Sc.D., M.P.H., Chief, Prevention Research Branch; Peter Muehrer, Ph.D., Chief, Youth Mental Health Program in the Prevention Research Branch; and Howard S. Kurtzman, Ph.D., Program Chief, Basic Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences Research Branch. The purpose of this meeting was to obtain more information about the research activities of the NIMH-funded investigators in the area of lesbian and gay youth suicide, about the mission of the Office of Special populations, and how APA and CLGC might work with NIMH to increase investigator-initiated research on lesbian and gay issues.

Dr. Parron indicated that the meeting with CLGC was a first; to her knowledge it was the first time that the NIMH has been approached by a science organization to discuss its research program in the area of lesbian and gay issues. Dr. Parron also indicated that, to her knowledge, the only research agency that currently includes lesbians or gay men as a specified population within its mission is the National Institutes of Health Offices of Research on Women's Health, which does not include lesbians' health.

In response to CLGC's concerns that NIMH and other federal research agencies are perceived as unreceptive to lesbian and gay research, the NIMH staff persons made it clear that they welcome good research proposals in all areas and that pre-application technical assistance is available for prospective investigators. Drs.

Kurtzman and Muehrer both indicated a willingness to receive calls from prospective researchers, in behavioral or neuroscience research and preventive intervention research, respectively. They offered to discuss research ideas and indicated they would be happy to receive calls and refer callers to the appropriate branches within NIMH. To contact Dr. Kurtzman: 310/443-9400; E-Mail: kwk@cu.nih.gov; Room 11C-16, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockford, MD 20857. To contact Dr. Muehrer: 310/433-4140; email: pmuehrer@aomhd.ssw.dhhs.gov; Room 10-85, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

Other sources for assistance to prospective researchers include a convention presentation by Dr. Moscicki on preventive intervention research sponsored by Division 27 during the 1994 APA Convention in Los Angeles. Prospective researchers should look for the listing in the Convention program. Dr. Parron also provided CLGC with a copy of the *NIMH Handbook on Developing a Successful Research Application* which consists of presentations and discussions from a technical workshop for minority investigators sponsored by the NIMH Office on AIDS Programs. The general information about research grant application procedures is relevant for other research topics as well. For copies, prospective researchers may contact Clinton Anderson at APA.

CLGC also presented researchers' concerns that research on lesbian and gay issues is not rewarded by academic institutions; thus, researchers are reluctant to undertake such research. The CLGC encouraged NIMH to help by making its interest in and funding of lesbian and gay issue research more visible, thus signaling to institutions and departments that research on lesbian and gay issues is valuable and deserves academic rewards. One specific way to signal NIMH's interest might be the inclusion of lesbian, gay and bisexual populations in program announcements where special populations are mentioned.

CLGC and APA staff plan to follow up the initial discussions with NIMH to continue to promote research on lesbian and gay issues.

(continued on page 25)

"...it was the first time that the NIMH has been approached by a science organization to discuss its research program in the area of lesbian and gay issues."

From the Editor

Hellos and Good-bye

by Craig Kain, Ph.D.

One of the very difficult parts of the job of being Newsletter Editor is having to inform the Division's membership of the death of those near and dear to us. Many of you may have already heard that Bill Bailey, our voice in the Public Interest Office of APA, passed away at the end of April. Bill's contributions to the Division and to gays and lesbians across the country are great. He won many victories for our movement. Because Bill's death came just before this issue of the Newsletter went to print, there was not enough time to include a column remembering him that would do him and his life's work justice. A column honoring Bill will, however, appear in the next edition of the Newsletter.

Three new names join the masthead of the Newsletter this month. Shoshana Kerewsky graciously volunteered to copy-edit the Newsletter. With her hope, I am certain we can produce many typo-free issues. Julian Jimenez comes aboard as Production Manager. His help in the actual coordination of submissions has already proven invaluable. Circulation responsibilities are being expertly handled by Michael Brubaker. With Ariel Shidlo as Features Editor, the total staff of the Newsletter has grown to five. There is room for yet another person, an Advertising Manager. Anyone interested should contact me.

This increase in staff reflects the increasing interest shown by you, the Newsletter's readers. I appreciate all of your submissions—the book reviews, calls for contributions, calls for research participants, and letters. It is truly your Newsletter. Get involved.

Speaking of involvement, I hope to see many of you in New York for the Stonewall 25 Celebration. If you have not already done so, please consider attending the Division's Public Policy Institute. It should be great! I hope to see you there!



Stonewall 25

Revolution Institute Offered by Division

Going to New York for the Stonewall 25 celebration or the Gay Games? Then include this year's Division 44 Public Policy Institute in your plans. Held on Tuesday June 21 during the National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference, the Institute promises to be exciting and educational. The institute, entitled "You Say You Want a Revolution: Preparing Mental Health Providers and Social Scientists for the Policy Debates of the 90s," will bring together mental health professionals and social scientists concerned about lesbian and gay issues in order to build cross-disciplinary alliances.

The Institute has three major foci:

- Training participants on the ethical and effective use of empirical research results in combating attacks on lesbians and gay men that often use the rhetoric of science while perpetuating misinformation and stereotypes;
- Training in appropriate modes of public policy advocacy for professionals in three specific domains – state initiatives, national health care, and international human rights;
- The development of a research agenda on lesbian and gay concerns targeted at the federal research establishment.

To register, contact the National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference at (202) 797-3708. For additional information contact Division 44's Public Policy Task Force Co-Chairs, Robin Buhke (919) 660-1000 and Craig Kain (310) 578-1080 x 231 or Clinton W. Anderson at APA (202) 336-6037. ▼

The Division 44 Newsletter

is published three times yearly by the Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian and Gay Issues (SPSLGI). The publication of any advertisement in the Newsletter is not an endorsement of the advertiser or of the products or services advertised. Division 44 reserves the right to reject, omit or cancel advertising for any reason.

Submissions to the Division 44 Newsletter are welcome. The deadline for the next newsletter is June 20, 1994.

The Division 44 Newsletter

Editor

Craig D. Kain, Ph.D.

Antioch University

Los Angeles

13274 Fiji Way

Marina Del Rey, CA

90292

(310) 578 - 1080

(310) 822-4824 (fax)

Internet:

ckain@eis.calstate.edu

Features Editor

Ariel Shidlo, Ph.D.

Copy Editor

Shoshana

Kerewsky, M.A.

Production Manager

Julian Jimenez

Circulation Manager

Michael Brubaker

APA Council

(Income: Head)
From a(3)

Resolutions Passed on Youth and State Referendum

by Douglas Kimmel, Ph.D., APA Council Representative

At the February, 1994 meeting of the Council of Representatives, the governing body of APA, a by-law amendment was approved that will change the composition and voting procedures of the Council. If approved by the APA membership, this change will mean that each State and each Division of APA will have at least one voting member on Council. At present, some States and Divisions receive less than 0.5% of the allocated votes and thus have no representative; some form into coalitions and others send non-voting liaisons to Council meetings. Division 44 has 2 representatives because it received over 1.5% of the votes in the latest allocation ballot.

Under the revised system, each state or division will have one or more representatives determined as follows:

- 1 seat — less than 1.5% of the allocation votes
- 2 seats — 1.5% to 2.5% of the allocation votes, etc.

Moreover, each State or Division will have voting power based on their percentage of allocation votes, divided among their representatives, and tallied electronically. Thus, Division 44 would have two representatives under the new system with 1.57% of the total vote divided between them. Details of this complicated system are being worked out by APA governance boards so the by-law ballot will not appear right away. But watch the *APA Monitor* for pro and con statements.

The other major act of the Council was to approve a College of Professional Psychology that will issue certificates of proficiency to health service providers in psychology who are licensed in a state or Canadian province. The intent is to provide appropriate credentials to qualified psychologists so that they can be recognized as providers of specialized services by third-party payers and managed care organizations.

There were two minor items of interest to Division 44. First, the term "household" replaced "spouse" in the credit provided for duplicate subscriptions. Second, the terms "disability" and "sexual orientation" were added to "gender" and "ethnicity" in the rule authorizing the APA Committee on Children, Youth, and Families.

Several other items of general interest were adopted. A continuing committee of APA Graduate Students was established. The importance of teaching-enhancement programs for graduate students was emphasized. APA affirmed a high priority on issues related to education of ethnic minorities. Council also reaffirmed APA's policies that all memberships can be full or half-time and that the latter should be developed in areas where there is a shortage of them. Finally, Council passed a resolution regarding tobacco use and access of youth to tobacco products. ▼

The Malyon-Smith Scholarship Fund Needs You...

to make a donation today. The Malyon-Smith Fund development campaign has reached approximately \$13,000, well on our way to our goal of \$20,000. The Fund was established to provide financial resources and support for graduate students conducting research on lesbian and gay related issues. By contributing to the Fund, you are contributing to the future of lesbian and gay psychology. If each of our members contributes just \$25, we will reach our goal and will have established a Fund which will support lesbian and gay psychology in perpetuity. Please send a check today (donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law) to:

Robin A. Buhrke, Ph.D., Counseling and Psychological Services

· Box 90955, 214 Page

Duke University, Durham, NC 27708-0955

(919) 660-1000 (O) • (919) 660-1024 (Fax) • rbuhrke@acpub.duke.edu

Membership Column

Help Needed In Development of Incentive Programs

by Steven James, Ph.D., Membership Chair

The Membership Committee wants to develop incentive programs to increase our numbers. We would appreciate your ideas. Please call Steve James at (508) 463-9022.

Bill Hare, a Student Member from CSPP in San Diego, has recently joined the Membership Committee. Bill will be working to inform students and others in his area about the Division. If you want to volunteer some time and energy to help him, contact Steve James. We are also looking for other volunteers to begin to coordinate regional efforts across the country and abroad.

Jim Fitzgerald, Assistant Membership Chair, has been actively working with the Committee on Sexual Orientation Concerns of the Georgia Psychological Association to advertise the work of Division 44. Any member of the GPA who needs more information about the Committee can contact Jim.

Thank you to everyone who continues to let others know about the Division. It is because of you that we continue to grow.

Please remember that the strength of the Division's voice in the APA Council of Representatives is dependent on your apportionment votes.

A new brochure will be published for the Convention. If you have any suggestions for improvements in the brochure or membership application, please call Steve James.



Student Column

Suite Available for Students at LA Convention

by Karen Jordan and Ken Swartz, Co-Chairs

Convention time is approaching and once again Division 44 is sponsoring a suite and a block of rooms that will be available for students to stay in at a reduced rate. This was a great success, as well as a lot of fun, last year and we hope to make it an even bigger success this year! Interested students should contact Karen Jordan at (410) 550-9634 or (410) 484-2161 to reserve their spot. Students who wish to stay in adjoining rooms will be asked to work a few hours in the suite in return for their reduced rate. Programming for students is also being planned. Look for further announcements regarding this programming in upcoming editions of the Newsletter.

We are still seeking students who are interested in becoming more involved in the Division by serving on various task forces and committees. The Membership Committee in particular is in need of students from around the country to serve as regional contacts for students and universities. Any student interested in becoming more involved should contact Karen or Ken. We also welcome suggestions from students regarding what you would like to see the Division and the Student Committee do during the year!



APA Convention in Los Angeles

A Sneak Preview of Division 44 Programs

by Terry S. Gock, Ph.D., M.P.A. and Patricia Rozée, Ph.D.

It may be too early to think about packing your suntan lotion for the APA Convention in Los Angeles this August. The Division Convention schedule has, however, been completed and submitted to the APA Convention office. This year's program promises to be an exciting one with the theme of "Diversity Within Unity" reflected in different ways to celebrate the 10th anniversary of formal programming by our Division at the APA Convention. The complete program schedule will appear in the Convention issue of the Newsletter. Here are just a few of the highlights.

This upcoming Convention will feature two invited guest speakers from other academic disciplines to highlight the multidisciplinary approach to lesbian and gay issues. Dr. Walter L. Williams, a noted anthropologist (and Pulitzer Prize nominee for his well-known book, *The Spirit and the Flesh: Sexual Diversity in American Indian Culture*) will speak on "Cross Cultural Understanding of Male Homosexuality: Implications for American Psychology." Dr. Lillian Faderman, a renowned historian who

has written extensively on lesbian history, will speak on "The Social Construction of Lesbianism."

In addition to these invited addresses, a diversity of other topics will be discussed in this year's Convention presentations. They will range from a workshop on integrating lesbian issues into the curriculum to papers and symposia on such varied topics as lesbian and gay concerns in law enforcement, gay and lesbian health issues, military discrimination, anti-gay and anti-lesbian violence, gay and lesbian families, and developing a gay and lesbian research agenda.

This year will be the second year in which the Division will host the hospitality suite. At this time, the Program Committee is seeking both suggestions for suite programming and volunteers to work on social events to make the upcoming Convention in Los Angeles a truly hospitable and memorable one. Those who have suite programming suggestions and/or are interested in volunteering can contact Dr. Gock at (213) 221-6411 or Dr. Rozée at (310) 985-5022.

Disability Assistance Offered at Convention

The board of Convention Affairs would like each person with a disability who is planning to attend the Convention in Los Angeles, California, August 12-16, 1994, to identify himself or herself and to provide information on how we can make the convention more readily accessible for his or her attendance. APA will provide a van with a lift as transportation for persons in wheelchairs, interpreters for hearing impaired individuals, and escorts/readers for persons with visual impairments. We strongly urge individuals who would like assistance in facilitating their attendance at the Convention to register in advance on the APA Advance Registration and Housing Form which appeared in the March through May issues of *American Psychologist*. A note which outlines a person's specific needs should accompany the Advance Registration and Housing Form. This is especially important for persons who require interpreting services. The deadline for registering in advance for the Convention is June 24, 1994.



APA Convention in Los Angeles
Workshop on Contemporary Issues

**Gays and Lesbians in the Military:
Psychological Perspectives
On Implementing the New Policy**

As part of the pre-convention activities at this summer's American Psychological Association (APA) convention in Los Angeles, APA's Division 19 (Military Psychology), Division 44 (Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian & Gay Issues), and Public Interest Directorate are co-sponsoring a pre-convention workshop. The topic of the workshop is "Gays and lesbians in the military: Psychological perspectives on implementing the new policy." The workshop committee, Jared Jobe (Div. 19), Greg Herek (Div. 44), and Ralph Carney (Div. 19), has assembled a panel of nationally-recognized experts from the Department of Defense and academia.

Presenters and topics include: Greg Herek: "An overview of the up-to-date policy"; Lawrence Korb: "Obstacles for implementing the new policy"; Dan Landis and Michael Kauth: "Lessons learned from integrating women and ethnic minorities"; Rob MacCoun: "Privacy Issues"; and Greg Laskow: "Clinical perspectives on client confidentiality." A roundtable discussion with audience participation will follow the presentations. All workshop activities will focus on the theme of how psychology can help to implement new policy.

Continuing education credits will be given for psychologists who attend this workshop. Division 44 is approved by the American Psychological Association to offer continuing education for psychologists, and maintains responsibility for the program.

Mark your calendars! The workshop will be held from 8:30 - 5:00, Thursday, August 11, the day prior to the beginning of the convention, at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles. To assure your space, pre-register now. Please make your check for \$50.00 payable to APA Division 19. For further information or to pre-register contact:

Jared Jobe
Post Office Box 1884
Hyattsville,
MD, 20788
(301) 436-7111

Greg Herek
Department of Psychology
University of California
Davis, CA 95616
(916) 757-3240

Ralph Carney
PERSEREC
99 Pacific Street
Monterey, CA 93940
(408) 656-2448



OUTlook

News & Notices

By & for Division 44 Members

First Issue Of Annual Receives Special Note

EVELYN HOOKER, Ph.D.

March 15, 1994

Dear Esther Rothblum,

I was enormously pleased to receive the splendid first volume of Sobian and Gay Psychology. My congratulations on a really fine publication and the promises of continuing volumes.

My impulse is to show it to all those skeptics in 1957 who thought I was wrong. I want to hold it up and say, "didn't I tell you!"

It is a dream come true?
Empirically & scientifically solid.
Now, at last research is being conducted by gay & lesbian scholars as is really appropriate.

Sincerely and cordially,

Evelyn Hooker

The first issue of the Division 44 Annual was mailed to members' homes in early February. The annual, edited by Greg Herek and Beverly Greene, is entitled *Lesbian and Gay Psychology*. It includes chapters by many of the Division's members.

The letter on this page was originally sent to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Division. It is reprinted here with the permission of Dr. Evelyn Hooker, Ph.D.



Book Review

Sex, Sex, Sex:

Is That All That You Have on Your Mind?

The Sexual Brain

by Simon LeVay

Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press

Reviewed by Gary Hollander, Ph.D.

Simon LeVay, a neurobiologist whose controversial hypothalamus studies that led to hypotheses about the origins of sexual orientation that have prompted reactions from activists and scientists alike, has written *The Sexual Brain* "to focus more precisely on the brain mechanisms that are responsible for sexual behaviors and feelings" (p. xi). During a presentation he made at the National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference in Los Angeles 1992, the audience's responses made it clear that his scientific work is challenging and complicated by the politics of sex and gender. From the onset of his current work, LeVay argues that nature far outweighs nurture in its influence over sexuality; and to critics who state that this assessment is unfair, he replies "life is unfair, from the moment that chance deals you your genes..." (p. 2).

The study of the origins of sexual orientation (the direction of sexual feelings or behaviors toward the other sex, the same sex, or some combination of the two) is complicated by numerous factors. The terms used to denote orientation provide incomplete descriptions of an individual's sexuality, sexual activities, and roles she or he may play. The distribution of sexual orientations within the population is not reliably determined due to problems in obtaining representative samples, assuring the truth in responses, and integrating answers. Further, public morality, religion, and law do not prescribe people's actual sexual behavior. Neuroscience may, however, provide a way through the thorny labyrinth of some of these factors which complicate scientific investigation.

LeVay argues that anatomical structures or chemical differences of the brain are different for heterosexual and homosexual individuals and may determine sexual orientation itself. He clarifies that he has not proved that homosexuality is genetic because his observations do not indicate whether structural differences in the brains of gay men were present at birth or arose in adulthood, possibly as a result of sexual behavior. His argument emphasizes behavioral aspects and neurobiological structures associated with sexuality, both in humans and laboratory animals, because they can be observed and are less subject to dispute than affective aspects of human sexuality. The primary contribution here is his research involving the medical preoptic region of the hypothalamus, more specifically a small grouping of neurons called the interstitial nuclei of the anterior

hypothalamus (INAH 3) which is two- to threefold larger on average in heterosexual men than in women or gay men. Research on rats suggests that this difference results from a critical period of a few days before and after birth when nuclei are highly susceptible to modification by androgen levels, but this may or may not be analogous to humans, who have longer lifespans and more developed cortexes than rats.

Although LeVay asserts that nongenetic causative factors for sexual orientation are not yet well supported by scientific evidence and that hormonally-influenced events occurring during early brain development are indicated, he admits that he "may be biased away from believing that something as cool as homosexuality could be caused by stress" (p. 126) or other such environmental factors.

LeVay's core argument is made after an extensive review of sexual orientation research in the last quarter of the book. Prior to that, evolution, biological development, brain organization, and various sexual behaviors are discussed with a high degree of specificity and logical organization. The discussion of sexual orientation does not occur in a scientific vacuum, nor does it suggest critical "errors" occur in the development of homosexuality.

The Sexual Brain is a fascinating book that is at once engaging and challenging. The readers' neuro-development coursework may flash uncomfortably before their eyes, but LeVay has embedded enough of himself and his humor in the text to make even distressed readers continue. For example, during a discussion of analogous superior spatial performances of rats and women exposed to androgenizing hormones, he comments that verbal skills of rats "are already so poor that no amount of hormone treatment could impair them further" (p.100).

However, despite the strength of the content of *The Sexual Brain* and the use of wry humor, inclusion of a glossary of terms, an index of topics, and chapter bibliographies, the work is not without flaws. Most chapters would benefit greatly from the use of tables or figures to clarify data and illustrations to elucidate discussions of neuroanatomical structures and their development. More importantly, while LeVay seems to have heard many of the concerns of his critics at his Los Angeles speech in 1992, I suspect that his research and its reception would benefit from including more women subjects and investigators, particularly more lesbians, and from discussing more of the political, social, and scientific implications of this growing body of information.

"The readers' neuro-development coursework may flash uncomfortably before their eyes, but LeVay has embedded enough of himself and his humor in the text to make even distressed readers continue."

Upcoming Reviews:

**Boston Marriages:
Romantic But Asexual
Relationships Among
Contemporary Lesbians**
Edited by Esther D. Rothblum
and Kathleen A. Brehomy
Reviewed by Connie S. Chan

Book Review

Comprehensive Work Destined to Become Classic

Psychological Perspectives on Lesbian and Gay Male Experiences

*Edited by Linda D. Garnets
and Douglas C. Kimmel*

NY: Columbia University Press, 1993.

Reviewed by Esther D. Rothblum, Ph.D.

"We learnt much —
things we hadn't
known but wanted to
learn, and things we
hadn't even known
we hadn't known"
—Robin Morgan, 1984

Before the 1973 decision to remove "homosexuality" as a mental disorder in the DSM-II, the psychological literature focused on lesbians and gay men as pathological and in need of treatment to become heterosexual. After 1973, the pathology-based focus decreased markedly, but nothing much took its place. Even today, there are many areas of the lesbian and gay experience that have never been discussed in writing. This book reverses that trend.

The idea for the book originated when co-editors Linda Garnets and Douglas Kimmel gave a master lecture at APA to a packed audience in 1990. Both that address, and this book, highlight the importance of sexual orientation as an important psychological variable. The process of self-identifying as lesbian or gay and the process of coming out have not been extensively researched. We know little about lesbian and gay relationships, friendships, and the increasing complexities of the lesbian and gay male communities. There has been very little written about many mental health issues that affect lesbians and gay men.

This book is divided into eight major sections. It begins with a discussion of the meaning of sexual orientation, including sexual

identity, anti-gay violence, and "outing." There is a focus on the origins of sexual orientation, including bisexuality. The section on identity development and "stigma management" includes articles on the management of difference, and family members' reactions to the disclosure of sexual orientation. There is a section on gender differences in roles and behavior. The section on cultural diversity includes articles on the Berdache Tradition among contemporary Lakota Indians, identity issues among Latina lesbians, racism and homophobia issues affecting Black Americans, and identity development among Asian-American lesbian and gay men. There are sections on relationships and parenthood; adolescence, mid-life, and aging; and health and mental health.

The editors have brought together a collection of articles that review existing information as well as some that present information never before published. There are theoretical articles as well as those reporting the results of surveys. The quality of the articles is excellent, and the editors have summarized major issues in their introductory and concluding paragraphs. This book is the most comprehensive work on lesbian and gay issues to date, and will be a classic in the field.



*Interested in reviewing a
book for the Division 44
Newsletter or in having
your book reviewed?
Contact Craig D. Kain,
Newsletter Editor.*

Book Review

While Not Exhaustive, Guide Fills Large Void for Students

The Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Students' Guide

By Jan-Mitchell Sherrill and Craig A. Hardesty
New York: New York University Press, 1994.

Reviewed by Karen Jordan

According to several studies, one in six college students is gay, lesbian or bisexual. Although many students knew of their sexual orientation before college, the college years remain a time of increased self-disclosure about one's sexual orientation. Thus, these years are a critical time in a young gay, lesbian or bisexual person's life and the choice of a college or university can impact on the coming out process. Sherrill and Hardesty reported that a significant number of their respondents dropped out of college or transferred schools due to issues around coming out and victimization and harassment. They also reported that students tend to derive any support they receive from each other, as help from faculty and staff is often lacking.

In order to provide information regarding the atmosphere on college campuses, Sherrill and Hardesty have compiled evaluations of 189 colleges and universities made by gay, lesbian, and bisexual students at these schools. The students rated their schools' level of homophobia, the tolerance of the campus security, and the level of gay/lesbian content provided in courses, as well as many other aspects of campus life. The

authors provide evaluations of the individual schools taken directly from the responses of the students at the school. Each description provides useful information on the availability of counseling services, the status of the school's affirmative action statement, and the availability of housing for same-sex couples. The main criticism that could be made about the book is that it is not an exhaustive listing of all schools across the country, although the authors state in the Preface that they are attempting to reach "more students at more schools" in order to expand the *Guide*. Unfortunately, the schools I attended were not listed in the book, so I am unable to judge the accuracy of their evaluations. The authors do provide their questionnaire in its entirety in an appendix and offer suggestions for students as to how to utilize it to determine the atmosphere for lesbian, gay, and bisexual students at the schools not listed in the book. The *Guide* is filling a large void and will be very useful to high school seniors and transfer students, as well as graduate school applicants considering where to continue their education.

Sherrill and Hardesty have called attention to a group of students that tends to be overlooked by school staff, and have provided these students with a tool, in an accessible format, that will assist them in making an informed choice about their education.

ELECTION '94

IT'S ELECTION TIME AGAIN. IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF APA YOU SHOULD BE RECEIVING A BALLOT IN THE MAIL AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME AS THIS NEWSLETTER. EVERY YEAR VARIOUS LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN THE DIVISION ARE UP FOR ELECTION. MOST OFFICES ARE BALANCED BY GENDER WITH EITHER A MALE OR FEMALE CANDIDATE RUNNING IN ALTERNATE YEARS. THIS YEAR THE DIVISION WILL BE ELECTING A PRESIDENT-ELECT, SECRETARY-TREASURER, MEMBER-AT-LARGE, AND TWO REPRESENTATIVES TO APA COUNCIL. EACH CANDIDATE WAS INVITED TO SUBMIT A SHORT STATEMENT TO BE PUBLISHED IN THIS EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER. THEIR RESPONSES FOLLOW ON THE NEXT NINE PAGES. RESULTS OF THE ELECTION WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE APA CONVENTION IN LOS ANGELES THIS AUGUST.

Secretary-Treasurer

Steven E. James, Ph.D.

I am pursuing the position of Secretary-Treasurer because I have the interest, energy, and experience necessary to help lead the Executive Committee to develop a strategic plan to secure the financial future of Division 44.

For the past three years, I have enjoyed serving as the Division's Membership Chair. My accomplishments include: Instituting membership surveys which have supported new directions for the Division, conducting competitive search resulting in the hiring of a new database

management company that maintains the Division's membership records at a significant savings, serving on the Financial Committee, and completing a financial analysis for the Division which I presented at this year's Executive Committee Meeting in San Diego. Membership has grown by 40% during my time as Membership Chair.

I am an Associate Professor of Psychology at Goddard College. My professional focus includes: human sexuality, AIDS counseling, family therapy, and ethics. I also serve as Clinical

Director of the Boston Gay and Lesbian Adolescent Social Services (GLASS) program. Boston GLASS serves the mental health needs of teens, young adults, and their families learning to cope with issues of sexual orientation.

Other relevant business experiences include managing an eight-therapist private group practice in Tampa, Florida. My responsibilities encompassed budgeting, accounts management, and strategic financial planning. I served on the Board of the Tampa

Bay Business Guild, a Lesbian and Gay Chamber of Commerce, and was elected its President in 1989. As President, I oversaw an annual budget approximately twice the size of the current Division 44 Budget.

My goals as Secretary-Treasurer will include: Increasing Awareness to Members of our financial position and operation, applying concepts of Managed Growth to future planning, and working with the Executive Committee to develop appropriate Strategic Plans for a secure monetary future.

*Editor's Note:
The other candidate,
for the position of
Secretary-Treasurer,
Michael Anthony
Brown Cheetham,
did not submit a
statement.*

Division President

Judith M. Glassgold, Psy.D.

Division 44 has had an important impact on my own professional development. It provides a professional home, a way to network and find colleagues and female and male role models. Without this Division, my own professional growth as a lesbian professional would have been much more difficult. Over the last few years, I have seen the Division become more inclusive and take on new challenges, such as publishing the Annual and lobbying against the military ban. New opportunities for funding research and graduate students are now possible. Maintaining and developing these existing resources is important in itself.

Yet recent political developments, locally and nationally, necessitate new tasks for the Division. Having been involved in local and state organizations for the past decade, I am convinced that many of the important changes occur on the local level. I would work to increase gay and lesbian presence in local state organizations that would provide a base for consistent response to backlash politics, and

develop long term strategies on the local level. Most states do not have task forces, and when they do, most function in isolation from others. Developing information for APA's state leadership conference could aid this process.

National Health Care reform offers challenges that will affect all psychologists, even those who are not involved with mental health care delivery. The President's current bill offers an increase in training for psychologists, which has been absent for many years. Why train people who cannot apply what research has determined as appropriate treatment? The lack of universal coverage limits existing health care: for instance, I received a referral for a woman with HIV who lost her job and benefits; or a client whose HMO will provide an HIV-infected man with medical care, though his lover is dying from AIDS. A lack of real change, or limited changes that ignore the concerns of stigmatized groups, will certainly be detrimental.

Finally, in recent years there has been a

growing debate among parts of the Division about diversity in sexual orientation and the role of bisexuals within the division. This stirred deep feelings among members. The complicated response to this issue reflects so clearly the long-standing impact of oppression and exclusion, and that beyond its professional role, the Division's existence is a statement against long-standing stigma and prejudice in psychology, and provides a much-needed haven for many of us. However, we must acknowledge that socially constructed concepts that attempt to reinforce that heterosexuality is the majority orientation and obscure other forms of imagining sexuality, eroticism, identity and human relations. Research on gender, cultural and temporal variation illustrate that many of our paradigms are limited. As the Division moves into future directions for research and envisioning itself, it cannot limit its own development by relying on restrictive categories.

My background has reinforced my interest and ideas in these areas.

My education was at Rutgers University where I received a Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology, and at Harvard University, BA in Government, where I studied national and international political change. I am a Member-At-Large of the Executive Board of the New Jersey Psychological Association, and the first board member who ran as an open Lesbian. I am currently a contributing faculty member at Rutgers University, where I teach a course on psychotherapy with lesbian, gay men and bisexuals, and a course on psychotherapy with women. At Rutgers, I was the first "out" student, alumna and now faculty. Previously I served on the Board, and as Co-Chair of the New York Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychologists, and have been active in New Jersey grass-roots organizations and AWP. I am currently Division 44's Liaison to NJPA and Div. 39, and Chair of Division 35's Committee on Lesbian Concerns.

Division President

ELECTION '94

Robin A. Buhrke, Ph.D.

These are critical times for lesbian and gay psychologists. Never before have lesbian and gay concerns been so open and visible to the American public. At the same time, this year we have seen the ban on military service codified into federal law, we are facing anti-gay and lesbian initiatives in many jurisdictions, and we have seen a lesbian mother lose custody of her child on the basis of her sexual orientation. Within APA, maintaining lesbian and gay visibility and representation is a

constant concern. And within the Division, we face both substantive issues such as standards of care in psychotherapy, state initiatives and public policy concerns, establishing a research agenda for lesbian and gay psychology, AIDS, and the emerging needs of bisexuals; and organizational issues such as increasing membership participation in the Division, consolidating and increasing Division representation on APA's Council of Representatives, and long-range organiza-

tional and financial planning.

As Division 44 Executive Committee Member-At-Large (third and final year), Co-Chair of the Public Policy Task Force, and member of the Committee on Lesbian and Gay Concerns, I am involved in monitoring and strategizing regarding many of these issues. As a former academic, a practitioner, and an advocate, I understand the diversity of our community and the interplay among research, practice, and advocacy. As former

chair of a political action committee, I recognize and value the vital importance of teamwork, passion, perseverance, balance, and patience in furthering our agenda.

I want to continue to serve lesbian and gay psychology as President of Division 44. With my background, experiences, and commitment and with your support, I believe that I would ably serve and represent the Division and our interests.

Member-At-Large

Ariel Shidlo, Ph.D.

One of the exciting directions that lesbian and gay psychology is taking is applying its scientific and clinical knowledge to create system-wide impact on training and treatment. Using our collective influence as lesbian and gay psychologists, Division 44 is spearheading the process toward a broad adoption of non-biased, non-heterosexist, and non-homophobic principles in the training of lesbian and gay psychologists and in psychotherapy with gay persons. Two powerful tools are to get APA to include

gay-specific language in its promise of non-bias in the training of psychologists in accredited programs, and to adopt a gay-affirmative professional standards of care document. The movement within psychology toward multi-cultural inclusiveness should include lesbian and gay concerns. I am taking part in this work by serving as Co-Chair of the Task Force on Accreditation and as a Member of the Task Force on Professional Standards.

Another area of great importance to

me is international human rights for lesbians and gay men. As close to us as Mexico, police kill gay men and spread terror in the gay community. Mental health starts with human rights. I am working with Amnesty International to organize a panel of representatives from countries where lesbians and gay men have few human rights for the Division's 1994 Public Policy Institute.

My clinical work is focused on AIDS. I am Coordinator of the HIV Psychology Service at Lutheran Medical Center, NYC,

and am Chair of the Task Force on AIDS, NYS Psychological Association (NYSPA). As a Founding Member of the Task Force on Lesbian and Gay Psychology at NYSPA, I'm involved in setting up on-site training in gay psychology in our state's internships.

I would be honored to join the Executive Committee and be part of our continuing work for lesbian- and gay-affirmative psychology and full human rights for our communities.

Member-At-Large

ELECTION '94

Gil Tunnell, Ph.D.

My primary goal in becoming a Division 44 officer is to increase the visibility of lesbian and gay psychology within the profession. I believe I have been actively doing that at local and state levels. As director of the Family Studies Program at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York, I train psychiatric residents and psychology interns in family therapy. To the training in ethnic, racial, and class diversity, I have added sexual orientation by presenting same-sex couples and families. At NYU Medical Center/Bellevue

Hospital where I directed the Family Psycho-education Project for seven years, I supervised the hospital's first psychotherapy group for AIDS patients and facilitated a gay and lesbian interns support group.

I am founding member of the Task Force on AIDS of the New York State Psychological Association. As its chair in 1989-90, I helped develop an HIV/AIDS training series for psychology interns and graduate students. I am a former volunteer group therapist at Gay

Men's Health Crisis and served as a trainer in its Professional Education Program.

Having presented numerous papers on gay-related topics at local, state and national meetings, my current focus is same-sex couples. In 1988, I helped organize one of APA's first symposia on psychology's roles in the AIDS epidemic and, in 1990, co-led a Division 44 Continuing Education Workshop on psychotherapy with HIV patients. I have also published two papers on group psychotherapy with

HIV/AIDS patients.

Since APA's formal recognition of Division 44, I have watched with pride as lesbian and gay psychologists have created our own family within APA. Not only has Division 44 been a home for us, Division 44 has lead the way toward changing attitudes about homosexuality among psychologists and the general public. The Division has been very important in my own development, and I want now to contribute to its work.

APA Council Representative

Leah Fygetakis, Ph.D.

I am pleased to seek re-election as Division 44 Representative to APA's Council, and Council rules allow representatives to serve for six consecutive years (two terms). During my current tenure, I have learned a great deal about the politics and process involved in APA governance. I have come to appreciate the time it takes for a Council Representative to become established within the Council, to both identify and cultivate allies, to understand the process of moving a concern from inception to vote and passage; in essence, to learn the ropes. In the simplest of terms, I would like three more years to serve the Division by "cashing in my chips," that is,

to make full use of my connections, contacts, and knowledge developed over the past three years. In so doing, I believe my experience as Council Representative will enhance the Division's ability to advance lesbian, gay and bisexual issues in psychology.

My commitment and work on les/bi/gay issues in psychology has been longstanding, both within and outside of Division 44. Within the Division, I served on three committees: Ethnic Minority Concerns, Education and Training (Chair), and Convention Program (Co-chair). In 1991, I was honored to receive the Division's "Distinguished Educational Contribution Award"

which recognized my work on APA accreditation issues as they are relevant to gay and lesbian concerns, and my public speaking and training on issues of homophobia.

I am currently employed as Director of Boston University's Martin Luther King, Jr. Counseling Center. I have also worked as Director of Internship Training and as a part-time faculty member (clinical and counseling psychology programs, and women's studies). I have maintained a private practice for several years. I devote a lot of my time to public education, including hosting a spot entitled "Community Health" for the Boston cable TV show,

"PRIDETIME." The focus is on psychological health topics for Boston's gay, lesbian and bisexual community. I believe that my multiple perspectives in working as an administrator, faculty member, private practitioner, and public educator, along with my experience in promoting Division 44 interests, allow me to effectively represent the wide diversity of members that the Division includes. It has been a privilege to serve as your Council Representative these last three years, and I hope that you will support me again for one more term. Thank you.

APA Council Representative

Connie Chan, Ph.D.

OK, I confess, I've become an APA junkie. No, I didn't start this way, but over the last few years, I've grown to like — even feel passionate — about Division 44 and our involvement in APA. To my surprise, I really like this stuff and think it is important. That's why I'm running for the position of Division 44 Council Representative.

What's in it for you? To many of our members, the entire APA governance structure seems unwieldy; APA Council an abstract entity of questionable importance. What do Council Reps do, anyway?

What's in it for you, and for Division 44, is to have a voice — a strong and loud voice — in the direction and in the priority-setting of APA. Council is the APA's Congress where representatives from many divisions and state associations meet twice a year to pass "legislation" made up of resolutions and budget recommendations

that defines APA policy. Like the U.S. Congress, there is a lot of horse-trading, arm-twisting, caucusing, and negotiation to push an issue, a resolution, or an agenda through the APA governance structure.

In Division 44, we are fortunate to have two representatives in Council so that we can have an impact. We need to keep lesbian and gay issue in the forefront, so they won't be overlooked or taken for granted. But we can't do it alone, nor can we be single-minded. We need to be effective by building coalitions with our allies — to be a part of the Public Interest agenda in APA — to support women's issues, ethnic minority concerns, and initiatives focusing upon the social justice agenda that APA should be using its scientific knowledge to advance. The importance of APA Council is having strong lesbian and gay representation working to move APA influence to our

issues, and the issues of social justice.

I've been active in APA for ten years, serving first as member and chair of the committee on Lesbian and Gay Concerns, then as executive committee member and President of Division 44, and I am currently Chair of BAPPI, the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest. Being BAPPI Chair has given me a broader perspective of how lesbian and gay issues fit into the overall APA agenda. I am now convinced that we must be part of a coalition of groups that shapes APA policy to ensure that APA focuses on socially responsible and responsive issues. As an experienced APA governance member, I've established the ground work for effective representation in Council: I have good relationships with a lot of APA folks (and I have become genuinely fond of many colleagues), have learned how the system works, and

have been part of coalitions to forward common goals. If I'm elected Division 44's Council Rep (I'll be done with BAPPI by then), I'll work hard to be a loud and strong voice for lesbian and gay issues in Psychology, join with other reps to shape public interest issues in the forefront for APA, and keep you, the member, always informed as to what is going on in APA and the Division.

What's in it for me? I hope to have fun, to develop some friendships further, and see results in advancing lesbian/gay interests in Psychology.

ELECTION '94

APA Council Representative

Craig D. Kain, Ph.D.

I am honored and excited to be running for the Division's Representative to APA Council. I find writing this statement quite paradoxical: As editor of this Newsletter I am to uphold objectivity (whatever that is). And yet, as a candidate, I am to convince you to vote for me. So much for editorial integrity; I'll try to be as convincing as possible.

Ironically, one of the reasons I am running for Council Rep is because of my experiences as Newsletter editor. As editor, I have become an encyclopedia of

information about the needs and desires of the division (I attend all the executive council meetings) and about those of APA (you would be amazed at the sheer amount of material that gets mailed to me). While sharing this information with you has been extremely worthwhile, at this point, I believe the information would be better used by being put to work at Council meetings. I believe each issue of the newsletter speaks to my hard work, my dedication to the Division, and my

ability to be responsive to the needs of its members — all important qualities for Council Rep.

But, you may be thinking, Council Rep is not just about information, it's also about politics. What does this guy know about politics?

Besides editing the newsletter, I have also been one of the chairs of the Division's Public Policy Task Force since its inception. Talk about politics! I have helped organize last year's Public Policy Institute in Washington D.C. and the upcoming one in New York.

I've worked on the military issue, lesbian and gay health care issues, and combating anti-gay and lesbian state initiatives. I am committed to speaking out for lesbian and gay rights both inside APA and outside.

In his presidential address at last year's Convention, John Gonsiorek urged "the next generation" to follow in the footsteps of those who made the Division possible. With your help, I will do just that.

APA Council Representative

Terry Gock, Ph.D., M.P.A.

If elected, it will be an honor to serve as Division 44's Representative to APA Council. I pledge to ensure that the Division's interests and concerns are well-represented in the Council's deliberations.

The next few years will be pivotal ones for the future of psychology. In the area of clinical practice, health care reform and women's health concerns will continue to take center stage. The particular issues of lesbians and gay men, including appropriate research agenda and clinical practices, must be included in these debates. In the area of

education, the revised accreditation guidelines will strongly influence how our next generations of psychologists will be trained in both practice and research. These new guidelines must require, with no exception, that all psychologists be prepared not only to be sensitive to, but competent in, and working with or studying diverse populations, including lesbians and gay men. In the area of public policy, Division 44 must continue to take a leadership role in developing APA's positions on a variety of public interest issues. Much work lies ahead

beyond simply passing Council resolutions to promote civil rights for lesbian and gay men, eliminate military discrimination and violence against gay and lesbian people, counteract homophobic state and local initiatives, and challenge HIV/AIDS-related bigotry. Active education of policymakers must be provided by APA. Our internal administrative policies must also be examined to ensure that our own house is in order.

I will bring my background experience with both Division 44 and APA governance to the

Council Representative position. These experiences include chairing the "Future Directions Task Force" of Division 44 and being the Secretary/Treasurer of its Executive Committee in the past. Presently, I am serving as this year's Convention Program Co-Chair. In addition, I was a member of APA's Committee on Lesbian and Gay Concerns (CLGC) (including being its Chair for one year), and am presently serving on APA's Committee on Psychology and AIDS (COPA).

ELECTION '94

LESBIAN AND GAY PARENTS: PART ONE

EACH ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER EXAMINES A TOPIC OF INTEREST TO DIVISION MEMBERS. THIS FEATURE INCLUDES ARTICLES, PAPERS, BIBLIOGRAPHIES, AND OTHER ECLECTIC MATERIALS ALL ORGANIZED AROUND A CENTRAL THEME. THIS IS THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF TWO FEATURES ABOUT LESBIAN AND GAY PARENTS.

IN THIS ISSUE, AL SBORDONE EXAMINES ISSUES ON GAY FATHERS AND REPORTS ON A RECENT STUDY HE CONDUCTED. IN THE NEXT ISSUE, CHARLOTTE J. PATTERSON WILL PRESENT A SURVEY OF THE LITERATURE AND REPORT ON HER RESEARCH ON LESBIAN AND GAY FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN.

FEATURE EDITOR: ARIEL SHIDLO, PH.D.
109 E. 19TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10003

Modern Day Gay Dads

Although gay men and lesbians have been parents throughout history, until recently they most commonly became parents within the context of heterosexual marriages. A significant change has occurred whereby lesbians and gay men are increasingly establishing families and raising children as self-identified same-sex couples or as single parents. In the US this phenomenon originated in the 1970s in the lesbian community and is so visible that it has become known as the lesbian baby boom (Martin, 1993; Patterson, 1994). Openly gay fathers have grown markedly in numbers since the late-1980s, and many young gay men today increasingly express an interest in fatherhood. Most gay men who wish to become parents usually adopt. Less frequently they enter into a formal or informal contract with a surrogate mother. Other gay men establish co-parenting arrangements with lesbians for whom they may have been the sperm donors.

There has been very little research devoted to the study of gay fathers. The studies that have been done have been restricted to those gay men who become fathers in the context of a heterosexual relationship. This research has dealt primarily with heterosexist fears and stereotypes concerning the effects of the parents' homosexuality on their children. Miller (1979) has shown that gay fathers do not sexually abuse their children, nor have an unusually high number of homosexual offspring compared to the rest of the population. Not surprisingly, there do not appear to be significant differences in the child-rearing practices of gay and heterosexual fathers. They are similar in the areas of encouraging autonomy, providing recreation, and problem-solving with their children. However, compared with their heterosexual counterparts, gay fathers assess themselves more positively in their paternal role, and demonstrate greater nurturing toward their children (Scallen, 1982). An important finding has been that of Miller (1981) whereby, compared with closeted gay fathers, those fathers who are openly gay are less authoritarian, use less corporal punishment, and parent with more egalitarian and less sexist values. I found worthy of study the possibility that there may be an association between comfort and outness with one's gay identity and comfort with the role of gay father.

My interest was to investigate self-identified and openly gay men who choose to become fathers. I collected data on a convenience sample of 78 such gay men, who were either single or part of a gay couple. Subjects were recruited from the NYC gay parents group Center Kids, U.S. members of the Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International, and through snowballing. The gay fathers surveyed became parents through adoption or less frequently through arrangements with surrogate mothers. They were compared with 83 self-identified gay non-fathers on measures of internalized homophobia, self-esteem, and levels of intimacy and autonomy in their families of origin. The non-fathers were recruited from a NYC gay athletic group and neighborhood bar.

The following are brief descriptive data of the group of gay fathers

by Al Sbordone, C.S.W., Ph.D.

sampled. The 78 fathers surveyed represented 49 families with 67 children. Seventy-eight percent of the families were two-parent households, and 22% were headed by single men. Eighty-eight percent of the children were adopted; 12% were born to surrogates. Seventy-five percent of the children were male, while 25% were female. Whereas 94% of the fathers were White, only 46% of children were White, with 54% being ethnic minorities of African-American and Hispanic/Latino origin. Sixty-five percent of the families had one child, 33% had two children, and 2% had three children. The children ranged in age from birth to 14 years old when they arrived into their families, with 63% under one year of age. Sixty-three percent lived in major cities, while 37% lived in smaller cities, suburbs, or rural areas.

The following were my hypotheses. Gay fathers were predicted to have lower internalized homophobia than gay non-fathers. I expected that as a condition for claiming their right to be openly gay male parents these men would have to be very comfortable with their sexual orientation. Similarly, I expected that gay men who chose fatherhood would feel better about themselves on the whole and therefore display higher self-esteem. Shifting to examining the impact of family of origin on the desire to become a gay parent, I predicted that fathers (compared to non-fathers) would recall more intimacy in their families of origin and would display a stronger identification with the concept of family and the role of parent. Finally, I also expected that those gay men who chose to become fathers would recall having been instilled with a greater sense of autonomy as they were growing up, thereby facilitating their creation of their own families in a non-traditional way.

No differences were found between gay fathers and non-fathers on creation of their own families in a non-traditional way. No differences were found between gay fathers and non-fathers on measures of intimacy and autonomy in family of origin. However, the results suggest that gay fathers are characterized by higher levels of self-esteem and lower levels of internalized homophobia when compared to the gay non-fathers sampled. The generalizability of this finding is unknown, and the stability of this relationship needs to be assessed through replication with other samples. Nonetheless, I became interested in the question of trying to tease out whether lower level of internalized homophobia and higher level of self-esteem are precursors to gay men choosing fatherhood; versus the possibility that the experience of being a gay father has the effect of reducing internalized homophobia and enhancing one's self-esteem.

Recognizing the limitations of correlational data, I conducted exploratory post hoc analysis. My reasoning was that if lower internalized homophobia and higher self-esteem were precursors of choosing fatherhood, then the subgroup of non-fathers who express a desire to become fathers would be similar to gay fathers on these measures and different from non-fathers who express no desire in becoming fathers. This was not supported by the data, whereby no distinctions were found between non-

(continued on next page)

Fathers Know Best: Gay Fathers Speak Out!

"You are always out as two men raising a child."

"Bringing up the kids has forced me to be out to more people, to voice my view on life, sexuality, homophobia...."

"My choice to become a parent was personal. But I see it as an important statement in society—a link—a reintegration into the core of society. Being a parent is a shared experience that makes one feel more a part and less alienated. I also see others (friends, family, and strangers) relating to me more easily."

"It's the richest experience of my life—the sanest thing I've ever done. I'm deeply grateful for my daughter and enormously proud of her."

"It is humbling, centering, and spiritual."



There is a large and active international organization of gay and lesbian parents with many local chapters across the country. For information, please contact Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International (GLPCI), P.O. Box 50360, Washington, DC, 20091.

Fathers

(continued from previous page)

fathers who desired children and non-fathers who did not want children. Thus, one could speculate that it is the experience of becoming a gay father that helps moderate internalized homophobia. Consistent with this interpretation were qualitative data that suggested that the arrival of the first child was associated with the development in the fathers of more positive attitudes about their homosexuality and about disclosing it. The fathers' group pointed out that having children increased their need to disclose their homosexuality in new arenas such as to school personnel, pediatricians, babysitters, and neighbors. These qualitative data are consistent with those reported by Martin (1993) from her interviews with a comparable group of gay fathers.

The fathers expressed strong feelings about sociopolitical changes that they would like to see happen. They called for the repeal of laws which interfere with gay adoptions. They wanted new laws which would allow joint adoption by same-sex couples, ensure the parental rights of both partners, and recognize the autonomy of the families themselves. Other concerns expressed were access to employee benefits, parental leave and health insurance, and the continuation of the parent-child relationship in the event of the death of one of the parents or the dissolution of the parents' relationship.

Classes in child development and self-help networks are needed to provide respite services and activities where gay families can socialize with other families like themselves. Fathers call for support groups that address their own unique parenting experiences. Outreach is necessary to the school, medical care, and mental health systems, as well as to the gay and lesbian community itself, in order to educate and sensitize others to the very existence of these families as well as to their special needs. Because so many of these families are comprised of White males who are raising children of color, the fathers need opportunities to learn about and to understand their children's ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and to provide the children with exposure to their own ethnic and cultural heritage.

References

- Martin, A. (1993). *The lesbian and gay parenting handbook: Creating and raising our families*. New York: Harper Collins.
- Miller, B. (1979). Gay fathers and their children. *The Family Coordinator*, October, 544-552.
- Patterson, C.J. (1994). Children of the lesbian baby boom: Behavioral adjustment, self-concepts, and sex-role identity. In B. Greene & G.M. Herek (Eds.), *Contemporary perspectives on gay and lesbian psychology: Theory, research, and applications*, 156-175. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Scallen, R. (1982). An investigation of paternal attitudes and behavior in homosexual and heterosexual fathers (Doctoral dissertation, California School of Professional Psychology, Los Angeles, 1981). *Dissertation Abstracts International*, 42, 3809 B.



APA Central Report

(Continued from page 3)

APAIT Underwriter Drops Waiting Period for Domestic Partner Coverage

The APA Insurance Trust recently informed CLGC that Liberty Mutual, its underwriter for health, hospital indemnity, accidental death/dismemberment, and life insurance, had dropped the waiting period formerly required before domestic partners of APA members could be covered. Liberty Mutual has also announced its plans to leave the group health business in 1995. The Insurance Trust is seeking a new underwriter for group health insurance and has assured CLGC that domestic partnership coverage is a criterion in selecting a new underwriter. APA members interested in finding out more about the Trust and its coverage may call 800/477-1200.

State Constitutional Amendments and Statutes

The Public Affairs Office is continuing work on its public information brochure on sexual orientation slated to be completed and released during May — Mental Health Awareness Month. An information packet for state psychological associations and state policy makers is also being developed by CLGC and the Public Interest Directorate, to be distributed in late spring or early summer. A networking meeting is also planned during the APA Convention in Los Angeles among representatives from states facing anti-gay initiatives and statutes. CLGC encourages psychologists who are interested in becoming more active in opposing initiatives and other anti-gay measures to attend the Public Affairs Office and Division 46 Media Psychology training program at the Convention. For more information, check the Convention program or contact the Public Affairs Office.

CLGC Calls for Nominations; Plans 1994 Activities

CLGC seeks nominations for two members who will begin three-year terms in 1995. Nominations must be received by August 1. Three qualifications being targeted by the Committee for its 1995 slates: Membership in a racial/ethnic minority community, professional status as a scientist/researcher, and expertise in children, youth, and family issues. Send nominations to CLGC Nominations, c/o Michael Jenkins, APA, 750 1st Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002-4242.

Under the leadership of 1994 Chair Gary Ross-Reynolds, Ph.D., and the addition of two new members Christine Browning, Ph.D., and Douglas Haldeman, Ph.D., the Committee outlined its 1994 projects at its meeting in March. The projects and the CLGC members assigned to take the lead on the projects follow:

1994 Projects

Coalition-Building
Ethnic Minority Lesbian & Gay Issues
Lesbian and Gay Families Bibliography
Gay and Lesbian Youth
External Advocacy Meeting
State Initiatives and Referenda
Science & Research Issues
Guidelines
Conversion Therapy
Update CLGC Bibliography
Graduate Faculty Comments Response
Health Care Reform

Members Assigned

All Members
Rodriquez-Nogues
Rodriquez-Nogues
Ross-Reynolds
Buhrke
Buhrke
Robinson
Hadleman, Robinson
Hadleman
Browning
Browning
Browning

Although sexual orientation discrimination in the U.S. military is still an important issue to CLGC, until more concrete opportunities to pursue the issue emerge, the Committee will monitor opportunities for ameliorating the discriminatory effects of the new policy and monitor opportunities to help change policy, particularly the progress of a recent court challenge to the new policy filed in a New York Federal Court by six active duty and reserve military service members. A possible focus in ameliorating discrimination may be education and training related to the new policy's implications for changes in the boundaries of confidentiality for psychologists and other mental health providers. Since the new policy has only gone into effect recently, it may take some time before APA opportunities to contribute to further changes become clear.

For further information on any of the items discussed in this column, contact: Clinton W. Anderson, Officer, Lesbian and Gay Concerns
Mailing Address: APA, 750 1st St., NE, Washington, DC 20002-4242
Telephones: Voice 202/336-6037; Fax 202/336-6040
Internet: cwa.apa@email.apa.org

PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

▼ Depressive Distress Among Homosexually Active African-American Men and Women

Vicki M. Mays and Susan D. Cochran

American Journal of Psychiatry

April 1994, Volume 151.

Although early surveys of psychological adjustment among gay men and lesbians suggest only minor and not clinically relevant differences from heterosexual populations, concerns about psychiatric morbidity associated with human immunodeficiency viral (HIV) infection have renewed interest in the prevalence of psychological distress in this population, particularly among gay men. These later studies have focused primarily on White men. However, research indicates higher crude prevalence rates of psychological distress in community-drawn samples of African Americans when compared to Whites and also in women when compared to men. The present study examined rates of depressive distress and suicidal thoughts among homosexually active African Americans who might be especially at risk for psychiatric morbidity due to multiple stigmatized social statuses.

Method: Two nationally recruited samples of homosexually active African Americans (829 men and 603 women) completed self-administered questionnaires, including the Center for Epidemiologic Studies-Depression Scale. **Results:** Homosexually active Black women were as distressed as HIV infected men. Men with symptomatic HIV disease were significantly more distressed than men who were HIV infected but asymptomatic, HIV antibody negative, or untested. Both men and women reported distress levels in excess of previously reported studies of Blacks or primarily White gay men. **Conclusion:** Further research is needed to identify specific predictors of life stressors and low social support among homosexually active African Americans who appear to be at higher risk for depressive distress.

▼ A Descriptive Empirical Study of Gay Male Stepfamilies

Margaret Crosbie-Burnett and Lawrence Helmbrecht

Family Relations

July 1993, Volume 42, pages 256-262.

This descriptive study identified family dynamics associated with measures of family happiness for biological fathers, stepfathers, and adolescents in 58 European-American gay stepfamilies. The Stepfamily Adjustment Scale was modified for use with this population. For all three family members, family happiness was more highly related to stepfather inclusion in the family and to a positive steprelationship than it was to the couple's relationship, family cohesion, relationship with the ex-wife, money issues, or adolescent family-related self-efficacy. Adolescents were the most closeted and biological fathers were the least.

▼ The HIV Mental Health Spectrum

Michael D. Knox, Ph.D., Maryann Davis, Ph.D. and Martha A. Friedrich, Ph.D.

Community Mental Health Journal

February 1994, Volume 30, pages 75-89.

The growing mental health needs that are related to HIV are immense and diverse. The HIV mental health spectrum is a model that identifies and characterizes populations in need of HIV-related services which can be offered by Community Mental Health Centers. The spectrum describes the specialized service requirements for each of these populations, the challenges in providing these services, and staff training needs. The authors propose this as a useful model for clinicians, researchers, educators, and administrators in planning to meet the needs of this expanding epidemic.

The Newsletter will feature short descriptions of recently published or presented research or papers that contribute to the field of gay, lesbian, or bisexual psychology. To have a paper or presentation considered for this column, submit an abstract and reference information to the Newsletter Editor.

▼ **Gays and Lesbians: An Ethnic Identity Deserving Equal Protection**

Fernando Gutierrez, Ed.D.

Law and Human Sexuality: A Review of Lesbian and Gay Legal Issues

Tulane University Law School.

This article attempts to integrate law and social science to develop a rationale for the inclusion of gays and lesbians in the definition of an ethnic minority group. A new taxonomy is necessary to document the process by which gays and lesbians establish their individual and group identities. In fact, gays and lesbians are similarly situated to other ethnic minority groups who share social as well as cultural characteristics. This paper argues for the inclusion of gays and lesbians as a suspect class deserving equal protection.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

- ▼ The journal *Women and Therapy* is planning a special issue on socioeconomic class. We are particularly interested in the intersection of class and therapy. For example, what class issues do clients bring into therapy? What are the effects of the therapist's class as well as that of the client on the therapy process? How do class issues interact with race or ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, and other factors that influence therapy? What is the particular experience of class for women?

Class is a complicated phenomenon, and we encourage submissions that reflect a diverse range of experiences. A range of formats, such as case presentations, theoretical articles, or empirical studies will be welcomed. Given how little material is available on this topic, we invite submissions from individuals who have not done previous work in this area.

Authors are requested to submit a one page abstract on this topic to Marcia Hall, 25 Court Street, Montpelier, VT 05602 by July 1, 1994. The abstract should include the author's name, address, telephone number, and a 2-3 sentence current biographical description. We will inform authors whether we would like them to write full-length articles for the special issue.

Space permitting, requests for contributions as well as requests for participants in research studies are printed in the *Division 44 Newsletter* at no charge. Descriptions should be brief, no more than 300 words, and should include a contact name and address or phone number.

JOB LISTINGS

- ▼ **GROUP PRIVATE PRACTICE** seeks two clinicians interested in developing a full time practice. This group has specializations in substance abuse, psychological assessment, clinical hypnosis, as well as lesbian, bisexual, and gay affirmative psychotherapy. Applicants may be Ph.D., Psy.D., or have completed the doctoral internship. In addition, applicants need to demonstrate clinical experience in several of the above specializations. Compensations will be commensurate with experience and credentials. Closing date for applications is June 30, 1994, but the position may be filled sooner. Send current Curriculum Vitae to: Clinical Director, Great Lakes Psychological Services, Suite 1400, 111 North Wabash, Chicago, Illinois 60602.

Space permitting, job listings of interest to *Division 44* members are published for a \$35 charge. Listings should not exceed 150 words.

ACTION ALERT!

Anti-Gay Education Amendments

During House debate in March on reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1985, amendments were introduced that restrict the scope and content of school instruction on sexual orientation and sexual education. An amendment by Rep. Hancock sought to prohibit programs from "encouraging or supporting homosexuality as a positive lifestyle alternative." An amendment by Rep. Doolittle sought to require sexuality education programs to comply with specific criteria that include teaching "honor and respect for monogamous heterosexual marriage" and stressing abstinence as the only 100% effective way to prevent pregnancy, STDs, and HIV/AIDS. Both amendments would have interfered with state and local authority to determine curriculum content and undermined efforts to provide comprehensive information to adolescents.

Message to Your U.S. Senators

Contact your U.S. Senators and urge them to please oppose amendments to the ESEA similar to the Hancock and Doolittle amendments offered in the House of Representatives. Such amendments would establish federal curriculum restrictions on local educational agencies' abilities to develop programs, activities or materials for schools, teachers, counselors, or parents. Tell your Senators that you oppose such restrictions and urge them to vote against any such amendments that might be proposed in the upcoming Senate consideration of the ESEA.

How to contact your U.S. Senators in Washington:

Call the Congressional switchboard at 202/224-3121 and ask to speak to your Senators.

Once connected to the Senators' offices, ask to speak to the person who handles education issues.

Telegram your Senators by contacting Western Union at 1-800/325-6000 and ask to send a public opinion message which costs approximately \$10.

Write (or fax) your Senators by sending mail to: The Honorable (Senator's name), U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

For further information, contact Clinton Anderson (202/336-6037) or Sue Limber (202/336-6068).

Become a Member

All social scientists with interests in applying psychological knowledge to the study of lesbian and gay issues are warmly welcomed as members, irrespective of personal sexual/affectional orientation. Members of the American Psychological Association may join as Members or Associate Members of SPSLGI. Affiliate membership is open to professionals in related fields, or to individual members of the APA who would prefer that their affiliation with SPSLGI be held in confidence. Undergraduate or graduate students may become student affiliates in the same way. The list of affiliate members is the property of SPSLGI and these memberships are confidential. If you have further questions about membership in Division 44, or would like to know how to become active in SPSLGI, please feel free to contact our membership chair, Steven James, Ph.D.

Membership Application - SPSLGI - APA Division 44

Name _____ Date _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Business Phone _____ Home Phone _____
Highest Degree _____ Major Field of Study _____ Degree Date _____
Institution _____
Professional Position _____ Gender _____ Ethnicity _____
Applying for Division 44 Membership as:
Member _____ Associate _____ Affiliate _____ Student Affiliate _____

Student Affiliates, retired persons, and those with low incomes may pay reduced dues of \$10 (US Funds).

Please send this form and dues for the current year (\$30 US Funds) to the SPSLGI Membership Chair: Steven James, Ph.D., PO. Box 900, Lynnfield, MA 01940-9991

Please make check out to SPSLGI