

# Newsletter

A Division of the American Psychological Association

Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian and Gay Issues

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**April 1995** 

### President's Column

Armand Cerbone

remember years ago hearing about the importance of coming out as an instrument of education. I remember hearing that one was less likely to discriminate against persons you know than those you do not know. And, indeed, the past twenty-five years since Stonewall have testified to that. Many of the social and political gains we have made have been the result of seeing the open faces of lesbians, gays, and bisexuals next door, in classrooms and courtrooms, in uniforms and religious habits, in legislatures and boardrooms. In short, everywhere. The quality of our lives have consequently improved. Thousands of us have presented the public with positive images of homosexuals to counter their tired and jaded views of us.

Within our circles we have seen similar success. Twenty years ago, a few psychologists banded and bonded to form the Association of Gay Psychologists. Ten years later, that organization persuaded the APA to establish this Division of which we are so proud. Ten years of research and education effected improvements in scientific understanding of homosexuality and mental health services for lesbians, gays and bisexuals.

With the new century and millennium a very short five years away, we should all be thinking about what advances lesbians, gays and bisexuals need to make. For those of us in psychology and invested in issues of sexual orientation, the coming decades present particular challenges and opportunities. Right now, I wish to highlight the importance of one challenge we face and one distinct opportunity we have: the media.

Even before I became president of the Division, I received calls from local newspapers and the occasional talk show host for expert opinion. Like most others, I was not comfortable with a microphone or camera in my face. Nor did I know how to speak in the language of the media. Without that expertise, I would not risk the manipulation I had seen on TV or the distortions I had read in print. Yet I also feared the damage some media savvy and homophobic professional might wreak. What I usually did was to refer the media to a very select few, well-known and trusted figures within the Division and the APA. These men and women have been and remain treasures. But they are forced to carry the burden for us all. Without question, we need to augment our resources here.

The media have discovered us. Though we remain severely marginalized in most respects, we have taken center stage in the cultural consciousness of these United States. We see daily representations of ourselves in print, in film and on television. These images define us in the public mind. They further affect the laws generated to regulate our lives, the funds allocated to research our health issues, and the programs and resources available to inform and educate the general public. Yet we have very limited input on what is presented, and very little access to the image makers. We rely heavily on the professional integrity of the journalist or the information quotient of the panelist or the sympathies of the talk show host. We are vilified or vindicated at their discretion or whim.

Further, this is a media-oriented society. Most of us grow increasingly dependent on the visual media in particular for what we know about our world. If we are to be effective decades from now in getting scientific knowledge about sexual orientation to the public, then we have got to discover the media.

It is time to use this unprecedented attention to our advantage. The media are seeking individuals to provide them with information on sexual orientation. To meet the media's needs and to take control of the images the public receives, we must have many more psychologists who are prepared to provide the public with accurate and helpful information regarding sexual orientation. To this end, the Division is planning a pre-convention workshop, entitled *Who Will Educate the Public?*, to train psychologists to use the media as a tool of education. It will be offered as part of the Division's continuing education program on the afternoon of Thursday, August 10. Jane Levin, Chair of the Continuing Education Committee, provides information about the workshop elsewhere in this newsletter.

On another note, the Division welcomes Phil Levinson to his new position as Newsletter Editor. This is no easy task and is heavy with responsibilities. The Newsletter is the principal organ through which we communicate with the widest number of people within and without the Division. Perhaps for most, it is the only source of information about our work and objectives. Phil has already taken the reins and is tailoring the Newsletter to conform to emerging needs of the Division's membership. The Division is also deeply indebted to Craig Kain for the service he gave to the Newsletter. He brought a bold vision to the Newsletter, expanding its scope and look. We have been very lucky to have had him for the past three years. Craig will continue as chair of the Public Policy Task Force.

### **Editor's Note**

Philip Levinson, Newsletter Editor

would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Division 44 Newsletter Editor. Following Craig Kain in this position will be no easy task, and I appreciate the confidence displayed by the request that I take on this responsibility. Armand Cerbone, in the President's Column, has eloquently spoken of the place of communication in our lives. The Division 44 Newsletter is the primary medium through which Division members can access information from Division 44 and other APA affiliates.

It is also an extremely effective means for you, as Division 44 members, to inform others of your work, your research needs, and your clinical practice and political activities as they relate to lesbian, gay and bisexual issues. My hope is to produce a newsletter which is both informative and of considerable practical use to the Division membership. Your submissions and suggestions will be of critical importance in achieving this aim.

The Pre-Convention issue of the Division 44 Newsletter will be coming out in July, and the deadline for all submissions will be June 20. Please submit any materials through which you would like to inform the Division membership (email and floppy disk are preferable), Please always feel free to contact me with questions or suggestions.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Phil Levinson

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### National Conference announcement

### Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identities and the Family: Psychological Perspectives

will be held at Penn State University from Friday, June 2 through Sunday, June 4, 1995. Bringing together nationally prominent researchers and scholars, the conference will cover contemporary conceptual and empirical analyses that relate sexual orientation to different aspects of family life. Families will be discussed both as sites in which sexual orientation develops as well as social contexts that influence the expression of sexual identity. Conference coordinators are Charlotte J. Patterson of the University of Virginia and Anthony R. D'Augelli of Penn State. The keynote address will be given by Walter L. Williams of the University of Southern California. Other presenters are J. Michael Bailey (Northwestern), Angela M. Pattatucci (National Cancer Institute), Beverly Greene (Saint Johns), Ritch C. Savin-Williams (Cornell), Kenneth M. Cohen (Cornell) Joan Laird (Smith College), Will Hubbard (Northern Illinois University), J. Roy Gillis (University of California-Davis) and Charlotte J. Patterson.

For information about the conference, contact:

Chuck Wilson

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### **APA Division 44**

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#### 1995 Convention Program Ariel Shidlo

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## Lesbian and Gay Concerns Program Update

Clinton Anderson, APA Staff Liaison

#### **CLGC Meets and Plans 1995 Activities**

The Committee on Lesbian and Gay Concerns (CLGC) met in Washington on March 17-19. During their meeting, CLGC reaffirmed its plans to propose modifications of its name and mission to include "bisexual". The Committee expects to approve its proposed revisions to the CLGC Association Rule at the meeting in September. Thereafter, the proposal will be forwarded to BAPPI, the Board of Directors, and the Council of Representatives. CLGC's plans for 1995 and the member taking the lead on the project are listed below:

Public Policy: Robin Buhrke, Ph.D., Chair

Selected Bibliography: Christine Browning, Ph.D.

Accreditation Training: Dr. Browning

Science and Research: Susan Cochran, Ph.D.

Psychotherapy Guidelines: Douglas Haldeman, Ph.D.

Conversion Therapy: Dr. Haldeman Youths in Schools: Steven James, Ph.D.

International Issues: Dr. James

# No "no promo homo" in the Elementary & Secondary Education Act

CLGC took time out from its meeting to meet with staff of Senator Kennedy, Senator Jeffords, and Rep. Cunningham who are all key to Congressional action on education legislation. The focus of the meetings was to oppose legislation that would prohibit agencies that receive federal funds from "promoting or encouraging homosexuality as a positive life style alternative". In the last Congress, such language was adopted by both Houses as part of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act, but was deleted from the bill finally adopted and signed by the President.

In their meetings on Capitol Hill, CLGC members supported the legislation that was substituted for the "no promo homo" or "Helms-Hancock" provisions. The substituted legislation prohibits the use of federal funds to promote or encourage sexual activity, distribute obscene material, provide sex or HIV education that is either age inappropriate or lacks information about the benefits of sexual abstinence, and distribute condoms.

The legislation also stipulates that it neither requires distribution of scientifically or medically false or inaccurate information nor prohibits distribution of scientifically or medically true or accurate information. APA member Karen Anderson, Ph.D., when she worked for Rep. Unsoeld, was central in drafting the legislation.

Division 44 members are encouraged to contact their Representative and Senators to support the language adopted in the last Congress and oppose adding "no promo homo" language to any legislation adopted in current 104th Congress. Division 44 members are also encouraged to express concern

that hearings being promised by US House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich to Reverend Louis Sheldon, leader of the Traditional Values Coalition, should be fair and unbiased. For further information on contacting your members of Congress, contact Clinton Anderson (see below) or Brian Smedley, Ph.D., Public Policy Office (202-336-6066).

#### **APA Briefs in Three Cases**

APA filed three lesbian and gay-related briefs in December, in Bottoms v. Bottoms and Hertzler v. Hertzler, two contested child custody cases involving lesbian mothers, and in Equality Foundation v. Cincinnati, a case challenging a City of Cincinnati law adopted by ballot initiative that prohibits the city from adopting ordinances that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. APA is currently considering a request to file a brief in the Supreme Court hearing of Evans v. Romer, the case challenging the anti-gay initiative adopted in Colorado in 1992.

## APA and FPA Support Amendment of Broward County Ordinance

At the request of APA member Melodie Moorehead, Ph.D., APA wrote the Broward County Commission and the Broward County Charter Review Committee supporting the addition of sexual orientation to the county's human rights law and charter. The Florida Psychological Association also wrote the Broward County Commission in support of the addition of sexual orientation to Broward County laws.

#### **GLAAD Honors APA**

APA was honored by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation National Capital Area chapter with its 1995 Media Award for Education for the public information brochure Answers to Your Questions About Sexual Orientation and Homosexuality."The award was presented in a banquet at the National Press Club on March 15.APA also won a GLAAD award in 1994 for Best Newsletter for the "Monitor's" coverage of lesbian and gay issues.

# State Psychological Associations Provided Information Resources by APA

A packet of information "Opposing Anti-gay Ballot Initiatives: Information for State Psychological Associations" was distributed in February to all state association executives and lesbian and gay issues contacts. This packet of information is, along with legal briefs and direct consultation to state associations, the major implementation plan for the 1993 APA resolution on anti-gay ballot initiatives. Two states are currently expected to have anti-gay initiatives on the ballot in 1995, Maine and Washington.

## Secretary-Treasurer's Column

Steven James, Secretary-Treasurer

hile the final accounting for Fiscal Year 1994 (FY94) is still in process, the preliminary report indicates that the Division spent approximately \$2400 more than it earned last year. The costs of the new Annual and increased activity by Committees and Task Forces seem to be largely responsible for this shortfall. In response to this increased spending, the Executive Committee approved a budget for FY95 that includes cost-cutting measures shared by all Task Forces and most Committees. No Committees or Task Forces went unfunded. Those Committees which did not see their budgets cut, Membership and Newsletter, were held to FY94 Budget spending levels. FY95 dues received for Division Members who are also members of APA are up, slightly, from the previous year. Dues from all other Members, received to date, are below FY94 levels.

Given the FY94 shortfall and the success of the fundraising event held at the Convention in Los Angeles, our fundraising efforts in New York this August are critically important. For those of you not coming to convention this year, please consider making a donation to the Division on your own. Members coming to New York in August should be prepared to help the fundraising efforts in every way you can.

I have negotiated a new business rate with Sprint for the Division's telephone services. Under the new plan our rate per minute will drop to 17 or 19 cents, depending on the origin of each call, from a flat rate of 31 cents per minute. If you can think of other ways to help reduce costs, please contact me.

While belt-tightening and fundraising are the initial responses to the experience of FY94, we need also to look to the future. Increasing our membership base is the best way to insure the Division's financial stability for the coming years. A growing dues source will not only allow us to get back on track with the activities the EC began in response to the membership survey of 1993, more members will mean more apportionment ballot votes and more seats in the APA Council. That increased representation is important if our committees' efforts in the areas of standards and practices, accreditation, et al are to have the lasting impact on the field that we need. Your efforts to increase membership can also reduce the likelihood that committee's activities will need to be cut or dues increased.

According to the office of Division Services, APA has decided to create an email listserver for each division, for free. This will allow email messages to be sent to all Division Members who have email capabilities and wish to be listed. This list will not be public information and will only be used by the Division. If you are interested in being listed, please make sure that Jim Fitzgerald, Membership Chair, has your email address. I hope to have more details about the development of this new service by convention.

As always, contact me with any questions or concerns.

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Feature story -

# **Sexual Orientation Conversion Therapy Update**

Douglas Haldeman, Ph.D.

proverbial bad smell in the refrigerator in that it just does not seem to go away. Conversion treatments for lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals are thriving sometimes with support from psychologists. While we might like to think that conversion therapy, or as it is sometimes known, reparative therapy, went the way of the long-debunked pathology model of homosexuality, the reality is that a variety of conversion treatments are still promoted and practiced. The targets of such efforts are frequently confused, self-negating, gay, lesbian, and bisexual adults, but they often also include gay and lesbian adolescents whose parents insist upon their treatment. Shannon Minter of the National Center for Lesbian Rights in San Francisco is spearheading a project to investigate inpatient psychiatric conversion treatments for institutionalized adolescents.

When I started writing about conversion therapy, I did so

because I had long felt that it was both puzzling and unfair that even though organized psychology long ago discarded its view of homosexuality as pathological, it has never had anything to say about the many misguided efforts to treat it as an illness. The basic premises which led to the development of a conversion therapy policy in my home state, Washington, were focused on two areas. The first was ethical: Conversion therapy is injurious to the dignity of all lesbians and gay men because its very existence reinforces social negativism and prejudice about homosexuality. For example, despite the claims of a conversion group such as the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH) about respecting the choices of those who wish to stay queer, they freely admit that their work is rooted in the belief that "all men and women are created naturally heterosexual."We know this perspective to be prejudicial and inconsistent with scientific data. You cannot offer a

### Sexual Orientation Conversion Therapy continued

cure for something unless you consider it to be an illness; therefore conversion therapists create a market for their own services by reinforcing the mistaken perception that homosexuality is a disorder. The second major premise against conversion therapy is that it has never been shown to be effective—quite the opposite: The literature shows that sexual orientation is not amenable to change. Thus it against consumer welfare to endorse ineffective programs."

The result of having a policy that speaks against conversion therapy in Washington State is that the credibility of conversion groups, Christian and others, who claim the support of psychologists has diminished. It also serves the symbolic function of affirming lesbians and gay men by taking a stand on a practice with a history of considerable abuse. It is the first psychology state association policy statement that puts into actual practice the 20-year-old APA position on the non-pathology of homosexuality.

It is important to clarify precisely what it is we are talking about when we discuss sexual orientation conversion therapy. The various components of sexual orientation may remain fixed throughout life for many, but they certainly do not for all persons. Some people have a more fluid experience of sexual orientation, perhaps self-identifying as lesbian or gay, but episodically or even frequently engaging in heterosexual behavior. For some, the experience of sexual orientation has political or social values associated with it. So how do we view the homonegative person who seeks conversion treatment for religious or social reasons? Their values may be different from ours but are we justified in taking a position against their wishes to change their orientation? Does this stance not undermine client autonomy? I am reminded of a case in our state several years ago where a waitperson at a restaurant was fired for refusing to serve a daiquiri to an obviously pregnant woman. As lesbian and gay psychologists, what is our proper role in the debate over conversion therapy? Should we impose our values, say nothing at all, do something in between?

Another consideration is how sexual orientation is experienced by the individual. For some, the process of coming out may be linked to an internal evolution; for others the process may be tied to social or political factors. How are spontaneously-occurring shifts in sexual orientation over the life span to be differentiated from behavior which results from the interventions of a conversion therapist? We cannot assess either the efficacy or the long-term consequences of conversion treatments unless we understand what it is that is being "converted."

Clearly, conversion therapists have historically oversimplified the nature of sexual orientation, but perhaps we have also ignored the complexities of what motivates individuals to enter conversion treatments. Some may enter treatment literally to "save their souls" and to expunge all homoerotic fantasies from

their minds. Realistic? I don't think so. But what about the gayidentified, heterosexually-married man who seeks support around his life choices? Is conversion therapy in this case unethical? It would be useful to differentiate between treatments that attempt to reorient an individuals' erotic attraction and fantasy life versus those which seek to instruct people in heterosexuality. It appears that most "successful" claims of sexual reorientation amount to the temporary reinforcement of heteroeroticism in bisexual individuals. Is there a distinction between what sorts of conversion treatments are toxic and to whom?

I wonder if it is within our province as psychologists who are developing practice guidelines to adopt policies proscribing all activities which have come under the conversion therapy umbrella. Whatever our ultimate goal, we need more empirical evidence than we do at present which proves that people are at risk of being harmed by conversion therapies. Over the years of my clinical practice, I can think of dozens of examples of individuals who I feel were significantly harmed by conversion therapy. Paradoxically, it has been reported that some persons actually solidify a gay identity as a results of a failed conversion attempt, even in cases of flagrant abuse by the therapist. Strong data are needed which point to the potentially harmful effects of these interventions.

Another issue that has to be considered is that of the scope of practice. The development of policies on conversion therapy that potentially restrict practice, can be considered in today's business oriented psychology climate a bit like turning the wrong way into a one-way street. The National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH), headed by Joseph Nicolosi and Charles Socarides, has formed a national network to preserve the pathology myth of homosexuality and encourage vulnerable individuals to believe they can indeed change their sexual orientation. The NARTH mission statement reads, "Our treatment methods are devised for those who voluntarily seek our help and who wish to search for the source of their disorder and its potential alleviation. There are many who do not wish to change their psychosocial adaptation and we respect their wishes not to seek change... Our aim is the healing and protection of those who in desperation seek our help. We want to be free to treat...those patients who seek and are suitable for treatment."

Given the limitations of existing data it is difficult to make a case against the right of therapists to practice conversion therapy, even though its theoretical base is blatantly prejudicial. Nonetheless, certain aspects of practice are always delimited when there is a demonstrable or potential negative effect on the patient. If there were a school of therapy based upon racism or sexism, the APA would most likely have something to say about it. So how are we best to challenge treatment based

### Sexual Orientation Conversion Therapy continued

on a long history of homophobia? The Committee on Lesbian and Gay Concerns of APA will present an Open Forum at the 95 Convention entitled: "The Controversy over Sexual Orientation Conversion Therapy: Defining APA's Response", on Sunday, August 13, 12–12:50 PM. The Committee will lead a discussion of options for response, including differences between ethics and policy; how this issue fits into the lesbian, gay, and bisexual psychotherapy guidelines currently being developed by CLGC and Division 44, and the current state of research addressing the issue of harm. We hope that research-oriented psychologists and students who are interested in the issue will come forward. In the meantime, we need to continue the discussion and debate on this issue. The abuses of conversion therapy are too cruel, its track record is too poor, and its

theoretical basis is too homophobic and unscientific to ignore it.

Feature Editor's Note: The National Lesbian and Gay Health Association has founded the Project to Document and Oppose Heterosexist Therapies. Its goal is to gather empirical data about the damage and fraudulent nature of conversion therapies. It is also funding a peer support network of survivors of conversion therapies.

Individuals may contact Ariel Shidlo for more information:

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# **Committee and Task Force Reports**

### Membership Committee

James S. Fitzgerald, Membership Chair

#### **Database Management**

The number of undeliverable mailings from the Division continues to rise. At the present time, over 100 names are on hold because of incorrect addresses. Whereas we hope to correct this problem in the future by having the post office notify us of any address changes, please notify me if your name or address is incorrect. If you are planning to move, please send me updated information. If you hear anyone complaining of not receiving mailings from the Division, please ask them to call or write to me so that we can sort out the problem.

#### Recruitment

Within APA, a Division has influence in proportion to number of members. In the case of Division 44, the number of full members and voting associates is most important because their votes determine the number of seats representing us in the APA Council of Representatives. Currently, we have two. Please talk with your friends and colleagues concerning membership in Division 44, and actively recruit in your local area. I will provide you with the necessary materials. If you would like membership applications to take to a state convention or other meeting attended by gay and lesbian therapists, ask me for materials.

#### **Membership Categories**

This may seem like redundant information to many, but it bears repeating. Full members and associates must hold the same status within APA and will be billed by APA after the first

year. The names are public and published by APA in the directory. Anyone interested in lesbian and gay issues, whether a member of APA or not, can join the Division as an affiliate. Affiliate status is confidential, and billing of yearly dues is by the Division. All of the above categories pay annual dues of US \$30. Finally, there is the student affiliate category, open to students interested in lesbian and gay issues. As with affiliates, names are confidential and dues are billed by the Division. Please do not confuse affiliate and student affiliate status! Students pay US \$10. Finally, there are two situations in which dues can be lowered to US \$10. If you are retired, or if you have a very low income for the year write to me and explain your situation.

#### **Membership Survey**

A committee is currently preparing a membership survey to inform the executive committee of the wishes of its members. Please let me know of any issue you may have with the Division, any services you may want to have provided, any projects you believe are relevant to the Division and any critique of current projects. The Executive Committee wants to be responsive to the members, but it is sometimes difficult to know what questions to ask. We actively solicit feedback from all members. Help us to improve the Division and provide the sort of services germane to the membership.

James S. Fitzgerald, Ph.D. 4015 South Cobb Drive, Suite 275 Smyrna, Georgia 30080 Phone: (404) 435-5453 Fax: (404) 435-9357



# Task Force on Bisexual Issues in Psychology

Ron Fox and Sari Dworkin, co-chairs

The Task Force has continued to liaison with the Division 44 Executive Committee, supporting the Division's leadership on sexual orientation issues and its efforts to become more openly inclusive of bisexual issues. Proposals were submitted and accepted for programming for the 1995 APA Convention in New York in August. There will be one symposium on bisexual research and issues, as well as two events in the Division 44 hospitality suite: A general bisexual issues discussion hour, and a discussion hour for lesbian and bisexual women on bisexual women and the lesbian community.

Our invitation in the last newsletter for you to inform us about your academic, clinical and research involvements (including dissertations in progress) resulted in several possibilities for papers and presentations on bisexual issues at future APA conventions. We encourage you to let us know about these projects as well as your thoughts on the interface of lesbian, gay and bisexual issues. We have also developed a short resource list on bisexuality and bisexual counseling issues for those interested in exploring this literature.

For a copy, please contact the Task Force co-chairs:

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# Division 44/CLGC Joint Task Force

Kris Hancock and Doug Haldeman

As most of you realize, the Joint Task Force (JTF) has the task of developing guidelines for psychotherapy. In order for these guidelines to be adopted by the American Psychological Association (APA), they must be submitted according to *Guidelines for Guidelines* developed by APA's Committee on Professional Practice Standards (COPPS). In this set of instructions, each guideline must be carefully reviewed and justified according to the current literature. If there are ten guidelines, there must be ten literature reviews with documentation and ratio-

nale. Other sections include a background section, appendices and a description of the entire process from start to finish. This is an incredible process, and our proposal will likely be the first one to be developed according to the new, rigorous *Guidelines for Guidelines*.

In the fall newsletter, we described the steps which had been taken (both written and political) to prepare for the development of our proposal. We talked about the 1993 and 1994 symposia which have helped to supply some of the reviews we need to proceed with this proposal. At this time, we are working toward the development of 14 separate guidelines. The initial rough drafts for each guideline will be created by us (Co-Chairs, Kris Hancock and Doug Haldeman). The next step involves circulation of the rough drafts to the JTF and to APA's Committee on Lesbian and Gay Concerns (CLGC) for comments and additions. We are pleased to report that the initial rough drafts for 4 of the 14 guidelines have been distributed for review as described. We hope to complete the next four by early or mid-summer and the last six by mid-fall with appendices, background, and process sections.

Once put together, the proposal will go before the Division 44 Executive Committee and CLGC for formal approval. About this time, the long and highly political process of shepherding these guidelines through the adoption procedure begins. The guidelines will have to pass the APA board and committee structure as well as the council of representatives. (We will need every one of you at this point!)

# Continuing Education Committee

Jane Levin, 1995 CE Chair

# Mark your calendars for the Division 44 CE Workshop

This year, Division 44 is sponsoring a very exciting and vital workshop designed to enhance our skill in working with the media regarding lesbian, gay and bisexual mental health issues. Now, more than ever, the public needs accurate information from informed sources. We are those sources, yet many of us are scared of the media and lack the skills to be an effective media expert. Meanwhile, those who would wish us invisible are courting the media and influencing public perception and opinion.

Lest you think this workshop isn't a high priority, let me relate a recent experience. I advertised an exploring sexual orientation workshop at the university counseling service and was interviewed for an article by the student newspaper. I gave a long interview, full of information. The next day, the reporter called and demanded to know how much the taxpayers were



# Continuing Education Committee continued

"forking over" for this workshop! The questions became increasingly more hostile as I scrambled to frame responses. I was scared about saying the "wrong" thing, angry at the reporter and worried about what would be printed. Sure enough, the front page headline the next day read "College Republicans Threaten to Disrupt Sexual Orientation Workshop"! I knew I had been naive and ill-prepared to give an interview on such a volatile issue and spent the next two weeks doing damage control. The good news is that the workshop filled as a result of the article and the newspaper wrote an editorial in support of the workshop. I have never experienced the power of the media so personally and directly.

I invite you to participate in this year's workshop: "Who Will Educate the Public? A Media Training Workshop on Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Mental Health Issues." This skill-building workshop features three trainers with expertise in media training and Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual mental health (see description) and an opportunity to practice skills on-camera. Participants will also receive a media training manual specifically developed for psychologists.

A few other incentives: 1) If you carry malpractice insurance through APA, you are entitled to a \$50 reduction in your premium if you enroll in a four-credit CE, 2) the workshop begins at 12:30, so those who live near NYC can save the cost of one night's hotel room and, 3) there are no Division 44 events Thursday night, so it's a great time to socialize.

So, set aside the afternoon of Thursday August 10, 1995 for what promises to be a lively, informative and extremely useful CE workshop.

Feel free to contact me about any aspect of the workshop:

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### Student Column——

### **Excellent Opportunity Awaits Students In New York**

Anne Crawford, Craig Waldo and Ken Swarz

We are happy to report that student involvement in Division 44 is growing rapidly. We now have students sitting on nearly every task force and committee in the Division in addition to the appointed student representative positions. We want to acknowledge the excellent service and contributions of our outgoing student representative, Karen Jordan. Two new student representatives were appointed in January at the Midwinter Meeting in Boston. Anne Crawford and Craig Waldo have joined the ongoing student representative, Ken Swarz. Once again, the Division helped with travel expenses for one student representative (Anne Crawford) to attend the Midwinter Meetings. We greatly appreciate this gesture of support from the Division for student members.

Once again, Division 44 is offering an exciting opportunity for students at the upcoming APA convention in New York. Rooms in the Division suite will be available to students for greatly reduced rates in exchange for a few hours of work (approximately one hour per day) in the suite during the convention. This is a great way for students to meet one another, to get involved with Division 44 and to afford the expense of a trip to New York. A book sale and student programming in the suite are again being planned. For more information about working in the suite, contact Craig Waldo at (207) 355-4741 or via email: Cwaldo@s.psych.uiuc.edu.

In order to increase student participation in Division 44, we have continued to send out mailings to selected graduate psychology programs around the country to announce our presence, and to invite students to join the Division. We are also working with the Division to design a general membership survey that will include specific questions relevant to the needs of student members.

We would love to hear what students want and need from the Division, so feel free to contact any of us. See you in New York!

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# **Division To Division**

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The members of Women, Gender and Psychoanalysis, a Section of Division 39, the Division of Psychoanalysis, would like to invite members of Division 44 to our Symposium at the August Meetings in New York City. The exact time and location of the Symposium is yet to be arranged. This symposium is part of our larger effort to increase communication and collaboration between Women, Gender and Psychoanalysis of Division 39, and Divisions 44 and 35.

### Symposium:

### She Came in a Flash: Perspectives on Lesbian Sexuality

August, 1995, New York (see program schedule for exact time and location) Chairperson: Margaret Buttenheim, Ph.D.

### Papers:

- 1. Assaults and Harassments: The Violent Act of Theorizing Lesbian Sexuality Maggie Magee, MSW Diana Miller, M.D.
- 2. Homophobias: Woman to Woman Elizabeth Young-Bruehl, Ph.D. Discussant: Laura Brown, Ph.D.

### 

The Committee on Lesbian and Gay Family Issues (CLGFI) of the Division of Family Psychology invites members of Division 44 to the following programs at the 1995 APA Annual Convention (check convention and hospitality suite programs to verify times and places):

### Friday, August 11: 2-2:50:

### Lesbian and Gay Families of Origin and of Procreation

Main presenter: Sandra Gillis, Executive Director, Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

### Monday, August 14: 11–11:50:

Poster Session: The Effect of Parental Androgyny on Single Parent Families: The Same Sex Argument Re-examined

### Not yet scheduled:

#### Meeting of Committee on Lesbian and Gay Family Issues

All interested persons invited. Location will be in Division of Family Psychology Hospitality Suite.

### Proposal pending:

Program on Gay and Heterosexual Men: Common Issues and Barriers Between Armand Cerbone, Ph.D., Roy Scrivner, Ph.D., Jim O'Neil, Ph.D., and Gary Brooks, Ph.D. (1995 Division 43 President-Elect). If accepted, location will be Division 43 Hospitality Suite.

For additional information, please contact:

Dr. Natalie S. Eldridge at (617) 353-5891, or Dr. Roy Scrivner at (214) 372-7036



### **Division 44 Election News**

On or around May 15, you will be receiving ballots from the Elections Office of APA. The two positions for which you will be voting are President Elect and Member-at-Large. Ballots must be received by the APA Elections Office by July 3, 1995

### Statements of Candidacy

### **President-Elect**

### Augustine (Gus) Baron, Psy.D., ABPP

A few years ago, I wrote a commentary for The Counseling Psychologist entitled, "The Challenge: To Make Homosexuality Boring." I borrowed the idea from Quentin Crisp who said, "Homosexuality won't be accepted until it is completely seen as boring — a mundane, inconsequential part of everyday life." As president of the Division, I'd like to help hasten that day. More specifically, I will give continuity to the significant work already underway in such areas as practice guidelines, gay/lesbian/bisexual youth, child custody concerns, and conversion/reparative "therapies." With the changeover in Congress, our vigilance and advocacy for AIDS/HIV related funding must also be sustained. Since our Division has a relatively youthful membership (both in mind and body!), I will also focus on leadership development to continue strengthening our human resources. As a gay Chicano, I am very proud of the efforts Division 44 has made to embrace diversity, and to proactively form alliances with other APA constituencies. I will continue that same spirit.

My credentials include the following: Chair (1992) & Member (1990–92), APA Committee on Lesbian and Gay Concerns; Co-keynote Centennial Speaker (with Esther Rothblum), 1992 APA Convention: "Lesbian and Gay Psychology: The Next 100 Years;" Fact Finder/Member (1994–96), APA Ethics Committee; Chair (1989), Division 17, Committee on Cultural and Ethnic Diversity; APA Accreditation Site Visitor (14 visits, chaired nine); Fellow, Division 45; Diplomate in Clinical Psychology, ABPP; Psy.D., University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; editorial board member of four professional journals; Associate Director of the Counseling and Mental Health Center, University of Texas at Austin.

Thank you for your time and attention in considering my nomination. ▼

### Douglas C. Haldeman, Ph.D.

According to the I Ching, "crisis" is a combination of danger" and "opportunity," and these are times in which gay/lesbian/bisexual psychology is faced with plenty of both. Despite the gains of the past twenty years, we are

involved in an unprecedented political and cultural struggle for our welfare and dignity. I believe that psychology has a central role to play in this struggle, which is why I am seeking the office of President-Elect for Division 44.

Twelve years in independent practice and academics has led me to focus my energies on social policy and practice guidelines. As Co-Chair of the Washington State Psychological Association's Committee on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns, I authored the first state advisory policy against the practice of sexual orientation conversion therapy. This issue is critical in the gay-affirmative psychological agenda, because it reflects the way in which lesbians and gay men are viewed by society at large, and the degree to which our standards of care are consistent with established policy which de-pathologizes homosexuality. For the past two years, I have served on Division 44's Task Force on Guidelines for Psychotherapy with Lesbians, Gay Men and Bisexuals. Our primary goal is the APA's adoption of the first set of practice guidelines for psychotherapists working with lesbians and gay men. As Co-Chair, I am currently drafting the position papers which will accompany the proposed guidelines through the APA governance process.

My contributions to the Division and APA, through committee work and publications, have centered on the ethical, humane, and scientifically defensible treatment of lesbian, gay and bisexual clients by mental health practitioners. I am a current member of APA's Committee on Lesbian and Gay Concerns (CLGC), and hold primary responsibility for guideline development and policy on sexual orientation conversion therapy. As a clinical faculty member at the University of Washington and Seattle University, I have a strong commitment to educating practitioners-in-training relative to lesbian/gay/bisexual issues. I also believe in bringing these issues to public awareness, and enjoy the frequent opportunity to speak to professional and public groups on various psychological aspects of gayness. For the past year, I have hosted the "Dr. Doug" segment of a San Francisco lesbian/gay radio program, an experience which has made me aware of the importance of psychology in the public forum.

My vision for Division 44 involves a public advancement of lesbian/gay/bisexual affirmative perspectives in the media and in the courts. The challenges we currently face demand this. I am particularly interested in furthering the work

which we have undertaken in developing psychotherapy guidelines for two reasons: first, because so many in training still receive little or no guidance on lesbian/gay/bisexual issues, and second, because it is time for the Association to operationalize its long-standing gay-affirmative policies. There are other ongoing projects equally deserving of Division energies and resources: continued development of the research agenda; lesbian/gay bisexual family issues and adoptive rights; inclusion of bisexual issues in our Divisional self-concept and our operations; ways to support individuals living with AIDS/HIV; continued attention to the issues facing racial/ethnic minority lesbians/gay men/bisexuals; active involvement in the APA accreditation process; and preparedness for the next onslaught of anti-gay legislative efforts. My active involvement with the Division has shown me that we have the person-power to work on these issues, and we must continue our efforts to expand membership and get more people directly involved in this exciting and important work. But I have also learned that we need a strong financial base from which to operate. To that end, I would promote investigation and implementation of fundraising alternatives to supplement our income. This would ensure that our many projects will all receive the support that they deserve.

In a personal way, the Division has provided a place to work intensively on issues which mean a great deal to me, as a psychologist and as a gay man. It has also been the place where I have found a professional sense of extended family. The resulting sense of contribution in a familial context has been incredible. I now find that it is my work with the Division and CLGC, which bring me the greatest professional sense of fulfillment and excitement. In other words, I am hooked, and happily so. I believe I have the energy, experience and focus to lead the Division in this challenging time, and would appreciate your support.

### Member-at-Large

### Angela R. Gillem, Ph.D.

I received my B.S. in psychology from Michigan State University and a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Boston University. I am a licensed clinical psychologist with a clinical practice in Philadelphia, which is devoted to the concerns of lesbians, gay men and bisexual men and women. At Beaver College, where I am an assistant professor, I teach a course in cross cultural counseling which, I believe, would not be complete without the inclusion of lesbians and gay men as members of a "cultural"

minority. My current research area is in biracial identity development. I am a member of the Ethnic Minority Committee of Division 44, and have been the Division's representative to APA's Urban Initiatives during the last year. Although I have not yet served in APA governance, I have been an active member of the Association for Women in Psychology serving as recorder/correspondent for three years, co-organizer of my local chapter of AWP, and cocoordinator of the Women of Color Institute for the 1993 AWP conference. Currently, I am chair of the Women of Color Psychologies Award for AWP/Division 35 Distinguished Publication Award. I believe these experiences make me a strong candidate for the position of member-at-large of the Executive Committee for Division 44. I am eager to become more involved in APA governance, and I can think of no better way to begin my involvement than through serving Division 44.

### Beverly Greene, Ph.D.

I am an Associate Professor of Psychology at Saint John's University and a clinical psychologist in private practice in New York City. In addition to these duties, I am an Associate Editor of the new journal, Violence Against Women (Sage Publications). A Fellow of the American Psychological Association and five of the Association's divisions (12, 29, 35, 44, 45), I am coeditor of the Division 44 series of annual publications, Psychological Perspectives on Lesbian and Gay Issues (Sage), which published its first volume last year and will publish its second volume this summer. The third volume of the series, Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Among Lesbians and Gay Men is underway with a distinguished roster of contributors. I am coeditor of Women of Color: Integrating Ethnic and Gender Identities in Psychotherapy (Guilford); an author of Abnormal Psychology in a Changing World (Prentice Hall, and many other professional publications. Awards I have received include the Association for Women in Psychology's first Women of Color Psychologies Publication Award in 1991, the 1992 Award for Distinguished Professional Contributions to Ethnic Minority Issues from Division 44 and a 1994 Distinguished Humanitarian Award from the American Association of Applied and Preventive Psychology. While I have contributed to the understanding of African American lesbians through numerous publications and professorial presentations, I am now interested in increasing my service and commitment to Division 44 by serving on the Executive Committee.

### **Papers & Presentations**

Minority Stress and Mental Health in Gay Men

In press: Journal of Health and Social Behavior, Vol 36(1), March 1995.

Ilan H. Meyer, Ph.D.

#### Abstract:

This Study describes "minority stress" as derived from minority status, and explores its effect on psychological distress in gay men. The concept of minority stress is based on the premise that gay people in a heterosexist society are subjected to chronic stress related to their stigmatization. Specific minority stress processes were conceptualized as: internalized homophobia, which relates to gay men's direction of societal negative attitudes toward the self; stigma, which relates to expectations of rejection and discrimination; and actual experiences of discrimination and violence. The mental health effects of the three minority stressors were tested in a community sample of 741 New York City gay men. A wide range of mental health outcomes were considered, including general distress (demoralization), guilt, suicide ideation and behavior, sex problems, and AIDS-related traumatic stress response. The results supported minority stress hypotheses: each of the stressors had a significant independent association with a variety of mental health measures, and their combined effect was greater than when viewed separately. Odds ratios suggested that men who had high levels of minority stress were two to three times more likely to also suffer from high levels of distress. Public health and public policy implications are considered.

#### Correspondence:

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### **Communications**

#### Gay/Lesbian Research Network

A network of researchers who study gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered (GLBT) issues is currently being formed. Our purpose is to make it relatively easy to contact a national sample of GLBT subjects. Network members who need help with survey distribution will have access to other network members who may have better access to the appropriate population. Members would be expected to expend some time and effort distributing surveys for others. Distribution of any particular survey would be voluntary, and may to some extent depend on local contacts, IRB regulations or available time.

Those interested in joining this network, contact:

Becky Liddle
Department of Counseling
and Counseling Psychology
2014 Haley Center,
Auburn University, AL 36849

Phone: (205) 844-2881

Email: Liddlbj@mail.auburn.edu ▼

### Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals of Color

I am currently conducting a research project on lesbians/ gays/bisexuals of color who work in the academy. My interests include men and women who hold faculty, staff, or administrative positions. Of particular interest to me is the process and decision of whether and/or how much to be out in your job. Being out in the academy carries certain risks concerning job security, tenure and promotion.

There is very little literature concerning lesbians/gays/ bisexuals of color in the academy. Our numbers are small, particularly as faculty members, and we are dealing with even fewer individuals when we target people of color who are out to some degree as lesbian, gay or bisexual.

If you are a lesbian, gay or bisexual of color who works in an academic setting, I would like to include you in my survey. Please contact me and I will send a *brief* questionnaire (it only takes five minutes) to you.

Thank you for your support. Please feel free to contact me with questions:

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# **Call for Papers**

### -Special Issue of The Journal of Sex Research

Bodies Besieged: The Impact of Chronic and Serious Physical Illness on Sexuality, Passion, and Desire. Manuscripts Due August 1, 1995

Scholars in health and social sciences and humanities are invited to submit articles to a special, refereed issue of *The Journal of Sex Research* about the impact of chronic and serious physical illness on sexuality, passion and desire. We are interested in receiving the following types of original manuscripts:

- Empirical, historical, discourse analytic, philosophic, and literary investigations of the sexualities of physically ill individuals and their partners
- Reviews of the current scientific knowledge on sexual functioning and issues faced by patients with a particular chronic or serious physical illness
- Case histories and reports on sex and relationship therapy with physically ill individuals and their partners. Outcome studies on therapeutic success are of particular interest.
- Personal narratives describing the sexual impact of a particular physical or chronic illness on the author or a beloved partner

All manuscripts must be received by August 1, 1995 with an accompanying letter describing the ethical review process employed by the authors of empirical and case history manuscripts. All submissions require a statement that the manuscript has not been published and is not under consideration elsewhere. Scholarly and review submissions must be limited to 35 double spaced, word processed pages (including tables, figures, and references), and prepared in the style of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, Fourth Edition, and articles in The Journal of Sex Research. Case history and personal narrative submissions should not exceed 15 double spaced, word processed pages and must also adhere to the guidelines of the Publication Manual wherever possible. Narrative submissions need not include outside references.

The Editor of this special issue is especially interested in receiving articles about diverse groups of individuals who are struggling with illness: women and men, lesbian, gay, and bisexual persons, as well as heterosexuals, and individuals varying in age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, and religious affiliation.

Submit all double spaced manuscripts to Naomi B. McCormick, Ph.D., the Special Issue Editor, in quadruplicate along with a stamped, self-addressed postcard for acknowledgment of receipt. Articles should be word-processed on one side of white bond paper with a one inch margin on all sides. The informative abstract should be no more than 250 words and contain a thorough condensation of the paper. To facilitate anonymous review, only the title of the article should appear on the abstract and the first page of the manuscript. An attached title page should include the title, the author's(s') name(s) and affiliations, mailing addresses, and a footnote with the author's affiliations, instructions for correspondence, and any acknowledgment of research support or other credit.

Naomi B. McCormick, Ph.D., the Special Issue Editor, invites written queries from prospective authors and submissions of a one- page maximum, word-processed summary of a prospective manuscript. Naomi McCormick's email address is Mccormnb@splava.cc.plattsburgh.edu and her fax number is (518) 564-3397. Her business address is Naomi B. McCormick, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, SUNY-Plattsburgh, NY 12901, USA. Please include a self-addressed and stamped envelope for her to reply to your query.

Quadruplicate copies of completed manuscripts should be shipped to the Special Issue Editor at this address on or before August 1, 1995:

Naomi B. McCormick, Ph.D., Special Issue Editor % Elizabeth Rice Allgeier, Ph.D.

The Journal of Sex Research

Psychology Department

Bowling Green State University

Bowling Green, OH 43403, USA ▼

### VCPPP Conference on

# The Prevention of Heterosexism and Homophobia

June 14-17, 1995, in Burlington, Vermont

Now in its 21st year, the Vermont Conference on Primary Prevention, Inc. will focus on Prevention of Heterosexism and Homophobia. Internationally-distinguished leaders in the field will offer papers, workshops and discussion groups on various aspects of the prevention of heterosexism including:

**Keynote:** Celia Kitzinger, University of Loughborough, England Speaking of oppression: Psychology, politics and the language of power

#### Factors of strength and strain in our communities

- 1. The stress of coming out, taking on an identity, finding a community
- 2. Sexual/Partnered relationships
- 3. Lesbian and gay parents and their children
- 4. Lesbians and gay men who are members of ethnic minority groups
- 5. Immigrant and refugee lesbians

## Prevention of risk factors and unique stressors in our communities

- 1. Substance use in the gay and lesbian communities: A harm reduction approach?
- 2. Challenges and coping among lesbian, gay and bisexual youth: Queer kids in postmodern American society
- 3. Acculturation, social supports, and life events stressors in gay men
- 4. Heterosexism and antigay hate crimes

### Advocacy: Towards the elimination of heterosexual bias

- 1. Rejecting therapy; using our communities
- 2. Using the political system: Where do we go from here?

#### Workshops

- 1. Prevention of heterosexism in the health setting
- 2. Prevention of heterosexism in the educational setting
- 3. Prevention of heterosexism in the corporate setting
- 4. Prevention of heterosexism in the therapy setting
- 5. Gay and lesbian youth: The case of Outright Vermont
- 6. Heterosexism and AIDS

A one-week, three-credit graduate/undergraduate psychology course (Psyc 295) on: Prevention of Heterosexism and Homophobia" will be offered in conjunction with the conference through the University of Vermont. For more information regarding the conference or the related course, please contact: UVM Conferences, attn: VCPPP, 30 South Park Drive, Colchester, VT 05446, USA; Phone: 800-639-3188; Fax: 802-656-3891

### Poster presentations and discussion session invited!

A poster session allows for extended discussion of the topic with the author, using illustrative materials (tables, graphs, data) placed on a poster. Discussants will be selected for their expertise in an area related to the conference theme. To propose a poster or discussion hour, please send three copies of your proposal; a maximum of three typewritten pages, plus a cover page with poster/discussion session title and name, address, telephone number/fax of each author. Submit the proposal for a poster or discussion session to: Anna Myers-Parrelli, Department of Psychology, John Dewey Hall, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405, fax 802-656-8783, attn: VCPPP.



# Who Will Educate The Public?

### A Media Training Workshop on Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Mental Health Issues

### **APA Division 44 Pre-Convention Workshop**

Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City August 10, 1995 12:30-5:00 PM

Workshop Description:	The goals of this workshop are to increase the ability, comfort and effectiveness in media relations for those with expertise in lesbian, gay & bisexual mental health. The focus will be on practical training in working with print, news, radio and TV media. Participants will have the opportunity to practice on-camera skills with media experts.		
Trainers:	Rhea K. Farberman, APR, APA Associate Executive Director for Public Communications		
	Michael Klepper, Professional Media Trainer, Author of "Getting Your Message Out: How to Get, Use & Survive Radio & Television Air Time."		
	Clinton Anderson, M.A., Officer, Lesbian and Gay Concerns, American Psychological Association		
# CE Hours:	Four.		
Price:	\$75 (\$50 for full-time students) Make checks out to Division 44/SPSGLI.		
Cancellation Policy:	A handling fee of \$25 is deducted for cancellation.  Refund requests <i>must</i> be received by mail by August 1, 1995.		
Registration Form			
Name	Phone ()		
Address	City State Zip		
Send registration and pa	ayment to: Dr. Jane Levin UCCS, 200 Eddy Hall University of Minnesota Minneapolis, MN 55455 For more information call (612) 626-7374 Email address: Levin@mister.ucs.umn.edu		

### The Division 44 Newsletter

The Division 44 Newsletter is published three times a year by the Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian and Gay issues (SPSLGI) in Autumn, Spring and Summer.

The publication of any advertisement in the Newsletter is not an endorsement of the advertiser of the products or services as 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 summer. 1995 newsletter is June 20, 1995.

> Features Editor Ariel Shidlo

Printing Red Sun Press

**Editor** 

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😷 Printed on recycled paper.



### **Become a Member**

All social scientists interested 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 the SPSLGI. Affiliate membership is open to professionals in related fields, or to individual members of the APA who would prefer that their affiliation with the 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 the 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 the SPSLGI, please feel free to contact our membership chair, Jim Fitzgerald, Ph.D.

——— - Membership application — SPS	LGI — APA Divisio	n 44 – – – –	
Name	Date		
Mailing address	City	State	
Zip Business phone	Home phone		
Highest degree Major field of study			
Degree date Institution		<del></del>	
Professional position Gender	Ethnicity		
I am applying for Division 44 membership as a: $\square$ Member $\square$ Associate $\square$ Affiliate $\square$ Student Affiliate			
Dues for student affiliates are \$10. Retired persons, and those with low incomes may be eligible for reduced dues of \$10 (US funds). Please send this form and dues for the current year (\$30 US funds) to the SPSLGI Membership chair: Jim Fitzgerald, Ph.D., 4015 South Cobb Drive, Suite 275, Smyrna, GA 30080. Please make your check out to SPSLGI.			

### Call for Abstracts

The journal Women and Therapy is planning a special issue on couples therapy. We would like to explore ways in which a feminist therapist would conceptualize or practice couples therapy. What are the particular concerns that lesbian couples or heterosexual couples bring to therapy? Are there particular ethical or boundary issues that emerge with couples? What would a feminist application of therapy techniques with couples look like?

We encourage submissions in a range of formats, such as case presentations, theoretical articles, or empirical studies.

Authors are requested to submit a one-page abstract on this topic to Marcia Hill, 25 Court Street, Montpelier, VT 05602 by June 1, 1995. 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 this special issue.

### Announcement

### **Board of Convention Affairs**

The Board of Convention Affairs would like each person with a disability who is planning to attend the Convention in New York City, August 11-15, 1995, to identify himself or herself and to provide information on how we can make the convention more readily accessible for her or his 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 for the convention on the APA Advance Registration and Housing Form which will appear in the March through May issues of the American Psychologist. A note which outlines a person's specific needs should accompany the Advance Registration and Housing Form.  $\nabla$