

# NEWSLETTER OF THE GAY CAUCUS

of Members of the American Psychiatric Association

Whereas homosexuality per se implies no impairment in judgment, stability, reliability, or general social or vocational capabilities, therefore, be it resolved that the American Psychiatric Association deplores all public and private discrimination against homosexuals in such areas as employment, housing, public accommodation, and licensing and declares that no burden of proof of such judgment, capacity, or reliability shall be placed upon homosexuals greater than that imposed on any other persons. Further, the American Psychiatric Association supports and urges the enactment of civil rights legislation at the local, state, and federal level that would offer homosexual citizens the same protections now guaranteed to others on the basis of race, creed, color, etc. Further, the American Psychiatric Association supports and urges the repeal of all discriminatory legislation singling out homosexual acts by consenting adults in private.

---resolution adopted by the APA Board of Trustees

Volume 1 Number 1

Summer 1979

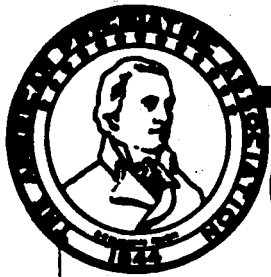
## Psychoanalytic Statute Prevents Legal Entry of Gay Aliens

In both San Francisco and Minneapolis, homosexual visitors from foreign countries were recently denied legal entry by US Immigration and Naturalization officials. Karl Kinder, a West German en route to L.A. to visit his fiance, was told he could not enter the U.S. because he had publicly admitted to being "bisexual". This decision was based on a 1952 statute that permits exclusion of foreigners "afflicted with psychopathic personality." Arriving from London, Carl Hill and Michael Mason, a gay couple, were taken into custody at SF Int. Airport, where they were questioned by Service officials about their homosexuality. The "evidence" for this was a "gay pride" button sported by Hill. Current laws require that "known" (there apparently was no such thing as "admitted" back then) homosexuals be expelled as undesirables. Don Knutson, Hill's attorney and Executive Director of Gay Rights Advocates, has agreed to challenge Immigration's action. In a recent article for THE ADVOCATE, "Homophobia in the American Judicial System," Knutson described the psychiatric testimony of Dr. Charles Socarides, in litigation against a student "Gay Lib" organization by the University of Missouri ('76). This testimony

"confirmed" that the state's "sodomy statute" would be violated if homosexuals were allowed to assemble. Although the substance of this testimony blatantly contradicted the official APA position on homosexuality, Socarides has continued to give similar testimony in court, in the media, and in his new text, HOMOSEXUALITY ('78). And he does so without official censure or other APA response.

## Masters and Johnson to Study 'Fantasy Patterns'

With the publication of their new study, "Homosexuality in Perspective," Masters and Johnson have announced their involvement in several additional projects. The first, a study of fantasy patterns in some 2000 male, female, homo- and heterosexual subjects, will be published in 1981. In 'Perspective,' the authors document that cross-preference fantasies were regularly encountered, even among Kinsey 0's and 6's. They tentatively conclude that fantasy content appears to be an unreliable indicator of sexual preference or orientation.



# CHICAGO

## THE INVISIBLE GAY CAUCUS

The GCMAPA had selected a bold theme for its convention exhibition debut. But Caucus representatives, and an impressive banner that blinked before-and-after descriptions of "The Visible Gay Psychiatrist," were ironically closeted from overt display behind a large, wall-like pillar -- an alleged coincidence of arbitrary assignment, even though no other group was similarly located. This circumstance even more ironically served to underscore the personal and professional frustrations of the invisible gay psychiatrist. As requested by many, and as characterized by Caucus president, Frank Rundle, these concerns are here reprinted, alongside their possible transformations.

## CONSCIOUSNESS RISING

The display booth drama was doubtless a factor, however inadvertent, in the week's success. Otherwise that success could be largely credited to the variety and quality of the scheduled events, as coordinated by Rundle. The hospitality suite that so many had enjoyed in Atlanta was again the site of several crowded cocktail parties and frequent informal discussions. The activities ranged in diversity from formal lectures to films, from symposia to breakfast panels and luncheon CR sessions. A highlight was Yale historian John Boswell's talk on "The Origins of Homophobia in the Christian West." David Kessler's panel on "The Psychotherapy of Homosexual Women and Men" was another. Here, Jean Munzer's characterization of the gay child's social isolation was especially moving. "Unlike other minority youngsters," she observed, "the gay child is uniquely alone," unable to communicate his special individuality to friends, teachers, or family. Her remarks indirectly questioned the behavior modification therapy currently being practiced by Richard Green and Robert Stoller (to say nothing of what Socarides, Bieber, and

Hatterer are still doing). Kessler's panel included the auspicious participation of former APA president John Spiegel, who spoke on the comparative sociology of "the gay culture." For those who hadn't already seen it (and for those who had), the film "Word Is Out" showed many positive faces of gay humanity. By general consensus, the sleeper of these events was the "experimentation" with consciousness raising. Groups of five to eight individuals participated in two, consecutive day sessions over lunch. Many commented that their strongest impressions had come from these CR sessions.

## ISSUES AND RESOLUTIONS

Because the Caucus had not formally applied for, and had not been officially designated, minority status, members agreed to change the organization's name from "Gay Caucus of the APA" to "Gay Caucus of Members of the APA." At the con-

THE INVISIBLE GAY PSYCHIATRIST	THE VISIBLE GAY PSYCHIATRIST
Achievement of authentic selfhood impossible	Gayness no obstacle to achievement of authentic selfhood
Continual deception necessary in everyday life	Honesty and forthrightness possible in everyday life
Acceptance as a fragmented person tolerated	Acceptance as a whole person demanded
Negative cultural stereotypes accepted	Negative cultural stereotypes rejected
Chronically fearful of loss of job, referrals, status, and income if discovered	Confident that professional competence and ability will provide job and economic security
Blames society for not asserting true self and harbors chronic anger	Accepts responsibility for consequences of assertion of true self
Self esteem impaired, with guilt, shame, and depreciated self image inevitable	Self esteem enhanced and healthy pride attainable
Overall functioning effectiveness including as therapist impaired	Effectiveness as total person and especially as therapist enhanced
Depression likely due to self-conscious denial of self and objectless chronic anger	Healthy emotional reaction due to acceptance of self and appropriate direction of anger
Experiences isolation, alienation, and loneliness with either gay or straight psychiatrists	Gains support and encouragement from and solidarity with other visible gay psychiatrists
Helplessly resigned to and pessimistic about society's inequities	Willing to challenge society's anti-gay bias and laws
Easily subject to paranoid distortions and fears in relation to homosexuality	Less likely to become paranoid around homosexual issues
Some degree of stagnation inevitable	Growth potential enhanced
<b>PRETENDING IMPRISONED</b>	<b>BEING LIBERATED</b>

vention's two business meetings, much discussion was devoted to the question of whether or not the Caucus should petition for minority status, as an official Caucus of the APA assembly. It was suggested

that the advantages of official representation, of having this means of direct communication with the APA government, might be offset by the requirement that the Caucus would then have to exist solely for the purpose of electing representatives to the Assembly. In other words, if the Caucus applies for and is officially designated minority status, it cannot then be an autonomous body for other purposes. A solution would be to have both a caucus for electing representatives, and a separate organization for all other endeavors. It was concluded that these alternatives should be further explored.

Caucus objectives were discussed. Although not formally outlined or voted on as such, it was emphasized that the Caucus is principally concerned with advancing the understanding of homosexuality among psychiatrists. Other decisions included the following:

- The bylaws were briefly reviewed. It was decided that a separate Nominating Committee should be appointed, which would not include Steering Committee members.
- Demographic representation should be expanded to include a wider cross-section of psychiatrists, especially those in non-urban areas.
- Officers of the Caucus will be President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Newsletter Editor will be a staff position.
- Members must be registered to vote by or on May 1, in order to be able to vote in that year's elections.
- It was established that dues will be \$50 for members and \$25 for members-in-training, annually.
- It was unanimously agreed that officers of the organization must be able to be publicly identified as such.
- Planning for the 1980 Caucus in San Francisco will be carried out by SF and other California area members.
- CR activities will be expanded for the SF convention. A larger number of smaller groups will have the opportunity to meet daily.
- John Boswell was invited to repeat and expand his talk for SF.

## NEW ORLEANS BOYCOTT

As proposed by Nanette Gartrell, the Caucus voted to join the Women's and Latin-American minority caucuses in boycotting the 1981 APA convention in New Orleans, if Louisiana remains a non-ERA ratified state.

## NEW OFFICERS

Officers elected for '79-'80 are:

President.....	Frank Rundle New York
President-Elect.....	David Kessler San Francisco
Vice-President.....	Nanette Gartrell Brookline, Mass.
Secretary.....	Emery Hetrick New York
Treasurer.....	Jalna Perry Boston
Newsletter Editor.....	Lawrence Mass New York

## TASK FORCE UPDATE

The Task Force on Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual related issues, designated by the APA Council on National Affairs, has prepared a questionnaire which will be published in Psychiatric News this fall. Indirectly, it will thus be distributed to nearly 30,000 psychiatrists. The survey included 27 questions seeking demographic data, information about "coming out" experiences and the kinds of academic and clinical work being carried out by APA members. The results of this survey will be presented at the SF meeting. (Task Force delegate Virginia Davidson of Houston, Texas, resigned and was replaced by Nanette Gartrell.)

## CAUCUS SOLVENT

Sufficient funds were received through contributions and dues collected to pay all expenses of the Chicago meeting. A detailed financial statement is being prepared and will appear in the next newsletter.

# GAYS TRY TO STOP 'CRUISING'

A screen adaptation of Gerald Walker's novel, 'Cruisin' ('68), about a psychopathic policeman (played by Al Pacino) who murders homosexuals, is currently being filmed in New York. Jerry Weintraub, the producer, and William Friedkin, the director ("Boys in the Band," "The Exorcist," and "The French Connection"), have been sharply criticized by gay observers who claim that the film depicts homosexuals in negative, sado-masochistic stereotypes. There were several large demonstrations, and several confrontations with city police. Weintraub alleged that he would not be intimidated by "gay radicals." "What is shown in this film is really going on, right here, right now." Several days after these events, Wein-

traub's representative stated that the script has now been changed to present a more reasoned, cross-section of gay life.

## Terrorist Chic

A disturbing, not so subtly homophobic, book has recently entered the mass market. Michael Selzer's "Terrorist Chic" is a short, cursory exploration of our culture's "infatuation" with violence. Various manifestations of this trend are analyzed, from punk rock, to Dracula, from Studio 54 to international terrorism. Significantly, the book's first chapter describes the "leather subculture" of New York's gay community.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Dr. Don Brown of BAPHR will coordinate an all day course on gay issues for the 1980 convention in SF.
- 2) If you are interested in learning more about CR, and about how to start groups in your own area, please contact Dr. Emery Hetrick, 144 East 36th Street, New York, N.Y. 10016.
- 3) If you are interested in reserving a block of hotel rooms for SF at less than New York or Chicago prices, please contact James Paulsen, 610 Los Trancos Road, Portola Valley, California 94205.
- 4) Anyone wishing to make a formal presentation of clinical or academic material at the 1980 convention should immediately contact David Kessler, 401 Parnassus Avenue, San Francisco, California 94143.
- 5) Anyone interested in submitting short reviews (1-2 paragraphs) of recent literature or films with gay themes is urged to do so, for publication in this Newsletter. (Examples: Robert Stoller's "Sexual Excitement," or the new film, "Nighthawks.")

If you have any announcements, please send them to the Newsletter. All newsletter correspondence should be sent to Lawrence Mass, 133 West 17th Street (4-A), New York, New York 10011.

## SUBSCRIPTION & MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The GCMAPA is apparently the first national organization not only of gay psychiatrists, but of gay physicians as well. We are not as yet the largest organization of gay physicians in America (that distinction belongs to Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights). But we can be. Gay psychiatrists are estimated to number from 1250 to 2500.

Membership information can be obtained from Emery S. Hetrick, M.D., 144 East 36th Street, New York, N.Y. 10016.

This newsletter is printed six times yearly. Subscriptions are available upon request. Send your name or the name of your organization to Lawrence Mass, M.D., 133 West 17th Street (4-A) New York, N.Y. 10011.