

(Front cover)

BEYOND HYSTERIA

**BOY EROTICA
ON THE INTERNET**

DAVID L. RIEGEL

Beyond Hysteria

Also by David L. Riegel:

Understanding Loved Boys and Boylovers (2000).
Philadelphia: SafeHaven Foundation Press

Effects on Boy-Attracted Pedosexual Males of Viewing Boy
Erotica. (2004). *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 33 (4)
321-323.

“Abused to Abuser”: An examination of new non-clinical and
non-prison data. (In press). *Journal of Psychology
and Human Sexuality* 16(4).

Pedophilia, Pejoration, and Prejudice: Inquiry by Insinuation,
Argument by Accusation. (In press). *Sexuality &
Culture* 8 (4).

The Real Evil Among Us. (In press). In W. J. Taverner (Ed.),
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I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to an uncounted number of boys and men who have accepted me into their confidence on the Internet. Real life meetings are neither prudent nor practical, so I most likely will never know their voices and faces. But many of them have discussed their very personal feelings, longings, and frustrations at great length and in much depth through various Internet communications media. They have withheld practically nothing, although I have always made it quite clear that they were not to say anything to me that could constitute admitting to the commission of a crime. This is for my own protection as much as theirs, as one gets into a very gray area in today's social climate if one becomes aware of a relationship that could be seen as illegal in any sense of the word. I am neither a priest nor an attorney, so I have no immunity. But I have been meticulously careful to insure that I have no need of such immunity.

I must also say a very special thank you to the hundreds of completely anonymous boys and men who volunteered to participate in the surveys which produced the data for this book and for a previous paper. The data they reported, and the observations they contributed, have opened a window on the inner perceptions of a significant portion of mankind who have always existed in unknown numbers, but who have never been able to express their views in a manner that could be heard by the rest of the world.

I have also benefited greatly from several highly qualified men who took the interest and time to be my unofficial advisors, counselors, and even teachers. It is

regrettable but true that I cannot identify any of these academics and professionals; for them to allow themselves to be connected with me would be professional suicide and would endanger their families, social standing, and careers. But without the advice, encouragement, counsel, and constructive criticism that I have received from these men, my attempts at research might not have amounted to anything, and this book would not exist. The most senior and experienced of these assures me that what I am going through with my research, writing, criticism, and rewriting after rewriting, would constitute a Ph.D. program in any academic institution in the world, the difference being that I would have to derive my satisfaction from bringing light to places where only darkness has previously existed, rather than from fancy script and an impressive seal on a piece of vellum.

Perhaps at a later date, and in a better world, I might be able to thank these mentors openly, but for now, they, like me, will have to take private satisfaction in the contributions they have made to the betterment of mankind, and more specifically to the well being and understanding of present and future generations of boys in this world.

Introductory Notes

In their own words:

In various places throughout this book, the *italicized passages* that you find are entire or excerpted responses to requests for personal observations by the unidentified and unidentifiable respondents to the questionnaire which is the basis for this book. Some of these have been edited for spelling, as well as to some degree for grammar, but no changes in substance have been made. It is the intention of the author to let these respondents speak as much as is possible for themselves.

Previous use of this data:

Some of the data from one of the questionnaires which are the basis for this book were also used in a "Letter to the Editor" by the same author, "Effects on Boy-Attracted Pedosexual Males of Viewing Boy Erotica," which was published in Volume 33, Number 4, pages 321-323 (August 2004) of the *Archives of Sexual Behavior*.

Percentages in tables:

Percentages in tables may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Definitions of acronyms, abbreviations, and terms:

Boy Erotica (BE): Either images or stories that portray nudity or activities of boys, singly or with other males, which are sexual in nature and erotic in their effect.

Boy-attracted Pedosexual Males (BPM, singular or plural): Males who have a sexual attraction to boys, regardless of whether or not that attraction is acted upon. Laws define boys as males less than a specific age, usually 18 but sometimes younger.

Boy-attracted Pedosexual Orientation (BPO): The sexual orientation of a BPM as defined above.

Consensual Age-variant Boyhood Sex (CABS): Actual physical sexual relations, such as unilateral or mutual masturbation, oral sex (fellatio), or anal sex, between a consenting boy and a male who is usually three or more years older.

Mean (M): In statistics, the average of a set of values, obtained by adding up all the values in the set and then dividing by the number of values.

Median: In statistics, that number in a set of data which has the same number of values above and below it.

Number of subjects (N): In statistics, the number of individuals who are being described or discussed.

Standard Deviation (SD): In statistics, the measure of the amount or degree of variability of the values in a given set.

One

The Issues: “Child Pornography,” Boy Erotica, and “Pedophilia”

“Child Pornography” is a “hot button” issue that is rarely discussed in a rational manner. It is invariably clouded with overly broad and essentially meaningless descriptions, biased and pejorative terminology, smug assumptions based on subjectively determined “morality,” and a godlike attitude of absolute, final, incontrovertible, and exclusive self-enlightenment on the part of those who crusade against the conjured Hydra they would have the world believe exists. These demagogues exploit the phenomenon of mob mentality to create a climate of hysteria that is specifically intended to suppress and denigrate any serious inquiries into reality. They conduct an ongoing war of terror against researchers or anyone else who questions their pronouncements, not by responding to the issues, but by attacking individuals.

This book, however, is a direct challenge to these terrorists and to the misinformation they promulgate. It is not the intent of this volume to try to deal with the entire unmanageable hodgepodge of child pornography, but rather to isolate and examine one well defined segment, “Boy Erotica” (BE). We shall go beyond hysteria and conduct a rational discussion, based on empirical data, of the viewing by males of images and written descriptions of boy nudity and sexuality, and of the making of those images.

Additionally, we shall examine the underlying issues of relationships between boys and older males which include a consensual sexual component. By taking

into consideration that neither “conventional wisdom,” societal and media hysteria, nor the assertions of a Pharisaical sect of psychologists who refer to themselves as “victimologists,” have little if any basis in fact, we shall examine in a new light the evidence provided by Internet surveys conducted in 2002 and 2004.

Philip Jenkins of Pennsylvania State University is the author of, among many other scholarly works, *Moral Panic* (1998), which is a fairly honest examination of the social issues it addresses. In a later work, *Beyond Tolerance: Child Pornography on the Internet* (2001), Jenkins makes a perhaps reasonably believable attempt at transcending the usual hyperbole about child pornography. But he, like so many others, comes up short of that mark in that he chooses “conventional wisdom” over published scientific research, fails to make critical distinctions, employs inaccurate and pejorative terminology, and on occasions lapses into very unprofessional inflammatory rhetoric. He cites a plethora of anecdotes, but pertinent empirical data are noticeably absent.

Bauserman (2003) reviewed *Beyond Tolerance* and came to similar conclusions. He also noted:

Jenkins focuses exclusively on online material of interest to men attracted to adolescent or pre-pubescent girls (he acknowledges the existence of a parallel group of men attracted to boys, but reports being unable to locate a parallel online culture for this group). (p. 219)

I find it curious that Jenkins takes this position, when even a cursory survey of the Usenet “newsgroups” produces several examples of boy oriented groups, e.g. *alt.binaries.pictures.boys*, which group he even mentions

(p.55). What Jenkins' intent is in concentrating on girl oriented groups while ignoring those pertaining to boys is not clear, but it may simply be that there was not sufficient "dirt" on the boy oriented groups to titillate readers. I must confess, however, that, like Jenkins, my research interests are unilateral, only in the opposite direction, and I have ignored the girl oriented groups.

While there is little equivalent tradition for girls with older females, the sexually expressed relationships of boys with older males has a long history going back at least as far as ancient Greece. Situations were quite common back then, as well as in other cultures and times, in which the older male was first a mentor and role model for the boy, and sex was only one part of the relationship. But sex was definitely a part, and it was and is accepted in those societies. Although there is no documented evidence, the "master/apprentice" arrangement between a boy and an older male that was so common from the dawn of recorded history up until perhaps the mid 20th century might well have lent itself to the existence of a sexual component.

It must be acknowledged, however, that in coercive and economic conditions such as slavery and prostitution, boys – like females – were simply sex objects. Young girls were certainly sought after for sexual purposes, but boys had the advantage of not menstruating or becoming pregnant.

The first requirement for a rational investigation in this area is the careful deconstruction of "pedophile-pedophilia," for even the words themselves are corrupted and misused. "Pedophilia" (or "paedophilia" if one happens to be under the spell of the Queen's English), comes from the Greek *pais* (παῖς, child or youth, not gender

specific, the combining form is *paedo* or *pedo*) and *philia* (φιλία, friendly love or affection – it would be *eros* (ερως) if it meant physical or sexual love) (Liddell, 1888). So pedophilia is by etymology the nonsexual love of a child or youth – not sexual lust after a minor, as it has been corrupted in today’s usage. Every parent, grandparent, uncle, aunt, teacher, and caring neighbor is – or at least should be – a pedophile.

As long as a consensual sexual relationship between a boy and an older male is seen as being as equally harmful and abusive as the brutal vaginal rape of a 6 year old girl by her stepfather, there can be no intelligent discussion. Not only is there a gross difference in the potentially traumatic physical aspects of the latter scenario, but analyses of empirical research based on non-clinical and non-prison samples (Rind, 1997, Rind *et al.*, 1998) demonstrate that the perceptions and reactions of boys are drastically different from those of girls. If the perceptions, reactions, and effects of such sexual encounters are so different for boys and for girls, it thus would seem reasonable to also separate the consideration of depictions of boy/boy/older male solo and joint activities from girl/peer male/older male “pornography.”

Another important distinction, with which many disagree, is the effect of the degree of willingness on the part of the boy. Some theorists adamantly insist that a boy is incapable of expressing, and incompetent to give or withhold, any form of meaningful consent. These people obviously have never taken a bright and uninhibited 8 year old boy shopping for new sneakers.

One must also note that there are two distinctive genera of erotica involving boys; pictures and text, each with its own characteristics. Additionally, there are many

degrees and levels of activities from simple solo nudity through group anal intercourse orgies, and the mental state of the “actors” in pictures and videos can vary from enthusiastic cooperation to abject submission. Only when these and other salient distinctions are carefully and accurately sorted out can one begin to discuss boy erotica. We will examine later how these concerns and considerations entered into the development of the questionnaires that furnished the data and respondent observations for this book.

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Two

Predators: The Misinformed, the Misguided, and the Miscreants

If someone falsely shouted “FIRE!” in a crowded theater, that person would be considered a dangerous psychopath. If in the ensuing panic people were hurt or even killed, this predator quite probably would be prosecuted and punished for his misdeed. There is, however, a victimological faction of psychologists, psychiatrists, and their fellow travelers who whisper, solemnly intone, or even scream, “PEDOPHILE!” with the sole and specific purpose of creating panic in the minds of all who hear, and with the predatory goal of destroying the credibility and effectiveness of those who are targeted in such attacks. Unsuccessful in their feeble and unscientific efforts to discredit the increasing amount of empirical research which undermines the tenets of victimology, they instead lash out in *ad hominem* attacks against the researchers.

Stephanie J. Dallam (2001) used this tactic when she maliciously described me as a “pedophile advocate” (p. 716). She thus insinuates that I agree with and advocate everything that she and her ilk have dumped into their “pedophile barrel,” even including such despicable acts as the rape of a six year old. She knew that this was a vicious lie when she wrote it, but truth and honor are not the hallmarks of victimologists. David Spiegel, a prominent victimologist and a coauthor of the Dallam article, who has been a vociferous and acerbic critic of the Rind *et al.* (1998) meta-analysis, acrimoniously accused Rind *et al.* of “stacking the deck” and “slanting their methods” (Spiegel, 2000). Also, in the *New York*

Times (Goode, 1999) Spiegel misused an unattributed quote from the late advertising mogul David Ogilvy (1971) to the effect that Rind *et al.* used meta-analysis “as a drunk uses a lamp post, for support, rather than for illumination.”

I submit that Dallam, Spiegel, Ondersma (2001), Finkelhor (1981), and the rest of this onerous faction of psychology go far beyond benignly using a lamp post for support; it seems obvious to me that they deliberately insist and persist in using pejorative and inflammatory terms such as “pedophile,” “molester,” “perpetrator,” “victim,” and “pedophile advocate,” in the same way, and with the same malicious intent, as the scoundrel who would shout “FIRE” in a crowded theater.

The “Psychology Industry” (Dineen, 2000) has a long history of promoting positions which eventually have been shown not only to be false, but never to have had any empirical basis in the first place. The American Psychiatric Association and its counterpart, the American Psychological Association, are coconspirators in the formulation of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders - Fourth Edition*, which is considered to be the “bible” of psychology and psychiatry. However, the tablets for their commandments seem to be made of quicksand rather than stone, for their psychopathological diagnosis of homosexuality was forced by reality to be completely reversed, and the pronouncements concerning this issue completely rewritten or simply removed. Similar revisions are now in process with other invented constructions such as so called “Multiple Personality Disorders” (rechristened “Disassociative Identity Disorders”) (Dineen, 2000), “Recovered Memories” (Loftus, 1996, Neimark, 2004) and “Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.” It would seem to be only a matter of time until

the legitimate paradigm of Consensual Age-variant Boyhood Sex (CABS) will be rescued from the pedophile barrel and depathologized. Given the continuing inconsistency and instability, the questionable scientific methodology, and the increasing lack of public credibility, it is no wonder that Dawes (1996) used “*House of Cards*” to describe the psychology industry.

The Miscreant BPM

There is, however, another separate and distinct group of predators about which we need to speak. The research which we shall examine later indicates that the vast majority of Boy-attracted Pedosexual Males (BPM), whom we shall describe in their own chosen terminology as “boylovers,” are equally or more concerned about the well being of boys than they are about possible sexual contact with those boys. However, just as in heterosexuality, there exists a minority whose attitude is quite less honorable; people from whom boylovers who take a responsible attitude in their relationships with boys vigorously disassociate themselves. These are the real “molesters” and “predators,” who have no real love for boys and whose only concern is to satisfy their lust, whose deeds are occasionally found in newspaper headlines and on TV news broadcasts, and who are quite properly despised by the general public as well as by responsible boylovers.

In their own words:

There is a very thick line separating us boylovers from molesters and predators. ... First we need to understand who are the bad guys here.

Victimologists insist that these criminals are representative of all BPM, but they have no credible evidence nor data to support their position. What they use instead as a basis for their arguments are outdated and grossly faulted studies of small clinical and prison populations (e.g. Bard *et al.*, 1983, Groth, 1979), groups which cannot logically be thought of as representative of the immensely larger non-clinical and non-prison population of boylovers. This is just one more example of the questionable methodology that is undermining the credibility of much psychological research.

We shall not dwell on either of these groups, the misinformed, misguided, and sometimes even malicious psychiatrists, psychologists, and their fellow travelers who refuse to recognize the absurdity of their discredited positions, or the equally misinformed, misguided, and sometimes even malicious older males who have misappropriated the honorable name of “boylover,” but who have no real love for boys and only see them as sex objects to be used, abused, and then discarded.

We shall, instead, use the most recent and extensive data that are available from a sample of the non-clinical and non-prison population of boylovers, and we shall attempt to apply sound statistical and psychological methodology and analysis to these data in order to come up with as accurate a description as is possible.

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Three

Research: Contacting the Boylovers and Gathering the Data

According to the textbooks, the proper way to conduct a psychological survey is to obtain a list of the population you wish to survey, choose a completely random sample from that population, and then solicit the desired information from members of this random sample using interviews or written questionnaires. But this utopian exercise only exists in textbooks and classrooms, so one must do the best he can within the limitations of the real life situation with which he is faced. The people we want to investigate and describe are not to be found on anybody's list.

Boy-attracted Pedosexual Males (BPM) who have never been involved in legal proceedings or clinical treatment are extremely difficult to locate. They are unlikely to identify themselves to anyone that they don't trust explicitly, because even if they have never had sexual contact with a minor, self disclosure is likely to subject them to harassment, social ostracism, loss of employment, family estrangement, and other problems. Quite understandably they find it prudent to maintain anonymity. We have already discussed and dismissed the idea of using people for our survey who have run afoul of the law, or who have sought out or been assigned to clinical psychology settings. So where do we go from here?

Fortunately, the development of the Internet and World Wide Web has opened up a new possibility for reaching such males. There are various open access non-membership Internet groups which provide for any-

mous peer discussion of boylove. A survey of those who participate in such groups could be an important source of data and other information, assuming that the cooperation of a reasonable number of participants could be obtained.

Extensive research now exists supporting the validity of anonymous, computer-assisted, or completely computer and Internet based survey methods. Millstein & Irwin (1983) pioneered in the use of interactive computer interviews by utilizing either an interactive computer interview, face-to-face interview, or self-administered questionnaire concerning general health and sexual behavior with a group of 108 girls ages 14 to 20. These investigators found no differences in anxiety or the reporting of sexual behavior between the three groups. With the advent of the World Wide Web, Krantz *et al.* (1997) and Stanton (1998) investigated and endorsed the Internet as a valid and suitable means of gathering data. Pettit (2002) and Cronk and West (2002) have made comparisons of web based and “paper and pencil” data collections and have concluded that there are no significant differences in the quality or validity of the data. Both Duffy (2002) and Rhodes *et al.* (2003) commented on the ability to reach otherwise inaccessible respondents and populations through the Internet.

A sample obtained from such Internet groups would not in any sense be random, as those who are active in these on line groups are already self-selected, and those who further chose to participate in a survey would be even more so. One must also be aware of the possibility of a self serving bias from such respondents. But this type of sample would provide at least a beginning point for research, and would avoid the most obvious biases of prison and clinical studies noted by

Green (2002): "...study ... of pedophiles is hampered by sampling bias. Nearly all studies involve prisoners or those convicted of a criminal offence. These are doubtful representatives of all pedophiles who have contact with children and certainly not representative of pedophiles who confine their eroticism to fantasy..."(p. 468). Most importantly, Internet sampling is both feasible and immediately available, whereas other methods of reaching nonclinical and nonlegal samples of BPM are not.

It was anticipated that it would be difficult to build an adequate rapport with members of this subculture. But it was also felt that this goodwill, and the information that could be thus obtained, were critical to the success of any attempt to understand this phenomenon and these people. Therefore informal discussions and formative research were conducted to determine what questions could be asked with a reasonable likelihood of truthful responses, and the range of responses that potential participants would find acceptable. These discussions, of course, use nicknames, or "nicks" as they are known on the Internet, so the real life identity or specific location of these correspondents was never known.

To accomplish this, the author entered into non-judgmental on line communications with various members of these Internet groups over an extended period of time. These communications were quite easily initiated by noting email addresses furnished on news groups and forums, or by simply posting a message on one of these sites. Initial reactions almost invariably were extremely cautious, but after experiencing consistent respect and tolerance from the researcher, most eventually were willing to discuss their issues, concerns, and problems. By building credibility, it was possible to obtain descriptions, definitions, and a likely range of responses, which

helped in the formulation of appropriate and meaningful questions. Additionally, these communications served to legitimize the researcher and the proposed data collection process, and to enhance the probability of acceptance and cooperation when the time came to invite participation in the proposed survey.

Several factors emerged from these discussions, including the understanding that these people had little use for, or trust in, psychiatrists or psychologists or of anything that smelled like either one. Another was that there was no possibility of asking questions about actual sexual contact these BPM might have had with boys, the risk for the respondents simply would be too great. But it was possible to ask about their tendencies and desires, and these were judged to be acceptable proxies. It was indicated, however, that questions about any sexual contacts these BPM had themselves as boys would be acceptable, and so these were included.

The questionnaire that was developed after nearly a year of preliminary research, and innumerable Beta tests and revisions, used an interactive, Web-based HTML format with mutually exclusive “radio buttons” to select responses, as described by Rhodes *et al.* (2003). Multiple aspects of the sexual attraction of older males to minor males included general demographics, sexual background and experiences, attraction to and relationships with boys, the mental health of the respondents, and sexual orientation using a modified Kinsey (1948) scale. Informed consent regarding participation in this survey was addressed in the preamble to the document, and potential participants were assured that no attempts would be made to identify any individual. Code was written into the processing software which required that each question be answered, and that also prevented any-

one from submitting the same set of responses multiple times in rapid succession.

Respondents were asked if, as a boy, they had one or more sexual contacts with significantly older males. If so, they were asked further questions about the relationship, or, if there had been more than one, the one they considered most important. These questions included the respondent's age at the beginning of the encounter, the age differential of the older male, and how he initially came in contact with the older male. Questions followed as to who initiated the sexual aspect and to what degree, how willing the respondent was to continue it, and the relative degree of friendship versus sex. There were also specific questions about masturbation, oral sex, and anal sex, and whether the respondent was the active or passive participant. Finally, the respondent was asked to describe how he felt about the relationship at the time, and in retrospect.

In several places in the questionnaire, respondents were given the opportunity to expand their thoughts in a "text box." We will hear excerpts from some of these comments in later chapters, sometimes with grammar and spelling corrected, and identified by being in *italics*. Since all respondents were completely anonymous, no identification can be attached to these comments.

The above questions were intended to determine the nature and extent, as well as the degree of willingness, of the respondent's sexual involvement with an older male, for the purpose of comparing these factors with the manner and degree in which the respondent's BPO was manifested.

The question of any sexual relationships with boys the respondent might have had could not be asked due to possible self incrimination, but questions were asked about the respondent's current degree of attraction to boys, the degree of his sexual interest, the extent of his involvement in a nurturing and mentoring role, and the length of such relationships.

Due to resistance expressed by potential respondents to the usual psychometric personality tests, a straightforward series of questions were asked about self perceived mental health. Areas included general self-evaluation, employment, family, and other interpersonal relationships, coping, optimism versus pessimism, stress and depression, etc.

Questions were asked about viewing and reading habits concerning boy erotica on the internet and elsewhere, and reactions were requested to several different types of images and stories. Then questions were asked about the effects of such viewing and/or reading, and in addition to the quantitative reports, provisions were made for free text qualitative comments as previously mentioned. We will discuss these specific questions, answers, and comments more fully in later chapters.

During November and December of 2002, invitations to participate were posted on four different newsgroups, four discussion forums, and one link site. Each of these was furnished a discrete HTML page address so that sources – but not individuals – could be identified. The author did not solicit participation from any of these respondents individually, and the identity of the participants remains completely unknown. There were a total of 2,730 “hits” on these nine HTML pages, but since these are all open access sites, there is no way

of determining how many of these hits were from idle curiosity seekers, persons who follow these sites for the specific purpose of harassment, or even from law enforcement agencies. In addition, there is no way of knowing how many times those to whom the survey was specifically addressed accessed these pages before and/or after they actually participated in the survey.

Even after over a year of careful preparation and explanation, suspicions of a law enforcement sting were expressed on some of the forums and newsgroups, and these certainly diminished the volume of legitimate responses. But there were also expressions of approval, support, and encouragement to participate from those who had come to trust the integrity of the researcher, and a total of 321 sets of responses were received, which included 384 text responses ranging from two or three words to nearly two single spaced pages. Of these 321 respondents, 31 were persons who reported their age as less than 18. The fact that a young male is less than 18 years of age is in no way a legitimate reason to invalidate his thoughts and opinions, and their responses were retained in the data base.

Given the above confounding circumstances, it is inappropriate to try to assign any kind of a “response rate” to the survey. Examination of the data for obvious anomalies indicated that a very small proportion of the respondents may have deliberately tried to skew the data with false or misleading responses. One example of an anomaly which would seem to be quite obvious is the 0.9% (N=3) of this sample of self described BPM who reported that they were “not attracted to boys.” Since this and other possible anomalies did not seem to be statistically significant, no attempt was made to correct for any of them; all of the data were analyzed and reported

exactly as received. However, the presence of some small degree of false and misleading responses should be given consideration when evaluating anomalous statistical outliers.

A second survey directed at males who as boys had a willing relationship with an older male that included a consensual sexual component involving at least genital touching was begun in May of 2004. This survey has an optional section which asks about being photographed nude and/or in sexual situations, and the results to date of this investigation are discussed in the chapter entitled "Actors."

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Four

People: Their Sexual Background, and the Vampire Theory

In their own words:

As I am sure you are aware, homosexuality and being black were once considered, like pedophilia still is, sexually deviant. However, I believe that as time progresses, the general mass is made aware of how many people are gay and are black, thus views shifted. Pedophilia has been around for thousands of years and yet still people think that only a few lowly trolls lurk the streets walking around school play grounds and bedroom windows, hunting for their prey.... Boys trust men I think because men represent something boys can relate to physically. However, there is a much deeper burning that lies in me, much more than just some physical coincidence. The purity and non-judgment of a boy who is cognizant enough to hold clear opinions and enjoy sensual and sexual as well as intellectual and nonsense-type attention fills my soul more than anything else I have experienced yet. I hope you find ... answers so that the world will look at boylovers with the same eyes as they do the ... homosexual or African American.

When the questionnaire that is the basis of this book was being developed, consideration was given to the question of imposing minimum age requirements for participation. This is a legal gray area; if persons under the nominal minimum legal age of 18 were to be contacted directly and either interviewed or asked to fill in a questionnaire, there would be no doubt that parental or legal guardian permission would be required. But when

the Internet is the vehicle and the respondents are completely anonymous, there is, in the first place, no way to verify that any respondent is or is not of legal age. And secondly, to try to bar underage males from participating would most likely mean that they would simply lie about their age.

As was mentioned earlier, it therefore seemed most logical and reasonable to impose no restrictions, and to thus encourage truthfulness and honesty. The issue of legal age was not mentioned in any part of the questionnaire, the only stipulation regarding participation was in the preamble:

“By clicking on the "Submit" button at the end of this form, I certify that I am voluntarily participating of my own free will and volition, without any reservations, and that I feel emotionally and intellectually competent to deal with these issues.”

The data therefore are presented as received and in their entirety. It is worth noting in Table 1 that 9.7% (N=31) of the respondents reported their Boy-attracted Pedosexual Orientation (BPO) before they turned 18, and 2.5% (N=8) before they were 15. How many of the respondents who are currently over 18 were aware of their BPO before they turned 18 is not known.

I'm 16, male, and have looked at boy erotica since about 12. I have several younger friends (about 12), though anything I ever would do with them would have to be mutually consensual. I wouldn't have it any other way.

I have known about my attraction for only a few years, which I first noticed in my early teens...

Table 1
Participant Characteristics (N=321)

Age:	Education:
Under 15 ----- 2.5%	8 years or less-----5.3%
15-17 ----- 7.2%	9-12 years ----- 22.1%
18-21 -----16.2%	Some college ----- 35.8%
22-29 -----22.7%	College degree----- 22.7%
30-39 -----24.0%	Advanced degree-- 14.0%
40-49 -----14.6%	
50 and older -----12.8%	Religion:
	Protestant----- 24.0%
Race:	Catholic----- 18.7%
	Jewish-----2.2%
White-----89.7%	Muslim -----1.2%
Latino ----- 4.7%	Other----- 17.1%
Asian ----- 3.7%	None ----- 36.8%
Black ----- 0.9%	
Other ----- 0.9%	How religious:
	Extremely -----1.9%
Residence:	Very-----7.8%
	Moderately----- 19.3%
United States -----48.9%	Mildly----- 30.5%
Western Europe----12.5%	Not at all----- 40.5%
United Kingdom ---10.0%	
Canada ----- 8.4%	
Australia/New	
Zealand----- 7.5%	
Latin American ---- 5.0%	
Other ----- 7.8%	

In this and other tables, totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Sexual Background

25.2% (N=81) of these BPM respondents reported a sexual encounter as a boy (i.e., under 18 years of age) with a significantly (at least 5 years) older male. In a meta-analytic study of ten national samples, Rind and Tromovitch (1997) reported a prevalence range of such encounters by males from 6% to 36% (M = 17.7%, SD = 11.3%). In another meta-analytic study of 59 college samples, Rind *et al.* (1998) reported a range from 3% to 37% with an unweighted mean of 17% (SD = 10%). The 25.2% prevalence in the current study is higher than both of the means in the meta-analyses, but is within one standard deviation. The definitional criteria in the studies used in the meta-analyses were quite variable and could at least partially account for the differences with the current study.

Table 2: Age of respondent at the time of the initial encounter, N=81.

<6	6 – 8	9 - 10	11	12	13 – 14	15 – 17
7 (8.6%)	10 (12.4%)	15 (18.5%)	14 (17.3%)	12 (14.8%)	9 (11.1%)	14 (17.3%)

These data are presented in smaller age increments at the later pre-teen age levels to illustrate the larger numbers in these categories. Mean age is 11.1, median is 11.0.

Table 3: Age difference in years between respondent and older male, N=81.

5 – 7	8 - 10	11 - 15	16 - 20	>20
23 (28.4%)	14 (17.3%)	9 (11.1%)	12 (14.8%)	23 (28.4%)

Age differences are concentrated in the 5-10 year span, and even more so in the 5-7 year category.

Of the 81 who reported a sexual encounter with a significantly older male as a boy, in 71.6% (N=58) of the cases their partner was less than 21 years older, 56.8% (N=46) less than 16 years older, 45.7% (N=37) less than 11 years older, and 28.4% (N=23) less than 8 years older. One hears the word “Intergenerational” applied to relationships between boys and older males, but if we consider a “generation” as being 20 plus years, 71.6 % of these relationships are other than “intergenerational.” Only in 28.4% (N=23) of the cases was the age differential more than 20 years.

Table 4: Whose idea was it to initiate sex, N=81

Entirely mine	Mostly mine	It was mutual	Mostly his	Entirely his
2 2.5%	5 6.1%	15 18.5%	21 25.9%	38 46.9%

Of those who had experienced a boyhood sexual encounter with a significantly older male, 27.1% indicated that the sexual contact was partially to entirely on their own initiative. Crosstabulation of age of first sex versus initiator shows that older boys were slightly more likely to initiate the sex themselves, but there is a lot of scatter and no definitive pattern.

Since boys by nature are inquisitive about everything, including sex, one would think that the percentage of initiators would be much higher. But society, permeated by repression and sexophobia when it comes to children, uses the enormous emotional baggage with which sex has been laden to infect, warp, and pervert boys’ perception of sex at a very early age. Paul Graham (2004) notes:

Kids' heads are repositories of all our taboos. It seems fitting to us that kids' ideas should be bright and clean. The picture we give them of the world is ... sanitized ... *to suit our ideas of what kids ought to think.....* But one wonders, do we tell them this stuff for their sake, or for ours? ... The important thing for our purposes is that, as a result, a well brought-up teenage kid's brain is a more or less *complete collection of all our taboos--* and in mint condition, because they're untainted by experience. (my italics)

The sociobiological inclination of boys is to experience their sexuality as something which is simply to be enjoyed, something which is as pleasurable and innocuous as frolicking under a sprinkler or eating an ice cream cone. But society insists that these benign sexual tendencies are “wrong” and therefore must be “corrected,” thus creating a confusing and frustrating inner struggle which too often leads to a state of emotional and psychosexual dysfunction, an affliction from which some may never recover. It takes a strong-willed and adventuresome boy to defy the taboos and set out to explore his own sexuality.

[The] ... *relationship I had with this man was an experiment for me, he was not aware of my interests until I approached him and invited him to my house and into my room. ... and fantasies became a reality.*

However, after the initial contact, 85.2% reported that they were anywhere from somewhat to completely willing to continue the sexual contact. It is worth noting that some 80% of those who did not initiate the contact were willing to continue after their first experience. This further illustrates the extent to which boys are sexually

repressed, and the degree to which they will embrace sexually exploration and play once they have overcome the fear and apprehension with which they have been sadly and inappropriately saddled.

Table 5: Specific activities on the part of the respondents prior to age 18, N=81.

Received masturbation	Performed masturbation	Received oral sex	Performed oral sex	Received anal sex	Performed anal sex
68 (84.0%)	52 (64.2%)	59 (72.9%)	47 (58.0%)	42 (58.9%)	19 (23.5%)

Over 8 out of 10 were masturbated, over 7 out of 10 were the recipients of oral sex, and nearly 6 out of 10 were recipients of anal sex. These contacts therefore consisted of overt sexual activities, not simply being viewed naked or casually fondled.

Table 6: Nature of relationship N=81.

Mostly mentoring, incidental sex	Largely mentoring, some sex	Equal mentoring and sex	Largely sex, some mentoring	Mostly sex, incidental mentoring	Strictly sex, no mentoring
15 (18.5%)	7 (8.6%)	7 (8.6%)	11 (13.6%)	16 (19.8%)	25 (30.9%)

It is interesting to note that even though 64.3% (N=52) of these boyhood relationships emphasized the sexual aspect, the data that will be presented shortly indicate that these same people, when they were older, reported giving precedence to the mentoring aspect over the sexual aspect in their own relationships with boys.

Rind *et al.* (1998) combined data from 10 studies describing the reactions of males to boyhood sexual experiences with older persons. The reactions in the current study are very consistent with the 33% of negative reactions of the college students in the Rind study.

Table 7: Perception of relationship, N=81.

	Very negative	Moderately negative	Somewhat negative	Neutral	Somewhat positive	Moderately positive	Very positive
Then	10 (12.3%)	7 (8.6%)	8 (9.9%)	14 (17.3%)	14 (17.3%)	14 (17.3%)	14 (17.3%)
Now	9 (11.1%)	10 (12.3%)	5 (6.2%)	24 (29.6%)	10 (12.4%)	8 (9.9%)	15 (18.5%)

Of those who reported such experiences, 30.8% described them as “somewhat” to “very” negative at the time they occurred, 29.6% reported the same negativity in retrospect. On the other hand, 51.9% described their experiences as “somewhat” to “very” positive at the time, and 40.8% in retrospect.

Of the 81 relationships in Table 6, 64.2% (N=52) were reported as being largely to entirely sexual. Cross-tabulation of those 52 relationships with Table 7 shows that 36.5% (N=19) were reported as both largely to entirely sexual as well as being perceived as somewhat to very negative. It therefore follows that 63.5% (N=33) of the respondents, nearly two thirds, perceived their largely to entirely sexual experiences as other than negative.

Of the 25.2% (N=81) in this study who reported a boyhood sexual experience with a significantly older male, 88.9% (N=72) indicated a current preference for mentoring boys that is greater than or equal to their preference for sex with boys. Of the total respondents (N=321), there were 7.8% (N=25) who reported sexual experiences with a significantly older male that they felt were to some degree negative at the time, and a subset of 3.1% (N=10) who reported experiences that they described as “very negative.” As we shall see in Table 8, those who reported their experience as “very negative” did not as a group develop a primarily sexual interest in boys; 9 out of the 10 reported their interest in mentoring

as greater than or equal to their interest in sexual activities.

Table 8:
Perception of boyhood sexual encounter (rows)
vs. type of current interest (columns) (N=81).

	Mentoring only, not sexual	Mostly mentoring, some sexual	Equal mentoring and sexual	Mostly sexual, some mentoring	Sexual only, no mentoring
Very negative (10)	1	4	4	0	1
Moderately negative (7)	0	2	4	0	1
Somewhat negative(8)	0	2	5	1	0
Neutral(14)	2	6	5	1	0
Somewhat positive(14)	1	7	5	1	0
Moderately positive(14)	0	4	8	1	1
Very positive(14)	0	7	5	1	1
Totals (81)	4	32	36	5	4

The Vampire Theory

The “Abused to Abuser” hypothesis, or “vampire theory” has been around for over thirty years, and, in spite of being shown by study after study (e.g., Garland and Dougher, 1990) over all these years to be inconsistent with the data, it is still held to be valid by many victimologists (e.g. Groth 1979, Seghorn *et al.*,1987).

Basically, this theory states that any boy who has sexual contact with an older male (i.e., is “abused”), will, when he himself is older, be prone to sexual contact with

male minors (i.e., will become an “abuser”). This idea seems to have had its origins in prison studies, where men who were incarcerated for sexual contacts with boys wailed loud and long that their misdeeds were caused by their own sexual contacts as a boy with one or more older males, or by their exposure to “child pornography.” It was easy to claim to have experienced such abuse or exposure, since it could rarely be proved to be either true or false. This ploy would then allow them to attempt to shift their responsibility away from themselves and onto their terribly unfortunate circumstances (Howitt, 1995).

The corollary of this is that any male who has a BPO therefore must have been “abused” as a boy. In our data, however, we have noted that 240 of the 321 self-identified BPM respondents to the questionnaire reported that they had never had a boyhood sexual contact with an older male. The data do not support any attempt to claim that all BPM have their orientation as a result of boyhood “abuse.” And there is obviously little or no evidence in our data that boyhood “abuse” is a significant, much less absolute, determinant for developing a BPO. Furthermore, as noted above, even those who perceived their boyhood sexual encounter(s) as being “very negative” reported a nine to one ratio of preferring primarily mentoring relationships with boys over primarily sexual relationships.

However, regardless of this or previous evidence, the victimological clique will still continue to trumpet these absurd claims, and, even worse, most people, unaware that they are being misinformed and misled, will buy into this nonsense.

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Five

Sexual Orientation
and Mental Health**Adult Sexual Orientation**

The respondents were asked, apart from their attraction to boys, about their attractions to same age persons. Table 9 indicates that three quarters of the respondents were not exclusively attracted to boys, but to an unspecified degree had an attraction to people of about their own age. However, because of the almost infinite possibilities of variations, no questions were asked as to the relative degree and interactions of the two or more forms of attraction.

Table 9: Sexual attraction to persons of the same approximate age.[Criteria for attraction used the Kinsey *et al.*(1948) scale with categories combined.]

	Greater attraction to females	Equal attraction	Greater attraction to males	No attraction
All respondents, N=321	89 (27.7%)	22 (6.9%)	128 (39.9%)	82 (25.6%)
No boyhood sexual encounter, N=240	77 (32.1%)	13 (5.4%)	88 (36.7%)	62 (25.8%)
With a boyhood sexual encounter, N=81	12 (14.8%)	9 (11.1%)	40 (49.4%)	20 (24.7%)

It is interesting to note that three fourths of the self-identified BPM respondents in this investigation indicated an attraction to same age persons, while one third indicated a greater or equal attraction to same age females.

Boys involved in boyhood sexual contacts with older males were more likely to report greater attraction to males than females (49.4%) than those who were not involved (36.7%). There are those who would gleefully jump to the erroneous conclusion that this 12% difference “proves” that boyhood sexual contacts “cause” homosexuality, but it is just as possible that those who as boys were more receptive to sexual experimentation and play with older males were also later in life more receptive to the same sort of sexual exploration with males of about their own age. At any rate, it would not be scientifically appropriate to take this correlation and try to warp it into a “cause and effect” scenario.

Again, in 20/20 hindsight, the issues of sexual attraction should have been explored in greater depth in the questionnaire. However, even though the specific question was not asked in the survey, it would not seem unreasonable to think that the majority of the roughly 25% who report no attraction to persons of their same approximate age may be presumed to be primarily attracted to boys. Since this percentage is about the same for those with or without boyhood sexual encounters, those experiences cannot be considered to be a significant cause of their presumed primary attraction to boys.

Table 10: Marital status.

	Single	Married	Separated	Divorced	Widowed
All respondents, N=321	262 (81.6%)	33 (10.3%)	5 (1.6%)	18 (5.6%)	3 (0.9%)
Without a boyhood sexual encounter, N=240	200 (83.3%)	24 (10.0%)	3 (1.3%)	12 (5.0%)	1 (0.4%)
With a boyhood sexual encounter, N=81	62 (76.6%)	9 (11.1%)	2 (2.5%)	6 (7.4%)	2 (2.5%)

It is a curious and unresolved anomaly that 16.7% (N=40) of those not reporting a boyhood sexual encounter with an older male are or were married, whereas 23.5% (N=19), of those reporting such an encounter are or were married. This contrasts with the situation in Table 9 where 32.1% (N=77) of those not reporting a boyhood sexual encounter with an older male indicate a greater attraction to females, as opposed to 14.8% (N=12) of those who do report such an encounter.

It is, however, quite apparent that the large majority of the respondents never have entered into a heterosexual marriage, although it is possible that some of the roughly 40% who reported a preferential attraction to males may be in long term homosexual relationships. This question, unfortunately, was not asked in the survey. Neither was the question of exclusive or even primary attraction to boys asked, a shortcoming which will be corrected in any future research.

Mental Health

As was discussed earlier, the psychological tests that are most commonly used by psychologists to assess mental health were reported to be unacceptable by those respondents who expressed an opinion in this area. Accordingly, a simple series of questions about self-perceived "psychological adjustment" and mental health were formulated, supplemented by free form text comments.

In their own words:

... I feel very good to excellent about myself...and don't define myself by any one facet of what my life is - like my attraction to boys.

I feel that I am a good and caring person who happens to be a boylover. I have never had experiences with underage boys as an adult but have always had the attraction... Interestingly, I have been associated with boys all my life and have been respected and admired by them as a mentor and teacher. I have never ... indicated my attraction. Yet somehow, I think some boys knew how much I loved them...

I have my flaws, but I like myself, and am comfortable with who I am. Being a boylover has always been one of the more enjoyable aspects of who I am. I feel like a good person who is targeted by a world which demands a boogieman to vent upon.

On a seven point scale of self-reported general mental health from 1 = “Extremely Poor” through 4 = “Average” to 7 = “Excellent,” the mean score was 4.79 (Median 5.0, “Above Average”), with a sample standard deviation of 1.56. While self-reported positive values are known to tend to be higher than psychometrically obtained values, there is little reason to assume that this generally well educated group would generate wildly exaggerated reports. The data also indicate that boyhood sexual encounters with an older male do not produce any significant difference in psychological adjustment:

Table 11: Self perceived psychological adjustment and job performance

	Adjustment mean	Adjustment sample SD	Adjustment median
All respondents N=321	4.79	1.56	5
No boyhood sexual encounter N=240	4.78	1.60	5
With boyhood sexual encounter N=81	4.83	1.43	5

This level of psychological adjustment and mental well being does not support the often heard view that boylovers are essentially a group of psychopaths. There are, as we shall see below, those who do report some emotional problems, but it is quite possible that the stress of living with a BPO which must be hidden and suppressed is more the cause of the emotional problems than the emotional problems being the cause of the orientation.

I often find myself stressed and anxious over my being unable ... to express affection to boys, though not to the point of suicide or drugs (In fact, I don't drink or take drugs at all and never have).

Please keep in mind that some mental disorders may be caused by a very intolerant society and not by the boylove (or "paedophilia") itself!

Table 12: Self-reported emotional and behavioral symptoms (N=321).

Percent who report:	Never	Rarely	Occasion-ally	A good bit of the time	Most of the time	Almost all of the time
Cheerful and optimistic	*	7.5%	17.5%	26.5%	31.5%	17.1%
Gloomy and pessimistic	3.1%	35.5%	37.4%	15.9%	3.7%	4.4%
Feel overly stressed	4.1%	21.8%	42.4%	16.0%	11.2%	4.7%
Dysfunctionally depressed	54.2%	*	38.0%	4.1%	0.9%	2.8%
Worried/anxious w/ no apparent reason	54.8%	*	32.7%	8.1%	1.9%	2.5%
Consume alcohol to relieve stress	70.1%	*	20.9%	5.3%	1.9%	1.9%
Use tobacco to relieve stress	67.6%	*	11.8%	5.0%	9.7%	5.9%
Use street drugs to relieve stress	84.1%	*	10.0%	2.8%	1.3%	1.9%
Panic attack/panic disorder	77.3%	*	18.4%	2.8%	0.9%	0.6%
Consider suicide	68.9%	*	23.7%	5.3%	1.3%	0.9%

An asterisk indicates that this response was not an option on the questionnaire.

Of the 275 who are employed, 84.5% report their self perceived job performance as “moderately successful,” “very successful,” or “outstanding.” Many of the younger respondents reported being in high school or college, and this may account for most of the 46 who are not employed. Again, this clashes with the popular image of boylovers as social misfits who are basically losers; one of these people may well be your valued coworker. Or he may be the friendly and outgoing guy who sits next to you in your high school or college class.

Table 13: Self-reported interpersonal skills and coping ability (N=321).

Percent who report:	Not applicable	Below average	Average	Above average
Get along with other people at work	14.3%	12.8%	8.4%	64.5%
Get along with people at home	10.6%	15.9%	15.0%	58.6%
Cope with everyday problems	*	11.5%	31.8%	56.7%

Roughly 60% of these respondents report that they are above average in getting along with other people and in dealing with everyday situations and problems. Being cheerful and optimistic “A good bit of the time” or more is reported by 75.1 %, whereas being gloomy and pessimistic is reported “Occasionally” or less by 76%. Stress, worry, and anxiety are an ever present fact of life for those whose sexual orientation is considered both immoral and illegal by much of society, but only some 10% feel the impact of these more than “occasionally.” Still, the comments report the reality and realization that these potential problems must be dealt with.

As a Viet Nam Vet and a Boy Lover I have several dragons to slay. As a true Boy Lover, not just a boy sex addict, I think you have a tough row to hoe.

[I am] Constantly frightened of being discovered as a “child molester” However, I have come to accept that I am a boylover and always will be.

Very occasionally (~once a year) I have doubts over the validity of my feelings (whether I do really love rather than just lust after them) but this is usually resolved fairly quickly by the smile or gratitude of a boy. I am still evaluating ... my sexual desires... and this can cause confusion at times... introspection more than depression, though.

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Six

Relationships: Attractions, Affinities, and Accord between Boys and Older Males

In their own words:

We are not the monsters that American (and, increasingly, other cultures) paint us to be! Most of us are well educated, caring individuals who abide by the law. I feel extremely dissociated from society, although I would never commit an act of crime.

Older boys and men may have many types and degrees of attractions for boys, some more than others. The desire to pass on knowledge and wisdom, to teach, and to mentor is a hallmark of responsible members of humanity, and the only method whereby the good – and sometimes the bad – aspects of culture are transmitted from one generation to the next. Boys also are almost universally attracted to older boys and men, in many different ways and at many different levels. Evolution has selected for this mutual attraction so that boys can profit from the experience and knowledge which others have gained over time. This holds true for sexual matters as well as just about everything of a cultural nature.

Of course, the survey which is the basis for this book was specifically directed at older boys and men who recognized their empathy with boys, so it is not at all surprising that 94.7% (N=304) of the 321 respondents reported that they were at least moderately to very strongly attracted to boys. The 0.9% (N=3) who reported no attraction to boys were pointed out earlier as an anomaly, probably deliberate.

Table 14: Degree of general attraction, N=321

Very strong	Strong	Moderate	Mild	Marginal	None
132 (41.1%)	125 (39.0%)	47 (14.6%)	8 (2.5%)	6 (1.9%)	3 (0.9%)

Furthermore, since the target population of the investigation was older boys and men who, in addition to their empathy with boys, also had a definite sexual affinity for boys, it is not surprising that a good deal of sexual interest was also revealed in the sample. But what may be surprising to those who have not looked honestly at this situation is that a much larger percentage of these subjects expressed a greater interest in the mentoring aspect rather than the purely sexual aspect. Those who report equal interest in mentoring and sex constitute the largest single category, but, apart from the “equal” group, those who lean toward the mentoring aspect are nearly three times the number of those who are inclined toward the sexual aspect. Combining the “equals” with those who are inclined toward mentoring adds up to 85.3% of the total respondents.

Table 15: Type of interest, N=321

Mentoring only, not sexual	Mostly mentoring, some sexual	Equal mentoring and sexual	Mostly sexual, some mentoring	Sexual only, no mentoring
21 (6.5%)	114 (35.5%)	139 (43.3%)	33 (10.3%)	14 (4.4%)

Of the 321 respondents, 72.9% (N=234) reported relationships involving some degree of nurturing, emotional support, mentoring, and/or financial support of one or more boys. Since it is reasonable to assume that all of those attracted to boys would be strongly inclined to be involved with boys, one must ask the question of why the other 27.1% (N=87) were not able to report such an involvement. Some of this, perhaps a large part, may be due to the societal hysteria that has driven a wedge between boys and older males. It is getting more and more difficult to recruit leaders for youth groups such as Boy Scouts. The cloud of suspicion and paranoia which manifests itself toward any older male who exhibits a desire to spend any appreciable amount of time with a boy or boys has deprived both boys and potential leaders and mentors of the opportunity to enjoy one another's fellowship. But even under these less than optimal conditions, 68.4 % (N=160) of these 234 respondents were able to report "Somewhat active" to "Very deep" involvement with one or more boys.

I feel a very strong paternal urge, often overriding any sexual attraction. I often find a relationship to be as rewarding without sex - maybe more so. Sometimes sex is an added bonus, but I prefer if the boy makes the first move - and is OBVIOUSLY wanting sex.

Table 16: Degree of mentoring and nurturing involvement, N=234

Very deep	Quite active	Somewhat active	Occasional	Rarely	Never
47 (20.1%)	72 (30.8%)	41 (17.5%)	42 (18.0%)	23 (9.8%)	9 (3.8%)

When we limit our examination to relationships that were reported to have lasted for one month or more, we narrow the number down even further to just a little over half of the 321 respondents. Or looking at it from the opposite direction, society and/or circumstances have conspired to frustrate the yearnings of 48.3% of these older males to establish mutually beneficial long term relationships with boys.

Table 17: Length of relationships, N=166

1 – 3 months	4 –12 months	1 – 3 years	Until maturity	Indefinitely	Indefinitely *
10 (6.0%)	13 (7.9%)	25 (15.0%)	18 (10.9%)	40 (24.1%)	60 (36.1%)

*Indefinitely, except the nature of the relationship changed when the boy reached maturity.

The good news is that once the hurdle of establishing a relationship has been cleared, 94.0% (N=156) of these 166 relationships were reported to have lasted more than 3 months, and 60.2% (N=100) indefinitely. However, in most of those described as lasting indefinitely, the nature of the relationship was reported to have changed at maturity, which would seem to imply the development of a long-lasting but entirely nonsexual relationship. Indeed, we cannot, and should not, assume that all or even most of these relationships ever had a sexual component in the first place. They may have, or they may not have, but in the vast majority of such cases, only the two principals know for sure, and it is no one else's business.

By creating a repressive climate of fear and distrust, society has effectively denied access for boys to those most desirable potential male friends, the ones who really care deeply about boys, and who, in the good sense

of the word, are responsible “boylovers.” So the boy who is searching for a friendship with an older male, either with or without a sexual component, has his options severely reduced, and he may well have to choose between a much less desirable relationship or none at all. And the more responsibly inclined older boys and men who have so much to offer to younger male friends may also wind up with no relationships at all. Or even worse, they may be driven by their frustration to seek out casual and meaningless sexual liaisons, or even to patronize, and thus promote, boy prostitution.

One must also ask the question of how many unsolved cases of boys who were murdered, or who simply disappeared, were those who became the unfortunate victims of panic stricken, pathetic older boys or men who had stumbled into sexual relationships with these boys, and in a moment of mindless terror at their horrifying prospects felt they had no other way out but to do away with the only one who knew about the incident. One such boy was 15 year old Sam Manzie, who willingly became involved in a sexual relationship with an older male. When this friendship was found out, law enforcement agents were called in, and after being subjected to incredibly inappropriate reactions and treatment by his parents, law enforcement personnel, and social workers, something snapped inside Sam and he impulsively attacked and murdered a younger boy (Dribben, 1997). Others have taken their own lives rather than suffer through the ordeal they knew was ahead of them. Absent the current reign of terror against all age variant male sexual activity, many of these boys and men who were murdered or committed suicide might be alive today, living happy and productive lives.

The inane prohibition of fully consensual sexual activities between a willing boy and a responsive older boy or man within the context of a larger friendship is very similar to the prohibition of alcohol which the United States tried in the 1920s. They both had no basis in reality, caused much damage, did no good, and were doomed to failure from the outset. One wonders just how much longer this unconscionable abrogation of the right of boys to their own sexuality will continue to stagger along, and how soon it will be overcome by fairness and justice.

References:

Dribben, M. (1997, October 9). So what is he, a man or a boy?
Philadelphia Inquirer, p. R1.

Seven

Images

In their own words:

Boy erotica is a necessity, and probably saves many more children than are harmed by it. It prevents many pedophiles from actually pursuing a sexual relationship with boys because they are able to find a release in it. Also, as many of the boys in consensual erotica appear to be happy, it is probably a positive experience for them also.

The preceding comment from a respondent is very bold and assertive, but rather than dismissing it out of hand, let's look at some of the data.

The following is quoted from the on line questionnaire:

In this section, all persons defined as "boys" are presumed to be less than 18 years of age. Where attractiveness is an issue in a question, please assume that the images are of boys in the age range and of the physical characteristics that appeal to you.

Consensuality is impossible to determine solely from examining an image. However, from the point of view of a viewer who has absolutely no knowledge of the circumstances under which the image was produced, a boy who is not overtly and obviously displeased is presumed to be acting consensually.

Table 18. Part 1: Respondent reaction to images in percentages. (N=321)

	Intensely attractive	Very attractive	Moderately attractive	Minimally attractive	Not very interesting	Somewhat disturbing	Moderately disturbing	Very disturbing
Non-erotic and non-suggestive nudity of one or more boys, which may include visible genitals,	15.6	38.6	33.3	7.8	3.7	0.3	0.3	0.3
Usually a series of images depicting a boy in the process of disrobing, i.e., the "strip tease."	21.8	41.1	26.2	5.6	4.1	0.6	0.3	0.3
Erotic nudity involving one or more boys about the same age with visible erections or engaging in self masturbation.	38.9	38.3	15.9	2.8	1.9	1.3	0.3	0.6
Erotic nudity involving one or more boys and one or more significantly older males with visible erections or masturbating	22.4	20.9	24.3	9.4	9.4	5.0	0.9	7.8
Apparently consensual sexual activity consisting of masturbation of another, fellatio, and/or anal intercourse, involving two or more boys about the same age	43.6	29.6	16.5	5.3	1.6	1.3	0.9	1.3

Table 18. Part 2: Respondent reaction to images in percentages. (N=321)

	Intensely attractive	Very attractive	Moderately attractive	Minimally attractive	Not very interesting	Somewhat disturbing	Moderately disturbing	Very disturbing
Apparently consensual sexual activity consisting of masturbation of another, fellatio, and/or anal intercourse, involving a boy or boys and one or more significantly older males.	28.3	18.1	17.8	10.0	10.0	5.3	2.8	7.8
Apparently playful non-consensual nudity or sexual activity, involving two or more boys about the same age, and consisting of the disrobing of one boy by another, masturbation, and/or fellatio.	19.0	22.4	22.1	9.4	8.4	5.9	5.3	7.5
Obviously non-consensual nudity or sexual activity, involving either peers or a mixed age group, and consisting of forced nudity, masturbation, fellatio and/or anal intercourse. These may also include physical abuse or restraint ("bondage"), and the context is one of subjugation or terror	7.5	4.3	5.9	6.2	7.8	8.1	12.2	48.0

It should be noted that no actual images were used with the questionnaire, only the written descriptions shown in Table 18.

There are several very obvious and well defined likes and dislikes expressed both quantitatively in the above table and qualitatively in the text responses.

Happy, playful, consensual peer sexual activities were reported to be at least “Moderately attractive” to 89.7%, while 43.6% found these “Intensely attractive.” This is reinforced by comments:

Boys are beautiful in all images from g-rated to x-rated. I prefer to see images where they appear to be enjoying themselves and others their own age.

I prefer boy on boy consensual sex with happy smiling faces. The boys with the smiles are having fun and enjoying themselves.

Enjoyment is the key. Signs of willingness, playfulness and pleasure I find very appealing (and maybe even cathartic?).

I like playfulness, smiles, and obvious having fun in erotic images.

I want to look only at photos where boys are totally willing and happy to pose nude or engage in sexual activities. The boys must be completely consensual.

If the boy agrees and wants to participate in any form of sexual performance, let ... [him] ... indicate what he wants, [with] no coercion.

At the other end of the spectrum, 68.3% found forced and abusive activities to be disturbing, and 48.0% found such to be “Very Disturbing.” The comments are very explicit:

If the picture shows obvious coercion on the child then I get angry. I find that many of the images on the Internet and Usenet are very disturbing...

Situations that seem forced or not spontaneous are not appealing. Images that exhibit sadness, fear or any kind of force are more heartbreaking than disturbing.

I don't like pictures where abuse is obvious, and indisputable.

I am totally against anything abusive. I feel like a person, regardless of age, should have the right to say whether or not they would like to pose nude or in erotic positions.

... anything that creates physical pain is a turn off to me.

Dislikes: Absence of consensuality. Any violence, bondage, etc.

In situations involving masturbation, fellatio, or anal intercourse, peer activities are favored in Table 18 over the involvement of significantly older boys or men, and this is supported by most, but not all, text comments as well:

I very much dislike images of boys having sex

with men. I prefer boys alone or with age peers.

I don't find the pictures involving sexuality or even nudity between boys and significantly older males very attractive...

An example of the opposite position:

I like images where there are younger boys with older boys or men.

One party shared some interesting thoughts concerning nonconsensual “abusive” images.

I'd be very disturbed, as a pretty empathetic person. But in the moment, I wouldn't concern myself with it much. ... as far as pornography goes, I don't know those boys personally, and I don't start to think of it until after my sexual high diminishes.

The picture we get from these data and comments is not of the stereotypical unkempt and ignorant slob drooling on his keyboard while he gloats over images of boys being tortured and raped. It is quite probable that a few such misanthropes exist, but the data and the vast majority of the comments tell us of articulate and sensitive older boys and men who not only obtain vicarious pleasure from images of boy nudity and mutually consensual sexual activities, but who have an appreciation of the intrinsic beauty of nude boys.

It's not as much sexuality that I like but the beauty in a boy's body and mannerisms on an aesthetic level rather than a sexual one.

Eight

Stories

As we will discuss later, only some 8% of the respondents expressed a preference for stories over images, and another 19% expressed an equal preference. Consequently, the number of comments about stories were considerably less than those about images.

In their own words:

I enjoy sexual stories about boys as long as they have a happy ending and don't involve abuse or rape. Sex should never be forced on anyone. Everyone should have the right to say yes or no.

My own preference is to read stories which are non-violent and in which desire for sexual activity is mutual, and the boy initiates the sexual activities.

I generally prefer stories centered around mutual discovery and exploration between two same-age boys with a fair amount of erotica.

The following is quoted from the on line questionnaire:

In this section, different types of erotic stories are described. Despite claims to the contrary by some authors, it is assumed that these stories are pure fiction and thus have no direct or indirect effect on real boys. Where age is not indicated, "boy" refers to any male under the age of 18. Indicate how you feel about each of these classes:

Table 19. Part 1: Respondent reaction to stories in percentages. (N=321)

	Fascinating	Very interesting	Moderately interesting	Minimally interesting	Somewhat disturbing	Moderately disturbing	Very disturbing
Stories about consensual sexual activities such as masturbation, fellatio, and/or anal intercourse involving two or more prepubescent boys about the same age	29.0	29.9	20.9	16.5	1.6	0.9	1.3
Stories about mildly nonconsensual, "playful", sexual activities such as disrobing of one boy by another, masturbation, and/or fellatio involving two or more prepubescent boys about the same age	21.2	27.5	25.6	18.4	3.4	1.9	2.2
Stories about consensual sexual activities such as masturbation, fellatio, and/or anal intercourse involving two or more adolescent boys about the same age	22.4	31.5	20.6	23.4	0.6	0.3	1.3
Stories about mildly nonconsensual, "playful", sexual activities such as the disrobing of one boy by another, masturbation, and/or fellatio involving two or more adolescent boys about the same age	15.9	24.3	27.7	24.6	2.8	1.9	2.8

Table 19. Part 2: Respondent reaction to stories in percentages. (N=321)

	Fascinating	Very interesting	Moderately interesting	Minimally interesting	Somewhat disturbing	Moderately disturbing	Very disturbing
Stories about consensual sexual activities such as masturbation, fellatio, and/or anal intercourse involving one or more boys and one or more significantly older boys	19.0	32.1	26.5	15.3	2.2	2.5	2.5
Stories about mildly nonconsensual, "playful", sexual activities such as the disrobing of one boy by another, masturbation, and/or fellatio involving one or more boys and one or more significantly older boys	15.0	24.0	27.7	20.3	5.9	3.4	3.7
Stories about consensual sexual activities such as masturbation, fellatio, and/or anal intercourse involving one or more boys and one or more adult males.	19.6	27.4	20.6	16.5	8.1	2.5	5.3
Stories about nonconsensual sexual activities, perhaps including physical abuse or restraint ("bondage") and/or rape, involving one or more boys and one or more boys of the same age or older, or adult males	10.0	7.5	8.1	11.2	13.4	14.0	35.8

Consensual activities involving prepubescent boys were reported as from “Moderately Interesting” to “Fascinating” by 79.8% of the respondents, and “playful,” mildly nonconsensual activities were given the same ratings by 74.3%. When the same two types of activities concerned adolescent boys, the ratings were a few percentage points lower.

I like boy on boy stories that remind me of my childhood.

Normal sex play among peers is interesting.

Several respondents commented that stories should describe relationships, and not just sexual activities.

I prefer the mutual consensuality to be buttressed by a developing relationship of love between the boys engaging in sexual activities with one another.

There should be at least be some theme of love involved...

There were some, however, who approved of stories involving a boy with a significantly older male, or even a man.

I prefer stories about man/boy relationships in which there is a romantic as well as an erotic dimension.

... I would find all kinds of sexual activity with boys and other boys or men very appealing...

...I have no objection whatsoever to the representation of consensual activities between an adult and boy...

Abusive stories were reported by 63.2% to be from “Somewhat Disturbing” to “Very Disturbing.”

I strongly object to stories of abuse.

...stories about older men abusing younger boys ... horrify me.

Violence and abuse turn me off completely.

Forced sexual acts are not interesting...

However, there is some discussion of the issue that stories, unlike images, do not, at least on the surface, involve real boys. Images involving abuse were described as “Very Disturbing” by 48.0% of the respondents, but stories of this nature by only 35.8%. The following excerpt may help to explain why some aspects of nonconsensuality and even abuse which are rejected in images are at least marginally acceptable in stories.

Stories are another matter entirely. They're fiction largely (and if not, I assume they are), and I can read just about anything without regret.

The most frequently mentioned complaint is about the need for improvement of the writing in the stories on the Internet.

I have not read one story yet that I found truly a pleasure to read. Standards I have come across are way below average.

The quality of the writing considerably outweighs the nature of the sexual activities described in determining my feelings towards a story. Heavy focus on the mechanics of sexual acts ... detracts from the appeal of any story.

Stories need have a realistic plot & characters, have as much emphasis (if not more) on the relationship as on the sexual events...

Many stories appearing in newsgroups are submitted by illiterates...

I find most authors fail to write erotic scenes well.

I like stories written by authors who know how to write...

Nine

Frequency of Use, Preferences, and Effects as Reported

In their own words:

“I view these images when: I need to release ‘tension’, when I’m feeling lonely, and when I’m feeling generally aroused (not in any particular order).”

“It’s what keeps me sane. I do not have, and never have had, a sexual relationship with a boy, so images are a great release. Without them I’d probably have become a danger to boys by now.”

Respondents were asked to report how frequently, and for how many years, they accessed either images or stories on the Internet.

Table 20: Frequency of Access, N=321

Quite regularly	Frequently	Occasionally	Sporadically	Rarely	Never
100 (32.1%)	84 (26.2%)	58 (18.1%)	34 (10.6%)	26 (8.1%)	16 (5.0%)

Table 21: Length of Access in years, N=302

Less than 1	1, but less than 2	2, but less than 3	3, but less than 4	4, but less than 5	5 or more
22 (7.3%)	32 (10.6%)	54 (17.9%)	54 (17.9%)	44 (14.6%)	96 (31.8%)

There is a statistically insignificant minor discrepancy between the 16 in Table 20 who reported that they “Never” access the Internet to view BE, and the 19 who reported for Table 21 that “Length of Access” did not apply to them.

The possession of printed, taped, or DVD materials is illegal, so this question was not asked. However, apart from possession, 18.7% reported having seen such materials “Occasionally” or more.

Frequent, occasional, or sporadic viewing of images and/or stories were reported by 76.4% of the respondents, and the mean length of usage is over three years. These two figures indicate that we have reached people who are active and experienced in the area under study, and that this sample could be very representative of the population we are trying to describe.

Preferences

Consensuality appears to be the single most important factor in image preferences, and is a large factor in story preferences as well. There is also a clear preference for peer activities as opposed to those that are age variant. “Playful” nonconsensuality is mostly acceptable, whereas abusiveness in images is reported by a significant majority to be disturbing and unacceptable. The participation of adults is somewhat more acceptable in stories, and abusive nonconsensuality in stories is not deprecated as much as would be expected from comparison with abusive nonconsensuality in images. The acceptability of adult participation and, to some degree, abusive nonconsensuality in stories may have something to do with the concept that participants in stories are not thought of as “real,” whereas images do involve a real individual. Of those who expressed a preference (N=314), 73.25% preferred images over stories to a greater or lesser degree, 18.79% had equal preferences, and only 7.97% had some degree of preference for stories.

Effects

“I used this material as a valve to vent the sexual urge. I never showed this material to anybody ... “

I know that without access to either boy-erotic stories and/or imagery, I would become much more likely to seek out sexual contact with a boy (between ages 9 - 13) Viewing and reading have kept me from seeking satisfaction with a boy prostitute.

Respondents were asked if, in their case, the viewing/reading of erotica was useful as a substitute for actual sexual contact with boys, in that their urges and drives were redirected and given an outlet that affected no other person. The previous question was then re-phrased to ask if the use of erotica may have no effect on behavior, but was simply entertainment. Then the inverse of the previous two questions asked if the use of erotica might increase the respondents' tendency to seek out boys for the sole purpose of sexual activity.

I know the use of porn is supposed to make you more dangerous but it gives me some relief to go on and leave the boys alone.

I think ... it is a form of education.

...viewing erotica releases the desires I have to be with a boy (sexually).

If it has any effect, which it may, it would result in less interest toward sexual relationships with boys because the need for sex has been fulfilled.

Table 22: Self-reported effects in percentages of indicated number of respondents.

	Invariably true	Usually true	Frequently true	Occasionally true	Rarely true	Never true
Urges redirected (285)	48.1	24.9	10.2	7.7	3.2	6.0
Entertainment only (299)	38.8	28.4	14.1	8.7	7.0	3.0
Increased tendency (298)	2.7	2.7	4.0	7.7	22.8	60.1

Redirection and entertainment functions were reported as occasionally to invariably true by about 90%, whereas any increased tendency for sexual contact with boys was reported as frequently to invariably true by only about 10%.

Howitt (1995) reviewed, summarized, and commented on several previous studies regarding links between pornography and sexual offenses and noted that all but one found no causal link between the viewing of pornography and actual subsequent sexual contact between older persons and children. One study reported that many “child molesters” claimed incitement by pornography, but Howitt observed “Offenders’ claims about pornography’s influence on them have to be tempered by the possibility of ... self-serving motivations such as avoiding self-blame or adverse consequences within a penal or assessment setting”(p. 17). In the same study, Howitt also reported on detailed interviews of 11 “paedophilic sex offenders” and noted “... no clear-cut causal link has been demonstrated between amounts of or earliest exposure to pornography and sex crime” (p.17). He concluded “While pornography is a feature of the lives of a proportion of paedophiles, a simple direct causal effect on offending is not supported by the case studies” (p. 24) .

Regarding the use of erotica as an aid to masturbation, “Frequently” was reported by 62.9% of the 310 who chose to respond, “Occasionally” by 26.1%, “Rarely” by 6.5%, and “Never” by 4.5%.

I find that I can safely masturbate and release the tension, that without the net, may have long ago resulted in my either harming myself or others. Viewing such pictures DOES NOT make me want to go out and act out, my fantasies.

Respondents were asked how they felt after viewing or reading boy erotica. They were specifically requested to report their general sense of well being, as opposed to their state of sexual arousal.

Table 23: General sense of well being, N=310

Guilty, unhappy, and frustrated	Somewhat disturbed	No different	Somewhat better	Very much relieved and at peace
32 (10.3%)	50 (16.1%)	68 (21.9%)	82 (26.5%)	78 (25.2%)

... but for me, it has never caused me to actively pursue boys for sexual pleasure. ... Viewing or reading boy erotica does not make me want to have sex with boys any more than when I haven't been viewing/reading it. ... Sometimes I feel frustrated by the time I WASTE looking at boy images on the internet, but I never feel guilty, because I don't think it is wrong (as long as the boys are willing and not abused), ... On the other hand, I sometimes feel relieved and at peace after viewing or reading boy erotica.

93.15% reported that they had never or rarely shared boy erotica with boys, and 65.11% that they never or rarely heard of others doing so. Awareness of direct

access of boy erotica by boys themselves was reported as nonexistent to rare by 82.55% of the respondents.

There are frequent claims by many people that boy erotica incites crimes, debases viewers, and, as such, should be vigorously prosecuted with the eventual hope and aim of eradication. However, neither the claims of harm, nor the supposed benefits of a crusade against the use of boy erotica, are in any way supported by the present or any other credible data.

References

- Howitt, D (1995). Pornography and the paedophile: Is it criminogenic? *British Journal of Medical Psychology*, 68, 15-27.

Ten

Actors: The Boys who Participated
in the Making of Erotica.**In their own words:**

I had, and still have, no problems with any of the pictures taken [of me].

In May 2004, a new data gathering project was launched, this time directed specifically and exclusively at older males who had had a willing boyhood relationship with an older male which included a sexual component involving at least genital touching. The purpose of this ongoing investigation is to build a profile of the long term effects of such willing relationships. An optional section was added at the end of the questionnaire which inquired about being photographed nude or while engaged in sexual acts alone or with others. It was not expected that there would be a significant response to this section, but a surprising 41% (N=29) of those who have responded so far have completed this “erotica” section.

Less than 10 such photo sessions (as opposed to numbers of pictures) were reported by 13 of the respondents, 10–49 by 9, 50–99 by 2, and 100 or more by 5. The nature of the sessions were described as “spontaneous” by 13, “not unexpected” by 8, “expected” by 4, and “planned” by 5. While most of these sessions could probably be considered “amateur,” a few would seem to have been at least somewhat “professional.”

The number of participants who had their first and last photo sessions at a given age, and the length of participation, is as follows:

Table 24a Number of participants for each age

	<7	7	8	9	10	11
First	5	1	1	2	5	5
Last	0	0	1	1	3	0

Table 24b Number of participants for each age (cont.)

	12	13	14	15	16	17	> 17
First	5	1	4	0	0	0	0
Last	4	4	4	3	6	0	3

No “first” sessions were reported after age 14.

Table 25 Participation in years.

Years	<1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Number	8	3	1	3	4	3	3	1

In addition, one each reported participating for 10, 11, & 12 years

Most (16) reported that the pictures were taken by a principal older male with whom the respondent had a willing relationship, and 5 reported that an additional older male was involved. Peers were reported as taking the pictures on 4 occasions, and an adult male other than their principal friend on 3. One occasion was reported as “other.” On 15 of the occasions, the respondent was the only one photographed, in 9 sessions other boys were also involved, and older males in 5.

The pictures were just snaps, taken once in a while just for fun. As for other people who saw them, well, they were pretty innocuous, and except for a few that were really good, they were mostly kinda silly.

Please note that in Tables 26 through 29, we are dealing with only one group of 29 respondents, and that any given individual will be represented in one of the “First” columns as well as in one of the “Last” columns. Also, for any given row the total of the first two columns will equal the total for the last three columns. So, for example, in Table 26 in the “First < 11” column and the “Performing oral” row, the number 10 does not necessarily indicate that these people were photographed performing oral sex while they were less than 11 years of age, only that their first photo session occurred in that age range. At what age(s) they were photographed while performing specific acts is not known.

Table 26 Specific activities photographed.
Oral or anal sex are not included unless specified.

Activity photographed	First		Last		
	< 11	11-14	< 11	11-14	> 14
Undressing, nude, not erect	13	15	4	12	12
Erect, self masturbating	12	14	3	11	12
Being disrobed by others	9	7	2	5	9
Play w/ peers, masturbation	7	5	1	3	8
Play w/ older, masturbation	8	7	2	5	8
Receiving oral	9	8	1	7	9
Performing oral	10	7	3	7	7
Receiving anal	7	4	2	4	5
Performing anal	6	4	1	4	5
Total # reporting	14	15	5	12	12

The pictures were shared by only the two participants in 12 cases, to close friends in 6, and were widely circulated in only 3 cases. In the other 8 cases the respondent was not sure whether or not the pictures had been distributed, and if so, how widely.

I loved it and that the tapes were privately commissioned and distributed by a company that did this underground. I've never seen any pop up on the net.

Early and retrospective feelings, and retrospective overall effect about the sessions are shown in Tables 27, 28, and 29. "Few" or "Many" refers to the approximate number of sessions in which that class of respondents was involved.

Table 27 Early feelings

Feelings after initial experience	First		Last		
	< 11	11-14	< 11	11-14	> 14
Few, reluctant, uncomfortable	0	0	0	0	0
Many, reluctant, uncomfortable	1	1	1	1	0
Many, got used to it, not bothered	2	1	0	0	3
Few, neither + or -	0	1	0	1	0
Many, not important, neither + or -	2	2	1	2	1
Few, comfortable, enjoyed experience	1	5	1	4	1
Many, comfortable, pleased	1	3	0	1	3
Many, enthusiastic, lot of fun	7	2	2	3	4
Total reporting	14	15	5	12	12

Table 28 Retrospective feelings

Reported feelings	First		Last		
	< 11	11-14	< 11	11-14	> 14
Wish it had never happened	0	1	0	1	0
Some misgivings, not important	2	1	1	0	2
No real significance	3	7	1	6	3
No misgivings, pos. experience	5	4	2	1	6
Increased self-confidence.	4	2	1	4	1
Total reporting	14	15	5	12	12

Table 29 Overall effect

	First		Last		
	< 11	11-14	< 11	11-14	> 14
Very negative	0	0	0	0	0
Negative	0	0	0	0	0
Slightly negative	0	1	0	1	0
Neutral	6	7	3	6	4
Slightly positive	0	2	0	1	1
Positive	3	3	1	0	5
Very positive	5	2	1	4	2
Total reporting	14	15	5	12	12

There are members of the Psychology Industry and the media who love to make solemn declarations about the terrible harm that is done to boys who pose for erotic pictures. They don't need any evidence, they just "know" that what they say is so. A recent article by Ian Craig (2004) in the Manchester (UK) News Online

quotes Home Office Minister Paul Goggins as stating: "Every image of a child that appears on the internet is a picture of a child that's abused and that must be firmly fixed in our minds as a key priority." But the data that are pre-sented here certainly paint a radically different picture, the respondents in these photo sessions report that they were almost universally willing to participate at the time, have few retroactive regrets, and largely report either neutral or positive feelings about their experiences.

It is also interesting to note that at least one member of the judicial profession is taking a second look at these issues. Hiller (1999) wrote that Madame Justice Mary Southin of Vancouver, BC, Canada, "made headlines in April when she said society's views toward child pornography may change over time, perhaps to the point where it becomes acceptable." Hiller further cites Tom Woods, of the Vancouver, BC, law review *The Advocate*, who describes Judge Southin: "She is considered here to be a respected, hard-working judge who has what I would call a scholarly approach to the law. She's a tough judge.... She's ... not afraid of ... a decision that she may anticipate being unpopular." Matas (1999) quotes Southin as stating during the appeal of a high profile ruling regarding possession of child pornography: "We have to recognize that our views about these matters might change radically. Society's view may change radically over a very short period of time." Southin also compared the present laws on child pornography to Prohibition (of alcohol) in the United States: "Look at the results. It did not stop anything. It just made it worse" (*op. cit.*).

References

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Eleven

Sanity: an Approach based on Rationality rather than Hysteria

The current public perceptions of the effects on older males of viewing BE and of sexually expressed friendships between boys and older males are largely based on misinformation and unfounded suppositions. It is not unrealistic to think of these bogus perceptions as societal psychoses bordering on a form of mob mentality. Bernard (1997) observed:

Human beings have the tendency not to make judgments based on facts, especially in sexual matters, but rather on simplified abstractions of reality. New facts, including scientific research, are generally not accepted or respected.

Some of these misperceptions have their source in the “child sexual abuse” doctrine which is the central tenet of victimological theory supported by such people as Finkelhor (1984), Spiegel (2000), Dallam *et al.* (2001), etc. This doctrine is promoted by a wide range of essentially radical and self-serving factions, which Jenkins (1998) lists as “therapists and psychiatrists, criminal-justice administrators, women’s groups, sexual reformers and libertarians, and moral traditionalists and conservatives.” Jenkins further implicates “the news media and popular fiction or academic or professional sources” as the means by which “child sexual abuse” doctrine is projected (p. 5).

Central to the “child sexual abuse” doctrine is the concept that any older male who participates in any form

of sexual activity with a boy, who is even inclined toward such activities, or who enjoys BE, is an emotionally disturbed and depraved psychopath, someone who lacks sanity and is simply mentally ill. However, the respondents in this current sample of self-identified BPM seem to be largely free from emotional problems, and most appear in their own estimation to be psychologically reasonably well adjusted. Their educational level is above average, and they indicate that their relationships at work and home are generally good. The vast majority of those who have had relationships with boys report being concerned with the welfare and mentoring of the boy as much or more than with the sexual aspect of the relationship. Such relationships also tend to be long term, over 60% lasting beyond the childhood and adolescence of the boy and developing into adult friendships. There is no evidence anywhere in the current data that any appreciable percentage of these people are psychotic, if anything, they exhibit a degree of mental health and sanity which is above average.

The viewing and/or reading of BE seems to have little or no negative effect on the respondents' overall mental health and well being, nor does it seem, in some 85% of the respondents, to create or amplify any desire or tendency to actively seek out boys for purely sexual purposes – on the contrary, respondents who wrote comments generally state that such viewing and/or reading actually sublimates and redirects their sexual energies away from attempted or actual sexual contact with boys, and as a result that they feel they are less rather than more inclined to seek out boys for sexual gratification.

Jenkins (2001), while describing child pornography on the Internet as “beyond tolerance,” concentrated on the prevalence and negative effects of erotica featur-

ing girls, while he is largely silent on the issue of erotica featuring boys. Bauserman (2003) also notes this difference in his review of Jenkins' book. This would seem to be a substantial and important distinction, and one that also explains and justifies the absence of any discussion of the effects and issues of "girl erotica" in this present book. That issue requires a completely different investigation of a totally different group of people.

It is interesting to note that, in contrast to the conclusions of scientific and empirical research in this area (e.g. Howitt,1995), the general public, and even some professionals, apparently see a direct cause-and-effect relationship between the viewing and/or reading of BE by BPM and subsequent sexual encounters with boys. The causes and reasons for this divergence between peer reviewed empirical research on one hand and subjective opinions on the other are not the subject of this book, but such views are typified by the following examples: When Ian Buruma, writing in *The Guardian Weekly* (2002), raised questions about the effects of "child pornography," John Carr, Internet adviser of NCH, which advertises itself as "one of the UK's leading children's charities," made the following unsupported assertion: "There is a body of evidence from both the UK and the US showing correlation between the possession of child pornography and involvement in actual sexual abuse of children," and Roger Darlington, Chair, Internet Watch Foundation, states, again without corroboration, that "...a significant proportion of those accessing such images go on to commit abuse themselves." In New Zealand, Detective Sergeant Mark Churches (Holmes, 1997) states "... I think there is a progression from merely sitting there and watching, fantasizing about that sort of thing, to actually doing it in reality."

Further exacerbating the situation, many of those who propound such assumptions make no distinction between genders or between all of the many and varied behaviors which are included in “pedophilia.” They consider BE to be cospecific with “Child Pornography,” BPM are indiscriminately lumped in with “Pedophiles,” and, according to authors such as Finkelhor (1984), each and every boy/older male sexual encounter constitutes “Child Sexual Abuse.” However, these widely used labels lack gender specificity, they are poorly defined, overly inclusive, and pejorative, and as such they are inappropriate in any objective scientific investigation and discussion (Okami, 1990). Some alternative “more thoughtful” and less value-laden and judgmental terms were suggested by Rind *et al.*(1998), deprecated by Ondersma *et al.* (2001), and subsequently defended by Rind *et al.* (2001).

In the light of the data reported and discussed in this study, as well as in Howitt (1995) and other previous studies, there would seem to be very little support for the perception by society and some professionals that the viewing and/or reading of BE is a substantive causative factor in actual or potential sexual contacts and activities between BPM and minor males. As emphasized by comments from respondents to the survey, the denial of availability of the benefits of what these self-identified BPM experience and describe as the innocuous and benign diversionary and substitutionary use of BE could result in an increased, rather than decreased, potential for them to actively seek out boys for sexual purposes.

The implications of the current and previous research as they relate to public perception and policy should be obvious to all. However, Mirkin (2000) notes: “When sexual issues are involved, the rules are dif-

ferent...(p. 86) The relationship between empirical findings and change in policy is complex (p. 87). Since passions are high on current issues, it is far harder to examine them..." (p. 89). Oellerich (2000), speaking of "Child Sexual Abuse," recommends: "(1) Educate the community about the myths... (2) Undertake research in the area of adult/nonadult sexual behavior that is shorn of the ideological basis that has contaminated much of the research in this area." (p.77). The observations of these two respected researchers are equally applicable to this current research and to its application to public policy.

In the early part of the 20th century, a disastrous experiment was conducted, using the entire population of the United States as mostly unwilling subjects. Thornton (1991) describes "National prohibition of alcohol (1920-33), the 'noble experiment' [that] was undertaken to reduce crime and corruption, solve social problems, reduce the tax burden created by prisons and poorhouses, and improve health and hygiene in America." Toward the end of his lengthy article, which, being an Internet document, has no page numbers, Thornton concludes "... Prohibition did not achieve its goals. Instead, it added to the problems it was intended to solve and supplanted other ways of addressing problems. The only beneficiaries of Prohibition were bootleggers, crime bosses, and the forces of big government."

The wars of terror that are currently being conducted against the innocuous and often beneficial viewing and/or reading of erotic images/stories involving boys, as well as against consensual sexually expressed relationships between boys and their older male friends, are also nothing more than ill-conceived experiments. However, these campaigns cannot be described as "noble" because they claim to address a problem which

cannot be shown to exist outside the perverse imaginations of those conducting and/or condoning these wars. Previous similar experiments, which were inflicted primarily on the male population, included the pathologizing and attempted eradication of masturbation and homosexuality. Both of these unsuccessful experiments were eventually recognized for what they were, i.e., ridiculous attempts to ignore the undeniable facts of basic male sexuality. And their proponents were eventually forced to concede the error of their ways and abandon their positions, but not before much irreparable harm had been done to innumerable boys and older males.

In addition to being misdirected, the conducting of these wars of terror wastes a considerable amount of law enforcement, prosecutorial, and prison resources that could better be utilized in dealing with such things as the parental physical and emotional abuse of children. But the Internet “sting” operations, whose primary effect is to turn inquisitive citizens into criminals, can be and are splattered across the front page of newspapers, thus creating the illusion that law enforcement agencies are accomplishing something worthwhile, when in reality the vast majority of those identified and apprehended have never harmed a child. The “crimes” with which these victims of law enforcement are charged are largely only artifacts of the perversely sexophobic mindset of a few radical activists who have managed to inflict their warped thinking on society.

It must be emphasized that sexual crimes against boys by older males do occur. Sex which is forced upon any unwilling person, young or old, male or female, is criminal by its very nature. Such crimes are – or at least should be – quite adequately addressed by social and legal sanctions against physical assault. But it is simply

unrealistic, as well as unconscionable, to wrongly apply these same sanctions against consensual acts between willing persons, young or old, male or female.

We must also face up to the fact that a small minority of BPM are adversely affected by the viewing of BE. There is even a smaller percentage that use bribery, force, and/or drugs to induce boys to perform nude and erotic acts in order to produce some of the images and videos which have become ubiquitous on the Internet. We may compare these misanthropes to the bootleggers and crime bosses who profited by the prohibition of alcohol in the 1920s, and we may credit their existence to the current crusade of sexual prohibition. But it is equally and more pertinently true that the vast majority of those who utilize these images and stories are not adversely affected. Furthermore, so far as the limited evidence indicates, the vast majority of boys who pose for these images are doing so of their own free will, sometimes even at their own initiation, and are also not adversely affected.

Society desperately needs to abandon the fantasies upon which the “moral” justifications of the wars of terror against the viewing of BE, and against sexually expressed friendships between boys and their older male friends, are so inappropriately based. It is evident from this current study, as well as other earlier studies, that the sexual proclivities and consensual activities of boys and older males, including the use of BE, cannot be shown from the data to be harmful. Even those occurrences which may be nonconsensual are at the very worst only minimally harmful, and then only in a few isolated cases. Furthermore, the vast majority of such activities are not only benign rather than harmful, but many are actually beneficial to all who are involved.

It is time to consign the war of terror against BE, and against consensual sexually expressed relationships between boys and their older male friends, to the same trash heap already occupied by the late and unlamented wars against masturbation and homosexuality. It will be a better world when the rights of boys to the expression of their own sexuality, and the rights of older males to both view and accept younger male sexuality, are no longer wrongfully abrogated through the misdirected efforts of a few self-righteous zealots who insist on trying to inflict their perverted views on all of mankind.

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