

# *I p c e*

## NEWSLETTER

Number E 20, June 2006

Section	Page	
		<b>Introduction</b> - In memoriam
1	3	<b>Statement 1:</b> Factoids and the Sex Abuse Panic, By Jay Baskins
	5	<b>Statement 2:</b> Morality - Is it Anti-Sexual or Anti-Violence? Gerald Moonen
2	7	<b>Letter &amp; Answer:</b> <i>Dear Ipce &amp; Dear member</i>
3	8	<b>Articles</b>
3.1	8	Scapegoats and Shunning; Sexual Fascism in Progressive America By "PARIAH", March 4 / 5, 2006
3.2	19	Absurdities, by Ipce
3.3	31	Myths and Facts About Sex Offenders; CSOM Documents; August 2000
3.4	38	Classical Feminism Continues to Create Pedophile Panic; <i>Women and Men</i> , an epoch-making book by University of Copenhagen Professor Henning Bech; A translated review by By Jytte Larsen, in FORUM, 9 May 2005
	42	<b>Documentation Lists Dec 05 &amp; June 06</b>

webmaster@ipce.org  
webmaster@ipce.info

<http://www.ipce.org>  
<http://www.ipce.info>

Ipce is a forum for people who are engaged in scholarly discussion about the understanding and emancipation of mutual relationships between children or adolescents and adults.

In this context, these relationships are intended to be viewed from an unbiased, non-judgmental perspective and in relation to

the human rights of both the young and adult partners. Ipce meets once every one or two years in a different country, publishes a newsletter and a web site, co-ordinates the (electronic) exchange of texts and keeps an archive of specific written publications.

## **Introduction**

### **In memoriam: Dr Frits Bernard, † May 27, 2006**

Suddenly, a fortnight after entering the intensive care section hospital, Frits Bernard has died. He had suddenly problems with his throat and a double pneumonia. He was born on August 28, 1920. Frits was active in Ipce, the German AHS, the Dutch NVSH, and other forums. He was the founding father of the Dutch pedophile groups and a pioneer in research about this topic.

His knowledge of languages was enormous. He has travelled a lot and has written masses of articles and several books in several languages. We have known him as a nice, gentle, quiet man, open for lots of people. We highly regret his sudden death. We may thank Frits for all his work and his heritage.

We do have a heritage: his written work. Have a look at < <http://www.ipce.info/booksreborn/bernard/publications.htm> > and you will see an impressive long list. By going to < [http://www.ipce.info/ipceweb/Library/reg\\_b.htm](http://www.ipce.info/ipceweb/Library/reg_b.htm) > and scrolling to > Bernard, you will see what is readable in Ipce's library and host room.

### **Ipce's Newsletter # E 20.**

"E" means "Electronic", so we have # 20 of the electronic Newsletters here. As said earlier, this Newsletter, available on paper, is a service for those who have no access to the Internet. The 'real' newsletter is the section "New" on the Ipce web site.

As Ipce's secretary and webmaster, I have to apologize that there was a long time no Newsletter and no update of the web site. This is because lack of time because I am active in several organizations, and a series of heavy computer problems I have had in 2006. A series of second-hand computers followed each other and they all totally crashed. Ultimately, I have bought a new one and started with lots of delay of work to do. Especially writing and translating two long articles, presented at a congress in Prague and to present at Ipce's coming meeting, and in the next Newsletter, asked lots of time.

After Ipce's annual meeting, which will be soon, I will make the next Newsletter with the report of the meeting as soon as possible, and I will provide an extensive update of the web site.

This Newsletter has a quite dejected undertone or atmosphere. Starting with an “In Memoriam”, goes on with two Statements. Statements are short essays written by Ipce members, with which we suppose, without a vote or so, that most Ipce members will agree.

The articles section starts with a long article analysing the scapegoating process going on now since many years, followed by a long list of Absurdities, press clippings, gathered by Ipce members. It is all “Sex Offenders”, we hear. Well, let us list some myths and facts about them, written by Officials of the US Department of Justice.

We end with a review, translated from Danish, about a new book, *Women and Men*, an epoch-making book by University of Copenhagen Professor Henning Bech. New ways of thinking? Well, that’s just what we need. As usual, a documentation list closes this Newsletter.

Frans, Ipce’s secretary & webmaster

## Section 1: Statements

### Statement 1

#### Factoids and the Sex Abuse Panic

By Jay Baskins

The religious right has been deliberately drumming up a moral panic about sex abuse for decades now. What political purposes does this moral panic serve? Three primary ones stand out:

1. By presenting the Internet as a place of great danger to children we are being prepared to accept censorship of the Internet. If this censorship is successful it will destroy the last place where one finds meaningful free speech.
2. By creating an atmosphere of hysteria about sex, the religious right has prevented the intelligent and nuanced discussion of the sexuality of children, adolescents and adults, and has put an end to the few gains that were made with the sexual revolution of the 60s and early 70s.
3. By the creation of a radically disenfranchised group (“Pedophiles”) the political right is able to dismantle due process and the machinery of a free society. The entrapment issue is a good example. Check out “Scapegoats and Shunning” at CounterPunch. <  
<http://www.counterpunch.org/pariah0304200> >

**A factoid is** a statement of presumed fact that people believe to be true because they hear it repeated over and over. Here are a few examples of

common factoids:

**1. Factoid:** The “pedophile” is set apart from most men because he finds children or adolescents sexually attractive.

**Fact:** a study of randomly selected “normal” men at Kent State University (Hall, G. N., Hirschman, R, and Oliver, L. 1995) discovered that “20% of the current subjects self-reported pedophilic interest and 26.25% exhibited penile arousal to pedophilic stimuli that equaled or exceeded arousal to adult stimuli.”

< <http://www.mhamic.org/sources/halletal.htm> > and

< [http://www.ipce.info/ipceweb/Library/97-048\\_article.html](http://www.ipce.info/ipceweb/Library/97-048_article.html) >.

**2. Factoid:** The “pedophile” is a violent man who forces himself on children.

**Fact:** Baurmann in the largest study of child abuse ever carried out discovered that in 80% of all cases of reported illegal sexual contacts “the perpetrator had exhibited something other than threatening or violent behavior.” (Baurmann, Michael. “Sexuality, Violence, and Psychological Sequelae.” 1983, Wiesbaden: Federal German Police Bureau, pg. 291. )

**3. Factoid:** The activities of the “pedophile” are always traumatizing and cause great harm to the “victims.”

**Fact:** In their study “A Meta-Analytic Review of Findings from National Samples on Psychological Correlates of Child Sexual Abuse,” Rind and Tromovitch (1998) came to the following conclusion: “CSA [child sexual abuse ] is not associated with pervasive harm and that harm, when it occurs, is not typically intense.” This peer reviewed article which appeared in the most prestigious psychological journal in the US was condemned by Congress. We object when Bush ignores science in things like global warming, but not when the issue has to do with sex.

< [http://www.ipce.info/ipceweb/Library/rbt\\_files.htm](http://www.ipce.info/ipceweb/Library/rbt_files.htm) > and

< [http://www.ipce.info/library\\_3/rbt/metaana.htm](http://www.ipce.info/library_3/rbt/metaana.htm) >.

**4. Factoid:** The “pedophile” is unable to control himself and will always “re-offend.”

**Fact:** One of the more extensive studies on this issue is called “Recidivism of Sex Offenders Released from Prison in 1994” It is available from the US Department of Justice. (Langan, P, Schmitt, E., and Durose, M., 2003) According to this study, “Within the first three years following release from prison, 3.3% (141 of 4,296) of released child molesters were rearrested for another sex crime against a child. < <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/rsorp94.pdf> >

**5. Factoid:** The “pedophile” is a brutish, primitive, self centered person who is incapable of empathy.

**Fact:** Who have been some well know pedophiles? (I will use this term to mean a person who is strongly attracted to children or young adolescents.) Here are a few: Thomas Mann, James Barrie, Lewis Carrol, Alan Ginsberg, Walt Whitman, T.E. White, W. H. Auden, and last but not least Shakespeare. Most people who know anything about these people would not see them as brutish and primitive.

**6. Factoid:** Minors never feel positive about their relationships with older partners if there is a sexual component in that relationship.

**Fact:** Heinz Kohut, the founder of “Self Psychology” and one of the most important psychological theorists of the 20th Century reported that “I had this private tutor, who was a very important person in my life. He would take me to museums and swimming and concerts and we had endless intellectual conversations and played complicated intellectual games and played chess together.”

They also did sexual things together, which they both enjoyed, but Kohut felt the sex was more or less incidental. The important thing for him was the relationship. He said “I was an only child. So it was in some way psychologically life-saving for me. I was very fond of this fellow.” Heinz was about 10 or 11 at the time. He describes his years with his tutor as being perhaps the happiest ones in his life. (Strozier, 2001. “Heinz Kohut: The making of a Psychoanalyst.” PP. 95 and 96.)

If as person were interested in how relationships typically appear to the younger partner he or she could read “Boys and Their Contacts with Men” by Theo Sandfort.

**7. Factoid:** Every one convicted of sexually abusing a child was also abused as a child.”

**Fact:** In “Self-Reported Sexual Interest in Children: Sex Differences and Psychosocial Correlates in a University Sample,” Smiljanich and Briere report that no statistically significant relationship was found between childhood sexual abuse and adult attraction to children. A small correlation between childhood sexual experiences and adult sexual behavior toward children has been reported in studies using prison populations, but no responsible researcher has ever suggested that every child abuser was abused as a child.

< <http://www.mhamic.org/sources/smiljanich&briere.htm> >

**8. Factoid:** Children are not able to consent to a sexual relationship with an older partner.

**Fact:** Before saying whether this is true or not it is first necessary to determine what the statement means. If it means that they are not legally permitted to make such decisions, the statement is true providing the child falls within the age range of people who are not permitted to make their own decisions about their sexual lives. If it means that they cannot make an “informed decision” and by this use of the term it is meant that they cannot see all the possible ramifications of their decision, this is also true. But it is true of every important decision anyone of any age ever makes. So by itself it has only a very limited meaning. If it means that children are not able to express their disinclination to do something they don't want if they are in a relationship with an older person, it is untrue. Anyone who has ever tried to get a child to eat something he or she does not like, or do his or her homework when a special program was on TV or tried to get a child to go to bed when she or he did not want to knows this is not true. Children do in fact know what they want, and in a situation where they are permitted to say yes or no, they are quite capable of doing so in accordance with their real wishes.

**9. Factoid:** There is a natural progression in the “career” of the typical sex offender from minor and non-violent offenses to acts of violence or even murder.

**Fact:** A person who has engaged in sexual activity with a child or young adolescent that is non-violent and consensual is no more likely to progress toward violent acts that is the heterosexual or homosexual person who is sexually active with adults. Baurmann, in the conclusion to the study cited above, gives great emphasis to the fact that exhibitionists, non-violent individuals who have disregarded social norms, and violent sexual offenders are three very distinct groups. He points out that “the uncritical conflation of these three groups, combined with anxious attitudes regarding sexuality, prevent the rational discussion of deviant sexual behavior that we so desperately need.” He points out that people who have committed violent acts of any kind against people are more likely to commit violent sexual acts than are non-violent sexual offenders. (Pg. 468).

## **Statement 2**

### **Morality - Is it Anti-Sexual or Anti-Violence?**

Gerald Moonen, New Zealand, 2006

"There is nothing either good or bad,  
but thinking makes it so"  
Shakespeare

Morality is a standard which society has set for itself in which it distinguishes between “right and wrong”. What then is right or wrong? Mostly it is anything that does or does not seem to correspond with

people's belief systems, which have been indoctrinated into us by religions over 2000 years or more.

Take away the belief systems and then there is no right or wrong. Most actions are neutral, like eating, drinking, sex, walking etc. These things are neither good nor bad. What about intergenerational sex, isn't that wrong? Well, here we have arrived again at the word "wrong". You see how easy it is to judge everything through the "right and wrong" belief systems? But you might say to me; but if it is harmful surely that must be wrong? I purposely have written the above sentences like that to illustrate how trapped we are in judging with the 'right and wrong' paradigm. We have been brought up with this "right and wrong" thinking since we were young.

When I don't use the "right and wrong" paradigm how then do I judge anything at all? Good question! I think that the question of moral judgment needs to be differently framed, instead of asking if it is "right or wrong" we have to ask ourselves: "But is it harmful?" That, in my opinion, is the true moral question. To come back to sex and intimacy, above I said, that this was totally neutral like eating or drinking. How then do I morally judge, for surely some sexual acts are not acceptable, like rape, non-consensuality etc? The question to ask here, but is it harmful?

The moral question one has to set oneself is to look for harm or possibility of harm. For instance, when one is in a sexual situation, and one goes knowingly only one fraction beyond where the other person is comfortable with then I see this as an immoral act which is capable of - or does cause harm. If I would only think of my own sexual satisfaction and ignore the wellbeing of the other, then I am not in a situation where I am aware of the needs of the other. In such a situation one can easily go beyond that what the other person is comfortable with. Making love or being intimate is playing (like on a musical instrument) with the other person's wellbeing.

I am sure that you will agree with me that non-consensual sex is not acceptable and is a violation of the other person. This can be harmful psychological or otherwise. If we look very carefully at that, we are not really talking about a sex act, but about a violation of the other person *i.e.* an act of violence. Sex is only the tool that has been used to violate another. Anything can be used to violate someone else with. However we cannot make the tool itself as the guilty aspect of such a situation. This is the mistake that is often made with the "right and wrong" paradigm, for in religious thinking most sex act are classified as "wrong". An this is reflected in most laws as they are mostly based on the old belief systems of right and wrong, and are therefore mostly anti-sexual not anti-violence.

Our society has made a basic mistake a long time ago. The religions and the worldly powers were very much involved in violence, and still are. They are still finding excuses for their wars and unjust incarcerations. So

they have put up smokescreens and are pointing with their bloody fingers at the sex acts that do not fit in their (im)moral paradigms or belief systems. They call them wrong and sinful and with this attitude they whitewash their sins of violence with the persecution of the innocents.

There is nothing harmful with consensual sex and intimacy. Personally I see sex and intimacy as a glorification of the Creator. But I can see a lot of harm being done by our violent society. They still bend over backwards to justify their disgusting violent behaviour.

So next time you use the term "right or wrong", or hear someone else use it, do correct it and ask "is it harmful?" That is the true moral question and by doing that it will change your moral perspective.

## **Section 2: Letter**

Dear Ipce

Being a member of Ipce since several years ago, I feel not to have benefited much from the texts in your Newsletter (except occasionally, to know what is going on in the boy-love world scene), as I think that, at least to some extent, you are preaching to us as the converts.

In fact, I would be most pleased if any of your contributors could let us your readers know what can we all do in practical terms so that man-boy love or pederasty be soon fully accepted by an artificial Western society and by many of its individuals who visibly continue rejecting it by law and by mentality, in some cases the situation becoming even worse than before.

That action would not include, in my case, the publicizing of your Newsletter, for I don't agree with the leftist bias of some or much of its contents. I am interested instead in a White nationalist approach to boy-love, which I see as a legitimate part of our best and genuine European tradition, at least since Ancient Greece, having in mind the elitist and racist Nordic society of Ancient Sparta, where pederasty was the norm.

I would be glad if you could print this letter of mine in your Newsletter, and I look forward to your sound advice.



From now thankful, sincerely yours, [sign].

### **Answer**

Dear member

Ipce does more than publicizing this Newsletter. The paper Newsletter is only a service to those members who have no internet connection. Ipce has and maintains also an extensive library on its web site. Ipce also has an internal discussion forum for active members. This forum functions by the internet. Once a year there is a meeting to discuss in person and to decide about the course and policy of Ipce. Thus, do not expect the world will change through Ipce's Newsletter, and even not by Ipce anyway.

Ipce is a forum, not an action group. Taking action is up to the members themselves in their own situation and for their own responsibility. Factually, much members are active in a broad field. Ipce limits itself to be a forum with a library.

Ipce is a forum, but not specifically a forum to preach man-boy love or pederasty. Not to preach at all, but to keep alive "a scholarly discussion" about a much broader subject, being "the understanding and emancipation of mutual relationships between children or adolescents and adults." - see our mission statement in each Newsletter.

Regarding your "interest[...] instead', formulated in your letter, I am quite sure that the great majority of Ipce's membership will not share your disagreement with "the leftist bias" you mention. Instead, most members will reason that, if you want to support the understanding and emancipation of mutual relationships between children or adolescents and adults, you have to change society, thus you have to think in a leftist way. I am sure that practically no member will share your "White nationalist approach", and will *not* have in mind "the elitist and racist Nordic society of Ancient Sparta". Ipce's membership is neither European nor white, it is a world-wide community.

If you want to change society, it seems me not very rational to look ages back to Ancient Sparta. It seems me better to acknowledge that we live in a postmodern global world.

If you want to change this world, you have to do more than thinking back to Ancient Sparta. You should know the world in which you actually live. You should think rationally and realistically about your possibilities in your own country and situation. It might also better to cooperate with others, thus to accept and respect the 'leftist' way of thinking of the others.

Sincerely,

Frans,  
secretary and webmaster of Ipce.

## Section 3: Articles

### 1. Scapegoats and Shunning; Sexual Fascism in Progressive America

By "PARIAH", March 4 / 5, 2006

< <http://www.counterpunch.org/pariah03042006.html> >

Progressives in America are rightly concerned about increasing signs of fascism in this country,

- ✳ such as a so-called war on terrorism that allows massive invasion of privacy and wholesale imprisonment without charge;
- ✳ such as state manufacture of propaganda for its own people;
- ✳ such as the assertion that anyone who challenges government policies on these matters is a traitor;
- ✳ such as a "great leader" who puts himself clearly above and outside the law.

They ought to be concerned also about another sign of the demise of American justice and human decency: scapegoating. One sign of fascism has always been the creation of a scapegoated class whom people are taught to fear and hate, and whose very existence demands a totalitarian state apparatus of surveillance and control. A class whom no-one would dare defend.

There is a class of people in America today, numbering two million or more, who have been utterly scapegoated, ostracized, demonized and shunned. There is no longer any defense available for these people. Almost no-one on the left or the right, civil libertarians or ordinary citizens, will defend their rights. They are regularly vilified with the most vicious and hate-filled language -- language previously reserved for classes now protected: Jews, Blacks, homosexuals. They are fair game as targets of abuse and vandalism. They are subject to utter public scorn.

About 600,000 of them have been rounded up and forced to register -- many soon to be monitored for life with electronic bracelets and global positioning devices. Nearly 4000 have been locked up for life, not on criminal charges, but by civil commitment, and those numbers are growing by the day. The remainder are mostly in hiding, desperately afraid of sudden exposure and witch hunts by neighbors, fellow-workers and friends, whom they fear will suddenly see them as monsters beyond redemption.

They are a class defined not by specific crimes (though they are accused of many offenses) but by their very being, their desires, their constitution, as allegedly broken human beings. Presidents and Governors call them "despicable," "disgusting," "incapable of rehabilitation or reform", "beyond help." They are loudly reviled as examples to be shunned by fundamentalist and bigoted preachers, but also by left-wing media, progressive community leaders and feminists.

Who are these scum? Arab terrorists? Muslim fanatics? No -- those evil-doers appear almost benign when compared to this heinous mob. These are the most awful people in the world: SEX OFFENDERS! Worse, many are PEDOPHILES! In fact, these two terms become mingled. Jeb Bush recently alluded to all the sex offenders in Florida as child molesters, though fewer than 1/3 of those incarcerated in that state for "sex crimes" involved people under 18. Bush went on,

"These are a group of people who are the sickest of the sick. They are truly perverts and it's not curable. Instead of civil detention, we ought to make sure ... these pedophiles ... are locked up forever."

Of course among these sex offenders are indeed *some* criminals who have caused extreme harm: violent rapists of adult women as well as children. A *few* of them have kidnapped, tortured or murdered their victims.

Dr. Fred Berlin of the Johns Hopkins University Sex Disorders Clinic in Baltimore estimates that such crimes account for less than 1/10th of 1% of all sex offenses in America. His studies also show that fewer than 10% of child sex offenders re-offend -- though recidivism is usually given as a reason for draconian measures against them.

As child abuse experts point out, about 50 children are reported kidnapped and raped or murdered by strangers annually, compared to more than 3,000 children murdered by parents and other family members in non-sexual cases. Most sex offenders, says one therapist who works with sex offenders in a state prison system, are

"Gentle grandfathers who made one mistake in judgment years ago and fondled their grandchild. Or lonely, geeky gay men -- teenagers some of them -- who sought mutual sexual release with adolescent boys. Or young female teachers who succumbed to the wiles of handsome adolescent boys or girls. Or young men who got drunk and pushed their girlfriends over a line that is now called date rape."

Yet the media, police, prosecutors and politicians continue to insist that children are in dire need of protection from serial rapists and murderers. Two-thirds of parents surveyed said they feared their children would be kidnapped and or murdered by strangers. Facts simply do not matter when hysteria is involved.

Study after study of sex offenders -- as well as the countless media exposés -- insist that most sex offenders are ordinary men and women from all walks of life, indistinguishable from others in every way except their sexual desires or orientation.

The New York Times recently published a sensational story about a teenage boy who went on line to entice more than 15,000 customers to watch his own pornographic images of himself. The Times reporter, acting less like a reporter and more like a crusading cop, coaxed the boy away from his life of debauchery, reminding him he would instantly switch from "victim" to "perpetrator" when he passed his 18th birthday. Actually, those under 18 may be treated as perpetrators, too.

He helped get the boy to the FBI to close in on many of his key customers, whom the Times had further investigated on its own. These customers included police officers, lawyers, ministers, rabbis, social workers -- and especially those who work with children and adolescents. Many also were parents and grandparents with ostensibly happy families of their own. Surely one sign that something is wrong with this picture is that the "heinous criminals" are otherwise law-abiding, decent human beings with successful careers and "normal" personal lives. No. With scapegoating, such apparent normalcy is just one more sign of devious perversity.

The key ingredients of this scapegoating campaign are of course sex and children.

"Nowhere," wrote Linda Williams in *Children and Sex* (1993), "is sexuality more feared in America than in the lives of children." (Williams has spent her professional career assuring that these ingredients produce repression.)

The core demon in the campaign is the recently created category of "pedophile" - which does not predate the 1960s as a so-called scientific construct.

Although defined by the American Psychiatric Association as persons with a dominant sexual desire for pre-pubescent children, the pedophile tag now applies to any person who ever entertained a sexual desire or had a sexual incident, however minor, with anyone under 18. In some circles, the term pedophile is now used to put down any older person who has an affair or shows interest in younger persons -- 35-year-olds, for instance, who "prey on" 20-year olds. By the early 2000s, *pedophile* had become morphed with the still broader "sex offender," with even mainstream media free to refer to the feared and hated class as "pervs" and "perps" and "deviants."

This scapegoating also requires public exposure and shunning, even of those who dare defend the civil liberties of pedophiles and sex offenders or challenge attacks on them. In particular, public wrath is displayed

against those who would challenge "age of consent" laws, which are higher in the United States - now effectively 18 in all states due to Federal statutes - than in most other societies.

(Mexico's age of consent is 12 in most cases; Japan is 13; Spain is now 14 -- raised recently; France, 15; and Germany 16 and under 16 with parental consent.)

Although as of the 1880s, common law age of consent was 10 in England and its former colonies, and zero in many other societies -- where child-brides were common -- it has been increasingly raised until there is today, within UNESCO's campaign to protect children, a call for a universal age of 21. All sex between persons under 18 and those over 18 (or 21) thus becomes "abuse," since there is the myth that underage persons are simply not capable of consent.

Journalists and scientific researchers who challenge this construct -- or who defend some relationships between adults and minors as not being abusive -- face severe consequences. In the only instance of a U.S. Congressional resolution [\*] against a scientific paper, the House of Representatives, with only minimal opposition, denounced a study by Dr. Bruce Rind & others, published in the scholarly review, *Psychological Bulletin*, in 1998 [\*\*].

[\* <

[http://www.ipce.info/ipceweb/Documentation/Documents/doc\\_99083\\_congress.htm](http://www.ipce.info/ipceweb/Documentation/Documents/doc_99083_congress.htm) >]

[\*\* < [http://www.ipce.info/library\\_3/rbt/metaana.htm](http://www.ipce.info/library_3/rbt/metaana.htm) >]

This meta-analysis reviewed several research protocols about adult-child sexuality, and summarized them as showing that relationships in which force was not used did not appear to cause harm, and sometimes might be beneficial.

Rind and his co-authors have been systematically ostracized and excluded from many scholarly journals. In 2005, a book by a major publisher, which contained another scholarly article by Rind, was withdrawn by that publisher (Hayworth) because of protests from fundamentalist Christians. Other gay writers like William Herdt and John DeCecco who researched sexual outlaw behavior in the U.S. (DeCecco) or intergenerational sexuality in non-western cultures (Herdt) simply moved on to other topics. This did not keep DeCecco from experiencing extreme persecution -- while a Professor in San Francisco he had to hire bodyguards to protect him from right-wing attackers.

A number of women researchers and radical feminists have attempted to undermine or slow down the sex panic. Among them have been Camille Paglia, Debbie Nathan, Joan Nelson, Elizabeth Stoney, Laura Marks, Gayle Rubin, Pat Califia, Carole Vance, Marjorie Heins, Joanne Wypijewski, Janice Irvine and Judith Levine. Paglia has been castigated

by other sex researchers and many feminist writers for her defense of man-boy sexual relationships in particular. Although she has published lengthy, well-researched summaries of the history of sexuality and sexual research, she is seldom included in university curriculums involving these topics.

Many of the other women writers suffered similar consequences or censorship of their views. Debbie Nathan, who exposed and virtually stopped the so-called satanic cult child sex panic with her book *Satan's Silence* (Basic Books, 1996), has spoken of the icy reception her work has sometimes received. She said,

"... I have often had a sense of being intellectually and professionally marginalized, and I have experienced instances of editors killing pieces I've written about sexual hysteria because they got cold feet, as well as refusals to assign such stories."

One woman writer, who had never had problems with previous articles on other subjects for a prestigious national magazine, attempted a balanced look at the crusade against Catholic priests, especially the sensational case of Father Paul Shanley. She was called in by the editor who said he simply could not run her piece.

Even before Judith Levine's *Harmful to Minors: The Perils of Protecting Children from Sex* was published in 2002, a massive campaign by fundamentalist Christian groups, including *Concerned Women for America*, attacked the publisher, the University of Minnesota Press. While the book was published, the Press created a new process for reviewing its books before publication.

Levine spoke publicly about how she was humiliated time and again in public. She said the manuscript for her book had been turned down by many publishers, treated as if it were "radioactive." Among other insights, Levine wrote that

"obsession with pedophiles stems for the reluctance to confront incest and the rampant sexualization of children" in American culture.

"Adults project the eroticized desire outwards, creating a monster to hate, hunt down and destroy."

Of the outcry against her book she added,

"What happened to me is a perfect example of the hysteria my book is about."

Nowhere is censorship and shunning greater than against those who would describe or depict childhood or adolescent sexuality, or mere nudity. The "victims" of the evil perpetrators must also be protected -- and projected as the spotless mirror image of their violators -- at all costs -- their purity and innocence asserted

(even in the face of post-Freudian revelations of the sexual lives and interests of children).

Anything portraying the physical beauty of children or erotic aspects of their lives must be banned.

(See Bob Chatelle's excellent summaries of the impact of the child porn crusade on freedom of expression: *Kiddie Porn Panic*, 1993; *Limits of Free expression & the Problem of Child Porn*, 1997.)

A spate of prominent photographers were censored beginning in the late 1980s, for photos of nude children or adolescents. The most prominent case was that of the gay photographer, Robert Maplethorpe, whose works were removed from galleries across the country, including the Corcoran Gallery in Washington in 1990, with conservative attacks on the *National Endowment for the Arts* which had funded some of his work.

Some cases involved prize-winning women photographers, including Sally Mann, Star Ockenga, and Judith Livingston. Each of them was pilloried. Livingston's son was temporarily removed from her home after she published a photo of him nude. Livingston was eased out of her professorship at Cornell, and Ockenga was dismissed as director of the MIT photography exhibitions.

Sally Mann, who did some of the most widely-published nude photos of children. Her frankly erotic photos of her own children were called incestuous, pedophilic and pornographic.

Feminist writer Germaine Greer has said of her work,

"The censoring of a mother's physical delight in her children marks the last stage in the denial of the sensuality of children."

Mann now does landscape photography, and Ockenga, after a period of not working at all, turned to photographs of flowers.

Allen Ginsburg and Joseph Richey published an essay in 1990 against the radical departure from art history in which nude children and adolescents are out of bounds. In "The Right to Depict Children in the Nude," their main point was that sex and nudity in children, and especially adolescents, had been a primary theme of the visual and literary arts throughout Western culture, as well as in many non-Western societies. He pointed out that even popular advertising used photos and drawings of nude children -- especially boys -- and Norman Rockwell often portrayed nude or seem-nude boys on the cover of the *Saturday Evening Post*.

Suddenly, all such photos and pictures disappeared. By the 1990s, when Calvin Kline made public a campaign to sell jeans showing scantily clad teenagers, he was forced to withdraw it within days.

The nude child disappeared. In fact, almost *all* photographs of pubescent and post-pubescent boys and girls vanished from most public media. No wonder, since the Faber Supreme Court decision in 1982 labeled child pornography as wholly unprotected expression not covered under the Bill of Rights, and since the child pornography acts, beginning in 1990, increasingly criminalized almost all such depictions of any person appearing to be under 18, even when "real children" were not depicted in drawings and simulations.

(This was part of the 1996 law, but the Supreme Court declared that part of the bill unconstitutional. The language has reappeared in the 2006 bill now before Congress.)

Almost the sole exception to the disappearance of erotic depictions of children has been Greer's *The Beautiful Boy* (Rizolli, 2003). She notes,

"At the end of the 20th century, the guilty panic about pedophilia completed the criminalization of awareness of the desires and charms of boys."

She took care not to provoke with openly sexual photographs, but she was clear that her purpose was to resurrect the erotic image of the boy, not as pedophilia, but as a reasonable erotic interest of homosexual or heterosexual artists. The response to Greer has been largely positive in the art world, though not without expected attacks in mainstream newspapers and conservative journals in which she is labeled a "female pederast" among other things. Greer is Australian and has always been known as one to challenge taboos and court sensational publicity.

A Supreme Court decision (Knox Vs United States, 1993) criminalized photographs of even clothed children, if they could be deemed erotic. Most anti-censorship organizations simply stopped complaining about censorship in cases involving depictions of nude children or erotic situations involving children. These were now deemed beyond the pale of civil liberty.

The Parade magazine cover (Feb. 19, 2006) featured the words in large, bold type,

"... Every image of a sexually displayed child -- be it a photograph, a tape or a DVD -- records both the rape of the child and an act against humanity."

The feature article from which these words came was by Andrew Vachss, not a child sexuality expert, but a very high-priced lawyer who has successfully sued institutions and individuals in child sex abuse cases. Vachss does not define a "sexually displayed child" -- neither in terms of age



(a 17 year old is still a child in most jurisdictions and under most laws),

nor in terms of what it includes -- nudity? nearly nude erotic poses? -- but he makes the absolute statement that it is rape and a crime against humanity. Nothing could be more heinous (his word).

Who says? Why? Those questions are not asked and may not be asked. To ask them is to risk being accused of complicity with rape and crimes against humanity. Vachss goes on to urge stiffer penalties for mere possession or viewing of a downloaded photograph from the internet -- one assumes he means at least life in prison - which is already in force for many such offenses.

The utterly evil act becomes the basis for completely scapegoating the utterly evil perpetrator.

The full force of this shunning and scapegoating is aimed at those who can be labeled *pedophiles*. As the *National Center for Reason and Justice*, a group that supports those it deems wrongly accused in sex cases, says on its website:

"Especially vulnerable have been those accused of sex offenses against children and adolescents. While none of us deny that these crimes occur, those accused nevertheless have the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty and to receive fair trials. But too often, hysteria reigns and the accused are tried and convicted by the media."

Until the 1980s, the notion that any offender would be forced to register and be tracked -- and publicly shamed -- for life -- went against the American notions of fairness and rehabilitation. "I've done my time" was considered a reasonable statement when prison sentences and parole was completed.

In Canada, the Supreme Court has denied police the right to make public the names of registered offenders, since this would thwart the goal of rehabilitation of prisoners. In the United States, the very purpose of the sex offender registry is to make it available to the public. This, and subsequent measures to monitor and restrict sex offenders, have put an end to any idea of rehabilitation for an ever-growing class of former prisoners. Longer and longer sentences and increasing length of parole or probation were not enough to satisfy the sex panic that has gone on uninterrupted from one phase to another since the 1960s.

The first registries appeared in 1990. By 1994, with Megan's law -- inspired like many of the other sex offender initiatives by a specific and isolated case of a horrendous murder of a child -- federal and state laws required that personal and work addresses and other personal information of sex offenders be made public in various ways -- from the internet and television to newspaper ads and billboards. In some states,

special auto license tags and signs required at the door posts of offenders were mandated. By 2005, every state had adopted a registry and all but two state were incorporated into the federal registry and tracking system.

As Mark Matthews wrote (Feb. 9) in Stateline.org newsletter, not known for its radical viewpoints,

"Sex offenders are a different type of criminal, increasingly punished under a different set of rules. Upon release from prison or parole, they are followed by satellite, showcased on the internet and prohibited from living in certain neighborhoods."

Twelve states now require many sex offenders, including those with even the mildest offense against minors, to wear electronic monitoring (GPS) bracelets for life. Bills to this effect are in the legislatures of eleven more states and likely to pass.

Special laws have been passed for this special class of human beings in virtually every area of life. These include

- ✳ requirements in one or more states that they stay away from schools and out of parks;
- ✳ denial of the right to work in areas ranging from education and health care to massage therapy and even restaurants which cater to families;
- ✳ denial of post-secondary education;
- ✳ requirements for juvenile offenders that they attend special segregated schools;
- ✳ restrictions on travel, including denial of the right to cross state lines.

Eight states now require castration of some sex offenders before they can be released. Florida has passed legislation aimed at making the death penalty more likely if a sex act is involved in a killing, or even in the case of some child rapes where murder is not involved. Louisiana is set to execute the first sex offender in a non-murder case.

Another feature of recently passed or just introduced sex offender laws is to do away with all statutes of limitation, and to force registration and other restrictions on hundreds of thousands of people not now required to register. People who accepted a plea bargain twenty years ago because of a sexual misjudgment, with the assurance their sentence or parole would mean the end of it, now face a life-time of being hounded, shamed and shunned. Their families -- that is millions more ordinary, decent human beings -- also face the stress and humiliation of these actions, wondering when the police will crash through the door looking for their loved-one. Several states have introduced bills to make it a felony for family members and others, with possible punishment of years in prison, to refuse to reveal the whereabouts of sex offenders.

Adding insult to injury, "children," that is persons under 18, may also be labeled sex offenders, required to register and sometimes face life-long monitoring and various forms of shunning and shaming.

One teenage boy committed suicide in Oakland County, Michigan in 2004, when faced with 23-years of being on a public registry, which would include public humiliation at his school. He was convicted of sex with a 14-year-old girl, which was conceded to be non-forced, but violated the state's age of consent laws.

Matthew Limon, in Kansas was given 17 years in prison for a consensual blow-job given the week after his 18th birthday to a boy who was almost 15. Limon is also mentally handicapped. Limon's case was overturned and he was let out of prison after serving more than five years because the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the Kansas law which mandated longer sentences for homosexual acts was unconstitutional. He will still have to register for life as a child sex offender.

South Carolina Supreme Court justice Costa M. Pleciones opined from the bench that children as young as nine should be subject to life-time registration for sex offenses. Estimates are that more than thirty-five thousand children and adolescents have been convicted of sex offenses and are required to register.

The worst deprivation of rights comes in the form of life-time civil commitment of sex offenders after incarceration. Seventeen states have some version of this measure, and 21 more states are considering it.

As of December, 2004, according to researchers at the Washington think-tank that has followed this since Washington passed the first such law in 1990, 3,493 persons were in locked mental facilities or special prisons under civil commitment. As of that date, only 427 of persons ever locked up under these laws had been released. Usually called "Sexually Violent Predator Laws," these almost always include non-violent offenses against persons under the age of consent in that state. In some states, persons accused of various crimes including child pornography, prostitution and even indecent exposure are included as "sexually violent predators."

As Mark McHarry wrote in his thorough summary in Z Magazine, November, 2001, [\*] civil commitment procedures deprive citizens of virtually all their Constitutional rights: the right to remain silent, to have a lawyer at interrogations, bail, provisions against double jeopardy and ex post facto laws--and many more.

[\* < [http://www.ipce.info/library\\_3/files/sxpirlaws.htm](http://www.ipce.info/library_3/files/sxpirlaws.htm) >]

The New York Bar Association, challenging Governor Pataki's administrative order in 2005 to move all sex offenders to locked mental facilities upon release, commented,

"It cannot be overstated how readily sex civil commitment may be abused."

Sex offenders--especially "pedophiles," in its expanded definition to include anyone who has "offended" against any person under the age of consent -- now effectively 18 everywhere -- are purely and simply outcasts, untouchables. No-one wants them in their neighborhood, and virtually no-one will house or employ them. They may be publicly humiliated and vilified, and they are deemed worthy of shunning by an outraged public. Even those suspected of sexual deviancy are likely to be included in the shunning. The Media and politicians of both parties simply have a field day with the new scapegoated categories, and virtually no-one complains.

Formerly progressive alternative media have jumped on the bandwagon. *The Free Times* in Ohio, for instance, put a photo of an alleged "molester" of teenage boys on its January, 2006 cover, with the drawing of a bloody pen piercing his forehead, and an equally bloody red headline, calling him "Neighborhood Monster."

Mainstream media like NBC and *The New York Times* now run series that would have been found a decade ago only in yellow journalism outlets like the *National Inquirer*. Debbie Nathan (*CounterPunch*, February 17, 2006) has thoroughly exposed the shoddy journalism of the Times in its recent exposé of "child prostitution."

Slate commentator Jack Shafer noted (Slate.com, Dec.19, 2005) that the article (described above) by Kurt Eichenwald in the Times that same day about Justin, the teenage boy who marketed his own image in sex acts, crossed the line from journalism to advocacy, to outright solicitation of FBI and police involvement.

The NBC "Predator" series likewise involves police in sting activity, boasting that it has ensnared more than 50 men in cases where they will be charged with sex crimes involving no real "victims," but media and police plants on internet sites. The NBC reporter, Chris Hansen, makes no pretense of objectivity.

"We are dazed, amazed and disgusted," he says, "They're back! The on-line predators."

Using terms like "deviates" and "perverts," it is no wonder that the NBC site attracts thousands of blog comments that urge vigilante justice: "Put a bullet in the perp's head," says one. One can hope all this will rather quickly erode public confidence in the media as independent of law enforcement.

Such media coverage has an immediate impact even in the courts. An MSNBC afternoon news summary, which once jokingly called itself "all pedophiles all the time," reports each day on new cases of priests and

sex, teachers and sex, and the like. A January, 2006 crusade by this MSNBC program as well as the Fox network, railed against Vermont judge Edward Cashman. Fox's Bill O'Reilly called him the worst judge in America.

Cashman had sentenced a child sex offender to sixty days in jail and a treatment program rather than a lengthy prison sentence, where the man would not get treatment. Judge Cashman first insisted,

"The Court cannot be swayed by the media or the mob."

After days of abuse in the media, which the judge said had deeply distressed him, he reversed his ruling and handed down a sentence of "not less than three years" in prison. Letters to the very liberal Burlington Free Press were almost universal in their sentiment: "Lynch him" (the offender) said one writer.

At testimony on a Maryland bill to require life-time electronic monitoring for almost all sex offenders, a spokesman for the Maryland Public Defenders' Office, quoted in the *Washington Post*, said,

"I did think of 1984. Where are we going with these types of measures? What happens next session?"

Speaking about the new Federal Registry list of more than 500,000 sex offenders, which it shares on-line with the public, Marc Rotenberg of the *Electronic Privacy Information Center* noted,

"It's not difficult to imagine that the government might publish watch lists for other things."

Already, Massachusetts is considering laws which would create registries and require electronic monitoring for ALL "dangerous" offenders. Massachusetts would become the first state to expand these measures beyond sex offenders, but it surely will not be the last.

Liberal Democrats, socialists and green party candidates vie with Republicans to "save the innocent children" and "protect our children from monsters."

There is clear evidence that these kinds of measures (registration, electronic monitoring, and the like) are not effective. Castration, for instance, has been shown to be wholly incapable of affecting sexual desire. Since most sex offenses take place within the family at the home of the offender, monitoring devices do no good. Public exposure and humiliation of sex offenders is likely to increase, not decrease, shame and guilt, which are likely factors in further offending. Yet politicians of all stripes rush to put forward more and more such draconian restrictions on the hated class of sex offenders and pedophiles. A Baltimore Sun article

(Feb. 17, 2006) called anti-sex offender bills "apple pie" that all politicians rush to take credit for.

To paraphrase Janice Irvine in *Let's Talk About Sex* (U. California Press, 2002), which chronicled the hijacking of sex education in America by right-wing Christians, the "depravity narratives" about sex offenders will rule the day so long as there is a "culture of stigma" on sexual topics, and so long as the "innocent child" model of childhood prevails.

"We must reinvent the construct of childhood," Irvine wrote.

In the past, a central feature of the American system of government was supposed to be that it applied to all citizens equally. At least that was the case after the Reconstruction era amendments that assured equal application to former slaves and other people of color, and after the voting rights amendment for women in the 1920s. Now, certain categories simply don't have the same rights -- possibly no rights at all. The creep of repression is bound to occur -- more and more groups will be demonized and seen as outside the ordinary protections of the law.

As Michael Neumann wrote in *CounterPunch*, February 13, 2006, in his excellent article on America's 'culture of piety' in its reaction to the Muslim protests against depictions of the Prophet Mohammed:

"The most basic notions of the rule of law -- that you should not be punished for what you cannot help, like the feelings you have, that no-one should be expected to obey laws so vague that the criteria of obedience are mysterious -- were thrown away years ago. They cannot be picked out of the trashcan and held up as shiny Western ideals just because it is now convenient to do so."

Neumann urged America to

"... go back to judging real crimes by real standards of evidence. It can turn its attention to real, vulgar, observable, concrete human needs -- like decent food, clothing, and shelter."

One day -- perhaps fifty or a hundred years from now -- it will appear ludicrous that our society was so consumed with anger at this class of scapegoats that it obliterated its fine traditions of liberty and justice in favor of retribution and vengeance. It will seem odd, that American society was obsessed with concern about sexual acts with teenagers even as it pursued a pointless war that killed thousands of teenagers and others on both sides of that war.

People will hopefully someday recoil when told that a person convicted in Federal court of making a photograph of a 17 year old masturbating would receive a mandatory sentence of life in prison, yet a person convicted of the (non sexual) murder of that teen would face far less.

It will seem incredible that the focus was on sexual deviance rather than on the astronomical rate of murder and other real violence, or the growing gap between rich and poor, and the indelible mark of real poverty on so many children. Until such a day of greater sanity, this scapegoating and shunning of all sex offenders and "pedophiles" will inevitably lead to less freedom and more insecurity for all who might engender the wrath of puritan preachers or stoke the greed of media outlets and pandering politicians. For now, it seems unlikely that even those who traditionally guard our civil liberties or those who traditionally challenge state repression from the left, will dare speak out, lest they, too, be marginalized and shunned.

The writer remains anonymous because he writes and is politically active in several completely unrelated social justice movements. He fears that the shunning and marginalization he describes for those who write about this topic could compromise (unfairly) his other work.

## **Absurdities**

By Ipce

### **Intro**

Society, especially the English speaking culture, is afraid for each kind of touch, intimacy and each tiny glimpse of sexuality of children. More and more, intimacy is redefined as a crime, and thus those who intimately touch children are redefined as sex offenders, including the children themselves. Fear for sex offenders spreads itself because the recidivism rate is everywhere seen as high - which is not true. This creates absurdities, of which here is a list of press clippings, a long list, although a selection from a selection of a selection. The list goes from criminalizing hugging by toddlers, via registering and civil commitment, absurd rules, laws and penalties, onto death penalties for re-offending sex offenders.

### **Children**

**Girl, 5, Forced To Apologize For Hugging Classmate; The Boston Channel, April 5, 2006**

A family in Maynard is outraged after their 5-year-old daughter was forced to write a letter denouncing hugging after a classmate embraced her.

At issue is a hug Savannah said she got on the playground from a friend named Sophie. Savannah hugged Sophie back. The hugs resulted in Savannah having to write a letter, complete with teacher corrections, that

read, "I touch Sophie because she touch me and I didn't like it because she was hugging me. I didn't like when she hugged me."

**6-Year-Old** Accused Of Sexual Harassment; Boy Accused Of Putting Fingers In Girl's Waistband; www, 8 February 2006.

Officials told her [the mother] that her son was being suspended for sexually harassing a 6-year-old female classmate. [The mother] said the boy is just 6 and has no idea what sexual harassment means. [She] said the children were playing on the floor and touching each other. She said her son touched the girl's shirt, but not her skin.

The school superintendent released a statement that said, "The safety and well-being of Brockton public school students and staff is of the utmost important to us, and we take all allegations of sexual harassment seriously."

**Boy, 8**, accused of sexual harassment, march 2006, Morning Journal  
Lorain school officials this week executed an "emergency removal" of an 8-year-old boy who

they say sexually harassed a girl in gym class. The boy's mother said yesterday her son

was playing in gym on Tuesday when a girl student said he and two other boys may have grabbed her buttocks.

He was then questioned in an informal hearing by school officials and he admitted he had been

passing love notes to the same girl. The second-grader then asked to sign a notice of

emergency removal form for sexual harassment.

"He admitted to what he was being accused of," Schnurr said, unable to give specifics but said they were "inappropriate" in nature. "It's our job to teach students at a young age that

inappropriate behavior is unacceptable," Schnurr said. "The student did something wrong, admitted he did something wrong and received the proper discipline."

**Girl, 8**, arrested after biting administrator; Las Vegas Sun, Aug. 2005

An 8-year-old was arrested, handcuffed and taken to jail last week after biting an assistant principal, outraging juvenile justice officials who believe children are too often arrested in behavior cases that could be dealt with through school discipline. She was later sent to a mental treatment facility.

**Kindergartners** Accused of Having Sex at School; April 18, 2005

A shocking story surfacing within the La Joya School District has many parents on edge. Police say two six-year old boys were performing sexual acts on each other, on campus. We are told the two six-year-old boys in question, were performing oral sex on each other, in the restroom.

Minutes later, another six-year-old student walked in and allegedly discovered what was happening. Later that night he told his parents, who then reported the incident to the school principal. The following day a



police investigation was launched.

Children are now monitored when they go to the bathroom. If at all possible, students are escorted by a teacher and if not, coaches randomly visit the restrooms.

### **First-graders** Face Sodomy Charges; Feb 2005

A shocking story is coming out now from two different Tri-state elementary schools. Several students have been charged in Hanson, and also in Earlington, Kentucky. [...] a similar situation at Earlington Elementary School where police say two first graders were found in the bathroom performing sexual acts. Both are now charged with first degree sodomy.

### **Third-graders**

Three third-graders were handcuffed and taken to a police station after they were found playing with a can of Mace on the playground, prompting the city's top police official to order an investigation. Joceline Perez, 9, said she thought the Mace was perfume, and as she picked it up the can went off. One of her friends then sprayed it into the air, she said. Police Commissioner Sylvester M. Johnson had said after a December incident in which a 10-year-old girl was handcuffed for bringing a pair of scissors to an elementary school that his department would reconsider how it restrains young children.

### **Boy, 9**, charged with rape; The Scotsman; May 2006

The boy, from Dundee, has been charged with raping a three-year-old girl following an alleged incident at a house in the city last autumn.

### Judge rules **10-year-olds** can stand trial for sexual assault; The Associated Press, April 2005

A Juvenile Court judge ruled Thursday that there is enough evidence to try two 10-year-old boys in the alleged sexual assault of a 7-year-old girl. A 12-year-old friend also is considered a suspect and may be charged, Kirby said. The boys are charged with aggravated sodomy and kidnapping.

### **Teen** faces sentencing in sex assault; The Daily News; March 6, 2006

Today, a Dickinson teen faces the County Court No. 2 jury that convicted him of sexually assaulting a boy, 11. The same jury convicted the older boy, 14 at the time of the attack.

While testifying, the younger boy never said he was assaulted. However, prosecutors Paige Santell and Amy Nguyen told jurors that the assault had embarrassed the boy to the point he would not acknowledge it. Dr. James Lukefahr, head of the ABC Clinic, had testified that child victims of sexual assaults often did not publicly admit what had happened to them. The younger boy's sister testified she had found the two boys in the older child's home. She told jurors the older boy was on top of her brother, and both had their shorts down around their ankles.

The older boy, now 17, faces probation to 40 years in prison. He could also receive a term in a Texas Youth Commission facility, from which he could be eligible for release when he turns 21.

Two Children Convicted Of Sex Abuse of Each Other.

**A 13-year-old girl and a 12-year-old boy** were convicted in Ogden juvenile court of sexual abuse of a minor for having sex with each other.

**Teen** charged with molesting, but he was under the age of consent at time of the sexual encounters; Indianapolis Star, 30 October 2005  
William C. Bopp could be convicted of child molesting in Marion County, even though he was a child himself when he engaged in sexual activity with a younger girl.

The Indianapolis teenager has told the Indiana Court of Appeals that charging him violates his constitutional rights, because state law says children younger than 14 who engage in sexual activity are presumed victims and can't legally consent.

When underage children engage in sexual activity with each other, however, they sometimes face criminal charges that can follow them into their adult lives, even when no physical force or threat of force is involved.

Bopp was charged with two counts of child molesting in February, more than two years after the relationship ended. He is accused of being sexually active with the girl from the time he was 9 until a month after he turned 14. She was 6 when the relationship started and 11 when it ended, according to court records. The girl confided in her mother about the "touching" in November 2004 but did not describe the activity as molesting, according to court records.

**Girl, 14**, isolated in jail; Beacon Journal, May. 16, 2006

Girl refuses to testify against man who is accused of molesting her.

A judge has jailed a 14-year-old girl who ran away rather than testify against a man accused of molesting her. The Norton Middle School student is being held indefinitely in an isolated area of the Summit County Jail on the orders of Common Pleas Judge James Murphy.

The teen, jailed since Wednesday, insists she is not a sex abuse victim and is demanding a lawyer be assigned to represent her, court records show. However, jail officials said Monday she cannot speak with anyone without permission from county prosecutors.

[Later, the accused man has been acquitted.]

**Boy, 17**, gets 10 Years for Oral Sex With Girl, 15, and life-long registration.

Georgia Reconsiders Law That Imprisoned High School Senior; ABC News, 7 Feb 2006

A wild New Year's Eve two years ago has landed a Georgia teen in prison for 10 years on charges of child molestation in a case that has state legislators reworking the strict law that put him behind bars.

**Fear for 'pedophiles' causes absurd rules****Sex offenders ordered home early on Halloween** - CNN.com - Oct 25, 2005

Sex offenders ordered home early on Halloween 2,200 told not to answer door when kids knock. New Jersey sex offenders who face supervision under Megan's Law will be confined to their homes Halloween night and will be under orders not to answer the door when trick-or-treaters come calling.

**No photos;** The Record, May 9, 2006.

Jean Hetman, who has a 13-year-old daughter who practices figure skating at the arena, said she has been video taping and photographing her daughter's routines for about six years, but now she is being told she cannot, and even had the police called on her twice. The city maintains the new policy is to protect children from pedophiles.

**Camera ban farce;** The Telegraph, Australia, June 08, 2006

The parents of more than 30,000 children across Australia have been instructed not to take photographs of their kids at Rock Eisteddfods as a result of hysterical paedophile fears. The bans were imposed despite there being no law preventing parents from photographing children at performances. But organisers were not backing down, blaming child protection laws

for the ban. The prohibition is on those who would want to use them for pornography or engaging in child sexual abuse. Parents were recently banned from taking photos at a Combined Independent School water carnival.

**Authorities Seize Sex Offender's Newborn;** AP 21 October 2005

Child-welfare authorities seized a newborn from a hospital Friday and placed the baby in a foster home because his father is a convicted sex offender. A judge granted the mother supervised visitation rights but prohibited visits from the father. The baby should be in jeopardy because the father pleaded guilty to rape and sodomy two decades ago in New York.

**Woman Ticketed for Sitting on a Playground Bench with No Kids;** AP, Sept. 27, 2005

A woman was given a ticket for sitting on a park bench because she doesn't have children.

The Rivington Playground on Manhattan's East Side has a small sign at the entrance that says adults are prohibited unless they are accompanied by a child. The ticket could bring a one thousand dollar fine and 90 days in jail. The city parks department says the rule is designed to keep pedophiles out of city parks.

**Police to watch sex offenders 24 hours a day;** Sunday Herald - 14 August 2005

Paedophiles and violent criminals are to be targeted by police in an unprecedented surveillance operation across Scotland. More than 3000 registered sex offenders and the country's most dangerous non-registered sexual predators are to be effectively put under 24-hour surveillance. As part of the pilots, the registration number of their car will be stored in a network of cameras around the country that will alert the police if their vehicle passes, revealing undisclosed trips or journeys to areas they are banned from visiting.

**Don't kiss your baby;** July 26, 2005

Parents who were charged with child abuse last August have been exonerated and reunited with their children. Charbel Hamaty was charged with sexually assaulting his newborn son, and Teresa Hamaty was arrested for taking sexually explicit pictures. The photo that raised alarms shows a naked Kristoff, now 16-months-old, getting a kiss from his father on the belly button, Teresa Hamaty said. When the photos were shown to the police, the couple was arrested, and Kristoff was put in protective custody, while his half-sister, Victoria, was handed over to her birth father. Teresa Hamaty was released on bond, but wasn't allowed contact with her children for months. Charbel Hamaty spent six months in prison before the charges were dropped because of a report submitted by an expert saying there was no criminal intent in the photos.

**New offense;** Radio, July 2005

In Florida, a convicted sex offender was arrested for reading Maxim as well as possessing a racy calendar and poster. The trick here is that it is a violation of probation to have "sexually stimulating" material, even if that material is perfectly legal. That a sex offender would have the audacity to have a sexual thought -- even a sexual thought which violates no law and with material that any free citizen can buy off the newsstand -- is now in and of itself an actionable offense.

**Let the boy alone;** Radio, July 2005

From Akron, Ohio (story), we have the fascinating story of a man who was accused of sexually molesting a seventeen-year-old boy. What was the evidence that led to the accusation? He committed the perverted and heinous act of ... visiting the boy in the hospital. Why would he have done such a reprehensible deed? Well, apparently, the boy called him and asked him to. So remember, if a boy who loves and trusts you is in a car accident and calls you and asks you to visit him, decline. Let the boy rot alone in his hospital bed. To do otherwise is tantamount to an admission of sexual activity.

**"Don't talk to strangers"** - Letter to Ipce, June 2005

Well, the paranoia being fed to kids proved to almost CAUSE a tragedy with the boy in

Utah who got lost at Scout camp ... "don't trust or talk to strangers" he's been told ... so every time rescue searchers came near him, the kid HID in the woods and they didn't find him for four days.

Think about how seriously this brainwashing and scare tactics are affecting young kids these days, when a kid that is lost in the Utah woods for four days, curling up and pulling his sweatshirt over his knees to try to keep warm all night, HIDES from rescuers because he is afraid of strangers and has been told constantly "don't talk to strangers" .... At least he didn't die from exposure while rescuers were within yards of him those four days.

**Mom indicted for hiring stripper for son** 'It didn't harm him,' mother says of effect on 16-

year-old son; The Associated Press, May 29, 2005

Anette Pharris, 34, has been indicted by a grand jury on charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor and involving a minor in obscene acts. The boy's father, the stripper and two others also face charges. "I tried to do something special for my son," Pharris said. "It didn't harm him."

About 10 people under the age of 18 were at the birthday party in September, including minors who were not related to the family, authorities said. Police spokesman Don Aaron said minors are not permitted in adult establishments. "A person shouldn't be allowed to circumvent that law by hiring a stripper, a lady who took all her clothes off and spent a good amount of time dancing around minors," he said. Anette Pharris took photos at the party and tried to have them developed at a nearby drug store. Drug store employees notified authorities, police said. "Who are they to tell me what I can and can't show to my own children?" the mother said.

**Journalist Busted For Taking Photos On the Beach;** The Telegraph, 19 March 2005

'The CCTV recorded me taking two photographs: one of a group of children'. On an idyllic summer's day, a theatre critic goes for a walk on Scarborough beach. He has a camera with him and photographs a group of children making sandcastles. An hour later, he is reported to the police and arrested.

The boys were in swimming costumes, the girl with them was wearing a long dress, and the photograph caught their interaction.

That evening, the police searched my hotel room; they also commissioned the Metropolitan Police to search my house in London. Meanwhile, I spent hours in a Scarborough police cell.

The horror that began that night went on for almost six months. The allegation of "possession of indecent photographs of children" was only dropped, in October, when, instead, the Crown Prosecution Service decided to charge me under Section 5 (1) and (6) of the Public Order Act 1986 with "harassment, alarm or distress" - implying the use of "threatening, abusive, or insulting words or behaviour within the hearing or sight of a person liable to be caused harassment, alarm or distress

thereby". When the case came to magistrates' court in late January 1999, I was found not guilty.

**Child Molester Hysteria in New York;** Web Commentary, 29 January 2005

Apparently, a new child molester is roaming South Queens, New York – me! I say that, because recently a girl of about 11 years of age walking in my neighborhood kept nervously looking over her shoulder at me. When I sought to comfort her with a kindly smile, she became even more alarmed. At the PTA meeting that night at my son's school, a parent insisted to me, "If a child feels intimidated, then an incident occurred." But it gets worse. I wasn't some stranger cruising the neighborhood (...); I was walking the same route I walk at the same time, every weekday, to pick up my child from school. And when the girl crossed in front of me to enter her house, I recognized her. Just days earlier, for perhaps the third time, she'd flashed a brilliant smile at my son, as we headed home. (He has that effect on females.)

So, what had I done to terrorize this poor child? When I told my wife what had happened, she showed me the following letter on school letterhead, which our son had brought home a few days earlier.

January 6, 2005 - Dear Parents

We have received the following notification from our Supervisor of Safety and Security regarding an incident that occurred this morning. Please be vigilant and in clear communication with your children in order to ensure their safety and well-being.

This morning one of our 5th grade female student [child's full name was given!] was escorted by the police from the 101 pct. to school this morning. [Child's first name] gave the following account.

"While on my way to school I saw a man following me. I looked back he smiled and nodded his head. I kept walking. when I looked back again he was still following me smiling. I looked back a third time and he was still there. [Child's name, now in the voice of the security supervisor, but without closing the quotation] went into CVS on Beach 20th street and informed the security guard there. The security guard called the pct. the description of the male is brown skin - mixed gray and black hair about 59. The officer said he looked in the area but did not see the person. The officer also noted that this area is next to a nursing home facility. Parent of child was called

and it is being reported online.

Sincerely, (Name, signed) - Assistant Principal.

**Megan's Law: registering**

**Boy, 11,** on sex register; Liverpool Echo; May 12 2006

An 11-year-old Merseyside boy is believed to have become Britain's youngest registered sex offender. He was 10 when he sexually assaulted a young girl. The boy was made to sign the register after being found guilty

of sexually assaulting the 13-year-old girl in an Ainsdale park. Magistrates heard that the boy trapped the girl by lying on top of her and touched her breasts with both hands as she struggled to free herself.

**Kids As Young As 12 Are Being Put On The Kansas Sex Offender Website;** KAKE News, 16 November 2005

Kids can be put on this list as young as 10 years old for what some may describe as "playing doctor" but the law has ruled as criminal offenses. "I have my son registered as a sex offender because I took him in for counseling." Kansas law requires the therapist to report children involved in sexual situations, no matter how innocent they seem. If they don't, they could lose their license.

Kevin will remain on the sex offender registry website until he is 18-years-old. If he so much as hugs a girl who doesn't want to be hugged, he will be on the list for life.

**Police may get right to enter sex offenders' homes;** Daily Telegraph 05-12-28

Police could be given new powers to enter and search the homes of sex offenders after a change of heart by ministers. The Home Office is considering calls from MPs and child sex campaigners for a law that would give police the legal right of entry to check on the whereabouts and activities of an individual on the sex offenders' register.

There are also plans to amend **the Terrorism Bill** to increase from two to five years jail terms for all offenders refusing to divulge the key needed to decrypt computer programmes that *may* contain *child porn*.

**Cell phone warns about sexual predators;** April 5, 2006

ORLANDO, Fla. -- When 11-year-old Jessica Lunsford was kidnapped and murdered last year, Joe Dawson immediately began gathering signatures to enact stricter penalties for registered sex offenders. Now, Dawson is teaming up with a California-based technology firm to introduce the first cell phone that uses the Global Positioning System to alert parents when a child is walking near a sexual predator's home.

**Lawyer fights ruling that teen tell dates' parents of sex offense;** NJ.com News, June 04, 2006

The Public Defender's office asked the New Jersey Supreme Court yesterday to overturn a ruling requiring a Sussex teenager to tell the parents of any girl he dates that he is a registered sex offender. That unprecedented requirement was imposed on the teenager, now 17, as a condition of probation when he admitted endangering the welfare of his 6-year-old half sister. He was 14 when he committed that offense.

**He grabbed girl's arm -- now he's a sex offender;** Sun Times, July 1, 2005

Fitzroy Barnaby said he had to swerve to avoid hitting the 14-year-old Des Plaines girl who walked in front of his car. She said he yelled, "Come here, little girl," before getting out of his car and grabbing her by the

arm. He said he simply lectured her.

The Appellate Court of Illinois said the 28-year-old Evanston man must register as a sex offender. The court said his actions are the type that are "often a precursor" to a child being abducted or molested. He was convicted of unlawful restraint of a minor -- which is a sex offense. Now, he will have to tell local police where he lives and won't be able to live near a park or school.

Cook County state's attorney spokesman Tom Stanton said Barnaby should have to register "because of the proclivity of offenders who restrain children to also commit sex acts or other crimes against them." Recognizing the stigma that comes with being labeled as a sex offender, the appellate court said "it is [Barnaby's] actions which have caused him to be stigmatized, not the courts."

**Did killer use sex registry to hunt victims?** Two on list found shot to death in Maine homes; The Star, Apr. 18, 2006.

A Canadian accused of killing two men in Maine found information on the pair from the state's on-line sex offender registry, police say, raising the possibility he used the list to hunt down his alleged victims. Stephen A. Marshall, 20, of North Sydney, N.S., shot and killed himself on a bus in Boston on Sunday night as police moved to question him about the two murders.

**Stephen Marshall stalked more sex offenders, police say;** CBC News, 24 Apr 2006

A Cape Breton man who killed two sex offenders in Maine visited the homes of another four sex offenders. The Canadian Press has reported that Marshall rang the doorbells of four homes, but that no one answered the door. "Obviously he did have a plan in place." Maine state police say Marshall looked up the addresses of 34 people on the state-run registry.

**Sex offender claims he's been beaten;** May 24, 2006 - Bangor Daily News

HOULTON - A local sex offender who has lived in the municipality for eight years told town councilors Monday evening that he has been beaten and harassed since speaking out at a council meeting two weeks ago about a plan that will alter how residents are notified about sex offenders living in the community. Information about Gary Schillinger, 53, is posted on the state's sex offender registry since he was convicted of three counts of gross sexual misconduct in 1986 and a federal charge of mailing child pornography in 1994.

### **Civil commitment**

Civil commitment means that a sex offender, released from prison, still has to live in a closed setting.



**Sex-crime witch gets new jail home;** Herald Sun, 13jun06

Evil witch Robin Fletcher will be forced to stay in jail in an unprecedented crackdown on the state's worst Sex Offenders Detention Law now on cards. [He] was due to be released from Ararat jail today after his 10-year maximum sentence expired. Instead, he will be forced to pay rent and live in a "prison within a prison" inside the jail's walls. The Adult Parole Board has imposed extraordinary restrictions on Fletcher under the terms of an extended supervision order granted by a Supreme Court judge.

**Lock them up for good;** Daily telegraph (Australia); March 01, 2006

Sex offenders and rapists could be jailed indefinitely at the discretion of the State Government under unprecedented laws that may see some locked up for life. Lenient sentences would be dealt with by the creation of "continuing detention" orders, that would apply to keep an offender behind bars after their sentence expires.

Vic[toria, Australia] **Govt considers sex offender law changes;** ABC Net; May 16, 2006

The Victorian Government will consider changing the law to keep serious sex offenders in custody after they finish their jail sentences. The Sentencing Advisory Council will examine whether Victoria should have a continued detention scheme for criminals considered a threat to the public.

**Banning orders****Time Served: Iowa's Residency Rules Drive Sex Offenders****Underground;** The New York Times; March 15, 2006

With just 24 rooms, the motel, the Ced-Rel, was home to 26 registered sex offenders by the start of March. The men have flocked to the Ced-Rel and other rural motels and trailer parks because no one else will, or can, have them. A new state law barring those convicted of sex crimes involving children from living within 2,000 feet of a school or day care center has brought unintended and disturbing consequences. It has rendered some offenders homeless and left others sleeping in cars or in the cabs of their trucks. And the authorities say that many have simply vanished from their sight, with nearly three times as many registered sex offenders considered missing since before the law took effect in September.

The statute has set off a law-making race in the cities and towns of Iowa, with each trying to be more restrictive than the next by adding parks, swimming pools, libraries and bus stops to the list of off-limits places. Fearful that Iowa's sex offenders might seek refuge across state lines, six neighboring states have joined the frenzy.

**Bill Would Block Sex Offenders From Renting;** Legislation Would Allow Landlords To Screen Tenants; Internet, May 23, 2006

SALINAS, Calif. -- The state Legislature is considering a bill that would

legally block sex offenders from renting some homes and apartments. The bill would allow landlords to screen tenants by asking them if they are registered sex offenders and would allow landlords to deny sex offenders housing.

**New Subdivisions Ban Sex Offenders From Moving In Texas Developer To Begin Second Neighborhood; June 13, 2006**

A new subdivision planned in Kansas will look and feel just like any other development in the fast-growing area. But there's one big difference: Registered sex offenders won't be allowed to live in the new development in Lenexa, Kan. In August, construction begins on the Kansas City area's first sex-offender-restricted subdivision, probably only the second such development nationwide.

**Sex offenders sue over playground buffer zone; June 2, 2006**

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (AP) -- Six sex offenders sued the city Wednesday to block a new ordinance that bars them from venturing within 1,000 feet of parks, pools and playgrounds when children are present.

**Molesters may face new limits in Indy; City-County plan aims to keep sex offenders away from kids; Indy Star, March 28, 2006**

A proposal to ban child molesters from Indianapolis playgrounds, swimming pools and other public places puts the city in the forefront of a national drive to restrict the activities of convicted sex offenders. The ordinance, introduced Monday at a City-County Council meeting, would go further than a bill passed this session in the legislature to prohibit sex offenders from living within 1,000 feet of a public park, school or youth program center.

**Bill would bar sex offenders from Internet; Critics of Codey plan warn against 'one-size-fits-all' law; NJ Com News; May 21, 2006**

Any person convicted of using a computer to commit a sex crime would be barred from accessing the Internet under legislation Senate President Richard Codey will introduce as a way to protect children surfing the Web.

**Sex offenders, convicted felons to be segregated from others; May 9, 2006**

AUSTIN -- Sex offenders and convicted felons who evacuate during hurricanes will no longer be allowed in the same shelters as others fleeing from home, state emergency planners said Wednesday.

**'Super-hostels' planned to house sex offenders; 25/04/2006**

A series of "super-hostels" are planned to house up to 100 violent and sexual offenders after their release from prison, it has been reported. The BBC Radio 4 Today programme said it had seen a Home Office briefing document setting out plans for the units, which would be much larger

than the 100 hostels currently housing 12-30 people each in England and Wales. According to the BBC, the "super-hostels", each housing 75-100, would be established on existing criminal justice sites - possibly within prisons - in order to limit opposition from local communities.

**Lacking housing, sex offenders temporarily returned to prison; AP May 05, 2006**

SAN FRANCISCO - A dozen paroled sex offenders moved onto San Quentin State Prison grounds Thursday because officials were unable to find them housing elsewhere. The men were sent to live in old officers barracks after being forced to leave a Solano County hotel where they had been staying until permanent housing could be secured. Finding housing for sex offenders is an ongoing challenge because of laws that prohibit them from living within a certain distance of schools and because communities and watchdog groups often try to block their placement.

**Residents near prison uneasy; Marin Independent Journal; May 5, 2006**

Shock, disbelief and resignation were emotions expressed by residents who live, work and shop near San Quentin State Prison, where a dozen high-risk sex offenders were moved Thursday. The offenders will be free to come and go during daylight hours. Shopping areas, apartments and hotels are nearby. "The people of Marin will go crazy."

**Absurd laws**

**States Get Tougher With Sex Offenders; AOL News, May 24, 2006**

Public fear of sex offenders is spurring a wave of tougher laws this year, both in Congress and statehouses nationwide. At least 14 governors have signed bills this year, including Wisconsin

Gov. Jim Doyle on Monday. The measures extend prison sentences, restrict where offenders can live, improve public notification of their whereabouts, order electronic monitoring or broaden prosecutorial power, according to a USA TODAY survey based on media reports and interviews with state officials.

Lawmakers in at least 10 states have passed tough bills that await final approval. More bills are pending elsewhere, including one in South Carolina that would make some molesters eligible for the death penalty.

**Bill requires castration for some sex offenders; 2nd offense would mandate treatment; nola.com news; March 04, 2006**

BATON ROUGE -- Repeat sexual offenders could face chemical or surgical castration as a way to curb their sexual urges if a bill filed by a southwest Louisiana lawmaker becomes law at the March 27 legislative session.

**Senate OKs licenses identifying sex offenders; nola.com/news; May 19, 2006**

With little debate, the Senate on Thursday said that child molesters, rapists and other "sexual predators" may soon have to get special orange

driver's licenses with the words "SEX OFFENDER" stamped on them as a way to warn others of the convicted felon's past. If the offenders do not drive, they must get a special orange state identification card each year with the words "SEX OFFENDER."

### **Absurd penalties**

**200 years** not 'cruel and unusual punishment' in child porn case; Azstar, May 10, 2006

A 200-year prison term for a man convicted of possessing 20 separate items of child pornography is not constitutionally excessive, the state Supreme Court ruled Wednesday.

In a 4-1 ruling, the majority said the state Legislature is free to decide that those guilty of this crime must serve at least 10 years in prison. And they concluded lawmakers also are free to mandate that the sentences be served consecutively, with no possibility of early release -- effectively making it a life term.

**Toe-sucker gets life;** July 12, 2003

Santa Ana, California: The former supervisor of an American youth program was sentenced Friday to life in prison on 25 counts of lewd conduct and assault for sucking the toes of 20 boys. The the prosecutor said Veches "clearly befriended these children, manipulated them and he sexually molested them". "Clearly Mr Veches posed a danger to the children of our community and he needed to be in prison," prosecutor Sheila Hanson said.

**Licking feet;** The Orange County Register; May 17, 2006

A transient who reportedly licked the feet of five boys in San Clemente and Dana Point faces multiple counts of child molestation, the Orange County District Attorney's Office reported Tuesday. Jones could spend 16 years in prison if convicted of five felony counts of lewd acts on a child under the age of 14 and one misdemeanor count of child annoyance.

**1000 years** for cartoons; The Times, Dec 2, 2005

A 53-year-old Richmond man yesterday became the first person convicted under a 2003 federal statute that makes obscene cartoon drawings as well as photographs an illegal form of child pornography. Dwight Whorley could be sentenced to more than 1,000 years in prison because a jury found him guilty of 74 counts of child pornography charges in U.S. District Court. Those counts include the obscene cartoons and charges of sending and receiving obscene e-mails describing sexual abuse of children.

Whorley used a computer at a Virginia Employment Commission office in Richmond on March 30, 2004, to view obscene Japanese anime cartoons that depict female children being forced into sexual intercourse with adult males.

**Counselor Gets Life in Child Porn Case;** WJLA-TV; February 10, 2006  
 SAN DIEGO (AP) - A former child counselor was sentenced to life in prison for his involvement in an international child pornography ring in a case the judge called the "most horrible" of her legal career. "You are the most despicable individual I have come across," San Diego Superior Court Judge Gale E. Kaneshiro told Paul Gordon Whitmore as she sentenced him Thursday.

**Life Sentence for Child Pornographer;** AP Feb 17, 2006  
 BALTIMORE (AP) -- A federal program that identifies alleged child molesters by publicizing their photographs has led to a life sentence for a five-time sex offender. James A. Reigle Jr., 46, was convicted in Baltimore federal court in October and sentenced Friday for sexually exploiting minors to produce child pornography, conspiracy to transport child pornography and shipping child pornography. "As far as we know, this is in fact the first life sentence imposed for a child pornography offense," U.S. Attorney Rod Rosenstein said.

**Pedophile ordered to pay compensation for verbal assault;** The Courier Mail, 23 Dec. 2005  
 A pedophile has been ordered to pay criminal compensation to a boy he caused mental distress when he tried to procure him to commit a sexual act. He had approached a boy, 8, near Miami Beach, on the Gold Coast and made a lewd suggestion. The boy fled and told his mother, who with the aid of bystanders detained the man. The man was jailed for six months after pleading guilty to attempting to unlawfully procure a child under the age of 12 to commit an indecent act. Judge Ian Dearden believed the boy had suffered an injury -- mental or nervous shock -- as defined in the Act and had been the victim of a personal offence. He ordered the man to pay the boy \$3750 in criminal compensation.

**Man met boy, 12;** Norfolk Eastern Daily Press, UK, 5 December 2005  
 He said they had been in contact through Internet chatrooms for a couple of months before they met in Norfolk and confirmed **he had cuddled and kissed the boy**. James, 21, who lives at Railway View, near Tonypany, South Wales admitted meeting with the 12 year-old boy following sexual grooming and was jailed for 12 months. He was also placed on the sex offenders' register for seven years and banned from working with children in the future. James was also prevented for five years from contacting children by phone, e-mail or text message or living in households with children under 16 apart from his own family. The judge said: "There is a need to protect young children, even those like this boy who was only too willing to have a relationship with you. This is a very serious offence and it is one which inevitably carries a sentence of imprisonment."

**Patriot Act used to investigate and convict couple in child****pornography case;** Computer Crime Research Center; July 17, 2004

In his remarks to Congress, Attorney General John Ashcroft detailed how the Patriot Act was used to investigate a child pornography case. In his testimony Ashcroft said: The Patriot Act has also allowed us to go after violent criminals who would harm the innocent.

The couple was charged and prosecuted for 100-counts of receipt and possession of child pornography. The case led to the conviction and sentencing of Terry and Jane Adkins. Terry Adkins, 26, was sentenced to 75 years in prison. Jane Adkins, 34, was sentenced to 30 years

**Child abusers 'should be jailed for longer';** The Times June 12, 2006

The Attorney-General has called for tougher jail terms for paedophiles after figures showed that more than 200 judges have handed out sentences that were too lenient.

**Even death penalties****Death for Some Sex Offenders OK'd in S.C.;** AP May 31, 2006

COLUMBIA, S.C. -- The South Carolina House on Wednesday passed a pair of bills that would allow prosecutors to seek the death penalty for some repeat child molesters. The related measures could send to death row offenders convicted twice of raping a child younger than 11. Louisiana, Florida and Montana allow the death penalty for sex crimes.

**Child molesters to be executed;** Reuters, 10-06-2006

The Governor of the US state of Oklahoma has signed a bill allowing for the execution of repeat child molesters, a move that some critics argue is unconstitutional. The US Supreme Court ruled in 1977 that the death penalty can only be applied in murder cases, but the author of the Oklahoma bill said it is time to challenge that ruling. The Oklahoma law makes people convicted of rape and other sex crimes more than once against children younger than 14 years of age eligible for execution. Oklahoma is the fifth state to allow the death penalty for sex crimes against children. The other states with similar legislation are Louisiana, Florida and Montana.

**Death Penalty in Some Cases of Child Sex Is Widening;** NY Times, June 10, 2006

Oklahoma became the fifth state to allow the death penalty for sex crimes against children yesterday, a day after South Carolina enacted a similar law. The constitutionality of the new laws is unclear. The Oklahoma measure, signed into law by Gov. Brad Henry, a Democrat, makes people found guilty of rape and other sex crimes more than once against children younger than 14 eligible for the death penalty. The South Carolina law also requires multiple offenses, but against children under 11.

- - - -

## **Myths and Facts About Sex Offenders**

The Center for Sex Offender Management, the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), U.S. Department of Justice, CSOM Documents; August 2000  
< <http://www.csom.org/pubs/mythsfacts.html> >

There are many misconceptions about sexual offenses, sexual offense victims, and sex offenders in our society. Much has been learned about these behaviors and populations in the past decade and this information is being used to develop more effective criminal justice interventions throughout the country. This document serves to inform citizens, policy makers, and practitioners about sex offenders and their victims, addressing the facts that underlie common assumptions both true and false in this rapidly evolving field.

### **Myth:**

**"Most sexual assaults are committed by strangers."**

### **Fact:**

Most sexual assaults are committed by someone known to the victim or the victim's family, regardless of whether the victim is a child or an adult.

#### *Adult Victims:*

Statistics indicate that the majority of women who have been raped know their assailant. A 1998

National Violence Against Women Survey revealed that among those women who reported being raped, 76% were victimized by a current or former husband, live-in partner, or date (Tjaden and Thoennes, 1998).

Also, a Bureau of Justice Statistics study found that nearly 9 out of 10 rape or sexual assault victimizations involved a single offender with whom the victim had a prior relationship as a family member, intimate, or acquaintance (Greenfeld, 1997).

#### *Child Victims:*

Approximately 60% of boys and 80% of girls who are sexually victimized are abused by someone known to the child or the child's family (Lieb, Quinsey, and Berliner, 1998). Relatives, friends, baby-sitters, persons in positions of authority over the child, or persons who supervise children are more likely than strangers to commit a sexual assault.

### **Myth:**

**"The majority of sexual offenders are caught, convicted, and in prison."**

### **Fact:**

Only a fraction of those who commit sexual assault are apprehended and convicted for their crimes. Most convicted sex offenders eventually are released to the community under probation or parole supervision. Many women who are sexually assaulted by intimates, friends, or acquaintances

do not report these crimes to police. Instead, victims are most likely to report being sexually assaulted when the assailant is a stranger, the victim is physically injured during the assault, or a weapon is involved in the commission of the crime. A 1992 study estimated that only 12% of rapes were reported (Kilpatrick, Edmunds, and Seymour, 1992). The National Crime Victimization Surveys conducted in 1994, 1995, and 1998 indicate that only 32% of sexual assaults against persons 12 or older were reported to law enforcement.

(No current studies indicate the rate of reporting for child sexual assault, although it generally is assumed that these assaults are equally under-reported.)

The low rate of reporting leads to the conclusion that the approximate 265,000 convicted sex offenders under the authority of corrections agencies in the United States (Greenfeld, 1997) represent less than 10% of all sex offenders living in communities nationwide.

While sex offenders constitute a large and increasing population of prison inmates, most are eventually released to the community. Some 60% of those 265,000 convicted sex offenders noted above were supervised in the community, whether directly following sentencing or after a term of incarceration in jail or prison. Short of incarceration, supervision allows the criminal justice system the best means to maintain control over offenders, monitor their residence, and require them to work and participate in treatment. As a result, there is a growing interest in providing community supervision for this population as an effective means of reducing the threat of future victimization.

Myth:

"Most sex offenders reoffend."

**Fact: Reconviction data suggest that this is not the case. Further, re-offense rates vary among different types of sex offenders and are related to specific characteristics of the offender and the offense.**

**Persons who commit sex offenses are not a homogeneous group, but instead fall into several different categories. As a result, research has identified significant differences in re-offense patterns from one category to another. Looking at reconviction rates alone, one large-scale analysis (Hanson and Bussière, 1998) reported the following differences:**

✱ child molesters had

- ◆ a 13% reconviction rate for sexual offenses and
- ◆ a 37% reconviction rate for new, non-sex offenses over a five year period; and

✱ rapists had

- ◆ a 19% reconviction rate for sexual offenses and
- ◆ a 46% reconviction rate for new, non-sexual offenses over a five year period.

Another study found reconviction rates for child molesters to be 20% and for rapists to be



approximately 23% (Quinsey, Rice, and Harris, 1995).

Individual characteristics of the crimes further distinguish recidivism rates. For instance, victim gender and relation to the offender have been found to impact recidivism rates. In a 1995 study, researchers found that offenders who had extra-familial female victims had a recidivism rate of 18% and those who had extra-familial male victims recidivated at a rate of 35%. This same study found a recidivism rate for incest offenders to be approximately 9% (Quinsey, Rice, and Harris, 1995).

It is noteworthy that *recidivism rates for sex offenders are lower than for the general criminal population*. For example, one study of 108,580 non-sex criminals released from prisons in 11 states in 1983 found that nearly 63% were rearrested for a non-sexual felony or serious misdemeanor within three years of their release from incarceration; 47% were reconvicted; and 41% were ultimately returned to prison or jail (Bureau of Justice Statistics).

It is important to note that not all sex crimes are solved or result in arrest and only a fraction of sex offenses are reported to police. The reliance on measures of recidivism as reflected through official criminal justice system data (i.e., re-arrest or reconviction rates) obviously omits offenses that are not cleared through an arrest (and thereby cannot be attributed to any individual offender) or those that are never reported to the police. For a variety of reasons, many victims of sexual assault are reluctant to invoke the criminal justice process and do not report their victimization to the police. For these reasons, relying on re-arrest and reconviction data underestimates actual re-offense numbers.

**Myth:**

**"Sexual offense rates are higher than ever and continue to climb."**

**Fact:** Despite the increase in publicity about sexual crimes, the actual rate of reported sexual assault has decreased slightly in recent years. The rate of reported rape among women decreased by 10% from 1990 to 1995 (80 per 100,000 compared to 72 per 100,000) (Greenfeld, 1997). In 1995, 97,460 forcible rapes were reported to the police nationwide, representing the lowest number of reported rapes since 1989.

More recently, when examining slightly different measures, it appears that rates have continued to drop. The arrest rate for all sexual offenses (including forcible rape and excluding prostitution) dropped 16% between 1993 and 1998. In 1998, 82,653 arrests were logged for all sexual offenses, compared to 97,955 arrests in 1993 (Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1997 and 1998).

**Myth:****"All sex offenders are male."**

**Fact:** The vast majority of sex offenders are male. However, females also commit sexual crimes.

In 1994, less than 1% of all incarcerated rape and sexual assault offenders were female (fewer than 800 women) (Greenfeld, 1997). By 1997, however, 6,292 females had been arrested for forcible rape or other sex offenses, constituting approximately 8% of all rape and sexual assault arrests for that year (FBI, 1997). Additionally, studies indicate that females commit approximately 20% of sex offenses against children (ATSA, 1996). Males commit the majority of sex offenses but females commit some, particularly against children.

**Myth:****"Sex offenders commit sexual crimes because they are under the influence of alcohol."**

**Fact:** It is unlikely that an individual who otherwise would not commit a sexual assault would do so as a direct result of excessive drinking. Annual crime victim reports indicate that approximately 30% of all reported rapes and sexual assaults involve alcohol use by the offender (Greenfeld, 1998). Alcohol use, therefore, may increase the likelihood that someone already predisposed to commit a sexual assault will act upon those impulses. However, excessive alcohol use is not a primary precipitant to sexual assaults.

**Myth:****"Children who are sexually assaulted will sexually assault others when they grow up."**

**Fact:** Most sex offenders were not sexually assaulted as children and most children who are sexually assaulted do not sexually assault others. Early childhood sexual victimization does not automatically lead to sexually aggressive behavior. While sex offenders have higher rates of sexual abuse in their histories than expected in the general population, the majority were not abused. Among adult sex offenders, approximately 30% have been sexually abused. Some types of offenders, such as those who sexually offend against young boys, have still higher rates of child sexual abuse in their histories (Becker and Murphy, 1998). While past sexual victimization can increase the likelihood of sexually aggressive behavior, most children who were sexually victimized never perpetrate against others.

**Myth:****"Youths do not commit sex offenses."**

**Fact:** Adolescents are responsible for a significant number of rape and

child molestation cases each year. Sexual assaults committed by youth are a growing concern in this country. Currently, it is estimated that adolescents (ages 13 to 17) account for up to one-fifth of all rapes and one-half of all cases of child molestation committed each year (Barbaree, Hudson, and Seto, 1993). In 1995, youth were involved in 15% of all forcible rapes cleared by arrest—approximately 18 adolescents per 100,000 were arrested for forcible rape. In the same year, approximately 16,100 adolescents were arrested for sexual offenses, excluding rape and prostitution (Sickmund, Snyder, Poe-Yamagata, 1997).

The majority of these incidents of sexual abuse involve adolescent male perpetrators. However, prepubescent youths also engage in sexually abusive behaviors.

**Myth:**

**"Juvenile sex offenders typically are victims of child sexual abuse and grow up to be adult sex offenders."**

**Fact:** Multiple factors, not just sexual victimization as a child, are associated with the development of sexually offending behavior in youth. Recent studies show that rates of physical and sexual abuse vary widely for adolescent sex offenders; 20 to 50% of these youth experienced physical abuse and approximately 40 to 80% experienced sexual abuse (Hunter and Becker, 1998). While many adolescents who commit sexual offenses have histories of being abused, the majority of these youth do not become adult sex offenders (Becker and Murphy, 1998). Research suggests that the age of onset and number of incidents of abuse, the period of time elapsing between the abuse and its first report, perceptions of how the family responded to the disclosure of abuse, and exposure to domestic violence all are relevant to why some sexually abused youths go on to sexually perpetrate while others do not (Hunter and Figueredo, in press).

**Myth:**

**"Treatment for sex offenders is ineffective."**

**Fact:**

Treatment programs can contribute to community safety because those who attend and cooperate with program conditions are less likely to re-offend than those who reject intervention. The majority of sex offender treatment programs in the United States and Canada now use a combination of cognitive-behavioral treatment and relapse prevention (designed to help sex offenders maintain behavioral changes by anticipating and coping with the problem of relapse). Offense specific treatment modalities generally involve group and/or individual therapy focused on victimization awareness and empathy training, cognitive restructuring, learning about the sexual abuse cycle, relapse prevention planning, anger management and

assertiveness training, social and interpersonal skills development, and changing deviant sexual arousal patterns.

Different types of offenders typically respond to different treatment methods with varying rates of success. **Treatment effectiveness is often related to multiple factors, including:**

- ✦ the type of sexual offender (e.g., incest offender or rapist);
- ✦ the treatment model being used (e.g., cognitive-behavioral, relapse prevention, psycho-educational, psycho-dynamic, or pharmacological);
- ✦ the treatment modalities being used; and
- ✦ related interventions involved in probation and parole community supervision.

Several studies present optimistic conclusions about the effectiveness of treatment programs that are empirically based, offense-specific, and comprehensive (Lieb, Quinsey, and Berliner, 1998). The only meta-analysis of treatment outcome studies to date has found a small, yet significant treatment effect — an 8% reduction in the recidivism rate for offenders who participated in treatment (Hall, 1995). Research also demonstrates that sex offenders who fail to complete treatment programs are at increased risk for both sexual and general recidivism (Hanson and Bussière, 1998).

**Myth:**

**"The cost of treating and managing sex offenders in the community is too high—they belong behind bars."**

**Fact:** One year of intensive supervision and treatment in the community can range in cost between \$5,000 and \$15,000 per offender, depending on treatment modality. The average cost for incarcerating an offender is significantly higher, approximately \$22,000 per year, excluding treatment costs.

As noted previously, effective sex offender specific treatment interventions can reduce sexual offense recidivism by 8%. Given the tremendous impact of these offenses on their victims, any reduction in the re-offense rates of sex offenders is significant. Without the option of community supervision and treatment, the vast majority of incarcerated sex offenders would otherwise serve their maximum sentences and return to the community without the internal (treatment) and external (supervision) controls to effectively manage their sexually abusive behavior. Managing those offenders who are amenable to treatment and can be supervised intensively in the community following an appropriate term of incarceration can serve to prevent future

victimization while saving taxpayers substantial imprisonment costs (Lotke, 1996).

## **Statistics and Characteristics of Adult and Juvenile Sex Offenders**

Sexual assault statistics:

- ✳️ In 1995 estimates indicate that 260,300 rapes and attempted rapes and nearly 95,000 sexual assaults and threats of sexual assault were committed against persons 12 years of age or older (Greenfeld, 1997).
- ✳️ In 1998, 20,608 arrests were made for forcible rape and 62,045 arrests were made for other sexual offenses (FBI, 1998).
- ✳️ 43% of all rapes/sexual assaults occur between 6 p.m. and midnight.
- ✳️ Six out of every 10 rapes/sexual assaults occur in the homes of victims, family members, or friends (Greenfeld, 1997).
- ✳️ Sexual assault victimizations are highest among young adults between the ages of 16 and 19, low income individuals, and urban residents (Greenfeld, 1997).

### **Criminal history characteristics of adult sex offenders:**

- ✳️ In 1994, it was estimated that 12% of imprisoned violent sex offenders had a prior conviction for rape or sexual assault, while 61% had a prior felony conviction for other crimes (Greenfeld, 1997).
- ✳️ In 1997, approximately 234,000 convicted sex offenders were under the care, custody or control of corrections agencies on an average day. Nearly 60% were under conditional supervision in the community (Greenfeld, 1997).
- ✳️ By 1998, this number grew to 265,000.

### **Characteristics of juvenile sex offenders:**

- ✳️ Juvenile sex offenders are typically between the ages of 13 and 17.
- ✳️ They are generally male.
- ✳️ 30-60% exhibit learning disabilities and academic dysfunction.
- ✳️ Up to 80% have a diagnosable psychiatric disorder.
- ✳️ Many have difficulties with impulse control and judgment.
- ✳️ 20-50% have histories of physical abuse.
- ✳️ 40-80% have histories of sexual abuse.

## **Acknowledgments**

The Center for Sex Offender Management (CSOM) would like to thank Rob Freeman-Longo for principal authorship of this brief. We would also like to thank Donna Reback for her contributions to this document. Kristin Littel and Scott Matson edited the document.

**Contact**

Center for Sex Offender Management, 8403 Colesville Rd., Suite 720,  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Phone: (301) 589-9383; Fax: (301) 589-3505; E-mail: askcsom@csom.org ;  
Internet: www.csom.org

**References**

Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, "Reducing Sexual Abuse through Treatment and Intervention with Abusers," Policy and Position Statement (Beaverton, OR, 1996).

Barbaree, H., Hudson, S., and Seto, M., "Sexual Assault in Society: The Role of the Juvenile Offender," in H. Barbaree, W. Marshall, and S. Hudson (Eds.), *The Juvenile Sex Offender* (1993): 10-11.

Becker, J. and Murphy, W., "What We Know and Don't Know about Assessing and Treating Sex Offenders," *Psychology, Public Policy and Law* 4 (1998): 116-137.

Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Criminal Offender Statistics: Summary Findings," available on BJS website ( [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs) ).

Center for Sex Offender Management, "Understanding Juvenile Sexual Offending Behavior: Emerging Research, Treatment Approaches, and Management Practices" (Silver Spring, MD, 2000).

Federal Bureau of Investigations, "Uniform Crime Reports for the United States, 1997," U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

Federal Bureau of Investigations, "Uniform Crime Reports for the United States, 1998," U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

Greenfeld, L., "Sex Offenses and Offenders: An Analysis of Data on Rape and Sexual Assault," U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics (Washington, DC, 1997).

Greenfeld, L., "Alcohol and Crime: An Analysis of National Data on the Prevalence of Alcohol Involvement in Crime," National Symposium on Alcohol Abuse and Crime, U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics (Washington, DC, April 5-7, 1998).

Hall, G.C.N., "Sex Offender Recidivism Revisited: A Meta-Analysis of Recent Treatment Studies," *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* 63 (1995): 802-809.

Hanson, R. and Bussiere, M., "Predicting Relapse: A Meta-Analysis of Sexual Offender Recidivism Studies," *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* 66 (1998): 348-364.

< [http://home.wanadoo.nl/ipce/library\\_two/han/hanson\\_98\\_frame.htm](http://home.wanadoo.nl/ipce/library_two/han/hanson_98_frame.htm) >

Hunter, J. and Becker, J., "Motivators of Adolescent Sex Offenders and Treatment Perspectives," in J. Shaw (Ed.), *Sexual Aggression*, American Psychiatric Press, Inc. (Washington, DC, 1998).

Hunter, J. and Figueredo, A., "The Influence of Personality and History of Sexual Victimization in the Prediction of Offense Characteristics of Juvenile Sex Offenders," *Behavior Modification* (in press).

Kilpatrick, D., Edmunds, C., and Seymour, A., "Rape in America: A Report to the Nation," National Victim Center (Arlington, VA, 1992).

Lieb, R., Quinsey, V., and Berliner, L., "Sexual Predators and Social Policy," in M. Tonry (Ed.), *Crime and Justice* (University of Chicago, 1998): 43-114.

Lotke, E., "Sex Offenders: Does Treatment Work?" *Corrections Compendium* 21 (1996).

Quinsey, V., Rice, M., and Harris, G., "Actuarial Prediction of Sexual Recidivism," *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 10 (1995): 85-105.

Sickmund, M., Snyder, H., and Poe-Yamagata, E., "Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1997 Update on Violence," Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (Washington, DC, 1997).

Tjaden, P. and Thoennes, N., "Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey," U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice (Washington, DC, 1998).

## **CSOM**

Established in June 1997, CSOM's goal is to enhance public safety by preventing further victimization through improving the management of adult and juvenile sex offenders who are in the community. A collaborative effort of the Office of Justice Programs, the National Institute of Corrections, and the State Justice Institute, CSOM is administered by the Center for Effective Public Policy and the American Probation and Parole Association.

## **This project**

This project was supported by Grant No. 97-WT-VX-K007, awarded by the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Points of view in

this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

- - -

## **Classical Feminism Continues to Create Pedophile Panic**

### ***Women and Men*, an epoch-making book by University of Copenhagen Professor Henning Bech**

#### **Intro**

Below is my attempt to translate a review of what I believe to be an epoch-making book important to all of us. It analyses the causes of pedophobia as lying in outdated, if it ever was true, classical feminist theory. The feminists who produce these theories are employed at the Universities in the Western World. The author who himself is professor of sociology at Copenhagen University questions the very foundations of classical feminist theory. Most of it is simply unscientific and is causing more harm than good to all of us rather than solving problems in the real world.

Professor Henning Bech, who is gay, pin points exactly where and why the feminist hurdle to understanding pedophilia always prevents a rapport between us and them. The professor has gotten massive media attention. I just heard him deliver a 1½ hour lecture where he as always electrifies his audience into concentrated attention until the last ½ hour when the audience asks questions. I've actually known Bech since the 1960's where both he and I participated in the Danish Christopher Street Liberation movement. Then, believe it or not, the guy was a gay Marxist intellectual, now he is a so called Constructivist.

About 40 of the almost 400 pages of his book *Women and Men* deals with The Pedophile Panic, its causes and why it is so difficult to solve the problem.

Peter in Copenhagen

#### **The Review:**

#### **New Book Rejects Feministic Ritual Thinking**

By Jytte Larsen (Translated from Danish), FORUM, 9 May 2005

It is rare that a Danish male professor writes critically and competently on female and gender research. But according to this FORUM's reviewer, that is precisely what professor Henning Bech has accomplished with his work *Women and Men*, a book that pounds away at ritual thinking and dogmatic conventions. Bech is especially celebrated for his research on



male homosexuality. This FORUM's reviewer, historian Jytte Larsen, has read the book and been enlightened, astonished, and provoked.

There are growing pains in Danish feminism, also in research. After a stagnation period in the 1990's, The *Elucidation of State Power and Gender-Empowerment-Politics-Project (GEP)* published a number of dissertations on feminist theory.

Relevant among others is

- ✳ *Sex, Democracy and Modernity*, 2001, by Ann-Dorte Christensen and Birte Siim;
- ✳ *Sex Power Undergoing Change*, 2002, edited by Anette Borchorst; and
- ✳ *Equality Politics as Discourse and Practice*, 2003, by Borchorst and Drude Dahlerup.

And now with massive media attention Henning Bech's *Women and Men*.

The author's gender alone draws attention. For who can recall when we in Denmark last had a male professor with an impeccable overview of feminist formation theory and thorough knowledge of Danish and international gender / women research? You're right, never! Recently, the Danish debate on literary canonization demonstrated how weak women's research is in penetrating influential circles of educational and socio-cultural power, even in one of the most productive areas.

And in addition to this is Bech's questioning the very foundation of feminist theory inciting intense debate in the media machine, whether men (still) have power over women, and not least that he includes sensitive and tabooed subjects as pedophilia in his argument that woman/sex research is threatened by ritual thinking and mechanisms of repression on a par with all other sciences.

### **Hyper-conscious feminism criticism**

Henning Bech is also a pioneer in gay research. In 1986, together with Karin Lützen, he wrote *Desire or Need? Women's and Men's Homosexuality*, the first and only public elucidation of the subject. As is evident from the title, gays and lesbians were treated separately. A year later, the pioneering work *When Men Meet; Homosexuality and the Homosexuals* appeared, in which Bech simply wrote lesbians out of his homosexuality concept. Since then, homosexual men have been the focal point around which his scientific research revolves. It culminated with his doctoral thesis *The Leisure World, Studies in Modernity, Masculinity, Homosexuality and Sex Modernity*.

*Women and Men* is thus treading new ground, and Bech is keenly aware of the overzealous critics waiting for him out there. Besides the heterosexuals, who have heard enough of the homosexual cultural avant-garde, and lesbians who are fed up with gay imperialism, there are now

also women guarding the property rights of feminism itself.

Confessions of faith in the historical justification of the women's movement, and the merits of academic feminism permeate this book like a litany. These parades hit the forefront in specially designed mine fields:

"The possibility that rape accusations can be used against men (I write *can* be used) by some women as a weapon against men in intramural or institutional power struggles" (p. 98).

Gallantly and politically correct, Bech mentions the ladies first, and "she" is used consistently as a collective name for both sexes.

But then any text with Henning Bech's signature on it is in its very substance about homosexual men, and the book's strength derives from its solid rock foundation in male and homo research and the new light this approach sheds on classical feminist themes. For example, he has obviously important points to make in his analysis of *Report on Future Equality Work and its Organizing* (1999), and of the treatment of laws on registered partnership [Translator: 'gay marriage'], adoption and artificial insemination.

In the Report's 120-page account of Equality Work, "men" constitute half a page in a concluding summary under the caption "Other Groups," together with "youth," "foreign women," "lesbians and single women" (p. 98). Even men's shorter duration of life is only mentioned as a problem for women, namely with respect to calculating pensions (p. 97). It is equally paradoxical when (female) politicians, who otherwise build up their own profiles on feminism, discriminate against single homosexuals in matters of adoption and artificial insemination with reference to the family ideals of Morten Korscke.

### **Limits to the Great "Feminist Story"**

Henning Bech is of the opinion that a greater equalization has taken place in gender power relations than appears in woman/sex research, and that its very theoretical and methodical premises constitute a barrier to registering radical changes.

He substantiates this view in the book's three parts, of which the first two "Classical Feminist Stories" and "More Stories" are a critical reading of mainstream feminist theory from the late 1960's up until today, and the third "Even More Stories", which is his own contribution. As is proper and laudable he makes an introductory account of his own starting points.

This is where the canon balls of feminist criticism are fired in an account of the last 50 year history of science, where the ideal of objectivity is replaced by conceptions of continuous struggle for different paradigms with a limited scope of understanding. In order to indicate the subjective "element of a cock-and-bull story, which doesn't allow for certain 'proof'

or rejection" (p. 11), Bech uses "story telling" in the sense of scientifically verifiable narrative. [Translator: It must be possible to demonstrate that a story is true or false.]

Professionalism and critical reflection must guarantee scientific quality, and he lays down a check list with rules of care, for example, considerations of whether there are binding "passionate identity formations" to a paradigm (p. 16), and whether the given frame of interpretation facilitates research results that promote "a good life". Bech focuses his interest on flighty stories that grasp change and future, rather than the more terrestrial that focus on estates and variations of structural characteristics, which feminism typically does.

As a method of text analysis, Bech prefers the hermeneutic, which gives him the possibility of operating with pre-language or non-discursive reality, a central concept in his view on the sexes.

### **The sex relation cannot be an equation**

Classical feministic story telling, according to Bech, takes on shape in the form of theories of patriarchy, represented by Heidi Hartmann, Sylvia Walby and Robert W. Connell, discursive [Translator: logically developed reasoning] theories represented by Judith Butler, and theories on negotiating represented by Hanne Haavind.

Common to these prototypes is the concept that gender relations are perceived as hierarchical, dichotomic, structural and universal, which is why they, by definition, are separatist with a built-in liberation and gender-struggle perspective. They are appropriately credited with the development of theories of male dominance and the concept of female suppression in the gender division of labor and the family and in matters of sexual expression.

Bech is just not of the opinion that the relation between men and women today can be described adequately, gaining insight, when applying hierarchical and dichotomic terms (antagonisms). At least not exclusively, and absolutely not, in the present day Queendom of Denmark. He concedes that classical feminism potentially embraces both continuity and change potentials and that these potentials are utilized differently in patriarchal and negotiation theory, which the names themselves indicate. But for him, it is a question of degree and not fundamental difference.

[Translator: Bech includes feminist story telling as a supplement to other stories; he rejects classical feminism when it insists on having all the answers and the only answers.]

The comparison technique is also applied in the second section, where works over the past 10 years by sex researchers like Lis Højgaard, Dorthe Gert Simonsen, Randi Marcussen, Mette Bryld & Ninna Lykke, Anne Scott Sorensen og Dorte Marie Soendergaard are considered within such

conceptual frameworks as Deconstruction, Cyborg, and Queer. Despite many positive tendencies, Bech nevertheless, also finds hierarchy and dichotomy in the sub-text of these stories.

### **New gender philosophy between Essentializing and Constructivism**

The Third Part of Bech's *Women and Men* consists of three different attempts in which the author pursues liberating his writing from hierarchical and dichotomic matrices by means of his literary pen.

The First Part is what Bech calls *the pedophile panic*, the great public interest in sexual misuse of children in the wake of a legal court case [Translator: Denmark's biggest, first indictment and conviction of its kind] against a male day care employee in Gladsaxe, Denmark, 1997. Bech questions coherence between this internationally documented excessive fear and the prevailing concept of gender relations and seeks, among other things, the source of anxiety in the fact that women now are so heavily engaged in the work force that they have lost control of family life.

The Second Part of Bech's work deals with pornography and focuses on an analysis of a TV series called "Rut and Heat", where the participating women and men, according to Bech are equal, enjoying the same status in performing their TV roles. Bech's text is a series of letters to a foreign female colleague that begins with: "There is a country where pornography isn't a problem" (p. 248), and subscribes to the old notion of Denmark as a gender egalitarian pioneer country.

In Bech's own mind, this is due to *Danish Brandesian Cultural Radicalism* and broad-minded national liberalism.

(Translator: *Danish Brandesian Cultural Radicalism* first appeared in the late 19th Century and permeated Danish culture more than any other politico-cultural movement until around the later part of the 20th Century. This movement is the Danish forerunner to and continuation after the hippie cultural explosion in the 60's and 70's in Denmark with personal and individual liberation goals as its paramount ideals.)

The Third Part is a very ambitious attempt to find a new gender philosophical position between Essentialism and Social Constructivism by means of Heidegger's Existentialism, which does not include any discussions of gender, so Bech himself must make the connection.

As opposed to the rest of the book which is impeccably conveyed, it is not possible for the reader to appropriate for him or her self the contents of this chapter without prior knowledge to Heidegger, the terminology of which is in the pure and originally untreated Heidegger form: ...

(Translator: In the book Bech has made it quite possible for the reader to skip this section, if inclined to do so, without losing meaning or continuity with the rest of the book. I will not attempt to translate this myself, but will ask Bech himself to translate it for me when he returns in August from a research project abroad called "Living in Cosmopolis")

Gender interest is a key concept for Bech, since we typically develop an interest in our own sex, once we become conscious of it, before we direct our interest toward the opposite sex.

*Women and Men* can indeed be read in many ways and on different levels. There are, for example in the text itself, numerous traces of hidden agendas. But I've taken Bech at his word that his work is to be appreciated as one of numerous stories on science, feminism and gender - in attentive and unprejudiced dialog with the already existing stories - thought as a stepping stone for those to come. *En route* I've been in outright disagreement, in deep doubt, quite astonished and throughout the reading experience was informed and entertained.

The book is recommended reading.

Jytte Larsen is an historian and editor of The Danish Womens' Biographical Encyclopaedia. She writes regularly for FORUM.

### **Documentation List # E 20 A: December 2005**

[From Ipce Newsletter E 20, Juny 2006]

An @ means that the document is electronically available at [webmaster@ipce.info](mailto:webmaster@ipce.info)

Missing numbers in this lists are Dutch items, not mentioned here.

05-054 @ 3 kb	Conviction based on man's 'thought' overturned in court; Burbank man was found guilty of child abduction despite no criminal activities, judge says; By Jonathan Lipman; Daily Southtown, January 20, 2005
05-055 @ 2 kb	About: BILL C-2: AN ACT TO AMEND THE CRIMINAL CODE (PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND OTHER VULNERABLE PERSONS) AND THE CANADA EVIDENCE ACT The main changes in the law are to what is defined as Child Pornography (any depiction of anything illegal under the Act) and to include both fictional and non-fictional written works.
05-056 @ 80 kb	Commentary on BILL C-2 (See above) from the Staff of the Parliamentary Research Branch (PRB) of the Library of Parliament of Canada, by Robin MacKay, Law and Government Division, 13 October 2004; Revised 16 June 2005
05-057 @ 8 kb	Canadian Parliament to Vote on Motion to Raise Age of Sexual Consent Next Week; LifeSiteNews.com; September 23, 2005

05-058 @ 2 kb	[Canadian] MPs vote against raising age of sexual consent; CTV.ca News Staff; Sep. 29 2005 A Conservative MP's attempt to raise the age of consent has failed. "We don't want to criminalize innocent sexual behaviour among teenagers and young people"
05-059 @ 9 kb	Executions -- U.S. Iran expert backs OutRage! By Scott Long; 30 July 2005. I am director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Rights Project at Human Rights Watch. I want to offer some of what we have been able to research both about the horrific Iran case [of executing two gay teen boys].
05-060 @ 6 kb	Bill Expands Monitoring of Sex Offenders; By Jim Abrams; Newsday, USA; 14 September 2005 Child sex offenders would be subject to stringent monitoring requirements and new mandatory penalties under a House-passed bill.
05-061 @ 4 kb	Court Overturns Child Porn Conviction; Md. Ruling Squelches Tactic Used to Find Potential Molesters; By Fredrick Kunkle; Washington Post, USA; 8 September 2005
05-061 @ 6 kb	Czech Republic/Germany: UNICEF Stirs Controversy With Claims Of Widespread Child Prostitution At Border; By Kathleen Knox; 29 October 2003
05-063 @ 5 kb	[Czech] Tourist Authority, police target sex tourists; Border guards to leaflet potential child molesters from abroad; By Jennifer Anne Perez; For The Prague Post (April 1, 2004)
05-064 @ 6 kb	Amtsgericht lehnt Hauptverfahren ab; Amtsgericht Trier Az. 8007 Js 27397/02 37 Ds; B e s c h l u s s : In dem Strafverfahren gegen Dieter G. - Verteidiger Leonhard Graßmann München - wegen Verbreitung pornographischer Schriften wird das Hauptverfahren nicht eröffnet. Mit Anmerkung: Bei den oben genannten Fotos ging es um Bilder des Künstlers Otto Lohmüller, die bekanntlich alle legal sind.
05-065 @ 19 kb	A u s f e r t i g u n g - OBERLANDESGERICHT KOBLENZ - B E S C H L U S S In der Strafsache gegen Dieter Giesecking & Ilja Schmelzer wegen Verbreitens pornographischer Schriften. Die Angeklagten werden freigesprochen.
05-066 @ 31 kb	Bayerisches Oberstes Landesgericht - BESCHLUSS - Der 6. Strafsenat des Bayerischem Obersten Landesgerichtes hat [...] am 18.Okt. 2004 in dem Ermittlungsverfahren gegen X X wegen Verdachts der Mitgliedschaft in einer kriminellen Vereinigung hier: Weitere Haftbeschwerde beschlossen: I) Der Haftbefehl des Amtsgerichts München vom 12. November 2003 (Gz: 834 Gs 283/03 c) war im Zeitpunkt der Einlegung der

	Haftbeschwerde vom 20. Februar 2004 rechtswidrig. II) Im Übrigen wird der Antrag des ehemaligen Beschuldigten auf nachträgliche gerichtliche Feststellung als unzulässig verworfen.
05-067 @ 92 kb	Dreamboy Variations One, by Kevin Esser
05-068 @ 6 kb	The NZ Bill of Rights Act, used in Moonen v Film & Literature Review Board NZ.
05-069 @ 53 kb	Internet-initiated sex crimes against minors: Implications for prevention based on findings from a national study; Janis Wolak, *email address, David Finkelhor, , Kimberly Mitchell, Journal of Adolescent Health, Volume 35, Issue 5, Page 424 (November 2004)
05-070a @	Letter from Guyana: There are discussions happening in Guyana about changing the age of consent.
05-070b @ 26 kb	Guyana Laws, part 1 (Part two possibly in 2006)
05-071 @ 147 kb	Oral Sex Among Adolescents: Is It Sex or Is It Abstinence? By Lisa Remez, Guttmacher Institute.

### Documentation List # E 20 B: June 2006

[From Ipce Newsletter E 20, Juny 2006]

An @ means that the document is electronically available at  
webmaster@ipce.info

Missing numbers in this lists are Dutch items, not mentioned here.

06-001 @ 3 kb	The [Canadian] Conservative government will quickly move to raise the age of consent for sexual activity; CBC News, 07 Feb 2006 & 08 March 2006.
06-002 @ 157 kb	Child Pornography Legislation in Canada: Its History and Current Developments; By Dr. Ann Curry
06-003 @ 4 kb	Court Disallows Kansas A.G.'s Teen Sex Reporting Requirement BLog, April 19, 2006 The legislature acknowledged that not all illegal sexual activity involving a minor necessarily results in "injury;" thus, not all unlawful sexual activity warrants reporting. The language of the statute recognizes that some illegal sexual conduct, such as consensual, voluntary sexual activity with an age-mate, falls

	outside the scope of the statute, as it may not cause injury.
06-004 @ 59 kb	U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE HEARING on SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN OVER THE INTERNET: WHAT PARENTS, KIDS AND CONGRESS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CHILD PREDATORS; April 4, 2006; Testimony by Justin Berry
06-005 @ 698 kb	Child Molesters: A Behavioral Analysis For Law-Enforcement Officers Investigating the Sexual Exploitation of Children by Acquaintance Molesters; <i>Fourth Edition</i> , September 2001; Kenneth V. Lanning, Former Supervisory Special Agent Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.
06-006 @ 1 kb	Sentencing today in child-porn cartoon case; From NBC12 News; March 10, 2006 ... the first person convicted under a Virginia law that bans cartoons showing the sexual abuse of children.
06-007 @ 3 kb	SNAG OVER WEB PERVS; BY LAURA ITALIANO; NYPost, March 22, 2006 Hundreds of accused and convicted Internet pedophiles could go free - their cases dismissed or overturned - if a disbarred Manhattan real-estate lawyer squeezes through a legal loophole now being mulled by a state appeals court.
06-008 @ 535 kb	South Carolina General Assembly, 116th Session, 2005-2006; S. 997; General Bill Sponsors: Senator Bryant; Introduced in the Senate on January 10, 2006. Summary: [Death penalty in some cases of] Criminal sexual conduct with a minor
06-009 @ 4 kb	Concerns raised over [South Carolina] state's interest in death penalty for sex offenders; JIM DAVENPORT, Associated Press; April 5, 2006
06-010 @ 4 kb	Bill requires castration for some sex offenders; 2nd offense would mandate treatment; March 04, 2006; By Ed Anderson, The Times Picayune
06-011 @ 4 kb	False Confessions Not Hard to Get, Says Expert; A 'Primetime' Experiment Tests Students' Resolve When Accused of Doing Something Wrong; ABC News; March 30, 2006
06-012 @ 4 kb	Explicit conversation with child not a crime, [Canadian] judge [ruled]; Chris Purdy, Can[ada]West News Service; April 01, 2006 Canada's Internet luring law would cast "too wide a net" if it made talking dirty to a child a crime, a judge has ruled.
06-013	Stop Pedophiles Before They Strike; June 21st, 2005 - Petition to



@ 3 kb	US Congress. Signatures: 22
06-014 @ 4 kb	Study: Child Porn Isn't Illegal in Most Countries; By Thomas Claburn; Security Pipeline Thu Apr 6, 06 At a press conference in Washington, D.C., the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children and other participants including Microsoft presented a study on Thursday that reveals the woeful inadequacy of child pornography laws around the world.
06-015 @ 6 kb	Bill would ban sex offenders from Internet; Critics of Codey plan warn against 'one-size-fits-all' law; May 21, 2006; BY RICK HEPP AND ROBERT SCHWANEBERG, Star-Ledger Staff Any person convicted of using a computer to commit a sex crime would be barred from accessing the Internet under legislation Senate President Richard Codey will introduce as a way to protect children surfing the Web.
06-016 @ 5 kb	Ruling may see statutory rape law relaxed; 23/05/2006; breakingnews; Men who have sex with under-age girls should not automatically be deemed guilty of rape, the Irish Supreme Court ruled today. Turning rules on the age of consent on their head, the five-judge court found it is unconstitutional to convict a man who admits to having sex with a minor if he does not know their true age.
06-017 @ 5 kb	Same age sex to be legal at 14; Stephen O'Brien, The Sunday Times - Ireland May 28, 2006 The government plans to make it legal for 14- and 15-year-olds to have sex as long as the boy and girl involved are within two years of each other.
06-018 @ 7 kb	Pedophile Park Ban Upheld; Federal appeals court sustains Indiana city's restrictions on ex-convict's movements; By ARTHUR S. LEONARD
06-019 @ 3 kb	Supreme Court overturns sex charge based on news sting; AP May 24, 2006 A person can't be charged under Arizona law with soliciting sex from a juvenile if the person being solicited isn't a juvenile or a police officer, the state Supreme Court ruled Wednesday in a case stemming from a sting staged for a television news report.