

## *I p c e*

# NEWSLETTER

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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**

Here is Ipce's Newsletter number E(lectronic) 22, with a paper version for who has no connection with the internet. But note that the real 'news' are the regular updates of Ipce's website. Insofar as these updates are connected to a theme, they are called "Ipce Magazine", which is only in an on line version.

As usual, this Newsletter starts with a statement, in this case a new version of a list of facts and factoids, or facts and myths, followed by an article that also lists myths and facts, especially the myths concerning the so-called sex offenders.

Myths create panic, and panic was there when Congress member Mark Foley has had some erotic talks - no deeds - with adolescents and young adults - not children. Panic has created absurd laws (see Ipce Magazine # 1) and practices. Such an opinion is also given by Judith Levine, who concludes: "the words *child* and *protection* lose all meaning.". In the next articles, more or less the same is said by artists, even by police chiefs, and by anarchists who, by the way, give us a splendid literature list.

The next articles tell us that this myths, this panic and those absurd laws and rules are of no good for the children themselves, the ones they pretend to protect. Children are over-surveilled, under-protected, they have a lack of real care and hearty care givers. And exactly the two states

in the world with the most absurd and severe sexuality laws are just the two worst countries in the western world for children, according to a Unesco report. Let these countries be more modest and let them review their myths and have an eye for the facts.

Various articles will follow, all having more or less the same trend and theme. Our last speaker is a boy, saying "I'm 14, I'm gay & I want a boyfriend".

As usual, long lists with documentation end this Newsletter. For the readers of the paper version, the documentation list of Ipce's Magazine # 1, all about laws, is also added, to have a complete list.

Ipce will have no annual Meeting during this summer, but in the next autumn. The next Newsletter will be published before that meeting. In the meantime, several updates and a next Ipce Magazine will be published.

Your secretary and webmaster,

Frans

## **1. Statement**

### **Factoids and the Sex Abuse Panic**

Jay Baskins - Renewed version June 2007

I have simplified the list I made earlier. I published the other one on Sosen and it was pointed out that it was counterproductive to put it into a progressive vs. conservatives frame of reference. That is true. So I re-wrote it [...] as follows:

Sex offenders in the US have been subjected to a large variety of draconian laws and practices. Many of these laws are highly questionable from a constitutional point of view. They also serve to make the world a more dangerous place for everybody -- not only for the sex offenders and their families -- but for potential future victims as well.

Whatever a person might think about sex offenders and their treatment in this society, surely we can all agree on the need for a rational and informed discussion of the issue. One of the main obstacle in the way of the needed discussion is the huge amount of misinformation that is published in the nation's media. This misinformation is largely in the form of factoids.

#### **Factoids**

A factoid is a statement of presumed fact that people believe to be true because they hear it repeated over and over. The extensive use of

factoids has been a central strategy of those who appear motivated to maintain a high level of sex abuse hysteria. 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> >

< [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. )

< [http://www.ipce.info/ipceweb/Library/baurmann\\_sum.htm](http://www.ipce.info/ipceweb/Library/baurmann_sum.htm) >

**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 appeared in the most prestigious psychological journal in the US.

< [http://www.tegenwicht.org/13\\_rbt\\_eng/rbt\\_files.htm](http://www.tegenwicht.org/13_rbt_eng/rbt_files.htm) >

< [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> >

< [http://www.ipce.info/library\\_3/files/03nov\\_recidivism.htm](http://www.ipce.info/library_3/files/03nov_recidivism.htm) >

< [http://www.ipce.info/ipceweb/Library/overview\\_recidivism.htm](http://www.ipce.info/ipceweb/Library/overview_recidivism.htm) >

**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 a person were interested in how man-boy relationships typically appeared to the younger partner in a more permissive society, he or she could read “Boys and Their Contacts with Men” by Theo Sandfort: < [http://www.ipce.info/host/sandfort\\_87/](http://www.ipce.info/host/sandfort_87/) >.

**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 children are not legally permitted to make such decisions, the statement is true providing the children fall within the age range of people who are not permitted to make their own decisions about their sexual lives.

If it means that children 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.

< [http://www.ipce.info/library\\_3/files/rind/rtbval\\_8.htm](http://www.ipce.info/library_3/files/rind/rtbval_8.htm) >

< [http://www.ipce.info/ipceweb/Library/science\\_and\\_morality.htm](http://www.ipce.info/ipceweb/Library/science_and_morality.htm) >

<

[http://www.ipce.info/ipceweb/Library/consent\\_and\\_playing\\_with\\_marbles.htm](http://www.ipce.info/ipceweb/Library/consent_and_playing_with_marbles.htm) >

**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 than 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.

## 2. Articles

### 2.1 Sex Offenders Myths And Facts

By Kyle Sandusky, The Chronicle, Oct 17, 2006

What is so egregious about this case is not so much Mark Foley was Chairman of the House Caucus on Missing and Exploited Children, and a major sponsor of the Adam Walsh Child Safety Act of 2006 (AWCSA), but that he willfully ignored real solutions to child sexual abuse.

These were proposed by the Jacob Wetterling Foundation, SOhopeful International, jurist, litigators, therapy professionals, law enforcement, and other disciplines related to this issue.

Apparently, a predator in sheep's clothing, Foley pushed through congress a law that is broad, far-reaching, challengeable on Constitutional grounds, and harmful to the wives, children, parents, and siblings of LOW-RISK offenders and former offenders by denying them due process protections.

Additionally, the AWCSA [Adam Walsh Child Safety Act] offers very little in actual prevention and follows the long list of state and federal laws based on retributive justice, not restorative justice. At the end of the day, Foley himself proved that sex offender proximity (banishment) and community notification (registration) laws are ineffective and do absolutely nothing to make children safe.

The original intent of sex offender registry and community notification laws were designed for law enforcement to track the most violent and predatory offenders.

#### **What are the facts and what are the myths?**

**Myth** - All sex offenders are child molesters and all child molesters are predators.

**Fact** - The FBI-UCR, National Crime Victimization Survey reveals that only 23% of sex crimes are against someone under 18; and the Bureau of Justice Statistics shows that predators represent around three percent of

all sex offenders and child killers are less than one percent of all offenders.

**Myth** - Strangers are lurking at school bus stops or around playgrounds looking for children to molest.

**Fact** - The politicians, and some in the media, want you to believe in the stranger danger myth. The fact is that, according to the U.S. Dept. of Justice, American Psychological Association, the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, and other experts; children are abused by a family member or someone trusted by the family in around 90 percent of all the cases.

**Myth** - Depraved adults commit all sex crimes.

**Fact** - The Department of Justice own statistics show that about 40% of sex crimes committed against someone under 18 are by a juvenile; most are consensual sex by teenagers, others are older children acting out against a younger relative or friend.

**Myth** - Men who molest boys are homosexuals or bisexual.

**Fact** - According to the October 5, 2006 issue of Pediatrics, the Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, 98% of molested males and 99.6% of molested girls are victims of heterosexuals.

**Myth** - Sex offenders have the highest recidivism rate (some quote 95%) and allowing them back into society is a mistake.

**Fact** - Again, according to the U.S. Dept. of Justice and other studies done since 1994, sex offenders commit another crime, of any kind, at a average rate of just thirteen percent, while those convicted of property theft reoffend (steal again) at an average of 75%.

People convicted of drunk driving will reoffend at a rate of 51%, while a convicted murderer will reoffend at a rate of 41%.

Ex-convicts with a non-sex offense charge are 87% more likely to commit a sex offense than a convicted sex offender in therapy is.

- - -

The public needs to be more concerned about high-risk sex offenders and absconders, not low risk offenders who are working hard to comply with their court and therapy guidelines. Many have paid their debt to society, and are on the Sex Offender Registry by law. Under our current system, law enforcement spends precious resources tracking low risk offenders, instead of high-risk absconders and predators. If the registries were working, why are we seeing an 8% increase each year in the number of registrants?

According to the Jacob Wetterling Foundation, most sex offenders live in an area due to its proximity to their family or therapy provider. Chasing



them away from therapist and family support network is not in the best interest of public safety.

What has not been publicly discussed is the impact of registration on those low risk registrants and specifically their families and children - many times (remember DOJ stats show 40%), the offender is under 18, and the victim is a younger sibling or friend. These victims are doubly victimized when their older sibling or friend is humiliated and ostracized. Nationwide, wives, children, parents, and siblings of offenders and former offenders are denied due process protection because of proximity (banishment) and community notification (registration) laws.

### **There are solutions that protect all families:**

- Treatment of high-risk separately from that of low-risk offenders.
- Civil commitment for Predators.
- Assess risk level prior to re-entry into society, implement GPS monitoring and bi-annual assessment of high-risk offenders until their determined risk is lowered.
- Immediate removal of community notification for low-risk offenders (teenage consensual sex and one time intra-familial) increasing its effectiveness to law enforcement, state corrections, and the courts.
- Develop standardized investigative techniques, creating an accurate litmus test to determine false allegations from factual sex abuse cases.
- Prevention programs for teens and young adults to prevent sex abuse through development of successful coping skills and through understanding of appropriate boundaries.

In lieu of fostering a fearful witch-hunt mentality for election year sound bites, politicians should step up to this societal challenge. Additionally, the media should strive to dispel the myths and create the environment for policy and subsequent legislation to succeed, creating a safe society for all children.

- How does demonizing an entire group of people create value for society?
- What is next for sex offenders and their families?
- Internment camps fashioned after the "relocation centers" for Japanese Americans during World War II?

Please, for the sake of all children, support and push for a National Sex Offender Policy Forum. We are either going to be part of the problem or part of the solution.

## **2.2 . L'Affaire Foley**

By French Wall, GuideMagazine, November 2006

It is tempting to revel in the exposure and downfall of monumental hypocrites. There is satisfaction in knowing that J. Edgar Hoover, who liked to persecute others for their perversions, himself enjoyed donning women's clothes. It seems just to posthumously drag Senator McCarthy's savagely anti-gay legal pitbull Roy Cohn out of his closet. And who doesn't enjoy watching televangelists weepily confess to the very sins they so heartily condemn in others?

Thus, one can be excused for ever-so-briefly taking pleasure in the political ruin of Congressman Mark Foley. A high-profile crusader for so-called "decency" and author and co-sponsor of internet censorship legislation, Foley has made a career of attacking those who engage in the same behavior he himself so lustily enjoys.

But care should be taken that pleasure at Foley's misfortune not distract us from the ominous portents of Washington's current sexual imbroglio. While Foley can be legitimately tagged as a hypocrite, his attackers have condemned his actions as "unspeakably sordid" and labeled him a "predator of children." Alarming, such nonsense emanates not just from Religious Right mouthpieces, but also from ostensibly moderate politicians and even gay political groups.

Foley's actions were decidedly not unspeakably sordid nor do they make him a predator of children. He wrote puerile mash notes to congressional pages, all over the age of consent. He did not, apparently, ever have sexual contact with any of his online buddies (though it would have been legal in the District of Columbia), nor did he coerce anyone to do anything. His correspondents willingly participated in the adolescent banter.

Given that hypocrisy is hardly a distinguishing characteristic in Washington, and that no one was touched, much less harmed, by Congressman Foley, what is so animating his critics? Why is the Republican leadership vowing to fire anyone who knew of the congressman's R-rated e-mail but failed to turn him in?

Some may claim the issue is the protection of congressional employees. Rational people might take the position that members of Congress having sexual relationships with pages-- though legal-- is nonetheless not wise policy. But such concern can be addressed without a full-fledged witchhunt. Indeed, in 1983 when it came to light that Congressman Gerry Studds had enjoyed cocktails and sex with a 17-year-old male page, the House merely censured him (along with Congressman Dan Crane, who'd also had sex with a page). A chastised Studds returned to his district to greet cheering crowds and supportive op-ed pieces in local papers; he handily won re-election.

Today's histrionic reaction to Foley's far milder workplace transgressions (wherein no alcohol use nor sexual contact is alleged) should give pause

to anyone who thinks we've made progress combating destructive anti-sex attitudes in the past quarter-century.

Indeed, l'affaire Foley makes clear just how successful the Right has been (with complicity from the therapy industry) in demonizing sex in the last decades' series of sex panics. Whereas even conservative gay pundits defended Studds in 1983 (some reasonably noting that the page involved could be considered flattered and fortunate to have the congressman's attention), today our gay political groups mindlessly join the condemnation of Foley as some sort of monster. And for what? Good-natured, online locker-room talk with willing young men.

Of course, sex scandals are an age-old diversion for institutions looking to distract attention from other issues. Perhaps some in Congress prefer that body to occupy itself pillorying sexually wayward members instead of investigating the massive corruption of the DeLay/ Abramoff/Rove influence-peddling scheme. Maybe some members would rather headlines be filled with tawdry gossip about penis size rather than exposés of how Congress has rubber-stamped President Bush's torture policy, domestic spying, and secret overseas prisons. And if the object of the vitriolic condemnation is a vulnerable homo, well that's just gravy to many in the "family values" crowd.

Those running the government are beholden to religious zealots who believe that all gay people are deserving of eternal damnation and death. Thus, we have a special interest in resisting attempts to scapegoat anyone for their sexual peccadilloes, even someone as hypocritical as Mark Foley.

### **2.3 Quotes from Sex Panic on Capitol Hill**

Mark Foley and the Politics of Sex in America

By David Rosen, [counterpunch.org](http://counterpunch.org) October 10, 2006

[...]

Sex scandals are not new to Washington. Much has been made of earlier scandals involving Democratic Congressmen: Gary Stubbs had sex with a page; Mel Reynolds had sex with an underage campaign worker; and Barney Frank facilitated his lover's male prostitute ring. But these pale before the impeachment of Bill Clinton for his liaison with Monica Lowinsky -- to say nothing of his relations with Gennifer Flowers and who knows how many others.

Clinton's dalliance seems quite innocent when compared to other presidential indiscretions.

[... examples ...]

Deviant sexual practice is not unfamiliar to American politics.

The media seems especially captivated by Foley's peculiar sexual predilection -- his erotic fascination with adolescent youths. Most disturbing, they don't know how to make sense of it. Media thugs like MSNBC's Tucker Carlson have labeled him a "child molester" and others have called him a "child predator" and "pedophile." However, his particular sexual fetish may be what some analysts' label "ephebophilia," the adoration for adolescent youth.

Speculation as to Foley's sexual proclivities is just that -- speculation. Little is really know about his psychological makeup or sexual practices. At this point of the unfolding saga, Foley seems to have committed no applicable sexual crimes, particularly solicitation. He also seems to have adhered to Washington, DC, age of consent laws that place consent at 16 years (in Florida its 18 years of age).

In addition, he seems interested only in post-pubescent boys, not pre-pubescent children -- thus, technically, he's not a pedophile. Finally, and what seems perhaps most disturbing to conventional media pundits, Foley's interest in youthful lads seems to be an asexual fascination--he seems to have never sought to consummate (i.e., violate) his attraction for underage boys who he pursued so indiscreetly.

\* \* \*

Besides terrorism and immigration, the war against sexually unacceptable practices seems to be one of the most pressing national security concerns. More disturbing than hurricanes, corporate scandals and political corruption, sex offenders -- especially alleged pedophiles -- have become the nation's obsession.

Bill O'Reilly regularly rants against them and NBC Dateline runs an ongoing series exposing child "predators"; reports about pedophiles and other sex offenders appear regularly in local press and TV coverage across the country. Even Oprah Winfrey has joined the battle against pedophiles with a recent show promoting Child Predator Watch; she showed mugshots of ten fugitives which led to two arrests. She offered viewers a \$100,000 reward, noting that it was the "[b]est money I ever spent."

This fervor is not limited to the media. The federal government, together with states and localities across the country, are moving aggressively to increase penalties for a growing list of sex offenses. They are seeking to limit access to birth control and abortion services, prohibit teenage sex, neuter sex education, suppress pornography, restrict homosexual encounters and close down sex clubs and swinger get-togethers. A new sex war is gaining momentum.

Ironically, this puritanical revivalism is taking place not only amidst America's fourth "sexual revolution," but during a period in which sex crime is declining. The FBI reports that in 2005 there were some 550,000

registered sex offenders living throughout the country. The number is alarming and says a lot about America's sexual culture. It includes men (and a handful of women) who have been convicted of everything from pedophilia, child kidnapping and rape as well as child pornographers, their customers and some who failed to pay child support.

"But," as Steve Chapman reports in the Baltimore Sun, "the truth about the incidents of rape and other sex crimes is no mirage: It has declined drastically and is still dropping."

FBI data confirm Chapman's assertion -- and undercut much of the media hype about today's sex crime "epidemic."

[...]

The FBI's statistical summary, "Crime in the United States, 1986-2005," shows that sex crime -- along with nearly all crime -- has dropped significantly.

[...]

FBI data reveals that between 2002 and 2004 other sex offenses (statutory rape, incest) were down 31 percent and prostitution and commercial vice was down 19 percent.

No offense disturbs the popular imagination more than sex crimes involving children and youths -- which helps explain part of the media's fascination with the Foley scandal. Yet, as public outrage about such crime escalates, it is actually declining.

[...]

\*\*\*

In the face declining incidents of sex crime, cities and states are vying to impose tougher penalties for sex-crime convictions. Many cities have established "child protection zones" near schools, playgrounds and other locations and two cities, Binghamton, NY, and Brink, NJ, have passed banishment laws. Five states (i.e., Florida, Louisiana, Montana, Oklahoma and South Carolina) permit the death penalty for some sex crimes.

Under "Megan Laws," all states require sex offenders to register and most have websites with registered offenders listed.

- Some states require convicted offenders be electronically tracked for life and others are considering inserting RFID tags in those deemed predators.
- Texas has a new scarlet-letter law requiring offenders post a sign in their front windows: "DANGER: REGISTERED SEX OFFENDER LIVES HERE";
- Arizona, California and other states are keeping offenders in prison (or incarcerating them in asylums) after they have completed their sentences; and
- New York is planning to open a special prison for up to 500 sex offenders at Camp Pharsalia.
- [...]

The Bush administration is aggressively pursuing sexual offenders through the Justice Department, FBI, FCC, Customs and the Postal Service.

The Justice Department has created an infrastructure that is facilitating a sex panic. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, following in the footsteps of John Ashcroft, has prioritized the prosecution of pornography and child exploitation.

[...]

If a sex offender was labeled a terrorist, could all the powers of the Patriot Act be applied?

[...]

\* \* \*

America has witnessed repeated sex panics, both at the local and national level. Most recently, a daycare child-abuse panic swept the country from 1980 to 1992. During this prosecutorial nightmare at least 311 alleged child sex rings were investigated in 46 states and innumerable childcare workers, parents and total strangers were sent to jail. All appear to have been innocent. However, two even earlier panics illustrate just how bad things could get.

[...]

\* \* \*

Sex has never found a welcoming home in America. From the earliest Puritans to today's religious zealots, sex has been a constant source of discomfort in terms of both personal physical experience and social relations. This discomfort is, at root, what drives the Foley scandal and the public's peculiar fascination with it.

[...]

Mark Foley may well have crossed the line between unconventional (if inappropriate) flirtation and nonconsensual behavior with a minor -- it's too early to tell how the various Congressional and FBI probes will turn out. But it's clear that Foley (if not the Republican Congressional leadership) will have to pay for their sins. No matter how the scandal affects the upcoming election, one likely outcome will be the adoption of laws tightening intergenerational contact.

Not unlike anti-terrorism and anti-immigrant laws, politicians have to look tough -- whether they address the root problem or not. Thus, we should see laws not simply making more behavior (perhaps even the most innocent) off limits, but also see an increase in the penalties for those convicted of such conduct. Some pundits, including Pat Buchanan, have questioned whether homosexuals should be barred from holding federal office.

America is today at a sexual crossroads. The forces of moral rectitude, led by Attorney General Gonzales, are seeking to limit the forms of sexual expression and experience. They are likely to exploit the Foley folly -- as well as the very real issue of sexual violation -- to attempt to further restrict access to birth control and abortion services, limit pornography, prohibit homosexual encounters and closedown adult sex clubs and

swinger get-togethers. We are watching the culture wars becoming the sex wars.

[...]

## **2.4. Poli Psy**

Judith Levine, *The Public; Uses & Abuses of Emotion*; October 25, 2006

It's hard not to relish the spectacle of the Republicans' hoist on Mark Foley's quivering petard. But the pleasure wanes as the sanctimony rises -- a chorus of politicians, pundits and reporters all singing the words child protection.

The GOP ['Grand Old Party' = Republican Party] knew for years that the six-term Florida congressman was "funny" with the pages. They said nothing, except for the occasional, sotto voce warning to steer clear of the creep. Their first priority was to protect their own asses -- not, as Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi put it, "to protect the children in their trust."

In response, Foley has played his own childhood-innocence card. He claims a priest molested him, propelling him into a life of homosexual pedophilia. At this writing, the congressman has announced he'd reveal the miscreant's name -- "part of the healing process," his lawyer notes, along with Foley's treatment for alcoholism.

Hours later, the priest, one Anthony Merciera, came forward, contending he and the boy went skinny-dipping together, as "brothers" -- nothing more. Another former altar boy joined in, revealing that he and Foley used to hang out at the apartment of the priest, who let them drink and smoke. The priest admits he might have been disinhibited by alcohol problems of his own . . . and the saga continues.

Let us begin by granting the obvious: Like the party to which he belongs, this particular member from Florida is a slime-bucket of obfuscation and hypocrisy.

But does anybody really think the Foley Affair is about protecting children? Is child the correct term for the subspecies of preternaturally ambitious 16- and 17-year-old humans who claw their way to Washington in order to learn how to become Dennis Hastert or Hillary Clinton; who, according to those formerly in their places, also take advantage of their sojourn in Our Nation's Capital to par-tay?

Much blame for the complete meaning-ectomy of the words child and protection must be assigned to the likes of the Congressional Missing and Exploited Children's caucuses; former House Co-Chair Mark Foley was one of their most zealous leaders. Over the years,

these folks have built a fortress of "child-protective" crime legislation that has steadily increased the age at which a person is legally considered a child -- from 12 to 18, for instance, in child-pornography law. The caucuses have worked with the National Center on Missing and Exploited Children, an organization known for tossing around statistics on "child abductions" that fail to note that almost all the kids who go missing are actually teenage runaways -- or teenage "throwaways" whose parents have kicked them out.

Such advocates also have a penchant for implying, incorrectly, that crimes against children tend to be sexual. As we know well, sex panics are a great way to sell Internet censorship, mandatory minima and other politically profitable law-and-order legislation. A triumphal moment for these tactics, and for Foley himself, came this summer, just months before the emails hit the fan. The Adam Walsh Child Protection Act of 2006 greatly expands the federal sex-offender registry and compels states to expand theirs. It also encourages civil commitment with new grants; institutes big, vague new areas of Internet surveillance; and hardens the penalties for sex crimes against children to include everything short of extraordinary rendition.

An interesting footnote is the law's name, inscribed "in recognition of John and Revé Walsh on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Adam Walsh's abduction and murder."

John Walsh owned a hotel management business in Hollywood, Florida, in 1981 when his

6-year-old son was killed. His PR says the father "turned his grief" into a full-time fight for child victims. A less generous way of putting it is that Walsh launched a career by spreading the rumor -- most explicitly in his book *Tears of Rage* -- that his son's murderer was a pedophile. The crusade spurred the creation of the missing-and-exploited children's center, and landed Walsh the job of hosting Fox TV's "America's Most Wanted." From that exalted position he has cultivated friends in high places, including Mark Foley, to push for tougher sex-offender laws.

There's a little problem, however. According to detectives who worked on the still-unsolved case, there has never been either suspicion or evidence of sex in Adam's murder.

But never mind. There is little evidence that most of the provisions of HR 4472 do anything to prevent crimes against children. In fact, some of the provisions are likely to hurt them.

For purposes of protection, the law defines a minor as anyone under the age of 18. In some states, though, anyone under the age of consent who has sex with anyone else under the age of consent is committing a crime. On several states' sex-offender registry websites you can see the smooth faces of prepubescent "sex offenders."



In fact, the Adam Walsh Act now requires the registration of juveniles as young as 14 who have ever been convicted or adjudicated even for consensual sexual activity with another minor under the age of 13. These "offenders" must produce DNA samples, submit to electronic monitoring and, if the violation was a second offense or the partner was younger than 12, remain registered and monitored for life.

Meanwhile, back in the House, Ethics Committee members are trying to decide if Maf54 broke the law by IMing the pages (in some cases with mutual enjoyment) about masturbation and boxer shorts. Under his own law, which criminalizes "the use of the Internet to facilitate or commit a crime against a minor," he might be a felon. If he had actual sex with them, however -- which he denies -- he could be acting within the law. The age of consent in Washington, D.C., is 16.

As I said, the words child and protection lose all meaning.

Still, Mark Foley is no child molester -- and not just because of those consent-implying lols from some of his IM buddies. After all, for each cheerful participant, there were God-knows-how-many who deleted the drooly messages in disgust, or reported Foley to authorities they thought would do something about it.

No, Foley is something far less press-worthy: He is a sexual harasser -- a person who uses his position of power in a workplace or other institution to extract sexual favors from a subordinate.

Why don't we call him that?

One reason, no doubt, is that Nancy Pelosi and the other Democratic women know sexual harassment is not taken seriously in Washington. They remember Anita Hill. If a Supreme Court nominee could get away with it, who'd care about a piss-ant Florida rep?

More important, though, calling Foley's misconduct sexual harassment would be saying something about the young people on whom he hit.

The object of sexual harassment is assumed to be an adult. She has a sex life, but does not want to share it with the line foreman or the 15 other men in her department. If she has not made her objections clear, it's because she fears losing a raise or a job or becoming the victim of further retribution, including violence.

Harassment is a psychological or physical trespass on the sexual privacy and equality of a citizen-worker. Molestation, on the other hand, is a theft of the alleged sexual innocence of a child.

Sexual harassment is a violation of rights. By law and custom, children have no rights, least of all sexual ones.

This Congress has just passed the billion-dollar mark in appropriations for abstinence-only education. Its message: that minors are not -- and should not be -- sexual. While more than one congressional member has surely been piqued by the sexual-object possibilities of the nubile messengers in their midst, they are ideologically unable to view these youngsters as sexual subjects -- least of all, as willing gay sexual subjects.

If they -- or we -- can't recognize teenagers' right to say yes, we have little choice but to "protect" them by saying no on their behalf, whether they want us to or not.

Not that I give a fig for Mark Foley. But he is one more casualty of the war on teen sexuality. The public has made a psychopath of a man who is at best a jerk and a hypocrite and, at worse, the perpetrator of the serious crime of sexual harassment.

## **2.5. Bill Maher on intergenerational relationships in interview**

Bill Mahr had several things to say about intergenerational relationships in an interview in the just-out issue of Playboy [March 2007]. He seems quite open to the concept of intergenerational play between the generations,beit on a same-sex level. Some quotes from the interview

**Maher:** Foley went after boys. Actually, I wasn't terribly taken aback by Foley. He was like a college professor, in a job where every year there's a new wave of fresh meat. He would look over the field and decide. He probably had pretty good radar to know which kids were amenable. From the evidence we have, he tried to do something only after they were out of the page program. If a 19-year-old gay kid wants to go out with an older guy, why not? The guys his own age are probably dumb doofuses.

**Playboy:** But even after leaving their jobs as pages, they were far younger than Foley.

**Maher:** Look, I'm a 51-year-old man, and I go out with girls in their early 20's. I'd be hypocritical if I said it's ridiculous for a gay man to so that. I'm very libertarian about love. I'm the only guy I've ever heard who defends Mary Kay Letourneau.

**Playboy:** Are you saying teachers should be allowed to have sex with their 13-year-old students, as she did, and not go to jail?

**Maher:** I think it's a little offbeat, but you know, I believe in the double standard. If a 28-year-old male teacher is screwing a 13-year-old girl, that's a crime. But with Debra Lafave (another teacher who had sex with a student) screwing her 14-year-old boy student, the crime is that we didn't get it on videotape. Was he being taken advantage of? I wish I had been taken advantage of like that. What a memory she gave him! I would

think he's a champion among his friends. Are you kidding? Even with Michael Jackson--

**Playboy:** Are you defending him [Michael Jackson], too?

**Maher:** I'm not defending him, but I do believe his case has a nuance that makes it different from other child molestation cases -- not that I'm saying he necessarily did it, but come on. Jackson's worst accusers never said he did anything brutal, like bend them over a table and ram them -- you know, like a priest. The worst they said he did was a little grabby-grabby under the covers. Don't get me wrong. It's a crime. You shouldn't be able to grab a kid that age, but when I heard about it, all I could think of was my being brutally beaten up on the playground when I was 12 -- a kid punching me in the face while another held me down. If I could go bad and trade that experience for being gently masturbated by a pop star, I would do it in a New York second. Frankie Valli could jerk me off. Bobby Sherman could. Marvin Gaye could.

**Playboy:** You're being remarkably open-minded.

**Maher:** Woody Allen is the one we might have been wrong about. I was pretty hard on him on my show, but how many years has his relationship continued?

Maybe that, like Letourneau's, was true love. If you look at him or Letourneau, who is still with the guy after her time in jail -- they have two kids -- the lesson is love will take the form it's going to take. Sometimes it's at great variance with the mainstream. I don't think teachers should be allowed to do that. I think they should be fired. But to send that woman to jail and separate them all those years?

## **2.6 Cut out the paedophile hysteria, says Irons**

Richard Brooks, The Sunday Times, February 27, 2005

THE ACTOR Jeremy Irons, who starred in the film *Lolita*, has spoken out about how "hysteria" over paedophilia is damaging relations between adults and children.

Irons, who has two sons with his wife Sinead Cusack, suggests that society, while protecting children, should not become so rigidly obsessed with paedophilia that it prevents adults demonstrating affection to children.

"It's very difficult because children under 16 are immensely attractive, any father will tell you," Irons said. "We have to accept that, understand it for what it is and not become hysterical about it."

The actor made the remarks when asked what it was like playing Humbert Humbert, the college lecturer who falls for an underage girl in

Lolita. Interviewed by Jeremy Vine for a programme to be broadcast on BBC1 on Monday week, Irons said:

“Strangely enough, Humbert Humbert is not a paedophile . . . because he knew he was doing wrong. That’s his tragedy in a way.”

He went on to describe the difficulties of judging the line between natural affection and paedophilia with reference to his family.

“I remember when my son was 12 he was like a god,” he said. “He just went through that sort of golden time for about 18 months. Parental love is sexual. Boys will flirt outrageously with their mothers.”

Irons’s remarks were deemed “very odd” by Esther Rantzen, chairman of *Childline*, the charity for abused youngsters.

“Immensely attractive is not the best thing to say about children under 16,” said Rantzen. “Appealing or charming are more appropriate.”

The dilemma voiced by the actor, who shot to fame in the ITV drama *Brideshead Revisited* before films such as *The French Lieutenant’s Woman* and *Damage*, arises from more than his experience of appearing in films addressing controversial topics.

He illustrated his point by describing what happened when he presented prizes at a fête near where he lives in the Oxfordshire countryside.

“I had done my little speech and a girl from the local school wanted to show me around the art exhibits. I was very happy to go. I had my arm on the shoulder of the girl as we walked around. But the teacher was there and looked at me and said: ‘Don’t do that.’ I said: ‘What?’ He whispered to me. I then said: ‘I’m sorry.’ But I suddenly felt like a criminal. And I thought ‘What are we doing to this new generation? We can’t smack them or hug them. What strange people are we going to bring up’.”

The need to protect children, he said, should be balanced against demonstrative instincts.

“We’re animals. We should hug our young. We should hold our young,” he said. “We shouldn’t suddenly, when our daughter becomes 12, stop her sitting on our lap, stop hugging her. What’s she going to think about affection, about human nature if that happens in her upbringing?”

However, as Rantzen makes clear, it partly depends on who is involved.

“For example, it’s okay for me as a mother to have a daughter on my lap even if she is older. That’s all right in a mother/daughter relationship,” she said.

## **2.7. Police chiefs’ plea for nuance**

### **a. Police chief sparks row over stigma of sex with children**

Daniel Foggo, Sunday Times, 19 November 2006

The police’s leading child protection officer has said that men who have sex with children should not be classed as “paedophiles” if the victim is between the ages of 13 and 15 years old.

Terry Grange, the Association of Chief Police Officers’ (Acpo) spokesman on child protection and managing sex offenders, said only those who targeted prepubescent children deserved to be labelled and treated as “paedophiles”. He added that the term “child pornography” should apply only to images of children aged below 13, for the same reason.

“Child porn is 12 and under,” said Grange, who is chief constable of Dyfed-Powys police. “For me, that sort of thing, paedophilia, is [with] prepubescent children.”

Grange’s views, set out in an interview with The Sunday Times, is expected to spark debate among policy makers and child protection professionals.

Many believe that anyone having sexual relations with a child under 16 is not only committing an offence, but should be treated as a paedophile.

[...]

Grange says his views — which he emphasises are personal — reflect [...] subtleties in the law, which is intended to allow a pragmatic approach to be taken in cases of young adults having consensual sex with children between the ages of 13 and 15.

“It is much more of an issue for me if a child is under 13,” said Grange. “I think the closer they get to 16 the more it becomes a grey area and I think everyone in the field of dealing with sexual health and sexual activity acknowledges that. As it [the age] goes down so I think the liability of the adult gets greater, so if the girl is 13 and the adult is in his twenties I am not particularly prone to accept the ‘I thought she was 16’ excuse. And if she is 12, it is rape.”

Asked how he would define paedophilia, Grange said:

“ We are talking about very young people [when] it is paedophilia, and I wouldn’t want to mix up kids who are just the wrong side of 16 with paedophiles.”

“I don’t actually personally adhere to the 15-year-old being with a 20-year-old boyfriend being paedophilia, or even if the boyfriend is 30.”

Many European countries, including Austria, Bulgaria and Croatia, set a lower age of consent at 14, while in Spain it is 13. In Britain studies have suggested that a third of girls and a sixth of boys have sex before 16.

### **Leading Article: Drawing the Age Line**

[...]

[... W]hat constitutes a child? This is the challenge thrown down by Terry Grange, chief constable of Dyfed-Powys and spokesman on child protection for the Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo).

Mr Grange says we are in danger of wrongly labelling offenders as paedophiles, thus potentially overstating the scale of the problem. Child pornography should refer to images of pre-pubescent children, 12 and under, he suggests, but not those of 13 and above. Adults who have sex with post-pubescent youngsters — aged between 13 and 15 — should not be automatically thought of as paedophiles.

Let us be clear about what Mr Grange is saying. A man who has sex with a 13-year-old girl has still committed an offence: unlawful sex with somebody under the age of 16, the age of consent. He still faces a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison.

But is he a paedophile?

Yes, perhaps, if he is a 50-year-old. But what about a 20-year-old having sex with a 15-year-old who looks 18? Or what about a woman and a boy who is sexually mature beyond his years?

Many will be outraged that there should be different gradations of offence in this area. The onset of puberty, which for some children is well before the age of 13, does not denote psychological maturity, which may not arrive for years. Are 13 and 14-year-olds capable of making sensible decisions about sex?

[...]

For centuries the age of consent in Britain was 12, being raised to 13 in 1875 and to 16 ten years later, where it has remained. Since then, however, patterns of sexual behaviour have changed — or people have just become more honest about it.

In the 1950s only 1% of young people admitted to under-age sex. This was the era when Jerry Lee Lewis, the rock’n’roll star, was hounded out of Britain after it was discovered that his perfectly legal wife (who was also his second cousin) was only 13. Now the average age at which people in Britain start having sex is 16, implying that many do so younger.

The age of consent, still as low as 13 in Spain and 14 in several other European countries and in some American states, remains a controversial topic. In Canada the government is introducing legislation to raise the age of consent from 14 to 16, while preserving the "within five years rule" for 14 and 15-year-olds, so an 18-year-old having sex with a 14-year-old would not be committing an offence.

Few are suggesting raising or lowering the age of consent in Britain, despite the fact that sexual mores have changed. The issue raised by Mr Grange is whether by labelling all adults who have sex with minors as paedophiles we risk diluting our efforts to get to grips with those who pose the biggest dangers to children, the hardcore minority. There are arguments on both sides. The debate, however, is worth having.

### **b. Police chief wants review of consent age**

Mark Macaskill, The Sunday Times November 26, 2006

ONE of the country's most senior police officers has called for a debate on lowering the age of consent, suggesting that it could be reduced to bring Scotland in line with other countries.

Chief superintendent Clive Murray, president of the Association of Scottish Police Superintendents (ASPS), fears some children are being unfairly criminalised by current legislation which does not differentiate between "youthful natural instinct" and sexual abuse.

While the age of consent in Britain is 16, he pointed to countries such as Canada and Austria where 14-year-olds can have sex legally and Spain, where sex at 13 is permitted.

The age of sexual consent in Britain has not changed since 1885 when campaigners fought to raise it from 13 to prevent child prostitution.

Murray's comments will re-ignite the debate sparked by Terry Grange, the chief constable of Dyfed-Powys police, who last week suggested men should not be labelled paedophiles for having sex with 13-year-old girls. It provoked a storm of protest, with critics accusing Grange of "eroding" moral values and giving the "green light" to child molesters, perverts and other abusers.

"When you look at countries such as Canada and Spain, we consider them as comparable societies yet they have a lower age of consent," said Murray. "I certainly think there is scope for looking at (lowering the age of consent) and why is there this contradiction with other countries which we regard as similar societies to our own?"

I think it's of interest that (the age of consent in Scotland) is 16 and has been since 1885. Society has changed since then and it might be reasonable to ask why do we still stick at 16?"

Many European countries, including Austria, Bulgaria and Croatia, set the age of consent at 14. In Canada, intercourse with a child of 12 can be considered lawful if the partner is less than two years older. In Finland, sex with someone under 16 is not considered sexual abuse of a child if there is no great difference in the ages or the mental and physical maturity of the persons involved.

The Philippines, which has one of the world's lowest ages of consent, allows sex with 12-year-olds.

Earlier this year, a BBC poll of 30,000 people in the UK aged 16-24 found almost a third lost their virginity below the age of consent. Alcohol was involved in almost 40% of first sexual encounters. A separate survey found twice as many girls as boys lose their virginity under the age of 16.

Critics of a change in the law fear that reducing the age of consent would not only make children vulnerable to sexual predators, but increase the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and lead to a rise in the rate of teenage pregnancies, which is among the highest in Europe.

According to the most recent figures, more than 700 girls aged 13-15 fell pregnant in 2003-04. Earlier this year a 12-year-old from West Lothian became Britain's youngest mother.

Derek Ogg QC, chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, said lowering the age of consent could lead to exploitation of some vulnerable youngsters but that he would support a more flexible approach.

"I would much rather have a more discretionary approach to prosecution in cases where the children are under 16 but close in their respective ages," he said.

Stewart Stevenson, deputy justice spokesman for the Scottish National party, said:

"It could potentially help decriminalise youngsters who have sex under 16 but it could also lead to further exploitation of 15-year-olds not mature enough to understand the implications."

## **2.8. A course: Terror & Sexuality**

Here below the announcement of a course given by *Anarchist U* in Toronto, Canada.

The announcement gives some thoughts and relevant questions, as well a list of literature.

### **What is Anarchist U?**



The Anarchist U is a volunteer-run collective which organizes a variety of courses on arts and sciences. Most courses run for ten weeks, and meet once a week; there are no admission fees. The Anarchist U follows the tradition of free schools in that it is open, non-hierarchic and questions the roles of teachers and students.

< <http://www.anarchistu.org/twiki/view/Anarchistu/TerrorAndSexuality> >

Location: Toronto

### **Course: Terror & Sexuality**

Child protection, sexuality and the construction of the pedophile:  
Investigating current modes of social and sexual regulation - July/August 2005

Facilitated by: Rob Teixeira email: < satyr9@sympatico.ca >

Childhood is the most intensely governed sector of social existence.  
— Nikolas Rose

To many the whole subject of pedophilia is an open and shut case. Those who harm children, especially, it seems in a sexual manner, deserve all the punishment they get. There is nothing left to be done, no ethical issues attached to an unruly subject who is deemed unable to govern themselves. The protection of children takes precedence over the subtleties of jurisprudence and scientific inquiry on the abject subject of pedophilia.

As such, there is very little room for critical thinking, no layers of subtlety and certainly no place for opposition or dissent in a culture which has declared the pursuit of pedophiles and the abuse of children a permanent state of emergency. Then, as is often the case in a political state of emergency, dialogue shuts down, coercion increases and dissenters are jailed.

This scenario would not be too far afield in describing the current state of affairs involving contemporary Western culture's dealings with child sexuality and sex offenders.

"We have," to quote U.S. sexuality scholar Gayle Rubin, "become dangerously crazy about sexuality." There is an increasing sexual panic afoot which surrounds these lurid cases of sexual predators that are ubiquitous in the media. The effects of this sexual panic are manifold, producing rigid social polarities and regulating social responses. The panic over children's sexuality and its corollary, the hysteria over pedophilia, are fused together, producing multiple effects. Yet continuing critical examination of the sources and effects of this sexual panic is badly needed.

Those who have called attention to the panic surrounding children's sexuality and have pointed to our culture's obtuse dealings with the sexuality of the young have, just for holding critical or dissenting views,

often been accused of being “pedophile apologists” or covert pedophiles themselves.

This course is an attempt at unpack these confounded subjects, and to try to make sense of their complex entanglements. It is an attempt to turn down the volume on our habitual reactions, in order to see what other sounds we can discover, what other layers we have yet to uncover and to discuss.

This course is an attempt to answer the question as to why pedophilia, understood in specific ways, has become a prominent concern for the overdeveloped West. At the same time, this acute concern does not surface in the same way in other countries, and in other locales, fails to manifest at all.

It is curious that this fact has failed to register more deeply. It is also striking that the discourse of pedophilia betrays stark gender hierarchies, and these divisions inhere deeply within how the issue comes to be configured in popular and scientific discourse.

The discourses of social and sexual regulation that are anchored firmly in how the pedophile is “deployed” has particular impact on non-normative, queer and non-hegemonic forms of sexuality, childhood, and “family” relations. The terror of the pedophile is, in many ways, the terror of reactionary family forms undergirding its “authority” with reference to the danger that lies in wait for those who stray outside or who dissent from hegemony in its intimate and so-called “private” forms.

The way the sexual and moral panic of pedophilia is enacted shapes the way we come to understand and respond to sexual violence, non-normative sexualities, children’s social worlds and children’s rights, schemes of protection, and the management of risk vis-à-vis social relations as it intersects with the lives of children. I suggest that contemporary perceptions and modes of governing pedophilia are continuous with other social phenomena. Thus, the existence of pedophilia as a social problem can be understood in broader context. It is not merely a matter of isolated deviance and pathology.

My goal is to see how the concept of pedophilia can be disturbed from its (un)stable moorings, in order to allow new perspectives to emerge. This approach wrests the conceptualizations of pedophilia from their over-determined axes as individualizing pathology toward an approach which views the pedophile as a cultural figure and a category of knowledge production, embedded in a set of hegemonic discourses.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **Week 1: Exploring the framework for our investigation**

This course will begin with a brief introduction to ideas around social construction in which we will investigate ideas from Michel Foucault as well as contemporary post-structuralist thought and specifically its feminist elaborations. This will set a framework for investigating how notions of sexuality are taken-up by social actors and how various discursive regimes produce understandings of the configuration of the social, the sexual and shapes the “moves” that can occur within this regulated terrain for understanding. The emphasis will be to uncover how the way we come to “know” sexuality, specifically through the dominant domains of medicine, science and psychiatry, and its epistemological dimensions have an impact on how various forms of social regulation are enacted and enforced.

### **Readings:**

Foucault, The political technology of individuals; “the dangerous individual”

- Butler: “Contingent Foundations”
- Moral Regulation: Doyle and Brock: “John Robin Sharpe case and moral panics”

### **Week 2: Taking custody of the child, or one childhood or many?**

- How do we come to know what the “child” is?
- How has social institutions (family, education, etc.) enacted and enforced highly regulated ideas & sites for children and their capacities and how are these linked to forms of social and moral and sexual regulation?
- What aspects of children’s social worlds and experiences press against the limits and boundaries of what is deemed “normal” in the social life of the child?
- How are disruptions, difference and social experiences that exceed these limits dealt with?
- How do we even come to know childhood as difference, contingency and specificity?
- What impact does this highly enforced “normalization” in the lives of children have especially on children that are exist in spaces and potentialities for non-normative sexualities and genders?
- What do we mean by listening to the child?
- Can children construct their own epistemologies in whatever form that may take?

### **[Read] Selections from:**

- Allison James, Chris Jenks & Alan Prout. (1998). Theorizing Childhood. New York: Columbia University.
- Floyd M. Martinson (1994). The Sexual Life of Children. London: Bergin & Garvey
- Gareth Matthews. (1994) The Philosophy of Childhood Boston: Harvard University Press.

- Steven Bruhm & Natasha Hurley. (2004). *Curioser: On the Queerness of Children*. University of Minnesota Press.

### **Week 3: Terror and Sexuality - I: Producing 'the pedophile'**

The appearance of a dangerous and unruly sexual offender has appeared at other times in history, yet there is a sense that 'the pedophile' in image and reality is also entirely new.

In post-war America during the cold war there was a combined campaign which tied sexual non-conformity and political subversion into a national threat. Are terrorists and pedophiles the new communists and homosexuals?

We will take a close look at how the emergence of a codified image of 'the pedophile' produces much more "work" than its purported intent to protect children. We can analyze these relations as no less than a sexualized terror campaign with an aim to buttress highly suspect and renewed attempts at a radical biologization of human sexuality. Also this strident image of 'the pedophile' attempts to regulate the boundaries of the normal (through terror) with specific intent to shore up hegemonic notions of the "family" and to truncate and prevent the emergence of more radical understandings of sexual difference and desire in the lives of children and youth.

#### **Read:**

- Judith Levine. 2002. *Harmful to Minors?*
- Tom O'Carroll. 1980. *Pedophilia: The Radical Case*. Shulamith Firestone. 1970.
- "Down with Childhood" in *The Dialectics of Sex: The Case for a Feminist Revolution*. Women's Press.
- Su Negrin, "Ageism" in *Begin at Start: Some thoughts on Personal and Social Change*. New York: Times Change Press, 1972.

### **Week 4: Terror & Sexuality - II: Governing the 'Normal'**

Governing sexual relations and the new terrorism of the unruly sex offender; consequences for non-normative childhoods and sexualities.

#### **Read:**

- Mary Louise Adams. "On Children, Innocence and Definitions of Sex" Selections from Rob Teixeira. 2004.
- Child protection and the Discursive production of pedophilia (MA Thesis/OISE)

### **Week 5: Terror & Sexuality - III: The Precarious Aspirations of Queer Childhood**

Regulating the social through the image of childhood. Infantilizing the social through future-oriented heteronormative discourses embedded in the fundamentalism of childhood capacity. Resisting difference, contingency and specificity in the worlds of children. A little bit of anarchy mixed in with a little bit of queer psychoanalytic thought.

**Read:**

- Colin Ward, 1996. "Open and Closed Families" in *Anarchy in Action*. London: Freedom Press.
- Eve K. Sedgwick, "How to Bring your Kids up Gay" in Warner 1993.
- Fear of a Queer Planet: Queer Politics & Social Theory. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Lee Edelman. 2004. "The Future is Kid Stuff" in *No Future: Queer Theory & the Death Drive*. Duke University Press.

**Week 6: "You learn better on an old bicycle" or, consensual adult-child sex**

- Can there be consensual adult-child sex and what are the complex social relations attendant on this possibility?
- What are the implications for social change as we begin to excavate a terrain of child/youth sexuality that intersects with adult sexuality?
- For the child? For the adult?
- Is the highly regulated notion of childhood capacities within liberal and modernist discourse the lynchpin that turns on the social possibilities of realizing an expanded conception of human freedom and retooled possibilities for radical, anarchist (economic, social, political) democracy?

**Read:**

- Beth Kelly, On Woman/Girl Love Or, "Lesbians do Do it" In *Paidika: The Journal of Pedophilia*.
- Tom Reeves, "Loving Boys" in D. Tsang, *The Age Taboo*. Alyson, 1981.
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**2.9 Fear of a myth isolates children**

Here below are seven articles, all of which point to a trend that men keep themselves off the care of children because they are afraid to be seen as

'pedophiles'. Actually, afraid of a myth, as we saw in the former article. See also the articles about myths or factoids and facts in this Newsletter. The same myth leads to over-surveillance of children - factually to under-protection.

Article # 6 is a horror story of 'protection', but # 7 forms the happy end. Note, that it is world news that teachers now are allowed to touch a child ... "but only when and where needed". That's the Western Anglo-Saxon culture...

### **(1) Men are too afraid to help a crying child**

Three in four fear being called a perv

By Mark McGivern, Daily Record, UK, 17 February 2007

Three in four men would think twice before helping a crying child in case they are accused of being a paedophile, a poll claims. And one in four would ignore the distressed youngster completely, the survey revealed yesterday. Now a campaign group are warning the attitude actually makes children more vulnerable to being abused by real sex offenders.

The poll of 500 men found that 75 per cent feared assisting a lost or upset child in case others thought they were trying to harm them. Nearly half - 45 per cent - said they would try to find a female passer-by, while 23 per cent would ignore the child completely.

The research was commissioned by child safety firm IdentiKid. Managing director Nadine Lewis said:

"The very fact that nearly half of the population won't help children does make them more vulnerable to people who do want to do them harm.

I find that quite scary."

However, the poll also showed men are right to worry.

Two in three people they spoke to said they would be concerned about a man whose approach caused a child to cry or scream, compared with only 21 per cent if a woman approached them. And it is a growing problem, with 80 per cent of men saying that they felt more scared of helping children today than 10 years ago.

Nadine advised men not to approach a distressed child if they can avoid it, for fear of a protective parent returning and reporting them to police. Instead she advised them to find a woman, or a uniformed worker, rather than approach them directly. She added:

"If you are the only person about, you should keep your distance and not try to cuddle them if they are upset.

The last thing anyone wants is to be accused of inappropriate behaviour."

Nadine blamed recent horrific stories of strangers abducting kids, coupled with a weaker sense of community. She added:

"People are living insular lives. We've lost the ability to interact. If you see a child crying and a man close by, you would look at the man quite suspiciously. It is a sorry portrayal of modern life that children could potentially be put in danger because men are frightened of how they will be perceived."

## **(2) Child safety rules 'scare' adults**

Newsvote.bbc.com.uk, 13 December 2006

Adults are scared of working with youngsters because of strict child protection rules, MSPs were told. The children's commissioner told Holyrood's education committee that the measures were taking an "absolutely ridiculous" toll on adults. Professor Kathleen Marshall urged MSPs to address the issue, which she said risks leaving children neglected.

The measures are contained in legislation drawn up in the wake of the Soham murders.

Under the Protection of Vulnerable Groups Bill, a single agency will be formed to support a new vetting and barring scheme. The scheme aims to ensure that people who should not be around children or vulnerable adults cannot access them through work.

Professor Marshall said:

"Whether it's the child protection machinery, whether it's their perception of it, people feel that they can't do things to an absolutely ridiculous extent. It can be very inhibiting. I know that some people say it's a misconception, but if it is, it's a very pervasive misconception."

The commissioner said a youth worker had told her about a trip from a rural area with two teenagers which had to be cancelled.

"They were told that they couldn't afford it because they would have to have two adult workers to accompany these young people," she said.

"When they were questioned why they needed two, the answer was 'What happens if one of them drops dead?' You have to think what the risk is that we're addressing here."

### *'Backing off'*

She added:

"People feel the need to cover their backs all the time and it's small play forums, voluntary agencies, saying this has to be addressed. People are just backing off from interaction with children and young people."

Other examples cited were of workers who needed a mountaineering certificate to take a group of youngsters up Arthur's Seat, and a lifesaving

certificate before being allowed to collect seashells with a group of children.

"As a society, we've become so focused on protecting our children that we risk neglecting them," she said.

"Not only are we increasingly regulating things through disclosure checks and widening them out and out and out and down and down and down, but even once we've got them we still don't trust them. We still insist that people are there in hordes and that they're not allowed to be alone with a child and we put all sorts of restrictions on them."

### **(3) Absence of men from childcare 'national disgrace'**

Early Childhood Council [New Zealand], 25 September 2006

New Zealand's largest representative body of licensed early childhood centres has called for a partnership between Government and childcare organizations to encourage more men into childcare.

The call follows tonight's (24 September) Sunday Programme which revealed men were more than two per cent of those working in early childhood care ('teacher-staffed, government-funded early childhood services') in 1992, but less than one per cent today - and falling. The Early Childhood Council said the absence of men from early childhood teaching was 'a national disgrace'.

Chief Executive Sue Thorne said New Zealand compared 'very badly' to other developed countries and the need for action was 'urgent'.

'With few men in our primary schools and fewer in childcare centres we have created a society in which we have quarantined our children from our men.

This is a project of destructive social change with very negative consequences for children.'

She said 'the paedophile hysteria' of the 1990s had caused good men to vacate roles caring for children. Many men don't feel welcome in childcare, she said.

'They feel they will be treated as suspect until proven innocent. And we know, as a matter of record, that some parents will not enroll children in a centre if men are present.

'We have created a culture in which it can be dangerous to reputation and future for a childcare male to cuddle a distressed child, to change a nappy or express affection. This anti-male bias, however, does not change the fact that children need to experience men as nurturing.'

The presence of men in childcare was important for the many children being brought up with absent fathers, she said. And it was especially important if such children came from 'at-risk' environments in which they had experienced men as unreliable or abusive. The potential benefits of such children spending time with strong, gentle men were incalculable,



Mrs Thorne said. She said there was 'great irony' in the fact that 'the current situation is perpetuated by those who would otherwise proclaim most loudly an opposition to sexism.

'Why is it that the same people who speak with passion about the absence of women from the boardroom are silent about the absence of men from the classroom?

Why is it that there would be an outcry were women excluded from the promotion of careers in the army or law or medicine, but there is silence when men are excluded in advertising for childcare?'

Mrs Thorne called for a partnership between the Government, the teacher unions, the education institutions and child care associations to get more men onto the childcare frontline.

'There was a time, only a few years ago, when few doctors, lawyers or journalists were women, but we changed that' she said.

'They've achieved substantial increases in male participation in childcare overseas and I see no reason why the same could not be achieved in New Zealand.'

Men were needed to help resolve severe labour shortages in the sector, Mrs Thorne said.

'The system needs them. The children need them. It's time things changed.'

#### **(4) A Chilling effect**

Virginia De Leon and Sara Leaming, Spokesman Review, April 18, 2007

Changing times and a growing awareness of child abuse have led to greater distrust of adults who work with children, prompting stricter rules in churches, Boy Scouts and other organizations. That means less one-on-one contact between children and adult mentors, so relationships that could steer at-risk kids away from trouble take longer to build.

"Our trust has been eroded," said the Rev. Chuck Wilkes, associate pastor of Spokane Valley Nazarene Church.

No longer is it acceptable for an adult to initiate contact with a child, he said. Children, from an early age, are taught to be wary of people they don't know.

"It's an unraveling of the community contract, which says we are responsible for the children," said Wilkes.

It's affected even our willingness to commit simple acts of compassion. Wilkes recalls being in his car and seeing a boy shivering in the cold, walking in a snowstorm. He considered pulling over and offering the boy a ride home. "But I drove on by," he said, his voice tinged with sadness. The boy would have been too scared to get in the car. And Wilkes, a stranger, would have automatically been suspect for stopping to talk.

"And that little first-grader paid the cost - he walked home without a coat on and he had nothing to do with this," Wilkes said.

Today, would-be volunteers at various organizations undergo heavy scrutiny, including criminal background checks and interviews with references. They must undergo training and comply with strict codes of conduct.

*Here's how some organizations have dealt with the changes:*

- Mentors paired with youth through *Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Inland Northwest* can meet one-on-one with children. But mentors who have second thoughts about those meetings are provided with another option.

About 60 percent of the matches made through the national organization involve "site-based" programs, where an adult mentor meets with a child in a school or high-visibility site, said Darin Christensen, CEO of the Inland Northwest office.

"Sometimes that kind of mentoring isn't quite as effective," Christensen said. "I guess the positive thing is that it allows that person who is concerned to still be involved in a way that feels comfortable."

- The *Boy Scouts of America* also has new rules for how Scout leaders interact with boys. "We don't allow one-on-one contact with youth and adults in this day and age," said Tim McCandless, executive director of the Inland Northwest chapter. "If there is a campout, there must be at least two adults present."

The Inland Northwest chapter of the Scouts - which has about 5,000 volunteers and serves about 13,000 boys in Idaho and Washington - also requires boys to receive training on how to recognize an abusive adult. Scouts must complete a Youth Protection Program to learn the signs of abuse before earning their first badge. The program also is taught to parents of Scouts, McCandless said.

"If they find themselves in an abusive situation, we know they have the skills to recognize that it's wrong; they can recognize an adult who may have malicious intent," he said.

Like schools and other volunteer programs for youth, all Boy Scout volunteers and staff must undergo extensive background checks. The cost typically is paid by the organization.

- At the *Boys and Girls Club of Spokane County*, an after-school program, "we definitely do not let anyone in the building unless they went through our extensive background program; they do this before

they have any contacts with kids," said Ryan Davenport, executive director of the chapter.

But background checks don't always catch those who might harm children. Most abusers don't have a criminal background and are in positions of trust in a child's life.

### *And here is the Catholic Church*

As a result of the sex abuse scandal in the Roman Catholic Church, the Diocese of Spokane has adopted policies to ensure the protection of children and vulnerable adults. Many of the regulations - which include outside audits, extensive training and a code of conduct that explicitly defines inappropriate behavior to include wrestling, piggy-back rides and massages - are also being emphasized by other churches in the area, particularly in Spokane Valley. About a year ago, Wilkes and Ian Robertson, pastors of Spokane Valley Nazarene Church, decided they needed to offer support to their Catholic brothers and sisters and learn from past mistakes.

"It's been so traumatic," said Robertson, reflecting on the experience of the diocese. "What can we learn from this? How can we bring healing to the whole community?"

The victims of abuse, after all, aren't the only ones who have been affected, said Wilkes. The crisis also has hurt the victims' families, clergy, church members and society as a whole. The legal system, however, isn't always set up for healing, said Wilkes, an attorney who practiced law for nearly 30 years.

"The legal system is about retributive justice, not restorative," he said.

He and others believe it's up to the faith community to bring about that healing and restore trust, the essential element that "holds us together as a community."

"The sexual abuse problems are bigger than the Catholic Church," said Robertson, who meets regularly with Catholic Bishop William Skylstad of Spokane. "It's time for us, as the entire faith community, to work on a combined solution."

In recent months, the roughly 33 pastors who belong to the Spokane Valley Ministerial Association have been discussing an initiative known as "Healing to Our Community."

Based on lessons learned from the diocese and using its "Safe Net for Children and Youth" as a template, members of the ministerial association are establishing an official code of conduct and policies to prevent abuse.

Part of their efforts includes an informational brochure with local resources and a list of common signs and symptoms that could indicate sexual abuse. On the cover of the brochure is a photograph of two little

boys and the words: "Please listen to me, please believe me." Wilkes, Robertson and others hope the work pastors are doing in Spokane Valley can become a model for healing in other places.

"We have to reweave that tapestry of trust," Wilkes said.

### **(5) Children: over-surveilled, under-protected**

A recent conference in London highlighted the dangers of the government's insidious monitoring of our children's lives.

Jennie Bristow, Spiked-online.com, 20 July 2006

How have we reached such a state of institutionalised suspicion that a respected vicar can be obliged to resign as a school governor for kissing a 10-year-old girl on the forehead in class?

That's what happened in Britain recently. A recent London conference on child protection

offered a rare chance to put such absurd events in some wider critical perspective.

'Who is bringing children up? Are parents effectively nannies for the state's children or are children born to families and the state just helps families when they ask for it?' The answer, as they say, is in the question.

The quote came from Terri Dowty, director of the campaign group Action on Rights for Children (ARCH) and appeared across the national media in the run-up to a conference critically examining new developments in the UK government's policy on child protection.

Titled '*Children: Over Surveilled, Under Protected*', the conference took place at the London School of Economics on 27 June, and focused specifically on the role of information-sharing in improving outcomes for children - or, to put it another way, whether putting lots of information about every child in the country on to giant databases that can be routinely accessed by schools, doctors, the police and so on, will do anything to prevent child abuse.

The conclusions reached by the conference were swift and certain. Not only will the government's drive to collate and share more and more information about more and more children do nothing to prevent child abuse: this process will compromise the privacy of children and their families, and frighten and undermine parents. Why, then, is the government doing it? What is the point in an ever-increasing system of child (and parent) surveillance if it is not going to do any good at all?

The naive might argue that the government merely knows not what it does - that in its desire to prevent the abuse of some children by their parents and carers, it has set up a system of mass surveillance that is well-intentioned, if misguided.

Indeed, the proposals for information sharing and centralised databases, in the form of the Common Assessment Framework and the Children's Index, which are to store information on children from birth to be shared among all those agencies and officials involved in a child's life, were

developed by the government's 2003 consultation paper Every Child Matters, which in turn came out of the official inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié.

Eight-year-old Victoria Climbié died while living with her aunt and her aunt's boyfriend in February 2000. She had been seen repeatedly by nurses, doctors, police and social workers, but all of them failed to act on the obvious signs of abuse. This horrific death shocked the nation, and prompted the government to Do Something so that such a tragedy would never happen again. But as Eileen Munro, reader in social policy at the London School of Economics and co-organiser of the conference, argued in her rapid-fire presentation on 'Will sharing information about all children protect future Victoria Climbié's?',

'If it's about child protection, it is not the thing we should be worrying about at the moment.'

What the Victoria Climbié inquiry showed, Munro said, is that 'we do not have the skilled workforce that we need' - the social workers in this case did not lack information; they simply 'did not have the wisdom' to know what to do with it. Through its giant databases, 'what the government is basically doing is creating an incredibly expensive and very complicated network on which we will be able to move garbage' - such as the question of whether children are getting their five portions of fruit and veg a day, which only in the current climate could be seen as some kind of abuse factor.

Unlike the UK government, Munro is an expert in child protection, and the government has had plenty of opportunity to take advice from those who, like her, believe that monitoring every child's fresh fruit intake is not the way to prevent the tiny number of cases in which a child is tortured to death. The fact that it has ploughed ahead regardless indicates that there is another agenda at stake here.

But if it's naive to assume that the government's child tracking systems are well-intentioned, it is equally wrong to explain these proposals as a sinister, Big Brother-style attempt to control everybody.

For Shami Chakrabarti, director of the civil rights group Liberty, surveillance of children in this way is just one more example of the government invading our privacy by picking off the rights of the most vulnerable: children, asylum seekers and terror suspects.

In an impassioned soapbox presentation, Chakrabarti claimed not to be surprised 'at all' by the amount of media coverage given to the LSE conference, because most people have children and they care about their children's rights in a way that they don't about those of asylum seekers and terror suspects. In this way, the problem of child tracking is also an 'opportunity' to challenge the expansion of state surveillance across the board.

Well, if only. Chakrabarti's conspiracy theories are tempting, not least because they hark back to a time when everybody knew how to play the surveillance game. Governments knew who they were watching, and why; people knew that governments watching them were a problem, and why. What makes the official monitoring of family life so dangerous and insidious today is that it is largely pointless; and because it is pointless, few people know how or why to object to it.

The government does not want to take most children away from their parents, and it is aware that meddling with family life is a dangerous business. At the same time, however, it cannot bring itself just to let parents get on with things as they see fit. After all, this is a government that believes society is going to hell in a hand basket because teenage youths hang out on street corners and don't respect politicians, and it is ever conscious of its own isolation from the society it purports to govern - not just the ASBO youths, but their parents, teachers, doctors, social workers, the police.

The government then tries to overcome its lack of connection with, and trust for, society at large through an ever-more obsessive process of monitoring, logging, target-setting and double-checking, where everyone mucks in on everyone else's role.

In the government's view, families can't be trusted to raise their kids alone; teachers can't be trusted to spot behavioral problems alone; doctors can't be trusted to diagnose unhealthy living environments alone; social workers can't be trusted to spot signs of abuse alone; and police officers can't be trusted to spot criminals-to-be before the crime is committed. So every professional's minor concern about a child gets logged for others to look at, in order to work out just how much any family is allowed to be left alone, or how much 'support' (read: intervention) it needs.

The upshot is, as Eileen Munro put it, an endless exchange of 'garbage' that is of no use to anybody. But it is also the further development of a nasty, suspicious cultural climate, in which all parents and carers are routinely cast as potential abusers on the cusp of doing something wrong.

Of the many excellent presentations given at the 'Children: Over Surveilled, Under Protected' conference, the most poignant was delivered by Brian Sheldon, emeritus professor at the University of Exeter and formerly director of the university's Centre for Evidence-Based Social Services. Sheldon told how, a month or so previously, he was indulging his four-year-old grandson's obsession with trains by walking with him along a low wall near the railway at the back of his house. Suddenly, a car sped towards them, skidded to a halt, and a couple of shaven-headed young men leapt out. Alarmed, he moved to protect his grandson - but then the men produced their ID. They were detectives, and demanded that Sheldon explain his relationship with this child. When the

explanation was offered, they demanded to see some ID. Eventually they left.

Sheldon concluded his story by referring to the Hippocratic Oath: 'First do no harm'. In this instance, he asked rhetorically, what harm has been done? 'My grandson no longer likes to watch the trains.'

Sheldon did not have to add that, as well, his grandson would have been given the clear impression that Granddad was a potential paedophile; he did not have to ponder on the shocking waste of resources involved in such mindless, off-the-cuff interventions. It is enough that, with the flash of an ID card or the touch of a computer mouse, institutionalised suspicion can warp the most innocent of acts and trusting of relationships.

Stories such as this provide a chilling example of the surveillance problem we face today. It's not about a police state, systematically out to get us, but something far more amorphous and insidious that casts a shadow over our relationships with children - whether these are our own children or not, and whatever might be recorded about them in a database.

Conferences such as 'Children: Over Surveilled, Under Protected' provide a brave and thoughtful start in challenging this climate. A bit more surveillance of the government's child-and-parent surveillance schemes would be welcome; an indication that government consultations listen to critical viewpoints such as these would be a very nice surprise indeed.

### **(6) We lost our kids for two years after being wrongly branded as child abusers**

The nightmare story every parent must read  
Julie Mccaffrey, The Mirror, 23 October 2006

[... ...]

The family's horror story began in May 2004. An 11-year-old boy was invited to play with the children in the paddling pool and he and Buffy [daughter] were sent to change out of their swimming gear and into their bed clothes. But when Tim [the father] went upstairs, he found the boy, minus his pyjama bottoms, on top of his five-year-old daughter whose nightie was lifted above her waist.

"I was so furious I called the police," says Tim, who does not work because he has a heart condition. The cops were followed by social services. And there began the chain of events that ripped the family to pieces. After weeks of private social services interviews with the children, Gina sat with Buffy in hospital while she endured an internal examination. Gina and Tim, both 37 and married now for 12 years, reeled from the results. Buffy, said the doctor, had been a victim of chronic sexual abuse by an adult. Tim immediately became a suspect.

And because the report said Buffy could have been abused with an implement, Gina also came under suspicion. Shortly afterwards social workers arrived at the house asking to take the children in to care.

"They said if we didn't hand them over they'd get a court order to take them from us," says Tim. "Three days later, after sleepless nights and endless hours of talking, we felt forced to agree to their demands."

Banned from telling their children any details about the investigation, Tim and Gina drove to the social services office and told Zara, Ieuan and Buffy that they were going away for a little holiday. The instant they arrived, staff whisked the children through office doors and out of sight.

"We couldn't even say goodbye," says Gina, breaking down. "I felt so empty, so sick. We could still hear them screaming 'mummy! daddy!' after we left the building. All my life I'll never forget that."

Zara, Ieuan and Buffy were placed in a foster home together and imagined even worse reasons why they were there.

"They thought we didn't love or want them any more," sighs Tim.

"Each one thought it was their fault for being naughty."

[... ...]

The case dragged on with Tim and Gina allowed to see their children for two 90-minute supervised sessions each week.

"Each time we sat with the kids, two social workers watched and noted our every word, every move," says Tim. "I felt awkward hugging my own kids, and it was so hard not to cry in front of them when they begged us to take them home."

They couldn't even see them on their birthdays if they fell outside the Tuesday and Friday contact days. But missing two Christmases hurt most.

[...]

Last month, on September 22, it felt as if all Tim and Gina's Christmases had come at once. At Cardiff High Court, American child abuse expert Dr Astrid Heppenstall-Hegar testified, after reexamining her notes, that Buffy showed no signs of sexual abuse. On Tuesday, judge Crispin Masterman cleared Tim and Gina of any wrongdoing and praised their dignity.

He said: "No one who has listened to the evidence in this case could possibly avoid feeling the utmost sympathy for what this family has gone through."

The afternoon of the final hearing, Zara, Ieuan and Buffy bounded back into the home they hadn't seen for two years.



[... ...]

Tim's solicitor, Jessica Good, believes the family's story will set a precedent. She says: "This case shows there is a problem with how sexual abuse is diagnosed in this country.

'This happened to a perfectly ordinary family. It could have happened to any of us.'

[...]

### **(7) Teachers can touch children, says union**

Claire Trevett, NZ Herald, September 26, 2006

The primary teachers' union will tell its members it is all right to touch children to comfort or praise them, in a major shift in its advice about physical contact.

The New Zealand Educational Institute, which represents staff at primary schools, early childcare centres and special education centres, will launch its new guidelines on physical contact at its annual conference in Wellington today. The guidelines encourage "positive and affirming" contact to provide emotional support or to praise a child.

The guidelines are more liberal than the 1998 code, which was introduced following widespread community concern after Peter Ellis was convicted for sexually abusing children at the Christchurch Civic Childcare Centre. The 1998 code warned touching could be misconstrued and placed staff at the risk of assault or indecency allegations. It said staff and teachers should explain to children why a teacher withdrew from them.

In contrast, the new document notes contact is important to build a caring community and says staff who withdraw or are guarded in interacting with students "may not be acting as positive role models". The code says teachers must use common sense, but touching was acceptable when "carried out in a professional and responsible manner that is age appropriate". Examples of appropriate touching included "hugging or placing a supportive arm across a child's shoulders *but only when and where needed*".

The union began revising its guide in 2003 after research by Auckland University professor of education Alison Jones showed the anti-touching policy was causing anxiety for teachers.

NZEI chairwoman Irene Cooper said staff still needed to be mindful that they did not put themselves at risk of allegations, but the new guidelines better reflected the realities of the school community. The old code was a response to the high level of anxiety in the community in the 1990s.

"Thankfully, most of the community have learned some lessons from what happened at that time."

She said it was important for schools and centres to develop specific policies about physical contact, after asking parents from the various cultures at a school what they considered appropriate.

The guidelines say school policies should include ways to protect staff from untrue allegations. They advise enlisting witnesses to any physical contact when possible and for rooms to have high visibility, such as with windows.

Yesterday, Professor Jones welcomed the new guidelines.

"The old code of conduct really turned all teachers into potential paedophiles and just reinforced social anxieties. This does not do that, so I'm delighted at the shift."

School Trustees Association head Chris Haines expected schools to consult on the guidelines and said if parents liked it, schools should go ahead.

"There has always got to be protection for children, but sometimes we have got tied up with some of this PC stuff. "It is unfortunate that there were high-profile cases which saw everyone withdraw from things which can be quite a natural part of teaching."

The guidelines cover all 45,000 members of NZEI, including teachers, principals, support staff and special education workers.

### *Men avoided 'hysteria'*

An early-childhood education advocate says "the paedophile hysteria" of the 1990s is the reason just 1 per cent of early education workers are male. Early Childhood Council chief executive Sue Thorne said the shortage of men working in the sector was a "national disgrace" and New Zealand compared badly with other well-developed countries.

Her comments follow the release of a paper by researcher Sarah Farquhar, who said a 1 per cent male workforce made early childhood education the "pinkest" in New Zealand - compared with nursing which was 6.5 per cent male and flight attendants, 33 per cent of whom are male.

*Men at Work: Sexism in Early Childhood Education* calls for a debate on the need for men in the sector and says initiatives such as publicity campaigns and higher teacher salaries had not attracted men to the sector.

Ms Thorne said men no longer felt welcome in childcare because they feared they would be treated with suspicion. A concerted effort was needed to get more men into the workforce. Tau Henare, National's spokesman on early childhood education, said the best way for boys to develop learning skills was from men.

## 2.10 Britain and US: worst places for children

An UNESCO report places the UK and the US on the lowest places of a list of countries, looking to the well-being of children, and places the Netherlands on the top of the same list.

As we know, UK and US are usually quite proud on their policy of 'protecting' children - against myths, as we saw in the articles here before - and usually have lots of critics on the policy of the Netherlands with its liberal climate, including sexual openness and education. Now, the Netherlands may be proud, and let the UK and the US think twice or more about their policy.

Three articles here below give more details.

### **(1) Britain stung at being worst place for children**

AFP & Turkishpress.com, 14 February 2007

The United Nations children's fund damned Britain and the United States as the worst places for children to live among wealthy nations, in a report which caused widespread soul-searching.

The Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark and Finland topped the 21 industrial powers assessed for the child well-being report.

Britain's youngsters had the worst relationships with their family and peers, suffered more from poverty and indulged in more "binge drinking" and hazardous sex than children in other wealthy nations, said the report.

The United States placed 20 and Britain 21 on the list.  
[... UK government combats the report ...]

Professor Sir Albert Aynsley-Green, Children's Commissioner for England, whose office was set up in 2004, said the British "must not continue to ignore the impact of our attitudes towards children..."

Bob Reitemeier, chief executive of The Children's Society, said that "despite being a rich country, the UK is failing children and young people in a number of crucial ways."

Britain came last in two of the main six areas studied by UNICEF: relationships, especially with their peers; and risky behaviour such as sex, drink and drugs.

The United States ranked second to last in both categories.

#### Britain

- ranked 20 for children's own assessment of their happiness,
- finished at 18 for poverty and inequality,

- landed at 17 for education over the long-term and
- scored 12th for health and safety.

The United States ranked

- 17 for material well-being,
- 12 for educational well-being, and
- 21 for health and safety.
- American youngster's assessment of their well-being was not rated.

[...]

UNICEF said child poverty -- defined as the percentage of children living in homes with equivalent incomes below 50 percent of the national median -- remains above the 15 percent mark in Britain, the United States and Ireland, as well as Spain, Portugal and Italy.

Almost a third of British youngsters aged 11, 13 and 15 reported being drunk on two or more occasions, against just an average of under 15 percent in the majority of OECD countries.

[...]

Britain's opposition Conservative party accused Gordon Brown, the finance minister who is expected to succeed Tony Blair as prime minister this year, of "failing" a generation of children.

[...]

## **(2) British children: poorer, at greater risk and more insecure**

Sarah Boseley, The Guardian, February 14, 2007

Children growing up in the United Kingdom suffer greater deprivation, worse relationships with their parents and are exposed to more risks from alcohol, drugs and unsafe sex than those in any other wealthy country in the world, according to a study from the United Nations.

The UK is bottom of the league of 21 economically advanced countries according to a "report card" put together by Unicef on the well-being of children and adolescents, trailing the United States which comes second to last.

[...]

Al Aynsley Green, the children's commissioner for England, acknowledges that the UN has accurately highlighted the troubled lives of children.

"There is a crisis at the heart of our society and we must not continue to ignore the impact of our attitudes towards children and young people and the effect that this has on their wellbeing," he says in a response today.

"I hope this report will prompt us all to look beyond the statistics and to the underlying causes of our failure to nurture happy and

healthy children in the UK. These children represent the future of our country and from the findings of this report they are in poor health, unable to maintain loving and successful relationships, feel unsafe and insecure, have low aspirations and put themselves at risk.

"It is time to stop demonising children and young people for what goes wrong and start supporting them to make positive choices. To bring an end to the confusing messages we give to young people about their role, responsibility and position in society and ensure that every child feels valued and has their rights respected."

The Unicef team assessed the treatment of children in six different areas - material well-being; health and safety; educational well-being, family and peer relationships, behaviours and risks; and the young people's own perceptions of their well-being.

The Netherlands tops of the league, followed by Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Spain. The bottom five are Portugal, Austria, Hungary, the US and the UK.

Nine countries, all of them in northern Europe, have brought child poverty down below 10%, the report shows. But it remains at 15% in the three southern European countries - Portugal, Spain and Italy - and in the UK, Ireland and the US. Child poverty is a relative measure that shows how far their standard of living has fallen below the national average.

The Unicef report adds:

"The evidence from many countries persistently shows that children who grow up in poverty are more vulnerable: specifically, they are more likely to be in poor health, to have learning and behavioural difficulties, to underachieve at school, to become pregnant at too early an age, to have lower skills and aspirations, to be low paid, unemployed and welfare-dependent."

The Conservatives seized on the report, claiming that it endorsed their attack on the way in which Gordon Brown had addressed the issue of child poverty, and the prime minister had demonised the role of children in his drive against antisocial behaviour.

The shadow chancellor, George Osborne, said:

"This report tells the truth about Brown's Britain. After 10 years of his welfare and education policies, our children today have the lowest well-being in the developed world."

[... government says the report is outdated ...]

Some of the most shocking findings concern the relationships children and adolescents have with their family and peers. The UK is bottom of the 21 countries.

This, says Unicef, "is as difficult to measure as it is critical to well-being".

To attempt to score countries, the experts have focused on children's own reports of how much time their parents spend "just talking" to them, how many say they eat the main meal of the day with their parents more than once a week and the percentages of 11, 13 and 15-year-olds who find their peers "kind and helpful". UK parents do reasonably well on "talking regularly" - 60% of children say they chat, putting Britain 12th in the league table. But while a similar proportion say they eat together more than once a week, the UK lags towards the bottom of the league, with Italy, Iceland and France at the very top end.

The report presents a sad picture of relationships with friends, which are so important to children. Not much more than 40% of the UK's 11, 13 and 15-year-olds find their peers "kind and helpful", which is the worst score of all the developed countries.

The UK takes bottom place "by a considerable distance" for the number of young people who smoke, abuse drink and drugs, engage in risky sex and become pregnant at too early an age. For 16 out of 17 OECD countries with the data, between 15% and 28% of young people have had sex by the age of 15. For the UK, the figure is 40%.

On education, the UK comes 17th out of 21. At the age of 15, British children score relatively well on reading, mathematical and scientific literacy. But more than 30% of 15- to 19-year-olds are not in education or training and are not looking beyond low-skilled work.

### **(3) Britain's children are unhappiest in the Western world**

Alexandra Blair, timesonline.com, February 14, 2007

Britain's children are the unhappiest in the West, according to a Unicef study of 21 industrialised countries.

Not only do they drink the most, smoke more and have more sex than their peers, they rate their health as the poorest, dislike school more and are among the least satisfied with life. Their relative poverty, the lack of time spent eating meals with their parents and mistrust of classmates mean that Britain languishes at the bottom of the well-being league table. As a result, says Jonathan Bradshaw, one of the authors of Report Card 7: an Overview of Child Well-being in Rich Countries, Britain is a "picture of neglect".

The report, which is the first of its kind by the international children's organisation, was designed to show how countries compare internationally, rather than to explain the differences. But Professor Bradshaw, a leading authority on child poverty, believes that it is also in part a reflection of past failings.

"Between 1979 and 1999, children were relatively neglected in Britain, child poverty rates rose rapidly, those living in workless households soared and the numbers not in education or training also rose," he said. "Since then, there's been a big increase in spending on health and childcare, which is making a difference, but we're having to reverse two decades of neglect."

Among the most worrying findings, he said, was British children's own perception that they were among the worst-off. Asked to rate their health, almost a quarter of teenagers said that it was fair or poor, the worst in the countries belonging to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. In addition, those aged 11 to 15 fell into the bottom six countries for enjoying school life and feeling satisfied with their lot.

The reason for this, according to Professor Bradshaw, lies in inequality. "The more unequal a society, the relatively deprived people will feel, and child poverty is still double the rate it was in 1979," he said.

Forty indicators of child well-being - including relative poverty, child safety, educational achievement, relationships with parents and drug misuse - are brought together in the Unicef study's overview to present a picture of the lives of children. Northern European countries dominate the top half of the table, with child wellbeing at its highest in the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark and Finland. Britain and the US find themselves in the bottom of most rankings.

The report shows that there is no strong relationship between per capita GDP and child well-being. The Czech Republic, for example, achieves a higher overall rank for child well-being than several more wealthy European countries.

Professor Bradshaw said that Britain could learn lessons, particularly in lowering teenage pregnancy rates. He cited the Netherlands, where sex education in schools is more open.

Children's charities described the report as a wake-up call. Professor Sir Albert Aynsley-Green, the Children's Commissioner for England, said he hoped that it would prompt Britain to look at the underlying causes of a failure to nurture happy, healthy children.

In 2004-05, the Government missed its target to reduce child poverty by a quarter from its 1998-99 levels. The aim is to halve child poverty figures by 2010 and abolish it by 2020.

A spokeswoman for the Department for Education and Skills said:

"There are now 700,000 fewer children living in relative poverty than in 1998-99, and we have halved the number of children living in absolute poverty."

## 2.11 In memoriam: Vern Bullough

### Quotes from

#### **Vern Bullough, our greatest Sexologist, dies at 77**

Percy, William A., *The Gay & Lesbian Review Worldwide*, 1 November 2006

The GLBT community has lost its most effective advocate from outside the gay world. Sexologist, activist, nurse, and historian, Vern Bullough died from cancer on June 21st at 77.

[...]

Born a Mormon in Salt Lake City in 1928, Vern renounced that religion while a teenager. He received an introduction to homosexuality and its study through his wife Bonnie. Her mother, living in Las Vegas, had come out in the 1940's as a lesbian and entered into a lifelong relationship with Berry Berryman. This couple introduced Vern and Bonnie to a side of life heretofore closed off to them.

By the time they reached college, they were already publishing works about homosexuality. Vern eventually wrote, co-authored, edited, or co-edited almost sixty books, some with Bonnie, who was primarily a nurse, though she later gained a doctorate in sociology. To bring himself up to par about medicine, Vern picked up a degree in nursing from California State University in 1980, and the two wrote prolifically together on nursing as well as sexology.

But this was many years after he'd gotten his BA from the University of Utah, in 1951, followed by a doctorate in the history of medieval medicine and science from Chicago just three years later.

Vern moved to Los Angeles in 1959 to begin teaching at California State University at Northridge, where he remained until 1980. He became a board member of the ACLU's Southern California chapter -- on the condition that the trend-setting chapter, the oldest in the nation, would acknowledge homosexuality as a civil liberties issue.

[...]

As Vern himself recognized, his most important book was *Sexual Variance in Society and History* (1976)

[...],

a most diligently researched and enduring work. Vern classified societies as sex-positive, neutral, or sex-negative, and basically showed that most homophobia stemmed from Leviticus, the Sodom story, and the Pauline epistles, and that Jewish, Christian, and Moslem societies were far more likely to condemn and persecute sexual minorities than were other societies.

Vern's work included major studies of prostitution, contraception, and all the "trans" people [...].

He edited a sex series for Prometheus Press that facilitated translations of Karl Ulrichs and Magnus Hirschfeld into English. But beyond all this, Vern fought for better recognition of homosexuals in history books and



maintained that pederasty, or intergenerational sex, was historically common.

He always supported the work of Bruce Rind, even when Rind and the American Psychological Association were unanimously condemned by both houses of Congress for publishing Rind's skilful synthesis of all previous studies of the effects of intergenerational sex. Like Harry Hay, Vern never denounced NAMBLA.

[...]

Unlike his flamboyant role models Alfred Kinsey and Hirschfeld, Vern was modest and retiring. His writing and speaking styles were as unsparkling as his wardrobe.

[...]

But behind the bland exterior was a genius: brilliant, indefatigable, generous, loyal, and inspiring. Accused of pedophilia because he served on the editorial board of *Paidika*, he was undeterred in supporting research into all variations of sexual behavior. A driven researcher like Hirschfeld and Kinsey -- and subjected to similar threats -- Vern remained surefooted and unflappable. Like them, but with degrees in history and nursing, he neglected no avenue of understanding, from the sciences and the humanities, to the fine arts, genetics, medicine, sociology, and psychology. Unlike them, he never collected much raw data himself, but he understood statistics and knew how to analyze and interpret such surveys.

Vern's learnedness and high professional standing, combined with his non-judgemental outlook, over the years established a vital link between the gay and straight communities. Facts are facts, and science is science, and no amount of wishing them away, no amount of pressure or calumny, ever deflected Vern from his mission--to learn the truth and communicate it to others.

[...]

## **2.12 Questioning Power Hierarchies**

### **Michael Davidson and Literary Pederasty in Italy**

Sergio Rigoletto, PhD, 17 June 2005,  
One Day Conference on 'Gender', University of Sussex - Abstract

This paper offers an overview of the complex power dynamics at play in homo-erotic desire and encounter within a long tradition of literary pederasty in the Mediterranean.

Through an analysis of Michael Davidson's memoirs, *The World, the Flesh and Myself* (1962) and *Some Boys* (1970), this paper examines Davidson's relationship with some Italian adolescents during his long stay in Southern Italy and the inevitable resulting power hierarchies binding a wealthy middle-aged writer and a number of underprivileged Italian boys.

Contemporary discourses of power difference, gender and sexuality are particularly problematic when dealing with age difference and masculinity. Culturally dominant interpretations of gender relationships between an older and a younger subject generally seem to work through binaries: the former is seen as the dominant and the seducer, while the latter as the subordinate, desired object.

By making use of the recent critical contributions focusing on power, gender and age difference by Sedgwick, Dollimore and Segal, my aim is to see whether positions of dominance within hierarchies may be contested and re-interpreted.

I will explore gender spaces in which power does not necessarily correspond to abuse and see how conditions of subordination and authority may lose their essential static opposition along a heterogeneous spectrum of male performances.

My main purpose is not to undo the relations of power, control and dominance, but to reshape unilateral ways of perceiving power hierarchies in gender relations. Ultimately, I want to show that even the most unbalanced structures of power can reveal significant contradictions and counter-movements.

## **"It is your body"**

### **Gee, what do I tell him? Poor lad**

Silent Sufferer, 2007-February-11

The subject came up about "inappropriate touching". Tommy raised some interesting observations. He's quite astute for his age and very intelligent. He's always thinking for himself.

We discussed this "touching" in detail after he had a lesson in school about good touch/bad touch. The teacher said that no one has the right to touch his body. It nearly made him cry.

Tommy was utterly confused, and rightfully so. How your body could be yours, but controlled by someone else is a pretty scary concept. The conversation went as follows: I pieced it together from what Tommy told me in a roundabout way. I warn you though, it's not very logical.

Teacher: (assertive)...it's your body and no one has the right to touch you in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable.

Tommy: But what if someone touches me (down there) in a good way?

Teacher: No. It's wrong. You should tell someone right away!

Tommy: but it's my body, isn't it?

Teacher: Yes, it's your body. That's why no one has the right to touch it.

Tommy: (confused) But if it's my body, why I can't I say who can touch it?

Teacher: (frustrated) because your body is yours.

Tommy: No it's not. It's yours.

Teacher: what do you mean? (Cocks head to one side)

Tommy: how can my body belong to me if I can't choose? If it's MY body why can't I say who can touch it and who can't? What if I wanted a girl to kiss me? You mean she can't even if I want her too?

Teacher: (like a broken record) because your body belongs to you and no one else. You can kiss girls when you get older. If an adult tries to touch you should run and tell someone right way.

Tommy: (at this point he was so confused he began to cry and ran out of the classroom.)

He told me all about it. Now he wants me to explain it to him, but I don't know what to say?

How can I tell him that even though it's his body, he doesn't own it yet? What a terrible reality he has to face. It must be devastating for him.

## **The Garden of Love**

### **The Garden of Love**

William Blake (1757-1827)  
From: Songs of Experience

I went to the Garden of Love,  
And saw what I never had seen:  
A Chapel was built in the midst  
Where I used to play on the green.

And the gates of this Chapel were  
shut,  
And "Thou shalt not" writ over the  
door;  
So I turned to the Garden of Love,  
That so many sweet flowers bore;

And I saw it was filled with graves,  
And tombstones where flowers  
should be;  
And Priests in black gowns were  
walking their rounds,  
And binding with briars my joys  
and desires.

### **The Garden of Love**

Version 2006 - After William Blake  
By Gerald Moonen

I went to the Garden of Love,  
And saw what I never had seen:  
A Prison was built in the midst  
Where I used to play on the green.

And the gates of this Prison were  
shut,  
And "Thou shalt not" writ over the  
door;  
So I turned to the Garden of Love,  
That so many sweet flowers bore;

And I saw it was filled with graves,  
And tombstones where flowers  
should be;  
And Lawyers in black gowns were  
walking their rounds,  
And binding with briars my joys  
and desires.

## **The Wasp**

### **An Allegory of Registered Sex Offenders in the U.S.**

Terry Brown, The American Chronicle, April 25, 2007

I just came in from cleaning the pool. While I was doing so a wasp flew around looking for a drink. He was minding his own business just going about his daily activities trying to survive and not bothering anyone.

Immediately I became irritated by his mere presence. Unknowingly, he carried on his back a reputation created by those few wasps of the millions in our airways who have stung a fellow human. Immediately, instinctively I wanted to stop him before he had the opportunity to inflict that same pain upon me. In my mind his mere presence represented a threat to me.

I used the long reach of my skimmer pole to cast a net over him and force him below the water. As I held him there, basking in the glory of my ability to control my own destiny by ridding the world of one more threat, I noticed several of his brethren flying around also seeking a cool and refreshing beverage. After several minutes I decided he must be dead, and even if he wasn't it was sort of pointless as there were simply too many of them to kill them all. I pulled the skimmer up and laid it on the deck of the pool in its usual spot.

I then laid on my chaise lounge to soak up some rays and enjoy the relaxation of the music. I didn't give that insignificant wasp a second thought.

Just when I started to doze into unconsciousness I felt a sharp pain on my foot and looked down to find a dripping wet wasp walking around with his wings raised as if in a fighting posture. This wasp had just stung me! I said to myself, "hmmm, guess I asked for that."

## **I'm 14, I'm gay & I want a boyfriend**

Fourteen year old Lee tells Peter Tatchell about first sex, boyfriends, coming out, paedophilia, and why an age of consent of 16 won't help under-age gays like him.\

Lee is 14. He's been having sex with boys since the age of eight, and with men since he was 12. Lee has a serious problem. He wants a steady relationship and has been going out recently with a guy in his mid-twenties, who he met at the hairdressers. But in the eyes of the law, Lee's partner is ' a paedophile' and Lee is ' a victim of child abuse'. That's not, however, the way Lee sees it:

"I want to have a boyfriend. It's my choice. No one's abusing me. Why should we be treated like criminals?"

I am sitting in the kitchen of a friend's house talking with Lee. Wearing a white T-shirt and combat trousers, his sophisticated gay image makes him look older than 14. He comes across as bright, articulate, sure of himself, and mature beyond his years. It's hard to imagine anyone getting away with taking advantage of him.

We are discussing the new Sex Offenders Act. Lee is concerned. Under this legislation, which comes into effect next month, men over 19 who have consensual sex with guys under 18 are classified as dangerous sex criminals, on a par with the abusers of young children. After serving their sentence, they will be required to register their address with the police for a minimum of five years, and may have their identity revealed to the public.

This is a live issue for Lee because he prefers relationships with older guys.

"I don't get on with people my own age", says Lee. "They're too immature. I like men in their 20s or early 30s. They are more experienced and serious. With them, you can get into a closer relationship than with a teenager".

The age of consent laws don't make it easy for Lee to have a stable gay relationship.

"Some men run a mile when they discover how old I am", he moans. "They're worried about getting done by the law".

Even without the Sex Offenders Act, any man who has sex with Lee could face a maximum sentence of 10 years for kissing, touching, sucking or wanking, and life imprisonment for anal sex. The top penalty for the offence of "unlawful sexual intercourse" with a 14 year old *girl* is, in contrast, two years!

Having a relationship with someone his own age would, paradoxically, put Lee in greater legal danger than sex with an older person. The law says that a homosexual act with a male under 16 is a serious crime, even if the person committing the act is himself below the age of 16. So, by having anal sex with another 14 year old boy, Lee would be guilty of a major offence which can, at least in theory, be punished by jail for life.

"The law is stupid", according to Lee. "If I know what I'm doing and I'm not harming anyone else, I should be allowed to have sex with who I want".

Lee is just one of a growing number of lesbians and gays who are coming out at an ever earlier age ... twelve, thirteen and fourteen is not

uncommon nowadays. Research published by Project Sigma in 1993 shows that

- ✳9 percent of gay men had their first homosexual experience by the age of 10,
- ✳19 percent by the age of 12, and
- ✳35 per cent by the age of 14.

Yet most gay campaign groups seem only interested in the human rights of the over-16s.

"There's nothing much for young gays like me", says Lee. "Nobody cares about our rights".

Lee first realised he was gay at the age of eight. Well, he didn't call himself gay. He just had sex with boys or, to begin with, one particular boy.

"My first gay sex was with a friend from school called John. I was eight and half. He was the same age. We used to go swimming together. It all started at the local swimming pool. One day we were in the cubicles getting changed and somehow we started kissing. Then we had oral sex".

How did you know what to do?

"Oh, I saw it on TV", quips Lee. You did? "They were talking about men having oral sex, so that's where I got the idea from".

Weren't you nervous about being caught?

"No. It just happened. I didn't think it might be wrong or that we could get into trouble".

How did you feel about your first gay experience? Lee beams with evident fond memories and confides:

"I liked it a lot. It was great. But I did think sex with a boy was sort of strange. Until that time with John, I didn't have much idea about sex. It was mostly from the papers and television. I thought that men only had sex with women. For a while it left me feeling a bit weird and confused".

He pauses for a moment, then adds emphatically:

"I soon a got over it".

Lee continued having regular sex with John for two years.

"We were boyfriends", he boasts proudly. "I don't have any regrets at all".

The relationship with John did not, however, stop Lee from experimenting with heterosexuality.

"I had sex with John's twin sister. He found out and got very angry. He stormed out. For a while we weren't speaking. We made up afterwards".

Did you enjoy straight sex?

"Yeah", says Lee, "but sex with John was better".

So when did Lee start thinking of himself as being gay?

"It was a few months later, after I turned nine. I was watching a TV debate about gays. It made me realise that I was gay, and that it wasn't wrong. Since then, I've never had a problem about my sexuality".

Lee's next big love affair happened when he was ten.

"It was with a black kid who lived on my road, Michael. He was the same age. My friends introduced him. One day, we were in his bedroom playing on his computer and we started messing around. It ended up with sex. Other times, we had a game called 'kick the cancan', which involved kicking a can around. The can would often end up in the bushes, and we'd run there to look for it. Sometimes Michael and me would have sex there".

Around this time, Lee first came out to his mom.

"She was good about it. Her first reaction was that I was a bit too young to be gay. She told me to leave it a couple of years. Then, if I still wanted to be gay, she said she'd accept it. I left it a few weeks, before telling her again. She realised I was serious, and respected my feelings and wishes. Ever since, she's been really understanding".

At the age of 11, Lee had a relationship with a 14 year old named Andrew.

"Because of family difficulties, I ended up in a children's home. They sent me to an education centre. That's where I met Andrew. We used to hang around together and became really close friends. After a while he told me that he was on the rent scene. I asked him if he wanted a boyfriend and he said yeah. So we started going out with each other. That was when I first had anal sex and learned about condoms. Andrew pulled out a packet and went on about stopping

HIV and AIDS. I shagged him and he shagged me. It bought tears to my eyes. It was painful, but I liked it as well. I enjoyed it more than sex with a girl. I got more of a sexual sensation".

For about 18 months, Lee joined Andrew doing sex for money, picking up men in the local gardens and bus station.

"It was mostly me just wanking them off. I stopped about a year and half ago. When I was doing it, I felt sick. I didn't enjoy it. I was only doing it for the money to buy drugs - mostly speed, acid and cannabis. I also had a few bad experiences with punters. Once Andrew and I were tied up and raped".

In the children's home, Lee got taunted and bullied for being gay.

"They called me queer and it ended up in fights. The staff didn't do anything to protect me, so I started running away".

Lee is clearly very angry that no one took action to stop the bullying:

"When I was being beaten up, the authorities did nothing. Now I'm gay and want to have sex, they're suddenly very concerned about my welfare".

When you ran away from the children's home, where did you go?

"I used to stay with this paedophile that I met in the gardens. He was okay. There was no pressure for me to have sex, but I did. I had sex with him because I wanted to feel loved and respected".

What do you think of that man now?

"Well, he didn't beat me up or hurt me like was happening in the children's home".

And what do you think about paedophiles in general?

"It depends on what kind of paedophiles", says Lee. "Those who have sex with little kids should be strung up by the bollocks. The paedophiles I knew always asked me if I wanted sex. They didn't pressure me. If you consent to having sex with a paedophile, it's fine. If you don't, it's not".

How can a young child understand sex and give meaningful consent? Lee admits:

"The really young ones can't. But I was 12 when I first had sex with an adult man. I knew what was happening. The other boys I know who had sex with men were in their early teens. They understood what they were doing".



Perhaps your friends were particularly mature for their age. Most young people are not so sophisticated about sex.

"They shouldn't have sex then", according to Lee. "And other people shouldn't take advantage of them. No one should be having sex with a child who is very young or who has emotional and mental problems. You could have a relationship with them, but not sex - not until they are old enough to understand the responsibilities involved".

Many people worry that the power imbalance in a relationship between a youth and an adult means the younger person can be easily manipulated and exploited. It's a concern that Lee acknowledges:

"Yeah, that can happen. It's wrong. But that doesn't mean that every kid who has sex with a man is being abused".

At what age do you think people should to be allowed, by law, to have sex?

"Sixteen is too high", says Lee. "Most kids I know had sex long before then. It's stupid for the law to brand us as criminals".

Do you worry about being arrested for under-age sex?

"Sometimes. I mostly worry for the older guys that I'm having sex with. They could get life imprisonment and be denounced as a paedophile. They might end up on the sex offenders register. It could ruin their life".

What do you think the age of consent should be?

"About 14".

Why?

"That's the age a lot of young people start having sex. If they are not forcing or hurting other kids they shouldn't have the threat of a policeman knocking on their door. The current of age of 16 (or 18 for gays) means that those who are younger don't get proper sex education. My sex education at school was useless. The law makes it difficult for teachers to give out stuff about contraception, safer sex and AIDS. If the age was lower, the facts about sex could be taught sooner. It's stupid giving kids this information after they've started sex. That's too late. They need to know the facts about sex from around the age of 10".

I point out to Lee that an age of consent of 14 would not have been much help to him, since he was having sex from the age of eight. Even with

consent at 14, most of his past sexual relationships would have remained illegal.

"Young people under 14 should be allowed to have sex with someone up to a year or so older", he suggests. "That way they've got freedom, and are protected against exploitation by older men".

Even with a permitted one year age differential, Lee's affair with Andrew, who was three years older, would not have been legal. Something a bit more flexible is required.

The idea of a sliding-scale age of consent is something that OutRage! is promoting. In addition to supporting an age of consent of 14 for everyone (gay and straight), OutRage! argues that sex involving young people under 14 should not be prosecuted providing both partners consent and there is no more than three years difference in their ages.

When I put this idea to Lee, he nods with approval:

"Some young people mature earlier than others. They should be able to have a relationship with someone a bit older. Society should accept that kids have sexual feelings".

This is the nub of the problem. Our current legal system refuses to acknowledge that young people have a sexuality. The law says a person under 16 is incapable of giving their consent to a sexual act. Any sex with such a person is automatically deemed "indecent assault". Lee thinks that is "ridiculous":

"I'm only 14 but I know what I'm doing. I understand what consent involves. So does the person I'm having sex with. No one is indecently assaulting me. That's a stupid suggestion. The law should stop treating young people like idiots."

Many people fear that making sex easier for under-age teenagers will expose them to dangers like HIV. Isn't that a legitimate worry?

"I know about safer sex", protests Lee. "I didn't get that information from school. It came from TV and boyfriends. Some of them had HIV and died. I'm okay because we did safer sex. People say that older guys will take advantage of teenagers like me, but my partners made sure we took precautions - even the paedophiles. If people want to protect kids against AIDS, they should support better sex education lessons, starting in primary school. Education is the best prevention. But it isn't happening in most schools. Why doesn't someone make a fuss about that?"

Lee thinks it's time the law-makers listened to young people:

"They are always trying to tell us how to live our lives. Why don't they treat us with respect? We've got opinions. We deserve to be heard. When a kid gets sexually abused, the social workers listen to what he says and back up his complaint. But when a kid wants to have a gay relationship, his wishes get ignored. That's what is happening to me.

I'm under a care order which states that my feelings have to be taken into account. But society won't accept my feelings. It says I'm forbidden to have sex with a man until I'm 18. A perfect relationship is what I want. It would make me very happy. So why is the law trying to stop me?"

\* All names have been changed to protect the identities of the boys involved.

Peter Tatchell is the author of the gay sex education manual, "Safer Sex - The Guide To Gay Sex Safely" (Freedom Editions, 1994).

15 August 1997

Documentation List # E 22a: January 2007

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

### **This list has a theme: Laws**

All items are about laws, court trials, and so on.

06-030 @ 2 kb	STEVEN K. PAULSON, Colorado to ban child marriages; The Associated Press, July 19, 2006 Gov. Bill Owens signed a measure banning child brides, ending an uproar sparked by a court ruling that said 12-year-old girls could enter common-law marriages in Colorado.
06-031 @ 9 kb	Sarah Prohaska, Appeal questions whether words alone equal child abuse; Palm Beach Post, July 22, 2006 This father didn't use his fists to abuse his child, prosecutors and Walsh told jurors. He used words and emotional manipulation.
06-032 @ 9 kb	Hannah Sentenac, More States Move to Use GPS Tracking of Sex Offenders; Foxnews, May 31, 2006 Many states are initiating programs that track registered sex offenders using Global Positioning Satellites, or GPS, sometimes for life.

	GPS can track the exact location of the offenders at all times, making it easier for law enforcement to ensure that they're abiding with the terms of their release.
06-033 @ 4 kb	Judge backs off ban blocking Georgia sex offender law; The Associated Press July 27, 2006 A federal judge refused to extend a temporary order blocking the state of Georgia from banning sex offenders from living near school bus stops, a decision he conceded would result in more "confusion" for the state's 11,000 sex offenders.
06-034 @ 7 kb	Declan McCullagh, Police Blotter: Laptop border searches OK'd, news.com, July 26 2006 Three-judge panel unanimously says that border police may conduct random searches of laptops without search warrants or probable cause. These searches can include seizing the laptop and subjecting it to extensive forensic analysis.
06-035 @ 4 kb	Marshall Kirkpatrick, US House: Schools must block MySpace, many other sites; techcrunch.com, July 27, 2006 US House Resolution 5319, the Deleting Online Predators Act (DOPA), was passed by a 410 to 15 vote tonight. If the Resolution becomes law social networking sites and chat rooms must be blocked by schools and libraries or those institutions will lose their federal internet subsidies.
06-036 @ 5 kb	JONATHAN BANDLER, Appeals court throws out Westchester sex-sting conviction; THE JOURNAL NEWS, July 28, 2006) The unanimous ruling by the four judges [...] determined that words alone -- however sexually explicit -- do not meet the legal standard to support a conviction for attempted disseminating indecent material to minors.
06-037 @ 4 kb	SEANNA ADCOX, Homeless sex offenders may stay in prison; Associated Press, July 26, 2006 Sex offenders who can't find a home won't be released, and those that find themselves homeless after leaving prison must go back.
06-038 @ 5 kb	GREG BLUESTEIN, School districts now face tough decision over sex offender law; Associated Press, July 26, 2006 Thanks to a surprising federal court ruling, Georgia's 181 school districts must now decide whether to formally designate local school bus stops, enabling police to enforce a new law that restricts registered sex offenders from living within 1,000 feet of the stops.
06-039 @ 4 kb	Geoffrey Fattah, Two say photos of girls weren't porn; Their attorneys argue children 'fully clothed'; Deseret Morning News, August 03, 2006 Court have ruled that photos do not have to necessarily be nude in order to be considered "lascivious." The 10th Circuit Court of

	<p>Appeals has defined "lascivious" as "tending to excite lust; lewd; indecent; obscene; sexual impurity; tending to deprave the morals in respect to sexual relations." Case law has established a list of six standards by which courts can determine if a photo is in appropriate.</p>
06-040 @ 5 kb	<p>Tom Espiner, Government to force handover of encryption keys; ZDNet UK, May 18, 2006</p> <p>The UK Government is preparing to give the police the authority to force organisations and individuals to disclose encryption keys [...]. Anyone who refuses to hand over a key to the police would face up to two years' imprisonment.</p>
06-041 @ 5 kb	<p>Police decryption powers 'flawed'; BBC, UK, 15 August 2006</p> <p>The government faces criticism over plans to give police powers to make suspects produce readable copies of encrypted computer evidence. The police say the powers are needed because criminals are increasingly using encryption to hide evidence.</p>
06-042 @ 3 kb	<p>Ex-Priest Seeks To Withdraw Guilty Plea In Child Porn Case; wnbc.com/news, August 23, 2006</p> <p>The Appellate Division, 2nd Department ruled that because the lawyer's Internet communications with someone he believed to be a minor contained no visual "sexual images," the indictment must be dismissed.</p>
06-043 @ 3 kb	<p>SEX OFFENDERS; Plan gains to publicly identify accused; Ohio panel backs registry proposal; BLADE COLUMBUS, August 29, 2006</p> <p>An Ohio legislative panel yesterday rubber-stamped an unprecedented process that would allow sex offenders to be publicly identified and tracked even if they've never been charged with a crime.</p>
06-044 @ 3 kb	<p>New law requires mark on sex offender IDs; Decatur Daily, 2 September 2006</p> <p>A new [Alabama] state law took effect Friday that requires all convicted adult sex offenders to have a special mark placed on their state driver licenses or non-driver identification cards. The mark will be visible to anyone who checks a person's identification -- from police officers to grocery store cashiers to clerks at video stores.</p>
06-045 @ 3 kb	<p>BRENDAN RILEY, Nevada court rejects Internet predator charge; ASSOCIATED PRESS, September 14, 2006</p> <p>A state law targeting Internet predators was upheld Thursday by the Nevada Supreme Court - but justices dismissed an indictment against a Reno man accused of violating the law by meeting with an undercover officer posing as a 14-year-old.</p>

06-046 @ 8 kb	SCOTT GUTIERREZ, If there's a sex offender student, schools will know; Law requires principals, but not parents, to be notified; Seattle PI, September 18, 2006 Including: Other sex offender laws going into effect.
06-047 @ 6 kb	Jenifer Warren, Laws Tighten Rules for Sex Offenders; LA Times, September 21, 2006 The governor [of California] signs bills that extend prison time and bar loitering near parks and schools. A ballot initiative offers additional provisions. Calling public safety government's most important job, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Wednesday signed a package of bills increasing prison terms for many sex offenders and barring them from loitering near schools and parks once they are released.
06-048 @ 2 kb	Jon Murray, Sex offender parks ban overturned; Indy Star, October 5, 2006 A federal judge today barred Indianapolis from enforcing an ordinance that bans child molesters from going within 1,000 feet of parks, playgrounds and public places where children gather.
06-049 @ 3 kb	Editorial: Prop. 83 costs outweigh value; Existing laws protect children; Venture County Star, October 8, 2006 - Editorial against proposition 83 (housing law)
06-050 @ 5 kb	Shawntaye Hopkins, Sex offender evictions begin; Law limiting where they can live upheld; Oct. 11, 2006 Fayette County sheriff's deputies went out at midnight to lay down the law. Even before the ruling was announced, authorities in Fayette County said they would start enforcing the law and possibly evicting or arresting sex offenders at 12:01 a.m. today.
06-051 @ 3 kb	Dean Pritchard, Sex trial nixed; Girl refuses to testify; Wninnipeg Sun, October 18, 2006 The name of a Winnipeg-area man accused of sexually abusing his pre-teen granddaughter may still be added to the provincial child abuse registry, even though the Crown was forced to drop charges against him yesterday [... because ...] the 14-year-old victim refused to testify. [...] In the absence of a court finding of guilt, a person's name can be added to the registry if a family court finds a child to be in need of protection due to abuse, or if CFS reviews the case and concludes the person has abused a child.
06-052 @ 2 kb	Judge Clears Pizza Ranch Founder of Sexual Abuse Convictions, AP, October 20, 2006 In a court ruling filed this week, a judge cleared Lawrence Vander Esch of wrongdoing after a state Supreme Court decision redefined the parameters for sexual abuse. The judge's ruling also lifted requirements that Vander Esch register as a sex offender. [...] A month before his release, the Iowa Supreme Court ruled in a separate case that sexual abuse does not occur if a defendant

	deceives a victim to get consent to perform a sex act. The ruling was applied retroactively to Vander Esch.
06-053 @ 14 kb	Stephen V. Treglia, Online Predators; New York Law Journal Online, 09-19-2006 Article about the word "depict" in the law prohibiting to communicate with sexually explicit data by computer to a minor. A court has decided that 'depict' does refer to pictures, not to words only. This has consequences for the implication of the law.
06-054 @ 7 kb	Adrienne Packer, Nevada case may affect inmates nationwide; Las Vegas Review-Journal, Oct. 22, 2006 Juridical article about cases in which a witness has not testified in the court room.
06-055 @ 8 kb	John Coté, New sex predator law facing legal tests; The Chronicle, October 22, 2006 Attorneys for two Bay Area sex offenders are poised to test the constitutionality of a new state law that allows convicts designated as sexually violent predators to be held indefinitely in mental hospitals after they have completed their prison terms.
06-056 @ 5 kb	Marcus McCann, Canadian age of consent bill heads to committee; Davies & Siksay demand youth be consulted; Xtra.ca, November 03, 2006 A bill to raise the age of consent to 16 quietly passed second reading in Parliament Oct 16, but without the unanimous consent that the Harper Conservatives had hoped for.
06-057 @ 2 kb	Will Oremus, Lewd comments land man in jail; Five months plus sex offender treatment for Half Moon Bay man; San Mateo Daily News, 4 November 2006 Steven Suvaco may not have touched a 13-year-old girl he approached at a bus stop in Half Moon Bay on March 10, but his actions will still land him five months in jail and a spot on the sex offender registry.
06-058 @ 4 kb	Sean O'Sullivan, Man's scarlet letter: 'I am a registered sex offender'; The News Journal, November 3, 2006 Judge orders wearing of T-shirt for man who exposed himself repeatedly to 10-year-old girl.
06-059 @ 2 kb	Boy denies sex abuse, but court disagrees; Reuters, November 10, 2006 Phnom Penh - A Cambodian court sentenced a Belgian to 18 years in jail on Friday for sexual abuse of a 14-year-old boy, who denied anything had happened. [... The boy] said he regarded the Belgian as his stepfather. "He never sexually abused me," he told the court.
06-060 @ 4 kb	Bill Kaczor, Supreme Court upholds internet child-sex laws, AP 11/16/2006 Two [Florida] state laws designed to crack down on sexual predators who use the Internet to prey on children do not violate

	constitutional rights of free speech and interstate commerce, the Florida Supreme Court ruled Thursday. The justices unanimously upheld statutes that make it a crime to use online services to lure or entice a child and transmit material harmful to a minor.
06-061 @ 4 kb	Nicholas Confessore, N.Y. Court Opposes Order on Sex Offenders; NYTimes, November 21, 2006 New York State's highest court ruled today that the state cannot use mental hygiene laws to confine sex offenders in psychiatric hospitals after their prison terms end.
06-062 @ 4 kb	The loopholes with sex-offender pleas; stamfordadvocate.com; editorial; December 4, 2006 Juridical article about cases in which prosecutor and court accept pleas: "In too many cases involving alleged sex offenders, prosecutors and judges unsure of conviction settle for guilty pleas to reduced charges. That ensures a guilty verdict, but it can let the accused skirt the requirement to register as a sex offender and, perhaps worse, forgo counseling."
06-063 @ 2 kb	Brandon Bain, E-mail bill to track sex offenders; Newsday.com, December 07, 2006 Senators Charles Schumer and John McCain announced [...]they will introduce legislation next year that would force sex offenders to register their e-mail addresses with authorities, which the lawmakers say will aid in tracking offenders on social networking sites like MySpace.com.
06-064 @ 8 kb	Mobile home court evicts sex offenders; Questions still remain about where offenders can live; Sioux City Journal, December 05, 2006 Even though laws have been passed regulating how close registered sex offenders can live to schools and day-care centers, how close they should be allowed to live to children's homes remains a contentious battleground. [...] "I knew what I was doing at the time, but I wasn't thinking about what my victims felt ... A person can grow empathy, recovery can be made. I believe that if we have a decent heart in us and we are trying to be a good person, there will be no reoffense." Now, he said, he just wants to be able to live somewhere where he can keep to himself and work on putting his life back together. Being evicted didn't exactly help.
06-065 @ 2 kb	Esteban Parra, Elsmere man who killed alleged molester gets 9-month sentence; The News Journal, January 5, 2007 An Elsmere man, who fatally beat a senior citizen he believed molested his 5-year-old daughter, was sentenced this morning to 9 months in prison. [...] "The circumstances surrounding this crime were taken into consideration by the state"

**Documentation List # E 22b: June 2007**



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

07-001 @ 83 kb	Criminal recidivism in Alaska; Alaska Judicial Council; January 2007
07-002 @ 90 kb	A Profile of Civil Commitment in the Country (USA)
07-003 @ 3 kb	It's happened! To be accused is to be guilty. We've been saying it for years - to be accused of a <i>crimen exceptum</i> is to be guilty. Forget due process, innocence and malicious allegations. Once accused, that's it - you are an accused person. Now Ohio has made it law.
07-004 @ 64 kb	ACLU Letter to the House of Representatives Asking Members to Oppose H.R. 4472, the Children's Safety and Violent Crime Reduction Act of 2005 (3/7/2006) - Congress Should Not Expand The Federal Death Penalty Until It Ensures Innocent People Are Not On Death Row.
07-005 @ external links to these docs.	Australian Documents: a set of PDF documents outlining the concerns of government of Australia over the past decade or so, focusing primarily on these issues of child abuse and child welfare. They can be downloaded from:< <a href="http://58.167.216.132/documents">http://58.167.216.132/documents</a> >. The proceedings of the <i>Australian Institute of Criminology National Conference on Paedophilia</i> are sadly not available as a single downloadable file, but the can be accessed individually at: < <a href="http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/paedophilia/index.html">http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/paedophilia/index.html</a> >.
07-006 @ 30 kb	Children's Safety and Violent Crime Reduction Act of 2006. summary is provided by the Congressional Research Service.
07-007 @ 4 kb	US House: Schools must block MySpace, many other sites; Marshall Kirkpatrick, July 27 2006 US House Resolution 5319, the Deleting Online Predators Act (DOPA), was passed by a 410 to 15 vote tonight. If the Resolution becomes law social networking sites and chat rooms must be blocked by schools and libraries or those institutions will lose their federal internet subsidies.
07-008 @ 50 kb	Paedophilia: The Public Health Problem of the Decade; BILL GLASER; January 2007
07-009 @	Ten Years in Prison for 17-Year-Old Who Had Consensual Oral Sex with 15-Year-Old;

6 kb	Eugene Volokh, December 18, 2006; Trackbacks. The Georgia Supreme Court just upheld this. The sentence strikes as unduly harsh even on its own terms, but it seems especially unjustifiable given that the age of consent in Georgia is 16.
07-010 @ 291 kb	Producer sues over NBC Ethics; May 24, 2007. About a sting operation by <i>Perverved Justice</i> .
07-011 @ 61 kb	Revisiting Megan's Law and Sex Offender Registration: Prevention or Problem; Robert E. Freeman-Longo, MRC, LPC. Both convicted sex offenders and innocent citizens have experienced serious and negative consequences resulting from the implementation of the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act, passed in 1994, which included national sex offender registration laws, and Megan's Law, passed in 1996, requiring public notification of sex offender release. This paper reviews the predictions made by the author in 1996 regarding these laws and the negative impact documented since their implementation.
07-012 @ 96 kb	Republican Hypocrisy Revealed - Stop Republican Pedophilia - about Mark Foley & many others; Rick Sanatorium.
07-013 @ 18 kb	Secreted Desires: The Major Uranians: Hopkins, Pater and Wilde; Michael Matthew Kaylor. This volume demarcates the distinctly paederastic elements within a series of highly nuanced, Uranian texts.
07-014 @ 70 kb	Sex Laws: United States Code; Legal statutes related to sexual activity; from <i>Cerius Love</i>
07-015 @ 35 kb	Sex Laws: California Penal Code - idem
07- 016 @ 56 kb	Sex Laws: Florida Penal Code - idem
07-017 @ 14 kb	The <i>Adam Walsh Act</i> - Protecting kids from both violence and pleasure - idem
07-018 @ 6 kb	10-year sentence for teen sex thrown out; SHANNON McCAFFREY, Associated Press Writer; June 11, 2007 A former high school football star who became a national symbol for the extremes of getting tough on sex offenders was ordered released from prison Monday by a judge who called his mandatory 10-year sentence for consensual teen sex "a grave miscarriage of justice." But the joy felt by Genarlow Wilson's family rapidly turned to disappointment as Georgia's attorney

	<p>general announced he would appeal, a move that will keep the honor student behind bars for now.</p> <p>Wilson's sentence was widely criticized as being too severe, even by members of the jury that convicted him and the author of the 1995 law that put him behind bars.</p> <p>His case became a <i>cause celebre</i> that grew from local blogs and TV stations to national news shows and editorial pages.</p>
07-019 @ 4 kb	<p>Men jailed over child sex abuse claims have names cleared; Appeal judges told alleged victim was 'theatrical attention seeker'; Chris Benfield, Yorkshiretoday.co.uk, 16 June 2006</p> <p>Two men who served long jail terms over children's home sex abuse claims have had their names cleared after top judges were told their alleged victim was a "theatrical attention-seeker".</p>
07-020 @ 98 kb	<p>Aktion gegen die Kinderpornographie ... mit Petition und Texten; Gustav Städler.</p> <p>Auch gegen die Grünen, die Sozialisten, gegen die Holländische Politiker Partei PNVD, gegen Abortus und manches mehr - geschrieben in ein stark Religiösen Spähre.</p>
07-021 @ 3 kb	<p>Retiree cleared of pornography charges for a 30-year-old book; July 26, 2006; Gabrielle Banks, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.</p> <p>When state troopers found "Show Me! A Picture Book of Sex for Children and Parents" in a search of the 66-year-old man's [...] home in 2004, they charged him with a violation of the state pornography laws.</p> <p>But [...] Judge [...] ruled yesterday that Mr. [...], a retiree [...], had not violated the law because the [...] book [...] was published three years before anti-pornography laws existed.</p>
07-022 @ 3 kb	<p>Pedophile extortion case goes to grand jury; By LUCILLE HUSTON; Salem News, July 29, 2006.</p> <p>... 12 others are involved in his "organization" which is involved in extorting money from known pedophiles. ... the purpose of his scheme was to help predators change their lives. He believed if they came forward and he robbed them, they would be afraid and this would stop any further attempt of pedophiles to lure young girls.</p> <p>Instead, Barnett and his wife, Maria, who posed nude on the internet and claimed to be 15, were luring the pedophiles to a parking lot at [...]. Once there, others involved in the scheme and armed with baseball bats, would rob them.</p>
07-023 @ 15 kb	<p>Why I need to see child porn; Debbie Nathan on Salon.com, 25 Aug. 2006.</p> <p>It's outrageous that academics and reporters like me can be thrown in prison for doing front-line research into pornography.</p> <p>[This article has been removed from Salon.com after a few</p>

	days.]
07-024 @ 1 kb	Correction - A note about our child pornography opinion piece, Salon editors, Aug. 25, 2006 [Why they have removed # 07-023].
07-025 @ 3 kb	Don't believe it - In reply to Salon prints retraction; Dylan Thomas, 2006-August-25. This is not a correction. This is an overt act of censorship.
07-026 @ 10 kb	Man released after nearly 22 years in prison in day care sex abuse case. "Baran was imprisoned based on testimony from children subjected to leading, coercive questions from police and social workers already convinced of his guilt. He is innocent of all charges,"
07-027 @ 5 kb	Boys molested in bogus initiations; Caroline Overington; September 07, 2006, The Australian ABORIGINAL elders are sexually abusing young boys during bogus "initiation" ceremonies and mothers are too frightened to intervene because the abusers hold positions of great power in their communities.
07-028 @ 4 kb	Sex abuse part of culture, boys told; Caroline Overington; September 08, 2006; The Australian ABORIGINAL boys as young as eight are being used for sex and told, "It's a cultural thing", an indigenous researcher in the Northern Territory has warned.
07-029 @ 4 kb	Taylor: Repeat molesters should get death penalty; By Shannon McCaffrey; AP. The battle to appear tough on crime continued in the race for governor on Tuesday, as Lt. Gov. Mark Taylor proposed making repeat child molesters eligible for the death penalty in Georgia. ... Five other states - Louisiana, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Florida and Montana - already have death penalty statutes for repeat child sex offenders.
07-030 @ 4 kb	Should repeat molesters be put to death? As election approaches, Texas politician becomes latest to propose much tougher state sentences. Lianne Hart / Los Angeles Times, October 11, 2006 With the election just a month away, politicians examining ways to stop violent sexual offenders from striking again are increasingly calling for laws that would allow states to execute repeat child molesters. ... In recent months, similar ideas have been pushed by lawmakers in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and even Minnesota, which doesn't have the death penalty. ... This year, Oklahoma and South Carolina passed laws allowing the death penalty for the rape of a child. Execution is also an option for offenders who commit certain sex crimes against

	children in Montana and Louisiana.
07-031 @ 6 kb	Ex-Page Tells of Foley Liaison; The young man says the then-congressman eyed males in the program. He says he was 21 when he and the Florida Republican had sex. By Walter F. Roche Jr., LA Times October 8, 2006
07-032 @ 9 kb	If two people accuse you, then you are guilty. They get compensation, you get jail; By Alasdair Palmer, The Telegraph, UK, 22/10/2006 How could England's most senior judges come to insist on a rule of evidence so transparently unreliable as that? [...] Their underlying assumption had to be that allegations of sexual abuse should be accepted as true, even if there is no evidence to support them. The result is that the burden of proof is on the accused to prove he is innocent, not on his accusers to prove his guilt. People are regularly being convicted of sex crimes because that dangerous principle has been embedded into our law.
07-033 @ 5 kb	Court bans forcing boy's circumcision; Non-custodial dad wins right to block mother, stepfather; Judy Peres, Chicago Tribune October 25, 2006 In a case that has been closely watched by anti-circumcision groups nationwide, a Cook County judge ruled Tuesday that the medical benefits of the procedure are not clear enough to compel a 9-year-old Northbrook boy to be circumcised against his will.
07-034 @ 7 kb	Laptop seizure raises concerns over firms' data; Travel managers worry about what can happen to proprietary information at customs. James Gilden, LA Times, November 4, 2006 Customs and Border Protection agents have the authority to search and seize laptop computers belonging to travelers entering the United States, those of U.S. citizens and foreigners alike. And they use it. But just how far these officers can go in inspecting the contents of an overseas traveler's laptop is being tested in federal court.
07-035 @ 18 kb	REVEALED: IN CITIES AND TOWNS ALL OVER THE PHILIPPINES, IRISHMEN PAY TO HAVE SEX WITH CHILDREN; Sunday Tribune, Dublin, Ireland Sept 24, 2006, John Burke & Eoghan Rice. Report about prostitution in the Phileppines.
07-036 @ 3 kb	Lawmaker seeks death penalty for repeat child sex offenders; Brock Vergakis, AP, 11/26/2006 Some repeat sex offenders would be eligible for the death penalty under a bill being proposed by a newly elected state lawmaker. ... Utah would become the sixth state to make the death penalty an option for certain sex offenses against children if the measure is

	approved by the Republican-controlled Legislature in the session that begins Jan. 15.
07-037 @ 3 kb	Conference opens to battle child sex 'terrorism'; December 17, 2001; CBC News This article is from 2001. Someone on BC pointed to it as it was the first time he saw the term "child sex 'terrorism'" used in an attempt to redefine sex with children as terrorism.
07-038 @ 5 kb	Project Safe Childhood - Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales Calls for Americans to Join the Fight Against Child Sexual Exploitation; 12/4/2006, US Newswire. Project Safe Childhood [...] creates a coordinated national response to the growing threat posed to America's youth by online sexual exploitation. It brings federal, state and local law enforcement communities together in order to maximize resources and obtain the strictest penalties available against sex predators under federal and state law.
07-039 @ 10 kb	Prepared Remarks of Attorney General Alberto Gonzales at the Project Safe Childhood Conference; 12/4/2006, US Newswire. "If we are to really stop pedophiles and predators before they strike... " "I have a vision for Project Safe Childhood that will make it the foundation on which we will build a national, zero-tolerance culture." "First, to put it in the simplest of terms, we need to get pedophiles and predators off the street." "Second, once we get them off the street, we need to keep the pedophiles and predators behind bars." ... etceteras ...
07-040 @ 12 kb	Unacceptable use - US company censors Canadian internet service provider; Bill Andriette / Xtra West / Wednesday, December 06, 2006 Epifora is a Montreal-based internet service provider (ISP), whose home page promises "respect for client privacy" and tolerance of "controversial speech." [...] On Oct 4, Epifora was notified by MCI Canada that its connection to the internet backbone would be cut off in 30 days for violating the "acceptable use policy" of Verizon--the giant US telecom that swallowed MCI in 2005. By Nov 3, Epifora's edgy queer websites were offline. An American corporation had effectively skirted Canadian law to censor Canadian websites.
07-041 @ 20 kb	Who killed Adam Walsh? December 04, 2006 By: Arthur Jay Harris, Daily Business review. The highly publicized kidnap-murder of 6-year-old Adam Walsh remains as cold a case as they come, despite countless leads and years of investigation. Hollywood police consider it open despite the theory that the late killer and drifter Ottis Toole committed the crime. Toole confessed in 1983.

	But in recent interviews, two people who say they were at the scene of the July 27, 1981, abduction of the boy point not to Toole, but to another notorious figure: serial slayer Jeffrey Dahmer. He lived and worked in South Florida at the time but was dismissed by police as a suspect.
07-042 @ 4 kb	SAP - Society against Pedophiles - UK; 29 December 2006 LIDL GIVES NIGHT SIGHTS TO VIGILANTES - STORE'S GIFT TO PAEDOPHILE PATROL, By Kevan Christie, Daily Record SUPERMARKET bosses have kitted out a vigilante group with night-vision scopes for spying on paedophiles.
07-043 @ 2 kb	Elsmere man who killed alleged molester gets 9-month sentence. ESTEBAN PARRA, The News Journal, January 5, 2007 An Elsmere man, who fatally beat a senior citizen he believed molested his 5-year-old daughter, was sentenced this morning to 9 months in prison. [...] "The circumstances surrounding this crime were taken into consideration by the state," and the court, Sights told Fontanez.
07-044 @ 4 kb	Dallas County to exonerate another man based on DNA evidence; AP, Jan. 16, 2007 A man convicted of raping a child in 1983 is expected to be formally exonerated today, officials said, making him the 12th Dallas County man since 2001 to be cleared based on DNA evidence.
07-045 @ 5 kb	Children allowed in Amsterdam Gay Pride; Expatica.com, 19 January 2007 Children have been the given the go-ahead to participate in Amsterdam's Gay Pride canal parade in the summer. The gay children will have their own boat with room for 30 gay children.
07-046 @ 3 kb	Kids Pride supporter gets email death threats; Pinknews UK, Feb 07 [Dutch professor Gert] Hekma has lodged a complaint with the police against five people who sent specific death threats by email to him. An academic who supported the rights of kids under 16 to take part in Amsterdam's Gay Pride parade has received a flood of death threats.
07-047 @ 4 kb	DEATH THREAT FOR SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S GAY BOAT - Feb 03, 2007 - Translated from the Dutch De Volkskrant Gert Hekma, Professor of Gay & Lesbian Studies at the University of Amsterdam, has been flooded with death threats.
07-048 @ 17 kb	Dutch Gays Under 16 Join Pride, DOUG IRELAND Gaycitynews 15 Feb 2007 Netherlands gay youth under the legal age of consent of 16 won a significant victory last week when Amsterdam Mayor Job

	Cohen finally gave his approval to a special boat for such youngsters in the annual Canal Pride gay boat parade through the city center's famous waterway, an event that needs a city permit to take place.
07-049 @ 5 kb	IRAQ: Insurgents using children to fight US-led forces; IRIN, Nov 2, 2006 Some children have been recruited by insurgents to fight in Iraq, according to a prominent local NGO.
07-050 @ 7 kb	Records show tremendous growth in teacher sex cases; MICHAEL GORMLEY, AP, February 17, 2007 An internal state Education Department report obtained by The Associated Press under the Freedom of Information Law shows "tremendous growth" in so-called moral conduct cases against teachers over five years. The study found the number of accusations against teachers doubled in five years, to nearly one case for every day and a half of the school year. Almost three in four of the "moral conduct" cases involved sex between a teacher and student.
07-051 @ 5 kb	Boychat in research - Study written by L. Avin Malesky and Liam Ennis and published in Journal of Addictions and Offender Counseling April 2004 Volume 24. Abstract and some of the details.
07-052 @ 5 kb	Three found guilty of murder; Apr. 19, 2007, Oxfordmail A gang of killers have been jailed for life for the 'callous and cruel' torture and murder of a vulnerable man they mistakenly thought was a paedophile.
07-053 @ 13 kb	Churches slam doors on sex offenders; Eilene Zimmermansalon.com 26 April 2007; Christian, Muslim and Jewish congregations are struggling over whether to let sex offenders worship in their midst. Few have mercy.
07-054 @ 7 kb	The rape and murder of innocence; Pritha Roy Choudhury, merinews; 29 May 2007 Delhi is witnessing an increasing number of crime against women especially minor children these days. Experts say amending the existing law is the need of the hour.
07-055 @ 4 kb	Child sex abuse rife, Annabel Stafford, The Age, Australia, June 1, 2007 PEDOPHILIA is rife in Aboriginal communities across Australia, Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough has said, nominating the sexual abuse of children as one of the major issues facing indigenous Australians.



07-056 @ 10 kb	Canadian Senate Debate Raising The Age Of Consent; June 3, 2007 The Canadian House of Commons voted to raise the age of consent (which they also renamed the "age of protection") from 14 to 16 and to add a 5 year "close in age" exemption.
07-057 @ 6 kb	AFGHANISTAN: War, poverty and ignorance fuel sexual abuse of children; 6 June 2007, IRIN. According to Afghanistan's Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), there are currently 14 child sex abuse cases in Kandahar province alone, five of which have been referred to the police for investigation. However, specialists say this is just the tip of the iceberg, with the vast majority of cases going unreported.
07-058 @ 3 kb	Court Rejects Privacy Claim in Prosecution of NAMBLA Member; KENNETH OFGANG, Metropolitan News-Enterprise, June 7, 2007 The FBI did not violate the privacy rights of members of an organization that wants to eliminate laws against sex with minors when it infiltrated the group and disseminated information about some of the members to its field offices, the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled yesterday.
07-059 @ 3 kb	Study: Circumcision Removes Most Sensitive Parts; Ker Than, Live Science, 15 June 2007 Now researchers [...] have found that the five areas most receptive to fine-touch are routinely removed by the surgery.
07-060 @ 7 kb	Fewer baby boys being circumcised in the U.S.; June 18, 2007, CNN - Growing number of U.S. parents declining to circumcise sons - Experts: Immigration patterns play the biggest role in the decline - U.S. one of few developed countries where majority of baby boys are circumcised - Circumcision remains the nation's most common surgery