

NEWS- LETTER



Association of
Lesbian and Gay
Psychologists (ALGP Europe)

Nr. 6 (1), 1997

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Have You Paid Your Fees Already?

Many members of ALGP Europe have not paid their fees due for 1996 yet. Please do so now (unless you are a member of a national organisation that pays the fees for you)!

The easiest way is to send a Euro-Cheque over DM 35 payable to Melanie Steffens. (If you don't have Euro-Cheques yourself, you might ask someone you know to give you one.)

You can also send us a postal money order (ask in your post office how to do that). The latter possibility will cost you a lot more than sending a check, however. If you pay for 1996 and 1997 at once, you will save postage or charges. The fee for 1997 is DM 50 for single members.

Chair's Column

by Melanie Steffens

Those of you who closely watch that you are getting what you have paid for might wonder why you have not received a third issue of the Newsletter in 1996.

Money, Money, Money

One reason why we decided to send you an issue very early this year, instead of a 3/96-issue, is that many of our members have not paid membership fees for 1996 yet, and we were short of money. The fees that were paid and the ALGP Europe-money we have received from the former Dutch Steering Group combined pay for two issues of the Newsletter and the travel expenses of Steering Group Members for meetings in Germany. We have paid our travel expenses to Copenhagen ourselves. In a few weeks, we will send individual letters to all of you who have not paid your fees yet. Please help us save these expenses and pay now—and why not pay for 1997 already, too?

The transfer of addresses and money from the Netherlands to Germany is finally finished, and we have managed to convert the addresses from a Dutch-language DOS computer programme to an English-language programme running on a Mac.

Upcoming Dublin Conference

As most of you know, ALGP Europe tries to present a symposium on the European Congress of Psychology every two years to assure that les-

bian and gay research in psychology is part of the conference programme. The next European Congress will be held in Dublin, July, 6th - 11th, 1997. It turned out that the Steering Group had a misconception with regard to that conference that almost precluded our participation. We thought that all participants of the last European Congress would automatically receive information on how and when to register and submit proposals. Thus, we were not in too much of a hurry while corresponding with ALGBP-UK to decide whether they or we should prepare our participation in that conference. Very understandably, the ALGBP-UK Steering Group did not want to prepare our participation in the European Congress of Psychology, because none of them are psychologists. In November, it turned out that their members who are psychologists did not want to form a preparation group, either. Subsequently, I requested the conference registration forms and was alarmed to find out that the deadline for all submissions was the 3rd of December! Thanks to electronic communication, it was possible to publish a world-wide call for abstracts in the Internet immediately, and after some back and forth, our symposium could be submitted to the review process almost in time. On the day it was to be mailed, two additional abstracts arrived, so now we have even submitted five. Hold your thumbs that the symposium will be accepted, and mark your calendars for the conference!

Lesbian and Gay Affirmative Psychology in Contemporary Europe Symposium submitted to the Vth European Congress of Psychology

Dublin, July, 6th to 11th, 1997

Convenors: Melanie C. Steffens & Ulli Biechele

The Formation of Lesbian and Gay Identities: Accounts by German Lesbians and Gay Men
by Melanie C. Steffens, University of Trier, Germany

Threatened Heterosexual Identities: The Construction and Maintenance of Heterosexual Identities by
Celia C. Kitzinger, Loughborough University, United Kingdom

They Have Swallowed a Broom-Stick and are Pumping up the Pecks: Somatisation of Experiences of
Prejudice, Discrimination, and Violence on Grounds of Sexual Orientation
by Pavlo Kanellakis, Psychotherapeutic & Counselling Psychologist, London, United Kingdom

Health-Related Life-Styles of Lesbians and Bisexual Women in Tuscany, Italy
by Anna Maria Imbarrato, University of Florence, Italy

Hopelessness, Health Belief and Treatment Choices among a Sample of HIV-Positive Gay Men
by Luca Pietrantoni, University of Bologna, Italy

Coping and Responses to Antigay/Antilesbian Victimisation in an Italian Sample

by Luca Pietrantoni & Franca Casamassima

Antigay and antilesbian violence is a widespread phenomenon in all western societies. Gay and lesbian organisations collected information and details about frequency and characteristics of hate crimes. In 1991, a survey of Arcigay-Arcilesbica, the Italian National Gay and Lesbian association, rated the extent of victimisation among 1788 lesbians and gay men: about 30% of the sample experienced physical violence regarding his/her sexual orientation (ISPES, 1991). The survey, besides, pointed out the consequences of oppressing social stigma, such as the difficulties of being openly gay or lesbian to parents, friends or co-workers and the feeling of isolation of lesbian and gay youth.

Many studies are now investigating the impact of victimisation on mental health, especially in gay and lesbian youth: even if there is no such evidence, it has been suggested that there exists a relationship between verbal and physical abuses and maladaptive behaviours like suicide attempts, running away, substance abuse and school problems (Savin Williams, 1994).

Victimisation constitutes a crisis into everyday life, but lesbians and gay men are not passive targets. They should be conceptualised, as any other survivors, "as active, problem-solving individuals who are potentially capable of coping with the aftermath of the attack and using the experience as an opportunity for growth" (Garnets, Herek, & Levy, 1990). For example, a study by Birt and Dion (1987) reported that the level of discrimination was a predictor of social engagement and political militancy in a gay and lesbian sample.

Garnets et al. (1990) hold the hypothesis that "the aftermath of victimisation probably is affected by the survivor's stage in the coming-out process".

In the present study, we empirically investigated the mediator role of self-worth and self-disclosure as a gay person in the coping strategies with antigay victimisation. On the basis of the previous findings and theories, we expected that gay people more closeted and uncomfortable with their sexual orientation cope more dysfunctionally.

tionally.

Method

Recruitment. Questionnaires were distributed in two large urban settings (Milan, Padua) through gay and lesbian organisations, local gay bars and cruising areas. It took 20 minutes to complete the questionnaire. In the introduction, the target was specified to the participants: the questionnaire was directed to lesbians and gay men who experienced physical or sexual violence because of sexual orientation. To maximise the respondent rate and to ensure anonymity, the questionnaires were distributed with stamped envelopes in the cruising areas.

Sample. 120 of 150 questionnaires were voluntarily completed and returned to the investigators. Four participants were dropped because they self-identified as "exclusively" or "predominantly heterosexual". The final sample of 116 included 70 men and 46 women, ranging in age from 17 to 36 years ($M = 28.7$, $SD = 5.8$). About a half (47 %) were students, 44 % were workers and 6.9 % unemployed. Relationship status was divided in single (52 %), in gay/lesbian relationships lasting less than one year (21 %) and in gay/lesbian relationships lasting more than one year (26 %).

In terms of sexual orientation, most participants described themselves as "lesbian or gay" (82 %), whereas the rest considered themselves "bisexual, predominantly gay/lesbian" (18%).

Measures. The 3-pages questionnaire contained items assessing background information, self-esteem as a gay person and responses in dealing with antigay violence.

Background information. Respondents were asked to indicate (a) basic demographic information (i.e., sex, age, education); (b) relationship status (single; gay or lesbian relationship less than one year; more than one year; heterosexual marriage); (c) sexual orientation on a 4-point-scale ("gay-lesbian", "bisexual, predominantly gay-lesbian", "bisexual, predominantly heterosexual", "heterosexual").

Outness, personal homonegativity and coming-out stage. Respondents were asked to indicate (a) outness toward family members, non-gay friends, co-workers scored on a 4-point Likert-type scale; (b) personal homonegativity (Shidlo, 1992); (c) coming-out stages (Coleman, 1982).

Coping strategies. Fourteen items regarded (a) two ways of coping intended to seek for support, one more "emotional" (express feeling and talking with another person), the other more "instrumental" (the attempts to denounce the violent); (b) five types of cognitive responses to the event (self-blame, feeling of helplessness, positive reinterpretation, feeling of unworthiness, perception of vulnerability, revenge ideation); (c) seven behaviours related to managing or to avoiding public social disapproval.

These comprehended the avoidance of a public detection of being lesbian or gay (limiting public physical contact with partner or same-sex friends, limiting public discussion concerning homosexuality, avoiding to come together with lesbians or gay men openly, avoiding to participate in public gay or lesbian events, monitoring behavioural gender role conformity), the adoption of precautional means (avoiding dangerous cruising areas, being ready for personal justice).

Responses to the items were indicated on a 5-point Likert-type scale ranging from strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (5).

Results

No gender differences were found for the level of personal homonegativity. Coming-out stages and level of outness differ significantly in men and women: self-acknowledgement of homosexual attraction was lower in men than in women, $t(106) = 3.08, p < .05$; while no difference was found in the mean age of self-identification as lesbian or gay. No gender differences were found in the coping strategies. Instead, "single" people reported more often to cope with violence by blaming themselves, $t(106) = 7.69, p < .01$, or by feelings of unworthiness, $t(106) = 6.49, p < .01$, than lesbians and gay men in an intimate relationship.

A lesbian or a gay man with a negative feeling about his/her homosexuality is more likely to cope with victimisation, with feelings of unworthiness and a self-blaming attitude; he or she is more likely to avoid gay or lesbian events and public talk about gay issues and to monitor

his/her conformity to gender roles. Gay people who less disclose their sexual orientation to significant others are more likely to avoid public recognition in the physical contact, in the public speeches and in the avoidance of other open gay people. People in the later coming out stages (self-identified as "gay" or "lesbian" and with past significant same-sex relationships) are more likely to cope with antigay victimisation more functionally and to be less self-controlling and self-monitoring and to be more committed to other lesbians and gay men.

Discussion

Herek (1992) called for research exploring the role of "internalised homophobia" or self-esteem as a gay man or lesbian in predicting coping styles to antigay-violence. This study has been an attempt to fill this empty field in research considering coming-out process and general comfort with one's sexual orientation, negative feelings surrounding homosexuality, and disclosure to significant others.

Results indicated that coping strategies and behavioural ways of managing the possibility of violence can be predicted by personal negative feelings about homosexuality which derive from the internalisation of social negative attitudes and by coming out stages. Being in a committed and intimate relationship and being in contact with other gay people is a powerful source of support in dealing with violence and harassment and in providing a non-heterosexist explanation of the event.

Clinical counselling and psychotherapy with victimised lesbians and gay men should assess the personal negative feeling about homosexual orientation and coming out stages and strategies. In order to positively recover from victimisation, the psychotherapeutic intervention should emphasise non-heterosexist coping strategies, the reinforcement of a positive gay identity and the role of support of partners and communities.

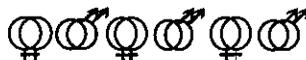
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Luca Pietrantoni and Franca Casamassima work at the University of Bologna, Italy, and have founded a research group about lesbian and gay psychology in Italy. They are collaborating with gay and lesbian associations and with the Department of Psychology. Part of their work has been published in a special issue of the International Journal of Sexology.



Ethics and Competency in the Role of the Therapist: Necessary Knowledge, Skills and Sensitives

by Linda Garnets & Barrie Levy

What leads to errors in assessment and treatment with lesbians and gay men ?

Heterosexism and its concomitant stigmatising stereotypes of gay men and lesbians have been so much part of the definition of psychological normalcy that they predispose practitioners to make a range of erroneous assumptions about gay and lesbian clients that they have not been sensitised to recognise. These are some of the major concerns for therapists working with gay and lesbian clients.

Attitudes and Beliefs of the Therapist that Homosexuality is a Mental Illness

1. Do they hold that view that homosexuality represents psychopathology?
2. A gay and lesbian client who receives treatment from such a therapist is at risk of increased mental health problems.
3. The many problems associated with internalised homophobia will very likely be perpetuated in these clients by therapists who believe homosexuality indicates psychopathology.

Knowledge Deficits about Gay and Lesbian Issues Outside the Psychopathology Perspective

1. What is the therapist's level of familiarity with gay and lesbian experience?

2. Important topic areas include: Attitudes about homosexuality and specific sexual acts, awareness of the effects of stigmatisation, patterns and stages of coming out, gay/lesbian community and culture, gay/lesbian relationships and families.
3. Without this knowledge, the therapist's ability to establish empathy is limited, as is the therapist's ability to conceptualise about a gay man's or lesbian's experience.

The Personal Characteristics of the Therapist which Directly Influence the Conduct of Psychotherapy with these Clients

1. How willing is the therapist to deal with special problems associated with a group which is oppressed and stigmatised within society?
2. How willing is the therapist to examine his or her own reactions and feelings to homosexuality and toward people who are gay or lesbian? E.g.: Counter transference reactions: Positive feelings, particularly those with an erotic component toward a homosexual client of the same sex may frighten or confuse the therapists.
3. How willing is the therapist to acknowledge negative feelings about homosexuality (necessary to examine own internalised homophobia)? E.g.: Subtle collusion with a client's homophobia may occur when a client says

there is no problem with being gay or lesbian and the therapist therefore does not question the client on the subject even though the behaviours or feelings the client expresses show that he or she is operating within homophobic limitations without challenging them.

4. The gender-role attribution of a therapist is an important characteristic to consider. E.g.: If

the therapist has incorporated traditional gender roles to a large degree, he or she may be uncomfortable when confronted with a person who is more androgynous. The therapist may exhibit discomfort, disapproval or anxiety towards the gender flexibility that is sometimes incorporated into gay and lesbian identities.

Linda Garnets is a psychotherapist who was chairwoman in the Committee on Lesbian and Gay Concerns within the American Psychological Association and she was co-chair in the Task Force on Bias in Psychotherapy with Lesbians and Gay Men. She published many articles about psychotherapy with gay people. Barrie Levy is a psychotherapist and her main concerns are the relationship between gender and mental health and the domestic violence in homosexual and heterosexual couples.



Looking Forward: Perspectives from a Practice Context

by Gail Simon

I want to address the impact of ideology on practice and the impact of these ideologies on our community. I hope to raise questions in it concerning the decisions we participate in as to the kind of resources we make available and examine the messages we give our community about *the role of psychology and counselling*.

The Pink Practice offers consultations on a one-off or short term basis to work lasting several years. The theoretical orientation of the practice is systemic and social constructionist which means (to us) that we think about people as living in a social world, being in relationship, continually coming into being through relationshiping and creating/influencing our realities through the language we and others use to describe ourselves, our experiences.

The Pink Practice was established in 1989 as a response to many requests for lesbian and gay counsellors/therapists. Clients seemed to want a counsellor who would not focus unnecessarily and negatively on their sexual orientation and might have an understanding of the culture(s) in which lesbians and gay men lived. Requests for lesbian or gay counsellors were met with disease by the majority of counselling organisations and often left individuals feeling pathologised. This, unfortunately, is still very much the case. The Women's Therapy Centre, for example, will not agree to refer lesbians to an out lesbian counsellor. The account I have been given by them is

that they believe it could be harmful to the therapeutic relationship.

Accounting for one's ideas and assumptions, for one's theoretical preferences and explanations of methods to clients has, for the most part, been an unvisited "no-go" area of therapy. Therapeutic mystic has unjustifiably been incorporated into therapeutic practice as if a necessary requirement for the success of the work. Clients are then excluded from areas of decision making about the process, from choice of ideas to draw on and from participating in an aspect of co-creating the conversation. In effect, the therapist is accountable only to other professionals in being able to explain their practice and the client's access to their therapist's thoughts is restricted.

Behaving in a *transparent* manner with the clients does not involve loss of expertise by the therapist. Sharing one's thoughts and confusions at times can make for most helpful shifts in the work. The therapist has to be prepared for a greater openness and curiosity about the therapeutic conversation. There will be a shift in the balance of power with clients feeling more able to comment on the therapist's behaviour and ideas and generate descriptions of their experiences despite or outside of the therapist's preferred stories of human behaviour. What one might be encouraging is a shift from interpretation to story generation, from a one-up one-down relationship to a co-constructive relationship where everyone's

ideas count, where client's ideas count.

A key question that I think we need to get to grips with is whether we think we are uncovering "the truth" (a story of something that pre-exists—not something emergent) or creating our realities. I believe language does not reflect an objective picture of what life is like but that it is used to create and shape realities, descriptions, stories. This is an important distinction for therapists to make if we are to open ourselves up to participating in process of exploring what other stories have been excluded by society, by others, by positivist approaches to therapy—both for our clients and for us as lesbian and gay therapists.

In therapy, it is not the story, the description alone which is important but the experience of mapping, the telling, the creating of the story which will have an impact.

What is the role of the therapist in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender communities? The role of the therapist is not about curing the individual from the horrors of their past but a sense making process through conversation which helps people to know how to go on, to know how to make sense of their lives, to examine how their thinking, how their descriptions, their language, works for them and works against them. The therapist in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) communities is, in my opinion, in a very *powerful position*. They can help to create more of a story of personal inadequacy, a story of the individual (different to individuality) or they can help to bring forth other descriptions of ability, agency, choice, social context, a story of a group and by implication group experience, group history and group strength.

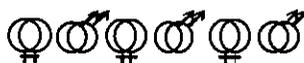
These last few points may sound strange. What has therapy with an individual got to do with the whole community? Everything! We influence the language, we influence a story of individuals and a story (or lack of it) of group; we build on a story of ill health as well as of ability; we create a story of change at a personal level and, to our

loss, only extremely rarely, a story of change at a level of society.

There are times, particularly in work with LGBT-couples, when I find myself pointing out to people that they are pioneers, that there are not always models available to us which can offer guidance on how to proceed in relationships. There is no *right way* of "doing" relationship. We are learning to make up the rules as we go along. It takes courage and we often doubt ourselves, referring to our heterosexual counterparts who are themselves struggling with received ideas about being in relationship. It seems to me that similar struggles face us, as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender counsellors in our therapeutic practice.

If I have a *vision for the future of counselling and psychotherapy* with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender communities, it is for us as practitioners, to be critically involved in examining the premises which underpin all our practices. It is important to consider the *ethical implications* of our preferences. I feel it is essential to review one's relationship with the theory and to treat theories as stories, as ideas which can be more or less helpful. I feel we have to break free of the need for approval and membership of institutions for it can only be honorary, tokenistic and temporary. Yes, we can sit on boards and committees but let us be circumspect about the meaning for all parties of this participation. Let us examine the most taken-for-granted assumptions which influence our choice of therapeutic style—so freeing ourselves up from having jumped the hurdles of acquiring a qualification in the professional arena and so allowing ourselves to participate in our communities with an openness, a preparedness to co-story with other lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgender people, create our own discourses, our own theories in a manner which allows us to play with them and not become so attached to them that we become the custodians of fixed ideas, of truth and of exclusive expertise.

Gail Simon works as a counsellor with the Pink Practice (London), she is a systemic and social constructionist therapist, and also teaches. Her background is in social work and counselling.



On the Impact of Images of Lesbians and Gay Men Hawked in Public on Therapeutic and Emancipatory Processes

by Udo Rauchfleisch

Acceptance, Discrimination, Stigma-management

In spite of all successes of the lesbian-gay emancipation movement an overall comprising acceptance of lesbians and gay men still does not exist in our society (Bochow, 1993; Knoll et al., 1995; Lautmann & Wienold, 1978). So, the latest investigation by the Munich study-group (Knoll et al., 1995) shows a discrimination rate of 81 % at working-places. According to the authors' findings stress caused by these forms of discrimination results in diverse psychic and somatic disturbances. Particularly oppressing in this context is the fact that in many cases pronouncedly discriminating stereotypes are being hawked in public, for example the assumption that gay men have a feminine identification, lesbians, however, a male one, the assumption of promiscuity which above all is held in gay communities pointing at the inability to bind oneself on principle, at the supposed "danger of seduction", the assumption that homosexuality is the consequence of "mistakes in education" by the parents as well as the overall labelling of lesbian, bisexual or gay development as ill, abnormal and sinful.

These discriminating stereotypes constitute stigmata which according to Goffman (1975) represent a particular discrepancy between virtual and actual social identity, in the course of which the stigmatised person perceives that his or her real identity is negatively valued. In this situation it is necessary on the one hand to realise this discrepancy and the tension caused by it, on the other hand to understand in which way and to which extent it imprints the own identity. Besides that it is important to become aware of the influence of these negative images given by a person's environment to his or her self-assessment. Finally, this situation should be worked through in such a way that a positive identity nevertheless can develop.

In the sense of Goffman's "stigma-management" this means a degree of openness must be attained to enable us to minimise the discrediting effects of the stigma. At the same time one has to take into consideration that the formation of identity is never exclusively an individual event,

but the consequence of an interactional process in the borderline of individual and public (cf. Simon, 1995, 1996).

Effects of the Negative Attributions of Others on the Individual with Regard to Therapy and Counselling of Lesbians and Gay Men: Consequences

If we meet lesbians and gay men in counselling and therapy we have above all to reckon with three problems: With hurtings by those negative attributions hawked by the public, with the lack of positive lesbian and gay models, and with the internalisation of negative attributions. From this specific tasks arise for us in the therapeutic assistance:

1. *Working at the suffered injuries:* As diverse authors have pointed out (Gissrau, 1993; Isay, 1990; Rauchfleisch, 1996), lesbians and gay men have always suffered from more or less grave disappointments and injuries, as they had to develop into a world that expected them to be different from how they really are. Also the consequences of injuries experienced in adulthood have to be taken into account. In many cases the combination lesbian client/lesbian therapist and gay client/gay therapist constitutes a most promising condition, because both have made similar experiences, therefore a greater empathy exists and mutual acceptance and solidarity is granted. However, this requires that female and male therapists have confronted themselves with their own negative attributions within self-experience and have thus removed them. Furthermore, therapists have to be careful not to create an atmosphere free of aggressions where harmony and solidarity is forced, because by this gay and lesbian clients are deprived of the chance of transferring their disappointment and rage caused by their former injuries upon the therapist. The question whether lesbian or gay therapists should be open about their own sexual orientation is discussed controversial. According to the personal situation of life, concept of therapy and current dynamic of treatment it is possible to deal with that question diversely. The concealing of the own sexual orientation from the female or male

clients, however, gets very problematic at that moment when we are becoming a negative model for the clients and these conclude from that therapeutic reserve that the acceptance of their lesbian or gay identity is subject of the therapy, but the lesbian or gay therapists themselves are ashamed of their orientation.

2. *Assistance in finding positive models and in the internalisation of positive images of lesbians and gay men:* The fact that lesbians and gay men frequently lacked positive models of other lesbians and gay men during their development, calls for a special activity in the formation of a positive identity. During this process lesbian and gay therapists have an important meaning as models of a positive social intercourse with the lesbian and gay identity. Besides that the therapeutic work can be assisted remarkably by the lesbian and gay clients' participation in coming out-groups and in other lesbian-gay events.

3. *Removing internalised negative images:* The internalised negative images of lesbians and gay men in their hitherto lives constitute another important subject of every therapy. Wherever the efficacy of these negative introjects shows, they have to be named, cleared in their roots and discussed critically.

Effects of Negative Images by Others on Processes of Emancipation their Consequences

An efficient engagement in processes of emancipation and in public relations probably will only be possible, if the internalised images which have been taken over from the outside are removed and replaced by positive experiences. With the help of public activities negative stereotypes of lesbians and gay men cannot only be removed from society, but these efforts have always also positive consequences for lesbians and gay men, even in the formation of a strong, positive ego. The field of possible activities is very immense and comprises work in small groups (local homosexual study-groups, coming out-groups, groups dealing with specific subjects and life-situations), participation in large groups

which are organised supra-regionally (e.g. HuK, VLSP, BASG et cetera), activities in scientific research as well as public relations (performances, workshops and conferences in the field of adult education, at ecclesiastical events, in the field of classical education, etc.). In addition to that an important contribution to the exposure of processes of discrimination and stigmatising can be achieved with the help of our psychological models. On the one hand all these activities lead to the reduction of negative stereotypes in public, on the other hand they have a positive effect on ourselves, as we cope intensively with these caricatures, thus attaining a greater security in our critical argumentation and thus finally promoting the consolidation of our own positive identity.

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Udo Rauchfleisch is a professor of clinical psychology at the University of Basel, Switzerland, and also works in the psychiatric polyclinic in the same town. He used to do research on violence. In connection with that, and because of his personal involvement, he started doing research on the situation of lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals. His main publications on the latter topic are books called "Schwule, Lesben, Bisexuelle" and "Die Stillen und die Schriellen". This article is a summary of his panel talk on the latest VLSP conference in Cologne.

Helga Pankratz on "Coming Out" and "Outing" in German Everyday Language

by Melanie Steffens



The German translation of "coming out" as lesbian or gay has been "coming out" for some time. Lately, "outing oneself" has also become very common. Most people don't seem to be aware of the fact that this is not the original

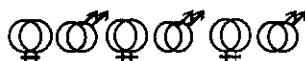
English-language meaning of "outing".

Furthermore, the fact that "coming out" means or has meant something other than "revealing a gay or lesbian identity" is unknown, too. "Outing" has not only replaced "coming out", but at the same time, it has been generalised to "making public anything about anybody," be it their taste in music, the kind of books they like to read, or the kind of sports they engage in.

Based on these observations about the use of these English expressions in German, Helga Pankratz provided the audience with a thorough and humorous analysis about their usage and meaning. Surprisingly, some German language dictionaries include "coming out" and "outing" as German language words, others do not even mention them as foreign words. Yet others describe different meaning of them, like defining "outing" as "works outing."

Pankratz observed that "coming out" or "outing" was used by German-speaking lesbians and gay men as if it were a children's disease that you have to go through to become an accepted member of the lesbian and gay community. Her precise analyses of the meaning and usage of these expressions probably require a writer's and a psychologist's abilities.

The article is a summary of Helga Pankratz's presentation on the 4th VLSP Congress held in Cologne in October 1996. She lives in Vienna, Austria, and is working on her doctoral dissertation on a lesbian-specific topic at the university there. She calls herself a poet, a thinker, and an activist in the lesbian (and gay) movement. On the one hand, she has published several poetry readers and short stories, on the other, her articles on lesbian research have appeared in scientific journals and anthologies. She is a member of ALGP Europe and one of our contact persons in Austria.



—Inside ALGP Europe—

Conference in Italy: Psychology of Lesbian and Gay Experiences: Psychotherapeutic Implications

by Luca Pietrantoni

On the 19th and 20th of October 1996 we organised an international workshop entitled "Psychology of lesbian and gay experiences: psychotherapeutic implications" in Milan at

which we collaborated with the International Institute of Sexology, Florence, and the University of California, Los Angeles.

Speakers were Linda Garnets, Barrie Levy,

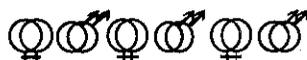
Franca Casamassima, and me. The audience was composed of more than eighty mental health professionals (psychotherapists, sexologists, psychiatrists, counsellors). The schedule of the two-days workshop was very intense.

The first day's topics were: the change of the view about homosexuality in the mental health field (the shift from the pathological model to the affirmative, the rising of a gay and lesbian counselling centre in Italy), psychotherapy and counselling related to HIV/AIDS, the social context (homophobia and heterosexism) and psychotherapy with lesbians and gay men who have been harassed or victimised. We presented our recent research about homophobia and about coping strategies in reaction to antigay and antilesbian victimisation in schools (see elsewhere in this issue).

The topics of the second day were: coming out process and related psychotherapy, gay and lesbian relationships with special regard to psy-

chotherapy of domestic violence and sexual dysfunctions, gay and lesbian families and parenthood.

On the first day, the audience was quite nervous, especially when Linda and Barrie came out as a lesbian couple and lesbian mothers. Some questions were definitely homophobic. But Linda dealt with that wonderfully being relaxed and assertive at the same time. While talking about homophobia and coming out, we were feeling a change in the attitudes. In fact, gay and lesbian psychotherapists in the audience came out and added worthy contributions in the debate regarding affirmative psychotherapy and especially about the issue of identification and countertransference between gay therapists and gay clients. Most of the people were very satisfied with the workshop and we were too. It was a good chance to empower gay and lesbian psychologists here in Italy and to provide guidelines and training to the psychotherapy practitioners.



Conference in Germany: Lesbians and Gay Men and the Public

by Birgit Eschmann

The 4th annual conference of VLSP (ALGP Germany) was held in Cologne, the actual gay capital of Germany, on October 25-27, 1996. More than 140 people attended, more than ever before, and it was a big success for VLSP.

After the main topics of therapy in 1994 and everyday life / work in 1995, this year's theme was the public: "In the closet and right in the midst—On the (self-)representation and perception of lesbians and gay men in the public".

The Cologne regional group of VLSP was organising this year's conference. We were lucky that three student members were volunteering to run the conference office for a small fee, and they did a very good job. After all, more than a dozen people were involved in the organisation but fortunately, the social psychology rule that a higher number of possibly responsible persons minimises the individual responsibility, did not hold true.

While the last two conferences were taking place at the University of Munich, the Cologne Lesbian and Gay Centre ("Schulz") and addi-

tional rooms in a Protestant academy next door were this year's venue.

Two panel talks were given by Prof. Dr. Udo Rauchfleisch, University of Basel (Switzerland), and Helga Pankratz, Vienna (Austria). You can find summaries of them elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter.

About twenty workshops were offered, for example, "Encounters of lesbian/gay client and therapist in the lesbian/gay subculture—chances and limits", "Formation of gay and lesbian identities", "Violence against gays", and "Lesbian icons".

A report of all workshops and plenary sessions will be available in a few months. If you are interested (or interested in the reports of 1994 or 1995), please contact: VLSP, Postfach 221330, D-80503 München, Germany.

The absolute climax of the conference was the party on Saturday evening, with a delicious dinner, and a diverting cultural programme: A splendid performance of an opera singer, accompanied by a marvellous piano player, and breath-

taking dance entertainment first by a step dancer (who is by the way an active VLSP member), and then by the winners of the Latin dance competition of the Euro-Games 1996. They really animated the crowd to continue afterwards and to dance the night away to the hot house-music a great DJ was offering.

Panel Discussion

The conference ended on Sunday with a very controversial panel discussion by representatives of straight and queer media in which the audience participated. Also we could win a "gay celebrity", Volker Beck, for the event: He is a member of the German parliament and the chair of the Gay Association Germany (SVD, Schwulenverband Deutschland).

The main discussion points proposed by the preparation group were:

- changes in the media representation of gay men and lesbians during the last decades;
- outing;
- the role of lesbian and gay celebrities;
- similarities/differences between straight and queer media with regard to the images of lesbians and gay men they want to convey;

- discrepancies between media images (e.g. "Gay men are successful and wealthy") and the social reality (e.g. lesbian poverty or HIV/AIDS).

Though all these points were discussed, a main part of the controversy was about the (lack of) quality especially of the gay male media. Until lately, lesbians had almost no nationally distributed press in Germany (apart from for example *Ihresinn*, mainly discussing feminist-separatist theory on a high level) but now, there is also *Lespress*, trying to combine light and serious lesbian issues. Its editors were on the panel, and they got some appreciation for their venture. The only trial to set up a high-level gay newspaper, *Magnus*, perished because of lack of readers. The existing gay male newspapers focus on sex and personal ads, some of them to an amazing extent, for example *First*, the most widely distributed one, with the very highest number of copies. By the way, a *First* journalist was attending the discussion, too. The lack of quality in the gay media made one male participant say "We only have the press we deserve.", to what another one replied: "I really cannot imagine what I did that I deserve the *First!*".



Conference in the UK: Homophobia and Beyond

by Liz Veacock

ALGBP-UK again enjoyed its annual training conference September 14-15, 1996, at Nottingham University, this year graced with bright sunshine which underlined the warmth and goodwill of the event.

Following last year's success, we used broadly the same format for the weekend. Members were invited to travel early and meet for a meal on

Friday night. About half the conference attendance took this opportunity and the buzz of friendships old and new began. (*It would be interesting to know half of how many that were! The Ed.*)

Keith Silvester hosted a panel plenary to open the conference the next day. Barbara Jackson and Gail Simon offered reflections on the theme

Taking Our Places as a profession in moving beyond homophobia. (See elsewhere in this issue for Gail Simon's reflections)

Gail mused on the double edged nature of queer acceptance into institutions previously forbidden to us at what cost? How does our membership of those institutions affect us and what we take back in our communities? What do we leave outside the door in order to 'belong'? She talked about the risk of losing our useful questioning of ourselves and others. Barbara discussed the particular role she believes we as 'other' can usefully play in today's society. Any minority has to learn early how to form an identity and sense of self in the teeth of opposition. The current broad culture of fragmentation (living in one place, working in another, training somewhere else again), stress of mobility and consequent attenuated roots, means for many that there is an uncertainty about where to slot themselves in and a crisis in the sense of self. Barbara sees it as no accident that so many lesbians, gay men and bisexuals are involved in therapy. Having struggled to develop a deep sense of self in the face of otherness, we have a profound gift to offer to society at large.

Discussion followed about the loneliness of being a queer therapist at this time and the costs of belonging, how we create belonging, the inherent paradox of this given that we so frequently don't. I was struck as so often in these discussions by how many questions were opened up about our identities, some painful, to which there are no easy answers, only ongoing discourse.

After lunch the workshops began. Options were as follows:

- Towards inter cultural and anti-racist therapy
- Double the trouble? Working with lesbians, gay men and bisexuals with disabilities
- Balancing cultural, religious and sexual identity: Jewish gay men and lesbians
- Are we being served? Supervision in the context of Gay Affirmative Therapy
- Psychologists, homophobia and bias in clinical judgement
- Counsellors' attitudes to bisexuality
- Encounter groups for gay men
- Beyond spoiled identities: The path of meditation
- The post modern homosexual

- Issues in psychotherapy with lesbians and gay men (a survey of British psychologists).

Thanks to all workshop leaders. The report on these received through the evaluation sheets were very positive and certainly many ideas were stimulated for discussion in breaks as well as workshops to follow the conference.

We were entertained in the evening by Salsa Fusion who performed a stunning routine having taught us some hot and spicy steps to try out. I thoroughly enjoyed pairing up and stepping out with old and new friends though our conversation tended to be punctuated by "1, 2, 3"!

A change to conference this year was the inclusion of a Steering Group meeting to welcome members not normally able to attend. It was great to have the increased input and certainly, a hope Dominic and I share is that the group will maintain and expand on the increase.

Another and pleasurable addition this year was Werner Valentin's offer to lead meditation in the morning and evening. It brought another dimension to the weekend and was a lovely example of skills-sharing which we could build on in future years—any singing leaders, painters, drummers...? Charles Neal supplied us with some break-time browsing and buying by staffing a bookstall throughout the two days.

Our closing plenary provided much useful information and suggestions for workshops next year (including a few offers). Once again networking and socialising were reported as some of the key benefits of the weekend. There were appreciation of Dominic and the Conference Committee. Dominic is handing over to Keith Silvester having organised two successful years. We are also delighted to announce that our administrator and conference organiser, Amanda Shribman, gave birth to Liam Jack shortly before the weekend so she and Avril Holling (her partner, his co-parent) were *en famille* in London whilst we enjoyed the fruits of their organisation (Avril on entertainment) in Nottingham. Tom Southern kindly stepped in to organise us on the days. Thanks to all three. I really cherished having leisurely time to meet and relax with colleagues of similar and diverse persuasions and appreciate everyone present for contributing to a great weekend.

This conference report is taken from the Bulletin of ALGBP-UK. Liz Veacock is one of the chairs of ALGBP-UK.

New Books of Interest

Book Review

Myrick, R. (1996). *AIDS, Communication and empowerment. Gay male identity and the politics of public health messages*. Binghamton, NY: The Haworth Press.

This book emphasises the role of institutional power as one of the most dangerous culprits in the proliferation of HIV/AIDS. This power is exerted through the process of labelling and fixing identity. This process is dangerous because it often remains invisible, and it defines who we are as individuals, groups and cultures. While we cannot escape the process that defines who and what we are, we can use a strategy of resistance and ridiculing the institutional power that drives that process. Myrick calls his process the "Theory of Power." Myrick examines the cultural construction of the concept of "gay men" in the light of discourse used in messages about AIDS that are in fact politically charged. He first describes how national health education historically and currently stigmatises marginal groups by associating them with images of disease and "otherness;" then he goes on to examine how community-based education designed specifically for marginal groups often unwillingly participates in similar communicative strategies which work against the groups being addressed.

The author concludes that the cultural analysis of communication about AIDS and gay men is useful for understanding the political consequences of public health campaigns in the 1980s and 1990s. Not only does this analysis enable us to critically read and resist to stigmatising mainstream messages designed for the general public: It also stimulates a reconsideration of ways marginal groups like the gay community can take control of their own education on public health issues. These messages attempt to create a positive cultural identity and empower the gay community. As the number of HIV infections and AIDS cases continues to rise dramatically among marginalized and disenfranchised groups, such analysis of health communication directed at those groups becomes crucial for survival.

In the book the theses of cultural theorists who have made use of the "Theory of Power" are examined to understand representations of marginal identity and disease. It is stated that government-

controlled messages enact relationships and representations that police, survey, and construct bodies, desires, and identities.

I think it is meritorious that Myrick makes aware of the hurtful situation that for more than a decade, public messages about a disease have been constructed to annihilate, physically and representationally, gay men. At this point he refers to Foucault's analysis of sexuality which continues to provide a political strategy for resistance against that kind of annihilation. Ultimately, his approach provides a critique of the politics ruling contemporary public health communication.

This book calls upon all those professionals who work in AIDS prevention programmes within the gay community and who cannot identify with the governmental bureaucratic processes. A valuable book for those who wish to understand or participate in public discourse on AIDS.

Helmuth Bühler

Book Review

Davies, D. & Neal, Ch. (Eds.). (1996). *Pink Therapy: A guide for Counsellors and Therapists working with lesbian, gay and bisexual clients*. Buckingham: Open University Press,

This is a book with a great many strengths—and this is to be expected from the authors. The editors are the founding chair (Neal) and current co-chair (Davies) of the ALGBP—UK, and the contributors are all experienced counsellors and psychotherapists. This book is important for at least two reasons. Firstly, because of its existence, and secondly because of its content. Its existence suggests that the issues related to the psychological well-being of those whose sexuality defines them as "other" is being attended to now, at least to some degree. The content of the book is thought provoking and informative referring to a number of dimensions of the experiences of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals. *Pink Therapy* has four declared aims. These are to:

- 1) provide knowledge about same sex sexuality and its social contexts,
- 2) distinguish affirmative and non-affirmative frameworks for practice,
- 3) consider some common clinical issues that

arise in working with lesbian, gay and bisexual clients,

- 4) assist readers in reflecting on their own assumptions and attitudes about working with lesbian, gay and bisexual clients.

Although not able to cover all the areas that therapists might want information on, the text does provide a wealth of information. The text is one that can be read as a whole or referred to as and when particular issues need attention. The experience of individuals and more contextual issues are equally well addressed, and are covered in a very readable and accessible style—accurately debunking myths in the process.

The second aim of *Pink Therapy*, which I feel is an important but ambitious aim, is not fully achieved. Although the question of “What is affirmative and non-affirmative practice in relation to lesbian, gay and bisexual clients” is addressed in the book, the model of affirmative therapy that was distinguished, seemed to be addressed to a humanistic paradigm. I feel that it is therefore more accurate to say that this book develops “an” understanding of affirmative therapy. One reason that a comprehensive model cannot be described at this point in time is, I believe, due to the fact that the wider field of psychotherapy and counselling is so fragmented.

Despite the orientation of the model, the editors encourage us to “make links between ‘gay affirmative’ and more explicitly humanistic or psycho dynamic theoretical models” (p. 2). This is important and should be considered by theorists and lecturers, and incorporated into the de-

velopment and training of models of psychological therapy.

Some of the recent controversy in the area of psychotherapy with sexual minorities has been in the field of psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic psychotherapy. *Pink Therapy* doesn't shy away from this as it includes contributions by at least one therapist who holds a psychoanalytic orientation and who, it has been claimed, is trying to “rescue psychoanalysis from its reputation as irredeemably anti-gay and to rehabilitate it” (Coyle, 1993).

Finally, the fourth aim of *Pink Therapy* isn't one that the book can achieve on its own—yet, it may be the most important aim. While the authors and editors of this volume have provided the information in an accessible style, in order for the book to be useful where it counts, i.e. clinically, the responsibility lies with the professionalism of individual therapists and trainings to take on board the material presented, and to reflect on it in a personally meaningful and clinically effective way. I believe that the real success of *Pink Therapy* is that it provides us with a way forward by allowing us all to open up a debate with ourselves and others, on the basic issue of what is good practice. The authors have done their part admirably, now it is up to us, as practitioners, to respond.

References:

- Coyle, A. (1993). Psychological issues in gay male sexuality. *The Psychologist*, 6.

Martin Milton is professional tutor of Psychotherapeutic and Counselling Psychology at the Department of Psychology, University of Surrey. He is a member of ALGBP—UK as well as member of ALGP Europe. This review was published in the *Counselling Psychology Review* in November 1996. *Pink Therapy* was already reviewed by Barbara Stahlheber in the 2/96 issue of our Newsletter. As the book is so important with regard to the aims of ALGP Europe, we are providing you with another perspective on it.

Book Review

Firestein, B. A. (Ed.). (1996). *Bisexuality—The psychology and politics of an invisible minority*. London: Sage Publications.

The purpose of this book is to provide a focused and comprehensive report on the evolution of bisexuality from a social sciences perspective. To facilitate this, the book is organised by chapter in four main sections written by fifteen academic, activist, and clinical contributors as follows:

1. An overview which provides a review of bisexual psychological theory and research, particularly its relationship to gay and lesbian identity development, and the depathologising of homosexuality,
2. A recognition of the enormous diversity which encompasses the range of experiences among people who identify as bisexual,
3. A discussion of counselling issues highlighting contemporary themes relevant to working with bisexual clients and the wider

environment in which they live, such as biphobia, lack of role models, and a visible community, and

4. *An affirmation of bisexuality* which chronicles the significant changes in psychology and related disciplines with respect to the landmark recognition of human sexual orientation as being on a continuum and subject to change, rather than fixed in a dualistic and immutable gay vs. straight dichotomy.

A comprehensive reference list is provided with each chapter, as well as a resource appendix.

In essence, the book is written as an academic study, and as the contributors are North American, a New World bias is unavoidable. The need for further work by British and continental Europeans is vital in order to illustrate the bisexual experience on this side of the Atlantic and document the differences that may exist. Also apparent is the desirability for more research into the experiences of a wider range of bisexual people such as members of the working class and gays and lesbians who now identify as bisexuals and have accordingly experienced coming out twice.

Notwithstanding the above, the book is an important part of the continuing growth in bisexual visibility and the struggle for acceptance as an orientation in its own right. It is only in the last two years in fact that any large-scale studies have been conducted to research comprehensively the forms of relationships that bisexuals enter into and to provide in explicit detail this information. The more research and literature documenting the reality of the diversity of sexual attraction and behaviour regardless of gender, the more grounded the existence of bisexuality will become. And significantly, the recognition of bisexuality can serve as doorway for further understanding and validation of all types of human sexuality.

Robert B. Geismar, ALGBP UK

Book Review

Burke, Ph. (1996). *Gender shock: Exploding the myths of male and female*. Anchor.

If gender has become the theme of the '90s, "Gender Shock" by San Francisco author Phyllis Burke is the groundbreaking book of the decade...

Her message is that in its confusion over what's innate and what's taught about gender,

society has become so fixated on rigid gender roles that it's made a disease out of every variation. The umbrella term for this disease is Gender Identity Disorder, or GID, and the appalling, barbaric uses to which GID has been put will horrify many readers. Only "by looking at what society pathologizes," Burke believes, can we "see the clearest common denominator of what society demands of (people) considered normal."

Buried under fears of cross-dressing and "inappropriate" gender behaviour is a deeply embedded, universal panic over latent homosexuality, Burke believes. While doctors used to warn parents "that lack of hand-eye co-ordination equals pre homosexuality" or that girls who played ball were vulnerable to "prepubertal lesbianism," since 1980, when the American Psychiatric Association dropped homosexuality as a mental disorder, doctors aren't supposed to treat it as such.

But since the taboo about homosexuality still exists and has gone underground, such accepted "diagnoses" as GID are increasingly used, Burke says, as a means "to punish people for things that could be perceived as relating to sexual orientation," as one patient-advocate lawyer tells the author.

Thus a further "shock" of this book emerges in waves as Burke uncovers study after study in which such "diagnoses" of latent gayness slip in. An 8-year-old who started analysis at 3 "would likely have developed into an adult homosexual" without treatment, his doctor says. A reprehensible quip by a doctor in 1995 about boys who play with Barbie dolls almost says it all: "Barbies at five. Sleeps with men at 25."

Burke anchors the book with a dozen GID case studies, beginning with Becky, a 7-year-old girl in 1978 who refuses to wear dresses, stomps around in cowboy boots, likes basketball and engages in "rough-and-tumble play," which, in psychological terminology, is the hallmark of the male child," writes Burke. Becky is not only diagnosed by a psychologist "as having 'female sexual identity disturbance' which manifested as 'deviant gender behaviour,'" she and other girls like her are reported by the doctor to be "at risk for transsexualism, adult homosexuality, neuroticism, personality disorders, drug and alcohol abuse, an unstable work record, depression, suicidal ideation, suicide attempts and schizophrenia .

Doctors' attempts to bring scientific proce-

dures to Becky's treatment sound ludicrously like self-fulfilling prophesies, as Burke tells it. Becky is given the "IT Scale for Children" to measure her "sexually deviant symptoms," and sure enough, she has some. She is scored by the Barlow Gender-Specific Motor Behavior Form in her manner of sitting, standing ("if you stand with your feet apart, you are masculine. If you stand with your feet together, you are feminine") and walking ("long, free strides" are masculine; "short, controlled strides" are feminine).

She almost passes the Machover Figure-Drawing Test by initially drawing a female figure (in this test, "if a girl draws a boy, she has a gender problem"), but the doctor "hastened to qualify it. The figure, he said, 'had a frown on its face' and was 'without arms.'"

We hope this is a case out of some Dark Ages in psychology, but as Burke points out, as is true with many other GID diagnoses, "the same treatments that Becky underwent are recommended" by doctors to parents today and are found in the 1995 "Handbook of child and adolescent sexual problems," available in many medical school libraries.

Patricia Holt

(reprinted from the *San Francisco Chronicle*)

Book Recommendation

Cabaj, R.P. & Stein, T.S. (Eds.). (1996). *Textbook of homosexuality and mental health*. Washington: American Psychiatric Press.

The *Textbook of Homosexuality and Mental Health* is a historical book containing more than 100 pages and 50 articles on the newest research on homosexuality. I have read several articles and review them as good. Homosexuality is considered a normal variation of human sexuality. Many of the authors are members of AGLP (American Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists) themselves. The editors Robert Cabaj and Terry Stein are also past presidents of AGLP. Terry Stein, now professor of psychiatry, has been invited to write the chapter on homosexuality to the next edition of the international norm Kaplan-Sadock: *Comprehensive textbook of psychiatry*. Still today the Kaplan-Sadock handbook (Gadpaille) considers homosexuality a disorder and heterosexuality a "species-specific" norm. I think these changes are historical!

Olli Stalstrom

New Books and Articles

- Alexander, C.J. (Ed.). (1996). *Gay and lesbian mental health. A sourcebook for practitioners*. Binghamton, NY: Harrington Park Press. (To be reviewed in the next issue of the Newsletter.)
- Cherney, P.M. (1996). Grief among gay men associated with multiple losses from AIDS. *Death Studies*, 20, 115-132.
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- Matchinsky, D.J. (1996). Homophobia in heterosexual female undergraduates. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 31, 123-128.
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- Sherhoff, M. (Ed.). (1996). *Human services for gay people. Clinical and community practice*. Binghamton, NY: Harrington Park Press. (To be reviewed in the next issue of the Newsletter.)
- Sullivan, G. & Wai-Teng Leong, L. (Eds.). (1995). *Gays and lesbians in Asia and the Pacific. Social and human services*. Binghamton, NY: Harrington Park Press.
- Weiss, P. (1995) Prevalence of homosexual orientation and homosexual experience among the population of the Czech Republic. *Review of Sexology: Journal from Central Europe*, 2, 53-60.

NewsNewsNews

Socarides was Silenced

In April 1996, Charles W. Socarides was told to shut up by the APA (American Psychoanalytic Association: *American*). The background is that Socarides gave a sworn affidavit to support the anti-homosexual Colorado Amendment 2. He opposed legal equality to lesbian and gays by stating that "I wish to assert that obligatory homosexuality is a psychiatric psychopathology" (That is how his 100-page statement begins). As you know the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Colorado's Amendment 2 a short time ago thus accepting that lesbian and gays are, in fact, entitled to legal protection against discrimination. This was a great victory to the LGBT community and it was celebrated world-wide. Also the APA,

who has been looking for some time for a reason to distance itself from Socarides, reacted because of the fact that Socarides had referred to *old* positions of the APA. The association has changed its views and it has even accepted a position *against* the discrimination of lesbians and gays in psychoanalytic training in 1991.

Now the *American* can scold Socarides in no uncertain terms: "...immediately cease all misrepresentations of the *American's* current position regarding homosexuality. Such misrepresentation is actionable...". This letter was sent to Socarides by the lawyers of the APA on April 11, 1996 and published in the summer issue of TAP (The American Psychoanalyst).

Olli Stalstrom



Conferences & Papers & Requests

Very soon: Swiss Conference on "Gay and Lesbian Clients—Helpless Psychotherapists?"

The Forum of Gay and Lesbian Psychologists, Switzerland, organises a conference for heterosexual and homosexual colleagues on Friday, January 31, and Saturday, February 1, 1997, in Zurich. Topic of the conference will be homosexual development and coming-out under heterosexual primacy. Four lectures (by Ingrid Wandel, Konstanz; Dr. Jan Schippers, Den Haag; Christa Schulte, Bremen; Dr. Martin Dannecker, Frankfurt) and a variety of workshops will be offered. The conference is meant for information and education of all psychotherapists about the working with homosexual clients, and how it differs or not from the working with heterosexuals. For further information contact:

Forum schwuler und lesbischer PsychotherapeutInnen, Postfach, CH-8026 Zürich, Fax: +41-1-2911500 (to: Bernhard Villiger), Phone: +41-1-2415415.

Dublin Conference

ALGP Europe submitted a symposium entitled "Lesbian and Gay Affirmative Psychology in Contemporary Europe" to the Vth European

Congress of Psychology to be held in Dublin, July, 6th to 11th, 1997. See also page 2 of this issue.

Journal of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Identity

The new quarterly *Journal of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Identity* is out. The Journal is an international interdisciplinary forum dedicated to the exchange of new knowledge and ideas about every major aspect of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender life. It features original peer-reviewed scholarly articles, clinical studies, research papers, personal essays, interviews, "roundtable discussions," reviews, and poetry.

For a complimentary premiere issue and subscription information, contact the publisher directly: Human Sciences Press, Inc. Attn: Dept. HGL 233 Spring Street New York, NY 10013-1578, USA.

The editorial board welcomes the opportunity to review your original manuscripts dealing with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender topics. Please write to the Editor for complete submission guidelines: Warren J. Blumenfeld, Editor, Journal of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Identity, P.O. Box 929 Northampton, MA 01061, E-mail: blumenfeld@educ.umass.edu

Organisational Psychologists Sought

One of our members is looking for other gay or lesbian psychologists working in the field of organisational psychology. If you are interested in establishing contact with him, please contact the Steering Group.

For all members: If you want to contact other members of the Association, please feel free to ask the Editors of the Newsletter to publish your requests and announcements.

ALGP EUROPE INFORMATION

Steering Group:
Melanie Steffens (Chair)
Barbara Stahlheber
Claudia Mühlbauer
Birgit Eschmann
Helmuth Bühler (Secret.)
Ulli Biechele (Vice Chair)

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NEWSLETTER

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Advertisement rates and Deadlines:

For inquiries please contact the editors. Please always send us your copy on floppy and on paper.

Application/Subscription Form

- I am a psychologist or a psychology student, and I want to join ALGP Europe and receive the ALGP Europe Newsletter.
- I am neither a psychologist nor a psychology student, but I want to receive the ALGP Europe Newsletter at a price of DM 50 per year.

Please fill in this form and send it to: ALGP Europe, c/o Melanie Steffens, FB I – Psychologie, Universität Trier, Germany.

Name: _____ f m Student: yes no

Address: _____

Nationality: _____

Phone number including country and local access codes

Private: _____ Work: _____ Fax: _____

Occupation and place of employment (confidentiality guaranteed): _____

What is your professional speciality? _____

Remember to enclose a Euro-Cheque for DM 50. If paying by other means, please check:

- I have sent an international postal money order.

Psychologists and psychology students only:

For the Netherlands and Germany only, check if applicable:

- I've included no cheque since I want to join ALGP Europe via my national organisation. Send me name, address and phone no. of a contact person.

All nationalities, check if applicable:

- Please send me name, address and phone no. of the contact person for my national ALGP organisation.

IMPORTANT! Check one of the two following blanks:

- I grant permission to have my name, address and phone no. placed on a list to be distributed, on request, to other ALGP Europe members.
- Exclude my name from the address and phone list.

Date and signature

Wanted: Your Opinion!

We receive rather little feed-back about the Newsletter. Therefore, we want to make it easier for *all our readers* (no matter if you are an ALGP Europe member or not) to provide us with your criticisms, wishes, and suggestions by giving you this questionnaire. Please fill it out and send it to ALGP Europe, c/o Melanie Steffens, FB I – Psychologie, Universität Trier, D-54 286 Trier, Germany. Thank you!

1. How much of the Newsletter do you read?

- all of it most of it half of it some of it none of it

2. Which parts of it do you read?

- Information concerning ALGP Europe and the Steering Group
 National reports Conference reports
 Feature articles Book reviews
 Lists of new publications News and announcements

3. What would you like to read more about?

- Information concerning ALGP Europe and the Steering Group
 Information from other members Articles on lesbian and gay research
 National reports Conference reports
 Book reviews Lists of new publications
 News and announcements Sex and crime
 Personal ads Letters to the Editors

4. Is there a certain topic for a "Focus on..." that you would like to suggest?

5. Would you like the possibility for (new) members to be portrayed in the Newsletter?

- Yes No

Would you yourself like to be portrayed?

- Yes No

6. Is there anything YOU want to contribute to the Newsletter? And if so, what?

7. Readability of the Newsletter: Do you have any proposals concerning the arrangement of articles? Is the language used understandable? Would you appreciate articles in languages other than English, and if so, which ones? Should we include more pictures or cartoons?

8. Any further comments:

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