

With A Clear Conscience?

Carl Bernstein of Watergate fame was recently interviewed on public radio about the state of investigative reporting today. He maintained that the skill and the will still exist but that there has been nothing to investigate since the exposé of the pedophile priest scandal. As the Archbishop of St Paul reigns under a cloud of cover-up, he is chastised for claiming to leave "with a clear conscience." Can the media claim "a clear conscience?"

Child sexual abuse by clergy is a further tragedy because Christian teaching holds that sexuality, created by God, is intended to be limited to expression between a man and a woman within the bounds of a permanent and exclusive relationship called marriage. Ironically, while this definition has been attacked as discriminatory and a new definition successfully enshrined in law and in the hearts of the general public, those who departed from propriety under the old definition are being held accountable for **damages** to the victims!

But there is an even bigger, largely ignored, scandal. That is abuse of minors by the ordinary homosexual citizens. Way back in 1970, the Kinsey Institute interviewed 565 white gay males in San Francisco: 25% of them admitted to having had sex with boys aged 16 or younger while they themselves were at least 21. (Reported in Bell & Weinberg, *Homosexualities: A Study of Diversity Among Men and Women*, 1978, New York: Simon & Schuster). It was not an isolated finding. In *The Gay Report* (Jay & Young, 1979, New York: Summit) 23% of the gays and 6% of the lesbians admitted to sexual interaction with youth less than 16 years of age.

How is this answered by defenders of the gay community? One way is to note that the majority of child molestation is heterosexual, men abusing girls. This is indeed true, but mathematically deceptive because homosexuals make up 1 – 3% of the population and account for about 40% of the molestations. The *Los Angeles Times* (1985 August 25-26) surveyed 2,628 adults across the U.S. in 1985 and found 27% of the women and 16% of the men claimed to have been sexually molested. Since 7% of the molestations of girls and 93% of the molestations of boys were by adults of the same sex, about 4 of every 10 molestations in this survey were homosexual.

Another defense is that the child or youth is actually the sexual aggressor and seduces the adult. David Leavitt, well-known gay author, writes of one particular book, ***When Jonathan Died***, by Tony Duvert. "The coolly assured narrative" of this work, Leavitt informs, "compels the reader to imagine the world from a perspective he might ordinarily condemn." Duvert, writes Leavitt, "offers us a homosexual Lolita--one in which the child is seducer as much as seduced." The scene selected is sexually graphic. And the age of this child, whom Leavitt considers "seducer as much as seduced"? He is "hardly seven." (from "Pedophilia Chic Reconsidered" by Mary Eberstadt.)

An article in the American Psychological Association's "Psychological Bulletin" in July 1998 attempted to deny the inevitability of harm from "intergenerational sex," (also reported in "Pedophilia Chic Reconsidered" by Mary Eberstadt.) "A Meta-Analytic Examination of Assumed

Properties of Child Sexual Abuse Using College Samples" and co-authored by Bruce Rind (Temple University), Robert Bauserman (University of Michigan), and Philip Tromovitch (University of Pennsylvania).

The point of "Meta-Analytic"? The common belief that "child sexual abuse causes intense harm, regardless of gender" was not supported by the studies the authors cited; that, to the contrary, "negative effects [of child sexual abuse] were neither pervasive nor typically intense, and that men reacted much less negatively than women." The article also criticized the "indiscriminate use of this term [child sexual abuse] and related terms such as victim and perpetrator," suggesting instead that the child's feelings about sex acts with adults should be taken into account, and that "a willing encounter with positive reactions would be labeled simply adult-child sex."

This caught the attention of radio broadcaster Dr. Laura Schlessinger as well as the public at large. There was even a public castigation of the American Psychological Association by majority whip Tom DeLay; a House vote to condemn the "Meta-Analytic" essay itself (355-0, with 13 abstentions); and a highly unusual public rejection by the APA of the piece's conclusions, along with a promise to acquire an independent evaluation of the article.

But in the meantime, as the GLBT agenda gains momentum, the dark side has been forgotten and those charged with speaking truth to power are silent. And the priests are still held accountable.

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