

CGLBMAPA

Caucus of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Members of the American Psychiatric Association

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: Dr. Stu Nichols

Annual Meeting: Plan to come early to Los Angeles. Caucus activities will start on Sunday, May 6, 1984, with the opening Hospitality Suite and the first Caucus party! See Terry Stein's report for further details.

By-laws: The Executive Committee, during the L.A. meetings, will propose a number of changes in the By-laws that are necessary to bring us up to date. Details of these will be presented in the next *Newsletter*. It is hoped that these can be enacted at the second meeting this May.

Future of the Caucus: An important, ongoing agenda item for L.A. will be the future directions of the Caucus. All members are encouraged to participate in these discussions. What services are valuable to members? What should our relationship to other gay medical and professional organizations be? How much interest is there in setting up committees within the Caucus? Now that we have CHIPS and the "Gay Committee" of the APA, should the Caucus be primarily a social, support organization?

Publications of Note: Congratulations to Dave Ostrow for his volume on STD's in *Homosexual Men* (Plenum Press); to him, and Emery Hetrick, and Terry Stein for their upcoming books in the APA Press' Monograph series (which should be out by the annual meeting); and to Terry and Carol Cohen for their book on psychotherapy with gay men and lesbians which is being published by Plenum Press.

Rare Breed Department: There was a very good paper presented by a friendly psychoanalyst, Richard Isay, at the winter meeting of the American Academy. Copies of this paper will be available to interested parties in L.A. at the hospitality suite.

(Editor's Note: **Homophobia** remains a major force operating in American psychiatry. The rest of this column can attest to the need for all Caucus members to be aware and respond as needed.)

Plans for the APA Auxillary: As reported by Jim Krajewski elsewhere in this *Newsletter*, the APA has decided to create an "umbrella organization" under which supports of the organization can be officially recognized. This umbrella was necessary because the "legal spouses" refused to associate with "other types." ("Wives are forever," as one of them told the APA Board). Despite this threat, the Board approved the creation of the auxillary organizations. It is now time to organize. I propose that we create three groups -- the Spouses Auxillary Group, the House-husbands Auxillary Group, and the Psychiatrists' Homosexual Auxillary Group -- and refer to them familiarly as SAG, HAG, and PHAG. I think it presents this development in just the right light. What do you think?...

Homophobia Is Alive And Well In The South: Ed Nix sent us news of Anita Bryant being featured as a "prominent and special guest" at the November meeting of the Southern Medical Association. He also enclosed an awful editorial for the local medical journal which pretended to be liberal (equating homosexuality with obesity,

both being "deviant from the norm"). The author, Dr. Alfred A. Messer of Atlanta, uses this pretext, however, to trot out all the old myths about lonely, depressed older gays, the "deep-seated fear of women," the "ultimate decline of the species" if society does not maintain its prejudice toward homosexuality, the fear of competition with men, etc., etc., etc... Of course, he then gets around to invoking AIDS, attacks John Spiegel for his comments summarized here in the last issue of the *Newsletter*, and calls on psychiatrists who "understand the basis for homosexual behavior" to assert themselves "in upholding heterosexuality, marriage, and the family just as we uphold good physical health; for in them lies the future of humanity."

American Journal of Psychiatry: What's The Story? The February Issue has an article from the Masters and Johnson people on the treatment of "dissatisfied homosexual men." Many of us find several faults with this presentation, and I **urge** all Caucus members to write to the managing editor, Evelyn S. Myers, and object to the absence of any gay input to the editorial process in reviewing such articles. These are the same people who brought you the Pattisons' article on the religious conversion of homosexuals just two years ago. The *AJP* does not want to acknowledge that the APA has taken steps to see that its gay membership has a voice in psychiatric matters that affect us. **Please write!**

Evelyn S. Myers, Managing Editor
American Journal of Psychiatry
1400 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

These articles lead one to propose--

Homophobic Editor of the Year Award: Nominations are the above two journals and the *North Carolina Medical Journal* which ran the Rev. Selby's editorial "AIDS and the Moral Law" last May, as reported in the Summer, 1983, *Caucus Newsletter*. And now, for the envelope please.....

Enough for now. Start making your plans for Los Angeles. See you soon.

Advanced Schedule on Caucus Activities at the APA Annual Meeting in Los Angeles: Dr. Terry Stein

We have begun active planning for the APA Annual Meeting in Los Angeles and currently have arranged a tentative schedule for Caucus activities. The Opening Reception will be held on Sunday Evening, May 6, this year, and we hope to have an informal business meeting and time for informational exchange on Sunday afternoon as well. We were asked to alter the time of the Opening Reception from Monday evening, which has been the traditional night for it, so as not to conflict with the APA opening meetings. We hope this will allow even a larger number of persons to attend.

We are also planning to consolidate our formal Business Sessions into two meetings on early Monday and Tuesday evenings so that the business activities do not stretch out through the entire week. In addition, the Caucus will have a Hospitality Suite, and discussion groups will be scheduled in order to dialogue about future directions for the Caucus. Finally, we will have a Closing Reception at a member's home later in the week. The date will be set after other APA events are scheduled. We are trying to arrange all Caucus activities at a single site this year. It appears that the

events mentioned above (except for the Closing Reception) will all be scheduled at the Bonaventure Hotel. This should provide easier access to activities for members than is some previous Annual Meeting locations. The LA Planning Committee has been active in assisting with the planning. We will forward a final schedule well before the meeting.

I look forward to an exciting and active time this year in Los Angeles. Mark your calendars now and plan to arrive in LA by Sunday!

Caucus of Homosexually Identified Psychiatrists: Dr. Jim Krajewski

The Fall Meeting of the Assembly was held in Washington, D.C., in November, 1983. This was the first meeting at which the Homosexually Identified Psychiatrists had elected representatives. Attending as Representative was Jim Krajewski, M.D. Stuart Nichols, M.D., attended as a substitute for Deputy Representative, Dave Kessler, M.D.

A variety of issues were discussed. They ranged from economic issues to a vote to ban smoking in the Assembly meeting. The Assembly voted to drop from membership APA members who have not paid their building assessment by December, 1984; endorsed the formation of a component on psychiatric services in the military; and recommended changes in the APA Peer Review program. The Assembly also accepted a recommendation from the Minority Representatives that: "As much as is reasonable, the APA should use the services of APA member psychiatrists with knowledge of that country or region's language and culture." This action resulted from the announcement that APA was invited by the Pentagon to provide psychiatric consultation in Grenada.

One of the most controversial issues of the Assembly meeting was the formation of an Auxiliary of the American Psychiatric Association. There was considerable opposition because of the limitation of membership to spouses of APA members or spouses of deceased APA members, which presumably excludes significant others of unmarried or gay APA members. A compromise resolution was introduced calling for an umbrella group that would permit the Auxiliary to be formed, but which would also permit other "friend of APA" type groups to be formed. This resolution resulted in a tie vote of the Assembly members, with the Speaker breaking the tie by voting in favor of this compromise. Stuart Nichols spoke against the resolution on the Assembly floor, and Jim Krajewski cast a "no" vote on behalf of HIP.

During the Assembly meeting, the Committee on Procedures asked the Minority Representatives to develop a set of procedures covering elections and to develop criteria for "graduation" from minority status. There was also approval for new minority Caucus chairpersons to attend the Fall orientation session for Presidents-elect of the District Branches at APA expense.

Report of the Committee on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues: Dr. Jim Krajewski

The Committee met in October, 1983, in Washington, D.C. Those attending were Drs. Jim Krajewski, Peggy Hackenbruck, David Sanders, Frank Rundle, and Stuart Nichols. A primary focus for discussion was how the APA should respond to the AIDS crisis. It was decided that a separate APA component was needed to deal with this particular issue, and a recommendation was made to the Council on National Affairs that such an

APA component be established. (Ultimately, a recommendation was approved by the Board of Trustees, at its December meeting, to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on AIDS.) Negotiations were also initiated with American Psychiatric Press, Inc., to publish a monograph on AIDS.

The Committee submitted a proposal for a program on issues related to coming out as the component presentation at the Annual Meeting. This was subsequently approved by the Scientific Program Committee.

There was discussion of the military's policy of discharging gay men and women and the role of psychiatry in this process. These issues will continue to be discussed by the APA components on the Abuse and Misuse of Psychiatry and a new committee on Military Psychiatry. Several other concerns were discussed, including ethical issues insofar as they apply to psychiatry's role with gay men and women in areas such as the military, government, and courts.

The Committee welcomes any input and recommendations for action from Caucus members. If any member is aware of specific examples of inappropriate psychiatric interventions in the military (or elsewhere), the Committee would like to be appraised of this:

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San Francisco, CA 94123.

Treasurer's Report: Dr. Bob Schwartz

All members who have not paid dues in 1983-84 have been sent a reminder letter.

There is always a percentage of letters returned because of change of address, but generally, if members have not heard from me, it means their dues are current. Over half of the names on the mailing list have not paid their current dues. It is vital that the Caucus have the broad support of its members; paying the yearly dues is tangible evidence of that support. We can probably maintain the current dues rate if that occurs, but without the support, an increase will be inevitable. Whether one is active in Caucus affairs, whether one attends the annual APA meeting, or whether one is even a member of the APA, the visibility of the Caucus to our colleagues in the APA is important. The Caucus deserves support. If you have not yet paid your annual membership dues (\$50.00 or \$25.00 for members-in-training), please send your check payable to "CGLBMAPA" to:

Dr. Robert Schwartz
5645 Park Oak Place
Los Angeles, CA 90068.

NEWS UPDATES

At the December meeting, the Board of Trustees of the APA voted to join the American Psychological Association in filing an amicus brief before the United States Supreme Court in the case of People vs. Uplinger. In this case, the lower courts overturned a New York state law which prohibited loitering "in a public place

