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meet before heading out to explore the city. Located on the 2nd floor of the Allerton are the hotel’s restaurant and lounge, called Taps on Two - another pleasant rendezvous location. Just 3 blocks north of the hotel is the Chicago Water Works Visitors Center, 163 E. Pearson, at Michigan Ave. and Pearson, a great resource for information on Chicago attractions, performances, current events, discounted tickets, and general transportation information.

We’re happy to report that most AGLP events will take place in the Allerton. Both Saturday’s pre-convention program and Sunday’s opening reception will take place in portions of the Renaissance Ballroom on the 23rd floor of the hotel, occupying the former space of the Tip Top Tap, a fabled Chicago landmark. Many AGLP scheduled meetings and events will take place in the AGLP Hospitality Suite, conveniently located in the Sullivan Room, just off the 3rd floor main lobby. AGLP materials and local materials of interest will be available in the Hospitality Suite throughout the week. AGLP annual business meetings take place on Monday and Tuesday early evenings in the Renaissance North on the 23rd floor.

A few of the many special events planned include a Lesbians’ Dinner at Vivo, Saturday night at 7:00pm. Dr. Lisa Rone from the Local Arrangements Committee was able to secure financial support from Bristols-Meyers Squibb for this event. Great job Lisa. Sunday morning is the Early Career Psychiatrists Brunch, hosted by Dr. Scott Gordon. The group will meet at 11:30 am at the Hospitality Suite and then proceed to the brunch location. Residents and students are welcome to attend this event. The Significant Others Group will hold their meeting on Monday in the Hospitality Suite, then on Tuesday morning embark for a fascinating architectural cruise down the Chicago River.

One of the main events, of course is the Opening Reception, Sunday evening from 6:30-8:30 pm. The event is open to all, and takes place in the Renaissance Ballroom on the 23rd floor of the Allerton. Wednesday’s night’s Closing Awards Banquet takes place in the Metropolitan Club, on the 67th floor of the Sears Tower. The banquet is preceded by a VIP reception for patrons and sponsors of AGLP at 6:00 - 7:00 pm. The general membership reception follows from 7:00-8:00 pm. The banquet dinner begins at 8:00 pm, followed by the awards program and dancing until 11:30 pm.

A quick word about climate: Chicago’s temperature in May averages in the low-mid 60’s during the day, with an overall range from 45-70 degrees. Nights may be chilly and the closer you get to the lake, the cooler it gets. Although it is generally sunny and pleasant in May, showers are possible so bringing a rain jacket or umbrella is advisable. Bring clothing for layering as temperature can vary within the span of a day. Although Chicago is generally an informal city, a few finer restaurants do require more formal, business-like attire. And you’ll definitely want to be prepared to try out some of the nation’s finest dining establishments.

While in Chicago, you’ll definitely want to check out our gay and lesbian Community - we even have our own Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce! Although, gays and lesbians are abundant throughout the city (6% in the most recent census), Lakeview is overwhelmingly the epicenter of gay Chicago. Most gay owned bars, eateries and stores located with the Lakeview neighborhood are clustered along Halsted extending from Belmont north to Irving Park, and Broadway (one to the east) from Oakdale to Cornelia. Andersonville, an old Swedish neighborhood to the north, also has become an enclave for gay men. You’ll find detailed listings of shops, restaurants, and bars of interest to our community in the guidebook.

As you can see, much is in store for us during this year’s meeting. The Local Arrangements Committee is convinced that before you leave, you too will refer to our fine city as “My Kind of Town”. See you in Chicago!
President's Column
Philip Bialer, M.D.

- The trial and convictions of the murderers of Pfc. Barry Winchell.
- The military's "Don't ask, don't tell" policy being raised again in this year's primary season as a still unresolved (and failing) issue.
- A referendum in California that defines marriage as being between a man and a woman.
- The Vermont Supreme Court decision mandating that the Vermont legislature devise a solution that would bestow equal rights to gay and lesbian couples.
- The prospect of Dr. Laura spreading her own brand of anti-gay hatred on TV.

These were some of the stories involving our community that appeared in the newspapers since our last Newsletter came out. These are also just a fraction of the many issues that affect the wide diversity of gays and lesbians. As I read the remarkable newspaper accounts and discussed the events with my friends and colleagues, I couldn't help but reflect on how AGLP, as a professional organization, fits into the arena of gay politics.

Many of our members focus on the social aspects of the annual meeting. A sizable portion also participate in the educational program and discussion groups that take place in the Hospitality Suite. These interactions tend to foster a strong sense of community for us within our profession which is very important.

The APA is comprised of a broad membership, many with conservative, outdated, and some absolutely incorrect views on homosexuality. In many ways, the APA is representative of the world at large where the previously mentioned events took place. For instance, an APA member as respected as Bob Spitzer, has recently been proposing a debate about reparative therapy at this year's Annual Meeting. How to respond to such a proposal has provoked a strong response among our membership. Some feel that it is wrong to bury our heads in the sand and ignore the reality that there are still practitioners out there espousing reparative therapy. Others say that since the APA has approved a position paper condemning reparative therapy, this is not a debatable issue. (For those of you who read the many contentious e-mails that served as our own internal debate, please forgive my very brief and simple summary of the situation). My personal take is that there is still much work for AGLP to accomplish by working along with our official APA component, the Committee on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Issues and our Caucus reps to the Assembly. We can begin this work by continuing our discussions and planning strategies in our Hospitality Suite in Chicago in May. We also must continue to encourage growth in our membership. AGLP's voice is already strong and taken seriously, but I believe that there is even more strength in numbers and we have much room for growth and increased clout.

Let me close by offering a few congratulations and thanks. First of all, hearty congratulations to AGLP member, Keith Young, who was elected to the Board of Trustees as a member-at-large (to be changed to early career trustee). Also, I want to thank our members for obviously supporting Keith in what was a close race.

Finally, I want to thank Bill Gilmer for all the work he and his Local Arrangements Committee have done in preparing for this year's annual meeting. You will find the fruit of their labors is this Newsletter. Also, thank you to Mary Barber for putting together another great Saturday morning symposium and a week full of activities in the Hospitality Suite.

See you in Chicago.

My personal take is that there is still much work for AGLP to accomplish by working along with our official APA component, the Committee on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Issues and our Caucus reps to the Assembly.
Vice-President’s Column
Mary Barber, M.D.

I am excited to present to you this year’s program, a feast of excellent discussion topics and activities that reflect the diversity of interests of our members. The week starts with our Saturday morning Symposium. The keynote speaker will be Anne Fausto-Sterling, PhD, a biologist, feminist, and historian of science at Brown University. Her latest book, Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality methodically and entertainingly tears apart the scientific research on gender and sexuality, exposing the social and political biases behind both the data and its interpretations. She then proposes a more balanced view of interaction between genes and the environment, urging us to move beyond the polarization of “nature” and “nurture” and other false dualisms. The talk will make you think twice about off-cited studies we all take as proven fact. Discussants will be AGLP members Ron Cowan, M.D., Ph.D., and Richard Pleak, M.D., and the general discussion is sure to be lively. For more about Professor Fausto-Sterling’s book, see the book review also in this Newsletter.

This year we’ll have no fewer than three film sessions in the hospitality suite. The first, on Saturday, is Deepa Mehta’s “Fire,” about two women in present-day India who begin a sexual relationship with each other in the midst of their stifling marriages and family life. On Sunday, two short documentaries will be shown. “Sexual Exiles” features interviews with men and women compelled to leave their country because of their sexuality. In “Beauty Before Age,” men of many ages discuss fears and stereotypes about aging in the gay community. On Wednesday, “The Brandon Teena Story,” will be shown by the Women’s Committee. The film is a documentary about Brandon Teena, a young woman who “passed” as a man and was brutally killed when her secret was discovered.

Tom Chaderjian of Human Rights Campaign will be doing a training on lobbying our congress members, as well as giving us issue updates pertaining to this election year. The APA Public Affairs office will do a training for our members on talking to the media. The office recently went to the bat for us, trying to stop a biased “20/20” segment on reparative therapy, and is welcoming of more of our membership becoming available to present to the public a positive view of homosexuality that is consistent with APA’s. I feel it is our responsibility, given our positions of relative privilege as physicians, to speak up about issues that are important to gay and lesbian people. Hopefully these two trainings will help embolden and equip more of us to do so.

Discussions on psychoanalytic treatment of gay patients, parenting, and coming out are also on the program, as well as a writer’s workshop by the editors of our own Journal of Lesbian and Gay Psychotherapy. Rounding out the schedule are social events for international and minority members, women, residents and early career psychiatrists, child psychiatrists, HIV-affected psychiatrists, and significant others of AGLP members.

Mark your calendars and plan to be in Chicago for the duration!!!

Caucus of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Psychiatrists Column
Margie Sved, M.D., Assembly Representative

I just returned from the Spring Area 5 Council meeting. The next activity will be the Assembly meeting in Chicago in conjunction with the APA Annual Meeting. Over the next month, the various Action Items for the May Assembly will be developed and circulated. If available soon enough (many APA staff members have changed, and many expected timelines are not being met), I will post these, or a summary, on the APA GLB list serve as well as on the email list that the AGLP office distributes. You can sign up for the APA list serve on the APA website (www.psych.org) or by contacting Janiece Taylor in the APA office. Let Roy know if he should add you to the AGLP email list.

Most of the weekend Area 5 Council meeting was spent discussing finances. All aspects of the APA (Central office, Councils and components, Board of Trustees, and Assembly) are required to make budget cuts for 2000 (and then larger ones for 2001). This will make more money available for public education and advocacy, direct services to the district branches, and the Task Force on Business and Industry. These discussions have included the role vs. expense of Deputys Representatives and Area Councils. The lack of detailed accounts of expenses and the lack of clarity as to what comes out of what line item complicate this. The following five principles were adopted by the Assembly Executive Committee to help guide these budgetary discussions:

1) Preserve the democratic, participatory culture of the Assembly.
2) Maintain opportunity and participation by all members, especially MITs, ECPs, and MURs.
3) Allow participation by maximum number of individuals, within budgetary constraints.
4) Maintain and strengthen linkage between the Reps, Dep Reps, and District Branches.
5) Integrate Assembly Members into as many other APA activities as possible, including Councils, Committees, and Task Forces.

In May, the Assembly will also elect the next Assembly Speaker-Elect and Recorder. Kathrynn Ouzts and Nada Stotland are running for Speaker-Elect, and Al Gav and Peter Gruenberg are running for Recorder.

Let me know if you want to influence my one vote (out of some 30,000). Kathrynn, Nada, and Al have all been on the Committee of Minority/Underrepresented groups at one time or another. Probably more importantly, let your District Branch Assembly Representatives know which of these you’d like them to support.

Hope to see many of you in Chicago!
Membership Committee Report

John Gosling, M.D. and Cheryl Chessick, M.D.

The most recent membership count as of February 28, 2000 is as follows:

- Founding: 1
- Patron: 1
- Sponsoring: 25
- Full: 322
- Associate: 27
- Resident: 71
- Newsletter: 66
- Medical Student: 12
- International: 36

Total: 561

This number reflects the end-of-year attrition and changes in category. The membership total at the end of February 1999 was 564. Roy Harker has deleted all those who have not paid either their 1999 or 2000 dues. There was a net loss of 68 members (10%). The 10% loss is identical to the loss reported last year (65 members). Roy has sent letters requesting that they consider rejoining. The dues balance for 1999 would be forgiven if they pay their 2000 dues. We would like to strongly encourage any of these lapsed members who may read this column to immediately make a call to Roy at (215) 222-2800 and renew their membership. Just a friendly reminder that this can now be done with the convenience of a credit card to facilitate the process and save time and effort, while earning credit for those airline miles for the next fabulous trip to wherever.

The APA 2000 Annual Meeting May 13 - 18 in Chicago is almost upon us and we are gearing up for an exciting time of AGLP activities (both social and instructional) in that there old "windy city." The annual APA Meeting together with all the AGLP activities centered round it offers a wonderful occasion to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. This is a great opportunity to become more actively involved in the functioning of the organization.

We of the Membership Committee would like to invite any interested members to join us in some or all of the several activities in which we are involved. This includes:

- The Opening Reception on Sunday evening where we will be actively engaging potential new members and encouraging them to join AGLP.
- Ensuring that the AGLP Exhibit Booth is staffed at all times. We would like at least two AGLP members to be present throughout the day to answer questions and to offer a friendly welcoming presence to any interested conference participants. A roster indicating specific time slots will be circulated on Saturday at our first meeting. We would like to encourage members to participate by signing up as soon as possible. Staffing the booth is great fun and a wonderful opportunity to promote the work of our organization.
- A Membership Committee meeting to be held on Saturday evening from 5:00 to 6:00 PM. This is an opportunity to meet the other members of the Committee and to plan strategies for increasing membership both at the conference and in the coming year.

We hope that as many of you as possible will make the effort to join us in Chicago in May. We especially encourage new members to make a concerted effort to arrive in time for the interesting and stimulating Saturday and Sunday AGLP programs arranged by Mary Barber described elsewhere in the Newsletter. Please feel free to approach either Cheryl or John by calling us or via e-mail prior to or during the meeting in Chicago if you would like to be part of our dynamic committee. See you all soon and travel safely -- John and Cheryl.

John Gosling: (212) 627-8544; JGandros@aol.com
Cheryl Chessick: (303) 722-3697; cherylc@nilenet.com

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SCHEDULE OF AGLP EVENTS

CHICAGO, Illinois

MAY 13-17, 2000

AGLP Hotel
Headquarters:
The Allerton Crowne Plaza Hotel
701 North Michigan Avenue (Michigan at Huron)
Chicago, IL 60611
312-440-1500

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2000

8:30-9:30am  Breakfast meeting for Executive Committee
ALLERTON HOTEL: BURNHAM BOARD ROOM, 3RD FLOOR

Hospitality Suite Opens:
SULLIVAN ROOM, JUST OFF THE 3RD FLOOR MAIN LOBBY

PRECONVENTION SYMPOSIUM
9:30-10:00am  Welcome – Coffee and Pastries
ALLERTON HOTEL: RENAISSANCE BALLROOM, 23RD FLOOR

10:00am-1:00pm  SYMPOSIUM
"Sexing the Body: gender politics and the construction of sexuality"
Anne Fausto-Sterling, PhD
Chair: Mary Barber, MD
Discussants: Ronald Cowan, MD, PhD;
Richard Pleak, MD
ALLERTON HOTEL: RENAISSANCE BALLROOM, 23RD FLOOR

1:00-2:30pm  The debate on Reparative Therapy
Marshall Forstein, M.D.
ALLERTON HOTEL: RENAISSANCE BALLROOM, 23RD FLOOR

2:30-4:30pm  Movie: "Fire"
Discussants: Anand Pandya, MD;
Mary Barber, MD
HOSPITALITY SUITE

5:00-6:00pm  Membership Committee Meeting
Cheryl Chessick, MD, and
John Gosling, MD
HOSPITALITY SUITE

7:00pm-  Lesbian Psychiatrists' Dinner
Lisa Rone, MD
VIVO
836 W. RANDOLPH STREET
312-733-3379
SPONSORED BY BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB

SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2000

8:30-10:00am  Board Meeting and Breakfast
ALLERTON HOTEL: FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT ROOM, 3RD FLOOR

9:00-11:00am  Psychoanalytic Discussion – "Manifestations of Shame in Gay and Lesbian Patients"
Paul Lynch, MD, Ubaldo Leli, MD
HOSPITALITY SUITE

11:00am-1:00pm  Early Career Psychiatrists' Brunch
RESIDENTS AND MED STUDENTS, WELCOME!
Richard Imrioneicz, MD and Scott Gordon, M.D.
ALLERTON HOTEL: VENETIAN ROOM, 23RD FLOOR
SPONSORED BY EU LILLY

1:00-3:00pm  Films: "Sexual Exiles," documentary about people who emigrated because of their sexuality.
Discussants: John Gosling, MD, Cheryl Chessick, MD
"Beauty before Age," documentary about issues around aging for gay people.
Discussants: Fritz Groff, MD, David Scasta, MD
HOSPITALITY SUITE

3:00-4:30pm  Parents and Kids Discussion/Play Time
Those considering parenthood welcome
Margery Swed, MD, and Mark Townsend, MD
HOSPITALITY SUITE

4:30-6:00pm  Meeting for those affected by HIV
Marshall Stiles, MD
HOSPITALITY SUITE

6:15-7:00pm  Women's Opening Prerception
Lisa Rone, MD, Mary Barber, MD
HOSPITALITY SUITE

6:30-8:30pm  Opening Reception
ALLERTON HOTEL: RENAISSANCE BALLROOM, 23RD FLOOR

MONDAY, MAY 15, 2000

8:30-10:00am  Networking and Support for Gay and Lesbian Child Psychiatrists and Trainees
Bill Woywack, MD, LAGCAPA
HOSPITALITY SUITE

10:00-12:00  Significant Others' Discussion
JOHN BLACKBURN
HOSPITALITY SUITE

12:00-1:30pm  Residents' Lunch
ECP's and Med Students welcome
David Spiggle, MD
HOSPITALITY SUITE

1:30-3:00pm  Psychoanalytic Committee Meeting
Shame Dynamics in gay and lesbian patients
Paul Lynch, MD, Ubaldo Leli, MD
HOSPITALITY SUITE

4:00-5:30pm  Discussion on Coming Out
Robert Cabaj, MD
HOSPITALITY SUITE

5:30-7:00pm  AGLP and CLGPG Business Meeting
ALLERTON HOTEL: RENAISSANCE NORTH, 23RD FLOOR

7:00pm  International and Minority Outreach Reception
ALLERTON HOTEL: RENAISSANCE NORTH, 23RD FLOOR
THE ASSEMBLED GROUP WILL THEN PROCEED TO A RESTAURANT TO BE DETERMINED
AGLP 1999 Schedule of Events
Continued from previous page

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2000

9:00-10:30am Discussion on Being Out in Psychoanalytic Training
Ubaldro Lelj, MD
Hospitality Suite

9:45am-12:00pm Significant Others’ Outing
John Blackburn
Architectural River Cruise. Reservations Required:
Meet in Allerton Hotel, 3rd Floor Lobby at 9:45; Depart Hotel at 10:00 am.

10:30-12:00 Writers’ Workshop
Jack Drescher, MD, and other editors of the Journal of Lesbian and Gay Psychotherapy
Hospitality Suite

1:00-2:30pm International Committee Meeting
Kenn Ashley, MD
Hospitality Suite

2:30-4:00pm Lobbying Training and Election Issues Update
Tom Chaderjian, Human Rights Campaign
Hospitality Suite

4:00-5:30pm Local District Branch Success
Alice D. Kitchen, MD
Dr. Kitchen will talk about her work on the APA committee on homosexual issues in St Louis, a committee which included gay and straight psychiatrists and which has become active in the larger community.
Hospitality Suite

5:30-7:00pm AGPl and CLGBP Business Meeting
Renaissance North, Allerton Crowne Plaza Hotel

7:30-9:30pm LAGCAPA (Child Psychiatrists) Reception
Hospitality Suite

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2000

11:00am-1:30pm Women’s Committee
Film: “The Brandon Teena Story”
Christina Sekaer, MD, Mary Barber, MD
Hospitality Suite

1:30-3:00pm Media Training
Lynn Schultz-Wirtzel, APA Division of Public Affairs
Commission on Public Affairs
Hospitality Suite

AWARDS BANQUET/CLOSING PARTY
The Metropolitan Club
Sears Tower, 66th Floor
233 South Wacker Drive
Enter from Franklin Street

6:00pm AGPl Sponsor’s Reception
Ohio and Erie Room

7:00pm Closing Banquet Reception
Superior and Michigan Rooms

8:00-11:30pm Dinner, Awards, and Dancing
Oak Room

APA EVENTS OF INTEREST TO AGPl MEMBERS
(For locations, refer to your APA registration materials.)

MONDAY, MAY 15, 2000

9:00-10:30am CW12. Is Homophobia a Mental Disorder?
APA Committee on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues
Chair: Leslie G. Goransson, MD

2:00-5:00pm S9. The Practical Medical Management of HIV Disease
A. New Antiretroviral Treatments in HIV Disease
Marshall Forstein, MD
B. Treatment Approaches to HIV-Related Neurocognitive Disorders
Mark H. Halman, MD
C. Complications of Drug-Drug Interactions and Substance Use
Karl Goodkin, MD
D. Adherence Strategies
Milton L Weinberg, MD

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2000

11:00am-12:30pm Medical Update 2: Seventeen ways to have a baby: Reproduction in the 21st Century
Charles Strom, MD

The Allerton Crowne Plaza Hotel
- Official Hotel for the AGPl Annual Convention

Continued on following page
HIV-Affected Psychiatrists Column

Marshall Stiles, M.D.

It is with mixed feelings that I write this article; I have assumed chairmanship of this committee, which my old friend, John O'Donnell, the former chairman, led until he died last summer. John contributed a lot to our organization. Hopefully, I will be able to continue his tradition.

I had known John since 1981 and shared many really good moments with him at APA meetings, and when he brought his boyfriend to Denver in Sept. 1992 after retiring and spent a week with me and my partner here and in the mountains. I had listened to him during lunch at the APA in D.C. in 92 describe how painful it was deciding to retire in the near future; I had already retired in 89/91 because of declining health and was glad to be able to be of support to him.

But now I see an opportunity to give something back to the AGLP, which has given much to me since it was the "Caucus" in 1978. We are planning to offer a support/discussion group, at the Chicago meeting, for all psychiatrists affected by HIV, on Sunday afternoon in the hospitality suite at the Allerton Crowne Plaza from 4:30-6:00 PM: "Privacy and Confidentiality," and a place to ventilate and get and give support from peers are what we will be offering; If you have pondered attending one of these meetings at past APA's but were hesitant for whatever reason, I hope you will reconsider and just show up. As for me, I tested positive in 9/85, and received a full dx of AIDS in 10/92. Looking back, I feel that "coming out" at the analogous support group in Montreal in 1988 was a great release for me, and I felt so much support from the group. It was difficult to reveal my status in any kind of group setting in Denver at that time, and groups can be so powerful. This is the only place where I can talk and hear about other psychiatrists' journeys with HIV. Period. I must admit that I have belonged to a general support group for PLWA's for 7 1/2 years at the Colorado AIDS Project, and have found it invaluable. But people like us have a different perspective and different needs, and that is why we offer this support group through the AGLP.

I would like for there to be more opportunities for support and dialogue for us in Chicago, and if you have any ideas please let me know. For example, in 1997 in San Diego, our group decided that we would like to spend more time together and we met for lunch that week and continued our conversations. Also, I envision some sort of ongoing mutual contact and support among us between APA meetings, but have nothing specific in mind, and hope that those of you interested in such a continuation of contact will contribute your ideas.

I look forward to seeing you in Chicago.

HOME: 303-388-1073
FAX: 303-393-0999
ADDRESS: 1350 Fairfax St., Denver, CO 80220
Email: mfsiiidenv@uswest.net
AGLP Annual Awardees
Dan Hicks, M.D.

As Immediate Past-President, my main function in AGLP is to poll the other past presidents to help decide who will receive the awards at the annual meeting. Anyone can nominate persons for the award, but the job of deciding is up to the past presidents. The Distinguished Service Award is given to someone who is felt to have contributed greatly to improving the mental health and quality of life of lesbians and gay men. The award this year goes to Dr. Richard Isay of New York City. Dr. Isay spent many years as a pioneer in the analytic community, working to change the beliefs and practices of the analytic community. This led to the American Psychoanalytic Association passing a non-discrimination policy in 1991, and opened up the door for more openly gay men and lesbians to pursue analytic training. This has led to changes in all of the analytic community, and the ever-increasing study and literature on gay and lesbian development and analysis. His courageous books, *Becoming Homosexual* (1989) and *Becoming Gay* (1996) offered alternative models for gay male development, and made it easier for gay colleagues and patients to come to terms with their sexuality by showing examples from his own and his patients' lives.

Dr. David Scasta is the winner of the Janssen award for Distinguished Service to AGLP. Dr. Scasta has probably single-handedly done more for AGLP than any other person in the organization, often behind the scenes or unrecognized. For years, David was on the executive board of AGLP as newsletter editor, publishing and revising the newsletter and improving its quality from year to year. In addition, he kept track of the membership and printed the directories. He was also responsible for helping to design and publish the annual meeting guides that have become collector's guides for all of their information about the cities we visit. For many years, he played the chief role in setting up and staffing the booth at the annual meetings. Finally, he stepped forward to run for president and served us well. He helped re-design our constitution and by-laws to include more members in our council. He helped organize and open our national office, and found the remarkable Roy Harker to be our director. He pushed to increase membership, and to help find outside funding to finance this office, as well as to open the doors to the Internet. He continues to stay involved, providing advice and guidance, as well as helping to plan the APA meeting in Philadelphia. He also designed different membership levels and continues to be the largest financial supporter of AGLP.

Please join us at the closing banquet at our annual meeting in Chicago to honor Dick and David for their outstanding contributions.
Psychiatric Directorship- Florida Keys: Board Certified/Board Eligible Psychiatrist needed to direct local psychiatric and chemical dependency facilities. Services provided include inpatient psychiatric services with a fifteen-bed locked unit, a ten-bed adolescent unit, a twenty-bed chemical dependency unit, two outpatient day treatment programs, and a partial hospitalization program. Enjoy tropical weather and ideal living conditions year round. Key West is world-famous for its picturesque beaches and sunsets and excellent nightlife. For additional details regarding this position as well as many others nationwide, please contact Craig West at 954 957 7662, fax 954 957 7664, e-mail MedOneHC@aol.com.

The IOS series, a project of The Psychoanalytic Connection, is pleased to announce a 12-week online seminar starting on May 1, 2000 titled "Psychoanalytic Therapy and the Gay Man." It is taught by Drs. Jack Drescher and Ralph Roughton. For complete information and registration information please e-mail to IOS@psychoanalysis.net or visit http://www.psychoanalysis.net/IOS.

William A. Alvarez, M.D., President of the APA Art Association is extending an invitation to members of AGLP to visit and take an active part in the 31st APA Art Exhibit which will be held in Chicago in conjunction with the APA Annual Meeting. The exhibit will be located adjacent to the APA Resource Center. You may contribute poems, paintings, photos or sculptures. For further information and entry forms, contact William A. Alvarez, M.D., FAPA, President/APA Art Association, P.O. Box 14449, Long Beach, CA 90853-4449, fax 562 498 6712.

**Significant Others' Column**

John Blackburn

Bon Voyage!!!

It looks like the Significant Others event for Tuesday, May 16th will be the Chicago Architectural Foundation's River Cruise.

Marvel at the soaring towers of Chicago's Loop while enjoying sparkling river vistas, narrated by experienced docents. The tour highlights over 50 historic and architecturally significant sites and offers a unique perspective on the city. We will board one of their well-appointed vessels, Chicago's First Lady or Chicago's Little Lady, where open-air and indoor seating will add comfort to our journey. The tour will take place on Tuesday, May 16th at 11:00 a.m. and returns at 12:30 p.m. We will meet at the Allerton Hotel's 3rd floor lobby at 9:45 am and will depart promptly at 10:00.

The cost of the trip will be $21. In order to book this popular event, we will need to make the reservation and pay for all the tickets by April 18th. Please respond by your earliest convenience; however, no later than April 13th. Make your check payable to John Blackburn and mail it to John Blackburn, 330 W. Diversey, #2707, Chicago, IL 60657.

After the tour, we will have lunch for those wishing to partake. If you have any questions, send me an e-mail at blackbrn@earthlink.net or give me a call at 312-348-7803. Calls and e-mails will be returned the week of April 3rd. Remember, get those checks in early. Spaces are limited and will fill up quickly!!!

I look forward to seeing everyone in May.

...
THE OTHER MOTHER: A LESBIAN'S FIGHT FOR HER DAUGHTER

Nancy Abrams
The University of Wisconsin Press, 1999
Reviewed by Margie Sved, M.D.

This was not a fun book to read. Abrams relates the story of her involvement with Norma, Norma's decision to have a child, and her relationship with that child as the non-biological parent. Abrams (who after this I refer to as Nancy, since I don't have a last name to call Norma) is a professional writer, and she brings those skills to the telling of her story. This includes captivating the reader (or at least this one) in the swings of an emotional roller coaster that spans many years.

I'm sure the story would read very differently from Norma's perspective, and I wonder what pieces the various psychiatrists and other therapists who met Nancy or Norma during this saga actually experienced. I did wonder if anything would have gone any differently if therapists had been involved at different times or in different ways.

Their story started in 1986. Nancy's retrospective description of meeting Norma and their early interactions described a relationship doomed for failure. Within four months, Norma was focused more on having a baby than the needs of their relationship, was fabricating elaborate lies, and clearly needed a therapist, if not psychotropic medication. By the time their daughter Amelia was one and a half, they were no longer living together as a family. The next several years were just as stormy as the first ones. Most of this reads like a soap opera—suicide attempts, involvement of extended family, numerous changes in custody arrangements, high drama.

It is clear that at least for a period of several years, Norma prevented Nancy from seeing their daughter or having any contact with Amelia at all. And this is the tragedy. Children (at this time in my life, in my opinion) need as many responsible adults involved in their care as possible. No non-abusive concerned parent should be deprived of an ongoing relationship with a child that they have helped raise.

I couldn't help overlaying my story on theirs at times, such as what I was doing during that year, or what my daughter was like at that age. Most significantly, they seemed ill prepared for parenting. As a mother, I often worry about the legal aspects of lesbian parenting, and know that my partner and I have done the most we possibly can at this time to protect ourselves and our children from all of the awful things that we hope won't ever happen. Our legal papers include a process for what do to if either of us ever thinks we might want to leave our relationship, and what principles should be followed to help settle any disagreements that might happen related to child custody and financial matters.

If you want to read an engaging book that shows the kinds of things that can happen when people who aren't adequately prepared (emotionally, legally, or financially) for parenthood have kids, read this. We know these scenarios well from heterosexuals, and there should be no reason to assume people always make good choices just because there are two mothers.

...
SEXING THE BODY: GENDER POLITICS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF SEXUALITY

Anne Fausto-Sterling, PhD
Basic Books, 2000
Reviewed by Mary Barber, M.D.

"As someone who has lived part of her life as an unabashed heterosexual, part as an unabashed lesbian... I am certainly open to theories of sexuality that allow for flexibility and the development of new behavior patterns, even in adulthood. I do not find it surprising, however, that someone who has always felt either heterosexual or homosexual might be more open to theories that posit a biologically determined sexuality that unfolds as one grows into adulthood." (p. ix).

Right from the preface, Anne Fausto-Sterling reveals her potential biases as she embarks on this exhaustive review of scientific thought on gender and sexuality. Also unabashedly a feminist, Dr. Fausto-Sterling does not try to hide behind a veil of scientific neutrality as she begins her exploration. Fausto-Sterling is Professor of Medical Science at Brown University, and does her own basic biological research, but is perhaps better known for her writings in the history of science. Myths of Gender (Basic Books, 1985, second edition 1992) systematically picked apart research on behavioral differences between males and females. She exposed flaws in the research design and data, and exposed how the scientists' own biases had subtly and not-so-subtly influenced their studies.

Sexing the Body could be seen as a sequel to Myths of Gender, going further to question not only the validity of many long-held beliefs about sex differences, but also questioning the very validity of divisions between sex/gender, nature/nurture, and real/constructed. Fausto-Sterling argues that we must begin to think of these concepts in terms of Developmental Systems Theory, in which nature and nurture are inseparable, influencing each other from the start. Throughout the book, Fausto-Sterling makes links between thoughts in the scientific and lay communities on gender and thoughts on sexuality. In a parallel way to people studying gender, those doing research on sexuality have been largely polarized into nature/nurture or real/constructed camps. Throughout the book, Fausto-Sterling weaves the stories of sexuality research into her tale, describing how the sexuality research often grew out of assumptions about gender.

The book is written in the format of a tour of layers of the body, from the external physical body to brain structure, to hormones, to behavior. The first chapters, dealing with the physical body, discuss the history of intersex people and their "treatment." Historically intersex people were dealt with by the legal system in a variety of ways, from being asked to "choose" a sex, to being assigned according to "that sexe which prevaileth," (p.36) to being ordered to signify their intersex status by wearing a ladies' apron over men's clothes! In modern times, medicine has typically taken the approach that a baby born with unusual genitals must be surgically altered to fit a normative standard of male or female. Ostensibly, this is done so that the child will not feel different as s/he compares his/her body to that of other children, but the historical hoopla about intersex people belies the fact that it is society that cannot abide the thought of anyone straying from neat little categories of male and female. Not so long ago, knowing one's sex was necessary to determine property rights, whether one could vote, and who could marry who. (Not everything has changed!) Now, we also need to know a person's sex to tell who is heterosexual. In this way, having two neatly defined sex categories is necessary for having two neatly defined sexual orientation categories.

So what most of us assume is biological, being male or female, turns out not to be as clear or sharply-defined as we thought. At the same time as surgeons have been altering the bodies of children with unusual genitals, it has been

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thought that gender, a child’s internal sense and outward expression of being male or female, is culturally determined and therefore plicable. Fausto-Sterling uses the case of "John/Joan" to illustrate that this may not be the whole truth. John/Joan was born male, and lost his penis in a circumcision accident at 7 months of age. With the counsel of psychologist John Money, a firm believer in the malleability of gender identity at such a young age, "John" was reassigned as female, and renamed "Joan." At first, "Joan" seemed to be a well-adjusted little girl. But by early adolescence, it was clear things were not going as "well" in Joan’s adjustment to being female, and by adulthood, Joan had had her breasts removed, had had a new penis constructed, and was married to a woman. A detailed account of this case has been recently published (1), and it raises several questions. Could the parents have given away clues that Joan was not "really" a girl? Is 7 months old too late to change genders? Or is gender not as plastic, not as culturally acquired as many have thought?

After the chapters on intersexuality, the tour of the body turns to more familiar ground for most psychiatrists. The chapter on brain anatomy research focuses on the corpus callosum, which has been measured and compared in women and men, and in gay and straight men to support hypotheses that gender and sexual differences are biological. The chapters on hormones go into the history of the discovery of estrogen and progesterone, and the theory that they work by antagonizing each other, which was held by scientists for a long time after evidence had shown this was not the case. Throughout these chapters, Fausto-Sterling does what she does best, finding flaws in study design and interpretation of the data, and exposing where the researchers’ biases entered into their analyses. In the chapter on rat sexual behavior research, Fausto-Sterling details numerous social and environmental cues involved in rat sexuality, showing that portraying sexuality as all about mounting behavior and hormones is too simplistic even for rats, let alone for extrapolation to humans.

The book largely succeeds in at least shaking up the dualisms Fausto-Sterling set out to dismantle. To achieve this goal in a book aimed at both scientists and lay people, and to do so without either losing or talking down to the reader is an amazing feat. The book is part history of science, part critical review of past research, and part feminist-informed social commentary, and generally works well on all levels. Fausto-Sterling’s clear, direct writing style makes it easy to follow her as she critiques research, and her tone is never one of arrogance or of knowing all the answers. Numerous cartoons and illustrations, many created just for the book, add humor and further clarify the points she makes.

Sexing the Body gives us pause to think not only about the nurture/nurture polarization in terms of gender and sexuality, but in other ways as well. Psychiatry has its own polarization, with those of us treating people with “hard-wired” diseases such as schizophrenia thought to be mainly treating the brain with medications, and those of us treating milder types of distress with psychotherapy thought to be treating the “mind.” These clearly false divisions have been challenged (2), but have nonetheless persisted.

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In the final chapter of the book, Fausto-Sterling gives us a peek at how Developmental Systems Theory might break us out of such false dichotomies: "First, nature/nurture is indivisible. Second, organisms... are active processes, moving targets, from fertilization to death. Third, no single academic or clinical discipline provides us with the true or best way to understand human sexuality." (p.235) This alternate view into the nature/nurture question is long overdue and sorely needed. I'm hoping for a third book in Fausto-Sterling's "series," devoted wholly to how we could reframe complex issues of gender and sexuality in terms of Developmental Systems Theory.

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Edited by Robert P. Cabaj, M.D., and Terry S. Stein, M.D.
American Psychiatric Press

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Lesbian Lives; Psychoanalytic Narratives
Old & New
Maggie Magee and Diana C. Miller
Analytic Press

In this groundbreaking revisioning of lesbianism, Magee and Miller transcend a literature that, for decades, has focused on the forewarned and misconceived task of formulating a lesbian-specific psychology. Rather, they focus on a set of intertwined issues of far greater relevance in our time: the developmental and psychological consequences of identifying as homosexual and of having lesbian relations. Lesbian Lives is a heartening sign of the generous scholarship and humane impulse that are transforming psychoanalysis in our time.


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Caitlin Ryan & Donna Futterman
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