

NARTH BULLETIN

In this age of "openness and tolerance," NARTH still finds it remarkably difficult to reach members of the healing professions with information and inquiries. Gay activists have intimidated all the major professional therapists' organizations into the position that NARTH must be silenced--or, as Dr. Richard Isay put it, "isolated."

First the A.P.A.

Two years ago, the American Psychological Association denied us meeting space at their convention, and prevented us from announcing our annual meeting in the A.P.A. *Monitor*.

Now, T.A.P.

Just recently, in a blatant show of unfair discrimination, *The American Psychoanalyst* ("TAP") refunded NARTH's payment for our annual meeting advertisement, after having originally accepted it.

Last year, TAP printed a display advertisement announcing this meeting. The ad generated many bitterly angry letters to TAP from gay activists. NARTH officers responded with letters-to-the-editor inviting TAP members to read our literature and attend our meetings--in order to judge for themselves if we were really "homophobic," and so on and so forth (the usual litany of accusations).

Then in early January of this year, NARTH mailed another advertisement announcing its upcoming 1997 May symposium. Nearly two months later--after the advertising department had accepted the ad and cashed our check--the editor, Dr. William Jeffrey, wrote a letter describing TAP's new advertis-

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ing policy of selling space only to "selected organizations." This carefully worded new policy (requested by TAP's Executive Committee) allows space for all of TAP's regular advertisers, but is worded in such a way that NARTH will now be excluded.

By the time we received that letter, the deadline had passed to announce our meeting in a similar publication.

Clearly, the oppressive tactics of gay activists continue.

Next, The A.P.A. Research Office

NARTH recently requested the help of the Research Office of the American Psychological Association to obtain names and addresses of A.P.A. psychologists. We need to survey psychotherapists about their therapeutic successes in sexual-conversion therapy, in order to complete our large-scale research project (we currently have 1,000 responses). Such help is routinely provided to other organizations. Yet A.P.A.'s Director of Research, Jessica Kohout, Ph.D., refused NARTH's request.

NARTH's Executive Director replied as follows:

Dear Dr. Kohout:

If the APA position that homosexuality is not a disorder is scientifically

based, you should not fear this research project.

Years ago in graduate school, I was taught that the researcher's agenda--i.e., personal views, opinions, values, religious and political affiliations--will not jeopardize a good research design. Whether NARTH views homosexuality as a disorder or not is irrelevant to the objectivity of the research design. Admittedly, the *interpretation* of the results may be influenced by the researcher's agenda, and that can and should be debated.

Our premise is that there is a population of persons dissatisfied with homosexuality who have experienced varying degrees of sexual orientation change. *Gay activists claim that no one has changed sexual orientation*, and that attempts to do so will leave the person with damaged self-esteem. In fact, the A.P.A. reaffirms just this claim in its scientific literature. *Whether or not people have changed is essential to the ongoing debate within our profession*. I would expect the A.P.A. to be very interested in learning about the possible existence of this hidden population. If your scientific literature is in error, I would think you would be concerned about correcting it.

On the other side of the question, Drs. Ariel Schidlow and Michael Schroeder are currently soliciting interview subjects for their project, entitled "Homophobic Therapies: Documenting the Damage." They expect to interview between 100 and 200 gay men and lesbians who once pursued reparative-type therapies,

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but have since changed their minds. Schidlow says that feelings of shame, depression, suicidal thoughts and attempts, and substance abuse plague clients who do not succeed in changing sexual orientation. This study specifically seeks out dissatisfied former clients with damaged self-esteem. We, of course, are attempting to seek out the opposite population: satisfied people who have made a degree of change, with self-esteem intact or higher.

What if Evelyn Hooker had not been allowed to conduct her study? At that time, she was in conflict APA's official position that homosexuality was a disorder.

What if gay backers and gay researchers (who collaborate to fund and conduct so many of today's studies) were denied help in distributing their questionnaires because APA did not support *their* assumption (that homosexuality

must be genetic)?

If our profession is committed to scientific truth--*rather than advancing certain ideologies*--then it should be willing to deal with NARTH in an unbiased manner.

Yours truly,
Joseph Nicolosi
Executive Director

But Dr. Kohut is not likely to change A.P.A. policy. Meantime, NARTH still hopes to find a foundation to fund our work, so we can hire the research and clerical staff necessary to move ahead...with or without the cooperation of the major professional organizations.