



TODAY'S TROJAN HORSE

By Peter J. LaBarbera

Gay activists say the goal for schools is “nondiscrimination,” but they really aim to censor opposition and influence curricula.

In school districts across the nation, Christian and pro-family citizens are fighting back and defeating the “gay” education lobby—by pointing out that innocent-sounding “nondiscrimination” policies are Trojan horses for radical homosexual activism in schools.

In July, the school board of Portage, Michigan, outside Kalamazoo, turned back an attempt to add homosexuality (“sexual orientation”) to its nondiscrimination code. Earlier, grassroots pressure forced Maryland’s state school board to table a proposal to make homosexuality part of its “multicultural” code.

In July, public efforts led the Fairfax County (Virginia) School Board, near the District of Columbia, to postpone adding “sex orientation” to its nondiscrimination code.

The family advocates are losing battles as well, but in the process they are educating Americans about the radical goals of groups like the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN)—goals that the politically correct media often ignore. A school board in Broward County, Florida, recently invited GLSEN to train schoolteachers in “diversity,” despite county residents’ protests that GLSEN advocates cross-dressing for young boys and chooses to combat “heterosexism” through events like “gay proms.”

Legal Liabilities

In Portage, pro-family advocates borrowed a tactic from the “gay” activist playbook by warning school authorities of their potential legal liability if a student were to be harmed

due to “exposure to and experimentation with homosexual behavior” resulting from school policies.

The American Civil Liberties Union and the leading homosexual legal pressure group, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, have long exploited tragic cases involving homosexual students who get picked on (or, in some cases, seriously hurt) by classmates. Lambda has won expensive monetary judgments resulting from such cases, which it then publicizes to nervous school administrators as part of its campaign for “sexual orientation,” nondiscrimination codes in schools.

Pro-“gay” educators use these codes to promote more radical goals such as “gay marriage” curricula—which have nothing to do with “protecting” students and everything to do with persuading impressionable children to accept homosexuality.

(Concerned Women for America, like other family groups, condemns hatred and abuse of any student, regardless of his or her circumstances. We argue that schools can protect every student through blanket anti-abuse policies that do not stipulate special criteria.)

When Gary Glenn, director of the American Family Association of Michigan, learned of the Portage plan, he alerted school board officials to a new document produced by Citizens for Community Values (CCV), titled *The Legal Liability Associated With Homosexuality Education in Public Schools*. The CCV report lays out the many physical and mental health risks associated with homosexual behavior.

Muzzling Moral Speech

The CCV report also warns that the First Amendment prohibits school officials from censoring the viewpoints of students opposed to homosexuality. In March, this happened to Betsy Hansen, a Catholic student at Pioneer High School in Ann Arbor, Michigan, who wished to speak out against the affirmation of homosexuality during the school’s “diversity week.” According to the Thomas More Law Center, Hansen “was required to submit her speech to school officials for their prior approval. School officials removed all references critical of homosexual activity.”

Since 1999, West Virginia’s attorney general has been gathering reports from student “civil rights teams” (read: informants) who report back purported “hate” speech and actions—including “homophobic slurs”—by fellow students. Kevin McCoy, president of the West Virginia Family Foundation, said, “It is outrageous that our children are being brought to the attorney general’s office and are being indoctrinated and then sent out to rat on their fellow students, all under the guise of promoting ‘safety and tolerance.’”

Savvy elected officials are starting to comprehend GLSEN’s larger agenda. In voting down the “sexual orientation” proposal July 8, Portage trustee Jerry Whitaker said homosexual activist groups “frame this issue as ‘safety’ for students and say the reason for such alleged harassment is ignorance, prejudice and hatred by heterosexual classmates. . . . The safety issue is the Trojan horse they roll out to set up their agenda.”

Another trustee, Allan Reiff, said,

“While our reasons vary, there is absolutely no support amongst the board members to alter the current language of our nondiscrimination statement. We believe all people should be treated fairly with dignity and respect, and no one characteristic deserves more attention than another.”

Raising a Red ‘PFLAG’

Across the country, GLSEN and PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) continue to beat the drum of “safe schools,” even as both groups recklessly expose children to risky and promiscuous sexual behavior.

Linda Harvey, a feminist turned Christian who specializes in unmasking the GLSEN and PFLAG agendas, recently read many of the books that these groups endorse for youth. Harvey was astonished to discover the sexual behaviors these books describe. Below is her

description of one, *Rainbow Boys*, published last year by Simon & Schuster:

“In this book, three teen boys are featured as they explore homosexual relationships with each other and others. Besides numerous graphic scenes of sex between homosexual teen boys, and a bisexual boy and his girlfriend, a 29-year-old ‘meets’ a 17-year-old in an online chat room (p.112). They eventually go on a ‘date’ and teen readers are treated to an explicit sex scene involving anal intercourse without a condom. This takes place in the apartment of the adult man, who is cheating on his live-in lover who is out of town (p. 148).

“The younger boy is then worried about HIV, but tests negative. As the book closes, this same boy begins a relationship with a 19-year-old college student who is HIV-positive (p. 222). ... To add to the implied endorsement of PFLAG, the boy mentioned above has an absent father but lives with his

What You Can Do

When it comes to stopping the homosexual agenda in schools, Linda Harvey of

Mission: America says the three most important things parents can do are:

1. Talk to your own children about the homosexual issue after you get yourself educated; warn them of false arguments of pro-“gay” apologists.

2. Network with other parents, citizens and like-minded students who can help; don't try to fight the battle alone.

3. Become well informed about what's going on in your school or school

district, and be persistent in your opposition. Don't assume anything (e.g., goodwill on the part of the school), and don't presume the battle is over after one victory. “You must be willing to stick with it and follow up with the principal, superintendent and school board,” Harvey says. “They're counting on the opposition going away, so you and your allies have to stay vigilant.”

Learn More About It

The following groups and Web sites provide excellent resources for opposing the homosexual/bisexual/transgender agenda in schools:

Culture and Family Institute (CFI)

202-289-7117

www.cultureandfamily.org

www.cwfa.org

Mission: America

614-442-7998

www.missionamerica.com

Citizens for Community Values

513-733-5775

www.ccv.org

Abiding Truth Ministries

916-676-1057

www.abidingtruth.com

National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuals (NARTH)

818-789-4440

www.narth.com

Traditional Values Coalition

202-547-8570

www.traditionalvalues.org

Family Research Council

202-393-2100

www.frc.org

Kerusso Ministries

757-872-8878

www.kerusso.org

mother—who is an officer of the local PFLAG chapter!”

Harvey, founder and president of Mission: America, based in Columbus, Ohio, reports that *Rainbow Boys* author Alex Sanchez was invited to speak this past spring to a homosexual student club at Murphy Junior High School in Stony Brook, New York. This club was organized after members of the local high school “gay straight alliance” (GSA) visited the junior high school on “Diversity Day.”

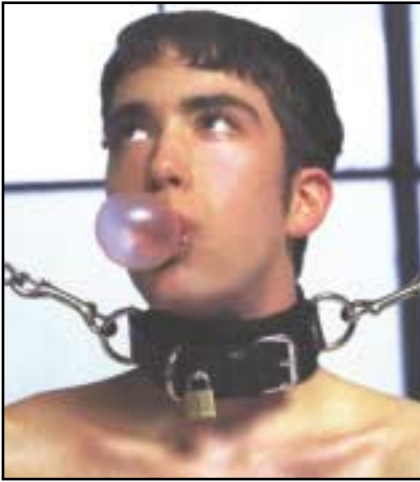
Harvey said *Rainbow Boys* was recommended reading for the sixth, seventh and eighth graders who would be attending Sanchez’s speech at the junior high school. Here we see another insidious aspect of homosexual activism in schools: Younger and younger students are being subjected to harmful pro-“gay”

advocacy. GLSEN encourages its high-school GSA activists to return to their middle school alma maters; they in turn form middle-school GSAs and, presumably, this will be repeated in grade schools. (At least one GSA has been formed, in California, in an elementary school.)

Not surprisingly, over the last three decades, the average age at which people publicly declare their homosexuality has plummeted. Ritch C. Savin-Williams, a homosexual researcher at Cornell University, reported that the average age at which young men (boys) label their attractions as “gay” had dropped from almost 20 in 1979 to 13 in 1998.

GLSEN’s Growing Power

In the last decade, the hubris of “gay” militants has grown commensurate



Sadistic photo from XY, a magazine for "gay" boys and young men. In one paper, GLSEN asked why school libraries carry Seventeen magazine (for girls) and not XY.

with the movement: GLSEN projected a whopping annual budget of \$3.5 million in 2001, more than double its 1999 budget. The top 11 homosexual activist groups' projected combined budgets approached \$49 million in 2001, a homosexual newspaper reported.

Among the "corporate sponsors" listed on GLSEN's Web site are Kodak, Scholastic Inc., IBM, AOL Time Warner, Sara Lee, General Motors, Pacific Bell and U.S. Airways.

A cocky Kevin Jennings, executive director of GLSEN, declared in 1997:

"I'd like five years from now for most Americans when they hear the word GLSEN to think, 'Ooh, that's good for kids.' ... I can envision a day when straight people say, 'So what if you're promoting homosexuality?' or [when] straight kids say [to a boy], 'Hey, why don't you and your boyfriend come over before you go to the prom and try your tuxes on at my house?'"

'Mommy's High Heels'

GLSEN, based in New York City, has stepped up its advocacy of the "transgender" cause. One GLSEN-distributed curriculum features a story called "Jessie's Dream Skirt" about a boy who dreams of wearing a frilly skirt to day care. By the end of the story, all of the toddlers want to wear skirts, too. After all, it's just another aspect of "diversity."

GLSEN sells another curriculum guidebook titled *Cootie Shots: Theatrical Inoculations Against Bigotry for Kids, Parents and Teachers*. Co-edited by a GLSEN member, it is a collection of skits and stories designed for use in elementary school classrooms.

One of the skits is a snide poem titled *In Mommy's High Heels* that is intended to be recited in class by a young boy. The poem is about a boy who brings his mother's high heels to show-and-tell. Accompanying artwork shows drawings of various colorful high-heeled shoes.

The poem begins with the boy on his knees, hiding the high heels he wears. Midway through the skit, he stands to reveal his feminine footwear, and nastily berates his more traditional classmates, proclaiming:

*So let them say I'm like a girl!
What's wrong with being like a girl?!
And let them jump and jeer and whirl—
They are the swine, I am the pearl!
And let them laugh and let them scream!
They'll be beheaded when I'm queen!
When I rule the world!
When I rule the world!
When I rule the world, in my mommy's
high heels!*

The average American has no idea

that “gay” pressure groups are promoting such extreme topics to very young children.

In Miami, radio talk show host Steve Kane began systematically exposing GLSEN’s record, reading directly from its literature. His truth-telling ignited an outpouring of protest calls and letters into Broward County’s school board members, urging them not to hire GLSEN as a “diversity” consultant. The board voted 6-3 in April to bring in GLSEN to train teachers, but in the process, Superintendent Frank Till was forced to disavow GLSEN’s larger agenda.

“This [vote] doesn’t touch curriculum that would have no chance of being adopted by the board. This is about working with a group that has a sensitivity ... so we will have that sensitivity,” Till said.


One parent asked the logical question: “Why would you enter into an agreement with a group that would have curriculum you would never pass?”

Tell the Truth

Most citizens do not have Kane’s platform, but each of us must do what we can to get out the truth, and protect children.

Scott Lively, founder of the Pro-Family Law Center, has endured great persecution at the hands of vindictive homosexual activists. He said GLSEN’s “gay” agenda has advanced in large part because “Christians have become afraid to compete for influence in society.”

“People need to assert the truth without equivocation and without hesitancy that homosexuality is objectively disordered. It’s a self-

evident truth that is simply not being asserted,” Lively said. “And of course, we must proclaim the Gospel that Jesus Christ is the answer for those struggling with this sin.” 

Peter J. LaBarbera is senior policy analyst for CWA’s Culture and Family Institute and editor of the C&F Report, a free e-mail newsletter available at www.cultureandfamily.org. He has specialized for more than 10 years in the homosexual issue.

CFI offers two resources by Peter LaBarbera: 15 Good Reasons to Oppose ‘Sexual Orientation’ (Homosexuality) Codes in Schools, available at <http://cultureandfamily.org/sexualorientation>; and When Silence Would Have Been Golden: Acts of Homosexual Promotion to Youth, available at <http://cultureandfamily.org/homosexualpromotion>. Call 800-323-2200 to request these free items, or use the coupon on page 38.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- PRAY** that more parents will act against the homosexual agenda in the public schools.
- PRAISE** God for the recent victories against “sexual orientation” in school districts.
- ACT** Refer to the box on page 17 for practical ways you can protect your school from the Trojan Horse of tolerance.