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PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEMS HELD NOT INHERENT IN HOMOSEXUAL LIFE

Aachen--After examining earlier studies of homosexuals and studying a group of stable homosexual couples, Dr. Bernd C. Faude, a psychiatrist at Rhine-Westphalian Technical College here, has concluded that the psychiatric problems of homosexuals are not inherent in their sexual preference.

"Homosexuality is no more 'perverse' than heterosexuality as long as the homosexual relationship is partner-oriented and serves the psychic development of the two people involved," Dr. Faude contends.

In previous studies of homosexuals, subjects were selected from patients seeking therapy because of their homosexuality, from prison inmates, from persons committed to asylums for homosexuality, or to subscribers to pornographic magazines aimed at homosexuals. This had biased the results, the Aachen psychiatrist said.

However, Dr. Faude's own study group consisted of four male homosexual couples and one lesbian couple, all of whom had been together for more than two years, had not sought any psychiatric treatment, had families that they were still close to and who were aware of their homosexual relationships, and who were apparently stable and well-adjusted.

Psychological tests did not reveal neurosis, inhibition, or other disturbances in the subjects. Almost all of these individuals belonged to the middle- or upper-middle class, were successful in their professional careers, and--with one exception--described their parents' homes as intact. All had experienced a "happy childhood and adolescence," and none had been "seduced into homosexuality."

The investigator found no evidence that one member of the couple adopted a female role and the other a more stereotypic male role. And, contrary to another prevalent view, none of these individuals had an overbearing mother and a weak father. Further, none felt any problems dealing with members of the opposite sex.

(by International Hospital Tribune Syndicate; reprinted from Medical News and International Report, March 5, 1979.)

NOTE OF THANKS

The January issue of Lambda marked the end of Stuart Wells' services as editor. The members of CGA and the Lambda readers wish to recognize the outstanding contributions Stuart Wells has made to Lambda and the gay community. Under Stuart's capable leadership, Lambda has evolved into a newsletter of high journalistic quality. Through the efforts of Stuart and his predecessors, Lambda has become a vital link in the dissemination of information on local, regional, and national levels.

During the transition period, Stuart's successors will be striving to maintain and build upon these high standards.

The March issue of Lambda is the result of a cooperative effort of four individuals, whose energy and initiative is the first step in the continuation of the Lambda tradition.

Considerations on the long term structure, format, and content of Lambda was the primary focus of a March 12 CGA meeting. We are still requesting your input, whether in person or in writing, regarding these issues. Whether you are a first or a long term reader, your input will be appreciated: Lambda is what you make it!

--Patty Carlisle,
CGA Chairperson