

CHILD PROTECTION ACT

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-NINTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

H.R. 1704 and Related Bills

CHILD PROTECTION ACT

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in which he or she may be abused. If an officer successfully infiltrates an organization, he or she almost surely will obtain information about the possible molestation of a child, or actually be invited to participate in such activity. At that point, investigators point out, no responsible police agency could allow an officer to continue the undercover operation. Thus the full criminal involvement of some pedophile organizations may be extremely difficult to determine.

How serious a threat, then, do these groups pose?

Clearly, they are not traditional criminal organizations like narcotics or auto theft rings, which use violence, payoffs and extensive resources to control their interests. There also is little evidence that organized pedophile groups have controlled the larger child pornography rings that have been prosecuted during the past ten years.

Nor are these groups as large or influential as some citizen groups tend to believe. For example, a well-meaning publication called Child Protection Alert, published in 1985 by the American Christian Voice Foundation, reported that the combined membership of two well-known pedophile organizations, the North American Man-Boy Love Association (NAMBLA) and the Rene Guyon Society, is "estimated to number 25,000."⁵⁹ Undercover officers and NAMBLA officials themselves have confirmed that its membership is only about 400 and the Rene Guyon Society is widely known by most investigators as a one-man propaganda operation whose membership claims are not credible.

Organized pedophile groups pose the most serious threat when they serve as contact and support groups, justifying pedophilia in the minds of their members and reinforcing within child molesters a belief that society, not the pedophile, is misguided. There is no way of knowing how many "closet" pedophiles, who had only fantasized about molesting children, were moved to act out their fantasies by the encouragement and support of these groups and their newsletters.

It would be a mistake, however, to overemphasize the threat posed by these groups to the exclusion of the more numerous

large drawings of young boys engaged in sex acts. Also seized from Cooper's home were several hundred 35mm photographs of teenaged boys shown playing various sports, in parks or at the beach. As Thorne testified before the Subcommittee: "The photos and slides of children in various types of clothing are significant because they show the pedophile does not use a child only for definitive sexual pleasures but is engrossed totally with the child. He is turned on by the child's body and also by the type of clothing worn by that child, clothing such as the macho-type sports uniform of hockey, football or soccer."⁷⁶

Thorne added, however, that he believed pro-pedophilia groups such as NAMBLA "are not as severe a threat to our children as we may feel they are." It is the pedophile with no organized affiliations who is the real threat to children, Thorne said. He also asserted that NAMBLA's efforts to gain publicity have intensified the public's outrage over the group's practices and, in turn, made Thorne's job somewhat easier. "I sometimes think I owe NAMBLA a thank-you," Thorne told Subcommittee investigators. "Now, far more people support the work we're doing trying to stop child molesters."⁷⁷

The Childhood Sensuality Circle

Of all the well-known pedophile organizations in America, none had more convicted child molesters among its members than the San Diego-based Childhood Sensuality Circle (CSC), run by an elderly woman, Valida Davila. Det. William Dworin of the Los Angeles Police Department estimated that at least 30 CSC members have been convicted on child molestation charges around the country.⁷⁸

In 1984, however, the organization was dealt a devastating blow when the San Diego County Sheriff's Department served a search warrant on Davila's apartment and seized a mailing list of more than 2,000 names and several thousand other documents, including correspondence with known pedophiles, organization newsletters and membership applications. Soon after, Davila

announced that CSC was going out of business. (Davila was indicted on a misdemeanor obscenity charge, but the case later was dropped.)⁷⁹

Like NAMBLA, CSC's ostensible goals were to support the sexual liberation of children, oppose age-of-consent laws and oppose the sexual abuse of children. But again, like NAMBLA, the activity of many of its members exposed the organization as little more than a contact service for pedophiles. Former CSC member Donald Woodward, a convicted child molester now imprisoned in California, told the Subcommittee he knew most CSC members were pedophiles, possibly as many as 85 percent. Most of them, Woodward said, simply used the group's "penpal" program to contact other pedophiles in order to meet children. "It was obvious that after they (pedophiles) had made a few contacts...that satisfied them. They'd drop out of CSC...They had found what they wanted. They were content."⁸⁰

Woodward and other former CSC members said that Davila would place certain members in touch with each other by sending them copies of other members' applications. Woodward said he met about a dozen pedophiles through CSC, including three men with whom he corresponded for several years. Convicted child molester Joseph Henry, a former CSC member who testified before the Subcommittee, said Davila put him in touch with other known pedophiles.⁸¹ "She (Davila) really wanted to control CSC," Woodward said. "She was extremely against anyone knowing the inner workings of CSC. She kept the membership list entirely to herself. She never told you exactly how many members there were -- very secretive about everything. Everybody reported directly to her. And if you didn't go along with what her thinking was you would soon find yourself frozen out and you'd stop getting information."⁸²

Did Davila know for certain that she was putting known pedophiles in contact with each other?

"Oh yes, oh yes. She was aware," Woodward told Subcommittee investigators. "I don't think she was doing it for that purpose, but as a carrot for the good donkey as a reward for somebody who

had (for example) been a frequent contributor to the newsletter and had buttered her up. She would set them up. She would say, 'Can I give your address to someone you'd like to know.' like parents of children who practice sex with their children and are willing to take in (outsiders)..."⁸³

On advice of counsel, Davila refused to speak with Subcommittee investigators.

Henry testified that he wrote Davila about membership in CSC and that she, in return, advised him to fill out an application form, make five copies and return them with a \$25 membership fee. "I later learned," Henry said, "the other extra copies of the application were sent to different pedophiles and in return I got copies of other pedophiles' applications, and then it was up to me if I wanted to correspond or not."⁸⁴ A Subcommittee investigator examined many of these membership applications during a visit to the San Diego County Sheriff's Department in late 1984. A typical application, from an Evansville, Indiana, man, said sexual freedom for children was most important to him. "They should have the right to have sex with people of any age, of the same or opposite sex, to identify themselves as homosexual, heterosexual, bi-sexual, or any other sexual preference," the applicant wrote.⁸⁵

Another application from a Hitchcock, Texas, man identifying himself as "Gene J. Thomas" actually proved to be from a man named Valentine Eugene Revera, according to Houston Police Sgt. William Brown. Brown said officers of the Tulsa, Oklahoma, Police Department, with whom they jointly worked on this investigation, joined CSC and were later put in touch with Revera through CSC's penpal program. Several letters and phone calls between Revera and an undercover Tulsa officer followed, eventually leading to a proposal for a meeting at a Houston motel, where Revera was to have provided the officer with two young girls for sexual purposes. On February 2, 1985, Revera showed up at the motel with two girls, aged 9 and 12, and met the officer, who was wearing a concealed microphone that transmitted their conversation to Houston officers in the adjoining room.

After Revera told the officer he intended to have oral sex with the children, he was arrested. Revera pleaded guilty to three counts of aggravated sexual assault and was sentenced to 36 years in prison.⁸⁶

Valida Davila's contacts among well-known pro-pedophilia activists were widespread. Included in the material seized by San Diego County Sheriff's deputies were several letters from David Techter, publisher of a Chicago-based pedophile newsletter, Wonderland, which will be discussed later in this report. Also closely associated with Davila was an Austin, Texas, man named David Sonenschein, whose writings about pedophilia have appeared in numerous pedophile publications here and abroad. In the August, 1983, issue of the CSC Musletter, Davila announced that Sonenschein had been named associate editor. (Sonenschein also will be discussed later in this report.)

A typical issue of the CSC Musletter contained rambling articles endorsing incest and pedophilia in general, anti-circumcision treatises, legal notes from the United States and foreign countries, book reviews and essays -- both scholarly and amateurish -- on child development and sexuality.⁸⁷

In February, 1985, Davila appeared on a KFMB-TV (San Diego) news report and stated that CSC was going out of business due to her failing health.⁸⁸ Parts of her mailing list have been distributed to investigators around the country, who continue to investigate former CSC members.

David Techter and the Lewis Carroll Collectors Guild

In 1983, a Chicago man named David Techter formed the Lewis Carroll Collectors Guild. The organization was named for the author of Alice in Wonderland, who is widely regarded in pedophile circles as an early practitioner of nude children's photography.⁸⁹ Techter, 53, is an articulate pedophile activist who has written extensively -- often under the pseudonym of David Edwards⁹⁰ -- about the world of pedophilia, including his own sexual activities with children. In a chapter of his uncompleted

book entitled, "The Child Lovers: America's Most Despised Minority," Techter wrote: "I am sexually attracted to children and find nude photographs of them immensely erotic. In short, I am a pedophile...I am a member of America's most despised, and least understood, sexual minority."⁹¹

Techter was sentenced to 30 months probation in 1983 by an Illinois state court for distribution of child pornography. Techter also was featured in a segment of the 1984 NBC documentary "The Silent Shame,"⁹² in which reporter Mark Nykanen, posing as a pedophile and working with a hidden camera, lured Techter to an Indiana motel room with the promise of possibly meeting children and exchanging child pornography. After Techter showed Nykanen wallet photos of children whom he claimed to have molested, Nykanen disclosed that he was an NBC reporter. Although momentarily startled, Techter quickly regained his composure and continued talking on-camera about his interest in children.

The Guild newsletter, Wonderland, which Techter estimated in 1985 had about 225 subscribers, is a quarterly publication featuring news articles and essays about pedophilia and the collection of child pornography. The newsletter also contains numerous carefully worded ads offering to buy, sell or trade photos of children or to correspond and meet with people of similar interest. Although the ads carry clear messages to pedophiles, Techter says he edits them to ensure that they do not appear to be advertising an illegal act. As previously noted, however, current federal law does not prohibit more specific advertising.⁹³

Some of the ads found in a recent issue of Wonderland read as follows:

I WANT TO BUY VHS VIDEOTAPES OF PRETEENS AND TEENS DOING ANYTHING NUDE. CONFIDENTIALITY ASSURED." (Nashua, NH)
 GIRLS 7 to 14 -- WANT TO PURCHASE PHOTOS OF GIRLS IN SWIMSUITS, PANTIES, SHORT SLEEPWARE OR SHORTS. BACK, FRONT, SIDE VIEWS." (Elizabethton, TN)
 YOUNGSTERS -- WANT TO CORRESPOND WITH COLLECTORS, PUBLISHERS, PRODUCERS OF YOUNG BOY OR GIRL MATERIAL; ALSO WITH YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ENJOY HAVING FUN. MY INTERESTS ARE SWIMMING, BOATING, CAMPING, SKIING, SPORTS. VERY LIBERAL MINDED. PLEASE WRITE! Omaha, NE)

Techter told Subcommittee investigators that he is aware many Wonderland advertisers actually are undercover police officers.⁹⁵ Many successful prosecutions of child molesters have been initiated through undercover ads in Wonderland. In most issues Techter warns his readers about certain advertisers or correspondents with whom they may have dealt. "I must apologize to trusting readers that might have replied to a recent ad by a 'W.J.W.,' Techter wrote in one issue. "William J. Ward is...an undercover police agent...Have nothing whatever to do with this man!"⁹⁶ In the same issue Techter warns his readers about a Rochester, New York, correspondent who "has yet to produce any concrete evidence to support any of his rather wild claims."⁹⁷

Fear of the police is a constant theme in all pedophile newsletters. Techter admits to running his own "counterintelligence" operation against police officers hoping to use Wonderland to trap pornographers and molesters. Techter told Subcommittee investigators that he knows the identity of several undercover advertisers who actually are police, but that he doesn't expose all of them, choosing instead to use their correspondence to unravel more police undercover programs.⁹⁸ In a conversation with a Subcommittee investigator in 1985, Techter

named other advertisers whom he believed were postal inspectors, but had not been identified in Wonderland.⁹⁹

The Rene Guyon Society

Due to its inflammatory slogan -- "Sex Before Eight, or Else It's Too Late" -- the Rene Guyon Society of Beverly Hills, California, has become widely publicized in news articles about pedophiles. Having taken its name from a French psychiatrist and associate of Sigmund Freud, the Rene Guyon Society claims 5,000 supporters, including psychiatrists, parents, and physicians.¹⁰⁰ But Det. William Dworin of the Los Angeles Police Department told the Subcommittee this is a wildly inflated figure, and the organization is probably little more than one flamboyant pedophile's attempt to gain national attention. Dworin said police surveillance of the group's eccentric leader, "Tim O'Hara" -- whose real name is Jonathan Evan Edwards -- indicates that he does not have regular contact with children and that the amount of correspondence he receives hardly seems indicative of an organization with 5,000 supporters.¹⁰¹ Edwards, 64, strongly advocates sex with children and publishes an irregular newsletter endorsing anal and vaginal penetration of children as long as condoms are used. "We are composed of citizens who have never broken any child sex laws, even if never caught," said "O'Hara" in a letter to the Subcommittee dated November 30, 1984. "We work for child sexual freedom if condoms are used for anal and vaginal penetration to age 18. We work for kid porn laws to make illegal any show of penetration of the vagina or anus without a condom being shown used."¹⁰²

As repugnant as this organization may be, most experienced investigators believe it has little influence on the pedophile community.

Pedophile Information Exchange (PIE) and Paedo Alert News (PAN)

These two European organizations have been popular with American pedophiles. As a rule, the pedophile movement in Europe