



Update

Fall 2019

Charley Shively Prize for Gay Liberation and Activism

In January, the William A. Percy Foundation announced Bob Chatelle and Jim D'Entremont as recipients of the the first annual Charley Shively Prize for Gay Liberation.

Through their journalism and organizing, Bob and Jim – founders of the National Center for Reason and Justice (NCRJ) – have brought attention to falsely accused people whose trials were often tinged by homophobia. In a number of prominent cases, their work has helped win the release and exoneration of the unjustly convicted. In the late 1990s, both men became advocates for Bernard Baran, the first daycare worker wrongfully imprisoned in the nationwide moral panic in the 1980s over “Satanic Abuse,” with Baran’s conviction finally being vacated by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in 2009.

In addition, Bob has been active in union organizing, and together with his partner Jim – journalist, play-

wright, and author – the two men have been vocal free speech advocates, with Jim having served as director of the Boston Coalition for Freedom of Expression.

Robert Chatelle, Harvard '63, is a computer programmer and writer who has served on the executive board of the National



Bob Chatelle



Charley Shively as a graduate student in American history in the early 1960s

Writers Union (UAW Local 1981 / AFL-CIO). As chairperson of the union’s Political Issues Committee, he dealt with a range of free expression issues pertinent to publishing and higher education. In 1990, he became a founding member of the Boston Coalition for Freedom of Expression (BCFE). An affiliate of the National Campaign for Freedom of Expression, the BCFE was a response by artists, writers, and arts administrators to predominantly homophobic, right-wing attacks on artists and cultural institutions. In 1997, Bob Chatelle became active on behalf of persons falsely accused and convicted of “Satanic Ritual Abuse,” particularly caregivers convicted of crimes against children. Beginning in 1998, he became the principal advocate for

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Bernard Baran. He and/or his partner James D'Entremont visited Baran at the Massachusetts Treatment Center weekly for seven years until 2006, when Baran was released after winning his bid for a new trial. During that time, Bob Chatelle founded the National Center for Reason and Justice (NCRJ). The non-profit organization was at that time chiefly dedicated to reversing false convictions, including many carrying a taint of homophobia. The organization has helped secure the release of a number of wrongfully convicted individuals, and has provided advocacy and support for others who remain in prison, both the unjustly incarcerated innocent and

the overpunished guilty. Mr. Chatelle continues to serve as the NCRJ’s executive director, and is currently an active member



Jim D'Entremont

Who was Charley Shively?

As scholar and activist, poet and muse, Charley Shively (1937-2017) was a major figure of the post-Stonewall gay liberation movement. Growing up dirt-poor in rural Ohio, Charley ended up earning a PhD in history at Harvard, and spent his career teaching first at Boston State University and later at the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Starting in the early 1970s, Charley was a guiding light behind the influential gay liberation broadsheet *Fag Rag*. Over the course of two books on poet Walt Whitman, Shively excavated the erotically suffused friendships Whitman had with working-class men and youths, camaraderie to which America's post-Civil War urbanization gave new scope and vitality, and in which Whitman famously descried solidarities that might redeem America's violent birth-pangs and bind a young, diverse nation now carrying a beacon onto the world stage.

As one who never forgot his roots, Charley grounded his sexual radicalism not only in his immediate identification with the down-trodden, but in his deep readings of history and theory, particularly 19th century anarchist thought. The Charley Shively Prize, which includes a \$1,000 honorarium, will be awarded to someone who exemplifies in his or her scholarship and activism Charley's intellectual mettle, radical savoir-faire, and incorruptible boldness. William A. Percy Foundation for Social and Historical Studies. ❖



Charley Shively

of Boston's Sex Offender Policy Reform Initiative (SOPRI).

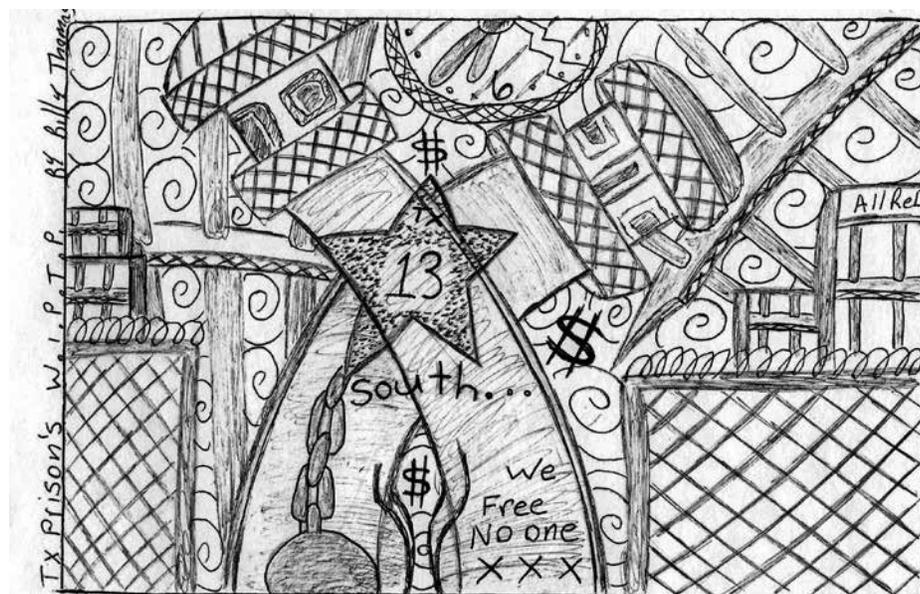
James D'Entremont is a journalist, fiction writer, and playwright. He is a returned Peace Corps Volunteer (Tunisia 1967-'69) and formerly the artistic director of Boston's Harlequin Theatre Company. Through the 1990s, he was a spokesperson for the Boston Coalition for Freedom of Expression, and eventually its executive director. From 1991 to 2001, he organized annual Banned Books Week reading vigils featuring banned literary works read aloud by a succession of readers around the clock. From 1996 to 2008, he wrote news articles, criticism, and lead features as a staff writer for *The Guide*, a Boston-based, internationally circulated liberationist LGBT monthly. His articles on anti-gay censorship and the American Christian Right have also appeared in *Index on Censorship*, the *Journal of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Identity*, and other publications. In 1998, he joined his partner Robert Chatelle's campaign to free the late Bernard Baran, a gay daycare worker whose homophobia-ridden trial resulted in three concurrent life sentences. He continues to be active in the National Center for Reason and Justice, the organization built around the Baran case. Through the NCRJ, he has become one of the most steadfast

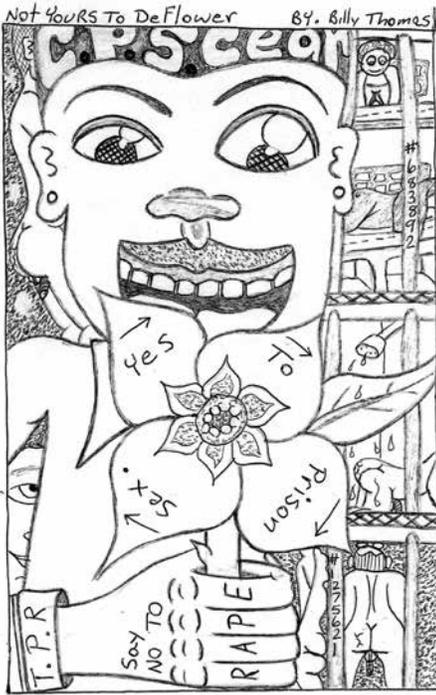
supporters of Paul Shanley, a former priest wrongfully convicted of child rape in a trial whose flaws and biases are documented in his coverage of the case for *The Guide*. ❖

New Research Project on Prison Sex

Utilizing our list of prisoner contacts from the Insiders' Book Club, the William A. Percy Foundation is soliciting qualitative information from inmates (both gay and straight) who receive books concerning their observation of and attitudes toward gay sex in prison. GLBT persons are disproportionately incarcerated in the U.S.: the National Inmate Survey estimates that 9.3% of males in prison are gay or bi-sexual, and 42.1% of female prisoners. Overall, sexual minorities are three times more likely to be incarcerated than the general population. Participation in underground economies of drugs and sex work, sting operations in public parks, HIV criminalization laws, and

Artwork drawn by Texas inmate Billy Thomas in appreciation for reading materials from the Foundation's Insiders' Book Club. Thomas depicts the struggles faced by prisoners who try to express themselves erotically - and the problem of prison rape, exacerbated by prison authorities' ban on gay relationships



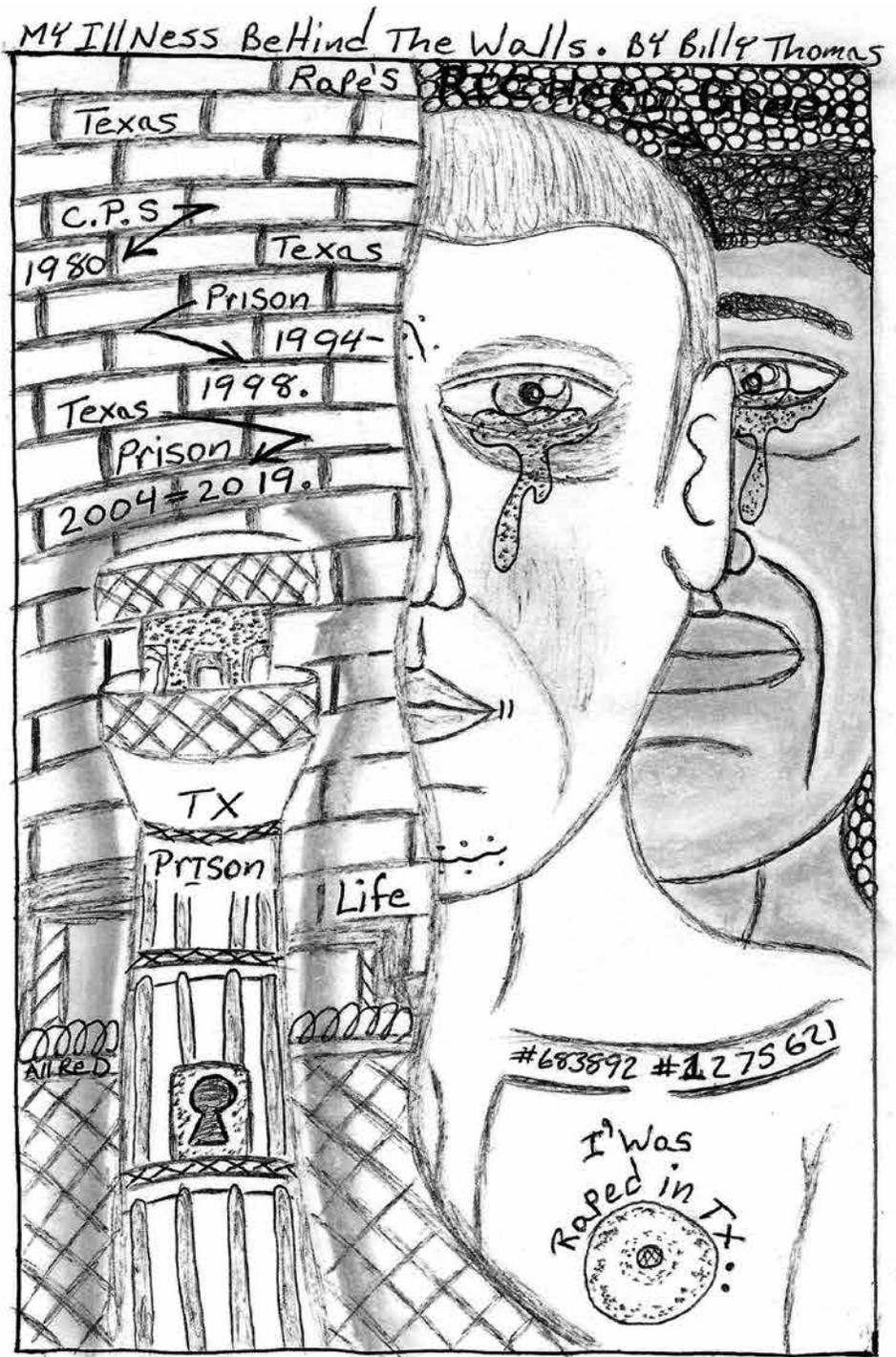


discriminatory enforcement of sex-offense laws all play their part in putting sexual and gender minorities at greater risk of entanglement with the criminal justice system.

Lurid media portrayals of prison suggest an environment of hyper-masculinity in which gay men are especially vulnerable to brutal gang rapes and exploitation by larger and stronger inmates. However, over time, studies are fairly consistent in showing that only about 1-2% of male inmates

Overall, sexual minorities are three times more likely to be incarcerated than the general population.

admit ever being raped by other inmates. The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA) does not seem to have changed that rate much, but what it has accomplished is a crackdown on all sex in prison, even when completely voluntary. Even before PREA, correctional officers wrote far more disciplinary reports for consensual sex and "prostitution" than for suspected rape. Crowded prisons offer minimal privacy, and those caught may be sent



into solitary confinement for extended periods, transferred to separate units to break up the relationship, or even see their parole denied based on this disciplinary infraction. But despite the risks and intensified surveillance, the human spirit finds a way: 67% of over 1,000 GLBT prisoners in the US surveyed by Black & Pink (<https://www.blackandpink.org/coming-out-of-concrete-closets>) say they have had consensual sex in prison, even though

condoms were banned in 98% of their prisons.

Prison officials in the US acknowledge that voluntary gay sex is going on, but refuse to protect public health by allowing condoms or adopting the more permissive policies of many foreign penal systems, including Canada's. Our new study aims to refute the contention that gay sex is "disruptive" to prison discipline and creates conflict by providing information about inmate

attitudes toward the phenomenon, which are mostly tolerant, as long as the sex is discreet. The success of conjugal visitation programs (allowed in only five states) in reducing prison violence suggests that a more lenient regime toward gay sex might actually improve prison discipline. Some evidence from our surveys also indicates that voluntary gay sex in prison may offer therapeutic benefit to sex offenders whose orientations were previously focused on minors or abuse of women. ❖

Palm Springs and Boston Residential Fellowships

Palm Springs Residential Fellowship

– The William A. Percy Foundation for Social and Historical Studies is pleased to offer a residential fellowship in Palm Springs, California, for scholars at any stage of their career (Ph.D. dissertation writing, sabbatical support, postdoctoral award, independent scholar, or senior scholar levels), or for experienced journalists, filmmakers, or activists. The fellowship consists of free residence in an attractive disabled-accessible apartment next to a large pool and garden behind a private house. Free utilities, use of washer-dryer, one-car parking space, and internet access are provided, plus a \$500-1,000 travel / research stipend. The house is located on a quiet street that is two blocks from mountain hiking trails, a shopping center, and a bus line going directly to the city's LGBT Community Center and to gay restaurants and nightclubs.

Palm Springs is the nation's largest gay resort and retirement community, with an all-LGBT city council and a relaxed atmosphere. The beautiful mountain and desert scenery and warm climate are conducive to inspired writing. Nearby Palm Springs

Public Library, Rancho Mirage Public Library, and College of the Desert Library can be supplemented by the library of the University of California at Riverside, which is an hour away by bus.

There are many libraries in the Los Angeles area (which is two to three hours away by car, bus and train): ONE National LGBT Archives at USC, the Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Law and Public Policy at UCLA, and the Human Sexuality Collection at California State University Northridge.

The Palm Springs residential fellowship is offered for qualified persons who need a quiet congenial setting to do writing on the topic priorities emphasized on the website of the William A. Percy Foundation (<http://www.wapercyfoundation.org>). Topics may be in any academic discipline, but special encouragement is given to subjects that will contribute to the growing body of scholarship which questions contemporary punitive approaches to sexual regulation by the state.

What can be learned from the experience of feminist, gay, transgender, and other social change movements, in enacting public policy changes on a political level? What can be learned from the example of diverse cultures, from a multiethnic and transnational perspective?

Fellowship terms are flexible, from two weeks to six months, with possible

renewal if more time is requested in writing for completion of the project. Send a CV and letter (up to three pages) to Professor Thomas K. Hubbard (tkh@utexas.edu), describing the proposed project, its social science or public policy implications, the extent of the work that has been done so far, and a timetable for the project's completion.

Boston Residential Fellowship –

The William A. Percy Foundation is pleased to offer a one-month residential fellowship in Boston for scholars at any stage of their career (Ph.D. dissertation writing, sabbatical support, postdoctoral award, independent scholar, or senior scholar levels), or for experienced journalists, filmmakers, or activists. The fellowship consists of free residence in an elegant, historic South End townhouse apartment, fully furnished with antiques and art. Free utilities, washer-dryer, fully equipped kitchen, and internet access are provided. Unfortunately, the Foundation cannot offer a travel stipend with this award. The house is located on a quiet side street close to Massachusetts Avenue and Washington Street, easy walking distance to transit links.

There are many libraries in the Boston area with significant collections of interest to sexual researchers, most significantly the Boston Athenaeum, which has a special LGBT section, and

The poolside apartment available for visiting scholars as part of the Foundation's Palm Springs Residential Fellowship



Harvard University's research libraries, including the Countway Medical Library, the Houghton Library (for rare books and manuscript materials), and the Tozzer Library (in anthropology and ethnography). As well, there is Northeastern University's gay and lesbian collections (<https://bit.ly/2JwoboR>). Several gay organizations interested in our issues are headquartered in Boston, including the *Gay & Lesbian Review Worldwide*, Black and Pink, and the National Center for Reason and Justice.

The Boston residential fellowship is offered for qualified persons who need a stimulating and well-connected setting to do research and writing



Boston's South End neighborhood - location of the Foundation's Boston Residential Fellowship - is near the Boston Athenaeum and accessible to university libraries

on the topic priorities emphasized on the website of the William A. Percy Foundation (<http://www.wapercy-foundation.org>). Topics may be in any academic discipline, but special encouragement is given to subjects that will contribute to the growing body of scholarship which questions contemporary punitive approaches to sexual regulation by the state. What can be learned from the experience of feminist, gay, transgender, and other social change movements, in enacting public policy changes on a political level? What can be learned from the example of diverse cultures, from a multiethnic and transnational perspective?

Fellowship terms are normally one month, but might be renewable in exceptional cases. Send a CV and letter (up to three pages) to Professor Thomas K. Hubbard (tkh@utexas.edu), describing the proposed project, its

social science or public policy implications, the extent of the work that has been done so far, and a timetable for the project's completion. ❖

Update on our Analysis of Prisoner Data

Over the period 2015-2019, we have accumulated detailed survey responses from over 1,000 mostly male prisoners participating in the Foundation's Insiders' Book Club. In 2016, our statistician did a preliminary report (http://www.wapercyfoundation.org/?page_id=75) based on over 500 surveys, with a focus on the first 11 of 118 questions. This report examined basic demographic data, information about the offense, type of trial and legal representation, and correlated this information with prison sentences. Our data pool is not meant to be representative of all prisoners, as prisoners who order books tend to be more educated than the prison population as a whole. However, it does have the advantage (for researchers) of including a large number of gay and bi-sexual prisoners (a few transgender) and a high proportion of sex offenders. Our preliminary report found that sex offenders convicted of a same-sex offense received substantially longer prison sentences than those convicted of a heterosexual crime.

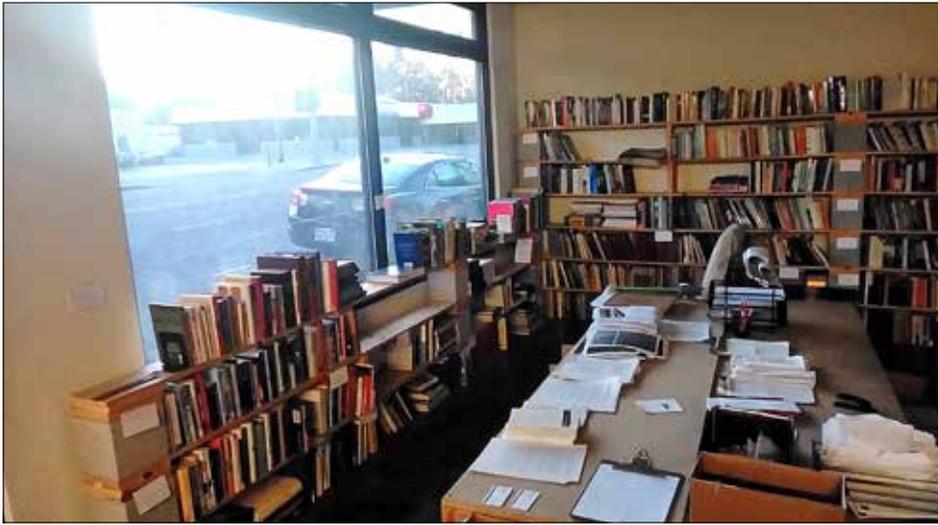
We have now completed our collection of questionnaires and are carefully checking and correcting the data entry performed by a succession of student assistants over the years. We expect before the end of 2019 to post an updated statistical analysis of our prisoner data. This will confirm with a larger data pool whether our initial finding in 2016 about disparate sentencing effects is valid. It will also begin to address a number of other disputed scholarly questions, including

the potential roots of both sex offending and other types of crime in adverse childhood experiences, the correlation of child sexual abuse or precocity with other adverse childhood experiences (physical violence, verbal and psychological abuse, neglect, poverty), the validity of the "abuser-to-abused" hypothesis (which holds that feelings of powerlessness as a child victim turn into abusive behavior as an adult), and the effects of self-esteem and impulse control on both sexual and non-sexual

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offending. Much of this material will eventually make its way into peer-reviewed literature, but in the meantime watch our website for interim reports as we find significant results.

Our data will also reveal much about prison conditions, particularly time spent in solitary confinement and the exact strictures of that confinement. Does that confinement, whether disciplinary or "protective," disproportionately impact sexual minorities and/or sex offenders? We are actively seeking student interns and scholarly collaborators to help us work on testing various hypotheses and correlations in this large data set, as well as devising new follow-up surveys. Most of the prisoners on our list have indicated a willingness to fill out more surveys in gratitude to the Insiders' Book Club. ❖



Books organized at the Foundation's Chico, California, office for shipment to prisoners, via the Insiders' Book Club

Insiders' Book Club

The Insiders' Book Club has been operating since 2013, originally based on a carload of academic books donated by Prof. William A. Percy of Boston. We have now expanded to a collection of several thousand books housed in our office, located in an old storefront in Chico, California, and overseen by our Office Manager Vanessa. In addition, an ex-prisoner sends books out of a basement in Portland, Oregon, as does one from Maine. Over 1,000 long-term prisoners in both the federal system and multiple states have qualified for enrollment by completing a detailed survey form, in return for which they receive shipments of free books that they order from our annual catalogs. At this point, limited per-

sonnel and financial resources make us unable to enroll any new prisoners, but the demand is virtually infinite, and we would like to be able to re-open enrollment when resources allow.

Some very well-educated people are in prison, particularly in the federal system, but they find little of intellectual sustenance in their meager prison libraries.

Some very well-educated people are in prison, particularly in the federal system, but they find little of intellectual sustenance in their meager prison libraries. Other prisoners just want a few good novels by their favorite authors to help them pass the time. Still others are trying to compensate for the lack of post-secondary educational programs in prison by ordering college-level textbooks in a range of academic subjects. For all of these groups, having access to high-quality



Packing books for prisoners

material is a lifeline from the drudgery of their confinement. See link below for some of their testimonials about what these books mean to them. Sometimes, it is just a matter of knowing that someone on the outside cares.

To keep this effort going, we need volunteers, funds (to pay for postage and packing materials), and donated books. We have benefited from estates, church drives, book dealers unloading excess stock, retiring professors who need to downsize, and ordinary people who see our book donation box outside and drop off a couple of paperbacks or *National Geographic* they have finished. We especially need dictionaries (#1 requested item by prisoners), textbooks in foreign languages, natural and social sciences, gay studies and literature, and popular genres like fantasy and science fiction. A 30-pound box sent to us via Media Mail costs less than \$18. Our address: 1421 Park Ave., Suite 100, Chico, CA 95928. *Learn more at http://www.wapercyfoundation.org/?page_id=7* ❖

Q&A about Kids and Sex: What Does Science Say?

The William A. Percy Foundation is embarking on an ambitious project to create an accessible and well-advertised website assisting parents and child development specialists in accessing the latest scientific knowledge concerning children's sexual maturation and perceived sexual dangers to children. Too often parents and poorly trained therapists may do damage by over-reacting or imputing pathology to common childhood behaviors or experimentation. What does the best social science tell us about the potential harms of either premature or suppressed sexual development?

We have not yet formulated a complete set of FAQs, but they would

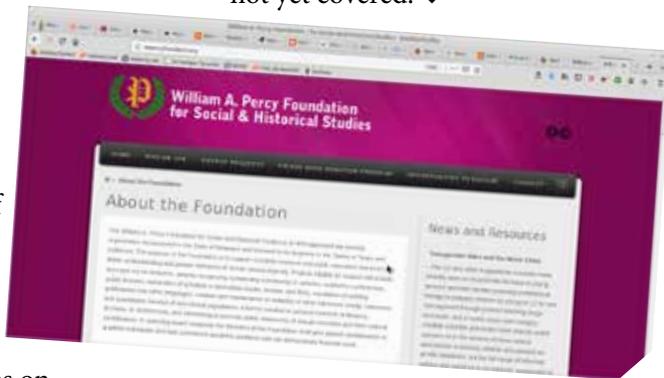
surely include the following: At what age is sex education first appropriate for children? Should we be alarmed if we catch a child engaging in sexualized play with another child, and how should we react? Is the age of puberty historically stable and about the same for all children? At what age do animals start engaging in sex play? Does excessive masturbation harm a child or indicate emotional problems? Is a child harmed by viewing adult-oriented pornography? How should parents respond if they suspect their child is becoming too involved with an adult or another child who is several years older? Are registered sex offenders living in the neighborhood a threat to children's safety? How frequent is child molestation in the Catholic Church and other churches? In day care centers? At youth camps? At what age are young people capable of making decisions for themselves regarding their sexual orientation, desires, and actions? Should parents be concerned if

their child shows absolutely no interest in sex? What is "consent" and how do we best train young people to request and obtain it? How frequent is rape on college campuses and how should we advise students heading off to college? Why are rates of teen STIs and pregnancies so high in the US compared to most other industrialized countries?

This project may take a year or more to complete. We actively seek collaborators with backgrounds in sex education, public health, and developmental psychology to help us write short, accessible articles, backed by ample scholarly references. Topics related to pre-adult sex are too often framed by emotion, moral judgment, or ideology, whether of the religious right or the dominance-feminist left. Our goal is to provide balanced factual information and rational advice based on what sexual science actually shows concerning the prevalence and potential risks of pre-adult sexual behavior. ❖

Look at our Website!

We've added a "News and Resources" column to our website (<http://www.wapercyfoundation.org>), containing a variety of new features such as book reviews, guest editorials, and links to significant news and scholarly resources on a variety of issues, including Transgender Wars and the Minor Child, Police Harassment of Transgender Persons, Sex Worker Rights, Mass Incarceration and Sexual Minorities, Prison Sex, Sex Education Battles, Availability of Contraception, HPV Vaccination, Whether Illegal Images Promote Sex Offending. Much of this comes from work of our student interns, but we appreciate your



contributions, whether it is summarizing a couple of relevant articles you have come upon, or a proposal to write a new resource page on a topic we have not yet covered. ❖

Update is an occasional newsletter of the
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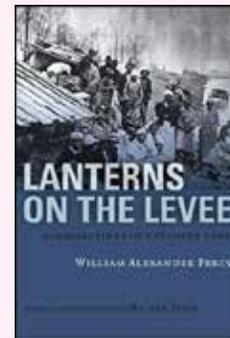
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Who was William Alexander Percy?

The William A. Percy Foundation for Social and Historical Studies is named after *two* "William A. Percys." The older of the two was William Alexander Percy (1885-1942) was the son of US Senator LeRoy Percy, owner of the 20,000 acre Trail Lake plantation near Greenville, Mississippi. He matriculated at Sewanee at the age of 14, spent a year in Paris after graduation, and then earned a law degree from Harvard. He served with Herbert Hoover on the Commission for Relief in Belgium in 1916-17, and was subsequently appointed by Hoover to



William Alexander Percy



oversee relief efforts during the devastating Mississippi Delta flood of 1927, an experience recounted in his best-selling memoir, *Lanterns on the*

Levee: Recollections of a Planter's Son (Knopf 1941). He published four volumes of poetry with Yale University Press, was the editor of the ground-breaking Yale Younger Poets series, was a godfather to the Southern Agrarian movement, and a friend of the gay African-American poet Langston Hughes and the Harlem Renaissance. A lover of younger black men, Percy offers a fascinating window into the intersections of race, class, religion, age, and sexuality in the segregated South of the 1920s and '30s. ❖