

We always welcome questions from the public about man/boy love. Well-thought out questions indicate a level of intellect open to understanding. It is among those who do not ask questions that lurk those most to be feared. They rely on unsupported but comfortable biases that fester and poison society.

From our part, good questions challenge our own thinking that can at times be too complacent. What may seem obvious to us, may not be to others, and vice-versa. For this reason, we thank Swiss TV for their follow-up questions listed below, and which we endeavor to answer.

1- you write (in one of your previous answers): *"Each relationship is different. The specifics must be appropriate to the physical and emotional levels and desires of the individuals..."*. But who determines the "level" of the boy? Even if the boy agrees with / consents to sexual interplay with an adult, don't you think that psychological abuse can still be present, in light of the great disparity (social as well as psychic, economic, and cultural disparity) between adult and boy?

At the core of this question are two fixed assumptions about the forms and nature of "sex" as well as the capabilities of boys to choose intimate, physical contact which they find pleasurable, meaningful and valuable.

Because society is conditioned to think of sex in terms of penetration and dominance it assumes that a relationship between a man and a boy will necessarily follow such a model. This is a serious misconception of many such relationships.

Men who love boys are commonly assumed to be motivated solely by the attainment of their own sexual satisfaction and are indifferent to the desires or consent of their younger partners. Indeed, most people assume that boy lovers are psychotic adults sodomizing defenseless youngsters.

This is not who most of us are. On the contrary, many of us are motivated by deeply nurturing instincts and express our affection in ways which place a boy's interests and satisfaction ahead of our own. We are careful to act in ways which do not result in his physical or psychological harm.

A boy's consent is as important as it is within any other relationship. His choices and desires are essential in determining his level of capability. His willingness to relate affectionately or sexually with others must certainly take precedence over the authority of governments to outlaw them.

Disparities exist in every human interaction and all are dynamic - with capabilities and levels of wisdom changing all the time - but in no other area of a boy's life does society insist that those with whom he relates possess resources identical to his own and that his age be perfectly matched to his companions or mentors.

Few ask if a young person can give informed consent to religious indoctrination or to playing football, but the opportunities for physical and emotional injury are obvious in these, and many other activities, in which kids commonly, and often unwillingly, engage.

In all other areas of children's lives, we assume that the better nature of human beings usually prevails without expressing an exaggerated concern for disparities of power or

levels of capability. Indeed, the expansion of capability through interaction with adults is usually a primary reason for all such relationships.

A gentle caress and an affectionate kiss are sexual activities of which people of any age can benefit and are capable. These are human exchanges which boys can freely choose without damaging consequences. Yet today, these behaviors are condemned and treated as the legal equivalent of the most brutal and damaging of rapes.

We abhor all abuse of boys, whether it be from unwelcome sexual attention or physical or emotional abuse perpetrated by parents, teachers, coaches, social workers, psychologists or law enforcement agents.

Boy-lovers who possess self-respect and self-acceptance as well as an ethical conception of man/boy love will do more to prevent the abuse of boys than any of the hateful and misguided laws whose many victims include boys as well as men.

2- It seems that - provided the boy gives his approval - you do not set age limits to sexual relationships between an adult and a boy. Does this mean that, according to your point of view, even boys younger than 12 could have sexual relationships with adults? Would it be acceptable that a five or six year old boy has a sexual relationship with an adult?

We now come to the question of what is meant by "sex" and, of course, the social stigmas which commonly prevent its detailed discussion.

There is, within human biology and behaviorism, a very wide spectrum of sexual expression and associated feelings that are experienced from birth to old age. Within this array of expression, there are any number of mutually-sought behaviors which will cause no harm to anyone unless, of course, we include the distorting effects of ignorant cultural reactions to such expressions.

We certainly include the behaviors of "touch" which can take the form of a caress, a massage, a hug or masturbation among those behaviors from which boys younger than twelve can choose and benefit.

But we stress, as always, that a boy's expression of willingness is essential to a healthy and positive interchange but, given that, even young boys are fully capable of expressing choice and intent in behaviors which have no potential for harm, as simple affection clearly does not.

As with all adult-child interactions, the elder's greater life experiences help to inform all activities of potential benefits or risks.

3- We all agree that exchanges between adults and boys can be mutually beneficial. For example, a boy can give us back that peculiar view on reality - characterized by wonder, amazement, and surprise - that to an adult could represent something wonderful and refreshing. But why do you include sexuality among those beneficial exchanges, given that you acknowledge the risk of traumas?

Within the continuum of affection and sexual expression - with momentary physical contact at one end, perhaps, and copulation, either hetero- or homo, at the other - there

are behaviors which are either never or rarely harmful to their participants, regardless of their age. Indeed, there are many who believe them to be beneficial to all who freely choose them.

But we certainly don't deny that any sex or undesired physical attention, when it is not freely chosen by a younger partner or when it causes him physical or mental anguish, can be harmful.

Instead, we simply assert that the most salient characteristic of any relationship, including those with boys, is the willingness and desire of both parties to be participant in them. Also, such relationships inevitably benefit when they are accepted and transparent within society. As with all areas of human affairs, sunlight makes the best disinfectant.

There is no justice in a society which fails to take fully into account the crucial element of individual, personal choice and which fails to make distinctions between peoples and behaviors which differ so dramatically.

#### 4) How many members does NAMBLA have?

We treat all of our members with the strictest of confidentiality, including the number of members, itself.

#### 5) Do your members acknowledge having sexual relationships with boys?

We do not encourage relationships which, upon discovery, would put their participants in extreme legal and social peril. This is the unfortunate reality of our times. We are critical of our society and its prevailing views on children's rights and sexuality but we do so knowing that, until those views and the laws which are informed by them change, all such relationships with boys are ill-advised and fraught with peril. So we must, reluctantly, discourage anyone from their pursuit.

#### 6) What's your take on pedopornography on the web?

Through the criminalization of an ever wider range of photographic, artistic or literary expression, now deemed "child pornography", and by allowing only government agents to view and condemn it as such, the rights of the public to consider evidence for themselves is abrogated. In this way, "child pornography" has come to mean whatever prosecutors want it to mean.

It is worth noting that people have now been prosecuted for possessing cartoon characters of fictitious children engaged in oral sex or even purely literary works – words on paper – describing minors having sex.

By implying that all "child pornography" depicts the most depraved and inhuman acts, government leads average persons to believe that we are all depraved and inhuman - a critical step if we are to be declared enemies of the state unworthy of human rights.

#### 7) Do you "celebrate" Alice Day or BoyLove Day?

We do not, but we support their goals. It is important for boylovers to feel that our love is as real and valid and positive as anyone else's. We look forward to a future when all days can be celebrated because they are free from cruel, hateful and unjust laws.