



MEN'S

TASK FORCE

NEWSLETTER

Editor William Parkar
Michigan Technological University
Health Center
Houghton, MI 49931

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Letter from the Chairman

Murry Scher

As I write this I am aware that there are two issues of note for me. The first is that we are on the edge of having our status changed to that of standing committee of ACPA and the second is that at the Baltimore Convention I will step down as chair of the Task Force.

I have relished working with you all to undo gender role strain in general and for student affairs professionals in particular. When we achieve standing committee status our work will be, in a sense, just beginning. We will have to further implement our goals of overcoming the negative effects of our socialization. We will also need to be diligent in aiding ACPA toward a deeper understanding of those negative effects and their meaning for our profession.

As I leave as chair, I am happy with what we have accomplished and with the active and competent membership that will be taking over. I am delighted with the spirit of cooperation and volunteerism in the Task Force and am confident of a productive future. I appreciate all the efforts expended as well as the lively sense of camaraderie engendered over the years. Thanks.

Letter from the Chairman Elect

Greg Eichenfield

As the time approaches for me to begin my leadership role with the Men's Task Force, I face a myriad of emotions and concerns. My sense of challenge (anxiety paired with hope) is great, as is my sense of caring in taking on, with your help, an important and worthwhile task for College Student Personnel and Men in general. The Men's Task Force has come a long way since its first seeds were planted ("way back" in 1979 at the Los Angeles Conference). With the help of concerned men, and the support of many women in ACPA, we have moved from an idea, through a Caucus and now a Task Force. The titles reflect our changing status in the organization as well as commitment to what we believe is an important task: the development of 492 of our country's population from competitive, stressed and inhibited people who die before we should, to men cooperating with ourselves and with women to engender "the full spectrum of interdependence-support, dependence, play, nurturance, celebration, and the mutual acknowledgement of need" (Canon and Scher, Nov., 1983 Developments).

The challenge is before us and

the challenge is now. We face, in Baltimore, our greatest task yet—moving from temporary "Task Force" status in ACPA to permanent "Standing Committee" status. Our energies this year have been geared to accomplishing that task. Your support is needed, has been shown, and is needed still. We are faced with the task of helping a significant national organization in responding to the changing needs of men (and women) in our society. Have you ever stopped to consider how significant a Standing Committee on Men in ACPA might be? We, as an organization, are actively involved in shaping the future of the men and women of our country as they struggle through what might be their most difficult times in life—the college years. Student Development models have shown us that college students are not completely solidified in their beliefs and values and perhaps, with ACPA's support and encouragement we might, on an Individual level at the least, provide opportunities for college men and women to both be aware of and assist us and raising the consciousness of men and improving the quality of life. The "Men's Movement," both in ACPA and on a national level has been likened to the Women's Movement of the past 25 years. Women have made significant changes in our society in that time (and even before). We have sought their support and they have given freely, realizing that our success in these endeavors not only helps us but women as well. But we need the support of men—lots of them. If you're coming to Baltimore, join us. Bring your friends. If you can't be there, support us; tell those you know who will be in Baltimore to join us and support us.

By the time roost of you arrive in Baltimore, we will have already presented to the Executive Committee and received a decision. Wish us luck.

Reader's Viewpoint

Dale Ross, ACSW
January 1984

Being a college counselor has been an exciting, varied, sometimes

contradicting and challenge experience. I stress the last because I have found the word 'counselor*' to be a term that can be much broader than is generally applied. For many it means merely one-to-one counseling in the tradition of 'in parentis locus'.

Trained in social work., with its broad range of applications, as well as many varied experiences in other 'service' related work, I find there are opportunities at every turn of the corner. As I have explored them, I am continually amazed there are not more (sometimes any) counselors there already. These are golden opportunities to 'go where the action is' rather than waiting for the problems to be carried in and set on our desks.

Perhaps not coming from a counseling discipline, I was not instructed in what I 'should' tackle. Responding to students and the equally important staff has opened non-traditional arenas to counsel in. Also helping is a liberal director who allows freedom in choosing new paths. This has included visiting former social work classes to discuss myself as a 'practicing' social worker, helping set up and participate in multidisciplinary workshops on basic issues ('Putting Life's Pieces Together'), developing displays, helping develop a day long conference on sexuality for the religious centers, as well as outside voluntary activities I enjoy.

This freedom (choice) from an expected role has also opened the doors of my own particular interest—men's issues. Having developed a reputation, I have used opportunities to bring the issue to other's attention. Offering workshops and agreeing to student newspaper articles helped to develop my expertise, as well as to become known as an 'expert'. Never claiming more than is true, I found my little knowledge was further developed than most. More exposure has led to more knowledge and more requests for involvement on men's issues. It is such a new area that we still need more help—involvements on many different levels. What sort of things do you enjoy doing? What area would you like to 'major' in? Begin with

where your interests are and with your current knowledge—your awareness alone will put you ahead of most and help make you valuable. Look for opportunities to point out an issue as being one of men's issues, and you are on your way...and when you want help, all you need to do is call.

Men's Conference, Ann Arbor, MI Aug. 11-15, 1983 Dale Ross, ACSW January, 1984

For myself. The 8th National Conference on Men and Masculinity and the 1st National Conference of the National Men's Organization, August 11th to 15th, in Ann Arbor, Michigan was a wonderful first experience with this group of 430 men and women. Seeing their announcement in the Men's Task Force newsletter lead me to telephone. The coordinators responded with a warmth generally associated with 'best friends'. Within a short time everyone at the conference was responding in similar ways - like I have wished my friends would respond. Several talked about waiting all year to come where they can relax and get good strokes (I mentioned the Men's Task Force as an additional place).

The agenda was VERY full, with unofficial discussion beginning before breakfast and continuing long after the evening's entertainment (1-2 AM or later). For each session I was able to narrow it down to 3 workshops I really wanted to attend. As I met more people, talk with them began to compete with the workshops/lectures/discussions - adding to the frustration. I wanted it all.

An especially nice feature was the mixing of business meetings with pleasure. Literally, in the formal lecture hall a keynote speaker would be followed by a performer, who was then followed by another speaker. It took the edge off business (and a great deal was accomplished) plus it reinforced the belief that people need to learn about being human in today's world.

The participants consisted of a wide range of professions and previous experience levels. A young man, in my workshop, said he didn't know what this was all about but came as a result of 'encouragement' from his 'liberated girlfriend' who just returned from a similar conference of her own. Initially it felt awkward not knowing a person's profession, expertise or preferences. Learning to deal with the situation taught me a great deal about how assumptions can get in the way of new meetings, with both losing in the long run. Many different barriers were lowered during the five days. Many friendships were started...and have continued through letters and cards. Such an experience takes time to absorb and then to re-enter the every day work world (one person sent a thank you card, for my workshop, in January, after he had time to think about all that happened). In addition to some fine presentations and a large quantity of material on the entire area of men's issues, the personal experience makes this a conference well worth the time and energy it takes to get there.

The next conference will be in Washington, D.C., June 30 to July 3, 1984. I hope to see you there.

War is a Men's Issue John G. Macchietto

Not often enough. I look back at a segment of my life to keep my present in perspective. But as I made good a new year's resolution to write something for the Men's Task Force Newsletter. I quite pleasantly came into a reflection and introspection period that has helped me in unexpected ways. Two years ago this summer, I took a position as a clinician at the V.A. Medical Center in Topeka, Kansas on the inpatient Vietnam Post-traumatic Stress Disorder Unit. It was a new ward at the time; second largest and fifth such ward in the country (currently one of nine). Its goal was/is help to Vietnam combat veterans recover emotionally from the war in Indochina.

In this period of Introspection, I recalled a major reason why this

position appealed to me. It would open me up to an area of men's Issues that I have only understood academically, as a state-side •erviceperson in the Air Force, and what I have seen on T.V. and in movie theatres. I knew that I could learn and acquire a unique perspective of what it means to be masculine. Perhaps I have learned that. I'm still sorting out the many pieces of thoughts and emotions. I have learned much more than I expected though. This is why I am writing in the Men's Newsletter on the topic of war. I believe it will provide an added perspective on malehood. One of my unexpected insights is I know this reflection has helped me understand myself a little bit better.

It is difficult to put in writing my thoughts, feelings, and insights on this topic mostly because it is very intense. I guess intensity is the best word to describe the pain, fear, anger, guilt, hurt, sorrow, despair, hopelessness, and helplessness of the men I work with. In the on-going psychotherapy group I lead or co-lead I have learned that men, women, and children can be very brutal people. I've known for some time that people can be very good; that goes without saying. what is very scary to me, is that my present work has taught me to question just how big my cruel side is in me. Many of the veterans I work with were no different than the middle-class eighteen year old I was when they went to Vietnam. And I should say that the sample of veterans I work with are not typical of all Vietnam veterans since the majority of veterans have functionally readjusted from their tour of duty in Vietnam. But the question I am left with (and hope I never have to find out first-hand) is "How brutal of a human being am I?" But I also ask myself "How many of us are walking around in life thinking we could never seriously and deliberately hurt others and be just simply fooling ourselves?"

I have learned by the veterans, in a much more vivid way than the media, what it is like to wake up and find a fellow soldier's head on a stake next to you...what it is like

to have a friend's flapping and dying body land on top of you during an ambush and knowing the cover it provided you was the reason why you were one of the three survivors of your squad. I have learned in a clearer sense what it is like to witness, while hiding after surviving an ambush, the sights and sounds of the laughing enemy dismember your fellow soldiers' bodies (some while still alive) and put the parts in a ritualistic pile somewhere in the jungles of Cambodia.

Learning this and numerous similar events has provided me with the insight that I too may have sought revenge by getting back at the enemy in similar ways. While I do not know this for certain, I do know I am a survivor, and at 18, I was not as emotionally strong as I am today.

And I know academically that nothing more brutal happened in Vietnam than happened in Korea, World Wars I and II, and any other war for that matter (presently, there are approximately 40 wars being fought today). Yet, with this knowledge, I am left with trying to understand why. Perhaps the machoism we all learn as boys comes from living in a world that war is constantly being fought, and if our country is presently not at war, we are still living under the fear that it may occur. As males, we have the added reality of a draft system that only drafts males, making fighting in war a much more real possibility.

I have learned that a big part of the survival in a battle is being able to withstand events like a fellow soldier's brains being splattered on you and squelching the fear, pain, sorrow, helplessness, and resentment at having gotten close enough to someone you would call a friend, and then being able to convert those feelings into the action necessary to retreat or continue fighting. To cry then only invites certain death. Suppressing feelings certainly has its utility in that situation.

When some years ago my father-in-law said to my crying son to stop because "boys don't cry," I was angered. Yet, I recently

learned that this man was once a paratrooper in Korea and has apparently seen "lots of action" though he never talks about it. My father fought in France in WWII, and my uncle was a P.O.W. by the Japanese for 3 years after he was captured in Bataan, Philippines. Somehow, my growing up with messages from them not to cry is much more understandable since I have started daily helping veterans share their gory war experiences. Are there many of us who have not grown up with at least one war veteran as part of our family? Maybe the messages to conceal emotions are in part a way of preparing us as boys to handle battle. Maybe too, it is partly a way of justifying the coping skills war veterans have inadvertently learned and have found it too hard to change. Certainly, crying to help the veterans I work with to allow the crying to happen again is met with fierce resistance.

I mentioned earlier that I am still sorting out the pieces to what my work in war's emotional casualties means. I do not have clear cut answers to the questions I have asked. I do believe, however, the issues of war are definitely a men's issue; and one that warrants attention. Whether we have fought in battle or not, the psychological realities are with us daily. Hopefully, what I have shared will stimulate thinking and thus provide a clearer understanding of what it means to be a man in today's society.

Comments on Men's Conference

Submitted by Greg Eichenfield

Three members of the Men's Task Force (Murray Scher, Chair; Gregg Eichenfield, Chair-Elect; and Dale Ross) attended the combined conference on the National Men's Organization and the 8th National Conference on Men and Masculinity August 11-15 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Held on the University of Michigan campus, the conference headquarters and living accommodations were housed in Stockwell Hall (named after the 1st woman admitted to the University-what a para-

doxt), the conference was attended by approximately 400 men and 20 women. The four day conference included lectures, discussions, and paper presentations covering a variety of topics including fathers, parenting, gay-straight relationships, dual-career relationships, and Vietnam veterans. The evenings were filled with music, entertainment and guest lecturers, organized by the "cultural workers" of the conference. Men's music was featured often and the culmination of the entertainment was a closing song written by conference organizer and men's music author/performer, Geoff Morgan that reflected the theme of the conference: "Men Cooperating for a Change."

Task Force Member, Dale Ross, presented a well-received paper on "The Demise of American Masculine Culture." And Murray Scher, along with other conference members organized and led an impromptu meeting of men seeking to organize into the Task Group on Male Mental Health. This organization is in the forming stages and any interested task force members are encouraged to get involved in this cooperating group. They may contact Murray Scher or Gregg Eichenfield at the Baltimore Conference or by correspondence.

What was most significant to this Task Force Member was the sense of community that was built in so short a time among the conference participants. The warmth and sharing and lively discussions (often over a shared meal) brought new light to many topics and a willingness to share that is rarely felt at a "National Conference."

The next combined conference is planned for June 29-July 3 in Washington, D.C. and all Task Force members are encouraged to attend. More information will be provided at the Men's Task Force Organization meetings in Baltimore, as well as any updates on the National Men's Organization.

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a. Encouraging research and publication in the area of men's concerns.

b. Soliciting and presenting a series of programs at the annual ACPA convention.

c. Representing to the Executive Committee of ACPA those matters of particular concern to men.

d. Encouraging the design of programs on the campus that support and promote the developmental tasks of male students.

e. Encouraging dialogue and exchange among the men and women members of the Association that supports the full development of each individual.

f. Provide a forum within the annual convention where men may share their concerns, and a network outside the convention that promotes continuing exchange.

g. Working in concert with other task forces and standing committees of the Association in addressing issues related to human growth and individual dignity.

What are you doing about sex roles?

People throughout the country are interested in the way male sex roles impact the lives of men, women, and children. If you, or someone you know is studying the effects of male sex roles, ways to help men change through counseling, or systems' reactions to changes in men's lives, let your colleagues know. Send information and a way to contact you to: R.F. Lazur, Centerpoint, Box 50, Hathorne, MA 01937.

This clearinghouse is a mission of the MEN'S TASK FORCE to foster the exchange of ideas and information, to support each other's work and to better understand the effects of sex roles on everyone's lives.

Two dissertations will start the series:

"Sex Role Consciousness in Male Psychologists": Interviews with 8 practicing psychologists focusing on their awareness of their own and their male clients' sex roles and its effects in the counseling situation.

Norm Ephraim, 44 Whitney St., Watertown, MA 02172; 617-926-3473.

"What it Means to be a Man" : Interviews with 20 men on how their masculinity is expressed in their everyday lives, relationships with other men and women, at work, and in their attitudes toward life goals, fathering, and their bodies. Richard Lazur, address above, 617-774-5000 ext 316.

Men's Task Force Programs and Activities at the 1984 ACPA Conference

Gary W. Neal, Program Chair

The Men's Task Force will be presenting a range of 811^ programs and meetings at the 1984 ACPA conference in Baltimore. We received a number of quality program proposals for solo and joint sponsorship. Each proposal was anonymously rated by two reviewers from the program committee (Ron May, Chuck Peters, and Chuck O'Brien) as well as myself.

We will be sponsoring five programs. They are:

"A T n S. - SOCTAL DILEMAS FgOM_A MKStcAL CRISIS" chaired by Dale ROSS. This timely program will update information about Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (A.I.D.S.) and will discuss the social concerns it raises. A community program will be briefly described, and participants will have the opportunity to discuss issues about A.I.D.S. and working with individuals concerned about A.I.D.S.

"UP THE ORGANIZATION? A DIALOGUE ON ACHIEVEMENT, ADVANCEMENT AND ANDROGYNY" chaired by Jane Fried.

with Harry Canon as a participant. The two speakers in dialogue will address the conflict between caring and concern for students and the competitiveness and self-assertion involved in career advancement in student personnel work. They will use two contrasting models of moral reasoning and discuss actual ethical problems and an androgynous model of power and achievement.

"MASCULISM: A WAY OF UNDERSTANDING MAN, WOMEN, AND THEIR RELATIONSHIPS"

chaired by Gary Rizzo with John Macchietto as a participant. "Masculinism", a counterpart to feminism, will be used to describe the perspective that men, like women, have been confined by traditional sex roles.

The program will contribute to an understanding of: (a) the costs and rewards of being male, (b) male/female relationships, and (c) change for one's own well-being, rather than from feelings of guilt.

"A MEN'S PROGRAM BASED ON A NEEDS SURVEY" chaired by Duck Peters,

with participants Linda Lewis, Kathy Germann, and Steve McDonnell. This program will trace the development of a campus program on men's issues growing from a needs assessment.

The presenters will address the means of assessing campus needs and elements of a program model, including attention to men and competition and men and emotion.

"GENDER ROLE CONFLICT IN MEN'S LIVES; MOVING TOWARD SPECIFIC CRITERIA, INTERVENTIONS, AND TREATMENTS",

chaired by Jim O'Neil, with participants Kenneth Solomon, Lisa McCann, and Jane Fried. The chair will describe operational criteria to assess gender role conflict, and the other presenters will discuss issues and implications for working with men, specifically (a) older men, (b) Vietnam veterans, and (c) male college students. The program will provide information that will be helpful to counselors and psychologists working with men in counseling, psychotherapy, and preventive programming.

In addition to these programs, we will be jointly sponsoring three

other programs and an ancillary meeting.

"MORE THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS:

APPRECIATING THE ETHICS OF JUSTICE AND CARE IN THE WORKPLACE", chaired

by Judy Ellickson, with participants Mellssa Andrea and Linda Forrest, is jointly sponsored with the Standing Committee for Women and Commission IV (Career Counseling and Placement). This program will focus on differing values and strategies that men and women bring to the world of work and the impact that these different talents have on organizational effectiveness. Information on male and female developmental theory and role socialization will be presented and an integration of both male and female perspectives into the workplace will be proposed.

"UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMING ON MEN'S

ISSUES", chaired by J. Stephen Pan-kow with participant Chuck O'Brien, is jointly sponsored with Commission III (Student Residence Programs).

This presentation will describe programming about men's concerns on a residential campus. The presenters will share their experiences with the development, promotion, and evaluation of the program, and will encourage dialogue and discussion with attendees.

"GIRLS AND MEN - SEXISM AND SEX ROLES IN THE GREEK COMMUNITY: CAUSES, EFFECTS AND INTERVENTIONS".

chaired by Bernard Davisson, with participants Barbara Tootle and Angle Sicvers, is jointly sponsored with the Standing Committee for Women and Commission IV (Students, Their Activities, and Their Community). Sexism and traditional sex roles which seem to be prevalent in Greek-letter societies will be discussed. The influences of the national organizations, individual members, and campus administrators will be addressed, and intervention strategies will be presented and discussed.

An ancillary meeting entitled, "LESBIAN AND GAY CONCERN WITHIN ACPA".

chaired by James Croteau, with participants Glenn Maloney and Sandy Colbs, is jointly sponsored with the Standing Committee for Women. This meeting is open to all persons interested in promoting awareness within

the profession about lesbian and gay concerns. The open discussion will begin the process of planning a group within ACPA to address the issues and Co support gay and lesbian professionals.

Another program, "ENRICHING FRIENDSHIP IN AN AGE OF CHANGE", chaired by Dale Ross, will be of interest. While it is not sponsored by the Task Force, it originated as a proposal here but was forwarded to the general ACPA program committee because of lack of space in our designated program slots. The presentation will examine cultural forces which are affecting relationships, and explore options for use by counselors in working with persons with relationship concerns.

We will also be conducting an Idea Break during the conference. This will be an open discussion between members of the Task Force and some of the leadership of ACPA (e.g., the Executive Council). The Idea Break will provide a forum to address the concerns of male student affairs professionals, the history of the Men's Task Force, it's involvement in ACPA, and the achievement of standing committee status. All members and interested persons are encouraged to attend. In particular, ACPA Executive Council members and other leaders are encouraged to join this Idea Break.

The Task Force will hold several open meetings to conduct on-going business during the confer-

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ence. These will be opportunities to become more involved in the Task Force and to address issues such as the proposal for standing committee status and program ideas for next year's conference. These meetings will be at:

- (a) 1:00-2:00 p.m., Sunday, Apr. 8
- (b) 4:00-5:15 p.m., Monday, Apr. 9
- (c) 3:00-4:15 p.m., Tuesday, Apr. 10

Finally, I want to thank everyone who submitted program proposals for this year's conference; and Ron, Chuck and Chuck for serving as reviewers; and too many other people to name who helped throughout this process! I am pleased and proud of this year's programs. I believe the Men's Task Force has assembled an impressive schedule of conference activities for Baltimore, and encourage everyone to take part!

The National Organization for Men is sponsoring the 9th National Conference on Men and Masculinity

**MEN WORKING. MEN PLAYING
MEN AT PEACE**

At the
Sheraton Washington
Convention Center, Wash. D.C.
Jun 30th to July 3rd

M & M 9
P.O. Box 76132
Wash DC 20013
For information call Jeff Beane 213 381-2006

LETTER TO MEN'S TASK FORCE

I did not expect to be writing this letter as I intended to step down as chair in Houston. However, I was swayed by some rather persuasive arguments that the structure we need is a chair for two years and a chair-elect for one year to provide a continuity of leadership. The chair-elect is Gregg Eichenfield. During the next year we will have opportunity to work together so that Gregg can make the transition to leading the Task Force.

We face a number of Casks in the upcoming year. Chief among them is negotiating the path toward achieving status as a standing committee of ACPA. Gregg is in charge of shepherding us through this process. It is up to each of us to participate in the effort. If you want to know how, contact Gregg.

Our other tasks involve continuing what we have already done. Submitting and presenting excellent programs, becoming involved in the Association, discovering the issues which are of relevance and concern to male student affairs professionals, and managing to have fun despite all the work.

I am very optimistic about our future. Our potential impact is far greater than most of us realize and the possibilities are most exciting.

Murray Scher

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CALL FOR PROGRAMS

The Men's Task Force of ACPA invites program proposals for the 1984 convention to be held in Baltimore, Maryland, April 8-11, 1984. This year's conference theme, "Renewal; Mission, Spirit, and Intellect" will provide the context for programs related to men's issues.

The Task Force, through its work and conference programs, seeks to address male concerns, encourage the development of programs which promote the developmental tasks of male students, encourage dialogue and exchange among men and women members of the association which supports the full development of each individual, examine relevant issues for male student affairs professionals, and address issues related to human growth and individual dignity.

If you would like to present programs and are searching for a topic, here are some ideas that have been suggested:

- Father-son relationships
- Mother-son relationships
- Male/Female cofacilitation-What role modeling is happening?
- Men and fraternities
- Programming for undergraduate males in working with men's groups
- Vietnam veterans
- Networking-How Co exchange information
- Men in competition-On and off campus, not Just athletics
- Politics of feminism-How does it influence men?
- Revolution In consciousness-Forced to rethink what men are like
- What male roles are like in student affairs
- Men in touch-deprivation and its effects
- Men's health issues-c.g.. vasectomy
- Intellectualizing sex role changes and fighting to get behavioral changes
- Can men learn to ask for help?
- The Changing family and men's changing roles within marriage
- Men and money
- Male sexuality
- Male Adolescent development
- Men, work, and retirement

Sometimes, all it takes for an idea to jell and become a reality is to share it with someone else. If you have an idea but need assistance in "fleshing" it out, remember that the network of people in the Task Force is willing and interested in providing feedback and helping develop ideas. Help is but a phone call away!

The Task Force will sponsor six programs and hopes to co-sponsor others. The deadline for submission of program proposals to the Men's Task Force program committee is August 1, 1983. If you are interested, you can obtain a program proposal form by contacting GARY NEAL.

The Men's Task Force: A Perspective

Harry J. Canon

We have a birthday of sorts coin-
in up. The Baltimore Convention marks
the fifth anniversary of the first
meeting of the ACPA Men's Caucus.
It would be nice if someone brought
a cake. With candles.

Some of you will recall our
initial and informal organizational
meeting in Boston. (Probably only
Murray Scher, Pete Sherrard and my-
self will recall chatting over tea
and coffee in DeKalb, IL. and de-
ciding that a men's group in ACPA
would be a Good Thing.) Handmade
signs announced our initial session,
and our cockles were warmed when three
dozen or so like-minded souls showed
up. The talk was good, interest
increased strong, and there was enough
enthusiasm present to warrant our
scheduling an extra time to meet
before the convention was over.
Mostly, we decided that men's issues
should have a place on the convention
program, that we should generate a
Bailing list, and that we ought to
be thinking about a news letter.

With the help of Peggy Barr,
we landed some slots on the Cin-
cinnati Convention, and our friends
on the Women's Standing Committee
saw to it that those were ensured
for future conventions. The Women's
Committee—with only occasional
pointed queries—has continued to
provide us with very strong support.
From the 1981 Convention through
the present, we've enjoyed programs
of high quality that have earned
a strong response. Those programs
have also afforded men an oppor-
tunity to meet after the sessions
to continue to explore and share
common concerns.

The focus of our concerns as a
caucus and subsequently as task force
have not always been clear to those
who have not been a part of our deli-
berations. Assumptions have occa-
sionally been made by our supportive
women friends and others that the

Men's Task Force was organized to
advance the welfare of men through
political action. Such of course
has not been the case. The mis-
perceptions are quite understandable
given the precedent established by
women's advocacy groups where poli-
tical action has been necessary if
the historic pattern of sex bias is
to be addressed.

Rather than devote even minor
effort toward political ends, the
caucus/task force has chosen to
function as a support structure
for men and as a vehicle for conti-
nuing exploration of issues of common
male concern. Those issues include
but are certainly not limited to the
experiences of being male in a field
that has achieved relative parity
(at least as reflected in ACPA) among
men and women, factors in the work
setting that inhibit androgynous
behavior, the capacity to become more
fully human in environments that re-
ward males only for stereotypic mascu-
line behaviors, and among other mat-
ters, finding ways to establish
support systems with our male
colleagues. Clearly, a significant
portion of our intent is to begin
the building of environments on our
respective campuses that will enable
male students to grow with a capacity
for tenderness, strength, emotional
expressiveness, to nurture and be
nurtured, and to reject the imposi-
tion of any sex role based patterns
that deter the realization of their
human potential.

And so it is that we are different
in style and in focus from the model
developed to meet the needs of our
women colleagues who are members of
the Women's Standing Committee. The
Men's Task Force (a level of recog-
nition from ACPA facilitated and
supported by the Women's Standing
Committee) retains its goals of
affording a time and place for men
to share with each other, supporting
activities that enhance the potential
for the more fully human development
of male students, and those activi-
ties that lead all of us to a better
understanding of what it is to be a
man.