



# Standing Committee For Men Newsletter

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## SCFM Chair's Column

Gary Neal

Come to Miami March 20-23 and be part of the future of the SCFMI. Some exciting things will be happening as we plan the future and install new officers, including Ron May as our new Chair. This will be an excellent opportunity to get involved.

One such opportunity is a cooperative project of several ACPA standing committees focusing on campus violence. Mark Stevens from the University of Southern California has agreed to represent SCFM in working with representatives of the standing committees for Women, Multi-cultural Affairs, and Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Awareness. Mark and others will be meeting in Miami to begin developing joint programming, ideas, articles for Developments, etc. If you're interested in working with Mark on the topic of campus violence, I'm sure he would be pleased to talk with you. His phone number is (213) 743-7979.

Another collaborative opportunity concerns ACPA's organizational response to AIDS. As you'll read elsewhere in the newsletter, Marva Hughes, president of ACPA, has proposed an intercommission/study group to develop a comprehensive organizational response to the AIDS crisis. Several standing committees, including us, Commission VII (Counseling and Psychological Services), and Commission VIII (Wellness) have been nominated for involvement in this important and very timely effort. Please consider representing the SCFM on this project, and come to Miami prepared to meet with others to begin planning ACPA's response. If you would like more information concerning this project, call me.

One concern we all had is the severely limited amount of meeting time available at ACPA conventions. We've done something about that. In Miami, Ken Roberson and I will be hosting the SCFM suite. I've requested a small suite in the DuPont Plaza Hotel, and plan to use it for steering committee meetings and informal discussions. At this writing, I have not yet received a confirmation or a complete convention schedule, but here's my tentative plan: Let's meet in the suite late Saturday and Sunday nights (March 19 and 20) to renew friendships and outline our activities for the membership meetings on Monday and Tuesday. I'd like all current officers

to attend both nights if possible, but most importantly Sunday night. It's pretty simple really - if you're interested, come. That means you're a part of the steering committee. Call me a week or two before the convention and I will confirm the hotel and times.

Our most important business, other than camaraderie, will be, nominating officers. Some current officers will continue, but we will need a number of people to take on new roles and responsibilities. They include working in the areas I outlined in last summer's newsletter: membership development, program committee, newsletter and other publications, and liaisons with other groups. In addition, groups focusing on interest areas, such as campus violence (with Mark), men of color/multi-cultural issues for men, and AIDS will have some time to convene during membership meetings. We will then consolidate those functional roles with an election in a membership meeting, thus forming our new steering committee/directorate body.

We will also install your new Chair, Ron May from the University of Oregon. Ron will be beginning a two-year term as Chair, and I am confident he will do a fantastic job! He has not only been active in the SCFM for several years (e.g. a former program chair), but has already started to exercise some leadership. Ron attended the ACPA Mid-year meeting in November and has been very active in collaboration with the chairs of other standing committees. Please welcome Ron as Chair in Miami and give him your full support.

Finally, I want to invite all the SCFM members and friends to join in the second annual SCFM Dinner on Monday night (March 21) in Miami. Last year's feast at the Parthenon restaurant in Chicago was tremendous! Come to the membership meeting at 4:00 Monday afternoon and we will announce our location and arrange transportation. It will be a great time! See you in Miami!

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ACPA Mid-year Meeting

Ron May, SCFM Chairperson-elect

Last summer, Gary asked me to represent the Standing Committee for him (during the ACPA mid-year meetings in St. Louis. I was looking forward to the Nov. 5-8 meetings as an opportunity to see the inner workings of ACPA. However, after a six hour flight delay, missing the limo shuttle, and learning I had agreed to stay in a convent, I began to have my doubts. Nonetheless, the trip was rewarding for learning more about ACPA, meeting new folks, and spreading the word about the Standing Committee for Men.

I'd like to share a few of the highlights with you:

- I had an excellent series of meetings with the chairs of the Standing Committees for Women, Multi-cultural Affairs, and Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Awareness. We discussed the need to work together on areas of common concern, while maintaining our separate identities. We agreed to begin this effort with a focus on campus violence. Ideas included a collaborative 1989 convention program and joint newsletter feature in Developments. Mark Stevens has agreed to represent us in this group. Send any ideas to Mark at the Counseling Center, University of Southern California.

- We were able to obtain a modest mid-year budget allocation, primarily to support Ken's and Michael's excellent work with the newsletter. However, ACPA investments took major hits during the "crash of '87" and the budget looks tight in the near future.

- ACPA is concerned about affirmative action issues within its commissions, State divisions and Standing Committees. We will need to develop an affirmative action plan over the next year.

- We continued the ongoing discussion about the ACPA/AACD relationship. Unfortunately, the change in convention sites from Phoenix to Miami necessitated selecting dates which overlap with the AACD convention in Chicago. A committee was appointed to explore the possibility of a joint convention with AACD but not before 1993.

- A planning report was provided on the Miami convention. Considering the site change, the planning seems to be excellent! Most of our Standing Committee meetings will be in the Intercontinental Hotel—the facilities look superb and it has it's own beach! I hope as many of you as possible can attend. We have many important issues to discuss! The schedule for convention sites in the near future is as follows;

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|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1988 - Miami            | 1991 - Atlanta          |
| 1989 - Washington, D.C. | 1992 - San Francisco or |
| 1990 - St. Louis        | Denver                  |

If you haven't heard, I have pulled up stakes and moved to the wilds of Oregon. Send those cards and letters to me at the University Counseling Center. University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403; Phone - work: (503) 686-3227; home (503) 484-1281. Eugene is a wonderful place with an active men's community.

Hope you are all well and I'll look forward to seeing many of you in Miami.

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\*\*\*\*\* CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS \*\*\*\*\*

Listed below are SCFM sponsored programs for the Miami convention. Check the convention schedule for times and locations.

Alan Berkowitz -  
Rocco Capraro

Developing Effective Programs on Men's Issues

Feminism and gay liberation have raised the general question of gender in dramatic ways, yet many men and women have not fully explored their understanding of masculinity or the maleness of men. Within academia, issues of men and masculinity have received increasing attention. College men in particular need an opportunity to explore and examine the place of gender in their own identities as well -as their relationship to feminism, both on campus and in the larger society. This workshop will describe strategies and techniques for developing effective outreach programs in the areas of men s issues, male identity, and men's responses to feminism.

David Braverman -  
Sam Cochran  
Fred Rabinowitz  
Michael Murphy

Men's Centers; Challenging Traditional Assumptions about Gender Roles

Men's centers on college and university campuses provide opportunities to support and challenge men who are exploring changing expectations. This program explores the Men's Center as a means of meeting various needs of men on today's campuses through discussion of the need for such centers, the process used in planning and implementing such a center, and consideration of the usefulness of such centers on todays college and university campuses.

Glenn Good –  
Laurie Mintz  
Jeff Pollard

Counseling Men; Unlocking the White Knight's Armor

This program is offered as a forum for those who wish to discuss the challenges of counseling the male client. With the recent publication of titles dealing with men in therapy, more emphasis has been placed on recognizing the special needs of men. The discussion will include the advantages and difficulties of opposite/same-gender therapist in dealing with issues Including COA, domestic violence, gender role, sexuality, and interpersonal relationships

Ken Roberson -

Men and Their Adjustment to Separation

This program examines the loss of intimate relationships from a male perspective. The format is both didactic and experiential, and is intended to Integrate current research on separation adjustment with the participants' own experiences of separation. The program will include a discussion of the role that student personnel profes-

sionals have in dealing with separation adjustment. A large portion of the program will be devoted to exploring and discussing personal awareness of separation from a male perspective.

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Marvalene Hughes, President of ACPA, has recently called for the creation of an intercommission/study group to examine ACPA's response to AIDS on college campuses, and to propose a comprehensive organizational response to the crisis of AIDS. In her letter to ACPA commissions, she noted that the U.S. Senate has passed an amendment to the Labor-Health & Human Services-Education Appropriations bill which reads, "none of the funds made available under this Act to the Centers for Disease Control shall be used to provide AIDS education, information, or prevention materials and activities that promote or encourage, directly or indirectly, homosexual activity." Dr. Hughes noted that the amendment, by including the words "indirectly, places at risk the development of any AIDS educational materials that specifically targets the homosexual community.

While other legislation is currently under consideration to ease the discrimination of PWA's and those who test positive on the AIDS antibody test, the unrestrained legislating of morality is of grave concern, particularly when it may have the effect, as in the above amendment, of obstructing the prevention of AIDS.

In response to this concern, AACD representatives participated in the organizational meetings of the National Coalition on AIDS and the Family, held November 14-19. A recommendation was accepted to establish a national coalition on AIDS and the family composed of representatives of additional key organizations concerned with AIDS. ACPA, through its representation in AACD, is a member of this coalition, and Dr. Hughes is asking for a concerted effort to meet the challenge of dealing with AIDS on college campuses. If you are interested in working on this project, contact Gary Neal or mention your interest at the Miami SCFM meetings.

-Editors

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Fathers

Sy Safransky

I dreamt last night my father had died. Waking up, I felt thankful it was only a dream. I reached out to him, across that twilight space that separates dreaming from waking. Then I opened my eyes. Fully aware now, I realized he was dead.

I wept, reliving the pain of his dying four years ago. When I was a teenager we were each other's best friends; I'd spend my weekends with him,

driving the car, helping him deliver the encyclopedias he sold, rather than play with the kids on my block.

In my dream we were in a car, and I remember his hands on the wheel - big, strong, a symbol of that strength in him which was genuine and not boastful. He was a huge man, with an enormous belly and even more enormous chest. At the age of eighteen, he was six feet two inches tall, weighed 275 pounds, and was "all muscle", the doctor said. He boxed and played football and ate sandwiches made from whole loaves of bread. The muscle went to fat, as sports became something to watch on television, but those hands and forearms! Thick and uncontably earned. If his advice and his "experience" sometimes seemed dubious, I could at least trust his hands.

His triumphs were mine, and so were his disappointments. I knew his sales pitch by heart, could anticipate as readily as he a "yes" or a "no", a good day or a bad day. He let me, at twelve or thirteen be a man, telling me, as best he could, his own- fears and aspirations, trusting me to understand. The irony was that as I became a man, thinking for myself, questioning his values, our relationship turned sour.

•When I fell in love, at nineteen, with the woman who was to be my first wife, we began drifting away from one another. No, drift is the wrong word; it suggests indifference, but our new inability to communicate bound us as passionately as our camaraderie. Not having a vocabulary for my new emotions, nor he, for his sadness that I no longer idolized him, we watched our closeness die like a beloved animal neither of us knew how to save. Eventually, I found the words, but I was nearly thirty then, and he was dying.

Satre says you're a man until your father dies. But accepting my father's death has been less of a challenge than accepting his life, and the strange and beautiful ways our lives twisted around one another, like the gnarled roots of an old tree.

To let our parents be, to accept them as people, human and therefore imperfect, rather than as gods - that is the challenge. They were gods for us when we were small, their approval and disapproval roping us in, their love our meat and bone. How hard to let go, in all the cells of the body and folds of the mind.

A friend told me he couldn't love his father until - well into his thirties - he said to him, "You're a son of a bitch." But feeling our pain - hard as it is - isn't enough; we need to understand we can't blame anyone for who we are, including our parents.

We fear becoming that within them which we most abhor, we fear everything unrealized in them which go projected onto us - all the longing, and the greed for acceptance, or money, or power, or sex, or goodness. But my father's idol, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, was right; there's nothing to fear but fear itself (hear that. Dad?). We live out the dramas that most compel us - being powerful; being powerless; being someone. Pain itself can become an identity easier than joy to bear, because it's familiar, a lumpy old mattress shot through with knives, but with our name on it, and therefore more to be trusted than the unknown - and madness? ecstasy? the disapproval of our friends? more life than we know what to do with?

(submitted by Michael Murphy)