

# Other Counseling Concerns

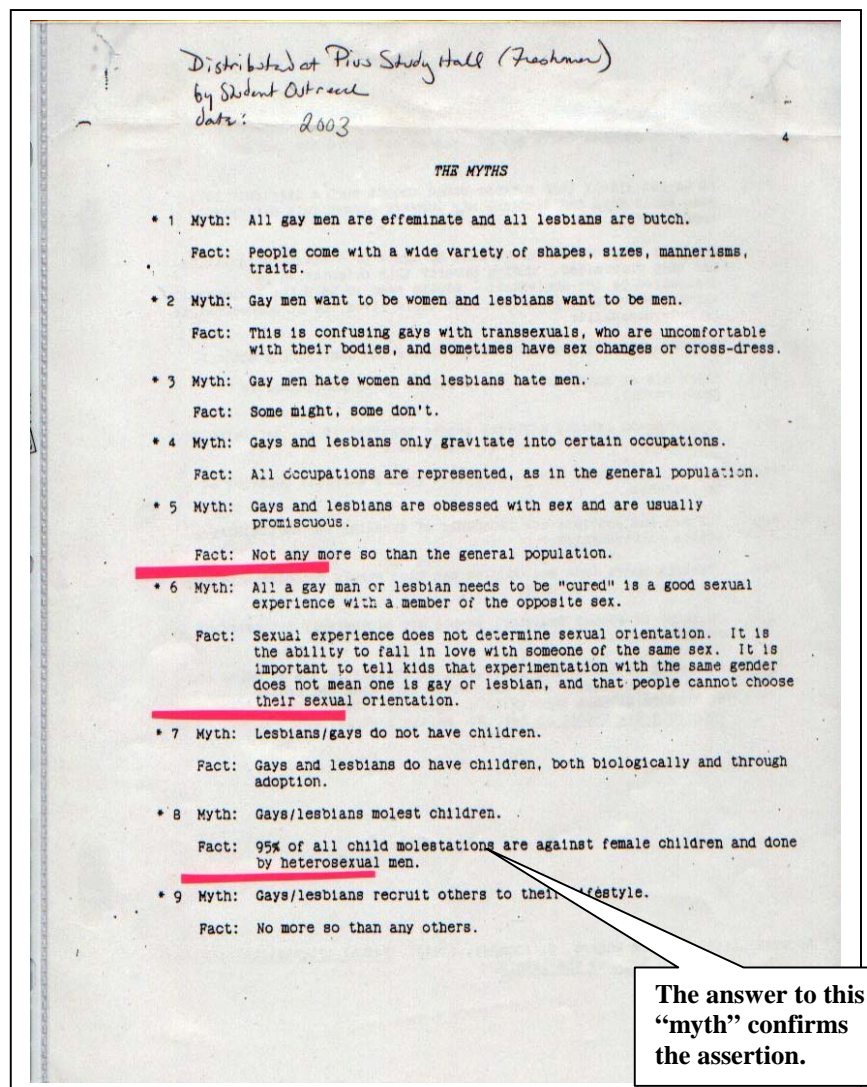
## Mythology at Pius

During the 2002-3 school year, Student Outreach distributed, under the supervision of the same counselor who gave 15-year old Katie McDermott her counseling sessions at Pius, a handout titled "The Myths" to all freshman study halls. Among the "myths" and "facts" offered to Catholic students are:

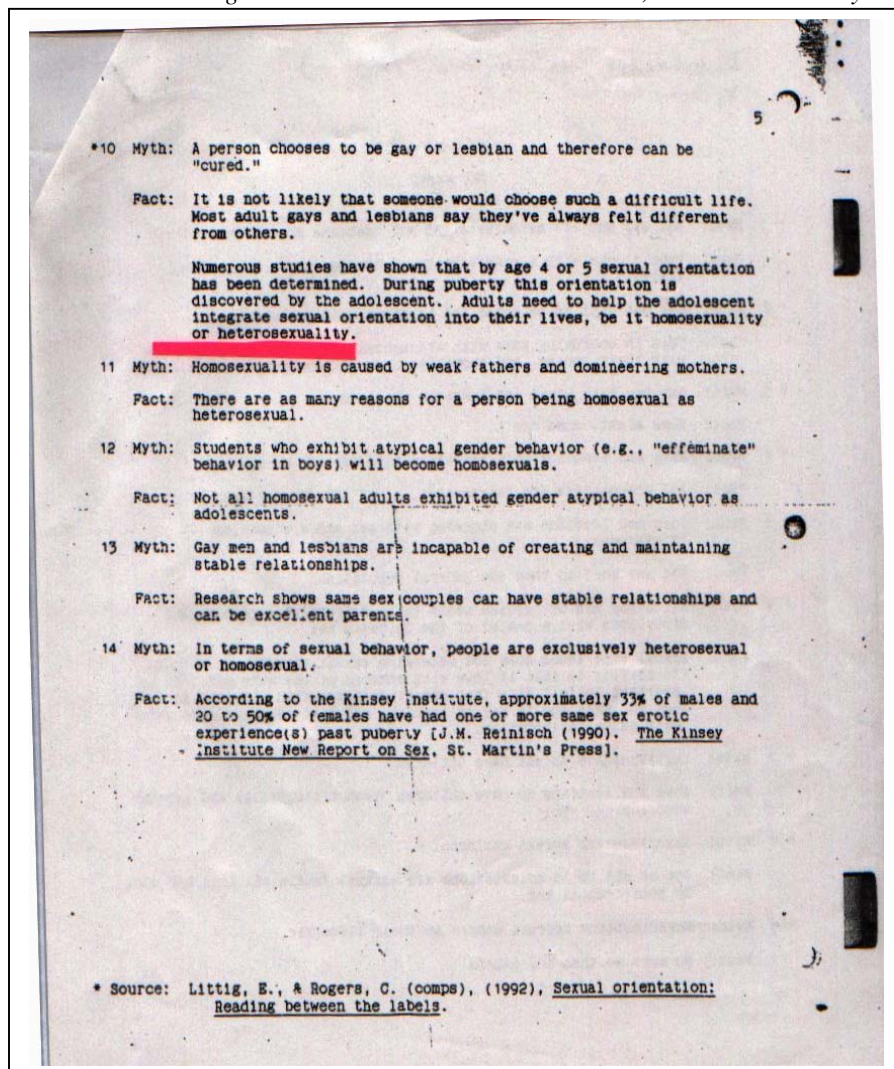
- *5 Myth: Gays and lesbians are obsessed with sex and usually promiscuous.*  
*Fact: Not any more so than the general population.*

What is the basis for this supposed myth-debunking "fact?" Numerous studies have demonstrated the significant emotional difficulties of those in the homosexual lifestyle. These emotional difficulties include widespread promiscuity, substance abuse disorders, depression and hopelessness, and an inability to maintain commitment in a relationship. (See Thomas Schmidt, Straight and Narrow by (Intervarsity Press, 1995)

- *6 Myth: All a gay man or lesbian needs to be "cured" is a good sexual experience with a member of the opposite sex.*  
*Fact: Sexual experience does not determine orientation. It is the ability to fall in love with someone of the same sex. It is important to tell kids that experimentation with the same gender does not mean that one is gay or lesbian, and that people cannot choose their orientation.*



- 10 Myth: A person chooses to be gay or lesbian and therefore can be “cured.”  
Fact: It is not likely someone would choose such a difficult life. Most adult gays and lesbians say they’ve always felt different from others. Numerous studies show that by age 4 or 5 sexual orientation has been determined. During puberty, this orientation is discovered by the adolescent. Adults need to help the adolescent integrate sexual orientation into their lives, be it homosexuality or heterosexuality.



The red herring of “a good sexual experience” was not the real point of “myth/fact” set #6. The real point is to be found in the last line, where it says: “people cannot choose their orientation.” This point is reinforced by “myth/fact” set #10. The student is left with the impression that homosexuality is not something one can change.

What the students are not told is that because homosexuality is not simply genetic, but linked to social and parental influences – including certain family patterns, same-sex peer problems, childhood molestation, and peer labeling – it is subject to modification through counseling or psychotherapy.

Joseph Nicolosi, Ph.D., *Reparative Therapy of Male Homosexuality* (New Jersey: Jason Aronson, Inc., 1991) writes: “Today, new studies place the homoerotic drive in better perspective by showing us that it originates from the search for health and wholeness. Many homosexuals

are attracted to other men and their maleness because they are striving to complete their own gender identification. From this perspective, we now better understand the nature of the homosexual person’s struggle. And with this understanding, we can offer more than tolerance, but--for those who seek it--hope for healing. More than civil rights, we can offer a way toward wholeness.”

The Catholic Medical Association writes: “Research counters the myth that same-sex attraction is genetically predetermined and unchangeable and offers hope for prevention and treatment.” (“**Homosexuality and Hope,**” November 2002)

8 Myth: Gays/lesbians molest children. Fact: 95% of all child molestations are against female children done by heterosexual men.

A study from the Family Research Institute analyzed news reports of child molestations between 1989 and

2002. It determined that 40% involved homosexual molestation, despite the fact that homosexuals account for only 2-10% of the general population. (Family Research Report, Jan-Feb 2003)

- *13 Myth: Gay men and lesbians are incapable of creating and maintaining stable relationships.*  
*Fact: Research shows that same sex couples can have stable relationships and can be excellent **parents**.*

Whether a given couple is capable of stability ignores the very real problem that “the married and cohabiting general American population presents a striking contrast in sexual/relational fidelity to the ‘open’ nature of gay relationships, even those characterized as ‘monogamous.’ Gay lifestyles appear to be much more promiscuous than ‘straights.’ There appears to be a marked transitoriness in both gay and lesbian relational patterns, and a great deal more sheer sexual preoccupation.” Robert T. Michael, John H. Gagnon, Edward O. Laumann and Gina Kolata, *Sex In America* (Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1994).

Not only does this handout contradict scientific knowledge and sociological reality, but it offends basic Catholic teaching that homosexuality is disordered. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #2357)

**“The Myths” handout was among the materials given to 15-year old Katie McDermott, a student at Pius who was summoned by her counselor at the school.**

Parents are apprised that Student Outreach will teach fellow students each week during study hall on various topics, including sexuality.

Parents are given the option of not permitting their children to see a "very educational" filmed abortion, but are not given specific information about other programs given by "carefully selected and professionally trained" peers.

Parents are not told that the handout called "The Myths," concerning homosexuality, would undermine Church teaching.

Dear Parents:

Each Thursday during study hall, your son or daughter is taught by a group called Student Outreach. We are a peer education group consisting of carefully selected and professionally trained juniors and seniors. Our intent is to discuss with your child many important contemporary topics, including sexuality and the issue of abortion. We follow the viewpoints of the Catholic Church in our presentations.

On Thursday, January 13, 1994, we will show an actual abortion on film. The program is done in good taste and is very educational. We require that each student have parental permission before viewing this film. Parents, we urge you to allow your child to view this film.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call any one of us.

Christine Mollo	821-9517
Daniel Garcia	281-3654

This is an optional activity. Your student is **not** required to view this film.

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Student signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent signature

Student Outreach is sponsored by Mrs. Joan Sabato and Mrs. Trisha Carlton-McQueen. If you have any questions about this program, its purpose, and its staff, please contact us at 831-8400.