

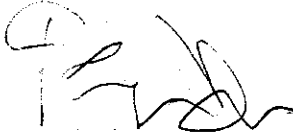
Please read these pages carefully!

Paul Kurtz is Chairman of Prometheus Books and he is also head of CSICOP.

Do you really want your name associated with such an organization?

There is more to come, Stay tuned.

Renate Zellmann

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Renate Zellmann', with a large, stylized initial 'R'.

APCRIS

the Association for the Protection of  
Children's Rights in Society  
Holland, Denmark and Norway

She used her theories on the unreliability of memory to cast doubt on the testimony of the only eye witness left alive who could identify Ted Bundy, the all American boy, who was one of America's worst serial rapist and killer. Notwithstanding Dr Loftus's arguments the judge kept Bundy in prison. He was eventually tried, convicted and executed.

\* Witness for the Defence by Dr Elizabeth Loftus & Katherine Ketcham. St Martins Press 1991.

### **3. \* CSICOP.**

Committee for the Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal. Members: Chairman: Paul Kurtz, professor emeritus of philosophy, State University of New York at Buffalo. It includes other FMSF AB Members - Martin Gardner (Editor Skeptical Inquirer), Ray Hyman, Loren Pancratz, Thomas Sebeok, as well as Elizabeth Loftus.

James Randi, magician (see AAA Info 9), FMSF AB Member, used to be a high profile CSICOP spokesman. Also on this board is Vern Bullough, Distinguished Professor, Faculty of Natural and Social Science, State University of New York, who is listed elsewhere as Board member of Paedika - the Dutch paedophile magazine to which Dr Ralph Underwager, co founder of the "false memory" movement, gave his well known "having sex with children can be seen as part of God's will" interview. Vern Bullough is also Human Sexuality Books Editor of Prometheus Books, which publishes James Randi's books.

The Human Sexuality section of the Prometheus Book catalogue under Vern Bullough's name includes titles such as 'Children's Sexual Encounters with Adults. A scientific study.' 'Armed Robbery Orgasm' (on masochism). 'S&M' (studies in dominance and submission). 'Vandalized Lovemaps, paraphilic outcome of seven cases in pediatric sexology'. 'Venuses Penuses'. 'The X-Rated Videotape Guide V' described as a review "detailing the activity that occurs in each movie and states why the author thinks it's erotic or not, as the case may be. The physical characteristics and personalities of the cast plus producer/director, a full cast list, year of release, and the distributor or manufacturer are listed for each movie. The X-rated Videotape Guide V applies a rating system based on the level of sex, the type of film, the speciality, and the scenes presented. Films are evaluated based on their sexual theme and quality."

### **4. DR HAROLD MERSKEY FMSF defends admitted paedophile.**

Dr Harold Merskey, another prominent FMSF AB Member appeared in a civil case recently in defence of Leo Pilo, a Canadian doctor, accused of sexually molesting a patient when she was a girl. Dr Merskey stated that the woman probably suffered from "false memory syndrome". He offered this diagnosis despite overwhelming previous evidence against Pilo given by five complainants and Pilo's own admission of paedophilia. Merskey reached his diagnosis of "false memory" in absentia without having examined the woman, based on his observations of her in court.

Pilo had previously been struck off the medical register after disciplinary hearings in which five complainants gave evidence of - manipulation of clitoris and nipples, watching while they undressed, comments of a sexual nature, using a vibrator inside a vagina, stroking, hugging and kissing the patients and masturbating himself to orgasm. The alleged indecencies happened when they were ages between 9 and 13 years old. He admitted the offences. The disciplinary board revoked his licence commenting "his abhorrent behaviour has been repugnant in the extreme and the only conceivable penalty is revocation". [College of Physicians & Surgeons (1994 November) Summary of Cases. Members Dialogue p34]

Because of a quirk in Ottawa law, evidence led at Medical Hearings is disallowed in civil cases. Pilo now says he made a "technical" guilty plea and is pleading not guilty supported by Dr Merskey. The case is still pending.

## Paedophiles not pathological

"This study is concerned with adult sexual e... its central aim is to give voice to the viewp... build up an understanding of those people's li... can find in the personal accounts collected 'pathologise' the individuals concerned, but the... life to a diagnostic category will mask the complex.

"The discourse of heterosexuality has ... provide... the orthodox view of 'pedophilia as pathology'...."

## Ethical adult-child sex [?]

"Statistics tend to blur the difference between violent assault... and consensual paedophilic activities. The question of whether or... child sexual contact is ethically acceptable hinges on a clarification... difference."

## Unimportant Indecency

"When a teacher or member of staff of a residential institution is found to have behaved indecently with boys in his charge it often emerges that he has had contact with many children over a long period, but that most of the boys involved have not taken the behaviour at all seriously or felt the need to make an official complaint. In such situations it may be unwise to over-dramatise what has happened or to do anything to suggest that the children themselves are abnormal or blameworthy."

## PROMETHEUS BOOKS

Prometheus Books, publishers of Childrens Sexual Encounters with Adults, is run by Paul Kurtz, Professor emeritus of Philosophy, State University of New York at Buffalo. He is chairman of CSICOP (Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal) which runs the Skeptical Inquirer.

Prometheus publishes an extensive Human Sexuality Books section under the editorship of Vern Bullough (AAA10/March 1996), Dean of Natural and Social Science at State University, New York, who is a CSICOP Board member.

Vern Bullough is also listed as a board member of Paidika, the Dutch paedophile magazine in which Dr Ralph Underwager, co founder of the FMSF in the US said he thought having sex with children could be seen as part of God's will; that paedophiles should make their loving image clearer to the outside world; and that the USA was virulently anti-sexuality at present. His wife, Hollida Wakefield, who also took part in the interview said she thought it would be "nice" if someone could do a longitudinal study of 100 twelve year old boys in loving relationships with paedophiles. More recently on the Internet, Dr Underwager posted further thoughts in which he emphasised his belief that the "criminalization of sex" was destroying the social compact. [see AAA 7/8/9]

Prometheus also publishes the books of James Randi, an ex-Csicop Member and present FMSF Advisory Board member ( see AAA10). Other FMSF Board Members, Martin Gardner, Ray Hyman, Elizabeth Loftus, Loren Pancratz, Thomas Sebeok are also CSICOP board members.

## RESEARCH/PUBLICATIONS

### 12. THE APSAC HANDBOOK OF CHILD MALTREATMENT Edited by John Briere, Lucy Berliner et al.

Described as a single place where all professionals can come for the

AAAPR11 April 1996

"One has to know one's buried truth in order to be able to live one's life. The "not telling" of the story serves as a perpetuation of its tyranny. When one's history is abolished one's identity ceases to exist as well." Dori Laub: Testimony.



1. INCEST MEMORY RETURNS
2. FALSE MEMORY DEFENCE FAILS: Merskey
3. HEARING the TRUTH :  
FALSE MEMORY NOT RELEVANT
4. WORST CHILD ABUSE THIS CENTURY  
COURAGEOUS REPORTING
5. AUSTRALIAN PAEDOPHILE INQUIRY
6. FMS: CULTURE OF FEAR - PATIENTS SUFFER
7. KINSEY REPORT used PAEDOPHILE DIARIES
8. CHILDREN OF GOD : Judgement published.
9. THE ILLOGIC OF PERVERSION/ Sex Offender thinking
10. FMS ARGUMENTS
11. Children's Sexual Encounters with Adults :  
Prometheus Books/Paidika.

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## RESEARCH/PUBLICATIONS

12. APSAC Handbook of CHILD MALTREATMENT :  
John Briere, Lucy Berliner et al.
13. CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT : Bessel Van Der Kolk/Rita Fisher
14. BLACK HOLE OF TRAUMA/ ONCE BITTEN:  
Pitman, Orr, Shalev
15. INFANT MEMORY - Patricia Bauer

AAA10 March 1996

"Few people are capable of expressing with equanimity opinions which differ from the prejudices of their social environment. Most people are incapable even of forming such opinions".  
Albert Einstein



# Beware of false prophets peddling false-memory hype

**R**ECOVERED MEMORIES of incest — and the charge that those memories are false — may seem to be an obscure topic. But judging by a torrent of letters to *The Star*, for and against my two recent columns, his subject is dynamite. And, just as I predicted a couple of weeks ago, it's beginning to explode right in the face of its inventors.

The accused parents who created the False Memory Syndrome Foundation argue that unscrupulous therapists are implanting completely false recollections of incest in the malleable minds of previously happy young women. The reception given to this rickety idea by the media — hundreds of editorial articles, radio broadcasts, TV specials, documentaries and news reports — should give us pause.

That the public might be conned by a highly aggressive media campaign is not unprecedented. But that journalists themselves should so unquestioningly peddle inflammatory, often luridly worded, attacks on incest survivors is disturbing. News reports, echoing the foundation's propaganda, frequently mention "aliens, witches, fairy tales,

witness for the accused. A current *Psychology Today* profile practically drools with admiration, not least over her cream-colored Mercedes and fancy home. Some observers estimate that, according to her own boasts, Dr. Loftus must have earned between \$3 million and \$5 million as an expert witness — for hire — she even testified on behalf of mass murderer Ted Bundy.

She's also a much-quoted and admired researcher into ordinary memory. Why, then, after 20 years of active commitment to the American Psychological Association (APA) — most recently as a member of the task force on recovered memories of childhood abuse — did Dr. Loftus suddenly quit the APA in January? Her resignation letter accuses the association of moving "far from scientific thinking and more toward therapeutic and professional guild interests."

Only weeks earlier — in November and December of 1995 — two separate ethics complaints had been filed with the APA against Dr. Loftus. Jennifer Houtt, a concert harpist and former software engineer from New York, and Lynn Crook, a Washington state education consultant, had recovered memo-

ries of severe childhood sexual abuse, found corroborating evidence, sued their fathers, and won. Houtt's father appealed the case as far as possible, losing each time. She was awarded \$500,000 in damages and her father is now an active member of the False Memory Syndrome Foundation.

Both women challenge the way Dr. Loftus wrote about their court cases. The rule of the APA is that no member is allowed to resign while an ethics complaint is being investigated.

Now the APA claims that Dr. Loftus did not know about the complaints when she incidentally resigned soon after they were filed. Therefore, the APA has accepted her resignation and will not investigate the allegations. The senior ethics investigator admitted to Houtt and Crook, in identical letters, that it's "unusual" for a member to resign in "the window of time" between a complaint and its resolution.

"Unusual" is hardly the word. Many members have voiced astonishment and anger over the association's conduct.

In last Sunday's column, I also referred to The Amazing Randi, a magician, and a member of the False Mem-

ory Syndrome Foundation's scientific advisory board. A couple of readers took me to task for apparently sneering at someone because he is a magician.

No. What I had hesitated to mention is that the colorful Randi has been involved in a number of lawsuits. Part of the evidence brought against Randi was a tape of his telephone conversations, of explicit sexual content, with teenage boys. Randi has at different times claimed that the tape was a hoax made by his enemies to blackmail him, that he made the tape himself, and that the police asked him to make it.

Whichever version is true, it's amazing indeed that such a person could be taken seriously as a scientific adviser in an organization dedicated to denying claims of child sexual abuse.

Are these ad hominem arguments? If so, I'll accept the blame. It strikes me as urgent and necessary to talk about the character and motives of those who are causing so much harm to people who have already been grievously wounded.

Michele Landsberg's column regularly appears in *The Star* Saturday and Sunday.

## MICHELE LANDSBERG



UFOs" in the same breath as the agonizing memories of people who were raped in childhood.

True, some therapists may be inept and some accusations are surely mistaken or false. Researchers estimate that about 5 per cent of any criminal allegations are false. That small number, however, can't justify the huge publicity given to the proponents of "false memory syndrome."

Dr. Elizabeth Loftus is another case in point. She is a prolific research psychologist — with no clinical experience and no expertise in child sexual abuse or traumatic memory — who crisscrosses the continent as a highly paid

# THE SUNDAY STAR