The Torture Of Homosexuals - 1950s to 1980s

The 1950s, 1960s and early 1970s were the DARK AGES for Sexual minorities. Medical Authorities said the Homosexuality was a Mental Defect, a form of Sexual Psychopathy. Gay people who were sentenced to Mental Institutions, because they were found to be Sexual Psychopaths (found to be homosexual), were subjected to imprisonment, and often to sterilization, castration, and to Lobotomies, which were felt to cure homosexuality and other Sexual Psychopathies. After World War II, the American Psychiatric Community labeled homosexuality a mental illness and lobotomies for homosexuality were being regularly performed in the United States.

DACHAU FOR QUEERS

The most infamous of these institutions, but only one of many, is Atascadero State Mental Hospital, an all-male, maximum-security facility in California. Atascadero was known in Gay circles as the “Dachau for Queers,” and rightly so. The brutal medical experimentation done on homosexual men in Atascadero included administering to Gay men a drug that simulated the experience of drowning, in other words, a pharmacological example of waterboarding.

At Atascadero State Hospital, doctors (I use that term loosely) were permitted under an obscure California law to commit those who practiced sodomy into the hospital.

Once admitted, normal men and women were rendered mentally disabled through the torture of lobotomies, electroshock treatments, forced chemical treatments, castration, & experimental treatments. The horrors experienced by so many are almost too hard to comprehend in America, but worse, this was happening all over the world.

The most notorious was a Dr. Walter J. Freeman who perfected the ice pick lobotomy. He jammed an ice pick through a homosexual’s eyes into the brain and performed a primitive lobotomy. According to records, he treated over 4,000 patients this way around America and it is estimated that nearly 30% to 40% were homosexuals. He believed deeply this was the only way to cure homosexuality.

Even up until 1971, simply being a homosexual could result in a life sentence. Twenty states had laws stating that the mere fact you were a homosexual was reason for imprisonment. In California (of all places) and Pennsylvania, we could be put away for life in a mental hospital. In seven states castration was permitted as a way to stop homosexual ‘deviants.’

The 1950s were an especially dark time for homosexuals. Because of the witch hunts by Senator Joseph McCarthy, Americans started passing horrible and oppressive laws against homosexuality. Same-sex behavior was linked to treason and Communism in that period. Ironically, Senator McCarthy had many homosexual aides at the time led by lawyer Roy Cohen. As the witch hunt spread across America, homosexuals with no politics were sent to the worst institutions imaginable.

Hundreds of gays and lesbians were forcibly sent by their families to be cured of homosexuality.
AVERSION THERAPY

In classic Aversion Therapy, electrodes were attached to the penis / testicles, fingers, chest, and arms of the Gay boy or man. For girls and women, electrodes were also connected to their genitals as well. The victim would then be shown Homosexual Pornography. As the pornography played, the victims were injected with vomit-inducing drugs and administered high current electric shocks, at 80 to 100 volts, for up to 5 seconds. This results in INCREDIBLY HORRIBLE PAIN & EXTREME NAUSEA. The shocks and vomit-inducing drugs would then cease and the homosexual imagery would be replaced by heterosexual pornography, during which time the patient would not be abused. Some victims were also given drugs to induce DIARRHEA, and left for days to lay in their own vomit, urine and excrement. The shocks left permanent scars on the genitals, torso, arms and hands. These treatments were done repeatedly, daily, for months, with an average of 1,000 shocks, with many of them combined with drugs to induce vomiting and diarrhea. Apomorphine was the most common drug used. Injected intramuscularly, it causes nausea and vomiting.

Doctors forced Gay teenager Peter Price to lie in a bed filled with his own shit, piss and vomit. They kept him there for three days showing him pictures of naked men, while they injected him with drugs and played tapes insulting and abusing him as a dirty queer. The idea was to make Peter revolted by the sight of male bodies, so that he would lose his homosexual feelings. This was a mildly more humane version of the Nazi experiments at Buchenwald and other concentration camps, which also attempted to cure Gay prisoners.

There is a documented case of a 29 year old Gay man killed by aversion therapy. The judge sentenced him to six months compulsory aversion therapy treatment at a military psychiatric hospital. Within three days of his admission, Billy was dead. Billy Clegg-Hill died from coma and convulsions resulting from injections of Apomorphine, a potent vomit-inducing drug. He had been shown male pin-up pictures and then injected with Apomorphine to make him violently ill. The doctor’s rationale was to associate attraction to men with nausea and vomiting, and to thereby make homosexuality so repellent that Billy would become straight.

In 1995, Jayce Cox, 19, was in an office on the campus of BYU (Mormon University), where his counselor had attached electrodes to his hands, arms, torso and genitals. His Mormon Bishop gave him a referral to the counselor. Jayce was shown pornographic images of men having sexual encounters. Then, ZAP! He experiences excruciating pain from the electrical shock administered by his trusted counselor. He had twice-weekly sessions for four months. “Toward the end of the program I could press a button and it would stop the shock and then a picture of a woman would come on.” Jayce still has scars on his hands, torso and genitalia where the electrodes were placed. He gave them his college savings—$9,000—for the treatments, which were promised to cure his homosexuality. “Reparative therapy” is equivalent to the kind of torture that people experienced in Nazi concentration camps. This was voluntary, but his religion and family basically forced it on him, or face rejection by both.

Another technique used was to use hypnotic psychopharmacological drugs like sodium thiopental (commonly known as sodium pentothal) and sodium amytal (amobarbital), which put you in a highly suggestive state of mind. The unethical use of these drugs is classified as a form of torture, according to international law.
Tens of thousands of homosexual children and adults, up to the present time, are subjected to Aversion Therapy to attempt to make them heterosexual. There is still forced Aversion Therapy on Homosexual Youth, by parents who force them into institutions who engage in Aversion Therapy against the will of the youths. Because it is done under the guess of religion, there is no regulation. There is also forced Aversion Therapy on children by courts, for what they consider to be deviant behavior. In 1992, the Arizona Civil Liberties Union challenged the Phoenix Memorial Hospital for its use of these methods on children as young as 10 years old. Since then, policies have usually discouraged the use of forced aversion therapy on children under 14 years old. All over the United States, these methods are used against young children. Boys are tested for deviant sexual responses by a Penile Plethysmograph, a ringlike device slipped around the penis to measure changes in circumference as a patient views nude photographs. Girls are tested using a Vaginal Photoplethysmograph, a clear acrylic, rod-shaped device that contains a light source, and a light detector.

Aversion therapy is still forced on children and teenagers who violate sex laws, and especially on individuals believed to have deviant sexual feelings. These youths have been forced to smell ammonia, describe humiliating scenarios, or engage in other uncomfortable acts, while looking at nude pictures, listening to audio tapes describing sexual situations, or describing their own fantasies. In order to measure sexual response, penile plethysmographs and vaginal photoplethysmographs are sometimes used, despite the controversies surrounding them.

These and other techniques are used on LGBTQ children sent to conservative Christian CAMPS. In 2007, Xandir, a Lesbian teenage girl woke at around 2:30 in the morning as two strangers barged into his bedroom. She started screaming and crying, thinking that these two strangers had broken into her house and were going to abduct, rape, kill or some way harm her. They immediately told her that if she did not shut up that they would handcuff her. She was not being in any way violent or threatening and had no idea what was going on. They started going through her closet digging out clothes as she was only in a night gown. They then explained that they were going to take her to a school. His mother had arranged for her to be shipped away to Cross Creek. The two strangers were from “Teen Escort Service,” a for-profit company that transports teenagers, usually by force, to WWASP (World Wide Association of Specialty Programs) facilities. Brain-washing techniques were uses, aversion therapy, and forced restraint.

In a 2006 Law Suit against WWASP & Cross Creek, brought by 25 victims, the complaint showed that children were:

- Forced to eat their own vomit
- Sexually abused, including sexual relations and acts of fondling and masturbation performed on them
- Subjected to buddy system where older students were allowed to physically, mentally, and sexually abuse younger students and manage them as part of “cleansing” process
- Kicked, beaten, thrown, and slammed to the ground
- Bound and tied by their hands/and or feet
- Chained and locked in dog cages
- Forced to stay in isolation for long periods of times
- Locked in small boxes or cages
- Locked in basements
- Forced to lie in or wear urine and feces as a method of punishment
- Forced to clean and scrub toilets and floors with their toothbrush and then use the toothbrush afterwards
- Forced to sleep on cold concrete floors, box springs, or plywood used as beds – some had no bed linens
- Forced to assume distorted and painful physical positions for long periods of time
- Forced to live in unsanitary living conditions
- Denied adequate food
- Exposed to extreme hot and cold temperatures for long periods of time
- Forced to exercise beyond their physical capacity
• Forced to carry heavy bags of sand or logs around their neck throughout the day over many days
• Emotional abuse by subjecting children to near total parental and societal isolation; personal visits, correspondence, and telephone calls were either forbidden or discouraged
• Deprived from using the toilet, and as a result, urinated or defecated on themselves
• Forced to eat raw or rotten food
• Poked and prodded with various objects while being strip-searched
• Threatened severe punishment, including death, if they told anyone about the abuse or poor living conditions --
• Deprived of sleep
• Because of near-total isolation, these children were totally unequipped to enter outside society
• Forced to work many hours a day violating child labor laws
• Confiscated and/or kept students’ US mail
• Verbally abused by lying that their parents knew what was happening to them and were supportive of it all
• Forced to wear the same, unwashed clothes for weeks at a time
• In most cases. Denied religious affiliation
• Forced to write false confession letters to parents to justify being sent to the WWASPS schools
• Denied even a minimally sufficient education
• Denied proper medical and dental treatment and care

To see a partial list and photos of some of kids who have died in these kinds of facilities, just from forced restraint please go to: Coalition Against Institutionalized Child Abuse LIST OF RESTRAINT DEATHS

Parents can arrange for their child to be kidnapped in his or her sleep, with a hood placed over their head, shackled and driven across State lines to get to one of camp or school, usually Christian run or Christian affiliated. The added terror of violent kidnapping is used to help convert the children in heterosexuals. Other children are given no choice, and someone simply comes to get them and take them away. This is all LEGAL. All LGBTQ youth should understand that this could happen to you, if your parents are heavily Christian.

These camps and schools, which are designed to turn LGBTQ kids Straight, are extremely hard to shut-down, because local law enforcement and District Attorneys often cover for them. Complaints are squashed. The National Association for Research & Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH) is responsible for much of the Aversion Therapy being used today, in conjunction with Christian Groups, who feel that the Torture of Children is justified, as long as it saves their souls. The ends justify the means for them. The Coalition Against Institutionalized Child Abuse and the Community Alliance for The Ethical Treatment of Youth were created to track and try to shut such places down.

**AVERSION THERAPY ON CHILDREN AS YOUNG AS 4 YEARS OLD**

Experimentation was even done of pre-pubescent boys as young as 4 years old. In 1976, UCLA’s “Gender Identity Clinic” which was jointly run by Drs. Ivar Lovaas and George Alan Rekers (while Rekers was at the Fuller Theological Seminary), a psychologist and South Baptist Minister. A series of aversion therapy experiments which were conducted on pre-pubertal elementary school-aged boys who showed signs of effeminate behavior and mannerisms. One four-year-old who entered the program in 1974, was identified as “Kraig.” That “treatment” had this effect after only “ten months of behavior modification which included spankings for wrong choices”

The 4-year-old boy “Kraig” (real name was Kirk Murphy) was, at the start, passive, non-assertive, allowed others to tease him. After therapy, he “regularly returns aggressiveness in his male-peer interactions.” In fact, the researchers write, Kraig’s mommy was alarmed at her son’s transformation into “a roughneck” — so reckless in play that he was hurting himself and damaging the furniture. The psychiatrists reassured the mother that her son’s “mild delinquent” behavior would be far easier to overcome in later years than effeminacy.

At age 18, shamed by his childhood diagnosis and treatment, Rekers’ poster boy attempted suicide, and at age 38, Kirk Murphy committed suicide.

Aversion Therapy has a high resulting rate of suicide and long term mental health issues from the trauma of the Aversion Therapy.
Though Rekers conducted similar experimental therapy on more than 60 children during the same period, it was the experimen-
tal therapy on Kraig that earned Rekers his doctorate.

Not a single successful case can found of conversion. The American Psychiatric Association another mainstream American medi-
cal and scientific organizations have expressed concern over conversion therapy and consider it harmful.

Moreover, it became foundational research for those who think gay people can become “ex-gay” -- taught or coun-
seled to become straight. In 2009, Kraig’s case was still being cited as proof that homosexuality can be prevented. We wanted to know: Who was Kraig? What had become of him, and of the many children like him?

The aim of the therapy was to change Kirk’s mental cir-
cuitry from one that naturally preferred “exaggerated feminine behavior” to act more like a “real boy,” someone who prefers to play with toy guns, soldiers and military equipment.

The “therapy” involved putting Kirk into a room where he was secretly observed making choices between supposedly feminine and masculine toys. Classic “behavior modification” coercion techniques were used to revise his choices, and when he started picking up guns, it was determined that the therapy had worked. His parents were then told how to continue Kirk’s Aversion Therapy at home, which they did for years.

Rekers went on to affiliate with the Family Research Council and to write prolifically, often citing Kirk’s case, on his claim that sexual orientation can be successfully modified.

However, an interview with Kirk's tearful brother revealed that Kirk came back from UCLA with a marked loss of the happy vitality he was so known for. He never recovered it as, according to his brother, “He had no idea how to live.” He had an unhappy adolescence and an inability to fully accept his sexuality—even after he came out as gay in his 20s—and despite the many accomplishments of his brief life, they never brought him as much satisfaction as it seemed they should.

The inner struggles and turmoil of this “straight-behaving” young man finally manifested themselves with his suicide in 2003, when he hanged himself in his apartment.

Now it is discovered that Rekers, the homophobic Psychologist who did all of this, has been hiring Gay Escorts.
**Zach Stark** In June 2005, a 16-year-old Tennessee boy, Zach Stark, depressed and fearful, shared his feelings in a blog entry on his MySpace site, part of which includes:

“Somewhat recently, as many of you know, I told my parents I was gay... Well today, my mother, father, and I had a very long “talk” in my room where they let me know I am to apply for a fundamentalist Christian program for gays. They tell me that there is something psychologically wrong with me, and they “raised me wrong.” I'm a big screw up to them, who isn't on the path God wants me to be on. So I’m sitting here in tears, joining the rest of those kids who complain about their parents on blogs - and I can't help it.”

The program Stark noted is a Love In Action run camp known as REFUGE, a program that promised to cure him of his gay “addiction.” His blog entries quickly spread from his friends, to the local community, to the nation, then internationally, through the internet. In a remarkably short time, daily protests were organized outside the campus of LIA. His father asked him to stop blogging.

After 8 long weeks in the program, Zack was finally released in the last week of July. Zack decided to tell the story of his ordeal, in order to help others.

A Movie called “THIS IS WHAT LOVE IN ACTION LOOKS LIKE” was just released on June 16, 2011. It is a Documentary about Zack's Involuntary Detention at Refuge, for over a month. Read a long list of Rules he had to follow in this Truth Wins Out Article. See the MOVIE TRAILER.

A Tennessee investigation against the camp began shortly after Stark's story appeared online. The Tennessee-based Love In Action facility was determined by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health to have been operating two “unlicensed mental health supportive living facilities. LIA stopped accepting the mentally ill and dispensing medications and, in February 2006, the state of Tennessee ceased legal action, citing lack of evidence of child abuse. Campaigners for the Queer Action Coalition who aim to have LIA close down, have made allegations of corruption.

In June, 2007, under pressure, LIA discontinued the Refuge program, but in usual form, they simply reopened under a new name Family Freedom Intensive, a program for teens struggling with “same-sex attraction.” It is well disguised.

**Zach Stark** 16-year-old Zach Stark’s blog entry first hit the Internet on May 29, 2005. Zach, wanting to be open with his parents, had shared with them his same-sex desires

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**Lance Carroll** In January of 2005, Lance Carroll, a 16 year-old teenage boy, came out to his parents as being gay. In his words, “After an initial positive and supporting reaction they began to change their minds…I was sent to several different counselors, the last of which worked for a fundamentalist Christian church. This “counselor” informed me that I was not Gay, in fact, he said no one was really Gay…and anyone who claimed to be gay was living a lie. This pastor recommended to my parents that I be sent to Love In Action's REFUGE program for teens.

On June 6, 2005 I left Jackson, Missouri at five o'clock in the morning to make the long trip to Memphis, Tennessee. The first things I saw at the Love in Action campus were the protesters. I spent the entire summer between my junior and senior year of high school in Memphis, against my will, at Refuge, where I underwent many forms of “therapy” that were supposed to turn me away from being gay. These so-called “therapies” included group activities where one person was singled out and made to be ashamed of very personal occurrences in their lives. I had to participate in this activity many times. Other “therapies” included isolation, where you wouldn't be allowed to communicate—
we were not even allowed to make eye contact, with any of the other participants; making the women wear skirts and makeup to help them become more feminine; and making the men play sports in an attempt to help them become more masculine.

These are just a couple of examples of the type of “programs” they use to turn people straight. Though while I was there, it just seemed to make people more depressed and self-loathing than they already were. I, myself, went through several of these depressive periods. After enduring this time in Memphis I returned home, unchanged.

My parents were very disappointed and didn’t know what to do next, feeling that they had tried everything. My mom took it upon herself to somehow change me. This began with daily bouts of verbal abuse, her telling me how ashamed she was of me. After a few months of this, the verbal abuse escalated into small episodes of physical abuse, with her cornering me and slapping me, while telling me what an abomination I was. This type of behavior continued until I could no longer stand to live at home. One day I packed up all of my belongings into my car, and told my parents that I was moving out right that minute. My mother got so angry when I told her this that she exploded and beat me into a corner, ripping my shirt and giving me scratches and bruises in the process. My dad had to pull her off of me so that I could get to my car to leave.

Fortunately I am now living with a wonderful, and supportive family who are very empathetic toward my situation. They have taken me in, and made me their son-in-spirit. Now that I am in a much-improved situation, I feel that I need to speak-out against the things that I went through. Parents should not be able to force their children to attend any type of program like the one I went to. When a child comes out to their parents as gay, lesbian, or bisexual they need the love and support of their parents. They don’t need to be made to feel that there is something wrong with them, something that needs to be fixed.

Truth Wins Out (TWO) has been launched to battle Right-Wing Lies and “Ex-Gay” Ministries. CHECK IT OUT.

Article: Exodus’ 2011 Game Plan: Target Middle School Kids
Video: Montel: Homosexuality—Is There a Cure?
Video: Jaylen Braiden: ‘Ex-Gay’ Survivor Shares Experience
Video: Patrick McAlvey: ‘I Was Harmed By ‘Ex-Gay’ Therapy

Patrick McAlvey (right) revealed the bizarre “therapy” he received from Exodus International counselor Mike Jones, who runs the Exodus group’s Lansing affiliate, Corduroy Stone. Exodus continues to shelter and support Jones, while offering silence in the face of scandal.

“When I was 19, I was kicked out of a missionary training school and was forced to move back home with my family,” McAlvey recalled. “I was kicked out because of my attraction to men, so in that time I was sort of in a crisis mode and was very low, very depressed and just trying to make sense of my life and my attraction.” He contacted Jones, whom he had spoken with before about his “problem,” and began several months of therapy with Jones that supposedly would cure him and make him straight.

Therapy consisted of embarrassing questions and uncomfortable situations. Jones would instruct McAlvey to lie in his arms for an hour at a time— known in the ex-gay circuit as holding therapy. He forced McAlvey to learn about tools and home repair, and to watch the play “Equus” with him, which features full male nudity. He would ask him to rate his attractiveness on a scale of one to 10. “He asked how large my penis was,” McAlvey explained. “He asked if I shave my pubic hair. He asked what type of underwear that I wore. He wanted me to describe my sexual fantasies to him and the type of men I’m attracted to. On one occasion, he asked me to take my shirt off and show him how many push-ups I could do, which I did not do.”

But despite all his efforts, McAlvey never stopped being attracted to men. “I just really came to hate myself; to loathe myself,” McAlvey said. “I didn’t trust anyone and I didn’t allow anyone to get close to me because I was terrified that they might find out my secret and that they would think less of me. I spent many years locked up in my room, crying by myself for no good reason.”

Aversion Therapy continues today. Kids are still being forced into programs to “cure” their homosexuality, which use abusive and damaging techniques. I ask all LGBTQ people to Please carry on the FIGHT against Homophobia & Religious Bigotry.

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