It is hard to believe that just five short years ago our division was officially recognized as a permanent division of APA. Hard work and intensive organizational efforts preceded this recognition. Since then our division has experienced remarkable growth in size, scope, and diversity. We have matured to the point where our members are contacted routinely by APA and various news media to provide a “new psychology of men” perspective. Our convention programming is renowned for quality and innovation. Our members continue to speak of Division 51 as a “home base” within APA and of how welcoming and inclusive we are. Many of our members have taken prominent leadership roles both within APA and in other organizations such as the National Organization of Men Against Sexism and the American Academy of Psychotherapists.

Now, as we enter our sixth year of official division recognition, the time has come to honor our past and to vision our future. One way to begin this work, as a division within APA and the community-at-large, is for us to engage in what those in the business world have termed “strategic planning.” Many of you have heard me advocate for some kind of “strategic planning” process to be activated within the division. Now I believe the time has come to make this happen. With the good support of our current president, James Dean, and the Board of Directors, I plan to make this strategic planning process a central feature of my presidential year. I am asking each member to help with Wave One of the effort by reflecting on the division's strengths and challenges and communicating those to our Board of Directors for use in the strategic planning process (see description of Strategic Planning Initiative on page 2 of this issue). I believe the benefits will be great for the division, and for those who engage in helping with this effort.

You may be wondering, why the need for this strategic planning? First, after five years of growth I believe we are beginning to see some evidence of the need for a planned and deliberate allocation of our division’s limited resources and energy. For example, last year I did an informal survey of our committees and task forces. We have, at last count, a total of fourteen committees and twenty-two task forces. Some of these are active and doing important work. Others appear to have been dormant for some time. How do we cycle through these committees and support the work of those that are active, and retire those that have served their purpose? On another note, a number of members have expressed the need, to me and to others, to increase our membership base. Greater numbers bring greater revenue. As I am sure everyone knows, increasing membership numbers is a great challenge that will require a sustained and coordinated effort. Finally, I have had conversations with other division members who have expressed a wish for us to somehow find a way to be more inclusive of the many “voices” that endeavor to articulate a psychology of men. How we balance our pro-feminist values with the inclusion of many, at times, conflicting voices is one of our greatest challenges at present and will continue into the future. How can we be more connected within APA? How can we have more of an impact on important policy issues? How can we reach out to other divisions? How can we become more involved in social justice issues? How do we decide among all these good and worthy proposals? These are some of the many and varied issues we face. I think these questions all point to an emergent need for the leadership of our division to articulate a clear vision of SPSMM, a vision that takes these concerns into consideration and offers responses to them. Hence, the need for strategic planning.

How will we accomplish this strategic planning? When you read this, much of the preliminary groundwork will have been accomplished. A strategic planning committee was formed at the midwinter meeting of the SPSMM Board of Directors last January in Santa Barbara. This committee, comprised of Mark Stevens, Doug Haldeman, Mike Andronico, Gary Brooks, and myself, met in cyberspace a number of times and developed a proposal for a strategic planning process. This process was presented to the Board of Directors in San Francisco and last summer’s APA con-

(Continued on page 2)
SOCIETY FOR THE PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY OF MEN AND MASCU LINITY
Division 51 of the American Psychological Association, Jan-Dec 2002

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Presidential Message

(Continued from page 1)
vention. After discussion, the Board accepted our proposal to implement a Board of Directors strategic planning effort.

This strategic planning process as we envisioned it consists of four stages. First, input from the membership regarding SPSMM’s current strengths and current challenges was gathered. This occurred via a posting to the list-serve and a request for input disseminated in the last SPSMM Bulletin of the year. The strategic planning committee will take this information to Austin, Texas, the site of this year’s midwinter meetings. At that meeting, a strategic planning retreat will occur that will involve the Board of Directors and committee and task force chairs. This group will evaluate the feedback and input garnered from the membership in the first phase of the process. Themes will be identified. Our strengths as a division will be affirmed. Our challenges will be acknowledged.

From this meeting, my hope is that SPSMM will be in a better place to promote our good work by clearly articulating our value and our strengths both within and outside APA. Based on this, we will be in a better position to recruit new members. We will also be able to focus our limited energy and resources on a prioritized list of our current challenges. A report to the membership will be presented in the next Bulletin and posted to the list-serve. A final summary of the project will be presented to the Board of Directors at our convention in Chicago in August.

This is an exciting time to be a part of this dynamic division. I am honored to have been afforded the privilege of serving as president this year. I have met some remarkable and inspiring colleagues through my membership in SPSMM, colleagues I am now proud to call friends. I would like to see us “get the word out” about our good work and to increase our membership base. I believe this strategic planning is an important step in our maturity as a division. I hope you will consider how you can contribute to SPSMM’s growth and vitality.

Please participate in the work of the division. There are many venues available to you for this. Consider active participation in our annual meetings at the APA convention and at our mid-winter meetings. Volunteer to review programs for the convention program committee. Contribute to a special feature section of the Bulletin. Participate in the discussions on our email list. Submit your research to our division’s journal, Psychology of Men and Masculinity. These are but a few of the many ways you can make our division the best it can be. Please contact me directly if you want to discuss ways you can contribute or if you have any questions about the division. I can probably be reached easiest by email, at sam-cochran@uiowa.edu. Let’s have a great year together!

SPSMM Strategic Planning Initiative

We have come a long way, from early organizational efforts to full division status. Now it is time to step back, take some time to vision our future, and focus our individual and collective efforts on making SPSMM the best it can be. As one part of this process, the Board of Directors established a strategic planning committee at its mid-winter meeting in Santa Barbara in January 2001. This strategic planning committee, composed of Sam Cochran, Gary Brooks, Doug Haldeman, Mike Andronicos, and Mark Stevens, proposed a strategic planning initiative that was adopted by the Board of Directors at the recent convention in San Francisco.

This strategic planning initiative includes four “waves” of activity over the next year. Wave One involves gathering information from the membership regarding the strengths of SPSMM and the current challenges facing SPSMM. Wave Five is a Board of Directors strategic planning retreat that will be held in conjunction with the SPSMM mid-winter meeting in Austin, Texas in January 2002. Wave Three will entail dissemination of the outcome of this strategic planning retreat to the membership of SPSMM. Wave Four will be a formal report on the strategic planning initiative that will be made to the Board of Directors at our convention in Chicago in August.

Please help with this process. Take some time to reflect on your participation in SPSMM. What do you value about this organization? What “keeps you coming back?” What would potential members find of value in our organization? What do we do well? What could we do better? What are SPSMM’s current challenges? What challenges will we face in the future?

As you formulate your responses to these questions, take some time to communicate them to the Board of Directors for use in the strategic planning process. This can be done by jotting them down on this page and returning it to the address listed at the bottom. This can also be done by e-mailing your responses to the address given. A call for participation will also be included on the SPSMM listserve. Thank you for your help.

Please write short answers to the following questions and forward them to the address given:

I. What are the strengths of SPSMM as a division?

II. What are the challenges facing SPSMM as a division?

Return hard copy or email to:

Sam V. Cochran, PhD
University Counseling Service
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SPSMM Mission Statement

The Society for the Psychological Study of Men and Masculinity (SPSMM) promotes the critical study of how gender shapes and constrains men's lives, and is committed to an enhancement of men's capacity to experience their full human potential. SPSMM endeavors to erode constraining definitions of masculinity which historically have inhibited men's development, their capacity to form meaningful relationships, and have contributed to the oppression of other people. SPSMM acknowledges its historical debt to feminist-inspired scholarship on gender, and commits itself to the support of groups such as women, gays, lesbians and peoples of color that have been uniquely oppressed by the gender/class/race system. SPSMM vigorously contends that the empowerment of all persons beyond narrow and restrictive gender role definitions leads to the highest level of functioning in individual women and men, to the most healthy interactions between the genders, and to the richest relationships between them.

Psychology of Men and Masculinity

Psychology of Men and Masculinity is among the world's first scholarly publications devoted to the dissemination of research, theory, and clinical scholarship that advance the discipline of the psychology of men and masculinity. This discipline is defined broadly as the study of how men's psychology is influenced and shaped by gender, and by the process of masculinization, in both its socially constructed and biological forms. We welcome scholarship that advances our understanding of men's psychology, across the life span, across racial and ethnic groups, and across time.

Examples of relevant topics include, but are not limited to, the processes and consequences of male gender socialization, including its impact on men's health, behavior, interpersonal relationships, emotional development, violence, and psychological well-being; assessment and measurement of the masculine gender role; gender role strain, stress, and conflict; masculinity ideology; fathering; men's utilization of psychological services; conceptualization and assessment of interventions addressing men's understanding of masculinity; sexuality and sexual orientation; biological aspects of male development; and the victimization of male children and adults.

Submitted manuscripts must be written in the style outlined in the 1994 Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (fourth edition). Psychology of Men and Masculinity will accept both regular length submissions (7,500 words) and brief reports (2,500 words). Submitted manuscripts must not have been previously published and must not be under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Four copies of the manuscript should be mailed to: David Lisak, PhD, Editor, Psychology of Men and Masculinity, Department of Psychology, University of Massachusetts Boston, 100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston, MA 02125-3393.

Divisions 35 and 51 Liaison

Denise Twohey is the liaison between Divisions 35 (Society for the Psychology of Women) and 51. Please contact her at denise_twohey@und.nodak.edu with your ideas about how the Divisions might share programs, ideas, interests, resources, or anything else.

See the Division 35 Website

Find out more about the Society for the Psychology of Women by visiting the website:

www.apa.org/divisions/div35

SHARE THIS WITH A FRIEND!

Application for Membership in SPSMM

Name

Address

Home Telephone

Office Telephone

Email

APA Membership Status

☐ Member/Fellow  ☐ Associate Member
☐ Student Affiliate  ☐ Non-APA Member

APA Membership No.

SPSMM Membership Status Desired

☐ Member (Psychology Doctorate, APA Member/Fellow) • $25
☐ Associate Member (Associate Member of APA) • $25
☐ Student Affiliate (Student Affiliate of APA) • $5
☐ Affiliate (Interested in SPSMM & Non-APA Member) • $25

Sex

☐ Male  ☐ Female

Race/Ethnicity

☐ European-American  ☐ African-American  ☐ Hispanic/Latino
☐ Asian/Pacific Islander  ☐ American Indian/Alaskan  ☐ Other

Education

☐ PhD  ☐ EdD  ☐ PsyD  ☐ MA/MS  ☐ MD  ☐ Other

Make check payable to Division 51, SPSMM. Send application & check to Division 51 Administrative Office, American Psychological Association, 750 First St., NE, Washington, DC 20002-4242.
Grief, Change, and a Little Laughter

Fred Rabinowitz, PhD

There are no limits to grief. The loving man simmers his porcupine stew. Among the timber growing on earth, grief finds roots.

—Robert Bly, p. 25, Loving a Woman in Two Worlds, 1985

The victims and heroes of the terrorist tragedies along with the rest of us who have been shaken are in the midst of grief. It feels important to acknowledge this and respect it as we all try to go about our everyday lives and live with the anxiety of a less certain world.

I don’t know what our country or world will be looking like when you receive your copy of the Bulletin, but at the beginning of October it feels different than it did in August. Division 51 is a needed resource right now to all those men and women who don’t want to hate or live constantly in vigilance. Our healthy models of masculinity that encourage flexibility, self-awareness, and breadth of emotional responsibility must be grafted onto the courage, bravery, and focus that many men and women have shown during these stressful times. I feel fortunate to be a part of this division to process and frame the intensity of recent events into a supportive dialogue, a sharing of our grief, and into a significant learning experience about our lives.

I am pleased to be able to take over the editorial leadership of the SPSMM Bulletin from Jim Mahalik, who extended the quality of our collective work in the division through its pages. I didn’t quite realize that losing the election for treasurer of SPSMM would land me in the position of newsletter editor and program chair at the same time. It certainly reminded me that for those willing to serve, there is plenty to do in our division. Getting involved may seem like a sacrifice of time and energy, but in all honesty I definitely get more from this division than I give. The robust intellectual and social activity of the division at the APA Convention at the end of August was incredibly energizing. Our excellent programs coordinated by John Robertson included inspiring addresses from Greg Herek on sexual prejudice and Ray Fowler on masculinity and leadership. The other programs I listened to or participated in were well attended and filled my notebook with ideas and directions for research and practice. At James Dean’s Presidential address, the room was packed. The clips from the video Boys Will Be Men gave us powerful, real life examples about how adolescent boys can be engaged and not forgotten or feared.

Division 51 is the psychological “think tank” of our culture right now for how to reach, understand, and initiate change in boys and men. While the horrible trauma of terrorism and war continues to grip our nation’s soul, it is important for the members of our division to be voices of reason in how to care for our psychological wounds. Rage, hatred, and vengeance have long been “male” reactions to pain, shame, and exposed vulnerability. Prejudice, scapegoating, and violence have often channeled our helplessness, hurt, and anger to make it less free floating and disturbing. Learning to live with our vulnerability and grief and using it to help guide our actions in non-aggressive ways is an important lesson that men rarely get taught.

A Buddhist saying comes to mind that captures the paradox of our power as individuals in dealing with events that seem much bigger than any of us or taking on jobs that we didn’t know we could do. “Act always as if the future of the universe depended on what you did, while laughing at yourself for thinking that whatever you did makes any difference.”

Let’s keep making a difference and not forget to laugh.

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SPSMM Bulletin Deadlines

January 31
April 30
July 31
October 31
This article begins the discussion of the parallel processes of homophobia and heterophobia, in seeking to understand the ways in which these two phenomena affect the lives of all men, and their relationships across orientations as well as their relationships with each other. Additionally, this begins the contemplation of a research agenda in this area, starting with the hypothesis that most gay or bisexual men would endorse having experienced at least some degree of discomfort or concern when in the presence of heterosexual males at some point in their lives. The extent to which this affects the relationships gay men have with heterosexual men, and with each other, is at this point unknown.

How does heterophobia develop? For many gay/bisexual men, issues surrounding sexual orientation add a layer of complexity to the normatively challenging times of pre-adolescence and adolescence. Most gay men will say that from early childhood or pre-adolescence, they experienced a sense of “differentness,” although they may not necessarily have understood the nature of this difference. For some, this difference may have manifested as a gravitation toward gender atypical play and interests, an enthusiasm for opposite gender playmates, an aversion to sports and roughhousing, an unidentified longing for adult men that is experienced as distinct from fraternal interest, or any combination thereof. And unless one is particularly skilled at “fitting in,” or masquerading as “one of the guys,” these differences become quickly apparent to one’s peer group. The ridicule and humiliation of gay people among adolescent males is still socially endorsed and institutionalized; in most schools today one still hears anti-gay epithets ricocheting off the walls, with staff either unwilling or unable to intervene.

While most gay and bisexual men are well acquainted with this experience, some of my heterosexual brothers may be unfamiliar with the physiological effects that such harassment creates. The individual targeted by such abuse often experiences a strange, almost paralytic effect. For the gay, gay-appearing, or questioning youth can try to fight back, or ignore the anti-gay hostility and often violence that is directed at him, but on some level, he knows, with dread certainty: they’ve caught me. They have figured me out. And what’s worse, they’re right about me. For every time one hears the words, “He’s a faggot,” it can be as if one’s blood has turned to ice. The association between the behavior of heterosexual males, particularly in groups, and intensely aversive stimuli becomes inextricably linked. The fear of harassment can become so strong that the mere sight of a group of boys or men can, years later, trigger strong anxiety for some gay/bisexual men, even in social settings that most heterosexual males would view as quite benign.

Thus begins a torturous journey for many gay and bisexual youth that can take a variety of turns. The social atmosphere of school, which for many youth becomes complicated and stressful, can become a prison for gay and bisexual youth, or for those who appear to be so. Common strategies employed by many such youth include attempting to hide one’s effeminacy, or lack of athleticism, by finding circuitous routes to school, or seeking protection in alternative social groups organized around drug use or delinquency. Unfortunately, institutional responses to anti-gay harassment of youth are often to target the victim, placing him or her in home study, thereby furthering the sense of isolation, or most commonly, ignoring the problem altogether. Individual responses to anti-gay harassment fall on all points of the spectrum, however, from dropping out of school to becoming “superqueers,” those who attempt to deflect abuse by establishing superior records of academic and artistic achievement or school service. For many, the fear of the straight world is not limited to school or the peer group. For some gay/bisexual youth, the harassment they experience at school is mirrored in the prevailing attitudes of the home environment or in church.

Little wonder, then, that the act of coming out as gay or bisexual often is accompanied by a sense of relief, of belonging; and of safety among other gay and bisexual people. Most models of gay/bisexual identity development address the relationship between the individual and the gay community, but few examine the relationship with the dominant, heterosexual world. I would suggest that for most gay/bisexual men, whether we live in an open or closeted manner, our fears of heterosexual men remain unexamined. The abuses of youth get put away with our childhood toys; rarely do we stop to wonder if, in compensating for our histories, we have left unresolved some significant issues about most of the men in the world. If we still harbor fear, or anger, toward heterosexual men for the way we have been treated, will it not affect our adult transactions in some way?

One potential consequence of heterophobia may be the tendency to stereotype and devalue heterosexual men in general. We may resent the abuses we suffered at their hands, and further resent the fact that not only have they gotten away with it, they are still running the show. As a result, do we see heterosexual men as the unique individuals they are, or do we characterize them as power-hungry, inconsiderate, sexually objectifying louts? Certainly, our ability to form strong fraternal bonds with our heterosexual brothers is significantly hampered by the internalization of such stereotypes. In ways large and small, our histories, gone unchallenged, can lead to distance and counter-rejection in our relationships with heterosexual men. It is only when we confront our internalized heterophobia that we realize how much we may be reading from a script about heterosexuals in our heads, as opposed to living in the moment.

One might wonder how distancing oneself from heterosexual society is harmful to gay and bisexual men, when heterophobia is a normal response to anti-gay prejudice, and it is now possible in many urban centers for gay men to have little to do with heterosexuals. I would suggest that heterophobia has several undesirable consequences for gay and bisexual men. First, it inhibits gay and bisexual men’s adult connections with heterosexual family members, professional colleagues, and neighbors. This limits social interaction, including potential sources of social support, as well as having a negative effect on work relationships. Workplace relationships may be impacted by feeling a need to switch genders when discussing social plans, or of social marginalization in the office, to concern that the discovery of one’s gay or bisexual orientation will result in the loss of employment.

Perhaps even more significant is the impact of heterophobia on the relationships gay men have with each other. As this question has not yet been investigated, it is impossible to speculate. If our first experiences with men—those in our families, our peer groups, or both—are emotionally traumatic and rejecting, is there not a risk that the intimate relationships we seek to develop as
Sue Rosenberg Zalk, PhD
May 28, 1945 – July 11, 2001

By Louise B. Silverstein
Yeshiva University

There was something about Sue. . .

She was always the most outraged activist about social injustice, especially racism and sexism. At Division 35 (Society for Psychology of Women) executive committee meetings, Sue was like Cassandra, always reminding us of the impact of policy on those who were most disenfranchised. She traveled all over the world, attending feminist conferences that fought for women’s rights.

Sue was always the most generous mentor in terms of giving time, food, and even money to help students and colleagues advance their careers. Sue raised money for scholarships in order for students to travel to international conferences because she was devoted to global feminism. Closer to home, Sue was instrumental in starting a Women’s Division in the New York State Psychological Association. When this division was struggling to form an identity, Sue lent her beautiful brownstone apartment on Riverside Drive for the division meetings, and provided elaborate buffet lunches. Her warm hospitality provided a supportive holding environment for the fledgling division.

When Sue wasn’t actually throwing the party, she was still the person having the most fun. Sue lived life with intensity, a gusto that few of us achieve. She was always ready to travel to a new country (China, Mexico, Norway), try a new sport (scuba diving, trekking, hot air balloonining), sample a new restaurant. She was looking forward to going on safari in Kenya this summer after attending the Women’s Congress in Uganda.

Sue was an accomplished feminist scholar, a gifted administrator at The City University of New York, and an enthusiastic teacher. Sue was the university’s first Ombuds Officer. This position was made for Sue—allowing her to use her passion for helping students, and her diplomatic skills in moving administrations. At APA, her two primary affiliations were in Division 9 (SPSSI) and Division 35. However, when Division 51 was formed, Sue jumped at the chance to be the liaison from Division 35 to SPSSM. Sue wanted to be part of building coalitions between feminist men and women.

In addition to being a fantastic mentor, a generous colleague and a good friend, Sue was devoted to her family, as a daughter, sister, and aunt. In early July, Sue flew to Florida to be with her father while he had an operation. While there, she died suddenly from an embolism.

The thing about Sue . . . she was irrepressible. Her spirit lives on in all of us who loved her. ♦

Membership in the Society

The Society for the Psychological Study of Men and Masculinity, Division 51 of the American Psychological Association advances knowledge in the psychology of men through research, education, training, public policy, and improved clinical practice.

SPSMM has approximately 1,000 members, associates, affiliates, and student members. SPSMM provides a forum for members to discuss critical issues faced by men of all races, ethnicities, classes, sexual orientations, and ability/disability statuses. To this end, SPSMM publishes the SPSMM Bulletin quarterly, and is launching the Psychology of Men & Masculinity journal. SPSMM also advances the psychology of men and masculinity by providing extensive programming at the APA annual convention, offering an electronic listserv supporting information distribution and networking by members, and providing a WWW site offering information and resources. Further, SPSMM sponsors Task Forces on a variety of topics, such as Boys & Adolescents, Men & Depression, Sexual Harassment, Men & Careers, and Men & Health.

SPSMM members also have the opportunity to get together at the annual APA Convention and at the annual “Midwinter” convention. These meetings are characterized by warm fellowship and intensive interaction. A rich interplay of ideas and feelings ranges across personal, clinical, and research issues. Participant comments include: “I have benefited as a clinician, a researcher, and a person,” “I have gained greater insight into the perspectives of men,” and “This has been a wonderfully enriching experience, both personally and professionally.”

Beliefs

Division 51 believes aspects of traditional gender roles are restrictive in nature and often lead to negative consequences and unhealthy interactions for many individuals and society. SPSMM endeavors to point out constrictive conceptions of masculinity that have inhibited men’s development, reduced men’s capacity to form meaningful relationships, and contributed to the oppression of others. SPSMM supports the empowerment of all persons and believes this empowerment leads to the highest level of functioning in individual men and women.

Benefits of Membership

SPSMM members receive the following benefits:

- Quarterly SPSMM Bulletins providing updates on the psychology of men and masculinity as well as Division 51 developments.
- A subscription to the Psychology of Men & Masculinity. (The initial issue of this journal integrating theory, research, and practice is scheduled for publication in January, 2000)
- The opportunity to subscribe to the SPSMM listserv (SPSSML). This listserv is an internet resource through which SPSMM members exchange information and ideas, discuss research and practice, and make connections with their colleagues.
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- Personal and professional connections with people who share similar interests.
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In one of the most engaging and interpersonally genuine interchanges during the 2000 APA convention, Drs. Doug Haldeman and Gary Brooks discussed gay and straight men’s relationships to each other. The speakers shared both personal experiences and professional observations that focused on the harmful experiences that gay and straight men have with heterophobia and homophobia, respectively. Both speakers also talked about the special role that Dr. Roy Scrivner played for both of them in terms of their own understanding of these issues and the need to address publicly how gay and straight men’s lives are diminished through this estrangement. Both men generously agreed to share with Division 51 members their comments from that dialogue in this Special Focus Section format.

Don’t Come Any Closer: How Heterophobia Affects Friendships and Intimate Relationships for Gay Men

Douglas C. Haldeman, PhD
University of Washington

This article is dedicated to the memory of Roy Scrivner, PhD, who had a vision of a world with less homophobia and heterophobia.

Since Maley (1982) coined the term, the concept of homophobia has been used to describe a variety of anti-gay attitudes and behaviors. Since then, the term sexual prejudice (Herek, 2000) has been used as a more accurate descriptor of anti-gay attitudes that lead to a range of behaviors, from harassment and discrimination to violence. Such behaviors have significant adverse effects on the mental health and well-being of lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals (DiPlacido, 1988). By now, we are well aware that anti-gay attitudes are a significant source of stress for gay and bisexual men, and can be internalized to foster self-devaluation. Furthermore, we understand that heterosexual men who harbor strong anti-gay attitudes are at risk for impaired affiliative relationships with other heterosexual men, as well as diminished capacity for expressing emotion in the context of their primary heterosexual relationships (Haldeman, 2001).

In contrast, the parallel concept of heterophobia has gone virtually unnoticed in the literature. A search of the internet using the term “heterophobia” generally leads to material relative to fear of the opposite sex. For the purposes of the present discussion, heterophobia is defined as a set of behaviors and attitudes held by gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals, that promotes fear and devaluation of heterosexual people, particularly heterosexual men. Heterophobic responses may include avoidance and counter-rejecting behaviors in response to anti-gay abuse, as well as resentment and hostility as a reaction to the general construct of heterosexual privilege. Homophobia has been inaccurately classified as a “phobia” since its primary attitudinal components are devaluation of gay and bisexual people and predisposition to aggression, not fear. Heterophobia, in contrast, may indeed be classified as a social phobia, since its primary attitudinal and affective components are fear, it arouses physiological symptoms of anxiety, and can be managed with denial, repression, and avoidance.

Heterophobia typically develops in response to a variety of anti-gay behaviors, ranging from harassment to violence. The level of heterophobia experienced by the lesbian, gay, or bisexual individual may vary from person to person, depending upon the individual’s own sense of self, history of anti-gay victimization, and level of social support from heterosexual allies. The level of heterophobia experienced by the same person may also vary depending upon the characteristics of social situations. Heterophobic responses may be stronger with strangers than with acquaintances, more prominent in rural areas than urban; higher in work settings than social occasions. The degree of heterophobia experienced may then generate a variety of behavioral responses, from mild social discomfort and withdrawal to extreme anxiety. When heterophobia, either rationally or irrationally, creates a sense of danger on the part of the lesbian, gay, or bisexual individual, the individual may feel a need to conceal their true sexual identity, or even avoid the company of heterosexual individuals to the fullest extent possible. On the other hand, gay and bisexual men who have suffered minimally at the hands of heterosexual men may feel relatively comfortable in their company. Many lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals report that the urban gay ghettos feels safer than suburban or rural areas. Given the rural locations of some of the most prominent cases of anti-gay violence, such responses are not unwarranted. Different social contexts may elicit different responses; nonetheless, from the board room to the locker room to the bar room, any domain that is regarded as the province of heterosexual men can be viewed with apprehension by many gay/bisexual men. It is no surprise that this is a problem. Recent research suggests that heterosexual males are still at the forefront of anti-gay prejudice, as well as being the least likely to hold positive attitudes about gay and bisexual men (Herek, 2000).

In This Special Focus Section

- Don’t Come Any Closer: How Heterophobia Affects Friendships and Intimate Relationships for Gay Men
- Homophobia, Heterophobia: Reflections Upon Gay-Straight Dialogue

Douglas C. Haldeman, PhD
Gary R. Brooks, PhD
2002 Midwinter Meeting—
Austin, Texas

Mark your calendars now! SPSMM will hold its annual mid-winter meeting from January 24, 2001 through January 26, 2002 at the Marriott at the Capitol in Austin, Texas. This mid-winter meeting will be held in conjunction with Divisions 17, 35, and 49 as well as the Austin Women’s Psychotherapy Project.

The meeting will feature a Board of Directors Strategic Planning Retreat to be held on Thursday, January 24, 2002, and the annual Men’s Retreat, to be held on Saturday, January 26, 2002.

On Friday, January 25, 2002, the divisions will also sponsor “The Kaleidoscope of Women’s Lives: Complexities and Challenges of Psychotherapy With Women.” This conference will include programs related to women, men, and relationships; sexual orientation issues; women and menopause; post-traumatic stress disorder; and other important topics that relate to psychotherapy with women. Presenters will be experts who are active members of the divisions hosting and co-sponsoring the conference.

Registration for Tenth Annual Division 51 Men’s Retreat
Saturday, January 26, 2002

The Society for the Psychological Study of Men and Masculinity—Division 51—hosts its annual men’s retreat on Saturday, January 26, 2002, 8:30 am-5:00 pm at the Austin Marriott at the Capitol. This retreat is an experiential workshop for men interested in a personal exploration of issues related to men and masculinity. All interested men—Division 51 members or not—are welcome. It is a full-day event, facilitated by one or two Division 51 members. Registration is $50.00 ($25.00 for students) and includes continental breakfast, lunch buffet, and afternoon snack.

Registration for The Kaleidoscope of Women’s Lives:
Complexities and Challenges of Psychotherapy With Women
Friday, January 25, 2002
(6 hours of CEUs for psychologists are under review)

Name
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Send a check for $110.00 for professionals or $65.00 for students made out to AWPP to:

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SPSMM Policy on Book Reviews

SPSMM provides book reviews for members to learn about the latest books in the field. Currently, book reviews are published in the SPSMM Bulletin because page space in the Division’s journal Psychology of Men and Masculinity (PMM) is at a premium with priority being placed on publishing manuscripts. This policy could be revisited once additional pages are allocated to PMM.

Persons interested in reviewing books or having their books reviewed in the Bulletin should contact the SPSMM Book Review Editor. The SPSMM Bulletin Book Editor will exercise his or her discretion as to which book will be reviewed in any given issue based on his or her judgment about the interests of the membership and mission of SPSMM. The current SPSMM Book Review Editor is Dr. Jay Wade, Department of Psychology, Fordham University, Dealy Hall, 441 E. Fordham Rd., Bronx, NY 10458.

Book reviewers must assert in writing that they do not have a conflict of interest or personal relationship that would interfere with providing an objective review. The Book Review Editor will select reviewers in response to an author’s request, and the author will provide a copy of the book to the Book Review Editor.