"suicide is a relatively uncommon cause of death; fewer than 20 boys out of every 100,000 who are alive, will commit suicide in a year."[44] Great care must be taken not to endanger youths who otherwise would not be touched by suicide in the name of "rescuing" a tiny portion of the teen population who, in reality, are not best or most accurately identified by their struggles over sexuality.

Moreover, Gibson himself cites Remafedi in noting that the "earlier a youth is aware of a gay or lesbian orientation, the greater the problems they face and more likely the risk of suicidal feelings and behavior."[45] Paradoxically, programs like Project 10 *encourage* impressionable teens to take that potentially lethal step of "identifying" themselves as homosexuals at a young age.

The dangers of pro-homosexual counseling programs of the type envisioned by homosexual activists to "rescue" suicidal "gay and lesbian teens" is perhaps best described by former homosexual Alan Medinger:

> In schools all over the country, children...are being labelled "sexual minority" students and are being led to counselors drawn from the gay community. How often are the deeply rooted needs and biases of these "counselors" going to lead them to counsel the "unsure" that they are gay? "Unsure" in their minds often means that the youngster is simply afraid of coming to terms with his or her homosexuality...
>
> From every medical and health aspect—up to and including the probability of becoming infected with AIDS—it is tragic, even criminal to lead a child into homosexuality because he or she showed some degree of sexual confusion in adolescence.[46]

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Peter LaBarbera, a former reporter for *The Washington Times*, is executive director of Accuracy in Academia, a Washington, D.C.-based group that monitors bias in higher education. He is also publisher of *The Lambda Report on Homosexuality*, a quarterly newspaper focusing on the activities of the homosexual rights movement. For information on AIA or *The Lambda Report on Homosexuality*, call Mr. LaBarbera at 202-364-3085.

Endnotes:

[1] Table 5-1, Deaths of People Aged 15 to 24, by Age and Cause of Death, 1965-1988, Office of Education Research and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education, cited in *Losing Generations: Adolescents in High-Risk Settings*, Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, National Research Council (National Academy Press: Washington, D.C.), 1993, p. 83.

[2] Dr. Louis W. Sullivan, M.D., Secretary of Health and Human Services, letter to Representative William E. Dannemeyer, October 1989.

[3] Ibid.

[4] David Shaffer, "Political Science," *The New Yorker*, May 3, 1993, p. 116.

[5] Paul Gibson, "Gay Male and Lesbian Youth Suicide," originally contained in "Report of the Secretary's Task Force on Youth Suicide," January 1989.

[6] A good example is an essay by Del Stover which appeared in *Education Digest* (May 1992), condensed from *The Executive Educator* (March 1992). Mr. Stover writes: "The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported in 1989 that 30 percent of all teens who commit suicide are gay and that gay teens are two to three times more likely than other teens to attempt suicide."

[7] Phone interview with author, March 8, 1993.

[8] Report issued by (Massachusetts') Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth, "Making Schools Safe for Gay and Lesbian Youth," February 25, 1993, p. 5. The Massachusetts document stated regarding Gibson's paper: "In 1989, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a stunning report on youth suicide, with a chapter on gay and lesbian youth suicide. Pressure from anti-gay forces within the Bush/Quayle administration led to suppression, not only of the controversial chapter, but also of the entire report."

[9] Chris Bull, "Hetero Heroes: William Weld," *The Advocate*, cover story, November 16, 1993, p. 58.

[10] Sara Rimer, "Gay Rights Law for Schools Advances in Massachusetts," *The New York Times*, December 8, 1993, p. A-10.

[11] David LaFontaine, director of the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights, quoted in *New York Native*, February 24, 1992. Gov. Weld's Task Force on Gay and Lesbian Youth is the first government agency of its kind in the nation.

[12] Paul Cameron, "Study on Gay Death Rates/Age," Family Research Institute, 1992. Ironically, Cameron notes that a proclivity towards suicide among gay adults contributes toward their early death rates.

[13] Gibson, *op. cit.*, p. (3)-115, citing Parris, F., "Some Die Young," *Washington Blade*, May 17, 1985. In 1988, a total of 2,059 adolescents ages 15-19 and 243 children under age 15 committed suicide, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. These figures were reported by Ann F. Garland and Edward Zigler ("Adolescent Suicide Prevention," *American Psychologist*, February, 1993). The National Center for Health Statistics reports that in 1991, the latest year for which suicide statistics are available, the breakdown is as follows according to age categories: 5-9 (1); 10-14 (265); 15-19 (1,899); 20-24 (2,852) for a total of 5,017 (phone interview with author, January 31, 1994). Even if we accept this expanded definition of "youth" to include 24-year-olds, the figure in Gibson's report of 3,000 annual gay youth suicides would mean that well over half of all youth suicides are by homosexuals—a patent absurdity.

[14] David Shaffer, interview with author, April 22, 1993.

[15] Gibson, *op. cit.*, p. (3)-115.

[16] Gary Remafedi, MD, MPH, Michael Resnick, PhD, Robert Blum, MD, PhD, Linda Harris, *Pediatrics*, April 1992, pp. 714-721.

[17] A good summary of the studies can be found in J. Gordon Muir, "Homosexuals and the 10% Fallacy," *The Wall Street Journal*, March 31, 1993, p. A-14.

[18] David Shaffer, "Teen Suicide and Gays in the Military," unpublished paper from which the article in *The New Yorker* above (see footnote no. 1) was derived, March 22, 1993, p. 6. Shaffer is Irving Philips Professor of Child Psychiatry at Columbia University.

[19] Shaffer, *Ibid*, pp. 6-7, citing Charles Rich, Richard Fowler,