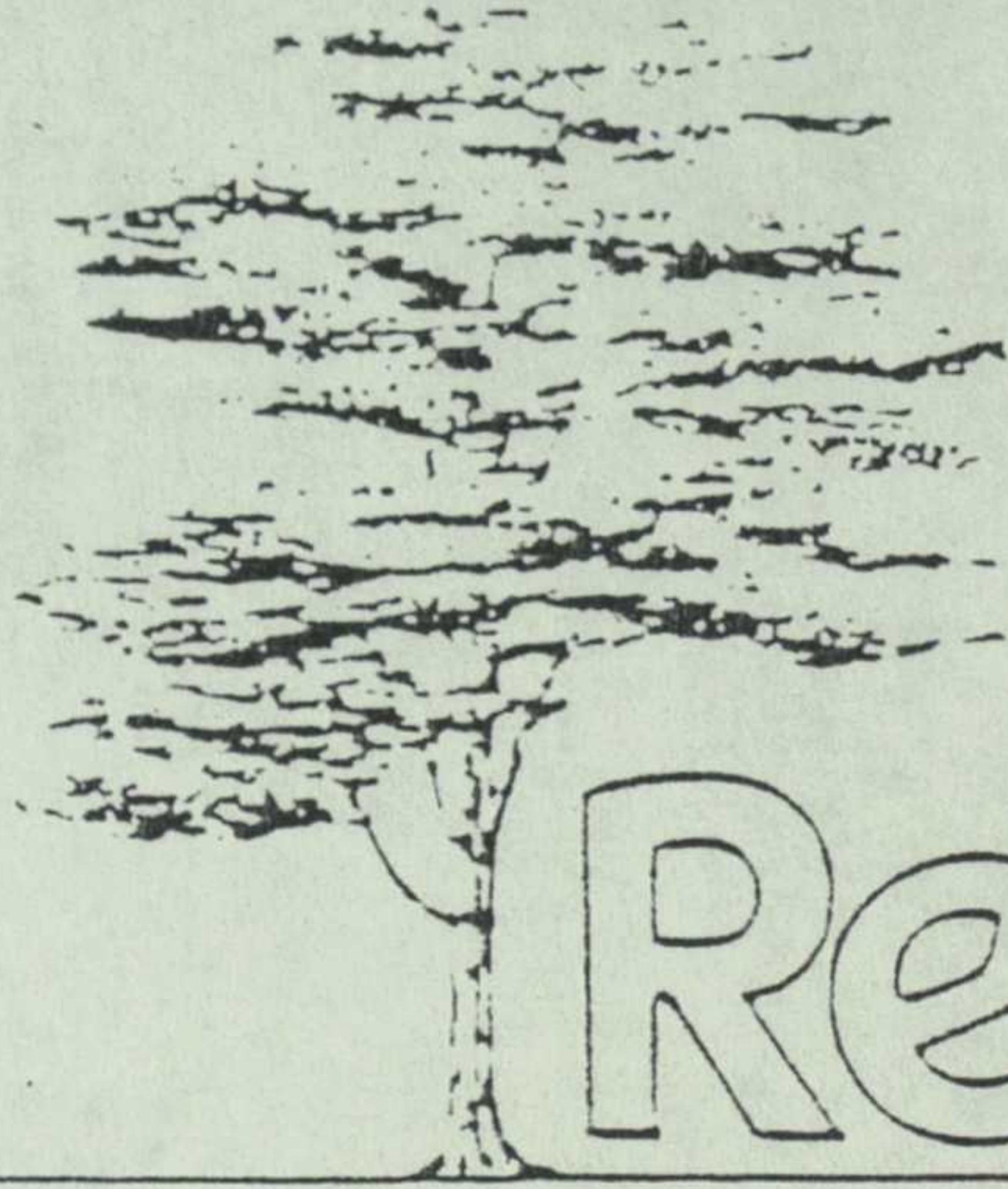


He has showed you, O Man, what is good; and
that does the Lord require of you but to do justice,
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with
your God.

Micah 6:8



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Adolescents and Homosexuality

By ALAN P. MEDINGER

A major study by the University of Minnesota Hospital and Clinics on homosexual and heterosexual attractions, orientation, identification, and behavior among adolescents has revealed some tremendously important data which:

1. Further belies the myth that 10% of the world is gay.

2. Indicates that the relationships among sexual behavior, identity and attractions are more complex than most people imagine.

3. Shows that social factors, such as socio-economic status, ethnic background, and to a lesser extent, religious beliefs, impact on homosexuality.

4. Reveals that many young people are confused about their sexuality in their early teens, but among this uncertain group, the vast majority will turn out to be heterosexual.

It is this last point that may be the most significant as it points to the terrible damage that can be done by allowing advocates of the homosexual life to "counsel sexual minority students" in our secondary schools.

Entitled, "Demography of

Close Look At a Major Study

Sexual Orientation in Adolescents; the study, was published in *Pediatrics*, the journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, (Vol. 89, April, 1992). The authors, Gary Remafedi, MD, MPH; Michel Resnick, PhD; Robert Blum, MD, PhD; and Linda Harris based their study on 5 questions on sexuality included among 189 questions in the Minnesota Adolescent Health Survey, a study involving 34,706 students in Minnesota secondary schools carefully selected as to demographic criteria.

Among the more significant information provided by the survey were the following:

1. At age twelve, 25.9% of the children were "unsure" of their sexual orientation. This figure declined to 5% by age 17, with an average unsure for all age groups of 10.7%.

2. For all age groups (excluding the "unsure") among boys 98.5% said their orientation was heterosexual, 0.3% bisexual and 0.7% homosexual. For girls, the same figures were 98.9%, 0.9% and 0.2% respectively.

3. As regards sexual attractions among the boys, 95.5% said they were exclusively or primarily heterosexual, 0.8% bisexual and 3.7% homosexual. Among girls the corresponding figures were 94.3%, 0.5% and 5.2% respectively.

4. With respect to sexual fantasies only 2.2% of the boys and 3.1% of the girls said theirs were homosexual or bisexual. The rest — 97.8% of the boys and 96.9% of the girls — reported that their fantasies were heterosexual.

The survey clearly points to a developing or emerging sexual identity among adolescents. Also, there is a noticeable lack of consistency as attractions, fantasies and identity appear to be at odds with one another in many children. Interestingly, among the students who identified themselves as homosexual, 64.3% said they had engaged in heterosexual activity, but only 39.2% said they had engaged in homosexual activity.

Because sexuality may be a fluid condition, and because some men and women continue to discover or develop a sexual identity beyond their teen years, this study cannot provide an accurate measure of the incidence of homosexuality, but with the survey reporting an incidence of homosexual attractions at 4.5%, homosexual fantasies at 2.6% and

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