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[your suggestions and input are invited; send to --]

[points@ptfw.org]]

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attitudes about sex

sex is bad / dirty

sex with 'children' is, by law, illegal - wrong - harmful

I.v.E.: When an adult does something with children under the legally defined age of consent, that's forbidden, and that's an offense. I mean, its also forbidden to steal and if you do steal, its an offense. It's that simple.

C.C.: But is it correct that it's an offense?

F.v.R.: I dont exactly see your point, Mrs. Van Engelen, because if you keep saying: it's an offense, it's an offense, that's the end of the discussion. He is trying to explain that the issue of harm can't be settled so easily. And if you say: yes, it can for that's what you mean; its punishable, its harmful, its an offense, then any discussion about pedophilia is impossible.

I.v.E.: No, I'm not saying, I'm not talking about the issue of harm. Yes, I think its harmful, but anyway, that's not what I'm talking about. I'm only saying: sex between an adult and a child under the age of sixteen is an offense, because the law says it is.

EDUCATIONALIST Ireen Van Engelen, PSYCHIATRIST Frank van Ree AND
SEXUAL ACTIVIST Chris Canter CONSIDER PEDOPHILIA

Debate nr. 5 on Dutch national radio, 30 minutes, translation of the Dutch
transcription Radio 5, NCRV, 18 August 2000 Moderator: Mrs. Heidi Iepema

wanting sex with children is unrewarding;
wanting sex with children is unexplainable;
wanting sex with children is not understandable;

I.v.E.: No, its important to find out, I think its important for pedophiles to know: why do they have that need for sex with children?

Because as a pedophile you can never express your sexuality, because its not allowed, because you're immediately punishable.

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youth cannot understand future ramifications

too young

no experience

lack of knowledge

other situations where youth are considered competent

trial as an adult [see also "[Kids as Adults](#)"]

10 year old college students

zero tolerance laws

sexual activity ok within 'peer age group'

circumstances

coerce

seduce

assent

concur

consent

consentaneous

cooperate

request

good and bad pedophiles

some respect the desires of the child

some force themselves or actively seduce the child

it is difficult for researchers ("outsiders") to study "good" pedophiles for several reasons

- difficult for outsiders to detect them
- difficult for the peds to trust outsiders
 - fear of legal sanctions
 - fear of "outing"
 - fear of social stigmatization
 - fear of vigilante attacks
- the researchers themselves often fear studying situations which may result in 'positive' study outcomes
 - fear of losing professional status
 - fear of being 'black listed'
 - fear of losing grant money
 - fear of being labeled as pedophile or child molester

we need to accept that fact that not all those attracted to boys are "well intentioned"

we need to find ways that clearly demonstrate that there ARE 'good' men who like boys, as well as those who just want to impost themselves on someone younger

comments from one person --

Date sent: Sun, 23 Jan 2000 23:06:09 +0100

Subject The BL Role

I feel that the classical BL role in the lives of boys is something of a mixture of a lover of, and close personal friend to the boy, and this is also the position which I, personally, would aspire to.

To answer another point, ideas about sexual behavior I think tend to come from a mixture of personal experimentation, and being informed about the facts of life either in school via sex-education programs (there is nothing at all wrong with children being told about this in school or from another reliable source as soon as they are able to understand English/French/German pretty well or whatever their mother tongue is, I feel) I can certainly see the logic in your argument about why shouldn't we be in the melee along with everyone else.

Frankly, what's alarming me deeply, though, is the idea that we just do whatever we want with other people's children - as an idea to be taken as seriously practical by ourselves. Somehow, I can't find myself agreeing with the idea that for example - and I'm aware that this is a very extreme case - poor young David Handley's killers, for instance, should be allowed to simply make up their own morals to guide their own actions.

I feel that the point you have made about the varying ideas of ethics that hold currency in various parts of the world is one well worth making as a purely intellectual exercise - but even though I see there is a certain logic in saying that there is no reason why we should be held to be different from anyone else - this should not preclude us either, from opting to behave with sensitivity to the feelings of the General Public of the Western World on a practical level.

I suppose I really just wish to state my feelings of alarm over what appears to be a "do-what-thou-wilt" creed both as a general idea for any type of behavior, and also especially with specific reference to the highly sensitive and explosive issue in hand.

Joe

family

challenges 'rights' of parents

parents want to control their offspring;

parents do not accept 'maturity' of their children

(often not even after the offspring are legal adults!)

parents jealous of youth's respect of BL

undermines 'values' of parents

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I.v.E.: Yes, but it just happens to be a fact that sex with children is prohibited, and most people, most parents, they don't want that for their children. And I have to mention that it is not only pedophiles who have sex with children. See, there are also many non-pedophiles who have sex with children. They are fathers, they are brothers, they are uncles, so as far as that is concerned pedophilia is just part of the sexual abuse of children.

Date sent: Sun, 23 Jan 2000 23:02:57 +0100

Subject: Parents & sidelines

Let's be clear, please, that I have nowhere argued for the removal of children from their families, or against the position of parents and families in society. Nor have I said that I want to make enemies of parents and families, or to exclude them from the processes of social and legal development. I have not so much judged and condemned parents for their

faults as argued that their obvious and sometimes serious imperfections have implications for their status as legal and moral power brokers.

I indeed it will be understood that my disgust with the behavior of many parents emphasizes the importance which I believe they have, and therefore the extent of their obligations. If society can judge that when an adult has a role of authority in relation to a child, abuse is thereby aggravated and must attract certain penalties including surveillance and recording in a public register, then we must insist that it be consistent and apply these same responses to parents.

Moreover, we must insist that society recognizes abuse in all its forms, including the example I gave of exposure of the health of children to risk by parents smoking and drinking during pregnancy, and in the home. Or when parents break the speed limit or take other risks when their children are with them in the car.

There are a large number of these types of abuses of children which escape any notice and penalty from society. These may seem exaggerated examples, but in fact their consequences can be seen daily in hospitals everywhere. We must insist that society watch parents, too.

We must insist that society not be biased in favor of parents in responding to risks and damage to children. Refer to Joe's recent post (9 Jan) about the ignoring by the Laffoy Commission of nonsexual abuse (don't they know about sadomasochism - how naive can you get!). And Britain is legislating to outlaw corporal punishment of children by parents. But there is no suggestion of public shaming, or registers or surveillance for serious and repeated [parental] offenders.

Quite apart from the moral aspects, we as citizens must insist that the law be unbiased and consistent - that is its primary responsibility - applying equal penalty to equal offence, including public shaming.

On the other hand, the particular relationships which exist in families cannot exclude the possibility of other relationships outside the family, and the undoubted importance of parents and families does not subsume the rights of children and other persons. One central issue for pedophilia is the abuse

by society of the natural, human right of children and other persons to express mutual affection in physical ways. Merely stating the importance of parents and family does not meet this issue at all adequately.

The particular institution of parents and families does not exhaust the possibilities of adult-child relationships. All adult-child relationships must not necessarily be seen in that perspective, and all other kinds of adult-child relationships need not be given less value. This is a lie of modern Western society, and linked to the fragmentation of society into small, separate units mainly for easier and more profitable exploitation by commercial interests and control by government. And it is also a part of the misuse of the intercourse between the personal and the public which I began to talk about elsewhere.

No! I don't want to be a parent or a brother or an uncle or a guardian or an honorary family member or hanger-on or sideline to a child. I don't want to usurp or double the role of parents, or to compensate for their deficiencies. I want to be a loving friend, just that.

Is there not to be this possibility in our society - the possibility of being a loving friend to a child, mutually desired?

Is a child never to be allowed to have a loving adult friend?

Is a child to be imprisoned in the position of having no autonomy, of being not really human?

This would be to force us into delusional incestuousness! It would be to bind the human body and spirit to a maniacal obsession with mother-father-spouse. To destroy this possibility is to lose touch with human nature and history and the processes of human and social development as surely as it would be to deny the role of parents and the family. To "adapt" to this situation would be to sell ourselves and children out.

The age of consent laws were originally related to the control of property rights, not sexual behaviour. In the Christian tradition the age of conscience is seven years (and remember the old Jesuit boast - "Give me a child...").

Looking at the age of consent customs around the world and through history it is clear that they are social artifacts, and not absolute ethical injunctions.

What sense can be made of a situation in which it is all right for someone to express erotic love for a person aged twelve in one part of the world but criminal in another? Or on the fourteenth, or sixteenth, or eighteenth, or twenty-first birthday, but not a moment before?

There is a limit to how much you can adapt to, or work with a situation which is so arbitrary and irrational! Beyond that you must strike out into uncharted territory.

And yes, we must be prepared, as I said elsewhere, for our own private need for a pat on the head to go frustrated while we work in the public arena. Remember there is acceptance/rejection at the public and the personal level, and the relationship between these two areas is not straightforward. There ARE some bullets which pedophiles have to bite, though they might not be the cliché ones.

To not hinder the rights of persons whether "adult" or "child" (and obviously we cannot take these terms at face value) to express mutual erotic interest does not weaken the position of parents and families, nor does it necessitate the inclusion of such relationships in the institution of the family, or the relative devaluation of such relationships with respect to family ones. And equally such relationships need not exclude, endanger or weaken those in families. The two classes of relationship can exist independently.

To argue that striving for something more "ideal" than the present situation is silly because by definition "ideal" is ideal and unachievable is pointless. To argue we can only adapt to the present situation is silly. We have got where we are from somewhere else, and there is every reason to believe we will not stay where we are.

To dismiss the idea of ideal and then to talk of choices is contradictory. Something like human behavior and its regulation are dynamic by their nature. It is their dynamism which makes progress possible. This is no "castles in Spain" exercise, as the French say. This is the very substance of human experience!!

Neil

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I.v.E.: No, I don't think that at this stage that's what the discussion should be about. One should ask: what exactly is pedophilia? And one should try to gain insight into the reason, the reasons, why adults want sex with children.

H.I.: And what do you propose should be done with the acquired insight?

I.v.E.: Well, I think a pedophile by definition has a problem. So it seems to me that one should ask: why, why is a person a pedophile? Why does someone want to have sex with a child?

H.I.: So, to keep it simple, what you're saying is:
a pedophile by definition has a problem. This problem needs to be solved:
therapy seems logical. Do you feel like going in therapy, Mr. Canter?

definitions – lack of consensus

Another thing going on here concerns the alliance between social conservatives opposed to all forms of sexuality save heterosexuality (most notably homosexuality) and “left-progressives” who have applied feminist models of female (adult) rape to any sexual activity between adults and children. This application is on the weakest ground in the case of men having consensual sexual activity with boys because this is so far removed from the feminist adult woman rape model.

#42: And if someone injures one of these innocent little ones who trust me, it is better to hang a millstone on that person's neck and cast him into the sea than have him face my retribution.

The potential for a love relationship between a man and a boy is too precious, too intimate, and too corruptible to entrust its existence, or its rebirth, to the contemporary church, to their legislators and their courts. One form of activism is to confront the powerful with the fact they have until now failed to seek our informed consent on even the most basic definitions. It is difficult to have a meaningful dialogue when the definitions and the words mean such different things to the different sides.

Prisoner Support

Date sent: Sun, 23 Jan 2000 10:39:29 EST

Subject: Proposals for Prisoner support

Target Areas of the Ex Prisoner Support Group

I. Developing a Positive Self-image -

Areas of focus:

- Refusing to internalize societies image of the "pedophile."
- Learning to see oneself a political dissident, not as a mental health deviant.

II. Overcoming Social Isolation

Areas of focus:

- Maintaining or reestablishing whatever previous relationships with friends and family one is able to.
- Networking with others with similar orientations for purposes of friendship, support, education, and political action.
- Developing local support groups.

III. Establishing a Satisfying Life Style

Areas of focus:

- Establishing meaningful personal and transpersonal goals.
- Becoming knowledgeable about resources for education and support.
- Staying out of prison by finding legal means of channeling impulses.

IV. Becoming Political

Areas of focus:

Making creative use of having been "outed."

Finding a political task or niche that is right for oneself.

Becoming informed.

Learning to make the issues discussible.

Demanding a voice.

Possible Strategies for Ex-Prisoner Support Group

1. Collect names from registered offenders list from newspaper accounts, and from word of mouth information.
2. Send initial communication to each "offender" describing group and it's aims.
3. Develop booklet describing the importance of each of the goals.
4. Develop list of resources that might be of use to ex-prisoners. (Boy chat, etc.)
5. Collect prisoner stories (in anonymous form). Guidelines and other support for writing would be offered. These stories would be made available to others through two sources:
 - a. On-line archives.
 - b. Booklet ("Prisons Speak Out") and/or newsletter.
6. Develop and distribute an ongoing newsletter.
7. Develop anonymous, on line, support groups.
8. Encourage development of local consciousness raising support and political action groups. Such groups would always have a triple focus:
 - a. Self education or consciousness raising.
 - b. Emotional and interpersonal support.
 - c. Political action.
9. Develop on-line archive of helpful written materials.

To refuse to define oneself in the terms and concepts provided by the dominant culture is the first political act in the life of any member of an oppressed group. We must provide people ongoing support for this refusal.

Emphasis would be on LEGAL and NONVIOLENT action. (Nonviolence I would support as an ethically binding principle. I am not in principle against civil disobedience. However, any overstepping of legal procedures would make and already vulnerable group a sitting target.

There are things to be done if we proceed like foxes.

Activities

Accepted activities engaged in —

hugging
kissing
backrub

Prohibited activities engaged in —

touching

- genitals
- buttocks
- inner thighs
- breast area
- feet (!)

adult naked in same room as youth

masturbation

- alone
- mutual

adult allowing youth to see masturbation

viewing of graphic media

fellatio - 'sucking'

intercourse - 'fucking'

Real and Supposed Harm

Some of the supposed harms caused by adult/boy sex include:

shame

disease

physical harm

- stretching of anus
 - anal bleeding
-

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I.v.E.: But its been known for ages, its plainly known that sex with
children harms children.

F.v.R.: I absolutely disagree with you.

I.v.E.: An enormous amount of research has been done.

F.v.R.: Nowhere near an enormous amount of research has been
done; there
is only a lot of research into psychiatric and juridical cases. The
studies in the pedophile world where there's no interference of
psychiatrists and the law are extremely scarce and extremely
rare.

I.v.E.: But those are, those, that's right, there is little research about pedophilia, about pedophiles. But a lot about children. Hasn't a lot of research been done concerning children?

F.v.R.: Yes, but those are children who experienced something that gave rise to legal or psychiatric problems. So that's a negative selection, and that's what people base their entire view of pedophilia on, and that isn't right.

H.I.: You're saying: there are also children who have had sex with an adult and who

F.v.R.: Who even wrote books about it.

H.I.: --who dealt with it just fine, you mean.

F.v.R.: Sure. Frank van Lieshout and others [This is barely audible as I.v.E. makes a remark, but F.v.R. perhaps means Ted van Lieshout, a Dutch author who looked back, with mixed feelings, on his childhood sexual relationship with an adult man.]

I.v.E.: But then there's no reason to research it, is there? When something does not present a problem, why would one research it?

F.v.R.: No: we know that there are cases that really can't be said to have produced any harm, we also know there are cases where there is clear damage, we don't know all criteria as to what does and what does not do damage, and we hardly even know how many pedophiles there are.

We hardly know a thing.

=====

Symptoms

child sexual abuse 'experts' and campaigners often list symptoms they claim are caused by such abuse – but they rarely distinguish between desired and unwanted sexual activities with the youth.

We need to collect these lists of symptoms, and then HOLD our accusers to their own 'research' and statements – in other words, if a boy does not display the symptoms of abuse then we must insist that either the list of symptoms is incorrect or there was no actual abuse.

Also, it seems to be very frequent that boys involved in desired relationships with men exhibit exact opposite symptoms from those supposedly resulting from abuse – yet the relationship, when discovered, is always labeled as 'abuse'... we must insist that the sex-abuse industry 'cannot have their cake and eat it too...'

Why are the results of scientific research often not accepted, even when the research is correctly done and results apparently obvious?

“Extraordinary claims require extraordinary data”—Carl Sagan

The results are hard to believe

People are afraid of the results

Results may contradict or threaten current beliefs or religious positions.

Acceptance of the results might require changing behavior, or reversing previous decisions.

- different parenting techniques
- different legal procedures
(might even overturn previous cases)

Economic ramifications urge against acceptance

Science, these days, is a business – almost all research is funded by grants from government or large institutions; results which are not ‘politically correct’ can result not only in loss of funding, but also in ‘black listing’ of the researchers.

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I.v.E.: Yes, well, they should publicize their research if they, if they say -- because it is the scientists who are leading the pedophile movement. So if they say: there is nothing wrong with pedophilia, it is beneficial, it can be a contribution. First, Bernard has done research, Brongersma has done research -- okay, so lets see it.

C.C.: We are showing it. Do visit the Amsterdam bookshop Intermale, find your way in there. There are so many books, scientific as well as non-scientific, that convey a positive view on pedophilia.

I.v.E.: But then how do you explain the witch hunt? Why do people stay so enraged at pedophiles?

C.C.: Because people don't read books. Because people prefer to watch television. It seems as though you deny [C.C. means: as though you claim] that we fail to present any defense, while we certainly have a defense, but it is not paid attention.

H.I.: What do you hope this good research will accomplish?

F.v.R.: I hope that good research will lead to a realistic conception of the phenomenon of pedophilia, and, as I tried to say at the beginning, to me this means that there is a stunning variety of expressions of pedophilia, which vary from extremely tender and even Platonic relationships to extremely criminal, violent relations. And at present, you get the impression from the press and the media and from everywhere that, well, if you mention the word pedophile then you're talking about a pervert who seduces children and pulls all kinds of horrible stunts.

I.v.E.: But how come this research fails to be done; why is there no research being done?

F.v.R.: That's your own assumption. There is quite some research being done. You know just as well as I do that Rind and Tromovitch and Bauserman have done a lot, er, Bernard has edited and published a book called *Pedophilie ohne Grenzen* in Germany, only one-and-a-half or two years ago.

I.v.E.: And how come there is no mention of this in the scientific press?

F.v.R.: That is the prejudice of science. Almost all scientists are, they automatically, when they consider pedophilia and they describe their research, then the first thing they say is: were talking about victims and offenders. From the start it is typed as being criminal.

I.v.E.: But this shows that those scientists who are different, who have different conceptions, such as those American scientists you mention, that they don't manage to foster understanding for ...

F.v.R.: Not yet.

I.v.E.: No, and of course that's a pity for them

F.v.R.: Not just for them; for people in general.

I.v.E.: Well okay but such - such is the game of science, of course.

C.C.: We should not just consider the scientists, we should also consider other factors that influence science. The research of Bauserman, Rind and Tromovitch for instance was, shall we say, silenced by the American government.

I.v.E.: But how so? Apparently that government is stronger, apparently public opinion is stronger. [The last part of the sentence is barely audible as CC makes a remark.]

C.C.: But can you explain what you mean when you say that it isn't interesting that all kinds of sex with all kinds of, er, minor ages, if it's not interesting to examine whether or not it is harmful?

I.v.E.: Well, I, of course that's interesting.

C.C.: Isn't that disturbing the discussion? [Barely audible as I.v.E. is still talking.] Aren't you lining yourself up there with the American government which also says: its not interesting to see what research has to say, what young people have to say who have had positive contacts, people I also know personally. Is that not interesting to look at?

I.v.E.: Well, er, I don't doubt it is, but everyone studies what they find interesting, and if pedophiles like to point this out, then they should see to it that they carry out scientific research into the matter, and then they should present it.

H.I. : Could it be that this research is not being carried out, or not sufficiently much, because indeed it still is such an unbelievably tabooed subject? You [I.v.E.] say: people, pedophiles should come out, but I mean [directed to C.C.], are you very open about it?

C.C.: Radio; writing; all kinds of things. But it's true; as I just said, when research is carried out that contradicts popular viewpoints, this research is murdered by other factors than science alone. By politics and by society.

* * *

I.v.E.: But the way, I mean, the way in which you want to present your viewpoints, how, apparently you are doing it wrong because you're not getting anywhere.

C.C.: Er, what is difficult, indeed, is to fence with the term pedophilia and to claim: sex with children is not always harmful. That's when people's visions are clouded by a bloody haze.

F.v.R.: Instantly.

* * *

F.v.R.: And what happens here is exactly what is happening all the time:
it is immediately put in psychiatric terms, you see. Peter Pan syndrome [CC chuckles]; one is put in all kinds of boxes, see. You immediately start to describe diseases, and that's what makes it so difficult.

I.v.E.: Yes, but this happens to be indicated by my research, with all pedophiles I have examined. And then...

F.v.R.: You haven't examined this gentleman, have you?

I.v.E.: No, but of course I have read his own articles.

C.C.: You say I was emotionally neglected. That's right, I was emotionally neglected because until I was seventeen I was not enabled to experience tenderness, including sexual tenderness, due to people like you who don't care to investigate whether or not it's harmful. That's why I now suffer from Peter Pan Syndrome, thanks a lot. [I ronical.]

I.v.E.: And that is, then that's important to investigate such things.

Derogatory remarks

gay

even in kindergarten and elementary grades these days, 'gay' is a common put-down for any kid that doesn't "fit in"...even when the kids using the term don't have the foggiest idea what it means...

faggot

[see comments under 'gay']

An interesting twist on this was presented on the TV program "Party of Five" on Channel 5 in NYC (January 2000). In this show, their youngest son has a male nanny who is known to be gay. The show plot involves the homophobic father of the boy's friend, who tells his own son to avoid contact with the nanny "because he is a faggot"...a very sane and mature response to the situation was presented in the show.

suck

This comment is becoming so common, as a derogatory put-down for *everything* these days...even little kids on TV are saying it.

Since it is apparently quite common for straight guys to enjoy a good 'suck' from their wife or girlfriend, it's a bit surprising that this term should have such a negative connotation...

However, the way it is being used so negatively and commonly it generates a very negative reaction to the idea of 'sucking' or 'being sucked' - some of the activities we enjoy with our young friends, and for which it would be quite hard to demonstrate any negative physical consequences.

And, any negative psychological consequences are most likely to be caused by the social taboo and the negativity created by the common gutter use of 'this sucks' for everything.

Why don't they use 'fuck' instead of 'suck'??:)

Manipulation of kids – socially acceptable ways

Schools

Home

Religion

Indoctrination

Begins basically at birth

Child is given NO choice, informed or otherwise

Uses songs, stories, books, movies, music, videos

it's quite acceptable to constantly bombard kids with stories, movies, little ditties designed to brainwash them with the concepts... example:

“wash your hands and say your prayers;
'cuz germs and Jesus are everywhere”

Sunday school training – usually *required* by parents

Child not allowed to question doctrine;
often punished for doing so

Fear

Fear of damnation

Fear of all-seeing, all-knowing god

[see item above regarding ditty about 'germs and Jesus']

Proselytizing

nagging of friends, family, strangers to 'believe'

active campaigns using kids, to convert other kids and/or adults

Group support

positive reactions to believing

many group activities scheduled (church, etc.)

no restrictions on adults coercing kids for religion

A Teenager's Guide to God — This American Life radio program
December 17, 1999
Episode 147

<http://www.thislife.org/pages/archive99.html#147>

It's an odd fact of religious life in America that

in this country founded by Christians, in which a majority of people say they believe in god and identify themselves as Christians, that so many religious Christians feel they're an oppressed minority. They say the media doesn't share their values. That secular institutions undermine their beliefs. And the job of raising Christian children, they'll tell you, is like trying to do God's work from behind enemy lines.

This week we're devoting our whole show to the kids they're struggling to bring up. This American Life host Ira Glass and producer Susan Burton spent a week in August recording a suburban Chicago youth group at every stage of their very first mission trip. The teenagers were from Covenant Presbyterian Church in Chicago.

They went to West Virginia, to fix up someone's house, and to witness about their faith to strangers. The goal: that they mature from a child's kind of

faith to an adult's. There's a boom in mission trips like this right now, a boom that crosses denominations.

Act One. Exodus. These teenagers are the children the Christian right has in mind when it holds conferences on what's at stake in America's culture war. On the fourteen-hour drive to West Virginia, we listen to the Backstreet Boys and talk about Dawson's Creek. One of the things that's so interesting about these teenagers is the odd mix of Christian and secular pop in their lives.

Act Two. Unto the Uttermost Part of the Earth. The teenagers arrive in West Virginia and take a look around.

Act Three. Wise as Serpents and Harmless as Doves. Hardships begin. Their leader gets sick. One of their projects fails.

Act Four. Your Name is Ointment Poured Forth. One great thing about staying in a camp of 130 other Christians is the much-better-than-in-school chance of meeting a nice, cute Christian boy.

Act Five. The Substance of Things Hoped For. The teenagers try to get to know the locals, without a lot of success.

Act Six. The Evidence of Things Not Seen. Some improvements in their missionary work.

Act Seven. Made to Stumble Because of Me.
The limits of what one accomplishes on a
mission trip like this.

Listen to the Real Audio program at:

<http://www.thislife.org/ra/147.ram>

Kids as Adults

“Try him as an adult”

If a ‘child’ can be considered competent to be tried in a court of law as an adult, a child of the same age should have all the other rights and privileges of an adult – as long as competence can be shown.

However, under this theory it follows that adults would also have to be required to show competence, then – which will result in strong opposition.

The call for “equal treatment under the law” should still be one of our loudest campaign points.

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- we should collect information as to the lowest age at which a youth can be tried as an adult in each state/country. (if you have information that is verified, please send it to us at points@ptfw.org and we will add it to this document)
 - we should collect information on actual court cases where the youth was tried as an adult, including information as to the crime charged, age at which crime was allegedly committed, reasons given for trying as an adult, type and length of sentence resulting from conviction, etc. (send such information to points@ptfw.org and we will compile them here).
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Other situations of kids as adults

Stories of kids trying to act like adults -- some by choice -- some because they're forced to.

<http://www.thislife.org/pages/archive00.html#150>

Prologue. The story of a teenagers' party among teenagers who thought of themselves as very grownup. And in many ways they completely understand what a grownup party is like: quiet conversation with lots of thoughtful nodding of heads, alcohol without excessive or loud consumption. Except there's one custom of an adult party they get completely wrong. (3 minutes)

Act One. I Was a Teenage Ambulance Driver. Mike Paterniti talks about working on a teen ambulance corps, growing up in Connecticut. (19 minutes)
Song: Chuck Berry, "Almost Grown"

Act Two. Househusband at 12. When Anh Tuan Wong was 12, back in 1980, living in Vietnam, his cousin was scheming up a way to escape the country, by boat. And Anh Tuan was invited too. And he wanted to go -- but for reasons that had very little to do with reality and everything to do with the way a kid sees the world. (12 minutes)

Act Three. The Miseducation of Josh Frank. This is another story of a young person making a huge, life-changing decision about his own fate while still very young. Hillary Frank tells the story, about her own little brother -- and his trumpet. (11 minutes)

Song: Neil Young "I Am a Child"

Act Four. Angry Young Man, Times Two. This is the story of two people -- one in his late teens, one in his late 50's. Both have good reasons to be mad at the world -- but what they did with their anger -- and what society did with them -- are very different. Willie Ross ended up as an assistant superintendent at a juvenile detention center; Terence Golden ended up imprisoned there. (10 minutes)

Song:

Billy Bragg, "Help Save the Youth of America"

Listen to the Real Audio program at:

<http://www.thislife.org/ra/150.ram>
