

American Goebbels: The lies  
of Paul Cameron

by Alvin McEwen

*"What homosexuals do is so incredibly stupid, so patently absurd and antibiological, that only a foolish society would take their whimpering about 'equal rights with heterosexuality' seriously? . . . Are we supposed to feel so sorry for them that we join them in the march to the cemetery?" -*

***Paul Cameron, The Advocate, October 29, 1985***

*"If you isolate sexuality as something solely for one's own personal amusement, and all you want is the most satisfying orgasm you can get - and that is what homosexuality seems to be - then homosexuality seems too powerful to resist. The evidence is that men do a better job on men, and women on women if all you are looking for is an orgasm." - Paul Cameron, Rolling Stone, March, 18, 1999*

*"Marital sex tends toward the boring end. Generally, it doesn't deliver the kind of sheer sexual pleasure that homosexual sex does." - Paul Cameron, Rolling Stone, March, 18, 1999*

When everything is done and said regarding the fight for gay equality, the name Paul Cameron will be repeated in infamy.

Cameron, head of the Family Research Institute in Lakespur, CO, has provided the framework for almost every study and statistic that members of the religious right uses against the gay community. Cameron created the image of a highly promiscuous, disease ridden homosexual that is still present today in many right wing studies and research papers. When they make the dubious claim of homosexuals being allowed in the boy scouts will allow them "access to children," Cameron's inference of child molestation is there. When they talk about homosexuals' "destructive lifestyle," his studies on what they supposedly do and their life span is there, even though he is not mentioned by name. The majority, if not all, the studies and rhetoric of religious conservative organizations has its foundation in some form or another of his research.

He is also a man of much controversy. Cameron has an extreme anti-gay bias and in many cases was discovered using flawed techniques to reach his conclusions.

## **I. Background**

Cameron has a background in psychology, and therefore has a degree in that field. Before 1980, he taught psychology at the University of Nebraska. After leaving the University of Nebraska, he set up the Institute for the Scientific Study of Sexuality (ISIS) in Lincoln, NB.

In 1982, Cameron first appeared as an expert of sexual orientation, pushing his statistics as a part of the Committee to Oppose Special Rights for Homosexuals. This group's purpose was to defeat an anti-discrimination law in Lincoln, NB. The attempt was successful due in part to a story Cameron told at the University of Nebraska Lutheran Church involving a four-year-old boy getting castrated due to a sexual attack in a bathroom by a homosexual.

Scott Stebelman, who was at the time co-chair of Lincoln's Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights, was in the audience when Cameron made this claim. He said it made a major impact.

"Everyone in the audience was outraged and we were caught off guard because we had never heard anything like this," he said.

But Cameron's claim was a lie.

After police investigated and found no evidence of an attack, Cameron said that the story was told to him by someone else but claimed that attacks like what he described could happen. Buoyed by that victory, Cameron continued pushing himself as an expert on homosexuality. He was successful in pushing back pro-gay measures in Houston, Baltimore, and Columbus, OH. His success was due to a lack of knowledge people had about homosexuals. So when Cameron came with his pedigree, pushing his pamphlets (the cover of one showing a child being jerked into a bathroom by a lecherous adult), he was a force to be reckoned with. Traveling across the country, he commanded huge fees as an "expert witness."

## **II. Gays and Children**

Cameron came up with several conclusions that supposedly prove a correlation between homosexuality and pedophilia, including:

*Homosexual teachers have committed between a quarter and four-fifths of all molestation of pupils*

*Gays are at least twelve times more apt to molest children than heterosexuals (revised to "10 to 20 times" more in a later study)*

*Homosexual teachers are at least seven times more likely to molest a pupil.*

Cameron reached these conclusions by distorting credible research. According to Greg M. Herek, a professor of Psychology at the University of California in Davis (UCD), reviews of Cameron's work contained several errors. One was the assumption by Cameron that men who molest boys are homosexuals. Cameron assumed this even though he did not have any information regarding the orientation of the perpetrator. Even worse than that, Herek said, Cameron went out of his way to say that not all male to female molestations are committed by heterosexuals. He put in a "bisexual correction" factor. Herek said he did this to "increase further his estimate of the risk posed to children by homosexual/bisexual men."

Cameron also distorted credible research. According to Herek, Cameron said this in an 1985 article published in *Psychological Reports*:

*"at least one-third of the sexual attacks upon youth are homosexual" and that "those who are bi-to homosexual are proportionately much more apt to molest youth" than are heterosexuals.*

Herek said:

*“Cameron's claims hinge on the incorrect assumption that all male-male molestations are committed by homosexuals. Moreover, a careful reading of Cameron's paper reveals several false statements about the literature he claimed to have reviewed. For example, he cited the Groth and Birnbaum (1978) study mentioned previously as evidencing a 3:2 ratio of "heterosexual" (i.e., female victim) to "homosexual" (i.e., male victim) molestations, and he noted that "54% of all the molestations in this study were performed by bisexual or homosexual practitioners" (p. 1231). However, Groth and Birnbaum reported that none of the men in their sample had an exclusively homosexual adult sexual orientation, and that none of the 22 bisexual men were more attracted to adult males than to adult females. The "54%" statistic reported by Cameron doesn't appear anywhere in the Groth and Birnbaum (1978) article, nor does Cameron explain its derivation.”*

A. Nicholas Groth, one of the authors of above research and at the time, director of the Sex Offender Program at the Connecticut Department of Corrections, complained to the Nebraska Board of Examiners of Psychologists about Cameron's usage of his work. Groth said:

*“(Cameron) misrepresents my findings and distorts them to advance his homophobic views. I make a very clear distinction in my writing between pedophilia and homosexuality, noting that adult males who sexually victimize young boys are either pedophilic or heterosexual, and that in my research I have not found homosexual men turning away from adult partners to children. . . I consider this totally unprofessional behavior on the part of Dr. Cameron and I want to bring this to your attention. He disgraces his profession.”*

In 1978, Groth had interviewed 175 men who had been convicted of child molestation in Massachusetts. He found that none of them had an exclusively homosexual relationship. They were either exclusively heterosexual, a bisexual with a predominantly heterosexual orientation, or a fixated pedophile with no sexual interest in adults

Furthermore, Groth had said that homosexuality and pedophilia are not related:

*“... (It is a faulty assumption that if an adult male selects a young boy as his victim, his sexual orientation is homosexual. We found that some (73, or 49%) offenders responded exclusively to children---boys, girls, or both---and showed no interest in adults or age-mates for sexual gratification. These men were pedophile in the true sense of the word.”*

Other researchers also began to complain that Cameron was distorting their work. In response the complaints, the American Psychological Association (APA) launched an investigation and found that not only was Cameron guilty of what he was accused of, but his own methodologies were incorrect. Because of this, he was expelled from the organization in December 1983. Cameron has later said that he quit the organization before being expelled, but this may not be true. APA bylaws say that members cannot resign while they are under investigation.

### III. The so-called dangerous lives of homosexuals

*"Lesbians and homosexual men are 19 times and 14 times more likely, respectively, to have had syphilis than heterosexual men and women" - the footnote reads: "P. Cameron, K. Proctor, and W. Coburn, 'Sexual Orientation and Sexually Transmitted Disease,' Nebraska Medical Journal, Vol. 70 No. 8, August 1985, pp. 292-299." - Ex-gay NARTH's Joseph Nicolosi, Ph.D.*

*<http://www.frc.org/insight/is93g2hs.html>*

*"Dr. Paul Cameron and colleagues conducted research on 6,714 obituaries from 16 United States homosexual journals..." [the study goes on to quote the Cameron conclusion that gays die early], - The American Family Association - <http://www.afa.net>, "Homosexuality in America: Exposing the Myths", (a downloadable special report available on the site).*

#### A. Sexual intercourse of homosexuals or much ado about nothing

Homosexual intercourse is a skittish and uncomfortable subject to many. Stereotypes tell us that gay men are sexual predators who have no scruples about who or where they have sex and how they abuse their bodies in pursuit of sexual pleasure. Cameron exploited this skittishness by going out of his way to describe in all sorts of graphic details about what he feels think gay men do sexually.

Cameron said:

*37% of homosexuals engage in sadomasochism.*

*29% of homosexuals urinate on their partners.*

*17% ingest human feces.*

*oral sex: 99% to 100%*

*anal sex: 93% to 98%*

*annilingus: 92%*

*fisting: 41% to 47%*

The problem with Cameron's research is that he used a sampling of 41 gay men and 25 lesbians, a laughably low sample. Using Cameron's research methods, if 20 conservative Christians out of a sampling of 40 say that gays should be put to death like it says in the Bible, one could say that 50% of all conservative Christians say that homosexuals should be put to death. Bear in mind, still using Cameron's logic, one does not have to give the exact number of the group sampling, just the percentage

By not saying how low his number was, Cameron was able to give the impression that he was speaking about the entire gay population. Also, this was a survey. There is no proof as to whether or not the respondents were telling him the truth or just lying to him out of spite due to the directness of the question. In fact, some of the respondents did not take the survey seriously. But more about that later.

## **B. The gay lifespan**

Without question, one of the most cited studies by Cameron has to do with the life span of homosexuals.

According to Cameron:

*“the average life span of a homosexual is 39 years; fewer than 2% survive to the age of 65.”*

He said that this is because:

*Less than 2% of Gay men survived to old age*

*If AIDS was the cause of death, the median age of Gay males was 39,*

*For those who died of other causes, the median age was 42, and only 9% died old,*

*Lesbians had a median age of 45; 23% died old*

*2.8% of Gays died violently*

*Gays were 116 times more apt to be murdered; 24 times more apt to commit suicide; eighteen times more likely to die in a traffic accident*

*20% of Lesbians died of murder, suicide or accident, a rate 487 times higher than that of white females aged 25-44.*

To create the data in his pamphlet, *The Lifespan of Homosexuals*, Cameron compared over 6,000 obituaries obtained from 16 gay themed newspapers with “regular” newspapers over a 12-year period. There are several problems wrong with how Cameron conducted this research. First of all, just because the obituaries were printed in “regular” newspapers does not necessarily mean the person was not gay. Many gays are uncomfortable with how society views them and how they view themselves. To shield themselves from what they see as persecution, they live life in secret, or “in the closet.” It’s not farfetched to say that some died while still not open about their homosexuality. Also, even if they were open, who’s to say whether or not the obituary mentioned their sexual orientation?

Furthermore, what do the obituaries in the gay themed newspapers prove? What are the ages of the gay men still living? There is no comparison between the gays listed in the obituaries and the gays who are still alive. Therefore, there can be no conclusion as what is the exact ratio of age in which gay men live to be.

According to Herek, there are other multiple problems with Cameron’s’ study involving those who are omitted from gay newspapers. He said among those who are left out are:

*gay men and lesbians who were not involved in the gay community*

*gay men and lesbians whose loved ones or family didn't want their homosexuality to be known*

*gay men and lesbians whose loved ones or family simply didn't think of sending an obituary to a gay community newspaper*

*gay men and lesbians whose loved ones did not write an obituary for some other reason (e.g., they were too grief stricken)*

*gay men and lesbians who died without leaving anyone to write an obituary for a gay publication (e.g., those whose loved ones and relatives died before them).*

Furthermore, Herek said, the obituaries in the gay newspapers do not provide an adequate representation of the community because only two percent of Cameron's sample obituaries were lesbians.

According to writer Walter Olson, other researchers do not think much of Cameron's methods of achieving this figure. Nick Eberstadt of the American Enterprise Institute called Cameron's method ridiculous. However, religious conservative organizations and conservative pundits freely refer to his studies, totally ignoring the controversy concerning his methodology. Sometimes they have to backtrack.

Arch conservative and self proclaimed doyenne of virtue, former Education Secretary William Bennett used Cameron's study on the life span of gay men on November 9, 1997 during an appearance on ABC's "This Week."

Proclaiming that President Bill Clinton's address to a gay rights group, the Human Rights Campaign, was wrong, Bennett had said "The best available research suggests that the average life span of male homosexuals is around 43 years of age. Forty-three."

When it was later discovered that Bennett had gotten his data from Cameron's study, he was castigated from many sides. He, however, continued to say that he was not incorrect in making the claim. He finally admitted, in an issue of the *New Republic* that he was wrong in citing the study, saying:

*"Given what I now know, I believe there are flaws with Paul Cameron's study. One cannot extrapolate from his methodology and say that the average male homosexual life span is 43 years." - the New Republic, February 23, 1998*

### **C. Those "evil" gays and lesbians**

Cameron also pushes the theories that gays and lesbians have increasingly antisocial tendencies. Three pamphlets: *Murder, Violence and Homosexuality; Criminality, Social Disruption and Homosexuality; Violence and Homosexuality* push the theories that:

*You are 15 times more apt to be killed by a gay than a heterosexual during a sexual murder spree.*

*Homosexuals have committed most of the sexual conspiracy murders*

*Homosexuals have killed at least 350 (68%) of the victims*

*Half of all sex murderers are homosexuals*

*Homosexuals committed 7 of the 10 worst murder sets.*

Cameron came to these theories by a sample of 34 serial killers he collected from the years of 1966 to 1983. According to Herek, he not only selected serial killers who had a sexual motive, but some figures were actually incorrect. One of the serial killers he selected, Henry Lee Lucas, recanted his confession that he murdered hundreds of people. Another one, Wayne Williams, was actually convicted of one murder.

#### **IV. The Original ISIS Study**

Much of Cameron's research comes from a national sexual survey he conducted in 1983. Herek said the survey contains at least six errors. He also said "even one of these flaws would be sufficient to cast serious doubt on the legitimacy on any study's results."

The six errors are as follows:

**The samples claim to be national in scope, but they aren't.** Although Cameron claims his studies are national, they only consisted of surveys taken in the following municipalities: Bennett (NE), Denver (CO), Los Angeles (CA), Louisville (KY), Omaha (NE), Rochester (NY), and Washington (DC). Data from an eighth city (Dallas, TX) were added later.

**The response rate was very low.** As alluded to earlier, only 41 gay men and 25 lesbians actually answered Cameron's survey.

**The conclusions based on those answering the questions on the survey was too small to allow reliable analyses.** Due to the low responses, how could Cameron reach any correct analyses of gays and lesbians?

**The validity of the questionnaire was in doubt.** It was very possible for the interviewee to give the wrong answers for two reasons: either were unable or unwilling to give an accurate answer. David Williams of the Williams- Nichols Institute added some details about this. He said the survey was conducted by interviewers who knocked on doors in those cities and handed a 550-item questionnaire to the first adult who answered; adult males were preferred. Interviews were not conducted face-to-face and some questionnaires were retrieved up to one week later.

He also said:

*"The preface to the questionnaire noted in part that "This survey will be put to a number of significant legislative and judicial uses" without delineating specifics. Some of the questions seem*

*rather odd: "With how many homosexual virgins have you had homosexual relations?" (How many people would ask that of their sexual partners?) Question #3 asked how the respondent felt about sharing toilet facilities with a homosexual. The multiple choice answers included one that said, "Very positive, I'd enjoy it greatly." Question #51 asked whether anyone had ever made "serious sexual advances" to the respondent without defining what that phrase meant"*

Williams also said in each city, the police were called at least once and it would seem that some people treated the survey like a joke.

**The interviewer was biased and may not have followed correct procedures.** Herek said there was no information as to who was conducting the interviews nor as to did the supervisors check to see if people were actually interviewed.

**Paul Cameron publicly disclosed his intent, or his bias, concerning the survey while the data process was happening.** In a front page interview in one newspaper in an area where the study was conducted, Cameron reportedly said its purpose was to provide "ammunition for those who want laws adopted banning homosexual acts throughout the United States."

Cameron's research methodology and conclusions have gotten him into controversy on more than one occasion. In addition from getting expelled from the APA:

*In 1985, the American Sociological Association (ASA) adopted a resolution which asserted that "Dr. Paul Cameron has consistently misinterpreted and misrepresented sociological research on sexuality, homosexuality, and lesbianism" and noted that "Dr. Paul Cameron has repeatedly campaigned for the abrogation of the civil rights of lesbians and gay men, substantiating his call on the basis of his distorted interpretation of this research."*

## **V. More errors**

Other researchers have been able to spot an embarrassingly large amount of errors in Cameron's work. From 1986 to 87, David Williams of the Williams-Nichols Institute conducted a study of nine of Paul Cameron's pamphlets(*Medical Aspects of Homosexuality; Child Molestation and Homosexuality; Murder, Violence, and Homosexuality; AIDS, the Blood Supply, and Homosexuality; What Homosexuals Do; The Psychology of Homosexuality; What Causes Homosexuality and Can It Be Cured; Homosexuality: Everybody's Problem; Criminality, Social Disruption, and Homosexuality*). From his research, he found nine errors that put into question the validity of Cameron's work:

**The pamphlets would use studies of a non-representative nature to make generalizations about gays and lesbians and homosexual activity.**

**The pamphlets would use information from research papers which Cameron criticized for not being credible.** Williams said that several times, ISIS used statistics from the Bell and Weinberg book, **Homosexualities: A Study of Diversity Among Men and Women**. However, Cameron had criticized the same book as inaccurate in the March 1986 edition of the Nebraska Medical Journal.

**Cameron's pamphlets would make up or distort statistics to support their conclusions.**

**The pamphlets showed internal inconsistencies Williams said one example is that:**

*"Pamphlet #1 states that gays "average about 30 different sexual partners per year" (p. 2). In Pamphlet #5, it's "somewhere between 20...and 106 different partners/year" (p. 1), which does not necessarily negate the quote in Pamphlet #1, but is at least misleading. Pamphlet #7 claims that gays average "perhaps 300 to 500 different partners in a lifetime" (pp. 1, 3), thereby lowering the annual average considerably. In Pamphlet #8, it's an average of "30 to 100 different men each year" (p. 2)."*

**Other statistics in the pamphlets are misleading.** Williams said one example is the comparison of homosexual to heterosexual serial killers present in one of the pamphlets. He said serial killer Larry Eyler, a homosexual, is said to have murdered 19 men when he was actually convicted of only one.

**The pamphlets do not define certain terms:**

*"For example, sometimes the terms "gays" and "homosexuals" are used to refer to male homosexuals only, while at other times they are used to refer to both male and female homosexuals (lesbians). Which definition is being used at any particular time is not always made clear."*

**The reliability of Paul Cameron as a credible researcher is in doubt.** Williams recounts the story of Cameron making up the story of the mutilation of the four-year-old in Lincoln, NB.

**Other researchers have accused Cameron of misusing their work.**

**The pamphlets contain many typographical errors, inaccuracies, and flaws in their footnotes.**

The eighth point of Williams's analysis is important due to the nature of the comments Cameron has made in the past. Almost as disturbing as his methodology is Cameron's attitude. Demonstrated by the quotes at the beginning of this chapter, Cameron sometimes comes across as a cruel, condescending individual who would use his "research" in order to lash out at people. Dr. Stephen Morin, a San Francisco psychologist, once felt the brunt of Cameron's invectives:

"I had an appointment at the medical school at the University of California at San Francisco,

Division of General and Internal Medicine,” he said. “And he (Cameron) proceeded to argue with that the State of California, by employing me was sanctioning my lifestyle and because I was homosexual, I had AIDS, and therefore the State of California was sanctioning my communicating of AIDS to all of my patients.”

Cameron has also said the following about homosexuals and AIDS victims:

*"If I'd bought a bunch of AIDS victims' policies ten years ago, I'd be a billionaire."*

*"Demonize the virus and forget about the carrier? Can't do that. The real issue is not HIV, per se. It's homosexuality. If a person is a thief and spends time thieving, eventually he thinks of himself as a thief. A much larger proportion of women who are bisexual or lesbian admit to cheating on their income tax or thieving."*

In an interview published on October 3, 1996 with [www.westword.com](http://www.westword.com), Cameron admitted that he is biased against gays:

*"Cameron says all scientists bring their biases to work. Many other sex researchers, he says, are 'liars.' He knows he's right. 'Like everybody else,' he says, 'I would prefer to be liked. But I'd rather be correct and on the right side than be loved.'"*

Also, according to Herek, behavioral and social scientist have pretty much ignored Cameron's work and findings. He also said that other than Cameron and his institute, no researcher has ever used his studies, nor has ever cited his papers to prove that homosexuality itself is a danger to society.

Despite all of this, Cameron still continued his "research." This is because, while no credible researcher or scientist has ever used his work, religious conservative organizations continue to use his findings to stop any form of what they call "the gay agenda," including job protection ordinances and hate crime laws:

In 1986, he co-wrote a booklet entitled *Special Report: AIDS*. This booklet advocated locking up homosexuals to preserve public health.

In 1991, backers of Amendment 2 in Colorado, an amendment was created to ban gay-rights ordinances used Cameron's data in their position statement. Also, the week before the 1992 vote over 100,000 pamphlets of one of his pamphlets, *What Homosexuals Do*, went across Colorado. Not surprisingly, the amendment passed.

In 1992, during anti-gay referendum campaign in Colorado Cameron was the "chief scientific consultant" for organizations fighting against the gay laws.

In 1994, when gays and lesbians challenged the validity Amendment 2 in Colorado, state Attorney General Gail Norton paid Cameron \$15,649 for his research and to use him as an "expert

witness.” When informed of his reputation, Norton used neither him nor his research.

However, Cameron’s flaws soon began to haunt him. According to author Wayne Besen in his phenomenal dissection of the “ex-gay” movement, **Anything But Straight**, Cameron became a liability because polls showed that overt attacks on gays and lesbians were backfiring. Besen said religious conservative organizations began to move away from “overt hostility” to the GLBT community:

*“As criticism of their antigay slash-and-burn techniques mounted, influential religious right leaders convoked in 1994 with leading antigay activists, including Cameron, to ask them to tone down their rhetoric.”*

That meant no more “feces eating” references, no more talking of gays being mentally diseased oddballs, or anything that would seem hostile. Religious conservative organizations began to focus more on talking about the “lifestyle” rather than the person. The phraseology changed into gays and lesbians are nice people stuck in a “destructive lifestyle.”

But despite this change in the course of attack, Cameron’s so-called research (under the auspices of another organization he founded, the Family Research Institute) still pops up every now and then:

Family Research Council’s Timothy Dailey’s piece *Homosexual Parenting: Placing Children at Risk*, cites statistics from Cameron and still remains on the Family Research Council webpage.

*Homosexuality: Exposing the Myths* utilizes Cameron’s data and still remains on the Traditional Values Coalition webpage.

The Concerned Women for America continues to utilize Cameron’s data for its own purposes, while at the same time not citing him by name. On April 16, 2005, a column, *Several Reasons to Oppose Same Sex Marriage*, contained this quote:

*“Studies in Omega: The Journal of Death and Dying and the International Journal of Epidemiology indicate that homosexuality can take decades off men’s lives”*

The organization is clearly citing Cameron’s discredited study about the lifespan of gay men. And this brings up an interesting point. In other columns and studies written by other religious conservative organizations, the life span citation is mentioned by the journal it appeared (*Omega: The Journal of Death and Dying*), but no one mentions Cameron as the author of the study:

*According to studies in Omega: The Journal of Death and Dying . . . , the practice of homosexuality can literally take decades off men’s lives. - The Sexual Assault on America - Rev. Mark H. Creech, Agape Press, March. 29, 2004*

*One potent illustration is the apparently significantly shortened life span of homosexuals as a population—even apart from the AIDS epidemic. Striking new research has indicated the median*

*age of death for gay men with AIDS is 39; yet even without AIDS it is only 42! - God's Advice on Sexual Behavior, Part Two - Dr. John Ankerberg and Dr. John Weldon - Ankerberg Theological Research Institute*

Omissions of Cameron's name while citing his discredited studies also include his studies published in *Psychological Reports*. In June 2005, Rev. Bill Banuchi, executive director of the New York chapter of the Christian Coalition said that gays should wear warning labels. His rationale was the following:

*"We put warning labels on cigarette packs because we know that smoking takes one to two years off the average life span, yet we 'celebrate' a lifestyle that we know spreads every kind of sexually transmitted disease and takes at least 20 years off the average life span according to the 2005 issue of the revered scientific journal Psychological Reports" - Christian Coalition: Gay Warning Labels, 365Gay.com, June 13, 2005*

In April 2002, the American Family Association's **Agape Press** quoted Cameron in an article entitled *Children Adopted by Homosexuals Suffer, Family Advocate Says*. The family advocate in the headline was Cameron. The article called him a "founder of a non-profit educational and scientific corporation which studies families." The article conveniently omits his past controversies.

In July of the same year, he was again quoted in another article by **Agape Press** entitled *Picketers Target Famous Zoo for Hosting 'Gay Pride' Event*. Again, his past controversies were omitted.

In November 2004, Grace Christian Church in Woodridge, VA paid for an insert to go into the **Washington Post**. The supplement, entitled *Both Sides Magazine*, was a clear attempt to set the African-American community against the gay community. In this attempt, Cameron's life span study was utilized.

In February 2005, Cameron was an expert witness in front of the Virginia legislature. He was there to make sure a bill keeping gays from adopting children was passed. Cameron repeated the same anti-gay jargon he had made a career on: homosexuals die young and are 34 percent more likely to molest their adopted children than heterosexual parents. However the opponents of the bill had done their homework on him. According to the *Virginia Daily Press*, they grilled him on his background:

*"On questioning, Cameron admitted his lifespan analysis was based on reading the obituary page of the Washington Blade, a gay and lesbian newspaper, and that his molestation statistics had been dismissed by some sociologists as scientifically suspect, based on numerous errors."*

The article also said that he admitted under intense questioning by an opponent of the bill that he was kicked out of the American Psychological Association and was condemned by the American Sociological Association for misrepresenting research.

According to a committee member, Sen. Richard Saslaw D-Fairfax, “This (research) is by a guy we suspect goes around the country trying to stop gay adoption. Mr. Cameron doesn’t have a whole lot of credibility.”

Needless to say, the bill failed.

In March 2005, Cameron proclaimed that according to a new study of his, one third of all child molestations in the foster care system of Illinois are committed by homosexuals. He also said he believes that this figure reflects in the entire United States. Cameron’s announcement received much play in **Agape Press**, which *again* did not mention any of the past controversies regarding his studies and methodologies.

*Wall Street Journal* columnist Carl Bialik took a look at the study. It seems that in Texas, the legislators were attempting to pass a bill with an amendment that would keep same sex couples from adopting children. Cathie Adams of the Texas Eagle Forum group (another so-called traditional values organization) appeared on CNN in a debate. She cited Cameron’s study on Illinois same sex couples.

Bialik said Adams told him that her citation came from an article on the site *WorldDaileyNet* that cited Cameron’s study. This prompted Bialik to take a look at Cameron’s claim. He said that Cameron looked at sexual abuse committed against foster children and children in adoptions as reported to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services from 1997 until 2002. In 270 reports, 34 percent were those of a same sex nature (committed by a male against a male child or committed by a female against a female child). Apparently Cameron took this 34 percent, and using other studies, said that gays make up three percent of the U.S. population. Therefore, Bialik said, Cameron claims that gays and lesbians are more likely to proportionately abuse foster children.

But, Bialik continues, Cameron’s study had a few flaws; the biggest being that Cameron had no information regarding the make up of homes in which the abuse took place. Apparently he assumed that if the gender of both the abuse and the perpetrator were the same, that meant that the abuse was committed by a homosexual. Bialik also said he showed Cameron’s study to experts in psychology, sociology, statistics, and child welfare and none of them gave it approval.

This rebuke did not keep the American Family Association from mentioning Adams and the statistic. In a press release, *Activist Lauds TX Lawmakers for Resisting Homosexual Agenda*, by the American Family Association, she quoted Cameron's study again. However, she conveniently did not mention Cameron's name.

In the same month, copies of Cameron's *the Medical Consequences of What Homosexuals Do* was given to every member of the South Carolina General Assembly as they mulled over an anti-same sex marriage amendment to the state constitution. As a matter of fact, in the same state during a gay pride parade, religious activists were giving out pamphlets that utilized Cameron's work.

The Traditional Values Coalition presently has a study on its webpage, *Exposed: Homosexual Child Molesters*, that also exploits Cameron's notion that if the perpetrator and victim of child molestation is of the same sex, then the perpetrator is gay. It even cites data taken from Cameron but omits him as the source:

*"In 1987, Dr. Stephen Rubin of Whitman College conducted a ten-state study of sex abuse cases involving school teachers. He studied 199 cases. Of those, 122 male teachers had molested girls, while 14 female teachers had molested boys. He also discovered that 59 homosexual male teachers had molested boys and female homosexual teachers had molested girls. In other words, 32 percent of those child molestation cases involved homosexuals. Nearly a third of these cases come from 1-2 percent of the population." - TVC, Exposed: Homosexual Child Molesters.*

*"In 1987, Dr. Stephen Rubin, associate professor of psychology at Whitman College, conducted a 10 state survey and found 199 sexual abuse cases involving teachers. 122 male teachers had abused female pupils and 14 female teachers had abused male students. In 59 cases, however, male teachers had abused male pupils and in 4 cases, female teachers had abused female students (overall 32% were homosexual)." - Paul Cameron, Child Molestation and Homosexuality*

*"Drs. Freund and Heasman of the Clark Institute of Psychiatry in Toronto reviewed two studies on child molesters and calculated that 34% and 32% of sex offenders were homosexual. In cases these doctors handled, 36% of the molesters were homosexual." - TVC, Exposed: Homosexual Child Molesters*

*"Drs. Freund and Heasman of the Clark Institute of Psychiatry in Toronto reviewed two sizeable studies and calculated that 34% and 32% of the offenders against children were homosexual. In cases they had personally handled, homosexuals accounted for 36% of their 457 pedophiles - Paul Cameron, Child Molestation and Homosexuality*

TVC's possible plagiarism of Cameron's data underscores two interesting fallacies.

The first involves Dr. Freund.

John Bancroft of the Kinsey Institute said Freund never made this claim. He said Freund

explicitly pointed out that homosexuals are not more likely than heterosexuals to molest children.

The second fallacy is one that religious conservative studies repeat time and time again independent of Cameron; the idea that if the victim and the perpetrator of a child molestation is of the same sex, then the perpetrator is a homosexual. This fallacy has been proven as incorrect on numerous occasions.

This brings up an interesting point about religious conservative data collecting regarding the gay community. Even when they do not cite Cameron's research, they copy his methodology of distortion in gathering their material. Earlier, I mentioned that the Concerned Women for America used the Cameron study of the gay lifespan in order to claim that homosexuality takes years off of the lives of gay men. Bear in mind that another study in the *International Journal of Epidemiology* was also cited to make this case. However, in 2001, the original researchers of the study in question went on record accusing members of religious conservative organizations of distorting their work. (*This is covered in detail in another report, the Lies of John R. Diggs.*)

In May 2005, Cameron announced the completion of another study that supposedly proved that homosexuality is more dangerous than cigarette smoking and being overweight. What he did was take over 10,000 obituaries from the gay newspaper the Washington Post and compare them to a CDC report entitled *AIDS Cases in Adolescents and Adults, by Age - United States, 1994-2000*. He claimed that this supported his early gay life span study.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) said otherwise.

Ronald Valdiserri, deputy director of the CDC's National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention, said Cameron uses bad methodology. He also said:

*"[The CDC] does not collect statistics on the lifespan of gay men. While gay men continue to be severely impacted by HIV and AIDS, AIDS-related death data cannot be used to indicate that homosexual men live shorter lives than heterosexual men overall."*

The CDC's condemnation meant nothing to the **Agape Press**. In June 2005, it claimed that Cameron's lifepsan study had been proven to be correct.

*"New government research has found what most conservatives have been saying for years about the dangers of the homosexual lifestyle. . ."*

**Agape Press** did not print a rebuttal from the CDC to this statement. One wonders if the newspaper even took the time to seek a rebuttal.

Nor did the CDC's condemnation mean anything to the Southern Baptist Convention. In that same month, the convention looked at a resolution issued by evangelist Voddie Baucham, Jr calling for

churches to “investigate whether their local school district has a ‘gay-straight’ alliance or other homosexual clubs.” The resolution also tells churches to “encourage parents’ removal of their children from schools that have curricula or programs that treat homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle.”

Part of this resolution refers to Cameron’s recent study:

*“Whereas, there is evidence that the homosexual lifestyle reduces life expectancy more than smoking;”*

In May 2005, a 16-year-old teenager by the name of Zach Stark told his parents that he was gay. His parents put him in a reparative, or ex-gay program entitled “Love In Action.” Zach’s situation became widely known because of a blog he was keeping about his coming out. His parents were faced with negative scrutiny as to how they could place their child in such a program.

Zach’s father, Joe Stark, explained their decision on a July episode of Pat Robertson’s “The 700 Club.” One of the reasons he gave cited Cameron’s life span statistic:

*“We felt very good about Zach coming here because... to let him see for himself the destructive lifestyle, what he has to face in the future, and to give him some options that society doesn't give him today,” Stark said. “Knowing that your son... statistics say that by the age of 30 he could either have AIDS or be dead.”*

In June 2005, Texas Governor Rick Perry signed two bills; one dealt with abortion, while the other was a “defense of marriage” bill. Accompanying Governor Perry was televangelist Ron Parsley. Parsley had this to say about homosexuality:

*“Gay sex is a veritable breeding ground for disease. Only one percent of the homosexual population in America will die of old age. The average life expectancy for a homosexual in the United States discounting AIDS is forty-two years of age . . . A lesbian can only expect to live to be forty-five years of age.” **Perry schmoozes with gay bashers, Austin Chronicle, June 10, 2005***

Not only was Parsley quoting a Cameron statistic, but he even generalized about the lesbian population even though lesbians made up only two percent of Cameron’s sample group.

Parsley repeated that lie in an August 9, 2005 issue of **Agape Press**. He said the following:

*“I’m against the homosexual lifestyle because the average life expectancy of a homosexual and a lesbian in the United States is forty-two and forty-five versus seventy-five and seventy-nine. These people are fighting for a lifestyle that is robbing them of half of their life expectancy.” - **Pastor Contends Christians Have An Obligation to Warn Homosexuals, Agape Press, August 9, 2005***

Cameron’s claim that homosexuality is more dangerous than cigarette smoking has even made it way to the lower echelons of the Bush Administration. In July 2005, U.S. Senator Arlen Specter asked

that the national Health and Human Services look at a certain website because it allegedly showed inaccurate information about homosexuality and contraception.

The website, *Aparents.gov*, had information from an organization called the National Physicians Center for Family Resources. Health and Human Services had hired the organization to create its content. The chairman of the National Physicians Center for Family Resources board John Whiffen said the organization was correct regarding what it had printed about homosexuality. He said:

*"It's fairly well-accepted that smoking is not a good idea. It takes seven years off of your life. It appears that male homosexuality takes more than that off your life." - **Specter seeks review of teen health site, Washington Blade, July 29, 2005***

On June 13, 2005, Cameron claimed that a 1996 study by the CDC proved that gays engage in more criminal activity. He said the study was tacked on the National Household Survey of Drug Abuse, which is an annual study that shows the effects of drug abuse. However, another spokesperson for the CDC, Karen Hunter, said such a study does not exist. She said the CDC has never studied homosexual criminal activity in comparison to that of heterosexuals.

On June 21, 2005, Cameron announced that another CDC study claimed that discrimination does not cause GLBTs to abuse drugs. He also claimed that the CDC suppressed this study because of the content.

On July 21, 2005, he published a report that claimed that gays are twice as likely to drive under the influence. "This is further evidence that gays' devil-may-care attitude towards sex spills into other areas as well," he said.

There are those who will ask the question, if Cameron's studies are so bad, then why are they published? In fact, several press releases by Cameron's group claims that his studies appear in "peer reviewed" journals.

This is a half truth.

The bulk, if not all of Cameron's studies are printed in a journal entitled *Psychological Reports*. While it is true that *Psychological Reports* is a "peer reviewed" journal, no reviewer has the power to veto an article. The journal also charges \$27.50 a page for an article to be printed.

The proverbial \$25,000 question is are religious conservative organizations who cite Cameron's work aware of the controversy involving his methodology? Several instances show that they are.

In 2002, Micah Clark, then the executive director of the American Family Association of Indiana spoke in front of the Indianapolis City Council in order to get them reject domestic partners health

benefits for city employees. He quoted a Cameron statistic and was grilled on it by a council member. This is what he said happened:

*“The author of the (domestic partner benefit) bill . . . tried to come at me for using a Paul Cameron study. I diverted that one pretty well by pointing out that I have spoken with Dr. Paul Cameron and her information was wrong. In any event, I said it was published in a well-respected peer review journal and the research has not been disproved. I have been waiting for that one for years.”- Indianapolis Rejects Domestic Partner Benefits, The Concerned Women for America, August 8, 2002*

In 2005, the Boston Globe spotlighted Cameron in an article entitled *Beliefs Drive Research Agenda of New Think Tanks*. According to the article, when the Traditional Values Coalition was asked by the Boston Globe about Cameron, the organization responded by removing all references to Cameron from its website. A spokesperson of the organization said the research had been published on the webpage by mistake.

Interestingly enough, after this article was published, Cameron did not announce any more “new studies.”

What is Cameron’s motivation in his obsession with homosexuality? What fuels it? Definitely he has a monetary need to fulfill, but is there anything else? Various articles have focused on his background and childhood in an attempt to gain the answers. However, focusing on Cameron’s personal life is irrelevant. It would also take attention away from the fact that this man has dedicated himself to maligning the lives of gays and lesbians through lies and distortions. His “research” is still quoted and he is sometimes called upon to repeat his so-called studies. Also, his effect on religious conservatives’ method of data gathering cannot be underestimated. Cameron demonstrates how religious conservative organizations are manipulating the beliefs of people of faith. No doubt Rod Parsley, Vondie Bauchman, Joe Stark, and the rest of those who cite his studies think that they are quoting legitimate studies. This is only because the studies reinforce their Biblically based stereotypes about gays and lesbians. When the religious right make the claim that allowing gay friendly clubs in high school will cause children to become gay and catch HIV, they are using the same illogic that Cameron launch against Dr. Morin. Though they use new distortions to anti-gay theories, it is really Cameron’s theories that these religious conservatives are pushing.

Even more importantly, no religious conservative organization ever repudiated Cameron for his methods or his research, despite the fact that many in the medical and research community has. Cameron crafted research and manipulated legitimate studies in order to prove this and other lies about gays and lesbians. In doing so, he led the way for members of religious conservative organizations to do such with

other studies in order to receive the findings they want. And none of these organizations have ever said they were wrong for using his work.

Paul Cameron is a perfect example of how members of religious conservative organizations exploit the beliefs of people of faith in order to further their agenda. No doubt this report will not change many minds of those who have negative views of homosexuality. However, the truth stands whether it is to be believed or not. What does it say about the morals and values of religious conservative groups who are willing to utilize lies to get their points across?

*Other articles utilized by this report include:*

*All information concerning Paul Cameron as quoted by Dr. Greg Herek taken from*

*[http://psychology.ucdavis.edu/rainbow/html/facts\\_cameron.html](http://psychology.ucdavis.edu/rainbow/html/facts_cameron.html)*

*All information concerning Paul Cameron as quoted by Dr. David Williams taken from*

*<http://www.qrd.org/qrd/religioin/anti/cameron/background.and.rebuttal>*

*The Man Behind the Myths: A Report on Paul Cameron, The Chief Anti-Gay Researcher of the*

*Theocratic Right - <http://www.ziplink.net/~glwn/cameron.html>*

*The Medical Consequences of What Homosexuals Do - Paul Cameron, Ph.D.*

*Child Molestation and Homosexuality - Paul Cameron, Ph.D.*

*Homosexuality: The Truth - Pastor Ralph Ovadal*

*Exposed: Homosexual Child Molesters - The Traditional Values Coalition*

*Who is Paul Cameron? (And why is he saying those awful things?) - Egale Canada*

*God's Advice on Sexual Behavior - Part Two - Dr. John Ankerberg and Dr. John Weldon*

*Paul Cameron Exposed - [www.10percent.org/facts\\_cameron\\_smile3.html](http://www.10percent.org/facts_cameron_smile3.html)*

*Paul Cameron, The Advocate, October 29, 1985*

*Paul Cameron, professional sham, The New Republic, October 3, 1994*

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*The Holy War on Gays, Rolling Stone, March 18, 1999*

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*The Sexual Assault on America, Agape Press, March 29, 2004*

*Author Calls on Editor of Divisive, Anti-gay Advertising Insert to Apologize for Defaming the gay*

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*The Star Witness for bill's sponsor faces harsh criticism from a Senate committee, Dailey Press (Virginia) February 17, 2005*

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*Debate over Gay Foster Parents Shines Light on Dubious Stat, The Wall Street Journal, April 28, 2005*

*Evangelist Proposes to Combat Homosexual Agenda in Public Education, Agape Press, May 11, 2005*

*Naked City: Perry schmoozes with gay bashers, Austin Chronicle, June 10, 2005*

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*Is homosexuality to blame for church sex scandal?, USAToday, July 17, 2005*

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*Beliefs drive agenda of new research think tanks, Boston Globe, July 31, 2005*

*Pastor Contends Christians have obligation to warn homosexuals, Agape Press, August 9, 2005*

**Family Research Press Releases:**

*CDC Study - - Gays More Criminal, June 13, 2005*

*Discrimination Does Not Cause Gays to Abuse Drugs says Family Research Institute, June 21, 2005*

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*Gays Twice as Apt to Drive Under the Influence says Family Research Institute, July 21, 2005*