

Nambla leader fired from teaching post

by Jeffrey Steinberg

The New York City Board of Education voted unanimously in September to fire physics teacher Peter Melzer from his post at the prestigious Bronx High School of Science, after a WNBC-TV series exposed Melzer as a leader of the North American Man/Boy Love Association (Nambla), the nation's most active pedophile ring.

Over the past 10 years, 15 Nambla members have been convicted and jailed for pornography, kidnapping, sexual abuse, and related crimes. The FBI estimates that the group has 1,000 members, and suspects Nambla of being engaged in a worldwide child slavery ring. Recently, the FBI busted up a child pornography ring operating in 40 locations in 15 states across the country, which federal officials suspect of being linked to Nambla.

Pedophiles in the classroom

On March 2, 3 and 5, 1993, WNBC-TV aired an exposé, "The Nambla Tapes," by reporter John Miller, revealing that three leading members of the New York City Nambla chapter were current or former New York City public school employees, all working directly with students. Melzer, a longtime Bronx Science teacher, was for years the editor of the *Nambla Bulletin* and the secretary of the group. Chris Ash, a more recent Nambla recruit, is still a school librarian at George Washington High School in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan. And up until 1990, Roy B. Radow, another Nambla member, was a school psychologist at Public School 75 in Queens, where he specialized in dealing with children with severe behavioral problems.

WNBC spent five months infiltrating a reporter into the New York City Nambla chapter, and managed to covertly videotape several recruitment sessions and chapter meetings at such locales as a pizza shop near Times Square and the atrium of the Citicorp building in Midtown Manhattan. The television series featured Melzer instructing other Nambla members employed by the New York system to keep their membership a secret until after they obtain tenure.

Most revealing, however, was Melzer's boasting that he had been able to sidestep a 1985 Board of Education probe of his Nambla links, gloating to fellow pedophiles at one chapter meeting that board officials "had their teeth gnashed because they couldn't find anything to nail me on." The Board of Education probe was initiated by the New York

Police Department, which had infiltrated an officer of its morals squad, Kevin Healy, into the steering committee of Nambla. Melzer had boasted to Healy about a trip to the Philippines to attend an international teachers' conference where he also indulged in sex with children. While Melzer claimed that there were no legal grounds to fire him or prosecute him, sources close to the Board of Education believe that it was the appointment of Robert Wagner, Jr. as school chancellor that saved Melzer's job.

Study called for Melzer's firing

Although the school chancellor and the principal at Bronx Science had known about Melzer's Nambla membership since 1985, other teachers at the school and parents were kept in the dark until the March 1993 WNBC-TV broadcasts. Parents wasted no time in demanding Melzer's removal. Melzer, who was on sabbatical, was barred from even entering school property unescorted once the probe was launched.

In September 1993, Edward F. Stancik, Special Commissioner of Investigations for the New York City School District, issued a report calling for Melzer's firing. The report, "An Investigation into Misconduct Relating to Pedophilia by Peter Melzer, a Teacher at the Bronx High School of Science," was prepared by Special Counsel Sean Courtney. A carefully worded and well-documented 47-page report, with nearly 100 pages of appended Nambla documents, the study found that even if there were no evidence that Melzer had sexually abused any students at Bronx Science, his public advocacy of pedophilia and his association with a group linked to child pornography, kidnappings, and the dissemination of techniques for seducing and manipulating minors into sexual perversion, warranted his removal.

"It is clear," the report concludes, "that the Board of Education's interest in removing Melzer from the classroom is overwhelming. Based on the evidence we have produced on Melzer's pedophilia, his having acted on sexual desires for children, and his active promotion of sexual abuse of children, parents can reasonably fear for their children's safety if entrusted to his care. . . . Even beyond the risk Melzer poses, the articles he wrote or published promoted the sexual abuse of children and others. There is no way of knowing, of course, how many children were sexually assaulted with the assistance of the advice rendered in the *Nambla Bulletin*, but the risk of such abuse cannot be said to be removed."

The firing of Melzer in and of itself, however, offers little comfort to parents and teachers fighting to keep the New York public schools from being overrun by perverts and brainwashers. The forces that mobilized a year ago to force the firing of School Chancellor Joseph Fernandez, for his advocacy of the "Rainbow Curriculum" of radical multiculturalism and homosexuality, made a rotten compromise, allowing the appointment of a successor, Raymond Cortines, who is an advocate of the same curriculum that prompted Fernandez's ouster in the first place.