

President's Col. con't from Page 1
official APA spokes-person on the adolescent death penalty issue. The American Psychiatric Association decided it preferred the brief we sponsored to that written by the American Psychological Association whose brief they signed onto in the mental retardation case. However, despite all this organizational support for our position in which ASAP received recognition, there is no way to know how the Supreme Court will rule.

We currently are considering signing onto a brief in a Kansas case. Kansas considers sex between consenting adolescents illegal. The problem arose because the Kansas attorney general has determined that such consensual sex between adolescents is child abuse. That would suggest

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that therapists are required to report such consensual sex to authorities or to be subject to penalties themselves. Clearly that would have a chilling effect on therapy with adolescents since a substantial number engage in sexual experimentation while adolescents. There used to be an unofficial five-year rule in which a five-year difference was necessary to prosecute somebody for sex. Although I have not heard anything like what is happening in Kansas elsewhere, there has been an eroding of the five year rule in many parts of the country. I have asked Dr. Huffine who is chair of our topical studies committee to develop a position statement on the issue since neither the APA, AACAP, nor we currently have one.

As you can see ASAP is quite active in ways that belie our small size. We are revising our bylaws and trying to find ways to streamline costs. Dr. Ratner is ably representing us in the Assembly, and a number of ASAP members are involved in APA components. We have been supportive of the American Board of Forensic Psychiatry under Dr. Weissman's able leadership. Our addiction committee chaired by Dr. Beckson remains active and put on a superb ses-

sion on this subject in Los Angeles that is being published in our Annals under the excellent leadership of Dr. Flaherty. We hope you will encourage colleagues to join ASAP and especially help recruit those just out of training. ASAP occupies a special niche for those adult psychiatrists who treat adolescents or college students who can undergo a protracted adolescence. In these difficult economic times we need to increase our membership to remain strong.

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you've ever eaten. I daresay you may never eat them anywhere else ever again. It's like comparing cubic zirconium to real diamond. Another must for me, along with all the others, is Crescent City Beignets which has wonderful café au lait and beignets just like the Café du Monde in New Orleans, the Crescent City. I think the beignets here are even better because they're made to order rather than mass produced. Recently they've started offering lunch complete with muffulettas and po-boys. If you've simply got to have more Louisiana gumbo and crawfish etoufee, go to the Ragin' Cajun. The food isn't particularly memorable, but you can find yours truly in the LSU Gumbo, college yearbook, though I'm not disclosing the year other than to say it was in the last century.

March is a great time of year in Houston, so it ought to be fun. See you there.

Reducing Youth Violence: New Findings from the CDC's Task Force on Community Preventive Services

Therapeutic foster care programs led to a 70 percent reduction in violent crimes among adolescents ages 12 to 18 who had a history of chronic delinquency when compared with standard residential treatment facility programs for youths the same age, according to a systematic evidence review conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Task Force on Community Preventive Services.

In addition, one study reviewed by the CDC's Task Force showed that for every \$1 spent on therapeutic foster care, compared with standard group care for chronically delinquent youth, an estimated \$14 was saved in court and corrections system costs. The findings were reported in the July 1 issue of the Recommendations and Reports series of the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report and are part of the Guide to Community Preventive Services.

The Community Task Force is supported by CDC and is generally recognized as the gold standard for effectiveness reviews of population-based interventions. It helps to give public health decision makers important information about what works, how well, for whom, and in what settings in terms of population based interventions designed to improve health and prevent disease, illness, and injury.

For more information, visit <http://www.thecommunityguide.org>. The first printed version of the Community Guide will be published in late 2004. The CDC's Task Force on Community Preventive Services and the AHRQ-sponsored U.S. Preventive Services Task Force issue evidence-based recommendations for both clinical and community populations

Max Sugar

For over 40 years, Dr. Max Sugar served as a committed faculty member in the Department of psychiatry at the LSU School of Medicine. He initiated the child Psychiatry program in the department and served as its first section head. He is currently an Emeritus Professor of clinical psychiatry at the LSU School of Medicine. His research with premature infants led to new understandings of development and the discovery of two new infant reflexes. Dr. Sugar is considered one of the pioneers in the promotion of group therapy as well as instrumental in the recognition and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder in children and adolescents. He published a hundred and 25 articles and has edited BID/or or third 10 books.

Dr. sugar founded the New Orleans society for adolescence Psychiatry and served as its first president. He also served as the

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