

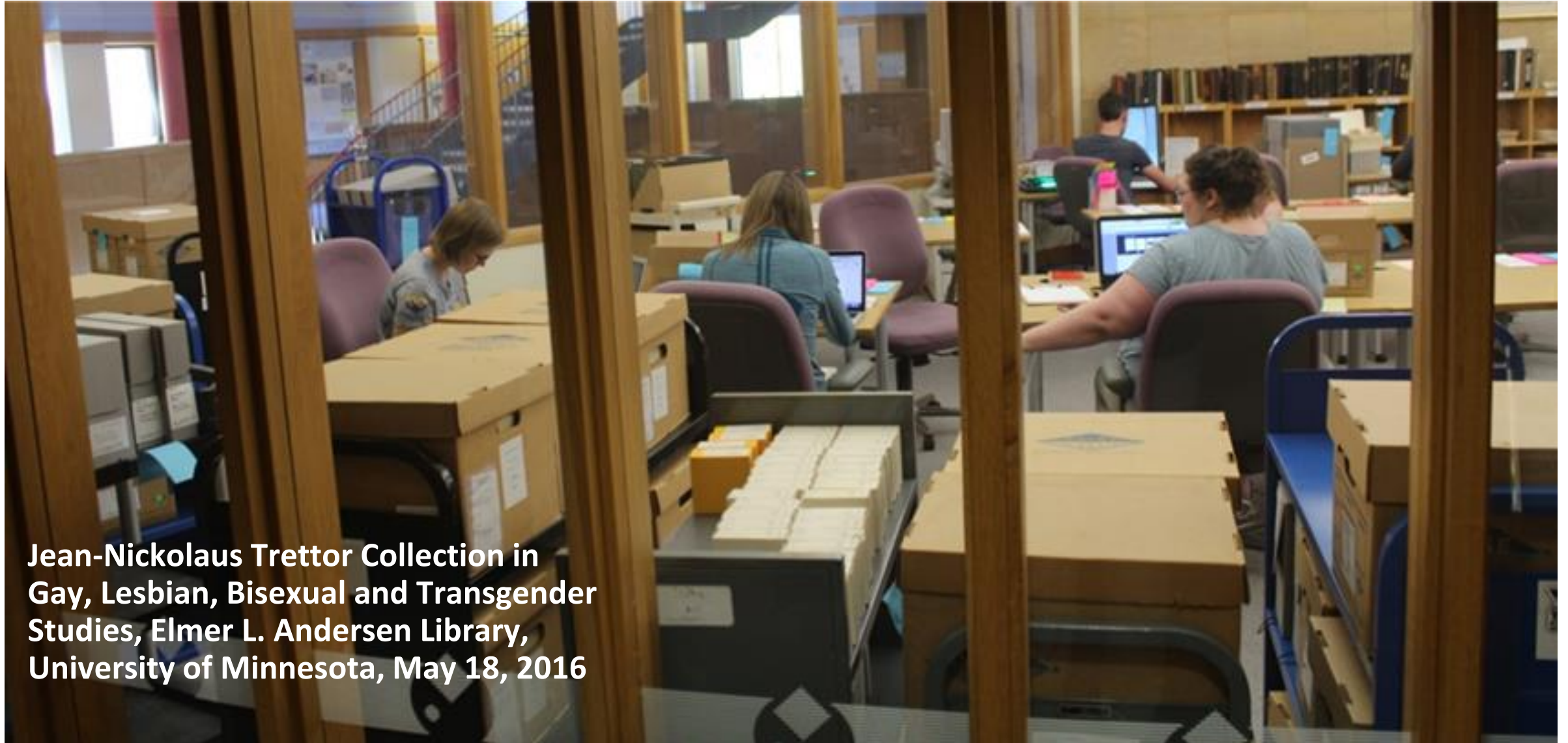
Beginnings of the Network for LGBTQIA+ Concerns in Occupational Therapy in the United States (1992-1995)

Peggy Martin, PhD, OTR/L, University of Minnesota

Christine Peters, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Historian, New York

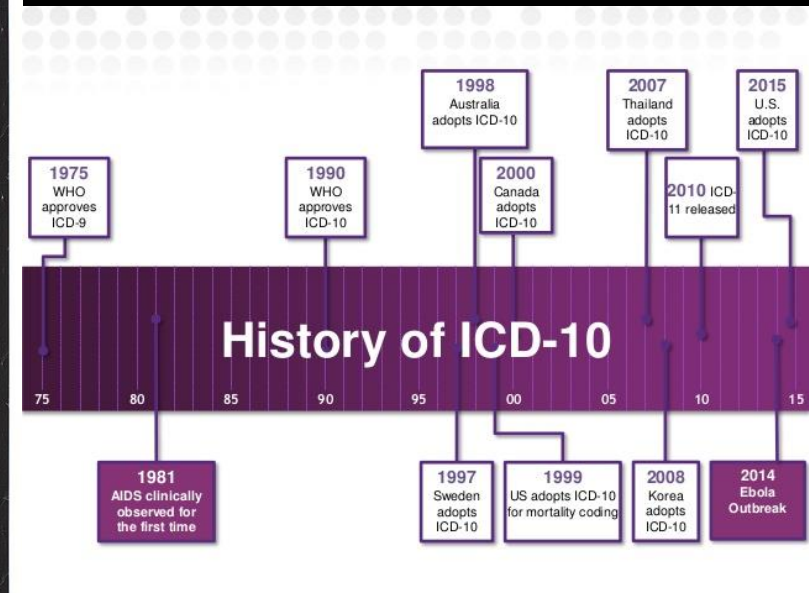
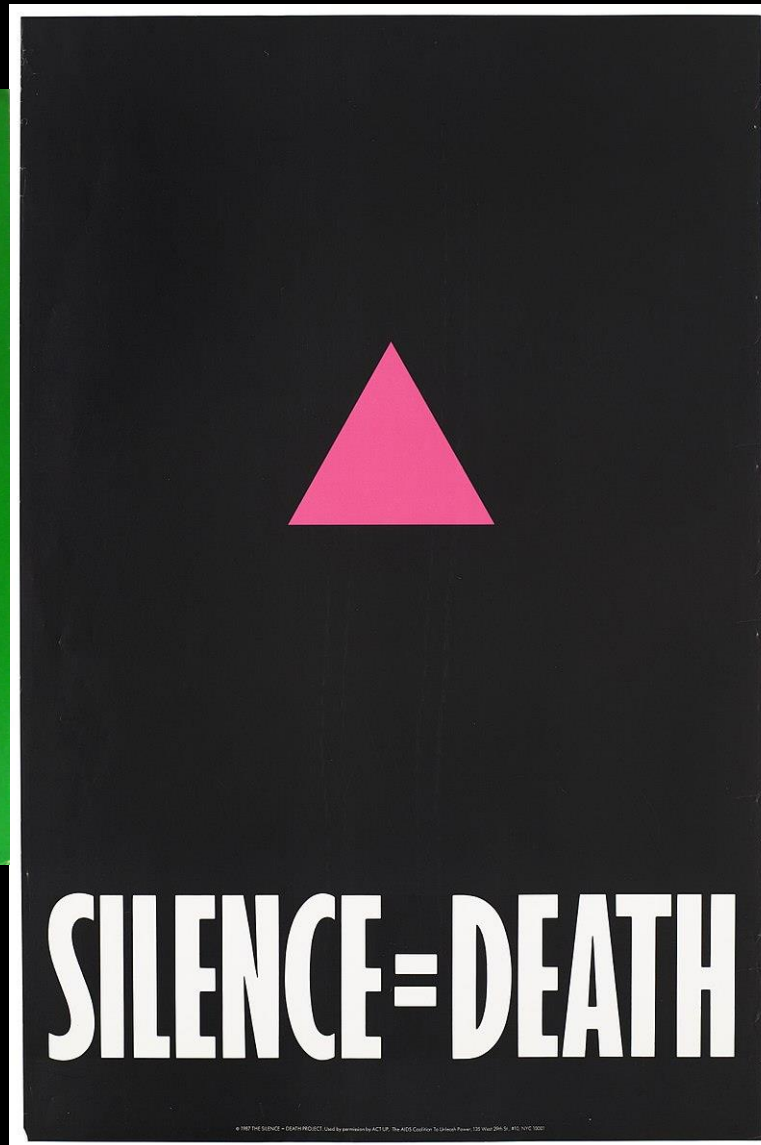
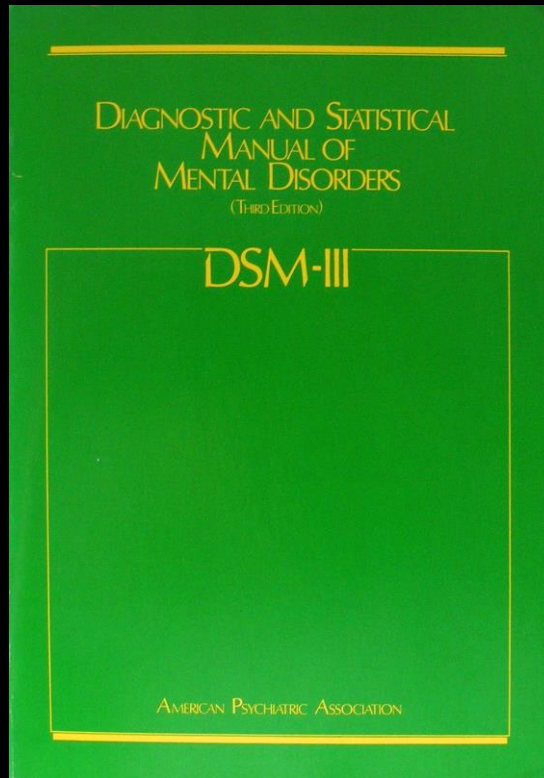
Wanda Mahoney, PhD, OTR/L, Midwestern University, Illinois

Historical Method

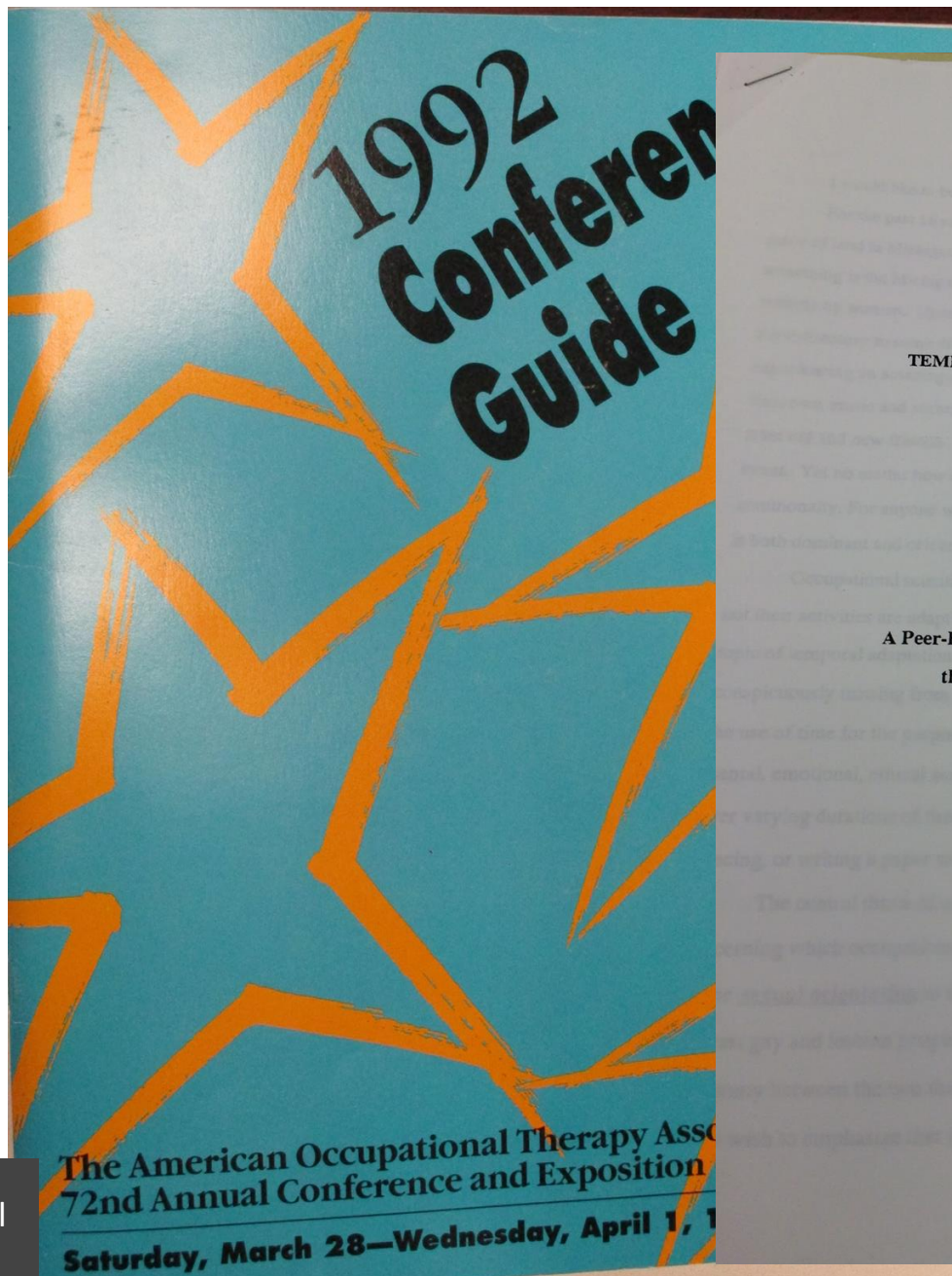


**Jean-Nickolaus Trettor Collection in
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender
Studies, Elmer L. Andersen Library,
University of Minnesota, May 18, 2016**

Behind Closed Doors: 1980's-1990's



The Hotel Room



Trettor Collection (Box 2),
University of Minnesota

Panel 103E 1:30–3:00 pm
■ **Temporal Adaptation and Human Occupation**
Moderator: Florence Clark, PhD, OTR, FAOTA

Temporal Adaptation and Self-Identification as Lesbian or Gay
Wendy Wood, MA, OTR/L, *University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA.*
Does sexual orientation influence temporal adaptation? A literature review and pilot study with lesbians and gay men suggest that it does. Implications for practice and occupational science are developed.

Relationship Between Themes of Meaning and Daily Occupations
Jeanne Jackson, MA, OTR, *University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA.*
The relationship of personal themes of meaning to the choice of daily occupation in the adolescent, adult, and elderly are discussed. Implications for practice are outlined.

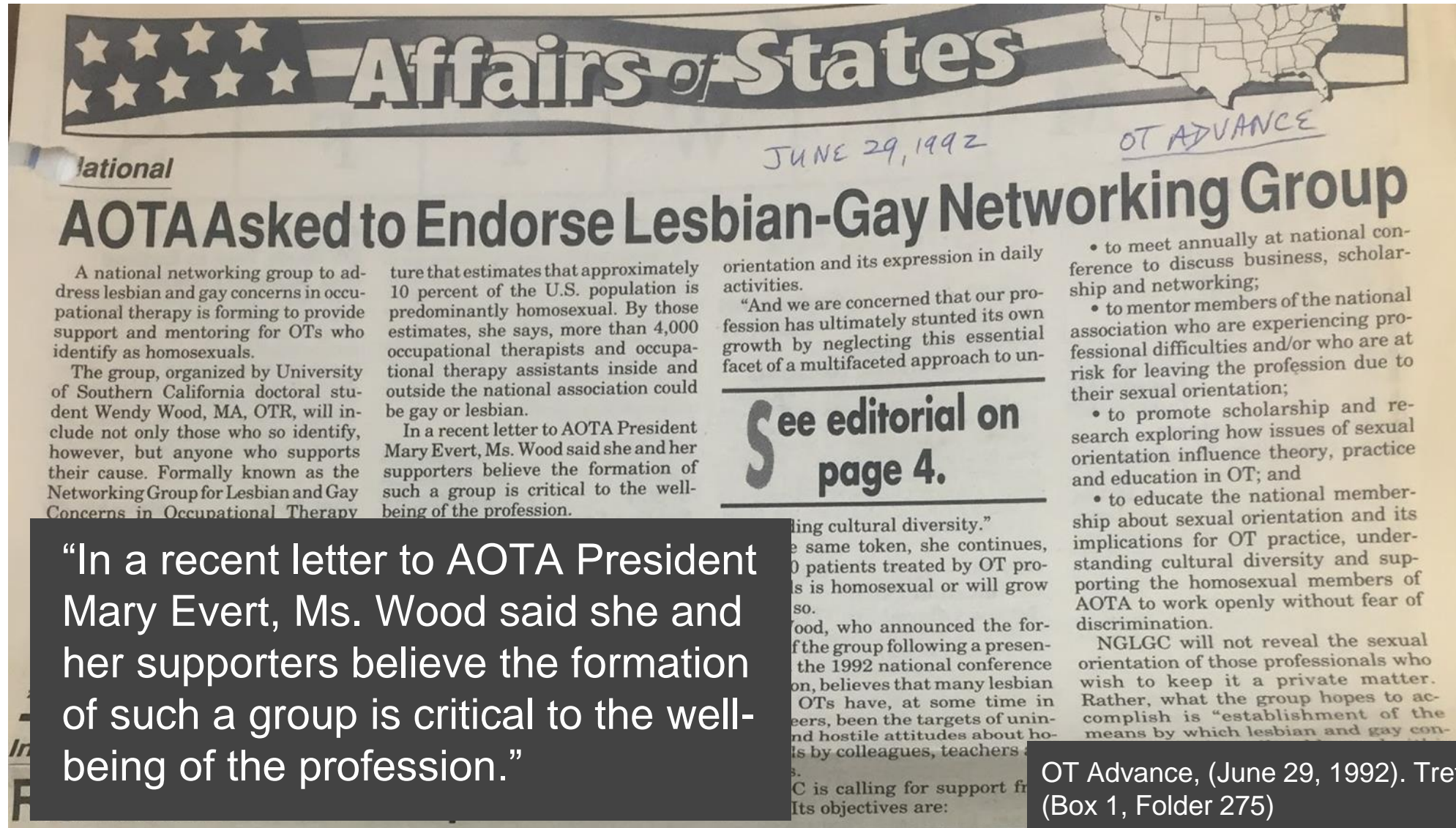
Wilma West Library, American Occupational Therapy Association, Bethesda, MD, USA

TEMPORAL ADAPTATION AND SELF-IDENTIFICATION
AS LESBIAN OR GAY
by
Wendy Wood, MA, OTR

A Peer-Reviewed Paper Presented at the Annual Conference of
the American Occupational Therapy Association
March 29, 1992
Houston, Texas

THE PRESENTATION
IN HOUSTON, 1992
THAT STARTED
IT ALL

Network Opens Door



"In a recent letter to AOTA President Mary Evert, Ms. Wood said she and her supporters believe the formation of such a group is critical to the well-being of the profession."

OT Advance, (June 29, 1992). Trettor collection (Box 1, Folder 275)

Hear Our Voices: A Discourse

LETTERS to the Editor A Stand for the Minority

Editor's note: The following letters, which respond to the formation of the Network for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns in Occupational Therapy, will be the last ADVANCE will run on the issue. We thank our readers for their many responses, an outpouring of feeling that we hope has helped many OTs begin to break down the fear and silence that separates them from colleagues of dissimilar sexual orientation.

To the Editor:
I am writing to express my support for the Network for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns in Occupational Therapy.

I wish to express my appreciation to the organizers of the network for their foresight, courage and effort. I have always been enriched by hearing the voices of those who have been marginalized.

My life, my practice, and my teaching are enriched by these perspectives, which are otherwise inaccessible to me as a

To the Editor:
I feel compelled to join the discussion stimulated by the article on the Networking Group for Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns in the June 29th ADVANCE. Speaking from the perspective of a heterosexual male occupational therapist, I'd like to relate how easy it has been for me to unintentionally practice bias through naivete, and then why I feel it is important to support the efforts of the network.

Until I knew friends who were openly homosexual and willing to educate me about their histories, I had never imagined the implications of a homosexual orientation for OT practice, education, and personal relationships. I now think that my previous (and current) biases

white, middle class, heterosexual, female occupational therapist. From the voices of the Network for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns in Occupational Therapy, the Black Caucus, the Hispanic Network, and others I will continue to learn about my social embeddedness in heterosexual, Euroamerican, middle class conceptualizations.

In regard to the objections raised to the network, I see these as activities which overtly and covertly silence the voices of marginalized people. It is typical behavior of the mainstream dominant element of any group to obscure the issue and deny validity to claims to knowledge of those considered to be outsiders or minorities.

I am privileged to stand with those whose voices have not been heard within the profession.

Bonnie Lynn Kennedy, MEPD, OTR
South Pasadena, CA

ignorance with devastating results for free speech and pursuit of the basic rights Americans have come to expect.

Supporters of this measure misled the public by using the slogan "no special rights" in an attempt to counter the trend of including sexual orientation in non-discriminatory rules and regulations. In fact, their legislation actually denies the right of openly homosexual people to be hired by public institutions, including schools. Follow-up reports have shown that many who voted for this ordinance were actually ignorant of the full impact of its passage.

An example of naive bias on a more personal note comes from my experience as an occupational therapist in the multicultural environment of Malaysia, and a half there, now I had been guests and neighbors. I was the "rich" who had to borrow household furnishings on the local

religious group, I representative of the nation of local people, who came to to sidestep their to know me for spiritual representation and different work in order to understand effects of naive association and,

te, MA, OTR/L
Forest Grove, OR

Oops!
Through an editing error in the Aug. 24 edition, the name of the late A. Jean Ayres was unintentionally misspelled in the story "Hawaiian OTs Look at Educational Kinesiology."

• For an excellent perspective on how homosexuality impacts patients in the legal and health care systems, see the videotape *Lifetime Commitment*, distributed by Wolf Video, PO Box 64, New Almaden, CA 95042.

Aug. 31, 1992

24, 1992 LETTERS to the Editor Degrades Sexuality

just the issue of support, but also of

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"I, however, cannot condone the practice of it, as the Bible is clear that the practice of homosexuality is wrong"

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concerned with the app- autonomy and wellness. Sexuality is an integral part of wellness and wholeness. Yet pornography cheapens sexuality. It presents an object for viewing, something that has been altered by photography for seemingly physical perfection.

It does not present sexuality with wholeness based in its expression in a mutual giving relationship, but replaces sexual beings with sexual objects.

If wellness and wholeness are our foundation in occupational therapy, why contradict this by degrading sexuality in support of autonomy?

One again needs to consider the holistic view and effects of suggestions and actions taken. I appreciate the effort of ADVANCE to inform us all of the events in our nation. Margaret B. Grimm, OTR/L
Lisbon, NY

AUG. 10, 1992 LETTERS to the Editor

et's Not Divide Ourselves

he Editor:
In response to recent articles on the "Union of a caucus for homosexual OTs" (ADVANCE, June 29), we would like to express our view that we do not see any one in such a group within the profession of occupational therapy!

is has nothing to do with "homophobia" or our personal opinions of any particular lifestyle. We just do not see personal sexual preferences should be a basis for forming a group! If so, we also have one for bisexuals, lesbian, or asexual? This could also extend into areas of religion. Maybe we should have interest groups for Jews, Moslems, Christians?

As OTs, we need to be united to be strong! We don't need little groups within the profession that have their own agenda. We realize our views will most likely be taken as "anti-homosexual." However, if you listen to what we have said with an open mind, we don't think that conclusion can truly be drawn.

Amy Compliment, COTA
Kim Oxford, OTR
Kim Zepeda, OTR
Houston, TX

do certain groups (racial, sexual, etc.) feel they have to have the recognition and approval of everyone? Formation of

Network Seeks to Unite OTs

Editor:
The Network for Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns in Occupational Therapy is a network of therapists who are concerned with the well-being of their hard work and profession. Moreover, the Network is open to anyone who is committed to addressing the needs of sexual minorities in OT. We believe that to accomplish our objectives we must specifically name ourselves as lesbian, gay and bisexual in our intent in doing so is to nurture and contribute to occupational therapy's professional community, not to divide it. Because OTs openly identify as gay or bisexual, they have not been suggested by T. Weaver, that they are not health care professionals. T. Weaver suggest that OTs identify as heterosexual—as they do and are free to do on at work or school—have forgotten they are educators, students or workers first? Of course not! Why do we who are not heterosexual be any less committed to their professional

Americans. But numbers are not the real issue. It is the false assumption that homophobia only hurts sexual minorities. This assumption is not only divisive but potentially dangerous, because it fails to understand that we all lose when people's genuine differences are not understood and respected.

To reduce the Network to a superficial analysis of "political correctness" is to miss the point entirely. The Network is committed to helping AOTA continue creating a professional heritage we can all be proud of. This heritage celebrates its membership's diversity and boasts its practitioners' skills in treating all patients, whatever their particular constellations of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, class, spiritual beliefs or abilities.

I invite T. Weaver to join hands with us in this effort.

Letters to the Editor, (August 10-31, 1992). Jean-Nikolaus Trettor Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies (Box 1, Folder 275), University of Minnesota

Storming Seattle: 1993 AOTA Conference

Gay Rights Move Surprises RA

By E.J. Brown
Editor

Lesbian, gay and bisexual issues will become an official focus of the 1995 national AOTA conference in Denver, CO, as the executive board of the American Occupational Therapy Association carries out a charge by the 1993 Representative Assembly to address those issues in a conference dedicated to "Celebrating Human Diversity."

According to framers of the proposal, such action by the board will allegedly prevent a boycott of the conference by OT gay rights supporters, in a state where recent legislation has attempted to limit the legal rights of people who are gay.

RA members voted to support the conference theme; however, they turned down a demand to devote an entire general session of the 1995 conference to the homosexuality issue. Meanwhile, the assembly will also charge the executive board with updating AOTA's Equal Rights for Human Beings policy to specifically include sexual orientation as a "protected status."

The policy, first passed in 1976 and last amended two years ago, applies, among other things, to hiring policies in the national office.

Though it wasn't the only bold move on the chess board at this year's meeting, the attempt by the Network for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns to gain some control of the conference content was the most surprising one. And it may

the agenda late Saturday afternoon. The package was co-sponsored by Michael Nardone of Rhode Island and Frank Gainer of the District of Columbia.

The rationale of the sponsors as to amending the Equal Rights policy to include sexual orientation was partly tied to the fact that AOTA's national offices lie in Montgomery County, MD, where the



Pennsylvania representative Rick Allison: warns of conference boycott. (photo by E.J. Brown)

rights of men and women who are homosexual are protected.

As it now stands, the second paragraph of the Equal Rights for Human Beings policy reads: "Every individual is entitled to a maximum opportunity to develop

words "sexual orientation" in that list. AOTA President Mary Evert eventually withdrew an attempt to have the general assembly reword the policy to include "health status" and replace the words "handicap" and "sex" with "disability" and "gender" to make the entire policy more inclusive. She will have the executive board look at that possibility, she said.

When questioned as to why his proposals were not made resolutions and brought before the membership, Allison said that the motions were in response to two immediate circumstances: Montgomery County's advocacy law and a recent attempt in Colorado to pass what he and other gay rights supporters consider "repressive" legislation against people who are homosexual.

"Given that the executive board has voted to hold the 1995 annual conference in Denver...in spite of indications of strong opposition...it is imperative that the board be responsive to membership concerns on this issue...to prevent a boycott of the conference by members," Allison told his colleagues.

Debate over the conference question was sharper than over amending the equal rights policy.

"I have a little concern about the Representative Assembly starting to manage the national conference in terms of sessions," said Ms. Evert in response to the sponsors' demands for a plenary session devoted to homosexuality issues. She amended the proposal to strike the words "plenary" and pluralize "session," in fact creating a circumstance in which workshops and technical sessions might address those issues but conference organizers would be freed from having to

make the issues a primary focus of the event.

The assembly voted with her in that matter, adopting the amendment with a standing vote of 53, despite voiced opposition from the Commission

"Though it wasn't the only move on the chess board at this year's meeting, the attempt by the Network for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns to gain some control of the conference content was the most surprising one. And it may have generated far more debate than was heard on the floor of the assembly."

Brown, E.J. (June 28, 1993). Advance for OT, p. 11, Jean-Nikolaus Trettor Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies (Box1, Folder 275), University of Minnesota

push for gay rights should go. Results of the survey will be published in the next edition of the newsmagazine. ■

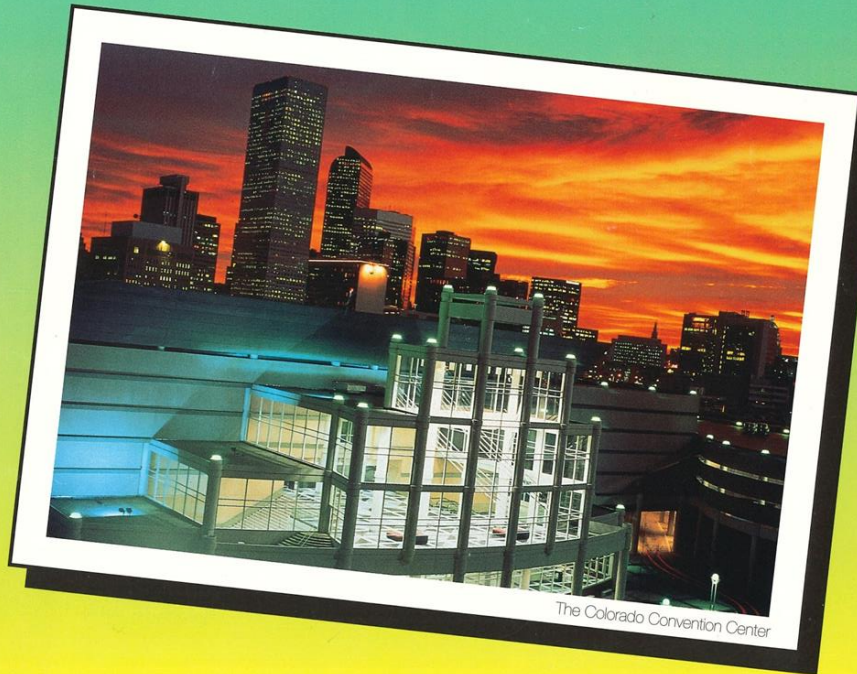
Conference Guide

The American Occupational Therapy Association's
1995 Annual Conference and Exposition

Saturday, April 8 – Wednesday, April 12, 1995

Colorado Convention Center
Denver, Colorado

The Wilma L. West Library



The Colorado Convention Center

Diversity: Our Journey Together

(Evert, 1995, Presidential
Welcome, Conference
Guide)

Wilma West Library, American
Occupational Therapy Association

Acknowledgments

Lisa Vecoli, Curator, Jean-Nickolaus Tretter archival collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies at the University of Minnesota which houses the Network founding documents.

Mindy Hecker, Librarian at the Wilma West Library at the American Occupational Therapy Association

Researchers value the scholarship of 3 groups of University of Minnesota students

2017- Samira Mohmand, Brooke Falk, Caitlin Fortin, Sheila Bosc

2016- Andrea Porter-Smith, Carly Strickler, Jill Venter

2015- Nora Brand, Sally Paul, Leah Rodmyre

