

TRANSITIONS

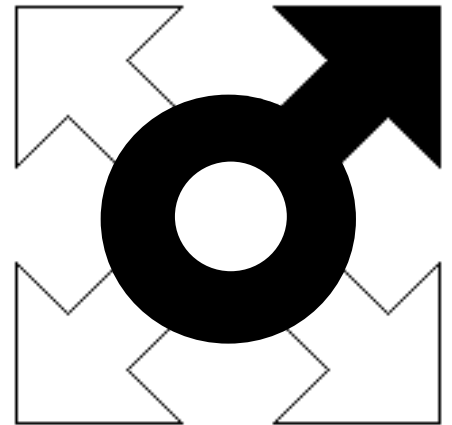
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Domestic Violence in the Jewish Community -- An Honest Approach

By Eric Soll

Bowing to pressure from various feminist interests, the Jewish community has allocated significant resources to combat domestic violence in the Jewish community. Domestic violence in the Jewish community, as elsewhere, is defined by domestic violence advocates as violence perpetrated by males against females. Jewish domestic violence organizations have been established and integrated within most Jewish communities. Rabbis, Jewish family service employees, Jewish youth workers as well as members of the community are being educated and mobilized to confront and combat male domestic violence against Jewish women. Rabbis are speaking out against domestic violence from their pulpits, youth workers are educating Jewish youth about the dangers of domestic violence, and professionals and community leaders are organizing various programs to educate and combat domestic violence in the Jewish community. Jewish men are organizing their own groups to educate other Jewish men about the evils of male domestic violence. Domestic violence perpetrated against Jewish women has become a major issue in the Jewish community.

One study that measured rates of domestic violence amongst various male ethnic groups concluded that Jewish men had one of the lowest rates of domestic violence amongst all ethnic groups. This seemingly good news is routinely ignored by Jewish community domestic violence advocates.

A candid review of all the domestic violence research would also reveal that female on male violence is just as pervasive both in its

frequency and its intensity as male on female violence. Violence committed by women against men is the most underreported crime in the United States. Men are ashamed and embarrassed to report to authorities that they are being abused by their wives and intimates.

When most police answer a domestic violence call, they generally assume the male is responsible for any disturbance. As a result of these assumptions, women almost never enter the criminal justice system for adjudication. Thus the official crime statistics that are reverently cited by most domestic violence advocates are not reflective of the true numbers of females that are actually violent domestic batterers.

Research that conclusively proves that female on male violence is just as pervasive as male on female violence is routinely ignored and never reported by most domestic violence advocates.

A famous study which focused on lesbian violence discovered that lesbians commit the same level and intensity of domestic violence against their lesbian partners as do heterosexual males. Domestic violence is not solely a male phenomenon.

Violence perpetrated against men by women is often greeted with amusement and derision. What male worth his masculine salt is going to inform his buddies, his co-workers, his doctor, or any other individual that his wife is beating him, pushing him, orally attacking him, or controlling him? As a result, there is a self imposed conspiracy of silence amongst most males regarding this matter.

In the infamous Bobbit matter, Mrs. Bobbit sliced off most of Mr. Bobbit's penis to demonstrate disapproval

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Editor's Comment

For this issue, I'm very happy to have another conference report to make. This one will be shorter than the AMSA report because I won't have to explain how the hosting organization differs from NCFM, thank goodness.

From July 15-16, Peter Allemano and I attended the Second National Men's Equality Congress in Washington D.C. You can still get information about the conference at www.trueequality.com.

The first day of the conference was devoted to lobbying. Attendees visited their representatives to talk about whichever men's issue was important to them. Since the Judiciary Committee was scheduled to hold a hearing on the Violence Against Women Act the next week, many chose that as their topic. Tom Golden, one of the conference organizers, made VAWA handouts available for everyone to use. I was assigned the task of getting this material into the Inbox of half of the senators in the

Russell building. Tom wanted to make sure all representatives heard our side of the issue.

After the lobbying effort, we all formed up in front of the Supreme Court for a protest. Carnell Smith led some cheers for parental rights. I'll always remember his yelling "Who's the best parent?!" And we'd all answer "BOTH PARENTS!!!"

Saturday the conference followed the schedule of presentations and break-out sessions. As you can see from the website, there was an impressive line-up of presenters: Warren Farrell, David Burroughs, Glenn Sacks, Steven Baskerville, Carnell Smith, Jack Kammer, and more.

Warren had a keynote presentation where he discussed his most recent book, *Why Men Earn More*. He talked about the wage gap myth and why he believed it is our society's most harmful attack on men's well-being today.

Due to the timing of the conference, though, VAWA was the hot topic. David Burroughs has been very active on this issue, so he talked about progress that's been made and what to do from here on out.

Kudos go to NCFM's own Peter Allemano. He worked with me to set up a NCFM table at the event, and arranged for us to sell books for Warren Farrell (we didn't do half bad, either). And, he performed his Gloria Smashem skit with Ed Bartlett, which the attendees thoroughly enjoyed.

All-in-all, this conference was outstanding. The organizers did a great job. It's only in its second year and it's quickly becoming one of the most important annual events of the men's movement. I heartily recommend that everyone try to make it next year.

Jason Leatherman

Domestic Violence

Continued from Page 1

of his extramarital affairs. Comediennes laughed and joked about that incident for months. Jewish domestic violence groups as well as all domestic violence groups were "missing in action" when it came to condemning that horrific act of male genital mutilation. When many women argued in the domestic media that Mr. Bobbit deserved that punishment, those pronouncements were greeted with continued silence from these domestic violence organizations.

There are a myriad of domestic violence organizations throughout the United States. Massive amounts of public and private funding has been directed to those organizations, and help and counseling for all females is readily available.

Funding allocated for Jewish domestic violence organizations and programs is poorly targeted for the following reasons: The Jewish

community is facing a crisis of intermarriage and assimilation. Even in modern feminist feminized America, it is still the male that is the initiator of

"What male worth his masculine salt is going to inform his buddies, his co-workers, his doctor, or any other individual that his wife is beating him, pushing him, orally attacking him, or controlling him? As a result, there is a self imposed conspiracy of silence amongst most males regarding this matter."

most relationships. Most Jewish men have demonstrated by their actions that Jewish women do not make suitable

dating or marriage partners for them. In the last fifteen years, almost 60% of non-Orthodox Jewish males who have married have married non-Jewish women. While the destruction of the Jewish community continues unabated, valuable resources which should be used to confront this problem are being directed at duplicating domestic violence programs which are readily available for all Jewish women in the secular community.

Proponents of Jewish domestic violence programs refuse to acknowledge the following:

A majority of single non-Orthodox Jewish men date non-Jewish women. Those Jewish men do not batter Jewish women, as they are not available to interact with Jewish women.

Currently, a majority of non-Orthodox Jewish men are marrying non-Jewish women. Those Jewish men will

also not be in a position to batter Jewish women.

Presently, a majority of non-Orthodox Jewish men have little or no involvement in the Jewish community. They are not attending any synagogue or active in any other Jewish organization and will not receive any anti-domestic violence message delivered by the Jewish community.

Most offspring from one and even two Jewish parents are not involved in the Jewish community. Those children will not be attending any synagogue or be present at any organization or activity to receive any anti-domestic violence message.

Many non-Orthodox Jewish women date and marry non-Jewish men. Often it is non-Jewish men who batter Jewish women. Those non-Jewish men are also not members of the Jewish community, and will not benefit from any anti-domestic violence message presented by the Jewish community.

As domestic violence programs proliferate in the Jewish community,

most Jewish men know full well there is a fair amount of hypocrisy that always accompanies these programs. Most Jewish men understand that many Jewish women are domestic violence perpetrators, but yet are never singled out for any attention or remedial action by the Jewish community. To focus on Jewish women and the reality of their domestic violence would be a violation of domestic violence orthodoxy. In addition, many Jewish men understand that many Jewish women are battered by non-Jewish men. These women have voluntarily chosen to associate with these non-Jewish men, but yet their misfortune and poor judgment is transformed into a domestic violence problem that is the concern of the Jewish community (i.e. - a problem caused by Jewish men).

Pundits have commented on the declining numbers of Jewish men attending synagogues, community centers, and other Jewish activities. Perhaps the declining number of Jewish men in all facets of Jewish organized

life can be attributed in part to the refusal of many Jewish men to be blamed for a problem not solely of their making. These Jewish men understand that the issue of domestic violence in the Jewish community is not being presented in a fair and honest manner. Synagogues and Jewish organizations, traditionally sanctuaries for spiritual and physical rejuvenation, have been transformed into little more than unpleasant places where Jewish men are exposed to and defined by feminist ideology and dogma.

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Eric S Soll has a Masters Degree of Social Work as well as a law degree. He has been employed in the Jewish community and practiced as an attorney, where he dealt in part with many custody and domestic violence issues and allegations, as well as testifying as an expert witness. Currently he and his wife operate a wholesale sales business together.

TRANSITIONS

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Why Men Die First

Author Unknown

If you put a woman on a pedestal and try to protect her from the rat race, you're a male chauvinist. If you stay home and do the housework, you're a pansy.

If you work too hard, there is never any time for her. If you don't work enough, you're a good-for-nothing bum.

If she has a boring repetitive job with low pay, this is exploitation. If you have a boring repetitive job with low pay, you should get off your lazy behind and find something better.

If you get a promotion ahead of her, that is favoritism. If she gets a job ahead of you, it's equal opportunity.

If you mention how nice she looks, it's sexual harassment. If you keep quiet, it's male indifference.

If you cry, you're a wimp. If you don't, you're an insensitive jerk.

If you make a decision without consulting her, you're a chauvinist. If she makes a decision without consulting you, she's a liberated woman.

If you ask her to do something she doesn't enjoy, that's domination. If she asks you, it's a favor.

If you appreciate the female form and frilly underwear, you're a pervert. If you don't, you're gay.

If you like a woman to shave her legs and keep in shape, you're sexist. If you don't, you're unromantic.

If you try to keep yourself in shape, you're vain. If you don't, you're a slob.

If you buy her flowers, you're after something. If you don't, you're not thoughtful.

If you're proud of your achievements, you're full of yourself. If you're not, you're not ambitious.

If she has a headache, she's tired. If you have a headache, you don't love her anymore.

If you want it too often, you're oversexed. If you don't, there must be someone else.

Men die first because they want to!

Book Reviews

By J. Steven Svoboda

If Men Have All the Power, How Come Women Make the Rules? (2nd edition)

By Jack Kammer

Halethorpe, MD: Ruly Mob; June 2002. www.rulymob.com. 224 pages. Download "on honor system" with agreement to pay author what the book is worth to you or purchase print version for \$14.95 including shipping in North America.

Jack Kammer has done one of the hardest of all tasks — writing a book that is such a smooth read and so enjoyable that it provokes the reaction, "Anyone could do that." Well, anyone couldn't do it, but

fortunately one man could and did. Kammer, author of the excellent 1994 work *Good Will Toward Men*, could not find a publishing house willing to accept this book. Surely there is no work of comparable quality, accessibility, and substance *in any other field whatsoever* that would not be able to find publication. Kammer therefore took matters into his own hands, issuing the work in an attractive format through the Ruly Mob website.

If Men Have All the Power combines humor, a broad range of quotations, and a number of unique insights with a highly accessible format. Kammer's book scatters 122 numbered thought-

provoking statements and anecdotes throughout its pages, judiciously interspersing selected excerpts from authors on both sides of men's rights and a number of original pieces by Kammer himself.

I enjoyed Kammer's question in item number 21 asking: "Young men are subject to the military draft in case of national military emergencies. Why aren't young women being drafted now to alleviate the day care crisis? Is one idea sexist and the other not?" For item 24, the author comes up with a delightful metaphor: "Women's power is the opposite of monumental. It's like wall-to-wall carpeting, or a snowfall, everywhere and unavoidable,

not concentrated into a few narrow, vertical monuments, like men's." This has the added attraction of summarizing Kammer's point to his class as a new seventh-grade teacher in 1974. The new teacher showed his class that while boys' and girls' misbehavior patterns are different, their total "badness" is about the same. Boys tend to misbehave dramatically in short bursts, while girls more typically do "little" things like whispering or giggling, but for a much longer period of time. Kammer reports, "Naturally enough the boys were happy with this enlightened standard of justice and discipline. But to my delight, the girls, too, liked the fact that somebody had called them on their game."

Calling feminists on their game is a specialty of Jack Kammer's. In item number 97 he proposes the following deal: "We'll make sure that women are equally represented in corporate boardrooms when they make sure we are equally represented among employees who take family leave." In item number 99, the author notes, "It is widely reported that men's standard of living goes up after divorce. But did any financial advisor ever tell you to get married, raise kids and then have your wife divorce you so your standard of living would go up?" Kammer proposes that instead we "focus on the Standard of Loving, a measure of the affection, caring and closeness that one feels with one's children' it clearly plummets for most fathers after divorce." Particularly fascinating is the long list of items considered at one time to be effeminate that Kammer builds into a story about a football player. (Examples of historical symbols of a supposed lack of masculinity: a forward pass in football, wearing a football helmet, smoking cigarettes, wearing a wristwatch, using gloves, using an umbrella, undoing the top buttons on one's shirt, using hot water, using soap, wearing clean underwear.)

Word-for-word, Jack Kammer has created one of the most accessible, quickest-reading, enjoyable and comprehensive surveys of the men's movement ever written. *If Men Have All the Power* would also make an excellent introduction to the issues for an intelligent, busy newcomer to our movement. I already referred my own brother to it!

Why Boys Don't Talk and Why We Care: A Mother's Guide to Connection.

By Susan Morris Shaffer and Linda Perlman Gordon.

Chevy Chase, Maryland: Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium, 2000. 164 pages.

Susan Morris Shaffer and Linda Perlman Gordon have written a short, accessible, comprehensive and quite superb overview of the state of boys in America today. Although they have evidently spent decades toiling away on government-funded "gender-equity" and supervised visitation projects, both of these women are fair-minded enough, intelligent enough and

resourceful enough to have thought through a multitude of boy-related issues on their own. Their book synthesizes many of the most useful results of more recognized and sometimes more long-winded authors such as William Pollack.

Shaffer and Gordon have been working with and, more importantly, listening to boys (and girls) for many years, and it shows. Often it is the details rather than the big picture that demonstrates the authors' understanding of males. They mention the revealing fact that while all the parents of daughters with whom they spoke require their child to call if their plans change during the course of an evening, very few have a similar arrangement with their sons. Starting from one mother's comment on the silence of fishing as a bonding experience for males, the authors extract some fruitful speculations about the feminization of society: "Perhaps our very concept of what it means to be connected it based on a female model that needs to be adjusted to meet males' different needs."

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Letters Campaign

In recent years we have learned that writing letters to media people, advertisers of products, politicians, publishers, etc., can have an effect, especially if there is a group of letter writers willing to mobilize under the direction of a coordinator. We want you to write to our coordinator and volunteer to be contacted to write letters and we would appreciate knowing about any ideas you have for campaigns.

Please volunteer and write to:

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Reviews

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Later, they aptly broaden a proposition we more often hear being applied to girls, suggesting that a “lack of exposure to a wide variety of male role models can have the effect of limiting boys’ choices, career options, and plans for the future.”

What boys really need is both independence and boundaries, or “‘sponsored independence,’ abandoning the artificial choice currently offered to our boys of distancing themselves from their parents or feeling too involved with them.” Shaffer and Gordon have found that “while autonomy is extremely important for [boys], they don’t want it at the expense of losing closeness with others.” We do not have to look far to see evidence that closeness is important to boys; the authors note that all the boys with whom they have spoken who are relatively successful in school mention at least one adult whom they trust.

The numerous axes along which parents treat boys differently than girls are deftly sketched in one page — reduced protectiveness, talking about crying less and anger more, being more suspicious of their conduct. Shaffer and Gordon observe that boys, unlike girls, often feel constrained by social expectations when they choose extracurricular activities. They follow an excellent summary of boys’ academic problems with a review of data on learning disabilities, noting the need for research as to why a disproportionate number of males require special education.

The authors have thrown in a generous number of sidebars including statistical summaries, tabulations of pertinent issues, and questionnaires for parents to assess how they are doing and how their boys may be doing. Some of the most useful of these include a three-page questionnaire to help parents to assess their parenting style, a series of exercises offering readers some brief experiential tastes of gender and race bias in the media, a list of do’s and don’ts of raising sons, and a quiz compiling “startling statements” about boys and males such as the lifespan difference and the fact that boys comprise 71% of school suspensions. One of the most valuable is an admirably detailed two-page survey of different learning styles enabling parents to determine which types of educational experiences best suit their son’s abilities.

A 12-page closing section outlining thirteen strategies for parents is a gold mine of suggestions for parents. Personal stories we tell our children about our own life experiences will reach them in a way that lecturing never can. While we trust our own instincts about what is good for our son, we should also be teaching them to trust their own instincts about themselves. Support the importance of girls as friends for your boys; often girls give back to them the pieces of themselves that we unconsciously ask our boys to give up. Offer alternative movies that depict boys and men as caring and connected, and be patient when your son seems to be ignoring

your ideas. (He’ll probably integrate your views into his value system, but you will be the last to know!) Set firm, consistent, but not rigid limits for your son, such as an age-appropriate curfew, even though he will fight you. Allow privileges such as cars based on how he maintains the car and follows other rules. Encourage communication by — among other things — sharing your own feelings, using brief statements, giving him space, and backing off after touching on feelings so as to give him space. Advocate with his school for a variety of learning strategies including those techniques which allow your son to learn best.

Even the appendices are invaluable, including the single page listing 14 principles of positive parenting and the discussion of gang participation and weapon use and what to do if you expect your boy is involved in either. The authors’ 22-page list of references and bibliography makes crystal clear what is already obvious from perusing their text: despite the puzzling absence of Drs. Warren Farrell and Kyle Pruett, Shaffer and Gordon have done their homework in spades. I also appreciated the many ways in which they go beyond sketching the problem to propose potential solutions. They counsel readers to model emotional communication for their sons by discussing their feelings with them. Like Michael Gurian, they stress the importance of chores as confidence-builders for children but they go one step beyond Gurian in suggesting that both boys and girls be given a range of chores so as to teach both “outside the home skills” and “inside the home skills.” Shaffer and Gordon suggest that parents who praise each of their children at least twice a day will be able to maintain a positive relationship with them regardless of whatever problems they may encounter.

The book is not without its flaws. One highly regrettable chart on “violence as a gender issue” reproduces feminist lies that 95% of domestic violence and child sexual abuse and 100% of rape is committed by men. Short shrift is given to consideration of institutional forces leading boys to the crisis they are in today, though given the authors’ ties to the feminist establishment it may not be surprising that they do not wish to chop off the hand holding their meal ticket. Since the entire back cover is devoted to a highly laudatory review by a father, Lee

Volunteer Needed for Men’s Hotline

NCFM is in need of someone to operate our “hotline”. What this means is that you would get about one call every week or two from someone needing assistance. You should be familiar with the court system as well as men’s resources and be able to offer some support to callers. All calls are returned COLLECT, so you won’t incur any costs. If this sounds like something you’d like to try, please contact Naomi at 516-482-6378 or susansusansusan@hotmail.com.

Canter, it seems a bit odd that the book is purportedly aimed only at mothers, though fathers willing — like Canter — to overlook their exclusion can still profit handsomely from reading it.

Despite the fact that boys are in most areas and by most measures doing abysmally today, jargon-free and boy-friendly books like this one should help alert mainstream folks to the crisis and may even assist the process of enlisting political and grass-roots support for extensive retooling of society's approach to boys. *Why Boys Don't Talk* is remarkable for its boy-friendly and even male-friendly tone despite its authors' feminist alliances, and for its razor-sharp distillation of the rapidly mounting mass of data on boys. While it should prove invaluable to loan to and hopefully help convert a skeptical relative or friend, it is also an indispensable resource for anyone who cares about boys to have on hand.

Angry Young Men: How Parents, Teachers, and Counselors Can Help "Bad Boys" Become Good Men

By Aaron Kipnis, Ph.D.

277 pages. New York: Jossey-Bass, Inc., 1999. (888)378-2537, fax (800)605-2665.

With his most recent book about how we can help bad boys to grow into good men, Aaron Kipnis has outdone himself. The Santa Barbara-based psychologist/author has created a book which left this reviewer almost speechless in admiration. It is impressive enough that despite the growing number of books addressing masculinity and gender issues and the understandable tendency toward specialization, Kipnis' third book manages to stake out its own unique territory. It is equally noteworthy that the quality of the writing and analysis here at least matches and probably exceeds the masterful standard attained by his first two works, *Knights Without Armor* (addressing addiction and recovery) and *Gender War, Gender Peace*, later retitled *What Women and Men Really Want* (a book on gender and relationships co-written with his wife). But what is bound to strike any reader is Kipnis' potent combination of personal revelation and multi-pronged political synthesis, and his phenomenal facility at integrating information from almost as many areas of life and knowledge as today's complex world can boast.

Kipnis is probably close to unique among leading men's movement authors in that he himself was a genuine angry young man, growing up under very troubled circumstances, often living on the street, routinely committing petty crimes, in and out of institutions. In many situations, he was the only Jew, further accentuating the feelings of isolation which, he helps us to realize, often underlie bad boys' behavior.

He devotes a chapter to each of seven paths which can lead to prison: home, school, the street, juvenile institutions, drugs, youth crime and gangs, and the criminal justice system. Each chapter (except for the last, where he substitutes others' stories since he was able to avoid the adult justice system) interweaves Kipnis' own compelling (and hitherto unrevealed) personal story with facts and analysis setting the larger context.

Kipnis has a zinger of a personal story to tell, all the more compelling given its utter typicalness among bad boys. Left alone by his neglectful mother at age two to fall out of a laundry sink and crack his skull on a radiator, two years later he was allowed to tumble out of her speeding car's backseat and down the middle of the freeway. From that beginning, he moved on to repeated violent conflicts with his stepfather, nicknamed "Zombie," which ended only when Kipnis threatened the adult's life by brandishing a hunting knife. At age eleven, he spent his first time in jail. Like all the other onlookers, he found himself continuing to shower and saying nothing as a gang of older boys repeatedly raped a thirteen-year-old kid named Peter in the shower. Later that day, while sitting on the toilet which was in full view of everyone,

REVIEWS continues next page

Special Thanks Due

Special thanks are in order to the following recent financial contributors. Your donations make a great deal of difference.

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Reviews

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Peter fell over and landed hard on the floor with a sickening thud, blood streaming down his legs because he had sliced his testicles with a razor blade.

In the coming years, Kipnis becomes a street hustler, giving oral sex to pasty men and rifling cars for spare change and a place to sleep for a night. The story grows worse when the author reaches juvenile detention institutions, where he is forced to sleep under his bed to avoid the endemic violence and rape and, much worse, to endure the unspeakable loneliness, boredom and sensory deprivation of life in the hole of solitary confinement.

Intermingled with his personal tale of his own seven circles of hell, Kipnis has compiled a wealth of information and insight, much of which will be new to the reader, in formulation if not in fact. Girls are favored for adoption over boys by a ratio of two to one. Our adolescent male homicide rate averages fifty times that of Japan. The main organizing principle for gangs is not hate but fear. One third of California boys fail to graduate with their class. Despite being outnumbered three to one in Washington's community colleges, males still out-fail females by the same ratio. Seventy percent of juvenile delinquents have learning disabilities, and 80-90% of all felons are high school dropouts. Ritalin treats our need for control more than it does our children's needs; why don't we give unimaginative children marijuana?

Kipnis' book is virtually bursting with facts. Adults kill more kids in a week than are killed by other kids at our schools in a year. Male-on-male sexual assault is often not even counted as rape. Our nation's capital has more students in jail than in public university, and more money was spent in 1995 building prisons than universities. \$7-11 is saved for each dollar spent on drug treatment and prevention programs. The big business of corporate prisons is chillingly recounted, with Kipnis coyly providing the stock exchange ticker symbol for each company he discusses. The many stunning parallels between prison labor and slavery are spelled out, as are the similarities between leper colonies of the past and our treatment of young men today.

Each of these chapters ends with a series of constructive suggestions on how we can help angry young men to avoid those

particular pitfalls. Some of his suggestions have been made before, and some will be difficult to implement, but many are new and creative and challenging to our society, with its tendency to vilify individuals and focus on piecemeal rather than integrated solutions. Kipnis repeatedly, in a variety of different contexts, stresses the immense value of just one committed adult mentor who advocates for a child and stays with him through the twists and turns his life may take, modeling the desired behavior for him without shame but with encouragement and respect. Kipnis' own experiment in creating a more boy-friendly reading environment showed that reading comprehension and verbal skills would shoot up while behavior problems declined, simply by allowing boys to escape a cramped classroom and walk around on a football field while their teacher read to them. Midnight basketball programs dramatically reduce juvenile crime at a cost of pennies per child.

So excellent is this book that while I was originally put off by Robert Bly's back cover blurb unqualifiedly labeling it "one of the most important books written in the past decade," by the end I was in virtually full agreement with Bly. It is hard for me to find it in my heart to offer any criticism at all of this splendid work, but I will note that Kipnis has a regrettable tendency to advertise his own work whenever discussing any particular intervention or prevention strategy. Also, at times his tale of earning A's at university once he overcame his problematic beginnings enables him to skirt the issue of how well his ideas can be expected to fare with boys of less exceptional talent and darker skin tones. If Kipnis had been able to use more space, some of the ideas which he only has time to mention in passing might have been fleshed out more fully. The proposed solutions occasionally tantalize as they flash across the screen of the book. But the author does an impressive job of making the most of the 234 pages he is allotted for the body of the book.

Angry Young Men begins and ends with a tale which, the author notes, though small, contains "the core of what I have attempted to voice in this book." There was a boy named Carlos living near Kipnis who may in his noisy shiftlessness have provided the author, now a successful

professional, with an unwelcome reminder of his own roots. Struggling to contain his irritation with this child, Kipnis eventually finds himself hiring a boy to help organize his office as he works on this book. In one of those divine Shakespearean coincidences, the boy assigned by the agency to do the work was Carlos, this same "troublemaker."

In the end, a real rapprochement was attained by the two of them, a minor-key variation on the sorts of bonds evidently forged at the transformational public dialogs co-organized by the author and attended by all different segments of society — police, delinquent boys, parents, educators, judges, ex-gang members, etc. Kipnis' closing note on the close encounter with Carlos and on his book aptly sums up his message, "A compassionate heart and courage to risk a little goes a long way." Ultimately, almost despite itself, *Angry Young Men* is a tale of hope, of the kindness of countercultural strangers and the staff at UCLA's Neuropsychiatric Institute, of a parole officer who helped Kipnis to leave his past behind and even of a bum in the bushes who once gave the author his last fifty cents for a bed. Kipnis' combination of realism and inspiration flows like the finest of wines. Miss it at your peril!

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What's Happening??

National Coalition of Free Men News

NCFM HIRES SACKS MEDIA GROUP TO REDESIGN WEBSITE

(By Mike Rother)

The board of NCFM has decided to hire a professional web designer to overhaul the NCFM website. Keep an eye on the website in the coming month, and witness the transformation! NCFM has hired Sacks Media Group, LLC, operated by Glenn Sacks (www.GlennSacks.com) to take over handling of the website and overhaul the site's design. In addition, our

website will be integrated into HisSide.com and GlennSacks.com, and we'll get advertising on those sites as well. Chapters of NCFM will be able to have their sites maintained by Glenn's company also, for a nominal fee.

WEB SITES TO WATCH

(By Jason Leatherman)

I received a note from Jeff Opperman encouraging me to check out his site, "Hugs to Heartbreak" at

www.hugstoheartbreak.com. It discusses Parental Alienation Syndrome. Interested members may appreciate the articles posted there.

More on the humorous side, many members have been having a good time over at www.feministing.com, a blog site for anti-feminist satire. Peter Allemano highly recommends it.

Letters to the Editor

Editorial Policy: *NCFM and the Transitions staff welcome letters from readers and will print them as space allows. We reserve the right to edit letters for editorial style and space restrictions but will continue to publish letters in their entirety when possible. Send article responses, corrections, or other comments about the newsletter itself to the Editor: Jason Leatherman at jwleath@yahoo.com. Letters sent directly to the Editor will be addressed "Dear Editor". Send opinions, stories, requests for advice, or other letters to the Webmaster: nCFM@nCFM.org. Letters sent to the Webmaster will be addressed "Dear NCFM".*

DEAREEDITOR:

My name is Dominic Coughlin, I live in Rochester, NH and I am a single parent of 2 children and we are a family in a Serious CRISIS. My biological Mother and Grandmother of my children, offered to babysit my children during my divorce for a few months, after my wife who has been ill emotionally, had abandoned both me and our children. During that time my biological mother became obsessed with my children and essentially kidnapped them by making false accusations about me, exploiting my divorce, and through the manipulation of

the laws, and even more disturbing, my trust. I called the Rochester Police and the NH Dept of Human Services when this happened; they said there is nothing they can do. I called the human services and police dept. where my children are residing and they said there is nothing they can do. It is a CIVIL MATTER. She callously executed a deceptive and nefarious plan to take my children away from their parents and has made every effort to keep them, with total disregard for my children, only thinking about herself. She has gone from being the Grandmother to their keeper and punisher, she has even been physically and verbally abusive with my children, I have fought, I have made reports and nothing is done.

I have spent almost \$25,000 in the last year and a half in voluntary support, benefits and fighting for my children and their return, and the State of NH has not afforded me and my children ANY Protection or Assistance instead, the State of NH is demanding that I pay CHILD SUPPORT, while the mother is free from all responsibility, taking away any financial resources I have to fight for my children and meet my basic needs for quality of life. I have exhausted all of my financial resources, I can no longer afford legal

counsel, I cannot get pro-bono and I cannot afford reduced fee programs. My children are to be returned through a transitional phase, but the grandmother is fighting this and with the child support order taking half of my monthly income, I cannot meet the transitional obligations to my children or fight this anymore. I will lose my children, worst of all is my children will lose their family and home and the State of NH has done NOTHING, except persecute the big bad dead beat father, who has only spent \$25,000 on his children — apparently that's not enough!

Instances like this have happened before all across America by grandparents whose relationship and affection for their grandchildren had risen to an unhealthy level and nothing is ever done, no laws have been put into place to protect families from these types of attacks, it is a civil matter, so they say. What is even worse is they can use the system to take away your means to fight and take any action, by holding a child support order over your head, which the Office of Child Support loves to do, especially to MEN. Something has to be done!!!! Now I, a husband whose wife has

LETTERS continues next page

Letters

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abandoned him and her children, a father who has fought tirelessly and selflessly for his children, am being persecuted by the State in where he resides, instead of protected or assisted, which violates my constitutional rights. Where is justice when you need it?!!!!!!!!

I am contacting several Media outlets, Father's Right's groups and the Governor's Office, hoping to get assistance, coverage and attention to this so this does not happen to another NH family and bring attention to the way in which child support laws, are and have historically been biased towards men and single fathers, and recklessly wielded as weapon against men, as it is being done to me now and at the expense of losing my children.

Dominic Coughlin
(603) 330-0995

DEAREEDITOR:

I have a good friend who is going through the nightmare of false accusations. He had been dating a woman non-exclusively who was divorcing her husband. Her husband is a police officer (not a good idea but never the less). Mike had told her on several occasions that he had no interest in sleeping with her while she was married and that it would be discussed after her divorce. She apparently didn't believe him. (All men want is sex, right?) He reiterated this feeling again over a dinner date and she became furious with him. Two days later he was arrested and charged with harassment, stalking, casing her residence, and burglary (she had given him a picture of herself and then later claimed that he had stolen it).

He was jailed for seven days upon his arrest and the bail was put at \$100,000.00. He has claimed innocence of all charges and explained that the police officer, the woman's husband still, appeared at his hearing and claimed that Mike was a dangerous man and a threat to the public. And that he could prove it! Hence the high bail and seven days.

Mike has no, I repeat NO criminal record. The officer was obviously not aware of this but told the court otherwise. Mike's lawyer, a local lawyer, is not working to help

Mike. After all was said and done, the judge (a feminist male) and our local D.A. (a feminazi woman) has offered him a deal. Enter guilty on second degree burglary and they will drop the other charges. He didn't steal anything. This man is not guilty. All of this so far has been on a woman's "accusation" and a police officer's lie.

I advised Mike to get a lawyer from out of town since Newport is a little hotbed of feminism and all the courts and lawyers are friends and work together (small town stuff). Mike has no money for this. He is a carpenter and works seasonally. He has already spent close to thirty five hundred dollars just to get out of jail and pay his lawyer so far. Mike is being railroaded. I know the judge, I know the D.A., and I know the lawyer. They are in full knowledge that they have made a terrible mistake and that there is no evidence. No evidence at all! Let alone proof that Mike has done anything what so ever. They have no record from the police that Mike is a bad guy. The policeman lied, the woman lied. And the court is trying to get out of it by getting him to cop to a crime. I am furious.

I have known Mike since we were six years old. I have never in my life seen Mike do the slightest violent thing. Yes he has been angry but not ever violent or even out of control. His violence is the testimony of the policeman.

Now they are in trouble and collusion is obvious. They should drop all charges and leave him alone. But that would be admitting they screwed up big time. Mike needs help.

If anyone knows of a good lawyer that is aggressive and hates this kind of behavior from the system, I could use some names. I am even willing to help Mike with some of the bill. AND I'm not made of money either. In my opinion Mike has been subjected to false arrest, held over for a lengthy period in jail and being railroaded by a bunch of man-hating jerks that are all in collusion. Not to mention the humiliation and embarrassment of all this. I told him that he should not ever cop to something that he did not do and nobody has even the slightest evidence of, just to get the local authorities off his back. Mike needs help. This is a common problem around here and it has to stop. It's a witch hunt. This stuff

makes the Spanish inquisition look like child's play! Men are constantly being charged and penalized by our D.A. and the court system with out the slightest evidence. Just a lady's word — an accusation. It is scary around here. Please help!

Nicholas Wisner
Newport, Oregon.
nwisner33@hotmail.com

DEAREEDITOR:

Please help my husband! He was recently wrongfully convicted of crimes he DID NOT commit. His ex-wife wanted to make sure he was punished for leaving her, (to be with me). He is currently in jail, waiting to go to prison. We are too poor for a private lawyer and had to put his life in the hands of a public defender. We are currently filing appeals, but need support of others who may have been the victim of an angry ex-wife or husband who sets out to legally harass you and ruin your life. My husband obtained a restraining order on his ex-wife, and one hour after she was served with the restraining order, she went to the police station and claimed he sexually abused her daughter for 5 years. Oddly enough though the child had never told anyone of the abuse ever before. Not one person in 5 years. The police's investigation consisted of talking to the alleged victim, and her mother. The police never talked to my husband, they only arrested him. We went to trial, the state had absolutely NO physical evidence. A doctor who specializes in sexually abused children had examined the child and testified to the fact that although the mother and the child were claiming there was penetration, that the child had NEVER been penetrated. We had a lot in our defense, such as the fact that the mother had done the same thing to her first husband in her first divorce, and the fact the mother's own friend was willing to testify that the mother had said she wanted to ruin his life for leaving her for me. Conveniently the state attorney filed motions to suppress this evidence. We also had the grandfather of the child who testified that he was home all the time and never heard a thing or knew anything of this. We had the police testify that they told the mother to go home, she was just being

vindictive. We had the doctor testify that the little girl had never been touched. The child testified that my husband made video tapes of the alleged abuse and then melted the tapes immediately in the microwave. The live-in grandfather stated he never smelt anything burning and never heard smoke alarms go off. Not to mention, that doesn't even make any sense, what would be the point in making them, why even bother, she would have been better off saying she didn't know what he did with the tapes. The alleged victim claimed she would kick and scream, and then testified that the abuse was quit, she was caught in several lies while testifying. The state's entire case was based on nothing but hearsay. To this day they have no evidence. Only lies. However my husband's life was in the hands of 12 strangers who were serving the end of a long 30 day jury duty, and were tired and wanted to go home. The judge slept through the trial literally! Please help us. My husband is innocent and no man or woman deserves this. If you were charged tomorrow with sexually assaulting a 14 year old over the last 5 years, what would your defense be? If it came down to your word against someone else's, what would you do? That is a scary thought. This is a modern day witch-hunt. Sixty percent or more of the men in prison for this crime are falsely accused. There are men out there who commit these acts on innocent children. We need to save our resources for the true criminals. This gross abuse of the system is only wasting precious resources that could be used for the true offenders. We have to put a stop to this.

We are the real victims here. We are victims of gross police misconduct, abuse of the system, jury misconduct, a jealous ex-wife, an over-zealous county attorney, and a judge who couldn't even bother to stay awake. I am outraged and need to be heard. Please help us. I can prove all that I am saying I only need someone to let me tell our side of the story.

See our blog at innocentman.blogspot.com. There's also an on-line petition at www.PetitionOnline.com/sakodam/petition-sign.html.

Melissa Spinner
603-978-8440

DEAREEDITOR:

My name is Sylvester Stephens and two weeks ago I almost took my life when Judge Mitchum of the Superior Court of Gwinett County, Georgia upheld a restraining order against me petitioned by the mother of my children. The order stated that I can't go within 200 yards of the Petitioner (which is my children's mother) or my two young children whom I love more than life itself. The order also stated that the argument committed on Sunday July 17th, 2005 was an act of Domestic Violence. There was no physical violence, but the threat existed because I was angry. I am a very muscular African-American male, and she is a very petite African-American female. The petition was not filed the night of the argument, nor the next day, but two days later. I had asked to see my children and she agreed but on the condition that I buy two new car seats. I agreed and told her that I would do that but I would have to withhold two weeks of child support for the seats. After all, the car seats were purchased while we were a couple.

To make a long story short, one month prior to the July 17th, my son had an allergic reaction to peanut butter at daycare and although she was only a half block away (waiting on her hair appointment) she called me and woke me up to rush him to the emergency. That incident never wore off and I decided that I wanted nothing more to do with her outside of communication with the visitations of my children. Since she couldn't handle the fact that I wanted nothing more to do with her she continued to provoke arguments by deliberately making late for work while the children were in my custody. That was the reason for the argument on the 17th of July. Her Domestic Violence claim was me smacking the roof of her car. I did smack the roof of her car, and it did cause a dent. But that was in frustration, not violent anger. I was in complete control of my behavior I wanted to vent and let her know that I was tired of the fighting and the mind games she used to get attention.

Presently, I have not seen my children since that evening. The judge ordered that I was a threat to my children even though I never even touched their mother. I have raised my children since birth. I mean literally, raised them. I stayed home with both of them the first six months of their lives. Then I worked third shift and stayed home with them during the day. I

wrote two novels, and seven stageplays, all while staying home with my children. And then to have a judge scream at me that I have no children. That I have no rights! None, not one! It almost caused me to take my own life for with out my children I have no reason to live anyway.

Friends and family ask how could something like this have happened? I have never been to jail! Never been committed a violent crime, or been accused or arrested of any crime against the law. But because a vindictive woman can pervert our legal system by lying and accusing me of this outlandish crime, I have no children. This is unacceptable! I would rather die than live my life in a country who can take away the fundamental right of loving your children. We send our children off to fight overseas when we are denied our rights here in our own country.

I will work to change this law in Georgia where a father has no rights to his children. But yet he is still responsible for paying support as if he were the father. I will fight even if means the sacrifice of my own life. Being a Black man, I can say that this is worse than the threat of slavery! Even slaves had little sympathy from Masters when it came to their families. We as fathers in Georgia.....have none!

I am going to start a national campaign to fight this law and I would like the support of every single father, mother and child who understands that our government does not care about the preservation of family it is more lucrative to see the family destroyed.

Please help me by contacting me and I will give more details on the national rally I am trying to hold here in Atlanta in 2006. I will need plenty of help and plenty of support, but this will bring national attention to the unconstitutional laws enforced by our government in order to increase their salaries.

Sylvester Stephens
P.O. Box 922398
Norcross, GA 30010
sylvesterstephens@yahoo.com
"The Fathers for Family Rally"
Atlanta, Georgia, 1996

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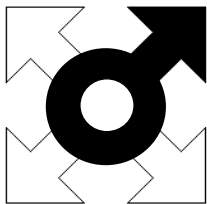
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