

TRANSITIONS

JOURNAL OF MEN'S PERSPECTIVES

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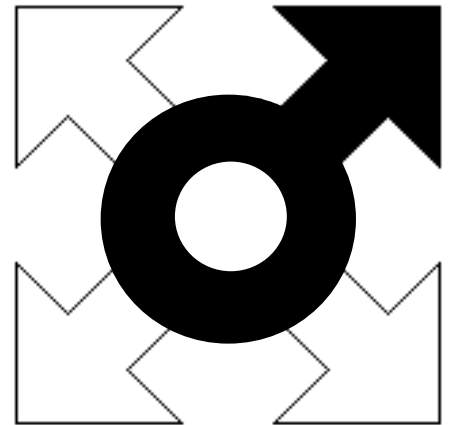
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The Decline of Males

By Edward M. Stephens, M.D.

“Gender, not geography, will determine the direction of world resource use in the 21st Century.”

In my recent dinner with Professor Lionel Tiger, the talk was all about sex. Not the stuff you have in bed but its expression in the more abstract, less sticky and infinitely more complex question of gender.

Lionel, the Charles Darwin Professor of Anthropology at Rutgers University and the author of *The Decline of Males*, had become the strange bedfellow of a psychiatrist out of a shared concern for the declining prospects for males. Our dinner conversation was about the prospect of creating a Department for International Men's Studies at a major university and the ground breaking formation of The Committee on Men's Issues of The Psychiatric Society of Westchester (PSW).

As psychiatrists, gender is not usually high on our list of causative factors for diagnostic concern. That 20th century perspective changes when we begin to understand that gender is destiny in the 21st century and it is not just the women's movement that is affecting our world view. Tiger opines that a basic change has occurred in our relation as men and women. Through the shift in the control of reproduction, women are now able to manage their reproductive function with the Pill with no one but themselves knowing whether it is their time or not. Men are out of the loop for the first time in the history of our species.

progesterone when it was given sequentially to his three active sex partners in the primate troop. He lost interest in his favorite mate when she was on birth control and regained it when the progesterone effect wore off. When all three of his mates were on the stuff, Austin became nervous, irritable and began to masturbate, refusing sex with all three of his sexual partners. Austin's story is relevant to us since he and his partners are our closest primate relatives.

Although Austin was confused when his partners signaled pheromonally that they were artificially pregnant with a birth control substance, his mates didn't compound the problem by changing life roles. Austin's mates, released from their sexual obligations, didn't take up 60% of undergraduate places in college or 75% of graduate spots. They didn't get pregnant outside of marriage as women all over the industrialized world are doing. They didn't create single parent families. They didn't divorce Austin. They didn't change the nature of the workforce, displacing Austin. They did demonstrate that primate sexual responses are radically altered by chemical birth control without signs being posted and they make us wonder about the profound and unexplored effects on our species of change in reproductive responsibility.

Austin got cranky and aggressive when a major change was made in the fundamental nature of his relationship to his gender-mates. What is happening to us as men and women in the midst of the changes we so glibly characterize as “women's liberation”? What is happening to one half of our patient population who are sometimes characterized as alexithymic and whose needs have become socially invisible as the male gender is increasingly characterized as “the problem”? Today's men seem as surprised as Austin that they are living in a different world, over which they have very little control.

Learning from
Primates

Austin, the stump
tail monkey, found
this out in the '70s
study of

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Editor's Comment

I've been waiting for this for a while. It's that time of year when I get to extend to all the men who may be reading this a bit of deserved recognition: HAPPY MEN'S DAY!!!

What's that? You've never heard of Men's Day? I don't blame you. It sounds so foreign, doesn't it? And it is, unfortunately. Russian, to be exact.

Yes, February 23 is Army Day or Men's Day in Russia. It is mostly a tribute to the men of the military which has repulsed a number of invasions over the centuries.

All males, young and old, can receive recognition, though, usually in the form of congratulations from other men and flowers, gifts, and songs from the women.

They do not get the day off from work, however. :)

According to Wikipedia, the only other countries with a Men's Day are Trinidad, Tobago, Malta, and Brazil. Are these the few remaining corners of the Earth where feminism has not crushed all positive thoughts toward males?

Well, let's not allow the feminists to stop us from celebrating here. Come Febru-

ary 23, I'll make a point to hold up a shot of vodka and toast you all. Happy Men's Day, everyone.

Jason Leatherman

Decline

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Men's Issues?

When I went into The Committee on Women's Issues at the national meeting of the APA, asking for help to set up a corresponding Committee for men, I received some interesting responses. By and large, I think that the Committee members thought I was far fetching until some hard core sentiment emerged from one of the members: "The whole organization of the APA is about men's issues."

Fortunately, that's not the response I got from the leadership of PSW and many of the female psychiatrists to whom I presented the concept, so that PSW has the first Committee on Men's Issues (COMI) in the APA. COMI has invited Lionel Tiger to speak to us in person and describe the crisis in men's lives not just in Western societies but also on a worldwide basis.

The Canary in the Coal Mine

For many years, we have been appalled as a society about what is happening to our men of color. In some communities, there are unemployment rates of up to 50%. Murder rates by men of men in these communities are as startling as are rates of drug and alcohol addiction and incarceration. Alarmingly, "all the indices that were commonly thought to be confined to the African-American community are in

fact rising more quickly in white communities. The prevailing African-American situation is part of the American system, and its characteristics are shared in other countries," according to Prof. Tiger. While the illustration appears to create race as a significant element, it is actually "a spurious and imprecise category that has nothing to do with biogenetic competence." We know this because when men of all colors are allowed to perform on a level playing field, as in the armed services, men of all backgrounds perform equally well. "Race is skin deep, but sex is implicated in many fundamental human systems."

Until we begin to appreciate the sea changes taking place in the world of employment, we are out of touch with the world of these men. Each year in the United States there are one million fewer jobs created for men than for women; men, unlike women, are not culturized to the concept of "part time work." The net effect for our office practice is that we have a cohort of depressed men who are having what we might euphemistically call an "adjustment reaction of adult life" for whom we may have no adequate counsel because we are unaware of the major economic shifts taking place as a result of the new alignments of gender in the workplace. Then, even when they might be candidates for antidepressants, we hesitate to interfere with their already fragile maleness because we don't want to depress their sex lives.

In the Committee on Men's Issues, we are looking for some answers. What may be more important for us as psychiatrists will be the new set of questions that come up for us about our men and boys, brothers and fathers, husbands and sons, our patients and ourselves.

Edward M. Stephens, M.D. serves as Chair of the Committee on Men's Issues for the Psychiatric Society of Westchester, a district branch of The American Psychiatric Association. He is also the President of the Greater New York Chapter of NCFM.

The Psychiatric Society of Westchester's Committee on Men's Issues was founded by Dr. Stephens and is the first-ever such committee within a district branch of the APA. Dr. Stephens can be contacted in care of NCFM, GNY via e-mail at ncfmgnny@themalevoice.org or by leaving a voice message at 516-482-6378.

This article was originally published in The Westchester Psychiatrist and The Male Voice newsletter and is reproduced with permission.

Book Reviews

By J. Steven Svoboda

The Marriage Problem: How Our Culture Has Weakened Families

By James Q. Wilson

New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2002.
US \$25.95/Canada \$39.50. 274 pp.
www.harpercollins.com

James Q. Wilson has crafted a stunner of a book. *The Marriage Problem: How Our Culture Has Weakened Families* integrates many virtues often not found in the same book: a clearly focused topic, a knack for generating insights from deft combinations of two or three separate pieces of data, skillful and intelligent marshalling of references, clear writing that is a genuine pleasure to read, and passion for the subject that nevertheless leaves the reader free to disagree with the writer's conclusions.

Wilson carefully builds a case that the "traditional" family (married mother and father with one or more children) is the "foundation of public life" but for various

reasons is potentially fragile and must be carefully, consciously nurtured by government and society in order to flourish. Some of the truths Wilson recites are not politically fashionable, and indeed the same might be said of his book's overall thesis.

Poverty only explains half of the differences in children's behavior between single-parent and two-parent families; the rest is explained by the absence of the second parent. It bears remembering that violent crime rates are much more closely correlated with family structure than with race; some studies have even suggested that race is irrelevant! Moreover, you need only do three things to virtually assure yourself of avoiding poverty — finish high school, marry before having your first child, and produce the child after the age of twenty.

I was utterly fascinated by the author's detailed explanation of sociological differences between places where marriage

is in trouble (Western countries and the Caribbean) and everywhere else: In the countries where matrimony has fallen on hard times, two things happened that were absent elsewhere: slavery weakened families, and the Enlightenment made many people think families were unimportant. Such cultural factors also help explain why Latino male immigrants are simultaneously less often employed than black men and also much less likely to have children out of wedlock or to abandon children they have fathered.

Later Wilson contributes two chapters on what might be called two very different special situations bearing on marriage: matrimony for African-Americans under slavery, and single-mother families. It is fascinating to learn how past generations dealt with the problem of single motherhood and needy children. Wilson nicely debunks the myth that orphanages of past centuries were necessarily inhumane.

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TRANSITIONS

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Reviews

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The author then sets the stage to lay out the rise of welfare, the consequent reduction in the social stigma on illegitimate children and single mothers, and to discuss these developments' impacts on the family.

The depth of Wilson's analysis transcends political identity. He writes of the historical and geographical pervasiveness of the family. "By a family, I mean a lasting, socially enforced obligation between a man and a woman that authorizes sexual congress and the supervision of children... [N]owhere do we find a place where children are regularly raised by a mother who has no claims on the father."

So what's wrong with cohabitation? In the author's view, plenty. "Marriage is a way of restricting the freedom of people so that investing emotionally and financially in the union makes sense." One reason marriage is a problem because marriage is seemingly contrary to men's own biological and evolutionary interests in maximizing their genetic heritage. However, a number of factors mediated by culture favor "dads" over "cads." "Marriage is in part a way of reinforcing a desirable relationship against the tendency of men to depart from it." The author does not shy from adding that not only do families and society need men, but women also need men. "There never has been anything remotely approaching a matriarchal society governed exclusively by women."

Wilson is fascinating on the topic of jealousy, delving into detailed exploration of just why it is that for men sexual contact by their wives with another man is most upsetting, while for women loss of emotional attachment is most critical. Jealousy helps enforce an arrangement that is beyond the market's reach: love cannot be bought and sold.

Perhaps most valuably, Wilson easily debunks some persistent myths about the family. First, arranged marriages have never been common in the West; free consent has almost always been required. Secondly: "The extended family, one of several generations living under the same roof, has often been held up by modern writers as an ideal away from which contemporary society has drifted, but the reality is quite different. In America,

England, and other English-speaking lands, we cannot find extended families no matter how far back we go." Thirdly, wives had much greater legal protection than some feminists would have us believe; what the courts of law may have placed in the hands of the husband were frequently given back to the wife by the courts of equity.

Today, "the triumph of the therapeutic" has led us to be less concerned with how a family is formed or how long it lasts but much more concerned with what goes on inside it. Spouses can now sue each other or detailed legal inquiries made where the abuse of a spouse or child is suspected. None of these developments is necessarily good or bad but they do reflect differing societal choices on what to emphasize and support.

Wilson's grasp of history and current developments is both broad and deep. He shows us why England became the natural place for capitalism to emerge, based in no small part on the combination of its system of individualistic landownership and its marriage system. The author also delineates the relationship between the appearance of the Magna Carta and the development of people's sense of marital rights.

As if we needed any reminding, Wilson recounts the evidence for the crucial role of fathers and the damage caused by even harmonious divorces. No fault law has taken its toll. He notes that the now blackballed Victorian era was an age of sharply declining crime rates and the inculcation of a stronger set of moral habits. Wilson rehabilitates the Victorian era as not "merely a stuffy and hypocritical effort to adopt the façade of a dubious middle-class life, but in fact a massive private effort to inculcate self-control in people who were confronting the vast temptations of big-city life."

My one significant criticism: Regrettably and repeatedly missing from Wilson's analysis is an awareness of the obvious downsides to marriage for men, such as draconian court decisions in the areas of custody and support. It is a surprising lapse; one cannot help but suspect that Wilson has some knowledge about these issues but chooses to omit them.

Currently we live in a society that in the author's memorable phrase, has "stigmatized stigma" to such an extent that we are reluctant to blame people for anything that does not immediately, concretely harm someone else. Out of the twenty leading college textbooks, only one relies on sound scholarship on marital issues and gives a balanced treatment to controversial subjects. And yet today as a culture, we are critical of those who emphasize their personal happiness over their children's well-being. Still, some 90 percent of the American people get married at some time in their life. "What is striking is not that there are so many divorces and so many cohabiting couples, but that there are any marriages at all."

What's Happening??

National Coalition of Free Men News

RICH ZUBATY HAS HIS OWN INTERNET RADIO SHOW

Rich Zubaty, author of *What Men Know That Women Don't* and *The Corporate Cult*, has started a weekly Podcast radio show called "The Rude Guy". To access it:

- 1) Go to www.therudeguy.com
- 2) Download the FREE .mp3 files
- 3) Tell one or two... or a hundred... other people about it
- 4) If you know how, please subscribe to the weekly podcast

Rich says, "I have ALWAYS wanted my own radio show, and this is about as good as it will ever get. This show is not just me talking out of my ass about my bedrock topics of men and corporations. Each show is precisely written, and requires two days of audio design to produce eerie, high-quality audio. It brings both my writing and audio/video editing skills to the forefront. I feel REALLY good

about this project. It's a big roll of the existential dice for me."

FAMILY RIGHTS COALITION OF MICHIGAN SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

The Family Rights Coalition of Michigan is seeking help in setting up a stable network of volunteers. Sounds like a great idea! They write:

We need to identify 5 people in each of the 83 Michigan counties who are willing to collaborate and organize their counties under the Family Rights Coalition [see frcmi.org]. Each guy and gal needs to find 5 others and create a phone tree to facilitate communication within their county. Eventually, each county group must organize their own county meetings to plan and implement coordinated statewide actions county by county. Everyone needs to join the Family Rights Coalition to help expand our database and facilitate communication statewide.

2006 is the year. We need grassroots leadership and organization by county so that we can have a voice in the next election, effect judgeships, establish a court watch and be able to organize letter writing campaigns to legislators, other officials and newspaper "letters to the editor".

We are asking people to sign up as precinct delegates in the political party they identify with. This is the lowest level of elected office and involves minimal responsibility, but can make a great difference in organizing power to influence what happens. Anyone who is willing to become a precinct delegate should e-mail the executive director of the Family Rights Coalition, Jay Fedewa at jafedawa@frcmi.org.

We need people to distribute leaflets at the courthouses in their counties that will lead them to join the Family Rights Coalition and collaborate with the local FRC representatives in their respective county. We also need to be able to distribute cable programs statewide through the citizen public access cable venues. We will be producing our second cable program next month.

Finally, we need people to commit to donate to the Family Rights Coalition on a monthly basis so that we have some basic cash flow to accomplish things. Go to the web site at frcmi.org and click on donate for information about how to contribute. We are accepting minimum donations of \$0.50 monthly. If we organized 10,000 people to give

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.

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NCFM News

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consistently at this level, we would have \$5000 monthly. That would make a difference. We're all broke, but I am certain each of us waste \$1.00 monthly that we could commit to FRC. Every dollar brings us closer to our goal of organizing our state and asserting the voice of the people.

We have decided to hire a lobbyist and have identified a divorced father with his own lobbying firm and 25 years of experience in the lobbying field in Lansing to take on this role. This one activity will cost several thousand dollars monthly, but will give us a daily presence in the state legislature and professional strategies and materials for working this effort to empower the families of Michigan to fight back.

No more whining folks. Only leading and following those who will lead. Who is willing to join in this process and be accountable for taking a task and working it?

Please contact Michael T. Ross, MD, President of the Family Rights Coalition at mtross152@comcast.net or call (734)-418-2817 if you are ready to make a difference. If you do not have a specific area of interest, we can suggest things you can do."

NEW ISSUE OF JOURNAL OF PARENTAL ALIENATION

The January/February edition of the *Journal of Parental Alienation* is now available for downloading at www.helpstoppas.org. Click on "Newsletter" and you will find the latest edition of the journal available as a free Adobe Acrobat file. If you do not currently have Acrobat Reader or you wish to upgrade

to the latest edition just click the Adobe icon on the newsletter webpage. This month we have started a new feature – a Q and A with Dr. Reena Sommer. Information on how to send your questions to Dr. Sommer is located on page 7. Also, be sure to read the information regarding virtual visitation and look for more information on this hot topic in our next edition.

We would like to introduce you all to our new editorial committee. Dr. Richard Austin, Dr. Katherine Andre, Dr. Catherine Cain, and Dr. Reena Sommer have all agreed to join our editorial committee to volunteer their time and efforts to further the development of the *Journal of Parental Alienation*. We warmly welcome them aboard and thank them for donating their considerable expertise to help make the Help Stop PAS Journal the number one source for parental alienation information. The journal has a current distribution rate of over 6000 and, thanks to our readers, is still growing rapidly.

Inside this Issue:

- Parental Alienation: How to Deal With It In Your Family Law Case by Stewart Gagnon, Esq.

- Overturning the Programming of a Child by L.F. Lowenstein

- Editorial by Dr. Laird Sweet, Executive Director

- Your letters to the editor

- Q and A with Dr. Reena Sommer

- How Many US Children Might Be Alienated by The Rachel Foundation

- Introduction to Virtual Visitation by Michael Gough

- Divorced Parenting Do's and Don'ts from Help Stop PAS

NCFM-LA CHAPTER ACTIVITIES REPORT

(by Marc Angelucci)

On December 7, 2005, the *Santa Monica College Corsair* printed NCFM-LA's submission responding to an article on the Clothesline Project that ignored male victims of domestic violence. NCFM-LA cited data on female-on-male violence and challenged the *Corsair* to present a more accurate picture when covering domestic violence issues.

On December 19, 2005, the *Los Angeles* and *San Francisco Daily Journals* printed NCFM-LA's submission about the hypocrisy of giving much lighter sentences to women who have sex with minors compared to men who have sex with minors.

On December 23, 2005, NCFM-LA participated in the rally to stop the eviction of Dome Village homeless center, most of whose occupants are men. NCFM-LA member Ray Blumhorst was an invited speaker. He donated food to the homeless occupants, provided signage and set up a truck sign as a backdrop for the media.

On December 27, 2005, the *Wall Street Journal* printed NCFM-LA's submission on the need for commissions for men to address neglected issues affecting men, following Rutgers Professor Lionel Tiger's op ed on the recent report by the New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Men.

On December 28, 2006, the *Los Angeles Daily Journal* and the *San Francisco Daily Journal* printed an expanded op

ed co-authored by Glenn Sacks and NCFM-LA's president, Marc Angelucci, about the Black v. California lawsuit to stop anti-male discrimination in state-funded domestic violence programs. See

www.glennjsacks.com/california_domestic_violence.htm

On January 22, 2006, the *Antelope Valley Press* quoted NCFM-LA in a great story about the only known shelter in California that shelters both male and female victims of

domestic violence. NCFM-LA helped the author with statistics and sources, which led to the article quoting Dr. Martin Fiebert, citing the overwhelming data showing women are as likely as men to initiate domestic violence, and also telling the story of Stanley Green's experience of severe physical battery inflicted by his former wife and the inequities he faced trying to get justice through the system.

Also in January 2006: NCFM-LA member Harry Crouch was interviewed by contacted and interviewed by FOX News in San Diego about Internet companies that sell phone bills that might include confidential information about victims of domestic violence.

NCFM-LA members got together to watch and discuss the film "After Innocence," which was about men who are convicted of crimes based on false accusations.

NCFM-LA sent a court advocate, Ray Blumhorst, to help a male victim of domestic violence obtain a restraining order against his ex-girlfriend who stabbed him in the heart, and also to meet with the City Attorney who was prosecuting the ex-girlfriend only for assault with a deadly weapon and not for domestic violence. Blumhorst's tireless advocacy caused the City Attorney to finally prosecute the ex-wife for domestic violence as well. NCFM-LA continues to provide moral and legal support for the victim and to monitor and put pressure on the City Attorney to do the right thing.

Special Thanks Due

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

Jerry D. Bever, FL
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WEB SITES TO WATCH

(by Jason Leatherman)

The web site for this issue is really a USENET group: soc.men. You can visit this group at groups.google.com/group/soc.men. Blogs are becoming ever more popular, but this old USENET group still gets a lot of activity. A fair percentage of the posts are from men expressing frustration with the anti-male discrimination that they witness everywhere. So check in every once in a while and help out however you can. And don't forget to mention NCFM!

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".*

DEARNCFM:

I William J Lake, do hereby declare War on the Family Courts Of Florida and the Rest of the United States.

My Fellow Fathers We have asked for Help, We have Begged for help, We have come hat in hand to ask for our God Given Rights to be Parents to our Children and they have jailed Us, Robbed Us, Ignored Us, Berated Us and Killed Us.

Now is the Time to Strike Back. I hereby declare 2006 the Year to Stick it to the State. I ask all Fathers in the State of Florida as well as those Fathers that live in States that collect and distribute your child support money, to pay their child Support Bill's one day at a time. Yes I said One Day at a Time!!!! By dividing your Child support bill into 30 payments and mailing them one day at a time you will drive the cost of the State run child support system thru the roof. It cost's the State approx 12 dollars to open and process your monthly payment. Multiply that by 30 and it run's to \$360 a month. If the Federal Government Cuts the money to the States for Child Support Enforcement it will cripple them. This is War! And it's time for the State of Florida and it cohorts in the crimes against Fathers and Children to learn that they don't hold all the cards.

How Much Will This Cost You? \$11.10 a month in stamps (133.20 a year), \$3.50 a month for envelopes (\$42.00 a year), and the cost of 15 books of checks. Cost to

the State approximately \$4,320 per Father !!!!

Start The War Today !!!!

William J Lake
Florida

DEARNCFM:

I'm sorry to write to you but I need help. I'm trying to find and hire a lawyer to defend my father because he was accused of sexual harassment at his work and also he was terminated for this reason, by being terminated for sexual harassment, this left an open door for the accuser to sue him. And now she is suing him and the company.

My father was harassed by his accuser (a female coworker) and when he put a stop to her harassment and since she stopped, he thought that was everything he needed to do. He never followed through with reporting her for her actions to his employer and plus it was a little embarrassing for him to be in this situation. But then the coworker (the accuser) turned it around and accused him instead. When my father was suspended the first time from the company, based on her allegations, the company failed to inform him the details of the case. A couple of days later and after finding out what was the suspension for, my father also gave his report on his incident. The story my father gave was nothing compared to the accuser's story. The accuser accused my father of touching her breasts in several occasions and my father denied that happened at all. My father accused her of her kissing him on the lips. When my father met this co-worker he already had a routine in which he received two kisses, one on each cheek, by another co-worker (a French kitchen chef) as part of a greeting (a salute), which is a normal behavior in the French culture and in the Peruvian culture. When my father met his accuser for the first time, the French chef greeted my father as normally she did with the two kisses on the cheek and the accuser that date copied what the chef had done and did the same, kissed my father on the cheeks. The accuser also

followed this greeting routinely every time she saw my father and she added a little massage on his shoulders, too. My father took these actions as part of a normal salute with the chef and the accuser since these salutes were initiated by them and not him. My father never complained or felt uncomfortable with the French chef because it was more a cultural thing, but when my father met his accuser and she kissed him my father didn't know how to react and since it happened the first time he met her, he took it as a normal greeting from her too. She continued greeting him with the kisses on the cheeks and massages on his shoulders, but one day she over passed her boundaries and kissed my father on his lips. The first time it happened my father thought he was mistaken because she never took this action before, but when she tried for the second time a few weeks after the first incident my father with his broken English asked her to stop kissing him. After my father confronted her, she stopped all the greetings altogether. My father thought that everything was OK after that because she never kissed him again. Even though my father avoided her for a while to let things cool off and for him to forget what had happened, he started saying hello to her from a distance to avoid feeling uncomfortable in his workplace. After a few weeks, my father was called to the office to be suspended with very little information of why he was being suspended. His supervisor told him that he knew why, but never told him why. My father thought it was for an incident he had the day before in the laundry room with another coworker, but the supervisor told him that it was for the case of the "accuser" and my father asked his supervisor what was the incident you are talking about and she said you know and you are suspended till we call you. It was a couple days later when my father found out that the accuser complained that my father was harassing her. My father denied everything she said and it was then when my father reported to the company about the two incidents the accuser harassed his by kissing him on the lips. My

father had witnesses to collaborate with his story. The company still continued the suspension until they completed their investigation. After a couple of days later they called the witnesses and talked to several other employees and my father was reinstated at his position. My father noticed that the accuser was never suspended or reprimanded for her actions but my father didn't want to follow through on having a case against his accuser because the company apologized to him and they told him that everything was a misunderstanding and since the company showed that they believed my father's story, my father wanted to avoid more problems for the company and for himself by just ignoring the incident. My father continued working and the accuser continued working with the company too. A few months later my father was asked to sign a document which stated that the case of sexual harassment was closed. His supervisor, who speaks Spanish, told my father that she needed this document signed right away to close the case, but my father refused to sign because he didn't have his reading glasses. My father doesn't read English very well and he was already warned not to sign anything before reading it so my father insisted to his supervisor that he was going to take it home for his daughter to read it, but the supervisor ignored his request and put pressure on him to sign the document, she argued that she wouldn't lie to him and for him to trust her she was also going to sign the document. My father trusted her and signed the document. A few days after my father signed that document, he was called again to be suspended for the second time. This time they said that the accuser complained again that he continued touching her breasts and that this time they had witnesses. My father was shocked that he accuser continued falsely accusing him and my father was very upset with the company by taking actions on her favor again, while my father was suspended twice, she was not reprimanded at all.

My father was going out on disability for an injury in his leg that it was going to take several months for him to recover. My father had a broken ligament in his right leg since September of 2004 and he continued working limping until May 2005 in which he was scheduled to have the

surgery. My father was suspended the second time a few days before this surgery and like seven days later while he was recovering from the surgery he was called to report to his work immediately. My brother drove my father to his job and my brother was also there to translate for my father, but the managers refused to speak to my father in my brother's presence. The managers took my father to an office and two managers and his supervisor confronted my dad and the supervisor translating for my father told my father that he was fired because they had witnesses, my father was solo in this but he told them that he denies all accusations and whatever witness she has were lying too. My father told the company about his accusations against the accuser and his witnesses and the company said nothing more and asked him to sign a letter to prove he is getting his last paycheck, but my father refused to sign again and walked out of the office without his paycheck.

Every time I called a lawyer for a free consultation and tell them that it is to defend my father they turned me down because he is male. One of the SF lawyers I contacted he said that he cannot take the case because my father was male and the jurors will believe the accuser because she was female. He also stated that we live in a society that people believes that sex offenders are committed mostly by men.....every lawyer I contacted in Contra Costa county and in San Francisco turned me down. My father already missed the first court appearance because he was not served properly and plus he doesn't speak English to read the court papers and without anybody representing him.

I feel that my father is being discriminated by the company because of his gender and his race. The company terminated my father unfairly and they didn't protect his rights while he was working for them.

My father moved here like 20 years ago and his life in the United States was work up to three jobs to support his family not giving him the time to learn the language and to learn about his rights in this country. He is a very (country) like man, respectful, sincere, honest, hard working and a little naive. He has four kids which taught the same beliefs and behaviors.

Please help me find a lawyer who believes in justice and also believes my father. We need someone to defend my father on this lawsuit and win.

Carla Espinoza

WEBMASTER:

I would suggest contacting our public relations director, Steven Svoboda. He is an attorney and lives in Berkeley. His number is 510-827-5771. He is probably the best person to recommend someone in your area. Good luck!

DEARNCFM:

TO ALL MEN WHO PAY OR RECEIVE CHILD SUPPORT—

My name is Clay Roundtree. I live in Walnut Springs Texas. I'm a 40 year old man who is disabled and unable to work. I am married with a step-daughter and I got custody of my son in October of 2004. Although my son has lived with us for over a year my ex-wife has refused to pay any support for him the entire time he's lived with me.

When my ex-wife divorced me I had to make support payments to her in the amount of \$750.00 per month and make her house payment for her in the amount of \$850.00 per month. As time passed I lost my job and received unemployment for a short while in the amount of \$600.00 every two weeks. I still had to follow my court order and give her one half of my income.

In December of 2003 I had an accident at work and lost the use of both my knees. I was then receiving workmen's compensation. Again, I continued to pay my child support and we did what we could to provide for him and make his Christmas and Birthday special.

Now, the taxpayers are footing the bill because we had no alternative but to apply for government assistance. **THE BIGGEST KICK IN THE TEETH TO ALL MEN WHO DO RIGHT BY THEIR CHILDREN!!!!!!!**

My ex-wife has not done a thing for him in over a year, not only financially but she refuses to attend any and all of his school or sporting activities. His pleading with her to come watch him play baseball,

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Letters

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football, basketball and track has fallen on emotionally unattached ears.

After months upon months of waiting we finally had a hearing on December 20th, 2005 to request child support. According to Texas Law as written in the Texas Family Code book, she would be required to pay \$336.00 per month in child support payments. I only requested that she pay \$305.00 per month.

My ex-wife rents a town home that costs in excess of \$600.00 per month, she drives a brand new 2005 car with a monthly payment of over \$300.00 per month, she pays \$120.00 per month in auto insurance, and evidently carries a lot of credit cards. WE live in a house that should have been condemned about 20 years ago and purchase used 10 year old vehicles to drive.

GUESS WHAT THE VISITING JUDGE IN THE 18TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT IN CLEBURNE, JOHNSON COUNTY, TEXAS ORDERED IN MY CHILD SUPPORT HEARING????????????????????

After hearing the testimony from both parties the judge decided that my ex-wife should only pay \$240.00 per month. Furthermore, I must pick him up after her court ordered visitation in order to help her since she cannot afford to pay the STATUTORY amount that is set out very clearly within the pages of the Family Code Law book as written by our LAW MAKERS and enforced in courtrooms day in and day out.

The judge clearly stated that unless I agree with this TRAVESTY OF JUSTICE, THIS BLACK MALE DELIVERED TO ME BY A MAN WHO HOLDS A PUBLIC OFFICE, he will further reduce the monthly amount that she will be required to pay in order to COMPENSATE FOR HER HARDSHIP.

I ASK FOR ALL MEN WHO SUPPORT THEIR KIDS AND DO RIGHT BY THEM TO LET THIS BE KNOWN TO ALL!! MY SON SHOULD SUFFER SO THAT SHE CAN HAVE NICE THINGS????? THE TAXPAYERS SHOULD HAVE TO FOOT THE BILL SO SHE CAN HAVE NICE THINGS????? PROVEN BEYOND THE SHADOW OF DOUBT... THERE IS NO

JUSTICE IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM. WE NEED TO STAND UP AND FIGHT THIS BECAUSE IF I WERE FEMALE AND WALKED INTO THAT COURTROOM, YOU KNOW WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED!

Contact me and UNITE all men who get the shaft EVEN THOUGH they do right by their kids.

DEAD BEAT DADS CAN GET BENT!

Clay Roundtree
Walnut Springs, Texas
candt_roundtree@yahoo.com

WEBMASTER:

Thanks for contacting us, and good luck with your case. I suggest you contact our Dallas/Fort Worth chapter and get involved. Perhaps they can help.

You can contact them at: NCFMdfw@yahoo.com or (972)445-MALE.

DEARNCFM:

I am a post graduate student at the University of the Arts, London and also editor of the University's newspaper which is published internally as well as in areas of inner London.

I am currently researching a piece on the role of the heterosexual male in the 21st century. I am particularly interested in how feminist and homosexual campaigning has altered the heterosexual male's role.

Is a crucial piece of the sex-equality puzzle ironically to restore a sense of purpose and self esteem with heterosexual men? Do you think men are increasingly less motivated and less willing the take on responsibilities due to the rise of the female counterparts? Why or why not?

What do you think the future is for heterosexual men with them being overshadowed by female and homosexual movements? We are already seeing a change with groups such as 'fathers 4 justice'. Are we seeing a complete role reversal? A temporary trough in the the authority of the heterosexual male? With social inventions such as 'metrosexuality',

what is the future for the role of the Heterosexual male?

Sorry to bombard you with these questions, these are just some of the points I am looking it. I would feel very privileged to hear you opinions or views on any of the questions I have raised here, any contribution is highly valuable. I will let you know before I use any of the material to gain your permission.

I hope you can help me in some way, or if you could give me contact details of somebody who you think could also help, that'd be very much appreciated. Many many thanks for your time.

Alexander Joseph
alexander_mills@hotmail.co.uk

WEBMASTER:

I am going to offer my own opinions on these issues, but I will also publish your message in our newsletter *Transitions*, and perhaps others can also respond to you at your email address. Look for potential replies from readers over the next few months.

Now, for my personal opinion: As to whether men are increasingly less motivated to take on responsibilities, clearly the answer is NO. Men have more responsibilities today than ever before. The problem is that men in general allow women to define their responsibilities for them, when men should define them for themselves. For example, women are insisting that men do larger shares of household chores, while also demanding that men continue to earn the bulk of the

Transitions Needs Your Talent

Transitions is always looking for your contributions in writing on issues affecting men. If you have an article or essay, please submit it for publication. Send all work to : **Jason Leatherman, Editor-in-Chief**, at jwleath@yahoo.com. Please put "Transitions" in the Subject line. Also, see <http://www.ncfm.org/write1.htm>.

family's money, and men have primary responsibility for household and automotive repairs, etc. Frequent studies repeatedly show that women have more free time than men, and women have more time to watch TV than men, etc. Men need to start defining their own responsibilities for themselves to prevent the abuse in division of labor that is currently happening.

I don't know what the future of men will be, but I don't think we are being overshadowed by female movements. On the contrary, feminism is slowly dying out, and I see great possibilities for men who are willing to take charge of their own lives. For example, men can choose to stay unmarried and not have kids (via condom use and vasectomy, and coming methods of male birth control). This is already happening in some European countries, and among some men here in the US. Not marrying protects a man from alimony payments, and preventing pregnancy usually protects him from child support obligations (except in the case of paternity fraud). Men, as individuals, have many options to protect themselves, and perhaps they will learn to use these options wisely in the future.

Anyway, that's just a bit of my own personal opinion on the questions you asked. I hope they are helpful to you in your research. I'm sure there are many opinions on these issues within the ranks of NCFM members. Thanks for asking.

DEARNCFM:

Do you know when the word "feminist" or "feminism" was invented, or when it first appeared in the dictionary? It seems that feminists think they have been around since the 1700s, which of course is not the case. We had women's rights folks then, not "feminists".

David R. Usher
President
ACFC Missouri Coalition
314 452-2297 (weekdays)
314 991-1956 (home and weekends)

WEBMASTER:

According to the website Online Etymology Dictionary at www.etymonline.com:

"Feminism is from 1851, but meant at first "state of being feminine;" sense of "advocacy of women's rights" is 1895. Feminist is 1894, from Fr. féministe (1872)."

Thanks for asking. I hope this info helps.

DEARNCFM:

Back in June of 2005, my then wife and I got into a domestic dispute. I struck her in the leg. I was taken to jail, a no-contact order and a restraining order was placed on me. She works for the local women's safety and resource center as their court advocate, helping battered women fill out paperwork and informing them of their options. She used her contacts with the Judge, DA, and lawyers to lighten the sentence initially.

I pled guilty all across the board, was sentenced with Harassment and deferred sentencing for 1 year taking a local batterer's education class, upon completion all charges would be dropped. I pled guilty and did not seek legal counsel as the initial idea was we'd get through it and reunite, start over. She then filed for divorce after I pled guilty. I was verbally and mentally abusive, as was she over the years. We have two young children. She now has sole custody of them.

Since day one, we've both ignored the no-contact order. Not to see one another; but for parenting time reasons. She later had a boyfriend move in, he started inserting his 2 cents in and escalating conversations to points they did not need to go to. Before I knew it, he turned me in for violating the no-contact order. I now await word from the courts on a court date for sentencing. I have absolutely no money for a lawyer or even legal counsel.

If I go to jail, I will lose everything. I do not have much left to lose, but I value what I have: job, apartment, possibly time with my children.

There were times when she forced me to contact her, but threatening to turn me in if I did not answer her calls, etc. Essentially taking advantage of the law. I asked the contacting police officer if she was supposed to contact me, he said she can, I just cannot contact her. That is perverted justice right there.

I just want to co-parent and get on with my life...in peace. Any advice?

Directions for help/pro bono legal...etc? I'd appreciate anything.

Ken

WEBMASTER:

The best advice I can give you, which is the same advice I give to everyone who asks about this topic, is to do what you have to do to get a very good lawyer. You are going to need one. I don't know of any way to get a lawyer pro-bono or cheap in a divorce action, so you'll have to find some way of getting the money together that you're going to need. A good lawyer who will fight for your rights is the only way to go.

Sorry to hear about your situation. If we had been asked much sooner, we perhaps could have offered advice to prevent some of the situations you've wound up in, but at this point your best option is to hire a good lawyer to represent you. The situation is too complex at this point to handle it on your own.

You might also look for a fathers' rights group in your area. Sometimes they can offer suggestions also.

NCFM now has coffee mugs for sale!

Chapter Reps: These mugs make a great fundraiser! Discounts are available for chapters purchasing 5 or more mugs.

These mugs are made by MWare and are high quality regular sized coffee mugs. Choose a Cobalt Blue or Hunter Green mug. Each mug sports the NCFM logo, name and the scripted motto: Giving Men a Voice Since 1977.

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Contact Deborah Watkins at NCFMdfw@aol.com or 972-445-MALE (6253) to place your order. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

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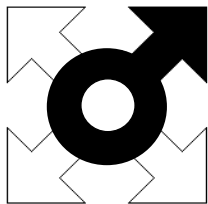
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