

TRANSITIONS

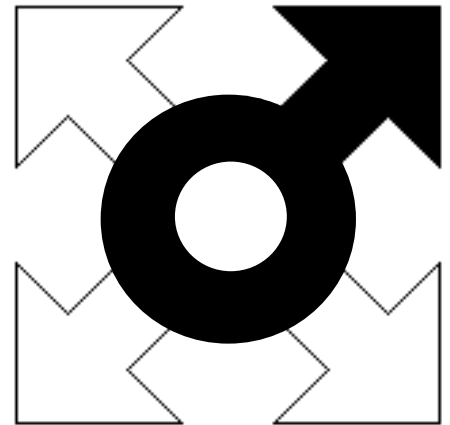
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Some Modest Proposals To Redress Gender Imbalances Of The 1960's And 1970's

What Is Sauce For The Goose Is Sauce For The Gander

By Wade C. Mackey

In what were salad days for some, the 1960's and 1970's ushered in a remarkable series of legislative and judicial rulings which were made in the name of gender equity, but which, in turn, were remarkably gender biased. The following is a series of measures that may bring a better sense of balance between the interests of the genders.

A woman cannot be made to be a parent against her will

In the *Roe, et al. v. Wade* (410 U.S. 113; decided January 22, 1973) decision, the Supreme Court essentially ruled that if a pregnant woman did not wish to be a parent and wanted to abort the embryo/fetus/baby, then the woman had every right to do so. This right was viewed to be protected by the 14th amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Because Federal law trumps State law, any State law prohibiting abortion was voided. The State could not coerce parenthood upon the woman.

Such is the reality in 2005. Now, if the government cannot force parenthood on women, then certainly — on the basis of gender equity — no man should be made to be

a parent against his will. But, in the year 2005, the government does coerce parenthood upon men. Framed a little differently, a pregnant woman can

choose to continue that pregnancy and become a mother, or she can choose to terminate her pregnancy and not become a mother. The courts uphold those choices. However, a pregnant woman, by the choice for herself, simultaneously also chooses whether the man responsible for that conception will become a father or not. The man has absolutely no legal standing in the matter.

If a man were to impregnate a woman who is not his wife and if the woman chooses to carry that pregnancy to term, then the man is liable for child support for at least 18 years of the child's life. This liability, enforced by the courts, occurs whether the man wishes to be a father or not. That is, his parenthood is coerced. If parenthood cannot be forced upon the woman, then it should not be coerced upon the man. How to remove the imbalance?

Waiver of paternalistic responsibility and paternalistic rights

It is suggested here that if a man were to impregnate a woman who is not his wife, then, within ninety days of being informed of the pregnancy, the man may sign a waiver of paternity. The waiver removes him from all rights as well as all responsibilities of a social father. Once signed, the waiver is recorded in the local courthouse. If the waiver is not signed after ninety days of his being informed of the pregnancy, then he is assumed to have accepted his role of father.

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Editor's Comment

Since the last issue, Peter Allemano and I once again trekked to attend a conference of the American Men's Studies Association (AMSA). This year we were joined by Dr. Ed Stephens of the New York chapter who gave a presentation on the need for more men's studies courses.

The theme of their conference this year was "No Man is an Island: Masculinities in Relation." So there was an emphasis on men's relationships. Throughout the conference, they displayed large photographs showing men relating as friends, brothers, and homosexual pairs. They also dedicated much time to discussing the movie "Brokeback Mountain."

There was also the usual cast of feminist academics, psychologists, and sociologists. In sum, the conference was a multi-pronged attack on masculinity with the purpose of redefining it according to their agendas.

Despite the plethora of advanced degrees present, I detected an air of uncertainty. Often, after a lecture which I thought was mediocre, someone would stand up and declare that this was the most amazing speech they had ever heard. Perhaps they are in a different place in their journey, or simply see masculinity differently than I do. In either case, this demonstrates that masculinity can not be studied in a cold academic fashion. It is human, strong, and

vital for survival. The importance of these traits is easily forgotten when sitting in the safety of a climate-controlled university conference hall.

Peter and I were mostly interested in making contacts and supporting Ed. The mission of meeting people and spreading the word about NCFM was greatly discouraged, however, because we were denied permission to set up a table. So we distributed a fraction of the material that we did the previous year.

Ed's presentation went well, but it sparked some debate during question and answer time. Ed mentioned that few men's studies courses were available. This was discounted by AMSA members who claimed that there were hundreds. Perhaps the disconnect was that Ed was not counting feminist courses. At any rate, Ed ended on an exciting note, looking forward to a growing men's studies field that can support entire careers.

Personally, I don't feel it was worth it for me to attend. I only got a chance to speak up a couple times, and when I did, my comments were promptly ignored. I think Peter was feeling the same way. (Maybe they read our conference reports from last year?!)

Once again we have a large letters section. I'm beginning to enjoy this section more and more — the letters bring us

insights, news, and opportunities. Too often, however, they bring pleas for assistance. For every letter I print that asks for help, there's a dozen that I had to cut for lack of space.

These letters are often badly written, showing how unequipped these men are to face the anti-male industries that are attacking them. Unfortunately, the fact is that we have no help to offer.

Before every issue, Mike Rother sends me a file containing the letters and his responses. Many of them fit the same pattern: a letter with a story and plea for help, and then Mike's response saying that NCFM doesn't have the resources to get involved. They become repetitious, but I know every story is unique.

What we can do, however, is provide references to resources or people that can help. If you know of a men's center, a male-friendly lawyer, or anything in your area that could help a man facing the issues that we address, please send it to Mike Rother. He's compiling a list of resources so that we don't have to turn these men away empty-handed. We don't have money, but we can provide a listening ear and a bit of hope.

Ever Yours in the Cause,

Jason Leatherman

Corrections

In the last issue I published a letter from William Hetherington. It reflected the donation information which was printed on the front page of the Sep/Oct 2005 issue. As it turns out, **this information is now outdated.**

Do not send money to any address listed in a previous issue. If you want to help Will's cause, send your check to:

William Hetherington Defense Fund
c/o NCFM
P.O. Box 582023
Minneapolis, MN, 55458-2023

Donations to this fund are tax-deductible.

This address is correct as of this writing. In the future, however, if you want to help Will, check the NCFM web site for up-to-date instructions. Go to www.ncfm.org and click on "Free

William Hetherington".

You can also help William with daily expenses by sending him a money order or cashier check directly. Since the good State of Michigan likes to move William around to make things difficult for us, I won't print his current address here. Instead, get it from the web site.

I apologize for the confusion.

Proposals

Continued from Front Page

No-fault divorce

No-fault divorce seems a reasonable solution to a marriage wherein the participants no longer wish to stay married — as long as no minor child is involved. Although pundits with thick historical blinders do opine otherwise, the reality is that marriage, as an institution, has been universally established to rear very dependent children to independence. If no minor children are involved in a marriage, then no-fault divorce seems both innocuous and efficient. If a minor child is involved, then the dynamics are quite different. In 2005, courts make no distinctions at all between divorces which involve one or more minor children versus divorces which involves no minor children. Custody or the division of resources may be disputed, but the occurrence of the divorce is not negotiable. If a party petitions for a divorce, then the divorce will occur. This lack of distinction between divorces involving minor children and those that do not involve

minor children should be addressed and redressed. The following applies only to divorce situations in which there is a minor child or children involved.

If both spouses agree to the no-fault divorce and both agree upon the custody dispositions, then the no-fault divorce can occur with no further complications.

If one spouse wants a no-fault divorce, but the other spouse does not, then the no-fault divorce can occur only if the respondent is given custody of the minor child. The petitioner can leave, but not with the minor child or children. Otherwise, fault must be established before the court.

If only one spouse wants a divorce, but both spouses want custody of minor children, then fault has to be stated and established and proven before the court.

Child-support

Courts can mandate child support payments. State and local police can be used

to attend to those men who are delinquent in those payments. Jail time can result in failure to obey the mandates of the courts. At a base minimum, the notion that child support payments should be used to support the well-being of the child is self evident. However, there is no mechanism — at all — to align payments from the father to the well-being of the child. None.

Accordingly, the following is suggested to establish a bare minimum. The court should mandate that child payments are to be made into a special checking/debit card account. A copy of the monthly account must be mailed from the financial institution to the paying father. No deductions would be allowed for CASH. Only the cost of the item or items can be included in the purchase. Hence, at a bare minimum, the paying father would be privy to what his payments are purchasing for the well-being of his child. Anything less would seem a perversion of the term child-support.

TRANSITIONS

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Book Reviews

By J. Steven Svoboda

Warriors and Wildmen: Men, Masculinity, and Gender

by Stephen Wicks.

Bergin & Garvey, Westport, Connecticut, 1996. 153 pages. US\$91.95

Stephen Wicks' 1996 volume entitled *Warriors and Wildmen: Men, Masculinity, and Gender* may be small in size but it makes an, er, man-sized contribution to masculinist literature, packing a powerful punch with its deft, mellifluous summaries of most pertinent aspects of the men's movement. Wicks has evidently combed through a pile of men's movement books, leading authorities and unsung authors alike, and collected and polished the jewels hidden in each of his sources. He has also done some hard thinking of his own and come up with rapid-fire sequences of trenchant, original insights.

The author pinpoints the core of the male dilemma, noting men's dependence on external definition (subject to outside appraisal) and our consequent, seemingly paradoxical vulnerability. Wicks suggests that a good part of women's confusion and frustration regarding men stems from their own ability to take their sexual identity for granted and their failure to grasp that men cannot do the same. Men's need to create things hooks up neatly with our need for sex-affirming activities and our (generally speaking) far greater devastation when we are unable to affirm our procreative abilities. Thus our familiar Achilles' heels avoiding intimacy and discomfort with emotion are wounds we absorbed as a result of the underlying male predicament.

Wicks cultivates a mild authorial tone but has no patience for feminists' attempts to have things both ways, as with their attributions of the violence of a Jack the Ripper to male moral inferiority while at the same time suggesting that hordes of female Edisons and DaVincis may have been prevented from flourishing due to male domination of the cultural realm. While genetic explanations have some relevance, Wicks sees men's lack of natural grounding

and connection as the primary factor compelling us to persevere against considerable odds in the drive to define ourselves through achievement. When things go well, we get Beethoven. When they don't go so well, we get Attila the Hun.

The author's brief section on initiation is particularly enlightening, as is his slightly provocative suggestion of the importance to men and society of the reservation of specifically male roles. Where such special male functions are not present, Wicks writes, men are much more likely to leave the social web or disrupt it with violence and other sociopathic behavior. I was also intrigued by his speculation that men may have as much difficulty linking sexuality and intimacy as women have unlinking the two. I appreciated his discussion of problematic aspects of the father's role as well as a suggestion of directions in which we can strive as Dads.

The flaws here are relatively minor. Wicks implies a couple of times that men commit the overwhelming percentage of domestic violence, though later in the book he corrects this misimpression by citing authors who have proven women's parity in this department. An appendix containing a number of engaging if dated statistics suggests (without offering any definition of the term) that 350 colleges and universities offer men's studies courses; if this figure were applicable (as of course it is not) to masculinist courses, it would undercut the thrust of good sections of the book. Finally, the author's suggestions for improvement of men's legal rights are too faint-hearted and are phrased too generally to be of any real help, suggesting a rare moment of slapdash superficiality.

My only substantial complaint lies within the province of the publisher rather than the writer. Not counting the generally useful appendices and preface, this slim volume amounts to only 124 pages, meaning that it lists for almost 75 cents per page. Sure, the library binding is nice, but how can a publisher dare to charge this much for such a modest product? Nevertheless, if

you can save up some spare bucks and get a used copy on Amazon or elsewhere, you will be remembering the wealth of wisdom offered by Wicks long after you have forgotten about the price you paid.

The Whole Man Program: Reinvigorating Your Body, Mind, and Spirit after 40.

By Jed Diamond.

New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2002. 288 pages. \$14.95. www.wiley.com. www.menalive.com

Jed Diamond is a mensch's mensch. He understands why men neglect and even abuse their bodies because he has been there, and he cares enough for the rest of us (and for himself!) that he is devoting his life and career to promoting our health. I have attended men's conferences graced by the presence of Jed and his wife Carlin and have been lucky enough to get to know them both a little bit. In fact, the reason I finally got around to reviewing this book is a lingering sense of guilt that it was sent to me two years ago but never made it out of my review stack until now.

Whatever my motivation, I'm glad I finally got around to it. *The Whole Man Program* blew my socks off. It forced me to confront the ways in which I fail to promote my own health, despite always considering myself to be in good health for my age. For probably the first time in my life, a single book has convinced me to consider and probably work on at least five or six different areas of change in my life. It compelled me to look at the possibility that depression has played a role in my life. (Depression, Jed points out, can manifest as grumpiness.) Jed's joyous description of his decades-old men's group prompted me to overcome a year of hesitation and take steps to find a men's group for myself. He has brought to my attention the importance of safeguarding and improving my marriage.

The author has talked me into overcoming my resistance to improving my

eating. And Jed introduced me to wilderness maven Tom Brown, whose survival courses are really courses in mastering life. Just when I thought there was no other issue left to bring out as related to men's health, Jed pulled out a new topic (jobs, men's groups, relationships), and fully justified his inclusion of it within his justly expansive definition of men's health. In reading *The Whole Man Program*, I had to admit that despite my always considering myself to be in great shape for a 44-year-old man, I follow a number of less than ideal health practices. I would guess that even most of the men reading this review have at least one significant health area in which they could better safeguard their health.

Curious what are ten key factors that contribute to men's loss of health as they age? Relative to women, we are less likely to practice self-care, have worse diets, are more often overweight, are less physically active, drink and use drugs more, engage in more risk-taking, engage in more violence, have fewer social supports, have higher job risks and suffer more when we lose our jobs, and see doctors less often. So why do we act this way? Jed has answers from his own life and experience, and also a list of 14 key factors: 1. We don't know the facts of life. 2. Taking care of ourselves is seen as unmanly. 3. We learn to deny and ignore all pain. 4. Illness equals weakness equals unmanliness. 5. We're afraid of giving up control. 6. We are

secretly proud of our wounds. 7. Parental training encourages us to suppress our emotions. 8. Kids in the neighborhood enforce unhealthy gender roles. 9. Experiences in the locker room teach us to feel bad about our bodies. 10. Males in the media teach us to be "strong and silent." 11. Guys at work learn to die like real men. (I appreciated the author's emphatic mention of the risks garbage men undergo; I knew it was the most dangerous job but didn't realize refuse collectors are 2.5 times more likely to be killed on the job than police officers!) 12. Females help reinforce our tough guy image. 13. Mating strategies

REVIEWS continues next page

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Reviews

Continued from Page 5

make men risk their health. 14. Shame is the main barrier to men's health.

Shame gets the next chapter all to itself, and it's a gem of a piece of writing about an awkward subject of which most of us guys are probably, well, ashamed. I appreciated the detailed discussion of the wound caused by childhood circumcision and how that is an initial shame of our bodies that also begins a process of taking the "wild" out of us.

Regarding food, I learned that complex carbohydrates with a high glycemic index (GI) are more likely to turn to fat. Jed provides a helpful tabulation of the GI of some common foods. We learn that baked potatoes and white rice are relatively unhealthy relative to sweet potatoes, spaghetti, and brown rice, which have much lower GI's. Jed's acknowledgement of how "devilishly difficult" it is for us as men to consistently eat what we know is better for us helps dissolve the shame and clear the way for us to actually "dig in" to a healthier diet.

Many readers will appreciate the detailed discussion of testosterone replacement therapy and the test on pp. 114-115 to help test for signs of possible testosterone deficiency. Jed addresses depression as a silent killer of men that is greatly undiagnosed in men since it tends to manifest differently in us than it does in women. Anger, he notes, is often an expression of depression turned outward.

Jed describes in a few deft paragraphs an astonishing crisis moment in his life in which he reacted with great anger to his second wife by ramming his hand into a wall, badly breaking six bones. The story is told with such detail and honesty that no one can fail to understand why Jed reacted this way nor to empathize with him. Yet I doubt that many of us will feel that what he did was right; certainly it did not promote his health. Jed compassionately ties these emotions into larger issues. "Anger, hurt, and fear are expressions of love. They are just incomplete expressions."

The author also has some words of wisdom regarding our crucial need for connection with a life partner. "Developing, maintaining, and growing with an intimate relationship is the graduate school of life."

So here's how we can do this: nourish our relationships, nourish ourselves, nourish our relationships with friends and community, listen to pain we hear in our relationships and act on what we hear, learn the difference between being receptive and being reactive, learn to listen with attention and care whether or not we agree with what is being said, learn to listen to our partner's emotions without being overwhelmed, focus on what we want and not on what we don't want, seek help from a specialist for chronic relationship pain, and perhaps hardest of all for some of us, be patient!

The author saves both best and most challenging for the last section of his book. I thought I was pretty comfortable receiving nurturing from men, but I have realized my own resistances (some of which I share with the author) when I read Jed's description of his male friend who nurtured and cared for him when he was quite sick, including giving him a massage. A couple pages later, I had to admit that I would feel discomfort with what Jed described as one of the most memorable times in his men's group, when they all took off their clothes and describes what they liked about each other's bodies. The author comments, "I had thought that only women had problems with body image."

Jed closes by presenting an eight-week program that will allow us to work on improving our health. He encourages us to be patient with ourselves and give ourselves extra time if we need it. At the same time, he offers us the opportunity of being able to discuss our experiences with him and with others, and to receive updates from him on how to live long and well. Truly, this is a book that keeps on giving even beyond its last humorous, insightful, instructive page.

Self-Made Man: One Woman's Journey into Manhood and Back Again

By Norah Vincent

New York and Toronto: Viking Penguin, 2006. 290 pp. US \$24.95; Canadian \$ 35.00. www.penguin.com.

Norah Vincent has produced a new book whose simple underlying concept nevertheless seems to possess all the

potential power of, say, John Howard Griffin's classic *Black Like Me*, in which the Caucasian author masqueraded as a black man and was astonished at the depths of the discrimination and barriers he discovered. Author Vincent tries to do the same thing for gender, dressing in drag as "Ned" and entering various supposed male bastions to report on what she discovers.

Unfortunately, there are some problems here. Vincent, despite her background as a nationally syndicated columnist for what I would argue is the best US newspaper, the *Los Angeles Times*, nevertheless simply is not all that perceptive an observer. Too many of her observations either ring hollow or sound overly familiar. She does manage to access some fresh insights, but all too often her comments seem shallow and obvious.

Secondly, the author is a brazen opportunist. On the one hand, truly, not that many authentic all-male preserves remain today, with what used to be called men's clubs being turned into gender-equity exercises, with all-male schools existing on the boundaries of legality, and feminism extending its tentacles into virtually all phases of life. So to begin with, the potential impact of Vincent's 1.5 years as a "male" is blunted. She nevertheless swoops into a monastery, a men's group, strip clubs, and the (ostensibly) heterosexual dating scene, expressing in passing some regrets for the victims of her deceptions, but never really justifying what she does. Certainly she cannot retrospectively use her less than stunning analysis to excuse her lies. The author also participates in an all-male bowling league and works (with some success) as a "male" in a heavy-testosterone sales job, but I can't find it in myself to feel quite as outraged about her deceptions in these seemingly somewhat less loaded situations.

I don't think it is unfair to add that Vincent is a lesbian, which to my mind puts a further question mark around her actions. She is trying to analyze men's inner and outer lives without herself having a primary emotional connection to the male world, which I think makes it even easier for her to swoop in, extract what nuggets she can from the males she deceives, and fly over to Viking Penguin to collect her advance and hit the talk show circuit. This is precisely

what can be so peculiarly infuriating about gender setups today, as we observe women having things both ways, playing vulnerable when this will enable them to make gains based on their (assertedly) weaker position, and then at the same time claiming the right to full equality based on the utter lack of difference between the sexes, when *that* perspective is thought to advantage them.

So cue the entry of author Norah Vincent, with her mishmash of views about the “patriarchy” and about men’s natures, combined with her ability to ultimately walk away from it all as a woman who primarily involves herself with other women.

So what conclusions does Vincent pass on to the reader from her experiences? In the bowling league, she finds herself admiring men’s effortless ability to exchange tips on throwing the ball better, and contributes a nice story on how the entire league cheered on a man as he bowled a perfect game. She also notes the unselfconscious, genuine way the men had of greeting and bantering with each other. Her bowling teammates react well when she finally tells them the truth about her sex.

At the strip clubs, we experience the tawdriness of these businesses as well as the all too obvious emotional pain the men who patronize them are often vainly trying to escape. Some genuine sympathy for males develops in the author. In the dating chapter, she comments that it’s a wonder that men and women ever get together (I have often thought the same thing myself). She notes the presumptions of guilt that seem to hang over a man until he proves himself worthy of trust from a woman, contrasted with the presumption of innocence that seems to be awarded to a female based on no evidence beyond her sex. I did appreciate Vincent’s well-phrased observation regarding women’s hubris in the emotional plane, their assumption that they are the masters of the world in terms of their understanding of feelings. Later, in reference to the struggles men must make to balance their masculinity with their sensitivity, the author writes perceptively that, “If women are trapped by the whore/Madonna complex, men are equally trapped by th[e] warrior/minstrel complex.” Men are expected to fully support feminism and at the same time are often expected also to be traditional, “to treat a lady like a lady.”

For Vincent, the dating segment was a lesson in the female power of sexuality. No doubt she deserves credit for coming to

this realization, which she (plausibly, given her sexual orientation) claims not to have previously had. Vincent concludes by noting her surprise “to find nestled inside the confines of female heterosexuality a deep love and genuine attraction for real men” and by observing that one untold secret of manhood is that “[e]very man’s armor is borrowed and ten sizes too big, and beneath it, he’s naked and insecure and hoping you won’t see.” At another point she comments that her disguise as a man parallels men’s own disguise as they go out in the world. Later she truly gets that men work hard and are underappreciated. No big revelations here but at least she is being genuine.

I found myself most annoyed by her men’s group tale. She has no qualms about sharing the men’s confidential revelations (though without giving their real names, of course) and at the end of the chapter expresses her desire to return to the group to wish the men well. But of course, she makes no effort to actually do so. And at the same time she seems to have precious little positive (or perceptive) to say about the group or about the courageous work these men are struggling to perform. Astonishingly, she professes herself amazed that a person could be incapable of expressing feelings. I don’t care what her sexual orientation is; this is a bit rich for me. Also, what kind of men’s group has 25 men in it?

Things pick up a bit near the end. Vincent observes that most people seem to have a deep need to know your sex so they will know how to treat you. Interestingly, during the period she was playing Ned, she

was perceived as male even when she would go out in public without binding her breasts or affixing the fake stubble, etc. She entered her “male” phase expecting to feel the supposed power of a man, but came out of it realizing all the things she had to *not* do in order to pass as a man. Instead she experienced the straightjacket of the male role and the intense self-scrutiny that all too often goes along with it. “As a guy, you get about a three-note emotional range.” As Warren Farrell has perceptively noted, power equals options, and options are what she did not have as a man. Surprise, surprise, patriarchy shmatriarchy, being a man isn’t all that great!

To my ears, Vincent’s tone sounds more than a bit precious. She is nearly as self-involved as any teenager, worrying to the reader how she will escape if the men’s group members should happen to discover her identity and attack her with murderous intent in the woods. Give me a break. Then toward the end she tosses in a peculiarly incongruous tale about how she was on the brink of insanity at the end of her 1.5 years researching this book. I’m not sure what the reader is meant to make of this but to me it’s further evidence of the author’s flakiness and lack of grounding in reality. I have shared the most enlightening insights; most of the rest range between tedious and annoying. The author takes what she likes and leaves the rest in this awkward, naïve, and at times even embarrassing book.

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.

What's Happening??

National Coalition of Free Men News

NCFM-LA CHAPTER REPORT

(by Marc Angelucci)

On April 3, 2006, NCFM-LA's president, Marc Angelucci, was an invited guest speaker before a Human Rights and Sexual Politics class at UCLA Law on behalf of NCFM-LA to discuss the men's rights movement, NCFM, domestic violence and other issues. The professor subsequently wrote a strong letter of appreciation and recommendation for future guest lectures, and said she intends to have Angelucci return to speak again to her class in the future on behalf of NCFM-LA.

On April 6, 2006, NCFM-LA members joined NCFM members in San Diego in a highly visible rally outside the San Diego Men's Leadership Conference with signs and materials protesting the way the Conference addressed domestic violence in the usual distorted, anti-male manner that ignored male victims and false accusations.

Throughout the month of April 2006, NCFM-LA sent letters of opposition to Assembly Bill 2051, which would have amended the California Health and Safety Code in a way that discriminated against men with regard to domestic violence. NCFM-LA is working closely with the Coalition for Families and Children to defeat or amend the bill.

In early May, 2006, NCFM-LA participated in a letter-writing campaign, coordinated by Glenn Sacks and the Coalition for Families and Children, to defeat a fiercely

anti-father, feminist-backed bill (SB1482) that would make it much easier for non-custodial parents to move far away with the children, further separating kids from dads and removing the very minimal protections non-custodial parents currently have against move-aways. NCFM San Diego got NCFM listed on the official analysis of the bill at www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/sen/sb_1451-1500/sb_1482_cfa_20060510_120229_sen_comm.html. Thanks to everyone's hard work, the bill was defeated on May 9, 2006!!!

On May 8, 2006, the Contra Costa Times covered the Maegan Black v. California case, male victims of domestic violence, and the related Assembly Bill 2051 in a fairly balanced story that NCFM-LA contributed to. See www.contracostatimes.com/mld/cctimes/news/local/states/california/14527394.htm

On May 8, 2006, NCFM-LA submitted an Amicus Curiae brief in support of the appellants in Angelucci v. Century Supper Club, in which several NCFM-LA members and affiliates sued the Century Supper Club for charging men higher entrance fees and for body searching only men but not women. The lower court ruled that an Unruh Civil Rights Act violation does not occur unless the discrimination victims affirmative demand equal treatment (i.e., "I want to pay the same price women pay"), based on contrived interpretation of a factual footnote in a prior case decision. The California

Supreme Court agreed to review the case (only 3% of cases who apply to this Court for review are accepted), where it is currently pending review.

On May 15, 2006, the UCLA Daily Bruin printed a letter to the editor from NCFM-LA encouraging male victims of domestic violence, and those who care about them, to go to the Clothesline Project and design a shirt so that all victims will count. The letter cited data on domestic violence and argued that domestic violence is a human problem, not a gender problem. www.dailybruin.com/news/articles.asp?id=37175

On May 16, 2006, the UCLA Daily Bruin ran a front page story on male victims of domestic violence that was entirely the result of NCFM-LA's work behind the scenes. Although the editors removed the data, they nonetheless talked about the fact that it is more common than we are led to believe, that much of it is underreported, that there is a lack of shelter services, etc. The story talked about Stanley Green's experience in being severely assaulted by his former wife and how no programs would help him. The story mentioned NCFM-LA numerous times. www.dailybruin.ucla.edu/news/articles.asp?id=37218

On May 17, 2006, NCFM-LA members posted flyers at UCLA campus about false accusations of rape/abuse/sexual harassment and about male victims of domestic violence, as part of NCFM-LA's campaign to provide

realistic, alternative viewpoints and raise awareness about men's rights issues during the UCLA Clothesline Project, which went from May 16 through May 19, 2006.

NEW NEWSGROUP FOR FATHERS

You're invited to join Politically Active Families. They describe themselves as, "Politically Active Dads, Moms, and Grandparents fighting for equal parenting, the rights of Fathers, and Children. We are pro-family and fight against domestic violence, child abuse, sexual abuse... all issues affecting divorced and separated dads. This is our area to get to know each other, and to unwind."

Go to ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/politicallyactivedads or email PoliticallyActiveDads-subscribe@yahoogroups.ca.

LUNCH & LEARN CALLS WILL ASSIST PARENTS AND CHILDREN OF DIVORCE

(by Jeff Opperman)

Parents struggling with the emotional fallout of high-conflict divorce and child custody issues can now receive information, support and answers to their questions in monthly telephone conference calls.

Dr. Michael Bone, a licensed psychotherapist, Dr. Robert Evans, a licensed school psychologist, and Author Jeff Opperman have created the monthly Lunch & Learn conference calls to help parents, legal and mental health professionals navigate the emotional roller coaster that often exists when parents and children become polarized during divorce and child custody proceedings.

The group's first Lunch & Learn call is scheduled for May 3, 2006. Calls are also set for June 7, July 12 and August 9. All calls begin at 12:00 p.m. EST. Participants will use a toll-free phone number and special access code to enter the 60-minute conference. The first 50 people to sign up for a call will receive a \$5 discount on the \$29.95 admission charge.

Please visit www.treehousesolutions.org/teleconferences.htm for more information; or contact Jeff Opperman at jeff@hugstoheartbreak.com. Please call Paula Ellman at 407-443-5627 to register.

Dr. Michael Bone and Dr. Robert Evans operate Tree House Solutions LLC (www.treehousesolutions.org), a resource for families experiencing divorce and its aftermath.

CANADIAN FATHER ON HUNGER STRIKE

(by Glenn Sacks)

Canadian father Gerry Nicolas is now on his ninth day of hunger strike in front of the Quebec Provincial Court of Justice in Gatineau. Nicolas has a six year-old boy and a four year-old girl. He only gets every other weekend "visitation," and says his ex-wife often interferes or eliminates even that. He says that at one point he went three months without seeing his children because of her interference. The police (of course) refuse to enforce the order.

Nicolas also says his children are being alienated from him. Nicolas is black, his ex-wife is Asian, and Nicolas claims his four year-old daughter told him her

mother told her not to kiss him "because he's black."

Nicolas says he and his ex-wife both earn around \$60 or \$65 thousand dollars a year, but that he has lost his business and his savings and after his wages are garnished he is left with less than \$300 a month to live on. He says he has been unable to get a court to resolve these issues, and is on hunger strike to try to force the court to give him a hearing.

UPDATE: Gerry has ended his hunger strike. See: jeremyswanson.blogspot.com/2006/05/note-of-thanks-on-behalf-of-gerald.html. The site is lean on details, but it states that Gerry's protest was successful.

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>.

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:

John Tierney's *New York Times* article in the *Press Democrat* March 28, 2006 "On campus, a good man is hard to find" rehashes the plight of American men who are vastly underrepresented in American Universities. Tierney didn't say that educators, journalist and women's groups had it wrong about education (as well as health issues, and income issues) for twenty-five years. We've spent billions of dollars to help girls close the tiny gap in science and math while the much larger gap favoring girls in reading and writing was ignored. We now have double the graduation rates of black females compared to black males and feminists still won't be happy until white women do as well.

If affirmative action for boys is started, Kim Gandy president of the National Organization for Women will try to stop it. Feminist educators and women's groups such as "Horizons" and the "Women's Foundation of California" still claim that when it comes to education, self-esteem, health, and income, women get the shaft and that men's higher pay justifies female dominated universities. Judith Kleinfeld, Ph.D. Ed. Harvard, proved advocacy researchers got it backwards about education when they claimed girls were behind. Sally Satel, M.D. in *PC, M.D.* proved feminists got in backwards about medicine when they blasted the "male medical establishment" for ignoring women's needs. Warren Farrell, past board

member of the National Organization of Women in New York, in his book *Why Men Earn More* proves that it's men's willingness to sacrifice their health, risk injury and death, and work much longer hours than women that leads to the pay gap. Will it only be when college-educated women can't find educated men with good pay to support their families, or when China and India surpasses America in technology that educators and journalists start digging a little deeper when it comes to research about gender issues?

Steve DeLuca
Mendocino, CA

DEARNCFM:

I am trying to get some recognition for Mr. Jack Cambell, Florida State Attorney, who prosecuted the first ever False Claim of Child Sexual Abuse in Florida. Any ideas or groups that can help me here? Only 17 states even have a penalty for such a false charge and most all charges are aimed at males when made.

A tenant I evicted from my FL home filed false charges of child sexual abuse, amongst other things, in NY & FL. She was recently convicted as a third degree felon in Leon County. On April 18th, Elaine Shure, AKA Elaine Berens, Elaine Jeanne Williams, plus 20 other names and multiple social security numbers, three bankruptcies, and over \$1M worth of judgments will be sentenced for FILING FALSE CHARGES OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE against me in Florida.

I also want to get more states to prosecute these individuals who destroy lives with these false claims and to get stiffer sentences when they're prosecuted. Florida is doing much better on the books than most states but still has a long way to go. I am one of first to have an accuser prosecuted in Florida, if not the first, and unfortunately she will earn no jail time due to a point system that does not fit the crime.

The real cost here is not just to individuals and families but to the Florida's judicial, human services, and police

resources which are wasted and could be better used to safeguard our children and not go after falsely accused individuals. Depending upon whose statistics you use 80% of claims are false and the maker of these claims never get prosecuted as it is low priority for state and no chance of jail exists for accuser... thus nothing is done and number of false claims continues to rise yearly.

John W. Lee, Ph.D.
212-580-0574

WEBMASTER:

NCFM issues awards every year. See www.ncfm.org/awards.php for details. Anyone can make a nomination for any of these awards. If you would like to nominate Mr. Campbell, feel free to send me an email formalizing it.

NCFM certainly agrees with your take on false allegations. The Links section of our website (www.ncfm.org/links.php) contain an entire section devoted to false accusations (see Section # 20). Increasing prosecution of false accusations is certainly a worthy goal, and I wish you luck in your efforts.

DEARNCFM:

Just a short note to bring you up to date on the State of Florida vs. Elaine Shure. She got 120 days in jail and 5 years of probation and has to pay me \$11,700 restitution. While it doesn't sound like much it is a start for the State of Florida. Turns out I was correct, in that it was a first for Florida. First time anyone had been prosecuted for filing a false charge of child sexual abuse and first time anyone had been sentenced. It would not have happened if not for Jack Campbell. My letter will follow to recommend him for an award, but even more important is how to keep Florida and other states prosecuting these crimes when they come up. Most individuals do not have my connections and resources thus thousands of these crimes get committed yearly in FL and in many more nationwide, but our states rarely prosecute.

John W. Lee, Ph.D.
212-580-0574

WEBMASTER:

Congratulations! This is a great accomplishment that doesn't happen very often. You're right that I still don't have your nomination letter for NCFM's awards. Get that in to me when you can. This year's awards will be issued the first week of July, so that's your deadline.

One other idea you might want to consider is this: If you're a member of NCFM, you could establish an ongoing project to recognize these attorneys' accomplishments and issue awards or other items of recognition on an ongoing basis. This would be separate from our annual awards. I don't know of any other volunteers who are available to do this, so it would have to be up to you. Anyway, it's just a suggestion; give it some thought.

Again, congratulations on your accomplishment!!!

DEARNCFM:

I recently got a new website up and running which may be of interest to you. Check out www.billsarena.com. You fight for rights for parents, well I want to fight for "kids rights." I feel as though I, along with other kids, have a right to see both parents. I would really appreciate it if you could give me some feedback on my site and put a link on your page. Thank you.

Bill

DEARNCFM:

I'm doing a short video project with the main theme "Is it really a man's world?" I have already checked out your site and I'm just wondering if you have any stats like: 1 out of XXX men will be falsely

accused of rape or any other interesting statistics like that. Any information would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

John Benson

WEBMASTER:

Thanks for asking. This type of info is usually very difficult to find, but there are some sources. Warren Farrell cited a couple of studies in his book *The Myth of Male Power*, so I would definitely recommend that book. I would also refer you to an article just recently published on the Fox News website: www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,194032,00.html.

DEARNCFM:

I have a website EmasculationOfAmerica.com that contains a wealth of information that could be of great interest to your organization and members.

I need to "spread the word" and gain as much support for my case as possible. I think this case could be a central issue around which many men's and father's rights groups could rally their causes because it strikes at the very heart of almost all of such issues (and many more besides, but that's another story) and seeks to eliminate their source of energy and information.

One of your members told me he found me through NCFM, but is there anything further we could do to be more mutually supportive?

Doug Baker

WEBMASTER:

I like your site. I will publish your letter in our newsletter, and perhaps you'll get some visitors from that. I would also suggest that we exchange links, if you add a links section to your site. If you have any other suggestions, feel free to contact me.

DEARNCFM:

I teach Sociology at Guelph University. I came across your website while surfing the net. I was wondering if you could give me some advice: I have written a manuscript based on my sociological

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Special Thanks Due

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

Lou Ann Bassan, CA
Jonathan Borkum, ME
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Mark Woodall, TN

Letters

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research The Conceptual Origins of the Oppression of Women, presenting my findings that there is little evidence to show that the oppression of women was done intentionally by men or a product of a hegemonic patriarchy. Rather, at the root of it all, women's problems are human problems; products of how we define what is human and what is right and wrong. I was denounced by a feminist professor I work with at Guelph, and I have found it difficult to find a publisher in Canada who will even read it. The Canadian government subsidizes feminist organizations and academic presses, but these presses generally only publish gender material that is consistent with women-as-victims-of-patriarchy.

I was wondering, is there any advice you can give me to help my manuscript see the light of day? Can you steer me in the right direction?

Norman Dubeski
laurabora8@hotmail.com

WEBMASTER:

Thanks for asking. I'm not sure how long you've been involved in men's issues work, but you're now up against what Warren Farrell calls the "Lace Curtain" (see his book *Woman Can't Hear What Men Don't Say*). Your views are probably going to be obstructed and censored in the mainstream press because they challenge the politically correct view of gender issues.

In Canada, I would suggest contacting David Shackleton, who publishes a magazine about gender issues that is friendly to men's issues. His website is at www.everyman.org and his email address is editor@everyman.org. He may be able to suggest a Canadian publisher for your work.

Another option may be to self-publish your work, or seek a publisher outside Canada. Finding a publisher outside Canada is still difficult, but at least you'll have more options. If you decide to go this route, we may be able to make some suggestions.

Thanks for contacting NCFM, and Good Luck with your project!

DEARNCFM:

I was at work surfing the Internet and I came across your site. I must say you all hit everything right on the head (I have never seen a site like the one you have) and I was VERY interested in joining your organization (are there any membership dues) and reading your newsletter if you all have any. I wish you all had a chapter in Huntsville, Alabama. Thanks in advance for any information you can provide.

Dorman M. Houston
dhouston@miltecmisiles.com

WEBMASTER:

Thanks for inquiring! You can get to our membership form at www.ncfm.org/member.htm. Print it out and send it in with a check for \$30 if you'd like to join. We welcome additional members.

We don't currently have a chapter in Huntsville, but if you can get some people together, you're welcome to form one. I'd suggest trying out a membership for a few months and see how you like it, and then start a chapter if you like. We can help with that somewhat too.

DEARNCFM:

I have recently settled in a custody case which I brought against my ex-wife based on neglect of our child. I managed to get 50/50 Custody, Joint Legal and Physical and Shared Parental Timeshare rather than "visitation".

I would have gotten SOLE custody were it not for the fact that my ex-wife's father is also her divorce lawyer AND they repeatedly threatened my lawyer with bringing in a "panel of expert witnesses" who would issue damning statements about me to the court.

My lawyer decided to "settle" which got me the aforesaid 50/50 Joint Custody with Parental Time-Share AND which answered the ex-wife's request for Child Support modification with shaving 2/3 off her support.

I am concerned at the opposition's constant threats to roll in their "panel" of ringers. Don't I have the RIGHT to parent my child, without being stalked by my ex-wife who brings every email, every statement I make regarding our child into court to try to demonize me?

HOW DO I PROTECT MYSELF AND CHILD FROM THIS NEGATIVE TENDANCY ON MY EX-WIFE'S PART TO TRY TO MAKE ME LOOK BAD TO OUR COMMUNITY?

James D. Chamberlain

WEBMASTER:

As you describe it, your concern sounds like Parental Alienation Syndrome, or PAS. I suggest using a website like www.helpstoppas.org to learn about this issue and see what you can do to prevent it. Preventing it in the first place is certainly better than trying to clean up the mess after the damage is done. Most likely there are many other websites with info that you'll want to research, but this one should be a good start. Good luck with your new family arrangements!

DEARNCFM:

My name is Aaron Ransom, a junior attending Capac High School in Michigan. I am currently working on a debate against Affirmative Action and would like your input on several questions with regards to the subject. I believe your knowledge and expertise will help me immensely, and I would greatly appreciate a response. The questions are as follows:

1. How close do you think we are to eliminating discrimination against racial and ethnic minorities in America, once and for all?

2. Do you believe college admittance should be based solely on qualification, or a combination of both ethnicity and qualification? Why?

3. Is Affirmative Action needed to remedy past disparities and end discrimination?

4. Is Affirmative Action the only way to achieve diversity in universities and in the workplace?

5. Do you believe Affirmative Action is moving our society away from equality, or bringing it closer? Why?

6. Do you think Affirmative Action has increased or decreased the amount of racism in America? Why?

Any answers provided to the questions above may be used as part of my speech, but not without proper reference to their author. If there are any problems concerning the usage of material, please feel free to contact me. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

WEBMASTER:

Thanks for asking. I can give you some of my own personal opinions on affirmative action, but I must advise you that our organization, NCFM, includes many diverse opinions on the topic. So, what I'm offering here is only my personal opinion, it does not represent NCFM's opinion.

1. This is a difficult question to answer. In some ways, we have made tremendous progress, but in other ways, there are still many issues remaining. I don't know if we can ever completely eliminate discrimination because it may be part of basic human nature. But the effort is a good one and we should probably continue it. I think the total elimination of discrimination is a long way off.

2. I believe college admission should be based on qualifications, potential, and ability to pay for the education. I don't believe the government should subsidize college education with grants, loans, etc. These things simply drive up the cost of education, therefore requiring additional loans, grants, etc. It would be better to get the government out of the education business altogether so that there would be many more colleges and universities in competition, thereby reducing the price of education.

3. No, affirmative action is a form of discrimination in itself, therefore it doesn't remedy anything. It just continues discrimination in a slightly different form.

4. No, not at all. Diversity is a natural process that will occur on its own with no help at all.

5. I believe affirmative action is moving us away from equality. But I also believe that equality is NOT a desirable goal for our society. We need diversity of strengths, not equality of strengths. We all have unique abilities and a variety of contributions that we all make. Equality would put us all on the same level, all contributing the same. This is NOT what we want. Diversity and difference are one of our greatest strengths, not equality.

6. I think affirmative action has had no effect at all on the amount of racism in America. Unfortunately, racism is going to exist and do what it wants, regardless of affirmative action policies. I have never known anyone who changed their views based on the existence of affirmative action. Have you?

I hope these answers help in your project. Again, these are only my own personal opinions, and you can find many more opinions in NCFM and elsewhere. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

DEARNCFM:

A ground-breaking new men's book has just been released! Order your copy now!

Responsible Manhood by Winston Smith (a.k.a. Alan Barron) is a practical book which not only encourages men to be manly, but also gives men the tools for them to be able to take control of their lives. Too often today maleness is seen as a negative thing. The author encourages men to be confident, entrepreneurial and masterful. The book affirms maleness and encourages men to regain a sense of the confidence about being male, to rejoice in their masculinity and channel their energies into positive, worthwhile purposes for their own good and for the good of society.

While on one hand masculinity is innate, becoming a man is an art — it requires understanding and a desire to live a life in conformity with the will and purposes of God and nature. Masculinity in its natural state is a positive state of being, but like a rough diamond, it needs to be cut and polished in order to make it a thing of beauty.

While many Christian men's books concentrate on the spiritual, very few deal

with the day to day issues which confront men. This is a serious weakness. Many modern books ignore men's daily emotional and physical needs, let alone address them.

But *Responsible Manhood* tackles such issues as:

- * What's it mean to be a man in today's gender neutral society?
- * How should men today approach marriage?
- * Understanding myself as male
- * Are sex roles still valid? What of sexuality?
- * Is male leadership still valid today?
- * How can I be an effective father?

The book also covers practical issues which are of vital importance to men such as:

- * Finding employment
- * Handling job interviews
- * How to handle finances
- * How to look after your health
- * How to lose weight.

Responsible Manhood also covers other topics as delineated below. The book discusses gender issues and contains a reasoned and balanced response to the demands of contemporary feminism, the ordination of women, and also has a plan of social action for men.

If you would like to place an order, or to know more about the book, please contact me.

Alan Barron

EDITOR:

It's available on Amazon.com for 35% off. I look forward to Steven Svoboda's review!

DEARNCFM:

I was wondering if there was anyway to get my hands on a copy of *Sex-Ploitation* by Matthew Fitzgerald. Amazon.com stopped carrying it themselves. I can only get it if I pay \$125 on Amazon.com through an individual seller. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Thanks.

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Letters

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Ryan

WEBMASTER:

Wow! Now that I see this, I wish I had kept my copy of this book years ago. I could have made a bunch of money selling it.

I looked around, and it appears to have been out of print for several years now. My best advice would be to check several used bookstores, both on the web and in your neighborhood, and hopefully you can find something.

DEARNCFM:

I think that our legal system violently punishes men for even the slightest hint of probability in a sexual harassment or child molestation issue. Even without evidence or proof. With only an accusation from a person. Why is this lesbian woman teacher not being prosecuted by law for her sexual misconduct with one of her students?

I take issue with this covering up of the crime. See for yourselves at:

www.journalnow.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=WSJ%2FMSGArticle%2FWSJ_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1137834311599

Something will change for the better if we all raise hell about this kind of stuff.

Nick Wisner
Newport, Oregon

WEBMASTER:

Thank you for your suggestion. Raising hell about this kind of stuff is a vague term, and I'm writing to seek clarification. You're right that we can take action to draw attention to this issue, but we need to target a specific entity with specific demands.

So, please, let me ask you: To whom should we direct our demands? Is there a specific person, office-holder, or committee we should target? Perhaps someone in the media or in the government? How do we contact them?

Also, what specific action should we demand of our target? Should we demand that prosecution take place even though the victim has dropped charges? Should we demand that this teacher not be allowed to return to her job? I'd appreciate your specific suggestion on this.

Please take these questions in the constructive way that they are intended. We CAN act in this case, but we need a specific plan. I'd appreciate your suggestions in the matter.

DEARNCFM:

My son Joseph James Williams was killed in Katy Texas on August 06, 2005. This death was ruled a suicide by the Katy police department. I do know that my son was in route to Mississippi, he sat in his jeep waiting for his sister to wire him some money. I have been told by Sergeant Woytec of Katy police department that my son called the police department and that he was also observed by surveillance cameras in the hospital parking lot (Katy Hermann memorial hospital). I asked to review the audio and video evidence and was told by Sgt. Woytec that there was nothing to see or hear and that the case was closed. I attempted to explain reasons why I know that there was foul play involved by two ex-wives. My son's personal effects were turned over to one of the ex-wives husband (employed by New Orleans civil sheriffs) and have not been returned to me or any family member. There has been recent activity on my sons credit file following his death per identity guard; however I can not obtain any further information due to the federal privacy act. There is so much more to this that I can not put it all in this forum. I would like to speak personally with someone of your expertise in criminal and civil investigations /litigation. There was no investigation of the crime scene and no ballistics testing done due to the fact that the second ex-wife a social worker made a statement that my son was suffering from PTSD and was not compliant with his meds (he was not treated or taking any meds for PTSD) and has been a very productive citizen performing work as hazmat tech,

military surveyor and other hazardous positions, including driving over the road for a brief period. That in my opinion may have taken a tremendous degree of concentration and skill. He ended an eighteen year career with the military during the months that he was going through his divorce proceedings. The first ex-wife of which this child custody issue exists was being examined by department of social services in New Orleans for receiving benefits for ten years for the child that was in the sole custody of my son for the entire ten years. Several months before my son's death he was being harassed about signing a life insurance policy and signing for a mortgage loan, when he was contacted by the bank he informed them that he was not married to anyone and was not going to sign for anything. The full benefits of his guarantee loan with the VA had been restored to him after his divorce, the home that he left the second wife in had been destroyed so badly that they could not even put it back on the market and she did not pay the mortgage for somewhere close to a year. I can not possibly put all the details of this incident into this forum; however I would like to meet with you personally to discuss further details that I feel are crucial to bringing the hands of justice forward in this pre-planned murder which has been labeled a suicide. My son's body was almost sent to Kansas for burial without my knowledge because the second ex-wife identified herself to be his current wife, my son never remarried. If this is not an area that you specialize in I would greatly appreciate any referrals that you may be able to provide me with, especially one with unrestricted jurisdiction. These are the areas of the law that surrounds the death of my son: homicide, real estate fraud, identity theft, child custody, slander, etc... I would like to subpoena records and review evidence from the scene of the crime. I would also like to request that both ex-wives, and the brother of the second wife, and the husband of the first wife be asked to submit to a lie detector test. I also ask that you would take notice that the father of the first ex-wife (Mr. Larry Anderson, New Orleans,

La) has stated that my son's death is not the end of the killing.

Thank you for your prompt attention and courtesy in this regard.

Eloise A. Williams

WEBMASTER:

I'm very sorry to hear about the death of your son. I'm also sorry to hear about the bad experiences with the authorities. It appears your son may be a victim of the kind of domestic violence that is never heard about in the mainstream press — violence by women against men. NCFM is definitely concerned about this issue.

The best advice I can give you, which you seem to have already taken to heart, is to get a really good lawyer to help you with all of this. Our closest chapter to all of this is our Dallas/Fort Worth chapter. I suggest you contact them and see if they can recommend someone. The contact info is: (972) 445-MALE or NCFMdfw@yahoo.com.

Unfortunately, NCFM doesn't maintain a national database of lawyers. We rely on our local chapters to know their local resources.

You might also want to consider contacting a fathers' rights group in your area for additional advice.

EDITOR:

A lawyer I know recommends you search for lawyers in your area using Martindale-Hubbe (www.martindale.com). Then, look up each candidate in your state's Board of Bar Overseers. Also, Google them and see what comes up. Look for someone who specializes in the area that applies to your case (divorce, domestic violence, etc). Meet with *several* (at least 5 to 10) until you find one you are comfortable with. You should be able to ask him anything. Shop around. Start your search early, and be honest with them. Don't let any of them lock you into anything until you're sure of which lawyer you want to hire.

DEAREditor:

Here's another perspective on "Choosing a Divorce Attorney," by J.C. McCall. In it, he stresses the importance of hiring a special kind of attorney, astutely pointing out that "the best admiralty lawyer

in the state may be able to determine fishing rights between state and federal waters, but he's probably not the attorney you want handling your divorce." McCall suggests choosing a qualified family law attorney instead.

I'd like to go one step farther. The best family law attorney in the state may be able to destroy a father on behalf of a mother, but he still might not be the attorney you want handling your divorce. Sadly, many attorneys have their own biases. Some of them, while happy to take your case and your money, remain emotionally on the side of the mom. Some of them have limited confidence in fathers as parents and will feel that, if they can get you every other weekend with your children, then they've won and they've done their job.

In other words, I suggest you try to find an attorney who is SPECIFICALLY recommended for fathers. Before choosing an attorney, contact your local family law reform group, and get feedback and recommendations from as many fathers as possible.

Fredric Hayward
Executive Director
Men's Rights, Inc.

DEARNCFM:

What can you do to help someone who has been falsely accused of rape? This woman has done this to two other men and has even charged her boss with sexual harassment.

Please help. This case has caught the attention of a local women's rape group and they demand full prosecution of all sexual assault charges, filed in Weld County, Colorado.

Jo

WEBMASTER:

Unfortunately, NCFM doesn't have a presence in Colorado, so it's difficult for us to get directly involved in a case like this. I would suggest that the best way to help your friend is to get him the best lawyer possible and fight the charges in court. You won't be able to persuade the people in the women's group — they have their minds made up. Getting your friend the best

defense possible will be expensive, but it's the only way to fight the charges directly.

NCFM is an educational non-profit organization. We do work to raise awareness of false allegations, among other issues, but it is usually difficult for us to get involved in specific cases. But I do want to wish you all the best in fighting this case. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

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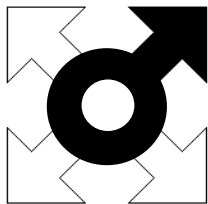
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