

# TRANSITIONS

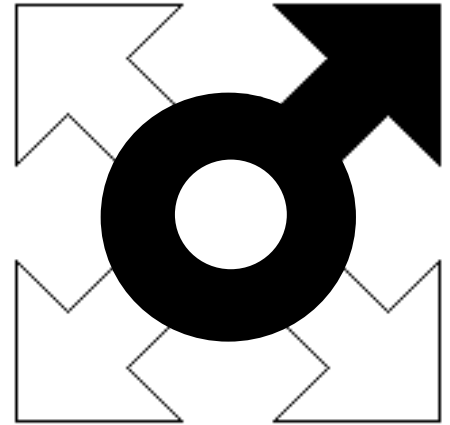
*JOURNAL OF MEN'S PERSPECTIVES*

Published by the National Coalition of Free Men

P.O. Box 582023 Minneapolis, MN 55458-2023

888 223-1280 toll free • New York 516 482-6378 • [ncfm@ncfm.org](mailto:ncfm@ncfm.org)

<http://www.ncfm.org>



Volume 27

Number 1

Jan/Feb 2007

\$2.00

## Sex With You? No Thanks, It's Too Risky

By Joe Zamboni

I picked up a 28 year old woman, quite cute, who was hitch-hiking last week. We got to talking about the directions our lives were going in. We drove for a few hours, so we had lots of time to get into all sorts of details. She got to telling me about a friend of hers, a woman who had a situation that she found enviable. It turns out the friend was the same age, and she had just recently gotten pregnant by a guy, but now she was living as a single mother and having a good time. The friend didn't want to work, except for four hours a week, just to get out of the house. Because the woman lived simply, the child support she received was more than enough for both her and the child to live a quite decent life. The hitchhiker particularly liked the way that her friend had gotten the guy "out of the picture, so that he wouldn't interfere" with her friend's life.

Now I was a bit surprised that the woman I picked up was telling me all this, given that I am a guy. But I guess she thought I was interested. I am more than interested, I am shocked. I am shocked that she thinks that all she has to do is get pregnant and that means that she will then be supported for the next eighteen years, that she then doesn't have to worry about supporting herself in any way. I am shocked that both she and her friend think they owe the father nothing, not even

visitation rights to his child. I am shocked that the legal system makes it all quite easy for them to arrange their lives in this way. I am

shocked that the hitchhiker was so cavalier, so straight about this whole thing, that she would talk about it as though it's what women do these days. Maybe this is a whole lot more common than I realize, given that I am from an older generation than these young women.

So far as I could tell, the hitchhiker didn't think there was anything unusual or amiss about her intention. So far as I could tell, she believed it was perfectly acceptable for her to go get knocked-up and then have some guy support her for the next eighteen years. As the subsequent conversation revealed, she had been unemployed for a while, and she didn't really want to work anyway. This get-yourself-pregnant strategy seemed like the way to put herself on easy street. There was no consideration of, so far as I could tell a total blindness to, what the experience of the guy must be.

The relative power of men and women has evidently gotten so far out of whack that women can now get themselves pregnant by not taking birth control, and of course no permission of the guy is necessary. They can have an abortion if they so choose, without getting the involved guy's permission. They can also drop off the baby outside a hospital, right after it is born, effectively putting it up for adoption, no questions asked, and no need for the guy's permission either. They can get themselves off the hook easy, in many ways, should they want to. But men, no, they can't get themselves off the hook at all. They have no right to disclaim financial responsibility for the baby if a woman should get pregnant, even if the woman had told the guy that she couldn't get pregnant or that she was on birth control. Guys have no right to require that a woman have an

### Inside this Issue:

<i>Editor's Comment</i> .....	Page 2
<i>Media Digest</i> .....	Page 3
<i>Message To Women</i> .....	Page 5
<i>Book Reviews</i> .....	Page 5
<i>NCFM News</i> .....	Page 10
<i>Letters</i> .....	Page 12

**TOO RISKY** continues next page

## Editor's Comment

I realize this issue is a bit late. I've been running *Transitions* by myself for about two and a half years now, and it's been a joy and an honor. However, my life has been getting busier as of late, and I'm going to need help to keep *Transitions* coming. What's more, I don't intend to keep printing issues in the same formula indefinitely. I want to move the newsletter forward by trying new things.

I've received several comments from non-members who say that I need to print more positive articles. This way, *Transitions* would be more effective in inspiring people to join NCFM. So, how about if we start a "Man of the Month" column? Every issue, this column would simply tell a story of a man whose actions

exemplify what is good about men. It will broadcast the sort of positive image of men which feminists try to repress. You can pull stories from the news, your neighbor, whatever. Anyone want to take on this task?

That's just one thing we could try. We could also offer advice columns, or reviews for movies and TV shows to compliment Steven Svoboda's book reviews.

There are many ways you could help out, depending on your individual talents. If you look at the "Volunteers Wanted" box in this issue, you'll see I have an ad there for an Assistant Editor. There are a number of things you could do. Please consider this job (or one of the others listed) if you have the time to help.

If you're interested in getting involved, or if you just have some suggestions, email me at [transitions@ncfm.org](mailto:transitions@ncfm.org). That account gets a lot of spam, so if I don't reply, send your email again.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Ever Yours in the Cause,

*Jason Leatherman*

## Too Risky

Continued from Page 1

abortion, they have no right to walk away at any point. To the contrary, there are many men now paying child support for babies that they didn't father (paternity fraud is a whole different story, but it's an indication of how out of whack things are).

So the guys get all the responsibility, at least financially, and the women don't have to handle any. And the gals get the right to pursue the guys for the money, to the extent that they can even have the state take away his driver's license if he doesn't pay, or in some cases put him in jail. It's a shame that I'm not gay — I'm afraid that I like sex with women too much. If I was bisexual, or even slightly inclined to be gay, this unethical and unconscionable state of affairs would be enough for me to say forget sex with women. To the extent that some guys have decided that they are going to stay away from women sexually,

because it's just not worth the risk, I certainly understand where they are coming from. And then a lot of modern women have the unmitigated gaul to complain that the men aren't willing to commit, say that the men are commitment phobic. Well, ladies, if you really understood what we men were up against, you wouldn't commit either. For now, the way I'm handling this is to go out with women who are too old to have kids. Yep, older women have a distinct advantage here. Now marriage, I don't know about that...

*Joe Zamboni is a pseudonym for a well-known writer. You can reach him at [redwoodwriter@hotmail.com](mailto:redwoodwriter@hotmail.com).*

### Help the Men's Center!

The **California Men's Center** is an outstanding resource for men and for NCFM. You can help the Men's Center expand its programs and help more men by making a MONTHLY PLEDGE. Even as little as \$10/month will help greatly!

For more information about the Men's Center, please visit [www.californiamenscenters.org](http://www.californiamenscenters.org)

To set up your monthly pledge, please contact Deborah at [NCFMdfw@yahoo.com](mailto:NCFMdfw@yahoo.com) or 972-445-MALE (6253).

### 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. Email your work to the editor at [transitions@ncfm.org](mailto:transitions@ncfm.org). Use a good Subject line to distinguish it from spam. Please see [www.ncfm.org/write1.htm](http://www.ncfm.org/write1.htm) for more information.

# Media Digest

with Mike Spaniola

**Political Correctness — The Revenge of Marxism**

By Fjordman, February 20, 2007  
<http://www.globalpolitician.com/articlesdes.asp?ID=2499&cid=1&sid=24>

*Some excerpts:*

>Karl Marx himself has stated that “The meaning of peace is the absence of opposition to socialism,” a sentiment that corresponds almost exactly to the Islamic idea that “peace” means the absence of opposition to Islamic rule. Cultural Marxism — aka Political Correctness — and Islam share the same totalitarian outlook and instinctively agree in their opposition to free discussion, and in the idea that freedom of speech must be curtailed when it is “offensive” to certain groups. ... Political Correctness is Marxism with a nose job. Multiculturalism is not about tolerance or diversity, it is an anti-Western hate ideology designed to dismantle Western civilization. ... Multiculturalism is just a different word for “divide and conquer,” pitting various ethnic and cultural groups

against each other and destroying the coherence of Western society from within. ...

>As William S. Lind points out: “While the hour is late, the battle is not decided. Very few Americans realize that Political Correctness is in fact Marxism in a different set of clothes. As that realization spreads, defiance will spread with it. At present, Political Correctness prospers by disguising itself. Through defiance, and through education on our own part (which should be part of every act of defiance), we can strip away its camouflage and reveal the Marxism beneath the window-dressing of “sensitivity,” “tolerance” and “multiculturalism.”

**Judge: Mountie’s meltdown just a blip**

Cop who fired 9 bullets during domestic dispute gets probation  
*The Chronicle Herald* (Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada) February 9, 2007  
<http://www.halifaxherald.com/Front/557854.html>

BRIDGEWATER — A Mountie who had “a bit of a meltdown” and fired nine bullets from her service pistol into the wall of her home has been put on probation for a year and will have no criminal record so she can continue what the judge called “an exemplary career.”

Const. Adree Zahara won’t have to perform community service as prosecutor Chris Nicholson requested because Judge Anne Crawford said Const. Zahara, as a police officer and single mother, already gives back to the community every day.

The judge also imposed a two-year ban on possessing weapons rather than the 10-year ban Mr. Nicholson asked for, saying the lesser term would still be a deterrent but would allow Const. Zahara to continue her career.

The two-year ban applies only when Const. Zahara isn’t working. She is allowed to carry a gun at work. “The public interest is best served here by allowing a good officer to continue her career,” Judge Crawford said as she agreed to the joint

**MEDIA continues next page**

## TRANSITIONS

© 2007, National Coalition of Free Men

*Transitions* is a bi-monthly publication of the National Coalition of Free Men (NCFM). It is intended to be an educational forum for the articulation of new ideas on social issues affecting men and boys. The views expressed in *Transitions* do not necessarily represent the opinions of the National Coalition of Free Men, its Board of Directors, or Board of Advisors. All original articles are protected by the copyright laws of the United States of America. NCFM invites others to republish original material and articles which appear in *Transitions*, provided that credit is given to NCFM along with the address of NCFM and the date of the *Transitions* issue. A copy of the publication must be provided to NCFM. Any republished works appearing in *Transitions* will be clearly identified and should not be republished further without permission from the author or the publisher.

Send direct correspondence to the editor: **Jason Leatherman, [transitions@ncfm.org](mailto:transitions@ncfm.org)**. You can leave a message on our toll-free answering machine: 888-223-1280. This answering machine is checked once a week and serves the entire United States. You can also call our office on Long Island, New York: 516-482-6378. Send email to: **[ncfm@ncfm.org](mailto:ncfm@ncfm.org)**. URL: **[www.ncfm.org](http://www.ncfm.org)**. NCFM also sponsors a private members-only discussion forum at ‘Yahoo!’, the homepage of which can be found at **[groups.yahoo.com/group/ncfm](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ncfm)**. To join the discussion group, send a blank e-mail to **[ncfm-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ncfm-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)**. You may be sent a return e-mail asking you to confirm your NCFM membership.

**Transitions Staff**

Editor in Chief Jason Leatherman  
 Orders and Renewals Kyle Knutson

**NCFM Committee Chairs**

Awards Michael Rother  
 Letter Writing Robert McInnes  
 Director of Public Relations Steven Svoboda  
 510-827-5771 [arc@post.harvard.edu](mailto:arc@post.harvard.edu)  
 Wm Hetherington Defense Gregory Singer

**Board of Directors of the National Coalition of Free Men, Inc.**

President	Michael Rother	Chapter Representatives:
Vice-President	Stanley Green	
Secretary	Jason Leatherman	Los Angeles
Treasurer	Deborah Watkins	Dallas/Ft. Worth
Member-at-Large	Steven Svoboda, Esq.	Twin Cities

Greater New York Peter Allemano  
 Edward Stephens, M.D.

**NCFM Board of Advisors**

Warren Farrell, Ph.D.  
 Edward Asner

## Media

Continued from Page 3

recommendation from the Crown and defence for a conditional discharge and a year on probation.

**“Post Super Bowl Feminism,”** Bernard Chapin, February 8, 2007. *American Spectator*. [http://www.spectator.org/dsp\\_article.asp?art\\_id=10988](http://www.spectator.org/dsp_article.asp?art_id=10988)

(note: excerpt from an interview with Christina Hoff Sommers, author of *The War Against Boys: How Misguided Feminism is Harming Our Young Men*.)

“Gender feminism thrives on the myth that American women are the oppressed ‘second sex.’ No matter how much evidence you adduce against this thesis (e.g. women live longer than men; they are more likely to go to college; they have far more choices on how to live their lives) the gender feminist never changes her mind. The education scholar Diane Ravitch was amazed to find that feminists still claim that our colleges and universities are “failing at fairness” to females — even though women are approaching 60 percent of college enrollments. She asked a good question: ‘When will it be fair? When women are 60 percent, or 75 percent of college enrollments? Perhaps it will be fair when there are no men at all.’”

**“Hillary and the Politics of Children,”** Stephen Baskerville. Human Events.com, January, 24, 2007. <http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=19096>

“Hillary Clinton chose to kick off her presidential campaign by invoking images of — what else? — children. ... This is more than just another politician kissing babies. It represents one of the most destructive (and successful) strategies of the feminist Left in recent years: the exploitation of children as political weapons. ...

“The trend may be traced to Hillary’s mentor, Marian Wright Edelman, who admitted she founded the Children’s Defense Fund in the early 1970s upon realizing that the country was weary of the broader New Left agenda: “I got the idea that children might be a very effective way to broaden the base for change.” Edelman’s achievement was “to put children squarely

in the front of almost every domestic policy debate,” according to the late Barbara Olson. In her book on the former First Lady, Olson writes, “For Hillary, children are the levers by which one forces social change.”

**“Hillary’s Gender War,”** Carey Roberts, February 2, 2007. TheRealityCheck.org. <http://www.therealitycheck.org/StaffWriter/croberts020207.htm>

(note: Carey Roberts, a staff writer for New Media Alliance, Inc., cites feminist stereotypes of men governing with self-centered interest while women have an innate munificence for society at-large. He then debunks these politically expedient and socially divisive generalizations.)

“Elect a man to office and the first thing he does is pass a law that benefits women. Blame it on the patriarchy, chivalry or political savvy — I don’t know, but that’s

what happens. Yes, men are so predictable,” Roberts wrote. “Take Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and welfare programs — all were passed by largely male legislators, all are paid for mostly by male taxpayers, and all have a majority of female beneficiaries.

“Now let’s look at the record of female elected officials — sorry, folks, this won’t be pretty. Can you think of a single Congresswoman who has pushed for funding to help boys who are falling behind in school? Can you name a law for prostate cancer research that was spearheaded by a woman? (For the record, it was Sen. Ted Kennedy who first seized on the idea of championing breast cancer research.) Can you wise me up to a single female-sponsored resolution that sympathized with the injustice of loving dads who are barred from seeing their kids?”

## Your everyday shopping can benefit NCFM!

At **iGive.com**, you can support NCFM while shopping online. iGive provides a mall of stores which will contribute a certain percentage of your purchase to your selected charity.

To create an account to support NCFM, go to:

**[www.igive.com/html/refer.cfm?causeid=1109](http://www.igive.com/html/refer.cfm?causeid=1109)**

It’s FREE, no invisible costs or tricky obligations. Shop for everyday items at the over 650 stores at the Mall at iGive.com, like Lands’ End, Best Buy, and Neiman Marcus. Up to 26% or more of each purchase is donated to NCFM.

Thank you and happy shopping!

**iGive.com™**  
Change online shopping for good.

## My Message To Women

If you want salvation, turn to God.  
Salvation comes from Him.

If you want security, look to yourself,  
and find it from within.

If you want protection, learn martial arts,  
buy a gun, or call the police.

If you want commitment, there's the asylum,  
(be "committed" as you please.)

If you want money and status, get a career,  
work hard, and you'll go far.

If you want power and fame, be a politician,  
or become a movie star.

If you want children, get a job  
at a day care center.

If you have kids, and they need watching,  
get a baby sitter.

If you want a hero, buy a sandwich,  
or go watch "Superman".

If you want someone to do you favors,  
check the ads under "handymen".

But....

If you want companionship, HERE I AM.  
You needn't look no farther.  
'Cause I'm right here to be your friend,  
your helpmate, or your lover.

You don't have to spend much money on me,  
or hand me gifts on a silver platter.  
Just your respect, your love, and appreciation  
are really all that matter.

I'm not your leader, or your follower,  
I'm right here by your side.  
So let's walk together, arm-in-arm,  
and be each other's guide.

-- Ralph Farinha

## Book Reviews By J. Steven Svoboda

*Spin Sisters: How the Women of the Media Sell Unhappiness and Liberalism to the Women of America*  
By Myrna Blyth. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2004. 342 pages.  
US \$24.95. Canadian \$36.95. [www.stmartins.com](http://www.stmartins.com).

Every now and then, it's fun to try something a little different. Even if it isn't quite your cup of tea, it keeps life interesting to try walking in the moccasins of someone with whom you might have previously thought you had nothing in common. Myrna Blyth has written a book specifically designed for, and often directly addressed to, politically conservative women. People such as myself who don't fit into these categories may seemingly have little to gain from reading *Spin Sisters*. And in fact, Blyth could have written the book differently in a way that would have carried the same essential message while allowing her to speak to a wider audience inclusive of males and non-conservatives.

Yet what the author does well, she does very well. She points up elegantly how feminism has allied itself with narcissism and consumerism. She writes in a style that is (most of the time) wonderfully engaging, irreverent and informal, full of the sort of folksy wisdom and healthy (not whining) skepticism that is becoming regrettably rare in today's world. She must have burned a lot of bridges in writing this book, in which she offers an intriguing insider's view of the crazy world of the ultra-rich female media superstars like Diane Sawyer, Barbara Walters, and Katie Couric. She does a good job quickly summarizing and debunking a number of gender-related myths that the media was instrumental in spreading, including the supposed voting gender gap, comparable worth, claims of 150,000 annual anorexia deaths, alleged Super Bowl Sunday male violence, and silicone implants. I particularly appreciated the author's thoughtful analysis of abortion/choice, in the wake of too much reflexive dogma on both sides of the fence of this divisive issue.

Sometimes Blyth overdoes it, as with her trashing of Rosie O'Donnell. OK, so Rosie isn't very nice. Personally, I'm not that surprised. And while a gossipy part of myself that I wish didn't exist might get some prurient gratification out of some of the sordid details Blyth provides, mostly I felt two things: 1. Why should I care about Rosie's personality flaws, one way or the other, and 2. Blyth's approach smacked of being a cheap shot.

Blyth lands some good lines, as with her critique of the modern trend of women, particularly highly privileged, wealthy media women, complaining about the slightest inconvenience as if it were a serious problem. Her response to editor Cathi Hanauer's complaints that, among other things, her cat woke her up, and the Fed Ex man arrived unexpectedly: "Hitler invading Poland, now, that was an unexpected visitor to get stressed about..." Hillary Clinton is hilariously described as "Our Lady of Perpetual Conjugal Suffering."

**REVIEWS continues next page**

## Reviews

Continued from Page 5

Blyth notes that the Lifetime Channel, billed as Television for Women, specializes in onslaughts of anxiety-producing, depressing stories involving kidnapped babies, a teenage girl recovering from comas who is being stalked by her mother's killer, domestic violence, an all-in-the-family murder plot against Dad, and the like. "Maybe there are things more out of touch with reality than Lifetime — the Victoria's Secret catalogue and Michael Jackson leap to mind."

One of the most interesting passages has Blyth debunking the currently almost reverential status accorded to "stress." The author dryly explains the intriguing origin of the term with some truly bizarre research done in the 1950's: "After injecting rats with everything from liquefied cow ovaries to toxic formaldehyde, Dr. [Hans] Selye noticed that the rats experienced physiological changes. Very Interesting." Although originally major stressors were considered to be the death of a spouse, a job loss, or a move to a strange, new place, nowadays almost anything seems to contribute to stress. Moreover, Selye emphasized the existence of good, necessary stress called eustress, a word that somehow didn't seem to catch on like its famous cousin. Blyth asks, since we have gained nearly an hour a day of free time since 1965, what are we complaining about? Part of the problem, the author notes, may be that leisure time has been redefined from time spent not doing what we *had* to do and now seems to mean "private time," by oneself or perhaps with friends but definitely without spouse and kids.

*Spin Sisters* traces the roots of female-oriented tabloid journalism to the early 1970's, when British and Australian journalists began targeting female readership to raise the flagging fortunes of their large-circulation national newspapers. The author adroitly points out the schizophrenic state of magazines for young women. Women are encouraged to be as sexually liberated and skilled as possible to attract a man, while being simultaneously warned "that the allure they work so hard and spend so much money trying to achieve

can be very dangerous." A story on how to "get gorgeous" runs alongside a rant by Eve Ensler of the infamous "Vagina Monologues."

I support Blyth in calling the bluff of the media elite over religion. Apparently 90% of Americans believe in God, yet religion and spirituality are virtually totally absent from women's magazines. The media seem much more comfortable writing about vibrators and scented candles than they do addressing what is a central part of many people's lives.

The author closes with a few strong points, some of which have been said before but bear repeating: "America has become a land where its citizens demand rights but forego responsibilities." She eloquently comments on media's distance from what really matters most to most women: "What women are really interested in is whether Johnny can actually read Mom's list of chores, not NOW's latest pitch

letter. They fear the HMO will jack up their co-payment, not the next trip to the nail salon. And they don't spend their time wondering if the groceries are laced with pesticides or the family home has toxic mold. They're more worried about paying for them. And in this post-9/11 world, they're worried, as well, about the safety and security of themselves and their families. Not sexy issues, most of these." Finally, Blyth writes, we should all bear in mind that this is truly a great time for women, who are doing better than men in education to the point where some colleges are now proactively recruiting that increasingly endangered species, male students.

*Spin Sisters* isn't a bad book, and is fairly entertaining. After a while, however, the author starts to take on the taint of those about whom she gossips. She is, after all, one of them. Blyth tries to play it both ways, using her "in" with the media

## Letters Campaign

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

**Please volunteer and write to:**

**Bob McInnes**  
**NCFM**  
**P.O. Box 582023**  
**Minneapolis, Minnesota**  
**55458-2023**

elite to describe tantalizing details about fabulously famous journalists, yet at the same painting herself as being an outsider due to her politics and her asserted rabble-rouser stance. In the end, it doesn't quite work. Yes, it's terrible how, in the aftermath of a tragic accident, Katie Couric repeatedly pressed a nine-year-old boy to describe how he had felt as he lost the grip of a friend who drowned in the Merrimack River. But it also reflects on Blyth that she finds it necessary to reiterate these sordid stories and indeed, to presumably profit from them through sales of her book. And her knowing, wink-wink-nudge-nudge address of her book to "you," meaning conservative women, does eventually start to grate.

Like her topic, Myrna Blyth's book is a number of different things — at times intriguing, at times annoying,

sometimes catty and juvenile, then later wise and judicious. Whether you are male or female and whatever your political views, if you're anything like me, you definitely won't be bored.

*Straight Talk for Men about Marriage: What Men Need to Know About Marriage (And What Women Need to Know About Men)*

By Martin G. Friedman. Beverly Hills, California: Little Moose Press, 2005. US\$15.95; Canada \$18.95. [www.meninmarriage.com](http://www.meninmarriage.com). (866)627-3518. 196 pages.

A corporate consultant runs into rocky times in his marriage but finds a way to continue, eventually creating a better,

richer relationship than he had ever had before, and he leaves his corporate job and becomes an advisor to men about marriage. That may sound like an unusual career path but that's the route taken by Marty Friedman, author of *Straight Talk for Men About Marriage*.

The author has put together an appealingly presented, male-friendly guide to improving the quality of our marriages. As Friedman is the first to point out, this isn't exactly rocket science. We need to learn to do the basics. A marriage is a path to learning about ourselves. Projecting our discontent onto our spouse doesn't do either of us any favors.

Friedman made a few points I particularly liked. He encourages men to view themselves in gender comfortable terms as the relationship warrior, struggling for truth, while allowing their wives to be the relationship managers. He calls on men to be honest in their marriage and to keep their wives apprised of their whereabouts, both physical and (as best we can) emotional.

A short section on how our own parents affect our marriage is very instructive. Many of us fail to realize or else forget that we are usually looking for a parent when we seek a partner. For us as for our wives, our spouse frequently stands in for both good and bad aspects of our own mother and father. We are setting ourselves up to try to get from our spouse what we failed to get from Mom and Dad, but if we are too unconscious about this process, we are setting ourselves up for failure and misery. At the same time, if we bring it to light, it can fuel a path toward greater self-awareness.

Learn to be vulnerable, Friedman encourages us, but be vulnerable in a way that feels comfortable. The author is very male-friendly in his tone and certainly does not want men to be more like women. What he does want is for both men and women to learn to present ourselves to each other in a way that makes it likely that we can get along and help each other to move along in our life paths.

A final chapter directed to women demonstrates the author's fair-mindedness and devotion to promoting greater marital understanding and harmony. *Straight Talk for Men About Marriage* may not be the

## Volunteers Needed Please Help !!

**WEBMASTER - NCFM** needs someone to take over the operation and maintenance of our new website. This is an important job that requires an eye for content, good judgment, and responsibility. Our web site is the face of our organization, so this is an opportunity to make a great contribution. If interested, please contact Mike Rother at [MichaelGRother@GMail.com](mailto:MichaelGRother@GMail.com).

**MEN's HOTLINE - NCFM** is in need of someone to operate our "hotline". 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](mailto:susansusansusan@hotmail.com).

**ASSISTANT EDITOR OF TRANSITIONS -** The editor could use some help in the production of Transitions. You would start by calling potential authors and soliciting articles. You would take on more tasks as your time and interest allow. This could include proofreading, graphical arts, or pursuing any other ideas you may have for improving Transitions. If interested, please contact Jason Leatherman at [transitions@ncfm.org](mailto:transitions@ncfm.org).

**REVIEWS continues next page**

## Reviews

Continued from Page 7

deepest, most profound book ever written about matrimony and self-discovery; it is probably surpassed by a number of works that start from a more advanced level, written by people like John Lee, John Bradshaw, Aaron Kipnis and Elizabeth Herron, Gay and Kathlyn Hendricks, John Welwood, David Deida, Dr. Warren Farrell, and others. But I can't think of a better first book to offer to a struggling male relative or friend. Marty Friedman doesn't pretend to offer all things to all people, but I do believe he has something to offer all of us of the male persuasion who are married and interested in improving that core relationship in our lives.

---

### *One Nation Under Therapy: How the Helping Culture is Eroding Self-Reliance*

By Christina Hoff Sommers and Sally Satel, M.D. New York: St. Martin's Griffin, July 2006. US \$13.95. Canadian \$18.95. [www.stmartins.com](http://www.stmartins.com). 310 pages.

Christina Hoff Sommers and Dr. Sally Satel, each of whom has individually authored standout works on gender issues that I have previously reviewed, have teamed together to produce *One Nation Under Therapy*. This book is not directed to gender issues per se but bears heavily on them and operates in their penumbra. It directly addresses our culture's move from placing great value on self-reliance and fortitude to our current "therapeutic ethic." Books such as this one may be even more important for those of us concerned with gender equity to read than works more directly aimed at issues of masculinity and femininity.

Why? For one, such books can be more challenging and more thought-provoking. There is much in *One Nation Under Therapy* that does not immediately ring true for me, but in many cases I am honestly unsure whether it is my prejudices or the authors' (or both) that are at play. This book makes us think.

The authors believe that therapy has outgrown its regions of usefulness, which they do not deny exist. Sommers and Satel further allege that responsibility has

become increasingly forgotten as we tend to focus on sympathizing with alleged victims. There is a powerful point here: the result of a debate (or a legal case) often hinges on which party we place our focus. In being so concerned with victims, and less concerned with responsibility and toughness, we have moved toward a more feminized society, one that naturally aligns itself less with masculine interests (whether those of men or women) and more with feminine interests (ditto).

Most (though not all) will agree with the ludicrousness of a Girl Scout merit badge (though the word "merit" is now deleted!) for stressing less, with the absurdity of eliminating tag and dodge ball as too stressful on children, and with the silliness of placing the innocuous game of musical chairs in a "Hall of Shame." As a parent myself, I get fed up with all this overprotectiveness, kids who are not allowed on playgrounds unless they are wearing a helmet, etc. As the authors note, rough and tumble play is more than not bad, it is an important if not essential part of normal child development. Its current lack of favor reflects society's creeping anti-masculine attitudes, as attacked by Sommers in her previous books.

Thus we no longer hold up as models coaches like "Fitz," an uncompromising old guy who demands the best from his kids and rides them if they disappoint him. Fitz is precisely the sort of coach who can make a lifelong difference in hundreds of children he coaches, and as the book clarifies, who is honored by his school's alumni as life-changing and deeply influential. Igniting feelings of competition seems to have become something that educators consciously avoid. Why is this bad, the authors query. Life, after all, is competitive. Satel and Sommers go on to discuss their position that a myth of high self-esteem has been created. High self-esteem is not always good and indeed, often criminals have high self-esteem! Current curricula can encourage kids to be self-involved, something for which children hardly need encouragement.

One of the authors' most explosive contentions, and yet one with which it is hard to argue, is that in areas such as history,

today's curriculum is *designed* to keep children ignorant. Current prevailing wisdom makes it verboten to laud our country's founding fathers or to suggest that the United States, despite being the world's oldest constitutional democracy, is in any way exceptional. Shockingly, state law in the US's largest state, California, *forbids* any discussion of any differences in cultures as being undesirable. Thus we have created a country in which a classroom of students can read Shirley Jackson's famous story "The Lottery," without a single student taking a stand against the human sacrifice recounted in the tale of villagers stoning an innocent person to death. As the authors convincingly connect the dots, "[t]he child abuse scandal in the Catholic Church is a sobering example of what can happen when the therapeutic perspective displaces a judgmental moral point of view."

As I mentioned above, at times I have difficulty with the authors' perspectives. Homework assignments such as writing a suicide note from Lady Macbeth to her husband or using kitchen staples to make a map of Italy frankly don't strike me as absurd but at most a bit overwrought while also admirably creative. I tend to sympathize with the view that self-expression is generally a good thing. At the same time, I also am persuaded by the authors' contention that we are losing our ability as a society to laud the also necessary capacity to endure and to tough out trying times.

Satel and Sommers do not explicitly make this point, but the connection to gender issues becomes clear when we note that most potentially exculpating syndromes that they discuss as being used to excuse crimes (such as battered woman's syndrome, Super Bowl Sunday syndrome, rape trauma syndrome, and premenstrual stress syndrome) are exclusively or preferentially available to females. Such excuses dilute the moral power of law and eat away at the rule of law on which civilization depends.

The authors devote a good deal of ink to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). As a former immigration lawyer for severely traumatized Haitian political activists, I have seen how devastating PTSD



can be and how deceptive its diagnosis can prove. So I am torn by their approach to PTSD, which is quite persuasive. PTSD was originally created as a diagnosis for Vietnam veterans, yet according to the authors has been badly over-diagnosed almost from the get-go. One problem is professionals often fail to note the degree of trauma and merely observe its presence or absence. Another problem is many if not all of the symptoms of PTSD, considered in the abstract, represent normal human responses to extraordinary events. Finally, PTSD is subject to manipulation by veterans (and others) all too aware of which symptoms they should emphasize or fabricate in order to receive disability payments and other compensation.

Sommers and Satel do a good job of debunking allegations that PTSD was widespread in New York City in the wake of the events of September 11, 2001. They also go a long way toward proving their suggestion that extensive psychiatric care without other structures in place may promote helplessness. The authors make an excellent point that the widespread boat rescues of strangers on September 11 were antithetical to the self-focused, victimization-focused approach promoted by our overly psychologized society. British people showed similar resilience during World War II air raids, and the time's tough-love approach to psychiatry seems to have helped with this.

Christina Hoff Sommers and Dr. Sally Satel have produced a thought-provoking, excellent work that does much to advance consideration of how our overly therapeutic society hinders its people's own development and healing while impeding healthy gender relationships. Highly recommended.

---

### *Boys Don't Cry; Men Do*

By Alberto Minzer. Bloomington, Indiana: AuthorHouse, 2006.  
[www.authorhouse.com](http://www.authorhouse.com). 155 pages. No stated price but website gives price as US \$12.00.

Licensed therapist and fellow New Warrior Alberto Minzer has crafted one of the most puzzling books I have ever read on personal growth for men. I don't believe I am the only man who will find this book to be more or less equal parts valuable and incomprehensible.

First, the worthwhile aspects, of which there are many, include Minzer's no nonsense, direct approach to his topic of how men can hold onto the gold from their boyhood selves while simultaneously leaving behind the many traps so many of us fall into (addiction, blame, anger, lack of self-worth, shame, and many others) and advancing into ripe, powerful yet humble manhood. The author clearly cares about his topic and about men, indeed, about humanity. At a couple points he usefully incorporates into the book issues relating to the writing of the book itself. For example, in his superb though brief survey of men and shame that immediately precedes the book's conclusion, he usefully shows us how his own shame led him to initially draft a very different beginning to that chapter.

Minzer gives us a number of memorable lines. I liked his point about men not being allowed to possess qualities common to boys but instead being required to be (or at least seem) self-sufficient and emotionally invulnerable. A bit later, he notes that his common question for men considering embarking on a path to healing is, "Are you willing to do whatever it takes to heal and become a man?" In the author's words, "No man that I have worked with has ever said 'no' to that question." Men can cry without having to ask for permission, as Minzer habitually tells his clients, and in some cases they do. Some of his points strike me as new and fascinating, as with his suggestion that isolation and aggression are similar in that they are both (unsuccessful) attempts at self-soothing.

The life stories the author distills from his own patients (with details and identities naturally changed) are extremely compelling, vibrant slices of gritty lives of real men.

On the down side, Alberto Minzer seems to want to impress us, and seems not to be aware that trying to impress a reader is typically a self-defeating proposition. He repeats his string of multi-initial credentials as often as he can (what is C.A.D.C., anyway?) At times he seems to be advertising his practice, and at other times it is hard to be sure precisely what he is up to. For example, he writes, "Tony's façade was evident to a trained eye," without clarifying for the reader (who, after all, wasn't present at this therapy session) the nature of the façade. Seemingly we are meant to be impressed. Later, out of nowhere, the author writes, "I know myself as a man of faith and trust." It feels to me like a big fat non sequitur. Again we are

asked to be impressed, and I for one am not. Again, when Minzer writes, "I've finally grown up now," for me this rings false.

I do not share the author's almost obsessive belief in the importance of literal truth. At one point Minzer opines that we do considerable harm to our kids when we play along with the societal myths about Santa Claus, the tooth fairy, and the Easter Bunny. Given that these stories permeate our society, I wonder what alternative Minzer proposes? He never says. Later, a mother tells her son (of unstated age) while the two are in therapy with the author that his father might not ever return to the family. The author considers this to be very positive while I feel its importance is much more marginal, quite possibly negative instead of positive, and in any case dependent on the context in which this discussion arose (not to mention the child's age). Much more crucial, in my opinion, though not alluded to as relevant by the author, is the sort of environment the mother creates for her son, in Dad's absence.

In general I find the author's approach a bit stark, quite focused on the harm done to children by adults, often by their parents or other caretakers. There is no denying that all parents make mistakes, and many of these mistakes cause problems. Yet, given what Minzer writes elsewhere in the book about encouraging men's paths of healing and self-discovery, I see a bit of a contradiction here. In short, I am surprised he doesn't see fit to ask individuals to develop more of their own resources and defenses rather than assuming that most problems stem from our childhood and/or from others outside ourselves.

I can't avoid reaching the conclusion that the book for all its intermittent richness, finally feels a bit hollow. Why did Minzer write it? What is he trying to say? I'm still not quite sure. Despite the book's short length, only 152 pages of fairly sparse text, it is poorly structured and rambles a good deal, making it hard for a reader to hold on for the ride. Minzer frequently operates on the meta level, speaking generally about desirable changes without giving the roadmap as to how to get there that many books of this type go much further toward providing. (A good contrast, for example, is provided by the books of Stephan Poulter.)

Alberto Minzer mixes the gold and the dross in about equal measure. His book will get you thinking about critical issues and for all its flaws, is engaging and enjoyable. I guess I have to say this one is "lowly recommended."

## *What's Happening??*

# National Coalition of Free Men News

### SAN DIEGO CHAPTER ACTIVITY REPORT

(By Harry Crouch)

We have a few new members who I would like to welcome: Erica Riddle (who is always willing to hold a picket sign), Brian Nelson (his brother is next), Larry Kerkman (German spelling), and George Kenner (all around rabble rouser), which I believe gives us more than 10 members and enough to become a permanent rather than provisional chapter.

Progress has stopped on our "Tolling Project", the project that would help inmates complete the necessary paperwork to suspend their child support payments while incarcerated. We have the support of all the necessary government agencies except Donovan's State Prison, whose representatives have thus far been non responsive. So, this week I'll be contacting the Warden directly. If that doesn't work, then the Governor's office.

Much of the last two months, if not three months, has been devoted to helping the Children's Rights Initiative for Sharing Parents Equally (CRISPE) up and running. There is still much to do and the CRISPE bus at this typing will be within the next day or so headed back to where it was purchased, Tucson, Arizona, for warranty work. The CRISPE crew was so excited about getting the bus that it left Tucson before the dealership was able to make sure everything worked properly. You can see pictures at our chapter web site: <http://www.californiamenscenters.org/>.

We have had a slew of great guest speakers since our last report. You can read more about each of them by clicking on our calendar in the upper right hand corner of any page of our chapter web site.

February 16, 2007, we staged a rally (as Marc Angelucci calls it) at the main entrance to the annual San Diego Domestic Violence Council's Men's Leadership Forum. You can read about it, see pictures,

and make comments here: <http://standyourground.com/forums/index.php?topic=12419.0>

### L.A. CHAPTER ACTIVITY REPORT

(By Marc Angelucci)

NCFM-LA provided referrals and moral support for a number of men who contacted us throughout December 2006 and January 2007. We helped two new paternity fraud victims prepare documentation to challenge their false paternity judgments. We set up a booth at the Celebration of Oneness Festival where we handed out NCFM materials. We participated in RADAR's resolution on VAWA. We connected Warren Farrell with the Daily Journal and thereby got his op ed on the gender pay gap printed on January 19, 2007. We did that to counterbalance the many articles that kept printing on the pay gap that said nothing about the parental and other life-work choices behind the pay gap or which gender has more options. Our members continued to donate money to various partner organizations. Member Ray Blumhorst visited about ten different government centers, courts, etc. by parking the NCFM-LA truck, setting up a small table, handing out NCFM materials and talking to people.

We helped draft the reply brief in the case of Maegan Black v. State of California to challenge the State's discrimination against male victims of domestic violence and incarcerated fathers. We also helped draft the reply brief in the high profile paternity fraud case of County of Los Angeles v. Taron James. In addition, we generated the following media hits:

11/29/06: Pasadena Star News prints NCFM-LA's submission responding to a feminist article about the gender pay gap. <http://www.ncfmla.org/psn-112906.html>

12/1/06: Divorced Fathers Network Radio interviews NCFM-LA

President on the air about paternity fraud, domestic violence and child custody issues. <http://www.divorcedfathers.com/>

12/15/06: L.A. CityBeat printed NCFM-LA submission regarding male rape victims and false accusations of rape made against military men.

12/23/06: Times-Herald prints two NCFM-LA submission regarding domestic violence, male victims and false accusations.

12/29/06: San Diego Union Tribune prints NCFM-LA submission responding to a one-sided article about the gender pay gap.

1/1/07: Los Angeles Times prints NCFM-LA submission responding to an article that falsely claimed men do better than women after divorce.

The biggest event for us during this period was on January 26, 2007, when we went to Sacramento for the hearing in David Woods, et al. v. California. In that case, NCFM-LA's president is representing four battered men who are challenging the state's discrimination against men in the statutory provisions for domestic violence (which exclude male victims) and the statutory provisions for incarcerated parents (which exclude inmate dads). The hearing went well. No decision was made yet, but the judge made it clear he believes these laws are unconstitutional. He ordered both sides to submit supplemental briefs on specific issues that need to be fleshed out. Ray Blumhorst drove 6 hours with the NCFM-LA truck and signs, parked in front of the courthouse and handed out materials.

Fred Hayward, Michael Robinson, a reporter from the Capitol Weekly, Sacramento Deputy Sheriff Jodi Mendonca (who runs a substance abuse program for incarcerated men and who supports our lawsuit), Ray Blumhorst, David Woods, Diane Schachterle and others showed up. The reporter from the Capitol Weekly was there because he saw Ray and his signs

outside and asked what was happening. He wound up running a story on the lawsuit two weeks in a row and then printing our follow-up commentary.

That would not have happened if Ray had not made signs and driven 6 hours each way to be there. Thank you, Ray! On the same day as the hearing, lobbyist Michael Robinson took Marc Angelucci through the Capitol to be introduced to various legislative staff, lobbyists, etc. and to get a feel for how the system operates and what needs to be done to have an impact up there. Thank you, Michael!

On January 28, 2007, NCFM-LA joined Steven Svoboda (NCFM Northern California) in writing to the Futon Shop to protest their ad depicting a woman striking a man for not providing her with organic products. The ad was removed and did not appear again. Thank you, Steven!

On February 2, 3 and 4, 2007, NCFM-LA's president assisted Warren Farrell with his couple's communication workshop at the Esalen Institute in Big Sur, California and helped him sell his books, including *The Myth of Male Power*. The workshop went fantastic as usual. It was overbooked, which is not uncommon. NCFM-LA's president was delightfully surprised to come across another NCFM member at Esalen who is from Northern CA and was attending workshops there.

(Editor's note: See the news page on the NCFM web site or the LA chapter web site to get the links and photos that go with these stories.)

#### STEPHEN BASKERVILLE WORKING ON NEXT DV BOOK

Stephen Baskerville writes: I recently signed a contract with a current affairs publisher for a book tentatively entitled *Taken Into Custody: The War Against Fathers, Marriage, and the Family*. This will be a major exposé on all facets of the divorce/custody machine — including child custody, constitutional rights, child support, domestic violence, child abuse, feminism, government fatherhood/marriage programs, and more. It will document the politics behind the machinery — the

conflicts of interest, the corruption, the money, the extremist ideology — and demonstrate why this is more than simple "gender bias" against fathers.

*Taken Into Custody* will be the most comprehensive and forthright exposé yet published by a major publishing house of the depredations of the divorce industry. I say this conscious that I am standing on the shoulders of others: Sanford Braver's *Divorced Dads: Shattering the Myths*, Warren Farrell's *Father and Child Reunion* (among his other books), Jeffery Leving's *Fathers' Rights*, Jed Abraham's *From Courtship to Courtroom*, Robert Seidenberg's *The Father's Emergency Guide to Divorce-Custody Battle*, Richard Doyle's *Save the Males*, Judy Parejko's *Stolen Vows*, and others. Without these pioneering efforts, I would never have been able to write this book. Yet these writers were either pressured by their publishers to tone down their language or forced to self-publish. This is the first book from a major publisher that has been permitted to speak the unvarnished truth about the divorce machinery: its destruction of families, its violations of the Constitution, its disregard for due process of law, its voracious appetite for children, parents, and families. This is no tirade however but a thoroughly documented study of the most repressive government machine ever created in the United States.

For examples of the kind of forthright account you can expect in this book, look at the published articles at [www.stephenbaskerville.net](http://www.stephenbaskerville.net).

*Taken Into Custody* is scheduled for publication in July for \$24.95, but you can order it now for a special pre-publication price of \$16.47 at Amazon.

#### NCFM PUTS STOP TO ANTI\_MALE ADS

Steven Svoboda and Marc Angelucci held their own letter-writing campaign to protest the anti-male ads that the Futon Shop published in the *East Bay Express*. The ad depicted a young, very attractive woman striking a man whose head is tilted to the side as he responds to her

probably unexpected attack. The caption reads, "Organic organic — I must have my organic!" It seems the reader is meant to understand and support the woman's outrage at receiving an evidently non-organic product from her boyfriend/husband, and the reader is further meant to support this woman's use of violence to express her feelings.

The week after they wrote the Futon Shop, they ran no ad. The next week, they had a new ad that had no anti-male content. The text of the new ad reads: "You heard it right. Bay area's leading futon retailer! Come visit us today!" And a picture of a young woman with her eyes closed and rabbit ears on her head, showing that she is listening.

As Steven said, even one or two letters can change the world a tiny bit.

#### 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.

Price per mug is \$12.99, including shipping to the 48 contiguous United States.

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

# 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 [transitions@ncfm.org](mailto:transitions@ncfm.org). Letters sent directly to him will be addressed "Dear Editor". Send opinions, stories, requests for advice, or other letters to our president: Michael Rother at [ncfm@ncfm.org](mailto:ncfm@ncfm.org). Letters sent to him will be addressed "Dear NCFM".*

**DEAR NCFM:**

I am the founder of a magazine for women here in South Africa -- a resource that builds a values-based message to build character and community in our society. Through this journey I have been approached by many men to launch a men's magazine -- which we are in the process of formulating -- I came across your reading room and was struck by the quality and value in many of your articles.

I would like to request permission to publish these in our magazine with full acknowledgement given to your writers and website. Would this be appropriate? I look forward to hearing your response.

Rachel van Doorene  
 Founder & Editor  
 Women Inc. Magazine  
[rachel@womeninc.co.za](mailto:rachel@womeninc.co.za)

**NCFM:**

Thanks for contacting NCFM. I've reviewed your request with our board of directors, and, yes, please feel free to publish articles from our website. We'd appreciate a reference back to our website be published with those articles.

As you publish articles from our site, please let us know which articles you're using. If you modify them or add commentary, please allow us to see that as well. The lawyers among us are pointing out that this permission is revocable at any time.

Thanks for taking an interest in our organization! Good luck with your publication.

**DEAR NCFM:**

I am Simon Sharp; and I am a retired Master Sergeant US Army Veteran of 24 years service. I saw your "Help Information For Veterans" on NCFM's chapter web page. I have been a member of NCFM but lost interest when I started to think that there was no national focus for the organization.

I am writing you this email to advise you that military retirees are losing up to half of their earned retirement in divorce settlements to spouses that have only been a spouse to a military member of only ten years! The service member must risk life and limb for twenty plus years of honorable and noble service to receive the same amount as a spouse of only ten years! This law is targeting over 90% males and the male military members are the victims with this unjust unfair gender biased law!

I am not bitter or angry since this DID NOT happen to me; however many of my comrades are losing half their retirement to an ex-spouse for "Child Support" for her extortion tool and the other half for previous sexual favors no longer received!

There is a war going on and 98% of the deaths are males and 2% are females. Overall the military is 84% males and 16% females. There is a major disparity between the sacrifice of the male gender and the female gender! The anti-war sentiment is just gaining momentum and any fuel that can be provided to the recently empowered Democrats will be the drum to beat!

Males still must register and females are not required to register for the draft!

Males are placed in dangerous MOS's such as Infantry, Armor, and Artillery!

If NCFM can not see the advantage of standing behind our military men that are serving with honor and nobility and then used and abused to advance women at the expense of our military male

service members, I will have no use for this organization again!

I have never paid alimony, palimony, or "Child Support." No member of my family is a victim of this screw-the-men law. However, this is plain wrong!

Simon

**NCFM:**

I agree entirely with your statements and your concerns. I would love to see NCFM do something about this. Can you suggest a course of action? We're limited by the number of volunteers available to us, and with our 501c3 status, we are not able to engage in a lot of legal actions. But your points are entirely valid, and I'm certainly willing to consider a course of action that our group can legally engage in. Please let us know your thoughts on this matter.

**DEAR NCFM:**

I am looking for information or programs directed to men who have been wrongfully accused of domestic violence. I have counsel and have spent over \$80,000.00 trying to get the courts to just listen to my story. The woman who claims domestic violence has perjured herself in the court at least 8 times, lied 3 times in depositions, and supplied the court with fraudulent documents in an order to have me incarcerated. I have the most credible witnesses one could want to testify in my defense. The witnesses include a 35 year veteran prosecutor at the court house where proceedings began, police captain, a county probation officer, several depositions where she told opposite of what she said in court to get the injunction, and I could go on and on. She uses this injunction as a sword, following me and implicating me in more false claims. We also know she has a mental illness called Borderline Personality Disorder. All that being said when we get a hearing date set in front of the judge who issued the order, he would not let one of my witnesses testify. He just turns to the woman and asks "Are you afraid for your

life and safety” to which she will always reply “Yes” because this is the biggest control reign she could ever have and with her internal desire to control it will never end. The judge then ends the hearing, preserving her injunction, and not letting my counsel get two words in. It is so one-sided. Any thoughts or organizations you could recommend? I am in Florida and have tried to get the newspaper involved, wrote several letters to our governor (Bush), etc. Where can you get some national or state assistance or intervention on an issue of this sort?

William

**NCFM:**

Thank you for contacting NCFM. Finding “information or programs” on this topic is quite difficult indeed, although we certainly understand that the issue is real. I would suggest this website as a possible start on such a search [www.falseallegations.com](http://www.falseallegations.com). You might also want to try: [www.a-team.org](http://www.a-team.org).

For the time being, the best place to get this type of information is, unfortunately, your attorney.

I’m curious, though. The proceedings you’re describing — is that an actual criminal trial, or is it a hearing regarding a restraining order? My understanding is that restraining orders are typically granted to almost anyone who asks, but a criminal trial is another matter. I’m just curious which one we’re talking about.

Personally, if someone did this to me, I would be quite eager to cut that person out of my life like a cancer. So, I would even go so far as to ask the judge to make the restraining order MUTUAL, so that all contact is broken off, and I can go my own way and find my own peace. But since I don’t know enough about your case, I can’t really comment beyond that.

Good luck to you, as you proceed on your adventure through our very interesting legal system!

**EDITOR:**

It sounds like you have an attorney issue. You’re entitled to your say in court. If you don’t get it, your lawyer should get the court records and appeal it. Move the venue to the next higher court, and get

another judge. Look at the judge’s record and see if you can show bias.

For \$80K, you deserve more service than this from your attorney. This should be an easy appeal. Don’t pay him anything else until he moves your case along to the next stage. If you can’t get your lawyer to do it, you may have a malpractice case. Maybe you can get some of your \$80K back.

**DEAR NCFM:**

I’m not sure if you can help me or if I should be doing anything, but I have a problem that has been bothering me for about a year now.

My sister-in-law told me about a karate instructor she falsely accused more than ten years ago when she was 16. She made it very clear that she had initiated a relationship with her 21 year old karate teacher or teacher’s assistant, but then she told her therapist that she felt he abused her.

She said that the boy died in a car accident by himself a few months after the police got involved and the case started. She made it super clear that she thinks he killed himself, and that she’s happy about it.

I don’t know what I should do at all, but this has been bothering me since she told me. I have seen this woman since then tell such flat-out lies and be so manipulative that I really do believe that she falsely accused the man. She used the phrase “he was doing things he wasn’t supposed to be doing,” and looking back, that is hallmark Elizabeth equivocation. She always uses mysterious phrases like that to imply things that she doesn’t want to flat-out lie about until everyone believes her. It’s hard to explain, but it’s just what she does. Using 20/20 hindsight, it makes me think she lied about having sex with him to her therapist and the police and the prosecutor. I \*do\* believe her that the 21 year old is really dead, and I guess that’s what bothers me.

I guess I feel better just telling someone. I don’t even know the boy’s name, but I know this happened in Batesville, Arkansas around 1993 or 1994.

Meghan Sullivan

**NCFM:**

Thanks for contacting NCFM. You have an interesting situation here. I’m not sure there is anything you can or should do about this, and I don’t have any recommendations other than to be very careful around Elizabeth. If she is that manipulative, it may be possible for her to get you in some kind of trouble some day. So, personally, I would want to be very careful around someone like that.

Since the karate instructor apparently committed suicide, I doubt Elizabeth would be held responsible for that, especially since it was so long ago.

Good luck with the situation, whatever you decide to do. And thanks for letting us know.

**DEAR NCFM:**

I feel Senators Feinstein and Hutchison should be investigated because these women appear disillusioned and biased against fathers. The Family Abduction Prevention Act is co-sponsored by Senators Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Texas) and Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.). It provides funding to help local law enforcement investigate and prosecute parental abduction cases. FAPA passed the Senate by unanimous consent in the last Congress and will soon be considered by the House of Representatives in the present Congress. Isn’t there already a law called “The Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act (1980)”?

Feinstein and Hutchison are correct that parental abductions are a problem -- each year, 200,000 children are kidnapped by a family member, usually a non-custodial parent. Yet while FAPA may do some good, it’s one of those bills that only looks at the problem from a women’s point of view. Men are wrongly being denied access to their children in larger numbers than women. Instead of addressing this issue, Feinstein and Hutchison (with their female chauvinistic minds) want a law passed to further oppress fathers.

Below I list a couple references, including a *New York Times* story of a mother killing her daughter. Why is this not being addressed? Because of female chauvinism?

**LETTERS continues next page**

# Letters

Continued from Page 13

According to the website [www.childprotectionsolutions.com/missing\\_child\\_statistics.htm](http://www.childprotectionsolutions.com/missing_child_statistics.htm) which gets its data from the FBI, most missing children are from non-relatives and runaways. The statistic concerning abductions from non-custodial parents is due to the fact that fathers have their civil rights violated in family court by not having access to their children. This occurs with "malicious mother syndrome" (see *Journal Of Family Violence*, Volume 10, Number 3, p 253-264, 1995 "Divorce Related Malicious Mother Syndrome" by Ira Daniel Turkat, Ph.D.), and by biased family courts.

The Real Solution: The parental abduction problem could be reduced by instituting a rebuttable presumption of shared custody after a divorce or separation. Under this presumption — which does exist to varying degrees in some states -- as long as both parents are fit, they will both have the right to share equally in raising their children. Feinstein and Hutchison should make sure equal custody occurs and develop legislation for that purpose. According to the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice, children in sole-custody settings are at a far greater risk of being abducted by a parent than children in joint physical custody settings. The driving force behind parental abductions is the win-lose child custody system and bias against fathers.

Under this system, when a couple divorces or separates, one and only one parent is awarded true custody of the child, and many non-custodial parents are allowed little or no role in their children's lives. Courts enforce visitation and parenting time lackadaisically. According to the Children's Rights Council, a Washington, D.C.-based children's advocacy group, more than 5 million American children each year have their access to their non-custodial parents interfered with or blocked by custodial parents. This sets up a situation where disenfranchised parents may go outside the law to regain their relationships with their children.

This is not to say that parental abductions are justified or are in children's best interests -- they rarely are. And in some

cases, parents have lost custody because they are unfit. Yet current divorce policies set up incentives to abduct.

Feinstein and Hutchison portray FAPA as a protection against abducting non-custodial fathers. However, according to the Department of Justice, mothers and fathers abduct their children in equal numbers. Since non-custodial fathers outnumber non-custodial mothers four-to-one, non-custodial mothers are far more likely to abduct their children than non-custodial fathers. A smaller amount of women abduct the children a larger percentage of the time when they are non-custodial parents. For men, losing custody is Standard Operating Procedure (or, more appropriately, Standard Operating Punishment which is a civil rights violation) in family court. Yet losing custody can be devastating emotionally for any parent.

FAPA is at best a Band-Aid female chauvinistic law to a bleeding wound. Only shared parenting can truly reduce the anger and fear endemic to custody battles emotions which can often lead to child abductions.

Solution: Fix the courts to make them fair for men and don't vote for women chauvinistic politicians.

Ref. 1. [www.stopfamilyabductionsnow.org/parents.html](http://www.stopfamilyabductionsnow.org/parents.html)

Ref. 2. Story of NJ mother who killed daughter who wanted to go with non-custodial father. In this case would you have punished the father if he abducted and saved his daughter's life? **NYTimes.com** story December 2, 2006 "Woman Gets 30-Year Sentence for Fatal Beating of Daughter" By John Holl

I am putting together good people to do good things.

F. Cottone  
Keansburg, NJ

**NCFM:**

Thanks for your comments. I'm forwarding a copy of your email to the presidents of our LA chapter and our Dallas-Fort Worth chapter in case they want to do anything with this issue. I appreciate your involvement.

**DEAR EDITOR:**

Please send me a free/complimentary subscription to your magazine if at all possible and please inform me if you know of any organizations/services/programs nationwide or locally that provides surrogate fathers, surrogate brothers — even mentors/caregivers/bodyguards if possible — volunteer individuals on an ongoing basis for adults or children who have grown up and been fatherless since birth (or who may have experienced emotionally absent or alcoholic fathers throughout life.) Please research that issue thoroughly and contact me with information as promptly as you can.

Also, if someone there could do an Internet web search for all nationwide men's organizations in existence, compile them in paper printout, send them to me by mail at my address, I'd appreciate it. Thank you.

Scott Kiley  
3131 34 Ave.  
Sacramento, CA 95824  
916-393-7185

**EDITOR:**

I'll send you a subscription, but I don't have time to do all of the research that you request. Perhaps the readership will contact you if they have references.

**DEAR NCFM:**

Thank You and each and every NCFM member who have stood with me throughout this struggle for Justice! I was just denied parole again from my 9/15/2006 interview. It looks like (30 years) 2015!

In stark contrast, they just granted parole to Dr. Jack Kevorkian! This is the man who was convicted of 2nd degree MURDER... and bragged about killing over 130 people! However, he is granted a parole on his very first time to the parole board because he promised not to do it again!?!? How can they even keep me and release a person convicted of murder... (let me make the same promise?)

The bottom line is that, MY SINCERE THANKS goes out to you all for every iota of your unselfish support and donations to allow me to obtain the necessary clothing items that I desperately needed! I had simply worn everything I had to thread bare status hoping and believing that this time they would surely set me free. It would be impossible for me to continue to fight this fight without your continued support to assist me in obtaining the basic needs of postage, copies, and envelopes etc., etc. For this I am continuously grateful and send my humble acknowledgement of said same! This would be "SIBERIA" without your help!!! I will continue to hope, fight, and pray for outside legal assistance of one of those mega law firms who take the underdog's cases almost everyday in the media. I need your assistance in making contact and requesting their consideration of my appeal? This would go far to finding the firm who would take my case pro-bono. But, for me from in here it is nearly impossible as I do not have Internet use or access to addresses and the like! I am simply up the creek without arms to even paddle if I had a paddle!

Below is my new address if anyone would like to contact me. I was recently transferred here due to severe medical illness after 6 days in the I.C.U. unit where I almost died from bleeding in the esophagus/stomach. I know of another inmate who had been locked up for 30 years who just died from this same problem even though he had the surgery to fix the bleeding! I am struggling to survive and need your help now more than ever. Please help me if you possibly can find time? Thanks again...

Wm.. J. Hetherington # 186155  
Saginaw Correctional Facility  
9625 Pierce Road  
Freeland, MI, 48623

**DEAR EDITOR:**

I have been a widower for the past five years and am thinking of getting back into the world of dating. Since it has been almost thirty-five years since I have begun a new relationship, I turned to the Internet for advice. I naively assumed that all the demands for equality had resulted in both parties paying their own way, with the

reward being the pleasure of each other's company, a nice win-win situation.

Instead I found that by almost all accounts, chivalry is alive and well and mandatory, especially in paying for at least the first few dates. The woman is given the option of offering to pay her share, but only so the man would not think he is entitled to any sexual favors. Fairness is never mentioned. Any man suggesting separate checks is to be called a lot of nasty names and then sent off to Singles' Hell.

Could anyone with more recent experience advise how to deal with this situation? Is the online depiction accurate as to what is actually going on? There must be some fair-minded women out there. How do you find them?

Or have many men decided staying solo is a viable option?

Gordon Dudley  
1154 E. Chippewa S.E.  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506  
(616) 452-7585  
[gorddudley@yahoo.com](mailto:gorddudley@yahoo.com)

## *Special Thanks Due*

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

**Arde V. Atheian, CA**  
**Rod Britten, CO**  
**Steffan Carroll, MI**  
**Tom Dougherty, GA**  
**Fred I. Frey, CA**  
**Scott Garman, NH**  
**Philip Kottle, CA**  
**Jason Leatherman, MA**  
**Borys Melnyck, MI**  
**John P. Montesano, NY**  
**Charles B. Tolleson, CA**  
**Charles C. Wood, CA**

**OPEN THE DOOR WITH MEMBERSHIP**

**IN THE NATIONAL COALITION OF FREE MEN**

A great gift! A year's worth of *Transitions* and membership in a vital and influential men's association. Send *Transitions* to a friend, a politician or a journalist. Open someone's eyes about men's lives, or make an already enlightened person happy!

**Sender**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Recipient**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**All contributions are tax deductible. Check one:**

- Foreign Memberships \$40 (U.S. Money Order Only)
- Canadian & U.S. Memberships \$30 (U.S. Currency Only)

**Non-U.S. memberships require U.S. money orders.** All memberships include subscriptions to *Transitions*.

National Coalition of Free Men  
 P.O. Box 582023 Minneapolis, MN 55458-2023  
 (888)-223-1280 toll free • NY (516)-482-6378  
 ncfm@ncfm.org  
<http://www.ncfm.org>

**State Representatives**

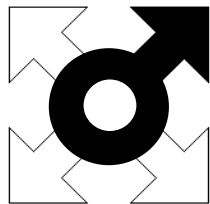
California	Marc Angelucci	(323)-256-4026
Colorado	Rod Britten	(970)-240-1119
Michigan	Jerry Boggs	(734)-542-3106
Minnesota	Will Hageman	(888)-223-1280
New York	Mark Sutton	(646)-295-7914
Texas	Deborah Watkins	(972)-445-MALE
Washington, D.C.	Sim Hall	(703)-847-0734
Wisconsin	James Novak	(608)-753-2688
Kentucky	Simon Sharp	(270)-307-8434
Illinois	Tim Goldich	tagoldich@hotmail.com

**Liaisons**

Nevada	Michael Rother	(775)-224-6340
Texas	John Macchietto	(817)-370-6053
Washington	Milford Liffew	(206)-322-3208
Wisconsin	Roy U. Schenk	(608)-255-4028

**Chapters**

Dallas/Fort Worth	(972)-445-MALE ncfmdfw.org
Twin Cities	(888)-223-1280 www.ncfm-tc.org
Greater New York	(646)-295-7914 www.themalevoice.org
Los Angeles	(626)-359-3709 www.ncfmla.org
San Diego	(619)-231-1909 www.californiamenscenters.org



*Post Office Return Address:*  
 Coalition of Free Men, Inc.  
 National Coalition of Free Men  
 P.O. Box 582023  
 Minneapolis, MN 55458-2023

*Address Service Requested*

Non-Profit Organization  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 Minneapolis, MN 55401  
 Permit No. 31390