

TRANSITIONS

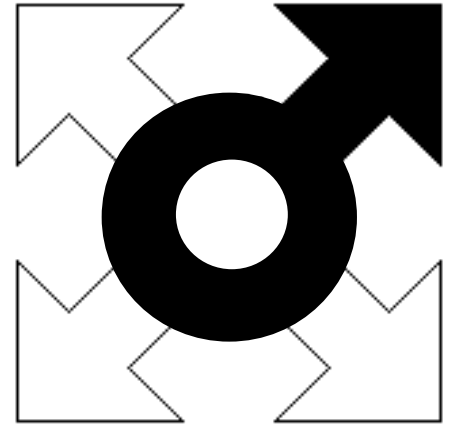
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Into the Belly of the Beast

A Masculist's Journey into Feminist Domain

By Darrin Albert

For quite some time I have been apprehensive regarding my presentation on the masculist movement that I was to give to the women's studies class at my university on March 8, 2007. I mean really, why shouldn't I have been? As a masculist, was I not embarking on thin ice into the very belly of the beast? Was I not essentially walking on eggshells into the very catacombs of hell? Well, let us not get carried away, lest my use of hyperbole turns this rather serious piece of discourse into a tall-tale. But as a masculist who was to give a talk to avid feminists, I was certainly not about to preach to any choir anytime soon (they were certainly short of a few basses and had far too many sopranos). And let us not forget that universities today do seem awfully politically-correct and intolerant of any ideology that actually challenges feminism. Indeed, I have actually had my share of negative personal experiences on campus with people who simply lacked an open mind and would not give "masculism" the time of day, including a campus social justice club that actually censored my input on men's issues. So maybe I did have plenty of reason to be nervous. But at any rate, and for whatever reason, my experience was a surprisingly positive one, and to this end I am grateful. I will discuss this largely positive experience from three vantage points. One, I will discuss how I obtained this wonderful opportunity in the

first place. Two, I will discuss what I discussed with the class in relation to men's issues. Lastly, I will discuss how people responded to the information (i.e., how the presentation went).

So how did this opportunity happen? I have to be forthright and say that the opportunity itself may have had more to do with an open-minded professor than with me, per-se, but hopefully I had something to do with it as well. It all started when I expressed my concern that my university did not have a men's studies program to go along with the women's studies program. It turns out that the professor was already thinking about turning the program into a gender studies program by the time my friends and I approached her, since other universities were already doing this (don't get too excited, most of these men's studies programs still seem to be preaching gender-feminist patriarchy-theory). But needless to say she gave me some homework to do. I was to find a gender studies course outline as a possible template for the new program at my university. To no avail, I could not find an authentic course outline that actually condoned a masculist challenge to gender-feminist patriarchy-theory (albeit I did show her some masculist book ideas and showed her the preface to Eugene August's brilliant tome *The New Men's Studies*, which has a section on the academic rationale for having a *men's studies* in universities). Not too long later my brother and I entered into her office and shared some of the basic info about the men's movement, showing her masculist books and information about NCFM (this casual meeting was mentioned in *Transitions*, 2007, November/December issue). She must have been open minded enough, as not too long afterwards I was invited to do the talk in her class! She also reassured me that male-bashing was not

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opportunity in the first place. Two, I will discuss what I discussed with the class in relation to men's issues. Lastly, I will dis-

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Editor's Comment

The story of Don Imus gives an interesting insight into the state of our society today. The shock jock said a racist remark in reference to the Rutgers University women's basketball team. An uproar soon arose in the media, and he apologized. Soon after that, the women of Rutgers made a statement saying that they accepted his apology.

Still, a couple days later, Don Imus was fired from his radio show. My question is, if Imus apologized, and the Rutgers women accepted his apology, then why did he have to be fired?

The story grew to include many more parties than Imus and the women he insulted. It became a weapon for those with an axe to grind. Various black leaders and

organization reps were appearing in TV interviews, loudly demanding that he be punished. What's more, they blasted WNBC, holding them accountable. They also wanted to know why celebrities who were regular guests on Don's show hadn't come out to publicly condemn him.

The maturity and forgiveness of the Rutgers women were squashed. The talking heads of today have no use for such sentiments. Hate and fear are much more useful. And so, Imus was fired because WNBC didn't want to appear to be racist. They fired him because they were afraid of the people who had nothing to do with the original story — people who would rather perpetuate hate than allow healing.

I suppose these people think they're doing good by angrily trouncing someone who makes a mistake. They don't seem to realize that hate moves us backward, not forward. If someone makes a disrespectful remark on the air, then certainly he needs to be called on it. But we must do it without creating a public spectacle that broadcasts hatred so far and wide that it infects our children. Forgiveness is what we need to teach to each successive generation. If we teach them that there's a racial divide, then they will carry it forward, and the tensions will go on and on.

Ever Yours in the Cause,

Jason Leatherman

Beast

Continued from Page 1

to be allowed in her class (or female bashing for that matter), and this made me feel less apprehensive. Shortly after, I obtained some materials from the good folks at NCFM that were useful aids in the upcoming lecture.

So what did we (my brother and I) cover? We made the decision early that we were going to go about this with a cooperative attitude. We could have went about all this with "guns blazing" but this did not seem like a good strategy to us, nor conducive to actual progress (at least in this case). After all, we don't consider ourselves anti-feminist (we respect equity-feminists and I-feminists). And we already had positive vibes from the professor who was gracious enough to allow us to do this in the first place. However, we did make it clear to the class that many masculinists do seek true checks and balances to feminism (masculinism is

not necessarily adversarial to feminism, but it is a male perspective). At any rate, and after distributing the NCFM material, we covered some basic boiler-plate masculinism (unfair custody laws, lack of support for male victims of domestic violence, the male suicide ratio, the spending gap, anti-male chivalry, male disposability, etc.). We also covered the sources of knowledge that masculinism draws its ideas from (evolutionary theory, restrictive male socialization of boys to be tough and unfeeling, existential philosophy, etc). Lastly, we showed the class some of the masculinist literature (Warren Farrell's *Myth of Male Power*, Phil Cook's *Abused Men*, Jack Kammer's *If Men Have All the Power How Come Women Make the Rules?*, Roy Schenk's *Other Side of the Coin*, David Thomas's *Not Guilty: The Case in Defense of Men*, etc.).

So how was the presentation received? All in all, the lecture took about an hour and a half. The class was set up into a circle, in a sort of casual manner that invited discussion and mutual support. This was a nice way of making us feel welcome and helped alleviate some of our initial anxiety. I was concerned that there were only about 12 people there out of the 20 we were expecting. I do wonder if some stayed home on account of our presence, but this is merely speculation (and fatalistic thinking on my part). If I were to guess, I would say that of those who were there they were respectful and/or open-minded to about 90% of what we were saying. Again, perhaps they were simply acting this way out of politeness (but this is also speculation). There was expectedly some reaction to some of the things we were saying, but there was also some neutral and positive affirmation

as well. The class even laughed at some of the things we had to say, which enhanced the overall warm climate of the occasion. The general vibe at the end of the class was that it was not men or women who had it better or worse, but rather that people in general, men and women alike, both seem to seek mercy in a world without scruple.

I will not say for a second that this experience is normal or typical. I do believe that this was a truly special (and rare) experience. For whatever reason, I actually felt valued as a human being and I felt unashamed of my gender during the presentation. The class did not endorse every single thing we said, but they respected our viewpoints nonetheless. This was a far cry from how I was treated in the aforementioned campus club on social justice. It would certainly be nice to have this kind of open and warm discourse sweep

across gender-studies departments all over the country. It would also be nice if students in any academic milieu could actually carry and proclaim diverse viewpoints, including ones that challenged gender-feminist assumptions of patriarchy. But there is more than this. As acclaimed psychologist Carl Rogers once said, human growth and self-awareness reach its peak when we all feel understood, are not judged, and are true to ourselves. In other manner of speaking, our defenses go down, and we are drawn to mutual cooperation. Ergo, when men and women can truly understand each other without blaming messages, only good can happen. So the moral of this story is essentially two-fold. One, do not always assume people are in opposition to a masculist perspective. In fact, sometimes coming into something with an adversarial mindset can actually result in fulfilling these pre-

conceived expectations (i.e., a self-fulfilling prophecy). Two, also do not assume that just because my experience was a positive one that this will always be so. I actually believe that my experience, sadly, is the exception and not the rule. In conclusion, and in a perfect world, I would like to see women's studies programs not only change their name to "gender studies," but also include masculist perspectives that challenge patriarchy theory.

Darrin Albert is a NCFM member and a graduate student of psychology.

TRANSITIONS

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Media Digest

A sampling of news and commentary relating to men's issues and interests

compiled by Mike Spaniola

Crying "Wolf" Too Many Times

RADAR (Respecting Accuracy in Domestic Abuse Reporting) press release, Feb. 27, 2007. www.mediaRADAR.org

Years ago, radical advocates told America that Super Bowl Sunday resulted in very high rates of domestic violence. Last year, the world was convinced that 40,000 female sex slaves would be smuggled to Germany for the World Cup Finals. Radical women's studies departments and students annually celebrate "V-day", a dark substitute for Valentine's Day, to stop rape and sexual abuse of campus women purported to be endemic. Hysteria arose over claims that "date rape" is commonplace. And the Violence Against Women Act is built on the notion that if women are ever violent, it is solely in self-defense. History proves all the above claims are substantively false. It is time for legislators and the media to expect more than theory or unsupported statistics before playing the fool for radical women's advocates.

Cops: Mom Left Kids in Freezing Car While She Went Tanning

Associated Press, February 10, 2007

Police arrested a woman in Sheboygan, Wisc., after she allegedly left her two children in a freezing car while she went into a tanning salon. "She said she was going on vacation and felt that the tanning was a priority," a police officer is quoting as saying. The 27-year-old woman was arrested after two people spotted the children, ages 23 months and 10 years, in the car, which was locked but not running. ... The woman faced two counts of misdemeanor child neglect.

Global Warming: Moving Towards Metrosexuals

By Daniel Clark, March 17, 2007

http://www.nationalledger.com/artman/publish/article_272612158.shtml

The latest point of emphasis in the global warming movement is that cattle farming endangers the planet by producing too much methane. So now, steaks and hamburgers are classified as instruments of destruction, along with large vehicles, lawn mowers, and charcoal grills. It can't be much longer before cowboy movies, cigars and hockey are held to be enemies of the earth as well.

This has got to be the most blatant assault on guyhood since ABC moved Coach to the same night as Roseanne, and turned Hayden Fox into Phil Donahue. It's a wonder that liberals don't cut to the chase, by simply claiming that global warming is caused by testosterone. Then, they could make public school nurses siphon the offending fluid from the boys during health class.

Many environmentalists believe that the earth is a living organism, personified by the Greek goddess Gaia. Conveniently, it turns out that Gaia is a shrew, who demands that her men be reduced to henpecked, metrosexual noodles. Manliness makes Gaia angry, and we wouldn't like her when she's angry, because she'll turn into a green monster and start smashing everything to bits. Hell hath no fury like an earth goddess exposed to excessive cattle-produced methane emissions.

Hillary Clinton to launch drive for women's votes

CNN.com, March 6, 2007

Using her appeal as the country's first potential woman president, Hillary Clinton plans to enlist the support of thousands of women through a "women's leadership network." The campaign will encourage female supporters to take active roles in supporting Clinton's candidacy. Campaign adviser Ann Lewis said, "Business leaders tell us the strongest form of marketing is advocacy by a trusted friend."

The campaign has a Web site aimed at younger women, www.icanbepresident.com, which will link Clinton's main campaign Web site, and

promote the notion that a woman can be elected president. Public opinion polls and Clinton's own polling show she does well among women generally, and single and younger women in particular.

The Women's War

The New York Times Magazine, Sara Corbett, March 18, 2007

(note: This excerpt is part of an incredibly long article intent on disparaging the military, portraying men as rapists, and promoting a key feminist hypocrisy: Women are men's equal so long as dangerous and dirty jobs are not involved. Critics have accused The New York Times of bias, omission and deceit.)

A 2003 report financed by the Department of Defense revealed that nearly one-third of a nationwide sample of female veterans seeking health care through the V.A. said they experienced rape or attempted rape during their service. Of that group, 37 percent said they were raped multiple times, and 14 percent reported they were gang-raped. Perhaps even more tellingly, a small study financed by the V.A. following the gulf war [sic] suggests that rates of both sexual harassment and assault rise during wartime. The researchers who carried out this study also looked at the prevalence of PTSD symptoms, including flashbacks, nightmares, emotional numbing and round-the-clock anxiety, and found that women who endured sexual assault were more likely to develop PTSD than those who were exposed to combat.

Why real men confuse and anger liberals

By Kevin McCullough, townhall.com, March 18, 2007

Real men, the kind that understand their roles of protection and provision in this life, to their families, and for our world, confuse liberals. They also make them really mad.

They don't intend to, it's just a side product that can't be helped.

When a real man speaks with plainness and honesty it sends shivers down the spines of those who oppose him, and in a sense reveals their weakness and inadequacies. It exposes the fact that girly men are better at studying their navel than slaying dragons. Naturally when one then encounters a dragon slayer, a girly man finds it difficult even uncomfortable to deal with.

Since the modern feminists began marching in the 1960s – and everything became feminized – real men have dwindled in number. But every now and then they pop back up rearing the ugly head of truth, confidence, and unrepentant strength.

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and reliable and are presented solely for educational purposes in accordance with accepted fair-use guidelines.

Book Reviews

By J. Steven Svoboda

From Regret to Rape: The Reality is Some Women Do Lie about Being Raped. Here is how it devastated My Life

By Kumbe Ginnane. Lincoln, Nebraska: iUniverse, 2005. www.genesis39.org 800-288-4677. US \$19.95. 245 pages.

As a book reviewer, I have gotten used to the flow into my mailbox and across my desk of excellent books, mediocre books, and the occasional terrible book. But it's a rare treat to review a book that is utterly unlike anything I have read before, that while perhaps not perfect, offers previous unseen vistas, even a passport to new lands. Kumbe Ginnane's *From Regret to Rape* is such a book. (Fair disclosure: An earlier review of mine of the monumentally execrable *School Success by Gender: a Catalyst for the Masculinist Discourse*, by Bouchard, Boily and Proulx, receives a favorable mention from Ginnane.)

Unless I am mistaken, this is the first prison saga written from a gender equity perspective. It also may be the first book-length men's rights perspective ever offered by a man convicted of date rape. Ginnane was falsely accused of date rape seven months following fifteen seconds of consensual oral sex. He employs a creative, highly non-chronological presentation that while not without its virtues, introduces needless confusion. This approach also deliberately conceals until late in the book one of the key twists in Ginnane's life. In a work of fiction, this exercise might have

paid off in its effect on the reader, but in this largely autobiographical book, it is asking too much of the reader. It is also hard to understand why Ginnane wanted to tell his story this way. As readers, we are asked by the author to accept the truth of his version of events. While I found Ginnane to be a very likeable and seemingly quite candid writer, he certainly cannot take for granted our faith in the accuracy of his version.

Another structural oddity is that the book begins with an 81-page section, "Calling It Like It Is," which essentially summarizes gender equity issues with a heavy emphasis on topics related to the apparently false date rape accusation by which the author was victimized. I believe it would have been more effective to integrate these more theoretical and general issues into the writer's discussion of his own life events. Certain points are repeated several times at various points. At the same time, Ginnane does manage to produce some enlightening summations of various issues and also sheds a different sort of light on some points that we might have thought we had already seen from virtually every possible perspective.

Feminists essentially lobby against any formal female behavioral accountability, the author notes. Why is it, he asks, that a woman can slap a man's face in public with impunity, yet at the same time is not required to show at least the same level of resistance to a familiar man trying to force her to have sex with him? And why do we need date rape laws when existing rape law can comfortably handle any fact

situation that deserves to be labeled with the name "rape"? And why is it that we as a society allow a rape shield law so overinclusive as to bar testimony to show that a rape accuser, for example, as in Ginnane's case, bragged about the sex she had that night, and had sex with two strangers the very next night after she was supposedly raped?

One final regret is that Ginnane's writing is marred by horrendous misspellings and typographical errors. While clearly a man of intelligence and insight, he badly needs to find a qualified copy editor capable of reviewing his work and eliminating these needless and annoying distractions from his message.

As I read his tale, I felt that I came to know Ginnane—his devotion to his mother, his honesty about having lied in the past and about having cheated on his gorgeous and very devoted girlfriend. And most particularly, his honesty about how the calamitous accusation was brought about by the author's taunting of his eventual accuser as being loose sexually (combined with his having receiving a coveted campus job for which the woman was next in line and which she received following the accusation).

Tragically, his lawyer during the criminal trial is (unknown to the author) addicted to cocaine, and also fails to advise his client of the mandatory 16-year minimum sentence if he is convicted at trial. A wonderful attorney who later takes Ginnane on as a client free of charge

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Reviews

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comments that his case is the worst miscarriage of justice he has ever seen.

The small details humanize this story in a way a fiction author would have a hard time making credible: The kindly sheriff who advises him the writer prison will be survivable for him as long as he follows three rules: don't make any close friends, stay away from drugs, and don't mess with anybody's "girl." The interesting details on differences between TV viewing preferences in prisons and jails and on differences in the shows preferred by the different racial groups. (Behind bars, virtually everything breaks down along gender lines. The author's position as part-white, part-black, and apparently Puerto Rican, offers him a rare opportunity to be a sort of "racial ambassador.") On his initial time in maximum security detention, he sees no evidence of prison rape, though this changes dramatically when he later ends up behind bars for the second time. The author has numerous opportunities in prison for sex with female guards but declines all these "opportunities."

Ginnane paints a grim, richly detailed, very gritty view of the for-profit prison system, where they skimp on meals and every other "small" detail that for detainees, can make the difference between livable and non-livable conditions.

Late in the book, the author, as he puts it, sells his soul for "freedom." Perhaps the most shocking (yet predictable?) revelation that ensues is that former prisoners are never truly free, and this is even more true for convicted sex offenders. He found himself unemployable, and forced to take plumbing jobs and the like despite having a master's degree in business administration. He is also compelled to spend large amounts of money on grossly humiliating "therapy." He regularly also has to pay to be hooked up to a plethysmograph, a device that attaches to his penis, in this case while he is shown the most depraved pornography and monitored for his sexual response.

Ginnane concludes that this "freedom" is worse than prison, and not without reason. After extended moments of despair, the end of the book finds him

triumphantly, against all odds, calling on God and forming a non-profit educational organization to spread the truth about rape lies.

From Regret to Rape reads like a novel from beginning to end, feeding the head as well as the heart. Typos, bad chronology and all, I give it my highest possible recommendation. Kumbé Ginnane has an important story to tell, and it behooves us to listen.

Exposing the Corruption in the Massachusetts Family Courts

By Kevin Thompson

www.lulu.com. Download US \$9.16. Softbound copy US \$20. 309 pages.

Most of the books I review tend to be smooth productions from major publishers. Now and again the opportunity arrives to review a true dispatch from the front lines, such as Kumbé Ginnane's *From*

Regret to Rape. Kevin Thompson's *Exposing the Corruption in the Massachusetts Family Court* is definitely in the latter category. It bears the additional unique distinction, if I can call it that, of having been officially censored by one of the Massachusetts family court judges criticized in its pages. The ban is currently suspended, so I urge everyone to purchase a copy as the book could be censored again at any moment. What ever happened to the First Amendment?

Front lines of battles tend to be messy places, not generally permitting journalists to observe niceties of presentation and punctuation. Internet-based publication service **lulu.com** apparently does not edit the items it offers for sale, so what we have is direct from Thompson's pen (or computer, I suppose). Kevin Thompson is a high school physics teacher and clearly a smart guy as well as a good writer. He is not an attorney but rather

Letters Campaign

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a passionate and horribly wronged father. Thompson eloquently addresses the remarkable miscarriages of justice happening on a daily basis to Dads who have the misfortune of living in one of our nation's ostensibly most "progressive" states.

As Thompson points out at the outset, most family court cases could be instantly resolved at the first hearing if the judge simply asked, "Does either of you parents intend to prove to the court that the other parent is unfit?" If both parents answer in the negative, joint physical custody should be immediately ordered.

Thompson is angry, as any reasonable human being who cares about their children would be after being dragged through about five percent of what he has endured. And yet, as he points out, his is far from the worst case. While unrepresented fathers ostensibly have the same rights as dads with lawyers, in fact these *pro se* litigants are mistreated by at least some of the Massachusetts family court judges. Any reasonable court should, if anything, be persuaded to treat a *pro se* litigant more leniently. Instead, Thompson's judge Peter C. Digangi unaccountably elected to force him to take

the stand as his own witness. Thompson's trial strategy, not to mention his composure, was thereby understandably thrown into turmoil.

Along the way, Thompson recounts the story of rapper Sean "P. Diddy" Combs, who was outraged by attempts by his ten-year-old son's mother to raise the already truly princely monthly child support of \$35,000. (Combs also purchased a \$1.1 million home for the mother and paid for childcare, travel, and all medical and dental bills incurred by their son.)

The author comes across as credible in presenting detailed reasons why, in his words, 100 out of 100 objective decision-makers would have chosen him over the mother as primary caretaker of his son. But of course, Digangi was about as far from objective as one can imagine.

Astonishingly, Digangi candidly admitted on the record that he would not consider granting the author joint physical custody. The judge's misdeeds, such as precluding Thompson from presenting every one of his 55 pre-marked exhibits, truly shock the conscience. Digangi fabricated evidence and stated several times his opinion that fathers are lesser parents

than mothers and have no chance of success in his courtroom.

Kevin Thompson is to be congratulated for his courage and simply for the perseverance to retell this story after having had to live through it. If you read only one book this year, *Exposing the Corruption in the Massachusetts Family Court* is the one to choose.

The Smart Couple's Guide to the Wedding of Your Dreams: Planning Together for Less Stress and More Joy

By Judith Sherven and James Sniechowski. Novato, California: New World Library, 2005. 231 pages. US \$14.95. www.newworldlibrary.com.

Judith Sherven and James Sniechowski, husband-and-wife psychologists and authors of three books previously reviewed by me in these pages (*The New Intimacy*, *Opening to Love 365 Days a Year*, and *Be Loved for Who You Really Are*) have just published a new book on their favorite topic, love and marriage. In a literal sense, *The Smart Couple's Guide to the Wedding of Your Dreams* covers a narrower subject than any of their three previous books. But actually, predictably enough given the authors' excellent writing skills and tireless, creative devotion to promoting passion, their latest offering manages to transcend the limits of the genre of wedding guides. Not seeing a book that went beyond the technicalities of wedding planning and touched the spirit of the event, they took the plunge and wrote it!

Perhaps the best way to describe *The Smart Couple's Guide* is as a combination of two things: 1) a collection of many wonderful true stories from married couples about their special celebrations; and 2) an alternative wedding guide that primarily addresses issues omitted from most or all other wedding guides. So if you are searching for a list of wedding caterers, or suggestions for choosing the best wedding photographer, there probably are better books for you (also Judith and Jim do provide some insights on most of these more traditional wedding planning issues).

But there are several other scenarios in which this might be a great book for you to read, and many of them

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Volunteers Needed Please Help !!

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.

EDITOR OF TRANSITIONS - The editor is looking to pass the hat to another motivated, creative volunteer. Good candidates will have spent some time in NCFM and know what we're about. Computer skills desired. Duties include calling authors to solicit articles, some proofreading, and layout. If interested, please contact Jason Leatherman at transitions@ncfm.org.

Reviews

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don't even require that you are planning a wedding! If you are preparing to tie (or re-tie) the bonds of matrimony and want to read a book by two authors with a great understanding of issues of the heart and spirit behind marriage, this book is for you. If you want a book that will cover topics that elude other wedding guides, *The Smart Couple's Guide* is for you. And if you are a fan of stories of love, tears will come to your eyes on almost every page as you read through the many wonderful hand-picked stories Judith and Jim have chosen to illuminate their points. (The tales from their own wedding and those of their close relatives were quite welcome.) I'm very glad I read this book despite its lack of applicability to me as I approach my fifth anniversary of being happily married. Just try to keep a dry eye as you read about how one couple had their first "chicken pot pie" date, symbolizing their down-to-earth commitment to each other, at the ceremony

itself, where they treated all guests to (you guessed it) the dish representing their love!

So what are some of these subjects that are left out of other guides but examined here? For starters, the ten key issues of married life to discuss with your spouse-to-be *before* tying the knot. (Each issue is helpfully enumerated along with numerous sub-issues belonging to that category.) The male engagement ring — yes? No? A list of questions to ask each other and yourselves regarding budgeting, another list of questions regarding invitations, and still another set of queries about finances. The name change issue: who should change names, and why? The authors even broaden the mission of the book to encompass some topics beyond the four corners of their subject, such as a list of smart money behaviors.

A couple times I had to take my hat off in admiration to Judith and Jim for the outlandish creativity of some of the issues they covered. So we get a list of

sample lines you can use to draw your boundary when that pesky relative tries to horn in on what should be your special day. And Judith and Jim give pointers on how to deal with guest misbehavior. Should you have a bachelor party? How about if you do it as a roast of the groom (wish I'd thought of that idea for the bachelor/bachelorette party held one week before my wedding!)? Or how about if it's done as a wine tasting? By the end of the book, I was half-expecting a little man to pop out of the last page and ask me what further assistance I needed, but I guess even these authors are limited by current technological capabilities.

Judith and Jim remind us to expect old patterns to surface in our marriage, and that marriage can be approached as a psychological workshop. Tears will come to anyone's eyes on reading the heartfelt vows that are listed here. One of many wonderful stories is the tale of the surprise wedding that was held in the elementary school class taught by the bride, with the principal officiating and her students the only guests.

The authors, while clearly fans of non-traditional events, to their credit, do take some concrete positions on certain issues rather than adopting an "anything goes" approach. For example, they recommend you just say no to money dances and money trees as in poor taste. I'm not sure I fully agree with their recommendations that bride and groom frontally face the audience rather than facing each other but I appreciate their thinking. They also recommend that photographs be taken before the ceremony, for a range of practical and emotional reasons.

The book closes with a chapter on the honeymoon and the couple's transition back to real life. Some may prefer to focus on the magic of the "perfect day," but isn't creating the best, most magical real life possible one of the main reasons we choose to get married in the first place? Judith Sherven and James Sniechowski certainly hope so. With their help, we can learn to create a special day that may prove only the first of many in a long, exciting voyage of discovery we can take together with our spouse.

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What's Happening??

National Coalition of Free Men News

TWIN CITIES CHAPTER REPORT

(By Will Hageman)

In November, the Twin Cities Chapter had a booth at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation. We talked with and distributed literature to farmers from across the state. A newly-elected state senator visited our booth and took information about domestic violence against men.

In February, we had a table at the annual Conference on the College Male at Saint John's University, which is one of only five men's universities and colleges in the U.S. We have been at this event every year since it began in 2004. In previous years, many of the speakers were misandrist male feminists, but this year the tone was male-positive and the conference focused on fatherhood and fathering. We distributed literature to the attendees, and donated the books *Legalizing Misandry* and *Father and Child Reunion* to the Saint John's Men's Center.

A week later, we had a table at the annual Men's Conference of the Catholic Diocese of Saint Cloud in central Minnesota. Attendees were curious about us and found our literature to be thought-provoking.

Also in February we sent information about domestic violence against men to all members of the Minnesota Legislature.

In March, we had a booth at the annual Nonprofit Career Fair held by Idealist.org at the University of Minnesota, another event in which we have participated every year since 2004. Students visited the booth to take literature and discuss a variety of men's issues. Some commented that they never heard views like ours mentioned by anyone else at the university — a compelling reason for us to continue being there each year.

L.A. CHAPTER REPORT

(by Marc Angelucci)

2/16/07: PROTEST — NCFM-LA members joined and provided signage for a protest at the annual meeting of the "Men's

Leadership Conference" of the San Diego Domestic Violence Council, a meeting of feminist men who frame the issue in anti-male, gendered terms. The protest was organized by Harry Crouch of NCFM's San Diego chapter and went well.

2/17/07: DAVID WOODS v. CALIFORNIA — NCFM-LA's president filed a supplemental brief in support of the petition for writ of mandate in the case David Woods v. State of California, which challenges the State's exclusion of men from legal provisions for victims of domestic violence and the State's exclusion of inmate dads from prison parenting programs.

2/21/07: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EXPERT AT UCSD — The University of California at San Diego contacted NCFM-LA asking for our help in arranging to have a peer-reviewed domestic violence expert to speak at an upcoming conference on female perpetrators of domestic violence. Experts were arranged and things went very well.

2/22/07: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAWSUIT — NCFM-LA helped the Domestic Abuse Helpline for Men and Women (DAHMW) in Maine draft interrogatories and document demands to serve upon the Maine Coalition Against Domestic Violence (MCADV), whom DAHMW is suing for denying DAHMW an application for funding because they help male victims.

2/25/07: WOMEN'S STUDIES — NCFM-LA sent a packet of NCFM flyers to NCFM member Darrin A. of North Dakota to distribute to students in a women's studies class at his college where he will be speaking as an invited guest speaker about men's rights issues. Darrin reported back that the lecture went very well and the flyers were distributed and were helpful. He also wrote a story on the event for *Transitions*.

3/7/07: ANGELUCCI v. CENTURY CLUB — Oral arguments took place before the California Supreme Court in the case of Angelucci v. Century Supper Club, in which several NCFM-LA members

and affiliates are suing to end price discrimination against men. The plaintiffs are two NCFM-LA members and a U.S. History instructor at Pasadena City College who supports NCFM-LA. They were represented by attorney Al Rava, a member of NCFM's new San Diego chapter.

3/8/07: DAILY JOURNAL — *Los Angeles* and *San Francisco Daily Journals* mention NCFM-LA in a fair and balanced story about the oral arguments before the California Supreme Court in the case of Angelucci v. Century Supper Club regarding price discrimination against men. The article mentioned that NCFM-LA has also sued the government to end discrimination against male victims.

3/10/07: THE MYTH OF MALE POWER — NCFM-LA purchased *The Myth of Male Power* in bulk to distribute on college campuses and as donations to libraries as a group project for the year 2007.

3/14/07: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TOWN HALL MEETING — The California Supreme Court sponsored a town hall meeting to discuss how the courts are handling domestic violence cases and, in particular, restraining orders. NCFM-LA helped publicize this hearing among men's rights activists and their allies. Several pro-male and pro-equity speakers, including at least one NCFM-LA member, Arde A., testified at the hearing about false accusations of abuse and also about male victims. NCFM-LA's president submitted comments and sociological research showing women initiate domestic violence as often as men, etc., and gave that same information to the L.A. City Attorney, the L.A. County Bar Association, the L.A. County Probation Department, the Riverside County Public Defender's Office, and others.

3/20/07: DAILY SUNDIAL PRINTS NCFM-LA SUBMISSION — California State University Northridge's student newspaper, the *Daily Sundial*, printed NCFM-LA's submission responding to a gender-biased article on domestic

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News

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violence and the “Take Back the Night” rally on campus.

3/20/07: NCFM-LA SPEAKS AT UCLA LAW — NCFM-LA’s president was a guest speaker on behalf of NCFM-LA at UCLA School of Law for a seminar class called Human Rights and Gender Politics. He introduced NCFM and his history, discussed the men’s rights movement in general and the issues involved, discussed the so-called “pay gap,” discussed how he got involved, discussed Warren Farrell’s writings, and discussed NCFM-LA’s activism with regard to domestic violence and paternity fraud. The professor distributed NCFM-LA’s flyers and other materials as official class reading. This was the second year NCFM-LA was invited to speak to this seminar class. The question/answer period lasted almost an hour. It went very well. Students were introduced to information they had not previously been given. There was some disagreement but a lot of support, and the entire event was respectful and engaging. The professor invited NCFM-LA back next year and said several students told her they “really got a lot out of that.”

3/21/07: IRONTON TRIBUNE — *The Ironton Tribune*, a newspaper in Ohio, printed NCFM-LA’s letter responding to a biased article on domestic violence.

3/22/07: PATERNITY FRAUD VICTIM — NCFM-LA helped a paternity fraud victim Bert R. draft the appropriate declaration and supporting documents to attach his DNA test results excluding him as the father, in support of his motion for non-paternity.

3/24/07: L.Y. MARLOW, AUTHOR — After several days of sincere dialogue between NCFM-LA and L.A. Marlow, the author of *Color Me Butterfly*, a book about her experience as a domestic violence victim, Marlow promised to include the data on male victims when she speaks at her book singings. She then posted comments about male victims on her blog and included the data we gave her, at www.colormebutterfly.com/blog/

3/25/07: FLYERS AT USC — NCFM-LA members Ray Blumhorst and Joe Miranda posted NCFM materials all

over University of Southern California to prepare for the paternity fraud even at USC on 3/28.

3/28/07: COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES v. TARON JAMES — NCFM-LA orally argued the appeal of the high-profile paternity fraud case of County of Los Angeles v. Taron Grant James in front of 1st year USC law students. The appellate court chose this case to be argued in front of law students because it has educational value. The oral argument went very well. A number of NCFM members attended, including Harry Crouch who came all the way from San Diego.

4/3/07: The California Commission on Judicial Performance sent NCFM-LA a letter stating they took corrective action against Judge S. Patricia Spear in response to NCFM-LA’s complaint about Judge Spear’s misandry and disregard for a man’s reproductive and parental rights. A 10-month-old boy was about to be placed in foster care because his mom was unfit and his dad was unknown. The mom then told the dad about the kid for the first time. The dad immediately went to court, explained the situation, requested a paternity test and reunification services, asked that the foster care placement be stopped, and asked that he be allowed to raise his child. Judge S. Patricia Spear blatantly ignored the man’s reproductive and parental rights and even said things like, “I don’t think you’re the father” and that he should have come sooner. The man hand-wrote an appeal. The appellate court reversed and chastised Judge S. Patricia Spear. A family law attorney told us Judge S. Patricia Spear is a misandrist who frequently ignores men’s reproductive rights. So on June 29, 2006 we complained to the Commission on Judicial Performance and attached the appellate decision. On April 3, 2007, the Commission wrote us saying they took corrective action (usually they say there was no action taken) and thanking us for reporting this to them. They cannot tell us what action they took. Regardless, it is in her record and affects her career as a judge.

LA MARCHA MASCULINA

(by Marc Angelucci)

It looks like we have a movement gathering momentum in Mexico. On March 20, there was a men’s march in Mexico City that was organized by a men’s movement called “El Circulo Masculino.” See their web site (in Spanish) at www.lamarchamasculina.com. They seem to address broad issues and rights affecting men, not just fathers. They want 2010 to be the YEAR OF THE MAN. Check it out and share it with your Spanish-speaking friends.

WEB SITES TO WATCH

(by Jason Leatherman)

Please check out and support The Innocence Project at www.innocenceproject.org. The Innocence Project is a national litigation and public policy organization dedicated to exonerating wrongfully convicted people through DNA testing and reforming the criminal justice system to prevent future injustice.

Also, there’s a new men’s movement index page available with links to hundreds of other on-line resources. See them at www.mens-links.net.

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. Use a good Subject line to distinguish it from spam. Please see www.ncfm.org/write1.htm for more information.

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. 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. Letters sent to him will be addressed "Dear NCFM".*

DEAR NCFM:

Can you please send out an alert to our website at www.achildsright.net so that your readers/members can listen to the interview that Carol Rhodes and I had on KRights Radio?

If you listen to the entire interview it is mind blowing. Carol Rhodes, author of "Friend of the Court Enemy of the Family" states, "We were ranked by how much money we could bring in!" Carol Rhodes was a former Friend of the Court Investigator for the County that performed my custody evaluation. Thank you for any help you can provide in spreading this message!

Robert Pedersen
A Child's Right
www.achildsright.net

DEAR NCFM:

It started with a "psychic" and now this family man is facing malicious prosecution. Please see www.justiceforpablo.com. NO ONE IS SAFE.

Pablo

DEAR NCFM:

My name is Michael. I am 34 years old. I am a Malaysian citizen. I am Indian by race and a Christian by religion.

I do not smoke and drink. Out of sympathy and to give a life to a lady, I married a mental patient 3 years ago. Due to that reason my parents chased me out of the house. I am a school teacher. I have no children. To make matters worse, I was cheated out of US\$40,000 when I made a loan to my teacher friend. That has made me to suffer from depression and anxiety. Last year I moved to a new school. There I was the only man in that school. They were a group of unmarried and divorced ladies working there. They all sleep with many men and watch pornographic movies. One day in April 2006, one of the teachers called me to the treatment room with an excuse to carry a box of books. After entering the room, she said that she loves sex and asked me to have sex with her first and then join her group later for sex. When I refused and said that I am a married man, she pulled my trousers and tried to rape me. I was shaken and ran out of the room. I complained to the headmaster but he refused to believe me. He said that I am joking. Later I found out that even the headmaster had sex with these ladies. From that day I was bullied by those ladies through false accusations and heavy schoolwork. I got very sad. I wanted to transfer but the headmaster refused to allow me to do so and warned me that I may lose my permanent job. I got very scared. Then in October 2006 one of those dirty ladies kicked hard in the groin and told me that I am a fool being a man and not having sex with other ladies. I went to the hospital and found out that I have blood in my urine, after experiencing much pain in my penis and kidney. Now I could not ejaculate well. Because of that I did not have sex with my wife for the past 2 months. I am also a very nervous person. I could not take legal action for I have no money. Also I am scared that my headmaster will use his friends to beat. I wanted to scan my medical reports to you, but they are written in Malay and also I am scared that hackers will read my mail and use my information for some wrong purpose. So I am begging you Sir to send a lawyer to my country to help me. If you cannot then I have no other choice but

commit suicide with my wife by drinking poison. Thank you. God bless you Sir and your family.

Michael Ratnasamy

NCFM:

Thanks for contacting NCFM. We can certainly sympathize with what you're experiencing. It must be quite frustrating and seem like you have no options. However, I urge you to continue fighting this abuse.

Due to our limited financial resources, the miles that separate us, and other limitations, we are not able to send an attorney or otherwise help. Even if we could send a US attorney, he would not have any legal standing in Malaysia, and would probably not be able to practice law there. But, those of us who are religious certainly hold you and your family in our prayers. Those of us who are not religious care about you too and wish you well also. Your letter and concerns we will carry in our hearts and minds as we work to make this world a

LETTERS continues next page

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 or 972-445-MALE (6253) to place your order. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

Letters

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better place for good, decent men who are being so horribly battered and abused - men like you.

Please do not leave us in this life by your own hand (suicide), or do the things you have described in your letter, but work as we do to find help and a better life for all battered men and their families. This world needs more good people, not less. Please take heart and find courage in knowing that you are not alone in the violent suffering you are experiencing at the hands of violent women. Please be comforted in your pain and suffering across these many miles by our sincere love and care for your well being. Again, it is our deepest, sincere, heartfelt hope that you and your loved ones be well.

DEAR NCFM:

I want to draw your attention to a new book I have published. It is a primer for young men, written by a licensed marriage and family therapist but using the voice of a mentor, intended to help them avoid the pitfalls of premature marriage and fatherhood by addressing the issues facing young men growing up today: sexuality, friendship, substance use, self-esteem. It is written to young men, not about them, and uses language that is meant to engage them, as evidenced by the title: *Growing Balls: Personal Power for Young Men*. I hope you will take a few moments to visit my website www.growingballs.com to have a look at the book.

David Hafter

DEAR NCFM:

I am completing *Intimate Masquerades* — a revision of *The Stronger Sex*, which you reviewed several years and carry in your bookstore. The book is a softer, gentler version of the previous material, almost suitable for mixed company, and is now published in a small run edition.

Would you be willing to take a look at it and consider writing a review? I can send you a hard copy.

I am glad to be working on this again.

Richard Driscoll, Ph.D.

NCFM:

Thank you for the offer. I have forwarded your offer to our board of directors to see if anyone is interested in reviewing your new book. If so, they'll contact you directly. Good luck with your efforts!

DEAR NCFM:

I am currently in the clinical psychology field here in Florida. I am specifically a mental health counselor intern. I am finding it very difficult to obtain my license, due to the amount of women in this field and their misandry. It is a sort of Catch-22; we are required to find supervision in an agency, usually by finding employment. We are unable to open our own practice until licensure. Most of these agencies are staffed and run by women who strongly discriminate against male professionals and the form of psychotherapy that they practice. For example, there is a strong resentment against psychoanalysis in these agencies because of some Freudian tenets. These agencies are strongly female biased and the women are sure to keep their circle of managers in the feminist realm. I have reached my wits ends in trying to work around this terrible destruction of psychological capability in order to allow females to overpopulate the profession. It is a serious problem.

Peter Reichmuth

preichmuth@cfl.rr.com

NCFM:

Thanks for contacting NCFM. I appreciate your frustration in dealing with a system that is so biased against you. I'm not sure I have any advice to offer, but if you have any suggestions as to how we might be able to help, please let us know. I do know that there are male clinical psychologists practicing out there, so I

presume it is somehow possible for a man to complete the program and then break out on his own. Here's wishing you all the best in your efforts!

DEAR NCFM:

I believe that there is something wrong in society when those that do the work have such a small part of the pie, while the support jobs are higher paying with a larger part of the pie. And women are portrayed as victims.

This past week I saw Leis Weil on the Fox Channel twice: "O'Reilly Factor" and "My Word" with John Gibson. She was promoting her book with statements about how women are so mistreated, i.e., women have to pay for their own contraceptives. I suggest someone in your organization research income through Federal government agencies. Women do make as much money or more in all but a few work categories in their twenties in the work force as men when you look at years worked in a given job. In most areas, women advance faster. Of course, half of a man's earned income belongs to his wife if he is married. If he has children even more goes to the woman, or men become indentured servants to a woman upon divorce with a child involved because they never get the kid.

Leis Weil does not have a category for women's unaccounted income: tips, gifts, prostitution, and dating income. She does not mention lighter sentences for crime such as drug dealing. Lastly, Leis does not mention that women own more than 75% of all money, real estate, and stocks and bonds.

Mike Holt

NCFM:

Thanks for your suggestion. Actually, the Independent Women's Forum did a study several years ago that found pretty much the result you're describing in terms of income. So, the research has already been done. But it generally doesn't make the news, and the lies keep getting promoted about income gaps, etc. I'm not sure what to do about it, but perhaps we could all write to Ms. Weil. Our letter-

writing committee would be a good tool to accomplish that.

Are you a member of our organization? If so, let me know and we can get moving on setting that up. If not, why not join and help us out?

DEAR NCFM:

The following is a message from a friend of mine who has been denied justice in his case for 13 years. His name is Derrick Coombs #CT1800, SCI Camp Hill, P.O. Box 200, Camp Hill, PA 17001-0200. His message is as follows:

“Dear NCFM, I have been provably falsely accused of rape here. Have tried to write you several times and believe mail was stopped by this prison. Need help here. Urgent! Pronto! Have solid case of proven lie upon lie in court right now and need help, PLEASE. Contact me immediately or if you have a pro bono attorney in this area, please have him come see me right away for full details. Thank you very much. Please tell party sending you this email if you write or arrange visit so I know what is going on. This story will blow your mind, Sir. Thanks, God bless you. Derrick Coombs”

Please help this man if you can. I work with Christian Pen Pals, writing to more than 20 inmates at present time. Not often do I believe they are innocent, but I am completely convinced this man is innocent of the charge of rape. He has spent 13 years in jail constantly being given the run-around, with records lost, etc. If you can do something for him, please let me know and I will tell him to be expecting to hear from you. We believe that his mail is kept from him at times. So far, they have not lost any of mine. Thank you so very much.

Maggie Hobbs
southern saint@yahoo.com

NCFM:

I'm sorry to hear about your friend who has been falsely accused of rape. We come upon many cases like this — it is more common than one would think. It is a prime example of the type of anti-male sexism that we work against. NCFM is a non-profit educational organization concerned with the ways that sex discrimination affects

men. You are seeing one of those ways now. Unfortunately, we are NOT a law firm, and we are not equipped to offer legal services or get involved in individual cases. We usually work with the public and legislators to raise awareness about men's issues, such as the one in which you're involved.

If Mr. Coombs would like to contact us directly, we can post his address for our members, and perhaps some of them may take an interest in his case and offer support. Please let us know if you would like to do that.

Again, thank you for contacting us. I do appreciate your efforts to help this gentleman. Good luck!

DEAR NCFM:

James Anderson is on the run again. Please let all the men's rights guys know. He's been in the fight for almost 20 years. Log onto <http://runjamesrun2007.homestead.com>

DEAR NCFM:

Found your website while surfing, and noticed you don't have a Houston chapter. I am very interested in men's issues, and may be able to help setting up a new chapter -- what is typically involved in this effort?

Ralph E. Casazza, Ph.D.

NCFM:

Thank you for contacting NCFM. You're correct that we don't currently have a chapter in Houston. We would certainly appreciate any help in establishing one! The first step would be for you to join NCFM. You can find a membership form on our website. I'm attaching our document on how to form a chapter, which hopefully will answer your questions about the process. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Good luck!

LETTERS continues next page

Special Thanks Due

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

Rudolph Bold, NY
Allan Decker, FL
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Steven J. Hoffman, AZ
Barry Jernigan, TN
Carl Minie, UT
Mark Woodall, TN

Letters

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DEAR NCFM:

Father's Rights Advocate Tarred & Feathered on National TV!

On 3/16/07 Friday at noon I, Tony Taylor, attended a town meeting with Senator McCain in Cedar Falls, Iowa. There were approximately 500 people present, but I was the only non-staff Black man present. I patiently waited for my opportunity to ask Senator McCain a question. I know the candidates get frustrated as Senator George Allen did that is why I always try to be respectful and succinct. Reference my YouTube video with Mitt Romney: www.youtube.com/watch?v=swvaYqmt-Gw

My question was: Many soldiers are experiencing multiple tours in Iraq and this is exacerbating an already high divorce rate. In times past the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act protected soldiers away in combat from litigation launched against them at home but it did not protect their custody rights to their children. If you (Senator McCain) were to become president, what would you do to help protect soldier's custody rights to their children?

I am part African-American, and 50 years ago Black people were falsely told that equal rights are a state issue. Many federal laws affect state family courts. What would you do on the federal level as president to preserve the rights of 25 million divorced dads in this country and especially those in combat?

Dr. Mark Klein is the only candidate addressing equal parenting issues.

The Senator's response has been aired on numerous national TV shows and YouTube. He said to me, a Black man, he is not going to have judges go back and retry cases. It would open up a "Tar Baby".

Immediately after the meeting was adjourned a number of people apologized to me for the senator's answer, but he did not. In a press conference closed to the public and myself the media took Senator McCain to task on the "Tar Baby" comment and he "apologized" to them but not to me.

Some media articles indicated that I was speaking on behalf of myself, but I was not. My personal case occurred after

my military service. My EX was a bigamist who had her son assault me. I was proven innocent as she unsuccessfully tried to convince a jury that I assaulted him, the 260 pound Pro Bowl NFL football player. Further I would never talk about my personal case because I am not allowed to as it involves a large counter law suit being handled by Renda, Hirschhorn and Bieber (412) 921-1900

The reason I asked the question is because I, a former Captain, sympathize with the soldiers in Iraq and because I come from 4 generations of soldiers, including two West Pointers and a Command Sergeant Major. However, my honorable service meant nothing when false accusations were used against me for leverage in a custody battle.

Senator McCain owes an apology to the heroes in combat when he demonstrates no knowledge or concern for protecting their custody rights to their children while they are overseas.

Senator McCain owes an apology to the 25 million non-custodial parents in America when he claims he's concerned about human rights for enemy prisoners, yet shows no regard for American divorced dads, most of whom receive no trial or attorney.

If Senator McCain feels he should apologize, he might consider apologizing to the African American man he was speaking to and not the media.

Senator McCain ended his speech by talking about his concern for human rights overseas. Hopefully people will take the time to tell Senator McCain and the media that we have human rights issues in America that need to be addressed.

Tony Taylor

Tony.Taylor@yahoo.com

NCFM:

Thank you for contacting NCFM and sharing your story. From reading your account, I can't tell if you are asking for any assistance from us, so I'll just wish you luck in your efforts. As you know, NCFM has been addressing these types of issues for many years now too, and we're on the

same side here. Best wishes to you and yours.

DEAR NCFM:

I stumbled upon an Australian website that plans to spend 19.4 million+ to help in the education of boys. Are any other countries allotting money like this? Is the United States? (I live in the U.S. and really would like to know if they are helping.)

Justin Owens

NCFM:

Thank you for contacting NCFM. I'm happy to hear that Australia is going to spend money on the education of boys. Can you point me to the specific website that you saw? I'd like to take a look at it.

As far as I know, the US is NOT spending any significant money on male-specific education. Almost all of the gender-specific funding goes to girls' education.

DEAR NCFM:

There is an overwhelming need in our country for an education campaign on the value of fathers and mothers equally in the lives of their children. There are a number of reasons that mothers gain sole custody of children to the tune of 85% of the time when a family breaks apart. Also some mothers lose custody of their children if they are the sole provider and or get caught up in the winner-loser divorce industry and make mistakes during this process. There also are a number of reasons that we should have equal custody for fit, willing and able parents mandated through legislation like last years Michigan House Bill 5267. See: http://dadsomichigan.org/shared_parenting.html

Three basic reasons cause fathers to be discriminated against in our family courts. First is the politics of political correctness practiced by politicians who pander to feminist groups by saying that mothers are more important then fathers

through existing laws and the way these laws are enforced. Second is misplaced chivalry of those that think it is their job to protect mothers from falsely accused fathers combined with the soft bigotry of low expectations of mothers when it comes to equally supporting their own children and then allow fathers to be more than a pay check. Third is the all powerful desire of most politicians to make sure that federal welfare funds keep flowing by ensuring that fathers are made into second class parents so that bloated child support payments can be forced.

Politicians have learned that it is not politically correct to say that fathers and mothers are equally important in the lives of their children. Some politicians try and play it safe without ever doing research on the truth of what children truly need. Here is a link to a study that was done on this subject for your review: <http://www.apa.org/releases/custody2.html>

Here is a short synopsis: Children Likely to be Better Adjusted in Joint VS Sole Custody Arrangements in Most Cases, According to Review of Research (Living Situation Not As Influential As Time Spent With Parent) ...a meta-analysis of 33 studies between 1982 to 1999 that examined 1,846 sole-custody and 814 joint-custody children. The studies compared child adjustment in joint physical or joint legal custody with sole-custody settings and 251 intact families.

There also have been studies done on the impact of divorce and the bias within our society. Children are taught that their mother is more important than their father through school curriculum content, entertainment themes and news media slanted presentations. The news shows present stories on the importance of mother's work without trying to remove any of the gender bias in the story by letting the viewers know about the work that father's do outside of the work place and the importance of father's and some sole provider mother's work in the first place. Many children's books that have a parent in them have the mother but not the father or show fathers as foolish and incompetent. At school fathers have to push the system to include them when it comes to news, information and events and are told since they are not the custodial parent they can not make decisions for their child. The

feminist would have you think that fathers are not discriminated against when it comes to the court system but the facts do not show this to be true. Lawyers often tell fathers that they will not get equal custody and that they should not push for it because it could upset the pro-woman judges and make the divorce process harder. Below is a link to a study that shows that bias starts as soon as a father sees a lawyer, see page 8-10: <http://www.public.asu.edu/~devra1/matt&jenessa.pdf>

The following link will show a number of other studies and statistics that further support the claims that I have made: <http://www.gocrc.com/research/index.html>

The great big secret that the politicians, Friend of the Court, lawyers and judges do not want people to know about is that the state is paid to make non-custodial parents. When Michigan Governor Granholm was asked about supporting equal physical child custody during a radio interview on the Michigan Talk Network Big Show she told me that she believed that children should spend as much time with both parents as possible but failed to endorse the Shared Parenting bill. Prior to this radio show response, when I wrote her concerning Shared Parenting she had Michael Kohn of the Michigan Child Support Unit respond. He wrote that the state has two interests, to maintain stability and to make sure someone is supporting the children besides the state. Below is a link to an article that explains this in great detail: <http://www.removehesepeople.org/ssacse/>

Please feel free to call and write to me about all of these topics. I appreciate you taking the time to research this and I would love to address your organization to try and further the public's knowledge of this issue and look forward to an invitation to do so. Our message includes your message, let's work together.

Darrick Scott-Farnsworth
Executive Director,
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Pro-Life, Liberty and Property you are
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DEAR EDITOR:

I don't know how the following fits into "Men's Rights", but it did strike me as an example of society's willingness of to capitulate to hateful attitudes towards men.

I recently rented the movie "Hard Candy". It is about a 14 year old girl who has a liaison with an older man she meets over the Internet. It turns out that he is a pedophile. She is "lured" to his apartment where the tables turn on him. She drugs him up, binds him down, castrates him and then forces him to commit suicide. (I hope I didn't ruin anyone's quiet Saturday evening by revealing too much of the plot to this "diddy".)

Now, when you remove the "pedophile" element, you will be able to see the double-standard that society has towards violence against men. What struck me was this. Our Society does not permit a legal-aged actress to portray an underage girl performing sex with a man, but yet it will allow a legal-aged actress to portray an underage girl performing castration and murder on one? In other words, our society is repulsed by an actress portraying a 14 year old girl having sex, but applauds a 14 year old castrating and murdering a man? Something seems very twisted in that to me.

John Montesano
Sayville, NY

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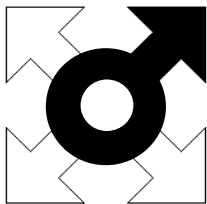
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