

TRANSITIONS

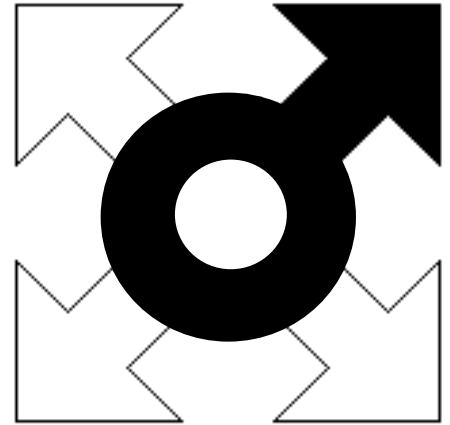
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The King and His Sanity

By John Montesano

Folklore has it that there once was a far off kingdom where the people were ruled by a benevolent king. He was a good king and the people were very happy. All was well in the kingdom. One day a spring burst forth in the middle of the kingdom. The people quickly welled it up and began drinking the clear, sweet water from the newly formed well.

Soon those that drank of the well began to go mad. It seems that something in the water caused insanity. The whole kingdom drank of the water and all had gone insane. Very shortly thereafter, the people revolted against the King — claiming the he had lost his sanity. Seeing his subjects in such a tether, the king went to visit the well. He dismounted from his horse and took a giant swig of the water from the well. Soon the people had cause to rejoice — for the King had regained his sanity!

Our male neutered American society is on the verge of taking a giant swig from a well of insanity that most of its people have already drank from — the well of Modern Feminism! The hypocritical insanity of Modern Feminism has not only seeped into our courts, media and society, but it is beginning to overflow into our consciousness as a people.

Let us now drink of this well and taste first hand its effects.

Do you know that I would be taken aside and evaluated if I, as an able-bodied male, walked into any Armed Forces recruiting station in

this nation and said, “I would like to enlist in the service but I first must ask you to guarantee me that in the event of war I will be included in combat.” Yet, females are not only demanding this inclusion; they are willing to fight in court to achieve it! Why would our courts — and society — determine such nonsensical notions from females as rational while at the same time determine those same notions irrational when offered by males? Feminist Insanity? The first round of drinks from the well are on me!

As I delve into another glass of this delicious well water, I begin to realize that changing meanings of words to accomplish a planned goal is not really that bad of a thing. Take for instance the female police officer who requested that her partner be a male because she felt that in a dangerous situation she would feel more secure with a male as her partner rather than a female. Is she guilty of sexism? Has she unwittingly capitulated the female’s abilities as subservient to the males? I used to think that! But that was before I tasted of the waters of Feminist Insanity! I am now “enlightened” enough to know that if a male officer asks for a male partner it is the male officer who is guilty of sexism — not the female officer! It does not matter that the lives and limbs of our men are placed at risk, all that matters is that the self-esteem of our females be ingratiated and their agendas be advanced. I see that now. Another round of well-water please.

One day, during the time of my pre-well-water “insanity,” I had taken exception with a woman over her constant use of the disparaging term “womanizer”. I asked her to define the term “womanizer” for me. She said that a womanizer was someone “who used the fe-

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Editor's Comment

When I talk to people about men's issues, one of the most common responses I get is, "There are too many other important issues to care about." Normally, I would scoff and argue when someone said that to me. I'd point out that the issues are important to the men who are suffering from gender discrimination. Other people are simply not trained to care about men, so the issues are invisible to them.

At this point in history, however, their feelings are understandable. Here are some of the "other issues" that are on everyone's minds these days:

- 1) War and Terrorism
- 2) Global Warming
- 3) Immigration
- 4) The Economy — real estate dip, foreclosures, huge mortgages, small raises, etc.

The nation is very distracted right now. I believe this is why it's been hard to

pull new members and volunteers into NCFM. So let's not blame ourselves for the slow-down. Instead, let's adapt to the current climate.

We could wait for a better time to bring attention to men's issues. Many of the issues that have people so uneasy are directly or indirectly caused by President Bush and the stalemate in Congress. Unfortunately, it'll be 1.5 years until the next election when we can pick a new president and replace more of the unhelpful congressmen. And, the next government will need some time to get things back on track. So, I expect this slow period will last at least two years. Too long to wait.

One thing we could do is try to get involved in the election. What candidates are strong or weak on men's issues? How can we get them to address men's issues? If we can get just one of them to talk about it, the others will have to respond.

We could turn the problem around. Instead of waiting for the critical issues to go away, we could elevate men's issues to the critical level. Emphasize the harmful effects of discrimination against men. For example, Wade Mackey's article in this issue describes how father absence contributes to child illiteracy.

Finally, we should seek out those men that are hurting. We should be doing this anyway, of course, but at a time when we need members and volunteers, it's more important than ever that we bring these guys in. The guys who, because of gender discrimination, can't find a domestic violence shelter, was passed over for promotion, can't see their kids... Keep an eye out for them. These men know that men's issues are worth caring about.

Ever Yours in the Cause,

Jason Leatherman

King

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male body for their own sexual pleasure." I then asked her, "By your definition then would a lesbian be considered a womanizer?" Foolish me. Why didn't I see that with Feminist Insanity, not only do word definitions change but so does word usage? So now in my "sanity" I see that a man desiring a woman sexually is to be considered a "womanizer," while a woman who desires a woman sexually is to be considered a "Progressive Feminist". This water is certainly delicious, isn't it? May I have another?

LEVEL PLAYING FIELD? The courts... the courts! The courts must mandate laws. That's the key... the courts. They, the poor masses... they are not "sane" like us. Change the workplace... the courts must make them comply. No longer is the premise, "INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY." We must amend that ridiculous premise. Men must now be deemed "GUILTY UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT". He must now PROVE his INNOCENCE. Yes... that's it... but wait... what... Bill of what? Oh...ok...ok...that premise can stay.

But only for crimes like murder or assault or some such mundane crime as that! But for something like sexual innuendo to a woman — NO — NEVER!!! How dare men squeal of ..."Rights"? We are talking about women here! Certainly real men would consent to having their rights taken from them — what do their rights amount to when compared to offending the sensibilities of our delicate women — especially when it comes to something as horrific as sex? The courts must come down on the side of the female's view of sexuality. We must discriminate against the male's view of sexuality. But how do we hide our discrimination? I got it. Let's tell them that workplace laws are for everyone... yes... that's it... for EVERYONE... even though we know that men will never really use them. And if someone should say, "Hey, if you feminists really wanted to make the playing field level, how about allowing men to accuse women of sexual harassment also — sexual harassment as defined by males. How about if a woman had to prove that she did NOT use her sexuality (in the form

of sexual dress, sexual charm, sexual body language, sexual innuendo, etc.) to advance herself in the workplace? How about if she had hanging over her head the possibility of one day having to fight for her job, her home, her possessions ... even her very life because a man may have perceived that she may have received advancement using her sexual wiles? Wouldn't that make it even? Wait... that kind of thinking is "insane!" Something like that would really level the playing field... we can't afford that. Are you mad? Who in their "right mind" would conceive of such a thing?

Let us instead rejoice over our American sisters. Here's to those of us who have tasted of the well of Feminist Insanity — and, like the King, have regained our "SANITY!"

Media Digest

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

compiled by Mike Spaniola

Full Frontal Feminism

By Allison Kasie

NationalReviewOnline, May 29, 2007

"You're a feminist. I swear." That is the premise of *Full Frontal Feminism: A Young Woman's Guide to Why Feminism Matters*, the new book from feminist blogger Jessica Valenti, of Feministing.com fame. According to Valenti, we younger women are feminists at heart but refuse to wear the label: "Most young women are feminists, but we're too afraid to say it—or even to recognize it. And why not? Feminists are supposed to be ugly. And fat. And hairy! Is it f***ed up that people are so concerned about dumb, superficial stuff like that? Of course. Is there anything wrong with being ugly, fat, or hairy? Of course not. But let's be honest: No one wants to be associated with something that is seen as uncool and unattractive. But the thing is,

feminists are pretty cool (and attractive!) women."

While Valenti's brand of radical feminism is nothing new, her presentation is. Valenti takes a casual, albeit angry, tone and employs a slew of profanity (she is "slightly potty-mouthed," as she puts it) to make her points, similar to the style of Feministing.com and much of the liberal blogosphere. For all her attempts to shatter myths about feminism (Feminists are ugly! Feminism is for old white ladies! Feminism is so last week!), she will do little to dissuade anyone of the notion that feminism often takes an angry and bitter tone. The book reads as one long rant; the pent-up anger radiates from the pages.

When it comes to delinquency, boys are exposed to more risk, less protection

Science Daily, June 12, 2007 (source: University of Washington)

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/06/070612090301.htm>

Researchers trying to understand why high school-age boys are involved in serious delinquency more often than girls have found that males are exposed to higher levels of risk factors and lower amounts of protective factors.

A new study of more than 7,800 high school sophomores from 40 suburban and rural communities in seven states examined 22 risk and protective factors associated with serious delinquency. It found that boys reported higher levels of risk and lower levels of protection for 18 of the factors than did girls. In addition, boys were twice as likely to engage in seven of the eight serious delinquent behaviors that were measured.

"Boys come into contact with risk factors in their families, school, peers and

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in their personal attributes more frequently and are sometimes influenced by them more strongly than are girls," said Abigail Fagan, lead author of the study and an intervention specialist with the University of Washington's Social Development Research Group. All of the risk and protective factors examined were significantly related to serious delinquency for both boys and girls, according to Fagan.

The students in the study came from communities with populations ranging from 1,600 to 106,000 in Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Oregon, Utah and Washington. Slightly more than half of the students were girls, and 79 percent were white.

Is sexism behind Couric's struggles?

As CBS Evening News' ratings dip ever lower, some suggest viewers won't accept a female anchor

By David Bauder

The Associated Press, June 4, 2007

With all the women in television news on both sides of the camera, you would think sexism was an issue relegated to the 20th century. ... "It saddens me," said Deborah Potter, a former CBS News reporter who is now executive director of the News Lab think tank. "I wish I could tell you I was surprised, but I guess I'm not. ..."

Linda Mason, who was the first female producer at the *CBS Evening News* ... said she had no idea that a woman delivering the news would be a handicap. "I'm afraid that Katie's paying a price for being the first woman, but I think it's a great trail she's blazing, and I think if the broadcast continues to be as good as it has been ... people will start to watch. It takes time, I think. But I was surprised that there was an obvious connection between a woman giving the news, and the audience wanting to watch it."

Mason told The Associated Press that her opinion came from her gut, not from any particular research. She stressed that there were other factors in Couric's slow start.

Happy Father's Day, jerk!

By Kathleen Parker

Washington Post Writers Group, June 15, 2007

[H]ere's the biggest truth of all: Men and fathers have been on the receiving end of a male-bashing trend for the past 20 years or so, and they've had enough. [A recent father-bashing] comic strip might have faded into the ethers if it didn't cut so close to the bone, if it weren't one more insult added to a history that long ago ceased to amuse.

On television, men are depicted as boors or buffoons, while in the broader culture, they're deadbeats or wife beaters. In a 1999 study of how fathers were presented in 102 prime-time shows, the National Fatherhood Initiative found only four in which a father was portrayed as present and involved in his children's lives.

At the same time little boys and girls are seeing bad, dumb daddies on TV, more than a third don't live with their own father, owing either to divorce or single motherhood. Despite inevitable exceptions to the rule, it is merely ignorant to say that a father's absence has no effect on children. Study after study shows an association between fatherlessness and a wide range of social pathologies, including drug abuse, promiscuity and delinquency.

Two mommies may work out fine for some children. And some men, just like some women, are contemptible slobs or worse. But neither observation diminishes the larger truth that children need fathers, most of whom are not, in fact, the cartoonish characters we love to loathe.

Teach your children well

By Nathan Tabor

townhall.com, June 13, 2007

http://www.townhall.com/columnists/NathanTabor/2007/06/13/teach_your_children_well

An alarming statistic splashed across the Internet the other day—violent crime is on the rise in the U.S. for the second straight year. The stats show that homicides increased in eight of the country's largest

cities: Chicago, Houston, Las Vegas, New York, Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Antonio, and San Diego. As a result, the murder rate in cities with populations of more than one million jumped 6.7 percent. ... In addition to the rise in the murder rate, the robbery rate jumped 6 percent. Burglaries are up, too. The issue then, is not whether crime is getting worse, but why? And what can be done to reduce criminal activity around the nation? ...

This sad state of affairs really shouldn't surprise us. When kids grow up without fathers around, when they have little supervision, they'll naturally turn to their peers for support and solidarity. The gang becomes a family—albeit a dangerous, potentially deadly one. When teens see few options, when they literally can't envision a future for themselves, they develop a what's-the-use attitude. They find violent outlets for their anger and we, as a nation, suffer for it. ... The best remedy for what ails our nation is the traditional American family. Until a two-parent family becomes the norm again, I fear that violent crime and gang activity will be our constant companions.

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U.S. Fathers Enhance Their Children's Level of Literacy

By Wade C. Mackey, Ph.D.

As academics and politicians mull and ponder philosophical abstractions on how U.S. fathers are to be envisioned, some practical matters can also be considered. One such very practical matter is the ability of a child to read at all, and, as the child develops, to read with increasing comprehension. As presented below, national data suggest that the presence of a father does enhance his children's reading skills.

The Department of Education conducted a large study in 2005 to assess reader skills of fourth and eighth grade school children. In essence, the child could be evaluated as reading at or above a basic level — for his or her age group — or could be evaluated as reading below the basic level expected for his peers. The scores were available by state (plus the District of Columbia).

Although there are, of course, exceptions, when a child is born out-of-wedlock (sometimes referred to as a non-marital birth), the father is generally unavailable to fulfill the fathering role.

Out-of-wedlock births are also surveyed by states plus the District of Columbia. Therefore, it is a relatively simple matter to analyze the relationship between father-absence and level of reading skills of children.

Let's look at the fourth graders. A fourth grader in the year 2005 would be born about 1996. Accordingly, the relationship between level of out-of-wedlock births in 1996 and reading scores in 2005 was surveyed across the 50 states plus D.C. A relationship was found, and it was a strong relationship.¹ As the level of out-of-wedlock births increased, the percentage of children scoring below the basic level also increased.

Perhaps this relationship would have evaporated by the time the child reached the eighth grade. However, such was not the case. Children in the eighth grade would be born about 1992. Thus, the level of out-of-wedlock births in 1992 was matched with the reading scores in 2005.

Here, too, a relationship was found, and again, the relationship was strong.² Across the states plus D.C., the higher the level of out-of-wedlock births, the greater was the percentage of children who scored below the basic level.

One could argue that the differences across the states plus D.C. reflected the different amounts of money spent per student per year. These data are also readily available. The average amount per student per year was just over \$8,900. The range was over \$9,000 with a high of \$14,620 (D.C.) and a low of \$5,550 (Utah). However, there was no relationship between expenditures per student and percentage of students reading below a basic level. This lack of relationship held for both the fourth graders and the eighth graders.³

Whereas the taxes of the community — local, state, federal — underwrite these expenses of the public school system, the cost to the community of a father is essentially zero. Fathers represent an excellent cost/benefit ratio for their community.

These data which link father presence with enhanced reading skills cannot point to the specifics on how fathering of a child translates to better reading achievements. The construction of such linkages are, even yet, still beyond the temporal horizon of current knowledge. Nonetheless, as academics and politicians mull and ponder how to maximize children's achievements and how to conceptualize the father-role in the United States, part of the mulling and pondering might well include finding ways to better adhere the father to the nuclear family.

FOOTNOTES

1) Statistically: $r_p = 0.772$; $p < .001$; $df = 49$. Over 50% (59.6%) of the differences in scores which are below the basic level are aligned with the level of out-of-wedlock births.

2) Statistically: $r_p = 0.684$; $p < .001$; $df = 49$. Over 40% (46.7%) of the differences in scores which are below the basic level are

aligned with the level of out-of-wedlock births.

3) Statistically: $r_p = -0.133$; $p > .05$; $df = 49$ for fourth graders and $r_p = -0.105$; $p > .05$ $df = 49$ for eighth graders.

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Book Reviews

By J. Steven Svoboda

The Abolition of Marriage: How We Destroy Lasting Love

By Maggie Gallagher. Washington, D.C.: Regnery Publishing, 1996. 300 pp. US \$24.95. www.regnery.com.

How time flies. Eight years ago, nationally syndicated columnist Maggie Gallagher wrote the somewhat unfortunately titled book *The Abolition of Marriage* and it took me until now to get around to reading it. Once you do get past the title, Gallagher's work here (which focuses on the US but mostly applies to Canada too) is simply awe-inspiring. I can't think of a more important book I've read in the last ten years, inside or outside of gender issues.

The Abolition of Marriage is a virtual pentathlete of a book, excelling on so many different levels. In terms of quality in non-fiction writing, as far as I am concerned, the line starts behind Maggie Gallagher. She is equally pre-eminent in her ability to marshal facts from seemingly diverse areas of inquiry and integrate them to arrive at truths that seem obvious only *after* she has demonstrated them to us. This is sheer brilliance, folks.

Moreover, Gallagher evidently cares deeply about society and people and the serious harm both have suffered from the inestimable erosion matrimony has suffered in recent decades. Following in the steps of her previous book, *Enemies of Eros*, she names the Greek concept of "eros," of irrational, exuberant love for one's immediate family (spouse *and* children) as a key to our welfare in all areas of life. Paradoxically, marriage is more useful and attractive the more demanding and restrictive it becomes. Spouses with children are the pillars of society, paying taxes, providing a foundation that can help sustain a community. The absence of the traditional family is correspondingly highly correlated with a community's decline; if the percentage of married couples with children in a neighborhood drops below a critical tipping point of about fifteen

percent, trouble is likely to follow. Furthermore, married couples are much more likely to be both willing and able to make the sort of superlative sacrifices—a second mortgage to pay for college for their kids—that can never be legislated. Thus the sharp downfall of matrimony has led to declines in our safety, our economic well-being, and our sense of community, and to increases in teenage motherhood. Most importantly of all, children are not as happy. And children who have lost faith in marriage become taxpaying adults who then pass on the lessons (deliberately or otherwise) to *their* children.

The author shows us how marriage attaches a father to his children, creating a distinctly male role for him in a family. Our commonly applied tools for measuring what children lose through divorce fail to capture the whole nature or extent of their loss. We deconstruct marriage into what we imagine are its component parts, then claim that it is the parts (money, a father and a mother in their lives in some fashion) that are essential for children. We're just kidding ourselves.

Gallagher explodes the convenient myth that what is good for parents must be good for kids, noting that kids in second marriages do no better than in single-parent home, and should a red divorce happen, they do far worse. She goes on to demolish a second shibboleth, the notion that the average marriage is happier today than in the past. Currently, in the author's memorable phrase, we are experiencing "erotic stagflation," the paradoxical combination of higher divorce rates *and* unhappier marriages. Moreover, divorce is only good for kids in those very rare cases where a high conflict marriage becomes a low conflict divorce. The "blended family," Gallagher memorably suggests, might more aptly be called the "lumpy family," as the web of allegiances among the new family members almost never smoothens out.

The Abolition of Marriage covers much broader ground than simply the decline of matrimony. It brings us face to face with a culture that not only fails to

adequately praise and reward self-sacrifice or commitment to higher ideals such as lifelong partnership with a spouse, but even implies that those who do practice them are dupes or fools for not following their own self-interest. Gallagher calls the therapeutic community and, yes, lawyers to task for their roles in facilitating the decline of marriage. And for assisting the loss of the grand concept of putting aside one's own petty needs and striving for the greater good. The author doesn't oppose ending truly bad marriages. She simply believes, rightly I think, that few marriages are truly "bad;" she shows us that most "good" marriages that end up enduring a lifetime had very difficult patches when they seemed fully as "bad" as those that end in divorce. The difference? Commitment, and hanging in there, and belief in ideals that go beyond one or even two people's individual existences.

Some of the facts Gallagher provides are rarely heard. Marital status is a more important predictor of infant mortality than age of the mother's education or even whether the baby was "wanted." A baby born to a college educated single mother is far more likely to die than a child of married high school dropouts. Even more strikingly, the single best predictor of a community's level of violence is the proportion of single-parent families. Remarkably, once family status is controlled for, neither race nor income has any effect on a crime rate in a community. Fatherlessness and crime are linked not only due to a boy's individual lack of a dad but also, more profoundly, due to his growing up in a neighborhood in which marriage is no longer a norm.

One of Gallagher's most inspired touches is her detailed discussion of the collapse of marriage in black communities, followed by the degeneration of other African-American institutions, and her demonstration that today white communities are poised to follow the same path. Her insights into both of the great twin "taboos" of discussions about love—

money and sex roles—are also wonderful. In two further strokes of brilliance, she shows that spouses have become, in our disposable society, yet another “consumption item,” and later suggests that the same is even true of children.

As a lawyer and an activist, it was very sobering to learn so much about both professions from the author, who is neither! The author discusses the one-two punch to the old marriage ethic that resulted from the legal declaration that sex was private (followed by the invalidation of laws restricting sexual behavior and/or promoting marriage) and the courts’ declaration that sex was a public health issue (thereby justifying state intrusion into private morality). She shows how courts are gradually defining marriage out of existence, as the non-married gradually acquire most of the same rights and entitlements that spouses have. Later, “no-fault” divorce effectively made marriage illegal!

One final awesome fact about this book: Almost uniquely in my experience in such works, she provides a number of concrete, detailed, painful, yet seemingly workable suggestions as to how to get there from here. Make no mistake, these will require sacrifice: End unilateral divorce by imposing a five- to seven-year waiting period for contested no-fault divorces (as do many European jurisdictions). Restrict domestic partnership legislation to homosexuals who cannot marry. Expand opportunities for covenant marriage. End welfare for teenage mothers. Permit school districts to send pregnant girls to special schools. Restore single-sex public schools. Triple the tax exemption for dependents and thereby restore the tax protection lost by families.

Gallagher does have her very occasional lapses, as with her blissful ignorance of the serious flaws in Lenore Weitzman’s work on divorce, and her suggestion that married men have a “reasonable certainty” that their wife’s children are in fact their own. Any men’s rights issues appearing here come in by chance. She does question why a man should have to bear the burden of a woman’s choice to bear a child. But she also repeatedly stresses that married men tend to work harder and to make sacrifices single men simply will not make, without once

considering the point of view of these generous souls. And yet, in all fairness, this ties in with her book’s thesis: Our therapeutic society needs to get over it and do what works and get on with life. And what works is marriage.

Gallagher’s skill at lovely formulations and insightful combinations of heretofore discrete facts is simply unequalled. She loves marriage and implores us as a society and as individuals to again declare ourselves willing to take the risk of the ultimate declaration of love for another. Crossing our fingers behind our back just doesn’t work. It’s time, Gallagher implores, for us to stop talking about marriage like bohemians used to talk about free love. If you only read one book this year, make it *The Abolition of Marriage*. Its insights are more compelling now than when they were written.

Nothing’s Wrong: A Man’s Guide to Managing His Feelings

By David Kundtz. Boston: Conari Press, 2004. 155 pages. US \$14.95. www.redwheelweiser.com.

Family therapist David Kundtz has written a deceptively simple, effortlessly accessible guidebook on that ever thorny male problem of what to do about feelings. Many of us who may feel relatively “in touch” with our feelings nevertheless are periodically reminded of how much work may still remain to be done. And so it is that *Nothing’s Wrong* has appeared on the scene.

Author Kundtz’ approach is admirable on several different levels. He is male-affirming as a matter of course. Why shouldn’t he be, since nothing is wrong with men! He implicitly accepts men’s ways of communicating as valid and valuable. And he draws us into his viewpoints by telling personal stories (both about himself and about suitably anonymized patients of his). These tales enable us to draw links between our own selves and others, and help demystify and break down this whole sometimes imposing subject.

“Feeling from the gut” is what many men do, Kundtz tells us, and there is absolutely nothing wrong with that either. In a wonderfully simple yet deep metaphor,

the author suggests that we must learn both to be the man *on* the moon (heroic, externally focused) and also the man *in* the moon (fun-loving, internally focused). The emotional miseducation of boys and men is explained in detail. One thing that had never occurred to me before: with the feeling world relatively closed off to most of us, men may love sports so devoutly (both as participants and spectators) because the game is one of the purest times we are able to feel alive. (And so it may be with me with my own lifelong interest in tournament chess.)

Probably all of us have heard it said that feelings are neither good nor bad, they just are. But no one I can recall has so deeply illuminated this simple statement, showing us the “pre-moral” nature of emotions. (Morality — and responsibility — only enter into the equation when we decide whether or not and how to *act* on what we feel.) As a theologian, Kundtz is eminently qualified to discuss the terror most churches (and schools) seem to have regarding feelings.

Stay with “negative” feelings, the author urges us, at least for a while. Don’t deny them. If a feeling doesn’t get to tell us how to express it, it will be buried alive. Besides, unexpressed feelings inevitably *will* emerge on their own and potentially cause at least three different kinds of damage — addictions, physical illness, and emotional illness.

The author outlines three steps to emotional fitness. “First: Notice the feelings. Stay with it. Second: Name the feeling. Pick a name to identify what you feel. Third: Express the feeling. Get the feeling outside you.” One problem for men is often we don’t even notice that we are having a feeling! Allowing ourselves to fully feel, for example, frustration, and then to name it gives us power, control, and time to process the emotion.

Kundtz’ occasional missteps, such as his reiteration of the tired myth that domestic violence mostly happens to women, should not dissuade the reader from delving into this truly exceptional and unique volume. Best of all, at just over 150 modestly sized pages, the entire book can be finished within a couple hours or so. You won’t regret it!

What's Happening??

National Coalition of Free Men News

TWIN CITIES CHAPTER REPORT

(By Will Hageman)

In April, the Twin Cities Chapter had a table at the annual conference of the Prairie Star District of the Unitarian Universalist Association, which brought delegates from eight states to Minnesota. The UUA places particular emphasis on social justice, and we raised the delegates' awareness of injustices against men and boys. Most who visited our table were open-minded and curious, and several thanked us for being there. One gender bigot was present; when she saw our signs in memory of Minnesota men recently killed by their wives or girlfriends, she dismissed their deaths as insignificant, and when we pointed out that nearly all attention has gone to female victims of domestic violence, she said "You're the ones who were killing us" (she added that by "you" she meant men as a group). When the bigotry of her statement was pointed out to her, she decided to walk away rather than try to defend her words. The next visitor to our table, who is a member of that woman's church, told us "Don't pay any attention to her. She's crazy." We then had a long talk with this man, who works with fathers-rights groups in Iowa and was delighted to see us at the conference.

Also in April, we had tables at two district conventions of the Republican Party (the Democrats did not have conventions this year). One delegate lives in the district of a Minnesota state representative who was falsely accused of domestic abuse by his wife (the Republican House leadership immediately presumed the man guilty and distanced itself from him; a member of our chapter has had long discussions with him about false accusations and domestic abuse against men). The delegate was well aware of the false accusations against his representative, and took a copy of every piece of literature we had. Another delegate who was at our table at the same time listened to our discussion, and then donated \$20 to the chapter.

In May, we had a table at the convention of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. We had interesting discussions with a number of delegates about the anti-boys bias of schools, the anti-men bias of family courts, the myth of the wage gap, and other issues. One visitor to our table was later elected co-president of the state league.

Also in May, we had a table at the Linden Hills Festival, a neighborhood festival in Minneapolis. Several visitors thanked us for being there, including one boy who was delighted when he heard that we talk about issues that impact men and boys. His father expressed interest in joining the chapter.

In June, we had a table at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ. This denomination also places much emphasis on social justice, and many of the delegates heard from us about issues they hadn't heard about elsewhere. Again, several people thanked us for being there.

Also in June, we had a table at the Parktacular festival in Saint Louis Park, a Minneapolis suburb.

L.A. CHAPTER REPORT

(By Marc Angelucci)

NCFM-LA had a major victory in the state Supreme Court and two defeats in the lower courts, which we're appealing. The victory was on 5/31/07 in *Angelucci v. Century Supper Club*, when the California Supreme Court sided with NCFM-LA members who sued the Supper Club for charging higher entrance fees to men and subjecting only men to pat-down searches. The lower courts had dismissed the case because we didn't "demand equal treatment," but the high court unanimously reversed what it called a "startling" decision, and held that charging men a higher fee is illegal, is per se injurious, and also causes an "actual injury" when men have to pay more due to their gender.

On 6/15/07, the Sacramento Superior Court ruled in *Woods v. California*

that, although it would be "beneficial" if the legislature included male domestic violence victims, it is not constitutionally required, and the court (improperly) refused to apply equal protection analysis. We filed an appeal the next day and are confident and excited that the 3rd District Court of Appeal will hear the case.

On 6/19/07, in *County of Los Angeles v. Taron James*, the court of appeal upheld the trial court's denial of reimbursement to paternity fraud victim Taron James. But one of the three judges wrote a separate opinion stating that, although the law forbids reimbursement, justice calls for reimbursement in cases like Taron's and the legislature should change the law accordingly.

Our other activities and media hits:
4/17/07: NCFM-LA and Fathers4Justice handed out over 400 flyers at Van Nuys courthouse.

4/25/07: Former First Lady of Jamaica, Beverly Anderson-Manley, who has been Jamaica's representative to the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women, contacted NCFM-LA and interviewed David Woods re. *Woods v. California* and also interviewed Stanley Green.

5/4/07: Reuters, CBS and other media mention and show NCFM-LA members and others rallying for fathers' rights outside the downtown courthouse at the Alec Baldwin custody hearing.

5/12/07: Long Beach Press-Telegram prints NCFM-LA's reply to comment that female-on-male domestic violence puts men "in their place" and is responding to men's violence against women.

5/14/07: NCFM-LA and Fathers4Justice handed out over 800 flyers at Van Nuys Government Center.

5/15/07: NCFM-LA sent \$100 to the now-permanent but yet unfunded New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Men to help with print costs, and sent \$100 to the California Men's Centers.

5/20/07: Members of NCFM-LA, Fathers4Justice, CRISPE, etc. held a rally at Sherman Oaks Park.

5/12/07 - 5/13/07: Members of NCFM-LA, Fathers4Justice, CRISPE and others went to Sacramento and lobbied legislators on men's and fathers' issues. They spoke with numerous legislative staff and reported back that things went well and good connections were made.

5/29/07: UCLA Daily Bruin prints NCFM-LA reply to feminist Sascha Cohen who presented rape in a false, anti-male manner and ignored sociological data on female perpetration of rape.

6/12/07: Tom Leykis hosts NCFM-LA's Bert Riddick regarding his paternity fraud case.

6/20/07: Harford Business prints NCFM-LA's reply to Professor Alberto Alesina's sexist "man tax."

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER REPORT

(By Harry Crouch)

The National Coalition of Free Men San Diego Chapter (CMCSD) has been

very busy. Here's a summary of our activities:

1. The Children Rights Council (CRC) San Diego Chapter is now an affiliate member of NCFM's California Men's Center San Diego. As many of you may know the CRC is a large international organization that has had considerable success in instituting and operating child access (exchange) centers throughout several states and countries. Adjacent to CMCSD's suite of offices currently exist empty office space that may be suitable for an access center. However, many of CRC's access centers are housed in churches or public facilities. Because of my work as a Trainer for the Safe Place Faith Communities domestic violence, education, and referral program our network of non-denominational organizations may offer a ready solution for establishing access centers throughout San Diego County. Guillermo Auad is the President of the new CRC chapter and has been active with the CMCSD since we opened over two years ago. Guillermo worked with national CRC

representatives the past several months to help ensure the initial success of CRC's new San Diego chapter.

2. Tolling Project: We are making headway with our "Tolling Project", a project that began well over a year ago; that is, the project to help inmates suspend child support payments for those incarcerated for six months or longer. The Department of Child Support Services (DCSS), Public Defender, and Alternate Public Defender have now instituted procedures so felons pending sentencing for longer than six months can apply to have their child support payments suspended prior to being transferred to a long term correctional facility. The Warden at Donovan's Correctional Facility (long-term) for men supports our program and has developed guidelines for how our project can work within Donovan's. I am waiting for a response to our proposal from George Bailey Correctional Facility for men (transitional and short term). Another proposal is contemplated for Los Colinas Detention Facility for women. We are close to being able to seek private foundation grant funds to accomplish the project. If we can get the project up and running it can conceivably go national within two years; so, it's a big deal for all concerned.

Yesterday morning I wrote, "However, the closer we get to actually performing the work the higher the probability that one or more of the large institutions involved will step up and take over, which is the nature of things." Yesterday afternoon it happened. A DCSS legal eagle seems to have been working with a correctional system female mucky-muck to muck things up, though I caught her/them before such plans were implemented. In short my gut tells me the DCSS legal eagle really doesn't want law students interviewing prisoners (an integral part of our project), for two basic reasons: (1) DCSS legal wants to keep control of the flow of cases which could be overwhelming if not handled correctly in this situation and (2) concern that by allowing such interviews inmates may ask other questions the answers to which may prove embarrassing to DCSS. More sinister is the notion that perhaps DCSS legal is concerned that by aiding prisoners to suspend child support

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NEWS continues next page

News

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payments while incarcerated, the amount of uncollected child support will begin to stabilize or even decrease over a short period of time, which has all sorts of interesting political implications, none good for DCSS. Now it's a game of wits and power pushing. Stay tuned for further developments, but we are outgunned for sure.

3. CRISPE: NCFM members founded The Children's Rights Initiative for Sharing Parents Equally (CRISPE). Like NCFM, CRISPE is gender inclusive and not to be confused with a "father's rights" group. CRISPE corporate offices are headquartered in NCFM California Men's Center offices. CRISPE began its national tour the beginning of June. Since then NCFM member Larry Kerkman, CRISPE President, has been on several radio and television shows and at least one newspaper article appeared about CRISPE. ACFC's spring 2007 issue of *Liberator Magazine* devoted the entire back page to CRISPE. Thank you American Coalition of Father's and Children! On June 19, the CRISPE coach rolled into Washington with rallies in Vancouver, Olympia, Seattle, Everett and other cities on its first leg of CRISPE's national tour for the benefit of children and families across the country that are being abused by the court system. Todd H. is our par excellent web-master and if you have not done so please visit the site and sign our guest book (www.crispe.org). By the time you read this in *Transitions* the CRISPE coach will have traveled across the country through several mid western states. We have rallies planned throughout our journey and are looking for more opportunities. So, if you belong to a parenting organization or your NCFM chapter wants to sponsor a rally contact us and we'll try to bring the CRISPE coach to you and your group. On August 18 we will roll into Washington D.C. for the 250,000 people "March for Families" (Google: "bring families and children back together" and "Washington D.C."), that is, assuming the March takes place as initially planned. By-the-way, we are represented on the planning committee. NCFM-SD/LA

brochures are on the bus for distribution, too.

4. Personality Study of Male DV Victims: A Ph.D. candidate this June enlisted our aid in finding male victims of domestic violence willing to participate in a personality study. One of his classmates is doing a study on female perpetrators while another is studying female stalkers. Let us pray that such studies are another step in the right direction.

5. Referrals: The CMCSO now gets referrals from various government organizations, the military, labor unions, law enforcement agencies, faith-based groups, women's organizations, law firms, and, perhaps most importantly, from those we've worked or are working with. Though we have not had the resources to develop and track salient information about those referred to us, the CMCSO gets between 10 to 15 (sometimes more) new callers for various types of assistance every week, excluding CRISPE and administrative calls, plus several walk-ins.

6. Outreach and Education: (1) NCFM-SD teamed up with NCFM-LA and Fathers4Justice California and other groups to hold several rallies this year, one of which had 25 people wearing CRISPE or Fathers4Justice shirts waving placards in front of the LA Court House for two Alec Baldwin hearings. NCFM-SD and CRISPE spearheaded numerous other rallies in San Diego and Sacramento in which Ray Blumhorst of NCFM-LA played a key role. NCFM-SD has distributed several thousand brochures (CMCSO, NCFM-LA, paternity fraud, CRISPE, Male Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence...) throughout California, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. (2) Thanks to NCFM-SD member Kevin Young NCFM-SD sponsored a CMCSO educational booth at the semi-annual San Diego County Bar Association training for Family Court judges, attorneys, and paralegals on Saturday, June 16, 2007. We met many professionals sympathetic to our mission, as well as gendersauruses with their noses way out of joint as if we didn't pass the sniff test. No matter, there were roughly 250 in attendance and now every Family Court

Judge in San Diego County knows who we are. In fact, Judge Lorna Alksne invited me to drop by her office with some literature. The event was costly and Kevin not only helped raise the \$500 required for admission, print handouts, and have made a new CMCSO sign, he made a substantial donation, as did other NCFM-SD members (John Van D., Joe M., and Eddy G.) (3) Then, of course, the CRISPE coach is working everyday on its national tour doing education and outreach. (4) In September of 2006 we had another successful five-day educational exhibit at the International Violence, Abuse, and Trauma Conference, which would not have happened without the assistance of NCFM and Ray Blumhorst of NCFM-LA. (5) NCFM-SD continued its membership and participates in the San Diego Domestic Violence Council, though this year our participation was limited compared to previous years. There's only so much one can teach a rock without getting frustrated and needing a break. (6) Whenever we do training for the non denominational Safe Faith Place Community program we provide a wide range of literature and information to volunteer teams about male victims of domestic violence, including abuses like paternity fraud, parental alienation, and false accusations.

7. Fun Stuff: (1) The San Diego Domestic Violence Council's (SDDVC) Men's Leadership Forum (famous for their motto, "What Can Men Do to End Their Violence Against Women") produced a video for next years Men's Leadership Conference. I was sent scripts as they were revised and had direct input; though I have yet to see the video. A good friend of mine who had the final say on the script called me one day very excited. He told me that my suggestions had been adopted, the video was devoid of typical gender feminist drivel (my words not his), and that the feature included segments about men abused by women and female perpetrators. The video will be shown at the next Men's Leadership Forum Conference which is attended by high ranking military personnel, corporate leaders, and leaders in the DV industry. The video is to be mass produced for viewings

in other venues across the country. Score one for the good guys! (2) As I understand it, San Diego is one of only a few metropolitan areas that have separate DV Courts. Regardless, the new Presiding Judge of Family Court(s) in San Diego, David B. Oberholtzer, is inclined to get rid of them. He wants to integrate DV cases (which start with "DV" then the case number) into regular Family Court cases to be heard by one judge start to finish, rather than having a separate DV case and DV judge. The SDDVC and associated stakeholders including the YWCA and Center for Community Solutions (largest provider of women's services in the county) freaked. They fought for ten years to get a separate DV court. On Monday, June 25, 2007 about 30 DV industry stakeholder leaders met with Judge Oberholtzer at the San SDDVC seventh floor chambers (seats 150 or so). Since I'm a member of the Council I figured I'd sit in and see what was what. There were a number of extremely telling exchanges of ideas. Here's one of my favorites: Dawn Alley, Ph.D., President, SDDVC (also Director of Public Policy and Community Relations, Institute of Violence, Abuse, and Trauma (IVAT), and the woman that oversees our annual NCFM booth at the September IVAT conference), adroitly proposed to the good Judge that the SDDVC work more closely with the courts, to include providing information about DV, trainings for the Judiciary (STOP grants I'm sure from VAWA money not far around the corner), and develop a formal working relationship. "Excuse me", I said. The Judge pointed to my raised hand. I said something like, "It seems to me that our system is set up to ensure an independent and objective judiciary. I fail to see how such independence and objectivity can be maintained by allowing the ideologically driven SDDVC to directly influence the Courts." The Judge smiled, and said something like, "Did you hear me say anything in agreement (very loose paraphrase)?" Interestingly, in another discussion about the effectiveness of restraining orders or false accusations (can't remember which) the Judge accepted my offer to provide him with some statistics. I'll invite him to lunch to discuss them. (3) Just before the meeting began I was walking into the building and there stood the Judge

talking with Casey Gwinn, the DV industry's white knight. There is no one man on the planet more responsible for our current DV industry than Mr. Gwinn, arguably. I said hello to both, shook hands, and exchanged pleasantries, including congratulating Mr. Gwinn on his appointment as Director of the YWCA, a job he starts July 1, 2007. He is the first man ever to be appointed director of a YWCA. I began to leave as the Judge excused himself and left our threesome. Casey began to walk away but turned around to talk. So, there I was again having a nice chit chat with a man who knows that I disagree with just about everything in which he believes, at least with respect to DV. However, his new office will be roughly 150 feet from our Men's Center directly across the street from us on Tenth Avenue. He invited me to visit him, which I will soon do. I rode the elevator up to the meeting with the Judge. We had a nice chat there too.

NEW BOOK BY DR. HERB GOLDBERG

Herb Goldberg, Ph.D., author of eight bestselling books, including *The Hazards of Being Male*, *The New Male*, and *Creative Aggression*, has just published a new work: *What Men Still Don't Know About Women, Relationships and Love*. It was published in April, 2007 by Barricade Books (<http://www.barricadebooks.com/>).

Dr. Goldberg was one of the first to write about the psychology of men, and this is Goldberg's first new book in nearly fifteen years. His books have provided guidance to men who are confused, wary, overwhelmed, frozen, or endangered in their relationships.

See the author's site at <http://www.herbgoldbergphd.com/>.

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 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:

My name is Max Elliot Anderson. I write action-adventures and mysteries for readers 8 - 13, especially boys. I've had a tough time trying to find a publisher because so many of them prefer to publish books for girls. My books deal with character issues and are written from a Christian perspective.

I thought you might be interested in knowing about my work, so I'm including the following links with additional information. My books are also listed at The Boys Project. I've completed 34 manuscripts and 7 books are published.

Author web site: <http://www.maxbooks.9k.com>

Books for Boys blog: <http://booksandboys.blogspot.com>

Nearly 50 pages of reviews: <http://www.maxbookreviews.blogspot.com>

Newspaper Caper, Terror At Wolf Lake, North Woods Poachers, Mountain Cabin Mystery, Big Rig Rustlers, Secret Of Abbott's Cave, and Legend Of The White Wolf are compared by readers and reviewers to *Tom Sawyer, The Hardy Boys, Huck Finn, Nancy Drew, Tom Swift, Scooby-Doo, Lemony Snicket, and adventure author Jack London.*

It's nice to know you're out there and working on this problem concerning boys. Hopefully the pendulum will swing back in the other direction soon.

Max Elliot Anderson

Author

NCFM:

Thank you for contacting NCFM. I believe what you're witnessing is a version of what has been called the "Lace Curtain", whereby pro-feminist writings are eagerly published, but pro-male writings are shunned. You can read more about it here: <http://www.menweb.org/lacecur1.htm>

We are not a book publisher, so we're not able to help get your books published, but we certainly can relate to your situation. Here's wishing you all the best in your effort to get published!

DEAR NCFM:

I am considering establishing a men's rights organization and suspect that adding to an existing organization probably would help us more as men than starting another totally new one.

I am interested to find out your organization's policies, guidelines, and restrictions for the creation and running of each chapter concerning its management, actions taken, and causes selected for priority support.

Whatever information you can send me will be appreciated.

Stu
Austin, Texas

NCFM:

Thank you for contacting NCFM. I'm attaching our document on how to form a chapter within NCFM. Hopefully it will answer your questions. I hope you find it helpful, and I wish you a lot of luck in forming a new chapter! Please note that we already have a chapter in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, and perhaps they can help. Good luck!

DEAR NCFM:

I am a support person for a man in prison. He is seeking information about men who stay in abusive marriages because of their children (protection, fear of losing

them, etc.). It is his intention to launch a sentencing appeal based on his experiences as an abused dad who had an abused son after the dad moved out. If you know of any statistics or detailed information on this subject it would be very much appreciated.

Larry V. Harris

NCFM:

Thank you for contacting NCFM. And good luck with the case that you're pursuing.

First, I would like to recommend the book *Abused Men: The Hidden Side of Domestic Violence* by Philip Cook. You'll find it very relevant and useful.

I would also suggest this website: <http://www.csulb.edu/~mfiebert/assault.htm>. This site is a listing of numerous studies of domestic violence showing that women are about equally violent as men and dealing with the issue of domestic violence and men.

Finally, I would suggest contacting another organization, called Stop Abuse for Everyone (<http://www.safe4all.org/>) which I'm sure can provide much information on the topic of men as victims of DV.

DEAR NCFM:

With reference to the article "Males Get Longer Sentences than Females for Same Crime", April 23, 2002, by Marc Angelucci, I have undertaken statistical research in Great Britain for more than 10 years and I can confirm that the sexual bias is not limited to the shores of the US.

If your organization has not broadened its horizons already it will find supplementary data from other parts of the English speaking world to support the hypothesis outlined in the above article.

Robert Whiston FRSA

NCFM:

Thank you for contacting NCFM. Yes, I'm sure your research is correct. The problem extends far beyond the US, probably to most of the world.

NCFM is a U.S.-based organization. We've explored the possibility of going international in the past, and have found it to be impractical. There are U.K.-based organizations with similar goals to ours, so I would suggest contacting them regarding issues based in Great Britain.

Thank you very much for conducting your research for 10+ years. I hope you'll publish your findings in your country, and I want to wish you all the best with that effort.

DEAR NCFM:

Several years ago, I wrote a summary of my research concerning men and abortion for your website. I recently published a review of all such research to date and thought you might be interested.

The link to the review published in the Internet Journal of Mental Health is as follows:

<http://www.ispub.com/ostia/index.php?xmlFilePath=journals/ijmh/vol3n2/abortion.xml>

Catherine T. Coyle, Ph.D.
ctcoyle@abortionresearch.net

DEAR NCFM:

I am in the exploration phase of learning more about helping men overcome some of the feminist damage to society especially to our boys who are in dire need of better role models (from men of course) to defend their future natural right to behave and think masculine and live from male perspectives. Men need to organize and protect what is theirs before it vanishes which it is doing so rapidly with every generation! I have long "dreamed" of men having a male version of NOW, a huge organization that's a household word, said with pride. I think I know how to motivate men to take such bold steps in the public eye. It will take time, but all processes have a beginning.

Please send me some information about your chapter initiation process. I live in the Greenville, S.C. metro area comprising about 1 million people total. Does this seem like a possibility? Please tell me more.

I currently do not have an income, but don't need to earn a lot of money right now, as I have planned very well for my

future. However, I am interested in helping men stave off the destruction of our society and at the same time earn even a modest income in the process. Any suggestions? Is this a possibility with your chapter — to be a paid employee (part or full time) to further the causes of men?

Too, I like the company of like-minded men and women. Even some knowledge in getting something preliminary started, sort of like a local, real-life meeting and discussion group would be helpful and a possible stepping stone to achieve my goals later on. Thank you.

NCFM:

Thank you for your interest in NCFM. We are probably the closest thing

to a "NOW for men." We do have a chapter formation process. Currently, NCFM is an all volunteer organization. We have plans to change that in the future, but that is still years off, so making a living through NCFM isn't currently feasible. I don't know of a men's rights group out there that can afford to pay an employee. But, perhaps together we can find a way to turn NCFM into a paying organization.

DEAR NCFM:

I have a neighbor who was falsely accused of molesting his daughter by another neighbor woman. He took his daughter to a physician and got a clear bill of

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.

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Letters

Continued from Page 13

health from the doctor, but now the neighbor woman is making other accusations. Is there an organization in or around Salem, Oregon he can contact for support and information about how to stop this woman from harassing him about this stuff?

Ginny

NCFM:

Thank you for contacting NCFM. False accusations of child abuse are serious, and your neighbor needs to be on guard against them. I'm not able to locate any local organizations in your area that are focused on this issue, but I would suggest the following websites of national organizations:

<http://www.falseabuse.com/>

<http://www.defending-you.com/>

I would also suggest that your neighbor consider hiring a local attorney to defend against these accusations. He might also want to consider moving out of the area and not informing the accuser where he is going. These types of cases can often be quite difficult to defend against.

DEAR NCFM:

I am a father that was separated from his daughter for a few months. Fortunately for me I started representing myself and was successful in my court proceedings to see my daughter again.

Unfortunately for me, feminazis have been stalking me for four years. They have been watching where I work, and have been quite successful in getting me banned from working in much of the county of Hereford, UK. Social services staff has been following me; the police have verified this and still do nothing to help me. These feminazis do not like me as I was a former member of Fathers For Justice.

I appear to be the only man in the county that will actually stand up to them. I will never be oppressed by them, or be silenced by them.

I am writing to you to see if you now of any men's organizations in the UK, as I don't think I must be the only person with these problems, and would appreciate

it, if you could give me these details and I will contact them.

Pete

NCFM:

Thank you for contacting NCFM. We are strictly a U.S.-based organization, but I would refer you to this website for a list of UK-based men's rights groups: <http://www.answers.com/topic/list-of-men-s-rights-organizations>. Among them, I would count Fathers for Justice, which you already know about. Good luck in handling your situation!

DEAR NCFM:

I consider myself a "feminist" and have been very interested in the feminist movement for several years. I've read some powerful articles, evidence, and philosophies. I've become convinced that women must work for change without forgetting that yes, men are hurt and limited by traditional gender roles too.

I just wanted to write and say that I wish you luck in promoting your philosophy and helping men overcome these stereotypes, too. Some of them are grossly unfair and keep men from enjoying life in an uninhibited way, also. I really think that your website will do as much to help women as it will men, because when men are free to be who they are as people, not as what society defines as "men", I believe we'll all be a little happier.

Sorry to be so wordy, but your website really touched me. I hope that men will use it to become happier. I think that's what we're all looking for, whether we're male or female.

Kristin

DEAR NCFM:

The first thing I want to say is that I am a fairly recent (and very happy) member of NCFM, as some of you know, and I very much admire its mission statement and what the organization stands for (as stated on the website). For example, I like the

"four arrow symbol" and how the "Free" in "Free Men" refers to a man's freedom to deviate from a largely restrictive gender role as protector, provider, and breadwinner if he so wishes. I also admire how NCFM takes a non-partisan and tolerant stance that welcomes diverse political viewpoints.

However, this is all more than what can be said about the mean-spirited views expressed in 2 of the news bits in the "Media Digest" section of the March/April (2007) issue of *Transitions*. I want to emphasize that my criticism is not aimed at NCFM or Mike Spaniola for including them, but rather the authors of the 2 pieces themselves. One article is called "Global Warming: Moving Towards Metrosexuals" by Daniel Clark and the other is called "Why real men confuse and anger liberals" by Kevin McCullough. I understand that differences of opinion exist in the men's movement (and NCFM for that matter), which is fine, but these 2 pieces were mean-spirited. I do find it hard to find excuses for intolerance and name-calling.

The 2 articles do make a good point, though. They portray a stark truth that traditional (masculine) men are very much under attack in society. Certainly it is reasonable that men who desire or want to be traditional should have that right. But certainly this can be done without belittling those who want more freedom in their lives (such as metrosexuals). Also, to say that "real men confuse and anger liberals" is kinda like saying that "girly men confuse and anger conservatives." It can certainly go both ways... but how can we build a brotherhood when we are shaming or bullying each other like this? As small as the masculist movement is, it seems rather silly for an "MRA" to rag on liberals, conservatives, or anyone else. This is because there is a paradigm that can actually unite the fronts. The paradigm of which I speak of is the "Multi-option man" paradigm:

- 1). The OPTION to be traditional and masculine (which may appeal to right-leaning MRA's)
- 2). The OPTION to be non-traditional (which may appeal to left-leaning MRA's)

By advocating for the "Multi-option man," there can be a place for any type

of man (from any political stance). From here we can put our differences aside and concentrate on getting men's freedom and rights back. After all, men's rights is more of a human rights issue than a political issue.

So what is a "real man" anyway? Contrary to the 2 news bits in question, I believe that a "real man" is a man with a penis and XY chromosomes. That is all. From there it is up to each man to be the man that is compatible with his personality.

I want to conclude by saying that I respect how NCFM will include news bits (such as the two in question) that it does not necessarily agree with. This allows the members to formulate our own reactions to them. This shows maturity on the part of NCFM.

Darrin Albert
NCFM

NCFM:

Thank you for contacting us and sharing your ideas, and thank you also for your ongoing support of NCFM!

Many items appear in *Transitions* because they may be of interest to some of our members. However, appearing in *Transitions* does not mean that NCFM endorses an idea. In fact, the bylaws of our organization state that an endorsement must be approved by a majority vote of our board members. No such vote has taken place on these issues, and none is coming up in the foreseeable future.

On your ideas regarding a "Multi-Option Man", I am largely in agreement

with you. I would add another option to your list, which is to choose traditional options for some parts of your life and non-traditional options for others. I don't think the choice is either/or, but rather both. Men must be able to make these decisions for themselves, and I see one of NCFM's purposes as facilitating this decision-making ability.

Within NCFM, you will find many different points of view, some traditional and some not. I hope you've been able to appreciate the diversity of viewpoints that NCFM offers and hopefully use them to help form your own views.

Thanks for your involvement, and please stay in touch!

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.

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.

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.

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

To set up your monthly pledge, please contact Deborah at
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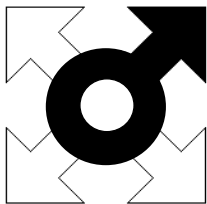
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