

TRANSITIONS

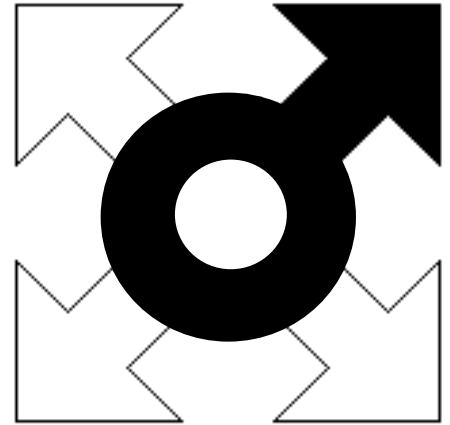
JOURNAL OF MEN'S PERSPECTIVES

Published by the National Coalition of Free Men

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

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<http://www.ncfm.org>



Volume 27

Number 5

Sep/Oct 2007

\$2.00

The Men's/Fathers' Movement -- As it Exists and Could Be

By Richard F. Doyle

Let's face it, the men's/fathers' "movement" hasn't moved in over 30 years. Part of the reason is fierce opposition from entrenched government officials (judges, legislators, etc.), money-grubbing lawyers, feminists, SNAGS (sensitive, new age guys) and assorted other factions. But a more damaging cause of our failure to achieve justice springs from within. As Pogo famously said, "We have met the enemy, and he is us."

I submit that intra-movement factionalism, egotistic ambitions and even the naiveté of



Photo courtesy of Richard Doyle

newcomers are the root causes of our failure. These suicidal phenomena have impeded progress right from the beginning. Soon I expect to place an article on the sad history of the men's/fathers' movement on the Men's Defense Association website (see below).

This movement has many philosophies and aspects. There are so many "organizations" I can't keep track of

them or their acronyms. Some are one-man endeavors consisting of a pajama-clad zealot with a bedroom computer. Others are nation-wide operations with talented and numerous followers. They are by no means restricted to the United States. Many of these groups are narrowly-focused, concentrating on single issues

because they may have personal significance to the leader or leaders. Examples of such single issues are divorce and child custody.

To address that example, I believe that father-bashing is but one aspect of a larger anti-male phenomenon, and

that misandry (hatred of men) itself should be of greater concern. I submit that pursuing single issues are unproductive approaches. Fathers are but a subset of men, and alleviating fathers' problems alone still leaves us with the underlying misandry, which will bite us again in another area. It is like cutting off one head of a many-headed hydra. [1] I submit that, in order to correct injustice or inequality directed at fathers or at men in general, the entire hydra must be attacked.

Many reform proposals have been posited over and over for the last 40 years, and the same speeches

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Editor's Comment

In this issue's headliner, Richard Doyle once again speaks out in a call for unity in the men's movement. He tells it like it is — the movement has not gotten off the ground, and we ourselves are most at fault. There are too many guys out there trying to start their own organizations.

Perhaps one problem is that leadership is glamorized too much in our culture. In a country where CEOs get ridiculous compensations, there's little glory in being someone who works behind the scenes.

Whatever the cause, I believe this is the time to reach out to other organizations and join forces, where possible.

At the time of this writing, Hillary Clinton is enjoying a strong lead among the Democratic presidential candidates. We know that she is a feminist with an agenda.

It's likely that if Hillary is elected, she will use the political influence and resources of this country to spread institutionalized feminism to other countries. It's likely that Senator Biden, the king of VAWA and I-VAWA, will be her Secretary of State.

I wonder, though, what will happen in this country? What would happen to men and men's issues in the U.S. if she is elected? What does she have in store for us? What ways of oppressing men are left?

In a way, I hope that she manages to make the anti-male agenda of feminism so painful that men finally wake up. In the process she will create a new wave of men looking for someplace to turn. This may finally get the men's movement going. If this happens, we of NCFM need to be ready.

NCFM can contribute the most just by being "the organization to join." If we

can harness the coming wave of talent and focus it, we can effect great change. Without some established leadership, the Hillary years could just bring more of the same in terms of small, ineffective, fragmented men's organizations, as Richard Doyle describes.

If Hillary wins, her years in office will make or break this organization and possibly the whole movement. Either we use this opportunity to get noticed and broadcast our message, or we prove that the movement will never get going, no matter how bad it gets for men.

May this be our moment.

Ever Yours in the Cause,

Jason Leatherman

Movement

Continued from Page 1

given. Each suggestor and spokesman usually operating under the naive assumption his ideas are new and unique. I believe that our movement has been bogged down for decades by debating minor issues and prematurely proposing various tactics, however excellent they may be. To make analogy, individuals have been butting heads against this massive wall of misandry for decades, all getting bashed heads out of it. I suggest that the way to knock the wall down is for us all to back off, form up, and all hit the wall together. It will come down no other way.

The above requires certain mutual agreements beforehand. I suggest it is imperative to determine philosophic Ends before addressing Means of achieving those Ends. As another analogy, builders cannot build a long-lasting house without a foundation; neither can we build an effective movement without constituent groups agreeing on a common philosophy. We must build the foundation of our movement before building upper storey rooms. A common philosophy must be broad enough to include all reasonable approaches and narrow enough to exclude

approaches that are actually harmful to that philosophy.

I have long proposed the following End: "To preserve the traditional nuclear family through restoration of equal dignity and equal (not identical) rights under the law for all male persons across a broad spectrum of life, including divorce, employment, health, crime punishment and image." Anything essentially similar to this will do. Endless arguments over trivialities must be avoided. Whatever End is eventually chosen, it must precede debating or proposing Means to that End. Without such an understanding of Ends, we cannot know who we are — and who we aren't.

The anti-male phenomenon and its gestalt are so massive and intricate, ranging from the obvious to the subtle, that neophyte would-be reformers with limited experience, however brilliant they may be or imagine themselves to be, cannot fathom the problems and solutions. In the interest of broadening the base of the movement and making it more acceptable to the public at large, it may be necessary to include elements primarily concerned with issues of health and personal growth — or

introspection, elements not primarily concerned with external discrimination against men and fathers. That, of course, is a matter for consideration by the mainstream.

Our philosophical differences are not as great as personal ones. Egotism is a huge problem. Some "leaders" fancy themselves the Messiah, and would sacrifice the movement itself in pursuit of leadership. Every barnyard rooster is king on his own dung heap. Taking a clue from Lucifer in Milton's *Paradise Lost*, the motivating principle of some seems to be "Better to reign in Hell than serve in Heaven." Someone called it "the Fidel Castro syndrome," meaning there can be only one Revolutionary hero. Consequently, many reform organizations have been parochial and militantly independent. They have even been compared to a circular firing squad. Historically, we have been unable or unwilling to choose leaders of that firing squad, persons who could reform the ranks from a circle into a line, a firing line facing actual enemies.

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There is enough talent and resources dispersed throughout the men's/fathers' movement, internationally, to successfully confront the enemies of justice if those talents and resources can be properly coordinated. If we ever mature to the point of shedding egotism and agreeing on an End that all our disparate, legitimate elements can accept, we can then marshal these resources and talents. In order to know what's going on beyond our little circles, to know where to direct our attentions and activities, we must be fully educated on issues. Therefore, the resources mentioned above should include worldwide common information forums such as *The Liberator* or *Transitions* and a website, perhaps modification of an existing one.

The Internet has potential to greatly enhance communication, despite the many pips squeaking therein (the numerous tangential subjects addressed on movement blogsites – arguing over how many angels can dance on the head of a pin – serve only to distract us from concentrating on our goals).

Such a combination of forces and resources would be overwhelming, constituting a force equivalent to or greater

than that of feminism. The resultant "Manpower" would create the political clout necessary to achieve the goal all of us so desperately need.

Of course, a juggernaut like this is more easily conceived than constructed. In theory, if the aforesaid internal problems could be overcome, the best and most efficient construct would consist of a unified organization with democratically-elected leaders chosen from the most capable. Men's Equality Now (MEN) International, the last credible attempt to so unify the movement, came to naught. So practically, in view of situational reality, the most we can probably hope for at present is a greater degree of cooperation among major existing groups.

I would urge the top leadership of ACFC and NCFC, perhaps even CRC and the Men's Health Network (there may also be others of significance) to resolve to pursue intra-movement cooperation. If these several large, relatively speaking, coalitions seriously act in concert, and movement writers take up the cause, the smaller groups should be swept along like lifeboats in the wake of the Queen Mary. Sure there will be the usual nitpickers and

ankle-biters, but their influence would be minimized.

As probably the longest-serving living activist, I would be willing to serve in any supportive or coordinating, but non-administrative, capacity current leaders might choose.

For anyone desirous of further studying the problems and solutions, I recommend the book *Save the Males* (5th revision in the works), a compilation of many years studying these issues. It is described in detail at www.mensdefense.org.

[1] A monster in Greek mythology that had nine heads and was killed by Hercules. When one head was cut off, another grew instantly in its place.

This article is also being published in The Liberator newsletter.

TRANSITIONS

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Media Digest

Excerpts from recent news reports and commentary on men's issues

compiled by Mike Spaniola

Time to Scale Back the Pedestal?

by Carey Roberts, Aug. 29, 2007,
MensNewsDaily.com

<http://mensnewsdaily.com/2007/08/29/time-to-scale-back-the-pedestal/>

Some will recall that back in October 1971, the House of Representatives approved the Equal Rights Amendment, which passed by an overwhelming 354-24 margin. Everyone knew it was just a matter of months until the necessary 38 states came on board.

But four months later, Phyllis Schlafly penned her history-altering essay, "What's Wrong with Equal Rights for Women?" Schlafly pointed out that American women are the most privileged of all classes of people that ever lived: "We have the most rights and rewards, and the fewest duties."

Abundant rights and rewards, with fewer duties – that's the pedestal. ...

Over the next 25 years, the feds engineered the passage of a series of laws and programs that afforded ever-expanding legal rights and services to women. Those laws included the Violence Against Women Act, the Women's Educational Equity Act, women's health programs, the 1996 welfare reform, and many more.

How did the Girls of Guile get away with their equality ruse, when in fact they were duplicitously scheming behind the scenes to foist a hierarchical society on the rest of us? First, they relentlessly shaded the truth – consider Hillary Clinton's laughable canards that women suffer from wage discrimination, were routinely excluded from medical research, are more likely to be the victims of war, and so on.

Before long the liberal media, beholden to the mantra of victim-journalism, became a skill for feminist ideology.

Wrongly Convicted Man Sued for Child Support

WRAL-TV, Oct. 23, 2007

<http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/1961294/>

A man who was pardoned after spending 18 years behind bars for a rape he didn't commit has been sued for back child support. Dwayne Allen Dail, 39, was cleared in August of the 1987 rape of a 12-year-old Goldsboro girl.

The girl identified him as her attacker and hair found at the scene was similar to his. But DNA evidence found on a fragment of the girl's nightgown years after the trial proved Dail wasn't involved in the attack.

Gov. Mike Easley pardoned Dail two weeks ago, making him eligible to receive \$360,000 from the state – \$20,000 for each year he spent in prison. Dail, who now lives in Florida, was served Tuesday with a lawsuit by Lorraine Michaels, the mother of his son, who is seeking back child support. The suit does not specify how much money she wants, as is normal in North Carolina, but asks a "reasonable sum for the care and maintenance of the minor child."

Dail said he was devastated by the suit. He said his son recently moved to Florida to live with him. "I was thrown in prison. What could I do? I missed my whole life. I missed my son's whole life. I'm not the person to be compensating anyone for anything – not me," Dail said.

Clinton comes home to Wellesley

"Senator reaches out to nation's young women in an emotional return"

by Elisabeth Bumiller, *The New York Times*, Nov. 2, 2007

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21592645/>

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton reached out to the nation's young women in an emotional return on Thursday to her alma mater, Wellesley College, where she told students who had started lining up at 6 a.m. to see her that "in so many ways this all-women's college prepared me to compete in the all-boys' club of presidential politics."

It was Mrs. Clinton's first visit to the school as a presidential candidate, and she

chose it as the place to set out on an ambitious drive to attract more women to what she is underscoring as her historic candidacy. Mrs. Clinton's campaign is increasingly counting on women, who made up 54 percent of the electorate in 2004, to help propel her into the White House.

Indoctrination U.: The Left's War Against Academic Freedom

by David Horowitz (Encounter Books 2007) pp. 50-51

[T]he Women's Studies Department at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where faculty radicals have even changed the departmental name to reflect the ideological nature of its mission ... is now called the Department of Feminist Studies, and its curriculum represents an undisguised program of ideological indoctrination in the theory and practice of radical feminism. This includes the recruitment of students to radical causes. ...

This is not an academic curriculum; it is a party agenda. The Department of Feminist Studies at Santa Cruz is a training program for a radical cause that violates the fundamental principles of the academic profession in general and the University of California in particular. Yet apparently, not a single state official or UC administrator is concerned.

This Labor Day Celebrate Man's Mind

by Fredric Hamber, Aug. 23, 2007,
Capitalism Magazine

<http://www.capmag.com/article.asp?ID=4826>

It is fitting that the most productive nation on earth should have a holiday to honor its work. The high standard of living that Americans enjoy is hard-earned and well-deserved. But the term "Labor Day" is a misnomer. What we should celebrate is not sweat and toil, but the power of man's mind to reason, invent and create.

Several centuries ago, providing the basic necessities for one's survival was a

matter of daily drudgery for most people. But Americans today enjoy conveniences undreamed of by medieval kings. Every day brings some new useful household gadget, or a new software system to increase our productivity, or a breakthrough in biotechnology.

So, it is worth asking: Why do Americans have no unique holiday to celebrate the creators, inventors, and

entrepreneurs who have made all of this wealth possible — the men of the mind? The answer lies in the dominant intellectual view of the nature of work.

Most of today's intellectuals, influenced by several generations of Marxist political philosophy, still believe that wealth is created by sheer physical toil. But the high standard of living we enjoy today is not due to our musculature and

physical stamina. Many animals have been much stronger. We owe our relative affluence not to muscle power, but to brain power.

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Book Reviews

By J. Steven Svoboda

The Prodigal Father: A True Story of Tragedy, Survival, and Reconciliation in an American Family

By Jon DuPre. Carlsbad, California: Hay House, 2000. 285 pages. US \$13.95. (800) 654-5126. www.hayhouse.com.

As I said in different words regarding Kumble Ginnane's *From Regret to Rape*, occasionally you have the privilege to read one of those books that surpasses even other great books the way Bob Beamon's famous 29-foot-2.5-inch long jump at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics soared far above what had been achieved before.

Jon DuPre's achievement with *The Prodigal Father* is stupefying. What this correspondent for Fox Network News has done is so simple: He has told the story of his family of origin, consisting of two brothers, himself, and his mother and father. As a novel, the book would fail. For one thing, the plot would be utterly unbelievable! But *The Prodigal Father* is billed as an "autobiography," and written with loving detail and self-revelation so honest and so deep that took my breath away. As such, it is utterly compelling and simultaneously completely credible.

The childhoods of Jon and his brothers were not blissful ones. They passed countless hours of their youth stealing food from vending machines and waiting on street corners until their father finally arrived around midnight (or sometimes later) to take them home. Their

depressed, ineffectual mother was in no position to rescue them from their situation, and their self-preoccupied, philandering, deceitful father also allowed the woeful situation to continue. Jon and his siblings were forced to accompany Dad on his visits to his mistresses and were made complicit in the secrets being kept from Mom.

The author's father is a real paradox, an FBI agent and later a successful lawyer who challenged the powers that be in their small Southern town to seek justice for all of society's downtrodden minority folks, and yet who eventually falls apart and ends up homeless. Unresolved issues from Jon's childhood cloud his marriage to a former Miss Utah, also a broadcaster, and eventually must be confronted. So Jon enters into the underworld of the homeless, embracing it fully enough to eventually find his father, sleeping on flophouse floors, begging food, often going hungry, and always seeking greater understanding of the mysterious territory inside Dad's head. In a pivotal confrontation, Jon and his father eventually find a way to face the demons in each other, in themselves, and in all the dysfunction that has sustained the family for so long. The author gets from his father some of the answers he has been seeking, and in some ways the unanswered queries teach him as much or more than the ones to which his dad responds.

The lessons learned by the author enable him to live a richer life with his wife and to raise his own three children more heartfully. Jon's brothers do not fare as well as Jon does, but the tale is ultimately an inspiring one. When an author can speak

truth and stare his own flaws so squarely in the face, he provides a service to us all as human beings. The privilege of reading such a book is nothing less than a blessing, a sacrament, a gift of inspiration straight from spirits greater than any of us. Don't miss it! Fly, don't run, and certainly don't walk, to Carlsbad, California (oddly enough, the home of my own mother) and get yourself a copy of Jon DuPre's *The Prodigal Father*. But act fast, because I'm planning on buying up copies for all my friends and loved ones!

Help the Men's Center!

The **California Men's Center** is an outstanding resource for men and for NCFM. It's also now the home of NCFM's national office! 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 NCFMdfw@yahoo.com or (214)-485-1512.

What's Happening??

National Coalition of Free Men News

NCFM-LA CHAPTER REPORT

(By Marc Angelucci)

NCFM-LA continues to represent several paternity fraud victims and several male victims of domestic violence at the appellate level. We also continue to field calls, provide referrals and moral support to men in crisis, hold picnic/rallies at Sherman Oaks Park with Fathers4Justice, donate copies of Warren Farrell's *The Myth of Male Power* to libraries, and send letters to editors in response to biased domestic violence articles. Between 8/27 and 9/24, we confirmed at least seven of our letters printed, we were quoted in the *Metro-News Enterprise* and we were guests on the Dr. Phil Show for a paternity fraud story. Our media hits/links are on our website. Here is the 8/27-9/24 log:

8/27/07: Boston Herald prints NCFM-LA reply to biased domestic violence article.

8/30/07: Mississauga News (Canada) prints NCFM-LA reply to biased domestic violence article.

9/9/07: Citizen Times prints NCFM-LA reply to biased domestic violence article.

9/23/07: Dr. Phil show records show on paternity fraud with NCFM-LA's president as a guest and Carnell Smith (Citizens Against Paternity Fraud) as a panelist. It will air in a few weeks.

9/12/07: City Beat (Cincinnati) prints NCFM-LA reply to biased domestic violence article by Margo Pierce.

9/12/07: Metro-News Enterprise quotes NCFM-LA in a story about the appellate court's reversal of Judge Robert W. Armstrong's misandrist ruling that women can't be charged with indecent exposure. The story was generated by an NCFM-LA news release.

9/15/07: Daily Record prints NCFM-LA reply to biased domestic violence article.

9/21/07: A.M. Costa Rica prints NCFM-LA submission on male victims of domestic violence and thanking the newspaper for printing an article on false accusations of abuse.

9/23/07:

NCFM-LA, Fathers4Justice and other organizations held another picnic-rally at Sherman Oaks Park, this time with a clown family law judge, Judge "Crushmen." Story at <http://blogwonks.com/2007/09/23/scary-judges-spook-fathers-rights-picnickers-in-park-face-off/>

9/23/07: Fort Wayne Daily News prints NCFM-LA reply to domestic violence article that cited inaccurate statistics.

9/28/07: The Jesse Lee Peterson Show interviews NCFM-LA's president about the gender dynamics and politics of domestic violence

TWIN CITIES CHAPTER REPORT

(By Will Hageman)

In August, the Twin Cities Chapter had a booth at the Dakota County Fair, the largest county fair in the Twin Cities area. This was the third straight year that we have been at this fair. Many fairgoers visited our booth to talk and to take literature on a wide range of men's and boys' issues.

In September, we had a booth at the Red Wing Diversity Festival. This was our first appearance at this annual event, which is held by the Red Wing Human Rights Commission, and is seen by local human rights commissions across Minnesota as a leading example of the type of event that these commissions should sponsor. Many Red Wing residents were curious about NCFM and the issues that we talk about.

Also in September, we had a table at the annual State Assembly of Pax Christi Minnesota. Pax Christi is the Catholic peace movement, and the organization is very interested in issues of social justice. The visitors to our table had never heard of NCFM, and were very curious about our issues.

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER REPORT

(By Harry Crouch)

The first part of September the San Diego Men's Center hosted the National Coalition of Free Men every second or third

year "Face-to-Face" Board Meeting. The National Board voted to make the San Diego Men's Center NCFM's national offices. It's the first time in the 30-year history of NCFM that the organization has a storefront! Having a physical office opens up all sorts of possibilities for NCFM, particularly with respect to developing programs and fundraising. Everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves, we got a tremendous amount of work done for NCFM, and I am humbled by the support the Board provided for our Men's Center.

The next weekend began our fifth year exhibiting at the International Violence, Trauma, and Abuse Conference. This year the booth was financially supported primarily through NCFM but with significant contributions from the Men's Legal Center (law firm upstairs from our Men's Center) and NCFM-SD. The Mash Project from Canada provided four high quality posters to help promote recognition of abused men. These are really some of the best on topic posters I've ever seen. The Mash Project hopes to raise money for a men's shelter through the sale of the posters. There were representatives from several organizations at the IVAT conference who indicated an interest in buying the posters, which is what was hoped would happen. You can see the posters at www.mashproject.com or at www.californiamenscenters.org. Why not buy a couple and give them to your local domestic violence council or consortium, or perhaps a hospital ER, or something like that and help fund the men's shelter in Canada. Special thanks goes to NCFM members who helped staff our booth: Kevin Young, John Van Doorn, Ray Blumhorst, Don Saxton, and Stanley Green.

I became somewhat discouraged regarding the prison child-support tolling project I've been working on for over a year. After a key Department of Child Support Services attorney told me that she did not think law students were required to interview prisoners and help them complete the required forms I deflated. It's still my belief DCSS doesn't want law students or

anyone else helping incarcerated resolve their child support issues; or, especially, have their child support suspended while incarcerated. No matter, in the past week interest came from two high-ranking staff members of the California Department of Corrections. I'm getting my second wind and gearing up to get back on the bureaucratic playing field. Hopefully by the next newsletter I'll have something more definitive to report about the Tolling Project.

Today, September 24, 2007, I received e-mail from Dean Tong saying that David Bruer was killed in a motorcycle crash. I've known David for a number of years. I helped him staff his Fathers Rights Center booth at the Father's Day beach party David coordinated for I don't know how many years. But each of those years thousands of people came to Moonlight Beach in Encinitas, California for a father and child surfing contest, lots of music, lots of fun, and good eats. Like many others David was divorced with a college age son who when growing up primarily spent time away from his Dad, thanks to the courts. While we never talked about what motivated David to become a father's rights activist and open the Fathers Rights Center I'm sure it had something to do with that. He helped many over the years to overcome the onerous consequences of Family Court. He will be missed.

Being a men's rights activist does not mean you only help men. To make two very long stories as short as possible...

Yesterday I met with a Hispanic woman who thirty-seven years ago gave birth to a son after being raped by a stranger. She was married at the time and never told her husband. They are still married. All these years she has been haunted by the uncertainty of who fathered her son. She brought both their toothbrushes hoping that we could extract sufficient DNA to determine parentage. After speaking with Thomas, the owner and chief scientist of our laboratory, it we decided that there was a good chance that DNA could be extracted from the toothbrushes. Just the fact that we would try to make a determination caused one of the most heartening smiles I've seen in a very long time. Now all we have to do is wait for the test results...

That afternoon another woman called me on my cell phone. She was referred by someone who knew someone that

liked whatever it is we did for him or her. With two children her 17-year marriage may be over. Her travel all the time husband has been keeping another woman out of the country, keeping her in style for over two years. The wife sent the lover an e-mail telling the out-of-the-country woman that the man she was seeing was married. Hubby was not impressed and threatened to come back to San Diego, throw his wife out of the house, take the children, and make sure she never got a dime (he earns more than you would believe if I told you). I spent an hour and thirty minutes with her explaining options, like private mediation, finding an attorney if and when she might need one, and so forth (I'm not going to list all the options). Like most that come to our center under such circumstances she left relieved, with a sense of direction, and better prepared to deal with the inevitable when her husband returns to San Diego.

STEVEN SVOBODA AND ROB DARBY PUBLISH IN MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY QUARTERLY

(By J. Steven Svoboda)

I am pleased to announce that an article written by Robert Darby, Ph.D. and myself has been published this week by *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, one of the world's premier medical anthropology journals. The citation for the article is: "A Rose by any other Name: Rethinking the Similarities and Differences between Male and Female Genital Cutting," with Robert Darby, Ph.D., *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, Volume 21, Number 3 (September 2007), pp. 301-323.

Following is the abstract as published: "This paper offers a critical examination of the tendency to segregate discussion of surgical alterations to the male and female genitals into separate compartments — the first known as circumcision, the second as genital mutilation. It is argued that this fundamental problem of definition underlies the considerable controversy surrounding these procedures when carried out on minors, and that it hinders objective discussion of the alleged benefits, harms and risks. The variable effects of male and female genital surgeries are explored, and a scale of damage for male circumcision to complement the World Health Organization's categorisation of female genital mutilation is proposed. The origins of the

double standard identified are placed in historical perspective, and a brief conclusion makes a plea for greater gender neutrality in the approach to this contentious issue."

The MAQ was our first choice journal. While the MAQ has published several articles relating to genital cutting in the past, this is the first published article by a team of intactivist (anti-circumcision, pro-foreskin) authors, and so far as we are aware, the first article ever to propose a comprehensive taxonomy of all forms of male genital cutting, which we hope will gain acceptance parallel to that accorded the World Health Organization's taxonomy of forms of female genital cutting.

Once I obtain it, a PDF of the article is available to anyone interested free of charge. If interested, please send a blank email to me at arc@post.harvard.edu with the Subject "Please Send PDF".

My thanks go most of all to Rob Darby, an awesome researcher and writer and the lead author of this article.

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.

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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 William Turner and I was just put through the most traumatic situation with a female co-worker at my prior job. I was sexually harassed (as legally defined) and forced out of my job. My employer totally took her side and refused to do anything to protect me from her. They were only concerned with the false allegations she was making against me and also when I justly defended myself by sending her a blunt email telling her not to talk to me or email me anymore (after she sent me a series of belligerent emails which ended with a threat), they then threatened me with punitive action for "unwanted contact" from me to her. She then started hissing at me like a snake every time I saw her and then started crank calling me at home. So in fear that her next step in her attack on me would be to accuse me of stalking her, I abruptly left that company 3 months ago and am unemployed.

You say you don't get involved in legal issues but here is the problem: The weight of our society and courts is overwhelmingly stacked against the male in this type of situation. According to the statute, BOTH genders are a protected class against harassment and hostile work environment. But out of the 20 or so law firms I've emailed about my case only one ever called me. And this female attorney told me it was too bad what happened to me but juries in New Jersey just don't buy the male victim scenario in a harassment suit. So those web

sites mentioned on your site don't help me at all. So what I would hope you could do is get some referrals to lawyers or law firms around the country who want to work to start to bring an end to injustices like this, just like law firms who helped fight the civil rights battles in the 60's although they didn't make any money doing it. So then maybe in 20 years the average Joe on the street who may be called into a jury box on a case involving a male plaintiff may say "Yeah, all these male harassment and discrimination suits, I guess that means men are victims at work."

William Turner Turner

NCFM:

I am in complete agreement with you, and you have my fullest sympathy over your situation. The problem we have is that we do not know of any specific attorneys to refer you to, either. If I knew of someone in New Jersey, or, for that matter, in the USA, who could handle these situations, I would gladly refer you. However, the problem of anti-male sexism is pervasive, and we are still working hard toward a solution. Unfortunately, we haven't reached one yet, and the lack of attorney for your type of situation is certainly a symptom of the problem at hand.

I would urge you to join our effort to educate the public and lawmakers about these issues. It's one of the first steps to solving these types of problems. Best of luck to you with your case as it proceeds.

DEAR NCFM:

Glad to see an organization like yours exists. Quick question: What was your take -- and was there any negative feedback -- to Nancy Pelosi's remark, "Sometimes it takes a women to clean up a man's mess" (a statement she made just before becoming Leader of the House of Representatives)?

Someone confronted her with the remark that the statement was sexist and she agreed but explained it away by (obtusely) saying it was a historical moment for

women.

Tony Esposito

NCFM:

Thanks for your interest in NCFM. I do recall the statement that you're referring to by Nancy Pelosi. Actually, NCFM did not take a public position on that particular occurrence, but there was plenty of talk about it on our email discussion group. As usual, NCFM has individuals with varying opinions, but the general consensus was that the statement was sexist. Perhaps I'm oversimplifying, but it sounded to me like something a "bitch" would say. On the other hand, it wasn't a big surprise to hear something like that from our colorful political leaders.

DEAR NCFM:

My name is Yukio Azeta. I am a graduate student in social psychology in Japan. I took a look at your website to study gender issues for my research. I would like to know further information that can be used sociological or psychological studies using survey.

My research interest is that how gender discrimination, including discrimination against men, occurs in terms of rational choice, procedural and distributive justice and other attitudes about sociological and psychological factors using a survey.

In my country, Japan, train companies offer women-only cars. According to them, this is because there are many sexual assault incidents and they need to protect women. However, men who do not commit any crimes cannot ride the cars. In addition, in Japan, many companies, such as movie theaters and restaurants, offer ladies discounts. Furthermore, some internet cafes and amusement arcades offer women only areas.

I would like to study why this kind of gender discrimination occurs and what factors maintain it. Nonetheless, as you know, gender studies programs rarely studies men's issues, particularly gender dis-

crimination against men. I searched these in psychology about affirmative action because this issue contains so-called "reverse discrimination." Nevertheless, these are not enough to use to make my own model because as far as I know, every researcher who wrote them strongly agrees with affirmative action; thus, I cannot get enough information to make my own model and conduct a survey to confirm it.

I would like to know about studies on political attitudes and feelings about justice or rational choice that can be referred to or are similar to my study. Could you possibly give me advice about that? I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Yukio Azeta

NCFM:

Thank you very much for contacting NCFM, and thank you very much for your interest in men's issues. I want to wish you all the best in your pursuit of studies and research.

Unfortunately, men's issues are very much under-researched compared to women's issues. I suspect you will have some difficulty finding research on men's issues. I wish it were not true, but unfortunately, it is.

NCFM has done some original research over the years, which you can find on our website. One study we did involved differences in criminal sentencing for men and women.

I would suggest referring to some of the mainstay books that have been written and published about men's issues: *The Hazards of Being Male*, *The Myth of Male Power*, *Men Freeing Men*, and others. You may find useful information referred to in those volumes.

DEAR NCFM:

I'm a 42 year-old white male. I met and married a Chinese lady here in the U.S. 18 months later, she told me she married me for a green card. So, I cancelled her petition and filed for divorce. She abused me violently, four times, so I called 911. I have police reports; she was trying to get me into a conflict so I would retaliate, and then she would claim abuse. I never abused her. I took the punishment and called 911 for help.

The police told me on all four times that I was a man, bigger than her, so I could defend myself. They wrote up a report and let her go. She filed a TRO, got it dissolved and dismissed. Then, she abducted my child. She said if I wanted him back, I would have to re-apply for a green card for her.

Guess what, she got her card based on a "sworn statement of abuse" — a falsified statement. Now she has my son and public benefits.

Currently, I have no criminal record, thank God. However, I have been denied public assistance for the domestic violence, and I have been denied shelter, since I am a man.

I live in Los Angeles county. I want to join in on any lawsuits, or help other victims.

Russ Lambert
562-254-4868

NCFM:

Thank you for contacting NCFM, and for sharing your story with us.

Foreign women do know that claiming abuse is a great way to get their green card, and some of them use this tactic. It is usually successful. That seems to be what happened in your case. The fact

that you have no criminal record is a great thing, and I hope that it stays that way. My questions: When you refer to "my child", does that mean you had a child with this woman, or is this another child from another relationship? If it's also her child, you'll need to fight in court for custody and/or visitation. If it's your child, but not hers, then you'll have a much stronger case against her, and perhaps could even file kidnapping charges against her. I'll leave this question up to you, since I don't know about your case.

Also, I would suggest that you contact NCFM's Los Angeles chapter. You can reach the president of that chapter, Marc Angelucci, at marcangelucci@hotmail.com. He has been quite active in the domestic violence field, and perhaps he'll be able to offer some useful advice.

When your case gets resolved, I hope you'll consider joining NCFM and helping with our efforts to achieve men's rights. Your current experiences are exactly the sort of issue that we are concerned with. I hope you'll consider joining us.

DEAR NCFM:

Re: From a woman's view: Why

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.

Greg Andresen, Australia
Will Hageman, MN
Ira Peikes, NY
Trudy W. Schuett, AZ
Werner R. Stutz, NY

Letters

Continued from Page 9

I'm an anti-feminist.

I am writing you today to express my support and encouragement for your cause. I have witnessed an innocent man's life destroyed by a malicious, vengeful and deceitful woman. He had been threatened by this woman during a bad breakup to which there was a witness. Out of the kindness of his heart, he allowed this woman, after initially kicking her out, to stay at the house until the week was out so she could secure another place to live. Two other people, his parents, live in this house, with bedrooms very close to each other. On the morning after the last night she was to be in the house, this man finds himself arrested and charged with multiple counts of some pretty bad things.

This man is my husband, and I was the reason for his breakup with this woman. I witnessed what these allegations did to my husband's life, our life, and what a mockery this woman made of him. He lost most of his friends, although those who knew both of them did believe him, but at least he had the support of his family. He was offered two plea bargains, one for 10 years and one for 15. Both he refused, saying there was no way he was going to admit to something he didn't do. All the while, the prosecutor is of course coming up with clever ways to make sure he stays behind bars for along time (who knew rape now comes with an attached class Q kidnapping charge?) Meanwhile this woman is going around living her life, laughing and rejoicing his doom. If she ever saw him around town she'd smile and giggle at him. At he trial, she was nothing but tears and complaints. Who do you think the jury believed? And of course sharing the same bedroom there is going to be some physical evidence, but there was no evidence to any "assault" and not to mention two other witnesses saying nothing happened. Is motive of these women ever questioned? If it is it is so brief and almost glazed over that jury pays no mind. The judge rules on time limits that can be mentioned, prior events that were a catalyst for these women's allegations, and basically anything that would properly establish a motive. My husband was sentenced to rot in prison for

45 years for a crime he simply did not commit.

Being a woman I never gave much thought to false allegations. Like most young girls, I was surrounded with feminist ideology. It was everywhere — on T.V., in movies, and especially in school. I can actually remember learning in high-school that 1 and 4 women will be raped in her lifetime. That's a little much don't you think? And I would go on to ask, how does one know every one of those rapes counted was a legitimate rape? What the hell is a legitimate rape anyway? One of my teachers even said that women who wear short skirts are just inviting a rapist. Like all men are just animals who couldn't contain themselves in the presence of a short skirt. This is the kind of shit we were being brain washed with in school, high-school! Now that I am in college you can just imagine how much more I have begun to notice the effects that radical feminist ideals have had not only on our society but in our courts as well. I in no way condone the idea of women being subservient to men or abused or mistreated, but I in no way condone ANYONE being subservient to anyone else, abused or mistreated. And that abuse and mistreatment takes many forms. Unfortunately our society is only really interested now in domestic violence towards women. Because suddenly women are this supreme pure being who can do no wrong and are constantly "victimized" by men. I'm also not denying that rape truly does happen, nor am I denying that violence towards women is a myth. But rape and domestic violence as "woman's issues" have been blown completely out of proportion, creating a witch-hunt in society for any alleged sex offense.

Feminists will have you believe a woman would never lie about rape. Why the hell not? What makes a woman so honest? A woman is a human just like a man, so if a woman would never lie about rape, than neither would a man lie about raping. Rape laws need some serious reform. Sex offenders are often times spending more time in prison then convicted murderers. And depending on some states, that is a lot more time. While their supposed "victims" go on living their everyday life, usually with

a nice restitution to fill their greedy pockets. And it is truly a shame for those woman who really are raped, but to say that so many rapes go unreported because of the fear of not being believed is absolute bullshit in my opinion. Show me ONE case, not of a famous person, or a rich person, show me one case of an average Joe escaping a rape charge. Society demands justice, and justice is blind. As long as someone pays for the crime, or supposed crime, than all is well in the eyes of society. Many men are now being released after lengthy prison terms thanks to DNA evidence proving a mistaken identity in a rape. But those men can't ever get those years of their life back. And what about the hundreds of people rotting in prison right now who can't be exonerated on DNA, for spousal or marital rape, or date rape? Where they were framed or just plain falsely accused. It seems all hope is lost because that woman who put them there will never confess.

Innocent until proven guilty. Beyond a reasonable doubt. Well a reasonable doubt isn't very high in a rape case. All the prosecutor need do is mention the word rape and from then on in every jurors mind that defendant must prove his innocence with NO doubt. And many times that can't be done. A convicted sex offender is made an example of in prison. Forced to cooperate in sex offender treatment programs and to admit to their crime even when they have always contended to their innocence or else they may get labeled dangerous and unfit for society, having to register as a sex offender, even after you've paid for your crime or supposed crime, society still gets to mock and humiliate you. Most people released from prison have a chance, however slim, at living a normal life. A sex offender released from prison has little to no chance. That is simply unfair.

I am currently studying to become a paralegal and eventually a criminal defense attorney and I hope to strive to help those accused of sex crimes. To help counter (as a woman) this witch-hunt environment created by feminist back-lash against men. Being a woman I know women lie about rape. And I realize the power my sexuality has in society today and

especially in court. I have often felt the need to be consoled and pitied after a fight with my husband, and I knew exactly how I could get that. "Just give me a reason." Woman are not these perfect angels, it is just their crimes are done in secret, deceitful manners, while men are portrayed as violent animals. I hope I can make a difference someday in someone's life, for them and for their families and give them hope and a fair chance after having been accused of a sex crime. My husband is appealing his conviction. Maybe he will get lucky. It is a shame to see the court let a guilty rapist go, but it is an even bigger shame to convict an innocent man of a sex crime.

Brianna Gaston

NCFM:

Thank you for contacting us. False accusations of rape are quite serious, and NCFM has been concerned with them for the past three decades, along with other men's issues. We have even been involved in another false accusation case, that of Mr. William Hetherington, who is still in a Michigan prison. However, since we are not a law firm, we are not in a position to offer legal services. We do, however, engage in educational activities regarding false accusations, mostly directed toward legislators and the general public.

We could use all the help we can get. I would encourage you to consider becoming a member of our organization. You can find a red link on every page of our website to "Join NCFM today". We are an all-volunteer organization, and we all do

what we can to help. Please consider joining us!

DEAR NCFM:

I am writing you in regard to the latest V8 Juice TV advert, which shows a blonde female hitting a Man multiple times, and portraying the Man as a dumb person.

As a Man I am getting fed up with the way we are being portrayed on TV in general, and I do not think it is acceptable for Campbell's Soup Company (the company that produces V8) to produce an ad which sanctions violence against Men. I am bringing this to your attention in the hopes that you can spread the word to powerful Men's groups, or an organization that is interested in taking action against this company. It is time that these people realized that male bashing is not acceptable and should not be used as a selling point for certain products, especially vegetable juices whose main consumers are females.

Brandt Simmons
Las Vegas, NV

NCFM:

Thank you for pointing this out to us. NCFM has been concerned about anti-male portrayals in the media for decades. In the past, we have had some success using letter-writing campaigns in which we educate advertisers about the harm their ads are doing. However, the volunteer who was handling our letter-writing campaigns has retired, and we are therefore currently un-

able to carry out such a campaign until we find a new volunteer. Unfortunately, we are an all-volunteer organization, and we depend on volunteers for everything we do.

If you would be interested in joining our efforts, please feel free to obtain a membership form from our website and join our organization. We could certainly use your help!

DEAR NCFM:

I have two possible avenues for effective activism.

1. The "Men's Rights" page on Wikipedia is being challenged for lack of citing references. In many cases, the challenges are clearly unwarranted and merely trying to sabotage the entry, for example demanding a citation for the word "circumcision." I am trying to compile references for several of the claims in the entry, as well as adding others, but the more people addressing the issue the better. Wikipedia is a major first stop when people hear about an unfamiliar phenomenon, and "Men's rights" should be better represented there than it currently is.

2. Beside Wikipedia, Myspace is a major source of political and activist information, for better or worse. Even major political candidates have recognized its influence by campaigning there. Clearly, there's major work still to be done on Myspace as well.

J. Nelson Leith
j.nelsonleith.com

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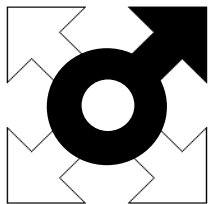
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