

TRANSITIONS

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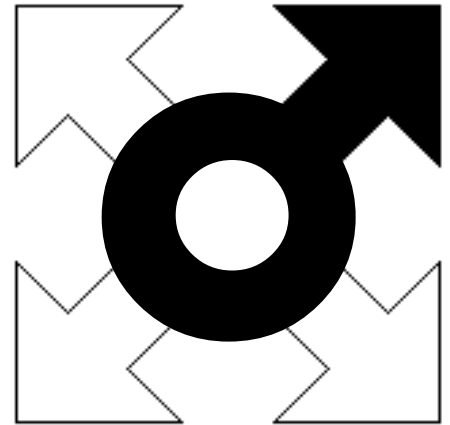
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A Father and Child Reunion

By Warren Farrell
(reprinted with permission)

Editor's Note: This is the fourth in a series of excerpts from Warren Farrell's latest book, "A father and child reunion." It is reprinted with permission from the author.

A Message to Dads...Mostly

• **Anger.** "Why is She So Angry...? She Seems Like Those 'Hell-Hath-No-Fury Like-a-Woman-Scorned' Women of The First Wives' Club"

Many dads are astonished that their former wives are so angry. They paraphrase Norman Mailer's "You never know your wife until you meet her in court." Not knowing what this anger is about, and feeling damned if they do communicate and damned if they don't, the dads feel their only alternative is the legal route. It can help a dad to know that although some of his ex's anger might be related to him personally, something deeper is often also going on....

Many dads feel frustrated that one moment they hear their former wife speak of independence, and the next moment she's asking for money. From his perspective this does not reflect a desire for independence, but entitlement and dependence. A dad can

have more empathy for this contradiction when he recalls that for millions of years, women who didn't marry money didn't marry the best protectors for their children.

Sometimes he attributes this dream to his former wife's evilness. However, ex-

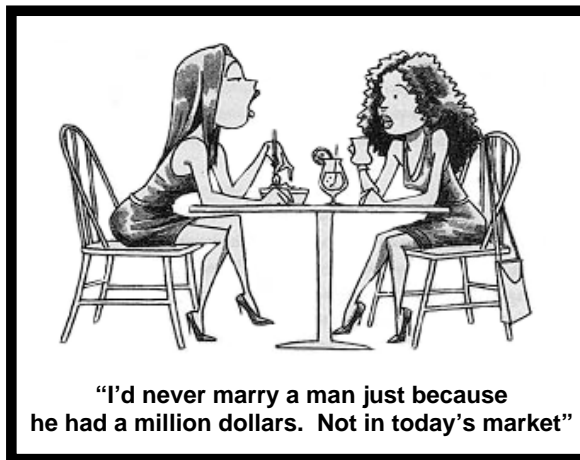
as difficult to remove as syrup in a pancake. And both dreams affect and distort the mind like syrup affects and distorts a pancake.

Here is the point. The more embedded that dream is in your ex's psyche, the more **a divorce means her dream of being swept away has just been swept away.** And that has nothing to do with you personally.

Women and men have another parallel neurosis. You know how women accuse men of not being willing to ask for directions? Of denying we're lost? Well, women have a parallel area of denial. The five finalists in the show "Who Wants to Marry a Multimillionaire?" all swore that *money had nothing to do with their interest in marrying the man* (about whom they knew nothing, except that he had money). So if your former wife does desire to be swept away, don't look for the satisfaction of her acknowledging this.

If divorce created her first nightmare (of her dream of being "swept away" being swept away), her second nightmare comes when she assesses her potential after divorce. That is, her potential for being swept away again. She looks in the mirror and sees what forty looks like. Which wouldn't look that bad were she not observing men and seeing them swap one forty for two twenties. She feels disposable.

When her dream of being "swept away" is swept away, her fear of disposability makes her want to dispose of the husband she feels disposed of her. The anger ema-



actly because seeking protection via a man was so functional for motherhood, *most* women have been brought up with the dream of being swept away. It is as deeply woven into the female psyche as is your vulnerability to her pleas of being financially rescued. As is your dream about sex with a young, beautiful woman (a la *American Beauty*). Wasn't being "swept away" a pre-liberation dream? Hardly. Remember the FOX-TV special "Who Wants to Marry a Multimillionaire?" in 2000? Women called FOX-TV to marry an anonymous multimillionaire in such large numbers that FOX's computers crashed.

Both women's and men's dreams are

Inside this Issue:

Editor's Comments	Page 2
Letters to the Editor	Page 2
NCFM 2002 Awards	Page 4
NCFM News	Page 6
Twin Cities Forum	Page 8
Wm. Hetherington Update	Page 12
Book Review	Page 14

See REUNION - Page 4

Editor's Comment:

Twin Cities Shows Progress in Politics

The Twin Cities chapter has been busy here in Lake Wobegon. At a gubernatorial candidate's forum, four of the five questions asked from the audience were by our members. To their credit, those who answered did so thoughtfully, albeit politically, instead of dismissing the questions out-of-hand. Seven of us joined twenty other people at a candlelight vigil for victims of domestic violence several days later. We were pleasantly surprised that when the names and stories of those killed in their homes were recounted, men were included. This is progress, one step anyway.

Recent issues have urged your action to oppose CEDAW. As of now, the Senate has adjourned without bringing it to a vote. So

far, so good.

In the July/August issue, I commended your attention to a report of the Forum on Gender our local chapter sponsored in June. We then failed, through oversight, to print it. Look for it in this issue.

Last, a personal note. When I was eighteen, I eagerly enlisted in the Marine Corps. I wanted to go to Vietnam, be a hero, and prove that I was as good a man as my dad. I also sought the respect of other men and the love of women. I was perfectly willing to kill other men to gain those prizes. To my enduring dismay, I was given a deskjob in the U.S. instead. In June, 1969, I was called away from that job to augment the efforts of another unit on base. They

escorted the bodies of dead Marines to their families. And now, so did I. I've seen some of the cost of war and am forever changed.

Now, our country talks of another war that would send young men to kill young men. How many of you want to invest your son, nephew, or friend's son in this enterprise? Indeed, if we go to war, prepare to write a check for \$2,000 to cover the costs of the first year. Talking about war in the abstract is easy. I invite you to make it personal and consider the price you and other men you know may have to pay.

Free Men...Forward...Forever

Jim Lovestar

Letters to the Editor

Editorial Policy: *The Transitions staff welcomes letters of opinion from readers and will print letters we have room for. We reserve the right to edit letters, for editorial style and space restrictions, but will continue to publish letters in their entirety as much as possible. Send letters to: Jim Lovestar, Transitions Editor, ncfm@consciousbody.info. Letters sent directly to the Editor will be addressed as such. Letters sent to our website, will be addressed "Dear NCFM."*

Dear NCFM:

I managed to get ahold of the NCHS data base for Marriage and Divorce, 1989-1995 by Sally C. Clarke and do a statistical analysis for the state of Maryland. You may find this interesting. I completed the analysis of the NCHS data by going past the gender data to the race data. <http://www.geocities.com/dscott8186/mddivorcerace.htm>

Given the recent legal decision in Georgia, based primarily on the evidence sup-

plied by Ms. Clarke's study I can understand why the states complained under the euphemism that it was too costly to continue the statistical reporting. We now have the evidence that Maryland discriminated in making custody decisions.

African American men are even worse off than men as a group. Any way you look at it, Maryland discriminates both in race and gender. The "Best Interests of Children" as practiced in Maryland is nothing more than a euphemism for discrimination.

We now need a test case to go before the Federal District Court, the Maryland Appeals Court has already ruled in Griffin v. Griffin that determination of custody by gender is not permissible, however, the local judges are very clever in getting around an issue for their own personal beliefs and political agenda. We need a call to all men having recently lost a custody battle to file an appeal based on sex or race discrimination and have the State of Maryland Family Law system labeled as having committed

discriminatory conduct requiring monitoring.

Dan Scott

DEAR NCFM:

I can't stand the abuse committed by a system that pits ex-spouses against one another by designating a custodial and a non-custodial parent, and judicial preference for mothers as custodial parents, depriving fathers of their children.

We, men or women who acknowledge this as a detriment to society, and the institution of families, must do everything we can to change it.

Tony M.

Marcheny@aol.com

WEBMASTER: *To be involved you need to join. Go to <http://www.ncfm.org/member.htm> to download a membership form.*

See LETTERS - Page 3

Letters

Continued from Page 2

DEAR NCFM:

How about starting a chapter in Phoenix, AZ? How hard would it be? Thanks!

Rick Serafin

billsinsider@juno.com

WEBMASTER: *Thanks for your interest. The first step is to join. If you can find four other people who are paid members to sign a petition you will have taken the first step. Five people sign a document wherein they state why they would like to form a chapter.*

When you think you are ready we can send you a booklet on how to form a chapter, but basically what I described above is it. In the meantime, please join. Go to <http://www.ncfm.org/member.htm> to download a membership form.

DEAR NCFM:

I have always been somewhat distressed over the open advocacy and uninhibited discussion in the media, both real and fictitious, regarding attacks on the male

genitalia. Often (but not always) this is presented as a women's self-defense issue. Given the one-sidedness of such discussions (i.e. women are always innocent victims and men the evil predators), this seems highly degrading and a violation of male rights and dignity regarding such a deeply personal issue.

The abuse of such ideas, which is regularly engaged in by the media, should carry legal consequences similar to those for rape, torture and felony battery. Instead they are often dismissed without serious legal consequences.

According to a recent study, fully one in ten male adolescents has been genitally attacked (i.e. kicked in the groin) by male and female classmates alike without a single legal repercussion. This despite the fact that one in four of the male victims was physically injured by the attack. Additionally one in four suffered long-term depression and one in eight suffered long-term post-traumatic stress syndrome. In fact, the levity with which male sanctity is regarded by

popular culture, was underscored by the fact that the study viewed the issue in simple medical terms. It did not mention the overall deeper issue regarding the gross personal violation represented by genital trauma.

Do I have a valid claim, or am I being too sensitive about this? I really don't see how any thinking man (or person) can perceive such a deeply personal topic being bandied about in such a callous and degrading fashion without being personally offended, if not outraged. However, such seems to be heralded in the media as either a meritorious or humorous debacle. Do the majority of men really feel this way, or are they simply conforming?

Brian L. McCandliss

BrianLMcCandliss@aol.com

WEBMASTER: *I don't think you are being too sensitive, but the larger society probably would dismiss your concerns. It is the job of something like the National Coalition*

Continued on Page 9

TRANSITIONS

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NCFM – Presents the 2002 Awards

THE PURPOSE OF THE NCFM AWARD SERIES - We determined no one presenting a male perspective on gender issues was being recognized or complimented. We felt that there had to be a way to publicly say, "Thank you," in a lasting way for work that is meaningful, is more often rewarded by insults and rejection and which takes stamina, discipline, commitment and character to carry forward. We needed a way for those who were making a sacrifice to be applauded and to feel good about themselves. HEAR! HEAR! In the case of media, too often those who write in are critics. Media, as is the case with anyone else, needs to know that there are those who truly appreciate their work when it is truthful, goes against the tide of popular thinking and when it can genuinely be used to educate and serve a useful purpose, such as alleviating the suffering of others.

A complete list of past award winners can be viewed on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.ncfm.org/awards.htm>.

AWARDS CHAIR - John Macchietto *Excellence In The Advancement of Men's Issues*. This award is given to someone outstanding, in any field of endeavor, who has helped to advance the issues of the male gender in our contemporary changing society. In 2002 NCFM gave this award to the original instigators of a law suit brought in federal court (United States District Court of Minnesota in the case of Scott Booth et al v. Sheryl Ramstad Hvass, Commissioner of Corrections et al, No. 00CV1672MJD/JGL) challenging the constitutionality of the Minnesota Battered Women's Act. The original instigators were eleven members of R-KIDS (Remember Kids in Divorce Settlements) Legal Action Committee in Minneapolis. The suit was originally brought in 2000 and came to include NCFM members as well. As of this writing the suit is being appealed to the United States Supreme Court.

DEAR NCFM:

As one of the 11 original plaintiffs in the lawsuit filed in the United States District Court of Minnesota on July 17, 2000 to strike down the Minnesota Battered Women's Act as unconstitutional, I hereby

accept the award for *Excellence in the Advancement of Men's Issues* as given by the board of directors of the National Coalition of Free Men for the year 2002.

**Steve Blake
Knute Gladen,
Scott Booth
Terry Nyblom.
Scott Wyman
Michael Seeber
Frank Solchaga
Dave Witte
Chuck Perrin
Warren N. Higgins, Jr.**

Award of Honor - The recipient for year 2002 is Kyle Knutson of our Twin Cities chapter. The Award of Honor is given to someone who has contributed outstanding work to the National Coalition of Free Men. Mr. Knutson has been a former member of the board of directors. He is presently in charge of maintaining NCFM's membership list, NCFM's renewal efforts and in seeing to it that our letter writing committee functions administratively behind the scenes. Mr. Knutson is central to NCFM's ability to function. He carries out these responsibilities flawlessly and in such a smooth manner that almost no one is aware the nature of the complicated detail he manages in our name. Thank you so much, Kyle, for everything you do!

Father and Child Reunion

Continued from Page 1

nating from that fear is best expressed by women's response to the movie *The First Wives' Club* — a movie building its popularity on the creative ways women could combine their resources to ruin the lives of their former husbands — all of whom were portrayed as deserving it. In the first week of its release, half of all female moviegoers chose that movie *above all others combined*. Your former wife's fear of disposability, and the anger emanating from it, then, has nothing to do with you personally.

DEAR NCFM:

I am extremely honored to accept the NCFM Award of Honor for 2002. Just to be placed in the company of all those who have won this award in the past is an honor in and of itself. I'm grateful, I accept, and I offer my sincere and profound thanks. As I've told my colleagues here at the Twin Cities Chapter more than once (fine and outstanding men of passion, energy, and good will with whom I am proud to be associated — every last one of them), the "front man" role will never quite fit me, but the supportive role will. This cause for which NCFM stands, the basic belief that the needs and concerns of men are no less and no more important than those of women, inspires and motivates me to do whatever I can in that role of support. Serving as administrative aide to Tom Williamson and assisting Mike Spaniola and Nels Otto with the Letter Writing Committee are just two ways to accomplish this, and I'll continue for as long as they'll have me.

I give special thanks to Pradeep Ramanathan, who in the almost 4 years that I've been privileged to know him personally, has been not only a good friend, but a constant and ever reliable source of guidance and inspiration, not to mention a veritable font of knowledge on all matters pertaining to NCFM and men's issues generally. It was Pradeep who brought us all together here in the greater Minneapolis-St.

See AWARDS on Page 5

She is angry at you in part because you were her hope, and her *hope* has been disappointed. That can easily be confused with *you* being her disappointment.

If you take her disappointment personally, you'll both be defensive. Defensiveness is the energy from which lawyers build swimming pools. Defensiveness is the enemy of flexibility, and lack of flexibility is the greatest roadblock to your children. The road *back* to your children starts with remaining in her psychological family. Even

Continued on Page 5

Father and Child Reunion

Continued from Page 4

though you are divorced, you can still be on her team.

• Communicate What You Value About Her

Most dads who are in deadlock with their children's moms think they are good at acknowledging and valuing the moms, but when I ask the moms if they agree, they laugh. It makes no difference who is technically correct. From a communication perspective, if the mother isn't hearing it, it isn't happening. I'm not saying former wives are any better at this. For the reasons mentioned above, they're not. But right now I'm talking to the dads. And what I find is that it is hard for your former wife to refuse to value you when you are *consistently* valuing her.

Dads who do this best are especially good at looking for *small* and very specific acknowledgments: "the kids say they really liked the movie you took them to." Most dads don't acknowledge in part because they think in terms of grand and sweeping *comparative* statements ("You're the best mom...") or absolute statements ("You're a good mom"). Because they don't feel that way and abhor dishonesty, they say nothing. Other dads are afraid of saying something that can be used against them in court. But specifics like "The kids say they really liked the movie you took them to" create none of that downside and buy you plenty of upside good-will. Besides, it tells your former wife she is actually being seen.

Focus also on something specific and small that you have *learned* from your children's mom ("Sara said you brush her hair in the morning. I felt she could do it herself, but I noticed that when I did it once, she seemed to feel more secure").

Search for even a small way she has grown and deepened ("I appreciated the way you mentioned to the kids that I didn't give them the answers to their schoolwork because they'd get more out of it if they worked it out on their own"). Look for contexts in which you actually experience her that way so the acknowledgment is not gratuitous.

One overlooked source of specific positive acknowledgments is examining the flip side of a criticism. You might have wanted

to take the kids to the movie your wife took them to, but instead of saying, "gee, that was a movie I was planning to take them to," you say, "the kids say they really liked the movie you took them to." Almost every criticism hides a compliment dying to be found.

Many dads, when they say something that they believe is a compliment about the way their ex has changed, compare it to the old, negative behavior. For example, if she is now giving him more notice about teachers' conferences than previously, he might say, "Thanks for not just notifying me the day before." He sees that as a compliment; she, as a criticism. Why? Because every word in the sentence except the "thank you for not" was about what she did wrong. Now try, "Thanks for giving me enough notice that I could rework my schedule to be there." Now every word is about what she did right. And why.

Many dads who do feel they focus on the positive, still complain their former wife

doesn't see it that way. Sometimes that's their former wife's issue, but to be certain, check this out. How does, "Thanks for asking me to join in the teacher's conference this time," sound to you? What your former wife doubtless heard was the "this time." To her, that was a zinger. She would have preferred, "Thanks for asking me to join in the teacher's conference."

Too subtle, fussy and particular? If you've ever been in sales, or done comedy, you know how a word, tone, or even just a well-timed hesitation can turn opposition into partnership. Many men are great at mastering those distinctions in sales, but when dealing with a woman by whom they have felt rejected, their mastery disappears.

Our former wives' minds are fully open only when they feel fully acknowledged. In this respect, former wives are exactly like their former husbands.

¹*Parade*, April 23, 2000, p. 9. ♥

NCFM 2002 Awards

Continued from Page 4

Paul area back in January of 1999 to form the Twin Cities Chapter, and if not for him, I wouldn't be in this position. (Hey Pradeep, I am thanking you, not blaming you!)

Thanks again to the NCFM board of directors for the Award of Honor for 2002. I'm proud to stand with all of my fellow members of NCFM as together we work to uphold and advance the rights, dignity, and worth of men in a society and culture that would, in all too many instances, easily deny all three. Onward!

Kyle Kautson

Excellence In Promoting Gender Fairness In The Media. This award is given to someone outstanding, in any field of media (broadcast, print, internet, etc.), who has helped to advance the issues of the male gender in our contemporary changing society. Our 2002 award goes to publisher, Jeremy P. Tarcher who was responsible for

getting published such authors as: Warren Farrell, Sanford Braver, Michael Gurian, Keith Thompson, and Stuart Miller.

Mr. Tarcher's awareness of men's issues was catalyzed by his attending a New Warrior weekend (founded by NCFM's award winners for 2001, Bill Kauth and Richard Tosi). When Warren Farrell's editor at Simon and Schuster retired a feminist took her place. This new editor wanted Warren to censor the material in *Myth of Male Power*.

Warren Farrell reports that Jeremy Tarcher took responsibility for summarizing Warren's perspectives to his editors and sales people, something a publisher rarely does. Because of Tarcher's familiarity with Warren's points of view he was able to represent Warren as being balanced, female friendly, committed to women's independence, etc. Most important, Tarcher confronted feminist oriented women and challenged them to read Warren's material be-

Continued on Page 8

What's Happening?

National Coalition of Free Men News

WIN\$100 - Washington, DC, chapter member, Jack Kammer, is running a contest at his web site: <http://www.rulymob.com/contest.htm>. It is part of a campaign to help promote his book, *If Men Have All the Power How Come Women Make the Rules*. To win this contest all you have to do is write a song. Here is the premise. Certain feminists exaggerate and distort statistics about male violence much as racists promote the idea of the Depraved Negro. Doing so helps women keep us in our place, away from "women and children" whom we might "endanger."

The latest wrinkle in this feminist campaign to weaken and marginalize men, especially in family life and in relationship to our children, is to transform Valentine's Day from a celebration of romantic love into yet another occasion for telling untruths about men and violence. Valentine's Day is now called V-Day. The V stands for, you guessed it, Violence Against Women. One of the prime movers in this stunt is Eve Ensler, author of the much ballyhooed theater production "The Vagina Monologues." At her behest, the V also stands for Vagina. See www.vday.org.

To have a little fun with this bizarre turn of events, Jack is sponsoring a lyric contest based on the Tin Man's song "If I Only Had a Heart" in The Wizard of Oz. The winner of the contest will be the author of the best parody entitled "If I Only Had a V." It will humorously and satirically describe how you and/or your life would be different if you only had a vagina.

Go to <http://www.rulymob.com/contest.htm> for the official rules and entry form. Oh! And your esteemed President, Tom Williamson, has agreed to be one of the judges.

MINNESOTA LAW SUIT UNFAVORABLE DECISION REACHED 09/11/02 (U.S. Court of Appeals, 8th Circuit, Case No. 01-3210) - On September 11, the one year anniversary date of the Twin Towers collapse, the U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth

Circuit, decided that male taxpayers lacked standing to challenge the state's statutory scheme for dispersing state and federal funds to assist battered women. R-KIDS and NCFM wanted to sue various departments within the state of Minnesota for, among other things, violation of equal protection under the 14th amendment to the federal

"... is to transform Valentine's Day from a celebration of romantic love into yet another occasion for telling untruths about men and violence. Valentine's Day is now called V-Day. The V stands for ... Violence Against Women."

constitution because these state and county departments spent their funds in a discriminatory manner.

The court reasoned that departments of the state are treated as states and not as counties for purposes of taxpayer standing. But R-KIDS and NCFM did not involve any counties, so, of course, the question becomes, on what planet does this court reside? The court then reasoned that R-Kids and NCFM should have sued the state itself. The court refused to rule on the merits of the charge.

R-KIDS and NCFM charged that they have standing as tax payers to sue in federal court to prevent the defendants (state department heads) from spending public money under the domestic abuse statutes because the domestic abuse statutes unlawfully discriminate against men because of their sex.

The court reasoned that the amount of money contributed by the plaintiffs was too small to be considered meaningful. It further reasoned that whatever acts the various state agencies may have committed caused no financial injury to any of the individual

plaintiffs and that the actions by the state agencies did nothing to increase the tax burden to the plaintiffs. Moreover, while the court recognized that there may be legitimate concern over the limitations of Congress to tax and spend it was unclear if any of the same limitations applied to states.

The case, in all of its details, can be reviewed by clicking on any of the links at: <http://www.ca8.uscourts.gov/tmp/013210.htm>. The case is being appealed to the United States Supreme Court.

Any normal person would wonder what any of this has to do with anything. It is pretty obvious that money is being spent in a way that directly harms a class by denying them service or consideration. But one of the things that happened was that the defendants moved that the case be considered only on the ability of the plaintiffs to claim they had a right to sue. This is called, "standing", and from that position a lot of logical bull shit occurred. It is clear to us that the court could have reasoned any way they wanted. Case law was not adamant. The use of it simply provided wiggle room for anyone to reason anything depending on the politics involved. And without money, BIG MONEY, we are never going to be a player in the politics. William Hetherington is in jail because of politics. There is no justice in the sex discrimination business. There is only power and the ability to accumulate money. That's it. That's everything.

NCFM IN THE NEWS - Columnist, Glenn Sacks and activist, Dianna Thompson (Director of the American Coalition of Fathers and Children) co-host an radio show that is broadcast over the internet. On September 3rd the duo interviewed NCFM Los Angeles chapter president, Marc Angelucci. The topic covered the range of activities that Mr. Angelucci has initiated on behalf of NCFM and his chapter. This includes suing for a Los Angeles Commission on the Status of Men, helping create paternity fraud legislation, and demanding services for male vic-

See NCFM NEWS on Page 7

NCFM News

Continued from Page 6

tims of domestic violence.

The show, called, "Thompson & Sacks", airs over MND Radio (Men's News Daily) every Tuesday night from 6-7PM PST. The show repeats every hour from Tuesday 6PMPST to Wednesday 6PMPST. Archived audio from past shows is available. Go to http://www.mensnewsdaily.com/mnd_radio.htm and follow the instructions for listening.

WELCOME ANDREW BOKELMAN -

Andrew Bokelman has been appointed to be NCFM's corporate agent in California. He succeeds Don DuBoise. Additionally, Andrew is the latest addition to our board of directors. In September it became official. The LA chapter of NCFM had expanded in membership to the point where it is entitled to two representatives on our board. Presently the chapter is represented by its president, Marc Angelucci. Andrew has been with NCFM for awhile. He joined in 1978, making him one of our longest standing members. He has previously served on the board and was partly responsible for NCFM getting into computer communications back in 1990 when we joined Compuserve. Andrew was the men's issues leader in the issues forum.

LETTER WRITERS - In September the NCFM letter writing committee engaged in a campaign with other groups to defeat the Convention On The Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). CEDAW is a proposed, United Nations' treaty. You can view the web site that NCFM created to oppose ratification at: <http://www.ncfm.org/menshealthamerica/home.htm>. Among the groups with whom NCFM joined was Men's Health America.

If you would like to join with the voices of others and become part of our letter writing committee, write to NCFM to request being put on the mailing list:

NCFM Letter Writing Committee
PO Box 582023
Minneapolis, MN 55458-2023

Email is NOT used. All letters are sent out via surface mail. Participants are en-

couraged NOT to identify themselves as being part of an NCFM project. The campaign will have more effectiveness if it appears that each person took the initiative to write on their own. When you join you will receive materials from NCFM to help you write an original letter. Letter Writing Committee Chairman is Michael Spaniola and he is open to suggestions for campaigns made by letter writing participants.

NEW UPDATE RE: WILLIAM HETHERINGTON - Visit William Hetherington's web page - <http://www.ncfm.org/will.htm> - for the latest news regarding Will's plight in Michigan. He was denied parole in violation of Michigan statutes this past September. We will pro-

vide you with names and with the official citation of the rules. If there is then any doubt that this man isn't being enslaved, PLEASE, just where are we missing something? William Hetherington is serving a 30 year sentence for allegedly raping his wife. NCFM believes he is completely innocent.

LATE BREAKING NEWS - The National Coalition of Free Men (NCFM) has just initiated a brand new project at its web site. We hope you will tell all of your friends and do something to spread the word. The new service is an automated news page that scans the internet for relevant headlines from magazines and from other web sites. Headlines will change every week and some-

Continued on Page 12

Special Thanks Due

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

Chris Wetherill, CO
Craig H. Tyler, FL
Francis Baumli, MO
Victor Atkinson, NY
Robert B. Howland, NY
J. Warren Young, NY
Eugene August, OH
Mark Woodall, TN

NCFM – Twin Cities Forum Calls for Gender Justice

By Will Hageman

Some said it was exhilarating...some said it was historic...and one man said "This feels like home."

On the evening of June 21 in Saint Paul, Minnesota, the Twin Cities Chapter of the National Coalition of Free Men gave the public an opportunity to hear about issues rarely or never mentioned by politicians or the news media: domestic violence as a crime committed by both sexes, greater government funding of women's health care than men's, government regulation of words and attitudes under laws meant to stop sexual harassment, the facts behind the supposed wage gap between women and men, the question of which sex actually holds privileged status, the effects of divorce on society, widespread bias against men in the family court system, the crisis of fatherlessness among the nation's children resulting from fathers being driven out of their children's lives, the recent alarming

rise in male suicides, and the question of whether the National Organization for Women really speaks for most women.

In sharp contrast, the annual national conference of the National Organization for Women, held four blocks away at the same time, was so well hidden that it seemed as though the organizers had wanted it to be invisible to the public. There were no signs at any of the hotel entrances or in the lobby that even mentioned N.O.W., and no messages welcoming their delegates. Those wishing to find N.O.W. had to ask hotel staff or go searching on their own. Some who paid a visit to the conference found it to be poorly attended, and N.O.W. didn't even bother to estimate the attendance.

When the Twin Cities Chapter of NCFM learned of N.O.W.'s intent to make an unwelcome visit to Minnesota, they decided that it was imperative to counter the presence of that organization with view-

points that respect both women and men – viewpoints that address the problems that we face as human beings, without demonizing one sex, and portraying the other as perpetual, helpless victims.

At the NCFM forum, where the public was welcome, the audience had the opportunity to hear from and ask questions of five speakers: Wendy McElroy, author, FoxNews.com columnist and ifeminists.com editor; Dr. Warren Farrell, author of the international best-sellers *The Myth of Male Power* and *Why Men Are The Way They Are*, as well as the recent book *Father and Child Reunion*, and former board member of the New York City Chapter of N.O.W.; Deborah Watkins, former president of the Fort Worth Chapter of N.O.W., and co-founder and current president of the Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter of NCFM; Dianna Thompson, executive director of the Ameri-

See FORUM on Page 9

NCFM 2002 Awards

Continued from Page 5

fore putting him into a box. Jeremy would tell them that no one with an open mind could be anything but challenged. Again, Warren asserts, Jeremy Tarcher's willingness to educate himself, risk making the presentation to his staff himself makes him a outstanding human being in the publishing business.

Born 1932 in New York City, Jeremy Tarcher became a graduate of St. John's College Annapolis, Maryland 1953. He did a two year tour of duty in the United States Army. He became a television writer/producer 1956-1960. Since 1960 he has been in the book publishing business, first with Horizon Press and then with Stein & Day. In 1964 he founded his own firm, Jeremy P. Tarcher, Inc.

In 1967 he moved from New York to Los Angeles and in the early seventies he began to publish a variety of non-fiction

books distributed through different companies in the east. In the mid-seventies he began to publish books that represented leading-edge ideas in science, psychology, sociology, health, creativity, consciousness, etc. These titles, which include *Drawing On The Right Side Of The Brain*, *The Aquarian Conspiracy*, *Women Who Love Too Much*, *The Artist's Way*, and *The Wonder Of Boys*, eventually became the backbone of his company's financial success. In 1980 he sold his company to Houghton-Mifflin and then bought it back in 1984. He resold the company in 1990 to Putnam where he has been the president of Tarcher Putnam ever since.

DEAR NCFM:

I was very pleased to hear that I am to receive an award from NCFM.

The work that NCFM does to intelli-

gently highlight male issues that are often overlooked and even derided in the media is important and substantial.

I accept this award with pleasure and gratitude on behalf of Warren Farrell, Stanford Braverman, and Michael Guillen and others who have written so passionately on these issues.

With best wishes,

Jeremy Tarcher

A FOURTH AWARD - This year NCFM presented its President, Tom Williamson, with a Danbury Table clock inscribed with "thanks" for twenty five years of service. The trophy was presented to Tom Williamson by national vice president Pradeep Ramanathan at the NCFM 25th year celebration at the Harbour Lights Restaurant on August 9. ♥

Twin Cities Forum

Continued from Page 8

can Coalition for Fathers and Children, and director of the Second Wives Crusade; and Trudy W. Schuett, publisher of The DesertLight Journal, the e-zine of the international men's rights movement.

(Audio of the forum was streamed live on the Internet by Raymond Cuttill, host of the program *The Men's Hour*, who traveled from England to Saint Paul to produce the webcast. The recorded audio can be heard at www.menshour.com - Go to Aug 2002 Programme.)

The forum was entitled "Gender Feminism and the Voices Not Heard: Has America Gone Deaf In One Ear?" Approximately ninety people were in attendance. Wendy McElroy spoke on the topic "Scrapping NOW: Time to Redefine Feminism" (the

full text of her speech is at www.ifeminists.com/introduction/editorials/2002/0625b.html). She said "There is a hunger in North America – you can feel it – an undercurrent of discontent among men ... men who no longer see their children because of anti-male bias in the Family Court system, men who pay taxes to support domestic violence centers but are turned away from those same doors if they are victims, men who are fed up with seeing their sex portrayed in the media as rapists, wife beaters, child molesters or buffoons. There is also an anger, most of it justified and much of it healthy...because it takes a bit of anger to cease being abused and to demand justice instead. When this demand is made, men will not find themselves alone.

The majority of women will stand up as well to defend the rights and the dignity of their fathers, brothers, husbands, sons, and friends. Because the only feminism, the only masculism that makes sense is one that destroys the legal barriers of privilege and discrimination that separate the sexes....Feminism became a politics of rage. It lost sight of being fair, of being equal under the law with men and aimed instead at privilege....The Men's Movement in North America is poised to take off like a rocket and when it does it will provide a new chance...a new beginning for men and women to be the full, equal, and respectful partners in society that we were always meant to be."

Continued on Page 10

Letters

Continued from Page 3

of Free Men to shed new meaning on what so many consider a joke or a woman's defense issue when a male is kicked in the balls. This is a tough row to hoe. For example when we try to compare the violent mutilation perpetrated against an infant during circumcision with the feminist cause against female genital mutilation very few people seem to be capable of making the connection. I said, "people." I mean both men and women. Many men have no concept of what has been done to them and is being done to them. They lack such an understanding to the point of being unaware that they should object. Such is the power of cultural belief systems, indoctrination and peer pressure (to take it all like a man, e.g., eradicate your feelings and look the other way).

Dear NCFM:

I am a doctoral student in counseling psychology conducting masculinity research as a part of my dissertation. I was wondering if there was any way your group might be able to help me disseminate information about the project in order to recruit participants. Sincerely,

Lori Sipes

****Male Participants Wanted****

For a study examining societal expectations for men, visions of masculinity, and interpersonal relationships.

M. Lorene Sipes is a doctoral student in Counseling Psychology. As a part of the requirements for completing her degree, she is conducting masculinity research.

Men who participate in this study will complete several attitude questionnaires. A time commitment of approximately 45 minutes will be needed and all study materials may be completed at the participant's convenience. Participants who return all completed study materials will be entered into a drawing to win \$ 100.

Interested participants may contact M. Lorene Sipes via e-mail at mlsipes@ameritech.net or leave a message at (330) 972-6822.

DEAR NCFM:

Could you please tell me if fathers' rights associations in your country celebrate any day of the year (like gays do, for example)? Don't you think it would be a good idea for all these associations to be in touch and fight together? We could start setting a particular day of the year to make demon-

strations in the USA and Europe. Do you think it would be possible that in your country?

Regards, and sorry for my English, I hope you can understand me.

Alejandro

sospapa600600500@yahoo.com

WEBMASTER: The third Sunday in June is designated as Fathers' Day in the U.S.A. It exists because of an act of Congress and was signed into law by former President, Richard Nixon. The entire week before Fathers' Day is designated, "Men's Health Week." This is also an act of Congress.

Various organizations use these dates to focus on various men's issues. The large media, as you might expect, uses Fathers' Day to degrade men for not paying child support and for beating their wives. Nevertheless, some progress has been made to use the media to present our case.

There is no coordination between the various men's groups in the USA and around the world, although there have been a number of unsuccessful attempts to get everyone together. A big problem in this regard is financial resources.

Continued on Page 11

Twin Cities Forum

Continued from Page 9

She also spoke of the industry that has sprung up under sexual harassment laws, restraining orders being granted to women almost on demand, false allegations and the despair of losing contact with their children driving men to suicide, and how the National Organization for Women has demonized men and betrayed women.

Dr. Warren Farrell spoke on the topic "When Feminism Became Gender Politics: The One-Party System" and challenged five particularly destructive myths widely circulated by feminists and their sympathizers in the media: (1) The myth that men batter women more than women batter men (There are more than 100 scholarly studies of domestic violence which refute this); (2) The myth that women's health is neglected compared with men's health (In fact, govern-

ment funding of women's health care is greater than funding of men's health care); (3) The myth that women do two jobs while men do only one (The word "housework" has been defined to exclude work done and contributions made largely by men, such as driving the car to take the family somewhere, and home remodeling work); (4) The myth that women are paid much less than men for doing the same work (In fact, when *average* wages are adjusted to account for such crucial factors as occupation, position, age, experience, education, attendance, consecutive years in the work force, and mothers choosing jobs with greater flexibility and lower salaries, the *adjusted* wage gap between women and men is in the range of two to five cents on the dollar, and this small difference continues to shrink);

and (5) The myth that children of a divorcing couple are best provided for by granting sole custody to the parent who has done most of the direct childraising, generally the mother (Studies show that these children do best when they spend roughly equal amounts of time with each parent, when the parents live close to each other, and when neither parent badmouths the other). Dr. Farrell went on to describe how, in general, mothers focus on protecting children, while fathers focus on encouraging children to take necessary risks. Mothers may set boundaries, while fathers are good at enforcing them with consequences. When either influence is reduced or taken away, a child is likely to suffer.

Deborah Watkins described her experience as a chapter president of N.O.W., and her discovery that this organization, which she thought would be an advocate for equality, had become instead an obstacle to equality. She said that she has always been aware that society's gender roles have placed limitations on both women and men, and she noted that many of those who demand reproductive choice for women don't seem to care that men can't opt out of parenthood after the fact, while women can.

Dianna Thompson spoke of the many women in the fathers' rights movement, and how they have been attacked by feminists. She described how anti-family bias in the courts is devastating to women who are second wives. She pointed out that fathers' visitation rights with their children are routinely denied, and the court system doesn't care. She criticized "move-away moms" who deliberately move to keep children away from their fathers, mothers who make false allegations of child abuse to destroy a father's life, and our winner/loser adversarial court system. She has long promoted shared parenting, and she said that N.O.W. has consistently fought shared parenting in every state where she has worked for it. She asked what discrimination or injustice is worse than someone taking away your children.

Trudy Schuett, in her speech "Stories" spoke of the fallout of divorce, men suffering from domestic abuse, men whose lives

Letters Campaign

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

Please volunteer and write to:

Michael Spaniola

NCFM

P.O. Box 582023

Minneapolis, Minnesota

55458-2023

Continued on Page 11

Twin Cities Forum

Continued from Page 10

have become battles they never signed up to fight, the fear and hatred of men cultivated by feminists, and how feminists have upset the balance of nature. She said of feminists: "They keep talking about oppression, when in fact most of those girls wouldn't recognize actual oppression if they stumbled over it at high noon coming out of Bloomingdale's." She went on to say "We recognize there can be no future for a society that values half its population so little we allow them to be humiliated, physically and emotionally tortured, even incarcerated for no crime beyond being themselves....We need a return to honoring our men for their irreplaceable value in society." (The full text of her speech is at www.desertlightjournal.homestead.com/stories.html)

The audience frequently burst into applause, and during the question-and-answer session, audience members were eager to come to the microphone to ask questions or make comments. Many were amazed and deeply moved to have found a forum that

addressed issues which profoundly affect their lives. When the forum concluded, the audience gave a standing ovation. Many felt privileged to have witnessed the event, and many lingered afterward to talk with the speakers and with others they had met there.

The forum was a great success – for the Twin Cities Chapter, for NCFM, for the five speakers who traveled a long way to participate, for the audience, and for the cause of fathers' rights, men's rights, and gender justice.

"It was an historic event...the first time the Men's Movement had come together to counter the anti-male viciousness of PC feminism. The speakers were superlative. I've never seen people do as good a collective job in my life....Some of the men at the evening event broke my heart. The one who stood up and said that this was the first time he had ever felt like he was "home." That he had never listened to talks so closely or felt that people were actually talking to him....I've never been to a conference at

which the audience burst into so much applause so often. Where there was so much connection between the audience and the speakers. ... I was so heartened to feel and see absolutely no hostility toward women expressed by any of the men at the event. They are wonderful. How they are able to treat women, like me and Trudy so well, when they have been treated so terribly themselves is amazing. ... This is the point, the decade during which men stand up, like women did in the '60s, and say 'We want equality, we demand justice.'"

– Wendy McElroy

"All five speakers...were received with enthusiastic applause with the audience leaving their seats often to give standing ovations....This was the day the men's movement entered history and began to evolve into a visible, dynamic force for change."

– Trudy W. Schuett

Editor's Note: Will Hageman was the moderator of the forum. ♥

Letters

Continued from Page 9

DEAR NCFM:

What rights does a father have in forcing a woman to have an abortion if the circumstances call for a less than adequate upbringing for the child?

Ron Kort

RonKort@aol.com

WEBMASTER: Absolutely no rights that we know of. She could be taking cocaine and she would unlikely be held accountable (although there have been a few attempts at this). OK, all you readers. Let's get it straight once and for all. Men have no rights and women are "usually" not held accountable. Ethel Goldberg was one of those exceptions.

Dear NCFM:

Is your organization aware of the current TV ad run by Progressive insurance depicting the crushing of a man's genitals with pliers? The ad presents the act as so-

cially acceptable (as if to be applauded) and promotes a desensitization of the issue and the act of testicle-bashing. I am concerned about the larger trend toward commercialization of male-genital bashing and hope your organization is taking action in this area. Please address your organization's status regarding such action before trying to sign me up as a member.

Kevin Hopton

WEBMASTER: Thanks for your message to NCFM. Yes, this is one of many commercials that makes light of violence toward men, and it is something we are concerned about. Some people might argue "what's the harm? It's just a commercial." However, many of the very serious problems men confront in our society have their roots in the idea that men are the disposable sex, and that therefore violence against men is funny. Just imagine the outcry that would follow a commercial making fun of violence

against women. NCFM is working against these kinds of ads in several ways. We have a letter writing committee that has on occasion targeted advertisers who use male bashing to promote their products, or to praise advertisers who use male friendly ads. We give out awards to those in the media who promote male positive images. We also have helped publicize authors who write about men's issues, including male bashing in the media. For example, Dr. Warren Farrell, who has written about violence against men in the media, was a featured speaker at our Forum in St. Paul in June.

Of course, the more people we have fighting this sort of anti-male advertising, the better. So, I hope you will consider joining NCFM.

DEAR NCFM:

I was looking around your web site and found it very interesting/informative/en-

Continued on Page 13

“They are going to Max me Out!”

Fifth Update on the William Hetherington Case

By William J. Hetherington
Prisoner #186155

They are going to max me out. I have been denied parole once again. This time it happened after my interview of August 7, 2002. It would appear more than likely that 2010 or 2015 will be one of the years that they let me go, if they ever do. To date I received a 12 month continuance in 1997, a 24 month continuance in 1998, a 24 month continuance in 2000, and now a 24 month continuance in 2002. The minimum amount of time someone is suppose to serve on a 15-30 year sentence was up in 1997. So, every day I am held beyond that is, in essence, another sentence! This is my 4th parole denial.

I could conceivably get out in 2010 if I get no misconducts held against me. It could be 2015 if they take into consideration all of my good time credits that I have earned on the 30 year maximum term to which I was sentenced.

I need your assistance more now than ever before! I sincerely hope and pray that each one of you reading this will help me in any way that you possibly can even if nothing more than a donation to mitigate the substantial legal fees to my appeal!?!?! My defense fund is still at PO Box 129 in Manhasset, NY 11030. Make your check out to NCFM. Any donation must be labeled somewhere on the check itself. For example, you could write, “The Wm Hetherington Defense Fund,” in the memo field. This is very important!

I have a near perfect institutional record for the entire 17 years I have served. I began my 18th year on September 24, 2002... and the only(2) misconducts I have been accused of in the last five years were for being 10 minutes late for medical pick ups!

I am begging for your assistance including a donation, if at all possible. Anyone who will write letters to the Michigan authorities, please do, I need them all.

I AM BEING ENSLAVED! Rules for determining parole: [22909—,00.html. From the Michigan Corrections home page: \[HTTP://www.michigan.gov/corrections/\]\(http://www.michigan.gov/corrections/\) click on “probation, parole & boot camp” \(left column\), scroll down and click on “The Process.” Read the first paragraph.](http://www.michigan.gov/corrections/0,1607,7-119-1435-</p>
</div>
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- The 10 member parole board is divided into three-member panels.
- Each case assigned a panel.
- The granting of parole is made by a majority of a panel EXCEPT in the case of lifers. In the case of lifers, the entire board must vote.
- I am NOT in prison for life. I received 3 votes to let me out at my last parole hearing (two votes were from Mr. Samper and Mr. Reed).

I was told, by a counselor (Kates) that the parole board gave me another 24 month continuance (“flop”, they call it) from my hearing on 8/7/2002 where I was interviewed by Charles Braddock.

My personal representative at my parole hearing, this time, was my dear mother. She made it clear that she was going to be there regardless! In fact, she had just had heart surgery on 7/17/02 and everyone tried

to convince her to stay home... but, she wasn't having it.

I presented a letter from her to Mr. Braddock I had gotten the night before the hearing. She said she did not know why everyone was telling her they were too busy, all of a sudden, to bring her and if she could find the keys... well... she's a big girl and knows the way! She really advocated her heart out for me! I have to say this was the best interview of the 5 total!

My first max date is 2010 and my last max date is 2015... (there are various maximum dates calculated by the prison system. A “maximum date” is suppose to represent the longest time one can be held according to certain criteria). so, I have effectively done another entire prison sentence beyond the minimum handed down by the judge who sentenced me to be out in 1997... which was well beyond the 1-10 year guideline. The maximum recommended under the Michigan guidelines for raping one's wife is ten years.

Instead of turning away and abandoning me as a hopeless case... I am asking you - anyone reading this - to pull together and assist me in the fight of/for my life, please?

See UPDATE on Page 15

NCFM News

Continued from Page 7

times every day.

Our material is divided up into five categories: Divorce, Civil Rights, Life Style, Health and Fashion. A short list of articles appears on the front page with a brief description. If you want to see a much longer list, simply click on MORE beneath the topic heading.

HERE IS A REALLY NEAT FEATURE: There is an orange flag next to most of the individual articles. If you want to see a list of related articles click on the orange flag. This is great for anyone doing re-

search; for anyone looking to find material to expand on a topic. When you click on an article, you will open a new browser window at the author's web site. To return to NCFM and choose another article simply close the new window.

We hope you enjoy this new and very unique service. We are anxiously awaiting your feedback.

[Http://www.ncfm.org](http://www.ncfm.org) - click on NEWS (just under the box with our mission statement). PS - And you can search articles by keyword



Letters

Continued from Page 11

couraging. With an eye toward joining and, perhaps, contributing an article or two, I began trying to find out a bit more about the organization. As yet, I haven't been able to find any information on the Board of Directors or any administration details.

I was also interested/concerned that there doesn't seem to be any chapters further south than Virginia.

Have I missed something? Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Regards,

Duncan McKelvey

WEBMASTER: *The organizational information we publish at our web site is in the files Present Activity, Past Activity and Philosophy. We do not publish names or personal data about our board or our members (unless they encourage it) because there can and have been reprisals, e.g., loss of a job. The type of cause we champion is very unappreciated. A list of the names of those on our board and how to contact them is published in our hard cover newsletter, Transitions: Journal of Men's Perspectives.*

We have six chapters at present. The one furthest south is Dallas/Fort Worth. Most of our members are isolated individuals who do not live near a chapter. We unite them through the INTERNET, in particular through our members only discussion group, and through our newsletter.

DEAR NCFM:

I am the second wife of a man with three children. He does not have custody and what we have fought for in a custody battle is now being stolen away by the children's mother. It is of particular interest that her interference comes when we are in the process of having child support modified. My husband has been beaten down from the verbal abuse and manipulation of their relationship. Now that he has had training and gained new employment as a correctional officer - hence the need for her to up child support- his confidence has

soared. He is now able to stand up to her. Still, it does no good because the courts reward criminal behavior, i.e., she can steal the kids; shave the girls hair off (claims she was tired of the frequent lice outbreaks); she can manipulate and threaten the children; she lets the oldest fail math all year long so that she can steal her for summer school on dad's time. Both Child Protection Services and the courts do nothing. The Psychological Evaluator refused to look at

"The [Progressive Insurance] ad presents the act as socially acceptable (as if to be applauded) and promotes a desensitization of the issue and the act of testicle-bashing."

pictures of the oldest daughter's teeth where a tooth rotted, leaving a gaping hole due to neglect in dental care. The children were covered, and are covered, by my husband's insurance, so there was no excuses. We get to pay her to treat the kids this way. Child Protection Services dropped charges of abuse against the mother when she got a lawyer and went to anger management classes (they did not help). I want help for our situation, but there is none.

I am ashamed of women like these who abuse the system for financial gain, hurt their children and deny men their rights to be apart of their children's lives. Research shows how vital a father is in the role of raising children. Yet, Federal and State laws ensure that fathers are pushed out of their children's lives via the bias judicial system that practically deifies motherhood. Then men are labeled "deadbeats" and enslaved to pay astronomical amounts of money while their children are programmed to hate them by malicious mothers. The "best interests of the child" has nothing to do with what is best for children. It has been used to rob fathers of custody, and replace them with money. We pay taxes on income that we never see. She further gets a tax credit for the kids living with her. We may

not even be able to qualify for a home even though my husband has a great job and I will be teaching.

My sister collects child support, but is in complete agreement as to the mistreatment of men by San Bernardino County Child Support. I was told by my cousin-in-law (who is a supervisor at San Bernardino County Child Support, Loma Linda) that when we go to have child support changed the ex-wife can claim any percent visitation she wants. If my husband says he has followed the court order, the burden of proof is on him. She said, "you got to know how to play the game. We hear fathers say they go by the court order all the time. It is hard to know who is telling the truth. We go by the mother's word over the father's." I am interested in the law suit against LA County. I would like to see similar action taken against San Bernardino County. Beyond joining your organization, what can I do to further the cause of equal protection of father's rights? I think custody and visitation needs equal/more funding to the 4 billion dollar a year budget given to states to the collection of child support.

I am just one voice, but I would be glad to make some noise for your cause. As soon as my husband gets paid this month, we plan on joining your group. I first heard about your group from KFI am 640 news. I am praying your legal battles are successful. Do you have any San Bernardino or Riverside Chapters? Thank you.

Sonja Voight

WEBMASTER: *I presume you live in California. The town of Riverside sounds vaguely familiar. I live in New York. I will refer your letter to the president of our Los Angeles chapter: Marc Angelucci angelucci2000@alumni.law.ucla.edu. At the moment your experience is typical across the country.*

Dear NCFM:

I have a weekly column, "The Ever Present Past" in the Auburn Journal in Auburn, CA. I have had articles and similar columns in The Union newspaper in Grass

Continued on Page 14

Book Review

By J. Steven Svoboda

Sex, Lies & Feminism

By Peter Zohrab.

Wainuiomata, New Zealand: New Zealand Equality Party, 2002. 177 pp. US \$10. <http://members.tripod.com/peterzohrab/contents.html>.

With *Sex, Lies & Feminism*, Peter Zohrab has proven himself capable of single-handedly matching the high quality of professionally published works. Zohrab's book is a bit of a different bird though. Given the absence of a successful publishing house's resources, production values are necessarily not as high, nor is the writing as smooth or as seamlessly executed. But the compensating virtues are strong ones. *Sex, Lies & Feminism* is one of those rare books that instantly reads like a movement classic. Many of the topics the author raises have been discussed before, sometimes even at greater length and in more detail. Yet Zohrab's intellect and knack for fresh re-examination of even the seemingly most familiar topics brings the book alive and had me turning the pages almost as raptly as if I were reading a novel. The author supplies a wealth of original insights and a plethora of felicitous yet unusual juxtapositions of different facts. He gets you to start thinking about these issues more systematically and at the same time more specifically. A book that can actually get the reader to develop or expand useful new modes of thought is rare indeed.

The current version of this work is the third edition, and the author has evidently been revising and reworking his book over the past few years. More polishing could still be done. *Sex, Lies & Feminism* starts off rather abruptly without effectively introducing itself and setting up its topics, creating an effect somewhat like entering the movie theater halfway through reel one. Yet once we are seated, we quickly realize the movie is so absorbing that it almost doesn't matter.

Here are some of the facts and useful syntheses Zohrab deals out: The "under 1" age group suffers by far the most murders per capita, most at the hands of their mothers. Moreover, once infants are included, we create a "grim equality" given that men and women commit about the same total number of homicides. The author formulates the five main lies told by feminists about domestic violence. In response to Susan Brownmiller's claim that power relations between the sexes are colored by any man's ability to rape almost any woman at any time, Zohrab notes that these relations are also colored by the fact that any woman can cry "rape" after any incident of lovemaking. He deconstructs in six principal steps the "specific Feminist Catch-22 on domestic violence," noting that feminists *never* raise the issue of female violence. He brilliantly demolishes feminist claims to be promoting equality. (Later, he also tabulates a number of the issues on which feminists do *not* want gender equality.) He provides a convincing summary of the differences between women and genuinely oppressed minorities.

Although I personally disagree with Zohrab's fierce opposition to choice, I find his analysis of this issue to be as compelling as his other discussions. I can't recall ever

having read before his powerful point that if men are subject to military conscription and many must even die to promote the general good, why should not women be subject to "conscription by conception" for the general good? (I might also add that with birth rates below replacement levels in certain social groups, this question is becoming more and more timely every day.) Zohrab goes on to ask why we almost automatically allow women a "pass" to abort their fetuses when their lives are in danger, but we would not think of allowing a man ordered to participate in a suicide attack to kill his superior officer. Nor would we allow a wealthy man married to a gold-digger trying to kill him off with high cholesterol foods and nagging to kill her as an act of self-preservation. Later the author performs another similarly skillful reversal, employing feminist criteria to show that women oppress men!

Zohrab makes great capital out of even those issues that have been repeatedly addressed before by others: For example, if women are the oppressed sex, how do feminists explain why men have dramatically higher incarceration rates? He reminds us of the two-hundred-year history of "mainly male governments enact[ing] legislation

See REVIEW on Page 15

Letters

Continued from Page 13

Valley, Ca. I have written an original novel, fiction, THE CHAUVINIST. It appears on the Internet via eBookMall, featured authors.

I honestly believe it would interest any man or woman interested in what the Feminists are doing to generate equality that will result in serious flaws to their quests. The book characterizes a famous author, past winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Literature

, who dares to write a book *Chauvinism - Man's key to survival*. The reactions to his book and how he deals with them make for a fascinating tale. Please let men and women know about this book.

Thank you,

Ed Stember Sr.

Auburn, Ca.

Email: hopeed@ncws.com ♥

Update on William Hetherington

Continued from Page 12

I say for my life as I have had Hepatitis C since 1995. I have had Asthma all of my life and it is worse now than ever! Further, I am waiting for a total hip replacement.

In the final analysis, the depression and/or stress may wind up being the (psychological) cement shoes that pulls me under!

I simply need the compassion and assistance everyone of you due to the most recent developments!

I BELIEVED IN THE FAMILY AND I BELIEVED IN AMERICA.

What has happened to me could happen to any one of you. I can tell you that, like most people, I could not be convinced either, until it happened to me. I simply believed my wife wanted to be reconciled during our divorce and custody battle and I believed she wanted to commit herself to a drug rehabilitation program in order to be free from her menacing addictions! I believed in the court system too. Instead, the police lied on the stand about my assaulting my wife and years later pictures were un-

covered which proves this! The photos were never disclosed to the defense. They were found some ten years after my trial in a cardboard box located in the garage of the police department!

I have never been allowed to exercise my right to appeal my conviction. In part this was due to my trial transcript having been withheld from me for twelve years. Moreover, I was never appointed counsel when the courts denied me access to my assets. Because of them I had no money; no way to defend myself.

Here I am... beginning my 18th... year in prison accused of having sex with my wife.

I remain in the eastern Hemisphere's version of "Siberia"... due to the high costs of phone calls (80 dollars an hour. I can only make "collect" calls), limited postage, and rare visitation! My health is now a most compelling aspect in this matter and physical survival is the key to winning this fight for freedom!

I am pleading with each one of you,

individually, and all of NCFM member(s) collectively to do something / anything to help be it a donation to the Wm J. Hetherington Defense Fund or letter writing campaign and massive E-mailing to any or all members of the Michigan public official office holders address! It must be done now... and the clock is ticking before time runs out for me to have any facsimile of a life upon release... There is no one else for me to turn to but you. Please help?

EDITOR'S NOTE: William has been fighting in federal court for release on a Writ of Habeas Corpus. On September 13, 2002, Judge Benard A. Friedman denied Will's plea based on lack of timeliness for applying. In English this means Will should have petitioned the court a decade and a half ago. As we all know Will was never able to obtain competent legal representation even with the help of supporters. Presently he is appealing this decision, but, once again he is without proper legal representation. ♥

Book Review

Continued from Page 14

benefiting women more than men, including giving women the vote, according women equal pay with men, liberalising abortion laws... increasing penalties for rape, and so forth, all without protecting men's interests in family, mating rituals, work-place behaviours or educational institutions." Zohrab is not so far to the right that he is willing to countenance homophobia in the men's movement, which he laments.

One of the best parts of his book is a few brilliant, brave paragraphs where he provocatively attempts to analyze how groups come to be designated as "oppressed," and discusses some of society's blind spots on these issues. How did we decide the Croats were good and the Serbs bad? Was it purely based on an impartial analysis of the facts? To paraphrase Mark Twain, nothing is so uncommon as the sort of common sense Zohrab displays when he offers us simple reminders such as the notion that if women

behaving badly results from their socialization in patriarchal society, then so does their good behavior.

Zohrab comes across as a bit of a disorganized genius. Typographical errors crop up periodically, as well as a few places where he doesn't quite say what we know he means. But luckily he is not *too* disorganized, and his writing has lots of pearls to offer. In one of the greatest metaphors I have ever encountered in men's movement literature, Zohrab writes that feminist "agencies have a sort of 'gravitational' force which they exert on the truth, bending it in their direction." Because these groups are part of our universe, after a while most of us scarcely notice the distortions they have created in the space-time fabric.

We have heard much of this before but we have never heard it quite like this. Zohrab heightens and sharpens everything he says. If we lived in an era of sane gender politics,

he would be, or at least would write like, one of the most sensible men in the world. In the meantime, he can enlighten us, even at times inspire us, and help us to guide society toward that day for which we all yearn. ♥

Transitions Needs Your Talent

Transitions is always looking for your contributions in writing on issues affecting men. If you have an article or an idea for an article, please submit it for publication. Please type and double-space all work and send to: **Jim Lovestar**, *Transitions* Editor, ncfm@consciousbody.info.

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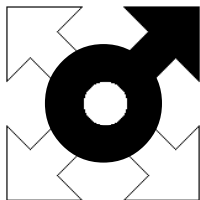
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