

# TRANSITIONS

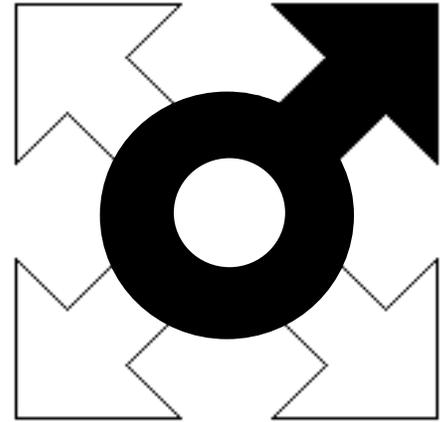
JOURNAL OF MEN'S PERSPECTIVES

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## Domestic Violence Suspects Get Another Day In Court

Supreme Court endorses added hearing on protective orders

By CHRISTIAN NOLAN, *Connecticut Law Tribune*

People accused of domestic violence have a lot to lose. Not just their freedom, but the right to even visit their children.

That was the scenario for a Stamford man who was arrested two years ago for allegedly assaulting his wife. She said he threw her down a flight of stairs and kicked her in the head, all in front of their two toddlers.

But the defendant, Fernando A., whose full name is not released in court records, said the two were divorcing and his wife fabricated the attack story to gain leverage in family court proceedings. Fernando A., however, never got a chance after his arraignment to object to the order of protection issued against him that prevented him from seeing his children.

His lawyer, Steven D. Ecker, of Hartford's Cowdery, Ecker & Murphy, asked for an evidentiary hearing after the arraignment, but Superior Court Judge James Bingham denied the request. Ecker challenged the denial up to the state Supreme Court.

In an opinion to be officially released this week, a divided court ruled that a defendant must be granted an evidentiary hearing at which the state must prove, by the civil standard of a preponderance of evidence, that the order of protection is a continued necessity.

"All we were asking for is a hearing within a reasonable time after someone is kicked out of their home and prohibited from any contact with their children," said Ecker. "It seems appropriate a court would permit a hearing to consider both sides of the story. That doesn't seem particularly controversial."

There are about 19,000 protective orders currently in place in Connecticut. And in a year when domestic violence cases have repeatedly made headlines in the state, it's no surprise that the Fernando A. appeal drew interest

from various advocacy groups, including the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut.

"Victims should be protected," said Anne C. Dranginis, of Hartford's Rome McGuigan. "In many of these cases, victims have suffered trauma or fear and are trying to calm down children."

### 'Deterring Effect'

Dranginis filed an amicus brief on behalf of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence arguing that the people who claim to be victims of domestic violence – most of whom are women – should not be subjected to cross-examination right after a spouse or partner has been arrested for beating them.

Dranginis said if women knew they would have to face their abuser in court a day or two after an arrest, that would have a "chilling, deterring effect" on abused spouses and partners bringing charges.

Conversely, the ACLU of Connecticut argued that there are people who get falsely accused of domestic violence and they deserve a chance to be heard before losing their rights, especially the right to visit their children.

In the end, the state Supreme Court issued a 5-2 ruling that all sides interpreted as at least a partial victory. But how it all shakes out in court from this point forward remains to be seen. What can be assured is that Fernando A. and future defendants facing similar orders of protection have the right to a hearing on the order of protection after their arraignment and before their trial.

"The defendant may... testify or present witnesses on his own behalf, and may cross-examine any witnesses whom the state might elect to present against him," stated Justice Flemming L. Norcott Jr., who wrote the majority opinion. "This defense evidence, along with the comprehensive initial proffer and the submission of evidence by the state, further will ensure that there will be a record adequate to review...the trial court's ruling with respect to the continued necessity of the criminal protective order."

But at the hearing, the alleged victim may never have to testify, explained Senior Assistant State's Attorney Robert J. Scheinblum. Prosecutors could essentially present the

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE continued p. 8**

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## ***Editor's Comment***

This edition has two outstanding book reviews and the AWARDS page. We like to honor those that have gone above and beyond the call of duty each year. This year is no different. We are honoring 3 people who have made a difference for all of us concerning the equality of treatment to both genders. I would like to thank the Board for this continued recognition. I know we don't do this for recognition, but it certainly feels like you are making a difference in the world when your peers take notice. Thank you Al, Barbara, and John.

*Kevin M Young*

## **NCFM Online Discussion Group**

Members are reminded and encouraged to be part of NCFM's online Discussion group at 'Yahoo!', the homepage of which is found at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ncfm>. This is a lively members-only forum in which we discuss men's issues, NCFM business, and coordinate action. Don't miss out on the opportunity to keep abreast of what your fellow members are thinking! Join the group and let your own voice be heard by sending a blank e-mail to [ncfm-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ncfm-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). You may be sent a return e-mail asking you to confirm your NCFM membership.

## ***New Members Wanted***

"In each issue of Transitions I ask that our members bring just one other member into NCFM each year. While numerous members have done so our national Secretary Al Rava has committed to bringing 36 new members. He's brought three since the beginning of November. Board Member Bob Walker is a commercial airline pilot. Bob is bringing to NCFM a new member roughly every six weeks, it appears numerous other pilots Bob knows have experienced the rigors of our family court system having lost their homes and children, many to false accusations. If together Al and Bob bring 50 new members within 12 months I feel confident that it is not to much to ask that each of the rest of us recruit at least one, just one. So, please, bring us a new member. Think of the possibilities..."

Harry Crouch  
President

## **NCFM MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT**

We at NCFM need and count on your continued membership support. The work of NCFM is made more effective only by means of a dynamic and ever expanding membership base.

Please send in that membership renewal promptly when you get it in the mail or email. That way, we can keep our organization in the forefront, advancing men's and boys issues - as well as keep our records up to date.

Please get a friend, relative, or acquaintance to join, too. NCFM is growing, but an even larger number of members will help us further call attention to the issues that so much impact the lives of men and boys in America.

# Media Digest

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

compiled by Mike Spaniola

## Managing Men

by Marjorie Campbell, Oct. 2, 2009,  
**InsideCatholic.com**  
[http://insidecatholic.com/Joomla/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=6972&Itemid=100](http://insidecatholic.com/Joomla/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6972&Itemid=100)

... I know many faithful women who steer, lure and outwit the men in their lives regularly. It's a strategy that seems to come naturally to my gender, married or single, and traces of it appear at startlingly young ages. And, much to my own chagrin, I've caught myself in the same act. Indeed, it was not my intention to teach my only daughter how to manipulate her father, but it came so naturally – the lessons were done and mastered before I realized the subject.

I still remember my miserable 13-year-old beauty, twirling in a dress of lace overlay with a pink bow, moaning, "Mom, this costs too much. Dad will be ticked." We were shopping for her father-daughter dance at school and, as I watched this blossoming child watch herself in the mirror, I suddenly heard myself say, "Honey, don't mention the price to Daddy. Just put on the dress and show him first and, if he asks, we can tell him the price later."

Of course, it worked perfectly.

## Females and Sex Abuse:

### The Ultimate Taboo

by Katie Stallard, west of England  
correspondent, Oct. 1, 2009,

**SkyNews.com**

<http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/UK-News/>

The Vanessa George case raises important questions about female sexual abuse of children. Angela Allen and Vanessa George have pleaded guilty to the abuse of children. Both George and Angela Allen were acting alone, and detectives are satisfied neither woman was acting under duress, or being coerced by a man.

These were predatory female pedophiles – women abusing children for their own sexual gratification. One victim of sexual abuse by a woman is Darren, whose earliest memory is of his mother standing over him naked. For as long as he can remember he was sexually abused by her.

"It was all coerced, under the guise of love and tenderness, loving massages," he told Sky News' Katie Stallard. "I almost wished that I was sort of beaten and raped savagely so at least in my head I could say, 'Yes, that was definitely that, that was definitely done to me.'" ...

Behavioural psychologist Michele Elliott has 40 years clinical experience working with female sex offenders and their victims. She told Sky News: "I have spoken with and written to over 800 survivors of female sexual abuse and offenders, and in only 25 of those cases was a man present, involved, anywhere near the home. In 75 percent of the cases, the woman was acting alone."

Women also tend to abuse children from a younger age. Female sex abuse often remains hidden behind the veil of happy family life and the apparently normal relationship between mother and child so victims are less likely to come forward.

## Molested by the State

by Stephen Baskerville, Sept. 12, 2009,  
**WorldNetDaily.com**

<http://www.wnd.com/index.php?pagel=109563>

Sexuality education is part of the duty of care of education and health authorities and institutions," according to the U.N. [report] entitled "International Guidelines on Sexuality Education," the document is published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, or UNESCO. ...

From age 5, children are to be instructed against the evils of "gender roles" and "stereotypes." Beginning at age 9, they are to be indoctrinated to believe that "gender role stereotypes contribute to forced sexual activity and sexual abuse." (How precisely?) At age 15, children will be required to participate in "advocacy" campaigns as part of their "education" and forced to promote political agendas, including "advocacy to promote the right to and access to safe abortion."

It is no accident that children are being sexualized and politicized at the same time. As they are pruned away from their parents, children become vulnerable to manipulation as political tools. Their adolescent rebellion, which begins sexually and often as a rebellion against parental authority, is easily expanded into a political rebellion against all traditional authority. At the same time, this sexual-political liberation from traditional authorities may be accompanied by an authoritarian loyalty to the officials, ideologies and state machinery that facilitates their independence from their parents and in whose power they increasingly acquire a stake.

UNESCO appears to have pulled the document in response to public anger, but this cannot disguise the fact that the U.N. – as is also plainly visible in campaigns such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child – is promoting an extremist and totalitarian agenda based on the exploitation of children.

## Is Your Son Safe at College?

by Marc H. Rudov, Sept. 9, 2009,  
**NewsWithViews.com**

<http://www.newswithviews.com/Rudov/marc128.htm>

He got me drunk. How many times have you heard this laughable non-

sense from childish women? Cops and judges hear it all the time but, to avoid being labeled misogynists, quickly punish the “guilty” men. The definition of female adult — one responsible for her own behavior, including alcoholic consumption — somehow doesn’t apply in matters of sex and romance with men.

...

Our society refuses to treat women as adults. We coddle them and don’t want them to grow up. But, the feeling is mutual: these “Peterina Pans” enjoy being little girls; otherwise, they’d protest the coddling, wouldn’t they? Every

man is at a precarious disadvantage. Who is the arbiter of a woman’s sobriety? Must he carry a pocket breathalyzer? Does she have a red LED implanted in her forehead to indicate intoxication? If she is too drunk to know she’s drunk, how can she be a credible witness after accusing him of rape? ...

Her “interpretation” of events is key. In fact, she can claim intoxication with an alcohol level of zero. Who can dispute her? Her word is gospel – and that’s the way the male legislators who wrote these misandrist laws want it.

### Turning the State Against Law-abiding Citizens

by Carey Roberts, Sept. 8, 2009,  
**MenNewsDaily.com**  
<http://mensnewsdaily.com/2009/09/08/turning-the-state-against-law-abiding-citizens/>

In every fascistic society the government eventually resorts to the vilification of its own citizenry – that’s the schoolboy lesson from 20th century Italy, Soviet Russia, and of course, the Third Reich. So what are we to make of

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## TRANSITIONS

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# Book Reviews

## By J. Steven Svoboda

### Boys Adrift:

#### The Five Factors Driving the Growing Epidemic of Unmotivated Boys and Underachieving Young Men.

By Leonard Sax. New York: Basic Books, 2007. 267pp. \$25.00

[www.boysadrift.com](http://www.boysadrift.com).

Leonard Sax, family physician and author of *Why Gender Matters*, has published his second book, and it's simply superb. While I found his first book quite mixed, *Boys Adrift* is one of the most important, original gender books I have read in many years.

Not to mention one of the most worrisome. We already knew that at all levels, boys are falling way behind girls in education. University students are close to three-fifths female these days and in some campuses exceed that margin. Sax provides ample evidence that this male malaise is deeply entrenched throughout American society. The author points to several principal challenges, to each of which he devotes a chapter: boys' disengagement from education, video games, over-prescription of stimulants, and environmental endocrine disruptors. The final challenge may be the most elusive but is also critically important: boys' need to be schooled in what masculinity is by other men (and principally, by men other than one's own father).

One of the great things about *Boys Adrift* is the author's ability to bridge various disciplines. Early on we receive a primer by Sax on the different development in boys and girls of different regions of the brain. Some regions develop along similar tracks but at different rates, others develop more or less in parallel, and some regions such as the visual cortex show markedly different development between boys and girls with no overlap between sexes in the developmental path. In Sax' words, "Trying to teach five-year-old boys to learn to read and write may

be just as inappropriate as it would be to try to teach three-year-old girls to read and write." The author points out that, for example, Finland scores at or near the very top of all educational rankings, perhaps *because* in that country, formal school does not begin until children are seven years old. Sax suggests that if we did the same here, we "might reduce or ameliorate a significant fraction of the problems we see with boys and school."

Sax sees the dispiriting developments here as stemming from gender-blind education that ignores the different needs and proclivities of boys. He aptly points out that we need to catch the issue of school early. Once a boy spends a year or two typecast as an academic underachiever, we may have "lost" his potential to excel forever, as he will internalize the notion that school is "stupid" to assuage his feelings about his own lack of success.

Boys have disengaged from school for a variety of reasons. Two big ones are the decline in physical education and "zero tolerance for violence" programs that teach boys they are bad for basically just being boys, who tend to like toy weapons, grappling with other students, etc.

Reductions in sports teams means only the best athletes can even make the team, and many others simply stay home. Sax proposes the reinvention of sports teams, "beginning with a new idea: nobody gets cut." The author also points out the fascinating fact that boys tend to be engaged in any competition or challenge that satisfies two simple requirements: "there are winners and losers, and the outcome is in doubt." One Maryland all-boys' school even assigns all students on enrollment to either the Blue Team or the White Team. The assignment is random and permanent. The result: the boys avidly compete for success in all areas, including academic issues, and cheer their teammates on.

The author clearly likes and appreciates both male and female styles. He notes the evidence in the animal kingdom as well as among humans that females simply are hard-wired to please a teacher whereas boys tend to rebel. While boys' first allegiance tends to be to their fellows, girls are more likely to see a situation from the adults' perspective. "Girls at every age get better grades in school than boys do, in every subject—not because girls are smarter, researchers have found, but because girls try harder." One fascinating difference between the sexes: Girls who expect to do well do in fact perform better, but for boys, there is no positive correlation between self-esteem and performance.

Sax is not afraid to put forth some ideas new enough that even our language is not totally prepared to formulate them. The author uses the German word *Kenntnis* to describe a type of learning—direct, experiential, even tactile—that he considers invaluable for today's children, who all too often suffer from a "nature-deficit disorder." Video games have displaced outdoor activities in boys' lives. Boys are less motivated to read today than they used to be and the predictable result is they read less. Shockingly, even "one in four white boys with college-educated parents can't read proficiently." Some schools have seen marked improvement from one simple change: allowing boy students to stand or lie down rather than having to sit.

Due at least in part to environmental interference with male hormones, the sperm count of an average young man today is less than half what his grandfather had at the same age.

The more time a boy spends playing video games, the worse he does in school, and some substantial evidence suggests that the relationship may be causal. Video games may dis-

## REVIEW from page 5

engage the player from real life, and have been shown to be substantially more destructive than television viewing. Sax believes violent video games should be forbidden outright and the rest should be allowed only for a limited period of time after homework and chores are done. Real-life challenges in the outdoors such as one Edmonton boys' school poses its students each year can be immensely satisfying and may even chart a path of antidote to the scourge of video games. "Video games may affect the brain in children in much the same way that medications like Ritalin... do."

ADHD drugs may at times be administered even when they are quite unnecessary. One boy "needed to be on multiple medications for ADHD when he was in school; but when he was assisting a professional hunter in Zimbabwe, he didn't need the medications at all, even when he had to sit motionless in the bush for long periods of time." Also, shockingly, "medication for ADHD improved the performance of normal kids by the same degree that it improved the performance of kids with ADHD."

Sax' explanation of the toll wreaked by endocrine disruptors is depressing. "There's growing evidence that the end result of our increasingly toxic environment is girls who are both masculine and feminine, and boys who are neither masculine nor feminine." Boys' bones are much more fragile than they used to be. Practical tips: avoid water in plastic bottles, and eat organic!

Perhaps the most sobering chapter of all is the one Sax mostly didn't write. Admirably, he turns his pen (or should I say word processor?) over to the armadas of males in this country who lack ambition and become parasites in their own homes, as well as their frustrated, perplexed mothers, sisters, and (ex-)wives and girlfriends. One young woman writes, "I went to my 10-year high school reunion last year. All of the girls I went to school with have moved out, gone to college, gotten real jobs, etc. Almost all the boys live at home, have menial jobs, and don't know what they want out of life." Vocational

education programs, even those that lead to high-paying jobs that do not require advanced education, cannot fill their spaces and in many cases have to be cancelled altogether.

But solutions do exist, many of them not consistent with politically correct gender politics. Single sex schools may be more important for boys' success than they are for girls. And the young women positively *adore* the young men who learn respect and proper behavior from older men without the inevitable peer competition that crops up in mixed-sex schools. Sax writes, "[W]hen it comes to showing boys how a gentleman behaves—how a gentleman interacts with women, how he responds to adversity, how he serves his community—then there is no substitute for having a male role model.... In every enduring culture, girls are led into womanhood by a community of adult women; boys are led into manhood by a community of adult men." Later the author spells it out even more explicitly. "A boy needs role models of health masculinity (just as girls need role models of healthy femininity).... Left to their own devices, not many boys will choose broccoli and Brussels sprouts over French fries and ice cream. That's why they need parents."

Sax's inspirational story of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain's Civil War heroism chilled me to the bone and became a bedtime story for my children. Chamberlain was an academic who left a professorship at Bowdoin College, not to mention a wife and five children, to risk his life fighting in the Civil War and later to lead a heroic, miraculous, death-defying charge of his men that may have turned the entire War's result around. When the South surrendered, Chamberlain made sure the North's soldiers treated their former opponents with grace and dignity. What a great tale for this (or any) era.

Sax is controversial, and numerous conclusions and studies of his have been questioned, both by politically correct feminists and more balanced observers. But judge for yourself. Don't miss this virtual Joshua

Lawrence Chamberlain of a book, heroic and inspiring and down-to-earth all at once. And quite possibly one of the most ground-breaking, thought-provoking books ever written on gender issues.

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**Insult to Injury:  
Rethinking Our Responses to  
Intimate Abuse**

By Linda G. Mills

Princeton New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2003. 178 pp. Paperback or ebook \$16.95. Hardcover \$42.00

<http://press.princeton.edu>

New York University Social Work and Law Professor Linda G. Mills has produced an interesting and valuable book, which I would describe as more allied with men's rights than a men's rights book *per se*. Such books may actually be more illuminating than those written by movement "insiders" in that they provide insight as to how sympathetic outsiders view our work. Mills calls herself a feminist though her position on most issues seems much closer to a masculist position. Mills' goal is to put forward a paradigm for how society should address domestic violence that is quite different from the currently reigning imprison-the-man approach.

While fully aware that women are involved in a higher percentage of domestic violence than conventional wisdom admits, for the purposes of this book at least, Mills' analysis focuses on male-perpetrator female-victim cases. The author eloquently contends that feminism is disempowering women by denying the effect of women's behavior on the presence or absence of male domestic violence. "[M]ainstream feminists have legislated that [a male batterer] be taken out of the context of his biography and into an automatic legal process in which he will be held absolutely accountable for any violence he committed. He will be defined as a product of patriarchy, and his masculine privilege will account for the sole source of his aggression."

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**REVIEW continued page 12**

## *What's Happening??*

# National Coalition For Men *News*

## **NCFM HEADQUARTERS - NCFM-SD, SAN DIEGO, CA**

The President's and San Diego report are basically "getting the audit other things done". So we thought we would show you the NCFM Headquarters in San Diego. If you are visiting San Diego, please stop by and say hello and enjoy a little bit of downtown San Diego. We are a few blocks from many interesting and exciting things to do, like picket the court house occasionally.

*Kevin M Young*



NCFM Reception Area



NCFM Office, Harry lives here



NCFM Galley/Lounge Area



NCFM Conference Room



Mark Bates and Will Hageman of TC Chapter at Education Minnesota  
Photo courtesy of Bill Ronan

### LOS ANGELES CHAPTER REPORT

The Los Angeles chapter met at Denny's on October 31, across from the campus of USC with seven people in attendance. A couple of guys were new to the group, but most were long time members. Ray brought copies of *Transitions* for new folks and handed out NCFM.org buttons to old and new alike. The NCFM logo is prominently shown above the web address.

Fred and Dennis and others are still very active in supporting the case of attorney Richard Fine, who's taking action against the corrupt way Los Angeles County judges took money from L.A. County (in clear violation of law) in addition to regular salary from the state. Clearly, those judges were engaged in a conflict of interest when they sat on cases involving child support, where their decisions would directly benefit the people who were padding their judges pay.

In late October, Don gave testimony in downtown Los Angeles to the Elkins Family law project, along with members from the San Diego chapter.

The Los Angeles chapter remains active and involved, although Ray has been spending a lot of time in school trying to further his journalistic skills. This past week he attended a Journalism Association of Community Colleges conference on the campus of California State University, Fullerton in addition to his regular classes. Ray

says, "Skills we learn that enable us to communicate, litigate, and agitate help invigorate our movement and further our organizational goals."

Lastly, a photo of a protest staged in front of Congressman Brad Sherman's office this past month has been posted on NCFM's Facebook page. NCFMLA, along with NCFM, continues to explore new technologies that will enable us to utilize cutting edge media.

—Ray Blumhorst, President, NCFMLA

### TWIN CITIES CHAPTER REPORT

By Will Hageman

In September, to mark Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, the Twin Cities Chapter sent a mailing with information about domestic violence against men to all 87 county attorneys in Minnesota and 14 in western Wisconsin.

In October, we had a booth at the annual conference of Education Minnesota, the state teachers association. This conference is always one of our busiest events. For the sixth straight year, we distributed literature about the school system's bias against boys, and articles with suggestions on how the school system could be changed to serve the educational needs of boys as well as it already serves the educational needs of girls. We also distributed articles about the severe shortage of male teachers and male role models in the

schools, and we gave out 1000 bookmarks with the Twin Cities Chapter logo and web address and questions about boys and schools to get the attendees thinking and talking about the subject.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE from p. 1** same evidence as at the arraignment – police reports, a sworn victim's statement and the report and recommendation of a family relations officer – to get the order of protection continued by the judge.

Scheinblum's view is that if prosecutors don't call the alleged victim to testify, the defense has no right to cross-examination. He doesn't think the ruling will "dramatically change the way protective orders are issued and continued," said Scheinblum. "I think the judges will understand they have extremely broad discretion and can rely on the written materials and reliable hearsay to continue their order of protection and protect victims from domestic abuse."

But Ecker's take is that a judge does have the discretion to require the testimony of any witness, including the spouse or partner who claims to have been abused. Even children could be compelled to testify in some cases, said Ecker.

"There are some fraction of these complaints that are not valid," said Ecker. "My sense is, in those cases where there's any significant doubt, the court can require the complainant to testify. I think that's the way it should work. Where there's a doubt, they should testify."

Justice Barry Schaller authored a dissent in a case he heard before his recent retirement from the court. Schaller noted that the majority decision said the hearing on the protection order should be held a "reasonable" period after a domestic violence arrest. Both Schaller and Scheinblum pointed to the ambiguous nature of that word.

Scheinblum predicted that defense lawyers would likely next challenge what is a reasonable amount of time, especially if court dockets are backed up in a particular courthouse. "What's a reasonable period of time?" asked Scheinblum. "Could be two days, two weeks, two months, I don't really know."•

**MEDIA continued**

Democratic leaders who use ugly stereotypes to revile opponents of healthcare reform as “un-American,” “Ku Klux Klan folks” and “rabid right-wing extremists”? ...

Then, on June 26, the White House named feminist Lynn Rosenthal as the White House Advisor on Violence Against Women. It's no secret the domestic violence industry is marinated in make-believe statistics, anti-male ideology and ever-expanding definitions of abuse. So with that appointment the White House placed its seal of approval on the continuing wave of unconstitutional mandatory arrests of Americans falsely accused of “domestic violence.”

*Media Digest items are quoted from published sources believed to be accurate and reliable and are presented solely for educational purposes in accordance with accepted fair-use guidelines.*

## Please Help the NCFM Main Office

The **California Men's Center** in San Diego is an outstanding resource for men and the home of NCFM's national office.

However, we face monthly expenses such as rent. You can greatly assist NCFM and local men by helping to keep these doors open. Please consider making a **MONTHLY PLEDGE**. Even as little as \$10/month will help greatly!

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

To set up your monthly pledge, please contact Deborah at

[NCFMdfw@yahoo.com](mailto:NCFMdfw@yahoo.com) or  
(940)-382-6250.

### MR. MANNERS

Dear Mr. Manners:

We have heard about a lot about the shortage of men for older women. Although it is not explicitly stated that way, they are saying the problem of men dying is that older women don't have men to take them out on dates. And who are these poor women going to marry? And if you listen to the media it does not stop there. Other problems women have to deal with are men being out of the dating market due to so many being homeless, drug addicts or in prison. How do women stand it?

Interesting, because the same people who talk about the man shortage, also say how horrible men treat women. I guess feminists and the members of the media who parrot their ideas, worry that with the dearth of eligible men who is going to be around to mistreat women.

Finally though, a lone voice is taking on the problem directly, Washington Post Health columnist Abigail Trafford. She points out that because men die sooner “longevity is not an equal opportunity issue, but women have dealt with inequality before.” 1. What can we do to rectify the problem of these sexist men who insist on dying?

Sincerely,  
Sympathetic for Dear Abby's Problem

Dear Sympathetic:

Call Mr. Manners suspicious, but I almost detect a note of sarcasm in your empathy for those poor lonely women. Remember Trafford has written previously that we don't need an Office of Men's Health (as there is for women). And once again in this article she suggests nothing about extending men's lifespan to solve this female problem. Instead she discusses women's coping skills. Thus she is being totally consistent in her viewpoints. Let us wish her well in her battle with this injustice.

Footnote

1. The quote comes from Abigail Trafford's May 12<sup>th</sup> column “A Sisterhood that Endures for Decades”.

Dear Mr. Manners,

An Oct 25<sup>th</sup> article in the Washington Post lamented the lack of strong female characters in films. It was noted that the paucity of dramatic films was a contributing factor to this dilemma. I agree. In action movie's lead characters usually get beat up etc, which many people won't tolerate happening to women, even though it's fiction.

Next, a Post article on Oct 29<sup>th</sup>, told of the Parents Television Council discussing the problem that on the networks shows, violence against women as gone up from 5% to 11% of total violence. The article pointed out that an “observant reporter” (observant meaning the reporter had mastered the mathematical concept of subtraction) noted that these statistics show “the overwhelming majority of violent acts are not against women.”

Apparently it is to taboo to mention who the other group is. Why is the 89% against the other group, who in real life experience more violence than women, not a problem?

Sincerely,  
Black Moods and Blue

Dear Moody:

Yes you have asked some taxing questions. Fortunately Mr. Manners is up to the challenge. First the other group is men. Second the problem is real. The violence against women on television is now barely eight times more than that of the other group. This is unacceptable. However, having read the article there is a solution. You notice the article expressed no mention or concern about the amount of total violence on TV. The problem is the unacceptable percentage of violence against women. Thus if we raise the amount of violence against men by four times, we can double that against women and thus get back to the reasonable and fair 19 acts of violence against men for every one against women. And strong women characters

**MR MANNERS continued p15**

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

Dear NCFM,

In my marriage, my wife was very abusive. Although she started out being physically abusive, the fact that I was bigger, stronger, faster, and on my guard prevented me from being hit more often; not her "superior" character. She would slap and hit the children, who were toddlers. I never touched her or the children. She was very verbally abusive and screamed obscenities at me and the children whenever she got mad. She would often belittle me. She was also sexually abusive and financially abusive. She felt this was her right.

During the divorce it was clear that the process was biased against men, and this was by men. They spoke to me aggressively but spoke to her in much softer tones. I couldn't prove the abuse, not that anyone would have cared, so I gave up.

A few years later, following a drug raid at the house she shared with her new husband and brothers, the children were taken from her by social services. During the subsequent custody hearings she began by falsely accusing me of abusing her and later accused me of sexually abusing our then ten year old daughter. She tried very hard to brainwash my daughter into believing this but, luckily, my daughter is a very strong young lady. Part of the process was under going psychological testing and counseling, so she was un-

able to hide her true colors and no one believed her. No one ever stated how despicable her actions were because she is female though. I received custody of my eleven and thirteen year old sons and my daughter. She then began a vicious campaign of 'dad bashing' parental alienation which proved to be effective.

During the following years I began to notice that all the abusive behaviors that she exhibited were validated by TV shows, especially daytime TV, commercials, movies, and songs. On daytime TV they spend whole segments or entire shows bashing men. Women are always portrayed as special and as victims. They say things about men which, if men said them about women, would cause women to protest. On situation comedies, men are portrayed as bumbling, child like simpletons which their poor wives must put up with. Belittling men and using violence against men is considered cute and funny. Men are depicted as being afraid of their wives. Commercials, especially during daytime TV, often show men as inept idiots.

Has any one ever done a study on how men are negatively depicted in the entertainment industry?

Here are a few examples:

On the comedy program "The King of Queens" the wife, Carey, is always belittling the husband, Doug, about his weight and intelligence, which would cause an uproar among women if the situation were reversed. On one show, while standing at the top of the stairs, Carey becomes upset at Doug because he wanted to eat his grilled cheese sandwich, before trying on a pair of pants that he would be wearing at an upcoming wedding, as she had ordered him to. She yells at him, "I told you to try on those pants!" as she punches him in the chest. This causes him to fall down the stairs which injures his knee so severely that he has to go to the hospital and is put on crutches. He also has to go to physical therapy.

Here woman on man domestic violence and verbal abuse is comedy. If a man had spoken to her in that manner, he would be considered domineering and abusive. If a man had caused the same injury he would go to jail. The jokes are: Carey feels guilty and starts being nice to Doug. Doug's friend, Deacon, wishes his wife would push him down the stairs so she would be nice to him. Doug can't attend the wedding because of his injured knee, but when his knee heals faster than expected, he fakes being hurt because he doesn't want to go to the wedding. Carey catches Doug playing trampoline basketball and realizes he was faking, which apparently is worse than causing the injury. She begins chasing him threatening to kill him. Another show had Carey getting angry and twisting Doug's nipples, this joke being that it didn't hurt because she had done it so often that there was nothing but scar tissue. Another show has Carey forcing Doug to go to Over Eaters Anonymous even though he doesn't want to go. He wanders across the hall to what turns out to be a group of men who are in abusive relationships, because they have better food. To stay, he begins telling stories about Carey's bad temper. The men convince him that her abuse is what's causing him to over eat and Doug begins using this as an excuse to eat. During this time Carey's angry yelling frightens one of the men. Later, when she catches him at the meeting she belittles him to the group and makes him go back OEA. As she leaves she feigns a quick move toward the men, apparently frightening them. This pleases her and she leaves with a smug smile. If the genders were reversed in any of these situations it would be considered abuse. As it is, if the wife commits these acts of spousal abuse, it's a comedy show. If the husband does, it's a show on "Oprah".

On the show "Rules of Engagement" a young man goes to the restaurant downstairs to pick up coffee for his fiancée. While there he meets his friend, played by David Spade, and sits at the

table to talk with him. He explains that his fiancée is angry because she hasn't had her morning coffee. The friend notices a scratch on the young man's face and asks, laughingly, if she scratched him. He replies, "Yes, but to be honest I was looking at her with my 'big stupid face'. / The physical and verbal abuse are considered funny. / He then begins to get up when she walks in and yells, "Coffee Now!" and he freezes in apparent fear. The friend asks him if he thinks she can't see him if he doesn't move. Another show has the young man afraid of his fiancée because she is in a bad mood. His friend convinces him that that is the best time to get sex, so the young man follows her around hoping she'll get angry and have sex (because men are depicted as sex driven simpletons). This just makes her angrier and the man is shown being shoved into a wall so violently that he falls down into a spin. Again, reverse the genders and think how this would be received.

Carrie Underwood's well regarded song "Before He Cheats" is another example of the violence double standard. In the song, the woman feels justified in destroying her boyfriend's vehicle as a warning to him not to cheat. What would the reaction if a male singer had sung "Before /She/ Cheats"? I know there would be a feminist uproar.

KATU in Portland, OR recently revealed the results of a survey that showed most mothers don't mind the fathers playing with their children but did not want them involved in raising them or in their education, much to the amusement of the female newscasters. Why is it that women consider the children to be theirs and the father's */function/* to be financial and free babysitting?

I could give many more examples, which you are probably aware of. The bottom line is that verbal and physical abuse by women portrayed as cute and funny. Men are depicted as simple, childish, sex driven buffoons that women have to put up with. Women are either shown as superior or as victims to the bad men. Daytime network TV is devoted to belittling men while men can't say anything derogatory about women without inciting a backlash. This causes women to feel justi-

fied, and blameless, in abusing men.

In a world where women seem to be claiming chauvinism and double standards at every turn, all the while claiming gender superiority, shouldn't there at least be some sort of acknowledgment of all the double standards? Perhaps you could go on "Oprah"?

Keith

Hello Keith,

Thank you for contacting NCFM about your concerns. Your concerns are legitimate, and NCFM has been raising this point for over 25 years. We certainly share your point of view. This issue has also been mentioned in several books, including the Myth of Male Power, the Hazards of Being Male, and many more.

If you want to join in our efforts to raise these issues, please feel free to join our organization. You can join online via our website, [www.ncfm.org](http://www.ncfm.org), or by mailing in a check for \$30. We'd love to have your help!

Good luck!

—Michael G. Rother, [www.ncfm.org](http://www.ncfm.org)

Dear NCFM,

My brother just spent 13.5 years in prison for a murder that he did not commit. He was given another 6.5 years by the parole board. With all that I am I know my brother did not commit this murder. Please do not let 20 years go by then someone realizes that he was telling the truth. Please help him now while he still has time to enjoy life. My brother's name is Artillis Gibson 336-305. He is in Lima, Ohio.

Thank-you,  
Larcenie

Hello Larcenie,

Thank you for contacting NCFM and for sharing your concerns. NCFM is a non-profit educational organization. We are not a law firm, and we do not provide legal assistance. From your message, it is difficult to tell how we would be able to help. Do you have specific suggestions for us as a non-profit educational group? If you have something specific that we would do, we'd love to hear your suggestions.

Thank you,

—Michael G. Rother, [www.ncfm.org](http://www.ncfm.org)

Hello NCFM,

I would like to know if there is any help you can give me regarding a situation about a man who has recorded evidence of his wife threaten to stab him in the throat and stating that she will falsely accuse him of rape and nothing is done about it. Londonderry NH Police Department and Derry NH District Court refuse to listen to my case and I am able to do nothing. No one will listen to my plight. Would you please help me?

Thank you!

Chris

Hello Chris,

Normally, my suggestion would be to contact the police and make a report. However, you've already done that, and it hasn't helped. Perhaps it has made things worse. So, my next suggestion would be to leave. ASAP. Your wife has made her intentions clear. You need to get away from there.

There is a glaring lack of services in the US for male victims of domestic violence. Unfortunately, that's the reality we're dealing with. So, my best advice is that you should take care of yourself. First and foremost, please get away from your threatening wife and go somewhere where you can be safe and rebuild your life.

Perhaps some day you'll consider joining NCFM and helping with our educational mission.

Good luck to you!

— Michael G. Rother, [www.ncfm.org](http://www.ncfm.org)

Hello NCFM,

On Thursday September 10, 2009, CBS Evening new aired a piece entitled, "Does Wall Street Need More Women?"

The piece was at best a male-bashing farce: Here is a link (I hope it is still valid by the time you get this): <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/09/10/eveningnews/main5301487.shtml?tag=latest>

I took the liberty of doing some research of my own (All these hedge-funds are run by MEN and all are UP by 10 or more percent - I could not find

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**REVIEW from page 6**


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Interestingly, the effectiveness of the current male-punitive approach to DV varies across races, working the best for Caucasians (surprise, surprise!) and being counterproductive for African-Americans in the sense that it actually increases the incidence of DV. “[W]omen in abusive relationships are placed in the untenable position of choosing between protecting their lovers or husbands from incarceration or protecting themselves by relying on a criminal justice system that is unresponsive to their individual needs.” Arrest statistics for men of color charged with intimate abuse crimes are “disturbingly disproportionate” when compared to arrests of white men for similar offenses. Feminism also does poorly in addressing gay and lesbian violence. Overall, prosecution seems to have no effect on the likelihood of the batterer’s rearrest within six months.

“Years of research, which mainstream feminism has glossed over or ignored, shows that when it comes to intimate abuse, women are far from powerless and seldom, if every, just victims. What is appallingly apparent is that we have refused to address the role of women in the dynamic of intimate violence.” Mills convincingly accuses feminism of “projecting onto men the aggression they reject in themselves.” The author later brilliantly expands on this insight. “[M]ainstream feminists use patriarchy to prevent deeper reflection on the genesis of intimate abuse, including their own reactions to it, and especially its dynamic, intergenerational, and intergendered nature.”

Mills distills four related yet independent assumptions behind the mainstream feminist response to DV: 1) men batter women because our patriarchal society permits them to do so; 2) women stay in abusive relationships because of patriarchy; 3) the criminal justice system is sexist; and 4) only extraordinary measures will counteract men’s patriarchal power and violence, women’s weakness, and the justice system’s sexism.

One cannot help but be struck by Mills’ observation that women under-

standably tend to support policies requiring mandatory reporting of DV, but only “for others,” not for application to their own partners. “Paradoxically... mandating a response may rob a woman of the most important resource she has to counteract the violence: her personal power.”

The author’s proposed DV response program stems out of her desire for society, the judicial system, and the individuals involved to see the whole picture. In her view, we do not have to choose between thinking, for example, that a wife’s nagging may have contributed to violence and thinking that a husband’s violence arose out of a desire for control. *Both* could be true. These two considerations could even be related. “If we took the time to discover how women and men understand their own aggression in the context of their intimate relationships, we not only could help them gain insight into it but also might help them manage the violence, both physical and emotional, directed against them.”

Mills proposes addressing DV via an Intimate Abuse Circle (IAC), in which a group of people from a couple’s community—friends, family, even children—collaborate with a couple in understanding violence and in the healing process. The real purpose of the IAC meetings “is to open up a dialogue about the abuse within the context of the relationship—to look at rather than away from the violence—and to fashion specific, individualized interventions that are most likely to result in a reduction of harm.” This may sound idealistic and unrealistic but the author carefully explains many advantages over the IAC relative to the current punitive system. I appreciated Mills’ willingness to confront received wisdom. The advantages of treating the whole family system seem irrefutable.

The author may be a bit unrealistic in imagining that IAC’s could work in most violent families, though even she says that she is “not yet prepared to impose it on persons who believe that punishment will accomplish the justice they seek.” Mills’ choice of words (“im-

pose”) may reveal a bit of inflexibility in her own approach to her nevertheless infinitely more flexible recommendation. Based on this book, it certainly seems plausible that IAC’s could work in quite a number of cases, probably the great majority of the time, and are well worth a try. An approach that allows for nuanced positions and is capable of considering numerous contextual factors easily triumphs over the current winner-take-all, man-bad woman-good system.

At the end of her book, Mills reveals her own victimization by a past partner, and demonstrates her own fair-mindedness in her detailed reflection on his strengths and weaknesses and her final statement that, “Even now, with all that I have learned, I would choose to protect him” [rather than permit his arrest]. In an impressive display of her own willingness to seek out a fuller truth than a tired story of female victimization and male predation, she writes that “we fed on each other’s insecurities and dependencies. I fostered his; he reinforced mine.” Eventually, Mills did find a way out of this stalemate. “Not until I could see my own contribution to the abuse in the relationship and assign responsibility for mine and his could I free myself of that history and create the possibility of not repeating it.”

The book is not without minor blemishes. Repeated references in discussing DV-caused trauma to the September 11, 2001 tragedy never quite struck me as appropriate or helpful. Similarly, Mills’ repeated attempts to render relevant and illuminating a hypothetical tale of a child who suffers physical abuse at the hands of his mother never quite coheres with the book’s core material in the way the author seems to intend.

But in the end, Linda Mills has written a fascinating powerhouse of a book. She aptly concludes this unique work with some well-chosen words. “Knowing where and when our own aggression or violence exhibits itself or kicks off another’s is powerful because it gives us the option to change it. And there is much to change.” Indeed.

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## NCFM's 2009 Award Winners

by Michael G. Rother, NCFM Awards Chairman

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Each year, NCFM issues a series of awards to various activists, media personalities, and elected officials to recognize various contributions to the men's movement. We find that we need a way to say THANK YOU loudly and clearly to people who take action and make a difference. Therefore, NCFM created its series of three annual awards, which have been a proud tradition of ours since 1986.

The three annual awards are:

### **The Award for Excellence In The Advancement Of Men's Issues**

(This award recognizes activists and activism in the area of men's issues.)

### **The Award for Excellence In Promoting Gender Fairness In The Media**

(This award is given to a media source for presenting what, in NCFM's opinion, represents male interests on important issues.)

### **The Award Of Honor**

(For those working hard behind the scenes to benefit NCFM.)

You can see the history of our award winners on the web at [http://www.ncfm.org/?page\\_id=50](http://www.ncfm.org/?page_id=50)

All award winners are elected by the NCFM board of directors, and the winners are required to acknowledge and accept their awards IN WRITING to complete the process. All winners receive a wall-hanging plaque to acknowledge their contributions.

**For 2009, NCFM is proud to announce the following winners:**

**The Award for Excellence In The Advancement Of Men's Issues** goes to:

**Mr. Al Rava, Esq.**

in recognition of his efforts in the Unruh Act discrimination cases, his victory involving Club Med, as well as his ongoing support of men's rights issues.

**The Award for Excellence In Promoting Gender Fairness In The Media** goes to:

**Ms. Barbara Kay**

in recognition of her very well-written articles supporting men's rights, including articles that dispute the "pay gap" and articles that expose the anti-male myths of the domestic violence industry.

**The Award Of Honor** goes to:

**Mr. John Dias**

in recognition of his development work with NCFM's chapter and national websites.

All members of NCFM are welcome to nominate potential award winners. If you know of anyone who deserves one of our three awards, please feel free to send the nomination to the awards chairman, Michael Rother, at [michaelgrother@gmail.com](mailto:michaelgrother@gmail.com). Be sure to include the following information about your nominee:

1. Your name
2. The name of the award nominee
3. The award for which he or she is being nominated
4. A brief description (one or two paragraphs) describing the achievement or accomplishment that qualifies this nominee for the award in question
5. A postal mailing address for the nominee (additional contact information, such as an email address or phone number is welcome, but the postal address is required.)

Thank you to all of our members for helping to support this fine NCFM tradition!

And a special thank you to Michael G. Rother for all his hard work.

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**A SPECIAL ARTICLE FROM  
MS. DWUMBELL**

**A BREAKTHROUGH FOR  
CIVILIZATION:  
URBAN REDEVELOPMENT  
FEMINIST STYLE**

(transcribed by Peter Allemano)

NOTE FROM PETER: *Sensitivity Training sessions here in New York with my guru, Deeptalk Choptank, continue to be productive. I don my transformational wig, enter a trance and allow my "inner female," Andrea Dwumbell, to come through. She speaks pearls of wisdom that provide thoughtful guidance for society's evolution into a new, more enlightened state of being. Here's the latest transcript . . .*

Living in New York has got to be the most ghastly experience that a grrl can endure. In "the city that never sleeps," popular thinking goes, anyone with gumption can lead a stimulating life. "You may never get rich," they say, "but it'll be a fulfilling life for sure!"

"Baloney!" This is what I told my best friend, Fifi Blabla, when I met her for our monthly Grrls Get-Together treatments at Madame Mudmasque's Salon. Fifi, you know, is the Comtesse de la Boue and immigrated to the States after founding the foremost European women's issues organization, **Feministas Unidas Contra Kaka—Y Otras Urgencias**, or "Feminists United Against Poop—And Other Urgencies." Fifi's pet monkey — a darling creature named Gligli — had been brought to the salon, and as I stroked Gligli under her chin, I said, "Gootchie gootchie goo!"

Gligli rolled her eyes.

Oh, what deep spiritual connections we womyn have with nature and the animal world!

At any rate, I just couldn't relax and enjoy the salon treatment because, as I explained to Fifi, I am oppressed — by those grotesque skyscrapers all over Manhattan. "They're phallus symbols," I declared, "and The Patriarchy deliberately designed them so they would look the way they do and create a hostile environment for us!"

"That's right!" Fifi replied, "and it's high time that we start to advocate for the construction of buildings that look like vaginas instead of penises!"

What an exciting juncture in the evolution of civilization! "Using the intuitive, mother-earth-oriented feminist principles of engineering, I'm sure it can be done!" I said.

So, putting our heads together, we came up with The Fifi And Andrea Ritual For Authentically Revealing Universal Feminist Principles Of Engineering: Drink a bit of menstrual blood from a Woman Of Color that's been mixed with a bit of dirt from every continent, swallow it, and then vomit it back up, into a golden spittoon. Gaze into the spittoon, and this will induce a vision that reveals how to design and construct vagina-shaped buildings.

Indeed, no longer will there be any need whatsoever for university courses in engineering — nor architecture and design! The silly, nonsense-filled departments that house them can be closed permanently. Their budgets can be re-directed to support a far more important and useful area of academic concern: Women's Studies. Finally, the embarrassingly conceited know-it-alls who formerly infested these closed departments — indolent pseudointellectuals all — can stop wasting everybody's time with their frivolous pursuits and get re-trained to make worthwhile, brass-tacks-level contributions to society . . . via courses like "How To Conduct Sensitivity Training Seminars."

Once all the skyscrapers of Manhattan have been torn down and replaced with vagina-shaped structures — a noble civic endeavor if ever there was one! — then the womyn of New York (at last) will be able to relax and feel safe while getting our mudmasques.

Kisses and winks,  
Andrea Dwumbell

**LETTERS from page 11**

any hedge-funds that were run by women...):

John Paulson of Paulson & company - up 20%

Philip Falcone - up 42% through Harbinger Capitol Partners

Peter Theil's - Clarium Capitol Management - up 50%

Andrew Lahde's short credit fund - up 10%

Matt Luckett - Balestra Capitol - up 13%

Dan Arbess - Perella Weinberg Partners Xerion - up 25%

In addition to this, I wrote CBS News an E-mail (It is at the bottom of this E-mail - and I will be writing them a letter later tonight), asking them to quote their source for saying:

"A recent report showed that while all hedge funds had an annual return of almost 6 percent, hedge funds run by women did better with a return of 9 percent"

Of course, the news piece that they did - made no mention of where the "recent report" came from (no label for it, no source etc...)

If there is any advice that NCFM can provide me to help combat this kind of male-bashing in the media, please let me know.

Thank you for your time.

Richard

P.S. I have already posted this on the discussion groups on Yahoo!

Hello Richard,

Thank you for your vigilance on this issue. I guess I'm not surprised that CBS chose to bash men again. All the TV networks go it so much that I don't even watch TV anymore.

Anyway, by posting this to the NCFM group, I think you've done exactly the right thing, and I'm sure you'll get lots of feedback from NCFMers — probably better suggestions that I can offer.

Good luck!

— Michael G. Rother, [www.ncfm.org](http://www.ncfm.org)

**LETTERS from page 14**

Dear Sir,

I was looking for a dress for success for men to help my nephew back on his feet and found out there is no dress for success for men, only for women. WOW. Shocking! Why only for women? I asked myself. So I did a Google search. This is how I came to your site.

My question is does NCFM have any services for free business attire for men in NYC? Please get back to me ASAP for my nephew got the job but not the clothes and I am on a fixed income too. This job requires him to wear business attire which he never used.

Please HELP me help someone else.

Thank You in Advance

God Bless

Marisol

Hello Marisol,

Thank you for contacting NCFM, and thanks for your inquiry.

NCFM does not operate a Dress for Success operation, and I don't know of any. I do know that society expects men to pay their own way for everything they need or want, while women can get many things for free or reduced cost. Your example of the Dress for Success program shows that quite well.

Thanks for asking!

— Michael G. Rother, [www.ncfm.org](http://www.ncfm.org)

**MR MANNERS from p. 9**

can be stars of action movies and get the crap beat out of them in movies like men do.

Dear Mr. Manners:

I have a son and a daughter. My wife quoted feminist Naomi Wolfe, who says the story of the Greek Goddess Pandora letting out all the evil in the world shows that woman are the ones blamed for all evil. Therefore, my wife contends that we should balance things by telling our kids God is a woman.

I said let's start from the beginning, the book of Genesis. The devil is

male not female. It is Adam not Eve who is most often attributed to be the one who committed original sin. Feminist complain about how friendships among women are not depicted in literature. What about the first example of brothers, Cain and Abel? In the New Testament, Judas is the betrayer who was later cited as the rational for trying to annihilate the Jews. A male, Jesus, was tortured to death paying for humanities sins. And people wear depictions of Jesus' hideous torture around there necks.

Then my wife responded, what about the misogyny of the Muslims? My reply was what if women not men were supposed to sacrifice there lives so they could be with men in the afterlife, wouldn't that be considered the ultimate misogyny? What do you think?

Sincerely,  
Perplexed

Dear Perplexed:

The answer is easy. Simply tell your kids there are two Gods, one male one female.

And by the way, since according to the media when Albert Gore ran for President he wore what Wolfe told him to, didn't that make Gore a sheep in Wolfe's clothing. Yes Mr. Manners is not above giving his readers a chuckle.

**NCFM ON FACEBOOK!**

The National Coalition For Men (NCFM) just started a Facebook whatever. The National Organization of Women has 715 FB members. We have 23 FB members. We need at least twice as many as NOW. SO PLEASE, join up, and ask those who you think would be interested to do the same.

Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com), search for National Coalition For Men, sign up. The signup button is as hard to find as a DA who will prosecute a false accuser, meaning dang near impossible. But if you focus on the NCFM logo near the top of the page just to the right of center then let your eyes fall two or three inches you'll find it. I think it's number light blue in #3 font size, a magnifying glass might help those of you like me who have unceremoniously crossed in the never to return land of Geriatric. There's work to do yet on the site to spruce it up and build in goodies but it works. So lets load it up with Facebookers so we have more members than NOW...which someday may be THEN...

Take Care,  
Harry Crouch  
President

**Benefit NCFM by Shopping!**

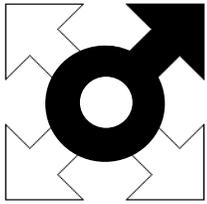
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