

# TRANSITIONS

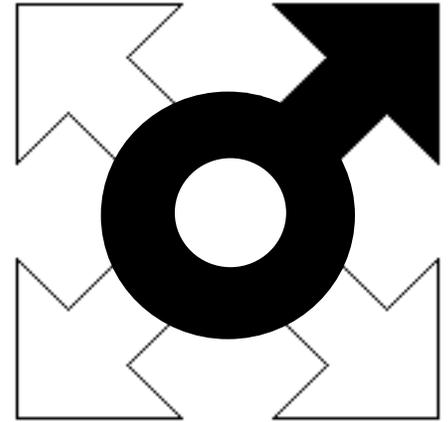
*JOURNAL OF MEN'S PERSPECTIVES*

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## The New Biological Threat to Boys & Men

By Charles Cresson Wood

While there are many issues in the men's movement that deserve greater public attention, there is one which is now largely ignored, one which is exceedingly dangerous, not just for men now living in the United States, but for their sons, their son's sons, and other future generations. Getting an unfair law changed is comparatively easy, but changing damage to human DNA may take five or more generations, if it is currently technologically possible at all. The biological reality of what it means to be a man is being seriously threatened by modern chemistry, and we as men should be loudly opposed to these recent developments.

What I am going to discuss may sound like science fiction, but I assure you that it is real. I invite you to do a number of investigations to satisfy yourself that this really is happening. To assist you with this process, I have included a number of web links. Don't take my word for anything in this article. I am not a chemist, nor am I a physician, just a concerned man who believes that this issue should be on the agenda of all those who are now working in the men's movement. I am not making any claims about the scientific accuracy of the material presented below, and you may quibble with a word or two that I use, but the overall gist of what I am saying is happening now.

While there are other chemicals we could discuss (such as Flutamide), let us talk here only about a certain type of chemicals called Phthalates, which are commercially employed as plasticizers and solvents. Phthalates can be

found in perfumes, nail polishes, flooring, paints, adhesives, polyvinyl chloride plastics, and hard plastics. These chemicals are known as endocrine

disrupters, they interfere with testosterone when they hit the immune system of mammals, including people. These chemicals are feminizing males, particularly those still in the uterus, and causing damage to male genitalia via birth defects. If a pregnant mammal is exposed to these chemicals, a variety of abnormalities will result, including reduced penis size, reduced distance between the penis and the anus, impaired testicular function, shrunken prostate glands, malformations of the genitals, and the like. For males who are already born, these chemicals are suspected of causing low sperm counts, infertility, failure of the testicles to descend, testicular tumors, and testicular cancer.

You may say that this is just a situation where a certain chemical is used in high concentrations for the sake of a scientific study, and that of course in very high concentrations, some unusual results will often be experienced. To the contrary, the levels of Phthalates (see the study by scientists Swan et al, as reported in *Environmental Health Perspectives*, May 2005) that cause significant genital reductions in human newborns is now found in approximately one-quarter of the American women tested. That's right, if you were to have a son, he has a ~25% chance of being exposed to a high level of these chemicals, a level that is highly likely to cause genital abnormalities. More specifically, based on these studies, baby boys who are exposed to this high level of Phthalates have a 95% chance of having adverse genital formations as a result the exposure. For those baby boys with a lesser exposure to these chemicals, there are still notable adverse changes in genital health.

As if genital malformations and shrinking were not serious enough, baby boys who were exposed to high levels of these chemicals were also 19% shorter than expected based on age and weight. And let me emphasize that these studies are not just done in Petri dishes in a lab. Nor were

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

For this issue I'm happy to feature an excellent article by Charles Wood which describes how some chemicals are affecting male bodies. Yet another men's issue we need to consider.

First of all, this story shatters the myth that only women need special medical care. We need an Office of Men's Health in

the Department of Health and Human Services to address these problems.

Second, knowing how this society turns a blind eye toward male-specific problems, will the warning signs in this story be ignored? Will we have to wait until women start having health problems before Washington passes laws to pressure

corporations to stop polluting the environment? Will it be too late by then?

See? Our movement is even more important than you realized! Some thoughts as we head into the new year.

I wish everyone a happy holiday season.

*Jason Leatherman*

## **Threat**

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these studies just done on rats — these studies involved human baby boys, and it appears as though humans are in fact more susceptible to endocrine disrupters than rats. So this correlation between high exposure to certain chemicals and the anti-androgen effects on boys is not theoretical, and it has been scientifically proven. The correlation between Phthalate exposure and decreased genital size and other problems, is not a weak statistical correlation, it is highly statistically significant. Similar studies in rodents, studies done in the past, are consistent with these recent results observed in humans. The women and baby boys who participated in the noted study were not members of a certain group who have a very high likelihood of occupational or geographical exposure to certain chemicals; they were members of the general population.

Whatever the specifics of these scientific studies, it is clear that a number of modern chemicals, chemicals that are increasingly widely-dispersed in the environment, are acting to reduce and interfere with the production of testosterone. Because testosterone is largely responsible for transforming a fetus into a male, these chemicals are causing increasing failures of babies to be sexually differentiated as males. In other words, boys are not growing up to become men they were intended to become, these chemicals are causing a failure of baby boy bodies to become masculine men.

These future feminized men may be more docile, more compliant, more passive, more like women. This bodes badly for their ability to aggressively right wrongs that exist in the world, no matter who the victims of these wrongs may be. This bodes badly for the health of these men, and all that we can count on from men, such as having strong bodies to act as the workhorses of our society. This bodes badly for the ability of these men to be potent lovers who satisfy women, men who have a grounded sense of what it means to be a man. There are many other implications, many of which are logical extrapolations of these recent developments. I invite you to seriously consider these long-term implications.

Perhaps one of the reasons why this issue has gotten so little attention has to do with it impacting primarily boys and men. If this problem was impacting girls and women, there many have been much more of an outcry. But we are all one race, and what impacts boys and men will eventually impact girls and women, that is if we do not wipe ourselves off the face of the earth with these dangerous chemical experiments involving the general public. I urge all people concerned about the men's movement to acquaint themselves with these horrifying new developments, and to work towards the eradication of these dangerous chemicals from the environment.

Suggested web links:

<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/docs/2005/8100/abstract.html>

[http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_m0CYP/is\\_8\\_113/ai\\_n15343316](http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0CYP/is_8_113/ai_n15343316)

<http://www.ourstolenfuture.org/NewScience/oncompounds/phthalates/2005/2005-0527swanetal.htm>

<http://www.sciencenews.org/articles/20050604/fob1.asp>

<http://www.nature.com/embor/journal/v5/n1/full/7400063.html>

<http://www.reproduction-online.org/cgi/content/full/127/3/305>

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# Hard Won Gains at What, or Whose, Expense?

By Ray Blumhorst

A militant feminist catch phrase I keep hearing repeated in various permutations these days is, “Men (male activists) are trying to roll back the hard fought gains women have made.” One must ask the most logical question that comes to mind when reading such a statement, “Are gains by any means, at any cost, at any time justified?” Have today’s American women been so badly deprived and disadvantaged that they can use any methods “carte blanche” or break any rules until the militant feminist version of parity (total power and control) is reached? Have American females of my generation truly known that great of an oppression? Judging by what I’ve seen over my lifetime this liberated male would have to say, “That is clearly not the case.” However, when fair minded people call for accountability and try to reconcile many of the wild claims made by militant feminists, that same old tired catch phrase keeps being

trotted out — “Men are trying to roll back the hard fought gains women have made.”

Without the checks and balances of an equal number of men’s commissions to bring some balance to the gender agenda of America’s militant feminists, the over 270 women’s commissions in America have run amok. Today there is only one men’s commission in America that I know of (New Hampshire).

With so much horrible social engineering and so many misandrist policies and laws having come about through unchecked militant feminism, the next commission that should be formed, in my opinion, is one to address the constitutional violations of male’s rights. That commission should investigate the dishonesties propagated and disseminated by militant feminism and consider bringing criminal charges on those advocates for women’s gains who used false information, statistical fabrications, or just outright lies.

Militant Feminist hate propaganda has been preached in the legislatures and courts of America with an ad hominem zeal that defies the egalitarian equal justice and equal protection that both sexes have always had an equal right to under our constitution. The militant feminists’ prejudiced vilification of males has been relentless and tyrannical in its destruction of men and families. The time must come soon when men and women of goodwill audit all the actions of the militant feminist movement if anyone is to escape its destructive ensnaring tentacles.

When will the drive to bring accountability to out-of-control militant feminists begin? Must men of good will face such an unenviable task alone? Not only does it appear the task has already begun, it very much appears that men have not been left solely to their own means to defend their dwindling rights. A small but growing

**GAINS continues next page**

## TRANSITIONS

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## Gains

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alliance strives to change laws and policies that heretofore sought only “gains for women.” Fortunately for men, women of good will are advocating for a true balancing of the scales of justice. Women of good will are saying that there should be equal justice and equal protection for men as well as women. A new paradigm is confronting the menace of militant feminism; women of good will are saying, “We too have had enough of the hate propaganda and destructive social policies of militant feminists.” The daughters, sisters, mothers, grandmothers, and second wives of men who have been cannibalized by the rabid depravity of the militant feminist movement are outraged and exhibiting a defiance towards militant feminism that even targeted men are unable to express. It is through the united good will of these thrown-together, disenfranchised citizens that all the people

may yet come to know the fresh air of freedom and fairness that once filled our “noble” halls of justice.

We men are not trying to take back the just gains that women have made, and we continue to support all women in their valid goals. Common sense will tell those who know what common sense is that men and women of good will are merely trying to turn back the unjust tyrannical laws and policies that so many men have suffered under for so long.

Yes, many good women and men of noble integrity have attained many good and hard-fought gains for women. I have supported, and will continue to support, women in their just endeavors, but I will not support those individuals who have instituted oppressive sexist laws against males under the jackboot tyranny of lies and aggression. I will oppose such tyrannical

advances adamantly, because those hard-fought gains are no more valid than those by any other out-of-control fascist who storms into neighboring territories to pillage and lay waste to the innocent occupants living there. The most insidious and despicable of such tyrannies that are foremost in my mind is the militant feminist movement that today plagues so greatly the entire western world. Gains won at the cost of slavery to others (males) are not gains. Rather, they are a dictatorship.

*Ray Blumhorst is a member of NCFM-LA and was NCFM's recipient of the Award of Honor in 2005.*

*This article has already been published at ifeminists.com. It is reprinted with permission from the author.*

## Book Reviews

By J. Steven Svoboda

### *The Testosterone Revolution: Rediscover Your Energy and Overcome the Symptoms of Male Menopause*

By Malcolm Carruthers, M.D. London: HarperCollins Publishers Limited, 2001. 238 pages. \$22.95. [www.thorsons.com](http://www.thorsons.com).

I had a lot of resistance to reading this book. Now that I have just crossed another threshold (not that I'm counting or anything!) and am closer to being 50 years old than to being 35, I think a certain level of denial has been percolating. I know I'm getting older, and I'm going through certain changes, but I don't want to think about it too much. I don't have male menopause, but reading this book was challenging at first as it raised issues I'd rather not dwell on.

Well, *The Testosterone Revolution* can help the reader to think about these things, and in the end, that's a very good thing. In parallel to my personal reticence, society as a whole as well as the medical

profession has been reluctant to educate itself about the numerous physical, mental, and emotional changes men go through when they hit “male menopause,” a decline in usable testosterone in the body which Carruthers believes would more properly be called andropause. Andropause typically affects a middle-aged man who finds himself losing a number of things he may have always taken for granted — his libido, his ability to obtain and maintain erections, his energy, his positive attitude, his relatively flat stomach. As a man starts to find himself going through andropause, he may become quickly fatigued, and somewhat paradoxically may also be much more irritable than previously. In fact, severe depression or a serious life crisis are also not uncommon results. But a psychologically based mid-life crisis is not necessarily connected with the medical condition known as andropause.

As Carruthers explains, various forms of treatment, all designed to generate more active, usable testosterone in the male body, can provide dramatic, yet safe relief

for these symptoms. Carruthers walks us through centuries of medical history, detailing the strong resistance to acknowledging this condition that persists even to the present day. Fortunately, certain intrepid physicians over past decades risked their careers to bring a private testosterone revolution to their suffering patients. One major problem has been getting the needy patient to a competent physician knowledgeable about this issue. Numerous potential roadblocks exist — the individual's own resistance and fear, the many doctors ignorant of or even actively hostile to treating a patient for the symptoms of andropause, limitations that exist in the US and elsewhere due to certain of the best medicines not being available, etc.

Carruthers identifies a lot of fascinating points about testosterone that may not be familiar to readers. Testosterone is present in women as well as men, though blood levels of the hormone in men are 10-20 times that of women, and it stimulates the libido in women as well. Testosterone

affects our health throughout life and might also be known as “the success hormone.” Most high achievers, Nobel prize winners, Hollywood directors, race car drivers, etc. have extremely high testosterone levels. Interestingly, one’s level of the hormone tends to peak right after a high-intensity challenge. For example, some of the highest levels of testosterone ever observed were seen in race car drivers immediately following an event. Even today many critics of andropause theory are confused by the fact that blood levels of *total* testosterone only decrease slightly up to age 70. The explanation is that as men age, the hormone is held in the blood in unusable forms and so less and less is biologically available to our body.

Carruthers repeatedly stresses that alcohol wreaks havoc on testosterone levels. Beer is worse than wine because it contains phyto-estrogens which act to partially chemically castrate the male. As Carruthers memorably phrases it, “the liver forgives and forgets, but the testis harbors grudges, so the bar-room bruisers of today are likely to be the lousy lovers of tomorrow.”

One thing Carruthers convinced me of with a couple well-chosen horror stories — vasectomy is a risky enterprise. In addition to some potentially horrific risks stemming from the surgery’s immediate results, it also exposes a man to the risk of suffering andropause, a serious side effect about which doctors evidently rarely inform patients considering the procedure.

Testosterone replacement therapy works! A variety of delivery techniques exist including injections, pills, pellets, and patches that need to be replaced every six months and which may eventually prove the clear method of choice. Carruthers devotes an entire chapter to Viagra and the changes its appearance and success have wrought.

This is about much more than sex. Maintaining our vitality and virility into our middle and late years is the key to managing stress, avoiding burnout, and to enjoying our families and our work well into our mature years. Having overcome my initial resistance, I have to take my hat off to Dr. Malcolm Carruthers, dedicated activist and eloquent author, fighting the good fight to help all of us to maximize our enjoyment of life and effectiveness for as long as possible. Bravo!

### *Raising Boys: Why Boys are Different — And How to Help Them Become Happy and Well-Balanced Men*

By Steve Biddulph

Berkeley, California: Celestial Arts, 1998. Originally published in Australia by Finch Publishing. 216 pages. order@tenspeed.com. US\$12.95.

Can Steve Biddulph write a bad book or even a mediocre one? Can Rex Finch of Finch Publishing publish one? Based on their track record of excellence, you can bet that if either of these folks ever wished to stop producing superb quality work, they would be better at being bad or average than anyone else.

Luckily for us, they show no signs of wanting to do either. The beneficiaries are ourselves and also, in this case, Celestial Arts of Berkeley and Ten Speed Canada, who are handling publishing and distribution of *Raising Boys* in North America.

*Raising Boys* offers an eminently readable overview of the increasingly tricky task of bringing up sons — who to begin with face some sex-specific challenges — in an often imposing, dangerous, and all too frequently unsympathetic or apathetic world. Biddulph laces his appealing presentation with generous portions of humor, wisdom, cartoons and drawings, presented in a variety of engaging formats, and graced with a number of absorbing vignettes by outside writers. His wife joins in to co-write the chapter on mothers and sons.

The author has some simple points to make. Few if any can say them as bluntly and clearly as he does: “If you routinely work a fifty-five or sixty-hour week, including travel times, you just won’t cut it as a dad.” Boys need male teachers, but it has to be the right kind of male, which means two basic qualities: 1) a mixture of warmth and sternness, and 2) freedom from needing to prove anything and a comfort with youthful exuberance. Intriguingly, Biddulph advocates starting to include sexual words in dinner table conversation around age ten so that sex does not get pushed underground for your boy.

I learned that young boys tend to have growth spurts that affect their ear canals, and also that the language part of the brain is not fully formed until age thirteen. Biddulph is a careful, creative wordsmith. At one point, he writes that a boy who is turning into a man

senses a need to “download the software” from an available male to complete his development. An adolescent, he notes bemusedly, is a role-seeking missile.

The author may be too busy writing superlative books to go to many recent films, as he laments the absence of “movie depictions of tender, sensuous, playful and boisterous lovemaking.” Is it really true, as Biddulph suggests, that in past times “men hit their wives routinely?” (Without firm evidence, I personally tend to resist the move to demonize the behavior of past humans relative to present people.)

Biddulph goes into a rap about “creeps” a couple of times, by which he means boys who haven’t learned to harness their sexual and aggressive urges properly, so that instead those impulses emerge sideways in forms that are hurtful to others. The author seems to alternate between harshly judging these boys, and identifying or at least understanding the pressure, stress and in some cases abuse that leads boys to act this way. As readers, we can feel his ambivalence.

Steve Biddulph has specifics aplenty to offer readers, but in the end it is not so much the truly invaluable advice and ideas but rather the spirit and faith of the author that shines most brilliantly. The writer makes this father of a nine-month-old son excited about what is here and what is to come, anxious to go grab every moment available as they slip away toward the future, plunging to the earth like so many dominoes.

### *What Could He Be Thinking?: How a Man’s Mind Really Works*

By Michael Gurian. New York: St. Martin’s Press, 2003. US \$24.95. Canada \$36.95. 278 pages. www.stmartins.com.

*What Could He Be Thinking?: How a Man’s Mind Really Works* is the fifth book I have reviewed by Michael Gurian and, in addition to clearly topping his other excellent to outstanding books, is quite simply one of the most unique and important men’s movement books I have ever read.

The critical contribution of *What Could He Be Thinking?* is its success at contextualizing and explaining to all of us (for men need this information at least as much as women do) precisely the specific

**REVIEWS continues next page**

## Reviews

Continued from Page 5

types of behavior and brain differences about which women have been complaining for decades. Gurian shows guys why our brains work the way they do, and why we can feel happy about that fact. And simultaneously, the author shows exactly the same thing to females. Among other things, this work may be one of the most successful books at facilitating gender reconciliation and gender understanding.

There is not a ton of absolutely new information in this book, but it has been presented and crystallized so as to reveal to all of us the central differences in male and female brains, and the highly functional reasons why men are different. Our brains excel in complex spatial skills involving measurement, direction, and manipulation of physical objects, and because of our smaller connection between the two hemispheres, we generally have a harder time transforming experience into language. Our lower levels of oxytocin mean that a given level of emotional bonding may require more effort on our part. We focus on action over talk. Women's brains are constantly working, whereas the male brain "zones out" more. On pages 82-84, the author summarizes no fewer than ten distinct brain structures with marked differences between male and female.

Michael Gurian, never notable for his modesty, manages to keep his tendency to crow about his own real and imagined successes to an absolute minimum. One can almost palpably feel his commitment to this book, his concern with conveying his message convincingly and providing ample documentation. And what's more, at several points during the work, Gurian throws in absolutely delightful and fully appropriate stories from his own marriage that simultaneously help personalize the book, illustrate an idea, and advance the work forward. We learn that drifting apart in marriage can start with an unhealthy level of closeness. The neural strategy of romance that induces us to leap in matrimony will lead us astray once we are in a marriage. Later, Gurian positively tops himself by revealing how he and his wife — initially sure their marriage was better than those of their friends — finally saw their

own Achilles' heels. Luckily, they were able to learn in time to break down their own illusions and made the decision to like what they saw in each other and to commit small daily acts of love.

Gurian's theory of "intimate separateness" is premised on the brain's need for a "rhythmic pattern of attachment *and* detachment." Men need separateness more than we have realized. Men's lifelong search for self-worth differs in important ways from that of females. This drive for self-worth represents both the best *and* the worst of manhood. A man desperately needs to learn who he is; if he fails, he will devalue himself and "despair" in one of several ways. Gurian uses the word "despair" much more broadly than is common, provocatively classifying all of the following as forms of "despair": becoming a workaholic; seeking power over women; stretching ethical standards beyond the breaking point and lacking compassion when others are harmed; physically or socially attempting to destroy others who appear to hold identity and authority. Paradoxically, the more developed a man's independent identity is, the greater his ability to meaningfully commit to a woman.

So many things I had been aware of my whole life were crystallized by this book. Why is it that, especially when playing team sports, I experience men apparently cutting each other down, and yet I (often) sense no hostility and even enjoy being "berated" in such a way? Part of the explanation lies in the testosterone-driven male "performance imperative" which propels males to test others' and their own limits, to act independently or in clear hierarchies toward goals, even when that may involve being hurt. Thus it is also that men may nurture another person's self-esteem by "challenging that person to create a neural bypass around a traumatic event and return to the preset goal."

Gurian intrigues with his thinking about boundaries. He states the importance of keeping the man's testing ground out of the home. Men need to test their worth, and family and love relationships do not provide fertile ground for such challenges. At the same time, he similarly encourages

females to satisfy some of their gender-specific goals (which may include emotional intimacy) outside of their immediate family. Gurian provocatively observes that "if males were as... empathic as females, our civilization would not exist today in its present form."

Gurian is to be complemented for transcending the almost automatic female-good male-at-best-OK approach of almost all self-help books and showing us a number of ways in which the male mode of feeling is good for love. Women like to express feelings while men like to release their own feelings and problem-solve those of others. Women trust feelings more than men. The author provides a list of practical strategies for women to assist men with their slower rates of emotional processing (ask him to think about something before he goes to work to give him time to mull it over; express clear and reasonable emotional expectations to the man).

Another thing men don't have to feel bad about any more is the link in our sexual biology between sex and aggression, largely due to three brain chemicals: testosterone, vasopressin, and dopamine. The female brain is better wired for long-term romantic activity, and men are more wired for sex; if we are smart, we will adjust our expectations in accordance with these biological facts.

Perhaps most valuably of all, Gurian suggests a few core items for women to look for in a man, cautioning to be reasonable in evaluating these issues: integrity, ability to self-stabilize chaotic emotion, joy and vigor in his life, comfort with being a man, does he possess both kindness and firmness, is he able to see others' talents and vulnerabilities, can he return to self-security even when feeling envy and jealousy? Gurian cautions: make sure the primary values are in synch and let the secondary ones go!

As if all this weren't already more than enough, Gurian sketches the reasons for a whole passel of common truths about men (all but one applies to me, non-conformist though I consider myself): why he can't see that the house is a mess; why he can't load the dishwasher the right way;

why he doesn't always put his laundry away; why he has a thing about cars; why he yearns for control of the TV remote; why he loves to tinker with gadgets (when a man puts together a complicated electronic system, he feels like a magician). Gurian throws in a useful chapter about biological differences between fathering (tends to follow respect-nurturance model) and mothering (esteem model). Parental roles can complement each other; sometimes kids DO need to learn to repress their feelings and get something done. Gurian suggests that "fathers unconsciously assess what the mother is already giving the child and then carve their own way with the child that is true to their own basic nature." The male

brain and hormones are posed to constantly see life as a challenge between extremes. (Ah, this is why my whole life I have been so stimulated by competition in chess tournaments.)

Gurian goes a little astray in his theory of the twelve seasons of marriage, which is too specific to be widely applicable. But his list of transactional terms for men to pledge to follow in their marriage is sheer brilliance. We are transactional people; if understood properly, we will fall all over ourselves to meet our wives' reasonable expectations. A healthy relationship dances between intimacy and independent. Gurian shows us how to dance and dances with us. In addition to getting your "feet"

moving, this book will bring enlightenment to your brain and maybe even tears of relief to your eyes. It's an ideal holiday gift for men *and* women.

## *What's Happening??*

# National Coalition of Free Men News

### **NCFM-LA ACTIVITIES REPORT**

**7/05 - 10/05**

(By Marc Angelucci)

On June 25, 2005, the *Los Angeles Times* printed NCFM-LA's letter objecting to sex discrimination against male prisoners, in response to article about special privileges only for female inmates.

On July 17, 2005, NCFM-LA's president was interviewed by Josefa Salinas of "Community Forum" on the R&B station Hot 92 Jamz FM. The show was about paternity fraud. NCFM-LA was specifically interviewed about the high profile paternity fraud case of NCFM-LA member Taron James.

On August 6, 2005, Fox 6 News (San Diego) aired a great story on NCFM-LA member Taron James' paternity fraud case and even interviewed his entire family.

On August 8, 2005, the *Los Angeles Daily Journal* printed NCFM-LA's letter about how the Violence Against Women

Act addresses domestic violence by ignoring half of it and how advocacy is trumping serious research in the Congressional hearings.

On July 19, 2005, NCFM-LA won a \$44,868.65 default judgment in favor of NCFM-LA member Taron James in the high-profile paternity fraud case of Taron James v. Tami Burton. Taron had returned from military deployment in the Gulf War only to find himself trapped in a paternity fraud nightmare. A woman had named him as the father of her child and collected welfare from Los Angeles County (after unsuccessfully attempting to collect under Taron's Navy benefits). Taron was not properly served and did not know about the judgment until his driver's license was suspended. A DNA test excluded him as the father. He filed a motion to set aside the judgment, but the 6-month deadline had passed. The County wound up taking \$12,000

of Taron's money by intercepting his wages, his tax returns and even his unemployment pay. He was unable to marry his fiancé for fear the County would take her money too. He found NCFM-LA while he was in Sacramento testifying about paternity fraud. NCFM-LA took on his case by filing a civil suit against the perpetrator and filing a motion to set aside the judgment based on the new law that NCFM-LA helped pass. On August 10, 2005, after the civil court granted a \$44,000 default judgment against the mother, the family court granted Taron's motion to set aside and acknowledged he had been defrauded. This case has brought significant media attention to the issue of paternity fraud. Fox News has covered the entire case from the start. The *Daily Journal* did a front-page story on the case. Taron was also a guest on the Tom Leykis Show, and

**NEWS continues next page**

## NCFM News

Continued from Page 7

was recently invited to be on the *Dr. Phil Show*. NCFM-LA is discussing with Taron the option of appealing the portion of the judgment that refused to force the County to re-pay Taron his money.

On August 17, 2005, NCFM-LA's president participated as an invited panelist at the screening of "Before the Fact," an independent film about domestic violence. The message of the film was that women commit a great deal of verbal abuse, which can lead to physical abuse, and that women need to be held accountable too. NCFM-LA saw the film's message as not giving the whole picture, so NCFM-LA worked with the film's producer to include statistics about female-on-male violence, which was a success. The panelists were Rev. Jesse Lee Peterson of Brotherhood Organization of a New Destiny (BOND), Michael Robinson of Men Enabling New Solutions, feminist college instructor Hugo Schweitzer, Glenn Sacks, and Marc Angelucci of NCFM-LA. There was a good turnout and the discussion went well. The focus wound up being on statistics, which provided a good opportunity to raise awareness about the true dynamics of domestic violence. NCFM-LA debunked Mr. Schweitzer's claim that the violence by women is usually self-defense. Several NCFM-LA members participated in the audience, including Harry Crouch, Ray Blumhorst and Jason Hanson. NCFM-LA also got acquainted with the Rev. Jesse Lee Peterson and was invited onto his radio show to discuss domestic violence.

From September 19 to September 22, 2005, NCFM-LA set up their regular informational table at the annual Family Violence Conference in San Diego. This is a large conference with people from all over the world. Several years ago, feminist groups blocked NCFM-LA from being allowed to participate in the event. But NCFM-LA piggy-backed with other groups, including SAFE, and made their presence known anyway. Thanks to the fantastic work of NCFM-LA member Harry Crouch, this year NCFM-LA's application was accepted under their actual name. Harry put in a tremendous amount of work, as usual. NCFM-LA member Ray Blumhorst worked with Harry to create posters and signs. Phil Cook and others joined NCFM-LA's table and helped hand out tons of materials.

October 20, 2005: Members of NCFM-LA rallied outside of KCET, the local affiliate of Public Broadcasting Station (PBS), with a truck sign, hand-held signs, a bullhorn and flyers, to protest against PBS' airing of the extremely biased and anti-father film, "Breaking the Silence." NCFM-LA members handed out the flyers produced by RADAR (Respecting Accuracy in Domestic Abuse Reporting) regarding the PBS film, which are available at [www.mediaradar.org/RADAR\\_BTS\\_Flyer.doc](http://www.mediaradar.org/RADAR_BTS_Flyer.doc). NCFM-LA members also participated in the letter/phone campaign to raise awareness regarding the film, organized by RADAR and radio host Glenn Sacks.

On October 28, 2005, NCFM-LA member joined a class

action lawsuit with three other men and one of their 21-year old daughters against the State of California, several of its agencies, and several state-funded domestic violence shelters, for discriminating against men in domestic violence services. Blumhorst sued as a taxpayer and a citizen (formerly he sued as a civil rights tester, but the courts held that testers lack standing to sue in California). The other three men needed DV services within the past few years (i.e. within the statutory time period) and were denied services based on their gender. One of them, David Woods of Sacramento, and his 21-year-old daughter, Maegan Woods, are still living with the mother, who now freely admits she physically abused David for years, even at knifepoint, and even voluntarily sought counseling and spoke about it along with David on national television. She supports the lawsuit because she says she can become violent again anytime and David is likely to need services again. The action was filed on October 28, 2005 in the Sacramento Superior Court, and Channel 13 in Sacramento ran an exclusive story about it that night.

Also in October 2005, NCFM-LA began working with NCFM members in San Diego to help them start a San Diego chapter, soon to come.

### TWIN CITIES CHAPTER TRIES TO EDUCATE COUNTY ATTORNEYS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

(by Will Hageman)

The Twin Cities Chapter of NCFM recently sent a packet

of information on domestic violence to all of the county attorneys in Minnesota and western Wisconsin. The county attorneys (sometimes called district attorneys or state's attorneys) are responsible for providing certain services to crime victims, and their offices often distribute literature about domestic violence – usually passing on without question the statistics given to them by battered women's groups.

The information sent by the Twin Cities Chapter directed the county attorneys to Professor Martin Fiebert's bibliography of domestic violence studies ([www.csulb.edu/~mfiebert/assault.htm](http://www.csulb.edu/~mfiebert/assault.htm)), the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control's report on intimate partner violence ([www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/ipvfacts.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/ipvfacts.htm)), and Indiana University Law Professor Linda Kelly's article "Disabusing the Definition of Domestic Abuse" ([www.law.fsu.edu/journals/lawreview/downloads/304/kelly.pdf](http://www.law.fsu.edu/journals/lawreview/downloads/304/kelly.pdf)). Also included were an article describing research about domestic violence against men, and a summary of the book "Domestic Violence: The 12 Things You Aren't Supposed to Know" by chapter member Thomas James.

The Twin Cities Chapter will continue supplying the county attorneys with facts about domestic violence against men.

#### WEB SITES TO WATCH

(By Jason Leatherman)

This month's web site is called the New Totalitarians ([www.newtotalitarians.com](http://www.newtotalitarians.com)). This is a companion web site to a book of the same name by Dr. Gerald L. Atkinson. The

book is now out of print but this web site still has many articles on feminism and political correctness (or "cultural Marxism" as he calls it here). As Dr. Atkinson was a Navy pilot earlier in life, most of his writings document the damage that feminism has done to the Navy.

I came across this site because a reader forwarded to me an excellent essay by this accomplished pilot, scientist, and author. You can see it by going to the website of the Free Congress Foundation ([www.freecongress.org](http://www.freecongress.org)). Scroll down to the box entitled "Political Correctness: A Short History of an Ideology." In this box there is a series of links to .pdf files, each an essay concerning a different facet of political correctness, written by an author with experience in that field. This collection of essays is compiled into an on-line book. Dr. Atkinson wrote Chapter V which concerns radical feminism. A good read!

#### NCFM's 2005 AWARDS

(By Michael Rother)

For 2005, NCFM has issued another set of awards to some deserving folks out there.

Ray Blumhorst won the Award of Honor for his work with numerous signs, bumper stickers, T-shirts, etc., as well as his fund-raising efforts on behalf of NCFM and the LA chapter of NCFM.

Sherri Palmeri of Fox 6 News San Diego won the Award for Excellence In Promoting Gender Fairness In The Media for her repeated and successful efforts to cover a variety of men's issues on Fox 6.

Harry Crouch won the Award For Excellence In Advancing Men's Issues for his work on the San Diego Domestic Violence Council, his work with Fox 6 News, numerous articles on men's issues in several newspapers, and his general activism work on behalf of men's issues.

Coincidentally, all of this year's winners were from Southern California.

Stay tuned for 2006, when we'll issue another round of awards!

## Volunteer Needed for Men's Hotline

NCFM is in need of someone to operate our "hotline". What this means is that you would get about one call every week or two from someone needing assistance. You should be familiar with the court system as well as men's resources and be able to offer some support to callers. All calls are returned COLLECT, so you won't incur any costs. If this sounds like something you'd like to try, please contact Naomi at 516-482-6378 or [susansusansusan@hotmail.com](mailto:susansusansusan@hotmail.com).

## Letters to the Editor

**Editorial Policy:** *NCFM and the Transitions staff welcome letters from readers and will print them as space allows. We reserve the right to edit letters for editorial style and space restrictions but will continue to publish letters in their entirety when possible. Send article responses, corrections, or other comments about the newsletter itself to the Editor: Jason Leatherman at [jwleath@yahoo.com](mailto:jwleath@yahoo.com). Letters sent directly to the Editor will be addressed "Dear Editor". Send opinions, stories, requests for advice, or other letters to the Webmaster: [ncfm@ncfm.org](mailto:ncfm@ncfm.org). Letters sent to the Webmaster will be addressed "Dear NCFM".*

**DEARNCFM:**

I am doing research for a class assignment and I am hoping that you could provide me with some information. If you could send back any information please do A.S.A.P. Thank you.

About the organization: Who founded it and when and why was it ever established? What does the organization do? How is it funded and how many members do you currently have? Who is most and least likely to be a member?

Gender issues: What are the key issues surrounding the organization? What are your arguments towards those that oppose the views of your organization? How is gender a key concern?

Stephanie Gaines-Perry

**WEBMASTER:**

You can get a pretty good history of our organization on the web here: <http://www.ncfm.org/hist.htm>. I would encourage you to take a look.

Similarly, what we do can be found here: <http://www.ncfm.org/presact.htm>, and

what we've done in the past can be found here: <http://www.ncfm.org/pastact.htm>.

Our organization is funded primarily from donations by members, and from a few web-based fundraising activities. Our membership numbers are confidential — we don't release them.

The most likely person to be a member of our organization is usually a father who has been screwed by our family court system, although this is certainly not 100%. Least likely to join us would be a radical feminist male or female.

The list of issues that we deal with is long and involved. The main areas that we concern ourselves with are legal issues, health issues, and relationship issues. But that's a very broad overview. To get a little more specific, I can give you an incomplete list of SOME of the issues we are concerned with: Reproductive choice for men, father's rights, male-only draft registration, obtaining equal funding for prostate cancer research vs. breast cancer research, the extremely high rate of suicide among men, the male-female lifespan gap, encouraging women to take a more equal part in the provider role, and encouraging men to gain their own voices in male-female relationships. Again, this is only a partial list. New issues arise all the time, and we discuss them in various forums.

Our arguments toward those that oppose our views are wide and varied, and differ by individual. We generally don't communicate with those who have no

## Special Thanks Due

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

**Martin Connor, IA**  
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**Harv Whitten, PA**

### *Transitions* Needs Your Talent

*Transitions* is always looking for your contributions in writing on issues affecting men. If you have an article or essay, please submit it for publication. Send all work to: **Jason Leatherman, Editor-in-Chief**, at [jwleath@yahoo.com](mailto:jwleath@yahoo.com). Please put "Transitions" in the Subject line. Also, see <http://www.ncfm.org/write1.htm>.

interest in working with us, so it usually isn't an issue.

I hope this answers your questions. Feel free to write me back if you would like more info, or if you're interested in joining our organization.

**DEARNCFM:**

Hi, I was wondering if you could send me information on father's rights in the state of Illinois. My husband has a nine year old daughter who lives there with her mother and her stepfather. My husband has tried to get legal visitation in the state of Florida but because she has lived in IL since she was a year old, we have to get an attorney there. I was wondering if there was a free way to go about doing the paperwork ourselves. He has tried to call and keep in contact but the mother refuses to let him talk to his daughter and any gifts he sends her are sent back to him. If you could please help him I would kindly thank you so much.

Amy Litteral

**WEBMASTER:**

Thanks for writing to us. The best advice I can give you is to get a good attorney. It will be expensive, but it's the only way. Doing the paperwork yourself for free is only good in "friendly" cases with no disputes. But this is not a friendly case since the mother refuses to allow contact. Your husband is going to have to fight every step of the way to secure his rights. I'm sorry to have to inform you of this, but the system is not friendly to non-custodial fathers.

Unfortunately, I don't have an attorney to suggest. I would recommend finding a father's rights group that is local to your daughter's location and ask them for a recommendation.

I hope this advice helps. Good luck.

**DEARNCFM:**

My name is Joe Carruba; I am the very proud parent of a young daughter. I allowed myself to be abused by her sociopath mother for almost a decade for fear of losing my child to her. When I finally stood up to this woman, I was forced to endure an incompetent, utterly biased

excuse for a custody hearing. During this battle my daughter's mom got some sucker off the Internet to marry her and move her and my daughter 1000 miles away to Kansas. I have not seen nor heard from my child since. Since I know I have no hope of winning in the courts, I have created a website that tells my side of this tragic story. I am hoping to use it to encourage the many small father's rights groups out there to unite into one large powerful one, so that we can really push for equal treatment in custody fights. I hope some of you will take the time to read my story, and then if so inclined, ask others to do the same. My story took almost 8 months to write and I promise it will not bore you.

Joe Carruba

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

**WEBMASTER:**

Good luck with your effort to get your daughter back. If you want to add a link to NCFM's website, feel free to do so — [www.ncfm.org](http://www.ncfm.org).

As you probably know, NCFM is more than a father's rights group. We deal with all kinds of MEN'S rights issues. So, while we support your efforts, our cause is much broader. Consequently, we wouldn't be interested in merging with a fathers-rights-only organization. Someone has to stand up for all the other men's rights issues.

Again, good luck with your efforts. You're not alone!

**DEARNCFM:**

I am doing research about the National Organization for Changing Men. If you know anything about it, could you please direct me to the information?

Also, I was wondering if I could interview anyone in your organization about their thoughts on Andrea Dworkin. I am doing a project at Kent State University and I am seeking to understand her legacy among male activists.

Stacy Bogart  
Kent State University  
[sbogart@kent.edu](mailto:sbogart@kent.edu)

**WEBMASTER:**

I looked up the website of the National Organization for Changing Men

and found that the organization is now called NOMAS ([www.nomas.org](http://www.nomas.org)). NCFM and NOMAS have some differences of opinion; we are not very close, philosophically. We are also not very close to Andrea Dworkin.

If you still want to interview someone, I would suggest contacting our director of public relations, Steven Svoboda, at 510-827-5771.

If you have any other questions, feel free to contact me at [ncfm@ncfm.org](mailto:ncfm@ncfm.org).

**EDITOR:**

There are many men's organizations with similar names. The name "National Organization for Changing Men (NOCM)" now belongs to an archival project at MSU. See [www.lib.msu.edu/coll/main/spec\\_col/radicalism/men](http://www.lib.msu.edu/coll/main/spec_col/radicalism/men). You can find more men's organizations and links to their home pages at the massive Links page of the NZEEF (that's the New Zealand Equality Education Foundation, which used to be the New Zealand Men for Equal Rights Association) at [nzmera.orcon.net.nz/menlinks.html](http://nzmera.orcon.net.nz/menlinks.html).

NCFM now has coffee mugs for sale!

Chapter Reps: These mugs make a great fundraiser! Discounts are available for chapters purchasing 5 or more mugs.

These mugs are made by MWare and are high quality regular sized coffee mugs. Choose a Cobalt Blue or Hunter Green mug. Each mug sports the NCFM logo, name and the scripted motto: Giving Men a Voice Since 1977.

Price per mug is \$12.99, including shipping to the 48 contiguous United States.

Contact Deborah Watkins at [NCFMdfw@aol.com](mailto:NCFMdfw@aol.com) or 972-445-MALE (6253) to place your order. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

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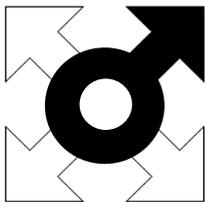
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