

TRANSITIONS

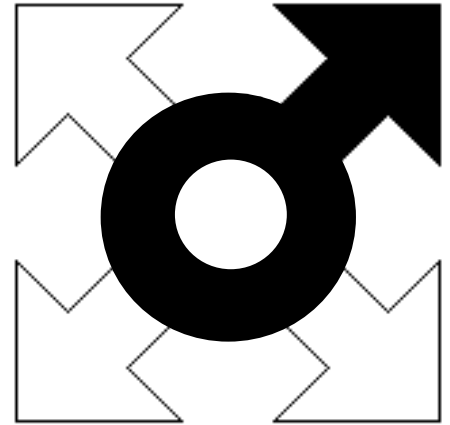
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The History of our Name and Change

By Tom Williamson and Harry Crouch

Our original organization was founded in Columbia, Maryland and called *Free Men, Inc.*, which was very active with male-oriented support groups. *Free Men-Maryland* eventually burned out as an all-volunteer organization. In 1980 the banner fell to the newly organized Nassau County, NY, chapter.

In the early 1980's the Nassau County chapter enjoyed considerable success by offering support groups, national conferences, and monthly meetings which drew up to 70 people, including many women. Many of the members were married people and frequently wives insisted their husbands join. Our small but very active New Milford, CT, chapter was more than 50% female.

When the organization moved to New York we tried to incorporate as *Free Men, Inc.*, which was before common use of computers and the Internet. Attorneys were required to do "name searches" to ensure a name did not legally belong to someone else. We were told that "Free Men" was already taken in New York, though we later learned the attorney confused Free Men — two words — with Freeman — one word. Problematically the *Freemen Foundation* has a long tradition in New York and the name comes from someone's last name.

With that understanding and after working through numerous alternatives we finally agreed to put the word "Coalition" in front of "Free Men". We chose

"Coalition" because it means merging into a single entity or political alliance and left room for considerable

discussion and differing opinions among members. Secondly, the group in New York planned to unite other chapters under a national board of directors. In 1981 there were three chapters operating individually with no coordination: New York, Maryland, and Boston. Hence, "Coalition" seemed like a good name.

Having decided on a unique name, *Coalition of Free Men, Inc.*, we proceeded to incorporate. Our original incorporation papers show that the attorney incorporated us as some sort of Nassau County social group. An attorney more familiar with us volunteered to correct this error and amended our incorporation papers inadvertently tacking on the word "The" in front of the whole thing; as in *The Coalition of Free Men, Inc.*

Throughout all of this the word "Free" was an important part of our promotions. One of our conferences was called, "Freeing Men from the Macho Mold." We wore buttons that said, "Free Men From..." People asked, "Free men from what?" One of our members, Francis Baumli, published a book entitled *Men Freeing Men*, a collection of essays **many of which were** written by Free Men members.

In 1990 Tom Williamson got fed up with newspapers wrongly and provincially referring to us as a local Manhasset, NY, organization. So, he tacked on the word "National" thereby making us *National Coalition of Free Men* (without the "The"). However, *The Coalition of Free Men, Inc.* remained the legal name.

Early on the organization and name were criticized for a variety of reasons, similar to the more recent discussions regarding the word "Free". Because we were open to experimentation, in the early 1990's

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Editor's Comment

As you may have noticed by closely examining this issue, the organization name change to "National Coalition For Men" is official. See the front page article which was written by NCFM president Harry Crouch and past president and founder Tom Williamson. Tom describes the history of NCFM's development, especially in regards to its name. Harry discusses his feelings on the name change.

Undoubtedly, some members, especially founding ones, will be disappointed. NCFM is a volunteer organization, and there are hundreds of people who have put a lot of themselves into it, but we must not let our involvement with NCFM turn into possessiveness. Have faith in your fellow members who are also doing what they feel is best for the organization, and for men.

Personally, I may be sad that my mouse-pad is now obsolete, but I'm excited to see where things go from here.

I hope the members who called for the name change will continue to write letters to *Transitions*. I look forward to hearing how the new name is working out.

Ever Yours in the Cause,

Jason Leatherman

Name Change

Continued from Page 1

we decided to let member Charles Fink provide services around the officially registered DBA, *Men's Resources Hot Line*. We advertised it for him, and Charlie counseled men on just about any kind of problem. Our hotline ended up primarily getting calls about divorce and false accusations of rape. While no one was critical of the new DBA it got us not one new member.

Since then several chapters have come and gone while on-and-off debate continued about our name. Later Marc Angelucci when forming NCFM-LA was originally going to form the chapter under some other DBA.

The above history was provided by Tom Williamson, who I admire immensely. Now our *business name* has morphed into "*National Coalition of Men*", which was adopted by the national Board of Directors earlier this year.

We have weathered controversies over 35 years, making us the oldest organization of its kind on the planet, which is one of our greatest strengths. In the last year and for the first time in our illustrious history we have a national office and insurance. We are currently transitioning to an accrual accounting system and have contracted with a CPA firm for an outside audit. We recently appropriated funds to hire one of our members to do a major website overhaul which will eventually integrate chapter websites and allow for expandability. Even so over the last year Michael Rother has added some great

features to our website. All of which are necessary to operate as a viable nonprofit organization (business), increase the probability of successfully securing outside funding through public grants and private philanthropic organizations, and qualifying for the National or International Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), the latter of which is the only organization through which nonprofit organizations can solicit donations from Federal employees. The DBA "*National Coalition of Men*" is less problematic without the word "Free", the absence of which will hopefully facilitate securing outside funding thereby increasing our ability to affect long sought social, cultural, and legislative changes.

One of our board members was pleased with the new DBA since he receives a goodly flow of inquiries from prisoners thinking NCFM is an organization dedicated only to freeing men from incarceration. A member attorney noted, "Thank God. Do it yesterday. The 'Free Men' part of the organization's name makes us sound like a bunch of kooks." He was making a presentation in front of 100 other attorneys and the room erupted in laughter at our name. Another wrote, "The name has bugged me for some time and it was obvious to me how it limited a mainstream acceptance from the start."

A long term member who threatened to leave the organization if the new DBA were adopted wrote, "I totally and completely disagree with you, indeed hotly so, that, the word *free* obstructs us moving the organization forward toward becoming

a truly influential national player. I also strongly disagree that by changing the national name (even by using a DBA/AKA) will allow NCFM to, 'step into that future as full-fledged players prepared to battle for major changes.' The name is irrelevant to being a full-fledged player. Rather, what makes NCFM a full-fledged player is... persistent, unrelenting, hard work... THAT is what makes NCFM a full-fledged player in the game..." He wanted "proof" that the new DBA was beneficial.

Another offered, "The problem isn't the name; the problem is no one wants a men's rights organization to exist. Well, almost no one... But we're working on changing that..."

Most salient is, "[N]o one wants a men's rights organization to exist." And, it is people within our organization doing good, persistent, and unrelenting hard work that someday will make us a full-fledged player in the game. There is also no question that men are not free; or, that this organization is dedicated to ensuring that someday they will be free.

Similarly, from a purely business perspective, having to explain what "free" means is detrimental to our sustainability and growth, as demonstrated by laughter. Our outreach, education, activist, legal and legislative efforts embrace our dedication to freedom, and will continue to do so. As stated on NCFM's web site, our motto reads, "Freeing men from sex discrimination since..."

There is no “proof” of future events, none. Important here is that our Board of Directors is working hard to move us into the future so we are better positioned to influence those that can facilitate our freedom. There is no evidence that the word “Free” in our name has contributed to our present stature, in fact it may have stifled our progress; though there’s no proof of that either.

We are working on changing to make sure people care. Major changes are necessary, some of which may fail. So be it. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. Otherwise, after explaining to our grandchildren how valiantly we fought for their freedom, we can age comfortable around fireplaces thinking how nice it would be to be free, all the while wishing we had just one remaining NCFM chapter, just one...

To be clear, the official name is still “The Coalition of Free Men, Inc.” Chapters are free to use the name as they wish. But the business of the national organization and chapters that choose to do so will now be conducted under the DBA “National Coalition for Men”.

Support for the new DBA far exceeded opposition and all comments were greatly appreciated. NCFM is a great organization with fantastic people. Thank you very much for letting me be a part of

your vision. And, thank you Tom for providing the above history about our name. I hope we are able caretakers of your dream.

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TRANSITIONS

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Media Digest

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

compiled by Mike Spaniola

Politically Incorrect Domestic Violence

by Kathleen Parker

RealClearPolitics, June 25, 2008

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/author/kathleen_parker/

The words “domestic violence” typically invite images of bruised women and children — and male perpetrators. But the real picture of domestic violence isn't so clear-cut. And the solution to family violence is far more complex than our current criminal justice approach can handle.

For about 30 years now, we've been throwing money and punishment at domestic violence with not enough to show for it. Estimates are that more than 32 million Americans are affected by domestic violence each year, with many of those in need of help never reporting their abuse.

These are among the important findings of Linda Mills — attorney, social worker, survivor of a violent relationship, as well as professor and senior vice provost at New York University — whose new book, *Violent Partners*, tackles the myths of domestic violence and suggests new ways of dealing with the problem.

One of the primary myths — and the one that meets with the most resistance — is that only men are violent. As I point out in my own book, *Save the Males*, women and children indeed suffer the worst injuries and more often die as a result of those injuries. But women initiate violence as often as men.

Ignoring or downplaying that fact both obscures the real problem of intimate violence and makes solutions less likely. Yet even people who know better are afraid of speaking up lest they be accused of undermining feminist efforts to help women and children in danger.

Why Are So Many Women Depressed?

by Dennis Prager

TownHall.com, June 24, 2008

<http://www.townhall.com/Columnists/DennisPrager/>

Apparently, more women are clinically depressed than ever before. ... [W]ith feminism arose a belief in the superiority of female nature. One result of this has been the suppressing of many male instincts — both negative and positive — along with little or no suppression of negative female instincts.

Societies and parents always knew that it was imperative to teach boys to control two aspects of their male nature — their sexual desires and their predilection for violence. ... Men who did not learn to control these aspects of male nature, not only became bad men, they became unhappy men. Happiness is attainable only when we control our nature and not when our nature controls us. ...

[C]ontemporary feminism and other social trends that coincided with the rise of feminism — among them the elevation of compassion over standards, the great emphasis placed on feelings, the rejection of patriarchy and the devaluation of traditional masculine virtues (like subdued emotional expression) — female nature came to be seen as far less in need of discipline than male nature.

So, while society continued to teach boys to control themselves, it stopped teaching girls to do so. Girls' emotions and feelings were inherently valuable. And denying this was attacked as sexist, if not misogynistic.

California court strips children of right to mother and father

by Terence P. Jeffrey

CNSNews.com, May 16, 2008

<http://www.cnsnews.com/ViewCulture.asp?Page=/Culture/archive/200805/CUL20080516c.html>

In Thursday's 4-3 decision legalizing same-sex marriage, the California Supreme Court stripped children of the right

to be raised by a mother and a father. Most media coverage of the [c]ourt's decision focused on the ... a right to same-sex marriage. The ruling invalidated California's Proposition 22, a state ballot initiative that passed with 61 percent of the vote in 2000, and which banned same-sex marriage in the state.

But the California Supreme Court decision goes beyond simply giving same-sex couples the right to call their unions a “marriage.” It also strips children of the right not to be artificially conceived or adopted by people other than a mother and a father.

Indeed, the court does not recognize that children have any right whatsoever to a mother and a father. In the decision, the California court sees children primarily through the eyes of same-sex couples who want to secure custody and control of children. The court makes emphatically clear that it deems this to be a right of same-sex couples that is equal to — and identical to — the right of married mothers and fathers to adopt or conceive and raise their own children.

In making this argument, the court addresses biological parenthood as an accident of nature that can be swept aside by the court in its pursuit of what the court understands to be justice. To explain this vision of justice and where children fit into this vision, the court equates same-sex couples to infertile heterosexual married couples.

Divorce's atomic bomb: false abuse allegations

by Sarah Hampson

Globe and Mail, April 24, 2008

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080424.wlgenex24/BNStory/lifeFamily/home>

The charges were eventually dropped, and his criminal record expunged, but the action had the desired effect. He was traumatized. She had exacted her

revenge. They had been married for 20 years when she discovered, through an e-mail account, that he was having an affair.

So she hit him with the atomic bomb for warring spouses -- false allegations of abuse -- the proliferation of which alarms professionals in the divorce industry. It is, in essence, an abuse itself, not only of the charged spouse but also of the criminal justice system.

The father doesn't want his name used for fear his children would be identified. He is a well-known Canadian actor and he is still trying to repair the

damage. His ex had involved their son, then 8, in the allegations of physical violence, saying that he not only witnessed the encounter between them, but that he had been beaten on several occasions, too. The Crown attorney eventually dropped all of the charges, but not until the divorce proceedings had been finalized.

His experience is just one of several that readers of this column have brought to me, complete with legal documentation, and they suggest why many lawyers saw the judgment by the Ontario Court's Mr. Justice Bruce Pugsley a few

weeks ago as a welcome acknowledgment that some discrimination is needed about when charges of alleged assault are made and pursued.

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.

Book Reviews

By J. Steven Svoboda

Man-Making

By Earl Hipp. Minneapolis: Human Resources Development, Inc., 2006. www.hrd-inc.com. www.man-making.com. 160 pages. No stated price but website gives price as US \$14.95.

Man-Making is probably the first book ever to focus on the specific set of issues raised by initiation and mentoring of boys. According to the cover biography, author Earl Hipp, incidentally a fellow New Warrior trainee, has been a successful author, speaker, and lecturer on men's issues and development for nearly a quarter-century. The publisher is actually the author's privately owned corporation, although the book's highly professional production values would never give this fact away.

Man-Making is a short book, but every page of it advances the author's goals of moving men toward preparedness and willingness to help make men out of boys. No one other than men, Hipp writes, can do this job. And of course in many ways it is necessary for men other than Dad to foster the process. Validation by males outside the nuclear family is a desperate need for adolescent boys. The author correctly notes that even most grown guys find it very wonderful to receive a blessing from an older male. Hipp asks the male reader to recall the gifts they received from a mentor,

as nearly all of us had some sort of mentor experience, however fleeting it may have been.

Hipp does a lot of things well, extracting some of the very best quotes from authors such as Michael Gurian and William Pollack, and distilling down to a couple pages a deft summary of the alarming boy crisis our society currently faces. The author also coins felicitous phrases such as "the natural forces of masculine gravity," which, he tells us, will take care of the rest once an adult male "moves a little in the direction of" a young man.

Since most men are, sadly, still seeking initiation and/or the approval of other men, it is common for men to set up roadblocks to getting involved with boys. Common fears and concerns that help keep adult males from mentoring boys are first raised, then confronted, and finally paths forward are provided the reader.

The many brief real-life testimonials Hipp provides are uniformly fresh, gut-pleasingly real, and illuminating. One of the most important gifts we can give boys is simply to see them as they are. Even this may take a little conscious effort as many of us are so used to being the enforcers. If we can move further and provide a boy with a blessing, just a few words can have a huge, often lifelong impact.

I loved the author's examples of one (man)-to-many (boys) man-making.

Hiking, woodworking, basically any excuse for a bunch of males to hang and do stuff together. Several out-of-the-ordinary ventures earn mention, such as curling, driving lessons, and even Guys Read, a website-based initiative to get boys interested in books.

Scouting earns three richly deserved and all too rare (these days) pages of description. I learned for the first time about DeMolay, an organization founded in 1919 that has helped mentor thousands of boys including Bill Clinton, John Wayne, and Walter Cronkite. Several wonderful stories are provided of unruly boys who receive the attention they so badly crave and avoid depression, instead becoming mentors for their younger peers.

Chapter Five addresses one-on-one man-making, perhaps the most powerful form male mentoring can take. Hipp notes that "consistency of contact is more important than occasionally doing something spectacular." The author also addresses topics that are all too easy to forget or miss, like how to properly end a relationship with a boy. (Discuss the transition together and make a mutual choice to end things if appropriate.) Hipp stresses the great value of honoring and blessing boys at important times such as birthdays, graduations, school awards, and

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Reviews

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the day he receives his driving permit. Even brief encounters can be life-changing.

E-mentoring is discussed and rightly recommended only if the mentor does not feel ready for face-to-face work with one or more boys. One memorable story relates how a mentor went on a hunt with his mentee and after a kill, smeared deer's blood on the boy's face in an unforgettable gesture of acceptance. Even paintball, which I personally detest, is discussed as a valid option, and rightly so. Official programs including Big Brother receive their due.

Informal initiations such as converting a birthday party into a coming-of-age celebration are discussed, as are formal rite-of-passage programs. My only real concern with this book is the surprising lack of attention paid to the rich territory

lying in between the formal and the informal, such as rites of passage organized by men's groups. I personally have been connected with some rites of passage through my own men's group and I know that they can be literally life-changing for participating boys. It would have been great if Hipp could have devoted a chapter to advising men on the rudiments of organizing such events. Certainly a lot of the hard-won lessons my group inadvertently learned through the rites we organized could have instead been absorbed *prior* to our first initiation if we had had a guide available. Without this, the book feels incomplete to me. I find it a bit disturbing that with the large number of men's books out there, seemingly no one has written a how-to guide for organizers of boys' rites of passage. Perhaps it is a bit unfair of me

to critique the book for what it does *not* offer, when what it does give us is so valuable.

Anyway, Hipp does give a much-appreciated mention to a formal rite of passage program co-created by some dear friends of mine from the Mainely Men men's gatherings. I loved reading again the following priceless list of five lessons to be communicated to young men through initiations: Life is hard. You are going to die. You are not all that important. You are not in control. Your life is not about you.

Earl Hipp has done us all a huge service with this modest yet powerful and potentially life-changing book. If you are of the adult male persuasion, please read it, and then get to work man-making if you are not already involved somehow!

What's Happening??

National Coalition of Free Men News

TWIN CITIES CHAPTER REPORT

(By Will Hageman)

In February, the Twin Cities Chapter had a table at the annual Conference on the College Male at Saint John's University, which is one of only five men's universities and colleges in the U.S. We have been at this event every year since it began in 2004.

Also in February, we sent information about domestic violence against men to all members of the Minnesota Legislature.

In March, we had a table at the National Conference of American Atheists. This was the first time in twenty years that this event was held in Minnesota, and our table was very busy with many visitors from across the country asking questions and taking literature.

Also in March, we had a table at the Republican Party convention in Minnesota's Second District, and U.S. Senator Norm Coleman visited our table. He did not commit himself to supporting

us on any issues, but he got a packet of literature from us.

Also in March, we had a booth at the annual Nonprofit Career Fair held by **Idealist.org** at the University of Minnesota, another event in which we have participated every year since 2004. Many students were very curious about the issues that we discuss.

In April, we had a table at the Republican Party convention in Minnesota's Sixth District, and a table at the Democratic Party convention in Minnesota's Fifth District. We had conversations with people from a wide variety of political backgrounds, and we opened some people's eyes.

In May and June, we had a table at each of two state conventions of Minnesota's Independence Party.

In May, we had a table at the Linden Hills Festival, a neighborhood festival.

In June, we had a booth at the state convention of the Democratic Party. Many

delegates and visitors came to our booth, and young people especially expressed interest in our issues.

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER REPORT

(By Harry Crouch)

5/13/08: Marc Angelucci (NCFMSD/SD), Fred Sottile (NCFM-LA), Dennis Ettlin (NCFM-LA) and I spoke to the student government about domestic violence and discrimination against men at West Torrance High School, CA, high school, which we believe is a historic first. The next day Marc and I met Dennis at Paramount Studios in Los Angeles where we were the featured guests on the nationally syndicated Tom Lykis radio show. All thanks to Dennis who waged a one man war against the high school for allowing a local feminist organization to speak to the entire student body and where they spread domestic violence industry ideologically based misleading drivel.

5/14/08: After sending out a press release on May 12, 2008 NCFM was mentioned in the article "California Group Defends Fairfield Father". Again, thank you John D. (NCFM) for telling us about the case and helping with the press release.

5/15/08: NCFMSD member Attorney Al Rava was a guest for an hour on the Marc Rudov radio show. Marc appears every week on Fox's Bill O'Reilly and Neil Cavuto shows, where he debates a female on topical gender issues. Marc spoke about litigation concerning sex-based promotions in California.

5/15/08: Linda Evans, Friend of the California Men's Center/NCFM and CRISPE won her CA appeal pro bono and was kind enough to make sure the California Men's Center was mentioned in the related front page article of the San Diego Region section of the *San Diego Union Tribune*.

5/16/08: SUPPORT System Down debuted in a major theatre in San Diego, a film by Angelo Lobo, the showing of which is sponsored by NCFM and NCFM-SD member John Van Doorn. Viewers provided very interesting feedback which you can read about here: <http://www.californiamenscenters.org/wordpress/?p=858>

5/22/08: Harry Crouch was invited to speak at "Grandparents Connection", a group of African American grandparents raising their grandchildren because the parents are unable to raise their own children due to drug and alcohol problems; and incarceration.

5/29/08: Dr. Shari Delisle, Ph.D., Executive Director of "Kids Turn", a very successful program to help children better understand and deal with the separation of their parents, was guest speaker at our monthly NCFM-SD meeting.

Much of late May and the early part of June was spent writing a grant proposal to secure funds for outreach, education, increasing membership, and more grant writing. Our request was approved, though we could not accept it. We applied for a similar grant three months earlier which helped secure the approval of our second request. Unfortunately, there were strings attached that could not be overcome. It needs to be said that open opposition from a well known men's rights activist and NCFM member contributed

significantly to both failures, thereby denying untold numbers of men, their families, and the women that love them from getting much needed assistance, as well as depriving NCFM resources to facilitate increasing membership and educating others.

6/3/08: NCFM-SD member John Van Doorn won 30% of votes in his bid to unseat incumbent San Diego Board of Supervisor Pam Slater, a very strong showing considering John had never run for elected office. The process allowed John numerous opportunities to help the community understand more about issues related to the interests of NCFM. Congratulations John for your hard fought effort!

6/11/08: Barry Kohn, CPA/Attorney, was our second Wednesday of the month meeting guest speaker. Mr. Kohn spoke primarily about how best to structure finances during a divorce.

6/13/08: Harry Crouch joined about 30 NCFM-LA and Fathers-4-Justice members in Los Angeles for a Fatherlessness Day rally in front of the main courthouse. Great fun and we handed out hundreds of flyers, including NCFM-LA/SD brochures. As always NCFM-LA's Ray B's large educational signs were everywhere.

6/26/08 Harry Crouch testified about a number of issues before the California Commission on the Status of Women. He briefly touched on domestic violence, paternity fraud, and "choice" for men but spent most of his three minutes explaining the need to provide a process to suspend child support payments for those imprisoned. He was asked if NCFM would be interested in helping educate young men about the HPV virus. He said yes, as long as the effort was gender inclusive, since NCFM's role is to eradicate harmful gender stereotypes and boys contract HPV from girls too. Except for a camera man and another man who appeared to be an employee of the facility in which the hearings were held, Harry was the only man in the room and the only one to testify.

6/26/08: Gerard Wasson, Criminal Attorney, was our June NCFM last Thursday of the month speaker. Mr. Wasson gave some poignant case examples of domestic violence cases and shed light on

why female perpetrators generally escape prosecution. I wish every NCFM member could have been here to hear Mr. Wasson.

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

To set up your monthly pledge, please contact Deborah at NCFMdfw@yahoo.com or (940)-382-6250.

nCFM now has coffee mugs for sale!

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

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

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

Contact Deborah Watkins at NCFMdfw@yahoo.com or (940)-382-6250 to place your order. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

Letters to the Editor

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

DEAR EDITOR:

In Volume # 28 and Issue # 2 dated Mar/Apr 2008 on page 2 of *Transitions*, in the Editor's Comment section, you request input, via letters, on the NCFM name change issue.

First of all, what is (DBA)? You neglected to define it therein!

To even remotely (sincerely) consider such misconstrued conjecture of some fringe paranoia imagining that NCFM somehow or some way stands for a militia group is just about the weirdest thing I have heard in a long time, and believe me, in here, I cannot escape (no pun intended) over hearing some pretty strange dialog!

Perhaps, it's wise to listen and adhere to the venerable member(s) wisdom and heed their reluctance to change what has worked just fine to date!?!? An age old saying goes something like, "IF IT AIN'T BROKE, DON'T FIX IT!"

The acronym NCFM, alone, has a distinct ring to it and is well known throughout the electronic media as a site worth checking out! So, why change it, especially when the only real overt objection is that, to some, it may (or may not) have some correlation to militia, where paranoia reigns supreme!

It is a very real possibility, whether muted or covert, that an ulterior motive to change what is and has been working since the day of The Legal Beagle may be afoot!?!? A well placed objection and resulting suggestion is that we, all, examine

closely and investigate who wants it changed and the potential for a deeper reason for championing such a move especially, at this time in the history of NCFM.

In your opening paragraph, Mr. Leatherman, you appear to have made, perhaps, a most intelligent and comprehensive observation! I quote, "THIS ALLOWS US TO IDENTIFY OURSELVES WITH A NEW NAME, WHILE KEEPING THE ORIGINAL ACRONYM." Perhaps this is the way it should remain and to hell with the so called "furor" of many of our active members! If their furor is genuine let it be channeled into doing something constructive and coalition oriented! I'd like to know what committees and/or boards these so called furor spewing active(s) are or have been on to date? How easy would it be to misconstrue their "furor" for another sound alike word or phrases in the paranoid mind of one who chooses to employ such cacophony or hyperbolic morass fueled by roil!?!?

Wm. Hetherington

EDITOR:

Hello, William! Thanks for writing in.

"DBA" stands for "Doing Business As." A DBA registration allows us to operate under a new name that's different from our legally filed name.

I agree that this argument has seemed like a waste of energy sometimes, but there are many members who believe that the old name is indeed "broke." For example, see the next letter.

DEAR EDITOR:

I read your Editor's Comment in the Mar/Apr edition of *Transitions* regarding the Board of Directors' wise decision to jettison the "Free Men" part of our organization's name. Thank God. Do it yesterday. The "Free Men" part of the organization's name makes us sound like a bunch of kooks.

I am a California attorney who has

fought for over five years for equal rights for men. My battlefield is mostly the California courts where I have been very successful in eradicating the innocuously sounding "Ladies Night" and "Ladies Night" promotions, and any other commercial promotions or practices not bearing these monikers, but that nevertheless charge males more than females or exclude males altogether.

NCFM warriors Harry Crouch and Marc Angelucci have been kind enough to list some of my successes in the News section of past editions of *Transitions*. I was fortunate to represent Marc Angelucci last year in the landmark California civil rights case of /Angelucci v. Century Supper Club/, wherein a unanimous California Supreme Court ruled that men do not have to ask the offending business for equal treatment in order to have a sex discrimination claim.

Related to Marc's milestone case is an anecdote about how the public perceives our organization when it hears the "Free Men" part of our name.

Early this year, I attended a seminar for lawyers where important 2007 court opinions were discussed. One of the first cases presented was /Angelucci v. Century Supper Club/. After the speaker discussed the importance of /Angelucci/ to a room packed with over 100 attorneys, he finished by saying, "And amicus curiae briefs were filed on behalf of /Angelucci/ by the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, the Consumer Attorneys of California, the American Civil Liberties Union, and last, but not least, the National Coalition of Free Men." Unfortunately, but understandably, this cracked up the whole room. At the break, I explained to the speaker the serious mission of our group, but the damage was already done, and it will continue to be done until you change the name and get rid of "Free Men" like it appears you will.

Alfred G. Rava

DEAR EDITOR:

Concerning the brief mention

about male alimony (Mar/Apr issue, page 5), I am not so sure that we should be happy about it. Alimony was conceived because it was assumed that, in the unlikely event of divorce, the ex-wife wouldn't be able to support herself. Therefore, the ex-husband was responsible for her welfare and that of any children. Since both genders are supposed to be "equals" and that women can compete for the same jobs as that of men, we should promote the abolition of alimony and child support. After all, we are all adults who should be responsible for ourselves and not that of other adults. Both parents should be financially responsible for their children only when the children are with them.

Joseph Delvaux

DEAR EDITOR:

Reading the "Responses to Rich- Rod Britten

ard Doyle" article (in the Jan/Feb 2008 edition of *Transitions*) reminds me of one of my favorite Peanuts cartoons. In this cartoon Lucy comes into the living room to find Linus in control of the TV. She demands that he change the channel. "What makes you think you can walk right in here and take over?" asks Linus.

"These five fingers," says Lucy. "Individually they're nothing but when I curl them together like this into a single unit, they form a weapon that is terrible to behold."

"Which channel do you want?" asks Linus.

In the final panel of the cartoon Linus turns away, looks at his own fingers and asks, "Why can't you guys get organized like that?"

Why indeed?

DEAR NCFM:

I was wondering if the ACLU has been brought on board Mr. Hetherington's case yet. Considering the gross civil liberties violations that appear to have been committed in this unfortunate case, it seems like the ACLU would be willing to join the cause.

Will C.

NCFM:

Yes, the ACLU has been contact many, many times about Mr. Hetherington's case. They have consistently refused to get involved. If you believe you have a way to persuade the ACLU to get involved, we could certainly use your help. Please let us know if you have any knowledge that could help in this regard.

DEAR NCFM:

My name is Peter. I am a graduate student at NYU, the Silver School of Social Work. I am interested in going for my Ph.D. in gender studies, focusing on men's rights. Can you help me find programs in my area other than NYU? I feel that their program is extremely biased towards transgender issues, and I want to focus on men's issues.

Peter

NCFM:

I think the best resource I can refer to you is probably the American Men's Studies Association, www.mensstudies.org. They are by far the leaders in men's gender studies. Please feel free to take a look at their site. If you go to "Resources, Academic" you'll find their list of academic resources, which I hope will be helpful to you.

DEAR NCFM:

I feel so lost and don't know where to turn. On Thursday May 15th my wife told me she was going to leave me and file for divorce (the 4th time she has considered this in our 8 year marriage). On the

LETTERS continues next page

Special Thanks Due

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

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Letters

Continued from Page 9

night May 20th we started to have what I thought was consensual intercourse and when she indicated she wanted to stop I did so. She started to cry afterward and asked me to leave the house. Thinking that I had done nothing wrong and being worried about her emotional state I stopped by the police station and asked them to check on her. Next thing I know I am being charged with 2 counts of Sexual Assault by force (Class 1 felony) and spend 2 weeks in jail before my mother figures out where I am and comes and bails me out.

Now I can't even see my wife, my kids, go to my house (even though she has moved out). I had just closed down a business due to the tough economic times and changed careers and I just feel so lost and alone at this point.

Do you have any resources or suggestions for me? I was able to borrow some money from my mother to retain an attorney, but other than that I don't know where to turn.

Ron

NCFM:

Thanks for contacting NCFM. I'm sorry to hear about the situation that you're in. Unfortunately, we have a social and justice system that is biased in favor of women, so I would say that you have one hell of a fight ahead of you.

I would suggest that the first thing to do is get a VERY GOOD lawyer who has experience with these kinds of cases. You'll need a lawyer who knows how to navigate the complexities of chivalry and feminism in our society while also working within the court system to defend you. That's not easy to find. Be sure to carefully interview various lawyers on how they would handle false accusations, women crying in court, anti-male/pro-female bias in juries, and so forth. Look for a lawyer that understands these issues and has some clue how to handle them.

You might also want to contact a firm that specializes in these kinds of cases. They're called "The A-Team", but don't let the name stop you. Their website is www.a-team.org. Please, at least read their website

and make sure you understand what you're up against.

I should also let you know that there is a small chance that your wife will change her mind and drop the charges. If this happens, be very careful. The same thing could happen again years down the road, and the dropped charges WILL be brought up again and used against you. You'll need to decide if you want to return to a woman who has done this to you and might do the same to you again down the road. That's up to you, and I'll leave it to you to decide.

I do hope this information helps you in your coming legal struggle. Please let us know how things work out. And, please, I hope you'll consider joining NCFM once your case is resolved.

DEAR NCFM:

After following the Men's Rights Movement for several years, I have never heard men's rights activists discuss the Equal Rights Amendment to the U. S. Constitution. NOW constantly pushes for its passage. Would ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment be a positive event for men's rights? Why or why not?

NCFM:

Actually, the issue is discussed at some length in the book *The Myth of Male Power*, which you might want to check into if you haven't already.

NCFM supports an "Equal Rights and Responsibilities" amendment that would declare that men and women having both equal rights and equal responsibilities. If you only talk about equal rights, you're only talking about half of the real issue.

We don't really take a position on the ERA as advanced by NOW. My personal suspicion is that it would be largely interpreted in favor of women and would provide hardly any benefit to men. But, again, that's just my personal view, so please don't quote that as NCFM's position.

I hope this information helps you in evaluating NCFM. If you're interested, I would encourage you to take a moment to join NCFM via our website. We offer sev-

eral fora where you could discuss these issues with other members and find a variety of opinions.

DEAR NCFM:

My name is Sean Delevan and I am curious as to how I may benefit your organization with the hope that you can make a difference in my life and cause also. I am a very outspoken supporter of Father's rights and have unfortunately been the victim of severe alienation and false allegations in family court for the past 7 years. I am not new to the process or the horror stories that occur in the courts and I have actually formed a non-profit organization called Fairness4Fathers, Inc. I must admit that my knowledge of running a non profit is limited but I have a decent following that follows my cause.

I would love to join your organization but I would like to know that it will make some sort of difference. I am also the N.Y. State representative for Fathers4Justice and I was active in the Fatherless Day demonstration. A quick Google of my name will reveal some of what I am about.

Sean Delevan
Fairness4Fathers, Inc.

NCFM:

Thank you for contacting NCFM, and thanks for sharing your story and expressing interest in NCFM.

Probably the simplest way to get involved is to just join our organization. You can do that online at www.ncfm.org/JoinNCFM.html, or you can join by mail. Once you join, you'll be able to participate in our email discussion group and receive our newsletter. These two items will put you in touch with many other NCFM members around the country, many of whom share your experiences in the family court system. However, I must warn you that NCFM is much more than a fathers' rights group. We also include many other men's issues, so you will also hear about issue well beyond parent's rights.

Once you're a member, you're welcome to get involved further by volun-

teering, forming a chapter, or perhaps even joining a board of directors within NCFM. It all depends on what you're interested in doing. Currently, we don't have a chapter in New York. We've had several in the past, but unfortunately, they have become inactive, which is where they stand now. If you're interested in reviving the chapter there, we would certainly be available to help.

As for how NCFM could get involved in your case, I must tell you that NCFM's focus is on educational activities. We aim to educate the public as well as legislators about men's issues. We've done this in many different ways, including letter-writing campaigns, conventions/seminars, demonstrations/protests, etc. We like to think that these efforts help people all over the country, perhaps including you. In addition, we are always open to new ideas if the volunteers are there to carry them out.

DEAR EDITOR:

My name is William Fain. Please take a look at my info here www.williamfain.com. The movie I made

is a true story. We are pulling fathers together all over the world. The trailer can also be seen at www.myspace.com/afatherschoice and more info on me at www.myspace.com/wilkyproducer.

Wilk

DEAR NCFM:

The National Coalition of Free Men (NCFM) has certainly played a commendable role in the fight against sex discrimination. This is, indeed, a record to be proud of.

However, there is one very blatant and obvious form of anti-male sex discrimination in the area of education that has, up to now, been virtually overlooked. While the significance of shortchanging boys during the public school years is, indeed, important, ever more pressing is the overt ban of men from women's colleges. Unlike, say, child custody cases where at least lip service toward non-discrimination is maintained, these schools overtly bar men from even applying. This is a major double-standard being that in the mid 1990's, the Na-

tional Organization for Women (NOW) and related groups successfully overturned the men-only admission policies at several schools. Furthermore, NOW and related groups have, over the years, frequently litigated against the exclusion of women from numerous men-only organizations and of teenage girls from boys high school athletic teams. When it comes to openly barring men, however, from women's organizations and colleges, these very same groups insist in maintaining the status quo.

Interestingly, there is more controversy in the use of race/ethnicity as a factor in admission, as there have been numerous Supreme Court cases regarding the use of racial quotas and adding points to admission scores base upon race/ethnicity. Also, while there ARE members of minorities who are OPPOSED to any affirmative action based programs, one NEVER hears of women who are against the overt discrimination against men in women's college admission policies.

Perhaps the time has now come for NCFM members to encourage their college-age sons to apply to women's colleges, file sex-discrimination lawsuits against the schools, and then picket these educational institutions with placards stating "ADMIT MEN!" and the like.

Richard J. Spain

NCFM:

Thank you for contacting NCFM. I share your concern about women-only colleges, and I have spoken up whenever the issue has made the news. I think you would find wide agreement with your opinion within NCFM's members.

As for a campaign to take action, we would be open to that as well. Would you be willing to chair a committee to organize such activism? If you would, this could be easily arranged. NCFM depends on volunteers for everything it does, so if you're willing to step up, we'd love to have you on board!

Volunteers Needed Please Help !!

EDITOR OF TRANSITIONS - The editor is looking to pass the hat to another motivated, creative volunteer. Good candidates will have spent some time in NCFM and know what we're about. Computer skills desired. Duties include calling authors to solicit articles, some proofreading, and layout. If interested, please contact Jason Leatherman at transitions@ncfm.org.

ASSISTANT EDITOR OF TRANSITIONS - The editor could use some help in the production of Transitions. You would start by calling potential authors and soliciting articles. You would take on more tasks as your time and interest allow. This could include proofreading, graphical arts, or pursuing any other ideas you may have for improving Transitions. If interested, please contact Jason Leatherman at transitions@ncfm.org.

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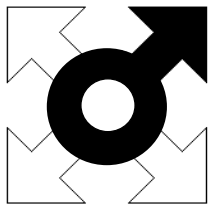
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