

# TRANSITIONS

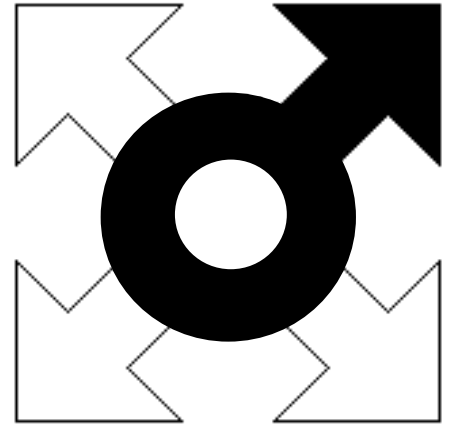
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## True-Equality is Defined by Three Domains: Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness

By Darrin Albert

Who is more privileged: the jovial woman of poverty who barely makes ends meet, or the clinically depressed man of wealth who is a bitter and cynical scrooge? This is indeed a philosophical question! The aforementioned people are not equally happy, and they are also not equally wealthy. So this, of course, leads to a question of even greater import: how should we define *equality* (in relation to gender) in the first place? Obviously whatever value system we are employing is paramount to conceptualizing the construct of *equality*.

Throughout this essay, I will discuss the concept of *gender-equality* vis-a-vis the United States Constitution, because I believe that true-equality takes into account all three important facets of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness (alluding, of course, to the idea that our aforementioned pair at the beginning are each missing at least one crucial component of true-equality). Fitting here is my belief that gender-feminism (not to be confused with equity-feminism or I-feminism) is guilty of painting an incomplete picture of what equality truly means. More specifically, the use of "patriarchy-theory" by some feminists is potentially biased to issues that do not take into account the anti-

male sexism of male disposability or chivalry (for example, gender-feminism may focus on issues of *liberty* such as the pay-gap at the

expense of the job-fatality gap or life-expectancy gap, which are both issues related to *life*). Similarly, gender-feminists may put too much focus on issues like the glass-ceiling (an issue related to *liberty*) without taking into account who actually smiles more between the sexes (an issue related to *pursuit of happiness*).

*What is life?* The Webster's Universal English Dictionary defines it as follows: "that property of plants and animals (ending at death) that enables them to use food, grow, reproduce, etc" (2004). Applied to the topic of gender, I believe this mostly alludes to the concept of "disposability." In particular, masculinists have alerted us to the ways in which men are treated as disposable, and also the possible reasons why (such as *The Myth of Male Power* by Warren Farrell). Some examples of male disposability include: the life-expectancy gap, the job-fatality gap, the male-only draft, the sympathy/chivalry gap, and the suicide ratio. Women, albeit often treated as less disposable out of chivalry (spare the women and children first/damsel in distress/girls are sugar and spice), certainly have unique areas of disposability as well that should not be neglected (such as childbirth death). In a nutshell, equality of "life" implies that men and women are treated as *equally disposable*, and hopefully minimally so! However, men and women can only be truly equal if their lives are valued with the same net worth (which implies that males and females have similar life expectancy rates). There is difference of opinion, of course, as to how much influence the law should have in

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## *Editor's Comment*

Recently, the NCFM Board of Directors voted to do business as (DBA) "National Coalition For Men". This allows us to identify ourselves with a new name, while keeping the original acronym.

Those members who are not on the NCFM newsgroup may not be aware that the name "National Coalition of Free Men" has caused a furor among many of our active members. Debate about changing the name of NCFM has arisen time and time again ever since I've been a member (and probably long before that, as well).

The organization's founding members are passionate about the "free men" concept. You can find it explained on the Philosophy page on the NCFM web site. Since it is so central to the organization's

mission, our venerable members want it in the name.

Many of our active members, however, think that the name hurts our mission because it doesn't quickly identify what we're about — it creates a false impression. Those who haven't read our Philosophy page often think that NCFM is some sort of militia, until it is explained to them by one of our fast-talking members. These members who have attended conferences, given talks, and otherwise performed valuable activism have complained that the name is a stumbling block that they must constantly work around.

Tom Williamson and Harry Crouch are writing articles which will ex-

plore both sides of the debate. They will appear in the next issue.

In the meantime, I call for our members to write in. If you have a feeling on the matter, one way or the other, please write to [ncfm@ncfm.org](mailto:ncfm@ncfm.org), as usual. It'd be great to print some letters along with Tom's and Harry's articles so we'll know the feelings of the members as well as those of the board.

Ever Yours in the Cause,

*Jason Leatherman*

## True-Equality

Continued from Page 1

establishing this kind of life-equality. Libertarians may wish to advocate, help, and educate out of free-will charity, whilst the liberal community may wish to utilize more forceful methods (i.e., create laws).

*What is liberty?* The Webster's Universal English Dictionary defines it as follows: "freedom from slavery, captivity, etc" (2004). This is a somewhat vague definition, because slavery can be defined in multiple ways as well. However, for our purposes I will refer *liberty* to the idea of "law." Legal bodies, of course, should treat men and women equally and in a fair manner in an egalitarian society. Masculists have alerted us to the controversial ways in which the law may not be so kind to the male sex (unequal prison terms for the same crime, male-only draft, unfair custody decisions, biased domestic violence laws, etc). Feminists have also alerted us to the controversial ways in which the law is potentially unkind to them as well (sexual freedom, etc). In a nutshell, equality of "liberty" implies that men and women are treated equally by the law. Indeed, men and women can only be truly equal if they have equal liberties. As with *life*, there is difference of opinion as to how much

influence the law should have in establishing this kind of liberty-equality. Libertarians may wish to advocate, help, and educate out of free-will charity, whilst the liberal community may wish to utilize more forceful methods (i.e., create laws).

*What is meant by pursuit of happiness?* I believe that this refers to the fact that all people, men and women alike, are ideally equally entitled to the experience of positive human emotion (affect). Ideally, an egalitarian society should focus on ways to ensure that in more or less general terms men and women are equally happy. Masculists have alerted us to the female spending-gap or the tragic reality that males complete suicide at a rate of 4x that of females. Similarly, feminists have alerted us to the sad reality that women may be more likely to attempt suicide as men (although it may indeed be difficult to separate actual intent from a cry for help). Some of the reasons for these disparities may be a result of external circumstance (such as unfair laws). However, a modicum of the responsibility for ensuring positive-affect obviously lies within each individual as well (some people actually seem to have depressed/cynical personalities). In other

manner of speaking, happiness is an existential/phenomenological construct that must also take into account our own frame of reference and percepts. Because happiness is relative, it is also important to note that some personalities endorse traditional gender roles while other personalities seek more freedom to deviate from roles that are perceived as restrictive. Although there is no law that states men and women have to be equally happy (and perhaps shouldn't be), this is certainly a positive goal for a society that indeed values true-equality.

This essay calls for a paradigm-shift in how we as a society view the construct of gender-equality. I believe that true-equality must take into account our emotions, our life, and also the laws that govern us. This is a new value system that values our emotions and external environments equally. Equality that focuses on one area at the expense of the others is not real equality. In fact, life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness can even ideally act as a set of checks and balances, where one area balances the others and makes sure no monopolization of "victimhood" occurs

within any one domain. All 3 domains are important. This system of checks and balances helps make sure that each of our esteem and survival needs are accounted for. The well-known psychologist Abraham Maslow believed that to be a truly functioning person, we need both our psychological and physical needs fulfilled. It is a simple leap to apply this same logic to equality. It also allows the movements of masculism and feminism to cooperate with less competition (perhaps doubtful), and without the rather ironic battle of who is indeed the "winning loser" of life's truculent asperity.

Reference: *Webster's Universal English Dictionary*. 2004. Geddes & Grosset.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:transitions@ncfm.org).

# TRANSITIONS

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# Media Digest

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

compiled by Mike Spaniola

## India uses gun license as sterilization incentive

By Shaikh Azizur Rahman  
*The Washington Times*, March 29, 2008

Government officials in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh have begun offering fast-track gun licenses to men who agree to undergo sterilization, so they will not feel less manly. The region is part of Chambal Valley, notorious for its rampaging gangs of robbers and bandits, and many villagers desperately want to possess firearms.

Vasectomy camps — regularly set up in many parts of the country as part of a solution to India's population explosion — often fail to meet their targets. ... Vasectomy camps are viewed with suspicion in India. In the mid-1970s, when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi declared emergency rule and suspended the constitution, her ambitious son, Sanjay, began a program of forced sterilization. Zealous officials keen to meet his targets reportedly took men out of buses and trains and sterilized them forcibly.

## The sad spectacle of Dee Dee Myers

by Carey Roberts  
MenNewsDaily.com, April 10, 2008  
<http://mensnewsdaily.com/2008/04/10/the-sad-spectacle-of-dee-dee-myers/>

Dee Dee Myers has just come out with her amusing tale, *Why Women Should Rule the World*. You may recall Mrs. Myers was the first female White House press secretary, appointed during the first two tumultuous years of the Clinton administration.

Simply put, Myers is a female supremacist. "Women tend to be better communicators, better listeners, better at forming consensus," she argues. That entitles women to run the world because they do everything better than those power-hungry men, Myers believes.

As the unsmiling Myers goes about promoting her book, one wonders what led her to pen a tome filled with crude gender stereotypes and doubtful claims. After

Myers left the hurly-burly of the White House in 1994, Myers married a handsome (and well-paid) magazine executive. They moved into a tony Washington DC home and had two children together.

But 14 years after leaving her heady White House post, Myers' career has stalled out. She has only managed to land a few part-time consulting jobs, like advising the now-defunct NBC series, *The West Wing*. Hardly an inspiring role model for the female global domination wannabes.

## One-billion dollars for DV programs that misuse taxpayer money and place victims at risk

Special report by R.A.D.A.R. (Respecting Accuracy in Domestic Abuse Reporting), March 7, 2008

<http://www.mediaradar.org/>

The Administration for Children and Families at DHHS (Department of Health and Human Services) is responsible for administering grants authorized by the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act. DHHS enumerates its grant requirements in the Grants Policy Statement, including the requirement that grantees comply with the Education Amendments of 1972 which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex. So how well are the DHHS accountability systems operating?

In 2005, the Office of Management and Budget performed an audit of the DHHS domestic violence program. On the Program Results/Accountability measure, the DHHS scored only 7 percent of a possible 100 percent. To remedy the deficiency, the OMB directed DHHS to "develop appropriate national grantee-supported performance outcome measures to demonstrate improved efficiencies or cost effectiveness." Appropriate "outcome measures" would include measures of intimate partner violence that are found in government-funded surveys such as the National Youth Risk Behavior Study and the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health.

But by early 2008, the DHHS had not developed even draft outcome indicators.

In 2007, the Government Accountability Office audited the DHHS domestic violence grant records. To its surprise, they learned that the DHHS had not established standardized reporting methods, time periods, or forms for grant recipients. The data quality was so poor that the GAO concluded, "we could not be assured that any survey data we obtained would be consistent and reliable enough for analysis of the specific information required."

## Miss-leading: the truth about gals' serial fibbing

by Susan Edelman  
*The New York Post*, March 2, 2008

[http://www.nypost.com/seven/03022008/news/regionalnews/miss\\_leading\\_100063.htm](http://www.nypost.com/seven/03022008/news/regionalnews/miss_leading_100063.htm)

Deceit, thy name is woman. Most females lie "more cleverly and successfully than men" about everything from infidelity and facelifts to barhopping and shopping binges, according to a new book. "Women lie as a survival technique, but also to get what they want," said Susan Shapiro Barash, author of *Little White Lies, Deep Dark Secrets: The Truth About Why Women Lie*, published by St. Martin's Press this week. ...

Barash interviewed 500 women nationwide who answered her Craigslist ads seeking females to confide what they fib about. Among her findings [are] 75 percent lie about how much money they spend. For instance, they sneak purchases inside their homes after shopping or hide the price tags. More than 60 percent cheated on their husbands. ...

Many women use the "betterment lie," as Barash calls it, as a means to an end. Urban women favor the "competitive lie," Barash said. "You lie about money and cosmetic surgery. Your out-of-work husband is a 'consultant.' You embellish your kids' accomplishments, or downplay their SAT tutoring."

**ABC's Simpson: Hillary "best qualified" because she's "a woman"**

Media Research Center, CyberAlert,  
March 31, 2008

[www.mrc.org](http://www.mrc.org)

For former ABC News reporter/anchor Carole Simpson, her support for Hillary Clinton's presidential bid boils down to sexist reasoning that the person "best qualified to lead this country right now, is a woman, somebody different."

Appearing Friday night on CNN's *Larry King Live*, the now out-in-public advocate for Clinton rejected the notion Clinton should drop out, pleading: "What about the country?" She proceeded to contend: "I'm concerned about the good of the country. Our country is in terrible shape. And I believe Hillary Clinton is best qualified to move ahead and move us

forward than Barack Obama. He's young. He has time. He could be a vice president. But in terms of the person that I think is best qualified to lead this country right now, is a woman, somebody different."

**Male alimony**

by Tom Purcell, [caglepost.com](http://caglepost.com), April 7, 2008

<http://caglepost.com/column/Tom+Purcell/5993/Male+Alimony.html>

Hey, ladies, turnabout is fair play. I refer to the *Wall Street Journal* report on an interesting trend: As more women excel in the workplace, more ex-husbands are winning juicy divorce settlements.

As it goes, the Supreme Court ruled, 30 years ago, against gender discrimination in divorce settlements. A man, if he earns less than his wife, can demand alimony, too. Back then, however, men were much more

likely to pay alimony than receive it — no man worth his salt would accept dough from a lady.

But times have changed. There's no longer a stigma for a man to receive support from his ex-wife. Take one fellow. Though he earned \$500,000 a year, his wife earned \$1.5 million. When they moved to California to advance her career, he had to take a pay cut. When their marriage dissolved, he demanded and won a sizable settlement. It was the only way, he explained to *The Journal*, he could maintain the standard of living he'd become accustomed to.

*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

*See Jane Hit: Why Girls are Growing More Violent and What We Can Do About It*

By James Garbarino, Ph.D.

New York: Penguin Press, 2006.

[www.penguin.com](http://www.penguin.com). US \$25.95. Canada \$36.00. 294 pages.

Seven years after writing *Lost Boys: Why Our Sons Turn Violent and How We Can Save Them*, James Garbarino, Ph.D., professor of humanistic psychology at Loyola University Chicago, has published what could roughly speaking be described as a companion volume, *See Jane Hit: Why Girls are Growing More Violent and What We Can Do About It*. Garbarino writes well, and his book addresses a topic that has drawn significant interest in recent years, having been addressed in at least four other recent volumes. *See Jane Hit* is interesting reading for gender activists, since Garbarino writes from a more mainstream perspective that uncritically accepts some anti-male falsehoods, yet at

the same time is a generally thoughtful and fair-minded commentator.

Girls' increased assertiveness and physicality (including contact sports) has roughly paralleled their remarkably increased violence. During the 1990's, offenses against people (as opposed to property) by girls increased an astounding 157%. During the same decade, violence by girls increased by 44% at the same time that violence by boys was actually decreasing. Interestingly, twelve-year-old girls now actually have more aggressive fantasies than boys of the same age. Alarming, girls are "successfully" committing suicide more frequently, and are also increasingly performing self-mutilations such as cutting. Girls' rate of committing murders is already higher than that of boys in countries such as Austria and Japan. A toxic culture and reduced constraints on girls' behavior have helped these events occur.

The basics of aggression, Garbarino clarifies, start in childhood. Children work to develop social competence and to sort out the messages

they receive about the acceptability of physical aggression and of other responses to stress and conflict. Girls and boys are today receiving messages that are more similar than they were, say, in the 60's, when tomboys were treated with strong social disapproval. Interestingly, for both boys and girls, androgyny (incorporating elements of both typically male and female characteristics) enhances resilience.

I appreciated all the girls' voices interleaved throughout *See Jane Hit*. Specific stories were quite piquant, such as the tale of the girls who teamed together to cruelly cut the long braid of an unpopular, ostracized girl. On the other hand, I did notice that most of the speakers were not the girls who actually committed the violence, whose tales would perhaps be of greatest interest (but may, I realize, also be harder to obtain). I was thankful for the author's emphasis on the importance of kids developing a spiritual basis for their life, and on the need to teach character, each of

**REVIEWS continues next page**

## Reviews

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which I believe (and Garbarino appears to agree) are critical factors behind preventing children's violence.

The book presents a number of interesting points. Competitive sports, while clearly associated with positive outcomes for girls (and boys), can validate physical aggression. Dramatic rise in women's sports participation is probably related to rise in girls' aggression. The powerful negative role played by television is discussed. TV teaches kids that aggression works.

On the other hand, Garbarino's overuse of the word "toxic" without much explanation of what he was referencing got a bit old. The author is uncritical of typical feminist analyses of gender and power, apologizes for female domestic violence while attacking men for theirs, trots out the old canard that men's domestic violence causes much more injury than women's, conflates boys and men when doing so will

enable him to stress greater male violence, (remarkably enough) believes the old lie that females earn 70 cents on the dollar relative to males *for the same work*, is blissfully unaware of the high levels of sexual abuse of boys, and so on. Garbarino critiques some vague recommendations by other authors but many of his proposals are similarly short on specifics.

The author deserves praise for his ability to reach original conclusions, such as his comment that sometimes girls have self-esteem that is too *high*. Girls' acts of violence, the author notes, are still seen as aberrations and exceptions rather than evidence of an emerging new rule. Girls are actually worse in some ways as boys; for example, they don't let go of conflict as easily and can be more cruel to other girls than boys to other boys. It occurs to me that in certain quarters, violence may actually be more acceptable from girls than from boys, with messages of girl power on

the one hand and strong anti-violence screeds against males on the other hand.

Other than the problem areas noted above, Garbarino largely avoids cant and cliché. Interestingly, one reason the author points to that addressing violence by girls may be more problematic is that girls turn more violence inward, so that girls bear most of cost themselves while troublesome boys are more costly to the community. *See Jane Hit* is a useful guide for anyone concerned about girls' violence. Not a perfect book by any means, it does provide useful information and can introduce us to a social problem that unfortunately is bound to increase further in importance.

### *What's Happening??*

## National Coalition of Free Men News

### SAN DIEGO CHAPTER REPORT

(By Harry Crouch)

From January through March we worked closely with Patricia Overberg, founder/director of several large domestic violence related organizations and an icon in the DV industry. Pat may indeed be the first director of such programs to shelter abused men and did so for over 20 years, she has moved to San Diego to work with our Men's Center. Over the next year, primarily working from her new home in North County, Pat will help write grants and proposals for private foundations for various programs we would like to implement, including support groups for abused men, counseling services for survivors of the character disordered, and research, outreach, and education projects. Board members of NCFM national over the past year have been working toward revitalizing the

organization and making necessary changes toward such possibilities by posturing NCFM to be able to better apply and receive various forms of funding.

Don Saxton, NCFM Vice-President and I, in conjunction or separately, spent 100 hours or so, probably more time actually, working on grant proposals. One of which includes several projects that Don and I worked on for the Men's Center. Including one that involved working with others in Hawaii, England, and Maine in an effort to develop a program to reduce the number of false allegations in family court resulting in restraining orders. There are five separate projects within the proposal, the granting of any one of which would help sustain the Men's Center and further the achievement of NCFM goals. The proposals are complete but need to be shaped into formats suitable for various grantors.

January 13, 2008 NCFM-SD members join the CRISPE coach, President Larry Kerkman (NCFM-SD member), and crew for the annual Martin Luther King Day Parade. We had a great time. Ray Blumhorst (NCFM-LA) joined us and led our procession walking backwards taking pictures as we snaked through the streets of East Village San Diego, our dedicated group out front of the impossible to miss purple 42' CRISPE bus adorned with slogans about the need for equal parenting laws.

January 16, 2008 *North County Times*, "It's time for us to boycott talking vaginas" — a letter to the editor about Eve Ensler's *Vagina Monologues*, by NCFM President Harry Crouch. It's rumored that this article helped fire up the Temecula City Council, that and several hundred com-

plaints about the play being shown in Temecula.

January 19, 2008 *San Diego Union Tribune*, "Single-family homes and talk-radio hate" — NCFM-SD member and Chapter President of the Coalition of Parent Support, James Shaw, responds to the article "Plan, then act/Gang panel moves from paper to practice."

January 25-26, 2008 NCFM President Harry Crouch, NCFM Board Member Ray Blumhorst, and CRISPE President Larry Kerkman attended the Concerned Women of America (CWA) Conference in Newport Beach, California. We networked, discussed issues, and handed out brochures and buttons. Everyone one we spoke with seemed genuinely interested in our issues, if not supportive.

January 31, 2008 Harry Crouch was invited to Leadership Training at the Office for Social Ministry Diocese of San Diego. Ken Peters, Director, above, talks with another of the many participants.

February 5, 2008 NCFM-SD Larry Kerkman, CRISPE President, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the importance of children having both parents in their lives ("Equal Parenting") before the Kearney Mesa, CA Kiwanis Club.

February 13, 2008 (1) California Men's Center and CRC-SD President Guillermo (Bill) Avad gave a presentation about the CRC before the Kearney Mesa, CA Kiwanis Club (they like us). (2) NCFM-SD member John Van Doorn attended the San Diego County State of the County Address with several friends who happened to be carrying John Van Doorn for County Supervisor signs. (3) Ms. Cook of Bolander Cook & Associates spoke at our Second Wednesday of the Month Meeting about a number of things including crossover issues

related to updated trust and estate planning for single parents.

February 15-16, 2008 NCFM-SD President Harry Crouch and NCFM-LA Recruitment Coordinator Ray Blumhorst attended the National Family Violence Legislative Resource Center's first international conference on domestic violence — a true milestone and historic event for equal treatment, truth, and men's rights.

February 25, 2008 California Superior Court Judge Ronal L. Bauer awarded the largest Unruh Act judgment in the state's history to NCFM-SD member and men's rights attorney extraordinaire Mr. Al Rava. This class action law suit cost behemoth Club Med \$400,000 for offering a sex based and discriminatory promotion in which women were offered the same vacation package as men except women went free while men paid.

February 28, 2008 Ardy Shaw Polanski Children's Center Director of Resource Development was our guest speaker at the monthly NCFM-SD evening meeting. Ardy is a dynamic and gifted speaker who for years had her own radio talk show. She said that she agrees with our efforts to reform child custody laws in California and volunteered to write a business plan for us, for free even!

February 29, 2008 Californians for Equal Parenting founding (CAFEP) was quietly formed several months by CMC member organizations. Today representatives presented the initial work to San Diego Assemblywoman Lori Saldana. We based our proposed legislation on the recent West Virginia model put forth by advocates down south...err, east.

March 6, 2008 (1) CRISPE crew giving a nice Howdy Do to Family Court Judges in San Diego during drive to work time. Passerbys waived, honked, and gawked at the CRISPE bus and crew in front of the court house. We passed out brochures, answered questions, recruited new members, ate doughnuts, and had a great time. One of the County Sheriff Bailiffs came out and asked where we'd been — said they missed us. Another kept bobbing his head up and down over the roof railing apparently sneaking pictures of us. I hope he had a good camera and telephoto lens. (2) NCFM-SD member John Van Doorn officially became a candidate for San Di-

ego County Board of Supervisors, awesome! That is, the Registrar of Voters printed his name on the "Candidates List".

Throughout this period volunteer Rich A., John Van Doorn, Larry Kerkman, and me, though mostly Rich, attended numerous major political party monthly meetings and special events. Rich, an ex-Marine (I know, once a Marine always a Marine) is now the primary area coordinator for one ex-Marine running for CA-State Assembly and regularly talks with another ex-Marine running for Congress (who is the son of a sitting Congressman from San Diego that this year made a run at the Presidency). Rich is now chummy-chummy with Republican, Democrat, and Libertarian San Diego party bigwigs. Rich has been a huge help volunteering well over 40 hours a week primarily helping CRISPE and networking with politicians. He's also been on his own time and dime been taking classes on fundraising and grant writing. Rich is a great help to our Center and NCFM.

You can see pictures related to many things above on the "Activities" page at [www.californiamenscenters.org](http://www.californiamenscenters.org).

1. Stop talking vaginas: [www.nctimes.com/articles/2008/01/16/opinion/letters/1\\_15\\_0817\\_07\\_01.txt](http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2008/01/16/opinion/letters/1_15_0817_07_01.txt).
  2. Single family homes: [www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20080119/news\\_lz1e19letters.html](http://www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20080119/news_lz1e19letters.html)
  3. National Family Resource Center: [www.nfvlrc.org](http://www.nfvlrc.org)
  4. CAFEP initial work (new equal parenting legislation): [www.californiamenscenters.org/files/080226\\_SHARED\\_PARENTING\\_DRAFT\\_CODE\\_Final.pdf](http://www.californiamenscenters.org/files/080226_SHARED_PARENTING_DRAFT_CODE_Final.pdf)
- Al Rava v. Club Med Judgement: [www.californiamenscenters.org/files/08\\_Al\\_Rava\\_v\\_Club\\_Med\\_Judgement.pdf](http://www.californiamenscenters.org/files/08_Al_Rava_v_Club_Med_Judgement.pdf)

## NCFM SPEAKS AT TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL

(By Marc Angelucci)

On May 13, 2008, NCFM members Marc Angelucci, Harry Crouch and Fred Sottile were invited speakers at Torrance High School where they spoke before 30 members of the student body government about male victims of domestic violence. This was a counter to the present-

**NEWS continues next page**

## 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. Email your work to the editor at [transitions@ncfm.org](mailto:transitions@ncfm.org). Use a good Subject line to distinguish it from spam.

## News

Continued from Page 7

tation given by an organization that distorted the issue and falsely told the students 95% of domestic violence is male-on-female, a myth that is not supported by any current credible data at all. A father of one of the students, who was outraged by the misinformation given to his son, contacted NCFM, who helped him stage a small protest outside the school and speak at the school board and city council meetings. As a result, the school invited NCFM to present the other side. NCFM discussed the experiences of male victims and why they are neglected and covered up for political and ideological reasons, handed out studies on dating violence including those linked below, explained the history and politics surrounding the problem and why covering up half the violence actually fosters the intergenerational cycle of violence even more. The students were receptive, and some were outspokenly supportive. NCFM also briefly introduced issues like paternity fraud and false accusations of abuse as forms of domestic violence, and briefly introduced other men's issues as well and the men's rights movement overall. NCFM handed out NCFM's flyers and other materials, as well as the following studies/articles:

*Science Daily*, "Male And Female Adolescents Equally Victims Of Physical Dating Violence, Study Shows" (11/12/07) <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/11/071109210657.htm>

California State University (Long Beach) bibliography by Professor Martin Fiebert (page 1) [www.csulb.edu/~mfiebert/assault.htm](http://www.csulb.edu/~mfiebert/assault.htm)

University of New Hampshire, "Men are More Likely Than Women to Be Victims in Dating Violence, UNH Expert Says." [http://www.unh.edu/news/cj\\_nr/2006/may/em\\_060519male.cfm?type=n](http://www.unh.edu/news/cj_nr/2006/may/em_060519male.cfm?type=n)

*Journal of Adolescent Health*, "Gender Differences in Dating Aggression Among Multiethnic High School Students" (5/08). <http://www.jahonline.org/article/PIIS1054139X07004351/abstract>

Thank you to all who helped out and donated toward the travel costs, and to Dennis, the father of the Torrance High

School student, who contacted NCFM made it all happen. Well done, folks!

### MARC MAKING A MOVE

(By Marc Angelucci)

In April 2008, Marc Angelucci moved to San Diego to work as a staff attorney for the Men's Legal Center, and so he had to step down from his position as president of NCFM-LA but has joined NCFM-SD (San Diego). The L.A. chapter

will be continuing its activities under new leadership.

### HARRY CROUCH ON TOM LEYKIS SHOW

(By Marc Angelucci)

The link to the Tom Leykis Show with NCFM's president is at <http://podcast.971freefm.com/klsx1/1092275.mp3>

## Special Thanks Due

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

**Anthony Ambrosio, KS**

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## Letters to the Editor

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

### DEAR NCFM:

I have a wife who packed up my family and rented a house with her mother with no notice and then slapped a restraining order on me saying I threatened to kill her. Not only is it not true, but I actually assisted the movers she hired and had no physical or verbal confrontations with anyone. My kids are being kept from me. I went before the judge who extended the temporary restraining order to April. I said nothing in front of the judge except that there was no police involvement or any physical abuse. He didn't really care though. Now I just got slapped with divorce papers. I have done nothing wrong to deserve divorce or non-visitation of my kids. I was the stay-at-home parent for the last 18 months while my wife worked. My job ended and she had a job that paid more than I could make. It's as simple as that — she didn't want to work and was jealous I was the stay-at-home parent. I still have no money. She took everything, the car, the kids, the furniture, everything. I have to fight this but when I went to a lawyer she wanted \$25k up front to represent me. I have nothing. Any advice??

Derron

### NCFM:

Thank you for contacting NCFM. False accusations of abuse or threats are actually quite common, and we get reports

of them quite frequently. Unfortunately, you have also become victim of these tactics.

The best advice I can give you is to shop around for an attorney. It is going to cost you money to hire a good attorney, but fighting these kinds of charges without one is going to be extremely difficult. So, I recommend that you try to find the funds somewhere, somehow, and hire a good attorney. Unfortunately, there really isn't any legal aid available for men (although there are free services for women).

You should be thorough in questioning attorneys before you hire one. Be sure to ask about their experience with false charges, their experience in representing fathers, and their experience in gaining custody for men. Ask for references, and check them. You want to find an attorney who has experience with your type of case.

Honestly, the tactics that your ex-wife is using usually succeed in doing long-term damage, so be prepared for a long fight. And, most importantly, try to do the best you can in maintaining a relationship with your kids under the circumstances.

### DEAR NCFM:

Please help get the word out about [prostatecancerpetition.org](http://prostatecancerpetition.org). It should be the largest such effort since the 1997 petition drive that launched the NPPC. Thanks!

Darryl

### DEAR NCFM:

We would love to get your help in getting the word out about the CSPAS because so many dads would be interested in this event. I need some help in meeting people that might like to be a Sponsor at the event and would greatly appreciate any help you could lend to this cause.

Please visit the website for the symposium at: [www.cspas.ca](http://www.cspas.ca)

Joseph Goldberg  
Canadian Symposium For Parental Alien-

ation Syndrome  
Tel 905-481-0367

### DEAR NCFM:

I make \$2.89 an hour. I work full time, 40 hours a week at AT&T, the largest communications company in the world, and I make \$2.89 an hour. My last biweekly paycheck was \$209.54. That's \$419.08 a month. Yes, I still have rent, a car payment, car insurance, gas, food, and all the regular bills that everyone pays. I'm not sure how I'll make it, if I can at all.

How does one make \$2.89 an hour working full time at one of the largest corporations in the country for the past three years? I don't know. I don't know how I got here or how it got to be this bad. My child support agreement is set at \$500 per month, and as of last summer, it's been garnished from my paychecks. The order states I should have \$230.73 garnished per bi-weekly pay period. That equals \$5998.98 per year, which is just \$1.02 shy of the \$6000 per year I would be paying if I were paying the agreed \$500 per month [ $230.73 \times 26$  bi-weekly pay periods = \$5998.98 / \$500 x 12 months = \$6000]. Instead of the court-ordered \$230.73 garnishment per paycheck, AT&T takes \$277.92 out of each paycheck, plus the quarterly bonus checks. That's \$7225.92 per year [ $277.92 \times 26$  bi-weekly paychecks = \$7225.92], or \$602.16 per month. That's \$102.16 more per month than what was agreed on & court ordered. This isn't including what's taken out of quarterly bonuses, too. My last bonus had \$133.13 garnished for child support. Average that out into the equation and that brings up the total to \$646.54 per month.

Now, my ex-wife and I got married young and started a family young, so we both put off college until the kids started school. I let her go first while I worked full time and raised our kids, and I would go after she got her degree. She left me before I got my turn, so, without a degree, I'm only pulling in \$28,652 [when I started 3 years ago, it was only \$23,108]. That's around

**LETTERS continues next page**

# Letters

Continued from Page 9

\$1,100 gross per bi-weekly paycheck. After taxes, health insurance and child support, I net around \$480 per paycheck. So, paying an extra \$146.54 per month is a lot to me. I don't have any breathing room, financially.

On top of this, my taxes have apparently doubled for no reason. My Federal Taxable Gross was \$707.95 higher than my Gross earnings, which, usually it's about \$100 less — making my total taxes for my last paycheck \$504.11 [which, normally it is half that]. So, with the excessive child support and doubled taxes, my last paycheck was \$209.54. This is my "earnings" from a full time job at a major corporation. So again, I've been calling and emailing the appropriate departments in AT&T Payroll, Minnesota Department of Human Services, Winona County, Stearns County and the Attorney General, but I either get treated like a criminal, or I get no response at all. I've been told it wasn't even worth working anymore, because I can't survive. If I can't afford my car payments and insurance, I will lose my car, therefore I stand to lose my job.

I used to drive 400 miles each and every weekend just to see my kids, now, after the state and AT&T have started garnishing my wages at a higher amount, I've only been able to make the drive maybe twice a month, sometimes once a month. Now, if nobody is going to correct my doubled tax issue, I won't be able to see them at all. So, here I am, about to lose my car, my job, and ultimately my kids, all for what? What offense did I commit? I just want to work, go back to school, pay my bills, and most of all, raise my kids. If child support and child custody laws are designed to be of greatest benefit for the kids, then why is Minnesota known to be a mother friendly state, and not a child friendly state? Why are we minimizing the importance of kids having their fathers in their lives? What makes being a single father so criminal? And at AT&T, why can't anybody hear me? I'm sending this letter to all of you simply to be heard.

Anonymous

**DEAR NCFM:**

My name is Lyn K. and I am publicist for David Manuel, author of the book, *I Am a Father*. I am contacting you to inquire into any opportunities for Mr. Manuel to partner with your organization to discuss the book and its purpose. I invite you to visit [www.iamafather.net](http://www.iamafather.net) to get a better idea of the book and Mr. Manuel.

I will contact you soon to further discuss how Mr. Manuel can assist your organization with your mission through his book and speaking opportunities or events if appropriate.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Feel free to contact me at your convenience as well at 678.292.6688 or [lynkpr@gmail.com](mailto:lynkpr@gmail.com).

Lyn K.

**NCFM:**

Thank you very much for your letter and the opportunity to get involved with this book. I have forwarded your message to our board of directors and to our membership in the hopes that someone will volunteer to take on this project. If someone does, I have recommended that they contact you directly and get started. We are an all-volunteer organization, so please understand that our people work on their own terms as best they can. Good luck!

**DEAR NCFM:**

Hello My name is Mark. I'm a 28 year-old blue collar worker from Brooklyn, New York. I had a daughter with my ex-girlfriend of 8 years in 2001. We broke up 2 years ago. In October of 2007 I got married to another woman and I have a 7 month old son. Everyone tells me to just move on with my life — I have a new and better family. But it hurts me that I help raise my daughter, and she knows me, but her mother is bitter and wants nothing but child support from me! And she violates my visitation order over and over again! I have spent over \$3000 in court and NO JUSTICE!!!! Please help me. I am focusing on my immediate family but it tears me up that my

daughter is being kept from me purposely.

**NCFM:**

Thank you for contacting NCFM, and here's wishing you the best of luck in your relationship with your daughter.

Unmarried fathers are in a difficult position in most of the US, with even fewer rights than divorced fathers. I am not a lawyer, and I cannot give legal advice, but I would suggest that you take a look at this column and see if it helps at all: <http://mensnewsdaily.com/2007/12/23/how-to-enforce-your-visitation-rights>. This column is one man's opinion, and offers one man's advice, but it is perhaps the only advice that I've seen for fathers with visitation problems. At any rate, I do hope you find a solution that works for you.

And, when your visitation issues are resolved, I hope you'll consider coming back to NCFM and perhaps joining us.

**DEAR NCFM:**

I have a question about the sex discrimination laws in Austin, TX. I was at a night club in Austin (Graham Central Station) and dancing in one of the dancing cages with my girlfriend. A bouncer came up and asked me to step out of the cage because they don't allow men in the cages, only women. My girlfriend and I promptly left the club upset. I came back the next day and spoke to the club manager. He said that rule is a long-standing "house rule" that he has recently started to enforce. He said that his club is not required to post a sign at the door so that people can read it before they pay the cover fee (which is a higher fee for men, big surprise there). In order to get a refund of my entrance fee, I was asked to sign a form stating that I would never return to the club, or else I would be arrested.

I'd like to know if I have a case against this club for sex discrimination. Are the laws for night clubs so relaxed that they will allow this behavior?

David Scott  
512-919-0460  
Austin, TX 78701

**NCFM:**

We have actually had a lot of success pursuing cases involving different fees for men and women, such as "ladies nights", etc, mostly in California. I'm not sure about a case involving access to a dance cage. I would suggest contacting a local Texas attorney for legal advice.

Personally, the way you were treated by this club sounds awfully rude and inconsiderate. Are you sure you want to go back there again?

We do have a chapter in Texas, but it's in Dallas-Fort Worth, so I understand it's a long way from you. But, if you want to contact them, you can reach them at [ncfmdfw@yahoo.com](mailto:ncfmdfw@yahoo.com).

**DEAR NCFM:**

I am in urgent need of some legal counsel. I have a situation where I was sleeping with a young lady and she insisted she was on the birth control shot. Well, she got pregnant in August of 2007 and admitted that she lied to me about getting the shot in September 2007.

I don't feel it is right for her to sue me for child support. I specifically told her that I did not want to have anymore kids. Can you help me in any way?

Rick  
404-438-4113

**NCFM:**

Thank you for contacting NCFM. I completely agree with your position. I am not a lawyer, and I cannot give legal advice, but what I know is this...

If a DNA test proves that you're the father of her child, you are going to be liable for child support. Any other circumstances are irrelevant. The court won't care. They will simply care about the DNA test result if you're lucky enough to have them in the first place.

So, my advice would be to insist on a DNA paternity test immediately upon birth, and continue to insist on one until you get the results. You're going to want the result, and you're going to want to know what they say. If you're lucky, someone else will turn out to be the father, and you'll be mostly off the hook. If not, then you'll be waging court battles for a long time, and they are not likely to be pleasant.

Our system is full of flaws, and you are perhaps experiencing some of them now. NCFM is working to raise awareness about these issues and help where we can. Perhaps you'll consider joining NCFM and helping with our cause? We would certainly appreciate it.

Meanwhile, I wish you the best of

luck in what you're about to go through.

### Please Help the NCFM Main Office

The **California Men's Center** in San Diego is an outstanding resource for men and the home of NCFM's national office. However, we face monthly expenses such as rent. You can greatly assist NCFM and local men by helping to keep these doors open. Please consider making a MONTHLY PLEDGE. Even as little as \$10/month will help greatly!

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

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

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Contact Deborah Watkins at  
[NCFMdfw@yahoo.com](mailto:NCFMdfw@yahoo.com) or  
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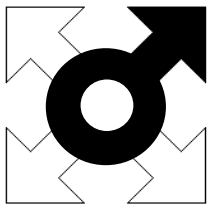
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