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Coordinator:
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Upcoming Events-see inside

- Legislative Education and Awareness Day, "Well" of the LOB Albany, NY on Tuesday May 4, 2004.
- Did you mail a letter to your elected representatives yet and meet with them? Do it NOW.

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FaFNY is a non profit tax exempt family educational and advocacy organization that is
"Working to Keep Fathers and Families Together"

The Race to the 2004 Elections

By Randall L. Dickinson

Ellen Goodman, syndicated columnist for the Boston Globe, writes that "the Democrats need to appeal to more men in 2004". More specifically, she says, "it's the so-called NASCAR Dads" ("NASCAR Dads attractive this election", Mon., 3 Nov. '03). Borrowing from pollster Celinda Lake, who originally coined the term, she describes the NASCAR dad "as the blue collar family man who's been hurt by the economy, watched jobs shipped overseas and his brother shipped out to Iraq".

Ms. Goodman confesses that she knows nothing about NASCAR or the even more popular professional football. This, she explains, is why she has chosen not to run for president herself. She might also want to re-assess her qualifications for speaking on behalf of male voters and defining for the Democratic Party which issues might be presumed to resonate with them. As former Congresswoman and feminist icon, Patricia Schroeder, once stated during the now infamous "Tailhook" scandal, "They just don't get it".

Here's a hint; it ain't about professional football and/or NASCAR. The key to an understanding of men's issues and any political capital that may lie there can be found hidden in Ms. Lake's description of the NASCAR Dad as the "blue collar **family** man" and in Ms. Goodman's admonition not to forget the "dad" in the NASCAR Dad.

While the issues described by Ms. Goodman are the traditional "bread and butter" issues that have a certain general appeal regardless of gender, much of their significance derives principally from the facility with which they making it possible to provide for and protect our **families**. Separate a man from his **family**, and you have suddenly removed a good deal of any incentive for him to continue caring about these issues.

Tragically, the contemporary definition of the **family** as being comprised principally of a **mother** and **her** children has become so deeply entrenched that the role for fathers in the **family** and the lives of **their** children has increasingly been marginalized to the fringes - except, of course, for their "economic" role ... you know, "just send money". Reflecting the same paradigm, men and their issues have become so invisible on the political landscape that the major parties offer precious few alternatives to them as a political home. The result is that, today, the most dangerous decision a young man can make - the decision that, above all others, will expose him to the greatest risk (better than a 50 percent probability) that he could wind up losing **everything**, including, in certain instances, even his life - is the decision to marry and begin a **family**.

No one should deceive themselves that recent attempts by Democratic candidates to portray themselves as solid **family** men has anything remotely to do with an attempt to appeal to male voters, however. Note that the comments to which Ms. Goodman referred in her column took place at a "forum on **women's** issues"; need more be said? Does anyone really believe that politicians waxing sentimental about the satisfaction they have derived from their families and the pride and joy they have experienced from raising their kids will resonate well with men who have been ejected from theirs and whose status has been reduced to that of "visitor" and "check-book"?

Apparently, according to Ms. Goodman, while men are permitted to feel anger, such license applies only if focused "on enemies abroad", or "the folks who duped him with their 'Mission Accomplished' banner and their Enron economy". When driven to rage by a system that currently has and routinely exercises the authority to eject them from their **families**, evict them

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FaF Schedule of Upcoming Events

L.E.A.D. Legislative Education and Awareness Day. (See Page 7 for flyer).

Tuesday May 4, 2004 9:00AM to 4:00PM

Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY. Press Conference at 11:00AM, Events and displays scheduled all day. Come see your legislators and ask them what they are going to do for families today! Coordinator Randy Dickinson (518) 899-3302. Call now to volunteer!

Family Help Packet and Policy Packet are now available on CD and at www.FaFNY.org

FaFNY is proud to announce that we are distributing our Family Help Packet and Policy Packet on Computer Disk. Recorded in Adobe Acrobat, the CD's can be read on any computer and those without it can download a free reader from Adobe. The Family Help Packet contains information relative to family court, working with your attorney and tips for maximizing your relationship with your children. It also has a list of family friendly legislation, a list of contacts and a sample letter that you can print, fill out and mail to your elected representatives.

The Policy Packet contains "Are We Ignoring the Elephant in the Room" which outlines the issues for policy makers. Additionally, it contains reference to reports and studies showing the benefits of shared parenting, mediation, parental education and the need for court reform. "Are We Ignoring the Elephant in the Room" is also available on our web page complete with links to the reports. Both packets combined contain information from the top experts on families. Combine this with the ACFC Shared Parenting Manual (comes with a membership in FaFNY) and you have the tools to combat the destruction of your relationship with your children. The CD can be obtained by contacting FaFNY by any means (see back cover for contact info.)

From the Desk of Mr. James Hays, FaF President The Campaign of Dignified Outrage Has Begun!

Last year, held on April 1, I sent out a notice for LEAD so that individuals can come together to work to change things for families. I got a response from one guy who stated "You need to move the date or I can't attend as I'll be trout fishing, it's opening day". The irony in that is, I am an Environmental Conservation Police Officer with New York State. As part of my primary duties to the citizens of the State of NY I oversee fishing and enforce the rules. I, like everyone else with FaFNY volunteers our time, we have no paid staff nor do we receive ANY government assistance. I have to admit that I was a little disheartened. I asked myself, why do I sacrifice time and money for a cause that will have no direct bearing on my relationship with my children (they are pretty much grown and not a part of my life due to PAS) for people that are too busy to help themselves? The answer to me is simple. As an officer of the law I took an oath to abide by and defend the constitutions of the US and NY. I am appalled at the total disregard for individual rights that are occurring in our family courts, supreme courts and criminal courts. I do this because it is the proper thing to do. I believe in and, have both past and present, support equal rights for all individuals. The enemy here is not "women" or "liberals" or "those other men". The enemy is a system that does not treat all people the same regardless of race, gender, color or creed. The enemy is any one person, regardless of the system they control, which removes civil rights from people.

And make no mistake, the movement that we are in is a civil rights movement. The right to parent your children, to raise them with your beliefs, is a fundamental right of the people. We are standing up against powerful people and institutions who would deny us this right. If history is any lesson then we should realize that the road to success has peril, yet ultimately reward. The re-

ward is a world where our children, and our children's children, can live free of tyranny with equal opportunity for all. In his writing included here Dr. Stephen Baskerville speaks eloquently on this issue. I encourage all to read the piece in its entirety and heed his call to action. When your children ask the question "Dad, what did you do to fight inequality?", you can respond with something other than "I was too busy fishing to bother".

Back when Hillary Clinton and Rick Lazio were running for NY Senator members of FaFNY were at a Republican Fund raiser in Saratoga County. While we were speaking with them about Lazio supporting family issues one of his organizers responded and indicated that he didn't need to address our issues and stated, "what are you going to do vote for Clinton"? Our response was, if she comes out with a family platform first, YES. Well, Lazio didn't support our family issues and I venture a guess that maybe he wishes he did after losing by a landslide. In "The Race to the 2004 Election" on page 1 our VP Randy Dickinson speaks to the issue that both the Democrats and Republicans are ignoring in this national election. After the past Presidential election in which the outcome hinged on such a small percentage of voters, you would think that both parties would look to include father and family issues. Whoever the loser is this time I suppose they will wish they addressed them. Speaking of elections, **have you registered to VOTE**. I hear many people stating, it does no good to vote. It does no good to write letters, make phone calls or meet with legislators. Do you think that anyone has ever received something from a politician without asking for it? If you don't ask the automatic answer is NO. **Let's register to vote, write, call and meet with a legislator TODAY.**

See you at LEAD on Tuesday May 4, 2004 for Dignified Outrage!

Governors Office Meetings

FaFNY continues to meet with representatives from the Governors Office on a continuing basis. We have brought a list of items relative to fathers and families and additionally have brought them volumes of information on the plight of New York's families. The information appears to be falling on deaf ears as there has been no movement on the part of the Governor to support fathers or families. The Governor seems more interested in receiving awards for breaking up families and making dead-beat parents (and then making them dead broke and beating them dead) than he is in keeping families intact. That said, we will continue to meet with and educate the Governors Office on the value of intact families and the importance of fathers to children, families and society.

FaF Meets with Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (Division of Child Support Enforcement)

It has been a while since meeting with OTDA staff regarding issues that affect fathers, families and children. We had insisted that OTDA allow FaFNY participation in the upcoming review of the child support standards to represent the views of the 2.5 million non custodial parents in NY. We were assured that this would occur yet as of this date we have received no notice of hearing dates.

OTDA states that they are not biased towards the custodial parent over the NCP and refer to both as their "clients" but in searching for a company to perform the quadrennial review, which is now years behind schedule, they indicated they would use Policy Studies Inc. (PSI), a company which has made \$billions in collecting child support and which is clearly biased against non custodial parents. We were clear that we do NOT view them as an independent company and that there is a serious conflict of interest if they are used. OTDA is clearly dragging its feet and attempting to stack the deck against reform of this "child support" system which is detrimental to children. We will continue to hold them responsible and accountable for their actions and point out the inequities of this system. We continue to work within the system to bring forth the truth and seek justice for our families here in New York. If you have had a problem with child support collections (whether custodial or non custodial) let us know and we will bring the issue to their attention and seek resolution.

For further information on child support check out R. Mark Roger, Economist at www.economic-indicators.com. Information on PSI can be found at fathermag.com/907/child-support/.

Fatherhood Institute News

FaFNY has always been committed to opening a Fatherhood Institute in New York and had held discussions with Hudson Valley Community College to this end. We have requested funding through Senator Bruno's Office but budget difficulties have delayed funding for not only us but all non profits in New York. We continue to hold discussions with Senator Bruno's staff and are hopeful that the funding and the opening of the Fatherhood Center will come to fruition in 2004. Funding for this project would most assuredly make the statement that fathers and families matter.

Legislative Meeting News

We ended last legislative session by holding meetings with Counsel to Assembly Speaker Silver and providing them with "Are we Ignoring the Elephant in the Room" and literally a shopping bag full of books, periodicals and magazines. We also met last session with staff from Senator Mary Lou Rath's Office, Chair of the Senate Children and Families Committee and presented them with our research information. We have scheduled meetings with Senator Rath in February of 2004 to discuss the problems faced by families today in New York. We are scheduling meetings with key players in the Senate and Assembly and are again focusing on terminology (parenting time in place of "visitation") and shared parenting.

While we continue our meetings throughout the year you can do your part by obtaining the list of contacts and sample letter and sending them out. Schedule a meeting with your Assemblyperson and Senator in their home district office (near your house!). Information on current bills, key contacts and issues can be obtained at www.FaFNY.org. Your Assemblyperson and Senator with contact information can be found at www.assembly.state.ny.us and senate.state.ny.us. Governor Pataki and the agencies in New York can be found at www.state.ny.us.

For those wishing to get active in legislative initiatives feel free to contact Randy Dickinson, FaFNY VP at (518) 899-3302, dickins895@aol.com or Jim Hays at (518) 383-8202, DadLobby@localnet.com.

Web Sites of Interest

FaFNY.org This is your (member) web site. It contains a wealth of information and is being added to on a weekly basis. Check this site daily for organization updates and NY Government and legislative information as it develops.

ACFC.org This is the site of your National Affiliate. FaFNY is the NY affiliate of ACFC and members are in the same organization. You should be able to access members only information and be join the ACFC list serve for information.

Silentmajority.info FaFNY does NOT maintain a list serve. To avoid redundancy of information in NY we rely on postings to this list-serve. ALL FaFNY members should sign up for this list serve to stay current on NY issues.

mensnewsdaily.com Loud, Proud and Unbowed News with a male perspective.

mensdefense.org site of the publisher of the "Liberator" newspaper. A suggested read for fathers and families. \$24 for a one year (bi-monthly) subscription, order online or at MDA 17854 Lyons Lake, MN 55025-8107.

A Message from Stephen Baskerville, President, American Coalition for Fathers and Children

(see Men's News Daily at <http://mensnewsdaily.com/archive/a-b/baskerville/2004/baskerville010704.htm>)

It is a tremendous honor to be asked to serve as President of the American Coalition of Fathers and Children. We stand at a critical point. Families today are under attack as never before. But this attack does not come primarily from pornography, television, rock music, drugs, or even homosexuality. The attack comes from government, and it targets the family's weakest and most vulnerable point: the father. The wholesale separation of children from their fathers, the mass incarceration of fathers without due process of law, the seizure of children from both mothers and fathers, the abuse of children by the very officials who claim to be protecting them -- this is hidden behind a media blackout, hidden behind the silence of the politicians, but it is the terrifying reality for millions of Americans.

The crisis is especially acute now. Sharp increases in already-crushing "child support" burdens, new penalties ostensibly to combat "domestic violence" -- these will produce more broken homes and fatherless children, more parents in jail, and further erosion of constitutional rights.

But it is also a hopeful time. As Americans wake up to the crimes being committed against families by their own government, they shake their heads in disbelief but cannot deny the reality they witness in their own lives. The media and politicians too can no longer look the other way, as fathers speak out and organize to protect their families.

Family and marriage issues are on the front pages around the world, and ACFC intends to make fathers and parents generally a leading voice in that conversation.

In the coming months and years, I look forward to working with ACFC Founder and Board Chairman David Roberts, Executive Director Mike McCormick, Communications Director John Maguire, Treasurer Ileana Basil, Membership Director Susan Antomarchi, and other prominent activists and all of you to stop the systematic destruction of families. ACFC is a rapidly growing organization, with new members and new affiliates added daily. In partnership with groups formed by many of you, ACFC will publicize and challenge the government's offensive.

Parents are now resisting the government's intrusions with new determination. I hear parents asking how they can become active, pledging to sacrifice whatever is required, vowing never to relent, dedicating the remainder of their lives to rescue their children from the clutches of this cruel machine. And yes, I hear some parents (increasing numbers, it seems) threatening to use measures which we dare not condone. But I also hear them vowing sacrifices which we can only admire.

Even now, we witness courageous deeds and heroic sacrifices. In Britain, fathers have placed their demands on the front pages of the most prestigious news organizations in the world. In Australia, Prime Minister John Howard has put divorce and custody issues before the national legislature. In Canada, debates on custody law are also national news.

What Lies Ahead?

As fathers and parents, we are uniquely situated to lead families out of this bondage, as others have done before. But we must have no illusions. Before we reach the promised land of freedom, we must fight our way through a wilderness of despair. We will be called vicious names: "deadbeat," "batterer," "pedophile," and more. We must withstand scorn from the media and politicians that offers us no platform to defend ourselves. We must be prepared to endure fabricated accusations of the most heinous crimes against our own children, with few constitutional protections for our rights. We must face summary incarceration from government bullies motivated by a toxic mix of self-righteousness and self-dealing. Indeed, some of us will find ourselves called upon to make (as some have already) the supreme sacrifice that fathers have never hesitated to make for the children. We must dispense with the illusion that others will win this struggle for us. We must discard the vain hope that if only we inform them of the terrible injustices perpetrated against parents and children, then journalists, politicians, family advocates, or civil libertarians will wake up, and do their jobs, and end this injustice.

The bitter truth is that no one can "save the children" but their parents. We alone are responsible for our children, and we alone must protect them. No one will cry for us if we succumb. No one will respect us if we complain. No one will listen to our excuses if we fail. *No one* -- including our children themselves. The entire burden rests upon us and no one else. But when we succeed -- and we *will* succeed -- we will create a legacy of moral authority and family strength that will be passed to our children, and to theirs, and beyond.

Even the most vicious among our opponents have paid us this high tribute: They have made us responsible. "Father absence," we are told (and told correctly), accounts for virtually all today's social problems. And so we are blamed for being "absent" -- even when we have no right to be present. We are held responsible when a marriage ends, even when we did not end it. We alone are made responsible for providing for our children, even when they are forcibly removed from our care. We alone are held responsible for violence in the family, even when we have not committed it (and even when it is committed against us). We are held responsible for the abuse of our children, even when they are abused by others. We are held responsible for the wayward behavior of our children, even when we are not permitted to offer them guidance and correction. Even when it is beyond our control, we alone are responsible.

We must not shirk this responsibility, for it is the essence of fatherhood. We must embrace it, for it is the salvation of our children and the restoration of our families. It is time we took the fair-weather friends of fatherhood at their word by standing up and taking action. The time for talk is past. It is now time to act.

Who We Are

So let us take this opportunity to state clearly before the world who we are and what we stand for.

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There are those who claim to advocate for an abstraction called "fatherhood." Others describe themselves as defenders of "the" family. Many are well-intentioned. But they tend to be political professionals, and they often claim to speak for "the children," not their own.

Some of these professionals chide us because (they say) we are looking out for our own interests, our own families. They seem to claim moral superiority because they concern themselves with other people's children.

It is true that we have a personal interest in preserving families. Because we (and we alone) are defending *our* families. For us, the family is not an abstraction or an object for our good deeds. We do not pretend to be motivated by concern for someone else's children. We concern ourselves only with our own. We are not crusaders or zealots. And we are not professionals. We are proud to be *amateurs* (literally, those "who love"). We are parents, and our aims are limited. But that is not our weakness; that is our strength.

It is our strength because we have the authority not of paid officials but of parents and citizens. Politicians always promise to return power to "the people." But we *are* the people. We have endured much from the politicians, but when they take our children, we draw a line.

The good intentions of fatherhood promoters, family defenders, and children's advocates cannot meet the test. They will not fight for our children. They will not sacrifice for our children. They will not risk their careers or livelihoods or lives for our children. They will not die for our children.

There is no such abstraction as "the" family. There are only families -- *our* families. We alone can and will defend them. If others wish to help -- journalists, politicians, defenders of the Constitution, critics of the judiciary, civil libertarians -- we welcome them, and they will have our gratitude. But we must make it clear to friend and foe alike that this is foremost *our* struggle. We -- and *we alone* -- can save families, because they are our families.

Likewise, we do not trumpet an abstraction called "fatherhood." We are concerned with *our* fatherhood, the fatherhood of each individual father. And we will establish it not with words that cost nothing but with deeds that may cost us dearly indeed. If those who pose as the champions of fatherhood dislike our deeds, then it is time they examined what they mean by "fatherhood." For if it means anything less than defending one's children against those who would interfere with them or take them away, then theirs is a definition of fatherhood we find wanting. They are entitled to their opinion, of course, but we are entitled to our children. And our children are entitled to us.

Opinions are important (to a point), and "a decent respect to the opinions of mankind" is obligatory in a democracy. But few who have both would regard their opinions as being of equal importance as their children. While we respect the opinions of others about the best interest of children in the abstract, we expect others to respect our decisions about the best interest of our own children. And we expect them to understand something more: that no parent is answerable to government officials for how they raise their children or for exercising their right and duty to protect them. The best interest of children is a continued meaningful relationship with both parents. And the best way to achieve that is limit the discretion of judges with a rebuttable presumption of 50-50 shared parenting

Where We Stand Now

It is impossible to overestimate the burden that weighs upon our shoulders. We face a government that threatens our children, our lives, our Constitution, and quite possibly the very basis of civilization itself. Before our very eyes we see history's greatest experiment in human freedom being debased into a ruthless, depraved, diabolical tyranny.

It has fallen to us "to wage war against a monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark, lamentable catalogue of human crime." But this tyranny does not come from abroad; it has arisen in our very midst. It is a tyranny of cowards, that hides in secret courtrooms and protected offices, that fears the citizens it ostensibly serves, while cynically using and abusing innocent children to increase the power of grown-ups.

Against this foe, we have no illusions that our struggle will be easy, that laws will be passed tomorrow to free our children. Even were this to happen, it would be to little avail. New laws are only as effective as the citizens who demand them. The means of freeing our children are already in our own hands. Our children will be free when their fathers stand up and speak out like men. Families will be safe and strong when parents everywhere know they must join us and build upon our work or face destruction, as we do now.

Defeat is not an option, because we fight for our very survival and for the survival of our children, and of their children. We will comport ourselves with dignified outrage. We will never cross the line into violence. But neither will we relent, withdraw, or surrender. And if we are struck down, others will rise up in our place.

How Far Do We Go?

How we speak out is a decision that each of us must make alone. We in the national offices of ACFC understand our task of providing leadership. But some initiative must come from you. Throughout the US and the world, parents are finding bold and creative ways of calling attention to this tyranny. Their courage is producing results.

ACFC is a broad political church. Each of us has our own views about the most fundamental questions before us: the goals we seek, the priorities we deem most urgent, the methods of achieving those aims. Inevitably, differences and disagreements must arise. As always, there will be the cautious and the impatient, the timid and the eager, the moderates and the militants. In our case, however, these difference represent more: Often, they reflect what the government has done (and can still do)

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(Continued from page 5) Dr. Baskerville.....

to us in particular and to our children.

To the usual need for unity and forbearance of differences, therefore, we have a special need for charity toward one another. No man who sees his children has a right to brand as extreme one who does not. Likewise, no man has a right to label as timid one who, by acting rashly, could lose access to his children as a result. Were the circumstances reversed, the self-styled man of reason may be the one to find himself (as journalists say) "foaming at the mouth," and the coward may prove a hero. However each decides to serve, each has a role, and all are needed. ACFC is here to offer support. The only line we draw is that ACFC does not condone violence in any form as a political method.

What You Can Do

The power of the divorce regime is formidable, but the power in our own hands is much greater. They are trading in lies, and as Dr. King said, "No lie can live forever."

Beyond the power of the truth, we have 15-20 million non-custodial parents, plus tens of millions more who love and support them. United in one voice and with our friends abroad, we have the power to check the global destruction of families. But even short of that, your personal action now sends a message to your own children in particular, even children whom you may think have been irrevocably lost to you: Their father or mother loves them enough to sacrifice, to risk, and to act.

Many good parents' groups already operate across America and the world, and ACFC does not intend to duplicate or replace or preempt the work of any. Our aim is to unite and facilitate and support.

If you ask what you must do, this is my reply: I personally urge every parent in America -- single, married, or divorced - to the following actions IMMEDIATELY:

- First, if you have not done so already, join ACFC. (Call 800-978-DADS, or www.acfc.org.)
- Second, join your local group. If it is not yet an ACFC affiliate, begin the steps to make it one. The paperwork is very simple. DON'T BE PUT OFF. ("Yea, I went to a fathers' group, but it was just a gripe session, everyone complaining about their ex-wives and the judge. So I never went back...") A group is what its members make it. If you don't like it, join and change it. YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH NOTHING ALONE.
- Third, contact your local media. Tell them your story. Tell them about your local group. Say they are affiliated to ACFC. Get others in the group to do the same. Then do it again. And again. Be respectful but persistent. Do not let them put you off. Investigating government wrongdoing is their job. Eventually they will respond.
- Stand up in your church, your civic group, union, or place of employment, at candidates' campaign rallies, PTA or school board meetings, or wherever issues of the family or children or public policy are being discussed. Tell them what has happened to you, to your children, and to countless others. Don't be afraid to change the subject. (Getting our issues on the public agenda *by definition* means changing the subject.) Is what they are discussing more important than your children? Try to have others present to second you. Do not be afraid of what people will think of you. Is the opinion of the world more important than your children? Do not be afraid to be called angry. You should be angry. "There are some things...to which I am proud to be maladjusted," said Dr. King, "and to which I call upon you to be maladjusted." Be dignified but outraged. Show yourself to be a man of courage and a leader. You do not have to climb a scaffold 200 feet into their air, but is it too much to raise your hand or stand upright and relate the atrocious crimes the government has committed against your children? "Society everywhere is in conspiracy against the manhood of every one of its members," wrote Emerson. "Whoso would be a man, must be a nonconformist." Show the world and your children that you are not afraid to be different, that you are a man.
- Finally, stay connected with ACFC through the email listserve or by the web site for information about developments, groups, and activities.

In times of crisis, people often ask, "Where are the heroes?" In this crisis, the heroes can come from only one place: the parents, and foremost fathers. You may not realize it yet, but eventually the eyes of the world and of history will be upon us. We will be weighed in the balance, and future generations will judge what we do.

Yours in solidarity, Stephen Baskerville

(Continued from page 1) The Race to the 2004 Elections.....

from their homes, abduct their children, extort their financial resources, and confiscate their assets, however, men are simply diagnosed, as political dissidents in the old Soviet Union so often were, as having a psychological disorder and directed to attend anger management courses. How 'bout that, Ms. Goodman; are men permitted to be angry about that?

Reform of matrimonial and family law, confiscatory and punitive child support standards, Draconian domestic violence legislation, intrusive and coercive social services bureaucracies, paternity fraud, a man's "right to choose", men's health and education, etc. ... these are but a few of the issues resonating with men in ever increasing numbers today. The political parties and their candidates ignore them at their peril.

As for any fear of alienating female voters by adopting these issues, it should be pointed out that the men whose votes may hang in the balance all belong to **families** consisting of female members, as well, all of whom are being directly impacted by these very same issues through association with the **men** in their lives – **men**, by the way, that they happen to love and care for. That, it seems, is more than can be said of the major political parties these days.

ATTENTION FAMILY MEMBERS:

IF YOU ARE A CHILD, PARENT OR GRAND PARENT WHO HAS BEEN MISTREATED IN FAMILY OR SUPREME COURT REGARDING DIVORCE/SEPARATION/CUSTODY OR SUPPORT ... YOUR DAY HAS FINALLY COME:

**Let your voice be heard at this year's LEAD in Albany, NY.
(The event is free and open to the public)**

FaFNY, Taking the LEAD in Educating the NYS Legislature (Legislative Education and Awareness Day)

WHEN: Tuesday May 4, 2004 from 9:00AM to 4:00PM.

WHERE: Well of the Legislative Office Building (LOB), State St., Albany, NY.

WHO: Past attendee's included FaFNY, Children's Rights Council (CRC), Family Policy Council, Office of Child Support Enforcement (information available), fathers, mothers, grandparents and children and other family advocates from across NY and the northeast.

PRESS CONFERENCE AT 11:00AM (LOB) with PRO FAMILY LEGISLATORS.

Refreshments will be served throughout the day.

FaFNY, together with other pro family individuals and organizations, will have displays and informational material available in the Well of the Legislative Office Building in Albany, NY speaking of the importance of terminology such as "**parenting time**", **pre-divorce parental education to lessen the impact on children, the value of BOTH parents (Shared Parenting) to children and the need for Family Court Reform and Court Restructuring.**

Attendees are free to meet with legislators throughout the day to hear and discuss pro-family issues and legislation.

Child and Family Advocacy Organizations wishing to participate should contact Mr. James Hays at (518) 383-8202 to register to be included in presentations or display materials.

The event is free and open to the public. Individuals wishing to attend need not pre-register.

CONTACT PERSONS:

Mr. James Hays, Event Coordinator: Phone (518) 374-2346 E-mail DadLobby@localnet.com

Mr. Randall Dickinson, Co-coordinator Phone (518) 899-3302 E-mail Dickins895@aol.com

Web: www.ACFC.org, www.FaFNY.org or www.silentmajority.info

FaFNY is a non profit tax exempt family educational and
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Clifton Park, NY 12065

FaFNY.org the NY affiliate of ***ACFC.org***

**Contact Information for
FaFNY (state chapter) and
ACFC (national affiliate)**

1-800-978-Dads

The Coalition of Fathers and Families NY, Inc. and the American Coalition for Fathers and Children are non profit corporations and ***All Donations Are Tax Deductible.***

FaFNY: Fathers and Families, PO Box 782, Clifton Park, NY 12065 Telephone: (518) 383-8202
Web page: <http://www.FaFNY.org> E-mail: Mr. James Hays, FaF President at DadLobby@localnet.com

ACFC: American Coalition for Fathers and Children can be contacted at <http://www.ACFC.org>
1-800-978-DADS or by mail at ACFC membership 22365 El Toro Rd. #335, Lake Forest, CA 92630

Membership includes individual peer support, public education campaigns; lobbying for change; the Capital News Newsletter; access to member meetings, public events and presentations; local, state and national networking with a cadre of dedicated family advocates and experts all working to enhance the father-child-family relationship regardless of marital status of the parents.

JOIN NOW. ***The only thing you have to lose by not joining is your children.***

FaF Basic Membership (which includes ACFC membership) is \$65.00. Membership dues are tax deductible as allowed by law.