



Fathers' and Children's Equality, Inc.

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We Are Non-custodial parents... and we **VOTE!**

This newsletter is sent to every one of New Jersey's state and federal elected officials, so they know our positions on the issues. If they know what's wrong with our present family laws, why aren't they changing them? Because different things are important to them than to you.

While you're concerned about when is the next time you are going to see your children, the politicians are interested in where they're going to get enough votes to get re-elected. Their market research tells

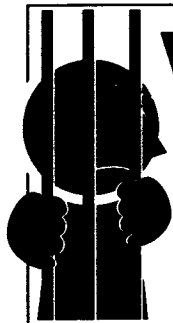
them that 11 percent more women vote than men. While they chase after women's groups, a group with a name like Fathers' and Children's Equality doesn't hold a lot of interest for them.

Let's change that! If you're not registered to vote, use the voter registration form in this newsletter to register today. If you moved since the last time you voted, renew your registration today. Make copies, and register friends and family members, too. Mail the completed, signed form to:

Office of Secretary of State
Election Division
P.O. Box 304
Trenton, NJ 08625-9983

You can use this form to register to vote anywhere in New Jersey. The Secretary of State's office will forward the form to the appropriate Board of Elections who will register you. They must receive your registration form at least 30 days before the election. The deadline in 1999 is October 1st. Once you are registered, you will be notified and begin receiving sample ballots for the next election. Then it will be up to you to get a message to the politicians and

GET OUT AND **VOTE!**



Why is Daddy in JAIL?

Stephen Baskerville, Dept. of Political Science, Howard University

Bruce is a father who came home one day to find his belongings on the street, the locks on his doors changed, and his wife's new boyfriend already moved in. Angry and bewildered, Bruce kicked in the door and began shouting. His wife called the police, who arrived and took Bruce away in handcuffs. She then got a restraining order preventing any contact with his three children. When his son was hospitalized with an illness, Bruce was not allowed to visit. Eventually he was allowed to see his children at a supervised visitation center,

for which he must pay an hourly fee, with his wife and her boyfriend present in the next room. He pays half his salary to his wife and her boyfriend in child support.

Bruce's experience is increasingly common among fathers. In fact, it is now epidemic. Enormous numbers of fathers who are accused of no wrongdoing are losing their children, plundered for everything they have, publicly vilified, and then incarcerated without trial.

The astounding fact is that, with the exception of convicted criminals, no one today has fewer rights than fathers. Even accused criminals have the

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FACE IS A SELF-HELP GROUP. WE ARE NOT LAWYERS. WE DO NOT GIVE LEGAL ADVICE. WE CAN NOT AND DO NOT REPRESENT ANYONE IN COURT. If you find a competent, capable lawyer who fully understands your and your children's rights, who is willing and able to tenaciously fight to secure those rights, who completely understands the facts in your case, and who you can afford to pay, you should hire him/her. If you can not find or afford to pay such a lawyer, we urge you to seek all available resources to aid yourself in securing these rights.



JUDGES Profiling FATHERS.

by Richard Garish

Profiling is

the news. State Officials have now acknowledged that profiling of minority motorists has existed.

Another type of profiling, which is obvious and much more detrimental to our society, has also existed for decades and has yet to be addressed by the State. This profiling targets fathers of divorce when fathers try to remain involved with their children after the divorce. There are mothers without custody; however, this is not the norm.

Many social problems of youth, including crime and drug use, are often attributed to the "single parent household." The majority of these households are fatherless. We basically live in a fatherless society, more so today than at any other time in history. Divorce, not death of the father, is a major factor of this situation. Over 90% of all fathers do not have residential custody and are restrained from seeing their children to only four days a month.

Divorce judges use unabated discretion to profile fathers as little more than a paycheck, with little consideration to their parental skills, input, or guidance of their own children. There is a pre-existing stereotype that mothers are the nurturers while fathers are the financiers (just wallets).

Proving this form of profiling in the courts is an easy enough task. Gathering data from court records will only prove how vicious the stereotype has been built that fathers are not needed for parenting. When fathers appear in court for justice in access violations by the residential parent, judges seldom invoke already existing laws against the offending parent. Only a warning or lecture may be given.

Contrarily, if the residential parent appears with orders or motions for the exchange of money, there is immediate action taken by the judges, which can include anything from wage garnishment to jail. Ignoring the enforcement of court ordered access (parenting/visitation), based on gender, does not provide equal protection of the law, nor does it protect the child's right to

be involved with both parents. It is skewed justice when the application of existing laws for justice rewards one gender while ignoring justice for the other, particularly at the expense of the child(ren) and society.

Court orders, tapes, and transcripts will prove that fathers are profiled as paychecks while court ordered visitation schedules are seldom enforced. This is just as illegal of profiling as any other, usurping the freedoms, rights, and necessity of children to be with both parents. Judges go unchecked as no genuine judicial accountability exists for not following the intent of the existing/written laws for both parties. Nowhere is the criminalization of fatherhood more evident than in the politics of the judiciary. In court, everyday is Fathers day.

Why are fathers profiled? Here are at least three reasons:

1. Because it is easy to do and gets the case to the out basket (appeals are expensive and unaffordable to the average person);
2. judges are either not aware, or do not care, that children need both parents for input and guidance to become better adult citizens; and
3. divorce is a profitable business for the State which receives and reaps federal funds for support collection (Title IV-D). A conflict of interest obviously exists here.

Why are absent fathers absent? The question should be: "How do so many fathers persist and hold on, despite societal, judicial, and custodial parent pressure to simply give up and disappear?"

I mention these points as a wake-up call to the existing profiling of fathers in divorce court with suggestions to alleviate the problem. Legislation is required (actually being drafted) for the presumption of shared custody to ensure equal parental access to children of divorce and judicial accountability in the courtroom to ensure that the intent of our laws are followed without the requirement of catastrophic financial loss for unnecessary court motions, appeals and legal fees to feed the divorce industry.

"Can't's, 'Don't's' and 'Won't's' are dream-breakers."

-- Pat Croce, coach, Philadelphia 76ers

"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is to always try just one more time."

-- Thomas A. Edison

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

-- Margaret Mead

"The illusion of freedom [in America] will continue as long as it's profitable to continue the illusion. At the point where the illusion becomes too expensive to maintain, they will just take down the scenery, they will pull back the curtains, they will move the tables and chairs out of the way and you will see the brick wall at the back of the theater."

-- Frank Zappa

About FACE

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The Real DEADBEAT

Bruce Walker, executive coordinator at the District Attorney's Council in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma has been quoted as saying:

"I have put hundreds of these deadbeat dads in jail, and I have collected child support from tens of thousands of them. I was the primary or only trial attorney in three child-support enforcement offices for eight years, and then I ran the Oklahoma child-support enforcement program for three years.

"The real deadbeat dad is seldom a model citizen, but he is even more seldom the mythical monster described by politicians. Most deadbeat dads are frightened, angry, and depressed men who fall into several overlapping categories:

"Remarried Supporter. A large percentage of deadbeat dads are remarried and are supporting several step-children or biological children from a second marriage. Often this family is poorer than the household of his ex-wife, who may have married a more successful breadwinner. It is also common for the ex-wife of a deadbeat dad to have remarried another deadbeat dad, who is supporting her and her children.

"Men in Poverty. Many deadbeat dads are homeless, and an even greater percentage are poor. Because the calculation of a woman's income excludes many of the social welfare benefits she receives, the statistical picture of women in poverty is highly misleading. Not only are many deadbeat dads destitute, it is often their failures as providers which led their ex-wives to divorce them. I prosecuted one deadbeat dad who had been hospitalized for malnutrition and another who lived in the bed of a pick-up truck. Many times I prosecuted impoverished men on behalf of ex-wives who had remarried successful men and were living in comfortable conditions.

"Fathers Helping Mothers. Men who provide non-monetary support are deadbeat dads according to the child-support system. Mothers and fathers often work out agreements for child support that involve dad fixing the car, buying groceries, baby-sitting the children, or getting clothes for the children. These men may be unemployed, but they want to help their children. Sometimes they are concerned that monetary support doesn't benefit the children, but the mother's newest boyfriend - or that it goes to

buy drugs or alcohol. None of the non-monetary support counts, even if the mother and father want it to count and even if they agree in writing that it should count.

"Fathers Paying Child Support. Child support is "paid" only when it's paid in a bureaucratically acceptable form. In a child-support program, the jargon for other means of payment is a "shoe box full of receipts" - which means a father who was paying his support, but not through court or the program. I had thousands of these cases. In one, the mother signed an affidavit that the dad had never paid. But when confronted with receipts acknowledged that he had always paid support. Why would she do that? She was on welfare; her child support became the property of the state and federal government. If she keeps the child support, it is welfare fraud.

"Why would concerned fathers pay child support directly to the mother? The bookkeeping in child support offices is atrocious. The mother could be confused with another woman or the paying father with another man.

"Men with actual custody. Yes, even men who are raising in their homes the very children for whom child support is sought are deadbeat dads. If a court order says that the mother has custody and is entitled to child support, and if the mother gives the father the children because she cannot control them or has other problems, then he is still liable for child support. Most of the fathers I prosecuted said that they would raise their children with no help from the government and with no help from mom, if given the chance.

"Men who can't find their children. Even the inability to find children to support is no excuse. The mother may leave the state with their young children and not tell the father where she is for five years. The child-support system can, and does, go in and collect five years of delinquent child support from this deadbeat dad. In some cases, of course, the mother has a very good reason because of domestic abuse, but in other cases it is the father's allegations of child abuse by the mother which prompt her to run.

"Fathers who love their kids, but won't work for them. This is different, of course, from mothers on welfare who won't support their kids. The former are creeps and the latter are victims of society. The sad fact, however, is that children have precisely one set of parents, and if the parents can provide emotional support, that is at least as valuable as economic support. Many deadbeat dads love their children just as much as the mothers on public assistance who don't support their children either. The social costs of driving dad into another state or putting him in jail are seldom considered in the calculus of child-support enforcement benefits.

"Child-support resisters. Let's take the case of the "worst deadbeat dad in the country." He fits none of the above categories. He had money; he knew where his children were; he had no excuse. And he was almost half a million dollars in arrears on child support. But how much child support was this man ordered to pay each month? \$5,000? \$10,000? There are middle-class men who are obligated to pay half of their take-home pay as child support. Mandatory child-support guidelines remove from parties and even courts the power to determine what support is fair and reasonable."

Alliance for Non-Custodial Parents Rights
 9903 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 267
 Beverly Hills, CA 90212
www.ANCPR.org

Dear Son:

In your message to me, you said I'm not the DAD you used to know.

You're right, I won't deny that, the DAD you used to know is gone. That DAD was created by God, taught by his parents, recognized by his government, respected by his community. He was expected to make the right choices for you and took pride in his efforts. He used to kiss you good-bye as he left for work and you were still sleeping. That DAD could absorb a bad day at work, just from one of your hugs. That DAD gained his desire to succeed from glancing at you, as you slept. That DAD slept better after he got a kiss goodnight from you. That DAD knew the aches and pains were worth it, for he knew he was meant to be a DAD. That DAD knew what you were doing every minute of the day and was proud of everything you accomplished and was proud even when you failed. He was always there when you needed him, even when you didn't. Teachers, coaches, doctors and neighbors would seek him out to tell of your progress, setbacks, accomplishments or just to talk about parent things. That DAD was there for you, because we were together. That DAD had the freedom to pack UP you and your brother and go fishing, camping, swimming, whenever we felt like it. That DAD didn't have to wonder, he knew. He could help you with your homework, any night, and it showed in your success.

That DAD is no more.

Yes, I'm still your Father, but no longer your DAD. Now I'm just a cheque, a visitor, a Non-Custodial dad. Created by the state law, separated by court orders, no free to make choices for

your childhood. No longer contacted by those who teach you, who fix your wounds or view your accomplishments. Until you told me, I didn't even know you had surgery. This Ncdad no longer has his source of strength, no longer can comfort in your presence, for you're not here. This Ncdad cannot chose how to support you, cannot make the decisions of what you may need and cannot even make suggestions. Your goodnight kisses were worth a million dollars [and still are] and the loss of those are equally devastating. This Ncdad can't steal precious moments with you, cannot share quick insights with you and cannot give you the answers you seek every day. Inside I'm still the same, but like a chameleon who changes his color when faced with danger, I too had to adapt. We all have to adapt to our environment. The DAD you used to know could not survive the changes forced upon him, he had to change to survive. He's gone. But, your Father still, and always, loves you, and will always take pride in your successes and try to be there for you when you stumble. I do the best I can, but even my best cannot revive the DAD you used to know, for I didn't bury him.

Love, Dad

This actual letter to his son was written by Frank Lefebvre of Caanan, New Hampshire, in response to his son's letter questioning why, as time has gone on, their relationship has been forced to change. "... [E]very other weekend," says Lefebvre, "does not strengthen a father-child relation. It slowly destroys it, and my son is looking for his own answers to why?"

NEW!

FACE Classes

FACE is planning classes on topics of interest to noncustodial parents and Family Court litigants.

Subjects currently under consideration are:

- Parental Alienation Syndrome
- Pro Se Workshop - Nuts and Bolts of How to Represent Yourself

If you are interested in attending either of these classes, or if you have a suggestion for another class, let us know by calling the FACE hotline at (856) 786-FACE, or emailing infoFACE@aol.com.

Pepper... and Salt

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

April 30, 1999.

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"You can't act as your own attorney. This kind of trickery and duplicity is best left to professionals."

"Why is Daddy in jail?" Continued from page 1



right to due process of law, to know the charges against them, to a lawyer, and to a trial. A father can be deprived of his children, his home and life savings, and his freedom with none of these constitutional protections. How has this startling situation come about, and why does no one seem to

know about it? A combination of changes in divorce law, feminist and media vilification, and the usual machinations of the legal profession has left fathers with no protection against the confiscation of their children. It has also left them the targets of what may be the most massive witch hunt in this country's history.

Under the guise of pursuing deadbeat parents, we are now seeing mass incarcerations without trial, without charge, and without counsel, while the media and civil libertarians look the other way. We also have the spectacle of the highest officials in the land – including the president, the attorney general and major cabinet secretaries, and leading members of Congress from both parties – using their office as a platform to publicly attack private citizens who have been convicted of nothing and who have no opportunity to reply. We also have government officials freely entering the homes of citizens who

are accused of nothing and simply helping themselves to whatever they want – including children, life savings, and private papers and effects.

All this is now the norm for fathers whose only offense is to have had their children taken away. They need not be accused, let alone convicted, of any wrongdoing; they need not have given any grounds for divorce; they need not even have agreed to one.

But surely these are "deadbeat dads" who have abandoned their children? Not at all. According to the largest federally-funded study ever on divorced fathers, psychologist Sanford Braver of Arizona State University has shown conclusively

Fathers' and Children's Equality, Inc.

Mission Statement

Father's and Children's Equality is a non-profit 501(c)(3) children's advocacy organization, and a self-help group for nonresidential and/or non-custodial parents.

Our Mission is to:

minimize the emotional upheaval experienced by children during and after parental separation, promote every child's Civil Right to equal access to both parents and extended families regardless of the parent's marital status, and end the adversarial process in divorce and custody matters.

Our Goals are to:

promote equal parental responsibility for children's nurturing,
 Promote equal parental responsibility for children's financial needs,
 encourage alternatives to divorce,
 promote the position that children are not property,
 end parental alienation,
 eliminate profit motivation in custody disputes,
 provide positive parenting role models for separating families,
 prevent the use of false child abuse and/or spousal abuse allegations as leverage in custody disputes,
 establish mandatory penalties for false allegations of child abuse and/or spousal abuse,
 promote equal treatment of Family Court litigants,
 enforce existing laws providing for gender equality in Family Court, and
 establish a shelter for displaced fathers and children.

Adopted September 27, 1993 by the Board of Directors

Revised January 18, 1996

that two-thirds of divorces are filed by mothers, who have virtual certainty of getting the children and a large portion of the fathers' income, regardless of any fault on their (the father's) part. Far from abandoning their children, 90 percent of deserted fathers pay court-ordered child support (unemployment being the main reason for nonpayment), and most make heroic efforts to stay in contact with children from whom they are forcibly separated by the police.

And these are fathers who are accused of nothing. Those who facetrumped-up charges of child abuse must in addition prove their innocence before they can hope to see their children. Yet it is now

well established that most child abuse takes place in the homes of single mothers. A recent study by the Department of Health and Human Services found that almost two-thirds of child abusers were females. Given that male perpetrators are not necessarily fathers but much more likely to be boyfriends and stepfathers, fathers emerge as the least likely child abusers. From the perspective of the father it would appear that the real abusers have thrown him (the father) out of the family so they can abuse his children with impunity.

"Why is Daddy in jail?" Continued on page 7

Fatherless Week Activities



The Friday before Fathers Day has been "Fatherless Day" for FACE members -- a day to call attention to the meaningless hypocrisy family courts have made of Fathers Day by discriminating against males and ignoring fathers' importance to children's well-being.

In past years, FACE members and supporters have demonstrated at courthouses. Several times, we held informational pickets at the Burlington, Camden and Gloucester County courthouses. Fridays are "motion day" in New Jersey family courts -- the day that motions are heard. We selected this day to hand out information about family court bias to everyone entering the courthouse.

One year, we tried to have pickets at every courthouse in southern New Jersey but, frankly, this was just too ambitious an undertaking even for dedicated FACE members.

Another year we demonstrated in front of the Hughes Justice Complex in Trenton, the seat of both the Supreme Court and the Appellate Division. Again, we passed out

information to everyone entering the building through the public main entrance. Some members of the news media interviewed us. A group of Hughes Complex maintenance men who were eating their lunch on the front steps were particularly interested in FACE, especially since one of them had just been served with a domestic abuse restraining order, based upon false allegations.

This year, instead of conducting our own demonstrations, FACE joined with other groups to bring more widespread attention to family court injustice.

1999 was the tenth year that David Wilson of Cocoa Beach, Florida personally demonstrated for men's and fathers' rights in Washington, DC. Over the years, David's efforts evolved into F.A.R.C.E. -- Fathers' Awareness of Rights to Custody and Equality -- a grass-roots organization he founded. Over the last few years, David has personally staffed a



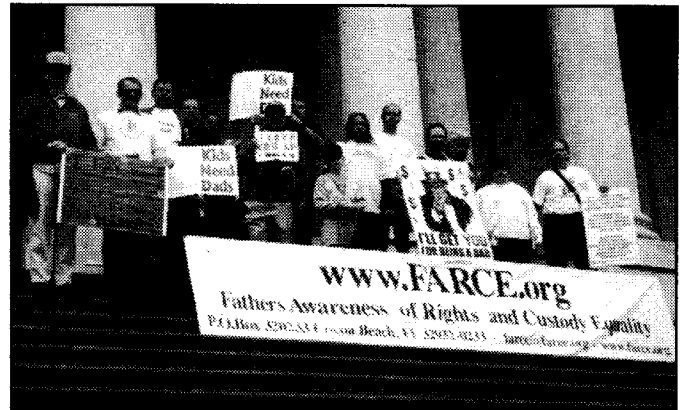
Greg Romeo gets some attention in front of the White house.

round-the-clock vigil on the steps of the U.S. Capitol building during Fathers Day week. Through their web site, www.farce.org, other fathers around the country learned about it.

This year, about a hundred of them from around the country came to Washington to join with him on the Capitol steps. I was there for four days, and the people coming and going on the Capitol steps included leaders of regional and national noncustodial parents' rights groups, fathers showing

Washington to their children, and fathers who came to Washington because they knew they wouldn't be seeing their children on Fathers Day.

Everyone taking the tour of the Capitol walks up the side of the steps. When you're camping out in the middle of the steps, the tourists, who come from all over the world, can't help noticing you. This presents an opportunity to educate them to American



FARCE on the East steps of the U.S. Capitol Building.

family courts' gender bias. The vast majority of them are very sympathetic to correcting these injustices.

Early this year, Greg Romeo of Saint Charles, Louisiana began broadcasting on the Internet an appeal to join him on Fathers Day in Washington, DC in a "50/50 March" for shared custody of children. I contacted him and asked if he had secured permits for his march. "Just be there" was his response. From past experience I know that nothing happens in Washington without permits, and I suspected that Greg didn't know anything about getting them.

But David Wilson does know all about permits. He has been getting them for years for his Washington demonstrations. I put Greg and David in touch with each other, and Greg got a permit to demonstrate in front of the White House from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM every day of Fathers Day week.

I joined him one morning. Greg carried a large poster with a picture of Uncle Sam surrounded by dollar signs, captioned "I'll Get You for Being a Dad."

Every tourist group in Washington visits the White House sooner or later. The busses stop on the opposite side of Lafayette Park, and each group walks across the park to have

their picture snapped in front of the White House. All of them saw Greg and his sign, and someone from each group asked him about it. I saw him talking to groups from all over the U.S. and dozens of foreign countries.

Mid-June is also prime school trip season, and many of the tour groups were school groups. Greg would tell everyone that he was there to help make sure that kids have the right to have a parent-child relationship with both of their parents, even when the parents weren't living together, and that joint custody should be the standard. I pointed out that we are in Washington because the government has a gigantic bureaucracy to enforce the payment of financial child support, but nothing to enforce parenting time (visitation).

When Greg was talking to one school group, he said that, following separation, kids should spend equal time with both of their parents. One female adult escort said "That would be alright as long as the fathers keep paying their child support." "No," Greg said. "When we have equal custody, Dad will support the children when they're with him, and Mom will support them when they're with her. There won't be any child support. Mom will have to get off her a*s, and get a job, and get off welfare." The woman said nothing, but another nearby tourist group gave him a round of applause.

Back here in New Jersey, June 18th, the Thursday before Fathers Day, was one of the last days the state legislature was in session before their summer recess. That is the day the Family Law Reform Political Action Committee (FLR-PAC) chose to present its proposed joint custody bill to state Senate President Donald DiFrancesco, Assembly Speaker Jack Collins, and Governor Christine Todd Whitman.

As vice president of FLR-PAC, I was

prepared at noon to present the bill on the front steps of the state capitol building in Trenton. DiFrancesco, Collins and Whitman had been notified. I also had with me copies of the joint custody laws of the thirty-three states that have a presumption of joint custody.

We had a podium and sound system set up for us. I described the current status of child custody in New Jersey as opposed to the majority of other, more enlightened states. Attorney David P. Davis pointed out that, according to a U.S. Census Bureau survey, 95 percent of financial child support is paid in full when custody is shared, 75 percent when the noncustodial parent has parenting time (visitation), and only 50 percent when the noncustodial parent has no contact with the children. Noncustodial parents Ed Dalton, Gary Ewing, Bob



David Davis and Jeff Golden address the crowd at the New Jersey State Capitol in Trenton

Figuroa, Jerry Amato, and Drew Reilly, and grandmother Eileen Wolbert also took this opportunity to speak in support of joint custody.

Hundreds of noontime passers-by on State Street stopped to listen and were supportive of our position but, even though this event was scheduled during the lunch break, no one came out of the capitol to accept the bill.

FLR-PAC is revising the proposed joint custody bill, and supporters have been identified in both the Senate and the

"Why is Daddy in jail?" Continued from page 5

David Gray Ross, head of federal child support enforcement, has a huge sign over his door proclaiming "Children first" and tells a television reporter, "We really are looking out for the children." It is very easy for Mr. Ross and his plainclothes agents to pose as the defenders of wronged women and children; the smug self-righteousness of judges, lawyers, and child support enforcers is a source of constant humiliation to ejected fathers. Yet we should bear in mind that their chivalry costs them nothing. On the contrary, we now have a sizeable portion of the population making quite a handsome living in the business of hunting down fathers. If we take a moment to glance at what it now costs fathers to stay in contact with children who have been removed from their care and protection through no fault of their own, and who must now risk almost certain financial destruction, public excoriation, and indefinite incarceration, we might discover that it is not so simple to say precisely who are the villains and who are the heroes.

The writer teaches political science at Howard University.

This column is adapted from an article in the Winter 1999 issue of *The Women's Quarterly*.

**"Where there are too many policemen, there is no liberty.
Where there are too many soldiers, there is no peace.
Where there are too many lawyers, there is no justice."**

-- Lin Yutang, Chinese-American Philosopher



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

by Jeff Golden

I was recently contacted by a Northern New Jersey noncustodial father who was assembling a "fathers' rights e-mail list." "What the hell," I thought, "I'm already on a half dozen lists. I'll get on one more. If I don't like the e-mail I receive, I'll unsubscribe." I gave him my e-mail address and a brief description of who I am and what I do.

And the e-mail started coming. He had an impressive collection of activists on his list, but the messages he sent were simplistic: "I haven't seen my kids." "They imputed income to me." "Don't fathers have any rights?" Of course they don't! You don't have *any* rights unless you *demand them*. Haven't you learned that yet? I began to feel I was wasting my time even reading this guy's e-mail. Others were e-mailing asking to be removed from the list. I asked myself if I made a mistake letting him put my name on it.

Rather than asking to be removed from the list, I e-mailed him and asked what is the purpose of the list, and what is he trying to accomplish? He said he wanted to bring together a group of people who would be willing to work to change the system.

"That's great," I said, "but your list has people from all over the country. The federal government has rarely done anything regarding divorce and custody issues. They consider it a 'states' issue. What are you doing locally? Are you talking to your state legislators?"

"No," he said. "No one seems to be interested. All anyone says is 'pay your child support.'"

Well, that may be true, but there's one thing that all politicians are interested in -- votes. They need votes to get re-elected and perpetuate their jobs. But they need lots of votes, and each of us has only one.

Further complicating things for non-custodial parents' rights reformers is the fact that at least 90 percent of us are men, and 11 percent more women than men vote. Everyone has heard of the League of Women Voters, but can you name even one organization of men who vote? Women, when they're not being soap opera couch potatoes, have the time to work as volunteers on political campaigns, while men can't because they're too busy working to support their families.

Ever hear of a "political action committee?" Usually when you hear that term, it's in connection with a campaign funding scandal -- some foreign government or some special interest group paying a vast sum of money to bribe -- oops; sorry; I meant "influence" -- an elected official to be favorable toward their cause.

Well, there's another kind of political action committee right here in New Jersey

Will you work to change the system, or are you willing to get chewed up and spit out by it?

-- the Family Law Reform Political Action Committee. FLR-PAC was originally formed by New Jersey Council for Children's Rights to protect their nonprofit status. Nonprofit organizations are limited in how much of their budget can be spent on "lobbying." Lobbying is defined as "attempting to influence legislation or attempting to influence the outcome of an election." Since NJCCR, FACE and the other noncustodial parents' groups in New Jersey are all grassroots groups and operate on very small budgets, it's very easy to exceed the lobbying limitation. Since a PAC exists specifically for the purpose of influencing legislation and elections, there's no such budgetary limitation on it.

But, the FLR-PAC doesn't have any money to give to politicians. It's made up of noncustodial parents. They've already been financially raped by the family court

system, and don't have any money left to donate for political purposes. So why would a legislator be interested in anything the PAC has to say? Because we are politically active!

We know what's wrong with the family law system. We are articulate enough to be able to talk about it to everyone we can, including legislators. We may not have any money, but we are sufficiently passionate about our cause that we are willing to volunteer our time to efforts that will change the system. We conduct public demonstrations in front of courthouses. We write 'letters to the editor.' We testify at legislative committee hearings in Trenton. We all have families and friends, and we influence all of them to vote for candidates we support. *And we also volunteer to work on legislators' election campaigns.* A human body in a candidate's campaign headquarters, making phone calls and getting out the votes, can be even more important than money to a candidate.

I told this father about the PAC and invited him to attend a meeting. Did he come? No. Like many other beaten-down fathers, except for complaining about how he was treated in his own case, he will be doing nothing to fix this out of control system.

But what about YOU? Will you work to change the system, or are you willing to get chewed up and spit out by it?

Among the dozen major issues the FLR-PAC is working on this year are:

- **Presumption of Joint Custody** -- This alone would correct the vast majority of problems created by family court.
- **Emancipation of Children at Age 18** -- The standard in at least 35 other states.
- **Sanctions for False Allegations of Abuse** -- A false allegation of domestic abuse or child abuse *is* an act of abuse.
- **Judicial Accountability** -- Making judges personally responsible for the consequences of their decisions.

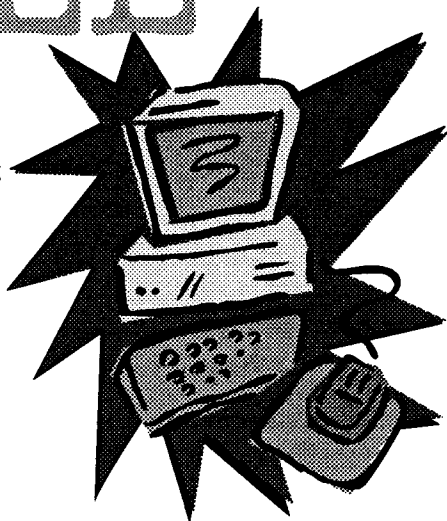
Continued on page 9

COMPUTER!

FREE

In the last edition of About FACE, we told you how to get free E-mail service for receiving updates from FACE. But you need a computer. We told you that you could get access to a computer at your place of employment or a library. Having your own computer would, of course, be much more convenient, but family court victims don't usually have enough spare money lying around to buy one. A FACE member has rebuilt some computers that we gave to other members to use for preparing their papers for court, but these are old and slow and insufficient for Internet access.

How would you like to get a new, state-of-the-art, Internet-ready computer FOR FREE? DirectWeb, based in Mount Laurel, New Jersey, is giving away computers! They will be doing this



nationally, but they have chosen the Philadelphia metropolitan area for their initial test marketing.

Unbelievable? Why would a business give away computers? How will they make a profit? In the nomenclature of the Internet, DirectWeb is an ISP (Internet Service Provider), like America Online, Microsoft Network, and many other smaller, regional companies. To get new customers, ISPs usually offer their service free for a limited time. The way to make money in this business is to get the customer is to stay with the service after the free period.

DirectWeb found a way is to do this. To keep the free computer, you have is to keep using DirectWeb's service. Their prices are competitive, starting at \$19.95 per month.

How will DirectWeb make any money if they charge the same rates as other ISPs who don't give away computers? They will sell advertising that will be displayed to their captive customer base. Advertising customers will know that their ads are seen by you and DirectWeb's other users. How can you get a free computer? Phone DirectWeb at 1-800-INVASION, or you can check out their website at www.directweb.com.

The Internet is a very competitive marketplace. In the coming months, you will see other similar offers from companies trying is to lock in customers. Other ISPs are now offering a rebate equal is to the price of a low-end computer if you commit to a long term contract. Soon, there will be no excuse for not having a computer, and E-mail is the best, easiest way for FACE to keep in touch with members.



"What Are You Doing?" Continued from page 8

Are any of these issues important to you? Want to personally do something so your son won't have to put up with the cr*p you are dealing with? Want to find out more about the Political Action Committee and the other issues it's working on? Come to the next FLR-PAC meeting.

The Family Law Political Action Committee meets eleven times a year, on the fourth Wednesday of January through October, and the first Wednesday in December, at 7:00PM at the Prestige Diner on Route 33 (one mile east of New Jersey Turnpike exit 8) in Hightstown, New Jersey. Meetings are open to everyone who wants to become politically active in family law reform.

NEW! Business/ Planning Meeting

7:00 PM

Second Thursday of each month

Contact Dave Cantera
for location and agenda.
(609) 778-0811 or
dcantera@facenj.org

FACE members who would like to be actively involved in creating resources for fellow members are invited to participate. We will be developing and maintaining:

- FACE New Members' Manual
- Pro Se Resources
- FACE Website
- Non-custodial parents' statistical data

UPCOMING:

Wednesday, September 22 to Sunday, September 26, 1999

Children's Rights Council

12th National Conference "Keeping Children First in the 21st Century"

Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites

625 First St., Old Towne Alexandria, VA

Topics to be addressed include: Does your child really need you? How can I make sure the money goes to my child? Do I really want joint custody? Do I go to court to get my rights or to lose them? What does "in the best interest of the child" really mean? Three separate program tracks for Mediation/Legal, Research, and Psychological/Family Education. Meet and hear renowned researchers, judges, lawyers, legislators, columnists, sports figures and authors, including:

- David Arneudo, administrator of \$10 million federal access grants
- Sanford Braver, Ph.D., Arizona State University, author of "Divorced Dads Shattering the Myths"
- Richard Gardner, M.D., psychiatrist and author of "Parental Alienation Syndrome"
- John Goldubaldi, D.Ed., Kent State University
- Ran Henry, Esq., Civil Rights attorney
- David Levy, president of CRC
- Lady Catherine Meyer, wife of British Ambassador to the United States
- Hon. David Gray Ross, head of the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement
- Cathy Young, nationally syndicated columnist, author of "Ceasefire!"

Registration: \$150.00 (members, before August 1, 1999), \$200.00 (non-members or late)

See website: <http://www.vix.com/crc/>

Hotel special for CRC conference: \$89.00 single or double, (703)548-6300

Contact: Brenda Finley, 6767 Forest Hill Ave., Suite 220, Richmond, VA 23225

CRC, 300 I St. NW, Washington, DC 20002, (202) 547-6227.

Thursday, September 23 to Saturday, September 25, 1999:

National Congress for Fathers and Children

19th Annual National Convention

Holiday Inn Green Tree

401 Holiday Dr., Pittsburgh, PA

A program to look for active accountability measures to build responsible citizens of our children, built around the failure of the system to give us the tools we need. Speakers include:

- Dave Burroughs, chairman, Forum for Equality and Fairness in Family Issues
- Jim Cook, president, Joint Custody Association
- Larry Hoffman, president, NCFC
- Robert Hirschfeld, J.D., Pro Se Advisor
- Henry James Koehler IV, Esq., family attorney
- Pittsburgh Mayor Tom Murphy
- Kathleen Parker, columnist, Orlando Sentinel
- Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge
- Cathy Young, columnist and author of "Ceasefire!"

Registration: \$95.00

See website: <http://com.primenet.com/ncfc/99conv.html>

Contact: T. J. Bellaire, convention chairman, 37 Seneca Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 25241, (414) 854-4799, (800) KID-N-DAD, pghdads@aol.com,

NCFC, 9454 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90212, (800) SEE-DADS, ncfc@ncfc.net

Friday, October 15 and Saturday, October 16, 1999:

1999 AAML Forum in Atlantic City

Hilton Hotel (formerly Bally's Grand), Atlantic City, NJ

This annual conference of the New Jersey chapter of the American Association of Matrimonial Lawyers is open only to attorneys and their guests. This is where they exchange information on the latest sleazy tactics, how to take advantage of their clients and opponents, and how to enrich themselves. Speakers will include judges Diamond, Segal, Testa, Tomasello, and Whitken, and a long list of the most prominent (notorious?) family law practitioners. (We won't mention their names. None of them deserve any free publicity.) Topics on the agenda include:

- UIFSA -- Defending Against Local Applications for Modification of Out-of-State Support Orders
- Mediation and Arbitration
- Ethics -- Mistakes in Maintaining Attorney Trust Accounts (Is this an oxymoron?)
- Ethics -- Attorney Liens
- Interactive Evidence
- Reconciliation and Mid-Marriage Agreements
- Preventing International Child Abduction
- Blueprint for Trying a Contested Matrimonial Case
- How to Defend Those Wrongfully Accused of Domestic Violence
- Setting Aside Bankruptcy's Automatic Stay to Continue the Divorce Case and Get Counsel Fees.

Registration fee for lawyers ranges from \$350 to \$395 and includes a Saturday night cocktail party and dinner-dance, but we won't tell you how to register. Based on prior experience, we suggest that you just put on a suit, look respectable, find the hotel's meeting rooms area, and just sit in on the sessions of interest to you without paying anything. You also might want to stop by the Hilton's casino on Saturday night and watch dealers take money away from lawyers for a change.

Sunday, October 31, 1999, 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM:

FACE Annual Halloween Demonstration at the home of a Family Court Judge

Family Court judges continue to trivialize the importance of the father-child relationship. If their ability to interact with their children was interfered with, maybe they would become more sensitive to the importance of our children to us. FACE members and supporters will publicly demonstrate at the home of a family court judge, preventing him and his children from Trick-or-Treating on this fun day for children. We will give out treats to neighborhood children, inform the judge's neighbors of his offenses against children, and educate the public and the news media about the harm done to children by family courts.

Meet at 3:30 PM at a central location that, to preserve the element of surprise, will be announced to FACE members and supporters shortly before the demonstration. Costumes are welcome, but no masks, please. Bring your own sign (only without stick) for an issue important to you, or use one of ours. Maps will be distributed, and we will convoy to the judge's house at 4:00 PM.

To participate, call the FACE hotline at 856-786-FACE or email InfoFACE@aol.com PRIOR TO October 26, 1999 for our meeting place.



JoinFACE!



FACE Life MEMBERS

Greg Law Medford, NJ

FACE Patron MEMBERS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Eileen Barker | Atlantic City, NJ |
| Sara Flehr & Rich Mydlinski | Trenton, NJ |
| Charles Farberg | Hamilton, NJ |
| Robert Gidding | Merion, PA |
| Jeffrey Golden | Cherry Hill, NJ |
| John Liberto | Cherry Hill, NJ |
| Rajeev Mehta | Brooklyn, NY |
| Michael Minder | Swedeseboro, NJ |
| Brian Rogers | Woolwich, NJ |
| Mark Sowinski | Easton town, NJ |
| Mark Stockoff | Westmont, NJ |
| Cliff Wenrick | Mullica Hill, NJ |

Several Patron Members declined to have their names printed. You know who you are, and FACE thanks you, too, for your generosity.

To better serve our members and fulfill our financial obligations, the FACE Board of Directors has voted to create a new class of membership and revise our annual dues effective with the mailing of this newsletter.

Our basic regular membership dues remain unchanged at \$75.00 per year. Regular members receive the FACE newsletter, pro se legal support, and all of FACE's other member services.

Patron membership dues are increased to \$250.00 per year. Although we have always honored those generous members who contribute more than the basic financial support to FACE, in addition to the benefits of regular membership, Patron members will now also receive a certificate of our appreciation, and, unless they ask us not to, their generosity will be acknowledged in our newsletter.

We also have a new class of membership. Members who donate \$750.00 or more in one year will be designated Life Members. As the name implies, life members are members for life. They will receive all of the benefits of Patron membership, and annual dues will no longer be required from them.

As an eligible 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, we continue to encourage members to contribute to FACE through their employers' annual United Way

campaign or other charitable giving program. Employers' matching funds often increase the amount that FACE receives, and all contributions received on a member's behalf will be used to determine class of membership.

FACE receives donations through the charitable giving programs at several major employers, including Boeing Corporation and Prudential Insurance. FACE is also recognized as a "non-member Donor Choice organization" at local United Way organizations, including:


	I.D. Number
Greater Mercer County United Way (NJ)	*
United Way of Atlantic County (NJ)	01298
United Way of Kitsap County (WA)	*
United Way of Salem County (NJ)	*
United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania	09097
United Way of Tri-State (NY)	022527

If you donate through United Way, please specify FACE's Donor Choice I.D. number on your donor pledge form. Organizations indicated by an asterisk (*) do not require an I.D. number. Just list "Fathers' and Children's Equality, P.O. Box 2471, Cinnaminson, NJ" on your annual donor pledge form.

FACE would like to expand its Board of Directors. Prospective Board members should be interested in getting intimately involved with the passion and politics of the noncustodial parents' rights movement by becoming a leader of one of the world's fastest growing social reform movements. They should be self-motivated, have a good understanding of the issues affecting noncustodial parents in New Jersey, able to commit to a minimum of a one year term, and prepared to devote at least eight hours a week to FACE business.


If you would like to become a FACE board member, or if you want to nominate someone else, call the FACE hotline at (856) 786-FACE, or email infoFACE@aol.com.

✂ Clip and mail completed application to:



FACE

membership APPLICATION



FACE
Fathers' and Children's Equality, Inc.
P.O. Box 2471
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

Date _____ New Membership Renewal

Regular Membership \$75.00 per year
Patron Membership \$250.00 or more. Amount enclosed \$ _____
Please make check payable to FACE

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Residence _____ Date of Birth _____
County _____

Phones: Home () _____
Work () _____
Where? () _____

e-mail address _____

Are you registered to vote? Yes No

FACE may use my name as a supporter for legislative purposes

How many children do you have? _____ Date of birth of youngest _____

How many overnights per month do your children spend with you? _____

Jurisdiction of your case _____ County _____ State _____

Judge(s) _____

Mental health professional(s) involved in your case:
Name _____
City _____ State _____

FACE Hot Line
609-786-FACE

FACE Pennsylvania:
Philadelphia 215-335-4054
Delaware Valley 610-688-4748
Bucks County 215-FACE-464

FACE
DIRECTORS

Michael Edward Fox
President
faceprez@home.com

Jeffrey Golden
Vice President
jeffFACE@aol.com

Dave Cantera
Secretary
dcantera@facenj.org

Andrew J. Reilly
Treasurer
drewojr@aol.com

Everett F. Simpson
Director at Large
everettsim@aol.com

FACE MEETINGS

All meetings begin at 7:00PM. Phone for information and directions.

Second Tuesday of each month:

FACE GENERAL MEETING

(OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

Cherry Hill Free Public Library

1100 Kings Highway North

Cherry Hill, NJ

Directions: (856) 667-0300

Join us at 9:00PM at a local restaurant
for refreshments following the meeting.

Third Thursday of each month:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

(Face members and invited guests, only.)

Call (856) 786-FACE for location.



WORK GROUP MEETINGS

First Monday of each month:

Mercer County

Hamilton Township, NJ

Contact: Charles Forberg

forbergc@aol.com

(856) 584-1887

Third Monday of each month:

Camden County

Cherry Hill, NJ

Contact: John Liberto

(856) 317-9188

First Thursday of each month:

Burlington County

Mt. Laurel, NJ

Contact: Dave Cantera

(856) 778-0811

Fourth Tuesday of each month:

Gloucester/Salem County

Mullica Hill, NJ

Contact: Cliff Wenrick

(856) 223-0434

**Please be courteous to work group meeting hosts by phoning in advance.
Non-members are usually welcome, but it may be necessary to limit attendance.**

Address Service Requested

Fathers' and Children's Equality, Inc.
P.O. Box 2471
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077



V6N3

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BELLMAWR, NJ
PERMIT NO 30

**Print clearly in Ink-
Use ball-point pen or
marker**



**State of New Jersey
County Commissioners of Registration**

Voter Registration Application

**Qualifications of an
Eligible Applicant**

You must be a citizen of the United States and, by the date of the next election, at least 18 years old and a resident of New Jersey and your county for at least 30 days.

The Commissioner of Registration will notify you upon receipt of this form.

The Registration deadline to vote at the next election is 29 days prior to election day.

Check if you wish to be a board worker/poll clerk in future elections.

Check if you are permanently disabled, unable to go to the polls to vote, and wish to receive information on an Absentee Ballot.

Sign or Mark

If applicant is unable to complete this form, print name and address of individual who completed this form.

1	Check one:			
	<input type="checkbox"/> New Registration <input type="checkbox"/> Address Change <input type="checkbox"/> Name Change			
	2	Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial
				Jr. Sr. II III
	3	Street Address Where You Live		Apt. #
	4	City or Town	County	Zip Code
		Address Where You Get Your Mail (if different from above)		
	5	Date of Birth- Month, Day, Year		
		7 Telephone Number (optional)		
6	Name And Address Of Your Last Voter Registration			
7	County			
8	Declaration - I swear or affirm that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am a U.S. citizen • I live at the above address • I will be at least 18 years old on or before the next election • I am not on parole, probation or serving sentence due to a conviction for an indictable offense under any federal or state laws. • I understand that any false or fraudulent registration may subject me to a fine up to \$1,000, imprisonment up to 5 years or both pursuant to R.S. 19:34-1. 		For Office Use Only	
			Clerk	
9	Signature or Mark _____ Date _____		Registration No.	
			Office Time Stamp	
10	Name _____			
	Address _____			

VOTER REGISTRATION OPPORTUNITY

**If you are not registered to vote where you live now,
you may register by completing this form.**



OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE
ELECTION DIVISION
P.O. BOX 304
TRENTON NJ 08625-9983

Postage will be paid by Addressee

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 206 TRENTON NJ

