



Stop Abuse for Everyone, Our name IS our mission!

News That “Makes a Difference”

Co-Editors: Lee Newman & Rico Arico

July 2007

A Change of Perspectives and Approach *Must be Expected!*

The opinions found in this column are from “The desk of Lee Newman” and may not be those of the entire membership or management of SAFE. These opinions and “observations” are those of the Executive Director who not only sees things from the “perspectives” of his “official” job but also as a trained Domestic Violence Advocate, Court Advocate, Mediator and Life Coach, providing “direct services” to clients from ALL walks of life:

Whenever we as citizens of our State and our Country recognize that laws are biased against any group of people we have a right and a responsibility to “debate” it and to see that those laws are changed!

Thousands of our citizens every day are coming to the realization that VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) is biased and needs to be changed and challenged!

The perspectives that have been presented to the general public for many years regarding domestic violence and related issues have been at times misrepresented by those with vested interests rather than pure hearts! The sad reality is that after several decades of misrepresented and misinterpreted “facts” as well as some deliberate untruths, most well meaning citizens believe the version of the truth that they have been presented with because they trusted the organizations that have been dispensing that information.

Unfortunately, we had been mis-lead and it had become our truth!

I personally believed what I had seen and heard in the media to the point that when I WAS a victim of domestic violence, I did not recognize myself as one...*simply because I was a man!* Now, many of us have begun to wake up from this skewed version of domestic violence where all women are potential victims, all men are monsters waiting to pounce and our sons are doomed to be violent perpetrators who MUST be reprogrammed by “gender feminists”, who believe that to be masculine is something to be ashamed of and cured of!

Enlightened men and women realize that those who suffer abuse come not only from all backgrounds, neighborhoods, financial status, lifestyles and ages but also from both genders!

These “enlightened” citizens are realizing that they are living in a society that has been devastated by the gender bias that has been perpetrated by organizations that while on the surface “claim” to be non-discriminatory are conducting themselves in ways that isolate many who need help. Often this enlightenment occurs when some man they know personally suffers abuse, seeks help and finds that he is turned away or worse, is turned into the “perceived perpetrator” by a system that refuses to recognize and respond appropriately to female violence.

It is then these citizens who can put a name and a face to the victims that VAWA and many VAWA funded organizations refuse to equally acknowledge and this then likely explodes the myths they have been led to believe!

We do applaud any advocates from women’s crisis centers for acknowledging that women are also perpetrators of domestic violence although I am sure that the percentage of perpetration that they acknowledges is much different from what our experience has been.

Many

“professionals” in the domestic violence and related fields claim that there is a vast difference between battered male and female subjects.

However, our experience has shown us that male victims also stay in their relationships for many of the same reasons as women do, additionally they know that if they enter a system already stacked against them, they will likely lose access to their children, while likely being looked upon as the “real” perpetrator. Many times if victims who are fathers, give any indication that they are contemplating leaving, especially if their abusive partner suspects that they will protect the children by taking them when they escape, they will find themselves falsely accused of abuse and have a restraining order filed against them. This insures that he will be put out of his home, losing access to his children and will then be looked upon as the abuser, and much less likely to find help and support from that time forward!”

Unfortunately, abusive women frequently use this form of abuse, filing false charges and falsely acquiring all of the access to free services provided by DV agencies while isolating their victim and adding the stress of fighting false allegations. If an abusive woman feels she is losing control of her victim, she unfortunately has a system in place that she can easily threaten him with and if he makes a wrong move can unleash on him with a vengeance and with the full support of heavily funded agencies and laws that are biased against him.

(cont’d on page 7)



SAFE Speaker's Corner

Jack Turteltaub, Ph.D.



Jack Turteltaub, Ph.D. is a clinical psychologist, personal coach and freelance writer. Dr. Turteltaub completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Washington and then obtained his MA and Ph.D. degrees at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI. He is currently licensed in both Utah and Oregon.

During his graduate years, Dr. Turteltaub was trained in Neuropsychology at the Lafayette Clinic in Detroit and completed his predoctoral internship with a specialization in chemical abuse and PTSD at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Salt Lake City, UT. His research focused on Panic Disorder and the MMPI (Masters' thesis subject) and antisocial personality and substance abuse (doctoral dissertation), using male subjects recruited at VAMC.

Dr. Turteltaub worked for three and a half years as a domestic violence therapist at Cornerstone Counseling in Salt Lake and for eight years as a staff psychologist at the Oregon State Hospital (Primarily at the Portland campus). Dr. Turteltaub focused on intellectual and neuropsychological assessment and individual/group therapy, as well as the development of behavioral and treatment plans. Dr. Turteltaub has presented on Domestic Violence, Neuropsychology case studies, gay/lesbian psychology as well as the Personality Assessment Inventory.

He has worked in private practice, started Peak Coaching Services and currently also works as a part-time freelance writer.

He is also a SAFE International Board Member.

Specialized Topics:

- Stigma in the Sexual Minority Community (Two Closet Phenomenon)
- Myths about DV in the G/L/B/T community

SAFE Speaker's Bureau

Stop Abuse For Everyone™

<http://www.safe4all.org>

The SAFE Speakers Bureau is organized to present accurate, balanced, and objective information about domestic violence with a focus on those who typically fall between the cracks of domestic violence services. These groups include men, gays and lesbians, teens, the elderly, and immigrants.

Speakers are approved by the SAFE International Board and represent a broad range of expertise. Each speaker agrees with the mission, goals and purpose of SAFE which follows this listing. Joint presentations by two or more of the speakers are encouraged. Speakers are available for trainings, lectures, panel discussions and seminars.

To inquire about scheduling a presentation for your group contact:

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SAFE (Stop Abuse For Everyone)
16869 SW 65th Ave., PMB 212
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**Review of Thomas James' Domestic Violence:
Things You Aren't Supposed to Know**
by SAFE Speaker Jack Turteltaub

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SAFE Speaker's Bureau

Thomas James has written a hard-hitting and incisive book focusing on current myths about domestic violence in the United States that turns the conventional approach on its ear (*Domestic Violence: The 12 Things You Aren't Supposed to Know*). A practicing attorney in Minnesota and founder/director of Better Resolutions Mediation Service, James's short, quotable book focuses on empirical studies and an extensive review of the literature to make a powerful argument that women are as violent as men, while our legal system is biased against men and refuses to hold females accountable when they are violent.

Based on this information, James' first twelve chapters are small essays, each addressing one of the dozen "things" cited in his title. In the 13th and final chapter, he marshals his chilling conclusions from the research literature: men are victimized more often than women and violence against them by females is just as severe as violence against women. Women are the primary abusers of children and most of their young victims are male. Criminal statistics show, in spite of a rising chorus of voices denouncing violence against women, that violence against males over at least the past twenty years has been rising, while conversely, violence against women has been decreasing. The same statistics reveal that violence perpetrated by females, in general, has been on the rise.

In his most startling chapters, James makes a forceful but controversial assertion that domestic violence against men, rather than racial crimes, are the most under-reported crimes, citing factors that include masculine cultural conditioning about not admitting they are victims and men's real fears about seeking justice in a legal system that favors women. James demonstrates systemic bias by some lawyers, police and judges toward men based on the assumption that they are more violent. Assumptions that have been uncritically accepted by many in the legal system include the belief that women are rarely violent, except in self-defense situations.

Thomas also cites chilling statistics showing males, not females, as victims of bias in the legal system, noting that men are charged and convicted for all crimes proportionately far more often than females, and when convicted for essentially the same crimes, even capital crimes, face far more serious sanctions (including longer sentences, a vastly higher likelihood of execution and far more re-

A glaring example of this bias is that women, as the primary abusers of children, face minimal consequences for their actions. Sexual abuse of children, while representing less than 10 % of abuse crimes against them, are primarily committed by men and yet are prosecuted far more often and more forcefully than physical abuse by adult females, which constitute the vast majority of such crimes.

When child custody is an issue, males are at an even greater disadvantage-in spite of the clear statistics about the preponderance of child abusers being female. Even when there is significant evidence that a mother is not a fit parent, fathers are correct in their assessment that they are unlikely to win sole custody, primary custody, or be able to significantly limit their children's contact with abusive

Based on many researchers' feminist-based assumptions about the inherently violent nature of males, the unacceptability of all male violence (even if it is for self-defense) against females, and the presumptively defensive or insignificant nature of violence by women toward their male victims. Data about female perpetrators of child abuse are apparently overlooked (see above).

In the domestic violence research world, feminist assumptions-many contradicting better designed studies or more reliable crime data-have tremendous influence on how questions are framed, what questions are asked, who is surveyed, and how slanted data are then interpreted to support these pre-existing assumptions. Such studies are based on a circular logic that calls women "victims" and men "batterers."

As an example, James cites studies that ask women to report if they have ever been abused according to an extremely generous definition of abuse, then assumes that all instances of abuse reported has been, naturally, perpetrated by their male domestic partners. This "data" is then reported as reliable, and more importantly, valid. The data is then interpreted to make questionable or untenable conclusions that support the original, simplistic assumptions.

On the back cover of his book, it is noted that in Minnesota, James "served as co-counsel on the recent class action lawsuit to declare the Battered Women's Act (VAWA) unconstitutional." Based on the well-researched, articulate and compelling arguments in his new book, James is a powerful advocate for social and legal changes.

The implications of his book are extremely disturbing and join a growing number of books (like SAFE program director's Phil Cook's *"Abused Men: The Hidden Side of Domestic Violence"*) and research that question the current paradigm.

Thomas portrays a legal system apparently so intent on correcting past injustices against women that males are now consistently held to a much tougher standard. Not only are females given the benefit of the doubt, much of their violence is viewed as purely defensive or due to factors excusing them from responsibility when they are violent. Many people in our justice system have bought into specious arguments supporting a gender-based mythology as well as uncritically accepting as truth a specific ideology that not only skews the realities of domestic violence but has profoundly negative consequences for males-victims and perpetrators-of all ages.

Hard-core feminists who view all women as incapable of violence and all men automatically guilty because of their gender and domestic violence advocates who who don't care about "the facts" will surely attack this book on emotional grounds, but they will have trouble logically refuting the author's impressive grasp of the research literature, including some of its glaring flaws (as cited above). Advocates of a balanced and fair approach to domestic violence, individuals and organizations fighting for the civil rights of men and equal justice under the law regardless of gender should welcome this powerful indictment of our society's response to domestic abuse and the systematic mistreatment of males under our current approach.



SAFE Chapter News !

SAFE-Illinois

The Illinois Chapter of Stop Abuse For Everyone can be reached at:

44 N. Virginia St., Suite 1A2

Crystal Lake, IL

(815)455-7233 available 24/7 as crisis line.

Victim Advocacy, support groups and Batterer Intervention Programs.

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SAFE-Illinois web site: <http://www.peace4allonline.org/>

SAFE-Illinois holds Raffle for a 1967 Custom Chevelle

This raffle is for a fully custom 1967 Chevelle with a 468 cubic inch engine producing around 500 horsepower. A total of 8000 tickets will be available for purchase at a price of \$20.00 a ticket.

Visit SAFE-Illinois web site for more information: **<http://www.peace4allonline.org/>**



The raffle drawing will be held on
February 1, 2008 at P.E.A.C.E. 4
ALL in Crystal Lake, Illinois. All
tickets must be received by January
31, 2008 to be eligible for the
drawing.

SAFE-NH

Are you a self-employed professional, are you an artist or other creative crafter?

Do you own or manage a business?

Would you like to make a difference and take a stand against violence with us?

Contact Lee at SAFE-NH to find out how!

Your donation stays with your local Chapter, however if there isn't a Chapter currently in your area your donation will help the various outreach efforts of our entire SAFE organization .

SAFE-NH will be upgrading their web site at www.SAFE-NH.org during the month of August.

Please check back frequently to see what's happening at SAFE-NH and also to keep up to date on new incentives to help Stop Abuse For Everyone by being involved with our efforts in a way that makes is easy for you to help others!

SAFE-NH



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SAFE-NH

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www.SAFE-NH.org

SAFE-NH Business Sponsors

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BS KIDS was created to provide legal research and information to anyone involved in a Family Law Dispute.

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Free Spirit Grafx is an exciting new shop at Cafepress. www.cafepress.com/freespiritgrafx

The shop is operated by Artist/Graphic Designer Pam Brownell.

SAFE-NH Business Sponsor Free Spirit Grafx

Free Spirit Grafx features Pam's abstract designs on many products such as t-shirts and sweatshirts for the whole family from toddler sizes to 4x adult sizes.

They also carry; postage, greeting cards, post cards, framed prints, posters, mouse pads, mugs, steins, stickers, magnets, house- wares and more.

Pam's art work has been shown and sold in businesses and galleries throughout New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Pam has been drawing abstract designs since she can remember. She works primarily in Pen & Ink and draws exclusively by hand.

Her work is then scanned into the computer and uploaded for sale on the items mentioned above.



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Thanks Pam for "Taking a Stand Against Violence " with SAFE-NH!



SAFE-NH Business Sponsor Christopher Bergeron



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SAFE Business Sponsor HOPE Digits



SAFE and HopeDigits Form Business Partnership for No-Cost Phone Services to Victims of Domestic Abuse

The HopeDigits free calling service is simple to use, with an Internet sign-up process that takes less than three minutes. Users of the service can either answer their calls directly, or have the calls forwarded to voicemail.

HopeDigits is provided at no cost to not-for-profit organizations and is sponsored by FreeDigits. "This free phone number provides victims additional safety because Caller ID doesn't reveal the location," says Kha Phan, FreeDigits.com founder and CEO. "People can call and leave messages, which are stored in private voicemail boxes. Users can go to any phone, anywhere, punch in the digits and access their messages. They can also forward calls to a cell or landline phone, so they never have to give out those numbers...."

We are very enthusiastic about our partnership with SAFE, and look forward to providing these vital communications services for SAFE clients." "HopeDigits fits nicely with our strategies and services," said Lee Newman. "It empowers domestic abuse victims with their own private communications, and will help them move forward with their lives."

A Change of Perspectives and Approach *Must be Expected!*

Male victims are at a distinct disadvantage even if they escape in one piece and are lucky enough to get anyone to believe him. Often, male victims have to present massive amounts of evidence regarding their abuse to get anywhere near the protection that female victims are awarded, simply on their word. Most often, false restraining orders are placed against male victims and are then dropped by their abusive partner when they agree to come back home and behave..."

When men voice opposition or verbalize their distress about this type of discrimination, they are most often labeled as "Mad Dads".

Labeling concerned men, fathers and male victims "Mad Dads" and trying to convince the public that they "fit the profile of batterer's" does nothing to protect innocent children from being in harm's way when their mothers are the abusive party. Many of the Fathers who are speaking up against VAWA and the gender biased organizations funded by it are in their current circumstances due to false allegations of domestic violence and to the issuance of bogus restraining orders against them." **Why are domestic violence organizations worried about the voices of abused men speaking out against VAWA?** Might it be because it casts a light on the real issues rather than perpetrating false and tainted information to continue discriminating against significant numbers of "non-traditional" victims? **SAFE and all SAFE Chapter assist ALL victims without prejudice and equally provide compassionate support to women who reach out to us as well as men and would NEVER refer to women voicing independent thoughts and exercising their rights as "Mad Moms"!** We respect ALL members of everyone's family much more than that and hope that **SAFE always stands up for the right to express your concerns and fears without being called derogatory names."**

"We need to seriously question the ability of Directors of such programs to provide unbiased services and protection to a category of potential victims that they generalize as "Mad Dads?" "At SAFE, we have enough to be concerned about so we will leave that question to the mounting numbers of "enlightened" citizens across this Country!" We sincerely hope that the voices get louder and grow in number until change occurs that will really help all members of the families who are affected by Domestic Violence!

We ask our readers to consider Intimate Partner Violence to be a Human Issue not a gender issue.

Already in NH we are seeing more men coming forward because finally there is an organization that does not diminish their circumstances and acknowledges their need for support and understanding. SAFE-NH while assisting any and ALL victims of domestic violence, specifically reaches out to the men in these situations so that they know there is a place for them to call. Since we developed this organization, we have made great strides towards equality for men and other under-served victim populations."

Additionally, other victims of abuse who do not fit the traditional "battered woman" niche also have to deal with similar discrimination when they reach out for support. Gay men, at times find occasional assistance from battered women's crisis centers due to the fact that their abuser is also male.

However, they along with Heterosexual men, Lesbian and Transsexual victims still face much the same in the Courts and other traditional DV support systems because the training that these professionals receive about this issue, most often is dispensed by the current providers of services for battered heterosexual women, who work within the theory that domestic abuse is a way for men to continue to have power and control over the women in their lives.

This theory does not apply however, to most of the cases of domestic abuse even when the situation arises within the context of heterosexual relationships!

It also does not take into account the many cases that develop within other non-heterosexual relationships!

It's time to try new approaches and to understand that domestic abuse is not a one-size-fits-all problem therefore a "narrow-vision" solution is not the best or the fair approach!



Stop Abuse for Everyone, Our name IS our mission!

Stop Abuse For Everyone

16869 SW 65th Ave., PMB 212
Lake Oswego, OR 97035-7865
Phone: 319-441-1010 (not a Crisis Line)
Fax: 319-937-0096
Email: safe@safe4all.org

**Contact our Executive Director,
Lee Newman, directly if you want to help
support our important mission!**

**SAFE International direct line to Lee:
319-522-4817**

**Or contact him at SAFE-NH:
PO Box 523**

Rochester, NH 03867

lee@safe4all.org

603-859-0859 (Business & Crisis Line)

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**www.safe4all.org
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– John F. Kennedy

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**Your donation to SAFE International helps sustain our efforts to reach out to
ALL who are impacted by domestic abuse and helps to continue our education
and resource initiatives.**

**You may also choose to donate to a chapter of SAFE in your State or region of the
Country. If there is no Chapter of SAFE in your area, you may want to find out how you can help get
one started with our assistance.**

**Visit the SAFE website or contact Lee Newman at SAFE for more information.
Thank you!**

