This is the first annual autumn fund drive and membership issue of our national journal, BROTHER.

We hope you will enjoy the contents and find them interesting and valuable.

We invite you to join NOMAS and contribute to our on-going efforts to end social inequity and its associated violence. NOMAS has a number of task groups that deal with specific issues like violence, racism, homophobia and more.

Additionally, we are focusing our efforts on establishing local and regional chapters with an emphasis on college campuses.

We welcome inquiries about starting new chapters.

A membership application can be found within these pages. More information about NOMAS is available on our website at www.nomas.org. Write us at our return address or email us at info@nomas.org.

Everyone who shares our principles of commitment to gender equality and social justice is WELCOME!
Notes from the Co-Chair

A great deal has happened since the last issue of BROTHER which was published in conjunction with the 26th National Conference on Men & Masculinity. The M&M 26 was organized by the Colorado Chapter again this year and held in Denver in July. We had a great conference and a reasonable attendance although we had hoped for a larger turnout. Nevertheless, the conference was a success. It was educational and fun and well appreciated by the people who did attend. Many thanks to Bruce Barton, Donald Cavanaugh, Douglas Gertner, Sandra Howard and Brian Klocke who formed the core of the planning committee. Thanks also to Trinidad Sanchez and PJ D’Amico who provided additional support during the preparation stages.

I am also happy to report that NOMAS has grown over the past year through the addition of several new members from around the US and Canada. And we have had significant interest in new chapters in a variety of geographical locations including New York City, Texas, Kansas, Chicago and elsewhere. I hope to have additional news on this front to report to the National Council when we meet in January at the 2002 Mid-Winter Meeting.

Speaking of the Mid-Winter, it appears that we will hold it in the northeast again this year and once again it will be held over the Martin Luther King weekend. More information will be available shortly and we will make an announcement through email. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings of the National Council and if you are not on our email distribution list but would like to be, please let us know at info@nomas.org. We send out occasional announcements, and invitations to conferences etc. but we try to keep the correspondence to a minimum since we know how much email everyone gets these days!

Our success at generating new members through our special pre-conference issue of BROTHER has inspired us to use the Autumn issue for another membership drive. We will be issuing a winter volume to just the membership in the near future but think an annual membership issue makes sense. We welcome your comments and suggestions on this. We also invite you to give membership in NOMAS as gifts to friends and family who you think might be interested in learning more about us through a subscription to BROTHER.

I want to extend a personal thank you to Barry Shapiro whose term as co-chair ended at the convening of the National Council meeting in July. Barry was one of the co-founders of NOMAS and has dedicated many hours of his life to the cause of the pro-feminist men’s movement. He has been a constant champion of NOMAS and a good and helpful colleague and I look forward to continuing to have his advice and counsel as an ongoing member of the National Council. I also want to extend a heartfelt welcome to Allen Corben who has been elected to take Barry’s place and join me as co-chair for the coming year. Those of us who have worked with Allen over the past many years know that he brings enthusiasm and dedication to the task of helping us continue to grow and encourage people around the world to commit themselves to gender equity and equality for all.

It is impossible for anyone to publish a journal like BROTHER and not take a moment to say something about the tragedy that struck our country in September of this year. I am sure that I speak for all NOMAS members when I say that we share the horror and sadness of those tragic events and we offer sincere condolences to the men, women and children who have suffered the personal loss of loved ones. Furthermore, as an organization committed to equality for all people, we must recognize that individual actions do not represent the philosophies of nations, religions, or ethnic groups, and we must pay close attention to the actions of our government as it takes steps to “protect” us from future terrorist activity. Reducing civil liberties is a potentially dangerous step. Please be sure to write to your elected representatives to express your opinion and ask them to protect our rights and freedoms rather than give them away too quickly through fear.

From the Editor

I think it has been a challenge to get this issue of BROTHER into production. Unfortunately, we have not fully recovered from our summer computer disasters although we have finally retrieved most of the lost files and hope to replace all of our software packages in the next few weeks. We’ve found a computer guru who has agreed to help so we’re a bit more encouraged than we were a few weeks ago.

This issue is wider than it is deep. And we have received a number of interesting contributions for which we are grateful. Eileen Stark offered an enlightening article on the relationship between animal abuse and domestic violence, an issue that is of interest and concern to a number of our members. Michael Oden shares a different perspective on fathering than the ones we had in our last issue, and Craig Norberg-Bohm submitted a wonderful story about tough men in a tough town taking a tough stance against domestic violence. Nick Sarchet, the executive director of the Boulder Pride GLBTQ shares thoughts on coming out. And so much more.

We have tried to provide information and articles that cover a variety of NOMAS principles so that different prospective members may find something with which to identify and will be inspired to use the application form at the back of the magazine to join us. We want to thank everyone who has provided material and as always, we invite submissions of any printable material that readers would like to share with others. Articles, academic papers, personal reflections, book reviews, website reviews, movie reviews, cartoons, poems, etc., etc., are all welcome.

We are very pleased to be able to offer a variety of different types of material in this issue, too. In addition to general articles and poetry, we have a film review, a book review and the review of an art exhibit. And, for a change of pace we have decided to include author’s bios and photos with the articles instead of in the front of the magazine.

If we decide we like this format we’ll keep it unless our readers tell us otherwise. Any articles that have no author attribution were written by the editor.

As always, we welcome your letters and we thank the readers who have shared their thoughts, suggestions and complaints with us to date. We are trying to make this a useful and enjoyable publication and hope that it will be as much fun to read as it is to compile and edit.

BROTHER

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Two special issues of BROTHER are published annually – Extracts from the papers presented at the annual Men’s Studies Association Meeting and a pre-conference re-issue for the National Men & Masculinity Conference.

Co-chair publisher: Moshe Rozdzial
Editor: Donald Cavanaugh

NOMAS on video!

Documentary footage of the 2000 Silver Anniversary Men & Masculinity Conference! Includes major portions of NOMAS history from co-founder Robert Brannon as well as insights into the NOMAS principles through interviews, keynote addresses, workshops and more.

Also available are seven 30 minute tapes of specific workshops including Victor Lewis on racism and Edgar Rodriguez on being a gay cop in New York City and more.

Access Reality Television series with NOMAS co-founder Barry Shapiro! Barry covers eleven different topics in this series with guest interviews conducted in conjunction with NOMAS council members Judith Newman on the men’s movement, Victor Lewis on racism, Terry Kupres on men in prison, and more.

BROTHER available for conferences and educational use!

NOMAS is pleased to offer back issues of BROTHER to organizations, schools or conference organizers who would like to use them for educational or pro-feminist activities.

For more information about NOMAS videotapes or back issues of BROTHER, please visit our website at www.nomas.org or call 303-864-0384
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To the Editor

Our organization greatly enjoyed your vol.19 #2 newsletter of Brother. The articles were well written and obviously well thought out. Thanks for sending it to us.

Donna Gardner
Artemis Center for Alternatives to Domestic Violence-Dayton, OH

Brother and the NOMAS program were good to see. My favorite was Basil’s, “Just a Few Days Ago” if only more of ‘us’ could know how we need to face our pains and assaults. And if only more of ‘them’ could understand how painful it is. I could feel how raw the article is, being so soon after the event. If he had waited, it wouldn’t have hurt so much to write, but we would have lost a potent declaration.

But all in all, the best feature of Brother is the way every article celebrates manhood. Not all the celebrations are joyful, but each is a fine illustration of who we are.

Keep on truckin’.

Jim Imse
Haywood, WI

I just took a bit of time out of my day to finally read some materials I got at the M&M conference. I was fully enjoying "Brother" when I came across the "Cool Sites for Hot Issues". "No More" was of great interest to me and I immediately jumped on-line to check it out. I just want to forward a heads up about this guy’s work. I haven’t seen the video myself, but have heard that the whole idea is to generate empathy amongst men by seeing a man get raped by another man.

While I think this might be useful as a tool for straight men to see rape as something other than a sexual urge, I think it has very dangerous implications when it comes to homophobia. It also disregards contextual reasons for men’s violence against women. Many people working to decrease men’s violence against women have thus discouraged the use of this organization’s resources.

Abby Tassel
Dartmouth College

Glad to see that the men’s movement is still alive and well in the form of NOMAS, as I was one of the original movement organizers in Minnesota, between 1973 and 1978.

In the Fall of ’77, I was among the workshop presenters at the 4th national M&M conference at GW University, in St. Louis, where I led a pair of seminar/discussion groups related to organizing and consciousness-raising, one of which was based on the works of pedagogical revolutionary, Paulo Freire. I called it: "Men’s C-R Groups; Crowded Closets? or Places For Intentional Growth?’.

At any rate, life went on and I eventually became an RN, which was certainly a highly unlikely career choice, given my childhood socialization. Nursing has been good for me, these past twenty years, and had it not been for the confidence and awareness I’d gained from my years in the men’s movement, I would never have been able to make the choice to enter the field. So, if you ever doubt, as I did back around that tumultuous time, that you’re working on important and socially influential issues, give yourselves a break. You are.

Keep up the good work, guys. Both time and liberation march on.

Frank Holmgren
From the Internet

The American Family Therapy Academy's Sixth Annual Clinical Research Conference

BOYS AND MEN: PROFEMINIST & SYSTEMIC RESEARCH AND CLINICAL PERSPECTIVES

OCTOBER 17-20, 2002
Queen’s Landing Inn, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

A small, but intensive and relaxing gathering of about 70 people with first-rate programming that blends science and practice. Designed to encourage and support active audience discussion, AFTA’s conferences have a strong and lasting impact on their participants. Conference camaraderie combined with information sharing and group participation in entertainment and activities provide an environment for personal as well as intellectual interaction.

Plenary topics will include ‘boys and young men in multicultural perspective, men’s health issues, men’s violence and more. For more information or to register please contact AFTA at PMB 273, 2020 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20006 – 202-333-3690 phone; 202-333-3692 fax or email afta@afta.org.
NOMAS Business

26th National Conference on Men & Masculinity

July 20, 2001 found a cadre of NOMAS regulars and a fine representation of pro-feminist allies and interested parties gathered on the campus of Denver University in a residential neighborhood not far from I-25. The 13th Annual Men’s Studies Association Meeting and two all-day institutes on ending violence and undoing the isms preceded the parties gathered on the campus of Denver University in a residential neighborhood not far from I-25. The 13th Annual M&M26 on the 20th.

About 165 people took part in some or all of the 26th Men & Masculinity Conference, sponsored for the second consecutive year by the Colorado Chapter.

In addition to the general welcome (photo right) and the reading of a proclamation from Mayor Wellington Webb, the conference kicked off with a special prayer ceremony performed by two members from the local Native American Two-Spirit organization. Their prayers were made more poignant by the fact that just a few weeks earlier a 16 year old Two Spirit Navajo had been beaten and slashed and left to die in a remote part of Cortez, CO, ostensibly the victim of a hate crime because his assailant perceived him to be “a fag.”

The first keynote of the program was presented by our own Brian Klocke (photo left) from University of Colorado at Boulder. His address, “Crossing Borders: Resisting Global Corporatization and Patriarchy” was followed by a panel of women in education who discussed “The Impact of Corporate Globalization on Women and Other Marginalized Communities and Models of Global Interdependence.” Panel members included Lisa Facio, CU-Boulder; Anna Sampaio, CU-Boulder; Molly Zackary, GSU; Margie Zamudio, CU-Boulder

The second keynote was by Jerry Bigner (photo right) from Colorado State University. Entitled “Resolving the Enigma of Gay Men as Fathers,” the presentation covered a comprehensive range of issues faced by gay men who are fathers – either from previous heterosexual marriages or through adoption or through partnership with another man who already has children.

Nationally renowned anti-sexist Jackson Katz (photo left) was the third keynote with a presentation of current work based on his award-winning video – “Tough Guise: Violence, Media & the Crisis in Masculinity,” examining the relationship between images of popular culture and the social construction of masculine identities at the dawn of the 21st century.

Dr. Anna Sampaio (photo right) gave the final keynote of the conference on Sunday afternoon with an address on the Transnational Women’s Resistance in the Context of Globalization with special emphasis on the Women of Chiapas. She examined the cultural and economic impact of corporate globalization on 2nd and 3rd world countries, particularly the impact on women.

There were over thirty presenters offering workshops on everything from anti-violence to same gender friendship, women’s rights to body image and eating disorders among men and boys. Additionally, there was plenty of entertainment including a concert by local artist and AIDS activist, Paula Westerfield, Resurrection Dance Theater Haitian men’s dance troupe (photo left), the FENIX Teatro and our own internationally recognized singer/songwriter, Peter Alsop.

There were two art exhibits – one by local gay photographers and one by Brian Klocke which integrated photography and text to challenge viewers to think about issues of corporate hegemony and globalization (photo right). And, there was plenty of time for socializing, making new friends and reacquainting with friends and colleagues from past conferences and just having fun (photos below).

NOMAS and the local planning committee are grateful to the many individuals and organizations who contributed to making M&M26 a great success and particularly to the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work who sponsored the conference at the University of Denver.
M&M26 National Council Meeting Recap

The annual meeting of the National Council was held in conjunction with the 26th National Conference on Men & Masculinity on the campus of Denver University, Denver, CO.

National Council Membership

John Sherry, Judith Newton and Sandra Howard were nominated and elected as members of the NOMAS council.

Congratulations!

Council membership was discussed and recommendations were made to enhance the procedures involved with nomination and election to the council. Ben Zeman volunteered to draft a new nomination process proposal and to work with Phyllis Frank to develop a standardized form.

Chair Committee

Barry Shapiro’s term as co-chair ended at the meeting.

Up the River Endeavors

Through the auspices of the Kenneth Malcolm Jones Trust NOMAS has recently joined Up the River Endeavors, a consortium of 17 organizations working on issues of population control, women’s health, and education. We look forward to this and other organizational collaboration working towards systemic change here and abroad.

Articles

Part Time Father

by Michael Oden

August, 1993. Phoenix Arizona – Six months to go and I would be off to Los Angeles to fulfill my dream to become an actor. I was finishing studies at Arizona State University and rehearsing for an upcoming production. Being African-American in Phoenix has its drawbacks but a bunch of us frequented a club called The Jockey to drink and dance and have a good time. It was at the Jockey that I met the woman who would become the mother of my child.

Gwendolyn was exotic. She was unique in a bohemian sort of way. She had a gold colored nose ring, long, loose fitting clothes and a sort of overall “bushy” appearance. She was talking with a mutual friend who introduced us and later told me that I’d caught her fancy and she’d like to meet me. Well, I had six more months in Phoenix, wasn’t seeing anyone, and figured “why not?” So I said, “Sure, give her my phone number.”

At first I’d drop by her apartment for a few minutes on my way to rehearsals. No big deal. This went on for several weeks. No sex at this point. I was focused on my goals and I wasn’t even thinking about sex. Besides, she had an 18-month-old daughter and I had never been involved with someone who had a child. I wasn’t comfortable with that territory. I still don’t understand why I stayed in it.

It made no sense. I was middle class, educated, and committed to my future. She was a welfare mom and, exotic or not, I didn’t think we had much in common. Still, I wanted to think that Gwendolyn was different. She’d found a job. She was getting her life together. She was a survivor of sexual abuse which probably contributed to her history of getting involved with men who wouldn’t be there for her – like me, come to think about it. But I, at least, wasn’t deluding her, or so I prided myself in thinking. I told her I was going to LA and nothing was going to change that.

We first made love in late September, about six weeks after we’d met. I don’t remember discussing safe sex. I figured with my own machismo attitude that I’d never gotten anybody pregnant before why would this time be different? She didn’t seem to mind that we were playing Russian roulette. She knew I was leaving in a couple of months. This was ok, NOT!!

I should have run away when Gwendolyn accused me of molesting her daughter after I’d baby sat one afternoon and changed the child’s diaper. I should have run away when she started talking about wanting another baby. I didn’t want a child and told her so but still didn’t take or insist on precautions. I should have run again when she said her period was late. False alarm. Whew. Still, I was too “macho” (or too irresponsible) to get out or stop taking chances.

January 1, 1994 – I’d be out of here in 17 days. I could tell Gwendolyn was anxious about my leaving. I understood and while I did care about her I knew I had to move on. No one could stop me from getting something I wanted so much. But nature was going to slow me down in more ways than one. January 17 arrived and LA was hit with an earthquake. I postponed my move until April. By the end of January, Gwendolyn told me that she was late, again!

The reality of the pregnancy actually seemed less frightening than the uncertainty I’d lived with both times the possibility had arisen. At least there was something certain that I could deal with. I tried to convince Gwendolyn that her being pregnant would be her problem because I wouldn’t be there to help raise this child. I knew she’d terminated at least one pregnancy before and I wanted her to terminate this one as well.

None of my arguments carried any weight with her. She wanted this child. She wanted MY child and I couldn’t help but feel that she wanted to use this to trap me because she wanted me. It’s interesting how life-changing events can reinforce the stereotypical thought patterns ingrained by society. I felt that I was the “innocent” victim—the man who was being held up by a welfare mom who was going to take me for a ride. In reality, I was as responsible as Gwendolyn was for what was happening but boy that was hard to admit!

My family’s reaction was as expected from upwardly mobile, middle-class African Americans. My brothers worked me over first condemning me for “being so stupid” and then reinforcing our family value of commitment to your responsibilities and your major responsibility being to your kids – no matter how you got them. My mother was Continued →
heart-broken and everyone was worried that I’d “ruined” my future. But in the end, they rallied to support my taking responsibility for my child-to-be.

Nevertheless, I was in a constant state of panic, uncertainty, and anger. I was not ready to be a father. I did not want to be a father. My greatest fears were how I would support my child financially as well as emotionally and how I would deal with his mother. I knew Gwendolyn wanted a stable man in her life to help raise her children. I knew she wanted the family she never had and I knew she wanted me to be the man to fill that role. I knew, too, that I wasn’t that man. But I wasn’t certain of much else.

**September 19, 1994—** My son was born at 5:06pm in Gwendolyn’s bedroom. The midwife did not make it in time so her sister delivered the baby. I wasn’t there. I could have been but I used the excuse that I had to find a better job to support my child. Gwendolyn thought I stayed away just to irritate her. She may have been right. I kick myself sometimes now. I didn’t see my son until 3 weeks later so I lost three weeks of precious relationship because I didn’t know any better than to be an arrogant, macho jerk.

I cannot describe the feeling I had when I first saw him. I was almost bowled over! I couldn’t help but feel anything but joy that I never thought possible. I’ve never thought I could feel love beyond life itself and he loves me. The distance and the times apart make our reunions more poignant and fulfilling – for me, at least. This summer I anticipate having him spend several months with me. His mother and I have a common bond in our individual loves for our child. Her dealing with her own issues and giving me the space to deal with mine have given me a lot of insight but it is the love I have for my son that has enabled me to take these lessons to heart.

We all have to play the hands we’re dealt when we’re born. Society doesn’t always give all of us very good training for life and we’re forced to muddle along as best we can. Gwendolyn and I were tossed together in the mix and we had a child. We both love our son but we don’t love each other enough to marry. If she hadn’t insisted on having my child I would never have known the incredible love and joy of fatherhood. We probably did everything we did for the wrong reasons but we lucked out. I know I’ve learned a lot about being a man and not needing machismo, which only gets in the way. I think my staying engaged in my son’s life is going to take a lot of patience and love. She’s not going to happen and we started making different arrangements. I couldn’t stay with her any more. I couldn’t use her car while visiting my son. I chipped in CUR son and we would love to have him and raise him as his parents but separately. What a sensible woman! Why didn’t I think of saying that—four years before?

Michael is now six. He is the single most important thing in my life. He has given me joy that I never thought possible. I’ve watched the way he grows and how he grows to love him beyond life itself and he loves me. The distance and the times apart make our reunions more poignant and fulfilling – for me, at least. This summer I anticipate having him spend several months with me. His mother and I have a common bond in our individual loves for our child. Her dealing with her own issues and giving me the space to deal with mine have given me a lot of insight but it is the love I have for my son that has enabled me to take these lessons to heart.

**Gloucester Men Take On Fight Against Domestic Abuse**

by Craig Norberg-Bohm

Gloucester, Massachusetts is a small, tough city, on the Atlantic coast north of Boston. Best known as a maritime port and the home of “The Perfect Storm,” it is famous for its rugged seamen who regularly risk their lives operating Gloucester fishing fleet. At least 5500 of its hard-driving men have died at sea over the course of its 360-year history. It’s not a place that one would first consider as a hotbed of anti-violence. However, it should be.

For the third year in a row about 100 Gloucester men have taken to the streets with their message against domestic violence as part of the town’s annual Independence Day Parade. They have stood up in front of more than 25,000 people to spread the message that “we cannot be strong if we are abusing women or children.”

The Gloucester men delivering this message with their feet and a float include carpenters, plumbers, fishermen, auto mechanics, bartenders, bar owners, bikers, and custom car guys, as well as doctors, bankers, poets, teachers, etc. The makeup of the walkers reflects the diversity of the male community in the city. Their intention is to jump start a shift in the definition of what it means to be a healthy and strong man. They do this by having local men end their traditional silence about domestic abuse and make it clear it is unacceptable.

One of the organizers, Willy Greenbaum, wrote in the Gloucester Daily Times: “... the more important measure of the group is the range of men it includes: veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam, men in recovery from struggles with alcohol or drugs, men who have been in prison or jail, doctors, writers, a few dozen men who work in the building trades, men who were abused by their fathers or mothers, or who witnessed their mothers or sisters being abused by their fathers, etc.

What ties most of us together is that as men, we have had to make a choice about what to do with our energy and strength and our frustration, anger, rage, and the tendency to blame others. We know now that if we do anything to weaken our partners it is wrong, and that we weaken ourselves at the same time. Whatever we do to others, we do to ourselves.”

The community’s response to the men’s efforts has been extremely positive and as a direct result of their actions, a broad-based coalition of groups successfully petitioned the Mayor and City Council to declare Gloucester a “Domestic Violence-Free Zone.” Signs to that effect have been posted around the city, clearly stating the intention to take a broad and sustained approach to reducing domestic abuse. Anyone interested in more information can call Willie Greenbaum at (978)282-4611 or email: greenbau@shore.net.
Animal Abuse and Family Violence
by Eileen Stark

A man in Florida drowned his estranged wife's cats. A woman in Iowa returned home to find that her ex-husband had decapitated her beloved dog. A man in California threw a woman's pet dog into freeway traffic after she accidentally bumped his rear fender.

In chilling cases like these, it was the women, not the animals, who were the primary targets of violence, experts say. Men who abuse women generally do it to assert domination and control and victims of domestic abuse sometimes find that their innocent companion animals are used as weapons against them. The perpetrator sends the clear message “If I can do this to Fluffy, I can do this to you too.”

These animal-focused gender-related crimes of violence are a common way of subjugating women. In three recent studies, nearly three-quarters of the battered women who had family pets reported that their pets had been threatened, injured, or killed by their batterers. Other studies and surveys have undeniably demonstrated that children and the elderly are also at serious risk of abuse by those who harm animals. As one scholar put it, the common thread running through such studies and cases is the subordination of a physically weaker individual by a stronger one.

The human victims also experience the victimization that their animals experience. According to one abuse counselor, “... when their animals are killed or hurt, they [the human victims] feel victimized all over again.” And abused women often stay in abusive situations because they fear for the safety of their animals. As a result, dozens of communities have begun to establish ancillary programs that provide temporary housing for at-risk animals. Removing this obstacle to getting battered women to leave the abusive environment is clearly a giant step forward.

Even in the absence of direct evidence of family violence animal abuse is a heinous crime and ought to be taken seriously. Yet tragically, because of apathetic or uninformed police officers, understaffed prosecutors' offices, or lenient judges, too few animal abuse cases are handled adequately. Nevertheless, interest in these cases is increasing because authorities are seeing increased evidence of the connection between animal abuse and violence toward humans. Additionally, researchers and therapists now warn that abuse of a woman's companion animal may very well put the woman herself in a life-threatening situation. The “it's just a dog” excuse can no longer be used. New programs provide a common ground for animal defense groups and domestic violence organizations to recognize the importance of addressing both animal victims and human victims of domestic abuse. There is no need to weigh two separate forms of violence – animal abuse is as much family violence as is spousal, child, and elder abuse.

While there is still a tremendous way to go in assuring that every animal abuse case – whether or not a human victim is obvious and directly affected – gets the attention it deserves, positive change is occurring. Increasingly, grim cases are motivating law enforcement, family violence agencies and animal rights groups to take seriously the link between animal abuse and human violence. Teaching law enforcement and other professionals how to recognize and respond to various combinations of domestic violence and animal abuse is essential and is already occurring in some cities. More needs to be done, however, and veterinarians, social workers, health care workers, and attorneys involved in domestic violence related issues should be taught to look for both types of abuse. The Animal Legal Defense Fund is working to increase this effort.

What can you do? If you see a beaten dog you should suspect that there may be a bruised child, battered spouse or mistreated elder. And if you learn that a person is being abused suspect that any family pet may be suffering as well. If children are abusing animals consider that they may be repeating what they themselves have seen or experienced. Children often respond to physical abuse by mistreating the only things they have control over, the family pets. Report all abuse to the police or humane society immediately and demand an investigation. And be sure children know it is safe to report their friends' animal abuse. Inform your friends, colleagues, relatives, local prosecutors and judges about the link between animal abuse and other crimes.

Eileen Stark is the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) Anti-Cruelty Education Director. She also chairs the Northwest Coalition to End Violence (NCEV) in Portland, Oregon.
Coming Out – A Singular View
by Nick Sarchet

My name is Nick Sarchet. As the director of a GLBTQ organization, I often think I can’t be any more out than I am. I talk with the media. My name and picture are on TV and in the papers. I speak out about GLBTQ issues on the radio. I am a “professional queer.” So coming out on the job is really not an issue for me.

For better or worse I came out to my family years ago so that isn’t a place for me to come out now. My son’s school knows about me and our family so I have traveled that leg of the coming out journey. But, what have I come to realize over and over is that we in the GLBTQ community are not always “out” to each other.

We make assumptions about each other’s identities all the time. Even at GLBTQ functions we place labels on each other based on our perceptions. I do it and I’m sure you do it, too. So those of you who have heard my coming out story and already know all about me please disregard the following. For those of you who don’t, take a moment to clear your mind of what any preconceptions as I “come out” to you.

I am not a gay man, I am not a bisexual man, and NO I am not a straight man either. Truth be told, I don’t identify as a man at all. BUT, I am not a lesbian, or a bisexual woman, or a straight woman either. “Woman” in general doesn’t fit for me any more than does “man.”

“Transgender” would be an easy label to put on me and while I sometimes use that word as a way to reference my experience it is not truly comfortable. I really identify as “queer.” Now queer can be an offensive word to some. For me it is a word of power that I claim. It means I don’t fit easily into any of the boxes society has created for us, gay or straight.

And, I am a “gender queer.” No easy box to fit this peg into. No easy box to fit my sexual orientation into either. How can I identify as gay or lesbian or bisexual or straight when none of those words includes my gender? So I opt for the lesser-known identity of “pansexual,” which, in my mind, is a little more expansive then “bisexual.” My gender is fluid and so are my attractions to others. Men, women, other gender queers— I have found myself attracted to them all.

So there you have it. Nick Sarchet comes out as a “gender queer pansexual.”

The last thing I want to address is privilege. I have the privilege of being white, being educated, and being reasonably comfortable financially. Not everyone has the same access to resources and therefore coming out is not an equal process for everyone. I am out because I have the ability to be out and I believe I must use that ability to make things safer for those who cannot yet come out.

All of us will come out when it is right for us. If you are in the closet and want to come out, I encourage you to seek support and do it. If you have friends who are not out, show your support for them in their process without pressuring them. If you are already out consider whether there is something more you could be doing to support the GLBTQ communities. Most importantly take care of yourself and each other.

Peace,
Nick Sarchet,

Nick Sarchet was born a female and married and bore a child at a young age. While still in college ze undertook the transformation into a male identity. During his many experiences on the journey toward self-hood, ze has come to understand that not only are gender and sexual identification fluid, they may also be situational. His experiences have led him to understand that we are first of all human and all humans can be anything. A future article will offer more in-depth exploration of Nick’s experiences for BROTHER’s readers.

Web Repository for Personal Experiences with the ‘Ismas
by Jack Stratton

I have recently developed a Web repository <http://rise.pdx.edu/> where students, teachers, employees, managers, and other concerned people can exchange stories of the ways in which they have intervened across racial lines. When European Americans consider racism in the US, they often think of the KKK and skinheads, but what dominates their attention are the “Daily Indignities,” the relentless episodes of mistreatment that they are subjected to by shop-keepers, police, airline agents, and others in the commercial sphere. The good news for supportive “white” people, who feel overwhelmed at the prospect going up against the Klan, is that they can actually have a greater impact by instead intervening when they see everyday racism passing before their eyes.

Interrupting these instances of racism just takes a willingness to try and some idea of how to proceed. I hope that this repository will fill the latter need, which in turn will boost confidence and willingness. It contains encouraging and cautioning stories from other ordinary people, of all ethnicities, that describe what they saw, how they responded, and what resulted. A typical example from two of my students:

“A little while back, Andrew ... (who is also in Senior Inquiry) and I were sitting at a typical, everyday lunch table with 2 or 3 other guys. One of the guys began telling jokes, not racist at first, but still probably not the type of jokes that would be considered “appropriate.” We didn’t mind [at first]. However, when he began to tell a racist joke, an interesting thing happened as a result of the previous Senior Inquiry class. During that class, Jack had talked about options for intervention. It was almost comical how we looked at each other without a word, and got up and left the table. We truly didn’t want to be around that anyway, and we definitely let the jokester know. It was actually quite funny, maybe because we felt that we had made a difference. It was a great feeling. (Brian, Beaverton, OR, 2000)”

Please consider sending me your own stories for inclusion, either by filling out the form at <http://rise.pdx.edu/contribute.html>, or by emailing me at <straton@odin.pdx.edu>. The categories included will be expanded as required by the contributed stories, but presently include the following:

Exactly how do I . . .
• Talk to my peers?
• Deal with customers who act out?
• Talk to my parents?
• Intervene with shopkeepers?
• Bear witness to the actions of authorities?

I am also including stories about intervention across lines of the other oppressions that are interlinked with racism: ableism, ageism, anti-Semitism, colorism, homophobia, heterosexism and sexism.

Jack Stratton, a former NOMAS Council member, studies quantum mechanics, relativity, and to nonscientists.
“P”rison is an ultramasculine world where nobody talks about masculinity.” With that introduction, Prison Masculinities editors Don Sabo, Terry A. Kupers and Willie London pry open the industrial-strength can of worms that the American prison industry has become. More than three dozen contributors, representing most every point of view (from prisoner to academic), hammer away at one overarching concept: If men behaving badly are at the core of America’s racist, sexist, homophobic patriarchy, what good can come from isolating some of the worst of these men (along with legions of helpless-thought-not-wholly-innocent “offenders”) into gulag conditions that amplify, hegemonize and bureaucratize the very attitudes and conditions they used to justify their victimization of others in the first place? And why, since darn little effort is made to challenge these core beliefs and attitudes, are we as citizens surprised when many released convicts reoffend? Their behavior isn’t alien—it’s just American life/business as usual, albeit in extremis. And, as is true with most extreme situations, an understanding of the extreme situation’s causes and dynamics can shine intense, clarifying light onto other situations lacking such pronounced dramatic contrasts. Unless you’ve done some time yourself (which I endorse, but do not recommend, as a tool for self-discovery!), you are unlikely to see in the prison experience any useful metaphors for your own experience. Therein lies the value of Prison Masculinities.

After all, Prison Masculinities discusses the shared experience of more than two million Americans—far more than sufficient from which to draw statistical conclusions about the whole of American life, if one so chose. Presented in five parts, with a lengthy and enlightening introduction by the editors, Prison Masculinities looks over the history and trends in prison philosophy and management; how masculinity is defined and refined in the prison arena; the problems of sexual violence and the potentials for sexual intimacy in a society even more anti-feminine and homophobic than that our incarcerated population experiences; prison health care (actually, the almost complete lack thereof); and, to complete the picture, a survey of efforts to change men’s lives both within the prison walls and beyond.

Prison Masculinities is fascinating; it provides a very real and unadorned feeling for the life of the prisoner. The essays (with a small amount of poetry and prose reminiscences for leavening) were chosen with care: the editors have sifted and selected with an eye towards presenting both the clearly and the deeply felt. Outstanding contributions include sentencing expert Mark Mauer’s “Crime, Politics and the Community since the 1990s”—as quick and thorough an inventory of current policy thinking as you’re ever likely to find; former prison educator Carl Bryan Holmberg’s reminiscence, “The Culture of Transgression: Initiations into the Homosociality of a Midwestern State Prison,” which captures both the absurdities and the abominations that are just everyday life for both prison staff and the prisoners; and, long-term prisoner Stephen “Donny” Donaldson’s “A Million Jockers, Punks and Queens,” which explores what it really means to be a “man” in a place where one “initiates rape” is the working definition.

Also outstanding is former prisoner O’Neil Stough’s reminiscence “Deliberate Indifference,” an account of Stough’s attempt to help another prisoner receive treatment for AIDS, if this were fiction, it would be Kafkaesque, but as it is, it’s all too true and business as usual in the institutions and offices of America’s prisons. Finally, journalist Daniel Burton-Rose relates the story of ‘The Anti-Exploits of Men Against Sexism, 1977-78,” the tale of a group of ‘tough faggots’ incarcerated at Walla Walla, WA, who challenged the entire prison masculinity paradigm in a successful campaign to end prison rape.

As Ed Mead, the prisoner who helped lead the Men Against effort noted, “If you aid the weakest, the rest will rise.” And so it is with Prison Masculinities. If men in (and out of) prison can come to see their false masculinity as their deepest wound and not their most cherished possession, then we will all be better equipped to assist those who need our help in this fight for self-worth and dignity in a society that commoditizes those it can use and marginalizes and discards those that it can’t. Prison Masculinities is about your life, whether you’ve been in prison, know or love someone who is there now, or just live in America.

Dennis C. McGrath is a gay man, a professional writer and former journalist, who has been incarcerated since completing his recent federal incarceration.

“Trembling Before G-d”—A Documentary on Orthodox Jews and Homosexuality

I imagine that you are born into a closely-knit society of loving, caring people who define their god as the essence of their being as a people. This is a good god who takes care of its people and integrates into the very fabric of their existence as a people and as individuals. In exchange for this caring community, awareness of place, welcoming/caring god-sense you just have to obey his word. You have to practice good and avoid evil as defined by his law. Suppose that for the most part, this god’s demands are stringent but not impossible and they generally seem to provide benefits to the community. Imagine, though, that one of this god’s strictures is against something that fundamentally defines you. Some aspect of your existence, which as far as you know was created by this god, is defined as one of the few unforgivable evil conditions you have to avoid or risk damnation and expulsion from the only community and family that you know. What do you do?

“Trembling Before G-d,” a documentary by Sandi Simcha DuBowski, elucidates this very quagmire through an exquisite and exquisitely sensitive exploration of the mental, social and spiritual anguish experienced by homosexual members (and ex-members) of Hasidic and orthodox Jewish communities in Brooklyn, Jerusalem, Los Angeles, London, Miami, and San Francisco. Men and women who realize that they have not personally chosen an evil way to be but who, because of the teachings of their religion, are forced to abandon everything they hold dear or hide their true selves in an utter lie in order to save their place in the community. Many of the scenes are filmed in silhouette to protect the identities of the subjects. In others faces are blurred or obscured in some way, all of which emphasizes the taboo nature of the topic at hand. But the visual impact of the potentially powerful pain of belief is most intensely reflected in the faces and words of the men and women who have tried to come to grips with the dichotomy of god-and-community—versus-me and who have suffered complete rejection by their womb-like society as well as their families and friends.

There’s the handsome young David who spent ten years trying to “cure” himself of homosexuality and is still visibly torn by the contradiction between his love for god and community and their requirement that he reject his fundamental being—he weeps as he demands “Am I not supposed to find someone to be with? To become whole with?” There’s a 58-year-old Israeli who in one scene speaks eloquently about the god that delivered his people from Egypt but then blessed a god who would damn his own creatures, and in another scene wails “I’m 58 years old and I want my...”
Judy Chicago: Feminist Artist

John Cameron Mitchell, the creator of "Hedwig and the Angry Inch," described the difficulty growing up gay and being labeled a "fag" or worse, a "girl," by saying that "there is no homophobia without misogyny." This truism is the basis of the NOMAS tenets of pro-feminism and gay affirmation and it is incumbent on every homosexual man and woman, every transgender or bisexual individual and everyone else who hopes to see a better world to actively engage with the feminist movement.

Nowhere does this synergy of the oppressed become more visible than in the work of Judy Chicago, a major representation of which was recently on display at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center (shhh - Don't Tell Focus on the Family...).

Titled Judy Chicago: Trials and Tributes, the show provides wonderful insights into the feminist philosophy that drives Chicago to create the art that she does. From works done before she realized that her very essence as a woman cannot be defined by the dominant male culture, to a powerful, surreal WPA-style representation of the Holocaust and its victims, this exhibit displays Ms. Chicago’s artistry as philosophy, philosophy as art.

As a pro-feminist homosexual male I experienced visual and spiritual impact as I followed the exhibit through two spaces at the museum. I knew that one area critic complained that the layout disrupted in the flow of the presentation but I was so captivated by the messages that were being blazoned across the walls in front of me that I actually welcomed the respite of unadorned walls and floor between the exhibition rooms.

Almost incredibly, Chicago writes all over many of the pieces of work. I first thought "how silly and distracting." But as I read the words in the context of the imagery, I discovered a mental cadence that changed from opus to opus and piece to piece. The written descriptions of the women depicted in the series called "Compressed Women Who Yearn to Be Butterflies" added an almost tonal quality to the moving shades of color.

And the words “What would YOU have done?” under the image of a transport train carrying men, women and children to their certain deaths in a piece from the Holocaust Project made me stop and recall all the pain I had ever felt as I contemplated the monstrosities of genocides around the globe.

The exhibit starts with works from 1964 - 1985. The works in the exhibit are largely the Menstruation Bathroom and a several floral and butterfly images depicting the vagina and womanhood. This collection is followed by sketches and studies for The Dinner Party Project, 1974-79, on which she collaborated with over 400 people to create banners and dinner plates to represent 39 women from Paleolithic to modern times. The use of traditionally female media such as needlework and clay further reinforced the value and validity of these artistic media which have traditionally been ignored or even scorned by the patriarchal art world.

Next comes The Birth Project from 1980 - 85. The works in the exhibit are largely the sketches for pieces that were ultimately rendered in needlework. While flat and monochromatic, these studies nevertheless grabbed the eye and soul and drew the viewer into the primal power involved in creation and birth. The unity and individuality of mother and child and the universal shriek as new life rends itself from its source to stand on its own are felt as much as seen.

"Smocked Figure," a single piece executed in fabric and needlework practically jumps off the wall with its exquisite beauty, peace and poignancy. The Powerplay Series from 1983-86 was begun in tandem to the Birth Project because of Ms. Chicago's realization that "women are not the problem." This collection of drawings depicts men in a variety of situations, dealing with a range of emotions. From "Trying to Kill the Womany Feels in His Heart" to "Driving the World to Destruction," Ms. Chicago explores the emotional contradictions that society develops in men and the often
Pieta of Poverty
by Moshe Rozdzial

in repose
mother and child
she with sutured sagging nipples
he with bandaged bloodied knees
there are mysteries
in remembered sustenance
milk flowing
unrequested
conditioned by whimpers

bloated
folds and orifices
unrequited
of probing tongue
and hungry lips

pyling
nuzzled memories
of unfettered motion
buoyed in plasma
swaddling bands
and hands
unbound

playing out
developmental needs
his and hers
the grasp response
the crawling stage
human touch
an empty
formula
sweet maternal
susurrations
frozen
in mid-coo

How The Men Want to Fly!
By Rachel Snyder

I am holding men’s hearts in my hands these days,
running my fingers over toughened scar tissue, tracing the rutted pathways
of emotion run roughshod, and breathlessly lingering when I feel myself sinking into soft spots around the edges.
The braille of a man’s heart is not so different from my own.

They come one after another,
dragging their pecmeal armor on the ground behind them, rusting and clanging and kicking up dirt in the breeze, arms and torsos twisted and pained from failed attempts to simply fling off these burdensome hunks of plated steel.
How the men want to fly! To put down their overstuffed attaches of the soul on the dusty ground beside them and rise up in feathery lightness.

They have set small fires alongside the road as they go. They have used up their last matches in incendiary rage. They do not yet know that armor will not burn, can never be torn apart with one’s teeth.

The neon sign outside my temple says eternally open, around-the-clock priestess. They cross the threshold, leaving the scent of their bravado outside the door.
So tired each one of them is, exhausted from running to keep up, to hold his equilibrium in place and fight the descent into darkness.

They turn as I peel them gently, layers falling to the floor. Unbound, the men shudder.
O Madre! they cry in silence, O Sister! Abuelita! Virgin! Maiden! Where! Sinking, the men tremble, then melt under the harsh frailty. There are puddles left behind and in them, Look! the Moon has tossed silvers of Her smile.
Cool Websites for Hot Topics

**The Allies Project** seeks to actively engage straight America in the struggle for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender equality. www.alliesproject.org

**THE ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND** was born of a bold and singular vision: that the lives and interests of animals—in research labs, on farms, in the wild and in our own communities—would one day be recognized and protected by law. Thanks to the groundbreaking efforts of hundreds of dedicated attorneys and our more than 100,000 members and supporters, that day draws closer all the time. www.aldf.org

**The Breast Cancer Site**

**The Rainforest Site**

**The Hunger Site**

Sites that provide assistance to the needy just for your visiting and clicking to help. Money for rain forests, free mammograms for needy women and free food for the starving. Check them out—www.therainforestsite.org/www.thebreastcancersite.org/www.thehunger site.org

**Global Exchange** is a human rights organization dedicated to promoting environmental, political, and social justice around the world. Since our founding in 1988, we have been striving to increase global awareness among the US public while building international partnerships around the world. www.globalexchange.org

**ICARE** includes the United database of URL addresses of organizations working against intolerance in Europe. They are partnered with the Magenta Crosspoint Anti Racism which currently links over 1,500 organizations working in the field of antiracism, human rights, gay and lesbian resources and disability resources in 108 countries around the world. www.icare.org

Through the Flower is a 501c3 non-profit arts organization whose mission is to create a cultural legacy built upon the vision embodied in the work of Judy Chicago through education, exhibition and preservation. Her vision is expressed in *The Dinner Party*, the Birth Project, Powerplay, the Holocaust Project and all the art and archival material that has developed around these important and educational bodies of work. Through the Flower is supported by tax deductible donations and by membership. www.judychicago.com

A participatory festival to benefit ‘Million for Roe.’ One Million Voices will feature performances by bands, spoken word artists, authors, and speakers. It will include workshops and panel discussions. This benefit will be a woman-run event but all are welcome and encouraged to attend. The event is scheduled for January 27, 2002. All profits will go to help protect women’s choice. Go to www.onemillionvoices.org for more information.

**RAWA** (Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan) is a political/social organization of Afghan women struggling for peace, freedom, democracy and women’s rights in fundamentalism-blighted Afghanistan. www.rawa.org

**United for a Fair Economy** was founded as a “movement support” organization to provide media capacity, face-to-face economic literacy education, and training resources to organizations and individuals who work to address the widening income and asset gap in our country. www.ufe.org

*The Violence Policy Center* (VPC) is at the forefront of those working to stem the tide of firearms violence engulfing our nation. The VPC is a national 501(c)(3) educational organization working to move beyond the popular but narrow perception of firearms violence as solely a crime issue to place it in its proper perspective: a widespread public health problem of which crime is merely the most recognized aspect. www.vpc.org