

The Director's Corner

by Charles Fisher

You probably couldn't help noticing the shift in this column's title from "Coordinator's Corner" to "Director's Corner." This a welcome change, not because of what it means for me but for what it means to the Raleigh Men's Center. The title shift is just one more step the Center is making toward greater involvement in the community with the attitude of a full-fledged social service agency. It also signals the intention of the Center to develop programs to meet the needs of men throughout the region and to seek community funding for those programs. On the light side, I think we should keep in

mind that the Director will be doing far more coordinating than directing over the short term.

Speaking of which, I was a little surprised when I had to write a statistical summary of our support group program. As it turns out, we actually have a total of 51 meetings each month of various support groups, a poetry group and the RMC Monthly Meeting. That number means the Center has over 4500 attendees on an annual basis. In other words, we have a large, complex group program. It is one of the largest in the country. The founders and leadership of RMC can be justly proud of this accomplishment.

(Continued on page 2)

Gentlemen,
Mark Your Calendars!

Fall Feast

Rejoice, Toast, Drum and Dance with Us

The Raleigh Men's Center
Is hosting a Fall Feast

October 13-14, 2001

Umstead Park

(Interstate 40 side)

3pm Saturday through 1pm Sunday

Potluck dinner on Saturday and potluck Sunday brunch. \$10 for the day or \$15 for the day and an overnight stay. Cabins are available at Whispering Pines campground. Please make checks payable to The Raleigh Men's Center and mail to: Gregory Blaine, 2809 Wilcox Place, Raleigh, NC 27607. To cover costs and to plan ahead, we would appreciate payment before the event. All participants are asked to bring some wood for the night's campfire. For further information and directions, call Gregory at 833-5300.

Members of Support Groups are especially invited to attend!

September 2001

s	m	t	w	t	f	s
						1 Survivors Support Group 9:30 AM
2	3	4 Durham/Orange 7:30 PM GBQ 7:30 PM	5	6	7 Leadership Council 7:00 PM	8
9	10	11 CH-Carrboro Group 7:00 PM GBQ 7:30 PM Triad Monthly Meeting 7:30 PM	12	13 RMC Monthly Meeting 7:30 PM	14	15 Survivors Support Group 9:30 AM
16 RMC Poetry Group 7:00 PM	17	18 GBQ 7:30 PM	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 CH-Carrboro Group 7:00 PM	26	27	28	29 NC Gay Pride Fest 10:00 AM-5:00 PM

October 2001

(Details: pages 2-3)

s	m	t	w	t	f	s
	1 Newsletter Submissions Due	2 GBQ 7:30 PM Durham/Orange 7:30 PM	3	4	5	6 Survivors Support Group 9:30 AM
7	8	9 GBQ 7:30 PM CH-Carrboro Group 7:00 PM Triad Monthly Meeting 7:30 PM	10	11	12	13 Fall Feast Umstead Park Begins 3:00 PM
14 Fall Feast Ends 1:00 PM	15	16 GBQ 7:30 PM	17	18	19	20 Survivors Support Group 9:30 AM
21 RMC Poetry Group 7:00 PM	22	23 GBQ 7:30 PM CH-Carrboro Group 7:00 PM	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 GBQ 7:30 PM	31			

New Poetry Group Forming

Poetry and the Raleigh Men's Center have never been far apart. On Sunday, May 20, seven poets gathered at the Men's Center offices to read aloud and listen to each other's poems. The Poetry Group's next meeting will take place Sunday, September 16, 7:00-8:30 PM, at the Men's Center offices on Johnson Street in Raleigh. Thereafter, the group will meet the third Sunday of each month, at the same time, in the same place. Each poet who wishes to read his poems should bring 8-10 copies of his poem(s) so they can be shared with the rest of the group. Poets have the option to ask for comments from the rest of the group--and comments will always be positive and supportive. New writers are encouraged to participate. For further information and directions to the Johnson Street offices, call Hilton Freed (919-362-6204) or Bennett Myers (919-419-8886).

Survivors' Support Group

The Survivors' Support Group meets on first and third Saturday mornings, 9:30 to 11:30, in the Raleigh Men's Center offices, 723 W. Johnson Street. This is an open, drop-in group for men who experienced physical, sexual, or emotional abuse as children or adolescents, as well as for men who may be experiencing such abuse now. Dues for this group are \$5 per meeting or \$30 per quarter. For further information, contact Charles Fisher at 832-0509 or e-mail him at raleighmenscenter@hotmail.com

Sept & Oct Programs for Durham-Orange Men's Council

The Durham-Orange Men's Council will meet the first Tuesday, of the month, from 7:30 to 9:00 PM, at Pilgrim United Church of Christ, 3011 Academy Rd., Durham. For directions and further information, contact Ken Wahl at 933-8353 or at wahlesq@earthlink.net.

(As RMC News goes to press, the September/October programs have not been determined.)

("Corner" continued from page 1)

Integral to this support group program are four newer group meetings. I've already alluded to the RMC monthly meeting, and it is very much in place. More information is provided elsewhere in the newsletter, but I want to emphasize that this is not a monthly meeting of RMC members. Rather, it is a monthly program offered by the RMC for all men in the area who would like to take part. As a reader of this newsletter, I would encourage you to attend the monthly meeting and to bring some friends. The programs will be both timely and useful to men of the community. I would also encourage you to send me any remarks or suggestions you might have. We want this meeting to be the best service to the community that it can possibly be.

The GBQ meeting has started meeting on Tuesday evenings. If you are interested in joining this support group or know someone who is interested, have them call me at the Center phone number. Please take a moment to assure your friends that their call will be treated confidentially, as will their attendance at the meetings. The purpose of GBQ is to provide a safe space for men to gather and share issues about being gay, bisexual or "questioning."

Poetry has been a form of expression for thousands of years. There was a major revival of interest in poetry with the rise of the Bly-influenced mythopoetic men's movement. Although Bly's contributions to men's work have been eclipsed by a newer, younger group of writers, his poems and his *Iron John* will be with us for generations. His works have helped many men, in discovering themselves, to discover poetry. The RMC has a number of accomplished poets, not the least of whom is G. Bennett Meyers. Bennett has been the organizing force behind the Poetry Group that meets every third Sunday of the month at the RMC facility on Johnson Street.

Not satisfied with facilitating just one new group, Bennett also took the lead in acquiring space for a support group in the western part of the Triangle. Beginning in September, the group will meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:00 PM in Carrboro Town Hall. This new group will help meet the needs of men who have expressed a desire to become part of an RMC support group, but who have not been able to come to Raleigh on a regular basis. Many thanks to Bennett for starting the Poetry Group and the new support group.

Raleigh Men's Center to Participate in Gay Pride Day, September 29

NC PrideFest 2001 will conduct a day-long series of events to celebrate North Carolina's 16th Gay Pride Celebration. The main festivities—including the Day Festival and the Parade—will take place in Durham, on Saturday, September 29, on the Duke East Campus and in the Ninth Street area. The Festival will start at 10:00 AM and will end at 5:00 PM.

The theme for this year's Pride Celebration is "Embrace Diversity," and, in accordance with the Raleigh Men's Center's new emphasis on outreach, the Raleigh Men's Center will staff a table on Duke East Campus during the day Saturday—to distribute information about the Center in the form of brochures and recent newsletters. We'll also distribute information about our new GBQ support group and offer men an opportunity to sign up for more information and two free forthcoming issues of the newsletter. (In our presence at the '95 and '97 Pride festivals a number of gay and bisexual men joined the Center and are still active members.) Also, for the first time ever, the Raleigh Men's Center plans to march in the parade. (A number of RMC members have already volunteered to make a banner to carry in the parade.)

We are seeking volunteers, both to staff our table on Duke East Campus—perhaps in two-hour shifts—and to march in the parade. If you'd like to volunteer

for either (or both!), please contact Lee Elliott at 919-286-2357 or e-mail him at leetitusselliott@earthlink.net. Our outreach mission will resonate more loudly the more RMC members join the march. So we hope many of you will reserve September 29 as a day to celebrate, chill-out, enjoy! These Pride festivals have always been delightful—and this one's September date will allow more people to participate (students in nearby universities, for example) and will offer a greater chance of dry, cool, sunny weather.

Some logistics:

Participants in the parade are asked to line up at 11:00 AM on Campus Drive (on East Campus). The march will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Campus Drive and end approximately one hour later. After the march, a rally is scheduled on East Campus, featuring speakers from the Human Rights Campaign, a number of Triangle elected officials—and more.

For more information about the Pride Fest and for NC Pride's Mission Statement, visit its Web site at www.ncpride.org



For RMC West, New Support Group Forming

For a long time many men from Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and Durham have expressed a desire to join a Raleigh Men's Center support group but have not been able to come to Raleigh on a regular basis. To serve these men, Bennett Myers has volunteered to facilitate a support group that will meet on second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:00 PM in the Carrboro Town Hall. The first meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 11. For further information about the group and for directions to the meeting space, contact Bennett at 419-8886.

At RMC There's Something New: A Support Group Known as GBQ!

The Raleigh Men's Center is sponsoring a weekly support group for gay, bisexual, and questioning men. In response to numerous requests from a broad variety of men, RMC is pleased to be able to sponsor this important new group. A nominal charge of \$5.00 per meeting will help defray the cost of renting the meeting space. The group will not meet at RMC offices so that confidentiality might better be protected. GBQ is not intended to be a substitute for therapy for those who require therapy related to their sexuality. This group will provide a place where men can come together and share their stories, supporting one another in identifying and coping with issues related to their sexuality, families, careers, and spirits. If this sounds like the right group for you, come join with other men who feel the same way. For the name of the meeting space and directions to it, and for further information about GBQ, call Charles Fisher at 832-0509 or e-mail him at raleighmenscenter@hotmail.com

Who?

Gay, Bisexual and Questioning Men

What?

Support Group

When?

Tuesdays 7:30-9:30pm

MALE SPIRITUALITY

By Frederick Whitmeyer

The following article was published in Innerchange (July 2001).

"People laugh up their sleeves at anything that defies the industrial explanation of our lives, anything that is spiritual."

—Jim Nollman

THE WIND, ONE BRILLIANT DAY

The wind, one brilliant day, called
to my soul with an odor of jasmine.

"In return for the odor of my jasmine,
I'd like all the odor of your roses."

"I have no roses; all the flowers
in my garden are dead."

"Well then, I'll take the withered petals
and the yellow leaves and the waters of the fountain."

The wind left. And I wept. And I said to myself:
"What have you done with the garden that was entrusted to you?"
—Antonio Machado

The quotation and poem above tell a story of Spirituality missing in the lives of Western man. They certainly tell a story of Spirituality missing in the first fifty years of my life. Being "spiritual" as a boy and young man was akin to being a "sissy." And that just does not fit the mold of male toughness that I was handed and told to fit into. Spirituality is about connecting to and feeling at a deep level unseen Energies. Spirituality is about connecting with our own soul. Spiritually is about connecting with reverence to this planet and other species that inhabit it.

Male spirituality is about hearing the truth. Male spirituality is about speaking the truth. Our Western culture is much better at denial than it is about truth. It's hard to claim to be part of the tribe of Western culture and not be in denial of the violence and atrocities done to the air, water, forests, and natural wildlife in the

name of our industrial democracy. In fact, to be "out" spiritually in this environment is to be asking for trouble. That is, if we believe that being spiritual is being truthful. Being quiet supports the violence.

How did we get this way? I grew up very confused about what it meant to be a man. I got lots of mixed messages from different sources. Mostly, I was not supposed to have or express feelings, to have or express desires, or to do anything that wasn't masculine. Certainly not cry. Having been schooled in a dysfunctional and abusive home environment, fear dominated my whole being. The only way I survived was to completely suppress any and all feelings, except anger. Anger was okay so long as it was not expressed as a position opposite of the ruling power. That left only my friends. And I did have friends, for which I am very grateful.

There is a connection between male spirituality and male initiation as practiced long ago by indigenous tribes. The ancient rites of male initiation were complicated and subtle experiences. They were like a spiral of four stages that continually repeats itself until it finally sinks in. Robert Bly suggests that the four stages are 1) bonding with and separation from the mother; 2) bonding with and separation from the father; 3) finding and bonding with a male mentor; and 4) discovering and honoring the inner feminine.

Most American men successfully bond with the mother. I did. It is the "separation" from the mother that doesn't go well. Since my "mother separation" didn't go well, I married women to be my mother. Bonding with the father took place more naturally before the Industrial Revolution. This bonding requires many hours in which the bodies of the father and son sit, stand or work close to each other, within a foot or two.

I actually do not remember ever spending time with my father. He lived there, but he was not there, except when he was acting out his violence on his family.

Our own feelings are sources of Energy that can turn dangerous if not honored. The innate power that a man possesses because of his feelings puts him at risk of becoming its victim. Feelings validated, affirmed and honored in a healthy way are a form of spirituality.

Today, the average father in the United States talks to his son less than ten minutes a day. A small son interprets the father's absence from the house as evidence of his own unworthiness. The American man is often 40 or 45 before these first two stages of initiation have taken place, if at all.

Bonding with a male mentor is similar to bonding with the mother. It is tender and nurturing. It is un-

(Continued on page 5)

("Spirituality," continued from page 4)
 conditional caring, loving. I found this in the male teachers that validated and nurtured me. I also found a few male mentors in older mature men who saw something special in me and blessed me. This is something the father cannot do without sacrificing his own masculinity.

Discovering and honoring the inner feminine results in a man developing deep spiritual feelings. This concept is foreign to most western men. I found my way to this stage by acknowledging that I had an inner child, and that he was hurting. At about age 50, I began talking with and loving my inner child. This was my first step in letting go of the idea that some woman was responsible for taking care of my needs. This was my first step in beginning to get some balance in my life among the King, Warrior, Magician and Lover Energies.

The same year that I received my Medicare card I completed a male initiation known as the New Warrior Training Adventure weekend. That weekend literally changed my life. My childhood experience of abuse had left my inner Warrior dead. I had struggled to balance these archetypal energies, but it just didn't happen until I completed this initiation. I found many new male mentors. I became a better elder and mentor to younger men.

I had noticed for a long time that all the flowers in my garden were dead. And I wept. As men struggling to be truthful and to live spiritual lives, we tend to go through all of these stages in a shallow way. Then we go back and live in several stages at once, go through them all again with less shallowness, return again to our parents, bond and separate once more, find a new mentor until we get it. I finally got it. The power of the King, Warrior, Magician and Lover energies in the mature masculine easily offsets the life-



long feelings of anger, grief, fear and shame. The flowers in my garden are finally blooming.

Concessions for 2001-2002

A Call for Volunteers

By Bill Switzer

The Raleigh Men's Center will again work concessions at the Raleigh Sports and Entertainment Center for the 2001-2002 season. We have earned nearly \$5000 in each of the last two seasons and hope to earn a comparable amount this season too. We will work mostly Hurricanes games. Our goal is to work a minimum of 30 events. A number of men have volunteered in the past and a number have indicated willingness to work in the future. We are particularly short of men willing to lead events, however. This requires being responsible for the cash, the inventory and seeing that they balance in the end. This is a little extra work and responsibility, but it is relatively straightforward for the stands that I have asked to work. Please contact Bill Switzer if you would consider leading or if you are willing to work but have not so indicated your willingness before. E-mail: bill_switzer@ncsu.edu Phone: (919) 217-9095 (H).

A cold snow...

By Geoff Pearson

"This poem," writes Geoff, "was written at the RMC Fall Feast, October 2000."

A cold snow blows across my soul
 She doesn't know
 My Pain
 Her pain
 They'll never meet
 And as the walls shook
 And the thunder roared
 And her masks fell to the floor

RMC News Now Accepting Advertising

There are two ways you can submit advertising:

1. This one is the most reliable for you. Send a graphics file of the exact ad you wish to use in the correct size. Send by e-mail or IBM-formatted diskette. Graphics formats supported by our current system include .doc, .pcx, .jpg, .tif, and .gif. Using your graphics file, we merely insert your ad as a picture in the newsletter. It looks just as you want it, and it is easy for us.
2. E-mail, regular mail or fax the text for your ad. We will create the ad using your text and will send you proofs for your approval.

Sizes and Costs (All measurements are in inches): Per Insertion

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All orders must be prepaid, with checks made out to The Raleigh Men's Center. Deadlines for submitting advertising are the same as those for Submitting articles. See the back page, under "Newsletter Contributions," for the deadline dates. Send submissions and checks or money orders to: Bert Singer, 104 Barley Place, Wake Forest, NC 27587 (home phone) (919) 556-7556 (e-mail) bertsinger@aol.com

Novels About Men's Work?

By Vaughn Clauson

Michael DiBenedetto, *Heart's Calling*, Spring Hill Publishing: Columbia, Mo., 1999.

Colson Whitehead, *John Henry Days*, Random House: New York, 2001.

I received DiBenedetto's novel as an assignment for reviewing—ultimately from the author, a writer residing in the good old Midwestern heartland, a place dear to my own heart. According to the letter accompanying his novel, Mr. DiBenedetto had contacted men's centers "in the hopes of reaching the audience that would most appreciate a novel that explores issues related to men, masculinity and personal growth."

The first word in the novel is "I." The hardest thing to endure during the following 300+ pages is the confines and custody of that first person narrator—a feeling akin to asking a casual acquaintance, "How are you?" and getting a three-hour response over lunch, including details that might not be compatible with good digestion. First person narrators of novels need to be controlled, if not muzzled, particularly in cases where the narrator may be closely identified with the author, which I suspect is true in *Heart's Calling*. (The narrator/main character is Michael Allen, a recent graduate from the University of Missouri in Columbia.) Contained in nearly every expository paragraph are the judgments and evaluations, the shadings of the author's consciousness with the benefit of twenty years or more of hindsight. Unfortunately, the story and the characters are predictable and self-serving.

The story deals with Michael Allen's adventures while volunteering as a crisis counselor at a shelter and "hot line" in Columbia. These adventures DiBenedetto uses as a stage upon which he can deal with the issues of identity, responsibility and family. When he confines himself to these issues, DiBenedetto engages the reader. But all too often he allows his narrator/protagonist to intrude unnecessarily upon the story, filtering and commenting and—as we down South say—"running off at the mouth." These long-winded, digressive expository comments are what make the book more of a memoir (and a clumsy one at that) than a novel with an engaging story and alive, three-dimensional characters.

After reading DiBenedetto's "novel," I could appreciate the painful process many men remember—and dismiss—by the phrase "coming of age." I was also taken aback by the simple thought that issues that comprise "men's work" are intrinsically so arresting and powerful that it's almost impossible to trivialize them. I also wondered if there was such a thing as "men's fiction," a genre possessed of its own aesthetic, form, and subject matter. Indeed, there are some novelists who are so identified with the powerful themes of masculinity that we might include them in a "canon" of men's work. I can list, as examples, Melville's *Billy Budd*; Ellison's *Invisible Man*; Joyce's *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*; Richard Wright's *Black Boy*; David Guy's *Autobiography of My Body*; Lawrence Naumoff's *Taller Women*.

The most recent such book that I've read is Colson Whitehead's *John Henry Days*. It's the story of a black "content pro-

vider" (journalist) on the contemporary circuit of news junkets. He is on a streak of unbroken "junketeering" on these expense-account driven missions of mythic status among the press corps when he is sent to cover a festival in Talcott, West Virginia, to honor the memory of the American "folk hero," John Henry, fabled in song and tale since the days before the railroads had threaded their way through the most rugged parts of the Appalachians in the years between the Civil War and the end of the 19th Century. To me, Whitehead writes with the tone and depth of Ralph Ellison—America's black Kafka. Whitehead's scenes and characters are that strange! I won't tell you whether or not the hero, J., achieves his mythic status by completing his mission, but the novel is a funny-sad tour through the dilemmas, trials, and tortures that we call America's "information age," and through what it means to be a man, and black, in that "age."

The novels I've mentioned contain what I think is the best writing about men's issues. Unfortunately, Michael DiBenedetto's book is not among them. I would encourage Mr. DiBenedetto to continue to write for himself and his friends, if it gives him and them pleasure, but I would advise him to focus more on his career as a therapist in private practice.

Any comments? Send them to: vsclauson@hotmail.com

"He felt his pocket; the gun was still there. Ahead the long rails were gleaming in the moonlight, stretching away, away, to somewhere, somewhere where he could be a man...."

—Richard Wright, "The Man Who Was Almost a Man."

RMC

President's Message

"Whoever and wherever we are, in or out of prison - we're all doing hard time until we find freedom inside ourselves."

—Bo Lozoff, from
"We're All Doing Time"

"Last night as I lay sleeping,
I dreamt - marvelous error! -
that I had a beehive
here inside my heart.
And the golden bees
were making white combs
and sweet honey
from all my old failures."

—Antonio Machado, from
"Last Night as I Lay Sleeping"

Sometimes, I feel like life is a series of contrasts. I love and fear something at the same time. I love and fear my passion, my life energy, my creative energy, my sexual energy all at the same time. I simultaneously desire and fear taking a risk. Maybe, just maybe, we are living in a time of contrasts. We're all doing time until we find freedom inside ourselves.

Certainly, we, as the Raleigh Men's Center, are living in a time of contrasts. There is a strong need for more spiritual work to be done, and there is a need for being more business-like in doing this work. This is a huge challenge. Fortunately, we now have, for the first time ever, an Executive Director. Charles Fisher, has been doing this job for a year now as Center Coordinator. For Charles to be more effective in the community and for the Men's Center to be more believable in the community, he is now our Executive Director.

One of our first jobs as a Men's Center is to have a Vision and a Mission that is easily remembered by every person connected with the center. One version of our Vision statement is:

"Creating a world that recognizes all people for who they are rather than what they do, and that

celebrates the spiritual connectedness of all life."

My version of our Mission is:

"Supporting all men in living their passion and their roles as friends, family members, and citizens of the community."

I can remember these without taking my daily memory pills. Focused intentions and energies are powerful. If large numbers of people repeatedly support statements of Vision and Mission like these, magical things will begin to happen. And there are a lot of things that need happening.

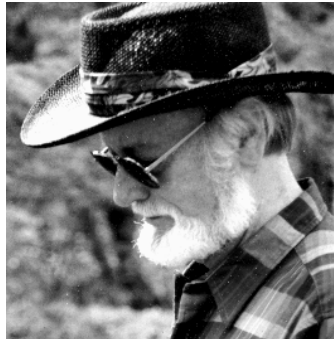
In my judgment, some day we need a home of our own. We need a permanent place where men can hold their support groups, monthly meetings and special events. Before we can do this, however, we must define who we are, whom we serve, what their needs are, and how we will serve them. Some problem areas that need attention from passionate and mature men are:

Violence, Fathering, Relationships, Sexuality, Racism, Sexism, Heterosexism.

The Men's Center must take a fresh and energetic approach to these problem areas. We must define projects in these areas in a clear and meaningful manner, if we are to successfully fund and complete them. We must recruit volunteers with a passion to serve to work on these projects. While we will always maintain our separation doing our personal growth work in our support groups, it is time to end the separation of the sexes in doing our outreach work.

These outreach efforts will require newer and creative ways of thinking. We will never solve problems with the same belief system that created them. In order to be successful in changing that which needs to be changed, we must raise our level of consciousness. We can only do this by constantly changing our belief systems. Constantly growing. Intentionally focusing. Making sweet honey from old failures.

—Frederick Whitmeyer



Break the Mirror

By Nanao Sakaki (*Translated by Gary Snyder, 1996*)

In the morning
After taking cold shower
-----what a mistake-----
I look at the mirror.

There, a funny guy,
Grey hair, white beard, wrinkled
skin,
-----what a pity-----
Poor, dirty, old man!
He is not me, absolutely not.

Land and life
Fishing in the ocean
Sleeping in the desert with stars
Building a shelter in mountains
Farming the ancient way
Singing with coyotes
Singing against nuclear war—
I'll never be tired of life.
Now I'm seventeen years old,
Very charming young man.

I sit down quietly in lotus position,
Meditating, meditating for nothing.
Suddenly a voice comes to me:
 “To stay young,
 To save the world,
 Break the mirror.”

Ideas for Men with Children

- ◆ Attend school events such as open houses, parent meetings, and teacher conferences
- ◆ Talk with your child's teacher and stay informed about classroom activities, homework assignments, and school events
- ◆ Arrange to take time from work to spend at the child's school
- ◆ Become involved at your level of comfort and interest – for instance, by eating school lunch with your child, volunteering in the classroom, going on field trips, participating in a parent-teacher organization, or serving on a school committee
- ◆ Learn the names of your child's friends; greet them by name and invite them to go on outings with you and your child
- ◆ Get to know the parents of your children's friends
- ◆ Take your son or daughter with you to work one day each year
- ◆ Create a ritual or special time together such as a bedtime routine or a regular time to read together
- ◆ Talk with other men, women, and your parents about the changing roles of men and women in caring for children
- ◆ Read with your children, especially sons, so that they don't start to think of reading as a “girl thing”

National Association for the Education of Young Children
1509 16th Street, NW Washington, DC 20036-1426
1-800-424-2460 <http://www.naeyc.org>

Raleigh Men's Center Leadership Council for 2001-2002:

Executive Director:	Charles Fisher:	raleighmenscenter@hotmail.com
President:	Frederick Whitmeyer:	whitmeyer@mindspring.com
Vice President:	Tyrone Everett:	tylars@aol.com
Treasurer:	Bill Switzer:	bill_switzer@ncsu.edu
Secretary:	Doug Jennette:	adouglass@ipass.net
Archivist:	Sid Harrell:	Sid.Harrell@ncmail.net
Support Groups:	Charles Walker:	Charlwalkr@aol.com
Special Events:	Gregory Blaine:	gregoryblaine@yahoo.com
Public Relations:	Bill Chestnut:	chestnut@intrex.net

Raleigh Men's Center Dues Policy

According to a policy enacted by the RMC Leadership Council in 1999, new members joining the Men's Center will be billed as follows:

If they join during the periods of dues for the current year will be:	Jan 1-Mar 1	Mar 2-May 31	June 1-Aug 31	Sept 1-Dec 31
	\$30	\$22.50	\$15	\$7.50

RMC September Program

by Doug Jennette and Doug Lester

On Wednesday, September 13, 7:30-9:00 PM, at Glen Eden Pilot Park, John Kasson will facilitate a program entitled "HOUDINI, TARZAN AND THE PERFECT MAN: THE WHITE MALE BODY AND THE CHALLENGE OF MODERNITY IN AMERICA." John Kasson is Bank of America's Honors Professor of History and American Studies at UNC-CH. John has just published a book by the same title and will be guiding us through the issues concerning men and how they have responded to the changing world over the last 100 years in regard to traditional body images. In his engaging book, he describes a "vibrant culture, richly populated with icons of exaggerated masculinity." He focuses on three of the most celebrated of these figures, Harry Houdini, Tarzan, and Eugene Sandow, a strong-man-builder who was

considered "the perfect man" in his day. Kasson biblically documents how little the fundamental aspirations of men have changed despite the passage of more than a century. Men still seek independence from forces that would dominate and control their lives; they still seek power, physical as well as social; and they still want to be heroes.

More about John Kasson:

Dr. Kasson is a cultural historian. He is an authority on a rich variety of cultures and their icons, both "high" and "low," and on disciplines ranging from literature and the visual arts to psychology and anthropology. He has a Ph.D. in American Studies from Yale University and a B.A. from Harvard University. For more information about the program, call Doug Lester at 919-782-2900, ext. 107 or e-mail DJLester@mindspring.com.

to cover room rent.

TIME: 7:30-9:00 PM, Thursday, September 13.

PLACE: Glen Eden Pilot Park, Glen Eden Drive, Raleigh, NC

DIRECTIONS: From Durham, Chapel Hill, and points west: From I-40 East, take exit for Wade Avenue Extension. After following Wade Ave. Ext. for several miles, turn left at the SECOND stoplight and you'll be on Ridge Road. On Ridge road, go to the second traffic light and turn left onto Glen Eden. Cross over the Beltline and immediately turn right into Glen Eden Pilot Park. The entrance is clearly marked. From various parts of Raleigh, get on Wade Avenue, heading west (away from downtown). At the stoplight just before Wade Avenue becomes Wade Avenue Extension, take a right onto Ridge Road. Then follow the directions above. If you get lost, call the Pilot Park office, 831-6833.

We request a small donation (\$2)

Hope to see you there!

-----detach here-----

RALEIGH MEN'S CENTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Yes, I want to support the Raleigh Men's Center Please send me information about support groups

Name/Organization _____ Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Email _____

Membership—\$30 per year—includes a subscription to the newsletter *RMC News*
See page 8 for current dues policy.

Please make checks payable to

The Raleigh Men's Center

Mail this form with your check to:

Ray Schuh, 4705 Baybridge Crossing, Apt 1319
Raleigh, NC 27604

Subscription and Membership Services

Membership—\$30/year—which includes subscription to the newsletter *RMC News*.

Support Groups

All men are welcome at the Raleigh Men's Center. The only requisite for joining a support group is a genuine desire to join with other men in supporting each other's journey. At this time there are groups meeting one evening per week, Monday through Thursday. General support groups meet at the Raleigh Men's Center on the second floor at 723 West Johnson Street in Raleigh. Support group dues are \$30 per member per quarter and help to defray the cost of renting the Men's Center facilities. To learn more about or join a general or special support group, contact Charles Fisher at (919)832-0509.

Newsletter Contributions

Send all contributions to Charles Fisher via e-mail at raleighmenscenter@hotmail.com or mail to Raleigh Men's Center, P.O. Box 6155 Raleigh, NC 27628.

Calendar items will be included as appropriate and as space permits. **Deadline for the November-December issue: October 1**

RMC News Staff

Acquisitions Editor: Charles Fisher (919)832-0509
E-mail raleighmenscenter@hotmail.com
P.O. Box 6155, Raleigh, NC 27628

Editor: Lee Elliott (919)286-2357

E-mail leetituselliott@earthlink.net
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