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## Men's rights need protection too!

# 'Free Men' say sexism affects male

**United Press International CHICAGO** — For every women's issue there's a men's issue that needs the protection of an Equal Rights Amendment, said Dan Logan, executive director on Free Men.

In addition to working with Free Men, a Washington-based group working for equal rights, Logan is a free-lance writer,

photographer and former political speechwriter.

"Sexism has just as devastating an impact on men as women," Logan said. "We are hurt because women are hurt."

"If women can make only 59 percent (of what men earn in the business world), that hurts us, too. Men and women tend to pair up. There's the expectation that we should make 100 percent. That puts an unfair burden on us."

Logan, married but childless, said the impact of divorce, child custody, abortion and out of wedlock births on men has never been adequately assessed.

"Men have nothing to say about abortion," said Logan. "I'm not saying a woman should not be able to control her body, but we should have something to say. Men should be able to choose parenthood as well."

"Then there's paternity leave. There practically is no such thing. Families have so little flex-

ibility in child care as a result. "Child custody — women win 95 percent of the time. That is

**"Child custody — women win 95 percent of the time. That is clearly discriminatory. Judges believe women are better parents. It's a stereotype that hurts both men and women." — Dan Logan, executive director of Free Men.**

clearly discriminatory. Judges believe women are better parents. It's a stereotype that hurts both men and women.

"Child support is enforced under the law. Visitation is not. The father becomes a visitor.

He's no longer a father. Most men love their kids and it hurts."

Women who choose to give up custody of their children are treated like monsters, he added.

Logan said men have long been forced into the roles of provider and protector, while women have been forced into the position of homemakers.

"It is really a matter of stereotypes," he said. "We are limited just as women are limited. We need a full range of options."

"We are the only ones that get drafted. The majority of positions in the armed forces are desk jobs. Then there's the combat stereotype — men are strong. Many women would qualify for combat but they don't make the first cut and that first cut is arbitrary."

Logan said he worked for years for the passage of the ERA but after a while got the impression he was unwelcome at feminist gatherings.

"It's useful to have an enemy," Logan said. "But equal rights should not be a them-against-us situation. It's good for women and men for some of the same reasons."

Logan, who is working for reintroduction of the ERA in Congress, said people like Phyllis Schlafly, head of STOP ERA, used fear to defeat the amendment.

"I don't think she really understands it," he said. "All her talk about women should be homemakers — why doesn't she stay at home?"

"They say a dozen men defeated ERA. That's wrong. It was defeated by women."

The ratification deadline for ERA passed June 30. The last big push for the amendment, which fell three states short of ratification, was staged in Springfield, Ill.

Illinois House Speaker George Ryan refused to change the voting rules to ensure pas-

sage by eliminating the

ment for a super-majority.

"Legislators are protective, not attacks," Logan said. "They need to be told in your interest."

Logan said a group of men and women's groups to work together for ERA. But before that, men must abandon the protection that they don't

protection.

"Men really have no reason to be afraid of the ERA. But before that, men must abandon the protection that they don't

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## State a home for 'new outlaws'

# Oklahoma's pot industry growing

**United Press International OKLAHOMA CITY** — Jesse and Frank James knew the rugged hills of eastern Oklahoma were a good place to disappear. Now authorities say those same wooded areas are a home for new outlaws — marijuana growers.

The illegal weed flourishes in the hot, humid climate of the wooded mountain ranges and hills — where "Robbers Cave," the old hideout of outlaws like the James boys and Belle Starr, is now a state park, authorities say.

Drug officials say favorable growing conditions and the relative safety provided by the thick forests have lured pot growers from as far away as California. They say Oklahoma pot — including the expensive "sensimilla" that goes for up to \$1,000 a pound — has developed the

reputation of being "pretty good" and has been traced to California, New Jersey and New York.

By some estimates, marijuana is easily the state's second largest crop behind the approximately \$1 billion in wheat raised on the rolling prairies of the rest of Oklahoma.

A recent Time magazine report said Oklahoma harvests \$350 million worth of marijuana annually, making it the third largest pot producing state surpassed only by California and Hawaii.

But Mel Ashton, resident agent in charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration in Oklahoma, said any estimate of the marijuana haul would be a wild guess.

"We just don't know how much is out there," he said.

However, he concedes there is a healthy pot industry in Oklahoma and that law enforcement is hard pressed to put a dent in it.

"It's just amazing to me when we stumble across some of these fields and see how much there is out there," Ashton said.

He said some growers will sneak into Indian land or rent

land from legitimate farmers to grow their pot, he said.

Scott Mitchell, spokesman for the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control, said the weed is culti-

**A recent Time magazine report said Oklahoma harvests \$350 million worth of marijuana annually, making it the third largest pot producing state surpassed only by California and Hawaii.**

vated all across the state, but "probably 95 percent of the dope is in the southeast."

Authorities say most of their anti-pot effort consists of using airplanes to locate marijuana patches. But Ashton said detection by air is difficult.

"In some places the growth is so thick that unless you wander upon it on the ground you'd

never find it," he said. "They can hide out in eastern Oklahoma pretty good."

Mitchell said the state drug agency has 43 agents to patrol the thousands of square miles and does a relatively good job of detection. But Ashton said the federal drug enforcement effort, with three or four agents, is ludicrous.

"It's really a joke," Ashton said. "I think that fighting cultivation with the number of agents we have is hopeless."

He said the use of the controversial herbicide paraquat would help control the problem.

The image of the marijuana grower as a laid-back "good ole boy" is far from the truth, Mitchell said. Pot busts can include high-speed chases and confrontations with armed pot growers who sleep in the fields.

"They (agents) always find automatic weapons," he said.

Some arrests even involve creeping through fields equipped with handmade shrapnel bombs and more exotic safeguards.

"One guy had tied up some rattlesnakes without the rattles," he said. "I've never been on a seizure where they didn't have an attack dog or a gun."

But Mitchell said

armaments are inter-

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High unemployment

southeastern Oklahoma

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more attractive

Mitchell said, noting

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