

for Male Studies, which plans to establish a new academic discipline, drew more than a few sniggers — and some outrage — online.

Undeterred, the foundation is sponsoring its first conference on male studies in October in New York.

Meanwhile, male bloggers are organizing their own.

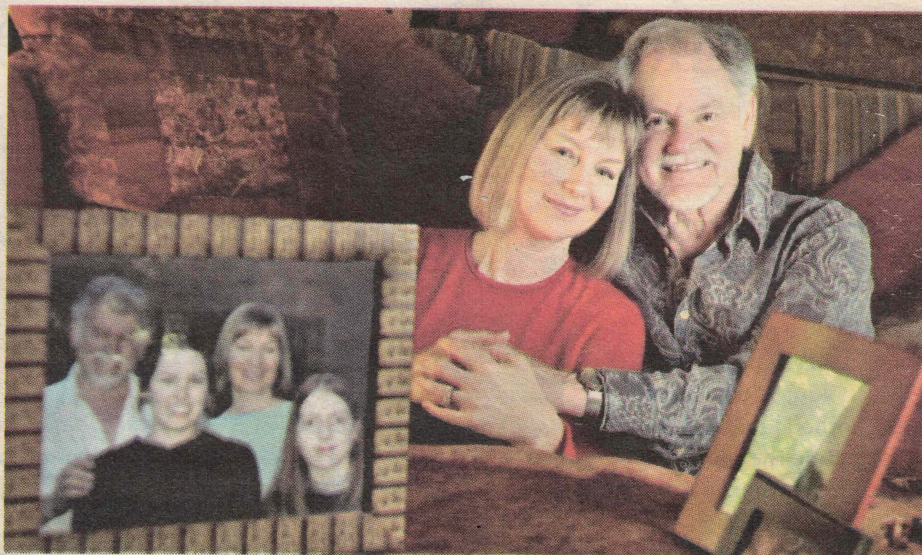
Blogger Jayson Gaddis says men between 16 to 26 often have no guidance on how to be a man and no formal initiation into manhood. As a result, many remain boys, emotionally and developmentally immature.

He's organized the first Evolving Men's Conference in Boulder on Sept. 25 and 26 at which leaders of men's organizations will discuss the state of men and the challenges they face today.

"It will likely be a giant men's conference for men who are open to personal growth, personal development, spirituality and being the best men they can be," Gaddis says.

Not unlike the mission of the Modern Media Man Summit from Sept. 9 through 11 in Atlanta, a forum for "men who are striving to achieve balance in their personal and professional lives and who are sharing their stories online," says Jason Avant, who is on the M3 Summit advisory board. "We're seeing a rise in the number of men who are increasingly involved in raising their kids, strengthening their relationships with their spouses/partners and contributing more to domestic duties."

There are dozens of renowned events for women and mommy bloggers, including the Type-A Mom conference and BlogHer. But M3 organizers say none has been specifically for daddy bloggers, whose presence and influence is rapidly increasing.



JEFF VENDSEL PHOTO

Warren Farrell, author of "Father and Child Reunion" and "The Myth of Male Power," embraces his wife, Liz Dowling, beside family photos at their home in Mill Valley. Farrell is working with the White House to create a proposal for a program focused on boys and men.

Single dads or first-time fathers, businessmen or out-of-work guys, married or divorced — daddy bloggers dish out parenting advice, tell stories about their kids, discuss the perfect stroller and get support.

"I talk about the good, the bad and the ugly," says Avant, founder of the multicontributor blog DadCentric. "I've certainly used my site to vent my fears, sorrows and frustrations — but it's also a great way to remind myself that having kids is a joyful experience."

The countless daddy blogs are as different as the personalities and lives of the men who write them — Daddy Democrat; Geek Dad; Vegan Dad; Coupon Dad; Poop and Boogies; Luke, I Am Your Father.

Backpacking Dad brags about his daughter's first trip to the dentist.

Rebel Dad confronts the stigma facing men who quit their jobs to stay home and raise their kids full time.

MetroDad recounts the day he accidentally "trimmed" 9 inches off his 5-year-old daughter's hair.

There are countless daddy bloggers who seem to be living proof that the men's movement is afoot.

"We're attending PTA meetings and volunteering in classrooms and taking on more responsibilities that were traditionally left to mom," Avant says. "Men are finding out that being a parent is enriching and rewarding in ways that our fathers never experienced."

"Here is what I really discovered about men online," says Depot Dad's Everson. "If you browse my blog, you will see far more comments from female readers. But last year when I took a break from blogging, it was my male readers who e-mailed me most often, begging me to get back to it."

"While women might be more inclined to comment, don't doubt that the men are there reading, too, and it matters to them."

IF YOU GO

► **What:** Andrea Richesin and contributors Robert Dugoni, Mike Adamick, Nick Taylor and Rob Wilder read from "What I Would Tell Her"

► **When:** 7 p.m. June 18

► **Where:** Book Passage, 51 Tamal Vista Blvd., Corte Madera

► **Admission:** Free

► **Information:** 415-927-0960; www.bookpassage.com

