

## Diversions

### Books



By Prudy Taylor Board

## Men: Gods of Love by David G. Eigen, Ph. D.



David G. Eigen, Ph.D.

I'll admit it right up front. I read the title *Men: The Gods of Love* and my hackles soared. Most men I know, while I think the world of them, don't come close to

what I would consider a god of love. Then I read the subtitle, which is *A Man's Journey*. Then, I reasoned, it was written by a Boca resident so I should at least give it a look. And it received the Nautilus Book Awards Silver Medal, which is issued by the independent publishing industry. Having worked through my personal biases (which I prefer to consider glimpses of reality), I opened the book and began to read.

And immediately issued a mental apology to the author, David G. Eigen.

It's an honest book inspired "consciously" he explains, by his divorce in 1997. This book delves into "why many men have a need to conquer, never seemingly satisfied with what they have. . . uncover(s) what drives men, what they hunger for and what true maturity is—this is not what society promotes as a mastery of masculinity."

This book tackles the damage the patriarchal system has done to our society and to us as humans. He writes, "The patriarchy has warped the experience of masculinity, entrapped it in its web of self-delusions of superiority, power and lust, using underlying

shame and fear as a prod. . . This superiority of course is over 'other' weaker men and all women."

And he's an equal opportunity "scrutinizer," if you will. He writes, "Women do not help the situation either, by judging men for doing what they have been trained to do. . . Women can help guide men or they can twist them with their own anger, ego-centric blindness and demands such as 'Please be our savior,' 'Fight the battles,' 'Be the provider.' Oh, and while you are doing this, be completely open, feeling, and sensitive to me."

This is not an easy book and is actually more of a guide. Dr. Eigen explores the conflict many men feel in their relationships with their mothers. "Our lovers are not our mothers." He explores how men can find their true masculinity, guides them as they learn to recognize, acknowledge, and accept their feelings, and explains how they can enrich their lives and the lives of those around them. Every man should read this book. So should every mother and then she should give it to her son.

Men: Gods of Love by David G. Eigen, Ph.D.



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Prudy Taylor Board's latest novel, *A Grave Injustice*, is published by Archebooks. Go to [www.archebooks.com](http://www.archebooks.com) to read an excerpt.

### Cruises



By Michael Coleman

## Dawn delights cruise passengers

Norwegian Dawn, a 2,224-passenger vessel based in New York with the Statue of Liberty boldly painted on its hull, is about choice . . . lots of onboard choices.

The daily roster of activities, most geared towards families, rivals that of any land-based resort and there are more restaurants aboard this ship than there are days in a week. You'd be hard pressed, as well, to hit each of the nine shipboard bars/lounges over the course of the same seven-day period.

Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) would not have it any other way.

When the 14-deck ship debuted almost six years ago, the company's "Freestyle Cruising" concept was in its infancy. Passengers then, like now, were given a myriad of shipboard choices to enjoy. Resort casual wear was implemented — there are no formal nights onboard — and passengers could dine when they wanted, where they wanted, and with whomever they wanted. Regimented onboard routines — like set dining times — would be a thing of the past.

Today, Freestyle Cruising has been rolled out fleet wide — NCL operates 12 ships — and the concept is now a highly-successful, working reality. So much so that other mass market cruise lines have strategically followed suit.

Imitation may be the sincerest form of flattery but NCL is not resting on its laurels. Dawn, like other vessels in the fleet, now features a new concept: "Freestyle 2.0" which takes Freestyle Cruising to the next passenger service level complete with a broad range of onboard improvements and enhancements.

The re-tooling can be seen at just about every onboard turn. The dining experience has been enhanced — look for more lobster than ever before at meal time — staterooms have been upgraded and even more on-board activities await passengers to enjoy. Balcony, suite and villa guests will now receive additional recognition, service and amenities.

#### Dawn Delights

Aboard Dawn, however, the biggest passenger challenge is not what to eat each night but where to eat. Dining venues — 13 in all — run the gamut from steak, sushi, Teppanyaki and tapas to French, Mediterranean, Asian Fusion, Italian and Tex-Mex. No other cruise line offers as many restaurants aboard a single ship and fewer, still, can lay claim to housing some of the world's finest art. Original works by Matisse, Monet, Renoir and Van Gogh can be enjoyed while dining in Le Bistro.

Choices abound in the health and fitness arena as well. Dawn features the El Dorado Spa and Fitness Center, a beauty salon, sports court



Life onboard Norwegian Dawn is anything but ordinary. Image: Michael Coleman

(basketball and volleyball), two swimming pools and six hot tubs.

There's a cinema, spacious theater, casino and library; card, reading and writing room; Internet café, a teen club and T-Rex Kid's Center.

And, there's a host of comfortable lounge chairs on Sun Deck where one can soak in the rays and do absolutely nothing. It, too, is a great Freestyle Cruising choice.

On the web: [ncl.com](http://ncl.com)

### Arts & Antiques



By Dr. Lori

## Native American baskets offer beauty and functionality

Native American baskets are among some of the most interesting, beautiful, and widely collected works of art these days. For more than a decade, the antiques and collectibles market has become attracted to basket collecting. Many Native American baskets have graduated from necessary objects of everyday use to cherished antiques.

To identify a basket's origin, collectors should consider the materials, design, and form. For instance, in the Pacific Northwest, Tlingit baskets were commonly made of spruce root, cedar, and dyed grasses. The woven style consisted of three main processes: twining, plaiting, and coiling. Twining has two wefts cross over each other between warps. Plaiting or checker weaving has the material woven in an under/over pattern resembling a checker board. Coiling is a sewing technique. These foundation weaving methods are also used on tradition basket

forms made by southwestern, northern, and plains tribes.

#### Graceful geometry

Intricate geometric designs were typical and popular with the Native Americans and other cultural groups followed suit in the 18th and 19th Centuries. The common design element found in Native American basketry is geometric symmetry.

A Native American basket's form relates directly to its function. Tightly woven baskets were used for cooking food, collecting water, and storage. For instance, sturdy work baskets or burden baskets were woven with durable materials capable of supporting heavy loads. Traditional cylindrical container baskets used for food storage or cooking. This was achieved by placing a hot stone and water inside a tightly woven basket. Some baskets aided in gathering fish. These loosely woven baskets allowed water to drain while catching fish and other sea life.

#### Contact and Trade

During the early 1900s, Native American

baskets produced for sale to non-Natives and tourists increased dramatically as they served as highly portable and beautiful souvenirs. The forms and designs of these baskets differed significantly from those original, functional baskets.

On today's secondary antiques market, Native American baskets are among some of the most popular and pricey objects sought after by collectors, historians, and students of early cultures. Depending on origin, tribal relationship, and condition, quality Native American baskets range in value from \$5,000 to \$50,000. Pictorial baskets, those with recognizable figural designs of hunters or fisherman, for instance, are among the most desirable baskets within today's market. Always look for good condition and an authentic provenance. There are a lot of cheap baskets out there that may look like the real thing, so do your homework and make sure you know your stuff before you buy. Don't just discard your old baskets or disregard them as cheap imitations—it may be the real thing!



Native American basket

As seen on *Comedy Central*, *WFLA's Day-Time*, *Retirement Living TV*, and the *Fine Living Network*, Dr. Lori is an art and antiques appraiser and museum curator with the Ph.D. in art history. Visit [www.DrLoriV.com](http://www.DrLoriV.com) or call (888) 431-1010.