



The New F-Word: Father

BY KATHLEEN PARKER
© 2013, Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON — News that women increasingly are the leading or sole breadwinner in the American family has resurrected the perennial question: Why do we need men?

Maureen Dowd attempted to answer this question with her 2005 book, “Are Men Necessary?” I responded three years later with “Save the Males.”

With each generation, the question becomes more declarative and querulous. Recent demographic shifts show women gaining supremacy across a spectrum of quantitative measures, including education and employment. Women outnumber men in college and in most graduate fields. Increasingly, owing in part to the recession and job loss in historically male-dominated fields, they are surpassing men as wage-earners, though women still lag behind at the highest income and executive levels.

My argument that men should be saved is that, despite certain imperfections, men are fundamentally good and are sort of pleasant to have around. Most women still like to fall in love with them; all children want a father no matter how often we try to persuade ourselves otherwise. If we continue to impose low expectations and negative messaging on men and boys, future women won’t have much to choose from.

We are nearly there. The Pew Research Center recently found that four in 10 American households with children under age 18 include a mother who is either the primary breadwinner or the sole earner (quadruple the share in 1960). The latter category is largely owing to the surge in single-mother households.

This reflects “evolving family dynamics,” according to *The New York Times*, which sounds rather nice — evolution being a good thing and all. But what it really represents is a continuing erosion of the traditional family and, consequently, what is best for children and, therefore, future society.

Before you reach for the inhaler, permit me to introduce a few disclaimers. First, I’m all for women achieving all they can. Obviously, I’m on that treadmill myself. I’ve raised three children while working (mostly self-employed and briefly as a single mom). There is no moisture behind my ears.

Second, women have joined the workforce in greater numbers because they’ve had to, not merely to hear themselves roar, as the Helen Reddy song once described women’s nascent self-realization. Children are expensive and one income seldom suffices. Thanks to the recession, many Americans count



Kathleen PARKER

themselves lucky if even one member of the household has a job. And a single mother clearly has no other choice, though it is increasingly the case that women choose to be single parents as the biological clock runs down.

Nevertheless, trends that diminish the importance of fathers from the family unit cannot — or should not — be celebrated. Contrary to the Hollywood version of single motherhood, a trend that began with Murphy Brown more than 20 years ago, single mothers are more likely to be younger, black or Hispanic, and less educated, according to Pew, and they have a median family income of \$23,000. In those families where married women earn more than their husbands, the woman is more often white, older and college educated and the median household income is \$80,000.

In discussions of Pew’s findings, conversations the past few days have veered toward practical questions of men’s value. During a recent segment on MSNBC’s “Morning Joe,” guests — all women except Joe Scarborough, who looked sheepish and mostly kept his own counsel — visited the familiar question: Why do women even need men?

The ladies worked earnestly to find positive roles for their hirsute colleagues, noting that men can be useful in family planning, child care sharing, working as part of a team. Although a man’s presence was implicit in the hypothetical household, I waited futilely for emphasis to shift to the importance of fathers to their children’s well-being. Father, it seems, has become the new F-bomb. Oh, we’ll say “F#\$%” in a 30-rock second, but “father”? The term, along with the concept, seems to have receded from popular usage, displaced by the vernacular of drive-by impregnators, the inane “baby daddy.”

Women, indeed, may not need men, though they seem to want them — at least until the estrogen ebbs. Women have become more self-sufficient (a good thing) and, given that they still do the lion’s share of housework and child rearing, why, really, should they invite a man to the clutter?

Because, simply, children need a father. That not all get a good one is no argument against what is true and irrevocable and everlasting. Deep in the marrow of every human child burbles a question far more profound than those currently occupying coffee klatches: Who is my daddy?

And sadly these days, *where’s he?*

Kathleen Parker’s email address is kathleen-parker@washpost.com.

The Evolution Of Human Reason

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), Anne Fremantle, the British-born author and essayist once wrote: “We cannot fail to meet the same problems as did our forefathers, and learning their answers may help us to act upon them as intelligently as they did, and may even, perhaps, teach us to avoid making always the same mistakes.”

It is in this spirit — the spirit of patience — that I offer the following thoughts this week. They are prompted by Roger (there he goes again) Wiltz’s piece entitled, “It’s time all of realize that our reservation system is intolerable.”

Roger, you are about a century behind the times and very misinformed about the status of Native America. The original intent of the “reservation system” as you call it in your article was to intern Native people in one geographical area. In this way, the U.S. government could keep an eye on the comings and goings of Indian people. Then things changed along the way.

In my grandfather’s time, the reservation system as it was intended, became a thing of the past. Believe it or not, Indian people began a mass exodus to the cities of America and went about a “relocation” sponsored by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). This was an attempt to get the Indians off the reservation and “civilize” them. Thus, for close to a hundred years, Indian people aren’t interned any more. We are free to come and go as we wish without needing to check in with the Indian Agent any longer.

This may come as a surprise to some, but many Native (indigenous) people actually prefer to live on what is now called “the Rez.” For many, it is what’s left of our traditional homelands. The reservation has become the center of our notions about nationalism, religion and cultural ways. We prefer to hold on to our language, culture and our homelands to be used exclusively by tribal members as is their inherent right.

We have the right to self-determination without interference by outside agitators like yourself, Roger.



Vince TWO EAGLES

The United Nations accepted the “Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” on June 29, 2006. Unlike many Americans, who are still stuck in the cowboy and Indian days, the United Nation’s Declaration represents a beginning of what promises to be a journey of forward thinking and reconciliation between our peoples.

For example, the Declaration “affirms that indigenous peoples are equal to all other peoples, while recognizing the right of all peoples to be different, and to be respected as such.” Where is the respect in denying cultural expression in Chamberlain that I wrote about last week and you mentioned your support of their decision?

The Declaration also affirms: “... that all indigenous peoples contribute to the diversity and richness of civilizations and cultures, which constitute the common heritage of humankind.” Roger would have us believe that the reservation (which necessarily means the people who live there) is instead a “fertile, festering breeding ground (do reservations breed or do the people who live there breed?) for graft, corruption, assault, murder, thievery, alcohol abuse, drug abuse, spousal abuse, child abuse, sexual abuse, and parental abuse.” Aren’t you calling the other kettle black even though we all come from the same fire, Roger?

Here’s another example of the content of the Declaration, which very, very importantly affirms: “... that all doctrines, policies and practices based on or advocating superiority of peoples or individuals on the basis of national origin, racial, religious, ethnic or cultural differences are racist, scientifically false, legally invalid, morally condemnable and socially unjust.”

This represents an extremely important evolution in human reasoning that is about time in coming. You’re going to have to lift yourself out of the dark ages, Roger, and get with the program here in South Dakota, America and, indeed, the world.

And now you know the rez of the story. Doksha (later) ...

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS’ OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861
Yankton Media, Inc., 319 Walnut St., Yankton, SD 57078

OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

The Trials Of The Budget Sequester

LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR (May 26): As a U.S. district judge, Richard Kopf has an excellent grasp of constitutional rights.

And it’s to the benefit of all Americans that Kopf not only understands those rights, he also puts them to good use in a blog, “Hercules and the Umpire,” about being a judge.

To be specific, Kopf is letting the country know in no uncertain terms of the deeply flawed approach that Congress and the president are using to reduce federal spending. (Thanks to *Omaha World-Herald* columnist Erin Grace for bringing this to our attention.)

In a rational world in which elected officials would spend at least as much time on actual governing as playing political games, cutting spending would be an exercise in establishing priorities.

But that’s not what’s happening with the sequester and its across-the-board cuts. Originally envisioned as an option so horrible it would motivate elected officials to come up with a long-range plan to put the country back on a sustainable financial footing, the sequester will go down in history as a remarkably stupid moment in governing.

Said Kopf, “I have been with the federal courts now, in one capacity or another, for over 25 years. I served as chief judge and at other times I chaired our budget committee. In short, I have ‘been around the block’ when it comes to budget crisis. I don’t scare easily.

“But this I know with absolute certainty: Never before have the federal courts faced anything like the impending disaster brought about by the failure of Congress to appropriate the necessary pittance (less than 1 percent of the national budget) that is required to run the courts, including most especially the federal public defenders.”

Kopf has mused from time to time about coming up with a way to get Congress to pay attention. In a recent blog, he suggested that he and other senior federal judges, who he says “work for free” although they are entitled to full retirement pay, should stop taking cases and go into full-time retirement as a group, leaving behind enough work for 174 more federal judges.

In another blog, Kopf said he was pondering dismissing some immigration cases, “where a short prison sentence would otherwise be imposed and the defendants will be deported anyway.”

And, lest there be any mistake, Kopf put it bluntly: “If a banana republic is what members of Congress want, I may help them get it.”

All we can or want to add to that is, Hear ye, hear ye.

ONLINE OPINION

The results of the most recent Internet poll on the *Press & Dakotan*’s Web site are as follows:

LATEST RESULTS:

Should Eric Holder be fired as U.S. attorney general?
Yes74%
No21%
Not Sure5%
TOTAL VOTES CAST284

The Press & Dakotan Internet poll is not a scientific survey and reflects the opinions only of those who choose to participate. The results should not be construed as an accurate representation or scientific measurement of public opinion.

CURRENT QUESTION:

Do you think Yankton County should spend \$13,462 to create a 211 helpline service along with Bon Homme and Hutchinson counties?
To vote in the *Press & Dakotan*’s Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, June 4, the 155th day of 2013. There are 210 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History: On June 4, 1913, British suffragist Emily Davison was struck and mortally injured after moving into the path of a horse during the running of the Epsom Derby; her exact motives remain unclear. (The horse that ran into Davison was Anmer, owned by King George V. Jockey Herbert Jones was thrown off and injured; Anmer recovered and completed the race on its own; Davison died at a hospital four days later.)

On this date: In 1783, the Montgolfier brothers first publicly demonstrated their hot-air balloon, which did not carry any passengers, over Annonay, France.

In 1812, the Louisiana Territory was renamed the Missouri Territory. The U.S. House of Representatives approved a declaration of war against Britain.

In 1892, the Sierra Club was incorporated in San Francisco.

In 1919, Congress approved the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing citizens the right to vote regardless of their gender, and sent it to the states for ratification.

In 1939, the German ocean liner *St. Louis*, carrying more than 900 Jewish refugees from Germany, was turned away from the Florida coast by U.S. officials.

In 1940, during World War II, the Allied military evacuation of more than 338,000 troops from Dunkirk, France, ended.

In 1942, the World War II Battle of Midway began, resulting in a decisive American victory against Japan and marking the turning point of the war in the Pacific.

In 1943, the president of Argentina, Ramon Castillo, was overthrown in a military coup.

In 1954, French Premier Joseph Laniel and Vietnamese Premier Buu Loc signed treaties in Paris according “complete independence” to Vietnam.

In 1972, a jury in San Jose, Calif., acquitted radical activist Angela Davis of murder and kidnapping for her alleged connection to a deadly courthouse shootout in Marin County in 1970.

In 1986, Jonathan Jay Pollard, a former Navy intelligence analyst, pleaded guilty in Washington to conspiring to deliver information related to the national defense to a foreign government, specifically Israel. (He is serving a life prison term.)

In 1998, a federal judge sentenced Terry Nichols to life in prison for his role in the Oklahoma City bombing.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush held landmark meetings with the Israeli and Palestinian prime ministers, hoping

ing to advance a Middle East peace plan after winning new support from top Arab leaders. Martha Stewart stepped down as head of her media empire, hours after federal prosecutors in New York charged her with obstruction of justice, conspiracy, securities fraud and lying to investigators. (Stewart was later convicted of lying about why she’d sold her shares of ImClone Systems stock in 2001, just before the stock price plunged.)

Five years ago: Barack Obama, having clinched the Democratic presidential nomination, picked Caroline Kennedy to help him choose a running mate. Police in Hartford, Conn., released a surveillance video showing a 78-year-old man being struck by a hit-and-run driver on a busy city street and being ignored by most passersby. (The victim, Angel Acre Torres, was removed from life support in May 2009.) Travis Alexander was stabbed to death at his suburban Phoenix home by his girlfriend, Jodi Arias, who later claimed self-defense but was convicted of first-degree murder. The Detroit Red Wings won the Stanley Cup for the fourth time in 11 seasons with a 3-2 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins in Game 6 of the finals.

One year ago: With President Barack Obama standing by his side, former President Bill Clinton warned during a speech in New York that a Mitt Romney presidency would be “calamitous” for the nation and the world. Al-Qaida’s second-in-command, Abu Yahya al-Libi, was killed in a U.S. drone strike in North Waziristan, Pakistan.

Today’s Birthdays: Actor Bruce Dern is 77. Musician Roger Ball is 69. Actress-singer Michelle Phillips is 69. Jazz musician Anthony Braxton is 68. Rock musician Danny Brown (The Fixx) is 62. Actor Parker Stevenson is 61. Actor Keith David is 57. Actress Julie Gholson is 55. Actor Eddie Velez is 55. Singer-musician El DeBarge is 52. Actress Julie White is 52. Actress Lindsay Frost is 51. Tennis player Andrea Jaeger is 48. Rhythm-and-blues singer Al B. Sure! is 45. Actor Scott Wolf is 45. Actor-comedian Rob Huebel is 44. Comedian Horatio Sanz is 44. Actor Noah Wyle is 42. Rock musician Stefan Lessard (The Dave Matthews Band) is 39. Actor-comedian Russell Brand is 38. Actress Angelina Jolie is 38. Actor Theo Rossi is 38. Alt-country singer Kasey Chambers is 37. Rock musician JoJo Garza (Los Lonely Boys) is 33. Country musician Dean Berner (Edens Edge) is 32. Model Bar Refaeli is 28. Rock musician Zac Farro is 23.

Thought for Today: “Reputation is a bubble which a man bursts when he tries to blow it for himself.” — Emma Carleton, American journalist (1850-1925).

FROM THE BIBLE

The crowds were astonished at His teaching ... as one who had authority. Matthew 7:28-29. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

CONTACT US

PHONE:
(605) 665-7811
(800) 743-2968
NEWS FAX:
(605) 665-1721
ADVERTISING FAX:
(605) 665-0288
WEBSITE:
www.yankton.net
EMAIL ADDRESS:
news@yankton.net

SUBSCRIPTIONS/

CIRCULATION:
Extension 112
CLASSIFIED ADS:
Extension 108
NEWS DEPARTMENT:
Extension 114
SPORTS DEPARTMENT:
Extension 106
ADVERTISING OFFICE:
Extension 122
BUSINESS OFFICE:
Extension 119
NEW MEDIA:
Extension 136
COMPOSING DESK:
Extension 129

* * *

MANAGERS

Gary L. Wood
Publisher

Michele Schievelbein
Advertising Director

Tonya Schild
Business Manager

David Jeffcoat
Circulation Director

Tera Schmidt
Classified Manager

Kelly Hertz
Editor

James D. Cimburek
Sports Editor

Beth Rye
New Media Manager

Kathy Larson
Composing Manager

Bernard Metivier
District Manager

* * *

DAILY STAFF

Andrew Atwal
Melissa Bader
Derek Bartos
Brett Beyeler
Cassandra Brockmoller
Rob Buckingham
Randy Dockendorf
Jeannine Economy
Jeremy Hoeck
Nathan Johnson
Muriel Pratt
Sheldon Reed
Noelle Schlechter
Cathy Sudbeck
Sally Whiting
Brenda Willcuts
Jackie Williams

* * *

Published Daily Monday-Saturday

Periodicals postage paid at Yankton, South Dakota, under the act of March 3, 1979.

Weekly Dakotian established June 6, 1861. Yankton Daily Press and Dakotian established April 26, 1875.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078.

* * *

MEMBERSHIPS

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan is a member of the Associated Press, the Inland Daily Press Association and the South Dakota Newspaper Association. The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to use of all the local news printed in this newspaper.

* * *

SUBSCRIPTION RATES*

(Payable in advance)

CARRIER DELIVERY
1-month\$12.09
3 months\$36.27
6 months\$72.53
1-year\$133.09

MOTOR ROUTE
(where available)
1 month\$14.51
3 months\$43.53
6 months\$87.05
1 year\$139.14

MAIL IN RETAIL TRADE ZONE
1-month\$16.93
3 months\$50.79
6 months\$101.57
1-year\$148.82

MAIL OUTSIDE RETAIL TRADE ZONE
1 month\$19.35
3 months\$58.05
6 months\$116.09
1-year\$186.33

* Plus applicable sales tax for all rates