

6205 Cane Creek Drive
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July 7, 2009

Letter to the Editor – Regarding article on July 3rd, “Active fathers often ignored”;
The Birmingham News

Thanks for the article that addresses the double-standards of parenting. The history of hearth & home, the role of mothers and the traditions of the conventional family still suggest that men are the lesser of two parents when it comes to childcare.

The expressed complaints or inconveniences are mild however when considering the state of the father and the family in today’s society. The referenced article from the President in the prior week’s Parade, urging father’s to take responsibility, hardly addresses the problems that plague the family today – and being a member of a fatherless home, the President understands it firsthand.

In the book, *The Assault on Parenthood* (Dana Mack), the problems appear on a much larger scale: if the role as father was simply a matter of behavior or attitude, the problems would not be so pervasive; but, ironically, much of these problems are emanating from government that is actionably against the family and, at the forefront, the father. The plight of the family has much to do with the policies instituted through the state and federal government that have devalued parents, conventional marriage, and – worst of all – the children from conception to maturity.

If the President (or government) was earnest: the purpose of parents would be reassessed as protector and counselor; the definition of marriage would return to a contract – not a relationship of convenience; and the best interests of children would be accurately accepted as that found in the home rather than by the state.