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Wedding bell blues: Social policies divorce families from reality

Biased court system makes a mockery of marriage

Americans live longer and marry later, so they live alone more in youth and old age. But political chicanery threatens the nuclear families.

As the Albuquerque-based American Men's Union states, "Our government is now bent on replacing men as the provider for the American family. Call it Communism, socialism or liberal democracy, politicians are offering tremendous free benefits to any woman who will divorce her husband: alimony, child support, police protection, free medical, free education, housing — no need to work. As a result, half of America's children are being raised without a father."

Last year, *Washington Times* columnist Fred Reed wrote a column titled, "Marriage, Bubonic Plague and Infected Warts: If You Have a Choice, Go with the Warts." The judicial system is politicized, he stated, "to utterly favor women over men in divorce cases, without remorse, decency or concern for children...[I]t's the kids she'll use, should things get nasty, to tear your guts out. If you're sure that Cup Cake won't do this, you're crazy. True, she may not—not all women do or not to the same degree — but you won't know until it's too late. And the courts will do anything she wants."

In the book, "From Courtship to Courthouse" author and divorce lawyer Jed Abraham writes, "If you're like most men, you're married, or you hope to marry some day. You think you deserve to live happily ever after, but if things don't work out that way, you'll get a civilized divorce and move on. If you think you'll stay pals with your ex and see your kids as often as you want, you have no idea what you're getting into."

Abraham notes that half of marriages end in divorce and 70 percent of the time the woman files for divorce. The odds are 80 percent that she will get custody of the children, child support, alimony and a majority of shared property. "If your wages are not withheld and you fail to pay your child support, the state [government] will garnish your pay, slap liens on your property, intercept your tax refunds, report you to credit agencies, discontinue your driver's license, suspend your professional and business permits, hold you in contempt of court, put your face on a wanted poster, throw you in jail and deny you food stamps. But if your ex doesn't spend that very same support on the children, the state will do...nothing."

Reed sums it up: "Yes, I know: You don't think this applies to you. Cup Cake loves you. She would never behave in such a way. Think again. You have no conception of the hatred that divorce engenders. Men are callous; women are mean. When a family breaks up, when a life dreamed of disappears in flames and emotions go limbic, women are not the kinder sex and certainly not the more rational."

Anyone who finds this far-fetched need only consider the case of one David Alexander of Ontario, Canada. In 1995, David's former wife shot him in the face with a .22-caliber rifle. She served less than four years for her "crime of passion." According to a news report in the *Toronto Star*, her rifle shot tore a piece off his face. She then beat him over the head with the gun, screaming: "I love you, I love you. If I can't have you, nobody can."

Alexander now lives with a disfigured face, a permanent twitch in his jaw and a mouth he cannot fully close. In addition, bullet fragments remain lodged at the base of his spine. But Ontario has a feminist-fostered law that states conduct in a marriage should not be used to determine support or alimony payments. This allowed Alexander's former wife to dab tears as lawyers last March argued whether he should now bleed financially for her.

Not much nurturing is available at present for traditional families. The Clinton era produced the National Fatherhood Initiative, but this is a largely feminist-sponsored program that seeks to hold fathers responsible for financial support while granting men few uncontested rights. The program's narrow, jaundiced perspective was encapsulated by a June 4, 2001, editorial in the *Intelligencer* in Wheeling, W. Va. The newspaper enthused, "If it works and prompts fathers to take up their duties as a parent, this is quite a feat."

Perhaps the Bush administration offers hope. At the fourth National Summit on Fatherhood this month, President George W. Bush spoke in support of the father's role in the lives of children. "Fathers have a unique and irreplaceable role in the lives of children," Bush stated. "A compassionate society can never forget the large place a father occupies."

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The Equal Justice Foundation is a non-profit organization that promotes progressive justice and civil liberties for all citizens. For more information, contact Dr. Charles Corry at (719) 520-1089, or e-mail him at ccorry@ejfi.org. EJF's Web site is www.ejfi.org and the foundation also sponsors www.dvmen.org dealing with domestic violence against men.