

Portland  
Observer  
**Opinion**

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**"The Manhood Line"**

By Mike Ramey  
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Teen Males And Dirty Little Secrets

Recently, I took my wife Adele to dinner, a modest celebration of a victory in our lives that had been accomplished by the power of Jesus Christ. As we took an inventory of the activities of some of our friends and their families, I learned that a high school student that we both knew had recently gone through one of those 'spend a few days caring for a mock baby' type of exercises put on by a local men's organization.

The exercise addressed the wrong end of the problem, in my opinion. Yes, this young man learned how to care for 'baby'. He had to change it when it cried, carry it with him at all times, and made sure that 'baby' was taken care of even in the middle of the night. At the end of several days, when the young man had to turn 'baby' back in, he learned the 'lesson' of not producing offspring out of wedlock—half-vowing not to engage in such behavior.

Now, had I not previously served as a veteran substitute teacher in middle and high schools, meeting teenagers in person, I would have accepted the 'exercise' as a well-thought out plan. However, having personally observed the 'raging hormones' of teenagers in the school setting, the mock baby idea could never go far enough. Thus, I laid out my own lesson for teaching young men about the responsibilities of out-of-wedlock births that would scare a lot of them out of sexual promiscuity. I called it: "The Ramey Anti-Teen Pregnancy Plan".

Our courts already call it: 'Child Support'. America's Several Dirty Little Secrets: Brothers, you and I both know that teaching a young man how to care for a mock 'baby' is not going to make a measurable difference in the number of out-of-wedlock births among teenage girls (at last count, about a million of them a year, if you believe the statistics). It ignores several 'dirty little secrets' which exist in America at the present time.

One of these 'secrets': once a teenage girl becomes pregnant, the boy responsible does not run to her side, but runs away from her. Thus, the girl (and her parents) often shoulder the responsibility for prenatal and postnatal care of the child—that is, unless an abortion is sought to kill the evidence.

Another of these 'secrets': many of today's young women are sexually aggressive, thanks to a combination of rap music, declining morals, and the feminist movement. Ask the parents of teenage boys how their phones ring at all hours of the day and night with calls to their sons, from female classmates—some as young as 13 or 14 years old. Factor in the number one unofficial sport among middle and high school girls... 'having a boy, at any cost'. Add to the mix the fact that more older, female teachers are actively trying to seduce our young men.

But, my brothers, it's the last 'secret' that is going to break the back of teen pregnancies. It is called: "Child Support". Simply stated, once a court has ordered a paternity test of all parties involved in an out-of-wedlock birth, the father is held to be financially responsible, and has to pay his respective state child support system X number of dollars per week for the care and feeding of this child, or children for the next 18 to 20 years.

A System Within A System:

The courts, when it comes to Child Support, do not operate on excess, pity, or compassion. Not only is it federal and state law, it's multi-billion dollar, yearly business. If the listed father of the Child (or, mother in some cases) do not pay their Child Support, penalties range from jail time, to loss of driver's licenses, professional licenses, and physical assets.

That's why it is the cornerstone of my Anti-Teen Pregnancy Initiative.

Nutshell Of The Ramey Plan:

Since this is a class project, it is going to require coordination between a school, a local Child Support court, the local prosecutors and public defenders offices, ten teenage girls and ten teenage boys. It should run about four weeks, but will do more to teach about actions having consequences than a hundred 'mock babies'.

\*In week one, the Health Teacher should pair off males/females as couples, and issue each a softball. Next, have an official in from one of the local agencies to explain the Child Support system. The twenty students then need to do a paper on the system for class credit, taking care to look at both the federal and state application of the Child Support law. Each of the male students should be given a 'salary' envelope, containing \$500 worth of play money to represent a weekly income.

\*In week two, the student should take a field trip to the local Child Support Court and observe how it operates, if possible. Next, the boys should be on one side of the courtroom, represented by a public defender, and the girls should be on the other, represented by the prosecutor's office. In advance, each student should be given a copy of the child support guidelines, visitation guidelines, and a copy of the law.

\*In weeks three and four, not only is a share of the 'salary' to be paid to the teacher, but, back Child Support amounts have to be paid as well, from the previous envelopes. The males can be hit with 'extra' expenses (via a type of game piece card) of having to fork over extra money from their 'salary' to help the 'mother' pay for extra child care expenses, etc. also, the males get to have 'visitation' set by their court. If it is violated, the females get 'jail' time. If the males don't pay their support on time, they too, face 'jail' time.

About the softballs. Boys and girls can each place a sticker on them called 'Child Support'. They each have to carry the ball with them for the entire time period no matter where they go. Each time they meet, they must put a 'sticker' on each ball to serve as 'visitation' or 'payment'.

Scared Morally And Financially Straight: Through this four week exercise, young men will get a wake-up call. In my view, they will have demonstrated for themselves that fifteen minutes in the backseat will call for some 18 to 20 years worth of payments, and judges who won't accept excuses nor plea bargains.

Brothers, I can sum up my message for our young men: it is a mark of manhood and a respect for womanhood to wait until marriage to exercise sexual intimacy. Your future wife will shout 'Amen' to the heavens—if you wait!

According to The Book Of Genesis, before Adam exercised sexual intimacy with Eve, he had the Lord, a job, and a home in that order! This formula is the real deal—and still works! Want 'The Ramey Plan' for your community? The mailbag is always open. Drop a letter to "The Manhood Line", care of Mike Ramey, PO Box 20131, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46220

**Old Glory represents America's values**

By Patrick Brady  
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

On the Fourth of July we celebrate our birthday, a colorful and exciting event, but the true beauty of our Declaration of Independence that marks the day is that it led to our Constitution. In between these two events, George Washington helped adopt our flag, the symbol for a new nation, our trademark, the glue that united 13 very diverse and independent colonies. It was this triumvirate that gave mankind true freedom, the very source of our dignity as humans.

All military people, those who pay the price for our freedom, take an oath to protect and defend our Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. And every day millions of civilians take that same oath when they pledge allegiance to the flag. Although we take the oath and the pledge in the presence of Old Glory, it is the Constitution that is in our hearts.

We have all seen our share of foreign enemies to our Constitution - Communists, Nazis, and Fascist Dictators who are now pretty much vanquished to the slime pit of history. There will always be foreign enemies to our Constitution, but those we can handle. The real threat to our Constitution today, however, is domestic.

Today's enemies to our Constitution are not armed with guns and tanks. They don't wear camouflaged fatigues and bunker in the jungle. They wear black robes and expensive suits. Their bunkers are courtrooms, classroom, cloakrooms and newsrooms. Their missiles are law suits, legal dictates and media misinformation. Their casualties are parents, children, teachers and apathetic Americans struggling to do what is right and busy earning a living.

We see our Constitution assaulted almost daily by those who were trained on the playing fields of the elite, most of whom have never seen a battlefield. Their battle cry is that toleration for offensive and evil conduct is essential to freedom, that pornography is protected speech but prayer is not. They are masters of psychological warfare. They know if they can change the language, they can change our minds. They rant and rave about civil liberties and never mention civil responsibilities. Their armor is a distorted First Amendment. Their target is the Constitution. They are the founding fathers who created it.

The enemy these elite fear most is an informed, alert, active populace. A victory for an amendment, which would return to the people the right to protect their flag, would be a devastating defeat for the elite. It would change the battlefield from courtrooms to living rooms and start a slippery slope that could return the Constitution to the people.

Justice Hugo Black said, "Our Constitution was not written in the sand to be washed away by each successive wave of new judges blown in by each successive political wind". He also said: "It passes my belief that any thing in the Federal Constitution bars... making the deliberate burning of the American flag an offense". The author of the First amendment, James Madison, denounced flag burning as a crime and so did Thomas Jefferson whose great document we celebrate on the fourth.

The flags we pledge to will wear out and be replenished, but our Constitution is ageless and must never be replaced. The great patriots we honor on the Fourth participated in the defeat of all the foreign enemies of our Constitution in this century. It is comforting to know that such warriors are joined in the battle to recapture Old Glory. They know it is not a battle over a colored cloth, it is an affirmation of their oaths as soldiers, and pledge as civilians, to protect and defend the Constitution from all its enemies foreign and, tragically, domestic.

Patrick Brady is Chairman of the Citizens Flag Alliance, a retired U.S. Army Major General and recipient of America's highest military combat award, the Medal of Honor.

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