

In The Neighborhood Column  
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I like to watch trends and found it interesting that of all things, an adult diaper commercial asks a question that reflects a societal change that may have drastic consequences for the future. The commercial posts a man and a woman being asked “who rules the world, men or women?” Of course the man says men rule the world, and the woman says, “Really, go ask your wife, women rule the world, men are just here for the company.” This is an interesting response in light of current trends.

According to a MSNBC report, more than 50 percent of women overall and over 60 percent of women in their twenties, prime childbearing years, are having babies as single parents. What is this saying about the relationship changes between men and women, and the role of men in raising children? Increasingly, women are choosing to push men out of this role as provider, or are being forced to take on this important position singly. Will this societal trend affect our economic future? Single-parent families face greater levels of poverty than two parent households. And what of the role of men in the lives of children, will that color the future and what it means to be a family?

If girls are raised without permanent, constant and positive male role models, might that encourage this current single mother trend? Without positive male involvement, could this trend expand to include the idea of excluding men altogether? In the future, if you are a woman with no real connection to a male in your life, why would you choose to have a male child? Sex/gender selection technology already exists and is used. Knowing that a male child is at much higher risk for having autism, hemophilia, ADHD, muscular dystrophy, schizophrenia, and a host of other disorders, as well as merely surviving; (more boys are born but more girls survive) would you choose to have a male child?

Renowned Oxford geneticist, Bryan Sykes, author of *Adam's Curse*, contends that men will be extinct in 100,000 years and all human life on the planet will be only female. Men's Y chromosome is a very fragile genetic component that will become, impotent, and eventually disappear. In a recent *ABC Nightline* report, Dr. Sykes asserted that men will be totally unnecessary to reproduction in less than 25 years. Sperm cells can be made from bone marrow stem cells now. It is conceivable (pardon the pun), women in the future could choose to have children without male involvement whatsoever.

Coincidentally, in regards to roles of men and women changing, the *Shriver Report* just came out on the status of women in America. Women are rapidly becoming the major bread winners for today's families, particularly in this economy. More women attend college than men and more women now graduate from medical school. What will that say about innovation for the future? But you might say, “We will still need men for heavy lifting!” Or will we? Japanese robotic technology already exists to address that issue.

I don't like to think about a future devoid of men, or one where the societal pendulum swings so totally in the opposite direction. But knowing that United Nations statistics say worldwide, women work two-thirds of the collective "man" hours and receive ten percent of the wages and that one-third of women will be abused in their lifetime; I can see why some people might like the idea.

So men, go home, kiss your wives and hug your daughters, your very future may depend on it.

### **Bio**

Beverly Wallace, a Greeley native and mother of two daughters has enjoyed the benefit of a strong male parent, the presence of two protective brothers, numerous friends and the grateful partnering of a spouse in raising two girls. She has always been an independent working woman, and has often told her husband, "anything you can do, I can do better." However, she does concede that notion when it comes to hanging outdoor Christmas lights, fixing the car, or barbecuing anything.