

Letters

Celebrate the good that fathers do

This Father's Day, I celebrate that dads increasingly are leading more balanced lives. Across America, the man in the gray flannel suit is expanding his wardrobe with those khaki-colored shorts that soccer dads wear. Fatherhood — the sort demanding sacrifice, personal time, forethought and male guidance — is regaining popularity.

No man wakes in the morning and thinks, "I wonder what I can do today to neglect my family and be a crummy dad." No man fails on purpose, but failures abound.

So how do fathers get off track? Three myths in our culture lure men toward rocky shoals:

- ▶ Success is a dynamic career.
- ▶ "I'm doing this for my family."
- ▶ "Money solves my problems."

One of my professors was fond of saying, "It takes a lot of truth to float an error." And while each myth has a shred of truth, each can leave men's lives shattered.

Sure, a great career is part of success. But what if it costs us our family?

Real success travels a larger orbit. Men are only as successful as we fulfill all our roles well: husband, father, provider, worker, friend, church member and citizen, to name a few.

A lot of us start out with good intentions — "I'm doing this for my family." But somewhere along the way our families become

the means to chase success. And will money really solve our problems? Sure, a lot of them. But once we attain a certain level, anyone who has ever had money will say it tends to create more problems than it solves.

So let's hear it for the men, increasingly, who see through the myths and do something about them.

This Father's Day why don't we celebrate dads who "get it" and encourage those who don't?

I suggest buying Dad a nice pair of soccer shorts.

Patrick Morley, president
Man in the Mirror
Orlando, Fla.

Europeans hardly fit to preach to the USA

While in Europe this week, President Bush faced recalcitrant European leaders who, among other issues, disagree with the United States' use of the death penalty ("Outcry from Europeans a bit more muted than usual," News, Tuesday; "Europe disrespects the U.S.? There are worse things," Hype & Glory column, News, Wednesday). This is interesting, in as much as:

▶ Spain is a country that gave us the Inquisition.

▶ England had a king who continued his tennis match while his wife was being beheaded at his command.

▶ France is the country that came up with the "humane" way to carry out a death sentence, the guillotine.

▶ And Germany gave the world an innovative use of gas ovens.

William H. Smith
Palm Desert, Calif.

Abolish capital punishment

One distraught victim of the Oklahoma bombing said something to the effect that Timothy McVeigh should suffer the way he made the victims and their relatives suffer ("McVeigh, killer of 168, dead: Victims mark day of tumult and more tears," Cover Story, News, Tuesday).

This is a very understandable reaction for someone who nearly perished in the



By Doug Mills, AP

Vote review: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Chairwoman Mary Frances Berry, right, presides over meeting of the commission in Washington on June 8 to discuss Florida elections report. General counsel Edward Hailes Jr. is at left.

Heed voting responsibilities

As the USA TODAY information box indicates, Florida has taken steps to correct the problems that occurred during the presidential election. I hope that these will be in place before the 2002 election takes place ("Florida enacts changes," Florida election debate

polls recalls past disgraces," Our View; "Panel's report is flawed," Opposing View, Florida election debate, June 8).

However, the articles and editorials alike ignored the most important corrective item mandated by Florida's legislation. Florida now requires that a