

Living With Children

By John Rosemond
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A friend of mine named Scott shared an absolutely brilliant thought with me when I dropped in on him unannounced at his workplace, a bank, the other day. Everyone thinks all I want to talk about is parenting, like, you know, police only want to talk about the arrests they’ve made and surgeons only want to talk about operations they’ve performed and coroners only want to talk about autopsies they’ve done. So, I drop in on Scott, just to chat, and he starts in on the only topic I don’t particularly want to talk about, naturally.

In fact, he was very complimentary, telling me that he and his lovely wife, Monica, started reading this column when their children were young and still keep up with it. In the course of almost putting me to sleep, Scott suddenly wakes me up by telling me he has a theory about parents.

“You probably won’t think much of it,” he says, “being the expert and all.”

“It’s probably brilliant,” I say, and it was.

Scott has figured out – on his own but remember he’s been reading my column for more than twenty years now, so I feel entitled to take some credit – that the reason

so many parents these days want to be their children’s best friends is because we live in an instant-gratification culture and the attempt to be your child’s friend is very likely to bring instant gratification, as in: (a) the parent puts energy into trying to be a friend, (b) the child likes having an adult friend more than he does or would having an adult who accepted the sometimes onerous responsibilities of being an authentic parent, and so (c) the parent receives approval from the child – a synonym for approval being, in this case, instant gratification. (The preceding is known, in literary circles, as a run-on sentence. Thomas Jefferson was famous for them.)

Brilliant! Remember, this was Scott’s idea, but he wants to remain anonymous. Indeed, when done properly by properly-thinking people, parenting is not likely to bring instant gratification. Raising a child out of narcissistic incivility into responsible, compassionate adulthood is, after all, a slog that requires of parents that they sometimes do what they would rather not do, like administer punitive discipline.

“Do you mean, John, that parents should never try to have fun with their kids, like

Lizards and Bats

Our house was built in the 1980s and it sets on a concrete slab. The windows and doors are fitted tight and we have an alarm system. Nothing should be able to get into our house without our letting it/them inside. One day last week my husband told me he saw a lizard in his closet. We have the sticking kind of holly bushes all around our house next to every window. As you know, these bushes breed lizards! Still I tell you our house has



Peggy’s Take

no cracks or “slip-ins” where one of these little reptiles could slither inside. As my husband took his shoes off a few nights ago, he had a baby lizard stuck to the toe of his white sock. Of course, it was squashed to death, but I nearly had a stroke when he wanted me to get close. No thank you! This was one of the lizard babies, I presumed. Now where are the rest of the litter? I remember coming inside the back door one day several years ago and a little green lizard falling down my shirt. I nearly beat myself

to death before stripping the shirt off and finding the little dead monster.

As bad as these crawly, slimy little things are, there are things worse – bats! When we had our vent-a-hood changed out a few years ago we had to have a hole cut from my kitchen ceiling all the way through the roof top to vent the heat. They cut the hole one day and didn’t come back for a few days. One morning as I went into my kitchen to cook breakfast, there were two black bats laying on my stove! I immediately removed myself and ran to get my husband to kill them. They were not dead, only asleep. You know Vampires and bats sleep in the day time. My little Sam was just beginning to walk, and he was here later on that day and we noticed he kept going to the fire place and jabbering. After checking, yep there was another of those nocturnal beasts. For several days I had quart fruit jars sitting all over my den covering the bats. No,

take them to Disney World?”

I’m not the person to ask that question. I’ve been to Disney World four times: once with my own kids when they were young; twice with grandchildren; and once with another adult couple. I’ve had a genuinely good time at Disney World once. Guess which trip the “once” was. Right! But seriously, I’m not – and neither would Scott – saying that parents or grandparents should never have fun with their kids/grandkids. We’re referring to parents who avoid entirely the responsibilities of parenthood by trying to turn it into something it is not: to wit, a friendship.

When you avoid responsibility for something for which you are, in fact, responsible, you are being irresponsible. So, Scott and I are indeed saying that trying to be your child’s friend is irresponsible. Children do not need 30- or 40-something year-old friends. They need adult parents who are willing to take the occasional heat and perform the occasional distasteful function, like informing a child that he is not yet well-behaved enough to go to Disney World or even the local petting zoo.

I wrote a similar column years ago, by the way. In it, I coined the term “McParenting.” It’s what instant-gratification-oriented parents do. They take the easy way out of everything concerning their kids, including trying to be their best buds. The opposite of McParenting is Re-

I would not throw them out. Somebody braver than me had that job. Our bed has a canopy build into the ceiling and one night, during the bat infiltration, something woke me zooming over my head. After I screamed and jumped off the bed he flew by again. Another bat and he had found my sanctuary, my bedroom. My husband had to catch that little black cousin of Dracula and put him outside before I would get back in bed. If all this wasn’t bad enough when I went upstairs several days later there were about twenty dead bats laying all over my floors in my upstairs bedrooms. We seem to have bats in our “belfry”. No more holes cut in our ceilings and I will never go into our attic for ANYTHING!!

Sweet Potato Slices

Melt ½ stick of butter mixed with ½ cup of brown sugar in a cast iron skillet. Into this place sweet potatoes peeled and sliced ½ inches thick. Coat both side of the potatoes. Bake for about 40 minutes on 350*. Remove from oven and place a large marshmallow on top of each potato slice and return to oven to melt and brown.

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THE WICKER REPORT

By: United States Senator Roger Wicker



Wicker Bills Pass During Black History Month

U.S. Senate Votes to Recognize Evers Home in Jackson, Strengthen HBCUs

In a few weeks, I will take a pilgrimage with an icon of the civil rights movement. I will join a tour of civil rights landmarks in Alabama with Congressman John Lewis, D-Ga., who began fighting for greater equality and justice in the early 1960s. Revisiting this chapter of American history with a leader who challenged the status quo and helped change our nation will be a great opportunity to learn, reflect, and grow.

This experience will also be a fitting end to Black History Month, which highlights the achievements of African Americans and their many contributions to our shared history and culture. During February the U.S. Senate has passed legislation I sponsored to bring greater attention to Mississippi’s civil rights history and to strengthen educational opportunities at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

National Recognition for the Evers Home in Jackson

Earlier this month the Senal-Life Parenting Done By People Who Raise Children Who May Not Realize Until They Are On Their Own That They Were Raised Well And Call You One Day And Thank You.

That’s the prize. Go for it!

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ate passed the “Natural Resources Management Act,” which included my bill to designate the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home in Jackson as a national monument within the National Park System. Passage of this bill brings the Evers home one step closer to the official recognition and additional resources it deserves.

Like Congressman Lewis, Medgar Evers was unafraid to speak out and fight against racial segregation policies in our country. He did so knowing that his advocacy threatened his life and his young family. The danger proved real when Evers was assassinated outside of his home in Jackson in 1963. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. His murder was tragic, but it further inspired the civil rights movement and continues to educate Americans against racial inequality and injustice. Greater attention to this historic site will help more Americans learn about the life and death of this courageous Mississippian.

Building on the Success of Mississippi’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Last week I participated in a meeting to bring together members of Congress and representatives of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. At this event, Senator Tim Scott, R-S.C., announced legislation to


strengthen partnerships between HBCUs and federal agencies. I was glad to co-sponsor this bipartisan bill with Senators Chris Coons, D-Del., Cindy Hyde-Smith, R-Miss., and others.

The “HBCU Propelling Agency Relationships Toward a New Era of Results for Students (PARTNERS) Act,” which quickly passed the Senate, will require federal agencies to coordinate efforts to expand HBCU participation in relevant grant programs. The Senate’s unanimous support for this legislation is a testament to the contributions these institutions of higher learning make to communities across the country.

HBCUs represent only three percent of colleges nationwide, yet each year they graduate 20 percent of African Americans with undergraduate degrees and 25 percent of African Americans with degrees in STEM fields. These schools benefit not only their students but also our local economies. Mississippi is home to seven HBCUs, which have an economic impact of more than \$700 million and provide nearly 8,000 jobs. This legislation will provide more opportunities for these schools, benefiting students and communities.

Our country has made great strides toward equality because of leaders such as John Lewis and Medgar Evers, and we have improved educational opportunities for all Americans. As we mark this year’s Black History Month, I am inspired not only to honor the history of the civil rights movement but also to look to the future and the positive impact we might have on future generations of Americans.

Salute to Our Students!



Pastor William Dean, Jr. and the St. Paul Church of God In Christ Membership’s main goal is to motivate its young people religiously and academically. February 24, 2019, they honored 26 of their school age children for the efforts they put forth in their academic achievement for the first semester and for their attendance at church (S-Superintendent Honor, P-Principal Honor, H-Honor Roll, and AH-Averaged Honor). First row left to right: Ze’Coya Ze’kya Kirklin (P), Jada Ariana Tyler (P), Yoni Ojore Farley (S), Jaleah Nicole Tyler (H), Ze’Omarion Kirklin (P), Titus De’Monja Du’pree Deering (AH) and Seleah Coleman (S); Second row left to right: Rayla Thompson (P), William Terrell Dean (H), Jakkarra Semaj Bankhead (P) and Samantha Deering (S); Third row left to right: Ze’Amanti Ze’KiH Kirklin (H), Te’Keyla Ze’Kia Wilson (P), Darnell Devonte Deering (H), Tyler Blake Winstead (AH), Taylor Kyree Winstead (P) and James Bankhead (AH); Not pictured: Patrick Chatelain (S), Daquan Dante Davis (H), Zacchaeus Thurmond (H), Jar’Tavious Mar’Keith Smart (H), Julius James Mathis (P), Kaylan Kendarius Powell (S), Bennie Kendrick Powell (S), Destiny Dean (P), and Ahlonah Zameiah Dixon (P).