

Letters

woman can experience the great joys and delights of having a child—especially if someone *else* is back home taking care of those children. Fallows doesn't say a word about his being willing to give up a year or a few years of career to care for his children. He doesn't say a word about the career his wife has given up and how she feels about it. . . .

S. R. CLARK
Juneau, Alaska

The editors reply:

In 1974, Fallows left a highly promising career as a political reporter in Washington and followed his wife to the University of Texas where she was seeking a Ph.D. in linguistics. She has earned the degree and is now a researcher at the Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington. She says her husband shares the responsibility for the care of their son, Tommy, at night and on weekends.

Max Cleland

Your comment in the September issue [Tilting at Windmills] about Veterans Administrator Max Cleland gaining a reputation for "caving in" to the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars induced an extraordinary amount of resentment in me. You report this alleged "caving in" like a gossipmonger, offering no facts to support your statement. This contrasts so oddly with Nicholas Lemann's seemingly factual article on President Carter, which tends to clarify why the President has had such difficulty in establishing a direction for the federal government.

It seems to me we should walk a mile in another man's shoes before we criticize him and, when he is like Cleland and can't wear shoes, we should extend the distance considerably. As a below-knee amputee veteran of World War II, I admire Cleland immensely. . . . We need more real men like him. You do him an injustice when you imply that he is letting down his fellow Vietnam veterans. I believe you owe him an apology.

JOHN D. HULL
Altamonte Springs, Florida

The editors reply:

Max Cleland is a courageous model for handicapped persons. But as the leader of a \$20-billion agency, who was put there presumably because he was a champion of Vietnam veterans, we find his record dismal.

Cleland allowed \$488 million of the \$500-million decline in the GI Bill between FY 78 and FY 79 to be taken for the most part away from Vietnam veterans. He opposed a Senate-passed GI Bill. He never appeared before any committee to defend the President's program for upgrading bad discharges. But he recommended that the President sign punitive legislation sought by the VFW and American Legion and the House Veterans committee.

Motherhood

Re: "Motherhood and the Liberated Woman," July/August: As the single parent of a 6 year old girlchild, I may possibly have a slant on this whole issue that your writers—through inexperience, only—have not arrived at.

In time, the problems with babysitters resolve themselves, the more obnoxious of the baby-behaviour fades into memory, and the parent is faced with an aspect that doesn't get much discussion in the women's movement: How to raise this small, emerging person to become a competent, responsive human being? What inputs do you make to help this wild young creature that has been entrusted to you learn to like him or herself, and at the same time learn consideration for other humans?

The emphasis, of necessity, then, shifts away from the obvious gratifications Mr. Fallows talks of, and even farther from the even more obvious gratifications of childlessness, to such an extent that both become irrelevant.

Instead, the parent is faced with responsibility, not for physical comfort and well-being, but for creating environments conducive to learning and the development of an effective and well-rounded personality, and establishing a child's trust, self-confidence and sense of uniqueness. And that is the real task of childbearing and -rearing. . . .

JUDITH CHAMBERLAIN
Springfield, Virginia

With all due respect to Mr. Fallows ("The Case for Children", July/August) and his speechwriting ability, I must take issue with his rhapsodic paragraphs on children.

One can only imagine, since he says nothing to the contrary and since he has an obviously time consuming and demanding job (chief speechwriter for President Carter) that his wife's job is child care. Any sensitive man or

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SANTA FE	\$412	\$311	\$172
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*Insurance premiums are based on many factors, including your age, the kind of car you own and where you live. Rates vary from company to company. The figures above do not include liability coverage.

coverage. That means they pay the first \$100 on collision-related damages and the insurance company pays the rest. But just look what happens when you increase the deductibles to \$200 on comprehensive and \$500 on collision: In Los Angeles, for example, the typical annual premium for a safe driver will drop from \$358 to \$197. The higher the deductible, the lower the premium. (See the chart for more examples.)

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Tilting at Windmills



Think for a moment about the hatred between Protestant and Catholic in Northern Ireland, Arab and Jew in the Middle East, Greek and Turk in Cyprus, Hindu and Moslem in India, Ibo and Hausa in Nigeria, and black and white in South Africa. Now consider what has happened in the United States in the last 15 years. Until the early 1960s, hatred of the Jew, the Catholic, and the Negro was an integral part of our national life. If it's not dead now, it's a long, long way from being the ugly sore it was. We did a lot of things wrong during those years, but we also came close to solving a problem that still torments other nations. Maybe they should take a look at how we did it. . . . A report by a House subcommittee reveals that Department of Energy officials fly 90 per cent of the time on trips between Washington and Philadelphia. The DOE office in Washington is one and a half blocks from the train station. The average travel time between Washington and Philadelphia, including taxi to the terminals, is two hours and 12 minutes by train or two hours and 15 minutes by plane: But the air fare is more than double the train. Add the loss of revenue to government-subsidized Amtrak, and the total cost to the taxpayer of a plane ride to Philadelphia is \$62.34 compared to \$20.10 by rail. . . . In August the State Department declassified and released documents showing that in 1949, Chou En-lai made a secret attempt to get

American aid in helping China stay independent of the Soviets. He described his faction as "the liberal group," and said he was opposed by "radicals who wanted closer association with Moscow." He was rebuffed by the United States. What a comfort this news will be to those who lost relatives and friends in the war in Korea which came the next year, followed in six months by the Chinese intervention that was so disastrous to our forces. . . .

If the left sometimes oversimplifies when it asserts that this country is run for the rich, there are two cases where it is clearly correct. One we have pointed out before is the Treasury Department's custom of paying high interest on high-priced securities that only the rich can buy while paying low interest on the savings bonds the average man can afford. The other is that if you're on social security, you can receive unlimited additional income from dividends, interest, and capital gains. But if you supplement social security by working, you can earn only \$4,000 without having your benefits reduced. . . . It is my suspicion that the civil service secretly hates the people who have real work to do. Last month, for example, the Civil Service Commission downgraded 600 toilet cleaners, reducing their wages by more than \$1,000. . . . America has become accustomed to thinking of Iran and