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The DOWNTOWNER

# Randy's Ramblings...

## A Wake-Up Call

On a recent Sunday, my grandson Randall, now six-years-old, attended a friend's birthday party. The festivities consisted of games, food and fun but mostly fun. Randall was on top of the world; a license to laugh and play and boy was he ever making the most of his opportunity. What a wonderful day!

In another part of town, a classmate of Randall's and his sister were trying to rouse their mother from a deep slumber. Try as they may, Mommy was not going to wake up. As we would all soon learn, sometime in the early morning hours his mother had been murdered by her live-in boyfriend. These two children were alone with their dead mother when the police arrived.

No one, especially a child, should ever have to find a parent or loved one murdered. The sheer memory is likely to stay with someone for the rest of his or her life. Most folks are likely to endure psychological problems many years after the actual incident. A condition much like post-traumatic stress disorder could surface. How can a child process what these two children witnessed? How can this ever be explained to them in a rational way?

As parents and adults we have an obligation to our children to put them in a safe place. Oftentimes we make choices based on emotions that can end up having severe consequences for our children. We cannot take it back. Once it's out there, it's out there. Our children deserve better from us. Unfortunately, in today's society, there are individuals who prey on single women with children. Parents—you have to be on your toes! Your children are your responsibility. They depend on you to make the best choices for them. Please don't ever take this responsibility lightly. Whether it be smoking in car with the windows up, leaving your children unsupervised, or allowing "strangers" to move into our homes, our children have the right to be protected. It is our first and foremost responsibility. How many more times should innocent children suffer the fallout from our poor choices?

Domestic violence continues to plague communities throughout America. Unfortunately, Columbus is no exception. This is an issue that we all need to pay attention to. Hopefully we can someday bond together in an effort to put an end to domestic violence. If we become better husbands, better wives, better friends and better neighbors, we can all impact domestic violence in a positive fashion. We owe it to ourselves and we especially owe it to our children.

~ Randy Allman

*Building tomorrow's neighborhoods... TODAY!*  
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