

Not just dads

Here it was again on the Jan. 19 edition of the *Register Star*, front page, lower left-hand side of the local section: "Report shows: The biggest challenge facing officials who are trying to collect child support is finding the father."

So here's my story and this is my song. I am a single parent, male, who raises three children alone, and I do mean alone. I was married once and my former spouse had a child when I met her. I am the only father Sandy has ever known. I adopted my former wife's daughter.

Here's my suggestion: The next time you want to print another article that even suggests all "deadbeat parents" are men, remember this. I run a water treatment company, work 80-hour weeks and have the sole care, custody and control of three great kids. Frankly, I am sick and tired of being sick and tired of hearing about all the "deadbeat dads." I'm tired of paying taxes to a government that doesn't work for the people who support it.

I know, I need my own country, but I'd settle for the love all children deserve from their mother because not all "deadbeat parents" are men.

— Mark R. Durham Sr.,
Belvidere.