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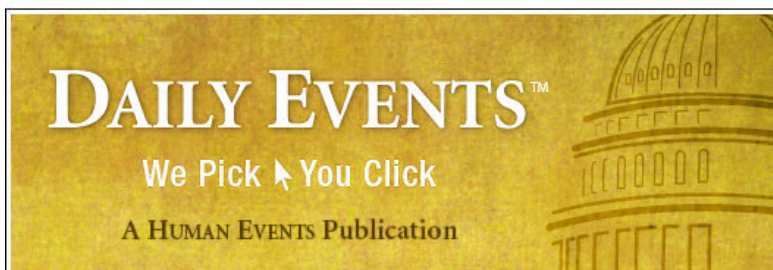
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John Hayward, Staff Writer

05.19.11

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Today

RE
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The news this week is dominated by two cases of sexual impropriety involving famous and powerful men. There are many differences between Arnold Schwarzenegger and ex-IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn, not least of which is the difference between the former's consensual affair, and the charges of sexual assault filed against the latter. One notable similarity is that both are married, and each has four children with his wife.

The French press has been mocking Americans for caring about that sort of thing way back to the Bill Clinton impeachment saga. Why make such a big deal about complications like marriage?

It is often suggested that modern science and economic power have erased the rationales for monogamous relationships. They're not strictly necessary for procreation any more. Men and women no longer find themselves huddled in frontier cabins sharing the arduous chores required to maintain a decent life.

And yet... men and women still *need* each other, and for most of us, the enduring emotional needs of a loyal relationship cannot be replaced by the momentary gratification of random desire. When we learn of someone who *doesn't* feel that way, but still pretends to observe the traditions of marriage, we recoil in disgust.

We need marriage because a society of free men and women depends on *trust*, [marriage is the essence of fidelity](#). It does not degrade the value of other relationships or people who choose to remain single, to note that something special occurs when a man and woman promise their eternal devotion to each other. That union kindles the flame of commitment, which spreads from marriage, to family, and onward to communities and nations. There really is no substitute, no matter how hard various ideologies work to manufacture one.

— **John Hayward**



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