What Mom Provides

To the Editor:

“Mom the Provider” (editorial, May 14) cites a Louis Harris & Associates survey as establishing that 48 percent of married women provide half or more of their family’s income. You conclude that wives share equally with their husbands in supporting their families and that mothers pay half the bills. These conclusions do not follow from the survey.

The Harris survey referred to married women who work (news article, May 11). That approximately one-third of the women surveyed were not employed outside the home means that only about one-third of married women (48 percent of the two-thirds who work) provide half or more of their family’s income.

Moreover, the survey results relate to women generally, not to mothers, thus including women who have not yet had children and women who will never have them.

If the women who provide one-half of their family’s income are disproportionately women without children, equating women with mothers overestimates the financial contribution of mothers.

KINGSLEY R. BROWNE
Associate Professor
Wayne State University Law School
Detroit, May 14, 1995