Unmarried America

AASP's Newsletter for Single Adults and Domestic Partners

Vol. 1, No. 1 Fall Quarter Sept. - Dec. 1999

A Sleeping Giant is Awakening

Singles Move from Isolated Silence to Collective Action

The next national census will be taken in just a few months. The results will have social, economic, and political ramifications for years to come.

When the figures are finally tabulated and released – probably not until early 2001 – they will likely confirm what we already know about unmarried America. The data, when compared with previous census information, will also reveal trends in marital status and living arrangements.

Census 2000 will probably document: more than 90 million unmarried adults; more than 6 million unmarried couples, including 2 million same-sex relationships; and that unmarried people have a wide variety of living arrangements, including many single parent households and extended families.

What the census will not reveal, however, is the history of marital status discrimination in the United States, the social pressure for everyone to marry, the stigma associated with unmarried cohabitation or childbirth, or the unfair myths and stereotypes about single people perpetuated in our society.

The census also will not acknowledge the pain and economic hardship experienced by millions of unmarried adults over the years due to this stigma or discrimination. Most of these individuals or couples have unwittingly suffered in silence or have fought back as individuals without much help from existing civil rights organizations.

Census 2000, however, can be a turning point for single adults, domestic partners, and their families. The data will remind single people that, even though society has not recognized them as such, they are part of one of the largest classes of people in the nation.

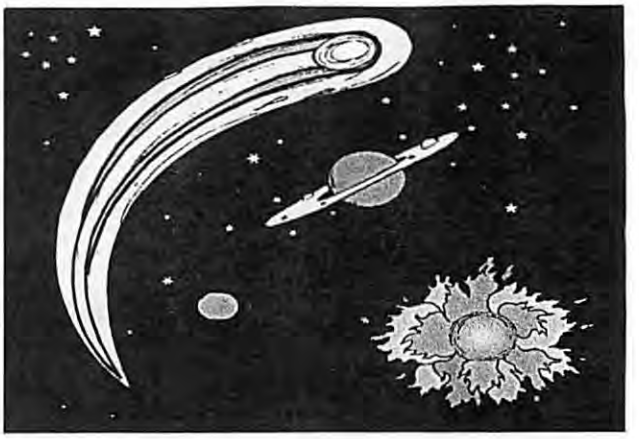
Unmarried adults are a *majority* in most cities and a near majority in many states. Unmarried people should view themselves as a class that has been treated unfairly, take advantage of their growing numbers, and demand reform.

Single people can follow the same path that seniors have taken over the past few decades. In 1958, some visionary elders formed a new national organization -- AARP. Consumer power and civil rights became dual goals as the group demanded support from politicians and help from businesses. Today, AARP has millions of members. As a result, seniors have gained clout both as consumers and as voters.

Corporate executives and elected officials will respond in a similar manner to unmarried adults, *if* single people and domestic partners view themselves in a positive and healthy manner, join together to fight discrimination, demand equal benefits in the workplace, insist on fair treatment by the government, and use their collective purchasing power to obtain discounts in the marketplace.

AASP will provide the vehicle for change. You can provide the fuel. Join AASP today!

Member Profiles



Majid Ayyoub & Sandra Washburn

Majid "Mickey" Ayyoub and Sandra Washburn met in 1994. A few months later they decided to share their lives.

Mickey and Sandra rented a house in the hills of Sausalito, California, just across the bay from San Francisco. They have lived there for the past five years.

Sandra loves to decorate and do gardening and her artistic talents are apparent to anyone who visits their home. If you are lucky enough to be invited to a barbeque, you will find that Sandra is also a great cook.

Once a jet-setter who traveled the world as a flight attendant for Pan Am, Sandra now loves the rather quiet lifestyle found in the quaint town of Sausalito. Its quite different from her home town of Denver, Colorado.

> "We joined AASP because we believe that marital status discrimination is wrong. AASP was there to help us in our time of need. We are proud to be part of the first national organization that makes the needs of *all* single people and domestic partners its top priority."
>
> – *Mickey Ayyoub & Sandra Washburn*

Sandra has a cute shop in town where she operates a business called "Profiles in Numerology." She uses her multi-sensory talents to help clients get reacquainted with their spiritual self. This assists them to realize their potential and to achieve their most cherished goals. "My work helps people find happiness," Sandra explains.

Mickey is employed as a civil engineer for San Francisco, the city of his birth. When work is done, he likes to engage in one of his favorite hobbies, such as walking their dog, doing aerobics at the gym, or riding his bicycle. They both enjoy dancing.

Mickey and Sandra registered as domestic partners with the nearby city of Oakland in 1995 where Mickey worked at the time as an engineer. As a result, Sandra became eligible for dental benefits as Mickey's domestic partner.

But problems began in 1997 when Oakland started a medical plan limited to same-sex partners of city employees. Mickey protested the exclusion of heterosexual couples, but the city council would not budge.

So Mickey filed a complaint with the state Labor Commissioner who ordered the city to remove the gender restriction from the program. The city refused, insisting that opposite-sex couples must marry in order to get health benefits.

"It was a shock to hear that the city would force us to get married in order for Mickey to get equal benefits at work," said Sandra. "We felt the city was intruding into our personal decision-making process. We felt that domestic partnership was the right choice for us. What gall for the city to limit domestic partnership to gays only."

"Then we met Tom Coleman," Mickey recalled. "With months of prodding by AASP, the city council finally saw the light and opened up the benefits program to all unmarried couples regardless of gender. What a sweet victory."

International News

Malaysia:
Woman Dies in Religious Police Raid

A woman fleeing Islamic police fell several stories to her death when she tried to escape the apartment of a male friend through his back window.

Religious police raided the apartment outside the city of Malacca on Sunday after being tipped off that an unwed couple was alone inside.

Under Islamic law, unmarried couples can be charged with "khalwat" or "close proximity" if they are caught in a room alone together. Unmarried sex is against Islamic law.

Police raids are common. Offenders are tried in Islamic courts and face up to two months in jail and a fine if convicted.

After officers entered the apartment, they looked out a back window and saw the woman lying below in a pool of blood. She apparently had been hiding on a balcony but slipped and fell. (*Associated Press*, August 22, 1999.)

China:
Condoms Now Legal for Single People

China's first condom vending machines have just been installed, two decades after the start of the nation's infamous one-child policy. Until now, condoms had been available only to married couples by prescription in many parts of the country.

The first 90 condom machines were installed in Shanghai and Beijing, primarily in public lavatories, subway stations and university areas. Following a trial period, the machines are expected to be installed across the country of 1.3 billion people.

In an attempt to curb population growth, Chinese couples are not allowed to have more than one child. Many unmarried Chinese women live in fear of pregnancy because unless they have an abortion they will not be allowed to have another child. (*London Times*, August 11, 1999)

National News

The Survey Says:
Cohabiting-Yes, Unmarried Parenting-No

According to a new survey, most adults say that unmarried cohabitation is okay. Young adults overwhelmingly find that cohabitation is an acceptable way to live.

The "Marriage Survey" was a nationwide telephone poll of 1,000 adults conducted in July, 1999 by TNS Intersearch.

Half of respondents agreed that it's okay for a man and a woman to live together outside of marriage. But, men were far more supportive of this idea than women (60% of men agreed with this statement versus 45% of women). Acceptance of the idea also declined greatly with age (73% among 18-34-year-old versus 19% among those 65 and older.)

Another issue examined by the survey involved unmarried parenting. Most Americans (67%) said they disagree with this lifestyle choice. (*Business Wire*, August 23, 1999.)

The Survey Says:
Partner Benefits Becoming More Common

Annual surveys by the Society for Human Resource Management show that more of their members are offering domestic partner benefits each year, up from 6 percent in 1997, to 7 percent in 1998 and 9 percent in 1999.

However, the trend is not universal. Of the 829 HR professionals responding to the 1999 survey, 86 percent said their firms don't offer domestic partner coverage.

Those who do have domestic partner programs offer health care coverage (94%). Among those providing non-health benefits as well (68%), workers get life insurance (83%), invitations to employer functions (60%), employee assistance program services (58%), bereavement leave (56%), family sick leave (56%), pension (42%), and child care (27%). (*Human Resource Magazine*, August 1999)

State News

North Carolina:
Victim Compensation Law is Changed

Living together unmarried is a misdemeanor in North Carolina, but it no longer disqualifies anyone from obtaining money from the state's Crime Victims Compensation Commission.

Under a new law, the commission will not automatically deny applications for awards from victims or their relatives solely because the victims lived out of wedlock with the people who committed the crime.

In more than 100 cases since 1994, the commission rejected claims for awards from victims whose only crime was living with the people who assaulted, robbed or even murdered them. It is a crime in North Carolina for a man and woman to live as husband and wife without a marriage license. That law does not apply to same-sex couples. (*News-Observer*, Aug. 26, 1999)

Missouri:
Divorced Dad Must Pay College Tuition

The Missouri Supreme Court has upheld the constitutionality of a law allowing judges to require unmarried or divorced parents to pay child support and educational expenses for their children until they graduate from college or turn 22.

A divorced father, Steven Snodgrass, argued that the law requiring child support awards for college expenses violates state and federal equal protection laws.

Snodgrass claimed that it was unfair to require unmarried, divorced or legally separated parents to pay educational costs when married couples do not have the same obligation. The court rejected his argument, stating there was "no authority," for the father's claim. The court accepted the mother's argument that the state has a legitimate interest in securing higher education opportunities for children of broken homes." (*Associated Press*, August 25, 1999.)

Wisconsin:
Single Workers Sue State Pension Fund

The state is being accused in a lawsuit of discriminating against unmarried workers by giving them lower death benefits than married employees.

When state employees die while working past retirement age, their spouses and dependent children receive full death benefits. But if the beneficiaries are friends, siblings, parents or domestic partners, they only get partial benefits.

The lawsuit says that beneficiaries other than spouses or children receive only the employee' s contributions toward the benefit while the employer' s contributions revert to the state.

The lawsuit was filed in July by Wisconsin Secretary of State Douglas La Follette and six University of Wisconsin employees. (*Star Tribune*, August 4, 1999.)

Massachusetts:
Unmarried Caregivers Have Parental Rights

The Massachusetts Supreme Court ruled in June that an unmarried adult who is not the biological parent of a child may nonetheless be considered a de facto parent (parent in fact) for purposes of custody and visitation rights.

In the first case, the court ruled that an aunt was entitled to some parental rights. It granted her the right to visit an 11-year-old niece she had raised until the child's father demanded custody.

A week later, the court ruled in *E.N.O. v. L.M.M.* that a lesbian who helped raise her partner's biological child was a de facto parent, entitled to visitation rights after the couple broke up.

The court said: "Children of nontraditional families, like other children, form parent relationships with both parents, whether those parents are legal or de facto." (*Boston Phoenix*, August 1999.)

Health News

AARP Study:
Few Older Adults Treated for Sex Problems

A new study by the American Association of Retired Persons shows that more than half of adults over 45 who have partners report having sexual intercourse at least once a week. That declines to 31 percent of men and 24 percent of women between the ages of 60 and 74. For those over age 75, 19 percent of men and 7 percent of women say they have intercourse at least weekly.

One surprising finding, several specialists said, is that so few men are receiving treatment for impotence, despite a high incidence of serious erectile dysfunction. The survey shows that about one American man in every four over age 45 is moderately or totally impotent.

John B. McKinlay of New England Research Institute, a consultant on the AARP survey, said this is consistent with the Massachusetts Male Aging Study, which found that 52 percent of men have some degree of erectile dysfunction by age 70, but a smaller proportion have moderate or total impotence.

Fewer than 6 percent of American men are being treated for the problem, and fewer than 10 percent have ever sought treatment. Even though oral medications such as viagra are really a big breakthrough for this problem, most men don't avail themselves of it, said McKinlay.

Because of the rapid aging of the US population, 1 million new cases of erectile dysfunction will emerge annually between now and 2025, according to McKinlay.

Only 7 percent of the women surveyed said they had ever sought treatment for sexual problems, even though therapists say that sexual dysfunction is a widespread problem among older women. Of the 4 percent currently on medication for a sexual problem, the most common treatments were estrogens (38 percent). Only 5 percent use a vaginal hormone cream, which counteracts dryness and makes intercourse more comfortable. (*Boston Globe*, August 4, 1999.)

Global Findings:
Women Are More Stressed Than Men

Women are more likely than men to say they feel stressed, according to a global survey of 30,000 people done by Roper Starch Worldwide.

The survey found that 21% of women experience an immense amount of stress, compared with 15% of men.

Full-time working mothers with children under 13 report the most stress, with 24% feeling some type of stress almost every day.

Researchers interviewed 1,000 people ages 13-65 in each of 30 countries, including the United States.

The levels of stress reported by women varied with their marital status: separated-28%, cohabiting-24%, married-21%, widows-21%, divorced-20%, and never married-17%. (*USA Today*, August 4, 1999.)

Editorial Rebuttal:
Marriage Is Not Necessarily More Healthy

An intern with the Heritage Foundation wrote an article recently, citing several studies to support her conclusion that married people are healthier than unmarried ones.

Dorian Solot and Marshall Miller, founders of the Alternatives to Marriage Project, wrote a rebuttal. Here is a snapshot of what they said.

"The truth is, the research about marital status paints a more complex story than the one [the intern] has sketched. . .

"Catherine Ross of Ohio State University, studied 2,031 adults and found it is living with a partner–not necessarily being married to that partner–that results in higher levels of well-being. In fact, Ross found unmarried couples report higher levels of emotional support than married couples. A similar Dutch study that looked at 18,000 adults found that living with another person is just as good for your health as marriage is." (*Arizona Daily Star*, August 24, 1999.)

New Books

Several new books are being released on issues affecting singles and domestic partners.

Although we have not reviewed these books, we thought you might want to take a look at them when you are at your local bookstore.

Visit our website for a list of more books for all singles, single women, gays and lesbians, domestic partners, or divorced people.

Single in a Double World: The Joys of Living Alone, by Marjorie Wilderman, CeShore Publishing, release October 1999.

Positively Single: The Art of Being Single and Happy, by Vera Peiffer, Element, release October 1999.

Chicken Soup for the Single's Soul: 101 Stories of Love and Inspiration for the Single, Divorced and Widowed, by Jack Confield, Health Communications, release September 1999.

The Single Woman's Travel Guide, by Jacqueline Simenauer, Citidel Press, release December 1999.

Single Mother by Choice, by Jessica Curtis, Viking Press, release December 1999.

Positive Discipline for Single Parents: A Practical Guide to Raising Children Who are Responsible, Respectful and Resourcesful, by Jane Nelson, Prima Publishing, release August 1999.

The Other Mother: A Lesbian's Fight for Her Daughter, by Nancy Abrams, Univ. of Wisconsin Press, release August 1999.

Still Friends: A New Paradigm for Living Happily Ever After, Even if Your Marriage Falls Apart, by Barbara Quick, Wildcat Canyon Press, release October 1999.

Mars and Venus Starting Over: A Practical Guide for Finding Love After a Painful Breakup, Divorce, or the Loss of a Loved One, by John Gray, Harper Collins Publishers, release November 1999.

Letters to AASP

From Michigan

Finally, a website about singles that doesn't "help" you become un-single. I sent the site address to six single friends and would have sent it to more only they didn't have e-mail addresses.

I realized a couple of years ago that I belong to the world's smallest minority group - a heterosexual single adult over 35 years old with no children. This realization has been a blessing as it's given me strong empathy for those in other minority groups. It's wonderful to find that I have an organization looking out for my concerns.

Could you send me an application form via the postal service mail? I would also be glad to distribute any additional applications you care to send to my single friends who don't have e-mail. Thank you for your work on my behalf.

– Ms. J. W.
Grand Rapids

From Colorado

I am an attorney and software engineer who is currently pursuing a single-status legal complaint against ski resorts in Colorado. I already have done some research on the general topic and would be available to donate my time to helping to assert the rights of singles (and alternative couples) in other areas. How can I help?

– Mr. J. K.

From Arizona

Thanks for the information about your organization. I appreciate the work you do to see that all people are treated equally. Wishing you well and much continued success..."

– Neil Giuliano
Mayor of Tempe

AASP in the NEWS

AASP has been mentioned in various newspapers in recent months. Here is a sample.

Rhode Island:

Providence Phoenix

"Today, the 'Ozzie and Harriet' family only constitutes about 10 percent of all families. Family Diversity is now the norm, says Los Angeles attorney Thomas Coleman, an expert on family diversity and marital status discrimination.

"Coleman attributes the change to a list of factors, such as women in the workforce, changing religious attitudes, and no-fault divorce laws."

The article lists AASP as an organization protecting the rights of single individuals, unmarried couples, and nonmarital families.

Florida:

Fort Lauderdale City Link

"Surveys taken to determine who takes advantage of health-care plans that extend coverage to so-called domestic partners clearly show that heterosexuals are the one 's cashing in.

"Thomas Coleman, a Los Angeles lawyer who has championed domestic partner benefits for more than 25 years, says that heterosexuals outnumber gays in signing up for domestic health-care benefits by a 2-to-1 margin.

"So why then, when they clearly would have benefitted from the measure, didn't any heterosexual couples speak out last week during the commission debate?

"Living together for heterosexuals is a way of life, not a political cause," Coleman said. But, he says, if he has his way, that is going to change.

"After 25 years of operating in relative obscurity, he is about to take his fight for the rights of the unmarried national. He recently launched the American Association for Single People to carry the banner of the rights of the unmarried for those of all genders and orientations."

Michigan:

Muskegon Chronicle

"When landlord John Hoffius refused to rent to an unwed couple, he was sued under a state law prohibiting discrimination based on marital status.

"Hoffius believes living out of wedlock is a sin. . . The Michigan Supreme Court ruled against him in December.

"So on Tuesday, a legislative committee took up a proposed bill to get around that ruling. . .

"This is the worst assault on the rights of single people I have ever seen in America," California attorney Thomas Coleman told the House Constitutional Committee.

"Coleman, a Michigan native who specializes in discrimination based on marital status, recently founded a national group, American Association for Single People. He says it will do for single adults what AARP has done for seniors."◊◊

Membership in AASP

The American Association for Single People is a nonprofit tax-exempt corporation. Any adult can become a member by making a tax-deductible contribution of $10 or more. Membership is renewable annually.

AASP uses educational programs to promote respect for the individual and to dispel myths and stereotypes about single people, domestic partners, and their families. We file legal briefs in court cases to protect the freedom of choice of people to form the family unit or living arrangement that best suits their personal needs, and to enforce laws against marital status and sex discrimination. We provide advice to elected officials, corporate leaders, and unions, about the needs of unmarried adults.

Whether you are single, divorced, separated, or widowed – and even if you are married – join AASP to support equal rights for everyone regardless of marital status.

Please complete this form and return it to us with your check made payable to **AASP**.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail address _____

[ ] Please send me current event updates by e-mail.

My tax-deductible contribution as indicated is enclosed:
[ ] $10 [ ] $25 [ ] $50 [ ] $100 [ ] other ____

AASP will not sell or share any name on our mailing list with outside sources.

Ranking of States: Percent of Unmarried Adults

State	% Unmarried	State	% Unmarried	State	% Unmarried
1. California	48.1	18. Maryland	43.5	35. Maine	40.7
2. Massachusetts	47.5*	19. Alabama	43.4	36. Iowa	40.5
3. New York	46.7*	20. Alaska	43.4	37. North Carolina	40.3
4. Illinois	46.7*	21. Pennsylvania	43.0	38. Arkansas	40.3
5. Rhode Island	46.0	22. Vermont	42.9	39. New Hampshire	40.2
6. Connecticut	45.9	23. Indiana	42.6	40. Kansas	40.2
7. Delaware	45.4	24. Ohio	42.5	41. Kentucky	40.0
8. Georgia	45.3	25. New Mexico	42.2	42. West Virginia	39.8
9. Hawaii	44.9	26. Wisconsin	41.9	43. Nebraska	39.7
10. Arizona	44.3	27. Minnesota	41.6	44. North Dakota	39.5
11. Colorado	44.0	28. Washington	41.5	45. South Dakota	39.5
12. Michigan	44.0	29. South Carolina	41.5	46. Oklahoma	39.0
13. Florida	43.7	30. Virginia	41.2	47. Montana	38.9
14. Nevada	43.7	31. Missouri	41.0	48. Utah	38.1
15. New Jersey	43.6	32. Tennessee	40.8	49. Idaho	37.8
16. Mississippi	43.6	33. Oregon	40.8	50. Wyoming	37.6
17. Louisiana	43.5*	34. Texas	40.7	* A majority of women are unmarried.	

Data is based on the 1990 Census, ST-1, "Marital Status for States." Internet Release Date: July 27, 1998

www.singlepeople.org

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Unmarried America

AASP's Newsletter for unmarried adults, couples, parents, and families

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Making a Place at the Table for Single People

Each decade gives rise to a new social cause. In the past fifty years, America has seen movements emerge for seniors, women, gays, racial minorities, and people with disabilities.

While society's first reaction to a new cause usually involves disbelief and resistance, eventually a place is made at the table of power for the newcomer.

Whether it is collective bargaining by unions, legal advocacy in court, political maneuvering in legislatures, or economic deliberations in corporate board rooms, government and corporate leaders have been forced to listen to those who were previously ignored. That is because each new group has managed to elbow its way to the microphone.

But what about single people? Don't they deserve a place at the table too?

More than 80 million unmarried adults live in the United States. In most large cities unmarried adults are now the *majority.*

However, because single people are a silent majority, they have made easy targets for social, legal, and economic discrimination.

Presidential and congressional candidates are talking past unmarried voters. When deals are struck in collective bargaining, unions forget that a large percent of their members are single.

Some 21 states violate the privacy rights of single people with criminal laws prohibiting private sexual conduct between consenting adults.

Federal law does not outlaw marital status discrimination. In fact, federal law penalizes unmarried Americans by taxing employee benefits for their domestic partners and by taking up to 60% of the estate of unmarried adults when they die. Married people can escape this huge tax bite.

All states prohibit discrimination on the basis of race and religion and sex, but only 22 states forbid marital status discrimination.

Many cities give domestic partner health benefits to their workers. But some cities limit them to same-sex couples, forcing heterosexual partners to marry in order to get equal benefits.

Some judges disrespect unmarried couples by referring to them as "meretricious," an old legal term that pertains to prostitution.

Lawmakers or judges in 37 states stigmatize children born to unmarried parents by labeling them as "bastards" or "illegitimate children."

It appears that single people today are where seniors were in the 1950s – unorganized, silent, and ignored as a group. For seniors, after the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) was formed, the picture began to change. AARP is now the largest organization in the nation with 30 million members. When AARP calls, politicians and corporate executives listen.

But aren't there thousands of singles' groups in the country? Yes, but they are limited to dating, social, and recreational activities. There has been no educational and political advocacy for singles' rights.

That is why the American Association for Single People has been created. AASP will serve as a collective voice for millions of unmarried Americans so their needs are considered when important policy decisions are being made.

Member Profiles

Sheila James Kuehl

Sheila James Kuehl recently became a member of the American Association for Single People.

Now in her third legislative term in the California State Assembly, Sheila is the chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee. During the 1997-98 legislative session, she was the first woman in California history to be named Speaker pro Tempore of that body. She is also the first open gay or lesbian person to be elected to the California Legislature.

Sheila represents the 41st Assembly District in Los Angeles County and serves on the Appropriations, Health, Local Government and Water Parks & Wildlife Committees as well as the Joint Committee on the Arts.

In her five years in the Assembly, Sheila has authored fifty-three bills that have been signed into law to overhaul California's child support services system, establish nurse to patient ratios in every hospital, make HMO's legally accountable for denying treatment, further protect domestic violence victims and their children, prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender in the workplace and sexual orientation in education, increase the rights of crime victims, safeguard the environment, and fund after school programs for at-risk youth.

> "If California is to serve as a model for America's new and diverse society, every person must feel secure that their civil rights will be protected, especially where they live and where they work."
>
> *Sheila James Kuehl*

At the invitation of President Clinton, she addressed the 1996 Democratic National Convention on the issue of family violence. In 1996 George magazine selected her as one of the 20 most fascinating women in politics and the California Journal named her "Rookie of the Year."

In 1998, the California Journal took a survey of legislators, the press, legislative staff and lobbyists and Sheila was chosen as the Assembly member with the greatest intelligence and the most integrity.

Prior to her election to the Assembly, Sheila drafted and fought to get into California law more than 40 pieces of legislation relating to children, families, women, and domestic violence. She was a law professor at Loyola University, University of California at Los Angeles and the University of Southern California Law Schools. Sheila also co-founded and served as managing attorney of the California Women's Law Center.

Sheila graduated from Harvard Law School in 1978 where she was the second woman in the school's history to win the Moot Court competition. She is currently a member of the Harvard University Board of Overseers.

In her youth, Sheila was known for her portrayal of the irrepressible Zelda Gilroy in the television series, "The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis."

Because of term limits, Sheila is currently serving her last term in the California Assembly. However, she is running as a Democratic contender in the March 2000 primary for an open seat in the state Senate in the 23rd district.

Sheila is single and lives in the City of Santa Monica.

Member's Essay

A Single Person's Manifesto, or the Power of One

by Miriam Greenwald

It just gets me so irritated. Our entire culture is geared towards celebrating and extolling coupledom. The never married, unattached person, whether male or female (although females tend to be targeted more often) is routinely ignored and shunted aside, if not made the object of outright contempt and ridicule.

Single people get hit below the belt, so to speak, every day. And we don't even have an official rite of passage like a wedding, which seems to bestow a halo of maturity on the chief participants whether they deserve it or not.

The media certainly does its share in perpetuating this situation. If, for example, a movie or television show starts off with a single person, it's inevitable that, if there is a conventionally happy ending, that person will find his or her true love and no longer be romantically challenged. It's unthinkable that anyone should be truly alone. And of course, every now and then a foil to the normals appears in the character of the old maid, who either provides comic relief or elicits pity.

Commercials too often spotlight conventional pairings no matter what the product hawked. Parents and babies abound. Everything is cast in the setting of the nuclear family. All normal people, it is assumed, eventually marry and start families.

Self help and psychology books posit that the state of ultimate mental health is found in marriage, with mere coupledom (with the appropriate sex) a close second. Everything, in fact, depends on finding the right one, who can be anyone, since being particular is a sure sign of immaturity. And being single is the sign! If passionate love was never present, then if it's "not too bad," that's all that counts, because you're not whole unless you're half of a couple.

Newspaper and magazine items proclaim the benefits of the marital state and of intimacy with that special someone, while the never married and the celibate are held at risk for an earlier demise. Rarely is the fact mentioned that abstinence incurs no health risks per se. It doesn't make interesting copy. Then sentimental accounts of how people met give the impression that these are all success stories despite the 50% divorce rate.

And then peer and family pressure come into play. Here are the folks who insist that if you don't marry you will die alone and forgotten.

And as for the joys of having children and carrying on the line, well, those children, when their parents reach a certain age, are likely to bundle them off to a rest home. So much for filial devotion. And of course, what about that all too common notion that you only live on in your descendants? Does that mean that the celibataire will wink out in total obscurity, no one even giving a fig about coming to the funeral or preserving the memory of said departed?

Also, since we single people are seen as not having a life of any particular importance and therefore, no real responsibilities, we're imposed upon and pressed into working overtime so the others can spend time with their families, yet we are denied promotions because our image isn't family oriented enough.

Every day we have to deal with bias. To list just a few things, we're shunted to the back in restaurants, faced with more hurdles adopting children, pay higher rates in hotels and on trips, and, though to a lesser extent today, face discrimination in housing.

So we therefore must speak out and declare our power of one in the face of the consensus that it's safer to stay politely in the background. We should actively lobby against any form of discrimination, be it social or governmental, since one feeds on the other.

When the time comes, we should march on Washington.◊◊◊

Miriam Greenwald is single and lives in Pennsylvania. E-mail: MGreen1096@aol.com.

International News

France:
Federal law now protects domestic partners

After a year of intense political debate, the National Assembly approved a new federal law in October which gives legal protections to same-sex and opposite-sex unmarried couples. In November, the nation's Constitutional Council gave final approval to the measure by ruling that it was not unconstitutional.

The law would affect up to 4.4 million heterosexual couples who live together but are not married, as well as an unknown number of same-sex couples.

Unmarried couples who register with local authorities will be able to file joint tax forms after three years together. The law will also help people bring foreign partners to France and will require employers to take couples' joint vacation plans into account. It will also make partners accountable for each others' debts.
(*Associated Press*, November 9, 1999.)

England:
Rights proposed for unmarried survivors

An English Law Commission is recommending that Parliament expand the class of persons who can sue for damages for the death of the household's breadwinner.

Under current law, only a surviving spouse, parent, unmarried minor or unmarried heterosexual cohabitant may sue. The proposal, if adopted, would allow a same-sex partner, siblings, or other unmarried household dependents to recover damages as well.

The commission says the test should be financial dependency on the deceased. This means that a gay partner, a godchild, or a roommate would be able to claim compensation if they could establish they were dependent on a person who is killed through a defendant's negligence.
(*London Telegraph*, November 2, 1999)

National News

Divorce Research:
Fiscal effects similar on men and women

A new study by Arizona State University psychology professor Sanford Braver concludes that men and women both suffer in roughly equal but different financial terms after they divorce.

Braver's conclusion is at odds with 20 years of previous research that says moms, who usually have custody of the kids, suffer a steep drop in their standard of living, while dads see an uptake in theirs.

But Braver claims that the economic scales balance if you factor in taxes. He says that mothers with custody don't pay income tax on the child support they receive, are taxed at a lower rate because of their head-of-household status, take exemptions for their dependents and get tax credits for child care. Dads, however, have lost the deductions they had when they were married even though they are still paying for the children.
(*Kiplinger's Personal Finance*, Nov. 1999.)

Births to Unmarried Parents:
41% of first births to young women

A new Census report looks at first births to women between the ages 15 to 29 and finds that in 1990-94, 41 percent of these births were to unmarried parents. In 1930-34, just 8 percent of these children were born out of wedlock.

The report also focuses on marriages after a baby is conceived – but before the child is born. It says that until the 1960s, about 50 percent to 60 percent of couples would marry after discovering the woman was pregnant. But that dropped to 29 percent in the early 1980s.

Looking at women of all ages, the report says about one in three babies are born to unwed mothers. The overall rate peaked in 1994 at 32.6 percent and has been relatively stable since.
(*Washington Post*, November 9, 1999)

State News

Michigan:
Archdiocese is annulment capitol of world

The Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit surpasses dioceses around the world when it comes to granting marriage annulments.

During the 1990s, the archdiocese's caseload has ranged from 1,300 cases in 1992 to about 1,000 cases per year more recently. That is more than larger dioceses such as New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago

U.S. Catholic bishops have been secretive about the rate of annulments, fearing criticism from the Vatican. A small number of dioceses have streamlined the process to reach out to divorced Catholics so they keep coming to church.

In national surveys, the majority of Catholics have said they want their church to recognize civil divorce, an idea the Vatican opposes.
(*Detroit Free Press*, November 9, 1999.)

Massachusetts:
Court weighs post-divorce embryo dispute

The Massachusetts Supreme Court will soon decide whether a woman may be implanted with frozen embryos despite the fact that she is now divorced from the man who had fertilized the egg while they were married.

At one point when they were married, they both wanted to be parents. After a number of unsuccessful treatments for infertility, the couple moved to Massachusetts, where they used in vitro fertilization procedures. The couple soon welcomed twin daughters into the world.

Some years later, their marriage ended and they went separate ways. Left at the fork in the road was a vial with four frozen embryos.

So far, state legislatures in the United States and the fertility industry itself have allowed couples and clinics to enter into contracts, then let courts work out disputes that arise.
(*Christian Science Monitor*, November 5, 1999.)

New Jersey:
Court arbitrates lesbian co-parent dispute

The state Supreme Court will decide whether a biological mother of twins can veto her former lesbian partner's desire to have visitation rights with the children.

The biological mother became pregnant through artificial insemination. For two years, the women and children lived together as a family until they separated.

The court must decide whether the non-biological, or "psychological," parent has the right to see the children who are now five years old.

The sexual preference of the women is not the issue. Attorneys for both women said the same legal standards would apply in a heterosexual relationship where one adult was the biological parent and the other a psychological parent.
(*Philadelphia Inquirer*, October 5, 1999.)

Colorado:
Dance lessons part of abstinence program

Colorado has added a new twist to federally-funded sex abstinence programs in the state: free swing dance lessons for the celibate.

The same program also subsidizes tae kwon do lessons and a laser-tag session for teens who pledge to abstain from sex until they marry.

It's all part of a federally funded abstinence education program, which is spending $50 million a year nationally, and $544,383 a year for five years in Colorado, to discourage sex among young Americans.

The Colorado Council of Black Nurses, quit the program after calling the plan "crazy" and "unrealistic." Planned Parenthood calls it teaching "fear and shame instead of responsibility."

The programs apparently ignores gays and lesbians who legally may not marry a same-sex partner. Are they to remain celibate for life?
(*Denver Post*, November 7, 1999.)

Health News

Domestic Violence:
Heterosexuals are not the only victims

The physical or psychological health of many gay men is seriously jeopardized by domestic violence. Experts believe there are currently more than 500,000 battered gay men in this country.

Estimates of the prevalence of same-sex domestic violence appear to range anywhere from 10 to 33 percent, which is roughly the same as the prevalence among heterosexual couples.

Social service agencies in larger cities have responded by making repeated and enthusiastic attempts to educate the general public, and provide safety and treatment for victims, as well as treatment for perpetrators. But although prevalence of gay domestic violence remains high, attendance at the male victim support groups is chronically low.

A variety of problems contribute to this result: attitudes in the community, forces working upon the victim, and efforts by the perpetrator.

Heterosexual domestic violence laws are awkwardly applied to same-sex situations. A devastating consequence is that gay male victims often must receive greater injuries than heterosexual victims before the perpetrator is arrested.

The cycle of domestic violence is the same in gay male and heterosexual couples, and includes three distinct phases:

(1) First, there is a transition from the initial blissful honeymoon period to a buildup of tension. During this phase, minor battering incidents may occur, which the perpetrator blames on external factors, such as the victim's behaviors, feelings, thoughts, etc. The victim, in turn, attempts to calm the perpetrator with various techniques, including nurturing and submissive behavior, which appear to work initially.

(2) Eventually the tension turns into severe battering incidents that can last hours or days, resulting in serious injury or death.

(3) Inevitably, the perpetrator's physical and emotional energy is spent, and the crisis ends. (*Seattle Gay News*, November 6, 1999.)

Workaholism:
Work addiction a leading cause of divorce

Workaholism is one of the leading -- and most preventable -- causes of divorce in America

Mike McCurley, the immediate past-president of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and a veteran of hundreds of high-dollar divorces, says devotion to work doesn't need to cause a marital divide, but couples are usually unequipped to break patterns of negative behavior they learn over several years in a marriage.

"Once one member of the couple becomes frustrated, and it's usually the woman, she is so tired of her husband's workaholism that she doesn't have the energy or the inclination to save the marriage," says McCurley.

Though men have historically been the offenders, McCurley says he is starting to see more women workaholics coming through his office.

"It's great that women have been able to rise to the level of men, in terms of success and earning power," says McCurley. "But it's unfortunate that they also seem to be falling prey to the negative byproducts of that success."

Early intervention is key, McCurley says, to preventing a divorce due to workaholism.

"Even the first year of marriage isn't too soon to start recognizing and combating workaholic behavior," he says.

"Everybody has to work late once in a while, but when those late nights become every night, and every weekend is spent in the office, it starts to erode a marriage."

If couples can address those problems early in their marriage, they are less likely to end up in a marriage counselor's or, worse, a divorce lawyer's office, he says.

"Work will always be there, but a good marriage won't be if it isn't tended to," says McCurley. "And jobs don't keep anybody warm at night." (*Business Wire*, October 28, 1999.)

New Books

The books listed below have recently come to our attention. Although we have not reviewed them, you might want to look them over the next time you are at your local bookstore.

Our website lists many other books for all singles, single women, gays and lesbians, domestic partners, and divorced or widowed people.

Loving Me: A Sisterfriend's Guide to Being Single and Happy, by Claudette Sims, Owl Books, isbn: 0-8050-5160-0.

Joyfully Single in a Couple's World, by Harold J. Sala, Horizon Books, isbn: 0-88965-142-6

Financial Self Confidence for the Suddenly Single: A Woman's Guide, by Alan B. Ungar, Lowell House, isbn: 0-929923-38-3

Going It Alone: Meeting the Challenges of Being a Single Mom, by Michele Howe, Hendrickson Publishers, isbn: 1-56563-452-7

The Single Father: A Dad's Guide to Parenting Without a Partner, by Armin A. Brott, Abbeville Press, isbn: 0-7892-0518

Gay Parents - Straight Schools: Building Communication and Trust, by Virginia Casper, Teachers College Press, isbn: 0-8077-3824-7

How to Legally Protect Yourself in a Gay, Lesbian, and Non-Marital Cohabitation, by Benji Anosike, Do-It-Yourself Legal Publishers, isbn: 0-932704-44-1

Getting to the Other Side of Grief: Overcoming the Loss of a Spouse, Robert De Vries, Baker Books, isbn: 0-8010-5821-X

Coping with Life After Your Mate Dies, Donald Cushenbery, Baker Books, isbn: 0-8010-5765-5

The New Creative Divorce: How to Create a Happier, More Rewarding Life During and After Your Divorce, Mel Krantzler, Adams Media Corp, isbn: 1-58062-054-X

Black Men and Divorce, Erma Jean Lawson, Sage Publications, isbn: 0-8039-5955-9

Letters to AASP

From the Internet

I have been wondering when someone would get a group together as for the 53 years of my single life I feel I have been cheated out of many things...especially financially.

I have worked and supported myself all my life so far with no help from anyone, especially the government, federal or state. I don't have health insurance and it's not fair that a single parent can get it but not a single person. I never wanted children and it seems I have to have one to get insured!!!

I think that after a person reaches a certain age special benefits should be awarded that person from the "system" Why do I have to pay school taxes in my real estate bill when I don't have children?

I'd like to know more about the AASP.

– Carol
@webtv.net

From Illinois

I have some news clips for you. A city of Chicago Public School teacher has filed suit against the City for their discrimination on their same-sex only domestic partner benefits plan. She is unable to get her male partner of 27 years on her insurance.

There is talk in the article about a possible class action law suit.

– Brian C.
Chicago

From California

Keep up the good work, Tom.

– Sheila Kuehl
Speaker Pro Tem
California Assembly

Join AASP or Give Someone a Gift Membership

The American Association for Single People is a nonprofit and nonpartisan tax-exempt corporation. Any adult can join by making a tax-deductible contribution of $10 or more. Membership is renewable annually.

Members receive a newsletter to keep them up to date on our activities and to inform them of relevant news, as well as a newsletter from our legislative advocacy affiliate, Singles Rights Lobby, to keep them posted on political and legislative news. Our website, which is updated daily, is the most authoritative source of information about single people on the Internet.

AASP uses educational programs to promote respect for the individual and to dispel myths and stereotypes about single adults, couples, parents, and families. When necessary, we file legal briefs in court cases to protect the freedom of choice of people to form the family unit or living arrangement that best suits their personal needs, and to enforce laws against marital status and sex discrimination. We also provide advice to elected officials, corporate leaders, and unions, about the needs of unmarried adults.

Whether you are single, divorced, separated, or widowed – even if you're married – join AASP to support equal rights for everyone regardless of marital status.

Please complete this form and return it to us with your check made payable to **AASP**.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail address _____

My tax-deductible contribution as indicated is enclosed:
[ ]$10 [ ]$25 [ ]$50 [ ]$100 [ ]other _____

If this is a gift, please indicate your name below so that we may advise the recipient who the donor is:

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AASP will not sell or share any name on our mailing list with outside sources.

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www.singlesrights.com

AASP

Post Office Box 65756
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Unmarried America

AASP's Newsletter for unmarried adults, couples, parents, and families

Vol. 1, No. 3 Spring Quarter March - May 2000

'Stop the Stigma' Campaign Moving Forward

The Old Testament speaks of the sins of the parents being visited upon their children. (Exodus 20:5) Believe it or not, but this punitive biblical admonition is being enforced today by antiquated statutes and unthinking judges in dozens of states in this country.

Even though premarital sex is now the norm in our society, many religious denominations still consider sexual intercourse between an unmarried man and woman to be a sin and unmarried cohabitation to be immoral. What some folks would find surprising is that several states still have laws penalizing consenting heterosexual sex in private or outlawing unmarried cohabitation.

In Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia, such "secular sins" are generally punished as misdemeanors carrying penalties of up to several months in jail.

But even more amazing is the fact that in 17 states there are statutes on the books which stigmatize children born to unmarried parents by labeling the offspring as "bastards" or "illegitimate" children. In 37 states, it is the judges who continue to brand these children as "illegitimate."

The American Association for Single People believes that every child is legitimate. Judicial and legislative name calling is unconstitutional and must cease.

AASP is launching a national campaign to stop the stigma associated with the unmarried status of parents and their children. AASP plans to write to the chief justice of the supreme court and attorney general of each offending state. Singles Rights Lobby will contact the Governor and legislative leaders in these jurisdictions.

Our request is simple: *stop the name calling*. Lawmakers should remove the term "bastard" from statutes. Legislators and judges should replace "illegitimate child" with more appropriate terminology. A phrase such as "child born to unmarried parents" would do.

Before we contact key officials in these states, however, we want to enlist the support of a variety of allies. We will ask a wide range of national, state, and local organizations to endorse our Stop the Stigma Campaign.

We want the support of legal and professional associations, women's groups, children's and human rights agencies, and single-parent associations, as well as religious, political, and corporate leaders.

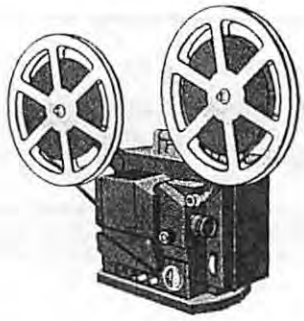
Society should show respect as each child is welcomed into this world. The dignity of all children should be honored, including the millions of babies born each year to unmarried parents.

As our Human Rights Agenda for Unmarried America shows, marital status discrimination is a pervasive problem in this country. Discrimination against unmarried adults in employment, housing, insurance, credit, and taxation is bad enough, but stigmatizing children as "bastards" or "illegitimates" is utterly indefensible.

We need your help. Please make a generous tax-deductible donation to AASP to help us implement this important project.

Mini Profiles

of some new members



Over the past few months, some political leaders and other public figures have joined the American Association for Single People.

To give AASP members a better sense of the broad-based support the organization is receiving, we are including a "mini profile" of some of our newest members on this page.

Ramona Ripston has served as executive director of the Southern California affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union for nearly 30 years. Although she has been unmarried during portions of her adult life, Ms. Ripston is currently married to Stephen R. Reinhardt, a federal judge on the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Joel Wachs has been a member of the Los Angeles City Council for more than 25 years. He graduated from Harvard Law School in 1964. Mr. Wachs, a single gay man, is a Republican running for mayor of Los Angeles in 2001.

Barry Gordon is a Democratic candidate for California State Assembly. He was the longest-serving president of the Screen Actors Guild, a national organization with more than 90,000 members. Mr. Gordon is married and lives in the Pasadena area.

Dawn Bradley Berry is a lawyer and the author of "The Divorce Recovery Sourcebook" published by Lowell House in 1998. Ms. Berry, who also wrote "The Domestic Violence Sourcebook," lives in New Mexico.

Lillian Carson is a renowned authority on child development and parenting. She is the author of "The Essential Grandparent's Guide to Divorce: Making a Difference in the Family" published by Health Communications in 1999. Dr. Carson lives with her husband in Montecito, California.

Merle James Yost is a licensed marriage, family, and child therapist. He is the author of "When Love Lasts Forever: Male Couples Celebrate Commitment" published by the Pilgrim Press in 1999. Dr. Yost lives with his life partner in Oakland, California.

Brad Coates is managing partner of Coates and Frey, the largest divorce law firm in Honolulu. He is the author of "Divorce with Decency" published by University of Hawaii Press in 1999.

Vera Peiffer is an analytical hypnotherapist who also runs workshops on Positive Thinking and Stress Management in England and Germany. She is the is author of "Positively Single: The Art of Being Single and Happy" published by Element Books in 1999. Ms. Peiffer is single and lives in London.

Erma Jean Lawson, Ph.D., is Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of North Texas. She served in the International Black Women's Congress. Dr. Lawson is coauthor of "Black Men and Divorce," published by Sage Publications in 1999.

Outreach Campaigns

Educating News Writers

Each day we scan the Internet for news stories on issues affecting unmarried individuals, couples, parents, and families. The most relevant articles are summarized and posted every few days on our website: www.singlepeople.org.

There is generally one major omission from these stories. The writer did not include a quote or comment from any national organization representing the interests of single people.

Journalists cannot be faulted for this. They, like most Americans, believe that the sole mission of singles groups is to entertain their members or find dates or spouses for them. They have no idea that an educational and advocacy group, such as the American Association for Single People, even exists.

We are beginning to educate news writers on this score. Each time we clip a relevant story, whether it deals with solo singles, domestic partners, or single parents, we write to the author, thank them for the story, and tell them about AASP. A brochure and newsletter are included.

We have also written to about 100 bureaus of the Associated Press to let the bureau chiefs know about the education and advocacy mission of AASP and that we are available for background information or comments on current events.

Inviting Book Authors

During 1999, more than 60 books were published on issues affecting solo singles, unmarried couples, single parents, divorced or divorcing people, and widows or widowers. We wrote to the publishers and obtained review copies of some 50 of these books. They are listed on our website.

As a follow-up, we decided to write to each author with an invitation to participate in AASP. Anyone who spends a year or so researching and writing a book probably has a keen interest in the well being of its intended audience. We asked the publishers to forward a letter and some materials about AASP to these authors.

So far, we have heard back from six of them. Our new author-members are listed on page two of this newsletter. We welcome them as an important addition to our membership base.

We will continue to reach out to book authors and invite them to join AASP. Please let us know if there is an author – or anyone else for that matter – whom you would like us to contact.

Contacting Political Activists

What group of Americans would be likely supporters of AASP and its Human Rights Agenda for Unmarried America? Single political activists seemed like a logical place to start.

We obtained a two-volume directory known as "Who's Who in American Politics." Thousands of elected and appointed officials and other political advocates are listed in this set, along with a short biography on each of them. Marital status is one of the categories listed.

We are currently in the process of writing to each of these political notables who are unmarried, about 2,000 of them in all. Some states have a dozen of these folks as residents, while others may have a hundred or more.

The first mailing went out two weeks ago and already we are getting favorable responses.

Today we heard from Inez Dobie Mueller, 84, a widow who lives in Texas City, Texas. From 1958 to 1978, Ms. Mueller was a delegate to Democratic State Convention in Texas. She is currently a member of the Wild Country Garden Club and the Wild Country Civic Club.

Last week we received a reply from Joel M. Fisher, 64, a divorced man who lives in Sherman Oaks, California. Mr. Fisher was involved in Republican Party politics for more than 30 years. He is active in the Episcopal Church.

We welcome Ms. Mueller and Mr. Fisher as new members of AASP and are pleased that they have endorsed our Human Rights Agenda for Unmarried America.

A Day in the Capitol of Vermont

by Thomas F. Coleman
Executive Director

On December 20, 1999, the Vermont Supreme Court issued its landmark decision in *Baker v. State*. The court ruled that it was unconstitutional for the state to deny same-sex couples the benefits and protections of marriage.

But the court did not order the government to issue marriage licenses to gay and lesbian couples. Instead, it concluded that the problem should be rectified by the state Legislature. Lawmakers were instructed to either legalize same-sex marriage or enact a comprehensive domestic partnership statute giving registered partners all of the benefits and obligations married couples enjoy under Vermont state law.

This issue was given high priority when the Legislature convened in January 2000. Leaders decided to give the House Judiciary Committee primary responsibility to fashion an appropriate response to *Baker v. State*.

For four weeks, the committee heard testimony from advocates, professors, experts, and government administrators. The testimony mostly focused on legalizing same-sex marriage or putting a constitutional amendment on the ballot to overturn the court's ruling. Virtually no one discussed the option of domestic partnership.

A public opinion survey of registered voters showed that most opposed legalizing gay marriage in Vermont. A straw poll of legislators revealed more support for a domestic partnership bill than a gay marriage bill.

Thomas Little, chair of the Judiciary Committee, needed a national authority on domestic partnership to help his committee wade through the legal and economic maze of this complicated area. When he discovered that I have 20 years of expertise in domestic partnership and family diversity, Little invited me to come to Vermont to testify before his panel.

I spent a week preparing written materials for the committee, producing eight separate booklets that came to a whopping 400 pages.

Despite bad weather and a series of transportation problems, I made it safely to Montpelier, the capitol of Vermont.

Although I was initially scheduled to testify for only 90 minutes on the morning of January 27, 2000, it soon became apparent that more time was required. Except for the testimony of a local law professor which consumed two hours, the 11-member committee spent most of the day picking my brain.

After I left Vermont, committee members mulled things over for a few more days, before a preliminary vote was taken on which approach would be adopted. Eight of the members voted to pursue the domestic partner path to reform.

However, the committee was more sharply divided over whether the bill should be for same-sex couples only or whether it should include heterosexual domestic partners too or even possibly unmarried blood relatives.

Some committee members said they would not vote for a bill that excludes heterosexuals while others insisted that it be limited to same-sex couples. Legislators who are not on the Judiciary Committee have started to take sides on this issue.

A decision was made to delay further action on the bill until lawmakers could consult with their constituents when they returned home at a recess during the week of March 7.

Lawmakers know that most government and private employers with domestic partnership employee benefits programs have gender-neutral plans. Whether Vermont will pass an inclusive law which allows any two unmarried adults to register as domestic partners remains to be seen.

For more information on the situation in Vermont, including materials I submitted to the Legislature, please visit our Internet website at: http://singlepeople.org/dp-vermont.htm.

Commentary

'Marriage Penalty' Tax Relief Bill Goes Too Far

By Froma Harrop

Memo to Congress: Beware the single taxpayer. You're really really pushing us to the edge. The latest provocation is a bill passed in the House that would end the "marriage penalty" in the tax code.

Some things in this bill make sense, and some do not. But the issue goes beyond matters of taxation. It centers on some highly questionable assumptions about the societal value of married Americans versus single Americans.

Allow me to backtrack. For years, conservatives (and others) have complained bitterly about the marriage penalty. This is an oddity in the tax code that forces many couples to pay higher taxes than they would if they were single. These tend to be working couples in which each partner earns roughly the same amount. The bill just passed would fix the inequity. That is only fair.

The critics of the marriage penalty, however, conveniently neglect to note that about 40 percent of couples filing jointly receive what could be called a "marriage bonus." These couples pay less in taxes than they would as single people, and they tend to live in high-income households, the sort of setup in which an executive spouse makes enough money to allow the partner to stay at home.

The House bill not only leaves the bonus intact, but it piles onto it by raising the income level that allows couples to remain in the 15 percent tax bracket. As things now stand, you have to be in the top quarter of taxpayers to get pushed into a bracket higher than 15 percent. Therefore, this part of the law benefits the well-to-do and no one else.

Only the Republican House leadership could think up legislation that gives two-thirds of the tax savings to couples with the best incomes - and do it in the name of helping working people. Nice job, boys.

Asked why he was boosting the fortunes of the already fortunate, the bill's architect, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Archer, had an answer at the ready. "We unabashedly help stay-at-home moms," the Texas Republican said.

I think they should be abashed and worse. Nowhere does the legislation carry a proviso requiring that anyone stay at home with the kids or that they even have any. It is based solely on marital, not parental, status.

Indeed, the savings in taxes can allow rich moms to give the nanny more hours of employment, thus reducing their stay-at-home time. Archer might have named it "The Trophy Wife Freedom Act."

This kind of thing gets through Congress because whenever politicians mention the word "marriage," they expect the audience to imagine a CinemaScope picture of Mom, Dad and freckle-faced kids.

Nearly everyone knows, however, that many married people are not raising children, and many single people do. And other single people without children, or whose children are adults, often provide more family value than do their married relatives.

Some examples among my acquaintances: I know a gay guy whose brother recently died, leaving a young family. He has taken over, providing the widow and children with both emotional and financial support.

A good friend who has never married is now paying for her nephew's college education because the boy's father is allergic to work. She also supports her aging mother.

My widowed sister is caring for two young children. And a good number of spouse-less friends, who are also grandparents, pick up many bills for younger members of their families.

The point here is not to emote over the wonderful things single people do for their families. It is simply to note that being married is not a condition for making the kinds of social contributions that deserve a tax break, let alone an assurance of it.

If the goal is to help children, many ways exist in the tax code to do that. The books already include exemptions for dependents, child tax credits, etc. Meanwhile, people without children pay taxes that finance schools and other programs that help younger generations. That's as it should be.

But then our members of Congress start dreaming up tax-break schemes designed to, in their words, "reward marriage." (For people who say they oppose social engineering through the tax code, conservatives have gotten pretty good at it.)

Bashing single people is not brilliant politics either. About 47 percent of all Americans over the age of 15, about 98 million people, are not married. That's a lot of voters.

Froma Harrop is a columnist at the Providence (R.I.) Journal-Bulletin. Reprinted with permission.

Letters Received

From a Single Taxpayer

I was talking with a co-worker, also single, about how it was high time that single people establish a lobby to promote single rights.

Glad to see the AASP lives!

I would like to emphasize that the current federal income tax law does discriminate against single people.

The federal government, when offering assistance to people usually determines eligibility by using poverty income levels of the individual/household. Does federal tax policy give assistance to people? Yes. Does federal tax policy determine eligibility by using poverty income levels of the individual/household? No.

If tax policy isn't a social program, it sure behaves like one with a multitude of credits, and the biggy - the marriage bonus - but, tax policy ignores equal treatment under the law. Proof of this is shown by applying a standard of need used by federal assistance programs. This is the poverty income level based on household size.

All one has to do to prove inequality is get the poverty income level for a one-person household and the poverty income level for a two-person household - from the Bureau of Census - and get out the Federal income tax booklet and look at the tables for a one-person household and a two-person household. Then, compare the point, as a percentage of the respective poverty income levels, at which the federal income tax kicks in, or goes to a higher tax bracket. By way of example, I used the 1995 figures below.

[A] single person will start paying federal income tax at 80.7% of the single poverty income level! And the married couple?

Married couples do not pay federal income tax until they are at 112.6% of their poverty income level. This comparison is based on the basic federal income tax schedule. It does not take into account the multitude of family credits.

Then there are the brackets...the 15% marginal rate...28% marginal rate...etc... as is the case for the 15% bracket, single people living alone are forced into the 28% bracket, in terms of their poverty income level (the standard of need) at lower poverty income levels than married couples. Single people enter the 28% marginal tax bracket at 3.75 times their poverty income, while married couples are at 4.93 times their poverty income level before their income is taxed at the 28% marginal rate. In other words, single people shoulder a disproportionate burden...even in the face of poverty statistics which indicate high poverty levels for single people.

The single person, at the end of the 15% marginal tax rate, after paying federal income tax, has after federal tax income equal to 3.31 times their poverty income level. The married couple has 4.36 times their poverty income level! So much for equal treatment under the law.

Basically, slavery still exists in the United States - please meet slaves Joe and Jane Working Single, Living Alone.

Congress awards dual-earner married -couples, with a poverty level of 1-2%, with assistance funded by Joe or Jane Working Single, Living Alone. Who cares if Joe or Jane Working Single, Living Alone can't afford to give such help? Congress doesn't. Congress not only rewards those who can afford to maintain a household, it makes those least able, help them do it!

All that I ask is equal treatment under the tax code. Taxation according to the poverty income measure, as a standard of need of the household, would be a step in that direction.

– G. Green

From a Canadian Supporter

I applaud your work in the area of equality rights. You have a good cause. . .

Our Supreme Court recently ruled that democratic governments have no right to intervene in personal lifestyle choices, because to take sides and favor any option (one could read in marital status . . .) is a violation of a basic right to autonomy.

That may be of use to you as you pursue this international issue.

– B. Smith

Demographic News

Definition of 'family' is expanding

A story published in the Seattle Times on February 22, 2000, says that changing lifestyles are causing people to define "family" in a broader way.

"Were talking about profound changes," says Tom Smith, director of the General Social Survey conducted annually by the University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center. "You can actually look at the course of human history and talk about only a few shifts in basic family types, and we're seeing one of those shifts right here - it's historic."

Marriage has declined as the primary institution under which households are organized and children are raised, he notes. Growing numbers of women are delaying marriage and childbirth or possibly never marrying or having children, and other diverse living arrangements are flourishing, with no decline in sight.

Smith's survey, "The Emerging 21st-Century American Family," revealed these trends, expected to continue:

• By 1998, only 56% of adults were married, compared with nearly 75% in 1972.

• Because of high divorce rates, cohabitation and single parenthood, a majority of families rearing children in the next century probably will not include the children's original two parents. In 1998, just 51% lived in a two-parent household compared with 73% in 1972.

• The percentage of U.S. households composed of married couples with children dropped from 45% in the 1970s to 26% in 1998.

• Children living with single parents increased from less than one in 20 in 1972 to almost one in five in 1998, while the percentage of children living in a blended household more than doubled, from 3.8% to 8.6%.

• The number of households with unmarried adults and no children more than doubled in that time period, to 33%, becoming the nation's most common living arrangement.

More kids live with cohabiting parents

According to a story in the New York Times on February 15, 2000, a new study reveals that the number of cohabiting couples, including those with children, is increasing rapidly.

The study was done by the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan. It found that about two in five children will spend some time living with their mother and her unmarried partner. Less frequently, children will live with their father and his partner.

"I think that the public will be surprised that almost half of all children will be likely to experience this type of household," said Pamela J. Smock, the sociologist who prepared the study.

The report also suggested that the number of children believed to be living in single-parent homes is exaggerated. About 40 percent of children born outside of marriage are actually living in homes with two adults, the report said.

"A large share of children born to supposedly 'single' mothers today are born into two-parent households," Dr. Smock wrote. "Moreover, the widely cited increase in recent years in nonmarital childbearing is largely due to cohabitation, and not to births to women living without a partner."

The overall analysis found that cohabitation – both before and in lieu of marriage – has become so commonplace that it is practically the norm. Among its findings:

• 56% of all marriages between 1990 and 1994 were preceded by cohabitation. From 1965 to 1974, that figure was about 10%.

• From 1987 to 1995, the number of women in their late 30's who reported having cohabited rose to 48% from 30%.

• 55% of people who live together end up marrying, but 40% later divorce.

• About half of divorced people who live together have children in the household, as do 35 % of couples who have never been married.

Join AASP or Give Someone a Gift Membership

The American Association for Single People is a nonprofit and nonpartisan tax-exempt corporation. Any adult can join by making a tax-deductible contribution of $10 or more. Membership is renewable annually.

Members receive a newsletter to keep them up to date on our activities and to inform them of relevant news, as well as a newsletter from our legislative advocacy affiliate, Singles Rights Lobby, to keep them posted on political and legislative news. Our website, which is updated several times a week, is the most authoritative source of information about single people on the Internet.

AASP uses educational programs to promote respect for the individual and to dispel myths and stereotypes about single adults, couples, parents, and families. When necessary, we file legal briefs in court cases to protect the freedom of choice of people to form the family unit or living arrangement that best suits their personal needs, and to enforce laws against marital status and sex discrimination. We also provide advice to elected officials, corporate leaders, and unions, about the needs of unmarried adults.

Whether you are single, divorced, separated, or widowed – even if you're married – join AASP to support equal rights for everyone regardless of marital status.

Please complete this form and return it to us with your check made payable to AASP.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail address _____

My tax-deductible contribution as indicated is enclosed:
[ ]$10 [ ]$25 [ ]$50 [ ]$100 [ ]other ____

If this is a gift, please indicate your name below so that we may advise the recipient who the donor is:

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Unmarried America

AASP's Newsletter for unmarried adults, couples, parents, and families

Vol. 1, No. 4 Summer Quarter June - August 2000

Singles-Friendly Workplace Campaign Begins

Single adults make up 40 percent of the nation's full-time workforce. And they head up about 47 percent of the nation's households.

Despite these large numbers, unmarried workers are often treated unfairly by public employers, private companies, and even unions.

Disgruntled workers often have no legal recourse since, like most states, federal law does not prohibit marital status discrimination in employment. Grievance procedures are often of little use to unionized workers since many bargaining agreements are silent on this issue.

Is there a conspiracy against unmarried workers by employers, unions, and government officials? Not really. It's just that single people have been overlooked when economic pie is being sliced in corporate board rooms or at bargaining tables. It is easy to overlook people who are not politically organized.

But times are changing. And single people are beginning to speak up. Single mothers and gay couples have probably complained the loudest, and as a result, new programs have been instituted to meet their needs. Child care, flex-time, and domestic partner benefits are examples.

The rallying cry has been "equal pay for equal work" and "respect for diversity." But these principles are not being applied across the board so that all workers are treated equally regardless of their marital or family status.

Domestic partnership benefits programs should apply to same *and* opposite sex couples who meet eligibility criteria. A single worker caring for a blood relative should be able to designate that person as a benefits beneficiary.

But the workers who are really being short changed are the "solo singles" who do not have a spouse, domestic partner, or dependent children. Their reduced benefits package is, in effect, forcing them to subsidize the benefits of married couples and parents with children.

Because these issues are of great concern to unmarried workers, AASP is launching a Singles-Friendly Workplace Campaign. It will have a special section on our website.

We will conduct an investigation and then develop strategies designed to improve the situation for all unmarried workers, including solo singles, single parents, and unmarried couples.

As data in this newsletter documents, single people generally make less money than married people, have a higher unemployment rate, and receive less benefits compensation. We plan to bring these issues to the attention of corporations, union leaders, and elected officials.

Tell us if we have overlooked any problems single workers experience. At your request, we could send this newsletter to your employer, keeping your identity confidential if you wish.

Your economic future is at stake. Please make a donation to AASP to support this project. Ask your co-workers to join. Participate!

Marital Status of Adults in the United States
Population, Household, and Labor Force Statistics

Marital Status of Adults

Marital Status	Number*	%
Total Population 18+	195.4	100.0
Married	116.5	59.6
Spouse present	109.2	55.9
Spouse absent	7.3	3.7
Unmarried	78.9	40.4
Widowed	13.7	7.0
Divorced	19.3	9.9
Never married	45.9	23.5

March 1997 Current Population Survey, United States Census Bureau * Numbers in millions

Marital Status of Adult Workers

Marital Status	Number*	%
Total workers	94.6	100.0
Married	56.5	59.7
Men	35.4	37.4
Women	21.1	22.3
Unmarried**	38.1	40.3
Men	19.9	21.1
Women	18.2	19.2

January 2000 Issue of "Employment & Earnings," Bureau of Labor Statistics / ** Unmarried includes never married, divorced, widowed, and separated. *Numbers in millions

Households by Type

Type	Number*	%
Total	101.0	100.0
Married couples	53.6	53.0
With children	25.1	24.8
Without children	28.5	28.2
Unmarried	47.5	47.0
Single parents	9.6	9.5
Adult Relatives	7.1	7.0
One-person	25.4	25.1
Unrelated adults	5.4	5.4

March 1997 Current Population Survey, United States Census Bureau / * Numbers in millions

Unemployment & Marital Status

Marital Status	Number*	%
Total 16 years +	3,066	4.1
Married	990	2.2
Previously married	411	4.6
Never married	1,665	7.8
Total 25 years +	1,870	3.0
Married	925	2.1
Previously married	393	4.5
Never married	553	4.9

Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Unemployed persons by marital status, race, age, and sex," 1999 / Previously married includes widowed, divorced, separated / * Numbers in thousands

From traditional . . . to domestic partners . . . to extended families . . . to cafeteria-style benefits

In the 1950s and 1960s, employee benefits plans were based upon a traditional family model. Employers assumed that everyone would marry and that couples would consist of a wage-earner husband and home-maker wife with children.

Based on this assumption, employee benefits plans provided coverage for a worker, a spouse, and dependent children. Singles were ignored.

Then came the social and sexual revolution of the 1970s and 1980s. Women entered the workforce in larger numbers than ever before. Adults delayed marriage or did not marry at all. Couples lived together prior to marriage or simply cohabited without ever marrying. Many married couples chose not to have children. Many single adults had children prior to or without marriage.

These social changes put pressure on personnel managers to redesign employee benefits plans to respond to the needs of an increasingly diverse workforce.

Domestic partner benefits plans emerged. For many years, the plans were gender neutral and open to all unmarried couples – same-sex and opposite-sex partners alike.

Then came the push for same-sex marriage, with a major media on gay couples pressing for change and leaving unmarried heterosexual couples in the background. Many employers responded to the "squeaky wheel" and instituted domestic partner plans limited to same-sex couples.

Then Bank of America took a bold step by instituting an "extended family" benefits program, eliminating the issue of sex as a focal point of employee benefits compensation.

Under its program, each employee may select one adult household member as a benefits beneficiary – either a spouse, a domestic partner of the same or opposite sex, or a dependent blood relative.

Other financial institutions soon adopted this broad and inclusive model, including Bank Boston, Fleet Bank, Nations Bank, Merrill Lynch, Prudential Insurance, American Century Investments, and Citi Group.

But despite these progressive changes, one group of employees has been neglected by all of these programs – single people.

Where Bank of America has left off, Xerox Corporation has taken the lead in providing "equal pay for equal work" and showing respect for diversity.

Within a few years, Xerox plans to compensate its 47,000 U.S. employees based solely on their jobs, not the particular configuration of their families.

"Ultimately," explains far-sighted benefits director Patricia Nazemetz, "we want to be indifferent to what your family status is-- just like, quite frankly, we're indifferent to that when we give you your paycheck."

Every Xerox worker – single, married, straight or gay--would receive an annual lump-sum allowance that could be spent on a vast cafeteria of individual and family benefits.

Since benefits compensation accounts for up to 30% of a worker's overall pay, single workers really suffer when benefits are not distributed fairly. The Xerox plan is one way to fix this.

Equal pay for equal work? Pay based on productivity and merit? Respect for diversity? Acknowledging the value of single people?. How revolutionary!

Single workers everywhere would surely benefit if other companies were to copy Xerox.

Being Single in the Workplace

by Dr. Michael Abruzzese

There's a mythology about being single. Fueled by advertisements, movies, television shows and perhaps encouraged by our own idealizations and selective nostalgia, the single life is supposed to be great. It's not as wonderful as the fantasy claims, of course, but the single life has its joys.

Working isn't always one of them, however. Compared to the current emphasis given to work and "family" issues, those workers without families can feel left out of the corporate family. In some cases their contributions can be marginalized by their married cohorts and they can even face overt discrimination by management.

Consider the more subtle ways this can happen. It's always true that management has a certain world view of what an employee "should" be in terms of productivity, commitment, trustworthiness and so on. In poorly run companies, this view is never fully articulated, but is more a series of "unwritten rules" that workers have to guess at to follow. In better-run companies, the rules are clear and straightforward with little or no guesswork needed. When something is fuzzy, there's a mechanism in place to clear thing up.

Business has only recently begun to realize that treating workers well is not only just plain good, it's also good business. But this world view varies with the company and the movement away from not trusting employees to empowering them is still in its infancy. Due to that, many a family-friendly policy is started before its true impact on all employees is fully understood.

Take flex hours, for example. Flex hours are a real boon to many families and when management offers such a perk, it's no surprise when a family man or woman wants to take advantage of it to spend more time with his or her family.

But why would a single person want to take advantage of it? Why would single employees want to work fewer hours? Might they be starting a business of their own? Working part time for a competitor? Or maybe the employee just isn't committed to the job or company any more? After all, goes the reasoning, a family man or woman has obvious obligations, but what obligations does a single employee have?

As any single person can tell you: Plenty. Basically, single people have all the obligations that family people have except they have to tackle them all without a spouse to handle half the workload. Any single parent knows that burden. And just because a worker is single doesn't mean there's no partner or significant other sharing the worker's life.

To compensate for these little details, businesses have begun to move past work and family issues and expand their world view to encompass "work and life" issues. This is a great step forward as far as company policy goes, but it doesn't account for the more subtle ways in which single employees are faced with different expectations than are married employees.

In smaller companies, for example, where overtime is necessary and workers few, who is expected to work late -- the single worker or the married one? In management planning, is it the single guy who's seen as solid, reliable and able to handle multi-tasking or is it the family man with children?

In strategy meetings, is the single woman who's well groomed, immaculately dressed and on time seen as having had put the same effort into being at the meeting as is the married woman with children who's similarly dressed, groomed and on time?

In an informal survey taken at a recent management seminar, fully 10 percent of the participants identified themselves primarily as single people in their corporation rather than as marketers, managers, change agents and so on.

It's striking that of all the roles that these professionals were called upon to play each day, they most strongly felt that being single was the strongest psychological role for them in the company and what defined them in the work place. It is in helping single employees confront this psychological role and its perceived corporate limitations that management can make a valuable and meaningful contribution to the entire workforce.

Women and other minorities, of course, have known for years that they've had to work twice as hard just to be accorded the same regard as the archetypal white, married male. Single people are learning the same thing and management will have come a long way when it can recognize and equalize the subtle ways in which all their workers can feel valued as persons as well as contributors to the corporate vision.

Michael Abruzzese, Ph.D., is a clinical instructor at Harvard Medical School, director of the Institute for Cognitive and Behavioral Psychology Inc. and a consulting psychologist in Boston, Mass.

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And the Survey Says . . .

A cover story in a 1996 issue of Personnel Journal – now called Workforce – reported that 81 percent of readers surveyed believe that single employees end up carrying more of the burden than their married coworkers, not only by subsidizing benefits of colleagues with dependents, but also by filling in when the army of parents goes home.

Source: Ruth Padawer, "U.S. may offer parents pro-tection from job bias," *Bergen Record*, 5-27-99.

Notable Quotes . . .

"As companies step forward to help parents juggle home and family, their childless colleagues increasingly resent getting saddled with the load. They say they work longer hours; rarely use sick days; are there late at night when a client calls back with problems; and often carry the weight of work during summer months or maternity leave.

"CEO's are noticing. Executives say this of one of the hottest issues in corporate boardrooms today. For them, the issue is finding an equitable – and legal – way to compensate staff with very different needs and equally different productivity."

Kristen Bole, "Working parents take time for the kids, while resentful singles pick up the slack," *San Francisco Business Times*, May 24, 1999.

"When I first started talking about this issue, there was a perception that single people and childless people were this very tiny population, some sort of obscure interest group.

"In fact, Census Bureau statistics show that single, childless people are 30 percent of the work force. For the first time in U.S. history the percentage of households occupied by one person – 25 percent – is exactly the same percentage of households occupied by a mom or dad and one or more kids."

Interview with workplace consultant Mary Young by Columnist Amy Gage, "A Call for Balance," *Pioneer Press*, June 14, 1998.

"People without spouse and children are seeking benefits that are better suited to their lifestyles. Employment law experts warn that discrimination suits based on parental status are likely to emerge.

"'As a result, employers will have no choice but to explore a wider variety of work/life benefits instead of work/family benefits,' said Michael R. Losey, president and CEO of the Society of Human Resource Management."

"Future Workplaces Must Welcome Myriad Lifestyles, SHRM Says," www.businessknowhow.com.

Marital Status and Earnings for Men

Men of all ages earn more money if they are married. In 1998, three quarters of never-married men ages 15 to 24 earned less than $10,000 in the previous year. In contrast, only a fourth of married men earned less than $10,000. The same pattern occurs among men ages 35 to 44.

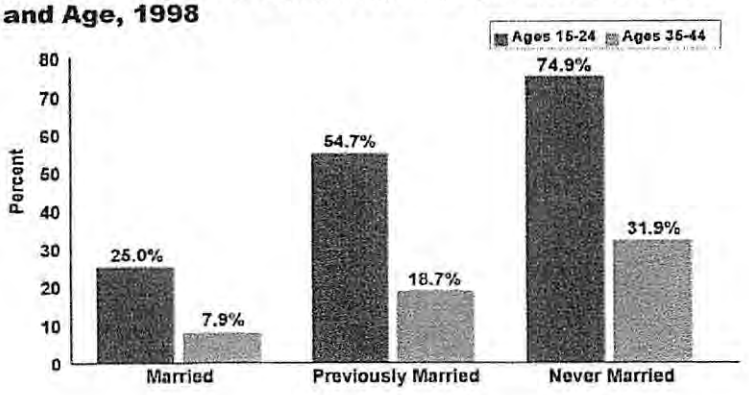
Data for 1998

Men ages 15-24

	Less-than-$10,000	$10,000-$19,999	$20,000-$29,999	$30,000-$39,999	$40,000-or-more	Total
Married	359	481	374	105	122	1,440
%	25.0	33.4	26.0	7.3	8.4	100.0
Previously married	113	29	47	9	10	207
%	54.7	13.8	22.5	4.3	4.7	100.0
Never married	13,091	2,491	1,220	418	264	17,484
%	74.9	14.2	7.0	2.4	1.5	100.0
Total	13,563	3,000	1,641	532	396	19,131
%	70.9	15.7	8.6	2.8	2.1	100.0
Men ages 35-44						
Married	1,156	1,459	2,416	2,684	6,857	14,571
%	7.9	10.0	16.6	18.4	47.1	100.0
Previously married	654	545	727	544	1,019	3,490
%	18.7	15.6	20.8	15.6	29.2	100.0
Never married	1,305	659	744	504	883	4,096
%	31.9	16.1	18.2	12.3	21.6	100.0
Total	3,116	2,662	3,888	3,731	8,759	22,156
%	14.1	12.0	417.5	16.8	39.5	100.0

Source: AmeriStat - Population Reference Bureau *and* Social Science Data Network

Men Earning Less Than $10,000, by Marital Status and Age, 1998



Marital Status and Earnings for Women

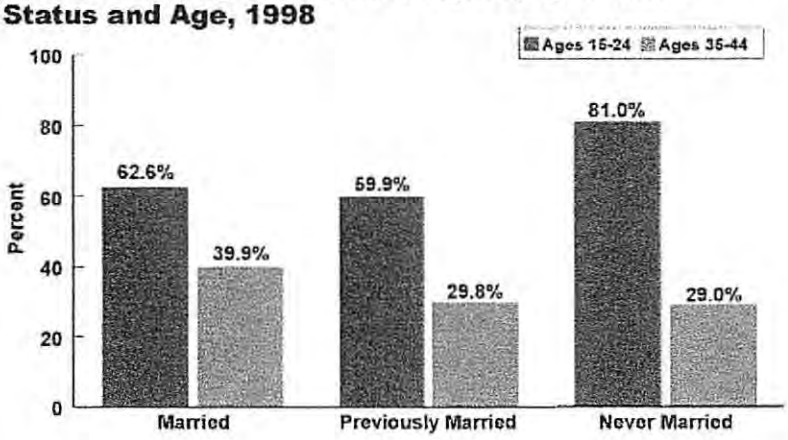
Like married men, married women have higher personal earnings than women who are previously or never married, but only among the younger age groups. Over 80% of young, never-married women (ages 15 to 24) earned less than $10,000 in 1998, compared with only 6% of young, married women. However, among women ages 35 to 44, never-married women had higher personal earnings than their married counterparts.

Data for 1999

Women ages 15-24	Less-than-$10,000	$10,000-$19,999	$20,000-$29,999	$30,000-$39,999	$40,000-or-more	Total
Married	1,522	516	303	64	27	2,432
%	62.6	21.2	12.5	2.6	1.1	100.0
Previously married	277	112	58	11	4	462
%	59.9	24.1	12.5	2.5	1.0	100.0
Never married	12,873	2,019	719	166	120	15,897
%	81.0	12.7	4.5	1.0	0.8	100.0
Total	14,672	2,647	1,080	241	151	18,791
%	78.1	14.1	5.7	1.3	0.8	100.0
Women ages 35-44						
Married	6,083	2,870	2,500	1,656	2,141	15,250
%	39.9	18.8	16.4	10.9	14.0	100.0
Previously married	1,306	960	874	581	657	4,378
%	29.8	21.9	20.0	13.3	15.0	100.0
Never married	857	601	499	458	545	2,959
%	29.0	20.3	16.9	15.5	18.4	100.0
Total	8,245	4,431	3,873	2,695	3,343	22,588
%	36.5	19.6	17.1	11.9	14.8	100.0

Source: AmeriStat - Population Reference Bureau *and* Social Science Data Network

Women Earning Less Than $10,000, by Marital Status and Age, 1998



Singles-Friendly Workplace Campaign Details

Fortune 500 Survey

We are conducting a survey of the Fortune 500 companies to determine if they have singles-friendly workplaces.

We will send this issue of our newsletter and other materials to the CEO of each company, with a request to forward them to the Human Resource Manager for a response.

We will ask several questions to determine if the company's personnel policies and benefits programs are fair to unmarried employees.

The results of the survey will be published in a future newsletter and on our website.

Singles-Friendly Concerns

✔ Does the EEO policy protect workers from discrimination on the basis of marital status?

✔ Is the company aware of the number and percent of unmarried workers it is employing?

✔ Does the company's diversity program mention single people?

✔ Does the company's work-life program take into consideration the needs of unmarried workers?

✔ Does the company have a domestic partner benefits program, and if so, is it open to same and opposite-sex couples?

✔ Are solo singles given equal benefits compensation to employees who have spouses or domestic partners?

✔ Can unmarried employees name an adult blood relative who lives with them as a benefits beneficiary?

Union Survey

We will send a similar survey to the national headquarters of many large unions, such as AFSCME, SEIU, UAW, Teamsters, AFL-CIO, etc.

Single workers are entitled to fair representation when it comes to bargaining for benefits and working conditions.

Are these unions taking the needs of unmarried workers into consideration at the bargaining table? How do the unions treat their own unmarried employees?

Does the union itself have a non-discrimination policy that includes marital status?

Join AASP or Give Someone a Gift Membership

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Members receive a newsletter to keep them up to date on our activities and to inform them of relevant news, as well as a newsletter from our legislative advocacy affiliate, Singles Rights Lobby, to keep them posted on political and legislative news. Our website, which is updated several times a week, is the most authoritative source of information about single people on the Internet.

AASP uses educational programs to promote respect for the individual and to dispel myths and stereotypes about single adults, couples, parents, and families. When necessary, we file legal briefs in court cases to protect the freedom of choice of people to form the family unit or living arrangement that best suits their personal needs, and to enforce laws against marital status and sex discrimination. We also provide advice to elected officials, corporate leaders, and unions, about the needs of unmarried adults.

Whether you are single, divorced, separated, or widowed – even if you're married – join AASP to support equal rights for everyone regardless of marital status.

Please complete this form and return it to us with your check made payable to **AASP**.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail address _____

My tax-deductible contribution as indicated is enclosed:
[ ]$10 [ ]$25 [ ]$50 [ ]$100 [ ]other _____

If this is a gift, please indicate your name below so that we may advise the recipient who the donor is:

_____

AASP will not sell or share our mailing list with outside sources.

AASP
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR SINGLE PEOPLE

UnmarriedAmerica

News for unmarried workers, consumers, taxpayers and voters

Volume 2, No. 1 Fall Quarter Sept. - Nov. 2000

A Diverse Group of Elected Officials Join AASP

A broad and representative spectrum of American adults – that would be the most appropriate way to describe the cadre of elected officials who have been joining the American Association for Single People.

Several months ago, we started contacting current and former elected officials – federal, state, and local – to invite them to participate in this newly emerging cause. We reached out to those who have never married, as well as to those who were divorced or widowed.

We also contacted some married officials who had sponsored legislation or other initiatives to eliminate marital status discrimination or promote equal rights for unmarried individuals or couples.

These officials were invited to become honorary members of AASP – leaders who would publicly stand with us as we build the first national organization promoting the well being and human rights of unmarried adults, couples, parents, and families.

The results are encouraging. We now have a core group of members who are elected officials and political activists from all parts of the nation.

This newsletter is intended to introduce some of our new politically active members to you. We also are sharing an article written by one of them.

What this newsletter demonstrates is that our organization, and our cause, have a broad base of support among a wide variety of unmarried adults.

These officials represent several age cohorts – young, middle aged, and older adults. Some have never been married, while others are divorced or widowed. While some are not associated with an organized religion, others belong to a wide range of faiths and religious denominations, including Catholics, Protestants, and Jews.

These officials are affiliated with both major political parties. The group includes current and former members of the all three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial. Some represent their constituents at the federal or state levels of government, while others are local officials.

We have a relatively representative mix of Americans when it comes to gender, race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. We have nearly an even division of men and women. Several are African Americans while others are Hispanic or Latino. A few are gay or lesbian. Many of them are parents or grandparents.

We would like to officially welcome these elected and appointed officials as new members of AASP. We also encourage all of our members to consider nominating public officials with whom they are acquainted as honorary members of our organization.

Please submit your nominations to us by e-mail or postal mail along with information on how to contact the nominee and a summary of why you think they should receive an honorary membership. With your help, our political base of support will keep growing.

End Martial Status Discrimination

by Florida State Representative Tracy Stafford

There are many forms of families these days. The one-income household is no longer common. Even when children become adults and have jobs, they are staying with family members longer. Many of our seniors eventually move in with younger adult relatives. Adult brothers and sisters may make a home together for financial reasons.

Those real life situations have uncovered the fact that millions of unmarried Floridians are treated unequally under Florida law. Those unmarried adults who are in a committed relationship, partnership, or living arrangement face marital status discrimination on a daily basis. We have entered into a new area of prejudice and discrimination based not on who we are, but how we choose to live our lives. The surge of discrimination must end, which is why I decided to file a bill to move forward in the fight against bigotry.

The bill I am sponsoring (House Bill 29) and it's companion, which is sponsored by Senator Meek (Senate Bill 686) will give people who live in the same household with each other the opportunity to obtain dependent benefits from health care plans. This bill will allow an older parent living with a child, a young adult living at home, roommates, or committed same sex and opposite sex partners to be eligible for benefits. The same premium now required for dependents in traditional families would be charged for the additional person covered under this bill.

As we all know the lack of health care coverage for Floridians is a serious problem in this state. Without the ability to pay for medical care, people can experience the serious medical problems and complications that come from failing to obtain care. Once these problems become emergencies, they are much more costly and are often paid for by the taxpayers. Without, health care coverage, people who do seek care can be financially ruined by the large debts they incur.

This bill insures that members of a "domestic partnership" would be permitted the same health care facility visitation privileges that immediate family members now have. People should not be denied access to their loved ones even if they are not directly related. Where would we all be in life without our network of friends, supporters, and people along the way who have held us up when we needed it. Especially in Florida, where so many people leave their families and move here to retire, go to school, or work. Sometimes, our greatest allies are not our blood relatives, but are those people who have chosen to make us a part of their family.

Eligibility for the above mentioned benefits is dependent upon both members entering into a "domestic partnership". Each person must agree to be responsible for the other's food and shelter, and must be at least 18 years of age. The partners must register with the state and ensure that they meet the outlined requirements. If either of the partners want to dissolve the arrangement, that partner must file notice with the state that they are terminating the partnership. Once a partnership is terminated, neither partner is allowed to register with another "domestic partnership" for at least 30 days.

At the beginning of the last century women fought for equality, respect, and the right to vote. People from every corner of this country fought hard for civil liberty and the rights of Americans of African descent, in the middle of the last century. Both of these struggles for equal rights continue into the present day. This century we enter a new struggle to eliminate bias based on marital status. While each of these struggles are separate in their own right, they each have common characteristics that unite them together. Discrimination and prejudice should not be tolerated on any level or in any form.

The availability of health care, hospital visitation, and disability insurance should not be denied on the grounds of sexual orientation, family formation, or nontraditional relationships. Other state and local governments have passed similar legislation. The results have been positive. The Florida Legislature has the opportunity to ensure that none of our citizens are denied these fundamental rights and benefits.

Tracy Stafford (D-Wilton Manors) wrote this article in March 2000, just prior to joining AASP. Stafford, 52, has been a state Representative since 1990. Prior to that he was mayor of Wilton Manors. Mr. Stafford's religious affiliation is Protestant.

Rose Ann Antich
State Senator
Indiana

Democrat
Widowed
Catholic

Ms. Antich, a radio and television personality and lecturer, is the ranking minority member of the state Senate. She has been a senator since 1990. She was a member of the Merriville Town Council from 1982 to 1987.

Nancy J. Caffyn
State Representative
Massachusetts

Republican
Divorced
Lutheran

Ms. Caffyn, 66, has been a state representative since 1999. She was the mayor of South Windsor, CT, from 1977 to 1979, and a selectman of Mashpee, MA, for the past nine years. She was the owner of an industrial farm until 1984.

Almetta Armstrong
Board of Education
Montgomery County, NC

Democrat
Single
Baptist

Ms. Armstrong is also a director of the state School Board Assn. She has been a member of the Montgomery County Democratic Caucus since 1977. She is president of the Montgomery County Retired Teachers Association.

John R. Cloutier
State Representative
New Hampshire

Democrat
Single
Catholic

Mr. Cloutier, 42, has been secretary of the Claremont-Unity Democratic Committee since 1991 and secretary of New Hampshire Citizens Action since 1991. He is a security officer with Pinkerton Security Services.

Julie Brown
State Representative
New Hampshire

Republican
Divorced
Protestant

Ms. Brown, 65, is a member of the Children and Family Law Committee of the House, She has been chair of the Strafford County Community Action Program and chair of the Rochester Red Cross, both since 1991. She has four children.

Diane DeCarlo
State Delegate
Maryland

Democrat
Widowed

Ms. DeCarlo, 54, has been a State Delegate since 1995 and is now the Deputy Majority Whip. She is a member of the National Rifle Association and the Maryland Troupers Association. She has two children and five grandchildren.

Lesley Devine
City Councilwoman
Calabassas, CA

Democrat
Single

Ms. Devine, 58, is an independent environmental consultant. She was a founding member of the City of Calabassas in 1991 and has served on the city council ever since. Ms. Devine has two children.

Robert C. Goetsch
State Representative
Wisconsin

Republican
Widowed

Mr. Goetsch, 67, is a farmer. He has been a state Representative since 1982 and chairs the Committee on Criminal Justice. He belongs to the American Legion and the Elks. Mr. Goetsch has two children.

Frank DiCicco
City Councilman
Philadelphia, PA

Democrat
Divorced
Roman Catholic

Mr. DiCicco, 54, has been a member of the city council since 1996. He is a director of the Italian Market Civic Association and president of the Citizens Alliance for Better Neighborhoods. Mr. DiCicco has two children.

James K. Hahn
City Attorney
Los Angeles, CA

Democrat
Married

Mr. Hahn, 50, has served since 1985 as an elected City Attorney. Prior to that he was the city controller for Los Angeles. He is currently a candidate for the office of Mayor. Mr. Hahn has two children.

Tom K. Duane
State Senator
New York

Democrat
Single

Mr. Duane, 45, has been a state Senator since 1999. Prior to that he was a member of the New York City Council. He was a founder of the Chelsea Gay Association and the founder of Chelsea for Choice.

Sheila E. Hixson
State Delegate
Maryland

Democrat
Divorced
Lutheran

Ms. Hixson, 67, has been a state Delegate since 1976 and she currently chairs the Ways and Means Committee. She is the president of Women Legislators of Maryland. Ms. Hixson has four children.

Harold James
State Representative
Pennsylvania

Democrat
Single
Baptist

Mr. James, 58, has been a state Representative since 1989. He was a founder of the National Black Police Association and has received numerous law enforcement awards, including Police Officer of the Year and Police Valor Award.

Sheila Kuehl
State Assemblywoman
California

Democrat
Single

Ms. Kuehl, 59, has been a legislator since 1994 and is one of two openly-gay California state lawmakers. She was a founder of the California Women's Law Center. Ms. Kuehl has received numerous awards as an outstanding legislator.

Howard Kenner
State Representative
Illinois

Democrat
Single

Mr. Kenner, 42, is the chair of the Black Caucus of the Illinois House of Representatives. He is a certified public accountant. He is a member of the Task Force on Welfare Reform and Task Force on Improving State Debt Collection.

George D. Maziarz
State Senator
New York

Republican
Single
Catholic

Mr. Maziarz, 47, has been a state Senator since 1995 and since 1997 has served as chairman of the Committee on Aging. He is a member of the Niagra County Volunteer Fireman's Association and of the Knights of Columbus.

Marie Lopez Kirkley-Bey
State Representative
Connecticut

Democrat
Widowed
Mormon

Ms. Kirkley-Bey is Assistant Majority Leader of the House. She was an officer of the Connecticut Black and Puerto Rican Caucus. She is vice-president of the Gray Lodge Shelter for Women. She has three children and seven grandchildren.

Stavros J. Mendros
State Representative
Maine

Republican
Single
Greek Orthodox

Mr. Mendros, 32, has been a legislator since 1999. He was a member of the Lewiston Board of Zoning Appeals from 1993 to 1997 and was a member of the city's Personnel Board in 1998. Mr. Mendros is a computer consultant.

Ruth Ann Minner

Lt. Governor
Delaware

Democrat
Widowed

Ms. Minner, 65, has been Lt. Governor since 1992. Between 1982 and 1992 she was a state Senator. She is a member of the Eastern Star. Ms. Minner has three children and seven grandchildren.

Vera B. Rison

State Representative
Michigan

Democrat
Divorced
Baptist

Ms. Rison, 62, has been a legislator since 1996. She is the director of human resources of the Amy Jo Manor Housing Complex. Ms. Rison has four children. She was given a Foster Mother of the Year Award in 1984.

George R. Quillen

State Representative
Delaware

Republican
Single
Episcopal

Mr. Quillen, 71, has been a state Representative since 1966 and has been Majority Whip since 1992. He has been a Harrington city councilman since 1981. He is a member of the American Legion and the Harrington Historical Society.

Eric Schneiderman

State Senator
New York

Democrat
Single

Mr. Schneiderman graduated from Harvard Law School in 1982. He has been an advocate for reproductive choice, crime victims, patients' rights, and campaign finance reform. He shares joint custody of his daughter.

Marie L. Rader

State Representative
Kentucky

Republican
Widowed
Baptist

Ms. Rader, 59, has been a state Representative since 1997. Formerly, she was a member of the McKee City Council. Ms. Rader is self-employed and has two children.

Brad Sherman

Congressman
California

Democrat
Single
Jewish

Mr. Sherman, 45, has been in Congress since 1997. He was a member of the State Board of Equalization from 1990 to 1997. Mr. Sherman graduated from Harvard Law School. He is a board member of California Common Cause.

Ada L. Smith
State Senator
New York

Democrat
Single

Ms. Smith, 55, has been a Senator since 1989 and is now the Minority Whip. Two of her priority issues are health care and public education. She is vice-chair of the New York State African-American Clergy and Elected Officials, Inc.

Thomas A. Varrell
State Representative
New Hampshire

Republican
Divorced
Protestant

Mr. Varrell, 64, is a professional meteorologist and air traffic controller. He has been a state legislator since 1999. He is a member of the national Rifle Association, VFW, and American Legion. Mr. Varrell has three children.

Sharon B. Teague
State Representative
Georgia

Democrat
Widow
Baptist

Ms. Teague, 48, has been a state Representative since 1992. She is a machinist by trade. She belongs to NAACP, Southern Christian leadership Conference, and the National Jewish Fund. Ms. Teague has one child.

Joel Wachs
City Councilman
Los Angeles

Republican
Single

Mr. Wachs, 61, has been a member of the city council since 1971. He is an openly gay man and is currently a candidate for mayor. Mr. Wachs is known for his strong support for the arts, as well as for improved services for senior citizens.

W. Curtis Thomas
State Representative
Pennsylvania

Democrat
Single
Baptist

Mr. Thomas, 52, has been a state Representative since 1989. He graduated from Antioch School of Law where he also taught. He worked in the Civil Rights Division of the federal Dept. of Health, Ed. and Welfare. Mr. Thomas has two children.

Christine A. Weason
State Representative
Arizona

Democrat
Single

Ms. Weason, 36, has been a state Representative since 1997. As an attorney in private practice, she worked pro bono in a breast implant class action suit. She is a member of the Phoenix Zoo Society and the U.S. Humane Society.

A. Polly Williams

State Representative
Wisconsin

Democrat
Divorced
Protestant

Ms. Williams, 63, has been a state Assembly-woman since 1980. She has received numerous awards, including for Mother of the Year, Positive Leadership, and America's Outstanding Legislator. Ms. Williams has four children.

Members: Current Appointed Officials

Joseph Bell (CA) Judge Pro Tem
Ramona Cortese (CT) City Welfare Director
Marjorie Davis (MA) Boston Metro Planning Council
Victor Ellis (TN) Lakewood City Manager
Susan Haase (IL) Wheatland Township Clerk
Rand Hoch (FL) Palm Beach Human Rights Council
Thomas Klunzinger (MI) Meridian Township Treasurer
Bruce Measure (MT) Municipal Court Judge Pro Tem

Members: Former Government Officials

Donn Charney (WA) State Legislator (1971-1985)
Dolores Lott (TX) San Antonio City Councilwoman
Sarah Neal (WV) State Legislator (1972-1978)
J. Randall Niquette (VT) State Legislator (1975-1982)
Carroll Orrison (WY) State Legislator
Earl Patterson (PA) Reading City Contoller & Council
Dominick Salfi (FL) Circuit Court Judge (1970-1986)
Lawrence Tenopir (KS) State Bd. of Tax Appeals
Eric Will (NE) State Senator

Yes, count me in as a member!

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution for:

[ ] $10 [ ] $25 [ ] $50 [ ] _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

AASP is a nonprofit and nonpartisan association. We do not share our mailing list with any outside organizations.

JOIN AASP TODAY

The law has created two classes of people, those who are married and those who are not. Unmarried adults include those who have never legally married, as well as those who are divorced or widowed. There are 80 million unmarried adults in the United States.

While the word "single" often carries a connotation of being alone, the truth is that even though unmarried adults may be legally single, they are not alone. Most single people live with someone else – a roommate, a domestic partner, their own children, their parents, or other relatives. Even when single people do not share a household, they often have formed close bonds or mutual support networks with friends, neighbors, or relatives – an extended family of choice.

Laws, government programs, and private sector businesses often discriminate against single people, as individuals, as unmarried couples, or as nonmarital families. For example, marital status discrimination occurs in employment, housing, credit, insurance, child custody and visitation rules, taxes, and consumer discounts. And because we have been so conditioned by society to accept preferred treatment for married people, those who experience discrimination are often not aware they have been treated illegally or that they should protest against the unfair practices.

Despite the large and growing number of unmarried adults in the nation, marital status discrimination remains a persistent problem. Unfortunately, existing equal rights groups have not made marital status discrimination a priority. Organizations are advocating for the rights of many constituencies, such as women, racial and ethnic minorities, gays and lesbians, seniors, people with disabilities, and children – but not for the rights of single and unmarried adults.

The American Association for Single People has been formed to fill this advocacy void. Finally, there is a group that makes marital status discrimination its top priority. Membership is open to any adult who gives a tax-deductible donation to AASP of $10 or more.

Mail the coupon and your check to:

American Association for Single People
P.O. Box 65756, Los Angeles, CA 90065
(323) 258-8955 / unmarried@earthlink.net

AASP
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR SINGLE PEOPLE

UnmarriedAmerica

News for unmarried workers, consumers, taxpayers and voters

Volume 2, No. 2 Winter Quarter Dec. 2000 - Feb. 2001

Ad Campaign Brings National Attention to AASP

With financial support from Lloyd E. Rigler, founder of the American Association for Single People, the association launched a national advertising campaign in October.

The ads were intended to accomplish two goals: (1) educate the general public and single people too that unmarried voters were being ignored by the presidential candidates and the national political parties; and (2) increase support for AASP by inviting single and unmarried adults to join a national organization which is creating a collective voice for single people in America. Unless the nation's 80 million unmarried adults unite to create such a voice, marital status discrimination against unmarried workers, consumers, and taxpayers will continue unabated.

The first ad ran in USA Today on October 3 with another published in the same paper a week later. Press releases were sent to each Associated Press office in the nation, with additional outreach to the print and broadcast media through PR Newswire.

One AP reporter, Mike Schneider of Orlando, Florida, took a keen interest in the story. He interviewed AASP executive director Thomas F. Coleman and other members of AASP, and solicited comments from the presidential campaigns.

UnmarriedAmerica.com

Executive Director Thomas F. Coleman holding USA Today issue with our ad

The AP wire story was released nationally on October 22. The next day, the story appeared in dozens of newspapers throughout the nation.

News of AASP and its ad campaign was picked up by radio and television stations. More information about this news coverage is contained inside this newsletter.

With all of the media attention, the hits to our website skyrocketed. Hundreds of single people who heard the news or saw our ads made donations to AASP.

Some called, others wrote letters, and many used their credit cards to sign up through our website. Yes, donations can now be made to AASP with a credit card!

We have made a good start by creating a national presence for AASP. But we have much more work to do.

Media attention and name recognition are helpful, but there is no substitute for numbers. To be a truly effective voice for single people in America, we need more members – millions of members – just like AARP.

We can start with our current membership base. Get four or five friends or relatives to join, or give gift memberships for the holidays.

With your active participation, AASP can become a powerful force for unmarried Americans. Together we can make it happen. Let's do it!

AASP is an association for solo singles, domestic partners, single parents, and other unmarried adults

Lloyd E. Rigler
Founder

Associated Press Releases Story on AASP's Ad Campaign

by Mike Schneider, Orlando Bureau, October 22, 2000

During the first presidential debate, Al Gore mentioned the word "family" 13 times and said "parents" four times. George W. Bush referred to "families" twice and "parents" once.

Neither said "single" or "unmarried," so it's no small wonder that Yvonne Farrell is feeling left out this election season. The 38-year-old programs assistant at St. Alban's Parish in Washington is unmarried and she feels like none of the presidential or vice presidential candidates is paying her any attention.

"I go through the campaign literature ... and all I see is family, family, family," said Farrell, who is divorced with no children. "They shouldn't act like we're poison."

Unmarried voters without children are casualties of the battle between Democrats and Republicans as to which party can wave the family-values flag higher, said Thomas Coleman, executive director of the Los Angeles-based advocacy group American Association for Single People.

Having been cast as opposing family values in past presidential races and tainted by the Monica Lewinsky scandal, Democrats feel they have to "look more family-oriented and say 'families' more than the Republicans," Coleman said.

"They want to win the family-values debate," he said. "We have nothing against that, but how about a little more balance?"

Even Ralph Nader, a bachelor who is the Green Party's presidential candidate, has ignored issues important to singles. When a 34-year-old single woman attending the third presidential debate in St. Louis asked George W. Bush and Al Gore what they would do for her, both passed up an opportunity to make a pitch to single voters.

Almost 80 million people, or about 40 percent of people over age 18, are widowed, divorced or have never married, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

"You're treated like a social leper," said Charlie Hoeck, 48, an Orlando library worker who is divorced. "That's why I like Nader so much. He's a social leper too, so it's easy for me to relate to him."

To rectify the situation, the American Association for Single People has launched a $114,000 advertising campaign drawing attention to unmarried voters without children. Ads have run in USA Today and the Los Angeles Times and will run later in Student Leader, The Village Voice and L.A. Weekly.

"Are you one of the 80 million single or unmarried adults ignored by the George W. Bush and Al Gore campaigns?" the ad said. "How many ways are we discriminated against? Let us count them for you."

Single people receive fewer job benefits, such as health insurance for spouses and children, according to the ad. They are often lumped into a "high risk" class by insurance companies and charged a higher rate than their married co-workers. They are denied "family" discounts for roommates or partners. Married couples are not taxed by the federal government for workplace benefits or inheritance when a spouse dies, while unmarried people are taxed under similar circumstances.

There is no federal protection against marital bias in employment, housing or business transactions, the ad said. Susan Sulsky, 46, who works in advertising sales for the Los Angeles Times, would just like to have the same family-leave time parents get in case she wants to take care of an ailing neighbor or a close friend.

"If you're single without children, you create you're own family," said Sulsky, who is unmarried in Los Angeles.

Republican vice presidential candidate Dick Cheney disagrees that the Bush campaign is ignoring singles. "I don't feel that we've discriminated against anybody on the basis of whether they are married or single," Cheney said this week during a stop in Ocala, Fla.

Gore campaign spokesman Liz Lubow said that while the campaign doesn't have any specific proposals targeting singles, unmarried people would benefit from Gore policies affecting everyone, such as a patient bill of rights and a tax credit for employers who train workers.

"Certainly Al Gore and Joe Lieberman are fighting for everyone," Lubow said.

Reform Party presidential candidate Pat Buchanan said his campaign doesn't have any specific proposals for unmarried people. "All my proposals are pretty much directed to all Americans," he said during a campaign stop in Orlando. "I'm not a big believer in group rights."

The major candidates are ignoring a large segment of the electorate, said Natural Law Party presidential candidate John Hagelin, a member of the American Association for Single People, who is on the ballot in 41 states.

"There is a continuous pandering to working middle-class families," said Hagelin, who is divorced with no children. "I don't understand the pandering to that important interest group when there are as many single people and they don't seem to be mentioned."

Singles may never become a potent political force because the group is always changing. "There are always people entering it and there are people leaving it," Coleman said. "When you're a women or if you're black, you're that for life."

Orlando attorney Kurt Brewer, who is single, doesn't have a problem with the emphasis on families. "The presidential race is only a simple reflection of the way society treats singles," said Brewer, a 31-year-old Republican who is voting for Bush.

"Honestly, I don't care. I understand the social policy behind supporting families."

Radio and Television Coverage of AASP Ad Campaign

As a result of the Associated Press story released on October 2000, dozens of newspapers throughout the nation carried the AP story the next day. Although there is no way to determine in just how many cities it was published, we have confirmed that it ran in the following papers:

Salt Lake Tribune, Pasadena Star News, Journal-World (KS), Courier News (IL), Denver Post, Journal Register (IL), Washington Times (DC), Coloradoan, Birmingham News (AL), Times-Picayune(LA), Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Virginian Pilot, Detroit News, Daily Southtown, Journal News (OH), and the Topeka Capital-Journal.

This widespread newspaper coverage, in turn, generated guest appearances by AASP executive director Thomas F. Coleman on several radio talk shows, including::

Victoria Jones show (WMAL in DC), Jack Jackson show (WMAY in Springfield, IL), Paul Sullivan show (WBZ in Boston), John Rago Show (WDEL in Delaware), the Larry Elder show (KABC in Los Angeles), and the Mark Roberts show (WERC in Birmingham, AL).

Renowned CBS news correspondent, Charles Osgood, included a segment about our ad campaign on his nationally syndicated show.

An interview with Thomas Coleman was broadcast by the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation's English language radio station FM4.

The first television coverage occurred when WVEC-TV in Norfolk ran a segment about our ad campaign on its 11:00 p.m. news hour. Then came the Tonight Show, with Jay Leno using the campaign to poke some fun at Bill Clinton and the Democrats.

Shepard Smith did a live interview with Coleman on Fox News, with a subsequent news segment on Fox two days later. MS-NBC also interviewed Coleman. Charles Osgood delivered his poetic news commentary on the Early Morning Show on NBC.

The news coverage had some slight impact on the presidential race, with Dick Cheney finally mentioning single people in the vice-presidential debate. The Democrats had Mrs. Lieberman send a signal to single people in Michigan where she told a group of supporters that even though the Democrats were focusing heavily on families in the presidential race, single people were important too and should not be ignored.

Moderator Jim Lehrer picked up on the issue when he selected a woman in the audience of the final presidential debate who asked the candidates what they would do in their tax plans to help her, a middle-class single person without dependents. Both men struggled to answer the question.

Deroy Murdock

Online magazine Salon.com sponsored a Youth Debate two days before the campaign ended. AASP member Deroy Murdock was a co-moderator. He asked Al Gore and George W. Bush why they had neglected to speak to single people. Neither of them had a good response. Ralph Nader had declined to participate in the event.

Marital Status Plays Role in Election

A national exit poll conducted by Voter News Service for the major media showed a significant "marital status" gap in presidential voting patterns.

Some 35% of those who cast ballots were unmarried. Most unmarried voters chose Al Gore.

A Los Angeles Times national exit poll showed single women voting 66% for Gore, 4% for Nader, and 30% for Bush. This fact caused conservative commentator William F. Buckley Jr. to advise the GOP to rethink its relationship with single women. Single men split 48% for Gore, 45% for Bush, and 7% for Nader.

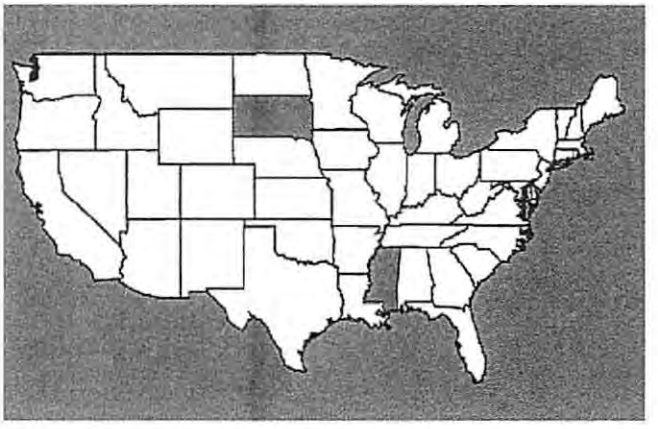
Are you married?	All	Gore	Bush	Nader
Yes	65%	44%	53%	2%
No	35%	57%	38%	4%
Voter News Service national exit poll of 13,130 respondents				

Membership Status

As a result of our advertising campaign, and publicity we received on radio and television as well as in newspaper articles, we have doubled our membership in the past two months. AASP now has some 500 members located in 48 states.

We do not yet have any members in Mississippi and South Dakota. If you know someone in either of those states, please encourage them to join AASP, or give them a gift membership for the holidays. Help us make AASP a truly national organization..

South Dakota



Mississippi

AASP has members in every state with the exceptions listed above

Elected Officials

Helene Keeley, a member of the Delaware House of Representatives (1996 - present), has become a member of AASP.

Helene, age 35, is single and a Democrat. She is a board member of Claymore Senior Center, Latin American Community Center, and Westside Health.

Changes in Status

- Lt. Gov. Ruth Ann Minner was elected by the voters of her state to be the next Governor of Delaware.

- Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl was elected to the California State Senate.

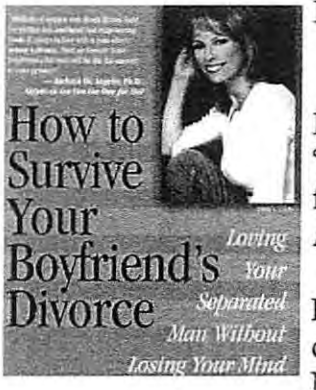
- Having chosen not to run for re-election, Robert Goetsch will leave office in the Wisconsin Assembly on January 4th, 2001

Book Authors

Victoria Jaycox, author of Single Again: a Guide for Women Starting Over, has become a member of AASP.

Victoria has been an activist for over two decades on behalf of women's issues, particularly the needs of older women.

Before becoming a full time writer in Washington, D.C., Victoria was the executive director of the national Older Women's League.



Robyn Todd, co-author of "How to Survive Your Boyfriend's Divorce," has joined AASP.

Robyn is a producer and casting director. She lives in New York City.

AASP is Expanding Staff and Changing Locations

New Public Affairs Director Added to AASP Staff

Since our last newsletter was published, Stephanie Knapik has become AASP's new Director of Public Affairs.

Stephanie has been a member of the board of directors since we incorporated in 1987 as Spectrum Institute. In 1999 we changed the corporate name to the American Association for Single People.

Stephanie's duties include membership recruitment, membership communications, media relations, and assisting in a wide range of other activities.

Before working for AASP, Stephanie supervised civil rights investigations and, prior to that, she was the executive director of the Westside Fair Housing Council in Los Angeles.

Headquarters Relocating to Glendale, California

For the past two years, the staff at AASP has been working out of a 400 square foot home-based office in Los Angeles. With membership growing, additions being made to the staff, and the need for working space for student interns and volunteers, it has become necessary to rent nearby office space.

We just signed a two-year lease for 1350 square feet of office space in Glendale, California – just 4 miles from our original location. We take possession of the office on December 15, 2000.

Once the move is complete, we plan to hire two part-time employees: a website editor and a bookkeeper. We also plan to recruit college student interns and other volunteers to help us implement our programs.

A photo of our new office building is found below. We will be working behind the row of windows across the third floor. Our new address will be 415 E. Harvard, Suite 204, Glendale, CA 91205.

AASP's new office is located behind the windows across the top floor

Southern California ACLU Endorses AASP's Campaigns

On November 14, 2000, Ramona Ripston, executive director of the ACLU of Southern California, sent the following letter to the other ACLU affiliates in all 49 states throughout the nation. Ms. Ripston is a member of AASP.

"The Board of Directors of the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California recently endorsed the 'Human Rights Agenda' (attached) of the American Association for Single People (AASP) and has agreed to work more closely with that organization as we work to end marital status discrimination. I urge other ACLU affiliates to consider working with the AASP whenever issues involving this insidious form of discrimination present themselves in your region.

"Our Board of Directors has also endorsed the AASP's Singles-Friendly Workplace Campaign and Stop the Stigma Campaign. The purpose of the Singles-Friendly Workplace Campaign, among other things, is to ensure that single workers are treated fairly and to advocate for domestic partnership benefits for unmarried couples, gay and straight. The purpose of the Stop the Stigma Campaign is to call to the attention of judges the harmful effects of stigmatizing language (e.g., 'illegitimate') sometimes used in their written opinions and orally from the bench when they refer to a child born to unmarried parents. I am enclosing summaries describing these important efforts."

A few week earlier, Stephen Rohde, president of the ACLU of Southern California, wrote a letter to three judges associations, urging them to adopt a resolution proposed by AASP. That resolution encourages all judges to discontinue using the term "illegitimate child" when referring to children born to unmarried parents."

Mr. Rohde's letter is reprinted on page 7 of this newsletter.

Charles Osgood Speaks About AASP and Single Voters

Charles Osgood is a news correspondent for CBS News. He has a nationally syndicated radio show known as "The Osgood Files" and also appears on television on the Early Morning Show. Using his usual poetic style, Osgood did a segment about AASP on both radio and television during the week of October 23. Here is what he said:

In government and in politics, when you do something for somebody you tend to do something to somebody else. And in the presidential race, with Bush and Gore right now trying to outdo one another in the family values department, they mention family every few seconds but hardly ever mention single people at all. Their lobby, the American Association for Single People, has a campaign now saying in effect "how about us?"

Each day that passes Bush and Gore use the word family more and more. As if they want it understood that they invented parenthood.

The wit in government and out, the family's what its all about. There is of course a reason why the family value flags fly high.

In this of all election years, as the Clinton era disappears, each one seems to want to say that he is not at all "that way."

Please note how I conduct my life, how I love my kids, how I kiss my wife. I am – both seem to say somehow – more of a family man than thou.

And candidates from sea to sea, the Democrats especially, want everyone to be aware about how families are what they really care about – and why they should be elected. Now, single voters feel neglected.

And these are votes they need to get – these folks who haven't married yet. Who never have picked out their true soul, and may not even plan to do so.

Plus those who may have in their lives, a few ex-husbands or ex-wives – widowed, divorced, or bachelors maybe – at any rate who've had no baby, may feel left out unless I'm wrong. And they are 80 million strong, those who are of voting age yet have no families at this stage.

And the AASP rightly notes, that that's an awful lot of votes.

AASP Campaigns Move Forward

✔ Workplace Campaign

The first stage of our Singles-Friendly Workplace Campaign is nearing completion.

Several months ago, we sent a letter and a packet of information to the Human Resource Director of each of the Fortune 500 companies. We asked them to participate in the first national survey on the status of unmarried workers.

When only a few responses trickled in by the October 15 deadline, we sent another letter to these companies to let them know that we really wanted their input. A few more companies responded.

Some of the employers who completed the surveys include: Kellog, First Union, Auto Zone, Georgia Pacific, Kinder Morgan, PPL, Cendant, Nationwide, AFLAC, Fifth Third Bancorp, Praxour, Xerox, and Delta Airlines.

State Farm declined to participate, stating that: "As we review benefits and policies, we do consider reaction and impact on our single employees. We have not, to date, established any formal programs or processes for this group, however. Therefore, while we appreciate the invitation, we will not be participating in your survey."

Corporate giant AT&T called us to say that they lacked the resources to answer the seven questions posed in the survey.

The formal results will be tabulated in January and will be published on our website. A summary also will appear in the next quarterly newsletter.

We plan to send a similar survey to several hundred unions in February. Those results will be published on our website this summer.

Government studies show that about 40 percent of the nation's full-time work force are single or unmarried. Federal law does not prohibit marital status discrimination in employment decisions and such legal protections are unavailable in most states.

Once the information gathering phase of our workplace campaign is finished, we plan to develop strategies to improve the way unmarried workers are treated by their employers.

We are pleased that some employers who responded to our survey indicated they would be willing to share information about AASP with their employees.

In the next few months, we plan to take them up on this generous offer by supplying posters for employee bulletin boards and an article to publish in company newsletters.

✔ Stop the Stigma Campaign

AASP has enlisted the help of the ACLU to stop the stigmatization of children born to unmarried parents. At the request of AASP, the following letter was sent by the President of the ACLU of Southern California to the American Judges Association, National Association of Women Judges, and Council of Chief Judges of Courts of Appeal.

"The board of directors of the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California recently endorsed the "Stop the Stigma Campaign of the American Association for Single People (AASP).

"The purpose of this campaign is to call to the attention of judges the harmful effects of stigmatizing language sometimes used in their written opinions and orally from the bench when they refer to children born to unmarried parents.

"Each year about 33 percent of births in the United States involve children born to unmarried parents. Also, a large segment of the adult population were born at a time when their parents were not married.

"The research of AASP has shown that a majority of states continue to stigmatize such children. In 17 states there are statutes on the books which refer to children born outside of wedlock as 'bastards' or 'illegitimate.' Some appellate judges in 37 states continue to refer to these children as 'illegitimate' rather than as 'children born to unmarried parents.'

"The ACLU of Southern California agrees with the AASP that it is time to stop the name calling. Statutes are the embodiment of the collective will of the people. Judges pledge to be fair and impartial. We think you would agree that it is not fair to label children in such a derogatory manner.

"While legislators in some states may also play a role by revising statutes which use offensive language, in a majority of states the problem is largely one created by judges. AASP's brochure about the Stop the Stigma Campaign demonstrates this point.

"AASP has drafted a sample resolution which your association may wish to consider adopting. A copy of that resolution is enclosed for your review.

"I look forward to learning of any action which your organization takes with respect to this issue. Thank you very much for taking the time to consider this important matter."

Join AASP or Give Someone a Gift Membership Today

Single people are not properly appreciated in American society. There may be 80 million of us – a potentially powerful political and economic force – but elected officials, corporate leaders, and union bosses act as if we are invisible.

Worse yet, we often experience a social stigma for being single or divorced, for living in an unmarried relationship, or for being a single parent. On top of that, we face marital status discrimination as workers, as consumers, and as taxpayers.

This type of unfair treatment will not change unless unmarried Americans organize and create a collective voice demanding reform. Let AASP be that voice. If millions of unmarried people join AASP, we can do for single adults of all ages what AARP has done for seniors – create change, eradicate stigma, and eliminate discrimination. Join AASP today or give someone you know – a friend, neighbor, coworker, or relative – a gift membership.

Membership

Any adult may become a member of AASP by making a tax-deductible contribution of $10 or more. Membership is open to all adults whether they are single, divorced, widowed, separated, married, or have a domestic partner. Members receive Unmarried America, a quarterly newsletter which contains information and news concerning economic, social, and legal issues affecting unmarried adults, couples, parents, and families. Members also receive *Singles Rights Advocate*, a bulletin focusing on legislative proposals and political issues affecting us all.

What We Do

AASP has three primary program areas: research and education; legal, *legislative,* and *political* advocacy; and member services. Our activities in these areas are listed below. Programs in italic type are administered by our affiliated organization, Singles Rights Lobby.

Research and Education. Through its publications, website, and participation in educational forums, AASP informs members and the public about economic, social, health and legal issues that affect 80 million unmarried Americans. Our staff conducts research from a variety of academic perspectives, including law, political science, sociology, psychology, public opinion, and demography, and we share our findings with elected officials, corporate executives, and the public. Our media activities include writing op-ed articles in newspapers, providing background information and interviews to journalists, and appearing on radio talk shows and television programs.

Advocacy. As the leading advocate for unmarried Americans, AASP encourages government agencies and nonprofit civil rights organizations to fully implement existing laws prohibiting marital status discrimination in employment, housing, insurance, credit, and consumer transactions. We also encourage government agencies to administer their programs in a manner consistent with constitutional principles of due process, equal protection, privacy, and separation of church and state. We file amicus curiae briefs in important test cases. Our *legislative advocacy program* drafts, proposes, analyzes, and monitors legislation designed to protect the rights of unmarried adults and opposes legislative proposals which may cause harm to single people and their families. Our *political advocacy program* reaches out to all political parties in the nation, encouraging them to add unmarried people and our issues to their party platforms and by-laws. That program also urges political candidates to support equal rights for single people and domestic partners and to oppose marital status discrimination.

Member Services. We monitor current events and report on state, national, and international events affecting single and unmarried Americans. Our website is the most authoritative source of information for and about single people on the entire Internet. It contains news summaries, essays, and advice for "solo singles," for unmarried couples, for single parents, and for divorcees. Through our Singles-Friendly Workplace Campaign, we help members who request our services to develop strategies designed to secure improvements in their own workplaces.

CLIP THE COUPON BELOW & MAIL IT TO:
AASP, P.O. Box 65756, Los Angeles, CA 90065
(323) 258-8955 / unmarried@earthlink.net

- -

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution for:
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Donate $25 or more and receive an AASP keychain as an added bonus. Donate $50 or more and get an AASP shirt as well.

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- -

AASP
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR SINGLE PEOPLE

UnmarriedAmerica

News for unmarried workers, consumers, taxpayers and voters

Volume 2, No. 3 Spring Quarter March - May 2001

Unmarried Americans Need Tax Relief Too

Politicians in Washington have focused most of their talk about tax relief on "working families." With the budget surpluses as large as they are, there is nothing wrong with giving tax relief to the American people.

But it is the individual who pays taxes, not families. Employers withhold income tax from an individual's paycheck. Payroll taxes are taken from an individual's salary to fund the social security program. When an individual dies, federal estate taxes are taken from his or her estate.

So why all of the focus on tax relief for working families? Politics, of course.

Apparently the leaders of both major political parties are ignoring some basic demographic information as they haggle over who will get tax relief and who will not.

There are 80 million American taxpayers who are single or unmarried. We constitute 40 percent of the nation's full-time work force and about 45 percent of the nation's households. Tens of millions of us live alone. But most of us live in unmarried family households – with a child, a parent, a relative, or an unmarried partner.

We are Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. We are voting Americans. We deserve tax relief too.

Uncle Sam may be smiling, but single taxpayers are not

Unmarried Americans are treated unfairly by federal and state tax laws. We can't file a joint return with an unmarried household member and thereby gain a tax "bonus" as many married couples do. We must pay income tax on domestic partner employment benefits while married people get tax free benefits at work. We may be deprived of the right to claim someone as a dependent or to file as "head of household" because Uncle Sam disapproves of our living arrangements.

Many of us must fork over many of our hard-earned assets to the federal treasury in death taxes when we die – sometimes as much as 60% – while a married person can leave an unlimited amount of wealth to a surviving spouse tax free.

This issue of *Unmarried America* is devoted entirely to the unfair taxation of unmarried and single Americans – a topic which has been ignored by politicians and by the media for too long.

President Bush discussed his tax plan recently at a joint session of Congress. It would lower the income tax rates for wage earners in all tax brackets. It would also repeal the death tax – a system that currently exempts transfers between spouses while taxing transfers of wealth from an unmarried person to an unmarried partner, a child, a parent, or a close friend. That is marital status discrimination.

When they focus on the so-called "marriage penalty" which *a minority* of married couples pay when they file a joint return, many politicians – Democrats and Republicans alike – say that the tax code should be "marriage neutral."

If that is so, then why does the tax plan of the Democrats contain a marital exemption from death taxes on those estates which their plan would continue to tax? This surely will not please wealthy gay and lesbian Democrats who can't marry and therefore will forfeit major assets to the government while their married heterosexual counterparts remain exempt. Ending the tax ends the discrimination!

There are other inequities, like discriminatory definitions of "head of household" in the income tax code, and unfair taxation of unmarried wage-earners in the social security tax, which neither party is discussing.

Please, let's get all of the cards on the table if we are serious about tax relief for all Americans. If we are going to talk about fairness, then we should make sure that our actions reflect fairness.

AASP is an association for solo singles, domestic partners, single parents, and other unmarried adults

Lloyd E. Rigler
Founder

Asking Questions in Washington, D.C.

Surveying Members of Congress

Members of Congress have never been surveyed about their attitudes on the issue of unfair taxation of unmarried and single Americans. No one had taken the time to ask before. Well, that is about to change.

A short questionnaire, entitled "Federal Taxation of Unmarried Americans: 2001 Congressional Survey," is being mailed by AASP to every U.S. Senator and Representative, along with a copy of this newsletter. (A copy of the questionnaire appears on page 7.)

We are also asking our members to send their own copy of the questionnaire to their member of Congress and to the two senators representing their state. If our elected officials hear from their constituents, maybe they will respond and share their views on these issues.

We don't claim to have all of the answers on how to end unfair taxation of unmarried Americans, and we are not lobbying for any specific legislation, but we do think that the concerns of single people should be discussed in Congress.

We will report on our findings after we return from our trip to Washington. We will include the results on our website, issue a press release over PR Newswire, and include a story in our June newsletter.

Are You a Head of Household?

You may think you are the head of your household – and factually that may be true when it comes to the financial burden you have assumed to support household members. But the IRS may disagree. Why? Because your relationship with other household members is not one the federal government considers important.

In California alone, more than 240,000 taxpayers received audit letters last year, challenging their status as head of household. A change from this category, to that of "single taxpayer" could cost thousands of dollars.

Only "qualifying individuals" who live with you can legally make you a "head of household." People not related to you by blood or marriage, or even "distant" blood relatives, don't qualify, even though they live with you and you provide more than half of their support.

Your domestic partner, your partner's biological child, your cousin, or even your own foster child who is over 18, won't qualify. Doesn't your "working family" count? Apparently some families count more than others.

Traveling to the Nation's Capitol

We are headed for Washington on a fact finding mission, determined to find out what our nation's leaders think about the unfair taxation of unmarried Americans.

Thomas F. Coleman, executive director, and Stephanie Knapik, public affairs director, will arrive in the Capitol on April 30, 2001, and will spend the entire week asking questions and searching for information.

We plan to meet with senators, representatives, and their staff members. We also will try to connect with leaders of both major political parties.

This is an historic event in the singles rights movement. It is the first time that a national organization for single people has sent representatives to Washington to meet with our elected representatives.

We are not going to the Capitol to lobby for any specific piece of legislation. But we are concerned that the political conversation in this session of Congress, much as it has been for several years, is focusing almost entirely on the concerns of married couples and "working families."

What about the concerns of the 80 million unmarried adults in the nation? Why are so many of us excluded from the debate?

We want to hear from members of Congress whether they feel that all Americans should be treated fairly when it comes to the income tax, the death tax, and the social security tax, or whether they feel that unmarried Americans should have to pay more than our fair share.

Senators and Representatives may never have given much thought to the issue of marital status discrimination in the tax codes, other than to trip all over themselves as they try to fix the so-called "marriage penalty" in the income tax law. The media fanned the political flames so much on this issue that the truth has been obscured. In fact, there are more couples who gain a "marriage bonus" from filing joint returns than couples who suffer a penalty.

In politics as in life, it is the squeaky wheel that gets oiled. Married people don't have to speak up too loudly since the overwhelming majority of those in Congress are married. But unmarried and single Americans have been silent, watching from the sidelines as decisions about our lives are made by elected officials.

Damian Dovarganes / AP

Times are changing. We are asking questions – and we want some honest answers. Look to our website in May and to our June newsletter for the results of our trip.

Unmarried and Single People and . . .

The Death Tax ----------

Many unmarried people literally cannot afford to die

Some people say that the so-called death tax is unfair to people who have worked hard or invested wisely and therefore have accumulated considerable wealth during their lives. They argue the death tax amounts to double taxation because they have already paid income tax, capital gains tax, or property taxes on the same assets.

Others argue that the since the death tax only applies to wealthy individuals, the tax is progressive because it forces a redistribution of money from the upper class to the middle and lower classes. They also claim that the death tax is one way to force people to leave bequests to charities in their wills as a way of avoiding estate taxes.

Regardless of which perspective may appeal to you, there is one undeniable fact that makes the death tax unfair. The law discriminates against the unmarried.

Upper-income married couples reap a windfall when it comes to federal estate taxes because a person who dies may leave unlimited wealth to a surviving spouse without paying one penny in estate taxes.

In contrast, an unmarried person who dies with an estate over $675,000 can have anywhere from 25% to 60% of his or her estate taken by the federal government in estate taxes. Many states also have significant inheritance taxes.

A wide variety of Americans can be adversely affected by death taxes. We have all read stories about family farms or family businesses which must be sold in order to pay these death taxes. But others can be affected.

A divorced parent who did well in the stock market may want to leave everything to her children. She can, but the government will take a huge chunk first. A middle-aged entrepeneaur who developed a successful business in the Silicon Valley can't leave his assets to his parents without forfeiting a huge sum to the government. The survivor of a long-term gay relationship falls into the same tax trap because of his or her "unmarried" status.

Repeal of the death tax would put unmarried people on the same par with married people since neither would pay a tax. That would be equal protection under the law.

---------- The Social Security Tax

We are forced to pay the same, but get fewer benefits

Unmarried workers pay the same employment taxes (social security) as do married workers, but the unmarried get fewer benefits in the long run (tens of thousands of dollars) because: (1) studies show that married people tend to live longer and so they will collect benefits longer; and (2) a surviving spouse who has never been employed outside of the home and who has not paid into social security can receive years of survivor benefits after the employed spouse dies; and (3) a domestic partner of an employee may not collect social security survivor benefits.

The Cato Institute has this to say. "[S]ingle workers sometimes object that one-earner married couples obtain a disproportionately high amount of benefits when the spousal benefit is included. Their argument is that the single worker and the earner in the one-earner married couple have contributed the same amount over the years, yet benefits for the single worker are much less." (Philip Harmelink & Janet Speyer, "Social Security: Rates of return and the fairness of benefits," 14 *Cato Journal* 37 (1994).)

Cato added: "Rates of return for one-earner couples are up to 40 percent higher than for two-earner couples and up to 85 percent higher than for single males."

The authors concluded: "If policymakers are serious about solving the inequities based on marital status, an alternative approach to solving the problem is to move toward a social security system that bases all benefits on each individual's contributions."

They suggested that basing benefits on an individual's contributions, with an opportunity to adjust for special needs of spouses, widow(er)s, and divorcees through the purchase of such coverage, could, in the long run, be a workable solution to the marital status inequity.

President Bush has proposed "partial privatization" which would allow a younger worker to invest some of the social security tax taken from his or her paycheck and place it into a private account which could be transferred to a beneficiary at the time of death. Single people now lose all benefits when they die. United Seniors Association, a national group with 550,000 members, supports this plan.

Federal Income Tax and . . .

✔ Domestic Partner Benefits

Under the Internal Revenue Code, benefits that an employee receives for his or her spouse are not taxable. Even if the spouse who gets the benefits earns more than the employee and, therefore, is not in fact a "dependent" of the employee, the benefits to the spouse are tax free.

But benefits provided to an employee's domestic partner are taxable, unless the partner meets the IRS test for "dependency" – which most will not because they are themselves making more than $2,800 which the law allows a dependent to earn.

If the employee is in a 30% tax bracket, and the value of the employer's contribution to the partner's health, dental, and other benefits is $10,000 per year, the employer is required to withhold $3,000 per year from the employee's paycheck. In addition to that, states such as California with a sizeable income tax will tax these benefits too.

Over the course of 10 years, the employee with a spouse may save $30,000 in taxes while the worker with a domestic partner must fork that amount over to the government in federal and state income taxes.

Congressman Barney Frank has a bill pending (HR 638) to exempt these benefits from tax. There are more than 6 million unmarried couples in the nation. Many of them would be helped by this reform.

✔ Joint Tax Returns

Married couples may file a joint return. Unmarried taxpayers may not file a joint return with an adult household member such as a parent, sibling, or domestic partner.

An unmarried taxpayer could save money by filing a joint return with a household member who earned considerably less and was in a lower tax bracket. This could put the higher-earning taxpayer in a lower bracket too.

For example, an unmarried professional who has $60,000 in gross taxable income, and who takes a standard deduction might want to file jointly with an elderly widowed parent who lives with the professional on a long term basis. Let's say the parent receives $8,000 from social security. As head of household, with two dependents claimed, the professional would pay nearly $9,000 in taxes. If a joint return could be filed with the widowed parent, only $7,500 would be owed, creating a savings of about $1,500 in taxes.

Other unmarried taxpayers who have a significant income disparity with a household member, such as a domestic partner, would also benefit if the law allowed joint returns by unmarried adults.

✔ Adult Dependent Status

Federal law allows a taxpayer to claim an adult as a dependent, thereby saving money on a tax return if several criteria are met. They must live together the whole year and the taxpayer must provide more than 50% of the other adult's support. The dependent may not earn more than $2,800 (unless a student under 24 and then he or she can earn more).

But there is one glitch which prevents a dependent status from being claimed in several states. The relationship between the taxpayer and the household member must not violate local law. Court cases have interpreted this proviso as meaning that a taxpayer may not claim his or her unmarried opposite-sex partner as a dependent if they live in a state which has a law prohibiting fornication or unmarried cohabitation.

Jurisdictions with such criminal laws include: Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

A taxpayer living in these areas, and whose significant other is factually a dependent under all of the other criteria, is deprived of the $2,800 deduction, while taxpayers living in other regions of the nation are not.

✔ Child Tax Credits

Last year, Congress changed the definition of "foster child." As a result, many unmarried parents will not be able to claim the $500 child credit and the earned-income credit, which is worth up to $3,888.

The tax code had two requirements to determine whether you qualified as a foster parent: (1) The child had to live with you the entire year; and (2) You had to provide more than half the financial support for the child. But starting this year, the child either must be a qualifying relative or be placed in the home by a government agency.

The requirement that a placement agency be involved is a significant hurdle for single parents who find new partners. It's not enough that the new partners care for the children as their own for the entire year.

Among those hurt, for example, is a family in which a divorced mom stays home to care for her children while her boyfriend works. Though related by blood, she won't qualify for either credit because she has no earned income. He won't qualify because he's not related by blood, and the kids weren't placed in his care by an official agency.

Unmarried Americans and President Bush's Tax Plan

✔ Income Tax Reform

Under the tax bill sponsored by President George W. Bush (S-35), everyone who pays income taxes will get some relief, regardless of marital status or family status.

The plan's primary feature is to reduce personal income tax rates and combine five current tiers of rates into four. Today's rates are 39.6 percent, 36 percent, 31 percent, 28 percent and 15 percent. New rates would drop to 33 percent, 25 percent, 15 percent and 10 percent.

The bottom 10 percent rate, which applies to at least some of the money of all earners, would affect the first $6,000 of taxable income for singles, the first $10,000 for single parents, and the first $12,000 for married couples.

The $500 per child tax credit would double to $1,000. The extra savings would be exempted from calculations used to determine whether families must pay the alternative minimum tax. The credit now phases out at $75,000 for single parents and $110,000 for couples; it would instead phase out at $200,000 for both.

Therefore, under the Bush plan, unmarried taxpayers without children, as well as those with children, will save on their income tax bills, some more than others.

✔ Death Tax Reform

Under the Bush plan, the estate tax would be eliminated. Currently, it is levied when a person dies and transfers an estate worth at least $675,000, an amount that will rise to $1 million in 2006. However, current law does not impose tax when assets are left to a surviving spouse. In contrast, transfers from a single parent to a child or from a domestic partner to his or her survivor are taxed.

The Bush plan would repeal the estate tax and the gift tax for gifts made and decedents dying after 2008. Until then, each of the estate and gift tax rates would drop by 5 percentage points for 2002 and 2003, 10 percentage points for 2004, 15 percentage points for 2005, 20 percentage points for 2006, 30 percentage points for 2007, and 40 percentage points for 2008. So, for example, for estates of decedents dying in 2006, the current 37% estate tax rate would drop to 17% and the 55% rate would drop to 35%. After 2008, there would be no estate or gift tax.

Repeal of the so-called "death tax" would put asset transfers to unmarried people on the same par with transfers to surviving spouses because there would be no tax. Since this would help gays and lesbians who cannot legally marry, both the Log Cabin Republicans and the National Stonewall Democratic Federation support repeal of the death tax.

✔ Social Security Tax Reform

During the presidential campaign, George W. Bush proposed that the social security benefits fund be partially privatized. He wants younger workers to be able to take a small portion of the employment taxes now deducted from their paychecks and be allowed to invest them in private accounts which they would own.

This may have considerable appeal to unmarried workers who are currently cheated by the current program because they pay the same taxes as married workers but receive fewer benefits in the long run.

According to a Rand Corporation study, since most African-American adults are unmarried and because their life span is shorter overall, whites consistently earn higher rates of return than do blacks. Over a lifetime, the income transfer from blacks to whites is as much as $10,000.

Rand says that an unmarried, low-income black male born after 1959 will now get a negative rate of return on what he puts into Social Security. If he could privately invest that money, he'd gain nearly $100,000 over what he put in. He could then use it as he wishes, including passing it on to his heirs. It wouldn't disappear when he dies.

✔ Democrats Target "Working Families"

Some Democrats, such as Senator Joe Lieberman favor "marriage neutrality" in the tax codes. But other Democratic leaders in Congress have taken a different approach. They want tax relief that is targeted to "working families."

That is why the primary Democratic tax reform bill in the Senate (S-9) is entitled the "Working Family Tax Relief Act of 2001". Why not the "Working People Tax Relief Act?"

And a bill (S-8) of Senate Democrats to increase the minimum wage is called the "Enhancing Economic Security for America's Working Families Act". Since most minimum wage earners are single, why all the focus on "working families" in a bill to raise the minimum wage?

With 44% of Democrats being unmarried, and with many of them being single workers without children, it seems odd that Democratic leaders in Congress would ignore unmarried taxpayers. One would think that the Democratic Party would have learned to broaden its outreach and its message considering that Al Gore's campaign strategy of focusing exclusively on "working families" to the exclusion of single and unmarried voters did not win him the presidency.

Meet Some of Our New Members

Several scholars, book authors, political leaders, and celebrities, have joined AASP since we published our last newsletter. We thought you would be interested to learn who has recently become part of our team.

Henny Backus, author of "Care for the Caretaker" and widow of veteran actor Jim Backus ("Mr. Magoo," "Gilligan's Island" and "Rebel Without a Cause") and resident of California.

Angela Seward, author of "Good-night, Daddy" and resident of Virginia

Carole Baldock, author of "How to Succeed as a Single Parent" and resident of England

Jane Nelsen, Ed.D., author of "Positive Discipline for Single Parent Families" and resident of Utah

Mark Victor Hansen, co-editor of "Chicken Soup for the Single's Soul" and resident of California

Cindy Miscikowski, member of the Los Angeles City Council

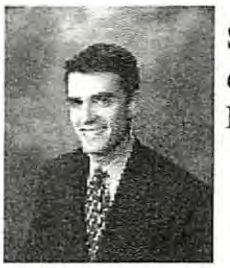
Dr. Bonnie Eaker Weil, author of "Make Up, Don't Break Up," and resident of New York

Dr. Albert Ellis (left), of New York, and **Ted Crawford,** of Arizona, co-authors of "Making Intimate Connections"

Joan Busick author of "Surviving Beyond Happily Ever After" and resident of California

Dr. Gail Lewis, author of "With or Without a Man: Single Women Taking Control of Their Lives" and resident of Maryland

Eric Garcetti, Ph.D, visiting professor in the Department of Diplomacy and World Affairs at Occidental College in Los Angeles and a Rhodes Scholar.



Steve May (Republican), member of the Arizona House of Representatives

John D. Hall (Democrat), member of North Carolina House of Representatives

Steve Soboroff **Addie May Miller**

Candidates for Mayor of Los Angeles

Members Jim Hahn and Joel Wachs are also running.

Federal Taxation of Unmarried Americans

2001 Congressional Survey

Survey results will be released in May 2001. Single people want to know where you stand.
Return to: 415 E. Harvard St., Suite 204, Glendale, CA 91205 / (818) 242-5100

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1. The size of our constituency. About 43% of adult Americans, about 80 million of us, are unmarried – many have never married, while others are divorced or widowed. More than 45% of the nation's households do not contain a married couple. In large cities, the majority of adults are not married. About 40% of the nation's full-time workforce is unmarried. In the most recent presidential election, 35% of people who voted were unmarried. In places like California, we were 42% of voters.

Question 1: Were you aware that unmarried Americans constituted such a large group? [ ] yes [ ] no

2. The death tax. Some members of Congress, such as Senator Joe Leiberman, favor "marriage neutrality" in the tax codes. The federal estate tax is not marriage-neutral. Unmarried people with significant assets can have up to 60% of their estates taken by the federal death tax even though they have paid income tax, capital gains tax, or property taxes on these same assets during their lives. The estate of a married person, however, is not taxed when similar assets are left to a surviving spouse, no matter how large the estate may be. Such favoritism for married people works to the disadvantage of unmarried adults who are taxed when they die and leave assets to a child, a parent, an unmarried partner, or a friend.

Question 2: Which asset transfers should the death tax not apply to? (Check one or more boxes.)
[ ] a spouse [ ] a relative [ ] an unmarried partner [ ] a friend [ ] the death tax should be repealed

3. Joint income tax returns. Millions of married couples save money because they can file a joint income tax return. In fact, there are more married couples who have a **"marriage bonus"** by filing a joint return than there are married couples with a **"marriage penalty"** from joint filing. (Report to the House Ways and Means Committee, Joint Committee on Taxation, June 22, 1999.) Many unmarried adults who live together, including two blood relatives or two unmarried partners, would like the option to save on taxes by having the ability to file joint tax returns but they are currently prohibited from doing so.

Question 3: Which two people who live together should be able to file a joint tax return? (Check all that apply.)
[ ] married couple [ ] unmarried partners [ ] two relatives [ ] any two adults [ ] none of these

4. Child tax credits. An unmarried taxpayer who provides support for a child living in his or her household may not claim the child credit or an earned income credit if the child is not blood related or placed in the home by a government agency.

Question 4: Should a taxpayer (such as the unmarried partner of an unemployed parent) be able to claim child tax credits for a child the taxpayer is supporting, even if the child is not a relative or agency placed? [ ] yes [ ] no

5. Adult dependent deduction. Taxpayers in 15 states and the District of Columbia may not claim their unmarried unemployed partner as a dependent because federal tax law prohibits such deductions if the relationship is in violation of local law. These jurisdictions have laws prohibiting unmarried sex or cohabitation and courts have said that these laws trigger the no-deduction clause of federal tax law.

Question 5: Is it fair that couples in some states may not claim an unmarried partner as a dependent? [ ] yes [ ] no

6. Social security taxes. The Cato Institute has noted that a single worker and a married worker pay the same social security tax, but benefits for the single worker are much less. Rates of return for one-earner married couples are up to 85% higher than for single males. The Rand Corporation says this has an even harsher impact on African American males, because they are disproportionately unmarried and die younger as a class. Single people forfeit their benefits when they die, but a surviving spouse can collect benefits for many years. Partial privatization of social security would allow a portion of the tax to be invested in a private account that single people would not forfeit.

Question 6: Do you support *partial* privatization of social security taxes? [ ] yes [ ] no

Name of Senator or Representative: _____ Date _____

Contact person's name _____ Phone _____

You may also reply by fax to: (818) 242-5103 visit our website at www.unmarriedAmerica.com

Join AASP or Give Someone a Gift Membership Today

Unmarried and single adults are not properly appreciated in American society. There may be 80 million of us – a potentially powerful political and economic force – but elected officials, corporate leaders, and union bosses act as if we are invisible.

Worse yet, we often experience a social stigma for being single or divorced, for living in an unmarried relationship, or for being a single parent. On top of that, we face marital status discrimination as workers, as consumers, and as taxpayers.

This type of unfair treatment will not change unless unmarried Americans organize and create a collective voice demanding reform. Let AASP be that voice. If millions of unmarried people join AASP, we can do for single adults of all ages what AARP has done for seniors – create change, eradicate stigma, and eliminate discrimination. Join AASP today or give someone you know – a friend, neighbor, coworker, or relative – a gift membership.

Membership

Any adult may become a member of AASP by making a tax-deductible contribution of $10 or more. Membership is open to all adults whether they are single, divorced, widowed, separated, married, or have a domestic partner. Members receive Unmarried America, a quarterly newsletter which contains information and news concerning economic, social, and legal issues affecting unmarried adults, couples, parents, and families. Members also receive a password for complete access to our website, including the members-only areas.

What We Do

AASP has three primary program areas: research and education; legal, *legislative,* and *political* advocacy; and member services. Our activities in these areas are listed below. Programs in italic type are administered by our affiliated organization, Singles Rights Lobby.

Research and Education. Through its publications, website, and participation in educational forums, AASP informs members and the public about economic, social, health and legal issues that affect 80 million unmarried Americans. Our staff conducts research from a variety of academic perspectives, including law, political science, sociology, psychology, public opinion, and demography, and we share our findings with elected officials, corporate executives, and the public. Our media activities include writing op-ed articles in newspapers, providing background information and interviews to journalists, and appearing on radio talk shows and television programs.

Advocacy. As the leading advocate for unmarried Americans, AASP encourages government agencies and nonprofit civil rights organizations to fully implement existing laws prohibiting marital status discrimination in employment, housing, insurance, credit, and consumer transactions. We also encourage government agencies to administer their programs in a manner consistent with constitutional principles of due process, equal protection, privacy, and separation of church and state. We file amicus curiae briefs in important test cases. Our *legislative advocacy program* drafts, proposes, analyzes, and monitors legislation designed to protect the rights of unmarried adults and opposes legislative proposals which may cause harm to single people and their families. Our *political advocacy program* reaches out to all political parties in the nation, encouraging them to add unmarried people and our issues to their party platforms and by-laws. That program also urges political candidates to support equal rights for single people and domestic partners and to oppose marital status discrimination.

Member Services. We monitor current events and report on state, national, and international events affecting single and unmarried Americans. Our website is the most authoritative source of information for and about single people on the entire Internet. It contains news summaries, essays, and advice for "solo singles," for unmarried couples, for single parents, and for divorcees. Through our Singles-Friendly Workplace Campaign, we help members who request our services to develop strategies designed to secure improvements in their own workplaces.

CLIP THE COUPON MAIL IT TO AASP:
415 E. Harvard St., Suite 204, Glendale, CA 91205
(818) 242-5100 / unmarried@earthlink.net

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution for:
[ ] $10 [ ] $25 [ ] $50 [ ] _____
Donate $25 or more and receive an AASP keychain as an added bonus. Donate $50 or more and get an AASP shirt as well.

Method of payment: [ ] check [ ] credit card
[ ] MC [ ] Visa [ ] Am/Ex [ ] Discover
Card Number _____
Expiration date _____
Name on card _____
___ This membership is for me
___ This is a gift for the person named below. List my name on the gift card as _____

Name of new member _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Phone _____
E-mail _____
[ ] My donation is for $50 or more. Please send a shirt for
[ ] me or [ ] the person I am giving the membership to
Type: [ ] short-sleeve t-shirt, [ ] long sleeve t-shirt
[ ] long sleeve sweat shirt
Size: [ ] sm [ ] med [ ] large [ ] x-lg [ ] xx-lg

AAASP
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR SINGLE PEOPLE

UnmarriedAmerica

News for unmarried workers, consumers, taxpayers and voters

Vol. 2, No. 4 Summer Quarter June - August 2001

A Very Impressive Start

A few months ago, each member of Congress received a packet in the mail from AASP. It contained a letter from the Executive Director and our March 2001 newsletter focusing on the unfair taxation of single and unmarried Americans. We included a short questionnaire which highlighted several key areas of concern.

The following month we sent another letter, informing members of Congress that AASP would be in Washington from May 1 to May 4. We invited each of them to meet with us. We also sent a letter to the Republican National Committee (RNC) and the Democratic National Committee (DNC) with the same invitation.

One week before our arrival, we placed a 2/3 page ad in the Washington Post -- opposite the federal page. The headline read "Unmarried Americans Deserve to Know Why." The ad listed several areas in which unmarried taxpayers were being treated unfairly. It also announced that AASP would be in Washington the following week -- again inviting members of Congress and party leaders to meet with us.

We had 30-minute meetings with the policy staff of five Representatives and seven Senators -- from both parties. We also met with staff of the RNC and DNC, and with the President's speech writer. Thomas F. Coleman, Executive Director of AASP conversed with the staffers while Stephanie Knapik, Director of Public Affairs, observed and took notes. (See pages 2 and 15 for more details on these meetings.)

May 2001:
AASP Makes History

Thomas Coleman, Michael Vasquez, and Michael Patino after they finished distributing materials to all 535 members of Congress

AASP sent representatives to the nation's capitol during the first week of May 2001. It was a historic trip since this was the first time that a national group representing the interests of single and unmarried Americans had made personal contact with every congressional office.

"In 10 percent of the offices, the staff greeted us with enthusiasism," said Michael A. Vasquez, production manager of AASP. Some of the staffers said "I'm glad you are here. I'm single too."

Michael Patino, a volunteer and member of AASP recalled other greetings. "Another 10 percent were hostile or rude to us, snickering and rolling their eyes as if to say 'What next?' But the vast majority of staffers were professional and polite."

We need some feedback. Write to your two Senators and to your Representative. Ask them if they read our materials.

Now for the Follow Up

We had two main reasons for going to the Capitol. First, to underscore the fact that with 82 million unmarried adults in the nation, the political conversation in Washington should expand beyond the concerns of "working families," parents, and the so-called "marriage penalty." Second, members of Congress have an obligation to represent *all* constituents -- and over 40 percent of the adults they represent are unmarried workers and taxpayers.

We stressed the importance of elected officials reaching out to single and unmarried adults as a normal part of ongoing communications to their constituents. They should say the words "single" or "unmarried" every so often, just as they say "families" or "parents." More importantly, they should let unmarried constituents know they care about their problems. Senators and Representatives should invite single and unmarried people to write to them.

In some meetings, we were reminded that communication is a two way street. We were asked whether single people cared about politics, whether we voted in proportion to our numbers, whether we wrote letters to our elected officials.

As difficult as our trip to Washington was, that was the easy part. The hard part lies ahead -- stimulating unmarried Americans to write letters and to vote. If we want to be taken seriously, we must participate.

Our Trip to Washington

Snapshot of Congressional Meetings

Sen. Diane Feinstein (D-CA)
We met with R. Michael Schiff,
Deputy Legislative Director.

Sen. Don Nickles (R-OK)
We met with Lee Morris,
Legislative Assistant.

Sen. Evan Bayh (D-IN)
We met with Jeff Hammond,
Legislative Assistant.

Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA)
We met with Bill Grady,
Chief of Staff.

Senator Tom Daschle (D-SD)
We met with Chuck Marr,
Economic Policy Advisor.

Rep. Nathan Deal (R-GA)
We met with Joe Westmoreland,
Legislative Assistant.

Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA)
We met with Nick Kolovos,
Legislative Assistant.

Rep. Ellen Tauscher (D-CA)
We met with Ilka Couto,
Legislative Assistant.

Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA)
We met with Catherine Blue,
Legislative Correspondent.

Sen. Rick Santorum (R-PA)
We met with Danielle Sarmir,
Legislative Correspondent.

Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL)
We met with Erin Hatch,
Legislative Assistant.

Rep Lloyd Doggett (D-TX)
We met with Melissa Mueller,
Ways and Means Counsel.

AAISP
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR SINGLE PEOPLE

Census Stories on Growth of Unmarried America

More Solo Singles, Single Parents, and Unmarried Couples

United States Census 2000

Nearly Half of the Nation's Households are Unmarried

A story published on May 15, 2001, by the New Haven Register reported that the household relationships just released by the U.S. Census Bureau showed a continuation of the 50-year decline in married couples. Here is a summary:

Only 51.7 percent of households contained both a husband and wife in 2000, down from 55 percent a decade ago and 78 percent in the 1950s. Also, people living alone occupy 25.8 percent of American households, surpassing married couples with children by more than 2 percent.

"It won't be long before the majority of the nation's households are unmarried," said Thomas F. Coleman, executive director of the American Association for Single People. "Unmarried Americans are here to stay."

Families maintained by women with no husband present increased three times as quickly as married couple families in the last decade, making up 7.2 percent of all households.

Marc St. Camille, co-author of "It's Okay to be Single," said people should not rush into marriage just because they're lonely. "People shouldn't be married unless it's a really great thing for them and all the elements are in place," he said. "We never say it's better to be single, but you don't have to be miserable if you live alone."

Nancy Wise, who wrote "Are You Gonna Be In There All Night? 50 Great Reasons to Love Living Alone" under the pen name Bobby Solo, says people need to look no further than "Dear Abby" to see that marriage doesn't work for everyone.

"These are people who felt they had to find a mate regardless of what kind of mate it was," she said. "A lot of people make bad decisions because they feel they shouldn't live alone."

USA - March 2000
82 Million
Unmarried Adults

Top Seven States
Number of Unmarried Households

California
5.6 million

New York
3.8 million

Texas
3.4 million

Florida
3.1 million

Pennsylvania
2.3 million

Ohio
2.1 million

Michigan
1.8 million

Top Seven States
Percent of Unmarried Households

New York: 53.4%

Rhode Island: 51.8%

Louisiana: 51.1%

Massachusetts: 51.0%

Nevada: 50.3%

Mississippi: 50.2%

Florida: 49.8%

Significant Increase Shown in Single-Dad Households

A story released on May 18, 2001, by the Associated Press reports that more fathers are going solo in raising kids. It's a change that single fathers say shows greater acceptance by American families and courts that sometimes the best place for children is with dad. Here is a summary:

Thomas Coleman, executive director of the American Association for Single People, attributed the rise in single dads to a variety of reasons, including more judges awarding custody to fathers in divorce cases and more women choosing their jobs over family life.

Single fathers say the numbers help tear down a long-standing conception that single fathers tend to abandon their kids, or at least not take as good care of them as single moms, said Vince Regan, an Internet consultant from Grand Rapids, Mich., who is raising five kids on his own.

``In time, it goes a long way to helping society think that single fathers do help their kids and want to be part of their lives," he said.

According to 2000 census data, some of the biggest increases in single-father households occurred in southern and western states: up 126 percent in Nevada, and 74 percent in Delaware.

The 2000 census found:

--In 2.2 million households, fathers raise their children without a mother. That's about one household in forty-five.

--The number of single-father households rose 62 percent in 10 years.

--The portion of the nation's 105.5 million households headed by single fathers with children living there doubled in a decade, to 2 percent.

AASP Members in the News

excerpts from articles

Majid "Mickey" Ayyoub

San Francisco Chronicle (5/13/01)
Story on workplace discrimination

Majid "Mickey" Ayyoub, who lives with a female domestic partner in Sausalito, said that government, private and public companies should be doing more to help singles get their fair share.

Ayyoub, who is a member of the American Association for Single People, made headlines locally about four years ago when he filed a complaint against the city of Oakland for denying health benefits to his partner, Sandra Washburn.

At the time, the city had a policy offering medical benefits to city employees' same-sex partners. The city eventually changed its policy in 1998 to include heterosexual domestic partners.

"Oakland had been enlightened about domestic-partner status," said Ayyoub, 37. "It is a lifestyle that has to be respected. Just because marriage is there, it shouldn't impact a domestic partner lifestyle. We are real people with real lifestyles, and we want real respect."

Bella DePaulo, Ph.D.

Columbus Ledger-Inquirer (5-15-01)
Story on 2000 census results

Other groups representing single people said they hoped corporate America, which still pampered married couples, would grasp the changing face of households.

``Businesses that continue to cater almost exclusively to married couples have lost sight of the changing demographics of this country and they may get lost in the dust of the companies who do recognize the face of the future," said Bella DePaulo, a leading member of the American Association for Single People.

Other members who have been in the news: Dorian Solot and Marshall Miller, cofounders of the Alternatives to Marriage Project, were quoted in many newspapers about the 2000 census results. Debbie Deem was quoted in the AP feature story on AASP. Cathy Coleman, Vice-President of AASP, was quoted by the Detroit News in a story on the census. Nancy Wise, who uses the pen name Bobby Solo, was quoted in a census story in the New Haven Register.

Kathleen O'Neill

Minneapolis Star Tribune (5-4-01)
Story on our trip to Washington

Photo: Tom Sweeney

Kathleen O'Neill,a 45-year-old planning consultant from St. Paul, says that she and 82 million other single adult Americans have not been factored into the current tax debate.

"I've noticed it since the presidential election," said O'Neill, "With all the references to family, singles and unmarried Americans are just being dismissed."

Democrats champion "working families"; Republicans honor "family values." But one mostly overlooked fact in the discussion of the so-called marriage penalty is that just as many married couples enjoy a "marriage bonus."

Marc St. Camille

New Haven Register (5-15-01)
Story on 2000 census results

Marc St. Camille, co-author of "It's Okay to be Single," said he hopes people are no longer rushing into marriage just because they're lonely. As a massage therapist in New York City, St. Camille listened for years to clients stuck in deplorable relationships because they couldn't bear to live alone.

"People shouldn't be married unless it's a really great thing for them and all the elements are in place," he said. "We never say it's better to be single, but you don't have to be miserable if you live alone."

Brad Coates, Esq.

Honolulu Advertiser (5-29-01)
Story on 2000 census results

"Americans, if given their own choice, like independence in living," said Honolulu divorce attorney Brad Coates. "It's definitely where the world is headed. Census does not lie."

An optimist, Coates also is a realist. He predicts that marriages will continue to fall apart in Hawaii, that 20-somethings will continue to wait longer before marrying, more people will live together before marriage, and an increasing number of grandparents will help raise their grandchildren.

If the cost of living where lower here, we would follow the national trend more quickly, he said. It's too expensive to live alone in Hawaii. That's why we have boomerang kids move back in with their parents.

The next debate will be in the political arena, as unmarried taxpayers fight for tax advantages, insurance and employment policies, Coates said.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR SINGLE PEOPLE

AASP Comes to Rescue
of Single Women's Shelter

"Single People Helping Single People"

Union Rescue Mission

The Union Rescue Mission in Los Angeles is the nation's largest provider of shelter for homeless people.

Providing these services costs a lot of money. The development staff at the Mission has done wonders to raise the funds necessary to help thousands of needy people each year at this shelter. But the demand for services has outpaced fundraising.

Tough choices had to be made by the board of directors. A decision was finally reached to close the dorm for single women without children.

When AASP learned of this tragedy, our first thoughts were: "These are single people. We are single people. We need to do something to help."

Although AASP is trying to help eliminate unfair treatment of unmarried workers, consumers, and taxpayers, our mission is broader than economic issues. We want to help improve the quality of life for all single people, not just those with jobs and money.

The Mission advised us that the single women's dorm would close on April 5, 2001, and could not reopen until $320,000 was raised -- the annual cost of operating the dorm.

AASP was able to arrange for an $80,000 challenge grant from an AASP member to help reopen the single women's shelter. The grant will give one dollar for every three dollars in new donations to the shelter, up to $80,000.

KRLA radio in Los Angeles gave airtime every day through May 31 to raise funds from its listeners. The Rescue Mission has also been working hard to raise funds from its supporters.

Although the Union Rescue Mission is a faith based organization, people using its services need not participate in any religious activity. All needy people are served regardless of their race, religion or non-religion, ethnicity, marital status, gender, or sexual orientation.

Many AASP members in California have responded to a plea for help which we sent out via e-mail. For example, Anita Patino, a widow who lives on a fixed income in East Los Angeles, came to our office when she heard about the crisis. Anita gave us a check for $8 -- enough to house one woman for one night.

Michael A. Vasquez, the production manager for AASP, who gave a donation of $56, said, "I make a modest salary but I can afford to help house a woman in need for one week."

Bella DePaulo, a social psychologist in Santa Barbara who is studying people who are single, said, "My check for $112 is an investment in the future of single women. These kinds of small investments in human capital can be the richest and most rewarding of all, in that they can turn a life around and pay dividends of a lifetime of productivity and contributions to society."

Our efforts are paying off. The Rescue Mission reported that as of June 1, 2001, more than $180,000 had been raised, about $100,000 of which is new money. With $25,000 of the matching challenge grant money added to this, about $205,000 has been raised to date.

We are optimistic that enough money will be donated soon so that the Single Women's Shelter could be reopened before the end of June.

Please note that none of AASP's own funds have been used for this project. The money you donate directly to AASP is used strictly for AASP's own operating budget and overhead.

Singles-Friendly Workplace Campaign

A story published on May 13, 2001 by the San Francisco Chronicle reports that singles are becoming more vocal about what they perceive as unfair treatment by employers. The story mentions AASP's Singles-Friendly Workplace Campaign. Here is a summary:

Single rights advocates argue that unmarried workers make up 40 percent of the nation's full-time workforce and should enjoy the same health-care benefits, tax breaks and other perks that married people receive.

Elinor Burkett took up the fight for singles equity in her book, "The Baby Boon: How Family-Friendly America Cheats the Childless." But employment experts say that more companies are creating workplaces to accommodate the needs of employees regardless of marital or familial status.

"While employers are trying to be more sensitive to those with families, ultimately what they're trying to get at is work-life balance," said Kristin Bowl of the Society of Human Resource Management, an association of human resource professionals. "That is a benefit that's helpful for those with families and those without. They're trying to be inclusive, flexible and trying to provide choices," she said. "It's not a perfect world, but the awareness is growing."

Thomas Coleman, an attorney and executive director of the American Association for Single People, said his goal is to spread the word to even more employers. The nonprofit organization promotes equal rights for unmarried adults, couples, parents and families. It has created a Singles-Friendly Workplace Campaign to bring about more fairness.

Single and unmarried workers typically pay higher taxes and receive fewer job benefits than their married counterparts, according to Coleman. Employers, he said, should implement "cafeteria-style" benefits, which allow workers to choose benefits that meet their individual needs - regardless of their living arrangements.

Fortunately for singles, Coleman said more companies are adopting a different approach. "Some of them (companies) went overboard a bit in stressing so heavily family and children to the point where there's been some type of a backlash," said Coleman, who met with Congressional leaders in Washington, D.C., earlier this month.

Does Your Employer Include Marital Status in its EEO Policy ? Please Inquire and Let Us Know What You Find Out

Mayid "Mickey" Ayyoub, who lives with a female domestic partner in Sausalito, said that government, private and public companies should be doing more to help singles get their fair share. Ayyoub, who is a member of AASP, made headlines locally about four years ago when he filed a complaint against the city of Oakland for denying health benefits to his partner, Sandra Washburn.

At the time, the city had a policy offering medical benefits to city employees' same-sex partners. The city eventually changed its policy in 1998 to include heterosexual domestic partners.

"Oakland had been enlightened about domestic-partner status," said Ayyoub, 37. "It is a lifestyle that has to be respected. Just because marriage is there, it shouldn't impact a domestic partner lifestyle. We are real people with real lifestyles, and we want real respect."

"Equity in the workplace is important," said Donna Lenhoff, general counsel for the National Partnership for Women and Families. However, many singles are missing the point about what family means, she said. "Single people are also members of families. They may not have spouses or children, but single people have parents and grandparents who often need care. They're often quite involved in family responsibilities."

The Singles Friendly Workplace Campaign is conducting a survey of the Fortune 500 Companies. Some have responded, but we want to hear from all of them. As part of our follow-up program, we are seeking college students to fill internship positions in the fall. We are also working on an outreach program to unions.

The principle of "equal pay for equal work" is at the core of the Singles Friendly Workplace Campaign. We are not trying to take anything away from anyone. We want fairness. Employers should acknowledge that workers have diverse living arrangements. Freedom of choice for employees should be respected. Discrimination on the basis of marital status should not occur in employment practices, including benefits compensation.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR SINGLE PEOPLE

Legislative News

Federal and State Bills Affecting Unmarried Americans

Bills Passed

The following bills which affect the rights of unmarried adults have been enacted into law since March 2001.

Federal -- tax reform. HR 1836, sponsored by Rep. William Thomas, phases in various tax reduction provisions for income taxes and estate taxes. This results in a reduction of income taxes in all income brackets. It reduces "marriage penalty" for some married couples but also increases a "marriage bonus" for most married couples. It increases the child tax credit. It gradually increases exemptions from estate taxes, gradually lowers the tax rates, and then repeals the estate tax in 2010. It was signed by President Bush in June 2001.

Arizona -- right of privacy. HB 2414, sponsored by Rep. Kathi Foster, repealed criminal statutes prohibiting consensual sodomy and unmarried cohabitation. The Governor signed the bill into law in May 2001 in order to protect the privacy rights of unmarried adults. The bill was supported by Rep. Steve May and Rep. Christine Weason, both of whom are members of AASP.

New Mexico -- right of privacy. SB 95, sponsored by Sen. Michael A. Sanchez, repealed a criminal statute prohibiting unmarried cohabitation. The Governor signed the bill into law in March 2001.

Maine -- domestic partner insurance. HB 1256, by Rep. Benjamin Dudley, requires health carriers to offer policies providing coverage for domestic partners of health plan members on the same terms as coverage for spouses. The bill does not mandate employers to give the benefits, but requires insurers to provide the coverage to employers who voluntarily offer such benefits. The Governor signed the bill in June 2001.

Wayne Salvador
Research Assistant

One of the educational programs of AASP involves identifying and monitoring legislation pending in Congress and in the state Legislatures which may affect the substantial rights and the well being of single and unmarried Americans. We also monitor current political and legal events as they are reported in the news.

These functions are performed by Wayne Salvador, under the supervision of Thomas F. Coleman, Executive Director of AASP.

Wayne summarizes this information and posts updates to our website several times a week. Summaries of pending bills, and a status report on each, are reported in the website section entitled "Legislation to Watch." Summaries of current political and legal news stories are posted either to the "Recent News" or the "Domestic Partner" news sections of the website.

When stories are more than 10 days old, they are transferred to one of three archive sections: U.S. News Archive, International News Archive, or Domestic Partner News Archive.

Wayne Salvador is a law student at Glendale College of Law. He is married and has a two-year-old son.

Maine -- non-marital children. HB 864, by Rep. Elaine Fuller, removed the term "bastard" from state statutes which referred to children born to unmarried parents. It was signed by the Governor in May 2001.

Delaware -- non-marital children. HB 101, by Rep. Helene Keeley, replaced the term "bastardy" proceedings with "parentage" proceedings in statutes dealing with paternity. It was signed by Gov. Ruth Minner in June 2001. Keeley and Minner are both members of AASP.

Bills Defeated

Montana -- auto insurance rates. Marital status discrimination in auto insurance rates is currently illegal in Montana. SB 27, by Sen. Rick Holden, would have made such discrimination legal. The bill passed the Senate but was defeated in a House committee in April 2001.

New Mexico -- health insurance. SB 413, by Sen. John Arthur Smith, would have prohibited health care plans under the Health Care Purchasing Act from terminating dependent coverage until the dependent reaches the age of 26. Many providers currently drop dependent coverage when the dependent reaches 18. The bill passed the Legislature by nearly unanimous vote but was vetoed by the Governor in April 2001.

South Carolina -- contraceptive funding. HB 3687, by the House Ways and Means Committee, would have prohibited state funding from being used to provide contraceptives to unmarried persons. After this passed the House, the contraceptive measure was removed by the Senate in May 2001.

(More Legislative News on next page.)

Compiled by
Wayne Salvador

More Legislative News

Federal and State Bills Affecting Unmarried Americans

Bills Pending in Congress

The following bills which affect the rights of unmarried adults are pending in Congress as of June 2001.

HR 222 / Increase in Minimum Wage. Author: Rep. James A. Traficant, (202) 225-5261. **Purpose:** Would increase the minimum wage over the next two years by one dollar, to $6.15. Since most minimum-wage earners are not married, this bill would affect the interests of unmarried workers. **Last action:** referred to committee on Jan. 3, 2001. **Status:** pending in House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

HR 638 / Domestic partner benefits for federal workers. Author: Rep. Barney Frank, (202) 225-5931. **Purpose:** Would provide health and other work benefits to domestic partners of federal employees just as spouses of federal workers receive benefits. Also would make such benefits exempt from federal income tax just as spousal benefits are tax exempt. As presently written, two unmarried adults may qualify as domestic partners, regardless of the gender of the partners. **Last action**: referred to two committees on Feb. 14, 2001. **Status:** pending in House Committees on Gvt. Reform and Ways and Means.

HR 690 / Immigration for same-sex permanent partners. Author: Rep. Jerrold Nadler, (202) 225-5635. **Purpose**: Would allow same-sex "permanent partners" of US citizens to immigrate to the United States, just as spouses of US citizens may immigrate. **Actions taken:** referred to two committees on Feb. 14, 2001. Referred to subcommittee on March 2, 2001. **Status:** Pending in House Committee on Gvt. Reform and Committee on Ways and Means -- pending in Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims.

S 410 / Amends Violence Against Women Act of 2000. Author: Senator Mike Crapo, (202) 224-6142. **Purpose:** Would expand the legal assistance for victims of violence grant program to include legal assistance for victims of dating violence. **Actions taken:** introduced on Feb. 28, 2001. Referred to Committee on the Judiciary. **Status:** Pending in Senate Judiciary Committee.

Let Your Views Be Known on These Bills

Call the bill Authors

Let Us Know of Other Bills to Monitor

Bills Pending in the States

The following are a sample of some of the bills now pending in various state legislatures which would affect the rights of unmarried adults.

New Jersey -- discrimination against consumers. AB 142. **Author:** Assemblywoman Arline M. Friscia, (732)-634-2526. **Purpose:** Would prohibit discrimination with respect to prices charged by sellers of services against consumers on the basis of their marital status, familial status, sex, sexual orientation, etc. **Last action:** January 11, 2000. **Status:** Referred to Assembly Commerce Committee.

Washington -- visitation rights for non-parent. HB 1054. **Author:** Rep. Carolyn Edmonds, (360) 786-7880. **Purpose:** Would authorize courts to grant visitation rights to a non-parent (including an unmarried partner of the child's biological parent) who has significant ties to a child if it appears that such visitation would benefit the child in a substantial manner. **Actions taken:** bill re-introduced on April 25, 2001. **Status:** Pending in committee.

California -- protections for registered partners. AB 25. **Author:** Assemblywoman Carole Migden, (916) 319-2013. **Purpose:** Would grant several significant legal protections to those who register with the state as domestic partners. Current law allows same-sex partners of any adult age to register, as well as opposite-sex partners if both parties are over 62 years old. Would allow registration if only one partner is over 62. **Actions Taken:** Passed Assembly. **Status:** Pending in Senate. Governor says he will sign the bill if it reaches his desk.

Massachusetts -- right of privacy. SB 95. **Author:** SB 95. **Author:** Representative David Paul Linsky, (617) 722-2210. **Purpose:** Would repeal criminal laws prohibiting consensual sodomy and unmarried sexual intercourse. **Actions taken:** Introduced on January 3, 2001; referred to Committee on Judiciary. **Status:** Pending in committee

See our website for a more complete list of bills.

Discrimination in the Military

Complaint about the Navy

I just finished reading some information on your website concerning single people in the military. I myself was in the Navy, and believe me it's much worse than the Army provides for their people.

After living in the barracks for my entire stint in the military and watching the disparity in quality of life between myself and married folks, I decided to leave the service. Being assigned overseas, my first living quarters was in the barracks. We had a typhoon knock out power on the island for a month or so, married people in housing and those in apartments received $1500 every 10 days of going without power. The decision for the persons living in the barracks without power and air was that we receive NOTHING.

I was then moved to the European theatre and lived in an E-5 barracks since I was assigned to ships on short term basis. Ready to leave the barracks for good, I inquired to my command about moving into an apartment out in town. They inquired about my career intentions, in which I responded that I would be leaving in two years. Needless to say, my request was turned down.

I had never been a discipline problem, had plenty of savings and great credit, and here I was being told I was staying in the barracks to rot by people who had never even lived there themselves.

The military is losing competent people hand over fist because we're treated differently. Single people leave in hordes, while married people stay. Why? Young, inexperienced people who marry in the military and have children without the education or means to care for them outside of the military never leave. They can't afford to. They're stuck, they'll tell you themselves.

In closing, I do think the military will eventually change this policy in about 20 years or so when they can't entice anyone to join. I admit I had some of the best experiences of my life, I contributed to my country, fought in a war for her, but left, and the pay and quality of life disparity was the kicker.

Will
May 20, 2001

Complaint about the Army

I heard about your site on FOX News.

My biggest gripe is that I, with a perfect driving record and as a US Army Captain (will be promoted on 1 June), will pay more for insurance than a married flunkie loser with multiple offenses.

I also read the article from the single soldier in the barracks. He's right. Single soldiers (E-4 and below) are not allowed to receive Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) and live off base. However, company commanders may authorize separate rations for food for soldiers.

As an officer, I receive BAH to live off base. At first I lived on post, but the officers in the Bachelor Officers' Quarters (BOQ) on my post were being harrassed by the housing office, so a bunch of us moved off post. Married officers receive a higher BAH (by about 25-30%) to live off post than single officers. The rates are based on zip code, rank, and with-or-without dependants.

Eliot
May 26, 2001

And the Marines Too

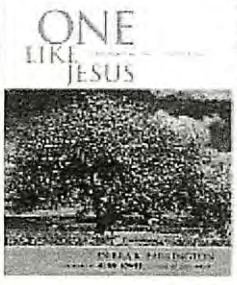
A story in the Desert Sun (May 29, 2001) focused on single Marines at the base in 29 Palms in California. Here are some excerpts:

Corps-wide, more than 60 percent of enlisted Marines are unmarried, and many live on base.

The single barracks life can be suffocating, say some Marines. Cpl. Brent Walker would like to live in his own home. "You lose some sleep in here," he says.

Because of his rank -- Walker, 28, just joined the Corps two years ago --he cannot live off base. When he makes sergeant or gets married he can move out.

Book Review



One Like Jesus
by Debra K. Farrington
(Loyola Press: $12.95)

"If we cannot be alone and at peace with ourselves we can never be truly present to one another."

-- In the Forward by Alan Jones,
Dean of Grace Cathedral
San Francisco

Review by Anita Patino
Member of AASP

This book is about the choices we make in our lives, such as staying single or seeking a mate, a companion, or a partner. It was interesting and enjoyable to read.

The main message in this book is to be who you are, make choices as to how you will live, and then go about living.

I think that women would especially find the book comfortable to read because I believe that, in general, women examine life more closely and thoroughly than men. But everyone could learn from this book whether male or female, young or old.

Religious people would like the book because it contains many examples and stories from the Bible.

The book contains a series of biblically based meditations that affirm the value of being single, whether the reader finds himself or herself unmarried by choice, through divorce, or after the death of a spouse.

Anita Patino is a widow living in East Los Angeles. She was married for many years and has several grown children and many grandchildren. Having finished raising her children, Anita now enjoys her single life and spends much of her leisure time reading books of all kinds.

Ask Someone to Join AASP

Share this section of the newsletter with a friend.
You joined AASP as a relatively new organization. We have more than tripled our membership in the past few months. But we have a long way to go until we have the number of members that will be necessary to have a self-sustaining national organization to effectively advance the cause of equal rights for single and unmarried Americans.

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You can also join AASP through our website
www.unmarriedAmerica.com

Stop the Stigma Campaign

Progress in Maine and Delaware

In 16 states there are statutes stigmatizing children born to unmarried parents by labeling the offspring as "bastards" or "illegitimate" children. In 36 states, it is the judges who brand these children as "illegitimate."

The American Association for Single People believes that every child is legitimate. Judicial and legislative name calling is unconstitutional and must cease.

AASP has launched a national campaign to stop the stigma imposed by law on children born to unmarried parents. The purpose of our educational campaign is simple: *stop the name calling*. Lawmakers should remove the term "bastard" from statutes. Legislators and judges should replace "illegitimate child" with more appropriate terminology, such as "child born to unmarried parents" or "nonmarital child."

We wrote to several judges' associations and asked them to bring this matter to the attention of their members. We also contacted law professors, civil rights groups, and single parent organizations in a few of the offending states (Arkansas, Delaware, New Jersey, and Maine.)

Some organizations wasted no time in showing their support. For example, the ACLU of Southern California and the ACLU of Delaware have both endorsed this project.

A reform measure surfaced in Delaware when Representative Helene Keeley, a member of AASP, introduced a bill to remove the term "bastard" from state codes. That bill passed the Legislature and was signed by the Governor in June 2001.

Representative Elaine Fuller picked up the torch in Maine with a bill to remove both "bastard" and "illegitimate" from state statutes. When lawmakers could not agree on a substitute term for "illegitimate," Fuller's bill was amended to eliminate only "bastard" from state laws. The amended bill passed both houses and was signed into law by the Governor in May 2001.

To our knowledge, no movement for reform has been initiated in Arkansas or New Jersey, or in any of the other offending states.

Do you live in one of these states?

Do your state officials know how you feel about the government stigmatizing children with labels such as "bastard" or "illegitimate?"

States using "bastard" in statutes

Arkansas
Delaware
Louisiana
Mississippi
New Jersey
N. Carolina
Oklahoma
Rhode Island
Tennessee
Vermont
W. Virginia

States using "illegitimate" in statutes

Ohio
S. Carolina
S. Dakota

Write to your governor and state legislators about this

Letter from Rep. Elaine Fuller, Maine House of Representatives

On April 25, 2001, Rep. Elaine Fuller wrote the following letter to AASP.

I received your information last week about stigmatizing children in our state statutes. I agree with your concern, and to that end, I have a bill in this session of the Maine Legislature to remove the words "bastard" and "illegitimate child" from our state statutes. The bill is L.D. 1136 -- An Act to Treat All Children with Dignity. You can access a copy of the bill on the Internet through our Main Legislature website.

The Judiciary Committee heard the bill and no one had a problem about removing the term "bastard" from the statutes. However, questions were raised about "illegitimate child" in that different scenarios were presented about what is an "illegitimate child." The term had been changed to "born to an unwed mother," but it was pointed out that the mother might be married, but not to the father of the child. There were also a number of places in the statutes, particularly related to child support, where the term was used and the committee could not come up with a term that responded to people's concerns.

Therefore, this time around, "bastard" is being removed but "illegitimate child" remains. Maybe we can come up with a better solution in another session.

Reply of AASP Executive Director

Removing the term "bastard" is certainly an improvement. However, it seems to me that "illegitimate child" could easily be replaced with a more appropriate term. The codes, including those dealing with child support, could refer to "nonmarital child" rather than "illegitimate child." The term "nonmarital child" could be defined as "the offspring of a man and a woman who are not married to each other."

Rep. Fuller should be commended for her leadership for introducing this bill. Now all it will take is a little more leadership, with a simple amendment such as that referred to above, and the entire problem could be corrected in the next legislative session.

"Single Life"

by Perry L. Heath

Living the single life by choice
Doesn't mean you shouldn't have a voice
Constantly treated as if you are wrong
Yet in America we are 82 million strong

Yes we tend to nurse our own illnesses and colds
But we are 47% of the nation's households
And this needs to be shouted until voice is hoarse
That we are 40% of the nation's workforce

Months of leave for married maternity
Eight weeks of leave for married paternity
Two days sick if single you would think eternity
Try to make you feel outside of the fraternity

Health & life insurance for "significant other"
If single you can't even cover your own mother
To my way of thinking this is extremely sad
Whose more "significant" than mom and dad?

"*Single*nificant" should be added to all forms:
To be taken as seriously as the other accepted norms
We have a lot of grinding to be done with our axes
Forced to pay a disproportionately high share of taxes

When it comes to taxes we need to make a big fuss
The current debate on tax reform completely ignores us
All emphasis on tax reform is for "working families"
Are we as singles looked upon as "working anomalies"?

Required to pay the same in social security taxing
Single benefits tight, married benefits relaxing
Platforms and websites of both major parties
Have singled out singles as major disparities

Considering filing joint return with household member?
Tantamount to chopping tree and not yelling timber!
Hypothetical yet realistic scenario living with sister
Paying bills, buying food, only count if mrs. & mister?

Hypothetical yet realistic scenario living with brother
Backtracking this is your true significant other
Created, molded from same oven with eternal flame
Going through eternity most likely with same last name

Leaving assets to anyone constitutes 60% death tax
If married can leave unlimited amount tax free via fax
No dependency deduction for domestic partner's child
Are they considered to be like animals in the wild?

Marriage penalty for joint filers is up for repeal?
Marriage bonus for most joint filers having appeal
Members of Congress avoiding response to survey
Party officials why to us you have nothing to say?

Unmarried taxpayers it's time to make a choice
Join AASP and help create a collective voice!!

Perry L. Heath is a member of AASP who lives in Washington D.C.

Join AASP

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e-mail _____

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www.unmarriedAmerica.com

Meet Our New Honorary Members

people who recently accepted honorary memberships

Donna Albrechts
author of "Buying a Home When You're Single"
resident of California

Marjorie Barton
author of "Living Solo in a Double World"
resident of Oklahoma

Herbert Chilstrom & Lowell Erdahl
co-authors of "Sexual Fulfillment for Single and Married, Straight and Gay, Young and Old"
residents of Minnesota

Edd Byrnes
(photo from the 1950s)

Byrnes was one of the first teen idols on tv -- Starring in 77 Sunset Strip. (1958 - 1963) He played Gerald Lloyd Kookson III, "Kookie," a cool, hip talking, parking lot attendant. He recorded "Kookie, Kookie, Lend Me Your Comb." His best early, major movie role was as Lieutenant Arnold Bittman in Darby's Rangers (1958).

Jo Ann Castle
played ragtime piano for years on the Lawrence Welk Show

Jennifer Bawden
author of "Get a Life *Then* Get a Man"
resident of New York

Sheila Ellison
author of "The Courage to be a Single Mother"
resident of California

Christopher Carrington
author of "No Place Like Home: Relationships and Family Life Among Lesbians and Gay Men"
resident of California

Tama Janowitz
author of "A Certain Age"
resident of New York

Deirdre Weaver, author of "Loosely-Braided Fog: A 3-D Single Mom in the Making" has joined AASP. She is a resident of Connecticut. (No Photo)

Letters to AASP

Infertility treatment denied to single woman

I was refused treatment for infertility based solely on my single marital status *in writing* by the following:

1. The University of Florida
2. Shands Teaching Hospital and Clinics Inc.
3. The University of South Florida
4. The Center for Human Reproduction

This began in 1998 and has continued to the present. In 1998, the Center for Disease Control reported that 19% of fertility clinics refuse treatment to single women.

I have spent the last 3 years filing complaints with various Local, State and Federal agencies without much luck. I have hired attorneys now (that took 3 years too!) and plan to file suit. I don't have a lot of money and infertility therapy is very expensive so I don't know how far I will personally be able to take the case but I at least want them to be concerned about putting anyone else through the heartache and anguish this has already cost me.

Any information you have that might be helpful will be very much appreciated. Thank you.

M.M.

Ed. Note. We replied to this letter, offering to help this woman bring this issue to light through publicity. We also suggested that the ACLU and NOW and AASP should work together to fight marital status discrimination in medical treatment. We are following up by sending this newsletter to the state headquarters of both of these groups in Florida, along with a letter suggesting that all three groups take some joint action to correct this injustice. In view of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in 1971 in *Eisenstadt v. Baird*, it is probably unconstitutonal for a government clinic to deny fertility treatment to an unmarried person. In that case, the court ruled that it was unconstitutional for a state to provide contraceptives to married adults but not to unmarried adults. The decision to procreate or not is a fundamental right and equal protection of the law requires fairness in administering programs dealing with procreation and contraception.

Other letters we have received are posted online at:
http://www.unmarriedamerica.com/letters-received.htm

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You can also join AASP through our website
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Reactions to Our Bipartisan Meetings

In March and April we contacted the offices of each member of Congress, the headquarters of both major parties and some of their affiliated organizations, as well as the White House. We extended invitations to meet with us during May 1 through May 4. We received 16 appointments.

Each of our meetings in Washington lasted about 30 minutes. On each occasion we discussed the growing number of unmarried Americans and the failure of politicians and parties to reach out to single and unmarried voters. We also gave examples of unfair marital status discrimination in the tax codes.

We took notes at each meeting about where we met, the attitude of the staff member, his or her body language, and whether they showed any signs of genuine interest.

Here is a summary of our observations:

Ilka Couto, office of Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher (D-CA). We met in the office lobby with people coming and going. She was very unfriendly. She defended the "Families First" policy of her party as a strategic "step toward the middle." We told her that single people were in the middle too.

Danielle Sarmir, office of Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA). We met in a private room. She listened intently. She said that her boss is in favor of repealing the estate tax and favors partial privatization of social security.

Catherine Blue, office of Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA). We met in a private room. She was friendly but mostly listened. She said that Boxer favors equity in taxes, but is against estate tax repeal and wants to keep social secuity as it stands.

Joe Westmoreland, office of Congressman Nathan Deal (R-GA). We met in the Congressman's personal office. It was obvious that he had thoroughly read our materials. He said that Deal supports partial privatization of social security. He will speak with Deal's press person to suggest that future press releases mention single people whenever it seems appropriate.

Bill Grady, office of Congressman Adam Schiff (D-CA). We met in the Congressman's personal office. He was friendly. He suggested that some politicians may shy away from equal rights for single people because they fear that voters will have a perception that something will be taken away from married couples.

Jeff Hammond, office of Senator Evan Bayh (D-IN). We met in a private room. He listened intently. He expressed support for elimination of marital status discrimination in tax codes. He asked for more information on the voting patterns of unmarried adults in Indiana.

Lee Morris, office of Senator Don Nickles (R-OK). We met in a private room. He was friendly and listened intently. He thinks that momentum will build for partial privitization of social security. He was unaware that domestic partner job benefits are taxed but spousal benefits are not.

Chuck Marr, office of Senator Tom Daschle (D-SD). We met in a private room. He listened but spent a lot of time arguing in favor of his party's approach to tax reform. He understood our displeasure with the emphasis of both parties on families to the exclusion of single people.

Melissa Mueller, office of Congressman Lloyd Doggett (D-TX). We met in the office lobby. She was friendly and listened intently. She felt that singles' rights won't go anywhere unless single people write letters to politicians and vote in larger numbers than they currently do. Politicians need to hear more from single people.

R. Michael Schiffer, office of Senator Diane Feinstein (D-CA). We met in a private room. He was polite and listened intently. He thinks that the "working family" approach by the Democratic party was the result of polling and focus groups. He said that if we want to change that approach by the party then we need to do our own polling and focus groups to show that a more inclusive approach will net better results.

Nick Kolovos, office of Congresswoman Anna Eschoo (D-CA). We met in the office lobby. He was attentive and friendly. He said we raised good points and he would share them with his boss. He surmised that so much discrimination may be occurring because the size of the unmarried constituency is underestimated.

Erin Hatch, office of Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL). We met in a private room. She was friendly. She told us that in their office there are 25 single and 7 married staffers. She said that her boss needs to receive letters from single people in Florida. She told us how a congressional travel policy discriminates against single staff members.

David From, office of the Speechwriter to the President. We met in his office in the Executive Office Building next to the White House. He was friendly. He wanted to know more about the demographics of unmarried adults. Are most over 65 and under 25 or are most in between? He wanted to know whether single people are a "stream" or a "pool." Would it suffice if the President said the word "individuals" or is it important for him to say "single people" or do unmarried people even care? He seemed genuinely interested in crafting messages to help the President effectively communicate to all Americans.

Mark Spengler, deputy political director for the Democratic National Committee. We met in a private room. He was friendly and attentive. He wondered about how many single people are aware of the discrimination against them. He mentioned the trouble of getting 18-24 year olds to vote. We reminded him that even though the "marital status gap" in voting patterns favors Democrats, the DNC does not even once mention the word "single" or "unmarried" or the issue of marital status discrimination on its website or in the party platform or in its bylaws. We also expressed concern that the DNC excludes heterosexual couples from its domestic partner benefits plan for its employees.

Tim Teepell, deputy director for coalitions for the Republican National Committee. We met in a private room. He was friendly and attentive but did not say much. We suggested that the RNC should do some outreach to single people. Currenty, there is nothing on their website or in their literature to even acknowledge that unmarried Americans exist. He asked us to send him our newsletters.

Rob Vernon, executive director of the Young Republican National Federation. We met in a private room. He was friendly. He suggested that the Republican Party uses the phrases "younger workers" or "young people" as code words for "single people." He thinks that 50 percent of the members of his group are single. He believes there will be a big fight over the President's plan for partial privatization of social security.

Next Up: Social Security Tax Reform

AASP Member Urges Caution

The following are excerpts from a letter we received from a member. We are reprinting those portions of the letter which pertain to social security tax, since that seems to be the next major issue on the tax reform agenda.

"As an ever-single adult, a single parent and a scholar studying singles, I was very happy to discover AASP. I was pleased to see that your organization seeks to identify and serve a broad base of the unmarried including solo singles, gays and lesbians, co-habiting couples, single parents, the ever-single, divorced and widowed.

"However, I have reservations about some of the proposals for tax reform advocated in your Newsletter (Vol. 2, #3, March - May, 2001). In seeking to eliminate marital-status discrimination, I urge you to consider its impact on class and income inequality in the U.S., especially since single and non-family households have lower incomes than married couple households (U.S. Census Bureau Report on Income Inequality, 1947 - 1998). . .

"It may be true, as you argue in the newsletter, that the current social security system is unfair to unmarried adults and to African-Americans (because a large percentage are unmarried and have a shorter life span). But the solution is not to scrap social security in favor of private investment accounts. Dismantling social security would create more insecurity for all Americans, and hurt many more single people than it would help.

"Income inequality has increased enormously in the U.S. since 1980 especially in the share of income going to the top 5% of households. Income inequality in the U.S. is much greater than in other advanced industrial societies in Europe, so our tax system, and the much weaker welfare state here, are definitely factors. . .

"Those of us active in contemporary feminism quickly learned that we could not consider gender alone, but always had to consider the impact of race, class and gender when seeking women's rights. Likewise marital status can not be the only consideration in evaluating policy options. I hope you will reconsider your endorsements."

Dr. E. Kay Trimberger
AASP member

Reply from the Executive Director

An unmarried worker pays the same percent of his or her earnings as a social security tax as does a married worker. If the unmarried worker dies one month before retirement, all of that tax is forfeited to the system. If a married worker dies, his or her spouse can collect a surviving spouse's benefits for 20 or 30 years, even if the survivor has paid little or no social security tax. Also, none of the unmarried worker's benefits can be given to a surviving domestic partner if he or she has a partner.

Actuarial data show that married people tend to live longer than single or divorced people. Therefore, as a class, married workers collect more in social security benefits than do unmarried workers as a class.

There is something wrong with this picture. Leaving the system as it is merely perpetuates a system built on marital status discrimination.

"Partial privatization" of social security would allow an unmarried worker to invest one-third of his or her contributions to social security in a private account which would be owned by the worker. Therefore, when the worker dies, this portion could be passed on to a beneficiary of his or her choice, rather than everything being forfeited to the system.

Should the Social Security Tax Be Reformed to Remove Marital Status Bias ? Let Us Know Your Views on This Issue

AASP does not support or oppose specific legislation. Rather, we put a spotlight on problem areas and potential solutions as they are offered. "Partial privatization" is the only proposal on the table right now to eliminate discrimination against unmarried workers in the social security system.

Former Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan was recently appointed as co-chair of the President's task force on social security reform. Moynihan cares as much about protecting seniors as any living political leader. The fact that he supports partial privatization of social security should be enough for skeptics to keep an open mind on the issue until the report of the task force is presented to the President and to Congress next year.

Thomas F. Coleman
Executive Director

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AASP
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR SINGLE PEOPLE

UnmarriedAmerica

News for unmarried workers, consumers, taxpayers and voters

Volume 3, No. 1 Fall Quarter Sept. - Nov. 2001

AASP Celebrates National Singles Week

September 16 - September 22

Outreach to Members of Congress

The American Association for Single People is launching National Singles Week by having its leaders deliver certificates to 135 members of Congress. National Singles Week is commemorated during the third week of September. *(See story on back page for the history of National Singles Week.)*

AASP's President Nora Baladerian and Executive Director Thomas F. Coleman will fly to the nation's capital on Sept. 15. A reception will be held the following day for local AASP members (D.C., Maryland, and Virginia).

On Sept. 17 and 18, Baladerian and Coleman and some local members will visit the offices of 123 members of the House of Representatives to deliver a "Census Bureau Certification of Unmarried Majority District." The certificate documents the fact that in each of these congressional districts the majority of households are headed by unmarried adults. A certificate also will be delivered to 12 United States Senators from six "unmarried majority" states. *(See page 4 for a sample certificate.)*

AASP has also contacted the governors of New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Nevada, Mississippi, and Louisiana -- states in which the majority of households are headed by single and unmarried adults. We have asked them to proclaim the week of September 16 - 22 as National Singles Week in their state. A similar request has been made to the mayors of several cities. *(See page 3 for a sample Proclamation.)*

Things You Can Do

- ✓ **Proclamations**
- ✓ **Church or Temple**
- ✓ **Bookstores**
- ✓ **Libraries**
- ✓ **Gift memberships**
- ✓ **Radio talk shows**
- ✓ **Letters to editors**
- ✓ **Greeting cards**
- ✓ **Reception or party**

(see page 2 for details)

Outreach to Singles and the Media

On August 1, 2001, we sent out a press release to more than 200 singles' organizations, newspapers, and newsletters throughout the nation. We asked them to spread the word about National Singles Week and to encourage their readers and members to celebrate the occasion in some appropriate way.

We included a sample proclamation so people could ask their governor or mayor to sign it. We also included a list of actions single people could take prior to and during National Singles Week.

AASP is sending a media advisory to feature writers and political editors at major newspapers throughout the nation to alert them of story opportunities for National Singles Week. A similar advisory is being sent to radio talk shows and AP bureaus in all states.

Perhaps journalists will do a story about single and unmarried people in their communities to be published during the week of September 16. Or maybe the media in these "unmarried majority" congressional districts will interview these members of Congress about how they plan to represent unmarried constituents. Some may even want to take a photo of leaders of AASP presenting the member of Congress with the certificate documenting the unmarried majority status of their district.

We want to hear from you. Write to us or e-mail us. Tell us what you did to celebrate National Singles Week in your community. Do something to make it a memorable occasion.

National Singles Week

September 16 - September 22, 2001

What You Can Do

The following list contains suggestions from the American Association for Single People about actions you can take to recognize and celebrate National Singles Week in your community:

Prior to the Week of Sept. 16

✔ **Official Proclamations.** Contact the Governor of your state and the Mayor of your city. Ask them to issue an official proclamation recognizing National Singles Week. Fax them a sample proclamation. *(See page 3).*

✔ **Church or Temple.** If you participate in organized religious activities, contact your minister or rabbi during August. Ask that a special service or prayer be conducted during the week of September 16 to commemorate National Singles Week.

✔ **Bookstores.** Go to one or more of your local bookstores in early September. Ask them to set up a display for National Singles Week. The display would contain books for and about single and unmarried people, such as books for solo singles, single parents, unmarried couples, divorcees, or widowed adults. The AASP website has a list of books released in 2000 and 2001 which could be used as a guide. *(Go to: www.unmarriedAmerica.com)*

✔ **Libraries.** Visit one or more local libraries during early September, such as a community library or a college library. Ask the chief librarian to post an announcement and set up a display during National Singles Week. Again, the AASP website could be used as a guide for ideas on book selections.

✔ **Join AASP.** Give your single friends a gift membership in AASP. All it takes is a $10 tax-deductible donation. The new member will receive a gift membership card from us listing you as the donor. They also will receive quarterly newsletters in the mail and full access to the members area of our website. *(Go to our website or call us for details.)*

During the Week of September 16

✔ **Radio Talk Shows.** Call your local radio talk show host. Tell the host that it is National Singles Week and that you would like them to invite listeners to call in to discuss issues affecting single and unmarried adults. The host could contact Stephanie Knapik, AASP's Director of Public Affairs, for programming ideas. [818-242-5124]

✔ **Letter to Editor.** Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. Tell them that it is National Singles Week and that you think the paper should run a weekly column for single people or the features editor should do a story about the large number and wide variety of single and unmarried people in your area. The features editor could contact AASP for a national perspective.

✔ **Throw a party.** Invite your unmarried friends, neighbors, family members, and coworkers, to your house for an informal reception to kick off National Singles Week. A barbeque or brunch on Sunday, September 16, or an evening coffee hour during that week would be appropriate. Contact AASP if you would like some literature to distribute to your guests.

✔ **Greeting cards.** During National Singles Week, send an e-mail greeting to single people you know. Share your feelings with them – one single person to another. Use a blank card and insert your own verse. Some on-line greeting card companies, such as bluemountain.com or 123greetings.com have developed cards for National Singles Week.

☎ **Contact AASP.** Tell us what you did for National Singles Week so we can give a summary in our next newsletter. Write us: 415 E. Harvard St., Suite 204, Glendale, CA 91205. Call us: (888) 295-1679. E-mail us: **unmarried@earthlink.net** Visit our website: **unmarriedAmerica.com**

Proclamation

By virtue of the authority vested in me as (Governor or Mayor), the week of September 16 - September 22, 2001, is hereby officially recognized as:

National Singles Week in (name of city or state)

WHEREAS, the 2000 Census has reported that 48.3 percent of the nation's households are headed by unmarried adults; and

WHEREAS, the Current Population Survey taken by the Census Bureau in 2000 has documented that 82 million adults in the nation are unmarried; and

WHEREAS, the living arrangements of single and unmarried adults in the nation are diverse, with 27 million adults living alone, nearly 10 million single parents raising their children, and 45 million adults living in other types of unmarried households, and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Labor statistics reports that about 40 percent of the full-time work force is comprised of unmarried adults; and

WHEREAS, single and unmarried adults make significant contributions to society in a wide variety of ways, as employees, taxpayers, parents, and volunteers to civic and charitable causes; and

WHEREAS, a large percentage of the households in (name of city or state) are headed by unmarried adults; and

WHEREAS, a large percentage of the adults in (name of city or state) are unmarried, by reason of being single, or having divorced, or having become widowed; and

WHEREAS, for many years, businesses and private organizations have made it a tradition to recognize the third week of September as National Singles Week as a way of celebrating the lives of single and unmarried citizens and residents of the United States and to honor the many contributions they have made to their families, neighborhoods, cities, states, and the nation, as well as to their employers, churches, charities, and civic organizations; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting for the (city of _____ or state of _____) to recognize and honor its single and unmarried citizens and residents in this manner;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, (name of Governor or Mayor), do hereby recognize September 16 - September 22, 2001, as National Singles Week in the (name of city or state) and I call this observance to the attention of all our population.

Dated: _____ _____

Signature

Ask your governor or mayor to issue a proclamation.

Census Bureau Certification of Unmarried Majority District

Presentation by AASP for National Singles Week (September 16 - 22, 2001)

As a part of our activities commemorating National Singles Week, leaders of the American Association for Single People are in Washington, D.C. to present certificates to 135 members of Congress -- 12 Senators and 123 Representatives. These certificates document the fact that unmarried households are the dominant form of living arrangement in the areas represented by these legislators.

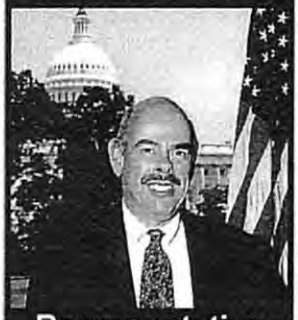
The 2000 Census shows that 51.7 percent of the nation's households contain a married couple, with the other 48.3 percent being headed by unmarried adults. It is likely that before the next Census is taken the majority of the nation's households will fall into the unmarried category.

AASP is a nonprofit and nonpartisan association dedicated to promoting the well being and human rights of unmarried individuals, couples, parents, and families. We strive to achieve fairness in the workplace, marketplace, and in government programs for all unmarried adults, whether they live alone, have a roommate or domestic partner, are single parents, or live with other relatives.

National Singles Week is an excellent time for these certificates to be presented to these "unmarried majority" members of Congress. Each of these elected officials should display the certificate in an appropriate place so that it serves as a reminder of the diversity of the constituencies they represent.

We trust that each of these members of the House and Senate will reach out to the unmarried majority in their district or state and will do their best to represent them in an effective manner.

Congressional District 29 California



Representative Henry Waxman

District Office Address:
8436 West Third Street
Suite 600
Los Angeles, CA 90048
Phone: (323) 651-1040
Fax: (323) 655-0502

Certificate Presented By:

AASP
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR SINGLE PEOPLE

unmarriedAmerica.com

March 2000: Census Certification for Congressional Districts

The United States Census Bureau has certified results from the 2000 Census for various geographical areas, including each congressional district.

According to data tables from the 2000 Census (Table DP-1, Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000), there are 123 congressional districts in which a *majority* of households are headed by unmarried adults.

Congressman Henry Waxman represents one of these "unmarried majority" districts.

The marital status profile for households in this district and data showing other relevant household characteristics appear in the table below.

Households by Marital Status	Number	Percent
total households	290,778	100.0%
headed by unmarried adults	200,908	69.1%
headed by married couples	89,870	30.9%
Other household data		
adults living alone	133,105	45.8%
married couples with children	34,317	11.8%
unmarried partners	17,365	6.0%
total households with children	48,893	16.8%

This is a sample of the certificate being presented to 135 members of Congress.

"Unmarried Majority" Members of Congress

This list contains the names of members of Congress (listed alphabetically by state) who represent a district or state in which the majority of households are headed by unmarried adults. The percent of unmarried households is listed for each of them.

During National Singles Week, AASP is presenting these members of Congress with a certificate documenting that they represent an unmarried majority district or state. (See p. 4.)

If this list contains the name of your Senator or Representative, call them and let them know that your are one of their unmarried constituents. Open the lines of communication.

Representatives

Rep. Earl Hilliard - (D) - AL - Birmingham -205-328-2841 - 62.3 %
Rep. Jeff Flake - (R) - AZ - Mesa - 480-833-0092 - 54.9%
Rep. Ed Pastor - (D) - AZ - Phoenix - 602-256-0551 - 50.3%
Rep. John Shadegg - (R) - AZ - Phoenix - 602-263-5300 - 53.6%
Rep. Robert Matsui - (D) - CA - Sacramento - 916-498-5600 - 58.2%
Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D) - CA - San Rafael - 415-507-9554 - 51.3%
Rep. George Miller (D) - CA - Richmond - 510-262-6500 - 51.2%
Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D) - CA - San Francisco - 415-556-4862 - 71.4%
Rep. Barbara Lee (D) - CA - Oakland - 510-763-0370 - 65.2%
Rep. Adam Schiff - (D) - CA - Pasadena - 626-304-2727 - 51.6%
Rep. Henry Waxman - (D) - CA - Los Angeles - 213-651-1040 - 69.1%
Rep. Xavier Becerra - (D) - CA - Los Angeles - 213-483-1425 - 57.2%
Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard- (D) - CA - Los Angeles - 213-628-9230 - 51.1%
Rep. Maxine Waters - (D) - CA - Los Angeles - 323-757-8900 - 58.4%
Rep. Jane Harman (D) - CA - Redondo Beach - 310-374-9399 - 53.4%
Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald-(D)-CA-Torrance-310-538-1190-50.3%
Rep. Steven Horn - (R) - CA - Lakewood - 562-425-1336 - 56.8%
Rep. Dana Rohrabacher - (R) - CA - Huntington Beach - 714-960-6483 - 50.1%
Rep. Susan Davis - (D) - CA - San Diego - 619-291-1430 - 64.2%
Rep. Diana DeGette - (D) - CO - Denver - 303-844-4988 - 64.0%
Rep. John Larson - (D) - CT - Hartford - 860-278-8888 - 52.7%
Rep. Rosa DeLauro - (D) - CT - New Haven - 203-562-3718 - 51.1%
Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton - (D) - Dist. Of Columbia - 202-783-5065 - 77.2%
Rep. F. Allen Boyd, Jr. - (D) - FL - Tallahassee - 850-561-3979 - 52.5%
Rep. Corrine Brown - (D) - FL - Jacksonville - 904-354-1652 - 60.8%
Rep. Ric Keller - (R) - FL - Orlando - 407-872-1962 - 51.1%
Rep. C.W. Bill Young - (R) - FL - Largo - 727-581-0980 - 57.4%
Rep. Jim Davis - (D) - FL - Tampa - 813-354-9217 - 59.7%
Rep. Carrie Meek - (D) - FL - Miami - 305-576-9303 - 62.6%
Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen - (R) - FL - Miami - 305-275-1800 - 53.4%
Rep. E. Clay Shaw, Jr. - (R) - FL - Ft. Lauderdale - 954-522-1800 - 61.2%
Rep. Alcee L. Hastings - (D) - FL - Ft. Lauderdale - 954-733-2800 - 62.0%
Rep. Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. - (D) - GA - Albany - 229-439-8067 - 51.7%
Rep. Cynthia McKinney - (D) - GA - Decatur - 404-377-6900 - 58.6%
Rep. John Lewis - (D) - GA - Atlanta - 404-659-0116 - 71.6%
Rep. Charlie Norwood - (R) - GA - Augusta - 706-733-7066 - 50.1%
Rep. Bobby Rush - (D) - IL - Chicago - 773-224-6500 - 69.3%
Rep. Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. - (D) - IL - Chicago - 773-238-2100 - 61.5%
Rep. Luis Gutierrez - (D) - IL - Chicago - 773-509-0999 - 55.1%
Rep. Rod Blagojevich - (D) - IL - Chicago - 773-868-3240 - 58.4%
Rep. Danny K. Davis - (D) - IL - Chicago - 773-533-7520 - 69.8%
Rep. Jan Schakowsky - (D) - IL - Evanston - 847-328-3399 - 61.6%
Rep. Jerry Costello - (D) - IL - Belleville - 618-233-8026 - 51.5%
Rep. Timothy V. Johnson - (R) - IL - Champaign - 217-463-4691 - 50.3%
Rep. Julia Carson - (D) - IN - Indianapolis - 317-283-6516 - 64.9%
Rep. Anne Meagher Northup - (R) - KY - Louisville - 502-582-5129 - 56.8%
Rep. William Jefferson (D) - LA - New Orleans - 504-589-2274 - 66.4%
Rep. Jim McCrery - (R) - LA - Shreveport - 318-798-2254 - 51.3%
Rep. Richard Baker - (R) - LA - Baton Rouge - 225-929-7711 - 50.2%
Rep. Benjamin Cardin - (D) - MD - Baltimore - 410-433-8886 - 55.4%
Rep. Albert Wynn - (D) - MD - Silver Spring - 301-588-7328 - 58.7%
Rep. Elijah Cummings - (D) - MD - Baltimore - 410-367-1900 - 72.1%
Rep. John Olver - (D) - MA - Pittsfield - 413-442-0946 - 50.5%
Rep. Richard Neal - (D) - MA - Springfield - 413-785-0325 - 50.6%
Rep. Ed Markey - (D) - MA - Medford - 781-396-2900 - 50.9%
Rep. Michael Capuano - (D) - MA - Cambridge - 617-621-6208 - 71.4%
Rep. Lynn Rivers - (D) - MI - Ypsilanti - 734-485-3741 - 52.5%
Rep. John Conyers, Jr. - (D) - MI - Detroit - 313-961-5670 - 67.6%
Rep. Carolyn Kilpatrick - (D) - MI - Detroit - 313-965-9004 - 74.3%
Rep. Betty McCollum - (D) - MN - St. Paul - 651-224-9191 - 55.5%
Rep. Martin Olav Sabo - (D) - MN - Minneapolis - 612-664-8000 - 65.6%
Rep. Bennie Thompson - (D) - MS - Greenville - 662-335-9003 - 58.8%
Rep. Ronnie Shows - (D) - MS - Jackson - 601-352-1355 - 53.1%
Rep. William Lacy Clay, Jr. - (D) - MO - St. Louis - 314-367-1970 - 68%
Rep. Dick Gephardt - (D) - MO - St. Louis - 314-894-3400 - 50.2%
Rep. Karen McCarthy - (D) - MO - Kansas City - 816-842-4545 - 59.1%
Rep. Shelley Berkley- (D) - NV - Las Vegas - 702-220-9823 - 54.6%
Rep. Robert Andrews - (D) - NJ - Woodbury - 856-848-3900 - 50.3%
Rep. Donald Payne - (D) - NJ - Newark - 973-645-3213 - 65.9%
Rep. Bob Menendez - (D) - NJ - Bayonne - 201-823-2900 - 60.3%
Rep. Heather Wilson - (R) - NM - Albuquerque - 505-346-6781 - 53.2%
Rep. Gregory Meeks - (D) - NY - St. Albans - 718-949-5600 - 54.0%
Rep. Joseph Crowley - (D) - NY - Jackson Heights - 718-779-1400 - 56.6%
Rep. Jerrold Nadler - (D) - NY - New York City - 212-334-3207 - 68.3%
Rep. Anthony Weiner - (D) - NY - Brooklyn - 718-332-9001 - 51.1%
Rep. Major Owens - (D) - NY - Brooklyn - 718-773-3100 - 68.4%
Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D)- NY - Brooklyn Heights -718-222-5819 - 62.9%
Rep. Edolphus Towns - (D) - NY - Brooklyn - 718-855-8018 - 69.1%
Rep. Eliot Engel - (D) - NY - Bronx - 718-796-9700 - 67.3%
Rep. Maurice Hinchey - (D) - NY - Binghamton - 607-773-2768 - 52.9%
Rep. Jack Quinn - (R) - NY - Buffalo - 716-845-5257 - 54.5%
Rep. Carolyn Maloney - (D) - NY - New York - 212-860-0606 - 71.3%
Rep. Charles Rangel - (D) - NY -New York - 212-663-3900 - 76.0%
Rep. Jose Serrano - (D) - NY - Bronx - 718-538-5400 - 72.5%
Rep. Michael McNulty - (D) - NY- Schenectady - 518-374-4547 - 55.7%
Rep. James Walsh - (R) - NY - Syracuse - 315-423-5657 - 52.0%
Rep. Louise Slaughter - (D) - NY - Rochester - 716-232-4850 - 55.4%
Rep. John LaFalce - (D) - NY - Buffalo - 716-846-4056 - 52.3%
Rep. Eva Clayton - (D) - NC - Norlina - 252-456-4800 - 54.5%
Rep. Melvin Watt - (D) - NC - Charlotte - 704-344-9950 - 58.5%
Rep. Steve Chabot - (R) - OH -Cincinnati - 513-684-2723 - 62.0%
Rep. Tony P. Hall - (D) - OH - Dayton - 937-225-2843 - 57.4%
Rep. Marcy Kaptur - (D) - OH - Toledo - 419-259-7500 - 53.0%
Rep. Dennis Kucinich - (D) - OH - Lakewood - 216-228-8850 - 54.3%
Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones - (D) - OH-Shaker Hts. -216-522-4900-68.3%
Rep. Pat Tiberi - (R) - OH - Columbus - 614-523-2555 - 52.1%
Rep. Tom Sawyer - (D) - OH -Akron - 330-375-5710 - 50.8%
Rep. Deborah Pryce - (R) - OH - Columbus - 614-469-5614 - 54.8%
Rep. Earl Blumenauer - (D) - OR - Portland - 503-231-2300 - 55.8%
Rep. Robert Brady - (D) - PA - Philadelphia - 215-389-4627 - 72.2%
Rep. Chaka Fattah - (D) - PA - Philadelphia - 215-387-6404 - 74.2%
Rep. Robert Borski - (D) - PA - Philadelphia - 215-335-3355 - 57.0%
Rep. William Coyne - (D) - PA - Pittsburgh - 412-644-2870 - 61.2%
Rep. Mike Doyle - (D) - PA - McKeesport - 412-664-4049 - 51.9%
Rep. Patrick Kennedy - (D) - RI - Pawtucket - 401-729-5600 - 53.1%
Rep. Jim Langevin - (D) - RI - Warwick - 401-732-9400 - 50.5%
Rep. James Clyburn - (D) - SC - Columbia - 803-799-1100 - 57.8%
Rep. Bob Clement - (D) - TN - Nashville - 615-736-5295 - 58.9%
Rep. Harold Ford, Jr. - (D) - TN - Memphis - 901-544-4131 - 67.8%
Rep. Pete Sessions - (R) - TX - Dallas - 214-349-9996 - 53.0%
Rep. Lloyd Doggett - (D) - TX - Austin - 512-916-5921 - 58.1%
Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee - (D) - TX - Houston - 713-655-0050 - 62.1%
Rep. Charles Gonzalez - (D) - TX - San Antonio - 210-472-6195 - 54.9%
Rep. Ken Bentsen - (D) - TX - Bellaire - 713-667-3554 - 52.5%
Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson - (D) - TX - Dallas - 214-922-8885 - 58.8%
Rep. Robert Scott - (D) - VA - Newport News - 757-380-1000 - 64.4%
Rep. Jim Moran - (D) VA - Alexandria - 703-971-4700 - 55.9%
Rep. Jim McDermott - (D) - WA - Seattle - 206-553-7170 - 66.3%
Rep. Gerald Kleczka - (D) - WI - Milwaukee - 414-971-1140 - 50.9%
Rep. Thomas Barrett - (D) - WI - Milwaukee - 414-297-1331 - 66.3%

Senators

Sen. John Breaux - (D) - LA - 202-224-4623 - 51.1%
Sen. Mary Landrieu - (D) - LA - 202-224-5824 - 51.1%
Sen. John Kerry - (D) - MA - 202-224-2742 - 51%
Sen. Edward Kennedy - (D) - MA - 202-224-4543 - 51.0%
Sen. Trent Lott - (R) - MS - 202-224-6253 - 50.2%
Sen. Thad Cochran - (R) - MS - 202-224-5054 - 50.2%
Sen. John Ensign - (R) - NV - 202-224-6244 - 50.3%
Sen. Harry Reid - (D) - NV - 202-224-3542 - 50.3%
Sen. Charles Schumer - (D) - NY - 202-224-6542 - 53.4%
Sen. Hillary Clinton - (D) - NY - 202-224-4451 - 53.4%
Sen. Jack Reed (D) - RI - 202-224-4642 - 51.8%
Sen. Lincoln Chafee - (R) - RI - 202-224-2921 - 51.8%

AASP Helps Member in Virginia

State Threatens to Revoke Her Day Care Center License

A story published on July 14, 2001, by the Virginia Pilot reports that AASP member Darlene K. Davis can continue to operate her home-based day care until state licensing officials in Virginia decide whether to renew her license. The agency's decision to temporarily continue her license was due in part to a strong letter of support sent by AASP's Executive Director Thomas F. Coleman.

Darlene Davis & Cary

Davis, 61, was told in June that as long as she had an unmarried partner living with her, she was in danger of losing her license to operate Davis Day Care. Virginia Department of Social Services officials told her about the extension through a letter she received from them.

Davis is happy about the extension and no longer worried about losing her license. Her partner, Cary L. Cohen, still lives in her home, and they have no plans to get married.

``I haven't done anything to have my license taken from me," Davis said. ``All of my parents are behind me, all of my friends, and I just don't think they have the right to take away my license just because I live with someone."

The American Association for Single People, based in California, warned the Social Services Department that terminating the license would be a violation of Davis' constitutional rights. The nonprofit group sent a letter citing a 1979 Virginia Supreme Court decision which states ``unmarried cohabitation should not preclude an otherwise competent and honest person from obtaining a professional license in Virginia."

Davis is a member of the nonpartisan group, which protects the human rights of single individuals, couples, parents and families.

Davis and Cohen, 63, have been living together for 17 years at her home. Davis, a widow, does not want to get married because she will lose her military health benefits.

The state is continuing its investigation to determine whether Davis' living situation with Cohen violates an 1877 state law that prohibits unmarried couples from living together.

``I believe that the right thing will be done," Davis said. ``I guess we'll just have to wait and see."

Davis Day Care Center

Excerpts from AASP Letter to Virginia Agency

June 29, 2001

Charles Ingram
Virginia Department of Social Services

Dear Mr. Ingram:

I am writing to you to support the renewal of the day care license of the Davis Day Care Center owned by Darlene Kay Davis. Ms. Davis is a member of our organization.

The American Association for Single People is a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization which promotes the well being and human rights of unmarried individuals, couples, parents and families. Over 1 million households in Virginia are headed by unmarried adults. Among these unmarried households are more than 126,000 in which occupants identified themselves to the Census Bureau as "unmarried partners."

(continued on page 7)

AASP Fights for Virginia Member

(cont. from page 6)

The Department of Social Services has apparently threatened not to renew the day care license of Ms. Davis, simply because the Department believes that she is living with an unmarried partner. Ms. Davis has been successfully operating her day care center for nearly 17 years and has the support of her clients. It would be a travesty of justice, and a violation of the state and federal constitutions, for the Department to deny her a license now merely because of her unmarried living arrangement.

In view of the decision of the Virginia Supreme Court in *Cord v. Gibb,* 219 Va. 1019, 254 S.E.2d 71 (1979), unmarried cohabitation should not preclude an otherwise competent and honest person from obtaining a professional license in Virginia.

The words of the Supreme Court more than 20 years ago in the Cord case are equally applicable today to the situation of Ms. Davis:

"While Cord's living arrangement may be unorthodox and unacceptable to some segments of society, this conduct bears no rational connection to her fitness to practice law. It can not, therefore, serve to deny her the certificate required by Code section 54-60."

Finally, there is no consensus that unmarried cohabitation is immoral. A Gallup Poll released on May 24, 2001, shows that a majority of adults believe that unmarried cohabitation is morally acceptable. The finding of that poll is consistent with social science research which shows that among adults who have married in recent years, a majority of them cohabited beforehand. Thus, Virginia's anti-cohabitation law is not consistent with the attitudes and practices of most adults.

It is unconstitutional to use the power of criminal law against unmarried adults based on the religiously-based moral beliefs of one segment of the population. (Cf. *People v. Onofre*, 51 N.Y.2d 476 (1980); *Eisenstadt v. Baird*, 405 U.S. 438, 92 S.Ct. 1029 (1972). Also, use of government authority to enforce private morality of a segment of the public would implicate the Establishment Clause of the Virginia and United States Constitutions.

On behalf of Ms. Davis, as well as all 126,000 unmarried couples in the state who could be harmed by a negative precedent in the Davis case, I urge you to grant the license to Ms. Davis.

Ms. Davis is competent, honest, and has the support of her clients. She has successfully operated the day care center for many years. It would be irrational for her license to be denied now.

Respectfully submitted:

THOMAS F. COLEMAN
Executive Director

New Hampshire Repeals Death Tax

House Bill 170 was passed by the New Hampshire Legislature and became law on July 5, 2001. The bill repealed the legacies and succession tax (death tax) which was imposed on transfers of assets after a death.

Prior to the bill's passage, transfers from one spouse to another were exempt from the death tax, as were transfers from parent to child or child to parent. However, transfers from a single person to a friend, domestic partner, or lateral relative (sibling, aunt, uncle, etc.) were taxed up to 18 percent.

The repeal of the death tax has the effect of removing this unfair aspect of the tax law.

The Concord Monitor reported that dozens of people, many of them elderly and without children, attended one of the first hearings on the bill.

Jane Hutchinson, a 78-year-old widow told lawmakers that when she began planning her estate, her lawyer advised her to move to Maine.

"This is my home," she said. "It's like being punished for not having children."

Several lawmakers warned that if the state did not change the policy, it could face a lawsuit from a taxpayer who claims the tax is unconstitutional. The constitution requires all taxes to affect taxpayers equally, except for "reasonable" exemptions.

"The question we need to ask ourselves is, do we think this is 'reasonable'?" said Sen. Clifton Below, a Lebanon Democrat. "That is, in this day and age, is there such a distinction between lineal descendants and the many cases where people want to pass property to an unmarried partner, a caregiver or (friends or relatives who are) like children?"

Bills similar to HB 170 are currently pending in legislative committees in New Jersey, Indiana, Iowa, and Nebraska.

AASP Experts Comment on the 2000 Census

Xavier Amador
New York City

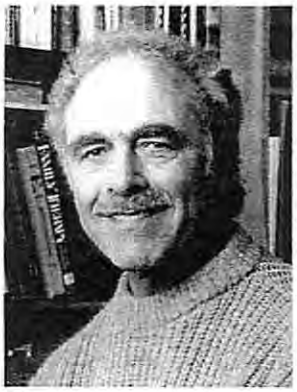
co-author of "Being Single in a Couple's World" and Professor at Columbia University

Nearly one half of the adult population in America is unmarried, one out of ten of us is divorced, and one out of four households is occupied by a single person living alone. These findings of the 2000 US Census are NOT surprising; they reflect a thirty year trend in America to marry later in life, divorce, or never get married at all.

What IS surprising is that so many laws, business practices, and the entertainment and news media persist in treating tens of millions of unmarried Americans as second class citizens.

The marriage landscape has changed and the time to change how single people are perceived and treated has come.

Being single is no longer synonymous with being immature, unsettled in life, and irresponsible. Questions such as "When are you going to get married and settle down?" belong to the past, not the reality of America today.



Stan Charnofsky, Ed.D.
Los Angeles, California

author, "Surfing the Single Life: A Memoir for Women and Men Making It Alone" and Professor of Educational Psychology and Counseling at California State University at Northridge

Not everybody is paired off or familied up; some are singles living marvelous, bountiful, contributory lives.

Consider Jerry Brown, Adlai Stevenson, Jodie Foster, and numerous others less known, who live quieter lives, deprived of equal rights in a culture geared to promoting heroic couplets.

Bella M. DePaulo
Santa Barbara, California

Visiting Professor
Department of Psychology
University of California

We all know that "Married with Children" is a TV show. The stories are fictional. With the release of the latest Census data, we now have more evidence for a lesser known fiction, which is that people who are married with children deserve, by their numbers, to be the centerpiece of American households. In fact, there are more households consisting of one person living alone.

The citizens of this nation are not as eager as they once were to sign up for The Married Club in their early adulthood years. The rush to the altar has slowed. The 20 year old bride with her 23 year old groom is a page out of the 1950's. Today, men and women who marry at such a young age are four or five years out of step with their peers.

The one-person household and the single adult are now economic realities, but they have yet to be fully recognized as such by corporate America. Businesses and marketers have papered our nation with 2-for-the-price-of-1 coupons and similar spousal subsidies for dinners, stays at resorts, memberships in health clubs, and premiums for health insurance. When married people pay less than full price for a commodity, they are probably being subsidized by the single adults who are paying full fare. Businesses that continue to cater almost exclusively to married couples have lost sight of the changing demographics of this country, and they may get lost in the dust of the companies who do recognize the face of the future.

As the number of one-person households and of Americans who are single continues to rise, and as this strength in numbers is underscored by the newly released Census Bureau statistics and other important data, people who are single are likely to become an increasingly important political force. In a Presidential debate in the year 2000, a 34-year old single woman asked candidates what their proposals would do for her. In the year 2004, she will receive a more compelling answer than she did then.

George Blake
Sarasota, Florida

author of "Single Again: Dating and Meeting New Friends the Second Time Around"

As the author of one of America's most popular books on singles, I think I can speak for a large segment of the singles' population.

Many, if not most, singles are concerned that our problems with uneven taxes and other social considerations are consistently put on the back burner by the hucksters who determine our national policies.

Within another eight years, singles will outnumber marrieds . . . and then we'll expect a full accounting from those who have ignored us for all these years.

Victoria Jaycox
Washington, DC

author of "Single Again: A Guide for Women Starting Over"

Although marriage certainly hasn't gone out of style among older women, most women over the age of 65 (some 55%) are unmarried. According to the 2000 Census, nearly 10.5 million older women are single, almost two million more than were unmarried in 1980.

Yet despite their growing numbers, our society continues to behave as though the norm is for older women to be married. In the media and advertisements, older single women are either invisible, or when they do receive notice, their images are brimming with myths and negative stereotypes. Think for a moment of the older women you see portrayed on television sit-coms. Most of them will be married. But when you do see an older woman who is unmarried, she is usually portrayed as silly, or stupid, or unfit in some other way.

It's amazing, then, given these negative attitudes, that older women on their own continue to forge ahead to build exciting lives. They are living independently, keeping active intellectually and socially, with close ties to family and friends. The time has come for our attitudes and images to catch up with reality.

Andrea Engber
Midland, North Carolina

author of "The Complete Single Mother"

It's no surprise to me that the numbers of children living with single parents is on the rise. I founded the National Organization of Single Mothers ten years ago when I became aware that the numbers were out there but the needs of this huge group were not being met.

Like other segments of our society, single parent families come in all shapes, sizes, colors--most are doing an excellent job raising children with the resources they have.

However, when we take raw figures, we tend to lump this diverse group into one stereotype: that children living in a single parent household are doomed to failure. This is grossly untrue.

When you look at the violence that has erupted in our schools and across the nation over the past few years, most of these children came from middle class, two-parent families.

Moreover, a number of studies show advantages to being raised in single parent homes. Studies of preschoolers in child care showed that the children of single parents had better communication skills.

In a 1995 landmark study, The Hite Report on the Family, the researcher found that men raised in healthy, mother only households had stronger relationships with women in later life.

Girls reported that their mothers were role models (unlike those of previous generations who often felt that their mothers were "door mats" in traditional two-parent households).

More single men are raising strong, resilient children; divorce has always been here and will remain; more women are opting for motherhood sans marriage (in fact, in 1998, the majority of first births were to single women!).

Let's focus on what these numbers mean in a positive light rather than hold on to the same old thinking.

The face of the new American family has changed. Let's do more than recognize it. Let's embrace these families and stop alienating groups who don't fit the two-parent picture that never was the ideal scenario to begin with.

Financial Tips for Single Parents

from the Business Section of the Dallas Morning News

A story published on July 16, 2001, by the Dallas Morning News says the 2000 Census shows an increase of families headed by single parents. It states that planning for the financial future takes a greater deal of preparation for these families.

"The normal rules and advice that apply to married couples don't apply for single parents," says Deirdre Weaver, author of Loosely-Braided Fog: A 3-D Single Mom In The Making and a speaker for the American Association for Single People.

That doesn't mean that single parents and coupled parents don't have the same financial concerns. It's just that for single parents the pressure to get it right is more intense because they're it.

"If you don't plan, it doesn't get done because there is no other parent out there doing it," says Joan Gruber, a Certified Financial Planner at Joan M. Gruber Advisors in Dallas.

More than 20 million children, or more than 27 percent of young people, now live in a single-parent household, says AASP's Executive Director Thomas F. Coleman.

And while most single-parent homes are headed by women, a growing number of men also are raising children on their own, he said. The number of single dads grew 25 percent between 1995 and 1998, from 1.7 million to 2.1 million, while the number of single moms remained constant at about 9.8 million. But be it a single mom or dad, experts say single parents need to realize that just because their income is cut in half, doesn't mean their expenses will be as well. It's not that simple.

In fact, a single-parent family who had a child last year can expect to spend a total of about $164,090 through age 17 for housing, food, transportation, clothing, health care, child care, education, and other expenses, according to a report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Those numbers apply to single-parent families with pretax incomes under $38,000. And most single-parent households fall in that category, says Mark Lino, an economist with the agriculture department.

"Single-parent families in this lower income group spend a larger proportion of their income on their children," he said. "As single-parent families have one less potential earner (the absent partner), their total household income is lower and child-rearing expenses consume a greater percentage of income."

This doesn't mean that single parents can't make a life for themselves and their children. They just have to be aware on how they spend their money. Among the things to keep in mind:

- *Do a budget and stick to it as best as you can.*
- *Cut your debt as much as possible.*
- *Talk to the kids about the finances.*
- *Protect what you have with adequate insurance.*
- *And continue saving, even if it's a small amount.*

"I don't think people realize what financial dire straits a single parent can be in," says Ms. Weaver, 43, who's divorced and the mother of a 15-year-old son. "The rest of the world doesn't understand that vacations don't happen. I buy a CD for myself once a year."

In addition, single parents should also try to cut their expenses as much as possible and be frank with the children about the family's finances.

"I've heard single mothers struggling with finances saying, 'The kids have to have the Nikes, the designer jeans," says Carol Ann Wilson, founder of The Institute for Certified Divorce Planners in Boulder, Colo., which trains financial planners on the financial issues of divorce.

"If the mother would tell the kids how much money they have and that she can't afford what they want, they're going to help Mom, they're going to help money stretch."

Protect what you have with adequate amounts of insurance. Have disability insurance which will pay you if disability interrupts your income stream. Have enough life insurance to pay your debts after you die and to ensure that your kids will have enough money for college and living expenses.

Finally, have a carefully crafted estate plan.

"If you go and have none of this, you just don't know what will happen to your kids," Ms. Weaver says. "What people don't realize is, you really are the single link in what happens to your kids if you go — suddenly, especially." ◇◇◇

This is a summary of a story written by Pamela Yip, personal finance writer for the Dallas Morning News.

Singles in America demanding equality

The Press of Atlantic City, June 17, 2001

Stephen Moore isn't doing "the married thing." At least not yet.

Moore, 29, doesn't think he should be penalized for not tying the knot. But he and other single adults across New Jersey and the country think that's exactly what is happening.

One thing that bothers Moore is that singles pay higher taxes than people who are married.

"A married couple with two incomes makes more money," said Moore, promotions manager for the Atlantic City Hilton Casino Resort. "They should pay more money than a single person."

Single people like Moore are growing in numbers and as a percentage of households, according to the 2000 census.

In New Jersey, married-couple households declined from 56.5 percent to 53.5 percent in the past decade. Various kinds of singles households — unmarried couples, singles living alone, single parents — increased by 3 percent.

As their numbers increase, more are demanding what they see as fairer treatment in fiscal matters. One national group charges that singles carry the burden of paying more taxes, working longer hours and receiving fewer benefits than their married co-workers.

> **"Right now, corporate and government policies are out of alignment with reality."**

"There is economic discrimination in the workplace," said Thomas Coleman director of the American Association for Single People. "Some of the plans favor people who are married. (For) people who have different living arrangements, the traditional benefits plan does not fit them anymore."

According to the census, 450,599 New Jersey residents younger than age 65 live alone, compared to 372,435 in 1990. In addition, there are more than 151,000 unmarried couples living together in the state, a 63 percent increase since 1990.

In this region, the city with the most singles living alone is Atlantic City, with 3,467. Other area municipalities with a high number of singles include Vineland, Galloway and Egg Harbor townships and Ocean City.

Coleman said employers should be more aware of this group's needs. His organization would like to see more "cafeteria-like" benefits plans that would allow singles to extend their benefits to family members and even live-in partners.

"What we want is for single people to have options and have equal pay for equal work," Coleman said. "If a company is going to pay for a spouse, the employer should give the same amount of money to the single employee to be used where he or she needs it."

Area human-resources personnel are noticing the trend. "There are a lot more single people," said Linda Guntner, manager of compensation and benefits for Harrah's Atlantic City and Showboat Casino-Hotel.

The only people not covered under the benefits plan for Harrah's and Showboat employees are unmarried partners of single workers, she said.

Coleman claims employers favor one lifestyle over the other. "It is not their role to promote one social role over the other," Coleman said. "They should be concerned with having a healthy workforce and respect diversity."

He said another way singles are treated unfairly is that singles often are the ones asked to work extra hours.

"Who is asked to work overtime or during the holidays?" Coleman said. "The assumption is that single people don't have a family. But everybody has a family, and the assumption is not fair."

Coleman and his organization hope the census numbers serve as a wake-up call to employers and to the government.

"Unmarried America is growing and married America is shrinking," said. "The trend is there. Right now, corporate and government policy are out of alignment with reality. We don't want to take anything away from married people, but we want to level the field to help all people."

Story written by Maricarmen Rivera and Joanne Marciano, staff writers for the Press of Atlantic City.

Give Benefits to Single Workers with Chosen Families

By Dave White

I am yet another 29-year-old single (bisexual) member of AASP. I would like to see the Singles-Friendly Workplace Campaign recognize unmarried workers who are in my situation.

There is a great focus these days on "domestic partnership" rights and benefits, as if everyone who chooses to remain single still wants to have a relationship that basically looks a lot like marriage.

And, when "non-romantically-involved" singles are discussed, it is in the context of things like the "child-free" movement for people who don't want to contribute to other people's family benefits.

Both of these groups of people have important points to make, but I'm writing to represent a third viewpoint-- that of people who choose not to be romantically involved, or not to have a "domestic partnership" with their lover, but are committed to a family life that involves their friends and their friends' children.

I think that AASP's home page starts out on the right foot-- saying, for example, that "even when single people do not share a household, they often have formed close bonds or mutual support networks with friends, neighbors, or relatives in an extended family of choice." But when it comes down to the nitty-gritty of public policy proposals, suddenly it becomes okay to only ask for benefits for "blood relatives" and "domestic partners" only. Where does that leave people whose blood relatives were abusive, and what about people who choose to live with, or care for, or raise children with friends instead of a "partner"?

My proposal? "Family benefits" such as family leave, bereavement leave, flextime, daycare benefits, and the like, can require that we name a certain maximum NUMBER of beneficiaries, and require that they stay on the benefits form for a certain minimum amount of TIME, but those limits should be the only limits on who we choose for benefits.

With the numerical and time restrictions, few people will choose anyone cavalierly (or at least, no more cavalierly than many people choose their spouses already!) but it will be entirely up to the individual to decide whom they are closest to, and nobody will get to judge their relationship as "inferior" because it isn't heterosexual, isn't sexual, or is otherwise "different."

The usual response to such a proposal is "friendship isn't as committed as marriage or domestic partnership," to which I say, "maybe that's true for most people, but not for all, and what gives government or

Here's a list of how people I know have shown their commitment to friendship lately:

✓ I asked for unpaid personal leave for my best friend's first childbirth

✓ I am providing money for the birth and to start off a college fund

✓ One of my coworkers was denied bereavement leave for a close friend because they "weren't a real relative"

✓ This person also spent lots of time helping single-mother friends with their children

✓ her boyfriend spent a lot of time caring for a sick friend in a nearby city

✓ I help my ex-boyfriend (now a friend, and a single father) with his child and want to be MORE involved

✓ Since I am a child of abusive parents, one of my friends offered to sign a "power of attorney" in case I am sick, so she can have legal rights to care for me

✓ I spend Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Easter with one close friend's immediate family; they and their extended relatives treat me as one of their own

✓ One of my friends' girlfriends broke up with him for daring to be nonsexually affectionate with me (holding hands, sitting close together while watching TV); he stood up to this attempt to control his friendships

✓ Another friend of mine broke up with another girlfriend, who said he shouldn't visit his friends out of town

✓ And, not to leave the fun stuff out of it, me and a close friend just finished a drive down the Pacific Coast Highway that resembled a honeymoon right down to the pictures of us riding horses by the sea, and me buying her tampons in the hotel lobby! Of course, if it was a REAL honeymoon, it would prove Our Commitment And Love; as it is, I guess it only proves our "frivolous single lifestyle," because we had to pay $25 more for our car rental than married people ("extra driver fee") and we had to pretend to be "partners" in order to both get the 50% off room rates that my friend gets for working at a hotel.

employers the right to tell me who I am committed to?" And I'm not the only one; the items in the box on the previous page is just one boy's list of people being committed to their friends, even to the point of dumping their partners.

My point? Even if most people aren't that devoted to their friends, it seems realistic to imagine that at least 5-10% of the population DO feel that way. Which is the same percentage as gay people are. As someone in both categories, then, I wonder why I can finally get "domestic partner" benefits if I shack up with a boyfriend (certainly "weird" behavior that most men wouldn't engage in), but I can't get benefits for my close friends, who are actually dearer to my heart.

I know it sounds excessively idealistic to imagine COMPLETE freedom in who we put on the benefits forms. Perhaps we can only get benefits for domestic partners NOW, or benefits for extended blood relatives. But we should be putting proposals like mine on the table.

Conservatives have proposed some pretty radical ideas lately, and those ideas have shaped the political discourse. (Who, a few years ago, would have taken seriously the notion of privatizing Social Security? Or eliminating the estate tax on those poor downtrodden billionaires?)

We could shape the political discourse over the long haul too, in favor of greater commitments among friends, an extended network of people to help raise children in today's demanding world, and complete freedom to provide "family" benefits to ANYONE we choose.

I think the "Singles Friendly Workplace Campaign" is a great idea. I hope that AASP will help to expand the conversation beyond domestic partnerships to other types of relationships too. ◊◊◊

(Ed. Note: Our Singles Friendly Workplace Campaign does not focus solely on workers with domestic partners or dependent blood relatives. We encourage employers to give equal benefits to all workers regardless of marital status or family configuration. This includes equal benefits for solo singles. Dave White makes some very good points. Our Singles Friendly Workplace Campaign will make it a point to specifically include and mention unmarried workers who have a "chosen family."

Equal Pay for Equal Work?

Not if you work for the State of California

Someone at the California Department of Insurance anonymously sent AASP a "Human Resources Bulletin" issued by the Chief of Human Resources Management of the State of California on July 18, 2001.

The bulletin included information on how much the state contributes each month to the health benefits plan of employees represented by the California State Employees Association.

The state pays:

$182 per month for a single-party enrollment

$362 per month for a two-party enrollment

$473 per month for a family enrollment

This means that a single worker is being paid thousands of dollars less per year than a worker doing the same job but who has a spouse, domestic partner, or minor children who qualify for health benefits.

Who is being shortchanged in terms of benefits compensation?

✓ Unmarried workers who live alone and who do not have minor children as dependents.

✓ Unmarried workers under the age of 62 who have an opposite-sex domestic partner. Same-sex partners of any adult age are eligible for benefits. But heterosexual partners are ineligible unless both parties are over the age of 62.

✓ Single parents who have an adult child at home who does not have health insurance. Some workers can put one adult on their health plan (a spouse or same-sex partner) but a single parent may not put an adult child who lives with them on the plan.

✓ Unmarried workers who have a dependent parent or dependent relative living with them. Spousal coverage and domestic partner coverage excludes blood relatives.

Employees should be compensated on the basis of productivity and merit. It is unfair for an employer, especially a government employer whose benefits plan is financedAugust 6, 2001 by our tax dollars, to award benefits compensation on the basis of marital status or family structure.

Employers should give each employee the same contribution toward benefits. Then let workers choose the benefits which best suit their needs.

Members of Congress Who Are Unmarried

never married • divorced • widowed • separated • domestic partnered

AASP will deliver a greeting card to each of these members of Congress during National Singles Week.

Is your state's Senator or your Representative on this list? If so, you could send them a card too. Pick out a generic greeting card at your local store. Write a greeting giving your best wishes to them during National Singles Week. Drop it in the mail before Sept. 16. It's a good way to open the lines of communication with these officials.

Alabama
Rep. Robert Cramer (D) - Huntsville area - Widower
Arizona
Rep. Bob Stump (R) - Phoenix - Divorced
Rep. Jim Kolbe (R) - Tucson area - Divorced
Arkansas
Rep. Vic Snyder (D) - Little Rock - Single
California
Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D) - San Rafael area - Divorced
Rep. Barbara Lee (D) - Oakland - Divorced
Rep. Ellen Tauscher (D) - Walnut Creek area - Divorced
Rep. Anna Eshoo (D) - Palo Alto - Divorced
Rep. Lois Capps (D) - Santa Barbara area - Widow
Rep. Bradley Sherman (D) - Woodland Hills area - Single
Rep. David Dreier (R) - Covina - Single
Rep. Ken Calvert (R) - Riverside - Divorced
Rep. Mary Bono (R) - Palm Springs area - Widow
Rep. Diane Watson (D) - Los Angeles - Single
District of Columbia
Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D) - Divorced
Florida
Rep. Joe Scarborough (R) - Pensacola area - Divorced
Rep. Corrine Brown (D) - Jacksonville area - Single
Rep. Mark Adam Foley (R) - Palm Beach area - Single
Rep. Carrie Meek (D) - Miami - Divorced
Rep. Alcee Hastings (D) - Ft. Lauderdale area - Divorced
Georgia
Sen. Max Cleland (D) - Single
Rep. Stanford D. Bishop, Jr. (D) - Albany area - Divorced
Rep. Cynthia McKinney (D) - Decatur - Divorced
Idaho
Rep. C.L. (Butch) Otter (R) Boise area - Divorced
Illinois
Rep. Henry J. Hyde (R) - Addison - Widower
Rep. Mark Steven Kirk (R) - Deerfield area - Single
Rep. Gerald Weller (R) - Joliet - Single
Rep. Timothy Johnson (R) - Champaign - Divorced
Rep. Lane Evans (D) - Moline area - Single
Indiana
Rep. Peter Visclosky (D) - Gary area - Divorced
Rep. Julia Carson (D) - Indianapolis - Divorced
Iowa
Rep. Jim Nussle (R) - Dubuque area - Divorced
Maine
Sen. Susan M. Collins (R) - Single
Maryland
Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski (D) - Single
Rep. Albert Wynn (D) - Springdale area - Divorced
Rep. Steny H. Hoyer (D) - Waldorf area - Widower
Rep. Elijah Cummings (D) - Baltimore area - Separated
Massachusetts
Rep. Barney Frank (D) - Newton area - Single
Rep. William Delahunt (D) - Quincy area - Divorced
Michigan
Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D) - Divorced
Rep. Lynn Rivers (D) - Ypsilanti - Divorced
Rep. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D) Detroit - Divorced
Minnesota
Sen. Mark Dayton (D) - Divorced
Rep. Jim Ramstad (R) - Bloomington - Single
Rep. Collin Peterson (D) - Waite Park area - Divorced
Missouri
Sen. Christopher Bond (R) Divorced
Sen. Jean Carpenter Carnahan (D) Widow
Rep. Karen McCarthy (D) - Kansas City area - Divorced
New Jersey
Sen. Robert Torricelli (D) - Divorced
Rep. Jim Saxon (R) - Mt. Holly area - Divorced
Rep. Steven Rothman (D) - Hackensack area - Divorced
Rep. Donald Payne (D) - Newark area - Widower
New York
Rep. Steven Israel (D) - Bay Shore - Separated
Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D) - Hempstead - Widow
Rep. Anthony Weiner (D) - Brooklyn - Single
Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D) - Brooklyn Heights area - Divorced
Rep. John Sweeney (R) - Saratoga Springs area - Separated
Rep. John McHugh (R) - Watertown area - Divorced
North Carolina
Rep. Howard Coble (R) - Greensboro area - Single
Ohio
Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D) - Toledo - Single
Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D) - Lakewood area - Divorced
Rep. Sherrod Brown (D) - Medina area - Divorced
Rep. Robert Ney (R) - Bellaire area - Divorced
Rep. Steven LaTourette (R) - Painesville area - Divorced
Oregon
Sen. Ron Wyden (D) - Divorced
Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D) - Portland - Divorced
Rep. Darlene Hooley (D) - Salem area - Divorced
Pennsylvania
Rep. Chaka Fattah (D) - Philadelphia - Divorced
Rep. Melissa Hart (R) - Cranberry Township - Single
Rep. William Coyne (D) - Pittsburgh - Single
Rhode Island
Sen. Jack Reed (D) - Single
Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D) - Pawtucket - Single
Rep. Jim Langevin (D) - Warwick - Single
South Carolina
Sen. Strom Thurmond (R) - Separated
Rep. Lindsey Graham (R) - Anderson area - Single
Tennessee
Sen. Fred Thompson (R) - Divorced
Rep. Harold Ford, Jr. (D) - Memphis - Single
Texas
Rep. Kay Granger (R) - Ft. Worth - Divorced
Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D) - Dallas area - Divorced
Virginia
Sen. John Warner (R) - Divorced
Rep. Robert C. Scott (D) - Newport News area - Divorced
Rep. James P. Moran (D) - Alexandria - Separated
Rep. Rick Boucher (D) - Abingdon area - Single
Washington
Sen. Maria Cantwell (D) - Single
Rep. Jennifer Dunn (R) - Bellevue - Divorced
West Virginia
Rep. Nick Rahall (D) - Beckley area - Divorced
Wisconsin
Sen. Herbert Kohl (D) - Single
Rep. Paul Ryan (R) - Janesville area - Single
Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D) - Madison - Domestic Partner

Internship and Volunteer Opportunities

for college students, business and professional people, and retirees

AASP has volunteer opportunities for adults of all ages. You don't have to live in the Los Angeles area. If you have a computer and are on the Internet, there are ways you can participate.

To apply for any of these opportunities for interns or volunteers, call us at 800-993-2277, e-mail us at unmarried@earthlink.net, or write to us at 415 E. Harvard St., Suite 204, Glendale, CA 91205.

☞ Legal

- **Monitor, analyze, and report on pending legislation** which may affect the substantial rights of unmarried adults, couples, parents, and families.

- **Research and write position papers and advocacy briefs** in areas of discrimination overlooked by other organizations: (1) unfair compensation of single employees; (2) denial of fertility treatment for single women; (3) discrimination against singles in the military; etc.

- **Outreach to judges** to get them to stop referring to children born to unmarried parents as "illegitimate."

☞ Sociology

- **Conduct surveys** of large employers and unions on workplace policies (such as nondiscrimination policies) and programs (such as employee benefits) which affect unmarried workers (who constitute 40 percent of the full-time workforce).

- **Research and analyze demographic data** on unmarried individuals, couples, parents, and families, and publish reports on our website.

- **Analyze public opinion data** regarding the attitudes of the general public and the attitudes of single people themselves about issues and problems affecting unmarried people, including: (1) the right of personal privacy; (2) equal rights in the workplace; and other aspects of marital status discrimination.

☞ Political Science

- **Survey, evaluate, and report** on the positions of elected officials, candidates, and political parties, with respect to the issue of marital status discrimination and unfair treatment of unmarried adults in employment, housing, insurance, taxation, etc.

- **Develop a strategic plan** for how to use the media and other methods to make political candidates and political parties more responsive to unmarried voters.

☞ Journalism

- **Monitor and report national and international news** and current events.

- **Pitch stories** about AASP activities to newspaper journalists and editors.

- Develop a **"letter to the editor" program** to get our members more involved in our advocacy.

☞ Psychology

- **Survey published studies** which have focused on whether a person's marital status and his or her social support systems (or the lack thereof) may affect psychological and physical health and length of life, and summarize findings in a report for AASP.

- **Develop a self-help website section** for one of the following sub-groups of unmarried people (including doing summaries of advice columns, developing a list of available books, listing singles' organizations by purpose and geographic location, listing resources and referrals:
  - solo singles (those who live alone)
  - single mothers
  - single fathers
  - unmarried couples (male-female)
  - same-sex couples
  - divorced or divorcing people

History of National Singles Week

National Singles Week was started by the Buckeye Singles Council in Ohio nearly 20 years ago. When that organization folded, the promotion of National Singles Week was taken over by Janet Jacobsen, coordinator of the National Singles Press Association.

National Singles Week (the third week in September) is listed on many promotional calendars. Two online greeting card companies have created cards for the occasion. (www.bluemountain.com and www.123greetings.com.) Last year, the Washington Post published a story about National Singles Week, as did a few other newspapers.

But despite these modest forms of publicity, National Singles Week is virtually a secret. AASP plans to change that. The year 2001 will be a watershed for this event, giving it more visibility than ever before.

We are taking out ads in newspapers and running commercials on radio stations. We are encouraging newspaper feature editors to use that week to publish stories about single and unmarried people in their communities. We are contacting radio talk show hosts with suggestions for programming during the week of September 16.

On top of that we are bringing National Singles Week to the attention of governors and mayors. And AASP representatives will be walking the halls of the Capitol that week, meeting and greeting "unmarried majority" members of Congress, as well as delivering greeting cards to Senators and Representatives who are themselves unmarried.

National Singles Week is a wonderful opportunity for unmarried adults and singles' publications and organizations to get involved in some creative and fun activities.

This is an occasion to celebrate the lives of America's 82 million single and unmarried adults and the significant contributions which many of us have made to our communities.

This is also a time for society to acknowledge that unmarried Americans are a large class of people and that we deserve to be appreciated and respected.

So get involved. Encourage your friends and neighbors to participate too. Let's make these seven days in September a time to be remembered.

Ask Someone to Join AASP or Give a Gift Membership

We have more than tripled our membership in the past few months. But we have a long way to go until we have the number of members that will be necessary to have a self-sustaining national organization to effectively advance the cause of equal rights for single and unmarried Americans. Let's create a collective voice for America's 82 million unmarried adults.

We need you to help spread the word. When you are finished reading this newsletter, share it with someone you feel might like to participate.

Any adult can join AASP by making a tax-deductible donation of $10 or more. AASP is a nonprofit and nonpartisan group. Members receive newsletters to keep them advised of our progress and they get access to the member areas of our website.

To join or to give someone a gift membership, clip the section below and mail it with your donation.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation for:

[ ]$10 [ ]$25 [ ]$50 [ ]$___

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Unmarried America

Winter 2001

Newsletter of the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR SINGLE PEOPLE

National Singles Week 2001: A Somber Commemoration

Perry Heath, Jane Albrecht, and Tom Coleman made presentations to Congress.

AASP had such high hopes for making National Singles Week a major celebration this year. For weeks we prepared for our trip to Washington D.C. where we planned to conduct a variety of festive activities.

Just when we finalized arrangements to hold a reception for local members at the Marriott Hotel and confirmed photo sessions with nearly 40 Representatives and Senators, the unthinkable happened. Terrorists struck the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

We gave serious consideration to cancelling the trip to Washington. But after hearing President Bush ask Americans to continue normal activities to the extent possible, we decided to push forward.

However, the sprit of the week would be one of respectful commemoration. No celebration this year.

We expected that many members of Congress would call to cancel the meetings and photo sessions. To our surprise, the opposite occurred. We received several calls requesting a meeting. This was a signal that our elected officials were heeding the President's plea for normalization.

Due to cancellation of flights on September 15, Dr. Nora Baladerian (President) and Thomas F. Coleman (Executive Director) were not able to leave Los Angeles as planned. The first flight to Washington was not available until Tuesday, Sept. 18.

As a result, Dr. Baladerian was not able to fly to Washington because she had arranged her schedule for a trip from Sept. 15 to 19.

But Coleman pressed on. He arranged for AASP members George Phillips and Jane Albrecht, residents of Washington, to co-host the reception for members scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 16. Many members attended the event.

Perry Heath, also a resident of Washington, took the entire week off as vacation time. He devoted all of his energies to helping AASP make deliveries to, and meet with, members of Congress.

Coleman and Heath spent Wednesday on Capitol Hill, visiting dozens of congressional offices. They delivered a greeting card to members of Congress who are single or unmarried. To others they delivered certificates documenting that the congressional district fell into the "unmarried majority" category – meaning that a majority of households in that district are headed by single or unmarried adults. At some of these stops they were able to have a photo taken with the Congress member or with a staff person.

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Single Shoppers Starting to Get a Few Breaks

As the number of one-person households increases, more merchants are trying to meet their needs. The following is a summary of an article which appeared recently in the Baltimore Sun.

Consider this: if a hardware store could speak, it would speak of home. It would speak of Dad buying tools, paint, garden hose and grass seed and sundry other accessories of American domestic family life.

It would not necessarily speak to the single person, at least not until recently. Hardware store marketers have lately begun to notice that unmarried shoppers also need paint, extension cords, spackle. The retail chain Ace Hardware, for example, has been changing its tone, tinkering with the store signs and colors in hopes of seeming more friendly to women and others whom no one calls "Dad."

Other businesses are making changes too. Travel agents, bulk-good stores and food purveyors are shifting their marketing and advertising - even the look of products - to reflect the growth in the numbers of Americans who live alone or with unmarried partners.

Some singles advocacy groups say it's about time, and more might be done. One group says its members who live alone demand everything from pizzas for one to less expensive vacation options to smaller Christmas trees.

Faith Rodell, a Christmas tree retailer in the Washington area, says many singles want a tree without the hassles of lugging it into a small apartment and positioning it in a stand.

"They want that little touch of tradition," Rodell said. So, she stocks miniature trees with the stands already on.

"Our lot seems to be a late-night date spot. They don't have to worry about anything: Just add water," she said.

While Rodell gives singles the option of of a suitable tree, she benefits in sales: The

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Albrecht helped with these deliveries and photo sessions on Thursday. Heath and Coleman finished the process on Friday.

By the end of the week, they had visited the offices of more than 210 Representatives and Senators.

Photos of 19 presentations to members of Congress are contained in this newsletter. The website version also contains photos taken with staff members at many more offices.

The trip to Washington was difficult and stressful, but it was also gratifying and productive.

Several Representatives indicated their desire to become honorary members of AASP and we will extend a formal invitation to them in the near future. Also, this was the first gathering of a group of local members. Perhaps the Washington area will become the first formal local chapter of AASP.

Finally, and most important of all, we demonstrated that AASP is dedicated to the cause of equal rights for unmarried Americans – a cause which will not be deterred by hardship or adversity. This is something which our members can be proud to support. **•AASP•**

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Washington area is a haven for young, unmarried professionals.

"Companies are starting to recognize singles because the census figures show the numbers are there," said Thomas F. Coleman, executive director of the American Association for Single People, a group based in Southern California that claims 1,200 members and calls itself a " human rights" advocate for the unmarried.

But Coleman says merchants have a long way to go: "We're living in a society of volume discounts."

The proportion of one-person homes has increased from 17 percent in 1970 to 26 percent today, accounting for 26.7 million households. The number of same-sex households also rose sharply.

The single folks may be widowed, divorced or never-married.

According to the Census Bureau, the median age of first marriages for women rose by 4.3 years between 1970 and 2000 to 25.1 years. For men, the increase was 3.6 years to a median age of 26.8.

Elderly women form another large pool of singles - nearly 19 million women 65 and older live alone, compared with 14 million men that age.

"Women live longer than men, so there is this huge female older population, and they have money to spend," said Helen Dennis, a University of Southern California lecturer specializing in aging and retirement.

Bracing for baby boomers

Dennis says some service industries have come around to recognizing single seniors' needs. Many, but not all, retirement communities are adept at staging social activities to keep members from being isolated, she says.

But Dennis says the real change - affecting the millions of senior singles living at home - will come over the next few decades as baby boomers retire.

"I think they're going to command a whole different response. The boomer movement is going to drive a lot of industry," she said.

Where industry fails, singles groups are trying to fill the void. The organizations say that singles all too often still feel they're living in a couples' world and that their needs are just now being recognized.

Coleman says his single rights' group, formed in 1999, wants to do for single people what the AARP has done for the elderly.

He says singles need an advocate because politicians often slight them in forming policy.

"Why won't politicians say the 'S' word? Maybe they're afraid if you show respect and say equal rights for single people, somebody will twist that around and say you're anti-family," Coleman said.

Another group, Singles Source, with headquarters in Palm Desert, Calif., offers the unmarried an array of products and services - everything from meeting new people online to travel tips.

For example, the group's magazine says it will tell members how to shed "old relationship" baggage. It also says it can help singles avoid "sitting alone on a beach surrounded by cavorting couples and families."

The travel industry has long been a target of singles' ire.

"On cruise ships and even in all-inclusive resorts, we don't see as much of a discount for a single person as I would like," said Lynda Maxwell, president of Destinations Inc., of Columbia, Md.

Maxwell says a cruise ship may charge two people $1,100 apiece for a cabin "but just one person is going to get charged close to $2,000. It's very frustrating to pay double and be alone."

Increasingly, she says, cruise lines are offering to waive the extra singles' charge to promote a specific sailing.

And some tour operators in Europe and elsewhere will match singles with a pre-screened travel companion to give them a better price.

"The travel industry is aware of this challenge," Maxwell said.

But Coleman says he's skeptical of meaningful travel relief.

"Multiple-person travel packages are so entrenched in the way the business is conducted that I'm not sure it's going to change," he said.

He's happier about developments at bulk goods stores.

"Usually, at the grocery store, you had to

Continued on next pg.

BREAKS continued.
buy the larger can to get the bulk discount," Coleman said. "Now, at Costco and others, they're packaging things where you can get a dozen of the smaller cans at a volume discount."

Some chains are even changing their look.

Ace Hardware has "softened" its feel by rounding signs and making the stores "a little less red to make it more conducive to the eyes," said John Venhuizen, the corporation's marketing manager. Red is the cooperative's signature color.

"It was a really difficult balance because we didn't want to go so far as to put out bows and frills. But we don't want to be old-mannish," Venhuizen said.

Seeking to welcome all

The traditional Ace customer is male, often with a traditional family, in the 35-54 age range. Without abandoning those customers, the corporation wants to be more accommodating to women, singles and others.

The stores want to attract people when they buy or remodel a home - whether they're young or old, male and female.

"We need to be available to a young, single mother who happens to fall into one of those life stages. Less and less are we concerned necessarily about male-female demographics and age," Venhuizen said.

The number of single mothers increased from 3 million to 10 million between 1970 and last year, according to the Census Bureau.

In making marketing decisions, the service industry needs to look at a basic fact, says Dennis, the aging expert.

"At some point, someone who is in a partnership relationship is going to be alone," she said. "Who will target them?" **•AASP•**

Single parent adoption on the rise

According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, about 33 percent of children adopted from foster care programs are made by single parents, and the numbers are steadily increasing. A recently published article in About.com says that a majority of these single parents are women who are more likely to adopt an older child than an infant.

Single parent adoption has become more prevalent. One-parent households are on the rise and becoming more the norm due to divorce and unmarried mothers. This gives adoption agencies a more open minded approach toward single parent adoptions. Also, the issue of personal finances of single income families has become less important since adoption subsidies have become available nationwide.

There are resources available to help you determine whether you are ready to begin the adoption process.

Lee Varon, author of Adopting on Your Own, has put together a questionnaire to find out if single parent adoption is right for you. It has some thought provoking questions that show you what sort of mentality you need to have to approach this life-altering event. Lee Varon is a member of AASP.

Lois Gilman, author of The Adoption Resource Book, suggests that you (1) make contact with adoptive families and parent groups, (2) obtain general information from social service agencies and learn any details about specific adoption programs, and (3) read relevant literature. **•AASP•**

Traveling solo can be empowering

According to the Census Bureau, one-person households in the U.S. have increased to 26 % from 17% in the last three decades. Yet a story published recently in the L.A. Times says that solo travel is still not considered the norm.

Travel agents say that the big trend now is family travel with extended families reuniting to vacation together. Still, solo travelers today are trudging forward to enjoy the single travel life.

While the first solo trip may be the most difficult, experts say that traveling alone can be addicting as well as empowering, producing a new awareness of your capabilities.

Mental health experts agree; they say that while there are downsides to solo travel, there definitely are benefits when it comes to relaxation, stress reduction and getting away from it all--that is, if you travel on your own for the right reasons.

"You might decide to take a solo vacation to rediscover who you are, what you like and what really matters in life," suggests Dr. Mark Goulston, a Los Angeles psychiatrist.

"Don't expect the people in your family to be great fans of the idea," Goulston says. "And as the trip gets closer, you may find them [even] less enamored" of it. You can deflect some of this negative attitude, he says, by arranging for someone else to take over the chores you are normally responsible for, even hiring somebody to handle them if necessary.

If you begin to have second thoughts or fears, you have company. "Just about everyone who thinks about taking a solo vacation does have some trepidation," says Karen Shanor, a Washington, D.C. psychologist who specializes in travel issues and has traveled solo extensively, including a stint as a Peace Corps psychologist. Traveling solo is very much a challenge as well as an opportunity for growth, says Shanor.

Some people are more likely to be good at it, she says. Those who are uncomfortable being home alone without television, music or phone conversations are likely to have more trouble traveling solo than are people who are content without these distractions.

What solo travelers probably fear most is loneliness, Shanor says. Some worry that they will have no one to talk to. Their fears are almost always groundless. "People you meet are so available and open to talking to you," she says solo travelers report to her. "Families will almost adopt you."

Traveling alone can provide a time of renewal, she adds. Think of it as taking yourself out for an adventure. An adventure, she reminds people, isn't always comfortable. But you almost always learn from it, and it generally makes for fascinating stories later on.

As for those quizzical looks and nosy questions that solo travelers are bound to get, Shanor says they shouldn't be taken as criticism. Rather, the idea of independent travel may be novel to the person who asks, "You're by yourself?"

The Los Angeles Times story suggests that chances are, the idea of going it alone also plays into the fears of those who question the solo traveler.

They may not themselves be brave enough to do it. At least not yet. **•AASP•**

Auto Insurance Program Biased Against Single Young Men in California

Young single male drivers are being penalized 25% by a "low-cost" insurance program in California. That's one of the findings of the Greenlining Institute, a San Francisco-based advocacy group that works with minorities and the disadvantaged.

The group says that a California program which was enacted in July 2000, designed to help low-income Californians in the San Francisco and Los Angeles areas to buy affordable automobile insurance, unfairly excludes many college students from obtaining the same low-cost automobile insurance. Nidhi Geevarghese, a legal intern for the Institute blew the whistle on the program after she was researching the policy this summer.

"This policy was created to help the working class and poor people in general, but it has many, many flaws," said Geevarghese. "It has ended up discriminating against thousands of college students with good driving records."

The group also accused the program of discriminating against unmarried males ages 19 to 24 because it charges the demographic group an extra 25 percent in addition to the base rate, regardless of driving records.

The pilot program, California's Low Cost Automobile Insurance Program, requires insurance companies to offer cheaper policies to low-income drivers who qualify for the program. According to state's Department of Insurance Web site, the program is intended to provide cheap automobile insurance to good drivers who demonstrate financial need.

Other eligibility restrictions require that the applicant must not have a total annual household income exceeding 150 percent of the federal poverty level, must have a privately owned vehicle with a value less than $12,000 and must be 19 years or older.

State Senators Martha Escutia, D-Montebello, and Jackie Speier, D-San Francisco/San Mateo, who authored the original bill, said the original proposal was to provide affordable insurance to drivers who would normally not be able to buy it. The bill was signed into law in 1999.

"It is a win-win situation for everyone," Escutia said in a statement.

But officials at Greenlining say they intend to lobby for a new law that helps out needy college students. **•AASP•**

More workers are retiring as single people

Many advertisements portray the transition to retirement as a joint venture, with happy couples venturing into their "golden" years together.

But for a growing number of new and future retirees, this transition in life involves a solo journey. They are retiring alone. Some are divorced, others widowed, while others have never married.

"Most retirement education and retirement planning, both financial and nonfinancial issues, are focused on couples," says Helen Dennis, a specialist in aging and retirement in Los Angeles. "The reality is that more and more people are retiring as single people."

While 75 percent of men age 65 and over are married and live with a spouse, only 45 percent of women do. More than 25 percent of women in their late 50s and early 60s are either divorced or widowed, according to census figures.

The increase in singles approaching retirement shows up in a variety of ways.

For example, when the North Carolina Center for Creative Retirement in Asheville, N.C., held its 10th annual retirement exploration weekend in May, 15 percent of the 156 attendees were single. This represents an increase over previous years, according to Ronald Manheimer, executive director.

As the first baby boomers turn 55 this year, gerontologists expect the ranks of older singles to continue to grow, making this an issue for women in particular.

"My perception, and it's a very strong one, is that singleness will be one of the biggest quality-of-life issues for women entering retirement in the millennium," says Christopher Hayes, director of the National Center for Women and Retirement Research in Southampton, N.Y.

Drawing on five years of research, Dr. Hayes finds that women entering retirement alone have specific challenges that are just beginning to be recognized.

One is economic. Women typically have not earned as much or saved as much as men. Their pensions are also smaller. Last year, 44 percent of men between the ages of 65 and 74 received pension income, compared with 26 percent of women in the same age group, according to AARP.

For single, never-married women, Hayes cautions, that will mean "providing financial and physical, hands-on care to an older parent without the benefit of sharing such responsibilities with a spouse."

Although men also become involved in caregiving, many tend to do tasks such as mowing the lawn and handling the finances, whereas women typically do hands-on care. "For the man, there's no need to leave the work world," says Nancy Dailey, author of "When Baby Boom Women Retire." "The woman is much more likely to do that."

Despite the increase in singles, marketers continue to target retirement housing, products, and services to couples. A few ads picture a single woman, but almost never a lone man.

Hayes adds, "We are going to be living in a singles society, with many single older women. Companies are going to have to wake up to the reality that these women exist and that they have their own unique needs."

As baby boomers retire, Dennis expects to see "a whole different marketplace" catering to services for singles. The housing industry, she says, must develop living arrangements that accommodate the needs of single people. Shared housing cuts living costs and offers companionship.

Rebecca Adams, a sociology professor at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, has studied women's friendships in retirement.

Before retirement, she found, single women who had always supported themselves tended to have little time for friendships. Married women typically had a wide network of friends. They had often invested considerable time in their husband's career and participated in church and community organizations.

In retirement, married women tended to narrow their friendships and focus on a few close friends, Ms. Adams says. "When single women retire, they do just the opposite, joining organizations and expanding their friendships."

For Barbara Lawson, the move from Sherman, Texas, to Sun City Grand in April was tinged with bittersweet elements. Two years ago, her husband died. Last year, her job as a regional manager at AT&T in Dallas was cut.

Lawson echoes the comments of other singles when she says, "I'm learning to live alone, but not be lonely. I'm trying to find the joy in being myself as a person." **•AASP•**

Isolation and Basic Survival Are Realities for Many Solo Singles

by Justine Zohar

A number of factors contribute to the varying degrees of isolation in which many "solo singles" live. The tradition of American individualism itself is one of these; its effects have been amplified by the extreme mobility of the American population.

Over many moves, Americans make but unfortunately also lose track of many friends, or find that even ongoing friendships play a shrinking role in their lives because of distance.

Our cultural heritage of individualism has also been tremendously heightened by the onset of the civilizational age of individuation, under the influence of which people feel the need to follow their individual quests at all costs, often sacrificing comforting social rituals in the process. While the consequent solitariness may seem to be a self-inflicted wound, it is the result of a "paradigm shift" larger than any individual and should be honored, not looked askance at. (fn.1)

For many, even more than by the geographic distances separating family members, intimate and daily family contact has been eroded by the psychological revolution whereby Americans have put the cards of dysfunctional family life on the table. This results in more open breaches in family relations, such as Dave White described in his own case in the recent AASP newsletter. ("Give Benefits to Single Workers with Chosen Families," Fall 2001) Finally, we are all familiar with the fragmentation of family life caused by high divorce rates and the huge increase in the number of single parents.

The economic realities of some singles add a harsh twist to the stress of their emotional isolation. "Lacking Pensions, Divorced Women Work Longer" was the title of a recent front-page New York Times article (6/26/01) that discussed the plight of older, single women chained to overly taxing jobs indefinitely for lack of economic security. As for low-income singles, even two people can't live on their joint minimum wage earnings; what about one? The federal Section 8 program of housing subsidies explicitly states that single individuals with no dependents are the lowest priority for receiving rental assistance no matter what their situation. Why?

In countless ways, society assumes that individuals have a support system when in fact there may be none. Many singles to whom I have spoken or whose remarks I have read find themselves functioning entirely on their own as isolated units with only occasional, supplemental input from friends and, possibly, family.

"In the West, the problem is loneliness," Mother Teresa.

When you are doing everything by yourself, you are handicapped vis-a-vis others who have the expected support system. Thus, thinking of singles as people supported by networks of family and friends and just happening not to be married masks serious survival issues for many solo singles.

Several twentieth century studies of single men, before the social upheavals of the sixties and on, showed so conclusively that their life span was affected by the stress of single life that these results are now taken for granted by sociologists and psychologists. Because the sense of anomaly and the insecurity of single life has not been relieved despite the huge growth in our numbers, this type and degree of stress now afflicts many more, men and women alike.

Most of us would agree that people are by nature social animals who do not wish to live in fear of the gutter. Insult is added to injury when we are excluded from the national consciousness.

A single acquaintance of mine who likes to take a daily constitutional complains of how frequently neighbors remark, "I saw you walking alone yesterday...", then pause for her to explain this untoward circumstance. The comment is an irritant, implying she is a social oddity whereas in fact as you and I know her living situation is shared by many millions. Let's try to wipe away this ignorance, not encourage it with apologies about how "normal" we are.

Although there is a web of issues involved in all this, I think the real hot potato is the concept of "family ties." There is a barrage of messages telling people they are beyond the pale, "pariahs," as one acquaintance put it, if they do not have family ties. No wonder some singles living alone record an answering machine message implying they live with family members. While some of this may be designed to ward off intruders, I'm afraid a good deal of it comes out of a sense that it is shameful not to have a family.

The term "holiday blues" has entered into the national vocabulary, denoting those driven to suicidal depression over having no families to visit for the holidays or none they wish to visit, yet no one on the socio-political stage wants to be the first to let go of the word "family" as a kind of gold standard of being human. Many years ago I listened to a friend, like me a single mother of one, try to explain to her young daughter how "two people can be a family." I felt then as I feel today that hers was a rather sorry argument, defeated at the outset by the very perception which caused the child to ask the question. The child recognized that her reality, living with just her mom, did not correspond to what was meant by the word family, i.e., a cluster of blood relatives.

Like my friend and many others, Dave White deals with the perceived shame of not having a family by adapting the term to his non-familial reality, speaking of his good friends as a "chosen family." Eventually this very nice word can be picked up with the resonance it had in the classic book of photos entitled, "The Family of Man." Meanwhile, we could stand to hear a lot less of it while, on the other hand, it needs to become acceptable and accepted to say simply, "I don't have a family" or, "I don't see my family" if that is the case.

AASP expressed some pains of the single life very well in a press release that caught my attention, speaking of "many Americans [coming] home to their cat and their goldfish" (fn.2) and asking politicians to open their mouths and say "single", letting us know that we are "wanted and needed". There is also a certain forlornness expressed in Perry Heath's poem, ("Single Life" Summer 2001) e.g., "...Try to make you feel outside of the fraternity," which is the feeling I am getting from an assertion on the AASP website that

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Take baby steps in reforming the Social Security system

by John Talffv

In a commentary published recently by the Los Angeles Times, John Talffv suggests that the social security system can be made more fair without hurting anyone or destroying the system if the reform occurs incrementally and is carefully crafted.

Talffv, a former fellow for tax and budget studies with the Heritage Foundation, focuses his views on the current Social Security reform measures which have been introduced into Congress.

He notes that recent stock market plunges have been seized on by opponents of Social Security reform as evidence that President Bush's plan for using private IRA--type accounts is too risky, despite consistent evidence that the market over time greatly outperforms Social Security's return.

Talffv argues that there is still a compelling economic case for private investment accounts, even without a penny of these funds being invested in the stock market. Simply allow taxpayers to divert 2% of their Social Security taxes to a privately held fund with two caveats: All funds must be invested in Treasury securities, and future benefits will be reduced proportionally to the initial funds diverted.

Because this proposal restricts investment to federally insured securities, it eliminates the risk of financial loss so feared by critics. Not only will retiree benefits be more secure than the current program-- there is no safer security in the world then U.S. savings bonds--they also will earn a higher rate of return.

In fact, if "security" is really the goal of reform opponents, then this proposal actually is less risky than the current program. The U.S. Supreme Court long ago determined that Social Security payments exist at the whim of legislative fiat.

Congress may increase or lower benefits or even cancel benefits at any time, and taxpayers have no legal recourse. Given previous congressional propensity to tinker with benefits and the multi-trillion--dollar unfunded liability of the program, it is no wonder that polls consistently show that millions of young Americans fear the benefits will not be there for them. Wouldn't workers feel more secure with a private stash of Treasury securities?

To the extent that Social Security taxes are diverted to private accounts, the "apparent" federal deficit will be increased, but the effect is illusory. From an accounting perspective, the increase in the deficit is directly offset by a reduction in long-term Social Security obligations. From a cash flow or actual borrowing perspective, there is also no substantial effect. Currently, Social Security surpluses are invested in Treasury securities. This plan will eliminate much of this surplus, but since the same money would have to be invested by individuals in Treasury securities, there would

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Partial Privatization:

Advocates for it argue that:

-There would be bigger returns for women, who live longer. A single woman making $12,000 a year pays $1,488 annually in payroll taxes. She is promised $683 a month at retirement. Investing in a portfolio of stocks and bonds earning a 6.2 percent return would yield $936 a month.
-Personal investment accounts can be passed on to family members.
-The structure system lets a working spouse pay into both accounts with no marriage term limit.
- The structure system helps lower-wage workers to contribute more money to their accounts to level inequity with wealthier workers.
- Increase in savings, which would stimulate economy.

They say that the current system:

--Hurts divorced women, who must be married at least 10 years to get survivors and spousal benefits.
--Hurts minorities, who have on the average a shorter life span and don't collect benefits as long as white workers.
--Payroll tax of 12.4 percent hits lower-wage workers harder.

Advocates against it argue that:

--Owners have a risk of outliving savings.
- There is a real risk of stock-market volatility.
- Disability, survivors benefits uncertain.
- Benefit wealthier workers who accumulate larger savings.
- Some proposals require owner to purchase annuity that would provide monthly benefit, which dies with owner and can't be passed to survivors.
--Administrative costs, fees would reduce returns.

They say that the current system offers:

--Not only retirement but death and disability benefits, which helps women and minorities.
--Benefits guaranteed for life with cost-of-living adjustments.
-The progressive distribution benefits lower-wage workers. They get more in benefits for what they paid in taxes compared with wealthier workers.
--Spousal benefits to protect both spouses who take time off from work to raise children.

New Mexico Governor Vetoes Health Care Bill for Unmarried Young Adults

Earlier this year, the New Mexico Legislature passed a bill to prohibit group health care plans from dropping unmarried dependents when they reach the age of 18. The measure would have required such plans to continue coverage until an unmarried dependent reached the age of 25.

Perhaps a revised bill will be introduced into the next legislative session and signed into law. This would benefit thousands of young adults who currently lack health care.

The following is the veto message released by Governor Gary E. Johnson in connection with SB 413:

This bill would require group health care coverage of unmarried dependants until the age of twenty-five. It would help address the problem of young adults who cannot afford or obtain health insurance coverage and seems like a step in the right direction.

However, as currently written, this legislation relates to any group health care coverage and does not specifically exclude Medicaid.

The New Mexico Salud! Medicaid managed care program is a model of efficiency that maintains responsible cost restraints, while delivering superior health care services. Presently, Salud! does not cover young adults until their twenty-fifth birthday, and to do so would cost the state millions of additional dollars and require an expansion of staff and administration that is unthinkable.

New Mexicans have come to expect an extremely high level of health care services because Salud! operates so efficiently and effectively. It does not make sense to put services, vital to so many, in jeopardy.

A more tailored piece of legislation that addresses this problem but specifically excludes Medicaid would be more acceptable for all New Mexicans. •AASP•

AASP Helps Members Fight Discrimination

Discrimination by the Peace Corps

While we were in Washington D.C. for National Singles Week, AASP delivered the following letter from two of our members to Senator Max Cleland, Senator Zell Miller, and Representative John Linder.

Dear Members of Congress:

We are two of your constituents from Athens, Georgia. We recently began the process of applying for placement as Peace Corps volunteers. This is something that we have both been interested in doing for several years. Unfortunately, however, Peace Corps personnel at several levels of administration have informed us that we are ineligible to be placed together because we are not married.

This news is very disappointing to us for several reasons. To begin with, we have been in a committed, monogamous relationship for more than four years and plan to remain together for life; however, due to personal beliefs, we have decided against becoming legally married. Secondly, the Peace Corps representatives who we spoke with were unable to articulate why this requirement exists other than to state that it is simply a congressional mandate that must be followed. Some of the representatives that we spoke with even expressed that this seems to be an "arbitrary" rule. Finally, we feel that we are qualified candidates for the Peace Corps in every other way. We are both healthy, very passionate about serving others, and are educated in relevant fields: Matthew is a graduate student working towards a M.A. degree in Population Geography (migration, demography, third-world development, etc.); Erin is a graduate student working towards a M.Ed. degree in Health Promotion (maternal nutrition, HIV/AIDS prevention, social marketing, etc.). We feel that we could make a significant contribution as volunteers in the Peace Corps.

We believe that we are not unique in our situation. With the growing number of unmarried couples in this country, there likely have been and will be many more qualified candidates turned away from service in the Peace Corp due to this discriminatory policy. It is our hope that you will work to remove this needless restriction. We ask that you please raise this issue with your colleagues in Congress and do all that you can to end the marital status discrimination in the Peace Corps.

Sincerely,

Erin E. Lemieux
Matthew A. Dombroski

Discrimination by Fertility Clinics

While AASP Executive Director Thomas F. Coleman was in Washington, D.C. in September, he delivered the following letter to Terry O'Neil, Vice President of the National Organization for Women.

Melinda babysites her friend's son Gavin.

Since the refusal of fertility clinics to offer medical services to women who do not have a male partner (whether they are married or unmarried) appears to be a form of sex discrimination, it seemed appropriate for AASP member Melinda Millsaps to seek the assistance of the National Organization for Women.

Ms. Kim Gandy
President, NOW
Washington, DC

Re: Discrimination in Fertility Treatment

Dear Ms. Gandy,

I am writing on order to inform you of the treatment I received by the University of Florida, division of reproductive endocrinology and Shands Teaching Hospital and Clinics Inc. I am asking your assistance in rectifying this very upsetting situation.

In brief, I was denied procedures to treat infertility, including intrauterine insemination and in-vitro fertilization, based solely upon being a single woman with no male partner.

I was also denied access to the donor egg program at the University of South Florida and the Center for Human Reproduction, based solely on my single marital status.

Although I am unable to conceive, it is my wish to be implanted with donor eggs and sperm in order that I control the important prenatal environment of my child. While I have both sperm and egg donors, the division director, Dr. R. Stan Williams and department chair, Dr. Keith Stone, advised me that the university does not treat single women based upon the division's "personal philosophy."

Ironically, if any sterile male accompanied me to the clinic over the age of 18, I would not be denied treatment. In an explanation to Congresswoman Karen Thurman dated September 25, Dr. Williams writes:

"University of Florida obstetricians and gynecologists are dedicated to the treatment of infertility problems in men and women," adding, (U.F. physicians offer) medical and surgical procedures necessary to treat medical conditions that prevent or limit fertility."

He continues, "on occasion, a male has a medical condition which renders him unlikely or unable to attain fertilization of his partner's egg, leading to pregnancy. In such cases, the use of anonymously donated sperm, (to be artificially inseminated and used for in vitro fertilization followed by embryo implantation in the woman) is a treatment for that male's medical condition"

If I had not personally felt the sting of Dr. Williams' prejudice and it weren't so crystal clear, I would be at a loss trying to discern how the clinical impregnation of a woman cures or treats a male's infertility.

On the subject of infertility in women, Dr. Williams writes:

"Similarly, on occasion a woman will have a medical condition that prevents her from producing viable eggs; her medical condition may be treated through the use of donated eggs."

While I meet this benchmark set by Dr. Williams, I fail his second litmus:

"University of Florida physicians will not perform artificial insemination with donor sperm if the patient does not suffer a medical condition necessitating donor sperm as a

See MEMBERS pg. 10

AASP's Singles Friendly Workplace Campaign

Last year, AASP sent a questionnaire to Human Reasources Managers at each of the companies which were on the Fortune 500 list. Several companies replied.

We learned that most companies do not like to respond to lengthy surveys. Ours contained about 13 questions.

Next year, we plan to write to the CEO of all the current Fortune 500 companies. We will ask only one question: Does your company's equal employment opportunity policy contain "martial status" as a prohibition from discrimination? Whether the answer is yes or no, we will ask for a copy of their EEO policy. We will publish the results.

Company	Marital Status of Workers	Marital Status in EEO Policy	Diversity Program includes a focus on needs of single people	Work-life Program	Cafeteria Style Benefits Plan	Domestic partners benefits: who and what benefits are included	Extended family benefits plan	Willing to let single employees create a support group within the company
First Union Corp. Charlotte. NC	42% unmarried	yes	considering this	yes	yes	yes; inclusive; health, dental	no	yes
Kellog Company Battle Creek, MI	unknown	yes	yes	yes	no	yes; inclusive; all benefits	no	considering
Kinder Morgan Lakewood, CO	unknown	yes	no	no	no	yes; inclusive; health, dental, life	no	no
PPL Corporation Allentown, PA	20% unmarried	no	no	no	yes	no dp benefits	no	yes
Cedent Corp. Parsippany, NJ	59% unmarried	yes	yes	no	no	yes; inclusive; health, dental, +	yes	no
Nationwide Columbus, OH	39% unmarried	no	no	yes	no	yes; inclusive; health, dental	no	yes
AFLAC Inc. Columbus, GA	38% unmarried	no	no	yes	not yet	no	no	no
Fifth Third Bancorp Cincinnati, OH	46% unmarried	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	yes
Praxair Danbury, CT	unknown	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	no
Xerox Corp. Rochester, NY	unknown	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes; inclusive; health, dental, leave, other	yet	no reply
Viacom New York, NY	unknown	yes	yes	yes	no	yes; inclusive; health, dental, leave, other	not yet	yes
Delta Airlines Atlanta, GA	42% unmarried	no	no	no	yes	not yet	not yet	maybe

Single vs. married: Creating an inclusive workplace

by Megan Fitzgerald
Employment Review / October 2001

Work/life balance has been a workplace catch phrase for some time now, but one aspect we don't often hear about is the different ways people attain that balance.

Married workers don't have the same needs as single employees, and it gets even more complex when children are in the mix. What does this mean in the workplace?

Single employees often feel they are getting the short end of the stick when it comes to assignments, overtime, benefits and support. Married workers feel they may be getting passed over for promotions. How do businesses provide a fair and happy work environment for everyone?

How do employers make everyone feel valued? And how do employees talk about their issues without resentment?

Thomas F. Coleman, executive director of the American Association for Single People (AASP), says there are three steps to solving the problem. "First, employers and employees need to acknowledge that both single and married people are constituencies."

By finding out the exact percentage of married and unmarried workers, employers will be able to understand the impact on their work force. If a company is mainly composed of unmarried employees, maybe a standard plan for all workers is the key, whereas if a company has mostly married people, maybe a plan can be crafted for them but modified for single workers.

"Employers need to look at the needs and concerns of all workers," says Coleman. Only by asking employees what they want or need will businesses be able to adjust their policies. If people are not comfortable about publicly airing their grievances, anonymous statements should be accepted. One of the problems single employees face should they speak out is coming off looking anti-family. Therefore, confidentiality will not only help them participate, but also open the lines of communication for all concerned parties.

The third step employers should take is to look at the issues and needs of their workers. "Although many companies offer domestic-partner benefits, they typically are limited to same-sex partners. In effect, the employers are saying that if you can legally get married, you have to do so," Coleman says. Not to mention, domestic-partner benefits don't help single employees with an elderly mother or a sick sibling. Adjustments need to be made to programs and policies so that everyone reaps the benefits.

Tips for Creating a Balanced Workplace

Need-Blind. Offer workers a set amount of time off to use as they wish. This time does not have to be used strictly for family responsibilities, which makes it more equitable for singles.

Time-Bank. Under this plan, an employee can "buy" or "sell" time off. Employees can buy 40, 80 or 120 hours a year from the employer, or simply sell back to the company any unused time off at the end of the year.

Sabbaticals. These give all employees the chance to recharge, usually unpaid.

Flexible Schedule. Many Generation Xers have expressed the desire to work where they want, when they want, feeling they can easily use a computer from home to complete their assigned tasks.

Life-Cycle Benefits. Often referred to as cafeteria benefits, they allow employees to choose what benefits they want, at what time in their lives. This allows employers to contain costs while meeting individual needs.

On-Site Services. It is becoming more common for companies to offer such services as dry cleaning, take-home meals, health clubs or car maintenance so that workers can devote more personal time to enjoyable pursuits.

Even though we as a country have come a long way, traditional ways of thinking are still pervasive in the business community. Often, unmarried workers are relocated or asked to work overtime. They may be asked to relocate because employers feel they don't have ties to the area. Never mind if an employee's whole family lives there and he is a volunteer at a local church. If a project needs to be done and a single person doesn't have the "excuse" of a spouse at home, he will probably be the one who works the overtime.

Employers can give single employees the option of adding another adult member of their family to the benefit plan, or even allow singles the options of contributing more to their retirement funds or obtaining pet insurance with the benefit money earmarked for spouses. By giving workers choices, businesses are telling them they are important, and in turn employees feel a sense of loyalty and pride in their careers.

Coleman says that before companies decide to overhaul their programs, "they should allow and encourage a support group for single people." This simple step lets employees know their employers recognize their existence. Businesses have no problem recognizing women or minorities as constituencies, but single or married workers are rarely identified as separate groups.

Many organizations are trying hard to accommodate all workers; it makes good business sense. With the tight labor market, alienating potential hires is not a good idea. According to Kristin Bowl, spokeswoman for the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), Alexandria, Va., employers are doing many things to ensure everyone in the workplace feels equal. "Family-friendly benefits are essentially work/life benefits. Employees want the ability to have a life after work. Only a few of the many benefits companies offer - childcare subsidy, on-site childcare - are only aimed at parents. Most benefits are for the use of all employees," says Bowl.

Flex-time, compressed work weeks and telecommuting are all options that any employee can take advantage of, whether they are working from home because of children or simply to avoid a long commute.

In a recent benefits survey conducted by SHRM, approximately 25% of 754 HR professionals say that their companies offer a Cafeteria Plan -a menu of benefits where one can choose everything from life insurance to flexible spending accounts. By providing these choices, unmarried workers feel included in the corporate culture, and not just a side note to the family benefits offered.

Recognizing that workers can be in a serious relationship without a marriage certificate is another step that organizations have taken for the good. "In 1997, only 6% of companies offered domestic-partner benefits," Bowl states. "This year, 25% of respondents say they offer opposite-sex domestic-partner benefits and 16% offer the benefit to partners of the same sex." This allows workers to share their benefits without the legal definition of marriage being the prerequisite.

Since the 1970s, more and more people

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Young Adults and Low-Income Workers Often Lack Health Care

A Step Forward in New York

Gov. George Pataki recently announced that New York will begin providing medical coverage to 600,000 uninsured New Yorkers as a result of an agreement between the state and the Bush administration.

The new health insurance program, called Family Health Plus, will cover low-income single adults without children who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid benefits but who do not receive medical coverage from their employers.

"There are hundreds of thousands of hardworking New Yorkers who go to work every day but can't afford health care," said Pataki.

"Today we take a huge step toward making sure that quality affordable health care is available to every New Yorker." Tommy Thompson, secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, said that New York is the first state in the nation to allow a government health insurance program for single adults who do not have children.

The program is expected to cost $1.1 billion in the next 3 years. Fifty percent of it will be federally funded, while the state and local governments will each contribute 25 percent.

New York started accepting people into managed care companies across the state in September.

Under the new program, an unmarried adult between the ages of 19 and 65 who does not have children can make up to $8,590 a year and still be eligible for health coverage. A family of four can earn up to $26,000 and be eligible for the program.

A Step Backward in New Jersey

As of September 1, 2001, an estimated 9,000 people – most of them poor, single adults and childless couples – will become ineligible for the state-run health insurance program in New Jersey.

But despite the exclusion of low-income singles, the state is launching a $1.5 million marketing effort to increase enrollment among families of four earning $35,300 to $61,775 annually,

Although the Legislature added $25 million to the program's $490 million budget of state and federal funds, FamilyCare still lacks enough money to cover all the people who need health insurance.

Some lawmakers criticized the decision, saying it is driven by budget considerations instead of people's needs.

"Despite the department's rhetoric, what this decision amounts to is denying coverage for low-income adults," said Sen. Joseph F. Vitale, D-Middlesex, a member of the Senate Health Committee.

"We learned in the last few weeks that New Jersey has the highest median income in the country," he added. "For a state this wealthy to freeze our most vulnerable and needy citizens out of our health care program should be inconceivable. "

The change means that single people who earn more than $2,600 a year and childless couples earning more than $3,640 a year will no longer be eligible for the program.

Previous income limits allowed a single person to earn up to $8,590 and a couple to earn up to $11,610. **•AASP•**

New Census Data Shows Many Young Adults Lack Health Coverage

A report recently released by the U.S. Census Bureau on the 2000 census reveals that about 14 percent of the American population is currently without health insurance coverage.

Census figures also indicate that young adults between the ages of 18 to 24 were less likely to have health insurance coverage. The census estimates that 27.3 percent of young adults are not covered. Most of them are single.

Many of these adults are living with their parents but have been dropped from their parent's work health coverage due to their age, while others are working part-time or have low earning jobs that do not provide for benefits.

The report also revealed that the proportion of uninsured children has declined, from 12.6 percent or 9.1 million in 1999 to 11.6 percent or 8.5 million in 2000.

But the 2000 Census also indicates that children living in single parent families were less likely to be insured than children living in married-couple families.

The report says that 15.4 percent of children in single parent families have no health coverage compared to 9.7 percent of children in married-couple families.

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treatment, but instead the "infertility" results from the absence of a male partner."

While I do have a sperm donor, because it is not someone with whom I share an intimate relationship, I am deemed not worthy of enjoying the services provided by this state agency, at the direction of Dr. Stan Williams and Dr. Keith Stone, state employees themselves.

This twisted line of reasoning provides the necessity of a male being present in order to validate a female patient's wish to undergo assisted reproduction

I am not the first to be affected by this arcane policy, although medical courtesy was extended to one female physician who went to the clinic without a partner. Apparently, Stan Williams and Keith Stone waive "male partner" criteria for those who have a medical degree.

This policy violates the Florida Education Equity Act, "the Hill-Burton Act," but more importantly, it clearly conflicts with my rights guaranteed in the United States Constitution, the "equal protection" and "due process"clauses.

In the absence of a compelling state interest, the University of Florida, Shands Hospital and Teaching Clinics Inc., the University of South Florida, and the Center for Human Reproduction cannot make a policy that selects a class of citizens for separate and unequal treatment.

There are many at the health center and the private medical community, who are uncomfortable with this policy, yet dare not speak up. As many can imagine, this has been an emotional ordeal for me. While there are other private sector alternatives that will perform the medical treatment I require they are located no closer than two hours out of town and some as far as New Jersey. I simply cannot allow this to go unchallenged. I have asked for assistance in resolving this matter from a number of local, state and federal agencies and my hard work has lead me to you. I need your help and the help of the National Organization for Women.

I belong to the American Association for Single People. The the Executive Director of the group is in Washington for National Singles Week. I have asked him to deliver this letter to your office on my behalf.

I look forward to your response and to eventually discussing this matter in depth with you and your legal staff.

Sincerely, Melinda Millsaps

•AASP•

President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security

Excerpts from the Interim Report

In August, 2001, the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security issued an interim report which contained the following conclusions:

• If we are to support tomorrow's retirees without overburdening tomorrow's workers, this generation of Americans must save and invest more.

• The existing Social Security program does not save or invest in the future. It was not designed to facilitate saving, and the political process cannot be relied upon to save on behalf of American families.

• Under the existing system, Americans will soon face inescapable choices: cut Social Security benefits, raise taxes, cut other government spending, or borrow on an unprecedented scale.

• To do nothing is implicitly equivalent to advocacy of one or more of these options.

The following are some factual findings of the Commission:

• Lower-income workers tend to have shorter life expectancies. As a result, low income workers spend a greater portion of their lives contributing to Social Security and a smaller portion collecting from it.

• Social Security's spousal benefit redistributes money from single individuals and two-earner couples to one-earner couples. For example, under the current system a 30-year-old single low-income male would receive a 2.22 percent real return on his contributions to the Social Security program (2.63 percent for a single low-income female). By contrast, a high-income one-earner married couple would receive a 2.75 percent return. Social security is structured, in this and many other instances, to redistribute income from single earners and working couples with less to couples in which one spouse can afford not to work. Because low-wage earners are more likely to be single or divorced, they are less likely to receive a spousal benefit. The highest risk of poverty in old age is faced by divorced, separated, or never-married women.

The Commission gave the following examples of some quirks on the current system which pose problems for some women:

Spousal benefits. The Smiths and Joneses both have $3,000 total monthly earnings. Mr. Smith earns $3,000 while Mrs. Smith does not work outside the home. At retirement in 2001, Mr. Smith would be eligible for a monthly benefit of $1,292 and Mrs. Smith a spousal benefit of $646, for a total of $1,938. By contrast, Mr. Jones earns $2,000 while Mrs. Jones earns $1,000 per month. Mr. Jones would be eligible for a monthly benefit of $984 based on his earnings while Mrs. Jones would get a benefit of $641 based on her own earnings, for a total of $1,625. While the two couples have identical total earnings, the single-earner couple received benefits 19 percent higher than the dual-earner couple.

Divorce. A divorced woman must have been married for 10 years to be entitled to benefits based on her former husband's earnings. About one-third of all marriages last less then 10 years. This leaves many women ineligible for survivor benefits.

The Commission also noted that, on average, most people who were born after 1945 will not get back in benefits what they paid into the system in employment taxes.

For example, for people born in 1965, an average earner would not get back everything they paid into the retirement portion of the Social Security system until they reached the age of 92. But the average life expectancy for individuals born in 1965 who reach age 65 is 83.0 for men and 86.1 for women.

An average earner born in 1955 would not get back what he or she paid into the retirement portion of the Social Security system until reaching 89.7 years. But the average life expectancy for individuals born in 1955 who reach age 65 is 82.5 for men and 85.6 for women. **•AASP•**

Real Rates of Return are Falling for All Retirees
(Assumes no change in law, Retirement at 65)

Birth year	Single-male medium wages	Single-female medium wages	Single-earner couple medium wages	2-earner couple low wages
1970	1.13	1.59	3.42	2.24
1980	0.91	1.36	3.31	2.08
1990	0.88	1.29	3.14	1.97
2000	0.86	1.25	3.02	1.88

Source: May 27, 2001 calculation by Social Security Office of the Actuary

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singles are "happy and contented" with normative, large networks of family and friends, differing only from marrieds in not being technically married.

Were the latter the case, AASP would need only exist to promote the revision of various tax and legal codes to eliminate discrimination against singles; in fact, the mission statement indicates much broader goals. AASP is already dedicated to bringing American society to grips with its own realities; what I am saying is let's not falter on the difficult truths about solo single life, but strive for visibility, sanction and relief to these too.

Finally, I wish to make it very clear that the views I have expressed in this essay are not meant to detract from my gratitude for the terrific campaign that AASP has launched on behalf of us all.

End Notes to Article on Isolation

1. An example of how this lifestyle may be enhanced as opposed to drained by surrounding social attitudes is to be found in the Hindu and the Asian monastic tradition. In the Hindu tradition it was considered appropriate for a person of forty or fifty to leave behind their family and worldly obligations in order to live a life of contemplation carrying only a begging bowl in which to receive offerings of food. Likewise, withdrawal to a solitary monastic life is an honored recourse frequently described in Buddhist literature. In both cases the choice of an alone existence is treated reverently, supporting the individual rather than askancing him or her as eccentric, with, for some, an overhanging threat of homelessness.

2. Which is not to say that many solo singles don't firmly prefer to live alone; nonetheless, this phrase points to the fact that they lack the immediate and comforting intimacy of sharing daily routines. **•AASP•**

Justine Zohar is a member of AASP. She lives in Maine.

Presentations to Members of Congress for National Singles Week

This page contains photos of Thomas F. Coleman, Jane Albrecht, or Perry Heath, with members of Congress who met with AASP during National Singles Week.

Some were unmarried members who received a greeting card. Others received a certificate documenting that the majority of households in their district are headed by single or unmarried adults.


Rep. John LaFalce
Buffalo, NY


Rep. William Jefferson
New Orleans, LA


Rep. Benjamin Cardin
Baltimore, MD


Rep. Alcee Hastings
Ft. Lauderdale, FL


Rep. Corrine Brown
Jacksonville, FL


Rep. Diana DeGette
Denver, CO


Rep. Danny Davis
Chicago, IL


Rep. Diane Watson
Los Angeles, CA


Rep. Lynn Rivers
Ypsilanti, MN


Rep. Jim Langevin
Warwick, RI


Rep. John Lewis
Atlanta, GA


Rep. Nick Rahall
Beckley, WV


Rep. Shelley Berkley
Las Vegas, NV


Rep. Thomas Barrett
Milwaukee, WI


Rep. Tim Johnson
Champaign, IL


Rep. Tom Sawyer
Akron, OH


Rep. William Lacey Clay
St. Louis, MO


Rep. Eva Clayton
Greenville, NC


Rep. Maurice Hinchey
Binghamton, NY

Governors Issuing Proclamations for National Singles Week

Ruth Minner
Governor of
Delaware

Jesse Ventura
Governor of
Minnesota

Donald T.
DiFrancesco
Acting Governor
of New Jersey

Bob Holden
Governor of
Missouri

Paul Patton
Governor of
Kentucky

Lincoln Almond
Governor of
Rhode Island

Mike Johanns
Governor of
Nebraska

Kenny Guinn
Governor of
Nevada

Proclamations by Mayors

The following mayors also issued proclamations:

James Hahn (Los Angeles, CA)
Bobby Simpsom (Baton Rouge, LA)
Sharon Sales Belton (Minneapolis, MN)
Anthony Williams (Washington, DC)
Amos Cordova (Durango, CO)

Meet Some of Our New Honoray Members

Book Authors

Pamela Stone
Dallas, TX

Wendy Keller
Malibu, CA

Stephanie Staal
New York City

Honoray Member
Antoinette Bosco
Brookfield, Connecticut.

Columnist

Antoinette Bosco has joined AASP. She is a syndicated columnist with the National Catholic News Service and a freelance writer with over 200 magazine articles, thousands of newspaper stories and seven books to her credit. In 1979, she wrote "A Parent Alone" which arose out of her experience as a single parent raising six children whom she financially supported alone.

Members of Congress Show Interest in AASP

Several members of Congress have advised AASP they would consider becoming honorary members. In view of this, AASP will be sending a formal invitation to join to:

Rep. Shelley Berkeley (NV)
Rep. Alcee Hastings (FL)
Rep. Maurice Hinchey (NY)
Rep. Nick Rahall (WV)

• Holiday Greetings to Everyone from AASP •

Military Singles Want Basic Fairness and Privacy Rights

Ex Sailor Complains of Discrimination

A new member recently sent us the following letter It, and other letters we have published in the past, document an ongoing pattern of discrimination against unmarried members of the Armed Forces.

Dear AASP,

I recently retired from the U.S. Navy after 21 years of service. I was single the entire time and I still am for many reasons. I am heterosexual.

I was without question discriminated against repeatedly throughout my career because of my marital status. Here are some examples:

(1) Pay scales are blatantly printed – as of and up to my retirement – with single, married and with dependents in mind.

This does not include base pay but housing and food allowances. Aside from the rank, the amount of money a service member receives is based on marital status and dependents. It is a considerable monthly difference. It's more complex than this but without going into minute details, the general idea still remains, married service members get more.

2) Numerous times throughout my career, single servicemen were always picked to stand on watches so that married servicemen could spend holidays off with their families.

3) Single people without dependents could not move into base housing or trailer spaces which was cheaper than off base quarters.

4) MWR- Morale, Welfare and Recreation funds generated by sales at exchanges and commissary stores intended for troop morale are still being used for military daycare centers and family based programs.

5) I don't have the numbers but married people occupy the lion's share of senior ranking personnel. Thus, because of the commonality and the perception of married servicemen being more stable, it appeared to me that they received preference in promotions. They were more well received, all things being equal, in the higher ranking social circles of the established military.

Beyond the rank of E-6, promotion is not based solely on performance, you must go before the promotions board where the criteria for promotions becomes subjective. In other words, they promote who they want to promote. The board is staffed by senior married personnel. If the numbers support my hunch, this is not fair.

6) Time off to take care of family matters. Guess who take up the slack in their absence?

The Department of Defense has done numerous studies on the plight of the single military person and they are also reflected in numerous articles of the weekly publications of the Navy Times, Army Times, and Air Force Times. They definitely recognize the problem but still refuse to provide proper attention to this matter.

All people should receive equal treatment for equal performance – period!

Today there are three forms of legal discrimination remaining in the military and they are: (1) marital status; (2) age; and (3) appearance. Our differences should not divide us, but they do and shamefully people profit from it. After reading the article in the USA Today on October 23, 2001, I was amazed to see how others share my plight. This has been a long time coming and long overdue.

It is with heavy heart that I find it necessary to seek an advocate for myself and others like me, but this is the reality of the world today.

T.D.
Port Angeles, WA

•AASP•

Military members should have privacy rights too

A panel of legal and military experts assembled by the National Institute of Military Justice, a private, nonprofit organization, has asked Congress to repeal a clause in the Uniform Code of Military Justice that outlaws acts of sodomy between consenting adults.

The report says the sodomy clause should be replaced with a "modern statute similar to the laws adopted by many states" and similar to an updated federal statue that applies to civilians.

The report was released on May 30. The five-member commission consists of a retired military court judge, a retired Navy captain, a retired Navy rear admiral, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, and a law professor.

"Of all the topics that appeared on the commission's long list of possible areas for consideration," the commission states in its report, "the issue of prosecuting consensual sex offenses attracted the greatest number of responses from both individuals and organizations. The commission concurs with the majority of these assessments in recommending that consensual sodomy and adultery be eliminated as separate offenses in the UCMJ and the Manual for Courts-Martial."

"[T]he well-known fact that most adulterous or sodomitical acts committed by consenting and often married (to each other) military personnel are not prosecuted at court-martial creates a powerful perception that prosecution of this sexual behavior is treated in an arbitrary, even vindictive, manner," the report states.

AASP wanted to discuss this report with the Department of Defense and with officials at the Army's B.O.S.S. program (Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers). However, meetings were cancelled due to the Sept. 11 tragedy which killed and injured many military members at the Pentagon. We plan to reschedule the meetings when we are in Washington next spring. **•AASP•**

Read other letters written to AASP at
www.**unmarriedamerica**.com

Legislation Affecting Domestic Partners

Bills in Congress

Several bills are pending in Congress which would extend legal protections and economic benefits to employees with domestic partners.

District of Columbia Benefits

In the past, Congress has been consistently hostile to domestic partner benefits. For example, for nearly 10 years Congress has voted to prohibit the District of Columbia from implementing a domestic partner registry for local residents and from extending health benefits to the domestic partners of district employees.

A breakthrough occurred on September 25, 2001, when an amendment was offered to HR 2944. A motion to prohibit the District from implementing these programs was defeated on a vote of 194 to 226. Some 41 Republicans broke ranks with their party's position and voted with 184 Democrats and one Independent to defeat the motion.

Some Republicans supporting the District's right to implement this local program include several who are themselves unmarried: Jim Kolbe (AZ), Mary Bono (CA), David Dreier (CA), Mark Foley (FL), John Sweeney (NY), and Steven La Tourette (OH).

Other Republicans who supported the District's right to offer such benefits, include several who represent "unmarried majority" congressional districts (districts where most households are headed by unmarried adults): Dana Rohrabacher (CA), Steve Horn (CA), E. Clay Shaw (FL), Jim McCrery (LA), and Debra Price (OH).

The following members of Congress who represent "unmarried majority" districts, voted to prohibit the District from implementing its programs.

Republicans in this category include: Ric Keller from Orlando, FL; Charles Norwood from Augusta, GA; Timothy Johnson from Champaign, IL; Ann Northrup from Louisville, KY; Richard Baker from Baton Rouge, LA; Heather Wilson from Albuquerque, NM; Jack Quinn from Buffalo, NY; James Walsh from Syracuse, NY; Steve Chabot from Cincinnati, OH; Patrick Tiberi from Columbus, OH; Pete Sessions from Dallas, TX.

Democrats in this category include: Jerry Costello from Belleville, IL; Tony Hall from Dayton, OH; Bob Clement from Nashville, TN; and Ronnie Shows from Jackson, MS.

Maybe these members of Congress have not become comfortable with the fact that a majority of households in their districts are headed by single or unmarried adults – many of whom are domestic partners.

Perhaps you might like to write to some of these members of Congress to express your feelings on this issue.

Expanding the Family Medical Leave Act

Rep. Carolyn Maloney has introduced HR 2287 which would allow workers to take unpaid extended leave to care for a domestic partner, parent-in-law, adult child, sibling, or grandparent if the domestic partner, parent-in-law, adult child, sibling, or grandparent has a serious health condition.

Under currently law, such leave may only be taken to care for a spouse, parent, or child.

Tax Breaks for Domestic Partner Benefits

Rep. James McDermott has introduced HR 2837 which would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make domestic partner health benefits a nontaxable benefit to employees, just as spousal benefits are currently not subject to income tax.

Bills in States

California Passes Domestic Partner Law

California Governor Gray Davis recently signed AB 25, a bill by Assemblywoman Carole Migden, which grants several significant rights and benefits to couples who register as domestic partners with the Secretary of State.

Unfortunately, the large majority of domestic partners have been excluded from the law since the registry is not open to heterosexual couples in which both partners are between the ages of 18 and 62.

Among the new protections granted to registered couples are the right to:
(1) Make medical decisions if a partner is incapacitated and unable to give informed consent; (2) Inherit property if one's partner dies without a will and be appointed as administrator of a partner's estate; (3) Appear in conservatorship proceedings and be appointed as a conservator ; (4) Recover for economic damages for negligent infliction of emotional distress and wrongful death; (5) Use sick leave benefits to care for an domestic partner or a domestic partner's child; (6) Leave a job to relocate with a domestic partner without jeopardizing unemployment benefits .

Benefits for Rhode Island State Workers

HB 5339 was signed into law by Governor Lincoln Almond on July 9, 2001. Under the measure, same and opposite-sex domestic partners of state employees are eligible for health benefits. •AASP•

INCLUSIVE from pg. 9
have chosen not to get married. Unmarried adults are a large population of the workforce, and companies are learning that excluding them from benefits will only hurt business. It helps that unmarried workers are making themselves known and letting their employers know what they need to balance their work and their lives. Many companies are seeing the importance of offering benefits that everyone can use and, because of this, are recruiting and retaining employees who feel valued. •AASP•

REFORMING from pg. 6
be no increase in government bonds or interest rates as a result.

Privatization would restore some integrity and security to Social Security. To the extent that individuals hold private Treasury portfolios instead of relying on unfunded government promises, they are more secure and earn a higher return. The system itself is improved because long-term obligations are reduced. Perhaps most important, we can begin to break the arbitrary "pay-as-you-go" nature of a program dependent on the shrinking and capricious relationship between working taxpayers and earning beneficiaries.

Talffv says that the key is to get payroll tax dollars into the accounts of workers and out of the hands of politicians in Washington, because letting politicians control your money is the greatest financial risk of all. •AASP•

Thanks to Our Volunteers

During the last few months, many members have contributed their time and talent to help AASP. The Board of Directors and the staff would like to express our gratitude to the following people for their assistance:

Adam Soch edited and produced a public service announcement which has been broadcast on several television stations and cable networks throughout the nation.

Hector Vargas, a graduate of Art Center College of Design, created a half-page ad which we ran in several newspapers prior to National Singles Week. He has also designed this newsletter and is working on a new brochure and new letterhead.

Tiana McGuire and Alice Gray helped us request proclamations from all 50 Governors for National Singles Week. They also helped us schedule appointments with many members of Congress for our trip to Washington. In addition, Tiana is currently working on a new section of our website – Advice and Referrals – which we plan to unveil early next year.

Dr. Michael Valente assisted us in obtaining proclamations from several mayors. He has also provided ongoing advice to the Executive Director on organizational development plans.

Albert George and Alex Martinez have helped us prepare mass mailings of newsletters and other materials.

Arnold Navarro designed a series of greeting cards which we delivered to unmarried members of Congress for National Singles Week. He also designed our new holiday gift cards.

Perry Heath has written several poems for AASP, including a greeting to the unmarried members of Congress for National Singles Week.

Jane Albrecht and Perry Heath spent several days during National Singles Week having photos taken with members of Congress and delivering certificates and cards to others who could not meet with us that week.

George Phillips helped make arrangements for our reception in Washington for our local members and helped to host the event when travel delays prevented the Executive Director from attending.

William Connor had volunteered to create a contact list for all 50 governors. He had just started the work when he received notice that his brother died in one of the tragedies on Sept. 11. We extend our deepest sympathy to William on the loss of his brother.

Carolyn Skalnek, treasurer of AASP, has worked as a volunteer for the past few years, helping us with our bookkeeping and accounting needs. •AASP•

Join AASP today by making a tax-deductible donation of $10 or more. Call us or visit our website for more information on how to become a member.

Help AASP Grow - Give Holiday Gift Memberships

It's that time of year again. A time when we show our affection and appreciation to friends, family members, neighbors, and co-workers by giving them a gift for the holidays.

This season provides you with an opportunity to introduce your circle of friends to AASP.

Give someone a gift membership in the American Association for Single People by making a tax-deductible donation in their name.

We will send them a greeting card listing you as the donor. We will also send them a welcoming packet, including our most recent newsletter. If you donate $25 or more, they will also receive a mini-light key chain, or with a $50 donation they will receive a t-shirt or sweat shirt.

We don't force the label "member" on someone who has not personally made a donation to AASP. Therefore, the recipient of your gift will have the option to consider themselves a new member of our organization or to consider your gesture as a gift subscription to our newsletter. Either way, they will appreciate your gift.

Use and fax the membership form inserted in this newsletter to us at (818)242-5103, or call us at 800-993-2277. We will do the rest. •AASP•

Contact Information:

American Association
for Single People
415 E. Harvard St.,
Suite 204
Glendale, CA 91205

www.unmarriedamerica.com
unmarried@earthlink.net

PSA Video Broadcast Brings in New Members

A public service announcement (PSA) video produced by AASP member Adam Soch has made thousands of television viewers aware of our organization. Scores of people have called us for brochures and many of them have subsequently joined AASP.

The 30-second PSA was broadcast on cable networks and television stations in the following cities during September and October: Prescott , Yuma, and Tucson (AZ); Oakland County (MI); Joplin (MO); Sarasota (FL); GCI Cable (AK); San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Oakland (CA).

Our thanks for Ray Frieders and Betty Jo Wright who succeeded in having these media outlets air these spots.

We will produce a PSA for radio stations soon. Let us know if your local stations would broadcast the video or radio spot. •AASP•

Vol. 3, No. 3

Unmarried America

Spring 2002

Newsletter of the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR SINGLE PEOPLE

Six Fortune 500 Companies Receive Leadership Awards

Singles-Friendly Workplace Corporate Leadership Awards were sent on March 1, 2002, to the Human Resource Directors at six Fortune 500 companies.

The awards commend these employers for their leadership in creating a corporate climate which is more respectful of single and unmarried workers than the work environments at most public agencies and private-sector employers.

"The fact that the Human Resource Managers at many of the Fortune 500 companies took the time to respond to our 'Singles Friendly Workplace Survey' shows that many companies care about their unmarried workers," said Thomas F. Coleman, Executive Director of AASP.

"But what really sets six of these companies apart is that they have adopted a variety of policies and programs which are indicative of a singles-friendly workplace," Coleman added.

Each of the six awardees have implemented four or more of the following policies: adding marital status to the company's non-discrimination policy statement, including single people in the company's diversity program, adopting a work-life program, having flexible cafeteria-style benefits, giving domestic partner benefits, expressing a willingness to allow single workers to create a support group at work.

The six Fortune 500 companies receiving the award from AASP are: Cendant, Xerox, Fifth Third Bancorp, First Union Bank, Kellogg company and Viacom.

See Workplace Awards, pg. 4

Setting Priorities for AASP in 2002

AASP celebrates its third anniversary this month. We've come a long way in three short years.

We have grown in membership, visibility, and credibility, and are now viewed by many corporate and political leaders as the nation's leading advocate for unmarried Americans.

The 2000 Census reports show that an evolution has occurred in America over the past few decades. Family diversity is now the norm – and single people play a vital role in our diverse society.

There were 82 million unmarried adults in the nation in 2000. Within a few short years, the majority of our households will be headed by single and unmarried adults.

However, many corporate and governmental regulations and policies have not kept pace with these social and economic changes. Unfortunately, many unmarried Americans feel there are not getting the respect they deserve as workers, taxpayers, voters, and citizens.

We have listened to what our members and visitors to our website have been saying. You feel that adjustments need to be made in social attitudes and economic policies so that single people are treated more equitably by society.

You have told us that you want respect and equitable treatment at work. You are willing to pay your fair share of taxes but you also want to receive your fair share of benefits. You want affordable health care for yourself and, if you live with loved ones, you want similar coverage for your immediate family household.

The list of wants and needs of unmarried Americans is long and varied. But three common themes seem to dominate the wish list: equal pay for equal work, balance and fairness in taxation, and affordable health care.

The primary mission of AASP is to help secure a better future for single and unmarried Americans, whether they live alone or with friends or family members. We want to improve the quality of life for all single people.

To be effective, AASP must focus its resources in order to maximize the prospect of reaching attainable goals. We can not be all things to all people. But we can put the spotlight on the most pressing issues which concern the greatest number of single and unmarried Americans.

This is why we have chosen to make three issues our top priorities in 2002.

We will work with corporations to promote fairness and equality in the workplace, especially in the distribution of employee benefits.

We will bring constituents together with elected officials and candidates to focus on reforms in tax policies. Many workers are currently taxed when they put an adult household member on their health plan at work. This must stop!

Also, we need to monitor Social Security reform plans. Something must be done because the current system seriously shortchanges unmarried workers.

New York Gov. George Pataki found a way to include single people in a state subsidized health plan for the working poor.

See Setting Priorities, pg. 12

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Together We Stand. Vision into Reality

Candace Kavanagh
Development Director

Having worked as a Development Officer in non-profit agencies for over 10 years, I have enjoyed the opportunity of bringing good things to life. When you work full time for a non-profit agency, the reward of your work is in that fact that someone is going to receive something that will help them experience a healthier and more fulfilled existence.

When a foundation grant arrives, or a major donor jumps on board – all of a sudden, as if out of the blue – you have the opportunity to change real-life circumstances for the better. With a steady effort, men and women can break an unhealthy or unfair status quo and bring about positive and lasting change. I call this process vision into reality.

When most Americans look into the corners of their own existence, we see some areas where we would like to bring about change. Unmarried Americans today face challenges we did not have decades ago. Whoever considered that the unmarried heads of households would outnumber the married heads of households?

The dividing line between being single and being married is slim and subject to change. Your status changes when you choose to marry, or when you divorce or your spouse dies. In 2002, family diversity is the norm and the sit-com of the Golden Girls' way of life represents a new type of extended family that also represents reality for many American families.

Whether we are single by choice or circumstances, as Americans, unmarried men and women are entitled to and should expect equal treatment at home, at work and under the law.

To turn our vision into reality, my work at AASP will focus on our 2002 priority areas of growth: Health Care, Employee Benefits and Taxes.

I already have begun conversations with different insurance carriers to design a health care plan that will allow AASP to offer an affordable group health insurance program to our members.

Development efforts will also focus on building relationships with corporations, especially among the human resources officers. Readers may be surprised to learn that many of our Fortune 500 companies have hired Diversity Officers to study demographics and understand the needs of all employees. Many major corporations are breaking the status quo and stereotypes to attract and keep the caliber of employee that they are seeking.

Executive Director and attorney Thomas Coleman spearheads our legislative watch and leads the way for you in establishing more equal taxation and a fairer social security benefit plan for singles. I will support his efforts with public relations and communications to help knit together the diversified group of 82,000,000 unmarried Americans in the eyes of our elected officials and public policy makers.

Not expressed in AASP's 2002 priorities is an important issue that is on-going within AASP: that is the social and economic bias against single men and women in the marketplace, that is to say, how we are perceived. Hey, it's okay to be single. We make good customers, reliable tenants and home owners, and responsible parents. Companies with products to sell should single us out!

One of the effective ways the AASP works to lift the veil of bias about unmarried men and women is through on-going bona fide studies which will be augmented through our newly established Academic Advisory Board (See page 7).

As we begin 2002, let's get our report cards ready for 2003 to see how many of these visions have become realities. ΔΔΔ

Being Single Has Advantages, Disadvantages When it Comes to Money

by Eileen Alt Powell
AP Business Writer

David Bergman sees financial pluses and minuses to being single.

A divorced real estate salesman from Scotts Valley, Calif., the baby boomer especially likes the ability to make decisions without anyone second- guessing him.

"I'm in control of what I spend and what I don't," he said. "Right now, I'm thinking of buying a BMW convertible."

On the other hand, Bergman, 40, acknowledges, "it also means everything is up to you," from deciding how to save for his 10-year-old son's college education to planning for a retirement he hopes will include travel.

America's singles – people who never married, who divorced or who lost spouses – total nearly 82 million, or 40 percent of adults 18 and over, according to Census Bureau figures. Baby boomers, with higher divorce rates and longevity, which tends to produce more widows, are projected to push the ranks of singles to some 106 million, or 47 percent, by 2010.

Singles of any age often face discrimination in housing, employment, credit, child custody and taxes, says Thomas F. Coleman, Executive Director of the American Association for Single People in Glendale, Calif.

That can result in disproportionately higher costs than married couples face: A couple with two incomes generally has an easier time qualifying for a mortgage. The cost of a single hotel room or cruise ship reservation is often little different from a double. Special trusts that couples use to shelter their money from estate taxes won't work for singles.

"If you're single, the burden is on you," Coleman said. "You've really got to make plans. No one else is going to do that for you."

One thing singles can do to compensate – especially if they're boomers – is to save more.

"A single person in his or her 40s should be putting away 20 percent of gross income," said Ben Baldwin, an insurance specialist in Arlington Heights, IL, "If someone is doing that, I'll feel good about his future security."

Baldwin also suggested that singles more than couples might need help from financial planners and investment advisers.

> "A single person in his or her 40s should be putting away 20 percent of gross income"

"With a couple, one is usually good and sensible and keeps them both on track," Baldwin said. "Singles don't have that, which they sometimes have trouble admitting."

Many boomers, whether married or single, have lived from paycheck to paycheck and find themselves in their 50s with nothing put away for retirement, said Alan Peters, a chartered financial consultant in Delaware.

"Don't let anyone tell you the situation is hopeless," he said. "You can get started, you can plan. You'll be surprised what you can accomplish in 15 years."

Peters also said that singles need to consider the same financial steps that couples take, but for different reasons.

"Take life insurance," he said. "A single doesn't need it for the traditional reason of protecting a family. But it can be structured to cover medical expenses and your funeral, or be used as a way to leave money to a charity or university."

Long-term care insurance? "It's probably something everyone should consider, especially a single who can't count on family support," he said.

Bob Green, a financial adviser in Santa Cruz, Calif., recommends that singles make sure they have wills.

"Maybe you want money to go to your best friend – the one who visited every Thanksgiving. Or to your university or temple or church. Just because you're single doesn't mean you don't care."

Virginia Morris, author of "A Woman's Guide to Personal Finance," said that boomer women increasingly are finding themselves without partners: about half of marriages end in divorce, and three-quarters of women who marry are widowed.

"It used to be that as an elderly single woman, you went to live with your sister's family," Morris said. "We don't do that anymore."

As a result, women who are single or widowed often end up living alone and paying for services, from home repair to nursing care.

While the rule of thumb has been that people should aim for retiring with 70 percent to 80 percent of their pre-retirement income, Morris believes women should aim for 100 percent.

"Women likely are earning less (than men), which means they have less in Social Security entitlements and in retirement accounts – but they're living longer than men," she said.

Some singles bridle that they may be penalized for their marital state.

Lon Fenchel, 62, an insurance broker in Los Gatos, Calif., who has been divorced for 10 years, wants to spend more time on the golf course when he retires. But he knows it's going to cost him.

"When you join a club, the couples get a special rate," he said. "As a single, I pay the same dues as a guy with a wife – and I can't bring my 'significant other' without paying," he complained.

He plans to retire in California, possibly relocating to Palm Springs where "there's good golf – and more singles."

ΔΔΔ

The Six Corporations Receiving the Award in 2002

XEROX
Rochester, NY

CENDANT
Parsippany, NJ

VIACOM
New York, NY

FIFTH THIRD BANK
Cincinnati, OH

FIRST UNION
Charlotte, NC

KELLOGG COMPANY
Battle Creek, MI

Fairness in the Workplace is a major Issue for Unmarried Employees

Family-friendly benefits snub singles, they say

by Carol Kleiman, Chicago Tribune

She's a mature woman, single, a physical therapist at a suburban Chicago hospital. She stopped me to tell me her difficulties in achieving work/life balance.

The biggest problem isn't her age or profession. It's that she's single.

Her company, she says, "leans over backward" to accommodate employees with children. She has nothing against that; in fact, she feels it's the right thing to do.

But the wrong thing, she says, is that she and other single people are always asked to work holidays or overtime. And when she occasionally asks to leave early or to take unscheduled time off, permission is denied.

"They come down really hard on us," she said. "It's not fair."

I listened to her carefully because she does not minimize the needs of working parents. Many single people do: They feel left out of company-sponsored family-friendly programs and put upon by absent colleagues.

I understand their complaints, but their anger is misdirected: It shouldn't be at colleagues with children and other family responsibilities but at insensitive managers who are too cheap to hire additional help, even during periods of unpaid leave.

"This issue doesn't surprise me, and what's going to happen, as more and more companies downsize and staffing gets tighter, there may be even less equity," said Mary Young, senior research consultant at the Center for Organizational Research, a division of Linkage Inc., a training and organizational consulting firm in Lexington, Mass.

In 1997, Young studied 714 single and married professionals with and without children in order to ascertain if those with children worked fewer hours.

"Contrary to popular opinion, there was no difference in the number of hours parents worked compared to non-parents," said Young,who is single.

"But parents were more likely to have flexible hours, even though they worked a full week."

See Singles Snubbed, pg. 12

Due to the slowdown in the economy, unmarried employees are watching their budgets like everyone else. These workers want equal pay for equal work. If they perform the same as married employees, they should receive the same pay.

But when benefits compensation is taken into account, employees who live alone, those with domestic partners, and single parents with an adult child at home are being paid considerably less than married workers for doing the same job.

This is beginning to change at some companies, especially some of the Fortune 500 employers. A dozen of such companies responded to our survey last year. Their responses were encouraging.

Some include "marital status" in their equal opportunity nondiscrimination policy. Others have adopted cafeteria-style benefits plans which are very flexible. At others, work-family programs are now work-life programs, with personnel managers realizing that all employees have a life outside of work, including single and unmarried workers.

Domestic partner benefits programs are becoming more common, with most of them including heterosexual as well as same-sex couples.

The two stories on this page are yet another indication that workplace policies and practices are changing. That's encouraging news.

Thomas F. Coleman
Executive Director

University study focusing on singles in the workplace

by Leigh Woolsey, Tulsa World

Single and attractive female underling at an advertising agency feigns a traditional, soon-to-be-married life trying to convince her boss that she's stable and worthy of a big-time promotion.

If you've rented the dated chick flick, "Picture Perfect" starring pre-Brad-Pitt Jennifer Aniston, then you know the story well.

It's your run-of-the-mill characters playing out a predictable plot. Or is it?

At a closer look, the 1997 film asks a question that's red hot in today's workplace. Are single people on the job treated differently than their married counterparts?

Looking for an answer, University of Tulsa Assistant Professor Wendy Casper and a group of graduate students recently touched off the first leg of a research study on the at-work experience of singles.

In the last decade, family-friendly has been the office buzzword, making unmarried people an almost-forgotten species, Casper said.

"We don't really look at singles because they don't have a family in the sense of a spouse and a child," she said.

"We don't really think they have issues outside of work, things in their life that may conflict with work or a need to balance the personal and professional life."

Employers are bending to parents now more than ever, and that's a good thing, Casper said, but they can't forget that a good chunk of the work force is single.

Unmarried Americans got a second glance when the 2000 Census showed the population ballooned from 38 million to 82 million in thirty years, making it one of the biggest demographic blocs.

With one-person households on the rise – accounting for about 25% of households today – the job force is adding singles to its list of priorities, which the nuclear family once monopolized.

A singleton herself, Casper pursued the study after realizing how neglected working singles are, years of research and recalling her past experience as a

See University Study, pg. 12

President Bush Signs D.C. Domestic Partner Benefits Bill

President George W. Bush signed a historic bill on December 21, 2001, which for the first time allows the local government in the District of Columbia to implement a domestic partner benefits law which it had enacted in 1992. The measure reached the President's desk due to support from 41 House Republicans.

The D.C. Council and Mayor passed the "Health Care and Benefits Expansion Act" in 1992. The law created a domestic partner registry and granted several legal protections to registered partners. (See center box.)

However, the following year Congress placed restrictions in the District's Appropriations Bill which prohibited any local or federal funds from being used to implement the new law. Congress has oversight authority over the District's budget and can veto any local expenditures of which it disapproves.

Each year since then, Congress has placed similar restrictions in the D.C. Appropriations Act to prohibit implementation of the domestic partner law.

Eleanor Holmes Norton, the District's non-voting delegate to the House of Representatives, worked diligently each year to gain bi-partisan support for the measure as a "home rule" issue. Her goal was not reached until the current legislative session.

The District of Columbia now joins dozens of other municipalities in the nation which have implemented domestic partner registries or benefits programs for local government workers.

What distinguishes the District's law from all of the others, however, is that it includes same and opposite-sex unmarried couples, as well as unmarried blood relatives.

Some cities only allow same-sex couples to participate. All municipalities, with the exception of Washington, D.C., exclude unmarried blood relatives from eligibility.

The D.C. law allows any two unmarried adults who meet the law's definitional requirements to register as partners, regardless of sex, sexual orientation, or blood relationship.

Bush approves partner bill

D.C. Bill is a Model of Inclusion

In order to be eligible for benefits under the law, two adults must register with the District of Columbia. To be eligible for registration, each adult: must be at least 18 years old, competent to enter into a contract, the sole domestic partner of the other person; and may not be married. Unlike laws in other jurisdictions, blood relatives are not excluded from registering as domestic partners.

Under the domestic partner law:

- All health care facilities must give visitation rights to partners.
- Employees of the District may enroll a partner for health benefits at the group rate, although it is at their own cost.
- District employees may take sick leave to care for a domestic partner.
- The District must allow an employee bereavement leave to make funeral arrangements for a domestic partner.

Rep. Norton savors a victory

Because of its inclusion of blood relatives, domestic partners who register with the District of Columbia will not be presumed to be in an intimate sexual relationship. Instead, they will be presumed to be each other's immediate family members.

"The fact that the District's law is grounded in household-family relationships, rather than in sexual intimacy, probably made it easier for the President and moderate Republicans to support it," observed Thomas F. Coleman, Executive Director of AASP.

"The law's requirement that partners be in a 'committed relationship' characterized by 'mutual caring and sharing of a mutual residence' apparently did not cause undue concern for the President or moderate Republicans in the House and Senate," Coleman added.

In floor arguments on the measure, Democrat Jim Moran (VA) pointed out that allowing the District to implement the domestic partner law "would help a single grandmother caring for her grand child, or two elderly sisters" as well as providing some protection to "two elderly people who can't get married for economic reasons."

Norton called the vote in the House "not only an invaluable precedent for District home rule, but a historic breakthrough for human rights."

House Republicans voting to allow the benefits program to be implemented included: National Republican Congressional Committee Chairman Tom Davis of Virginia, Representatives Greg Ganske (IA), Mike Ferguson (NJ), Jim McCrery (LA), and Robert Ehrlich (MD).

Ohio Republicans voting for the program included Ralph Regula, Paul Gillmor, Steven LaTourette, David Hobson, and Deborah Pryce.

Florida Republicans voting for the measure included Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Dan Miller, and E. Clay Shaw.

California House Republicans Dana Rohrabacher, Mary Bono, Jerry Lewis, David Dreier, and Darrel Issa also voted in favor of the program. ΔΔΔ

AASP Assists California Members Seeking Equal Retirement Benefits

AASP Asks University to Give Retirement Benefits to Heterosexual Partners

AASP Executive Director Thomas F. Coleman recently sent a letter to the University of California Board of Trustees asking that heterosexual retirees no longer be excluded from receiving domestic partner benefits. It was sent to reinforce a similar request made by AASP member Vic Pelton.

In 1997, the Trustees voted to expand the University's health benefits plan – which was then limited to spouses of employees and retirees – to cover domestic partners as well. However, as a cost saving device, a decision was made to limit participation to same-sex domestic partners and to exclude unmarried heterosexual couples.

At the time, AASP (then known as Spectrum Institute), told the Trustees that the new program would be inconsistent with the uniform practice by local governments in California to adopt gender-neutral domestic partner programs. The Trustees were also advised that the state Labor Commissioner had ruled that limiting benefits to same-sex couples would violate state law prohibiting sexual orientation discrimination.

Coleman's recent letter to the Trustees notes that expanding the benefits program to include heterosexuals would be appropriate now, considering that:

- The State Legislature gives domestic partner benefits to its own employees, regardless of gender;
- Heterosexual retirees may register as partners with the Secretary of State;
- Heterosexual retirees of the California State University system are eligible for domestic partner benefits;
- All other state agencies under the jurisdiction of the Governor and the Legislature provide domestic partner benefits to heterosexual retirees.

Coleman's letter stresses that by adopting gender-neutral benefits for retirees, UC's program will conform with state law, and will show respect for family diversity and honor the right of personal privacy of retirees. ΔΔΔ

Vic Pelton and Jean Lovetang

January 21, 2002

Ms. Judith Boyette
Associate Vice President
Human Resources and Benefits
University of California

Dear Ms. Boyette,

I retired from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in 1990 and receive my retirement benefits through your office. I have had an opposite sex Domestic Partner for over 18 years. We are registered with the Secretary of State (see attached declaration) and qualify as Domestic Partners under California Family Code, Section 297. Since the University offers benefits to same sex Domestic Partners, I believe that under the terms of AB25 I should be able to obtain benefits for my partner.

All other state agencies and departments and all other state-operated institutions of higher learning provide health and other benefits to domestic partners of retirees. It appears that the University of California is the only agency of state government which denies such benefits to retirees with an opposite-sex domestic partner. This does not seem fair to me.

But perhaps my information is out of date. It would be a pleasure to learn that the UC system has recently updated its benefits program to make it consistent with the Secretary of State's registration system and with the policy and practices of all other state agencies. I'm sure the Regents never intended to deprive UC retirees of benefits which all other state employees and retirees receive.

Please advise what form I can fill out to obtain these benefits. Thank you.

Sincerely,

V.P. Pelton

Advice and Resources: A New Service from AASP

Tiana McGuire
Website Section Editor

The Advice and Resources section of AASP's website is a very unique service. Since AASP is an umbrella group serving the needs of a broad spectrum of single people, the Advice and Resources section also covers a spectrum of issues and lifestyles.

Other singles groups offer advice and referrals, but usually to a specific type of single person, such as single mothers or gay couples. In contrast, our audience and our service is diverse.

My goal as editor of this section is to provide a wide array of information for AASP members to help make your life a little easier and more rewarding.

What you see depicted on these two pages is just the tip of the iceberg. The website contains hundreds of articles and books with information on a broad range of topics.

This service is intended to expand and grow. I would like to receive your input and suggestions for other articles, books, and organizations to list as resources.

Please feel free to contact me by e-mail with feedback and new ideas. I look forward to hearing from you.

Our primary mission at AASP is to help unmarried Americans to create a better future. We work to accomplish this through our educational activities and programs. Our staff is constantly monitoring news and current events as well as studying economic, legal, political, medical, and psychological literature. We share the most pertinent articles, stories, and advice columns with AASP members.

This month we are launching a new website-based educational service. We are calling it "Advice and Resources." AASP members can come to this section of our website to access the best advice and best resources we have found to help all types of single people on a wide range of topics.

Go to the Advice and Resource section of the website by clicking a button on the main page of the website. Once there, select the type of single person for which you want to find advice or resources.

This will take you to a sub-section which is divided into two types of information, giving you the option of selecting either advice or resources.

The advice option takes you to a page with links to articles on our website falling into the financial, legal, health, or other category, books listed with a description, and links to similar articles on other websites.

The resources option lists national, state, and local groups and other resources which will be of interest to this type of single person.

Advice for	Topic Areas
All Singles	Health
Solo Singles	Financial
Single Women	Legal
Domestic Partners	Social
Same-Sex Couples	Travel
Single Parents	Recreation
Single Mothers	Parenting
Single Fathers	Relationships
Divorced Adults	Volunteering

Sample of Articles: All Unmarrieds

Here is a sample of some of the articles found in the section for all unmarried adults. These are articles which are found on our own website. In addition, there are links to articles on other websites.

- Unmarried adults should start planning for long-term care needs
- Unmarried cohabitation can have legal and economic consequences
- Roommates should be named on insurance policies
- Study finds married men are healthier
- Money for singles
- Having a will would be beneficial in the long run
- Forbes rates places best suited for singles
- Social isolation has negative effects on health
- Spelling out how you want to spend your last days
- A quick look at Social Security
- A good and long lasting marriage depends on it's beginnings
- Study shows single people stay sharper mentally
- Keeping the flames of passion alive in your relationship
- Study shows that involuntary celibacy can lead to anger and depression

Sample of Books: Single Parents

Each sub-section of the Advice and Resources section lists books relevant to that type of single person, along with a brief description of the book. Here are some samples from the sub-section on single parents.

Financial Guide for the Single Parent by Larry Burkett

Whether male or female, divorced, widowed, or never married, the single parent encounters many unique financial problems. Financial expert Larry Burkett offers practical help for all of these groups as they struggle financially with raising kids all alone.

Single Parenting from a Father's Heart by Steve Horner

Steve Horner, a full-time single parent of two boys, from their diaper days to their high school years, shares a father's point of view straight from the front-line trenches of single parenting – and straight from the heart. He leaves nothing out.

Just One of Me: Confessions of a Less Than Perfect Single Parent by Dandi Mackall

For single parents, it's a constant struggle to be both father and mother, playmate and authority, bottle-washer and financial provider. The author knows the ups and downs. She shares secrets about how to avoid super-parent burnout. She also discusses emotions, remarriage, and visitation rights.

Sample of Resources: Various Categories

Each section has contact information for other national and local groups which may serve as a resource. Here is a sample. Contact information is on the website.

DomParts.com
DomParts.com is a financial planning site for domestic partners, offering free resources, a community center, and professional referrals to lesbian, gay, and opposite-gender domestic partners.

Single & Custodial Father's Network
SCFN is a non-profit group providing informational and supportive service to fathers and their families, and supports fatherhood through research, publications and interactive communications.

Alternatives to Marriage Project
ATMP is a national non-profit group for unmarried people, including people who choose not to marry, who cannot marry, and who live together before marriage. ATMP works for greater understanding and acceptance of unmarried people.

Send your suggestions, comments, or questions about this new Advice and Resources website section to:
Tiana McGuire
@
tiana@unmarriedAmerica.com

Single Minded Devotion: Unmarried Ranks Offer Ministry Opportunities

by John Kennedy,
Pentacostal Evangel

As never before, singles in America are putting their mark on society in everything from dining habits to car designs. The 2000 U.S. Census revealed that for the first time there were more single-member households than traditional families.

More than 27 million Americans, or about 10 percent of the overall population are singles living alone.

This accounts for one in four households, more than those headed by married couples with children (under 25 million) according to Census data.

Most single adults live with someone else, perhaps a roommate or relative such as a child or parent. When counting all single adults in the United States – those who have never married, or are divorced, separated or widowed, the total mushrooms to 82 million. This includes 6 million cohabiting couples.

Only three decades ago, 70 percent of American households contained a married couple. That has declined to 52 percent.

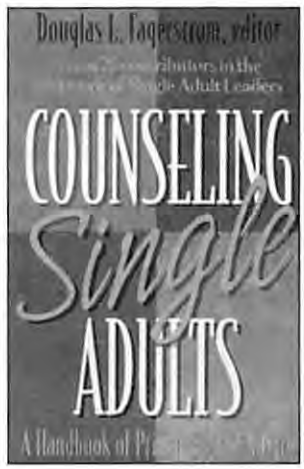
"Society in the past has been geared for families," says Tom Coleman, 53, head of the new Glendale, Calif., secular advocacy group American Association for Single People. "People weren't seen as individuals, but as part of extended family. We want singles to be respected for who they are."

Madison Avenue certainly has taken notice of the largest unmarried adult population in U.S. history. But Christian single adult ministry experts say denominations have been slower to respond to the needs of single adults.

"Singles are the most dominant factor in American society today," says Colorado Springs pastor consultant Rich Hurst, 49, co-author of *Deepening Your Walk: A Spirituality for Single Adults,* and *Giving Ministry Away: Empowering Single Adults for Effective Leadership.* "Singles by and large aren't in church. If the church wants to [thrive] this century, it's going to have to get serious about reaching single adults."

The Assemblies of God saw the need and organized a national Single Adult Ministries office based in Springfield, Mo.

"If the church is to be effective in reaching, nurturing, disciplining and training adults, we can't avoid singles," says Dennis Franck, 50, director of the agency.



"Demographics in this country are demanding that we do something," he says.

Franck, who has worked in single adult ministries for 23 years, says the spiritual needs of singles, such as prayer and worship, are the same as for married adults. But the personal needs are much different on topics such as sexuality, relationships, career choices, and church identity.

Franck says while there is nothing wrong with the Fellowship's longtime family-oriented emphasis, congregations shouldn't inadvertently exclude singles.

Harold Ivan Smith, author of *Young Adult Ministry: The NeXt Generation* and *Reluctantly Single,* says that conventional programs may not appeal to unchurched singles.

"There is a growing subculture that certainly doesn't see the traditional church as important to them," says Smith, 54, of Kansas City, Mo.

However, Smith says that the uncertainty after last year's terrorist attacks presents a great opportunity for the church to reach the growing ranks of singles.

"For many, September 11 heightened their awareness of their singleness," Smith says. There is a real sense of aloneness. A lot are asking where they can find meaning in life. Working long hours to get ahead in their career is no longer a priority for many."

Ultimately, Franck says, single adults come to understand they can be effective and complete without being married. Rather than maintain that distinction of being an individual, single adult ministries are designed to integrate singles into mainstream activities of the church, such as greeting at the door, singing in the choir and helping in the nursery. ΔΔΔ

(This article is based on excerpts from a story appearing in the February issue of Pentecostal Evangel, a publication of the Assemblies of God USA.. Although AASP is a secular organization, we periodically share information on faith-based groups which are reaching out to single people.)

For further information about books mentioned in this article, contact:

Dennis Franck, National Director
Single Adult Ministries
Assemblies of God
1445 Boonville Ave.
Springfield, MO 65802
417-862-2781, ext. 4125
e-mail: singles@ag.org

Mail Box

Well, I just thought I'd share my experience with you. I'm sure you hear stories like this everyday. Keep up the good work, your web site is very informative and inspirational, and I am going to join AASP, as soon as I can come up with ten spare bucks (pathetic, huh?)

Sincerely,
C. C.

Peeved by Workplace Bias

I am a contractor at a site in San Francisco and have a blatant example of discrimination to present to you - prepare to get really mad.

I recently accepted a contract position with a big corporation through a consulting group. When I took the position I was told I had two options: I could relocate and get $2,000 relocation reimbursed and a $3,000 cash advance paid back in three payments or I could commute and get a small per diem. I elected to relocate, and moved from Kansas City to California in August 2001. When I got here, I found that everyone else who works for the consulting group was not only commuting, but had been provided with an apartment, a car, a large per diem, flights home, and other perks that were not even offered to me.

When I asked why, the president of my company said it was because I was single and didn't have a mortgage.

I have fine references as a programmer, and I am a very good worker. Why should I be compensated to a lesser degree because of my marital status? In fact, I discovered that marital status is protected by law in both California, and the consulting group's home state of New York. I think I should prepare a lawsuit, but ironically, I don't get paid enough to afford it! I'm very depressed.

Not Lonely in Arkansas

Thanks for a great newsletter. You are doing wonderful and needed work for us here in America!!! I am a new member, but I value what you are doing as a single person living in a so-called nuclear family society. There is NOTHING lonely about being single. Way to go!!! Keep up the good work.

Aspasia
Arkansas

Congressman Praises AASP

Thank you for sending me information about the American Association for Single People. As your letter mentioned, the district I represent is home to a large number of single and unmarried constituents. I appreciate knowing that your organization will be advocating on behalf of their interest, and look forward to staying in touch with you on issues of concern.

Rep. Henry Waxman
California

Likes Honorary Member List

I am a committed single young man living in Georgia. I am an activist for equality, a collage artist, musician and columnist for a national magazine. I have also appeared in USA Today which is where I learned about AASP.

When I saw your website, I was impressed with your list of honorary members - especially Steve May. I have corresponded with him on several occasions and found him to be one of the finest human beings in American politics. Actually, he should be President.

Thank You.
S.S.J.

To read additional letters which have been sent to AASP, visit our website at: unmarriedamerica.com/lettersreceived.htm

New Book Author Members

L. Joan Allen and
Marc Kusinitz, Ph.D.,
co-authors of
Celebrating Single and
Getting Love Right

Dianne Lorang, co-editor of
Single Women - Alive and Well

Singles Snubbed, from pg. 5

The researcher says that she's "not so big on us versus them. We're all in this together and we all have responsibilities and things we enjoy doing. It's good for employees to have a vibrant life outside of work that renews them--and good for the organization, too."

Some 40 percent of the workforce is unmarried, according to estimates by Thomas Coleman, an attorney and executive director of the 1,300-member American Association for Single People, a nonprofit organization based in Glendale, Calif. Coleman's definition of "single" is "anybody who's not legally married."

I asked the director, who is single and lives with a domestic partner, if single people are getting short shrift when it comes to flexible hours and work/life benefits.

"Big time," he replied. "Workers who don't have children or a legal spouse literally are being cheated by employers when it comes to benefits and other workplace policies. It can add up to thousands of dollars a year and is reflected in health-care policies, child-care deductions and even retirement. It's as if you fit the right lifestyle--married with children--you'll be rewarded."

Coleman advocates benefits plans that are on a cafeteria basis. "Let employees choose what they want to do."

As for flexible working hours, he encourages recognizing that even if you don't have children, you may be responsible for elderly parents or have interests you want to pursue. "But we're making progress," the attorney said. "Things are changing."

Employers, too, are aware of the resentment some singles feel. "Companies are inviting backlash if they don't look carefully at their employee demographics," said Richard Federico, vice president and work/life practice leader at The Segal Co., a benefits consulting firm based in New York. "But many benefits today are for everyone: fitness, recreation, tuition reimbursement, financial and estate planning, elder care and volunteer time off."

Federico has a solution to this problem. "The point I always make to employers is: Do some research," he said. "Just ask employees what their needs are. ΔΔΔ

University Study, from pg. 5

consultant, when unmarried employees were expected to travel away from home more often than the married ones.

The TU team is in phase one of the study that calls for 30 to 40 interviews of a diverse group of singles, including anyone who is not married -- with or without children and living alone or with another person.

"From these interviews, the team hopes to get a snapshot of the single lifestyle: who lives it, how they live it and how they work in it," Casper said. They will then use this information to study hundreds of singles regarding their work life, nonwork life, how one affects the other and how they feel about it all.

– Does the company view an employee's longtime live-in partner differently from a spouse?

–Are holidays worked equally by all employees regardless of their family makeup?

– If a parent can work his or her schedule around a child, can a single do the same for a pet or an outside activity?

> "Three people doing the same job should get the same pay, but they're not because one employee is getting benefits for their spouse and another is not getting benefits for their domestic partner or adult child."

The American Association for Single People recently headed a less scientific study to learn how the Fortune 500 companies treated unmarried employees. The advocacy organization sent a questionnaire to the human resources department of each company but received just 12 responses.

Next year, AASP plans to survey the same companies again, this time using simpler methods. The group focuses on the rights of unmarried people in all areas of life, but work is a major one, said AASP Executive Director Thomas F. Coleman.

He said bosses are more likely to ask the single, childless employees to work overtime and cover holiday shifts because they tend to think their outside lives are less demanding.

But employee-sponsored benefits like insurance and retirement really cheat singles, he said, because benefits cost 25 to 30 percent of an employee's pay.

"Companies have shifted from pay to benefits; the pay is taxable and the benefits aren't," Coleman said.

"Three people doing the same job should get the same pay, but they're not because one employee is getting benefits for their spouse and another is not getting benefits for their domestic partner or adult child. The rallying cry is equal pay for equal work."

Even if the change is slow, many companies are moving in the right direction. Some made employee perks for singles and marrieds by changing family-friendly programs to work-life programs and allowing employees to tailor their benefits to their personal needs.

Of the dozen Fortune 500 companies that responded to the AASP survey, half include the needs of single people in their diversity programs and more than half provide health and dental benefits for a domestic partner. It's a start, Coleman said.

"We're not anti-family. We're not anti-children. We're not anti-marriage," he said.

"We don't want to take benefits away from anyone. We just believe in equal pay for equal work based on the principles of merit and productivity. ΔΔΔ

Setting Priorities, from pg. 1

Every governor should look to New York's plan as a model of inclusion.

Our new Director of Development, Candace Kavanagh, is working hard to create a group health plan for AASP members. Wouldn't that be terrific?

By focusing our priorities in three key areas – taxes, health care, and employee benefits – we can do the most good for the greatest number of unmarried Americans.

We are also launching a new service this month – Advice and Resources – which our members should find helpful. ΔΔΔ

Professor Bella DePaulo to Lead AASP's Board of Academic Advisors

Much of AASP's work is rooted in research and educational projects involving a wide range of academic disciplines. That is why the creation of a Board of Academic Advisors has been on the organization's wish list for quite some time.

That wish leaped off the drawing board and took its first step into reality recently when Professor Bella DePaulo accepted our invitation to become Chair of the Board of Academic Advisors of Spectrum Institute, the research and policy division of AASP.

"I've envisioned Spectrum Institute becoming a functioning division of AASP, attracting scholars who are interested in research and education involving single and unmarried individuals, couples, and families," said Thomas F. Coleman, founding director of AASP. "Our work needs to have a solid foundation which an Academic Advisory Board can help to provide."

Our new Development Director, Candace Kavanagh, saw this as a priority for 2002 and took the initiative to travel to Santa Barbara to personally invite Professor DePaulo to accept this important leadership position.

"Professor DePaulo is a top notch scholar who will be able to attract other professors to join her on the Academic Advisory Board," said Kavanagh. "She will create a think tank which will lend greater credibility to our work."

The immediate goal of the Academic Advisory Board is to create a research forum for academic leaders across a wide spectrum of disciplines, including psychology, law, political science, sociology, theology, history, philosophy, education, communications and economics. The Academic Advisory Board will provide continued leadership to and expand AASP's on-going role of holding the largest collection of accurate information regarding unmarried Americans.

The nonprofit corporation now known as AASP was formerly known as Spectrum Institute. Since it's initial incorporation in 1989, Spectrum Institute has conducted a series of public policy studies focusing on marital status and family diversity. These studies were done in cooperation with a variety of government agencies and elected officials. Spectrum Institute arose from an earlier unincorporated association known as the Family Diversity Project which was created in 1985.

Professor Bella DePaulo

Bella M. DePaulo is a social psychologist with a B.A. from Vassar College and a Ph.D. from Harvard University.

Dr. DePaulo has authored more than 100 professional publications in her career. She has been studying the place in science, society, and social life of people who are single. She is the President of the Society of Experimental Social Psychology, and the recipient of numerous professional honors and awards.

Dr. DePaulo is currently a Visiting Professor at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Attorney Thomas F. Coleman has been the key executive in each of these research organizations and will continue to lend his legal expertise to this new Academic Advisory Board.

The activities of the Board of Academic Advisors would include:

- Studying the status and treatment of unmarried individuals, couples, parents and families in contemporary society
- Examining the causes and effects of marital status discrimination
- Gathering current demographics about unmarried America
- Developing a clearing house for academic information across these areas
- Promoting the establishment of singles' studies courses at colleges and universities
- Encouraging scholars to pursue research in these areas
- Encouraging scholars to publish relevant and timely articles in academic journals
- Assisting non-profit agencies and public officials in conducting public policy studies
- Being available to the media to provide background information as stories are developed
- Making presentations at academic conferences
- Holding its own periodic national conferences
- Supervising college interns as they conduct research and providing them with advice and direction
- Working in tandem with other development efforts within AASP and universities, seeking grants to support the efforts listed above

University professors, students, and others who are interested in obtaining more information about the new Board of Academic Advisors may contact Dr. Bella DePaulo by e-mail at: bmd@virginia.edu, or depaulo@psych.ucsb.edu. ΔΔΔ

Television Sitcoms Focusing More on Single Dads

by Lisa Ann Williamson
Staten Island Adance

Mike Connors tried to block out 30 minutes on a recent Monday night to watch a television program about a single father. But then his own kids needed to go to the doctor. He tried again a week later, but household chores, school projects and supper came first.

The reality of being a single custodial parent has left Connors with little time to watch a small-screen version of his life – though, if time permitted, there would be five possibilities to choose from this season.

Single dads were a hot ticket this fall on television. Although the majority of single parents are moms by a six to one ratio, when it comes to TV, "single moms are old hat," said Thomas Coleman, Executive Director of the American Association for Single People based in Glendale, Calif. "Viewers like novelty and media is looking for new stories."

The small-screen switch to single dads was triggered by a report issued by the U.S. Census in June of 2000 which reported that 2.2 million fathers were caring for children without a mother present. That's more than a 60 percent jump from a decade before and experts say the numbers continue to rise.

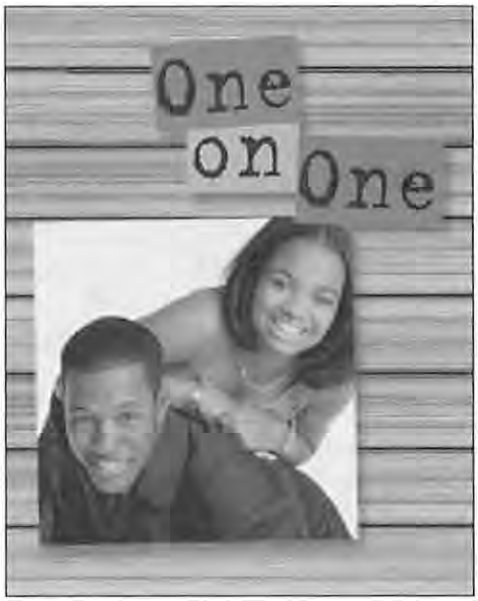
"That certainly put a focus on single dads and probably gave television producers some ideas," said Coleman.

The concept of having a single father at the center of a program is hardly new.

"The Courtship of Eddie's Father," "My Three Sons" and "Family Affair" were also single dad shows that aired in the 1960s and '70s. But society has changed. The fathers depicted in the shows of decades gone by were all widowers with live-in help. Today's TV dads are a mixture of divorcee and widower. They focus not only on raising children and the accompanying issues that process entails, but in maneuvering personal lives in a society where rules have changed.

Connors thinks the TV versions are a sorry substitute for real-life single dads. And judging from the ratings of the single-dad offerings, most Americans agree. In fact, two of the five shows, "Danny" and "Citizen Baines," both airing on CBS, have already been cancelled.

As a family, we "haven't watched television together in a long time," said Connors, 43, a divorced father raising three children, ages 9, 10 and 13. "We're usually doing homework or getting ready for the next day. It's really hard to juggle things. You have no idea."



Network executives tried mightily to give the country a small glimpse into the lives of some single fathers. They offered Flex Washington, a divorced sportscaster with a teen-age daughter in "One on One" Mondays on UPN. Washington and his dad are raising his daughter.

Then there's Bob Saget who stars in "Raising Dad" Fridays on WB. His character, Matt Stewart, is a widower and high school English literature teacher with two daughters.

Saturdays on CBS, the former Senator Baines (James Cromwell) adjusts to life after losing his bid for re-election and tries to connect with his three grown daughters in "Citizen Baines."

CBS also airs "The Education of Max Bickford," which was filmed in part on Staten Island, on Sundays. Max Bickford (Richard Dreyfuss) is a college professor with two children, one school-age son and a college-age daughter, struggling to navigate the changing climate of his college campus and his career.

Television programs like these have often been a way to teach, said Eleanor Rogg, sociology professor at Wagner College.

TV can be "a good, non-threatening way of showing people ways to handle situations and how to have a good family life. The shows this season allow us to look at several dads at different stages of life. We watch the mutual learning that goes on being fathers and children while the dads work on daily living," she explained.

But Connors said he's learned very little. "I would like it to see realistic shows that deal with deeper issues," Connors said.

He is looking for shows that deal with subjects like relationships with the non-custodial parent, juggling joint custody arrangements, maneuvering through the legal system and dating in middle age with children.

"One reality of television is that people want to watch a character that's like them," Coleman admitted.

For Connors, the TV characters are too one-dimensional. He believes the role of "father" is much more hands on and a whole lot harder than what's being portrayed. The Travis resident works 12-hour shifts for the Port Authority.

He'd like to see a television character who can handle all that. "I don't know, maybe it would have to be a movie," Connors laughed. ΔΔΔ

Experience the Benefits of Creating or Participating in a Singles Social Club

I would like to see every single person in this country happy with their social life, in touch with others who understand what it means to be an un–partnered person in America, and able to feel empowered to change their social circumstances if they don't like them. Creating or participating in a singles social club is one way to do this.

In December 2000, I read an article in my local paper about the Newcomers Club whose mission was "to make sure that new and existing families are connected to the town." I thought "What about people like me who are single, live alone, and have no family nearby? How do we get connected, not only to the town but to each other?"

I had noticed that most reporting in suburban newspapers emphasizes family life and activity and makes no reference to single people living right in their midst! Not only is this true locally, but it is a cultural defect which I decided I want to have some part in correcting.

I wrote a letter to the Editor expressing this oversight and the challenge single people have in creating a quality social life in suburbia. I invited other mature single people who feel like I do to contact me.

Within a few days several readers called me. We decided that, after the holidays, we would meet in a local café to discuss what we wanted to do.

In January, seven of us gathered for bagels and coffee and talked about what we wanted to create.

We put up flyers around town and some surrounding papers published free notices. Here is what the notices said:

"If you are typical of most unpartnered people – living alone in the suburbs – it is very difficult to find people like yourself with whom to enjoy fellowship and cultural activities. We invite you to join a rapidly growing network of single persons in the area who are seeking to improve the quality of their social lives. Our members host varied events based on their own interests. There are no fees; this is a community service.

Well, now it is a year later and we have about 155 and still growing, ranging in age from early 40's to early 70's. We have had many parties, trips to theaters, concerts, movies, sports events, and other activities. We have two gatherings each week, one during a weekday evening and one on a Saturday morning for breakfast.

Good friendships have formed. Some couples have formed too, although that is not the intention of the group.

The creation of our Singles Social Club has created a triple-win situation: for me since I now have a local social crowd; for club members whose lives have improved considerably; and for local businesses since they receive revenue and patrons which they otherwise would have missed.

So we are now more connected to our towns. We also have helped some people living in other nearby areas to start their own satellite groups.

What distinguishes this social network from others? There are no fees. The group is upbeat, not getting together to discuss the problems of being single but to enjoy each other's company. Individuals are able to exercise or develop leadership skills in creating and executing activities and events.

So I encourage members of AASP and readers of Unmarried America to consider creating a Singles Social Club in their own community. It's not often that you can create a triple-win result!

Neila Miller

"Through the singles social clubs I have enjoyed fun-filled gatherings, and have made some wonderful friends. It has made a world of difference in my life."

"I have so many new friends who, like myself, knew almost nobody in their local area before this. Now I feel the fellowship of a real community of people in similar circumstances. It's great."

Neila Miller lives in Massachusetts and is a member of AASP. E-mail her at artyme@aol.com or visit her website at www.peoplesystemspotential.com

JOIN AASP

Yes, I want to help AASP create a better future for unmarried America.

Here is my tax-deductible donation for

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State _____ Zip_____

Phone _____

E-mail_____

With a donation of $25 or more you receive n AASP key chain with mini-pen built in. With $50 you get an AASP t-shirt or sweat shirt. We do not share our mailing list with outside sources.

See page 2 for our address and phone #

Roster of Elected Officials Joining AASP Keeps Growing

In 1999, Lesley Devine was the first elected official in the nation to become a member of AASP. Ms. Devine, who is divorced and the mother of two adult daughters, is the Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Calabassas, California.

The following year, Brad Sherman became the first member of Congress to join AASP. Congressman Sherman, who is single, represents portions of Los Angeles in the United States House of Representatives.

AASP Executive Director Thomas F. Coleman met with Sherman and Devine recently. Coleman thanked them for their show of support and informed them that dozens of other state and local elected officials – both Democrats and Republicans – have followed their lead.

We are pleased to announce that three more members of Congress have recently joined AASP.

Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher, a single mother, represents a district in Northern California. Congressman Maurice Hinchey, who is married, represents a district which is located in upstate New York. Congressman Nick Rahall, who is divorced, represents portions of West Virginia.

In the coming weeks, we will be inviting hundreds of unmarried elected officials throughout the United States to join AASP. We will also be contacting hundreds of mayors and council members – whether married or single – in cities where a majority of households are headed by unmarried adults.

The United States is in a process of social and demographic transformation. Within a year or two it is expected that unmarried adults will head up a majority of our households.

As this shift occurs, our leaders will need to become more familiar with the needs of this new unmarried majority. More officials are joining AASP because they know they can come to us for reliable information about single and unmarried Americans.

Lesley Devine, Thomas Coleman, and Brad Sherman at Ms. Devine's home in California

Rep. Ellen Tauscher

Rep. Maurice Hinchey

Rep. Nick Rahall

Arizona Congressman Commends AASP

"Thank you for providing my office with the information packet commemorating National Singles Week. I found the packet informative and your newsletter, Unmarried America, is a good source of news and information for your readers.

"The American Association for Single People is to be commended for its advocacy on behalf of your members. I am opposed to unfair treatment of single people whether they are widows /widowers, divorced, or never married.

"The Winter 2001 edition of your newsletter noted that about 14 percent of the American population is currently without health insurance coverage and that many of them are single.

"I have authored legislation in the past giving individuals the same health care tax credit that businesses enjoy and the ability to shop for health care coverage that suits their needs. The intent of the legislation has been to reduce our nation's health coverage gap. Many single people will find obtaining health care coverage easier under the legislation. The bill will be introduced this spring.

"Thank you again for contacting my office. When issues arise that affect AASP members and my unmarried constituents, please do not hesitate to let me know."

Sincerely,
Rep. John Shadegg
December 21, 2001

Vol. 3, No. 4

Unmarried America

Summer 2002

Newsletter of the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR SINGLE PEOPLE

National USA Week: September 15-21, '02

National Unmarried and Single Americans Week, formerly commemorated by AASP as "National Singles Week," begins this year on September 15.

National USA Week is a time to celebrate the lives and contributions of unmarried Americans as valuable employees, dutiful taxpayers, good neighbors, community volunteers, and loving family members.

There are commemorative days, weeks, and even months, for parents, secretaries, women, racial and ethnic minorities, and others. It is only fitting that 82 million unmarried and single Americans be recognized in such a manner too.

AASP is planning a variety of activities for National USA Week, including a Speakers Bureau, appearances on radio talk shows, interviews with newspaper feature and lifestyle writers, stopping by the offices of each member of Congress, and conferring awards to single people who are great role models, as well as to elected officials for positive leadership and to members of the media for excellence in reporting.

You can help us secure a proclamation from the mayor of your city acknowledging USA Week in your area.

For more details on what you can do to participate in these events, visit our website at:

www.nationalUSAweek.org

Unmarried Workers Question Pension Plans

"Unmarried workers sue state, say retirement law discriminates" was the headline of a story in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on August 3, 1999.

The article explained that Secretary of State Douglas LaFollette and other state employees were suing Wisconsin over a state law that discriminated against workers who are not married.

The law being challenged only allowed spouses or dependents of state workers to receive full retirement benefits if an employee died before retiring. But if the employee's designated beneficiary is not a spouse or dependent, the employer's contributions to the retirement fund are forfeited.

LaFollette has since become a member of AASP.

A similar complaint was recently raised by an AASP member who works for American Airlines (see story, page 12).

A preliminary investigation by AASP has found that forfeiture of employer contributions to traditional pension plans is a problem faced by many employees working for both public and private employers.

The problem is compounded by the fact that unmarried employees who die before retirement also forfeit all contributions made by them and by their employers to Social Security. That is why proposals to partially privatize social security look attractive to many younger workers. Being able to own up to one-third of their contributions would mean they could designate a beneficiary to receive those assets if they were to die before retiring. A surviving domestic partner, parent, or adult child might desperately need such a financial boost for economic survival.

The issue of pension equity for government workers was taken up by the Regents of the University of California at their meeting on May 16, 2002. University administrators presented the Regents with proposals to eliminate marital status discrimination in the university's pension system.

AASP Executive Director, Thomas F. Coleman, appeared at the hearing. He advised the Regents that it was time to reassess U.C. health benefits as well as pension benefits.

AASP member Vic Pelton, a retiree of the university, is still waiting for the Regents to open up the same-sex-only domestic partner health benefits plan to heterosexual domestic partners.

"Equal pay for equal work should be the bedrock principle on which all benefits plans operate," Coleman said. "An employee's overall compensation, including benefits pay, should hinge on merit, productivity, and loyalty."

"Unmarried employees who live alone, who live with unmarried relatives, or who have domestic partners, should not be second-class workers," Coleman stressed. "They are currently shortchanged by the pension plan."

AASP will keep pension benefits discrimination on its long-term agenda and make periodic reports to our members on further developments. This is an issue which sorely needs attention. ΔΔ

We're Building a Team for Unmarried America

For the past three years, AASP has been building a team for Unmarried America - a group of people who believe that the promise of equality applies to everyone regardless of marital status.

Table of Contents

American Association for Single People

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Glendale, California 91205
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(818) 242- 5103 fax
mail@unmarriedAmerica.org
www.unmarriedAmerica.org

Individual Members
We started with a small number of founding members in a few states. Today we have members in every part of the nation. Individual donors are the core of our organization.

Elected Officials
Only a few political leaders supported AASP when we started in 1999. Today, our members include federal, state, and local officials from coast to coast. In April 2002 alone, more than 20 elected officials joined AASP. Momentum is building!

Book Authors
In recent years there has been a flood of books published for and about unmarried and single people on a wide variety of topics. Many authors of these books have joined AASP to lend support to our cause.

College Interns
Although not enough young adults are voting these days, there is no shortage of enthusiastic volunteers for worthy causes. The influx of students doing unpaid internships at AASP demonstrates that young people do identify with our mission.

Academic Advisors
We are building a Board of Academic Advisors through Spectrum Institute, the research and policy division of AASP. A steering committee of several university professors is meeting to make plans.

Media
When AASP was launched in 1999, the story of Unmarried America was not being told. We have reached out to journalists and producers with facts, issues, and real life examples. Today the media is telling our stories and in the process are educating the public and policy makers alike.

Nonprofit Groups
We are building alliances with civic and membership groups. National Volunteer organizations, such as Connect America and Points of Light Foundation, have welcomed AASP as a community partner. Let us know about nonprofit groups in your area with which we might develop a relationship.

What You Can Do

There are several ways in which you can help us build a broader and more effective team for Unmarried America.

Join AASP
If you are not already a member of AASP, please join today. We need your support in order to be effective in our educational programs and our advocacy. Make a tax deductible donation of $10 or more and become a part of this team.

Renew Membership
If you are a member but have not made a tax-deductible donation to AASP during the last year, please take a moment to send us a check or make a donation by credit card by mail, phone, or website.

Increase Donations
The minimum donation of $10 is barely enough to cover our costs in producing and mailing you our quarterly newsletters. Join the ranks of many of our members who donate $25, $50, or $100 per year to support our organization.

Gift Memberships
Many of our members have given their friends or relatives a gift membership in AASP. This would be a good way to remember someone who is special to you and to introduce AASP to them.

Spread the Word
Share the newsletter with others, or send e-mails to friends letting them know about our website. They will be glad to hear there is a group like AASP for unmarried and single Americans.

Honorary Memberships
Send us the names and addresses of unmarried elected officials in your area. Nominate them for an honorary membership in AASP.

Corporate Sponsorship
Businesses can gain positive visibility with unmarried consumers by sponsoring an AASP program, a newsletter mailing, or a website page. Give us a tip and we'll contact the business you suggest. ΔΔΔ

College Student Interns Are Making a Difference at AASP

An influx of university students and recent college graduates has greatly enhanced the programs at AASP.

With limited budget and staff, but with a strong desire to enhance our existing programs and add some new ones too, we decided to reach out to college students to apply for work-study internships with us.

Thanks to a service provided by MonsterTrack.com, which offers free internship job postings to nonprofits, we soon were deluged with resumes from college students and graduates who were eager for experience.

We hired several applicants and have been very pleased with their performance.

Some interns have provided artistic talents or technical skills. Others have helped with research projects or developing new programs.

The interns have also been excited about the ability to perform services which will make a difference. It is a win-win situation for everyone.

Upon leaving AASP, they can add us to their resume and give us as a job reference. And the staff is energized by their creative ideas and fresh perspectives on. life. ΔΔΔ

Jeff Brooker, Occidental College, Graduated 2002 (Administration)

Kat Ross, Occidental College, Graduates 2003 (Administration)

Michelle Tai, Carnegie Mellon, Graduated 2001 (Development)

Raquel Atienza, Cal. State Northridge, Graduated 2002 (Graphic Artist)

Sheila Amaya, Cal. State Pomona, Graduated 2002 (Information Technology)

Thanh Quach, Cal. State Long Beach, Graduates 2003 (Website Design)

Victory in Virginia While Other AASP Members Seek Equality in New York

The following are three letters recently received by AASP from members. The first is a thank you from Virginia resident, Darlene Davis. The others are from members in New York about the denial of domestic partner health benefits for opposite-sex partners.

AASP came to the assistance of Davis last year when we wrote a legal brief in her case.

In the other two cases, we have privately given the members advice on several steps they could take to convince their employers to create more inclusive and gender-neutral benefits programs.

Daycare License Granted

For the past 30 years, I have dedicated my life to in home daycare. I live in Norfolk, VA and am licensed by the state of Virginia. I have been licensed for nearly twenty five years.

In June of 2001, the state of Virginia Licensing Department saw fit to deny renewal of my daycare license, due to the fact that I have a live-in companion. He has been registered with the State of Virginia on my daycare license for sixteen years.

In June of 2001, the Licensing Department decided he could no longer live in my home if I maintained the daycare there. The daycare is my sole means of support and with no license, I could not afford to keep my home. I stood to lose all I had worked for over the past 40 years. I decided to fight for my rights.

During the next couple of weeks, I received help from the (ACLU) American Civil Liberties Union and was made an honorary member of The American Association for Single People. Mr. Thomas F. Coleman, Executive Director, wrote a powerful letter to Mr. Charles Ingram, Executive Director of Virginia's Licensing Department.

In his effort to plead my case, he noted that the 1877 anti-cohabitation law, which the denial was based on was unconstitutional. His concern was that it would have an effect on other unmarried adults who have business or professional licenses in Virginia.

I feel that his letter had a great impact on my case. I am very thankful for the concerns of the Association and their faith in me and my case.

On March 15, 2002 , I received my renewed daycare license. No explanation from the state.

I would like to thank the American Association for Single People and Mr. Coleman for their support. I look forward to being a member of the Association.

On behalf of the children in Davis Daycare, my staff, myself and my companion, Thank You. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Darlene K. Davis
Norfolk, Virginia

Bookstore Limits Benefits

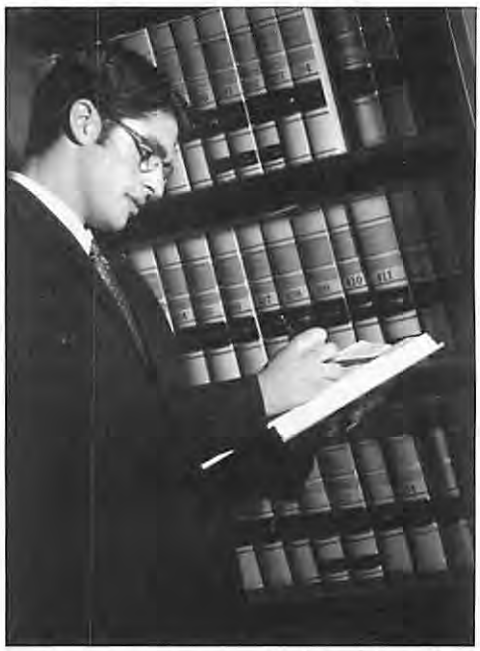
I am a second generation unmarried couple. My domestic partner and I have been together for four years and have found a plethora of problems, that if we were gay or married we would be covered.

Right now, I work for a major bookstore chain and they only cover gay partners. I am not sure how to obtain benefits for my partner.

I appreciate any suggestions you may give on the matter. I live in New York and cannot find any specific case law on the subject here.

John
New York City

Law Firm Won't Budge



I am an attorney employed by a law firm in New York. My union bargains with management to set salary, benefits, etc.

I have a female domestic partner and together we have a child. The child is covered under my family policy but my partner is not.

She formerly worked for the same firm and we are currently making huge COBRA payments as we have done for some time.

The law firm receives city, state and federal funding for the work we do. The company provides health benefits to same-sex domestic partners but not opposite-sex.

We have philosophical and religious reasons behind our position not to get married. The union's lawyer says we don't have a case and, even if we did, it would not be pursuant to the union contract.

I disagree with his reasoning and more importantly think that he has no concern for the rights of people who decide not to get married.

Do we have grounds and how can I research it further? Is this a case that AASP is interested in?

Jim
New York City

Unmarried Relatives Don't Qualify for Some 'Family Friendly' Workplace Policies

The following two letters were received by AASP from workers complaining that their employers are favoring traditional husband-wife-child families over other family living arrangements.

AASP advocates for workplace policies which are fair to all employees regardless of marital status or family configuration. These two letters are a reminder that many employers need to take a close look at their personnel policies.

Employers can create work environments which are friendly and fair to unmarried and married workers, those with and without children, and employees who live with or care for relatives.

Let us know of your experiences at work. Is your employer fair to unmarried workers, or have you had experiences similar to these folks?

QUESTION:
Why No Flexibility for My Need to Care for My Elderly Dad?

I am 53 and single with no children. I am now in the position where I need to be the sole caregiver of my 84 year old father. He does not drive.

For two years after my mother died, I tried to manage taking care of him from my home 15 miles away. That meant cleaning two houses, taking care of two yards, picking up prescriptions, grocery shopping for him and myself, taking him to all doctor appointments, and anything else he might need. In addition to this, I held down a full time hourly job.

After two exhausting years of this, I finally decided to sell my home and move in with him.

My father had triple bypass and artery surgery simultaneously a couple of years ago. Naturally, his health goes in peaks and valleys.

My employer complained when I needed to take him to more doctor's appointments than I originally scheduled him for. Would this have been a problem if he were my child? Probably not.

I had accumulated many hours of sick time; however, I was not allowed to use it to take him to doctors appointments.

Employees with children were allowed to use their sick time to take them to appointments and to stay with them if they were sick. I was told to use my vacation time or be docked my pay for his appointments. I felt this was discriminatory so when my father had a doctors appointment, I just called in sick and took the whole day off. (The company I work for has over 50 employees.)

Now I see that the Senate Family Services Committee has approved legislation whereby employees could be entitled to use their accumulated sick leave to care for an ill child, parent or spouse. This is how it should be.

This same company whined when I wouldn't bring my father to their "family picnic." They wouldn't recognize my father as being family, yet I live with him and have no other family within 1800 miles to take care of him in my absence. I didn't realize I was an orphan all these years just because I was unmarried and childless.

Who can I contact to help get this bill passed? I would appreciate any help you can give me.

Kate

QUESTION:
Why Can't I Take Mom and Sister to Company Events?

I work for a loan servicing company. For many years this company has allowed married employees to bring their wives and as many children as they have to company events such as the annual company picnic.

But when a single employee, like myself wants to bring his dependents, which in this case are my 60-year-old mother and 18 year-old sister, the company refuses to treat them as my family and refuses to pay for any participation in company functions, including the Christmas party.

Single employees in the company have always feared upper management but I after 5 years of working for this company I have had enough!

What can I do? I am also afraid of getting fired as I do love my work and need my job.

Ray

AASP RESPONSE:

Many employees are afraid to speak up for fear of retaliation. If there is no union, these workers often suffer in silence for years.

In such cases, a letter or telephone call from an outside agency might cause the employer to reevaluate restrictive and unfair policies such as these. The agency could write a generic letter of inquiry, without using the employees name or other identifying information.

The outside agency could be a minister or a seniors group. It might even be a local or state elected official. In appropriate cases, AASP would write a letter for a member who can't solve the problem alone.

Surge of State and Local Elected Officials Joining AASP

Douglas LaFollette

Wisconsin
Secretary of State

Democrat

Rhine L. McLin

Dayton, Ohio
Mayor

Democrat

Vilma Colom

Chicago, Illinois
Alderman

Democrat

Winfred Dukes

Georgia
State Representative

Democrat

Neil G. Giuliano

Tempe, Arizona
Mayor

Republican

Steve Vaillancourt

New Hampshire
State Representative

Libertarian

Rocky Nichols

Kansas
State Representative

Democrat

Jewell Williams

Pennsylvania
State Representative

Democrat

Salima Siler Marriott

Maryland
State Delegate

Democrat

Edwin Murray

Louisiana
State Representative

Democrat

Dale C. Severson

North Dakota
State Representative

Republican

Donald G. Preister

Nebraska
State Senator

Independent

Gwen Welshimer

Kansas
State Representative

Democrat

Joe Towns, Jr.

Tennessee
State Representative

Democrat

Mary Murphy

Minnesota
State Representative

Democrat

Shirley Nathan-Pulliam
Maryland House of Delegates

April 3, 2002

Thomas F. Coleman
Executive Director
American Association for Single People

Dear Mr. Coleman:

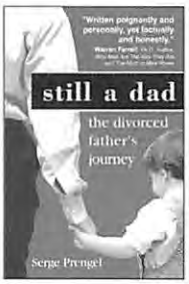
Thank you for sending me your newsletter, Unmarried America, and your invitation to become an honorary member. I agree that equality is to be afforded to everyone regardless of their marital status.

Your organization, advocating in their best interests for healthcare, job benefits, and fairness in taxation, is providing an important voice for the growing number of unmarried individuals.

By statistical analysis, the majority of our households will be headed by single and unmarried adults. Their needs and concerns need to be addressed.

You may add my name to the list of honorary members and I look forward to keeping in touch with you on issues of concern.

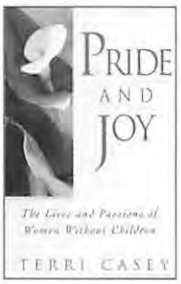
Meet Our New Book Author Members



Still a Dad: The Divorced Father's Journey

by Serge Prengel

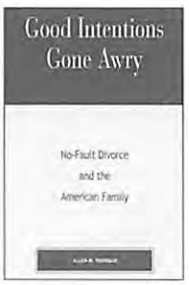
This book takes a close look at gender stereotypes in child custody disputes. Karen DeCrow, past president of NOW, finds it to be an intelligent, entertaining and useful book.



Pride and Joy: The Lives and Passions of Women Without Children

by Terri Casey

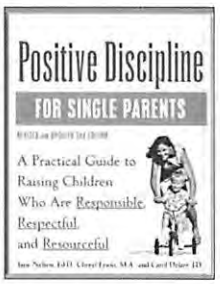
This book contains a collection of 25 profiles of women who have chosen not to have children. Their stories dispel the myth that women must have children to be happy.



Good Intentions Gone Awry: No Fault Divorce and the American Family

by Allen Parkman

This book addresses the repercussions of no-fault divorce, first identifying the problems which the author attributes to no-fault divorce, and then offers a program for divorce-law reform.



Positive Discipline for Single Parents

by Carol Delzer

This book focuses on raising children with nonpunitive discipline, through clear communication techniques and child-positive approaches to problem solving. It provides solutions, solace, and respite for parents trying to raise kids on their own without losing their minds.

The Single Mother's Survival Guide

by Patrice Karst

This book offers practical yet witty advice, covering a wide range of topics that concern the modern woman struggling without a mate. It features dozens of quick "survival checklists" on topics such as dealing with exhaustion and reasons to be happy about being a single mom.

Insurance Commissioners Should Review Marital Status Pricing and Surcharges

Jeff Brooker was recently searching for automobile insurance. Brooker, an intern working at AASP, is 24 years old.

When Brooker received a price quote from Mercury Insurance, he asked if other discounts were available besides the good-driver discount for which Brooker qualified.

The agent told Brooker the only way he could reduce the price further would be if Brooker got married.

Brooker, who is both single and gay, wondered how he could ever qualify since same-sex marriage is not allowed. He also wondered how a brother and sister who live together could qualify since they too cannot marry each other. And why should a heterosexual couple who can marry be forced to do so to get a discount?

Auto insurance discrimination is not limited to young men such as Brooker. Some companies will not allow unmarried adults who live together to buy a joint policy for two cars to gain a multi-car discount.

Garamendi and Coleman release marital status report in 1993

This problem was addressed by an Anti-Discrimination Task Force convened by Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi in 1993. After studying marital status discrimination in many types of insurance, the Task Force issued a report which highlighted the comments Southern California AAA (see box in right column, this page). The report concluded:

"Consumers should not be economically rewarded or punished on the basis of a decision to marry or not to marry. Marital status discrimination should be treated for what it is – a violation of the fundamental right of privacy protected by the California Constitution."

The report of the Insurance Commissioner's Task Force was written by Thomas F. Coleman, who is now Executive Director of AASP.

Garamendi and Coleman discuss marital status bias again in 2002

Coleman and Garamendi met recently to discuss this ongoing problem. Garamendi is again running for Insurance Commissioner this year.

In some states, such as Montana, marital status discrimination in auto insurance is prohibited. Last year, the Legislature in Montana defeated an insurance-company-sponsored bill to legalize marital status pricing.

The issue has been brewing in Canada since 1992 when the Canadian Supreme Court ordered insurance companies to find alternative ways to assess risk. The court found that stereotyping of young males on the basis of marital status, while not absolutely illegal, was possibly a violation of the Ontario Human Rights Code. (Zurich Ins. Co. v. Ontario Human Rights Commission).

The court ruled that the mere fact that there is a statistical correlation between marital status and insurance losses does not fully satisfy the law's human rights values which cannot be overridden by business expediency alone. To allow discrimination simply on the basis of statistical averages would only serve to perpetuate traditional stereotypes with all their invidious prejudices. It is necessary therefore to consider whether there is a practical alternative in the circumstances.

Since there was no evidence before the court that other reasonable criteria could be used as an alternative, the court dismissed the case. But it challenged the industry to come up with such criteria.

The issue recently surfaced in Canada again when the Ontario Human Rights Commission issued a report in February 2002 in which Chief Commissioner Keith Norton stated, "It is time to give serious consideration to human rights issues in insurance."

The report urged the insurance industry to find alternative rating criteria which do not use class stereotyping based on marital status.

Insurance Commissioners in the United States should issue a similar challenge to companies operating in this country. It's time for a review.

"Historically, insurers have found that for some lines of insurance, particularly auto insurance, married couples generated lower losses then single persons and have priced rates accordingly. Many speculate that it is lifestyle, rather than strictly marital status, that is responsible for the difference in loss costs and suggest that insurers should explore the use of lifestyle characteristics rather than simply rely on marital status as a pricing factor. This change in philosophy and insurance pricing would address most of the concerns (raised in the Garamendi-Coleman anti-discrimination report). The Exchange does not base rates on marital status, but we believe that lifestyle and similar characteristics are legitimate and reliable indicators of risk and should be allowed as insurance rating factors."

Alice Bisnow, Interinsurance Exchange of the Auto Club of Southern California (AAA)

Mail Box

Some responses to our story on Singles Ministries

I want to thank you for your article in the March issue about single people and the ministry that an evangelical Christian group is working on for single people. I found that bias against or misunderstanding of single people crosses many denominational boundaries.

I hope that all types of religious groups keep this issue in mind. They all have certainly improved since the days I heard that a small Baptist church did not know how to deal with an older single gentleman and had him in Sunday school with the kids because their adult class was for couples, but there still needs to be improvement.

Between my experience and single friends' experiences we have found that singles have a hard time finding a place in some churches and other religious organizations. A Jewish friend said that she visited a synagogue with an interest in joining and everything was so family oriented that she felt excluded. I did not have as much problem in the Baptist church I belonged to but there still was not much place for a single adult woman, living by herself and since this was so outside their culture, they had a hard time understanding what I was doing.

One would think that the more liberal religions would have more place for singles but I have not found this to be necessarily true. The best experience I had was in the Unitarian Universalist church I belonged to. I have found that the alternative religions vary in quality of ministry to singles.

I hope that religious groups can learn from what the Assembly of God is attempting to do in its singles ministry and also remember that a singles ministry is not to help find partners for the single people in their congregation but to celebrate that all people are individuals with individual needs. Not all people are or desire to be couples.

Linda Robinett
Ridgecrest, CA

SINGLE
ADULT MINISTRIES
Recognizing · Reaching · Restoring · Releasing

Thank you for publishing the article on our singles ministries in your publication. It is greatly appreciated.

If there is anything that I can ever do, just let me know.

Reaching Single America,
Dennis Franck
Director, Single Adult Ministries
Assemblies of God

Tip to AASP causes change on website of bed & breakfast inn

My husband and I recently booked a weekend stay at a bed and breakfast in Oregon. While looking at the website, we discovered the following paragraph: "To avoid confusion and disappointment, please state the names of all persons in your party. Small conference groups, business persons, singles, married couples, and families will be most welcome. Unmarried couples will feel uncomfortable."

This seems highly discriminatory towards unmarried heterosexual couples as well as homosexual couples ... maybe even illegal. Needless to say I have since canceled the reservation and plan to write them an email on why. I still feel inclined to forward this on to another organization ... any ideas?? Am I being overly sensitive??? My husband found it offensive as well.

Julie B.

AASP sent the following e-mail to the owner of the bed & breakfast:

Your website states: "Unmarried couples will feel uncomfortable."

Why would that be so? How would anyone know if two people were married or not? Does this warning apply to same-sex couples as well?

We just can't imagine why such a statement would be made, except, of course, to discourage unmarried couples from patronizing your establishment. But why would you take such a course of action, especially since marital status discrimination is illegal in housing accommodations in Oregon?

The manager replied:

I spent all afternoon trying to find that statement and finally did. I will have the web designer eliminate it as soon as I can get him to change it. Thank you for the information.

We later checked the website and confirmed that the offensive sentence was removed.

Secretaries of State Want More "New Millennium" Young Adults to Vote

The Census Bureau recently reported that the lowest voting rate for any age group is for 18-24 year-old citizens. Only 36 percent of these young adults, most of whom are single, voted in the 2000 elections.

The picture was even worse in 1998, when fewer than 20 percent of 18-24 year olds bothered to vote. This kind of record low turnout among young voters gave state election officials cause for alarm, so they decided to go searching for answers.

The National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) conducted a national, non-partisan study in 1998, which revealed that young people, ages 18-24, are dropping out of the electoral process for a number of reasons:

- they feel ignored by politicians,
- they feel their vote doesn't count,
- they feel they lack information.

The study results released February 10, 1999, by NASS also included other troubling findings: Most young people in this country are highly critical of the quality of civics education they receive in public schools, and they think most politicians are dishonest.

Officials at NASS say, "Now that we know what we're up against, we're focusing on ways to bring about change."

New Millennium Project is a national youth voter campaign designed by NASS to encourage political and civic participation in people ages 18-24. Their 1998 study showed that traditional motivational strategies aren't working well with this age group. That is why the New Millennium Project is looking for creative and participatory solutions to provide the nation's young people with the information and skills they need to become motivated, educated, and informed citizens.

Goals of the Project are to:

- Improve voter turnout rates among 18-to-24-year-olds and enable young voters to make informed choices.
- Help provide strategies and messages for getting young people engaged in political and civic participation.
- Promote civics education in schools.
- Raise public awareness about the importance of youth involvement in government.

> "A lot of young people say they don't vote because politicians don't pay attention to them. Meanwhile, politicians don't address young people because they don't vote. It's a cycle that needs to be broken."
>
> – Report of NASS

AASP believes that young people might be more inclined to vote if political parties and candidates discussed issues which affect their well being such as marital status discrimination in employment, housing, and insurance.

Politicians could address the issue of affordable auto and health insurance in the context of the single individual and not merely as a family issue.

Groups can become an official partner of the New Millennium Project by contacting NASS at: (202) 624-3525 or its website at: www.nass.org.

New Millennium Fact Sheet

The "New Millennium Generation" is comprised of 18-24-year-olds, including 70.2 million Americans age 20 or younger. 1 in 3 is not Caucasian.

It is the largest generation of young people in our country's history, surpassing the Baby Boom Generation.

In 1998, fewer than one in five 18-to-24-year-olds bothered to vote.

The single factor that most determines whether a young person will vote is whether his or her parents vote. Age and education are also factors.

46% of the young people surveyed by the Project said they never or almost never talked about politics, government, or current events with their parents.

They're busy! 38% of the young people who didn't register to vote said they "didn't have time."

A majority of young people in this study were not motivated to vote out of habit, duty, guilt, or the fear of what would happen to our democracy.

Young people look at volunteerism as the way to make a difference because it involves tangible results and a personal outcome. More than half (53%) of 18-24 year-olds volunteer on a regular basis.

94% of survey respondents defined the most important part of citizenship as "helping others."

Two main reasons young people give for not voting are: they don't think their vote makes a difference (26%), and they don't have enough information (25%).

55% say schools don't do a good job of giving young people the information and basic skills they need to vote.

Our Programs Are Designed With You in Mind

Who we serve

Unmarried Individuals. About 27 million Americans live alone. While families are important to society and to the nation, so are individuals who work hard, pay taxes, vote, and contribute to their communities.

Unmarried Couples. About 12 million adults live with an unmarried partner. Government and businesses should not treat domestic partners as legal strangers. These families deserve basic legal protections and equitable economic benefits.

Unmarried Relatives. Millions of other unmarried adults live with relatives in households without minor children. "Family friendly" policies , in the workplace or by the government, should not ignore or exclude unmarried adult family relationships.

Unmarried Workers. All workers deserve "equal pay for equal work" regardless of marital status or family status. Equal benefits compensation should apply to workers who live with a relative, a partner, or live alone.

Unmarried Consumers. Insurance companies, landlords, and retail and service oriented businesses should be fair to all customers. Consumers should not be penalized on account of their marital status.

Unmarried Taxpayers. Unmarried workers pay a disproportionate share of income and social security taxes, but receive fewer benefits than married people. Estate taxes exempt a surviving spouse but can take as much as 50 percent of the estate of an unmarried person. Tax codes should be marital status neutral.

Unmarried Voters. Political parties and candidates usually reach out to married couples and to parents with children but they ignore solo singles, domestic partners, and unmarried families without children. Party platforms and campaign outreach should include unmarried Americans. We are more than 35 percent of voters nationally.

What we do

Advice & Resources. We provide advice and resources – financial, legal, health, travel, books – for solo singles, domestic partners, single parents, single women, and others. You won't find information and referrals as comprehensive as this anywhere else on the internet.

Website. We report current news that directly concerns unmarried people. We let our members know about pending legislation which could affect their lives or pocketbooks. New book releases and interesting essays are also found on our website.

Newsletter. We publish a quarterly newsletter for our members to keep them informed of our progress as we promote equal rights for them as taxpayers, workers, and consumers.

Media Outreach. Favorable public opinion is essential to any equal rights campaign. This often depends on how the media portrays us. We work with reporters, journalists, and producers to create media products which are fair and balanced.

Research & Policy. Spectrum Institute, our research and policy division, analyzes academic studies about single people. We also assist elected officials as they conduct studies and publish policy reports on issues of concern to unmarried Americans.

Awards Program. To acknowledge leadership and excellence, we give awards to individuals and organizations who have helped unmarried Americans in some significant way: elected officials, corporate executives, and members of the media.

Counseling & Intervention. In appropriate cases, we may counsel members who are experiencing unfair treatment. If warranted, we will write a letter or file a brief proposing a solution to the problem.

Mission Statement

The American Association for Single People promotes the well being and fair treatment of 82 million unmarried Americans, whether they live with a family member or partner, a roommate, or live alone. The promise of equality applies to all people – as workers, taxpayers, consumers, and citizens – whether married or not. AASP's mission is fulfilled by conducting research and providing information and advice to members, elected officials, corporate policy makers, and the media.

✔ DONATE / JOIN

Yes, I want to help AASP create a better future for unmarried Americans.

Here is my tax-deductible donation for:
[ ] $10 [ ] $25 [ ] $50 [ ] ____

[ ] check [ ] credit card

card no _____

expiration date _____

[ ] I am renewing my membership.
[ ] I am joining as a new member.
[ ] I am giving a gift membership to:

Name of donor of gift membership or person renewing existing membership.

Name _____

New member's name:

_____

Address _____

Apt ____ Phone (___) _____

City _____

State ____ Zip _____

e-mail _____

With a donation of $25 or more you receive an AASP key chain with mini-pen built in. With $50 you get an AASP t-shirt or sweat shirt. Let us know your size. We do not share our mailing list with outside sources.

See page two for our address.

Airlines Differ on Retirement Plans for Employees 'Flying Solo'

AASP recently received the following letter from a member who works for American Airlines as a flight attendant.

As a result of her complaint, we are opening an ongoing investigation into the way in which "solo singles" are treated by employment-based 401(k) programs and pension plans.

Our first step was to confirm the validity of her complaint with American Airlines. Then we looked into the way in which two smaller airlines – National and America West – treat their unmarried employees.

This fall we plan to have a team of college student interns do some investigative reporting into several areas where we have found unfair treatment of unmarried Americans as workers, taxpayers, and consumers.

Complaint: Pension Benefits Forfeited

I am very upset with the way in which the pension plan at American Airlines treats unmarried employees. I have worked as a flight attendant with American for 10 years and would like to designate my sister as my pension beneficiary.

When I called the benefits department for a beneficiary designation form, I was told that "while you are an active employee, if you die only a spouse can receive your pension benefits." I was advised that the beneficiary of an unmarried employee may only collect pension benefits if the employee dies after retirement.

I told the benefits agent that this was marital status discrimination. She replied that "married people have more obligations."

I consider the contributions of American Airlines to the pension plan as part of my employee compensation. I could not believe that my marital status could be used as an excuse to cheat me out of those benefits if I were to die before I retire.

As a new member of AASP, I am very grateful to know there is an organization (and social movement) fighting marital status discrimination. Hopefully, as the spotlight is placed on an all-too-accepted form of social discrimination, AASP will help end inequities that legally single Americans endure on a regular basis.

June M.,
Los Angeles

AMERICA WEST AIRLINES®

Response: Solo workers find friendlier skies at National and America West than American Airlines

A year ago, AASP began wondering about workplace equality at American Airlines and other major carriers.

We were concerned when some of these large airlines adopted domestic partner benefits plans which excluded heterosexual couples. In effect, they tell unmarried heterosexual workers that they must get married in order to get health benefits for their partners.

Now your complaint raises concerns about the treatment of workers who do not have a spouse or a same-sex partner. Our investigation of your complaint has found that employees who "fly solo" at American will indeed forfeit company contributions to the pension plan if they die before retirement.

After our review of American's pension plan rules confirmed what you told us, we decided to contact two smaller airlines to see how unmarried employees fare under their retirement savings plans.

National Airlines does not have a pension plan, per se, but it does have a 401k plan for employees. Employer contributions to the plan vest in the employee immediately.

An employee's beneficiary may receive all of the assets in the plan regardless of when the employee dies and regardless of whether the employee is married or unmarried, gay or heterosexual.

Furthermore, the domestic partner health benefits plan recently adopted by National Airlines does not discriminate against unmarried heterosexual domestic partners.

When we checked with America West Airlines, we found that they had benefits programs similar to those at National Airlines. Their 401k plan operates the same for all employees regardless of gender, marital status, or sexual orientation. Their domestic partner health benefits plan is available to same-sex and opposite-sex couples.

Our investigation into the benefits programs at these three airlines reinforces the principle that bigger is not necessarily better. ΔΔ

Vol. 4, No. 1 Fall 2002

Unmarried America

Newsletter of the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR SINGLE PEOPLE

30th Anniversary of the Singles Rights Movement

In August 1972, a young student from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles introduced a resolution – *Single Persons Bill of Rights* – to the Law Student Division of the American Bar Association.

The proposal asked the ABA to support equal rights for unmarried Americans. It called for the elimination of marital status discrimination in taxes, and passage of laws prohibiting discrimination against unmarried workers and tenants. In 1972, laws against marital status discrimination were virtually nonexistent and no one had heard of singles rights.

The measure was approved by the Law Student Division, a body comprising one student representative from each ABA approved law school in the nation.

Over the years, due largely to pressure from women's rights organizations, many state and local civil rights laws have been amended to include marital status.

Today, about 25 states and dozens of cities have laws against marital status bias in business practices such as employment, housing, insurance, or credit.

Federal law is generally silent with respect to marital status discrimination, except for prohibiting such conduct in the areas of credit and public housing.

The name of the law student advocate who authored the 1972 resolution to the ABA is Thomas F. Coleman. Today, Coleman is Executive Director of the American Association for Single People, the nation's leading education and advocacy group for unmarried Americans.

Momentum Builds for National USA Week

Just as there are commemorative days, weeks, and months to honor various individuals and groups, there is a time to focus on the nation's 82 million unmarried Americans.

National Unmarried and Single Americans Week, held Sept. 15 - 21, is a public awareness campaign encouraging recognition of unmarried and single Americans as loyal employees, loving family members, community volunteers, good friends and neighbors, and dutiful taxpayers.

Sponsored by the American Association for Single People, National USA Week is recognized by numerous Mayors and Governors throughout the nation, and co-sponsored in part by Xerox Corporation with a generous contribution funding the publication of this special edition of *Unmarried America*.

In addition to gaining more members and supporters during National USA Week, AASP has received proclamations from Mayors and Governors in more than 25 states, officially declaring the third week of September as Unmarried and Single Americans Week in their jurisdictions (See story on page 3). We have also obtained endorsements from chapters of the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Organization for Women, and other non-profit organizations in many states.

On September 16, radio stations throughout the nation will broadcast a one-minute segment released by the Census Bureau commemorating Unmarried and Single Americans Week. This should prompt more media attention, with radio talk show hosts and newspaper reporters interviewing members of the AASP Speakers Bureau.

From September 16 to 19, representatives of AASP will be in Washington, D.C. visiting the offices of all 535 members of Congress. They also will deliver special awards to the Washington offices of CBS Radio, New York Governor George Pataki, and D.C. Congressional Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (See stories on pages 4 and 5).

For the past three years, AASP has been building the foundation to support a platform which will elevate the issues and concerns of unmarried Americans to a more visible level. Individual members are essential building blocks for this platform. *It is only with significant increases in membership that our voices will be heard by elected officials and corporate executives – those who shape the policies which affect the quality of our lives.*

We encourage everyone to participate in National USA Week. There are plenty of opportunities for involvement: write a letter to the editor of your newspaper a week prior to USA Week, or call your favorite radio talk show on Sept. 16 to remind them about the occasion; post an announcement on the employee bulletin board where you work; send an e-mail to your friends asking them to visit our website at www.nationalUSAweek.org; invite your neighbors over for coffee or cocktails - let your enthusiasm become contagious.

Who knows, AASP may grow by leaps and bounds once you spread the word that a group such as ours is working to improve the quality of life and to secure more fairness for everyone – as workers, consumers, and taxpayers – regardless of their marital status. ΔΔΔ

Corporate Spotlight - Best Practices List

Corporations strive to adopt personnel policies and practices that attract and retain competent and loyal employees. During the last few years, many employers have revised their Human Resources policies and benefits packages as they adapt to more diversity in the workplace, including significant increases in the numbers of unmarried and single employees.

Flexible and inclusive workplace policies, which are fair and equitable to all employees regardless of marital status, are good for employee morale. Higher productivity results from unmarried workers who are aware that their employer has chosen to accommodate their needs and concerns. This results in an increase in profits and excellent employer-worker relations.

AASP has been monitoring the policies of large employers. Based on what we have learned from published news stories, as well as from corporate responses to our Fortune 500 Survey on Unmarried Employees, we have assembled the following "Best Practices" list:

Awareness of Marital Status

Knowing how many employees are unmarried can help a company revise its employment practices, including its benefits package. Such data helps to more precisely address the needs of single and unmarried workers. The following companies have informed AASP that they track this information: **Autozone, AFLAC, Delta Airlines, Cendant, Fifth Third Bancorp, PPL Corporation, Nationwide Insurance.**

Marital Status in EEO Statement

Large companies have adopted an Equal Employment Opportunity Statement, indicating that the company treats its employees equally and without regard to personal characteristics, such as race, religion, sex, etc. This affirmation is essentially a promise of fairness on which employees and potential employees can rely. The following companies have informed AASP that marital status is part of their EEO Statement: **Viacom, Xerox, Fifth Third Bancorp, Kellogg Company, Praxair, Cendant.**

Gender-Neutral Partner Benefits

A growing number of employers now offer benefits to domestic partners of employees. Some companies limit benefits to same-sex couples. However, many employers have adopted gender-neutral benefits plans which include same and opposite-sex domestic partners. Inclusive benefits programs, which do not discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, or marital status, are always the best practice, especially for companies which respect diversity. The following companies have stated that they offer benefits to domestic partners regardless of gender: **Southwest Airlines, America West Airlines, National Airlines, Bank One, Xerox, Fifth Third Bancorp.**

Household Benefits to Employees

Some employers have gone further than domestic partner benefits and now allow an employee to choose one adult household member to receive workplace benefits. The beneficiary can be a spouse, a domestic partner of either sex, or a blood relative such as an adult child, parent, or a sibling. These broad and inclusive programs are laudable and help make benefits compensation equitable to a larger segment of the workforce. The following companies have reported they have adopted extended family benefits or household benefits programs: **Bank of America, Nationwide Insurance, Merrill Lynch, American Century Investment, Citi Group, Fleet Boston Financial.**

Singles-Friendly 401k Plan

Many employers have adopted retirement savings plans which treat all employees alike, regardless of marital status. Employer contributions to these 401k plans become vested in the employee, either immediately or after a short time. This contrasts with many traditional pension plans where unmarried workers forfeit the employer's contributions if the employee dies prior to retirement, although a married worker can leave those assets to a surviving spouse. The following employers have informed AASP that their 401k plans treat married and unmarried employees the same: **America West Airlines, National Airlines.**

Sharing Information About AASP

In an effort to maintain positive relations with their unmarried employees, these companies have expressed willingness to share information about groups such as the American Association for Single People that deal with issues of concern: **Viacom, Praxair, AFLAC, Kellogg Company, Cendant.**

AASP commends the employers listed on this page for adopting one or more of the best practices in their personnel policies or benefits programs.

Not only are these practices good for unmarried and single employees, they are also good for the employers in terms of recruitment and retention of productive workers. In the end, such practices increase profits and are good for company shareholders as well.

Let us know if you are aware of other companies we should feature in a future corporate spotlight news story. ΔΔΔ

Governors and Mayors Issue Proclamations for National USA Week

The American Association for Single People has succeeded in obtaining proclamations and greetings from Governors and Mayors in more than 25 states. The proclamations declare September 15 - 21 as Unmarried and Single Americans Week in their jurisdictions. The greetings extend best wishes to everyone who commemorates this week.

In his greeting, California Governor Gray Davis had this to say about AASP. "I applaud the supporters of this unique event for their efforts to protect the rights of unmarried and single people. Their dedication has made a lasting impact".

A greeting from Nevada Governor Kenny C. Guinn recognized "the contributions of our single citizens to our great state and commend them for their dedication to their families and communities". He added: "We would like to thank the American Association for Single People for their support of singles throughout the nation and the State of Nevada".

A proclamation issued by Portland, Oregon Mayor Vera Katz recognizes AASP as "a leading provider of information and resources for and about unmarried Americans".

A proclamation signed by Dayton, Ohio Mayor Rhine McLin acknowledges that through our educational programs, "AASP seeks to improve the quality of life and secure a better future for this large constituency".

STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

Unmarried and Single Americans Week

Mary Kiffmeyer
SECRETARY OF STATE

Jesse Ventura
GOVERNOR

Proclamation

CITY OF ATLANTA
Office of the Mayor

Unmarried and Single Americans Week

Whereas, The 2000 U.S. Census has documented that 82 million adults in the United States are not married, that nearly half of the nation's households are headed by unmarried adults, and the U.S. Department of Labor reports that 46 percent of the workforce is unmarried; and

Whereas, The living arrangements of unmarried Americans are diverse, with 27 million adults living alone, nearly 10 million single parents raising their children, and 43 million adults living with unmarried adult family members or in other types of unmarried households; and

Whereas, Unmarried men and women make significant contributions to society in a wide variety of ways – as productive employees, as dutiful taxpayers, as loving family members, as good neighbors, and as dedicated volunteers in civic and charitable causes; and

Whereas, Through its website, the American Association for Single People is a leading provider of information and resources for and about unmarried Americans, and through its educational programs, American Association of Single People works to improve the quality of life and secure a better future for this large constituency.

Now, Therefore, I, Shirley Franklin, Mayor of Atlanta, and on behalf of the citizens of Atlanta, hereby proclaim "September 15-21, 2002 as "Unmarried and Single Americans Week," in our City.

Shirley Franklin
Mayor

The following proclamations and greetings have been received as of the time the newsletter went to print. We expect to receive others. To view copies of these proclamations, visit our special website at: www.nationalUSAweek.org.

Governors:

Alaska - Tony Knowles
California - Gray Davis
Hawaii - Ben Cayetano
Kansas - Bill Graves
Maine - Angus S. King Jr.
Minnesota - Jesse Ventura
Nevada - Kenny C. Guinn
New Jersey - James McGreevey

Mayors:

Little Rock, AR - Jim Dailey
Tempe, AZ - Neil Giuliano
Costa Mesa, CA - Linda Dixon
San Mateo, CA - Sue Lempert
Lakewood, CO - Stephen A. Burkholder
Hollywood, FL - Mara Guilianti
Ft. Lauderdale, FL - Jim Naugle
Jacksonville, FL - John A. Delaney
Miami, FL - Manuel A. Diaz
Miami Beach, FL - David Dermer
Atlanta, GA - Shirley Franklin
Marietta, GA - William Dunaway
Hawaii County, HI - Harry Kim
Honolulu, HI - Jeremy Harris
Topeka, KS - Butch Felker
Lafayette, LA - Walter Comeaux
New Iberia, LA - Ruth Fontenot
Baltimore, MD - Martin O'Malley
Minneapolis, MN - R. T. Rybak
Biloxi, MS - A. J. Holloway
Independence, MO - Rondell Stewart
Albuquerque, NM - Martin J. Chavez
Las Cruces, NM - Ruben A. Smith
Wilmington, NC - Harper Peterson
Cincinnati, OH - Charlie Luken
Dayton, OH - Rhine McLin
Portland, OR - Vera Katz
Salt Lake, UT - Ross C. Anderson
Portsmouth, VA - James W. Holley III
Madison, WI - Susan J. M. Bauman

City Councils:

Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Hollywood, FL
Miami, FL
New Orleans, LA

Congratulations to the Recipients of National USA Week Awards

As part of our activities commemorating Unmarried and Single Americans Week, AASP is conferring a series of awards on individuals and organizations for Excellence, Leadership, and Outstanding Contributions.

Some awards will be delivered to recipients while representatives of AASP are in Washington D.C. during National USA Week.

Congratulations to the recipients of these awards! More information about the awards and about the recipients can be found on the National USA Week website which is located at www.nationalUSAweek.org.

Political Leadership
Elected Republican

George Pataki, Governor of New York, was selected for this award because of his role in making single people eligible for Family Health Plus, a state-subsidized health plan for low income workers. Pataki convinced the federal government to give matching funds for this program.

As a result of his leadership, thousands of single people who previously lacked health care now have coverage. Governors in other states should adopt the Pataki model of inclusion. Most states with such programs limit participation to children in low income families, while some include low-income parents too. The health and the lives of all people should be protected, regardless of their marital or parental status.

Pataki also deserves credit for issuing an executive order in October 2001 to insure that surviving domestic partners of 9-11 victims would be eligible to receive benefits under the state's victims compensation fund. He also signed legislation which clarified that New York state law intended that surviving domestic partners should receive compensation from the federal compensation fund established by Congress.

Political Leadership
Elected Democrat

Eleanor Holmes Norton, Delegate to Congress from the District of Columbia, was selected for this award for her leadership and perseverance in advocating that her colleagues vote to allow the District of Columbia to implement two domestic partnership laws passed by the Council of the District in 1992.

One law established a registry whereby two unmarried adults could register as domestic partners with the District and thereby receive some basic humanitarian protections, such as the right to hospital visitation as a family member in a time of medical crisis. The other law allowed employees of the District to put a domestic partner on their health plan and thereby secure a low group rate for the partner.

For nearly 10 years, conservative Republicans in Congress voted each year to prevent the District from using any funds to implement these laws. Most Democrats voted to allow the laws to be implemented.

Norton pursued the issue year after year, and in 2001 she finally convinced a majority of Congress to allow the District to implement these laws.

Excellence in Media
Broadcast Journalism

CBS NEWS

CBS Radio News was selected for this award for producing and airing the ten-part series entitled "Living Single".

Each of the ten segments of this series of two-minute episodes focused on a different aspect of unmarried life in the United States, including living solo, single parents, unmarried workers and consumers, widows, and singles in rural America. The series was broadcast by local CBS affiliates throughout the nation in August 2001.

The lead producer of this excellent series was Constance Lloyd, General Manager of CBS Radio News. Receiving the award for Ms. Lloyd will be Howard Arenstein, Washington Bureau Manager for CBS Radio News.

National USA Week Awards Recipients, continued

Outstanding Single Father
John Brown

This award is given to John Brown (center) in recognition of his contribution to the lives of four Guatemalan-born boys for whom he became a guardian in 1987 when they were in their early teens or younger. These young men are now adults and most of them have families of their own.

The story of John Brown and his sons was part of a documentary aired by KCET Public Television in Los Angeles entitled "We Are Family," which explained through several examples, including John's single parent home, a group home for seniors, a step-family, and two same-sex couples, how family diversity is now the norm in America.

The Desert Sun published a feature story about John and his chosen family in the Father's Day edition on June 18, 2000. John lives in Palm Springs, California, and is Executive Director of the Desert AIDS Project.

Outstanding Humanitarian
Larry Marino

from left: Thomas Coleman, AASP Executive Director, Larry Marino KRLA Radio Operations Manager, and Warren Currie, President of the Union Rescue Mission.

Larry Marino (center) is operations manager at KRLA Radio in Glendale, California, and host of the Larry Marino Show.

This award is given to Larry Marino for his pivotal role in reopening the Single Women's Dorm at the Union Rescue Mission in Los Angeles. As a result, 110 women can sleep safely each night.

Due to lack of funds, the Single Women's Shelter closed its doors on April 5, 2001. Larry Marino and KRLA Radio worked with AASP to raise $325,000 – one year's annual budget – to reopen the shelter. For two months, Larry devoted several minutes each day on his radio show to raise funds from his audience.

As a result of the joint efforts of the Development staff at the Union Rescue Mission, the staff and members of AASP, and Larry Marino and the management at KRLA, the Single Women's Shelter was reopened on June 28, 2001.

Outstanding Single Mother
Andrea Engber

This award is given to Andrea Engber in recognition of the many contributions she has made over the years to promote the well being of single mothers throughout the United States. Andrea's many accomplishments include:

- Founding the ***National Organization of Single Mothers*** in 1991, where she has donated her time ever since;
- Creating ***Single Mother***, a national newsletter for single MOMs (mothers outside of marriage);
- Writing ***Single with Children***, a syndicated column carried by dozens of newspapers;
- Producing ***Single Mothers Online***, singlemothers.org, a website filled with helpful information for single mothers;
- Writing and publishing ***The Complete Single Mother***, a source book for single women with children.

Although she recently married, Andrea continues to work for free – 50 hours per week – for the National Organization of Single Mothers. She lives with her family in North Carolina. Andrea is the mother of a 15-year-old son.

Outstanding Public Service
Monster

monster
never settle™

This award is given to MonsterTrak, a national job placement service giving free job listings to nonprofit organizations seeking interns, and free access to job listings to college students.

This service has assisted thousands of college students – most of whom are single – to find internships with education, advocacy, and service organizations. AASP and other nonprofits have benefitted from the assistance of student interns recruited through the service of MonsterTrak.

MonsterTrak is a service of Monster, the leading global online careers website and flagship brand of TMP Worldwide Inc. Monster connects the most progressive companies with the most qualified career-minded individuals, offering innovative technology and superior services that give more control over the recruiting process.

Mail Box

AASP member peeved that Feds deny survivor benefits

I'm very pleased that AASP exists and is helping the cause of single Americans. I have been a member for over a year and have also given several gift memberships. My hope is that awareness of the plight of single Americans will help to correct many of the injustices. And that seems to be what AASP is doing.

I have read many of the issues that AASP has put efforts towards resolving and these are all very laudable. However, I am concerned that there is not a complete awareness that discrimination against single persons is perpetrated at the highest level of government.

The first is with the Social Security Administration. When a person is covered by Social Security, a death benefit (either $200 or $250, a negligible amount) is paid to the widow/widower to help with burial expenses. However, no help is given to bury or cremate a single person.

Let's take my personal case as an example. I'm 56 years old and have two grown sons. Their father has been dead for many years. I have worked with very few interruptions since I was 16 and consequently paid into Social Security for well over 30 years. For a number of years I have paid the maximum Social Security. Yet, when I die, there will be no death benefit payable because I lack a spouse.

While the Social Security issue is an example of the blatant disregard the federal government has for single people, the disregard it has for its own employees is far worse. I know this because I am a federal employee.

If I were to die today, while actively employed by the federal government, my spouse would receive a lump sum payment in the neighborhood of $70,000 as well as a monthly allotment of about $600 payable for life as long as he does not remarry before attaining the age of 55.

Since I am lacking a spouse, the payment to my sons is exactly zero! While this death payment is certainly one that a person hopes never to need, it is abhorrent to me that someone who is in the same situation as myself, but is married, will receive a very large benefit.

I believe that this situation exists because it is based on a time when men were breadwinners and the benefit was payable to the dependent female spouse. The time has come to revise this situation.

For the life of me, I cannot understand why my life has a lesser value than that of a married federal employee.

Thanks for letting me vent. Keep up the good work. I know that there are so many areas of single discrimination and that AASP can't fight them all at once. But each victory brings us closer to fair treatment.

And isn't that all that we are asking for?

Kay S.

Issues will motivate more young adults to vote

Thank you for writing to me regarding the article "Secretaries of State Want More New Millennium Young Adults to Vote" that appeared in the Summer 2002 issue of *Unmarried America*.

You asked what your group might do to help get young adults politically motivated and involved in the election process.

I might suggest choosing one or two really big issues that will motivate a broad base of young people – perhaps an area of the tax code that is particularly unfair to young people, or employment benefits issues that are especially unfair to single people – and promote the idea of effecting change on these issues, though elections. A great deal of emphasis has been placed on participation for participation's sake, but clearly people are motivated more by issues that affect them personally than by an innate sense of good citizenship.

Again, thank you for writing to me. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your ideas on how to get more young and single people involved in good citizenship activities like voting.

Sincerely,

Mary Kiffmeyer
MN Secretary of State

Candidate for California Insurance Commissioner Vows Action

John Garamendi, the former California Insurance Commissioner, recently wrote to AASP in response to an article in the Summer 2002 newsletter entitled "Insurance Commissioners should review marital status pricing and surcharges".

Garamendi, who left office in 1995 to serve the President as Deputy Secretary of the Interior, is now running for reelection as Insurance Commissioner.

In his letter to AASP, Garamendi said that "The problem of 'marital status redlining' is one which will be addressed in my administration" after he is re-elected.

Garamendi indicated that he will take the following steps to address the issue of marital status discrimination by insurance companies:

- Convene a *Task Force on Marital Status Redlining* to suggest responsible alternatives to the use of marital status for setting rates or issuing joint policies.
- Assign department staff to assist the Task Force in its research.
- Immediately audit the practices of a representative sample of companies.
- Prepare a brochure to inform agents and the public about current legal protections against marital status discrimination.

The complete text of the letter from Mr. Garamendi can be viewed in the online version of this newsletter on the AASP website. A copy of the full letter has also been included in the print edition as a special insert.

Meet Our New Honorary Members

Patty Sheehan

Orlando, FL

City Council Commissioner

Henry Chang, Jr.

Oakland, CA

City Council Member at Large

Mary Ellen Otremba

Minnesota

State Representative

Bob Holmes

Georgia

State Representative

Becky Nace

Kansas City, MO

City Councilwoman

Talmadge Branch

Maryland

State Representative

Cindi Hutchinson

Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Vice Mayor and Council Member

Simone Spence

Author of "Deadbeats: What Responsible Parents Need to Know About Collecting Child Support"

Nancy Vogl

Co-Author of "Chicken Soup for the Single Parents Soul"

Dennis Clifford

Co-Author of "A Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples"

J. Michael Clark

Author of "Doing the Work of Love: Men and Commitment in Same-Sex Couples"

Adriane G. Berg

Author of "Financial Planning for Couples"

Ken Pirok

Champaign, IL

City Council Member

Betsy McKinney

New Hampshire

State Representative

Mission Statement

The American Association for Single People promotes the well being of and fairness for 82 million unmarried Americans, whether they live with a family member or partner, a roommate, or live alone. The promise of equality applies to all people – as workers, taxpayers, consumers, and citizens – whether married or not. AASP's mission is fulfilled by conducting research and providing information and advice to members, elected officials, corporate policy makers, and the media.

✔ DONATE / JOIN

Yes, I want to help AASP create a better future for unmarried Americans.

Here is my tax-deductible donation for:
[ ] $10 [ ] $25 [ ] $50 [ ] ____

[ ] check [ ] credit card

card no _____

expiration date _____

[ ] I am renewing my membership.
[ ] I am joining as a new member.
[ ] I am giving a gift membership.

Name of donor of gift membership or person renewing existing membership.

Name _____

New member's name:

_____

Address _____

Apt ____ Phone (____) _____

City _____

State ____ Zip _____

e-mail _____

American Association for Single People
415 East Harvard Street, Suite 204
Glendale, California 91205
(818) 242-5100
(818) 242- 5103 fax
mail@unmarriedAmerica.org
www.unmarriedAmerica.org

Outstanding Unmarried American

The American Association for Single People is pleased to confer the Outstanding Unmarried American Award on Mr. Lloyd E. Rigler – philanthropist, human rights advocate, and founder of AASP.

For several decades, Rigler has contributed his time, talents, and financial resources to protect and broaden the rights of unmarried individuals, couples, and families.

During the late 1960s and early 1970s, he was active with the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS). SIECUS promoted the inclusion of comprehensive and age-appropriate sex education in public schools. Rigler believed that having accurate and complete information was necessary for young people to make responsible choices.

After voters added the right of privacy to the California Constitution in 1972, Rigler worked for passage of a Consenting Adults Act to get the government out of the bedrooms of its unmarried citizens. Private sexual conduct was then a felony.

He knew that enacting such a law would require a progressive Governor in the state Capitol. Rigler became treasurer of Jerry Brown's first campaign for Governor, successfully working with campaign aide Gray Davis to get Brown elected.

In 1975, the Legislature voted to decriminalize the private sexual conduct of consenting adults. Governor Jerry Brown signed the privacy bill into law.

In the 1980s, Rigler's human rights activities shifted to family diversity and domestic partner benefits. In 1983, he was introduced to attorney Thomas F. Coleman by then-Los Angeles City Attorney Burt Pines.

Rigler and Coleman shared a similar philosophy of inclusion. As a result, advocacy efforts focused on generic issues such as protecting personal privacy, the use of inclusive definitions of family, and promoting equal rights for domestic partners, as well as ending marital status discrimination against workers, consumers, and taxpayers.

Rigler's philanthropic organization, then known as the LEDLER Foundation, supported Coleman's legal work in important court cases and helped to underwrite major public policy studies.

The LEDLER Foundation also helped to

Lloyd E. Rigler

subsidize the first law school class in the nation on Rights of Domestic Partners. Coleman started teaching the class at the University of Southern California in 1985 - a time when only two cities in the nation had passed domestic partner laws.

With Rigler's financial support and Coleman's educational work and advocacy, the concept of gender-neutral domestic partnership rights began to catch on. Various types of legal protections and benefits for domestic partners now exist in many states and dozens of municipalities. Thousands of private employers now offer such benefits to their employees.

Support from the LEDLER Foundation enabled Spectrum Institute, the precursor to AASP, to file legal briefs in major test cases, resulting in precedents such as:

- A decision by the highest court in New York broadening the definition of family to include people not related by blood, marriage, or adoption.
- A ruling by the Georgia Supreme Court validating domestic partnership laws passed by the City of Atlanta.
- A landmark decision by the California Supreme Court prohibiting landlords from refusing to rent to unmarried couples.

The LEDLER Foundation also assisted the work of the Los Angeles City Task Force on Family Diversity, City Attorney's Consumer Task Force on Marital Status Discrimination, California Legislature's Task Force on the Changing Family, and California Insurance Commissioner's Anti-Discrimination Task Force.

In 1999, Rigler decided to create the American Association for Single People. He asked Coleman to direct AASP.

"Mr. Rigler was firm in his belief that unmarried and single Americans needed a major organization to advocate for their rights," Coleman said. "He believed that such an organization could stimulate economic and legal changes in the workplace, marketplace, and government programs such as unfair tax policies".

"When he founded the organization, Mr. Rigler said that he wanted AASP to be his human rights legacy to the nation," Coleman added. "If we can broaden the base of financial support by securing grants from other foundations, sponsorships from corporations, and create a large membership of unmarried and single people, then his dream will come true".

Over the years, Rigler has been a major benefactor of the A.C.L.U. and the National Organization for Women.

Now 87, Rigler would like AASP to become a viable national organization with strong financial backing and a mass membership.

"The best way for people to pay tribute to Mr. Lloyd E. Rigler for all of his human rights activities over the years, would be for them to become involved in AASP and to invite others to support the organization", Coleman emphasized. "The vitality and endurance of his legacy requires broad-based participation". ΔΔΔ

Mr. Rigler may be contacted by email at: mail@unmarriedamerica.org.

The Academic Advisory Board of Spectrum Institute met in June. Spectrum Institute is the Research and Policy Division of AASP. The Board plans to conduct a survey of professors at universities throughout the nation to determine which classes are being taught and what studies have been done on issues affecting single people. (from left to right) Dr. Michael F. Valente, Professor E. Kay Trimberger, AASP Executive Director Thomas F. Coleman, Professor Bella DePaulo, and Professor Stan Charnofsky.

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UNMARRIED AMERICA, the Newsletter of the American Association for Single People

Unmarried Households Soon a 'New Majority'

The 2000 U.S. Census reported that unmarried adults headed up a majority of households in more than 300 cities. The same was true for six states: Louisiana (51.1%), Massachusetts (51.0%), Mississippi (50.2%), Nevada (50.3%), New York (53.4%), and Rhode Island (51.8%). In March 2000, 48.3% of the nation's households were labeled "unmarried."

More recent statistics show a continuing decline in married-couple households with a corresponding increase in those headed by single or unmarried adults.

According to the 2001 Annual Survey of more than 700,000 households in the nation, the Census Bureau estimates that during 2001, approximately 49.4% of all households in the United States were headed by unmarried Americans.

The Census Bureau now estimates that 13 states fall into the "unmarried majority" category. During 2001, seven more states were added to the list: California (50.5%), Florida (51.1%), Illinois (50.7%), Maryland (50.9%), New Mexico (50.6%), Ohio (50.3%), and South Carolina (50.1%).

Four other states which were on the verge of having "unmarried majority" households in 2001 may have already crossed over by now: Arizona (49.9%), Colorado (49.6%), Oregon (49.8%) and Washington (49.8%).

The transformation of the nation's households from a "married majority" to an "unmarried majority" has implications for businesses, government programs, and political campaigns.

Businesses giving discounts to families - such as gyms, community recreation centers, auto insurers, membership groups, and auto clubs -- will need to broaden the definition of "family" to include household members not related by blood or marriage. Costco, AAA, AARP, and Ballys have moved in that direction.

Employers will need to readjust employee benefits programs so that solo singles, unmarried workers living with relatives, single parents with adult children at home, and domestic partners are not shortchanged.

Government programs which impose taxes or confer benefits will need to be reevaluated for fairness to members of the new unmarried majority. This includes income tax exemptions and deductions, joint filing privileges, social security taxes, and the so-called federal death tax.

Political parties and candidates will need to target audiences beyond married couples and traditional families. Politics of inclusion should include the reality that a new unmarried majority is emerging.

AASP has been studying these demographic trends and monitoring the needs of unmarried Americans for several years. We are ready and willing to assist political leaders and corporate executives as they prepare for a new era in American living arrangements – an era in which unmarried Americans are treated fairly as workers, consumers, and taxpayers. ΔΔΔ

Housing Bias is a Persistent Problem

Federal law does not prohibit marital status discrimination in housing and public accommodations and most states lack legal protections against such bias.

As a result, single people are often without a legal basis to protest such unfair practices by landlords, condominium associations, motels, and zoning administrators.

AASP has become aware of many cases of housing bias in recent months. Each shows a need for consumers to be aware of their rights under existing law and to lobby for new laws where there is an absence of current legal protection.

Consider these cases:

Two Alabama law students sharing a house were forced to move due to a zoning law limiting occupants to members of a "family".

An Oregon bed and breakfast inn blatantly discouraged unmarried couples from renting a room; a sign in front of a motel in Idaho exclaimed "no unmarried couples".

A "single family" zoning law in Provo, Utah prohibits a home owner from sharing a residence with more than two other unrelated adults.

A heterosexual man in New York complains that his condo association won't let him share his three bedroom unit with a roommate because they are not members of a "family".

Marital status is an arbitrary basis to deny housing to tenants, homeowners, and consumers. That is why all federal, state, and local laws should prohibit such unfair practices.

Garamendi Sworn in as Insurance Chief

John Garamendi was sworn in on January 5, 2003 as the Insurance Commissioner of the State of California. He won the position in November 2002 when almost 3 million voters cast their ballots in his favor, nearly 300,000 more votes than his closest rival in the political race.

Garamendi is expected to move forward quickly with his agenda for reform, considering that he had four years experience as California's first elected Insurance Commissioner in the early 1990s.

Among the pledges he made in his campaign, Garamendi promised to convene a Task Force on Marital Status Redlining to suggest responsible alternatives to the use of marital status for setting insurance rates or issuing joint policies.

He also promised to:

- Assign department staff to assist the Task Force in its research;
- Immediately audit the practices of a representative sample of companies; and
- Prepare a brochure to inform agents and the public about current legal protections against marital status discrimination in California.

During the campaign, Garamendi indicated that he would ask AASP Executive Director Thomas F. Coleman to serve as a consultant to the new Task Force.

AASP recently requested a meeting with Commissioner Garamendi to discuss implementation of these objectives and to establish a realistic timetable for this important work. ΔΔΔ

Grant Awarded to Document Singles Research

A small grants program was recently established exclusively to support research on the psychology of being single. The program is administered by the Anthony Marchionne Foundation for the Scientific Study of Human Relations and Psychological Processes.

The first recipient of a Marchionne Foundation grant for the study of singles is Dr. Bella M. DePaulo, Chair of the Academic Advisory Board of Spectrum Institute, Research and Policy Division of AASP.

A $25,000 grant was awarded to Professor DePaulo for her proposal entitled, "The Scientific Study of People Who Are Single: The State of the Research".

During 2003, Dr. DePaulo will compile the research and scholarship pertaining to some of the most important questions about people who are single.

These questions include: Who are the singles in America? How many are there, and how are their numbers changing? What is the nature of the personal relationships of people who are single? What do we know about the health and well being of singles? Are there stereotypes of people who are single? If so, how do such views of singles compare to what singles really are like? What is the nature of single life in old age? How do children who are living with one parent fare, relative to those who live with cohabiting parents or married parents?

Dr. Bella DePaulo is a Visiting Professor of Social Psychology at the University of California at Santa Barbara. She earned her Ph.D. from Harvard in 1979, taught at the University of Virginia for more than 20 years, is the author of more than 100 publications, and has lectured nationally and internationally.

"I was so delighted to learn about the Marchionne Foundation," Dr. DePaulo told Unmarried America. "This is exactly what is needed to jump start the scientific study of people who are single."

"The study of marriage and family has long had a highly developed infrastructure and many sources of funding. But until the Marchionne Foundation came along, there were no comparable resources available to people focusing on singles. It is not just the funding that has been lacking. There are no textbooks about people who are single, no scholarly journals devoted to the study of singles, and no conferences organized exclusively for the discussion of scholarship on singles. This is remarkable considering that on average, people now spend more years of their adult lives single than married."

Anthony "Toby" Marchionne was a clinical psychologist who practiced in Albany, New York. He was single all his life.

In his scholarship and clinical practice, Dr. Marchionne recognized the health, happiness, well being, and resilience of so many life-long singles. Before he died, he created a Foundation dedicated to the scientific study of single people, and provided enough funding for the Foundation to endure for decades.

Dr. Marchionne was the first student to be awarded a Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Washington State University. It is especially fitting, therefore, that the Foundation is located at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington. The Program Manager is Dr. Craig Parks, who is an Associate Professor of Social Psychology at WSU. ΔΔΔ

Professor Bella DePaulo

Single Women are Breaking Through a 'Glass Ceiling' into Governors' Club

Last year, Ruth Ann Minner (D-DE) was the only member of the National Association of Governors who was not married.

Minner, a widow, joined the American Association for Single People a few years ago when she was Lt. Governor of Delaware. She has remained a member ever since.

With few exceptions over the years, chances are that an unmarried gubernatorial candidate won't gain acceptance of a majority of voters for a state's top executive position. Jerry Brown, Governor of California for two terms in the 1970s was one of those few exceptions, as was Ann Richards, fomer Governor of Texas.

With marital status and household demographics changing throughout the nation, and with unmarried households becoming a majority in many cities and states, perhaps more unmarried candidates will win approval of voters as they contend for the position of chief executive.

AASP is pleased to report that two outstanding women demonstrated last November that it is possible for single politicians to break through the marital status "glass ceiling" which in the past has proved to be a barrier to becoming a state governor.

Linda Lingle, a Republican, is now the Governor of Hawaii, while Janet Napolitano, a Democrat, has become the Governor of Arizona.

Because of the bipartisan nature of these victories, and because both women are excellent role models, AASP is pleased to present a profile of each in this newsletter.

After they settle into their new positions, AASP plans to reach out to these new governors and to their administrations. We will share information with them about the unmarried populations of their respective states and suggest ways in which the new governors might help to eliminate unfair practices by the government as well as encourage private businesses to do the same.

We also hope Governor Lingle and Governor Napolitano will consider accepting an invitation to become honorary members of AASP, joining more than 80 other elected officials throughout the nation who have already done so.

Linda Lingle

History was made in Hawaii on November 5, 2002 as Linda Lingle was elected as governor of Hawaii. Lingle is the first female governor elected in Hawaii and the first Republican to hold that office since 1962.

Lingle was born in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1953. When she was 12, her family moved to Southern California, where she graduated from Birmingham High, a public school in Van Nuys. In 1975, she graduated from California State University at Northridge, where she was editor of the Journalism Department Newspaper and the Alumni Newsletter. She moved to Hawaii after graduation, following her father who had moved there to open a Ford dealership.

Following her arrival in Hawaii, Lingle worked as the public information officer for the Hawaii Teamsters and Hotel Workers Union in Honolulu. Lingle then moved to Moloka'i where she founded the Moloka'i Free Press, a local newspaper serving the 6,000 residents of the island.

In 1980, Lingle was elected to the Maui County Council where she served for ten years. In 1990, Lingle made history by becoming the youngest person elected as Mayor of Maui County, the first woman and the only non-Maui born person ever elected to that office.

Lingle, who is divorced, is the adoptive parent of Snooze, a cat she obtained from the Maui Humane Society.

Janet Napolitano

Janet Napolitno grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She attended college at Santa Clara University in California, where she was named a Truman Scholar and graduated summa cum laude, and later attended law school at the University of Virginia.

She came to Arizona in 1983 as a law clerk to U.S. Appeals Court Judge Mary Shroeder, and in 1989 became a partner at the Phoenix law firm of Lewis and Roca.

She was named U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona by President Clinton in 1993, and was elected Arizona Attorney General in 1998.

She created the first Office for Women inside the Attorney General's office to make issues affecting women a top priority. Therefore, it is no surprise that she is "pro choice."

Although Napolitano says that she does not support the legalization of gay marriage, she believes in "fundamental human rights" and that "all Arizonans should be treated with respect and dignity."

Napolitano believes that sex education courses should move beyond a message of "abstinence only" and should include information on how young people can protect themselves from pregnancy and diseases.

Although Napolitano, who is single, is known for her hard work, she finds time for hiking in the Arizona mountains or taking rafting trips and is a serious sports fan. ΔΔΔ

As for reproductive rights, she is "pro choice." Lingle has indicated she would sign a domestic partnership law if one were passed by the Legislature.

Governors Respond to AASP Survey on Health Care for Low-Income Workers

During National Unmarried and Single Americans Week (Sept. 16-22, 2002), AASP recognized New York Governor George Pataki for his leadership in expanding his state's subsidized health plan for the working poor. In 2001, Pataki opened up the plan to unmarried workers without children.

AASP sent a letter to the other 49 governors in the nation to inform them of Pataki's action, asking them if they had a similar plan or would consider one in the future.

To date, we received responses from seven states. Some of them are summarized in this story.

A national survey conducted by the Harris Poll in October 2002 showed that expanding health care to more people is an important issue to the public as well as with voters.

Some 40% of likely voters said that health care issues might affect their vote in the November elections. The two most important health issues identified by voters were: (1) expanding coverage to include more people and (2) the cost.

Priorities of voters differed by party. Among those who said that the expansion of health insurance to reduce the number of uninsured was most likely to influence their vote, 30% identify themselves as Democrats, versus 20% who said they are Republicans.

For those who said that the total cost of health care was most likely to influence their vote, 26% identified themselves as Republicans, versus 16% who said they are Democrats.

When asked, "Which party do you think is more likely to do what you want about the health care issues that are important to you," 31% named the Democrats as being more effective, and 21% named the Republicans. But the greatest percentage of respondents (48%) either did not rank one party over the other or said they don't know.

According to recent studies, unmarried and single adults are much more likely to be uninsured than are married adults. Barbara Wentworth, a spokesperson for the Kaiser Family Foundation told AASP, "As you suspected, married people are the least likely to be uninsured."

More detail was provided to AASP by the Institute of Medicine, a research agency funded by the federal government. The Institute recently released two reports on the consequences of uninsurance.

The first is entitled "Coverage Matters: Insurance and Health Care." The second is entitled "Care without Coverage."

Wilhelmine Miller, Co-Director of the project which conducted these studies, told AASP:

"Your sense that single adults are more likely to lack health insurance than married adults is correct; adults under the age of 65 who are not married have an uninsured rate overall of about twice that of married non-elderly adults, which is about 13 percent."

A Current Population Report released by the Census Bureau in September 2002 confirmed that the marital status of adults is related to lack of health coverage.

The report stated that young adults ages 18-24 had the highest uninsured rate of any age group, with more than 28% lacking coverage for all or a portion of 2001. The vast majority of people in this age group are unmarried, and the income levels of such young people are notoriously low.

It also confirmed that children are affected by the marital status of their parents, with nearly 15% of children in single parent families being uninsured as compared with less than 10% of those in married couple families.

On a more local level, the same problem persists. A study done by the Massachusetts Division of Health Care in 2000 concluded that the proportion of uninsured is the lowest for those who are married (3.6%), higher for divorced, separated or widowed (11.7%), and the highest for never married (15.8%).

A survey done in 1996 in Kansas by Sedgewick County discovered that of those who were insured, about 65% were married and 35% unmarried.

Considering that most working-age people get their health insurance through an employer, expansion of state subsidized plans to cover unmarried low-income workers without children takes on added importance. ΔΔΔ

Good News from the State of New Mexico

NM Gov. Bill Richardson

Responding for the Governor of New Mexico, Robert Marcua, Director of the Department of Human Services, told AASP:

"I am happy to tell you that New Mexico has recently been granted a federal HIFA (Health Insurance Flexibility and Accountability) waiver through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to fund a new health care program for uninsured adults."

"The State Coverage Initiative (SCI) program is an employer based public/private partnership program that will provide affordable health insurance to low-income adults in New Mexico, including single adults without children."

SCI is expected to start in the spring of 2003. New Mexico will partially fund the program, with the bulk of funding coming from the federal government.

New Mexico has a high rate of uninsured, at 23.7% compared to 14% nationally. ΔΔΔ

Vermont was a leader in low-income health care

Howard Dean, M.D.

Replying on behalf of then-Governor Howard Dean (D-VT), Jane Kitchell, Secretary of the Agency of Human Services, told AASP: "Vermont was one of the first states in the nation to obtain a federal Medicaid waiver authorizing federal financial participation for the expansion of health care assistance to low-income uninsured adults."

"Start up of the program called the Vermont Health Access Plan (VHAP) occurred in January 1996."

The VHAP brochure says that residents who lack health insurance may qualify for the plan whether they are working or not and regardless of whether they are married or single.

The plan covers doctor visits, prescriptions, visits to specialists, emergency room care, inpatient hospital care, tests and x-rays, mental health services, and home health care.

Depending on an applicant's income, he or she may have to pay a program fee every six months. Co-payments are required for most services. VHAP covers about half the cost of prescriptions.

Howard Dean left the office of Governor in December 2002. He is currently exploring the possibility of being a contender for the Democratic presidential primary in 2004. ΔΔΔ

Health care funding options under study in Wyoming

Responding for then-Governor Jim Geringer (R-Wyoming), Interim State Health Officer Brent D. Sherard, told AASP: "Wyoming does not provide subsidized health care for unmarried low income workers who are not parents.

"The Department of Health will be conducting a study over the next year of the uninsured population in this state and will be evaluating a number of private and public options to increase the number of citizens with health care coverage." ΔΔΔ

Any possible expansion falls to new Governor in Alaska

Frank Murkowski

Then-Governor Tony Knowles (D-AK) asked the Alaska Dept. of Health and Social Services to respond to AASP's inquiry about state-subsidized health care for the working poor.

Replying to AASP last October, Bob Labbe, Director of the Division of Medical Assistance stated:

"The State of Alaska provides subsidized health care for children, pregnant women, families with dependent children, disabled adults, or persons age 65 and older, but does not include working single people who are not parents.

"While New York's Family Health Plus model is interesting, any change in Alaska's Medicaid program will need to be considered by the upcoming elected Governor and the new administration."

Republican gubernatorial candidate Frank Murkowski assumed the office of Governor in January 2003. AASP will be contacting him about his plans, if any, to provide coverage to single low-income workers without children. ΔΔΔ

No plans to cover unmarried workers in Virginia

Jane H. Woods, secretary of Health and Human Resources, told AASP that Virginia's subsidized health care program is limited to uninsured children from low-income families and hopes to expand the program so that it will cover pregnant women and eventually working parents.

She added: "We do not have any plans at this time to provide state subsidized health care for the working poor who are not parents." ΔΔΔ

Hawaii has programs for low-income workers

Benjamin J. Cayetano was Governor of Hawaii for two terms. The Democratic governor was replaced by Republican candidate Linda Lingle in December 2002.

Last September, Cayetano personally wrote to AASP, stating:

"Hawaii has been a leader in promoting health care coverage for our residents, including single persons who are not parents.

"Since 1994, the Hawaii Prepaid Health Care Act (HPHCA) has mandated employers to offer health care coverage to their employees who work twenty hours or more per week. Hawaii is the only state with a waiver from the federal Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 that prohibits states from mandating employer sponsored health care coverage.

"In June 1989, the Governor of Hawaii enacted the State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) that provided low-cost basic health insurance to persons including single childless adults, who were not eligible for Medicaid, were employed less then twenty hours per week, or could nor afford the HPHCA coverage offered by their employers."

Cayetano explained that since 1994, Hawaii has also provided health coverage to unmarried childless adults under QUEST, a Medicaid program approved by the federal government. However, the program is closed to new enrollees when it reaches an enrollment cap of 125,000.

The enrollment in QUEST currently exceeds that number and so no additional single people without children may enroll in the program at this time. ΔΔΔ

Mail Box

Single Teacher Complains about Benefit Compensation

Rockford School District recently agreed to a contract with the teachers in Rockford, Illinois.

The contract requires single people to contribute $25 towards health insurance. People with dependent coverage pay $50.

The district's cost for individual coverage is $350 in contrast to the cost for dependent coverage which is $850. As a result, single employees are receiving nearly $500 per month less in benefits compensation than employees with dependents.

This seems to be blatant discrimination against single people.

Yours truly,
M. Sims

Minnesota Member Praises AASP Founders

Until reading the most recent newsletter, I was quite unaware of the full degree and extent that Tom Coleman has pursued this cause. Determined disciples must have been inspired by Tom's leadership, passion, persistence and professionalism in this campaign.

The example this has set may motivate other champions of just causes and encourage their followers.

Definitely congratulations are in order to all the supporters through the years that have helped propel, accelerate, and now rocket AASP to the brink of affecting more positive change that I believe only a few can imagine.

Unfortunately I don't know the names of what must have been quite a few other people who helped along the way, however, I believe that one of those few imaginative and immensely contributing people must be Dr. Nora Baladerian, President of AASP.

The reason for that belief is a statement that she made a few years ago; "We don't want to do too much, just change society."

Upon reading that on May 7, 2000, I sent AASP a quote from Margaret Mead and I will close with that quote. This time, I think I can truly understand just how much that quote applies to the founders of AASP.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has" -- Margaret Mead.

Sincerely,
Vernon Gutenkunst

Kudos to Outstanding Unmarried American

Lloyd Rigler is not only an "Outstanding Unmarried American", he also is an outstanding American!

Congratulations on the wonderful article in AASP's Unmarried America, Fall 2002 edition.

Our only complaint about the article is that it does not tell the readers about the myriad of good works that Mr. Rigler has done (for the Arts, Ethiopian Jews, etc.) besides all he has done over the years for single persons. The world needs more people like him!

We hope that he keeps up the good work for many happy and healthy years to come. L'Shana Tova!

B'Shalom,
Middie & Dick Giesberg

Indiana Secretary of State Responds to AASP Letter

Thank you for sending me the Fall 2002 edition of your newsletter and making me aware of your efforts to motivate young voters.

I share your goals of improving voter turnout rates among 18 to 24-year-olds and raising awareness of the importance of youth involvement in government.

I serve on the Executive Board of the Youth Voter Corps and my office is currently actively involved in the door-to-door youth voter initiative Freedom's Answer in an effort to get all 18 year-olds to register and, on Election Day, vote.

The youth vote is clearly motived by two things – issues and habits. If children grow up in families witnessing their parents voting and participating in the political process, they are much more likely to continue that tradition.

Likewise, if young people are personally touched by an issue – like terrorism – they will vote. I encourage all individuals to talk with their children and their friends' children about the importance of voting.

I laud Unmarried America for its efforts to motivate young people to exercise their right to vote.

Sincerely,
Sue Ann Gilroy
Secretary of State

Meet Our New Honorary Members

Deborah Ortega
Council Member
Denver, CO

Michael L. Mack
Council Member
Las Vegas, NV

Michael Nutter
Council Member
Philadelphia, PA

Howard Clements III
Council Member
Durham, NC

Dennis Kavanaugh
Vice Mayor
Mesa, AZ

Richard T. Kemp
Council Member
Burlington, VT

Silas VanderWeel
Council Member
Sheboygan, WI

Peggy Lewis Gerac
Council Member
New Iberia, LA

20th Anniversary of Privacy Commission Report

The Governor's Commission on Personal Privacy issued its report to the California Legislature and the public on December 30, 1982. The 18-month study was convened by then-Governor Jerry Brown. It's mandate was to recommend ways in which the privacy of Californians could be better respected and protected. The commission's scope included concerns over informational privacy and territorial or physical privacy, as well as decisional or associational privacy. As to the latter, the commission focused on ways to better protect the freedom of choice of individuals with respect to family formation and living arrangements.

On this issue, the commission recommended that a state registry for alternate families be formed within the office of the Secretary of State and that rights and benefits eventually be afforded by the state to registered families. This recommendation envisioned a registration system which would include same and opposite-sex domestic partners.

Thomas F. Coleman, now Executive Director of AASP, served as the commission's Executive Director and was the author of its 500-page final report. Dr. Nora Baladerian, President of AASP, served as a member of the Commission.

Mission Statement

The American Association for Single People promotes the well being of and fairness for 82 million unmarried Americans, whether they live with a family member or partner, a roommate, or live alone. The promise of equality applies to all people – as workers, taxpayers, consumers, and citizens – whether married or not. AASP's mission is fulfilled by conducting research and providing information and advice to members, elected officials, corporate policy makers, and the media.

DONATE / JOIN

✔ Yes, I want to help AASP create a better future for unmarried Americans.

Here is my tax-deductible donation for:
[ ] $10 [ ] $25 [ ] $50 [ ] ____

[ ] check [ ] credit card

card no _____

expiration date _____

[ ] I am renewing my membership.
[ ] I am joining as a new member.
[ ] I am giving a gift membership.

Name of donor of gift membership or person renewing existing membership.

Name _____

New member's name:

_____

Address _____

Apt ____ Phone (___) _____

City _____

State ____ Zip _____

e-mail _____

American Association for Single People
P.O. Box 11030
Glendale, California 91226
(800) 993-2277
fax: (888) 295-1679
mail@unmarriedAmerica.org
www.unmarriedAmerica.org

National USA Week Roundup

National Unmarried and Single Americans Week, commemorated during September 16-22, 2002, was a terrific success. AASP took the opportunity to launch a public awareness campaign during National USA Week to bring public attention to the large and growing number of single and unmarried Americans and to acknowledge their contributions to society.

We invited mayors and governors throughout the nation to issue proclamations to acknowledge the occasion. In the final count, proclamations were issued in 33 states by Republican, Democratic, and Independent governors and mayors.

During National USA Week, AASP issued awards to acknowledge the leadership, contributions, and excellence of several organizations and individuals. Photographs of some of the awards presentations appear to the right.

Staff and members from Los Angeles traveled to the nation's Capitol where they were joined by some East Coast members to make our presence known in Washington. During that week we presented three of the National USA Week Awards. AASP member Perry Heath also presented poems he had especially written for these three award recipients.

We also visited the offices of all 535 members of Congress, a daunting task to say the least. AASP literature was delivered to each Representative and Senator. A news story about singles in the workplace was also given to single staff members.

The reception we received during USA Week was much different than what we experienced in May 2001 when some staffers were hostile or rude to us. This time we were treated respectfully by everyone we met.

Media attention during National USA Week was encouraging. Executive Director Thomas F. Coleman kicked off the week with an interview on New York city's most popular morning talk show. Later in the week stories were published in newspapers in California, Florida, and North Carolina.

We were delighted when The Hill, a newspaper read by members of Congress and their staffers, carried a special story about AASP a few weeks later. This story helped reinforce our message in the halls of power.

The Board of Directors and staff of AASP are grateful for the help we received from members in obtaining proclamations from their mayors and governors. We are also pleased that members such as Michael Patino and Perry Health took the entire week off from work to volunteer their time and services to AASP during National USA Week.

With additional help from AASP members Dr. Karen Gail Lewis and L. Joan Allen, we were able to show elected officials and members of the media that single people can have a good time and enjoy themselves as we educate society about serious issues affecting the lives of 82 million unmarried Americans.

Congratulations to all for a job well done! Now it's time to make plans for National USA Week in September 2003. ΔΔ

A Political Leadership Award to New York Governor George Pataki is presented by Tom Coleman and AASP member L. Joan Allen. Receiving the award on Pataki's behalf is his federal affairs representative James A. Mazarrella.

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton receives a Political Leadership Award from AASP members (left to right) Michael Patino, Dr. Karen Gail Lewis, Tom Coleman, Perry Heath, and Michael Vasquez.

Tom Coleman and Perry Heath present an Excellence in Media Award to CBS Radio News. Washington D.C. correspondents Howard Arenstein and Dan Raviv received the award for CBS News General Manager Constance Lloyd.