

# "Single Life"

by Perry 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;

After all votes in presidential election were tallied;  
Voter news services poll showed 35% were unmarried;  
Admit it, you've never considered single voters before;  
L.A. times exit poll, 66% women, 48% men voted for Gore;

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?;

"Singlenificant" 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;  
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;

Single low-income adults, if after 1959 you were born;  
Money in social security will net a negative return;  
If social security benefits were partially privatized;  
Gain nearly \$100,000, to be used without being victimized;

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?;

Stigma of "bastard" & "illegitimate" is way too vile;  
Henceforth, legislators & judges must use "unichild";  
This way, subconscious registers as in unicycle & unicorn;  
That the parents were single when child was born;

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 have you nothing to say?;

Unmarried taxpayers it's time to make a choice;  
Join AASP and help create a collective voice!!!!

*Perry Heath is a member of the American Association for Single People. He lives in Washington D.C. Perry recited the poem for Canadian Television in a news program which was broadcast into the homes of 2 million viewers in Canada on August 7, 2001. In the United States, CBS national radio taped his recitation of the poem for a series on single people which is being distributed to local stations throughout the nation for airing in early September 2001.*