that is the only question left to those with first-world problems. There is a tidy beach where a young couple is basking, carefree. How lovely. No little ones to intrude upon the perfect union of two selves entwined in rapturous indulgence. This was the cover of a recent Time magazine featuring a story titled "The Childfree Life: When having it all means not having children." The story explored a startling statistic: One in five American women ends her childbearing years without maternity. Some of that low fertility appears to be voluntary. Note that the title is childfree, not childless. Increasingly, couples—women, specifically—are deciding against childbearing for a variety of reasons, including the unwelcome prospect that scenes such as that depicted on the magazine cover might become less frequent. The pleasure principle seems to be gaining on the phenomenon in reverse.

Fast on the heels of Time's article came a story from the Guardian of Britain reporting research from the London School of Economics suggesting that smart women don't have children. According to the author of the book "The Intelligentsia Paradox," maternal urges drop by 25 percent with every extra IQ point. Although he opines that such women are too smart for their own good, one could also infer that you're dumb if you have kids. Yet another story, this one from the BBC News Magazine, plumbed the stretch marks and "breasts ... like Zeppelins"—as one reader put it—that frequently follow pregnancy and childbirth.

Letters

Act will help boost workforce equality

Dear Editor:

Over a decade has passed since the lastest adjustments to any workforce programs through which time Americans have been dealing with the growing impact of the longest war in the Middle East and its largest economic downturn since the 1980s. Fortunately, the new Workforce Investment Act offers a window of opportunity for Americans and lawmakers to agree on a piece of legislation that crosses partisan lines and allows for adjusting and updating the largest single source of federal funding for workforce development.

When society is being affected by so many complicated and diverse problems such as economic growth and meeting the health needs of families and returning, veterans, a system of programs focused on educating a 21st-century workforce of eager-to-learn and ready-to-train citizens is sorely needed.

Just this past month on July 31, the United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions agreed by a vote of 18-3 to support a 2013 Workforce Investment bill (S.1365) that finally reauthorizes the Workforce Investment Act, including the Rehabilitation Act. This has been a longstanding priority of the Independent Living Community and many of its national organizations and networks of advocates around the country due to the particular influence of the Rehab Act holds over these organizations. Among the many significant changes included in this year’s proposal is the creation of an Independent Living Administration and relocation of the Independent Living Program from the Rehabilitation Services Administration in the Department of Education to the Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living.

The complexity, size, and scope of the Workforce Investment Act should not be understated, and such a vital and influential support system should be given serious consideration by our representatives in Washington, D.C.

Keith Gurgui
Systems Advocate

They can be replaced

Dear Editor:

What is it with our so-called career politicians? After being elected for numerous terms, they believe they are a God and what they say and do has no fault. People, you have to realize politicians are not indispensable. You have to realize that, after having a job for 20 years, even yourself can be thrown to the side and your position can be filled with a competent individual. Even though you think you were the best person for your position, there is always someone that could be a little better for the job.

Please, this coming year during election time, seriously think about throwing out these career politicians and electing someone new with better ideas how government should work for the betterment of us taxpayers. Not for the betterment of these career politicians.

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It's OK. You aren't being singled out for special scrutiny.