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# From Concept to Story: Time Magazine and "America at 300 Million" Epilogue

Dykman decided to assemble a politics graphic, but he asked Stengel to accept a single page rather than two. "This wasn't a point about unwillingness to do [a spread]," Dykman explains. "Physically, there wasn't enough time to produce another set of graphics" before the magazine closed the following day.<sup>1</sup>

Fortunately, Dykman almost immediately recalled a graphic he had seen that could form the basis for a politics page. Robert Vanderbei, a mathematician at Princeton, had designed an alternate version of the "red-state, blue-state" map of the 2004 presidential election results. Rather than depicting in blue the states with more Democratic voters and in red the states with more Republican voters, Vanderbei had used a range of colors between red and blue to show the proportion of voters on each side in each district. The result was a mostly purple map, showing geographic gradations—rather than stark divisions—in Americans' political preferences. Not only did the map fit Dykman's contrarian theme, he also knew it touched on a special interest of Stengel's, who had argued several times in other publications that Americans are not as politically polarized as commonly assumed.

Dykman found the complete graphic on Vanderbei's website. "I said I should just run that," Dykman recalls. He needed the professor's permission to do so, however, and it was already too late at night to reach him. Dykman instead left a message on his answering machine explaining who he was and how he wished to use the map. "For all I knew he was in Hawaii," Dykman says. "I had no idea if he was there [or] would get the message." Hoping Vanderbei would give his assent promptly, Dykman began a page that included the map and an explanation. The display filled only half the page, however.

Dykman then scoured the websites of research organizations, think tanks, and polling institutes—what he calls his "usual suspects"—for new data about politics. The Pew Research

Author's interview with Jackson Dykman, on April 5, 2007, in New York City. All further quotes from Dykman, unless otherwise attributed, are from this interview

This Epilogue was written by Kathleen Gilsinan for the Knight Case Studies Initiative, Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University. Funding was provided by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. (06/2008)

Center for People & the Press, he found, had that week published a report on voter participation and some of the motivations leading people not to vote. Dykman fashioned charts from some of Pew's figures, wrote a summary, and added it to the page, which he printed out and tacked to his wall. By then, it was early Friday morning, and Dykman went home for a few hours' sleep before returning to work.

To Dykman's relief, Vanderbei called him to approve *Time*'s use of the purple map on Friday afternoon, just as the other reporters on Dykman's team were completing their own sections in anticipation of that evening's deadline for closing the magazine. Dykman was reasonably certain by then that his graphics package would be that week's cover story, but he says: "There's many, many a Friday when we've changed covers... It happens a lot. There's always a chance that some big news event could happen."

But the piece did make it to the cover. When the magazine arrived on newsstands on Monday, October 30, 2006, the cover featured an image of an American flag fashioned into a bar graph beneath the words "The United Stats of America." Stengel introduced the piece in an accompanying "Note to Readers":

On the eve of what could be a transformational election, we recently recorded the arrival of the 300 millionth American. The proximity of those two events created the perfect moment to launch what TIME expects will be an annual feature called "America by the Numbers," an illustrated look at who we are as a nation—and where we're going. It is TIME's first cover story told principally through graphics, and was produced by our superb graphics director, Jackson Dykman.



www.time.com

## Special Report: America at 300 million

Where we live.
How we vote.
How much we earn.
What we believe.
On the eve of an important election, an illustrated guide to who we are

# UNITED STATS OF AMERICA



#### AMERICA BY THE NUMBERS

OME PLACES ON EARTH ARE SIMPLY TOO BIG TO PHOTOgraph: the Grand Canyon, the Great Wall, Egypt's Valley of the Kings. Those monuments don't fit in any frame; they were made—by God or man—to overwhelm. You can visit them, snap some shots, but something is missing when you get back home. So how do you capture a country with 300 million independently minded and moving pieces? Who would even try?

We hunt the larger truths because we can't help it, especially within sight of a critical election, when pundits and pollsters have to reach general conclusions about countless specific doubts and hopes. But America won't sit still to have her portrait painted. Our politics especially resist reduction. One reason lawmakers have to draw such twisted districts to save their seats is that we are so much more purple than they'd like, a tangle of red süburbs of blue

cities and blue counties in red states. That mischievous map of a huge central red sea cupped by blue parentheses on the coasts makes us look like a very different country than we really are.

Our Spirit too does not lend itself to summary. To say that America is a very religious country is both true and unhelpful without a concordance. Researchers at Baylor University identified the different Gods we envision and the worldviews they invite. Whether you see an attentive Father or a distant one, a critical deity or a forgiving one, goes a long way toward explaining your views on military spending, the Iraq war, environmental responsibility and wealth redistribution.

The very idea of redistributing wealth can feel un-American in the land of Horatio Alger, until you look closely at how it's spread now. Half of us earn less than \$30,000 a year, 90% less than \$100,000. To get an idea of how we value our values, Howard Stern earns every 24 seconds what takes a cop or a teacher about a week. Parents hoping to persuade their children to buckle down in school might try this: as an adult, the more you know the less you'll have to work. Those with a high school degree or less spend far more of their time on the job than those with a college degree or beyond.

If Time is the new Money, then we learn something about who we are by how we spend it. Although they've cut back, most mothers still spend more time doing housework than taking care of their children—and twice as much time doing it as fathers do. But that is still a mark of progress. The total hours worked by men and women are roughly equal—about 65 hours a week—when you count paid and unpaid work. For all the headlines about the time crunch and the lost generation of latchkey kids, today's parents actually spend more time with their children than parents did in 1965. In the case of fathers, they spend twice as much.

Our families are getting smaller—with one vital exception. Compared with those of Europe and Japan, the U.S. population is younger and more colorful because of the continued arrival of immigrants and their higher-than-average birthrates. Of the 100 million Americans who will join us in the next 37 years, half will be immigrants or their children. In the next few decades, 97% of the world's population growth will occur in the developing world; the U.S. is the largest developed country in the world that is still growing at a healthy clip. That matters, strategically, economically and politically, as developed countries try to maintain their services.

their militaries, their economic strength. If there is already a gap in energy and optimism between the U.S. and Europe, it looks likely only to widen in the next generation.

America has always been a nation of pilgrims—people who come here and those born here who like to move around. But if you are feeling restless and want to explore the country, don't go by the names or you'll get lost. Loving County, Texas, needs to sound so friendly because it is the least populated county in the lower 48. New Jersey is the Garden State, but it's more like a planter, since it's the most densely populated in the country. Sundance, Wyo., sounds like a merry place, but it was named for a Lakota Indian festival in which young warriors cut off pieces of their flesh and then danced in a test of strength. You wonder who moves to Helltown, Devil's Den, Weedpatch (all in California); Boring, Ore.; Elephant Butte, N.M.; West Thumb, Wyo.; Trickem, Ala.; Possum Trot, Ky.; or Lonelyville, N.Y. But they are all probably close to someone's idea of paradise. —By Nancy Gibbs

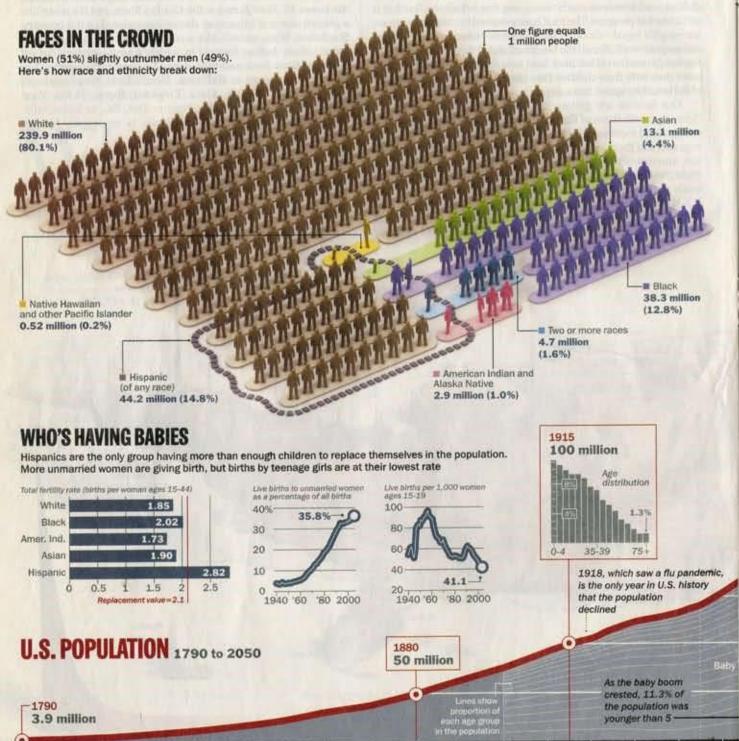
# Where We Live...

Unlike many developed countries, the U.S. keeps growing. We are also moving south and west. But compared with China or India, the nation is a vast prairie

80% of the U.S. population lives in a metropolitan area The entire state of Wyoming (pop. 509,300) has 4. Philadelphia 1. New York City 3. Chicago metro area fewer people than the Harrisburg, Pa., metro area Populations of top five shown metro area metro area (pop. 9,443,400) (pop. 5,823,200)-(pop. 18,747,300) New Jersey is the most densely populated state. with 1,134 people per square mile 2. Los Angels metro area (pop. 12,923,500) Loving County, Texas, 5. Dallas-Fort Worth metro area is the least populated (pop. 5,819,500) county in the lower 48 Fairbanks L Alaska is the most sparsely states, with 62 residents populated state, with 1 person per square mile 10 100 1,000 10,000 100,000 Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; LandScan 2003/UT-Battelle, LLC

# Who We Are...

The U.S. population is still expanding, a dynamic rooted in high immigration rates. Newcomers from Latin America are leading the push



### FOR EVERY 1,000 AMERICANS ...

568 live in the state in which they were born

455 are employed

420 voted in the last presidential election

405 are married

IMMIGRATION

By 1970 immigration

had slowed to a trickle.

Today it's approaching a

historic high, especially

if illegal immigrants are

200 million

0-4 35-39

In 1967 the

largest segment of

the foreign-born

population came

... Today 53% of the

foreign-born come

from Latin America, most from Mexico

Today 6.8% of the

younger than 5 -

population is

from Italy ...

distribution

NATION

counted

1967

341 drive to work alone

173 speak a language other than English at home

18% Percentage of total population from outside the U.S.

4.7% in 1970

6.19

Reference Bureau; National Center for Health Statistics; Pew Hispanic Center

159 have no health insurance

126 live in poverty 122 are 65 and older

115 claim Irish ancestry

1900

35-39

The U.S. is the third

country on earth but

still has fewer than 5%

U.S.

300

Projections

of the world's people

Rest of the world

6.25 billion

most populous

300 million

In 1850

2006

1850

23 are in prison, in jail, on parole or on probation

8 are grandparents caring for grandchildren

5 are in the active-duty military

→14.6%

If the estimated 11 million illegal

immigrants in the

U.S. are included

400 million 11.6%

35-39

75+

and older

70 to 74

65 to 69

60 to 64

55 to 59

50 to 54

45 to 49

40 to 44

35 to 39

30 to 34

25 to 29

20 to 24

16 to 19

10 to 14

5 to 9

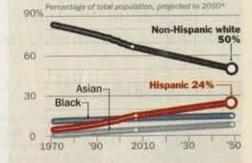
Birth to 4

1 is in kindergarten

2000

2040-50

Projected age distribution



About half of all U.S. population growth is

occurring among Hispanics. The median

W MORE HISPANIC, LESS WHITE

age for Hispanics is just 26

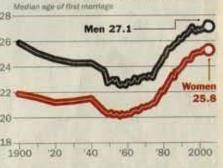
#### SMALLER FAMILIES

In 1915 the average household contained more than four people. Today the average is 2.5. Large families are increasingly rare



#### ET LATER MARRIAGE, OR NO MARRIAGE Marrying later in life is actually an old

custom revived. Today nearly half of Americans 25 to 29 are unmarried



#### MORE EDUCATED PEOPLE

The G.I. Bill enabled millions to go to college after World War II. Today the



upward trend continues across all groups

# How We Vote...

You might think the U.S. is an unbroken heartland of red Republicans, with blue Democrats clinging to the coasts. The truth is another shade

#### Are we red and blue ...

POPULAR VOTE, 2004



The past two presidential elections have been remarkably close. But because elections in the U.S. are winner-take-all, finishing second by one vote is the same as losing by a million. Thus the misleading map at right was born, and red state/blue state entered the American lexicon as a catchphrase for what divides us. But does it really mean anything?



### ... or purple all over?

The map at right shades the counties of the U.S. according to how close the 2004 presidential election was in each one. Most of the heavily populated areas of the country appear in shades of purple, denoting a close race. Finishing second by one vote doesn't win the election, but you'll find plenty of Democrats in South Dakota and Republicans in Oregon. "Purple America" map by Robert J. Vanderbei.

About three-quarters of voting-age Americans are registered to vote, but many don't bother on Election Day. In 2004, the highest proportion of eligible voters since 1992 turned out, but that was only 64%, compared with 60% in 2000. Turnout is even lower for off-year elections like the one coming Nov. 7. A new Pew survey looks at who votes and who doesn't:

35% of adult Americans are regular voters. They are registered and always vote.

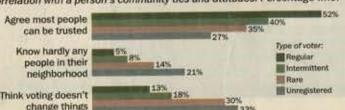
Whichever color, why not vote?

20% are intermittent voters. They are registered but don't always vote

23% are rare voters. They are registered but seldom vote

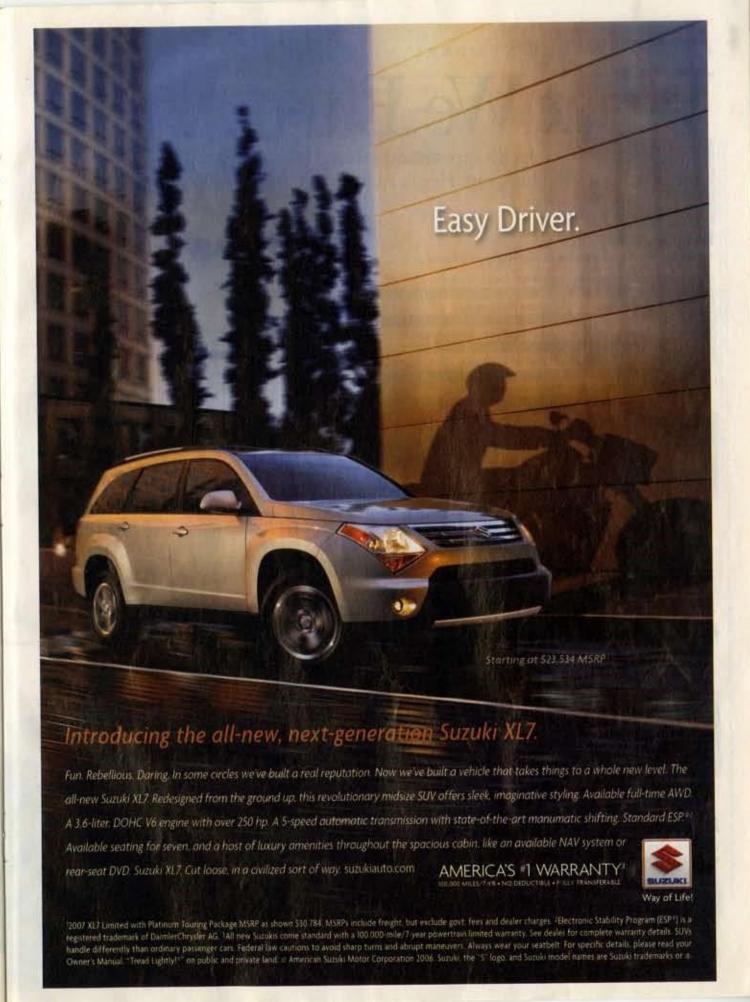
22% registered but seidom vote

Voting participation increases with age and income, but it also has a strong correlation with a person's community ties and attitudes. Percentage who:



Top five reasons people don't register to vote:

No time 19%
Recently moved 17%
Don't care about politics 14%
No confidence in government 12%
Not a U.S. citizen 7%



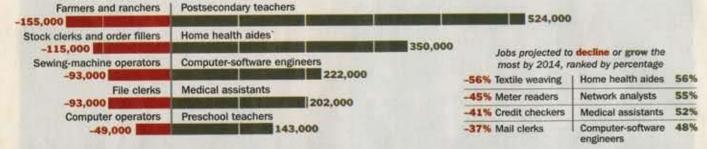
Source: Peri Research Center for the People & the Press. The survey is based on telephone interviews of 1,804 adult Americans, conducted Sept. 21 to Oct. 4. The margin of error is :13 percentage points

# What We Earn...

As manufacturing jobs disappear and service jobs emerge, the way Americans work is changing. Here's a look at what we make and how we do it

Hot jobs, cold jobs

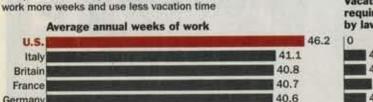
Top five U.S. occupations projected to decline or grow the most by 2014, ranked by the total number of jobs



#### For every 1,000 working people, there are ...



#### All work and no play Compared with Europeans, American employees



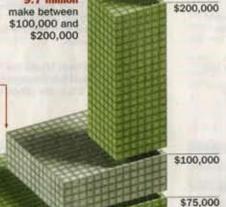


(Weeks)

### This is what 99.5% of all Americans make in a year ...

Americans filed tax returns in 2004, the most recent year for which complete statistics are available. This is the income pyramid for the U.S.-broad at the lower steps, where most people fall, and extremely thin at the top, where the very wealthy live. The box at right shows how far away the wealthiest are from everyone else

> 2.3 million make between \$200,000 and \$500,000



\$50,000 \$40,000 \$30,000 \$25,000 \$20,000 \$15,000 \$10,000

\$5,000

## ... and what the richest 0.5% make

9,677 Tax returns show income of more than \$10 million Average: \$26.5 million

\$500,000

Adjusted

gross

income on tax

return

15,835 Tax returns show

income between \$5 million and \$10 million

Average: \$6.8 million

Chief executive 2 hr. 55 min.



Police officer 43 hours



43 hours



Farmer



103 hours

More than 132 million

One cube equals 10,000 tax returns

Median salary

\$16,260

90% of tax returns report

income of less than

50% report income

\$100,000

70% report income of less than

of less than \$30,000-

Sources: Burnau of Labor Statistics:

Internal Revenue Service; The State of

Morking America 2006/2007: Salary.com; Forbes.com

\$50,000

9.7 million make between

> 65,548 Tax returns show income between

\$2 million and

Avarage: \$2.9 million

582,213 Tax returns show income between \$500,000 and \$2 million

Average: \$853.085

The bottom 99.5% of

\$10 million

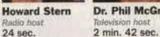
\$5 million

\$2 million

\$1.5 million

\$1 million

\$500,000



How much time at work does

it take to make \$1,000?





**Kobe Bryant** 5 min. 30 sec.



Maria Sharapova



Wolfgang Puck 7 min. 30 sec.



Doctor, G.P. 13 hr. 5 min.



# What We Believe...

The U.S. is overwhelmingly a nation of believers. We just don't believe the same things. More than 85% of Americans follow a Christian faith, but that strong majority is built of dozens of denominations that diverge on the most basic questions: What role does God play in the world? What does he want of us? What does the Bible really mean?

I have no doubts that God exists

I believe in a higher power or cosmic force

14%

I believe in God, but with some doubts 11%

I don't believe in anything beyond the physical world **=5%** 

The largest segment of believers is evangelical Protestant, a blanket term for the dozens of denominations that emphasize the authority of the Bible, salvation through a personal relationship with Jesus, and the need to share their faith with others. But few Evangelicals welcome that label, preferring "Bible-believing" or "born again."

#### Nine out of 10 Americans think there's something bigger out there. But what? A look inside our search for meaning

**Evangelical Protestant** Mainline Protestant Roman Catholic

CRITICAL GOD who does not really

interact with the world but is unhappy

with its current state and will exact

21% of people in the Eastern U.S.

hold this view, while just 14% of

divine justice

Westerners do

Unaffiliated

Black Protestant

Jewish 2.5%

All other religioris about 5%

The remaining pieces of our religious quilt comprise the minority who follow other faiths-Judaism, Islam and Buddhism, for example-or no religion. About 5% of Americans are atheists. Researchers at Baylor University have been probing beyond the simple question of belief in God to explore American faith. Below are some findings:

## HOW WE SEE GOD ... Participation in a particular religious denomination

doesn't always translate into a consistent set of views about the world and society. By asking dozens of questions about how Americans perceive God, researchers have constructed four religious viewpoints that correlate strongly with a person's social and political outlook.

... SHAPES OUR POLITICS

Percentage who agree that:

31% believe in an **AUTHORITARIAN GOD who is** deeply involved in daily life and world events. God is angry at sin and can punish the unfaithful or ungodly

53% of African Americans share this view, as do 56% of people who strongly believe that God is a "he"



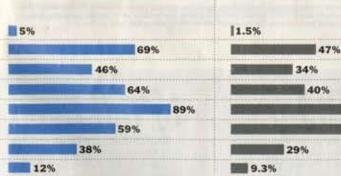
23% believe in a **BENEVOLENT GOD** who is deeply involved in daily life and world events but is mainly a positive force reluctant to punish

People younger than 30 are the least likely to hold this conception of God-just 13% in the cohort do



24% believe in a **DISTANT GOD** who does not interact with the world and is not angry. God is more of a cosmic force that set the laws of nature in motion

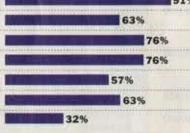
37% of those with household incomes over \$100,000 a year take this view. 42% of Jews view God this way

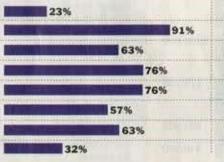


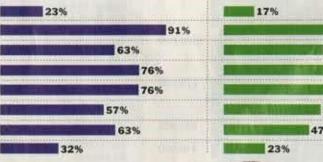
## 55% 63% 81% 53% 47%

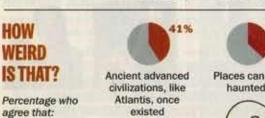
Creatures like Bigfoot and the Loch Ness monster will one day be discovered CORBUS RETTMANA

#### Government should allow prayer in school Government should increase military spending Government should expand authority to fight terrorism Government should protect the environment better Government should distribute wealth more evenly The war in Iraq is justified Trust President Bush "a lot"









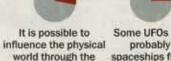


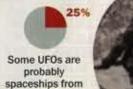
Abortion is always wrong



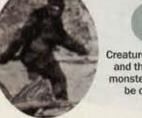


mind alone





other worlds





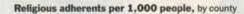
Astrologers, palm readers, tarot-card readers, fortune tellers and psychics can foresee the future Women 18%

Sources: Questions about belief are from Americ Piety in the 21st Century, the Baylor Religion Survey, September 2006. The survey has 1,721 randomly selected respondents and a margin of error of ±4 percentage points. Denomination maps are from Religious Congregations & Membership in the United States: 2000. Glenmary Research

63%

## **DENOMINATION NATION**

Seventy-seven percent of the U.S. population falls into one of three religious groups-mainline Protestants, evangelical Protestants and Catholics.





#### Mainline Protestants



## **Evangelical Protestants**









#### Average time spent per day

on 11 main activities by men and women, married and single









Personal care, sleep

Work

Free time

Housework

9 hr. 42 min.

12 hr. 54 min

6 hr. 30 min.

5 hr. 18 min.

8 hr. 48 min.

Shopping







1 hr. 26 min



2 № 26 mm







Average time per day

15-to-19-year-olds

20-to-24-year-olds

45-to-54-year-olds

65 years and older

Married

Single

28 min

34 min.

spent on grooming

#### AMERICA BY THE NUMBERS

# How We

If time is the currency of life, then that currency is fast rising in value. Those 1,440 minutes in a day go a lot further than they did 40 years ago, as we cram as much as possible between sunrise and sunset. To get a measure of how Americans spend their moments, the Bureau of Labor Statistics' American Time Use Survey (ATUS) asked 13,000 household respondents to describe how they lived on one day in 2005. Their input let us take a rare peek at the Jonesesand discover a few surprises.

#### **FAMILY PATTERNS**

**EMORE TIME WITH THE KIDS** Dual-income middle-class moms and dads appear to be the busiest of parents, each averaging 64 to 70 hr. a week in paid and unpaid work. Still, they spend as much time-if not more-with their kids as parents did in 1965. Mothers are generally the ones who sacrifice sleep and leisure time to make that possible. Time

42 hr. 30 min.

34 hr. 30 min.

31 hr 42 min

diaries over four decades show that employed women spend 40% less time on housework. Each week employed mothers average 5 more hr. of work than employed fathers do and 19 more hr. than stay-at-home mothers.

#### **BDAD STEPS IN**

Since 1965, men have doubled their share of housework to more than 9 hr. a week. After 1985, fathers spent significantly more time with children, and married women spent more time out of the house

■ THE WEDDED VS. THE SINGLE A married person spends 32 min. more at work, 22 min. less at other people's homes and 58 min, more at home each day. A married man works 11/2 hr, more than a single guy and spends three times as much of his day caring for his lawn, garden and houseplants.

Average time

parents spent

per week on

married

activities

Sources: American Time Use Survey 2005 (Bureau of Labor Statistics); Changing Rhythms of American Family Life by Suzanne M. Bianchi, John P. Robinson and Metissa A. Milikir; Time for Life by John P. Robinson and Genthrey Godbey; Measuring Trends in Leisure: The Allocation of Time over Five Decades by Mark Agular and Erik Hurst.

#### **WORK TIME**

2 NC 20 min

#### M KNOW MORE.

LABOR LESS Proof that slaving away at school pays off: ATUS 2005 data from people 25 or older suggest that higher educational achievement leads to fewer hours spent working, especially on weekends. Although Americans often complain about being overloaded, they work fewer hours in paid jobs than they did 40 years ago.

Average time per day working, based on education level

#### Average day

Cess than right scho	7 hr. 54
High school graduat	
and the same of the same	7 hr, 50 r
Some college	
	7 hr. 35 min
Bachelor's degree a	THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE
- III Horitabaan -	7 hr. 22 min.
Weekend, ho	liday

#### **FREE TIME**

#### **GLUED TO THE TUBE**

According to various surveys, Americans have gained from 4 to 8 hr. a week of leisure time since 1965, mostly because appliances have reduced housework. One result: our time spent exercising has doubled. But TV is still our preferred way of goofing off, Men 65 or older have the most free time each day: 8 hr. 9 min.

## Watching TV

Average time

and holidays

per day on

weekends

spent on

activities

sports

leisure and

Socializing

Reading

Playing games, computer use 30 min.

Relaxing, thinking 24 min. 17 min.

Sports, exercise, recreation 29 min

#### PERSONAL CARE

#### **MSPRUCING UP**

Although the ATUS results right, show Americans put a lot of time into their looks, data from the Americans' Use of Time Project show a 20% drop in hours spent grooming over the past 20 years. One reason may be the easing of business dress codes. Women spend nearly 2 hr. more each week on such tasks as applying makeup and doing their nails than men spend on, say, shaving.

#### **WSLEEPING IN**

ATUS data show that we average 8½ hr. of sleep

per day. (That's roughly an hour more than in 1965, according to other time-use surveys.) Married people are less likely to be asleep at 7 a.m. than single folks are. And another plug for education: the time that people wake up in

MA LITTLE LOVIN' The ATUS survey lumped cuddling, kissing, necking and having sex into one category, on which Americans on average spent a mere 1 min. per day. (Keep in mind that respondents may have under-reported out of modesty). The age groups that spent the most time thus engaged (2 min. per day) were 20-to-24-year-olds and 45-to-54-year-olds. As in similar surveys, men reported spending more time-sometimes twice as much-engaging in sexual activity than women did.

the morning gets later as education levels increase.

### BY THE HOUR

When do you wake up? Break for lunch? Do your shopping? Call it a day? ATUS pooled the diaries of respondents ages 15 or older to chart something like a typical day in the life of the country

Bars show percentage of population doing above activities during this hour

MORNING BELL Work has begun for 32% of us, and 4% are off to school, while 37% may still be sleeping, cuddling or primping. About 18% are up doing chores; the same percentage may choose to twiddle their thumbs.



hour seems hardwired, so 32% of us pause to eat. About 12% are shopping-a percentage that hovers at that level through 6 p.m. Those who are working account for 33%.

HAPPY HOUR About 10% of us still linger at work, while more than 60% jump into peak leisure time, which spans the next 3 hr. The prime hour for evening eating and drinking is 6 to 7: by then 31% have begun to indulge.

LIGHTS OUT About half of us are preparing for bed, if we haven't already fallen asleep. But about 47% of us are still enjoying our free time. About 12% are doing household chores or working late.

LAST CALL Nearly everyone is asleep, but 3% of us are still up, mostly at work or hanging out. Far fewer may be having a late-night snack or balancing their checkbook; 0.1% may be cramming for an exam or bidding on eBay.

9 Ac dimin.

What We Buy...

Consumer spending on everything from Apple iPods to Axe body spray powers

70% of the U.S. economy. A look at average daily purchases of popular products



12-oz. servings of



Margherita Pinot Grigio





**88,163**Apple iPods



300,000



**125,000** Barbie dolls 150,000 Hot Wheels Basic Cars

14,100 Response pregnancy

123,287 Trojan

Ultra Thin

condoms



Krispy Kreme

doughnuts

original glazed

**50,051,507** 12-oz. cans of Pepsi FIRST RESPONSE







20-oz. bottles of

Aquafina water





1.900,000

234,586 cartons of 64oz. Tropicana Pure Premium (no pulp) orange juice



153,424



Starbucks



87,431 Slim-Fast Optima multi-pack shakes

28,876

Axe Phoenix

body spray



2,400,000



500,000



Dell notebook computers



6.000,000 Federal Express packages shipped





24,657 cat food

TIME.com

66,665

Black LashExact

mascaras

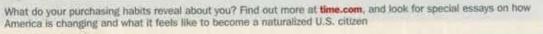














Yes, he'll immerse himself in your flower business. No, he won't mention it at softball practice.

Our philosophy is simple. Before we can protect your small business, we have to truly understand your small business. We have to understand your unique risks, your goals, your passion for the business. And if that means showing up at softball smelling like lilacs, well, that's a risk we'll gladly take. Give your independent agent a call to see all the ways Travelers can keep you in-synch, and keep your business, shall we say, blossoming.



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