

# Adoption Network Law Center

Monthly Update Newsletter September/October 2003



## Setting the Record Straight: The Truth About Adoption in the *USA Today*

**D**ear Editor of USA Today:  
Recently your writer Karen Peterson wrote two articles about adoption. One was on 8/22/03 and the other 8/25/03.

While we're appreciative of adoption awareness, we feel that Ms. Peterson's information greatly lacks realistic and accurate foundations.

Positive adoption enlightenment is so desperately needed in our society. So many of us need the insight and knowledge to deal with the endless issues that affect adopting parents, adoptees, and birthparents. When articles are fabricated and inaccurate, as in the case of Ms. Peterson's, then adoption takes many steps backwards.

The first article, "Adopting Reflects Diversity", discusses the lack of white babies in the U.S. Because of this supposed lack, adoptive parents are going overseas and must reckon with the problems and issues that face internationally adopted children.

The second article was titled "Census Counts Adoptees 1.6 Million in U.S."

I'd like to share where these articles ran astray. It's awfully shocking how little real research goes into the various writers' opinions.

While it's impressive that the Census Bureau has finally awoken to the realization that a healthy percentage of children are adopted, I question where the number 1.6 million kids under 18 years old was hatched from: only one in six families filled out their Census forms, which is the likely reason that this number is incorrect.

In the adoption world (the real world), we believe there are more than 2.8 million adopted children under the age of 18, and adoption experts think that is a very low estimate. These are people from the National Council for Adoption and Adoption Institute. Adoption is their mainstay, not a news writer who whipped up an article in a day and puts flimsy information into print.

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*Do you have comments or questions regarding ANLC's Monthly Update? We welcome any and all comments about our Monthly Update.*

*Please send an e-mail to [newsletter@adoptionpro.com](mailto:newsletter@adoptionpro.com) expressing your concerns. We look forward to addressing your issues and concerns so that we can better accommodate your needs.*



# *Adoption Network Law Center*

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The children adopted through Adoption Network Law Center in the past 18 months are representative of the ethnic diversity of our nation. Therefore, the majority of the children adopted through the Network are Caucasian. Could someone tell me where the unbearable shortage is?? We feel we are a pretty good cross-section of the country. If anything, we probably get more part or all Hispanic babies being born in California. Texas gets the most. And yet, adopting parents are brainwashed that they can't get a white child, and so go to China.

Recently, an East Coast couple who have adopted two "white babies" from us came to California to vacation with us. We all recognized the great chemistry we had in the beginning and a fabulous bi-coastal relationship has developed over the past five years. The husband's sister and her husband came as well. They have two daughters they adopted from China, 3 and 6 years old. They wanted to adopt

their second child from Adoption Network Law Center, but felt that their older daughter needed someone in the family who looked like her – something we support whole-heartedly. They live in Connecticut. The girls have experienced outright racial prejudice. They aren't invited to many of the birthday parties of their fellow students and are excluded from many play dates. The parents have now decided to move out of Connecticut (their dream state) and back to New York where their daughters will be more racially accepted. This is sad.

My advice to adopting parents; stay home, be patient and spare yourself the painful issues that are innate with foreign adoptions. I can't imagine being born in the United States and adopted by a Chinese family and never having any connection with the society and culture from which I came...can you?

Just some food for thought for sloppy writers.

The Andy Rooney of Adoption

