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STATE OF THE UNIONS

Heidi Snow and Arthur Cinader Jr.

The Cinader wedding was featured in The New York Times Vows on August 11, 2002

By ERIC V. COPAGE

ALL couples eventually learn that marriage requires the willingness to make adjustments, though sometimes that means confronting deep-seated anxieties and shadows from the past. For Heidi Snow and Arthur Cinader Jr., the shadow involved an air disaster.

They had begun dating in December 1997, almost a year and a half after her fiancé, Michel Breistroff, had been killed in the explosion of T.W.A. Flight 800 off Long Island in July 1996. Unable to find a group that offered emotional support for her loss, Ms. Snow, whose great-grandfather founded the Snow's canned chowder company, started her own group, AirCRAFT Casualty Emotional Support Services, which became a nonprofit bereavement organization for those who have lost loved ones in air disasters.

So it's no wonder that she was unenthusiastic when Mr. Cinader told her he wanted to take up a longstanding ambition — flying.

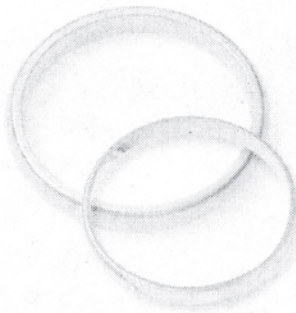
"Heidi didn't encourage it, but she didn't show any signs of it really affecting her," Mr. Cinader, 39, said.

She remembers saying to him something to the effect of, "I support you in this."

He began flying after they moved — in the fall of 2001 — from New York to Santa Fe, N.M., where he worked with his father, Arthur Cinader Sr., the founder of J. Crew, in a new business venture. She did not tell her husband how uneasy his new hobby made her feel.

"I'm in constant communication with people who've lost people that way," Mrs. Cinader, 36, said. "He bought a plane, and I remember night after night when he went off to fly, I would be waiting anxiously at home thinking, 'I hope he gets home O.K.'"

Reflecting on why she did not just come out and say she hated the idea, she said: "I knew I couldn't take away someone's dream. It only makes for frustration. If I had a dream,



he would be supportive of me, even if it wasn't ideal for him."

During their time in New Mexico, Mr. Cinader began noticing that his wife seemed unhappy, but his flying seemed to be the least of it.

"The only thing that excited her seemed to be making plans to go somewhere else," such as vacations or

visits to her family, he said. "While she never complained or made me feel bad for moving there, it was obvious to me that she missed her friends and family.

"I was going to an office with other people. I felt that she felt she was locked in a home and not interacting with other people. She had no way to even start networking."

For her part, Mrs. Cinader said simply that New Mexico "was a quiet place and I prefer a more active lifestyle."

Her husband said her behavior suggested that there was a more profound restlessness.

"I never felt the marriage would not work," Mr. Cinader said. "That was not an option. But I felt I had to get us out of there."

In early 2003, they moved to San Francisco, where he helped found Sugar Inc., an Internet media company where he is a software developer. Mr. Cinader said the move from a suburban to an urban environment made his wife happier, and both agree the change had an unexpected salutary effect on their relationship.

"I think we got a lot closer when we moved to San Francisco," she said. "We had to start anew by ourselves. I could see him for who he was, and not as a counterpart to his family or buddies. We each had to show our identity for the first time when we moved away from everything we knew."

He said that as they were getting established in San Francisco, "We were more like adolescents discovering the fun of being together." In May of last year, their daughter, Sadie, was born.

A development that coincided with the move to California was that Mr. Cinader gave up flying — "not as cool and convenient" as he thought it would be, he now says.

He's turned in his wings for a surfboard and a sailboat, a "much safer means of travel," Mrs. Cinader said.



PETER DASILVA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

FEAR OF FLYING Heidi Cinader and Arthur Cinader Jr., with their daughter, Sadie. For Mr. Cinader, the surf's up now.

A move to San Francisco rekindles a sense of excitement about life and about a relationship.