

Commentary

Jim Davidson
Syndicated Columnist

Seven stages of a marriage cold

It's been said that "marriage is a deal in which a man gives away half of his groceries in order to get the other half cooked." While there may be some truth in this humorous definition, the institution of marriage is very important to the success of our nation, and a good marriage is certainly to be treasured.

If you are a married person or planning to get married, I believe you will enjoy this little story I discovered some time ago. It's called "The Seven Stages Of A Marriage Cold." This story has been around for some time and I'm not sure where it came from originally, but it illustrates the fact that in most cases the happy, blissful state of marriage goes downhill with the passing of time.

While it certainly doesn't have to be this way, and there are exceptions to the rule, the first few days, weeks and even months of marriage are usually very happy times. As you read this story, just keep in mind that each stage of the cold represents one year of marriage, by the way the wife's cold is handled by the husband.

First year: The husband says, "Sugar Dumplin', I'm worried about my baby girl. You've got a bad sniffle and I'm putting you in the hospital for a general check-up and a good rest. I know the food is lousy, but I'll have your meals brought in from the deli. I've already got it arranged."

Second year: "Listen, Darling, I don't like the sound of your cough. I've called Dr. Miller to rush over here. Now go to bed like a good girl. I'll please, just for your old dear papa."

Third year: "Honey, maybe you had better lie down. Nothing like a little rest when you feel lousy. I'll bring you something to eat. Do you have any soup in the house?"

Fourth year: "Look, Dear, be sensible! After you feed the kids and get all the dishes washed, maybe you'd better hit the sack for a while."

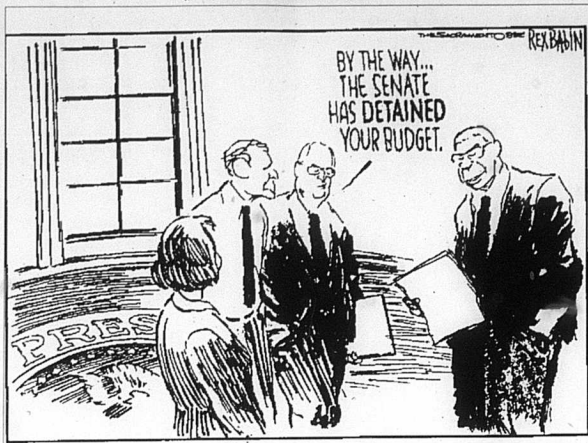
Fifth year: "Why don't you get up and get yourself an aspirin? And stop complaining so much."

Sixth year: "If you would gargle or something, instead of sitting around and hawking in my face like a seal, I would appreciate it."

Seventh year: "For Pete's sake, stop sneezing! What are you sneezing? Give me pneumonia!"

If you are a married person, I hope you have one

See SEVEN on 5 Senator Ed Miller



Open Forum

Miller to serve on tax reform subcommittee

State Senator Ed Miller has been appointed to serve on the newly created Subcommittee on Tax Policy Issues of the interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue.

The subcommittee on tax policy issues will be composed of members from the House and Senate and they will study tax policy issues. The subcommittee has been authorized to meet in April and May, 2001.

"Our great Commonwealth is long overdue for a comprehensive tax reform package," said Miller. Senator Miller co-sponsored, along with all 18 Senate Democrats, similar legislation during the 2001 regular session calling for a comprehensive revenue neutral task force.

Miller went on to say that "being appointed to serve on this committee means that I have an opportunity to serve my fellow Kentuckians and help bring relief to those Kentuckians who shoulder the income tax burden in our state."

The tax reform task force will be required to report to the Legislative Research Commission no later than November 1, 2001.

Sen. Ed Miller, a Cynthia Democrat, represents the state's 30th senatorial district, comprised of Bourbon, Bracken, Harrison, Nicholas, Scott and Woodford counties. The senator encourages constituents with questions or concerns to contact him by calling toll-free 1-800-372-7181.

Tax relief is needed now for America

Every year, Americans go through a painful ritual. We pull out shoeboxes full of receipts. We go to the post office and pick up forms. We spread our papers and pencils and bank statements all over the kitchen table. We put on our green eyeshades and squint at tax tables. Or, we pay someone else to worry about it all.

In other cases, every April 15, we have to figure out just how much of our money belongs to Uncle Sam, and it is often a depressing time of year. But at least this year, there is a ray of hope in our future - it may not be quite so depressing the next time around.

The fact of the matter is that the Federal government overcharges us. We pay substantially more in taxes than the government spends. To a certain extent, this is necessary - for decades Washington politicians spent more than we collected, and even dipped into the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds to pay for it.

In 1995, the first year I served in Congress, we put a stop to that. And we controlled the increase in spending, so that we protected Social Security and Medicare and began paying off the national debt.

In fact, by 2011, we will have paid off every penny of publicly held redeemable debt. But, even after protecting Social Security and Medicare, even after paying off the national debt and providing for America's priorities, the government is still collecting

more money than it needs. That money is a tax overcharge, and it ought to be returned to the people who paid it. Beyond the question of simple fairness, there is another reason: if it stays in Washington, it will be spent. And you know how to spend that money better than Congress does.

That's why I voted for three major tax bills in the last several months. The first provided across-the-board tax relief to all Americans by dramatically reducing the tax rates, with the highest rate reduction - one-third - going to those taxpayers in the lowest tax bracket. In addition to cutting taxes, it reduced the number of tax brackets from five to four, simplifying the tax code.

The second tax bill eliminated the unfair Marriage Penalty tax, and increased the per-child tax credit from \$500 to \$1,000. With all of the problems facing families today, the last thing they need is a government that unfairly taxes couples simply for being married.

By repealing this penalty - which averages \$1,400 per couple - and doubling the per-child tax credit, we will remove this government-erected financial barrier to the family's financial future. Finally, the third bill repealed the unfair Death Tax, which punishes small businesses and family farmers. Despite having paid taxes your whole life and taxes on the increase in your savings, you face yet another tax when you die - and this one goes as high as 60 percent. The Death Tax especially hurts farmers and other small business owners because the value of every business asset is added to their taxable estates. A farmer may earn only a modest income from the

family farm, but after adding up the value of all of the equipment, buildings and land, his or her children may well owe a hefty tax. In many cases, the children can't come up with the money to stay in business, just to pay the IRS.

While this is bad enough for the children, who have lost the family business, it is worse for their employees. Thus the employees of these businesses and farms incur a 100 percent penalty when their jobs are lost.

The potential loss of jobs compounds an already uncertain economic outlook. Federal taxes alone currently count for more than 20 percent of our Gross Domestic Product. We need a tax cut to reduce this historically high level of taxation, and to put real money in the pockets of working Americans, families and businesses.

The truth is that we can't afford not to give tax relief. The tax cuts passes through Congress by President Kennedy and Reagan immediately preceded periods of vigorous economic expansion. The reason is simple - when you spend and invest your own money, we all derive the maximum benefit from new jobs and new markets. When the government spends it for you, much of it is used in ways that are as economically productive.

The tax cuts I voted for are reasonable and fair. We have taken care of our responsibilities to Social Security, Medicare, national debt and funding America's priorities; the rest should be returned to the people who created it - the taxpayers.

Congressman Ernie Fletcher

How to reach your City & County Officials

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Donnie Bromberg
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Charles Ring
Clyde Miller
- Mayor
Billy Mac Gaunce
- Nicholas County Fire Chief & Emergency Management Director
Mark Hughes
- Magistrate
Billy Dixon
- Magistrate
Daryl Stacy
- Magistrate
Avery Thurnburg
- Magistrate
Jeff Randolph
- Magistrate
Steve Hamilton

EIGHTH GRADERS

Continued from Page one
Howard, Jenny Hunter, Angelica Lea, Jessica Morris, Lacey Osborne, Jennifer Rice, Jessica Riggs, Kellie Roberts, Ashley Sidles, Ricky Sparks, Heather Treadway, and Crystal White.

Academic Team: Lenisa Mitchell, Bethany Norton, and Ashley Whalen.
National Junior Honor Society: Brittany Baird, Rachel Brewer, Alan Curtinger, Adam Dunn, Tabitha Fryman, Daniel Fugitt, Lenley Gilvin, Whitney Gray, Jai Hardin, Ashline Howard, Jenny Hunter, Angelica Lea, Ashton Markland, Jessica Mitchell, Jessica Morris, Lacey Osborne, Tyler Pryor, Jenny Rice, Jessica Riggs, Kellie Roberts, Jared Selvaige.

Ashleigh Sidles, Ricky Sparks, Heather Treadway, Ashley Whalen, and Crystal White. Students who were members of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes: Steven Berry, Rachel Brewer, Ian Banker, Anita Busell, Samantha Bussell, Jacob Carr, Christina Curtis, Stanley Fritts, Tabitha Fryman, Morgan Goodpaster, Whitney Gray, Jenna Green, Ashline Howard, Angelica Lea, Ashton Markland, Jessica Morris, Lacey Osborne, Jessica Peitt, Justin Richardson, Jessica Smith, Amber Taubee, Heather Treadway, and Ashley Whalen.

Mr. Miller closed the ceremony with a congratulations to all and good luck in going to the High School.

SEVEN FROM 4

of the happiest marriages to be found anywhere, whether you have been married for three days or fifty years. I'm sure you know, marriage is one of the most basic and most important institutions in our society.

Let's keep in mind that a successful marriage is built on mutual trust, love and a lifetime commitment to each

other. I believe someone said it best with these words: "Marriage is not looking at each other, it is looking in the same direction together."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jim Davidson is a motivational speaker and syndicated columnist. You may contact him at 2 Bentley Drive, Conway, AR 72032.



The herb rosemary is also known by the name "dew of the sea" when placed in a bath, its leaf is believed by some to stimulate circulation.

Check Out These Web Sites:

- Here are a few Web sites you may want to watch:
Bookstashed.com at www.about.seaford.com.
American Society of Health System Pharmacists at www.asphedication.com.
The Kingsford Products Company at www.kingsford.com.
Bernhardt Shopping Tips at www.bernhardt.com.
Stewart House Publishing, Inc. at www.stewarthousepub.com.
Junior Achievement at www.ja.org.
Sally Beauty Company at www.askally.com.
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