

Rules for living a clean and happy life

by Matt Duddy
Columnist

Since I'm in second place in *The Collegian's Great Hate Mail Race*, I decided to become even more ambitious to take the lead. I have two nasty letters under my belt, and am second only to Tarsha Proctor. So far, she's the champion, sitting on a pile of 12 feisty responses. I think I can beat her 6:1 lead.

This column is about living a clean and happy life, free of guilt, and respected by all. Living a good life is surprisingly easy. All you need to do is: 1) follow federal, state, and local laws unless you think you can break them without punishment, 2) be good to everyone unless you'll never see or hear from them again, and 3) follow these rules while thinking only of yourself.

As soon as you acquire your new attitude on life, you'll be amazed at how much better you feel. After a while, people will realize how different you are, and will respect you by scrambling to get out of your way, and cowering at your feet.

Here we go:

#1: If you're going to crash, you might as well wreck your car enough that the damage surpasses your deductible.

#2: When you're in a busy place and you see someone you don't care for, pretend not to see them. If they come up to you, act surprised to find them there.

#3: Treat your relatives nicer before they die. Otherwise, they might will the money to someone else.

#4: Never lie unless the situation is beyond recovery. Instead, only tell half the truth. If necessary, be extremely literal in everything you say.

#5: Attempt to use your rou mouth to get you where you want to go only if nothing else is going to work. At least it will scare and shock everyone to make you feel better.

#6: As soon as you get into someone else's car, be sure to adjust the seat, play with the door lock, check to see if there's a mirror under the visor, look into

the glove compartment, and instruct the driver how to get there, even if everyone knows.

#7: If things aren't going your way, you might as well make them worse than they really are.



#8: If there's someone you don't want to see, don't go to Perkins.

#9: Remember that when you're repairing large pieces of

machinery, the parts you drop will always fall into places you didn't know existed. You can hear them hit the bottom, but they disappear upon impact.

#10: If you have more than ten items, go through the express check-out anyway.

#11: Should someone proclaim superiority and think themselves better than you, be truly vulgar in order to manipulate them into suspecting that you're more of a hog than you really are.

#12: Attempt to give Canadian coins to the RUB desk, since they try to slip them to us.

#13: There's nothing immoral about reusing your ski lift ticket, unless you're told to buy a new one by the guy checking them.

#14: Discuss truly gross topics in public places.

#15: Take things back just before the warranty is up, and complain about everything that's wrong. Urge them to replace it with a newer, nicer model.

#16: Reveal your own sinful deeds and wicked indulgences to

those who are openly pious, and dare to imply that you are a sinner, and they are not.

#17: Cover your mistakes so well that they are never detected. If they are, rearrange the evidence in order to prevent self-incrimination.

#18: Should someone you know just suffer a trauma, tell them to look at the bright side of the situation.

#19: Enjoy honking your horn at senior citizens still passing through the intersection when your light turns green.

#20: Disclose shocking and disgusting things to people who are pompous and condescending. Draw pleasure from their judgmental discomfort.

Should you have any moral objections to some of these rules, just think about how many times you've been stomped on! This philosophy should put you right up there with the best of mankind. *Remember:* What comes around goes around! Enjoy your new life!

Goodbye Tax Relief: Hello Shared Sacrifice

by Dave Barry
Syndicated Columnist

OK, middle-class taxpayers! April 15 is right around the corner! Time for your Tax Relief!

Remember? Last year, during the election campaign, William Jefferson John F. Kennedy Abraham Lincoln Clinton went all over the country saying, in one of his most sincere voices, that he was going to give TAX RELIEF to middle-class taxpayers (defined, technically, as "taxpayers whose annual income does not exceed the amount that the new administration spent replacing the drapes in the Oval Office").

So, middle-class taxpayers, you elected him, and now it's time to get what's coming to you! According to the Internal Revenue Service, here's all you have to do: When you get to the blank space on your 1040 form labeled "AMOUNT YOU OWE," instead of writing a number in there, you put the international symbol for the middle class, which is a stick drawing of a little person trying to read the fiber content on a cereal box. Then simply mail in your return, and within four to

eight weeks, you should receive a minimum of 10 years in prison.

That's right: It turns out that you're NOT going to get TAX RELIEF, at least not in the immediate future (defined, technically, as "your lifetime"). President Clinton had to reassess his position on this particular promise, and for a very solid reason: He's just another suit-wearing weasel.

No! Strike that! The reason President Clinton had to reassess his position is that, after he got elected, he learned about a shocking development. To avoid suffering a shock-related medical injury, please be seated while I reveal this development to you:

The federal budget deficit is very big.

Of course most normal people and household plants were already aware of this. But apparently Mr. Clinton, busy performing his many duties as a presidential candidate--formulating policies, making promises, practicing the saxophone--did not find out until after the election, when his top aides sat him down and told him about it:

AIDES: Mr. President, it turns out that the federal budget

deficit is very big.

CLINTON (shocked): NO!

AIDES: Also, the pope is Catholic.

CLINTON: This is unbelievable!

In the interest of the President's cardiac safety, they decided to hold off on telling him about the Easter Bunny.

So, anyway, you middle-class people can forget about Tax



Relief. But you will be pleased to learn that President Clinton has come up with a new post-election idea, which is: Sacrifice. Of course we're talking about an equal sacrifice,

wherein everybody will carry his or her fair share of the burden, as follows:

YOU will, one way or another, pay more money to the government.

THE GOVERNMENT will spend it on critical programs such as the Space Toilet.

A number of taxpaying readers sent me articles about the Space Toilet, which goes inside the space shuttle. The toilet was originally estimated to costing \$2.9 million, but what with one thing and another--you know how it is with plumbing projects--it wound up cost \$23.4 million. God alone knows what it will cost the taxpayers when, inevitably, we have to send a Space Plumber up there to fix it. ("OK, that's gonna be \$3.4 million an hour, plus \$12.1 million every time Vinny here goes back down for coffee.")

Of course it is not the business of us taxpayers to question such expenditures. We're too stupid to understand our own tax forms, let alone decide on the need for a high-tech orbiting commode. Likewise we are in no position to wonder about the following news story from the Charlottesville (Va.) Daily Progress, which was sent

in by several taxpayers, and which I swear I am not making up:

"University of Virginia medical researchers have embarked on a four-year constipation investigation employing video games to help children better control their bowels. With a \$1.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, researchers will try to teach children how to ease the passage of bowel movements and determine how success affects family and school life."

The story states that, in this study, children will learn how to control their bowels by operating "a video game, controlled with the aid of electrodes attached to the child's ... OK, never mind where the electrodes are attached. Suffice it to say that you'd have to pay me at LEAST \$1.2 million to attach them.

The point is that the government needs your money for many vital activities, and you need to just forget about Tax Relief, and start thinking in terms of Sacrifice. Remember: If your government can buy electrodes for researchers at the University of Virginia, it can also buy them for the IRS.