

Smoking hubby

Life of his wife may be in jeopardy

PITTSBURGH — A statistician has completed a study indicating that non-smoking women married to smoking husbands die an average of four years earlier than those whose husbands don't smoke.

Gus H. Miller, statistician at Edinboro State College, says the study proves so-called "passive smoking" is harmful.

The Tobacco Institute, however, discounts Miller's findings as "bordering on non-science."

Miller, long an anti-cigarette advocate, obtained death records for Erie County, Pa., for the years 1972-1975.

Miller and his assistants interviewed survivors of the deceased and recorded detailed information on smoking habits, work habits, general health and weight, and spouses' smoking habits. The study only considered husbands who were continuous smokers, not those who started late or quit early.

After more than 8,000 interviews, Miller separated the non-smoking women into two groups — those married to regular smokers and those married to men who never smoked.

He computed the average age at death for wives of non-smoking men at 78.8 years, compared with 74.7 years for women married to smokers.

"I think it is pretty self-explanatory," Miller said in a telephone interview. "This shows somewhere near 5 percent reduction in life span for women whose husbands smoke — and it seems attributable to the fact the husband smokes, because all the variables were constant."

"They were all non-smoking women," Miller has many critics, chief among them The Tobacco Institute, Inc., a group funded by tobacco growers to counter smoking criticism.

Bill Dwyer, an Institute spokesman, said Miller's study, "has to pass under the banner of non-science."

"It just flies in the face of the expert medical testimony. This is essentially the way the whole case against tobacco has been made, through the use of statistics and the abuse of statistics," he said.

Dwyer specifically criticized Miller's statistical use of average age at death. Dwyer cited studies showing more smokers in the 25-34 age group than in 35-44, 55-64, or 65 and older groups, and said that meant persons dying young would have a greater chance of having been smokers than persons dying old.

Miller does not agree. "That absolutely does not apply in this instance," he explained. "It is true that if we get the average age at death of bubble gum chewers and compare it with the average age of death of the general population, there will be a great disparity, because bubble gum chewers are usually young kids."

"But in this case I took a single group of people — non-smoking women. The only difference is the husband smoked or the husband didn't smoke. Average age at death in this case is a perfectly valid method."

Miller, who also holds degrees in chemistry and psychology, forbids smoking in his home or office, and regularly runs clinics to help smokers shed the habit.

Bergen said McCarthy will be sent to the Smithsonian Institution to be put on display as a symbol of a half century of American comedy, but his partner, Mortimer Snerd, was not invited.

When asked why not, McCarthy, perched on Bergen's knee, replied: "I think the Smithsonian was exercising good taste."

McCarthy said he isn't sure he wants to retire. "I really feel I need a new assistant, a beautiful girl with a softer lap," Bergen admonished the dummy that "I can do things without you too."

"Yeah," snapped McCarthy. "You can starve to death."

After more than 50 years, Edgar Bergen will be alone

United Press International

HOLLYWOOD — Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy are retiring. Bergen to Palm Springs and McCarthy — top hat, monocle and sass — to the Smithsonian Institution.

Bergen, 75, the ventriloquist who for more than 50 years has been one of America's top comedians, announced last week that he's ending his career. His final appearances will be a two-week stand beginning in Las Vegas next week and performances in Cleveland and Cincinnati in December.

"I'm tired of earning money, saving it and then sharing it with people who didn't save it," Bergen said, explaining later he meant welfare cheaters.

Bergen hit the peak of his popularity with a radio show in the 1930s and 1940s that ran longer than any network radio program except those of Bing Crosby and "Amos and Andy."

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'Wife' study shows changes

United Press International

A new survey on the home front indicates a husband's approval of his wife's working is closely related to the amount of money she brings in.

"Happiness over his wife's working crossed all lines of occupations and all income levels," says Suzanne McCall, who conducted the study.

McCall is an associate professor of marketing and management at East Texas State University in Commerce. She coined the term "workwife" in an earlier study, as the opposite of housewife, a married woman who does not hold an outside job.

McCall found that the more income the workwife contributes, the happier her husband is about her outside job. He also thinks she is happier in the work role.

"If she contributes 40 percent or more to the family income, regardless of the amount, he is extremely happy she's working," she said in a telephone interview. "We used to think he worried about the family if the wife worked."

It now appears he may worry if she doesn't.

A summary of McCall's findings was released Wednesday at a news conference and seminar in New York City co-sponsored by Kentucky Fried Chicken and Ladies Home Journal magazine. It was part of the fast-food company's public service program to study the changing roles of women in America.

Workwives' incomes in many cases are liberating their husbands, she said.

"The men felt a lot freer to buy more things," she said. Some said they no longer felt obligated to stick with jobs they hated. They felt freer to look for new work.

"Some said they could afford to go back to school."

Workwives and their husbands don't always agree on why the women take outside jobs.

A new Nielsen study released at the conference quoted 40 percent of the working mothers questioned as saying they worked primarily be-

cause their families needed the money.

But 58 percent of the husbands in McCall's study answered the same question with, "likes it" or "happy," while only 29 percent named need.

McCall says this could be explained by a cultural hangup that justifies women taking outside jobs only if it is a family necessity.

"We also think the word 'need' needs redefining," she said. It used to mean actual necessities — food, clothing, shelter.

Now a person who speaks of need may be talking about the need for a better lifestyle or to keep up with inflation, she said.

For years, sociologists and textbooks have said a woman gets her social class from her husband," McCall said. "We found an astonishingly high number of workwives get their social class from their work-place. It's a new source of consumer behavior patterning."

Twenty-seven percent of the men in McCall's survey said they shared housework, 22 percent, child care, and 40 percent shopping, 37 percent said they had rearranged their work schedules. Again, the dominant influences were the wives' income and both spouses' education levels, but mainly the husbands'.

McCall's survey was conducted in the Dallas-Fort Worth area among families with median incomes of \$7,000-\$15,000.

Couple finds WWII grenade with 'live' cap in new home

United Press International

EDMOND, Okla. — A couple moving into a house Saturday were surprised to find a World War II grenade, with the pin partially removed, on a shelf in a closet, according to police.

Sgt. Tom Huey answered their call, moving the grenade to the front yard and asking the Oklahoma City police bomb squad for help.

Officers discovered the powder had been removed from the grenade, but the cap was still "live," Huey said.

The bomb squad disarmed the grenade and there was no damage, he said.

Missing was the handle, which allows a grenade user to hold down a lever after pulling the pin and delay the explosion.

"Had the pin come out, the top would have pulled off. There would have been no way to hold it down and it would've gone off in four seconds," Huey said.

Huey said the grenade was probably a souvenir owned by the previous occupant of the house.

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