

From working out a monthly budget to determining a savings or investment strategy, newlyweds are faced with some important decisions regarding financial security. While some of the money matters may take time to decide, immediate attention to others can smooth the transition from single to married life.



Dan Thompson

Deciding whether to have joint savings and/or checking accounts, and name changes on such things as licenses and wills are among the matters which can be handled soon after the wedding.

Many of the name changes on official documents involve only the woman. However, there are many matters that can be decided jointly. Your banker can help you with some of the more important ones.

If a couple decides to keep separate savings and

By Dan Thompson

How to get the most from your bank

WHEN YOU MARRY

checking accounts, the wife simply has to tell her banker her new name and address, sign a new signature card and order new checks. The same steps are necessary to switch from a single to a joint account.

A man may want his wife to have use of his bank credit card, or vice versa. There are several ways to do this. You may want your spouse to be able to use the credit card although your name remains on the

card and you retain sole responsibility for the charges. In this case, your banker will arrange for you to get a second card. If you and your spouse want to share the account responsibility, a joint credit card application will need to be filed.

The question of beneficiaries also needs to be reviewed. If something happens to either one of you, whom do you want to receive the money you

have worked for? Things to consider include your savings certificates, insurance policies, pension or retirement plans, and will or estate plan.

You may want your spouse to share your safe deposit box. That can be arranged by signing a deputy card, which will authorize access to the safe deposit box for both of you.

Under North Carolina law, you have 60 days after you marry to change the name on your driver's license. Although getting your name changed on it is extremely important, there are other concerns which also require your attention: social security and personnel records, automobile loans, insurance policies, college alumni records and telephone listing. Credit bureaus use social security numbers for identification, but notifying them of a name change helps keep your file up-to-date.

Dan Thompson, a banker for over two years, is a Personal Banker at the Robersonville office of Wachovia Bank and Trust Company.

Postage Rate Increase

By Lonnie L. Johnson

Director, National Mail Handlers Union

The United States Postal Service has a confusing identity — it is slowly being revamped to behave more and more like a good business on one hand and is yet upholding its ideal as a "service" on the other. The increase of first-class postage from 15 to 18 cents, effective since March 22, 1981, necessitates the reevaluation of the Postal Service's exact status.

The public deserves to know where its tax dollars are going and why a non-profit service organization of the federal government has joined the mainstream of spiraling prices everywhere.

The USPS, an independent part of the government's executive branch, was established to replace the cabinet-level Post Office Department in the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970. The old Post Office Department had never climbed out of its deficit, and the Postal Service was designed to do better. This is where the government gives its quasi-independent service the appearance of a business.

While expecting the USPS to function with a smaller deficit in the international market and as a service in the national one, it simultaneously refuses to relinquish support and not only lessens federal subsidies but allocates them in areas that increase the likelihood of the deficit remaining at status quo.

The USPS is a huge, complex organization with 30,000 post offices around the country and 650,000 employees handling approximately 100 billion pieces of mail per year. It is the Service's designated duty to deliver mail efficiently, keep prices affordable, and protect the rights of privacy.

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution grants Congress the power to insure that this model exist for us as a reality. Yet the Administration is slowly decreasing the Service's federal subsidies for public service and cutting borrowing in half. Almost \$1 billion of foregone revenue remains in the Postal Service's expenditure.

Even with a total income of \$19.1 billion in 1980, it still spent that much in lower rates and free services for 13,000 non-profit organizations and charities.

The pertinent question is then this: if taxpayer dollars are used for Congressional reimbursement of such a large bite of the Postal Service's income, and President

Happiness Through Health

Back Pain Cure Finally Appears On Horizon

By Otto McClarrin

THERE'S GOOD NEWS for back pain sufferers. The testing of the drug Chymopapain is proceeding on schedule, and the first results of tests in various parts of the country are encouraging.

SOME KEY FACTS: Chymopapain is not a cure-all for back pains. It is an enzyme that is injected into the back to dissolve the substance, or disc, that has escaped from between the vertebrae and is exerting pressure on nerves, causing severe pain.

A back operation, or laminectomy, achieves the same result through invasive surgery. A laminectomy is serious, major surgery and is extremely expensive. The injection process is much simpler and cheaper.

Chymopapain was used on 17,000 patients several years ago with good results. But the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) withdrew approval of the drug because of controversy over a testing process.

According to writer Jack Mabley, the FDA has approved double blind testing and Dr. William F. Hejna, professor of orthopedics and senior vice president of Rush University, has confirmed that injections began in May in Presbyterian-St. Luke's Hospital.

Dr. Hejna said that about sixty patients have received injections in tests at five other sites around the nation. Early results, he said, "are very encouraging. . . . We're quite optimistic."

In a double blind test, half the patients receive a harmless placebo and half receive Chymopapain. This procedure was altered for the Chymopapain test, however, to overcome a major fault of double blind tests. If after six weeks, the patient has not received relief, the code will be broken to determine whether he

received the placebo or the drug. If the patient received the placebo, he may return to the hospital and receive Chymopapain.

Double blind test results will go to the FDA in Washington. Assuming that they are favorable, much broader clinical testing could begin at the various sites throughout the country as early as September.

These tests may involve as many as fifty orthopedic surgeons and neurosurgeons administering Chymopapain to about 3,000 patients in each state selected for testing.

That study will last about a year, with doctors and hospitals keeping detailed records on the patients. If the results are favorable, the FDA presumably will approve the drug for general use.

The potential for alleviating pain and reducing health care costs with the general use of Chymopapain is enormous. According to insurers, back pain is the most costly physical ailment in terms of medical bills and time lost from work.

Much of it is caused by ruptured discs for which, approximately 200,000 laminectomies are performed in the United States each year. A conservative estimate of the average cost in doctors' and hospital bills and time lost from work is \$20,000. That comes to \$4 billion a year.

General use of Chymopapain would cut that cost by half or two-thirds. The procedure is much less painful, and recovery time is weeks shorter.

Baxter Travenol Laboratories made the Chymopapain in the 17,000 earlier cases and provides it in Canada, where it has been in general use for years. Baxter Travenol also is conducting a Chymopapain test with

FDA approval. The same drug manufactured by Smith Laboratories of Chicago is called Chymopapain. Baxter Travenol calls its drug discase. But the active ingredient in both is chymopapain, according to Dr. Hejna. The main ingredient in Chymopapain is from the ordinary papaya plant — the stuff you use to tenderize meat.

The success rate in the 17,000 earlier cases was, and in Canada is, minimally 70%. Dr. Carl Sutton of Montreal, who has treated hundreds of Americans, reports 90% success.

Letter to the Editor:

When reading your article, "NBIPP State Convention Said of 'Extreme Urgency'", I was appalled at the assertion that a National Black Independent Party is needed because of the "twin evils of the Congressional Club and the inhumane advocacy of Senator Jesse Helms."

A Black Independent Party is needed because the traditional two party system has traditionally created a Black leadership for the Black masses — a leadership that spends all of its time trying to please Whites instead of strengthening and building upon those Black institutions that existed prior to the trick of integration.

It is not Jesse Helms or the Congressional Club who teach young Blacks to buy White instead of buying Black. It is not Jesse Helms or the Congressional Club who preach that a Black school is inferior to a White school because it has no White students or White staff. It is not Jesse Helms or the Congressional Club who tell our Black youth that being written about by (or working for) a White newspaper is better than being written about by (or working for) a Black newspaper.

No, Jesse Helms and Congressional Club are not any more our enemy than any other White or White group in America. Unfortunately, we become our worst enemy when we strive to be White instead of loving and appreciating our glorious heritage.

Hopefully, instead of concentrating on Whites at the Convention, Blacks will concentrate on how we can get Negroes to become Black.

Louis A. De Freitas

BY THE WAY...

By Joe Black



As many of you know, I have been doing "By The Way" for more than a decade, and during that time, I have discussed many topics. Some of them did more than provoke; they aroused anger. And when I look back, I think that some of my topics were before their time. For example, in the early 1970's, I urged the youthful Black athletes not to "prostitute" their bodies by going to college and concentrating on sports rather than gaining a quality education.

And now, here we are in the 1980's when it should be the best of times for our young Black athletes. But it's not. The smaller institutions have always offered scholarships, but now the major colleges and universities are seeking the talent of these athletes. And that's when it becomes the worst of times because the lure of television exposure and their names in headlines causes them to lose their capacity to think. They must remember that college represents two opportunities—a quality education that will make them competitive in today's labor market and a possible contract with a professional team. It's sad to say, too many of them concentrate on seeking the sports contract. And when the fickle finger of fate points to someone else to receive the "pro" contract, too often the young Black athlete is left disappointed, frustrated, and uneducated. So encourage our youths to dream about stars, but at the same time, remind them that school is for learning, also.

Joe Black

Vice President
The Greyhound Corporation



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