

## NEWS/OPINION

## Single &amp; Striving: How to Escape the Valentine's Day Blues While Single

BY TANNER PETERSON

They seem to be everywhere. No matter if you're hanging out in your dorm, walking to class, or trying to catch a bite to eat in the dining hall, couples are all over campus. The month of February and the coming of Valentine's Day can stir up many different emotions. For couples who have found their special someone, it is a great day to show their main squeeze how much they mean to them, but for singles who are ready to mingle, it can be a tough day. Although many friends and family may be spending their day with their boo, there is plenty of ways that singles can still enjoy Cupid's day.

With Valentine's Day being a day where others treat the one they love, feel free to go treat yourself! There are deals all over for couples, as well as singles. Be sure to take advantage of these deals and treat yourself too! According to research done by Emma Seppla, the Science Director of Stanford's Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education, treating yourself has psychological benefits! In her study, she found that self-compassion and being kinder to yourself improved reactions to failure, improved one's ability to pursue success, as well as possibly have positive implications for depression and anxiety. Plus, it's always fun to treat yourself!

Valentine's Day is also a great excuse to

curl up with the book you have been trying to start or binge watch your favorite Netflix series. The book and movie provide a way to escape to a different, interesting, and fun story.

Many venues and restaurants may host a singles night where you can meet other singles like yourself. This not only gets you out of the house, but you may find your special someone. A similar option to this is speed dating. I know, I know, it sounds terrible; but worst case scenario, you gain some interesting stories to share about the "unique" people you meet. On the other hand, you might meet someone you are really compatible with.

Although Valentine's Day might be tough for singles, remember that it's just a matter of time before you find your person. As you wait for him/her, remember not to take Valentine's Day too seriously. There are plenty of ways to still have fun! Whether you're treating yourself to a shopping date or having a movie marathon with friends, the sun will come up tomorrow, and who knows?... Maybe that will be the day that your person steps into your life and changes it forever. ☺

## Republican Tax Bill: What You Need to Know

BY KELLY PIERCE

Senate Republicans pushed their tax bill through in a 51-48 vote in late December. The legislation benefits most individuals with temporary tax breaks, a backdoor method to undoing pieces of President Obama's legacy, and—most notably—creates permanent changes in corporate tax structure.

The \$1.5 trillion Republican tax bill dramatically slashes the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent with the intention of growing the economy. The idea is that giving the big corporations more wiggle room should create benefits for the entire population. As with President Bush's similar tax plan, this will become permanent.

The bill will affect every individual and business differently, depending largely upon demographic and industry. An analysis by the Tax Policy Center found that the bill would reduce taxes, on average, by about \$1,600 in 2018, increasing after-tax incomes 2.2 percent with the largest benefits going to the wealthiest households.

Low income households with children see benefit, as well. The child tax credit doubles to \$2,000, significantly increasing tax benefits for families with children. However, low income families will suffer from the repealing of the individual healthcare mandate. In this way, the plan was used as an underhand route to undo Obama's regulations when the healthcare reform failed.

It's important to note that tax breaks for individuals are temporary. Current senate rules do not allow lawmakers to create any legislation that will increase the national debt past 10 years. Many Republican representatives claim the bill will have paid for itself by then.

"Not only will this tax plan pay for itself, but it will pay down debt," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said earlier this year, as the tax plan was being negotiated.

Of course, in order to reduce the national debt while still making cuts, the legislation needs to make that money up somehow. Consumer Price Index (CPI) has been used to adjust for inflation but is now changing to chained-CPI, which works on the same premise but makes smaller and slower adjustments, meaning taxes will not accurately adjust for inflation. Teachers are no longer allowed to deduct classroom expenses either, leaving parents and school districts to foot the bill.

Despite these measures, not all representatives are convinced of the plan's efficacy. Ohio Governor John Kasich, historically a champion of true conservative values and transparency, declared simply on "Meet the Press": "My concern about this bill is the debt. And they did not do enough to be able to cover. This bill is not going to pay for itself.

Everybody knows that. So when you cut taxes to provide more economic growth, at the same time you drive up the debt, they kind of work in opposite of one another."

The bill is overreaching and will add significantly to our national debt. The University of Chicago's Booth School of Business ran a survey of 42 economists, of which only one thought the plan would boost the economy. All 42 recognized that the plan would increase the national deficit.

Of course, there is no way to confidently predict what will happen. When asked if the plan would eventually pay for itself, Speaker Paul Ryan admits, "Nobody knows the answer to that question because that's in the future."

That being said, Republicans were careful not to let people make that conclusion on their own. There

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wasn't even a single public hearing before the bill became law. And although all rational

predictions indicate President Trump and other Republicans stand to benefit personally from the plan, Trump insists that the plan actually hurts him, a statement that's neither falsifiable or verifiable since he hasn't released his taxes to the public. The passage of the bill was a travesty itself. With no public hearings, the bill was hurried through legislation up to the last minute.

"Trying to review the #GOPTaxScam," Senator Dick Durbin, the Illinois Democrat, tweeted on Friday at 6 p.m., "but they are making handwritten changes to brand new text as we speak – can anyone else read this?" The bill was passed the next morning.

When you strip down the carefully crafted semantics and jump through all of the hoops, the plan is really just a massive tax cut for corporations and a way to mitigate Obama's legacy. Smaller cuts for the middle and working classes were implemented as a "bargaining chip" with the public.

Most telling of all, University of Chicago's Austan Goolsbee, who served as chief economist for President Obama, left an optional comment on his survey stating: "Of course [the bill won't lead to significant growth]. Does anyone care about actual evidence anymore?" ☹



Ohio Governor John Kasich. Photo from, Google Images