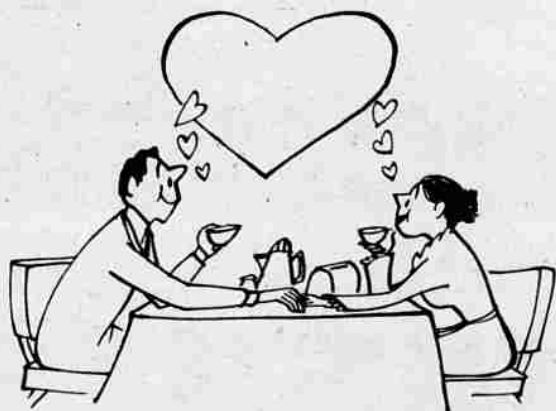


**"My wife expects me to do her work as well as my own."**

Here's a sore spot with many husbands. A Wisconsin father claimed a deep chasm had been opened in his marriage because his wife expected him to do much of "the woman's work" around the home. Don't think this means just doing dishes, hanging laundry or washing windows. Serious objections include demands that husbands devote all their free time to the children ("The minute I come home," one man complains, "I get the baby thrust into my arms for the rest of the evening."); calling the husband at the office with a long list of items to bring home; assigning a quota of "week-end chores" to fill his "free" hours.



**"When it comes to preparing meals my wife doesn't know I exist."**

No. 1 complaint in this category is that today's breadwinners must either make their own breakfasts or catch them on the fly at the corner luncheonette. A recent survey indicated one-third of America's husbands eat their morning meal this way.

"There's no finer way of starting the day than to have breakfast with your mate," says Dr. Rebecca Liswood, director of the Marriage Counseling Service of Greater New York. "Even if it's only a few minutes, that brief time together is warming and wonderful."

Preparing meals for their children's palates rather than their husbands' is another complaint on this score. "At least let me have my turn," comments the father of four girls in Delaware.

And finally another "modern woe"—serving slenderizing meals to husbands who have no reason to be on diets. The lady of the house is the one who wants to lose weight, but everybody suffers. "I can't tell you how many times I've slipped out of the house for a hamburger after one of her dinners," a wan young husband in Vicksburg, Miss., bemoans.

**"My wife serves food that's 'good for me,' never what I enjoy."**

A Detroit, Mich., machinist said his marriage was tottering because he could no longer stand eating foods which his wife felt were "healthy." Her near-fanaticism is common in these days of health-consciousness.

Another common irritation is cooking large meals and hovering over hubby until he finishes every morsel. "Over-solicitous wives," Dr. Harold Kenneth Fink, a St. Petersburg, Fla., psychotherapist and marriage counselor declares, "who really love their husbands and think they are doing what's best for them, may actually be doing harm instead. Many men simply don't want to be mothered. They're perfectly capable of deciding for themselves when they have had enough to eat."



**"My wife's a 'fusspot.' She keeps our home like a hospital."**

In Cleveland, a young accountant explained to a psychologist that his marital troubles began when his wife wouldn't permit him to lounge in their impeccably kept living room. Marriage experts agree that women who are unwilling to settle for anything less than an immaculate home are heading for trouble. Clark W. Blackburn, general director of the Family Service Association of America, says: "Sometimes perfectionist wives virtually rope off living rooms, as in museums, preventing full enjoyment of the home. A home should be well-kept but, first and foremost, it should be lived in. Such a wife makes life unhappy for her husband and children. The children can't rebel but the husband can—and sometimes does."



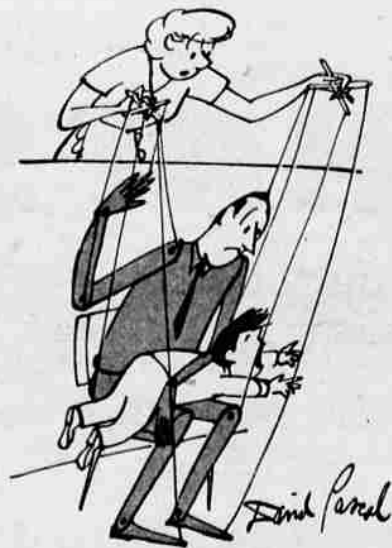
**"My wife talks too much — especially when I'm trying to talk."**

This is particularly aggravating when the husband is trying to tell a joke and, in the minds of many men, grounds for divorce when she beats him to the punch line.

A more serious side of this, however, is the wife who criticizes her husband in front of friends, even if it's in a facetious way. Criticism may be no more than saying, "George doesn't know which end of a screwdriver to use," but under certain circumstances that's all George needs to wish he had a gag for dear wifey.

In public or private, many wives alienate mates by stating their opinions too bluntly and too often. An Illinois marriage consultant tells about the wife who thought her husband should know about his faults for his "own good." She was painfully honest in her own mind—in everybody else's, including her husband's, she was just a nagger, improving nobody but creating deep resentments.

Obviously, gossiping falls under this heading. Gossiping, experts have learned, is a means by which one human covers up his own faults by talking about another's. A husband senses this, and his wife's faults are magnified in his mind each time she tears down another party.



**"When the kids need a lecture or a spanking, I always have to be the ogre."**

Too many wives, experts assert, make Daddy the fall guy in child discipline because they're afraid to tackle the job themselves. "Wait until Daddy comes home, he'll fix you" is a common statement in many homes—and a common mistake. If Junior does something which calls for discipline, perform the operation yourself at once and don't pass the buck.

So there they are, direct from firsthand sources, 10 well-tested ways to loosen the marriage ties. Avoid them, however, and you'll not only keep your man but be happier yourself.