

Now -- Or Wait Four Years

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This is February 29 and if our male readers don't immediately grasp the significance of the date, our women readers — those who are not married — will certainly remind them before the day is over.

For this is Leap Year Day: the extra day in February that occurs only once every four years.

It is this peculiarity of the present calendar that accounts for a custom going back to 1288. In or about that year a law was passed in Scotland that gave any unmarried woman the right to propose marriage during Leap Year.

The eligible man to whom she proposed must either accept the proposal or pay a maximum fine of one pound (worth about \$2.58). As silly as it might seem to men enjoying single blessedness, this same law

was later adopted in France, Genoa and Florence.

Many unmarried men today would consider themselves fortunate to be rid of a pursuing female by the payment of such a trivial fine. But alas, we have no Leap Year law here, and we suppose none is needed.

It is surprising that with the aggressiveness of modern women, and with all the beauty aids that they have that any would have to resort to Leap Year to snag a guileless man. And the truth is, they don't

Year in, year out, they're in hot pursuit of a husband and those that don't get one either don't deserve one or don't put forth the effort.

But this year, married or single, male or female, you are being wooed. And it's not because it's Leap Year

It's election year — or had you forgotten?