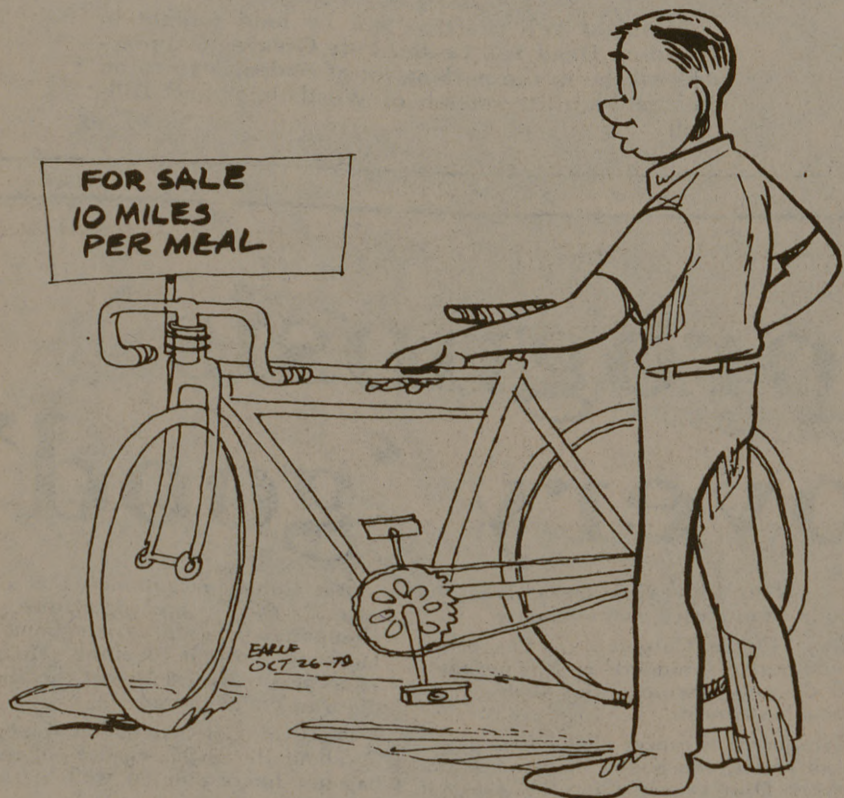


SLOUCH by Jim Earle



OPINION

Chappaquiddick is a legitimate issue

Why don't politicians quit beating around the bush about Chappaquiddick as an issue in a presidential campaign involving Senator Kennedy?

It's simply hypocritical for a politician to say that Chappaquiddick is not an issue when by its very mention it is being made an issue.

It's hypocritical, too, for a politician or a president to brag about not panicking in a crisis in response to a question about Kennedy and then deny that there was any intent to imply that Senator Kennedy did panic at Chappaquiddick.

Chappaquiddick is an issue. It is a legitimate issue. It's part of Senator Kennedy's record. He drove the car off the bridge at Chappaquiddick and, for whatever reasons, he left it and the body of Mary Jo Kopechne there unreported for 10 hours.

To some, his behavior at Chappaquiddick indicates a flaw in his character. To others, it may not. In either case, it's a legitimate issue to raise in a presidential campaign.

It's as appropriate to discuss Chappaquiddick in connection with Kennedy as it is to discuss John Connally's indictment in the milk case in his campaign. Both go to the matter of trust.

We do not mean to say or even imply that Kennedy cannot be trusted to lead the country.

But if he becomes a candidate, voters will have to decide that question. And the voters have as much right to hear and weigh his reactions and comments on Chappaquiddick as they have to hear and weigh his comments on inflation, taxes, foreign policy and other affairs of state.

To pretend it is not an issue to is to ignore reality.

Scripps-Howard Newspapers

the small society

by Brickman



THE BATTALION

USPS 045 360

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Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification.

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VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 26, 1979

DICK WEST Christmas catalogs loaded with 'the jock who has everything'

By DICK WEST

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Brace yourselves, folks! It looks like we're in for a cardiac-conscious, anti-cholesterol Christmas this year.

Come December 25, the nation's health nuts should find their stockings bulging with more than calf muscles and varicose veins.

The trendy gift catalogs now arriving in the mail simply are loaded with largess for the jock who has everything.

Has a long distance runner on your shopping list quit entering marathon races because he or she doesn't have a thing to wear?

Quel tragique! Grab a Bloomingdale's catalog this very instant and order the poor baby a mink jogging suit.

Better yet, order two. That way, the jogger can wear one while the other is airing out. You know how soggy mink becomes when saturated with sweat.

Bloomingdale's, of New York and other points, offers jogging suits of "rich, rich mink in navy with racy, red stripes" for only \$10,000 each. For another grand or two, maybe you can pick up a matching mink headband.

Should you have more than one exercise freak to buy for, I recommend acquiring a Christmas catalog from Sakowitz, the well-known Houston retailer and wordsmith.

Noting that someone once "verbalized a great truism" to the effect that health was "the ultimate gift," Sakowitz devotes its two most prominent catalog pages to fitness items.

For \$127,147.32, you can give a truism verbalizer on your list a genuine "Texas-shaped swimming pool filled with Perrier," the imported sparkling water.

The 32 cents presumably covers the cost of packing and handling. For \$20,000, Sakowitz will see that an apple is "hand delivered" to the health faddist of your choice "each and every day of the year."

If \$20,000 seems a lot of money to keep the doctor away, bear in mind, as the catalog points out, that "1980 is a Leap Year." The extra day in February reduces the unit price of the apples from \$54.79 to \$54.64 each. So you can see it is quite a bargain.

Nevertheless, I personally was more impressed by a "miniature, lightweight heart rate monitor ... designed to be worn

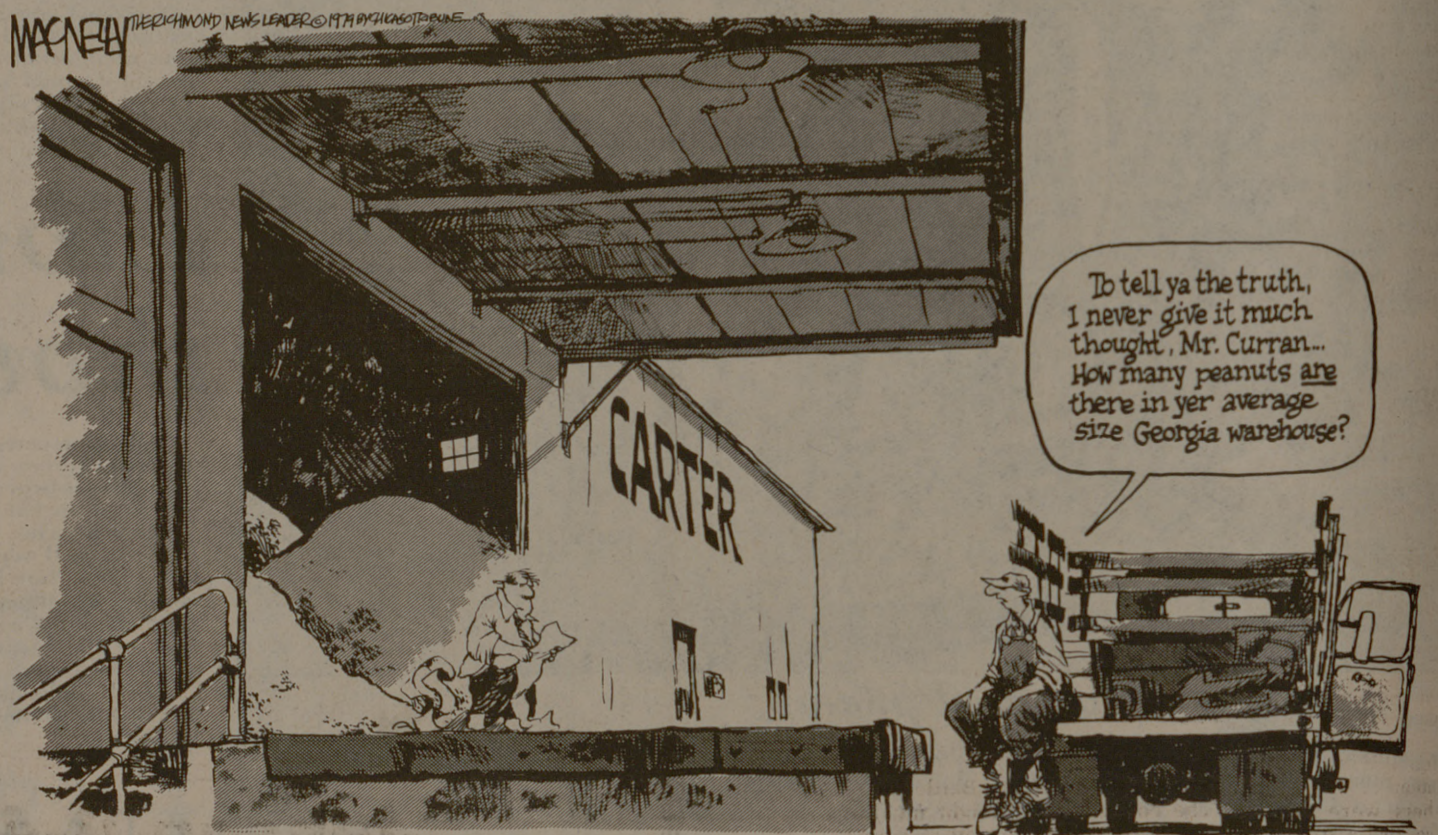
while exercising."

Although \$345 certainly is little to pay for an ultimate Christmas, particularly one that might keep you fanatic from overtaxing his biggest selling point is not so price as the size.

Judging from the catalog, the heart rate monitor would be under a mink jogging suit.

Incidentally, the 1979 edition of the Neiman-Marcus Christmas catalog seems less strenuous than its competitors. It is featuring "dirigibles" at \$100,000 the price.

The health benefits flowing from the type of gift appear minimal at best. It wouldn't be caught dead flying out of a blue mink blimp pilot's suit.



ANALYSIS Israel's new 'Renaissance Party' seen as threat to Begin's power

United Press International

TEL AVIV, Israel — It is said in Israel that for every two Jews in a room there are three opinions. So it came as no surprise when a new political party formed last month.

It is to the political right of Prime Minister Menachem Begin, appealing to a vocally demonstrative segment of the population that opposes returning the occupied Arab territories and favors widespread Jewish settlement of those areas.

Called Techiya, which translates as Renaissance, the party is viewed as a definite threat to Begin's ruling Likud bloc and its major coalition partner, the National Religious party, in an election contest.

The Renaissance Party was born amid calls for new elections, coinciding with the fact that Begin's hold over his government

has weakened considerably since he came to power 28 months ago.

Begin's popularity is at an all-time low despite the major foreign policy accomplishment of his administration — the peace treaty with Egypt.

On domestic issues, Begin is in trouble. The cost of living has soared beyond 100 percent since Begin took office and is the cause of much unhappiness with his government, expressed largely through labor unrest.

In new elections, the Renaissance Party undoubtedly would sap the electoral strength of the Likud, as the dovish Democratic Movement for Change did to the Labor party in the 1977 election that brought Begin to power.

Given the dwindling strength and loss of confidence in the dovish stance of the

Democratic Movement, an election in the near future could well mean the return to power of the opposition Labor Party.

One of the founders of the Renaissance Party is Yuval Neeman, a 55-year-old nuclear physicist. He said he tried to work within the existing political framework but that Begin had changed once he became prime minister.

"We believe we have no alternative but to set up a new framework and appeal for popular support with a clear line on the major issues confronting Israel today," Neeman said recently.

Among the new party's supporters are the radicals in Gush Emunim, most of whom voted for Begin or the NRP because of their campaign to expand Jewish settlement in the occupied territories. "All these territories must be annexed

to Israel — the Golan, Judea and (the West Bank) — and Gaza must not be relinquished," Neeman said.

As for the 1.1 million Palestinian those areas, he said, "their human problem will not be resolved by hypothetical Palestinian state if they are not natives of those areas."

He said the Palestinians should be settled in the Arab oil countries, not afford them.

"As for me," Neeman said, "I was the signing of the Camp David accords. I was shocked that under leadership of the majority of the Zionists in the Knesset (parliament) to abolish an entire settlement in Yamit."

Yamit and the rest of northeastern are to be returned to Egypt under terms of the peace treaty.

LETTERS Factual articles about student rapes preferable to gossip, word-of-mouth

Editor: This letter poses more of a question than an opinion, yet I feel it is still relevant.

Since I have attended Texas A&M University, I have learned by "word of mouth" and gossip about several rapes and attacks on female students at our school. I stress that I learned about them from gossip and "word of mouth," not from factual information or published articles.

Why are we being kept in the dark about such incidents? Why must we learn of such occurrences second-hand?

I realize that Texas A&M is trying to maintain the image of a "safe" school, yet by withholding such information, they are making the matter worse! If students are informed when attacks or rapes occur, then they can take preventive measures against them. Keeping students ignorant of such incidents can only lead to more such occurrences!

I love Texas A&M and I hate hearing about such tragic accidents happening at our school, but we must face reality. The only way to help solve this problem is to keep everyone informed.

— Pam Franklin, '83

Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by 87 other signatures.

pressed with the pride the Aggies take in the physical appearance of Aggieland. It does my heart good to see an Ag pick up misdirected trash and put it in its proper place. However, despite the good efforts by the student body in general, it seems that litter is slowly taking over Aggieland.

Probably the worst offender is this very newspaper, which everyday is tossed in bundles all over campus. It would seem likely that a school-funded newspaper

could be distributed in a less careless fashion. Maybe "Batt boxes" such as those present in the MSC could be set up at suitable places around campus in order to curb this systematic pollution of Aggieland.

The Batt is not the only offender. Today I saw signs taped to sidewalks, buildings or slapped loosely on cars proclaiming "A Davis-Gary Slave Sale" or "The Proverbial Fraternity Party." Littering by careless-

ness shows apathy, but organized action like this is malicious. It would be the proper place for signs would be numerous bulletin boards around campus — that's what they are there for.

— Kyle Frazee

Editor's note: The Battalion received some funding from student services but is primarily self-supporting.

THOTZ

by Doug Graham



Litter letter

Editor: I have, for a long time, been very im-