

Slouch By Jim Earle



"You know that your diploma comes in a mailing tube. I don't want to meddle in your affairs, but if I were graduating, I wouldn't leave that stage until I opened up that tube to make sure the diploma was there."

Next in vogue: stereo knees

By DICK WEST
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Fashion notes from hither, thither and yon:

HITHER — Knees are back in style, folks. According to reports from the fall fashion shows in Paris, some designers have lifted hemlines back above the knees in both daytime and evening creations.

This probably is good news for the economy. One time-tested theory is that skirt lengths presage economic movement, rising when prosperity is imminent, falling when recessions are at hand. So the news from Paris could mean that Reagan's budget and tax policies are about to pay off.

What is not clear — or at least not clear to me — is whether broad knees will remain fashionable or whether women must return to the narrow knees of yesteryear.

I understand the trend in men's wear is back

to narrow neckties and lapels. So my assumption is that narrow knees likewise will become de rigueur.

THITHER — The latest thing in short shorts, reports Omni magazine, are "stereo hot pants." These garments are wired to a stereo speaker with a cord that relays music to a two-inch disc on the waistband. The inventor, David Lloyd, claims the resulting pulsations produce "an incredible tingle all over your body."

Lloyd says the biggest thrills come from classical selections such as the "1812 Overture." But I would think a real trendsetter in hi-fi hot pants would prefer the theme from "Star Wars."

YON — Jogging up and down Pike's Peak may require strict bodily discipline, but the jogger's brain has a lot of time to wander off the trail.

Edwin Paget, a retired speech professor, has fathered any number of errant thoughts during the 920 or so times he has jogged to the summit since 1919.

This summer, while puffing up a switchback,

the octogenarian jogger stumbled upon

of installing electric lights in women's apparel with the lighting built in.

It is well known that subtle lighting enhances feminine charms, but up-poor dears have been largely dependent on external illumination.

Paget, according to word I have received, the 14,000-foot elevation, has designed

"Electric lighting in or beneath anything can emphasize the most alluring of their faces or bodies," the professor says. "Unlike the bikini, which reveals everything, much of which is unattractive, permits a homely girl to reveal only possibly in color."

Yes, and if she wears a Paget-style pair of stereo hot pants she can enjoy soft lights and sweet music — the two of romance. Just make certain both are above the knees.

Mondale ready to hit campaign trail again

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — The federally financed transition office closed three weeks ago and the Secret Service men departed. Six months after he left the public payroll for the first time in 20 years, former Vice President Walter F. Mondale is wholly a private citizen, one of those six-figure-salary Washington lawyers who attends stimulating conferences on three continents.

He looks terrific, tanned from a fishing expedition with his two sons. He is rested, relaxed, even a bit reflective. And he hopes the condition won't last.

By next summer, Mondale says, "I'll be on the trail almost full-time," campaigning for Democratic candidates in the mid-term election. His travels will be financed by a personal political-action committee that raised almost a quarter-million dollars before it sent its first direct-mail appeal last month.

And after that, there will be the 1984 Democratic presidential derby. Mondale figures to be one of the early front-runners in a vast field that may include Sens. Edward M. Kennedy, John Glenn, Gary Hart and Joe Biden, Govs. Jerry Brown, John Y. Brown, and Hugh Carey, former Carter Cabinet colleagues Moon Landrieu, Reubin Askew and Robert Strauss — all of whom see vision of Rose Gardens through the aura of Ronald Reagan's current halo of popularity.

Mondale, for one, is convinced that the nomination will be worth the scrap. He says the massive tax-cut bill Reagan pushed through Congress in the past seven days will come to be seen not as his greatest triumph but as "his worst mistake." It will, he says, put intolerable pressure on the Federal Reserve Boards as the sole agent in the fight against inflation. The resulting persistent high-interest rates will not only choke the American economy but "do more harm" to U.S. relations with the European allies and Japan than Russia could contrive on its own to accomplish.

But aside from his gamble that Reaganomics will fail, it is far from clear just what Mondale sees himself — or his party — offering the voters. In an interview last week, just before he flew off to Aspen for a

seminar on U.S.-Soviet relations, Mondale repeated the statement that he had made in a post-election interview: "We (Democrats) were sounding awful stale."

He says he has read and traveled widely these last six months, in an effort to refresh his own thinking: eight days in Europe, including a long look at NATO and its defense theories; an energy seminar with oil men and investors in California; many conferences on the domestic economy. In the fall, he is going to China, Japan and Korea.

Deliberately, he says, he has spent much more time in the South and the West, with conservative economists and businessmen — looking at key issues from a perspective other than the one he learned as a disciple of Hubert Humphrey and Jimmy Carter.

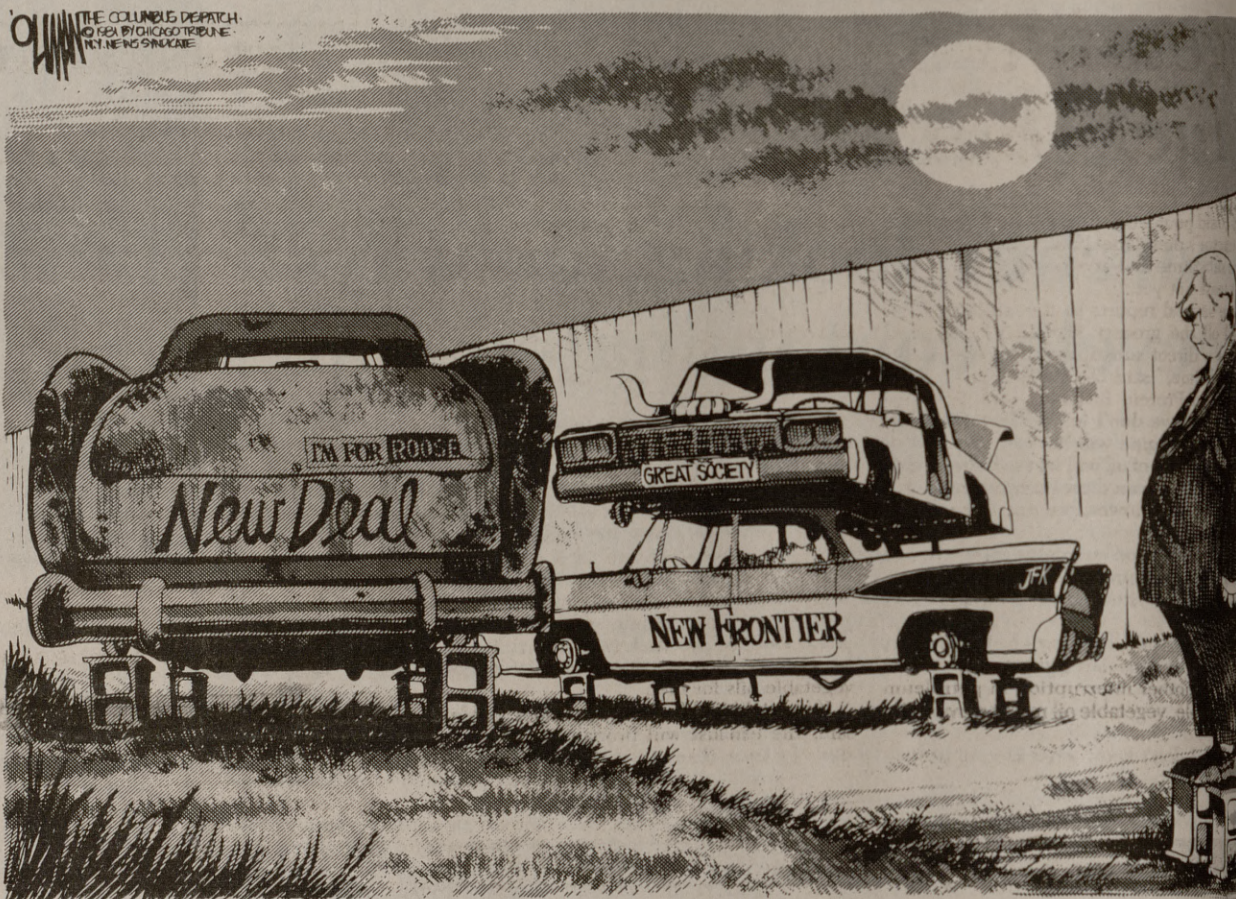
But the differences are not yet apparent in Mondale's public utterances. His speeches have been given to "safe" audiences, the National Education Assn. and the Urban League, at the L.B.J. School in Austin and Brandeis University.

In them, he tips his hat to the current fashions. "Progressives have learned some lessons," he says, but the lessons are the obvious ones: Inflation is important and regulation burdensome. "Where government has been clumsy, or expensive or intrusive — we should make government better."

But, mainly, he defends the causes he has always defended: nutrition and child-care programs, education, legal services, civil rights, voting rights, aid to Israel. His answer to the dilemmas of Social Security is the same as it was in the last campaign: "That Social Security check — and the way it is figured — should be as sure as the sun coming up in the morning."

It remains to be seen how close Mondale will come to meeting that standard. In the meantime, there is a possible clue to his hesitancy in breaking new ground. It is found in the lines with which he would up his most important and best-received speech of the last six months, the one he delivered to the Urban League convention in July.

"We can now prove," he said, "that we weren't as bad as they (the voters) thought we were, and that the other crowd is worse than we thought they would be."



Where have all the Dems gone?

By ARNOLD SAWISLAK

WASHINGTON — It passes amazement to see how fragile Washington status can be.

As, for example, Democratic Sens. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts and Henry Jackson of Washington.

Two years ago, there were a lot of people who expected Kennedy, the man who was going to carry out the mission of his fallen brother, to be the 1980 Democratic presidential nominee and possibly president in 1981.

A week ago, Kennedy made the news for the first time in months by holding up the August Senate vacation period by objecting to a final vote on President Reagan's tax bill on a Saturday. He was at Cape Cod at the time.

Five years ago, there were a lot of people who expected Jackson, who was chosen as the most influential member of the Senate in a 1976 straw vote, to be the Democratic presidential nominee and possibly president in 1977.

A week ago, Jackson got in the news by complaining that Kennedy had caused everyone a lot of trouble by holding up the Senate's August vacation. He almost missed the rollout of Boeing's new jetliner because of the delay.

All of which explains why some Democrats are asking: "Is this what the party of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry Truman and

John Kennedy has come to?"

Ronald Reagan and the Republicans are on a roll, as they say in Las Vegas, and Democrats everywhere seem to be in retreat.

This is especially true in the Senate, where the Democrats are only three votes shy of a majority but haven't made a dent worthy of a BB on a piece of legislation since the national debt limit was increased last winter.

It is true that some of the Senate's best-known Democrats such as George McGovern, Frank Church and Birch Bayh were given their walking papers last fall. But Kennedy and Jackson are there. So is Russell Long of Louisiana, who was supposed to be the most powerful member of the Senate only a year ago, and Robert Byrd of West Virginia, who was the majority leader, and Paul Tsongas, who did a lot of talking about the need for a "new" Democratic thrust after the elections.

Where are those fellows? When it came

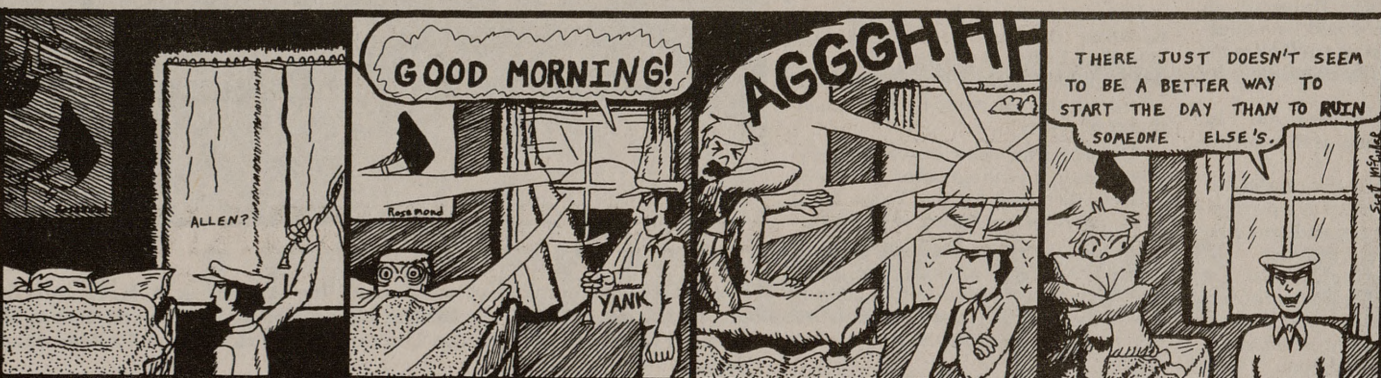
time to chose Democrats to replace the cent Reagan just before the tax cut was Sens. Bill Bradley of New Jersey and Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York spoke for the party. Estimable men, but where were the heavy hitters of the Democratic Party?

To suggest that the Democrats are because they no longer control the convenient, but not very convincing, Everett Dirksen, whose fate it is to be a Democrat leader during which the GOP could have held in a broom closet, always managed to be heard from. So did Republican Howard Baker during the most recent of Democrat dominance in the Senate.

A long time member of one Democrat's staff said recently "I'm in a panic. He always gets up years before his term is up, but the state of hysteria."

Maybe that's where all the Democrats have gone.

Warped



By Scott McCullar

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