

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"It's from your mother. Apparently she's serious about you getting your grades up."

Blipping your way to physical fitness

by DICK WEST  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Some readers may think I am making this up, but I swear I'm giving you the facts, ma'am.

Just as three books revealing solutions to the Rubik's Cube became national best-sellers last year, so is the video game industry now fomenting a literary outbreak.

One of the latest volumes, Bantam's "How To Master Home Video Games," is billed as "the first complete guide" to improving your scores. Now comes the hard-to-swallow part.

This book contains a comprehensive training program for video game players, include an entire chapter devoted to "Off-television Exercises."

"Physical adeptness is essential to implementing your strategies," writes the guru, Tom Hirschfeld, who then goes on to recommend exercises for "improving hand-eye control coordination, peripheral vision, finger strength and tempo control."

If this reads like the introduction to one of those sex manuals that were so popular a few years back, I can only say the coincidence is entirely coincidental.

"You will accomplish wonders by training your hands to react as quickly as possible to visual stimuli," the book promises.

Video game aces, the book confides, must "be alert to the slightest flicker of movement in any part of the screen and be able to analyze all visual data without shifting focus."

To sharpen that aptitude, have your assistant stand to one side and flash ran-

dom combinations of fingers, which you try to pick up with your naked eyeballs while staring straight ahead.

"Often, what you see 'out of the corner of your eye' can mean life or death on screen," Hirschfeld assures those who might suspect they were engaging in idle pursuits.

(Hirschfeld, let it be noted, recommends using the buddy system in video game training. Trainees will need a sidekick, perhaps a faithful Indian companion, to help them get into tiptop shape.)

As for the fingers, well it goes without saying that "digital skill" is vital.

To avoid "pain and slowness in the joints" during sustained play, "fingers must be strong and limber," Hirschfeld explains.

Since "thumbs are especially susceptible to overuse during play," he recommends sending the left forefinger into the game as a substitute when thumb fatigue threatens.

"Try also to use the small joints in each finger much less than the larger one," he advises.

The book also outlines some 10-finger "warm-up exercises" for "loosening and stretching the muscles that might otherwise cramp."

OK. Where do we go from here? At the risk of spoiling the aura of verisimilitude I have so carefully cultivated, I must here inject a personal prediction.

The next wave, I fear, will have video game diet books featuring recipes for losing weight while zapping kinescope invaders.

Then will come books about games you can play on a microwave oven.

Apartment break-in causes unconscious fears to surface

When my friend and I found my apartment door ajar Monday night, I thought of several possible explanations — my roommate hadn't shut it, I hadn't shut it, the maintenance man had been there.

But I didn't seriously consider the possibility that someone could have broken into my apartment — or worse, was still there. Those things only happen to other people — never me.

We were cautious, though. We started to search the apartment, leaving the front door open to run or scream, whichever seemed warranted. We looked through most of the apartment, and nothing was wrong. In the doorway of my bedroom, we joked about the half-open closet doors. But when we saw the window screen propped against my bed, the fun and games ended.

We left, called the police and were told to meet them at the apartment. We did, but this time we took another friend — a man — with us. No one was in the apartment and nothing was missing, but the window screen had been moved and was against the wall.

Phyllis Henderson



While we had stood in the doorway, the intruder had been in the closet. He

heard our jokes, he knew when we realized something was wrong.

That was — and is — scary.

But fear is just one of the emotions you feel when something like this happens. Along with fear comes shock, disbelief and, most of all, anger. I'm mad.

I've accepted not being able to walk across campus alone late at night — even though it's my favorite time. I've accepted having to peer over my shoulder every time I cross a dark parking lot.

But I can't accept being afraid to go to bed at night.

Everyone is quick to tell me what has happened — the worst part is that I know what could have happened.

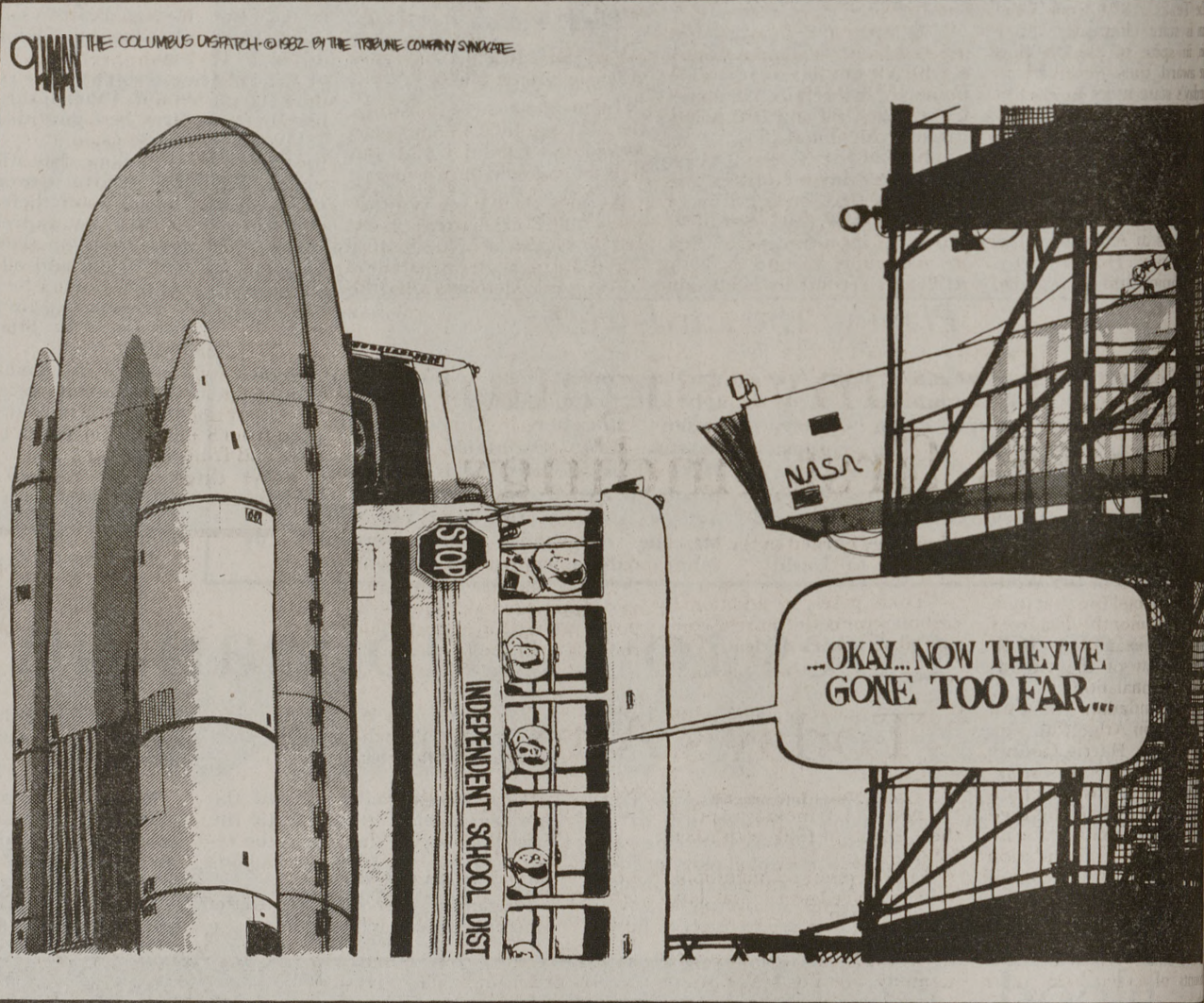
The real crime in this incident is that I'm not alone in having these fears. Almost every woman has experienced some of these fears at some time in her life. And almost every woman has been mad because of it.

No one has to tell us to be careful. Safety precautions have become a part of our lives.

We attach our keys to small chemical repellent sprays, we take self-defense classes and we read about the most effective ways to defend ourselves off an attacker.

We don't see attackers behind bushes, but we're aware of our surroundings. We're cautious doing things men take for granted like taking a walk in an empty apartment and driving to a parking lot.

And every time we walk into an apartment, we subconsciously realize that it may be the time it isn't empty.



Letters: First a hotel — then an amusement park

Editor:

My congratulations to Bum Bright and the Board of Regents for another brilliant proposal for the improvement of our humble campus. I am forever awed by the benevolent concern for the students' interests which is continually exhibited by our Regents. Of course, I'm referring to the proposed Hilton Hotel. What a wonderful idea! Not only should this plan be implemented immediately, it should be followed by another quite worthy project. If you would, allow me to ruminate. I humbly suggest that, upon the completion of the Hilton, we should begin the construction of an amusement park on the southeast corner of campus. I realize this proposal calls for the deletion of the golf course, but I'm sure we can all agree that the positive aspects far outweigh the loss of the golf course.

First, the new amusement park will be sure to attract several fast food restaurants, a convenience of which the southside residents have previously been deprived. Furthermore, combined with the new hotel, a new amusement park will provide a great benefit to those students who have been unable to find work as a result of the tight economy of transportation problems. We could also establish a scholarship fund with the profits from the park. And, of course, we cannot overlook the invaluable, hands-on work experience which these establishments would provide for our business students. Finally, we should not underestimate the priceless learning experiences which

such activities will provide for students of political science.

Since I am a resident of the northside, need no job, and am neither a student of business nor of politics, you may rest assured that I make this modest proposal not for any personal gain of my own, but out of my genuine concern for the welfare of our students.

Susan K. Young '85  
116 Clements Hall

What's in a name?

Editor:

I have been at this university for three years and feel it is now time to point out a spelling error made often at Texas A&M. I am referring to the spelling of K.K. Leggett dormitory. Notice there is only one "g" and two "t's". I have seen it spelled Legget, Leggett, and Legette. It has been misspelled in The Battalion, on election ballots, on flyers, and many other items. The name Leggett was not picked out of the blue. It was chosen by the University to honor an important man. So come on A&M, let's learn to spell his name correctly. The only other alternative I see is to change the plaque that adorns our dorm.

Maggie Foster '83  
Leggett Resident

Editor's Note: This letter was accompanied by 82 signatures of Leggett residents.

Drill team ignored

Editor:

I am writing you in regard to a certain event that recently occurred here on the Texas A&M campus. The incident was not malicious, slanderous, or in any way degrading, but on the contrary, brought esteem and recognition to the University. The bad part is the publicity it received, or should I say, did not receive. The event that I am referring to is the drill meet held last Saturday at Zachry parking lot, in which the 1985 Fish Drill Team competed. ROTC drill teams from various universities around the state including the University of Texas, University of Texas at Arlington, and the Honor Guard from the United States Air Force Academy, came to participate in the three event competition. Every team did an outstanding job, but the meet was clearly dominated by two teams. The Texas A&M University Fish Drill Team and the UTA Jodies. The FDT worked hard all year and were justly rewarded Saturday for their efforts. Though they lost the meet by one point to the UTA Jodies, they claimed the title of 1982 Texas State Champions.

However, I was really disappointed at the crowd turn-out, and even more so in the lack of publicity. Very few people knew about the meet, and those who did had to struggle to find out the time and

place. Even after the outcome of the competition, there was not a single acknowledgement in The Battalion. I do think the FDT has a greater impact on the University than the amount of Bic pens ordered by a city clerk in Ozark, Missouri. In any case, I would like to congratulate

the FDT on their superb performance! I look forward to their participation in the Battalion exhibition, where maybe more people can see what an outstanding group they are.

Hayes Black  
125 Hobbs

The Battalion

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory for students in reporting, editing and photographing within the Department of Communication.

Questions or comments concerning any matter should be directed to the editor.

Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they exceed this length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit for style and length, but will make every effort to preserve the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed, and the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, but are not subject to the same length constraints. Address all inquiries and correspondence to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, or phone (713) 261-1111.

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