

Slouch By Jim Earle



"Jogging is not what it's cracked up to be. I tried it once last year and look at me."

Where is tennis elbow now?

by Dick West
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Recent advancements in medical science have made possible the identification of many ailments heretofore unknown to man. According to a compilation I saw the other day, new infirmities to which the flesh is heir include: — "Cuber's thumb," a swelling caused by the manipulation of cheap imitations of Rubik's Cube; — "Arcade arthritis," a tendon inflammation brought on by protracted periods of playing video games; and — "Mechanical-bull syndrome," a medley of fractures, sprains and dislocations that may result from riding power-driven simulated livestock in night spots. "Each new craze brings new ailments," one emergency room healer was quoted as saying. But I figure the phenomenon is as much sociological as physiological. Faddish afflictions have always been with us. It's just that in the past ridicule by

their peers would have pressured victims of "Frisbee finger" or "dog walker's elbow" into suffering in silence. Now, of course, we are living in an age when people let everything hang out, including attacks of "sports-car palsy" and "jeans folliculitis." Is there no longer such a thing as mortification? Although the article I was reading didn't mention this, I can tell you that fads aren't the only contributors to esoteric misery. Another big inventory of cultish complaints could be classified as occupational hazards. We all are aware of "candidate's contusion," the bruised mitts that beset politicians after an excessive amount of handshaking on the campaign trail. But how often do you hear of "stake-out slump," "lyceum ear" and "leaker's addiction?" The latter are afflictions peculiar to the journalistic profession. "Stake-out backline" is a backline

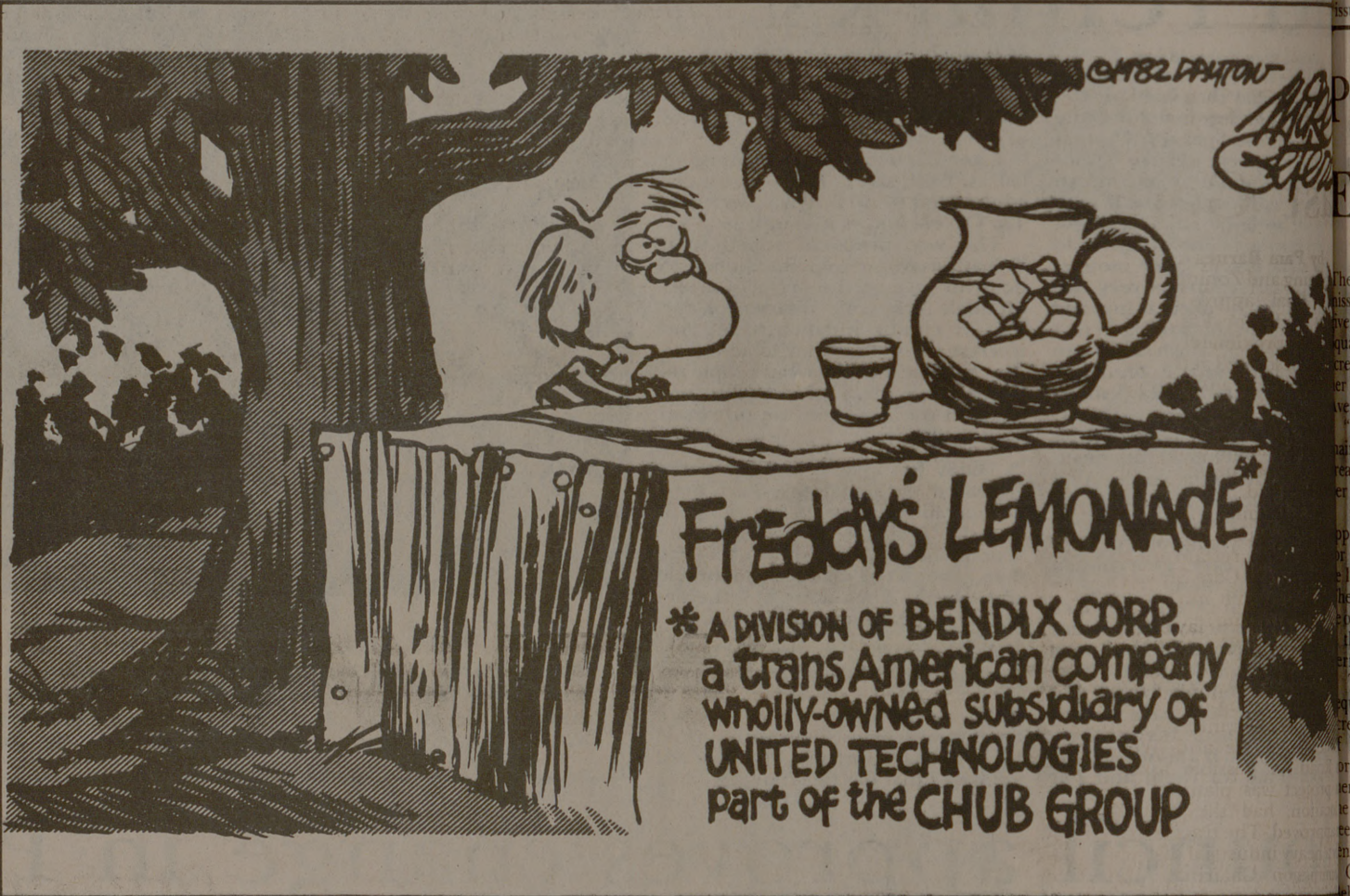
idiopathy experienced by many reporters who spend long hours outside in mittie rooms waiting for closed meetings to break up. "Lyceum ear," in layman's terms, is badly bent tympanic membrane caused by exposure to Senate debates. "Leaker's addiction" is a predicament similar to drug abuse except that the addict becomes hooked on inside dope. Economic cycles and environmental factors also are major pain-in-the-neck. In times of recession, such as the outbreak of "linestanding arch," footache that comes from queuing for unemployment benefits and sprinkler cheese distributions, may reach epidemic proportions. But take heart. Most such maladies are highly transitory. These days, I understand, "destrator's larynx," a throat rasp caused by shouting slogans during protests, has about run its course. It's long ago that the condition was rampant.

Time for Reagan's political redemption

by Norman D. Sandler
United Press International

WASHINGTON — With the 97th Congress in its last throes and pivotal off-year elections some six weeks away, President Reagan has found the time is ripe for political posturing. Reagan, who campaigned firmly dedicated to conservative ideals, has found the traditional post-Labor Day campaign season to be an opportune time to redeem himself with the Republican right. On the road and in the daily dose of information released by the White House, Reagan has been placing increased emphasis on social issues the far right insists he ignored through the first 19 months of his presidency. Beginning with a speech in Connecticut last month to the Knights of Columbus and continuing through meetings this week, Reagan has hammered away at abortion, tuition tax credits and prayer in schools. And he has done so with little apparent political risk. With Congress so near adjournment, Reagan has sought to shore up his standing with the political right through a sudden show of support for legislation that has little, if any, chance of passage this year. In Kansas and Utah last week, Reagan was cheered as he called for swift action on two proposed constitutional amendments — one requiring a balanced federal budget, the other permitting voluntary prayer in schools — that are all but dead for the year. Reagan also has made a late but well-publicized push on behalf of anti-abortion legislation offered in the Senate as a rider to legislation needed to raise the ceiling on the federal debt. Speaking to a group of editors of religious publications Tuesday, Reagan said he would "fight as long and hard as I can" for an abortion ban. No one disputes the intensity of Reagan's personal feelings. What is interesting is his timing. One senator privately called Reagan's

efforts "grandstanding" in view of the low prospects that any such language — if approved by the Senate — would even be considered by the House. Another, Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., warns Reagan's rapprochement with his longtime supporters on the right may backfire for the GOP. Packwood said Reagan is in no danger of losing conservative backing and should spend his time building a broader-based coalition, rather than ensuring he is in good stead with "single-minded zealots." "It's a loser for the party," Packwood said of Reagan's emphasis on abortion. "When that strong a position comes down, in telephone calls and letters, I think it hurts the party." "I think this drives away more people than it brings in," he added. With the economy a shaky political issue, Reagan's sudden emphasis on "family values" may be an effort not so much to push legislation through Congress as to lay the groundwork for a popular approach on the campaign trail. In recent out-of-town appearances, his invocation of abortion and school prayer have sparked louder applause and more cheers than his recitation of statistics that ostensibly serve as a defense of his economic policies. And with Democrats poised to use the economy as their main weapon against Reagan and Republicans in general this fall, social issues have proven to be an effective way for a president with high personal popularity to play to the heart of his audiences. Political posturing is anything but unique in Washington, especially as election day nears. Some Republicans have accused House Democrats of just that in offering a \$1 billion jobs bill that Reagan, surprisingly, declined to publicly oppose just days after suffering defeat last week on his veto of a \$14.2 billion spending bill. Rep. John Rhodes, R-Ariz., said, "I wonder if this isn't supposed to have more effect on the polls than on unemployment."



Letters: Reply from softball exes

Editor: This letter is in reference to the article on the front page of the Sports Section, Sept. 13. The article I am referring to is the tournament victory of the awesome Texas A&M Women's Softball Team, written by Frank L. Christlieb (sports editor). He gives in detail, play by play, the team's accomplishments. But there is one small paragraph that probably went unnoticed to any reader interested in the plays and scores. But the paragraph caught the eye of this ex-Aggie softball player. The paragraph reads as follows: "Utilizing every player available Brock made the loss of last year's five seniors - Shannon Murray, Maria Resendez, Karen Guerrero, Melody Pritchard, and Mary Lou Youngblood seem unimportant. So talented etc..." Well, I would just like to say a few words: Four out of the five seniors are still at this University finishing their degrees. We carried the pride of Texas A&M for four years playing softball and we climbed that hill until we peaked and exploded that pride in our victory at the AIAW Nationals Finals in May. We literally went through Blood, Sweat, and Tears wearing the Aggie uniform, and we are still 110 percent behind the Aggie Softball Team. But we are not as the old saying goes "put out to pasture." When I read the statement: "The loss of the five seniors seems unimportant," it was like a stab in the heart. And everybody know that the hearts of Aggies are big and strong, but they are also fragile and gentle. So I just wanted to let everybody know that seniors are still alive and kicking in Aggieland. Also, I would like to congratulate The Battalion on their increased coverage of the softball team in the last four years. Karen "Chief" Guerrero

Editor: which I believe has displeased people other than myself. I am concerned with the poor quality product and services that I have received from the Dehner Boot Company. I have come to find that I am not the only cadet who doesn't like the boots he got from Dehner, and feels stuck with them. I have worn mine for eight days of the last three weeks due to the blisters that I got from the first day of wear, through two pairs of socks and layers of moleskin. One boot fits differently than the other; the barrels are made of thinner leather than the ankles, which causes my own ankles to seem permanently bruised after only hours of wear. This letter, however, is not to voice my own dissatisfaction, but to voice others as well. Some people have boots that fit worse than mine. I know one zip that is using a pair of boots on loan from an old Ag because he has yet to receive his own, ordered when he was a sophomore. So, I am asking every other zip who got his boots via Dehner who is displeased to call me, for I am writing a nasty letter to the company to air all of our complaints. Even if you don't want a new pair, call me and let me hear your story. Contact me on Tuesday and Thursday, 11-4, and Friday, 8-12, at 260-3402. I want to get the letter off by Friday, Sept. 24. Danny Carter Hinds '83

Editor: anyone could possibly go within the two weeks and give blood (credit: Dwight Dittmar at Hermann Hospital, Houston) your help would be appreciated. Lisa Garrard

Witnessed sought

Editor: This last Wednesday, Sept. 15, I was a car-motorcycle accident at Highway 30 and the East Bypass by Post Mall. Due to the automobile driver's conflicting with mine, I would appreciate help from any witnesses could clear up the situation with an accurate account of the accident. If you the accident, please call me at 693-8888. All I need is a notarized statement what you saw, and I will reimburse for your time if necessary. Larry G... 306 Redmond, 21

Wallet found

Editor: This is my first semester at TAMU and I must say that until this weekend, I doubted the sincerity of concept of the "Good Ag." I stand corrected. Saturday evening, while on my way to the store, I dropped my wallet and immediately back-tracked. It was nowhere to be found. I had doubt that the "thief" who picked it would take the money out and throw rest away. Well, obviously I knew nothing of integrity of an Aggie. Whoever found my wallet turned it in and I had it back Sunday morning with everything intact. Never again will I scoff at the "Good Ag." I know he is here and I would like sincerely thank him, whoever he may be. Karen F. Carr Haas

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

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