

opinion

Don't get mad; write a book

by Dick West

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Jane Fonda apparently has created a certain amount of friction in discharging her duties as a workout queen.

First, there was a sex discrimination suit filed by three former female employees of her San Francisco health spa.

Then a conservative political activist threatened to organize a boycott of her exercise enterprises on grounds that part of the profits were used to support "socialist" causes.

And now comes the implied assertion that female fitness nuts who follow Fonda's exercise program don't necessarily end up looking like Fonda.

That, at least, is the message I get from Linda Sunshine, author of the new paperback book "Plain Jane Works Out."

"I bought workout books and records," Sunshine writes. "I bought video tapes. I even bought a red-and-black-striped leotard."

"I did exercises every day, sometimes twice a day."

"After a few months, I looked in the

mirror and what did I see? A movie star? No, just me."

Anyone who has ever undertaken a body-building program can readily empathize with the frustration Sunshine felt.

As a lad, I was a disciple of the late, great body-builder, Charles Atlas.

According to his advertising, Atlas was a "98-pound weakling" until a bully on the beach came along and kicked sand in his face as he was sunbathing with his girlfriend.

That insult inspired him to devise the "Dynamic Tension" method of muscle development. If the pictures in the ad could be believed, a highly successful system it was, too.

The pictorial evidence indicated that Atlas had become a veritable tower of strength. Muscles bulged, coiled and rippled all over his body. Believe me, no beach bully would ever kick sand on muscles like that.

I sent away for the Atlas regimen and diligently, faithfully practiced "Dynamic Tension" for several weeks. But, alas, I remained far too weak and scrawny to intimidate a beach bully before the adoring

eyes of a beautiful sunbathing companion.

I realize now I should have been more like Miss Sunshine.

"I got even," she says. "I sat down and wrote my own exercise book."

The result, she claims, "is the perfect exercise plan for every woman who knows she'll never have thin thighs."

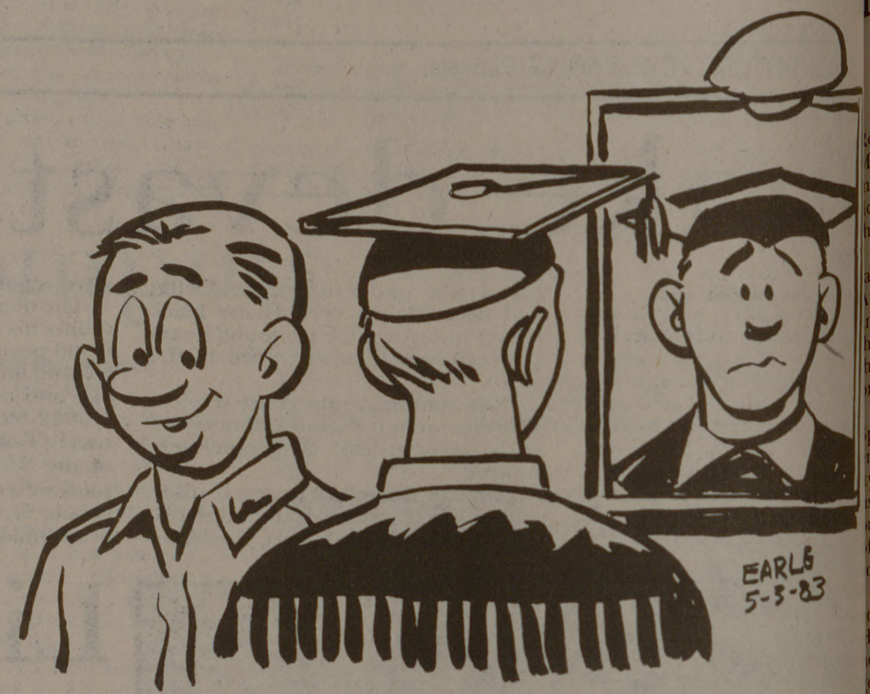
Yes. That was how I should have reacted. I should have written a body-building book for scrawny boys who know deep down that no matter how much they work out they'll go to grow up to be scrawny men.

I could have called my program "Dynamic Tranquility."

Instead of taking a bathing beauty to the beach, make a date with Plain Jane. When a bully comes along, offer him a tranquilizer. Then, instead of kicking sand in your face, the bully mellows out, borrows your guitar and plays a few folk songs.

Some day, maybe you'll both get invited to Washington to perform on the Mall during the Fourth of July celebration. Sure beats push-ups.

Slouch By Jim Earle



"Do you ever wonder if there's a possibility that the registrar's office might find a remote, minor omission on your transcript just before they call out your name?"

Convention guide for convention cities

by Arnold Sawislak

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Now that both major political parties have chosen their convention cities for 1984, it might be a service to the citizens of Dallas and San Francisco to give them some idea of what to expect next summer.

First, pray for a spirited nomination contest.

This is unlikely for Dallas if President Reagan runs again and taps George Bush as his running mate again. San Francisco can hope that at least two of the horde of Democrats are still in the field at convention time, but if recent presidential years are any indication, that nomination could be wrapped up too.

And that can mean trouble for the host city. If the thundering media herd that attends political conventions doesn't have a hot nomination contest to follow, it will start looking around town for news.

Some may let the local host committee show off the sights of the town, but many will search out the grungiest slums, ghettos and combat zones for the "real story" of the convention city. You may not recognize your town when you see it, and you probably aren't going to like it when you do. (Atlantic Beach officials say coverage of their town during the dull 1964 Democratic convention came close to killing the place once and for all.)

Second, don't make any big plans to attend convention sessions.

Both parties have had so many delegates, alternates, convention officials, former VIPs, families, dear friends and media camp followers at recent conventions that there was very little room for them, let alone locals.

You may be able to get in if your brother-in-law is a party wheelhorse or

one of the local types underwritten show, but the best way to get in may be to get a job selling hot dogs at the convention hall.

Third, don't expect to run into celebrities on the street. By the time the convention starts, everybody important will be surrounded by security forces. They don't let bigshots take casual down city streets these days. Most stay holed up in the convention center.

During the convention, to get a glimpse of the famous, head for traffic jams by motorcades and to and from the hotels and the convention hall. You may see somebody important, but it might also turn out to be your neighbor.

Finally, don't expect the convention to cure what ails your town.

If your town has a bad image, a run convention without a lot of activity on the streets can help, as it did New York in 1976, but there still are plenty of Americans who think Manhattan is a fire zone.

Nor is the convention going to cure what ails your town. You may have read that the convention is going to bring \$30 million of new business to the city, but figures that sort are more often bandied about before rather than after convention. And if the past is any guide, there's plenty of business people in your town who will say when it is all over that it didn't make a dime.

In 1968, many restaurants that had mally closed for the summer reopened for the Republican convention in Miami Beach. When both parties returned to the same town four years later, a lot of those eating places were closed.

MSC posters criticized

Editor:

I am writing to formally complain about an approved practice at the Memorial Student Center complex. At most times, there are posters on display on the first floor of the MSC which make some short comment and solicit replies. In some cases, the comments are legitimate, but in others the comments are very suggestive. In all cases, a majority of the replies are obscene. These posters are approved by the Texas A&M University Complex Scheduling and Services Committee and are therefore a condoned activity of the University.

As we all know, the MSC is one of the highest traffic areas on campus. Not only is it widely used by students, but visitors attending conferences on campus usually go to the MSC to relax, to shop, or to eat. Visiting dignitaries, prospective administrators, professors, and staff are usually given a tour of the MSC. More importantly, parents of prospective students usually visit the MSC. In many instances, the MSC is the first stop on campus for visitors.

What impression do these people obtain of Texas A&M University when they view these posters on a short visit of our campus? Is this just a continuation of

the low standards we present to our nation by use of crude cartoon dorm yells, midnight yell practices, and the indecent gestures of yell leaders at sporting events?

For a university striving to be a university which is generating a nation's leaders of tomorrow, can we afford to publicly display this type of activity? Finally, the Memorial Student Center is a memorial to those Aggies who gave their lives for our country. Is this type of activity appropriate within the walls of a memorial for the dead?

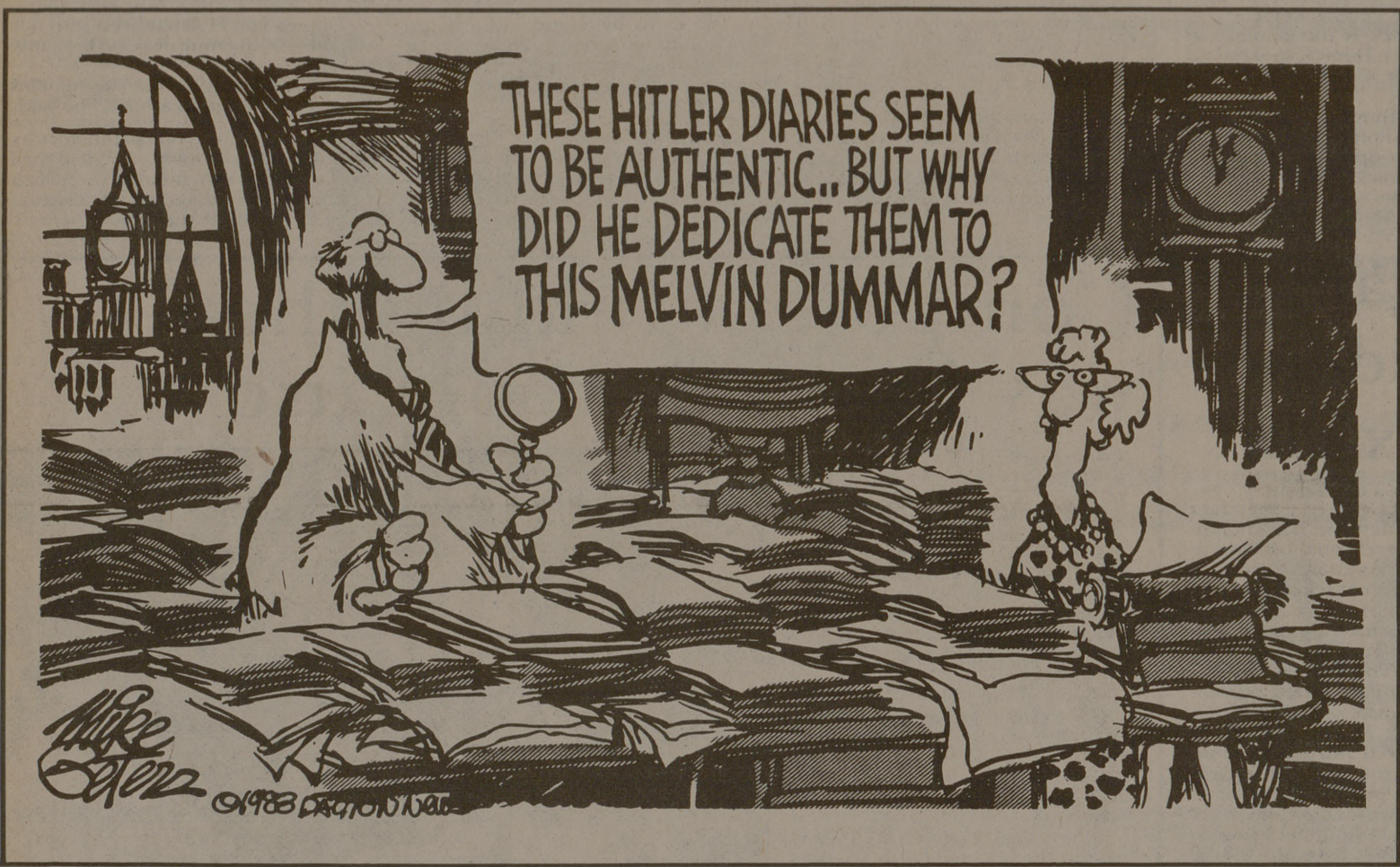
John W. Kubacki

Cabin history wanted

Editor:

Does anybody out there know the story or fate of the log cabin at 405 Dr. in College Station? It was torn down. Does anyone know how the tree down the street by the creek followed the brick wall?

Tad Davis



Letters: Campus litter complaints

Editor:

I have spent four wonderful years on this campus, but lately I have been amazed by its latest additions. They seem to come in great quantity and variety, such as McDonald's cups, flyers, beer cans and, worst of all, Battalions.

Litter on this campus has become a problem and an eyesore to this University. Obviously it is the person's fault that threw it on the ground, but the other 98 percent of us could cooperate also. To the Battalion staff; Isn't there a more efficient method of distributing the paper

ers to the dorms than putting them in the middle of the side walk on a windy day? I know we can't blame you, we could pick them up, but some of us seem to be too busy lying out, playing frisbee, or tossing horse shoes.

If someone littered in our yard at home, wouldn't we stop and clean up the mess? So Aggies, let's pull together, the physical plant is fighting a losing battle. Next time you see trash on your campus, pick it up, most likely there is a trash can within 50 feet of you. I, like many Aggies, feel the spirit of Aggieland is

here to stay, but can we tell by looking at the campus?

Nancy Ford '83

Chemistry review

Editor:

A committee is now reviewing the present Chemistry 101 and 102 curriculum. Soon, they will offer their recommendations to the head of the chemistry department on whether to keep the present system or adopt a new one.

In the present system students may attend any lecture section. They are encouraged to visit different sections to find the professor they like and understand the best. Exams are standardized so that students are not penalized for not attending their assigned section. If this system is changed, each professor will probably make and administer his own exams without regard to the other professors.

The committee compiling the report has neither consulted students presently enrolled in the program, nor allowed Dr. O'Conner, director of first year chemistry programs, to present his views except at a first meeting.

I strongly encourage anyone with an opinion on this subject to contact Dr. John Fackler, dean of the College of Science, because he can make the final decision.

You may not be directly involved but — for the sake of the incoming freshmen who have to take chemistry next year — let Dean Fackler know how you feel.

Becky Bailes '86

The Battalion

USPS 045 360

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications.

Questions or comments concerning any editorial 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 are longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed and show the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, or phone (713) 845-2611.

The Battalion is published daily during Texas A&M's fall and spring semesters, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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