

opinion

Sisters: today's your day

I think it's time to declare a national holiday for sisters — like Father's Day.

A couple of years ago, I might not have considered establishing a day to honor female siblings, but I think now the time is appropriate.

Many people — including me — have taken their sisters for granted. You get used to living with them and you forget how important they are.

But after 20 years of living with, arguing with and loving a sister, I've begun to think about our relationship and how important it is to me. Especially since we'll both be graduating in nine months and going our separate ways.

Our relationship has been like most sisters' relationships. We've had our good times and bad times and of course the you'd-better-quit-or-I'll-tell-Momma-on-you times.

I've learned that sisters are dependable and unique. They're useful and, in some instances, can mean more to you than a brother can.



beverly hamilton

Who else can you play Kiddles with who knows exactly where the dollhouses go in the Kiddle village? And who else can you depend on to be your constant swimming buddy in the summer?

Who's always there when you're low on cash? And who else can you turn to when you think the world is going to end?

But of course, sisters make mistakes. When helpfully lending a hand, she throws a basketful of clothes into the washing machine, unaware that a bright red shortset hides beneath a pile of white clothes. But hey, doesn't everyone like pink underwear?

I think I'll declare the first Tuesday after Father's Day as Sister's Day. I probably need to check with the National Holiday Commission to get an okay on the idea, but in my book at least, today is **The Day**.

Sister's Day would be a great day to take off work, skip school and take your special sibling to Luby's or for a night on the town.

Tell her how much she means to you. She will appreciate it — especially if it's been a while since you last told her.

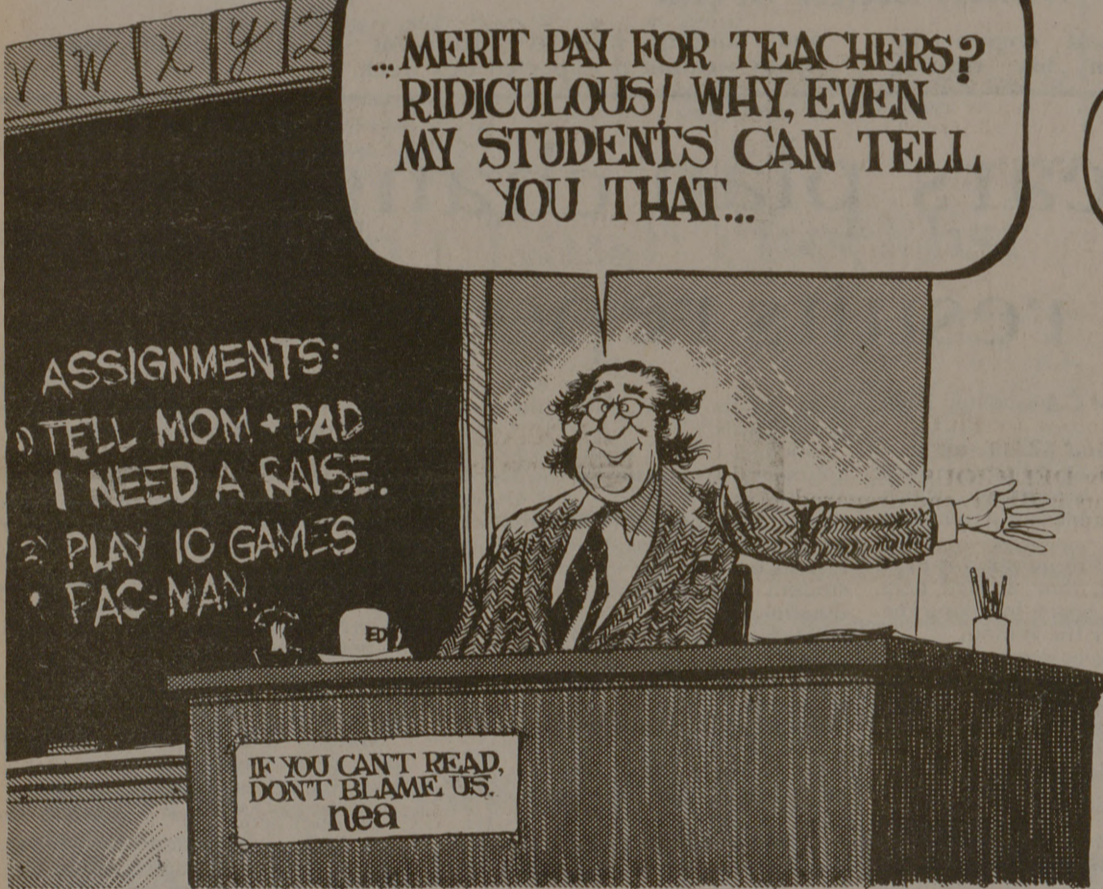
So here's a message sis, I love you. Today's for you — Happy Sister's Day!

Slouch By Jim Earle

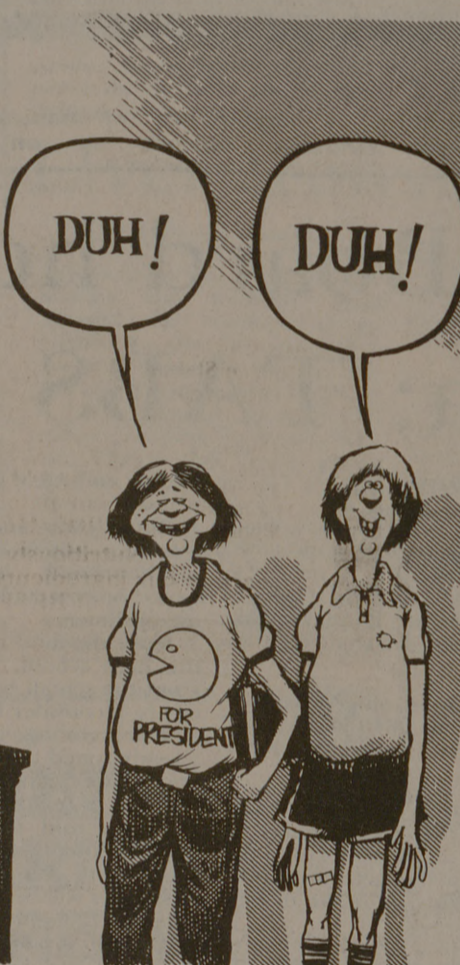


"Have you seen my electric fan?"

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...MERIT PAY FOR TEACHERS? RIDICULOUS! WHY, EVEN MY STUDENTS CAN TELL YOU THAT...



President's views on education may up chances of re-election

by Clay F. Richards

WASHINGTON — In the rush to make political gain over what is called the crisis in the nation's public education system, Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., has proposed a government-paid \$5,000 raise for every teacher.

Stepping aside whether or not such a raise is deserved, that is a pretty radical proposal from a senator who based his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination on the proposal that a budget freeze is the answer to the nation's economic problems.

Education has boomed onto the national political scene in the past month, erupting like a long-forgotten volcano.

Education Secretary Terrel Bell, the forgotten man of the administration, was described by Republican National Chairman Frank Fahrenkopf as the second most important public official in the nation today, next only to President Reagan.

Bell, brought to Washington to carry out Reagan's campaign pledge to dismantle the Department of Education, has probably given more speeches in the past month than he did in the entire previous time since he joined the Cabinet.

When Bell spoke at the Republican National Committee Meeting in Dallas week before last, he handed out a 66-page briefing book that party leaders could take home to explain

where the administration stands on very aspect of the education issue.

The nation's two major teachers unions — the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers — seeking to flex their political clout in the presidential campaign, have tried to make Democratic contenders toe the line and endorse their long-held positions. Former Vice President Walter Mondale was one of the first to propose a costly government program, with a price tag of \$11 billion, to cure the education crisis.

The Democrats have tried to make Reagan the villain in the education crisis. They say he is the man who has made the problem worse by cutting student loans and other federal education programs.

But Reagan is working skillfully to try and make the education issue backfire on the Democrats.

He is going around the country telling people more federal money is not going to solve the problem. The problem, he insists, is a lack of discipline in the schools, a lack of demand for excellence, and a failure to reward good teachers and weed out bad ones.

One of the main criticisms of Reagan over the years has been that he had tried to simplify complex issues — showing, critics say, that he really doesn't understand them.

But to the American parent, education is a very simple issue to understand. Parents believe if they send their children to school where they are disciplined, where quality is stressed and teaching is good, there is a fair chance their children will learn.

Parents understand that education is paid for not by the federal government, but by local and state government and are a large part based on their own property taxes.

Increasingly polls show that parents don't want big union and federal government programs for their schools, because they believe education is a local problem.

Ronald Reagan may have found an issue that more than any other will boost his chances of re-election.

Is America winning cold chicken race?

by Dick West

WASHINGTON — News reports the United States had successfully test-fired a "chicken gun" hit this town with a resounding splat.

A 20-foot cannon, developed at the Air Force base in Langley, Va., was said to be capable of propelling 4-pound chickens through the lower atmosphere at speeds of up to 700 miles per hour.

No less an authority than Senate Republican Leader Howard Baker, whose home state gave the world the recipe for Tennessee fried chicken, called attention to "this new strategic development."

Asserting that biddy ballistics directly involved "our nation's safety and might even change the focus of the defense budget debate," Baker wondered "how far along the Soviet Union is with their deployment of the chicken gun?" A good question.

The Air Force claims it is shooting chickens at jet engines, windshields and landing gear to gain information about damage caused by aircraft colliding with birds.

It sounds like a typical Pentagon cost story to me. Oh, I suppose the data could be valuable to pilots who must take off or land near large flocks of seagulls.

Of much greater concern, however, is the impact a 20-foot canister loaded with chickens might have on the current arms control talks with the Russians. Thus far, negotiators mainly have discussed the proposed introduction of U.S. medium-range missiles in Western Europe.

What if the Soviets became convinced some of those missiles, aimed at targets in their territory, would have chicken payloads? Would they then feel compelled to beef up their own fleet of medium-range missiles?

Could some of the intercontinental rockets aimed at strategic areas in the United States be converted to chicken warheads? The Soviet

Union is reported far ahead of the States in civil defense preparations, however, no known defense agencies are dropping from the sky at high speeds.

You can picture for yourself what happen if this type of ammunition hit civilian population centers, particularly during rush hour.

Disarmament advocates have gained strength from the "nuclear freeze" in this country and abroad. But perhaps little would be gained by freezing chicken.

If anything, the damage caused by a chicken striking a military aircraft—

Once chickens begin to tip the arms race, it is only a matter of time before someone develops a turkey bomb.

forbid, a commuter's automobile—even more devastating than a direct fresh pullet.

The danger of escalation also present. Once chickens begin to tip the arms race, it is only a matter of time someone develops a turkey bomb.

If that prospect doesn't seem enough, imagine what it would be like to live with the threat of being constantly living under the threat of being hit with dead ducks and geese, peacocks, albatrosses and ostriches.

It is, I suppose, unfair to demand that the United States unilaterally stop atomic chicken gun testing. But let us get reduction on the agenda at Geneva too late.

Spotlight on fathers

By William C. Trott

New York and Rhode Island used Father's Day to march in protest of custody and alimony laws they say are discriminatory, and a Wichita, Kansas, dad pleaded for donors so his two daughters can have life-saving liver transplants.

In addition to the usual family and political statements, it also was Father's Day in space as the four men aboard the space shuttle Challenger took the spotlight from their woman cohort, Sally Ride.

"All the families of the dads on board have been calling in and they want to make sure we wish you a very happy Father's Day today," mission controller Terry Hart told the men.

"We sure appreciate it. I'm sure you'll pass our good wishes on to our young 'uns," said mission specialist John Fabian.

About 30 men trekked 8 miles to the state prison in Cranston, R.I., Sunday to show their support for Paul W. Lataille, 52, a sixth-grade teacher jailed 3 1/2 months ago for refusing to pay \$12,000 in alimony and legal fees to his ex-wife.

Members of Fathers Against Discrimination carried signs that said "Free Paul Lataille"

and "Family Court is Unfair" and with a horse and buggy, symbolic of the treatment men get in divorce settlements.

Lataille, the father of five adult children, has steadfastly maintained he should not have to pay his working wife alimony and vowed to remain in jail rather than pay.

About 150 people, ranging from young to great-grandparents, paraded through New York's Times Square to protest the way men are treated in divorce and custody cases.

In Minneapolis, John Bohrer, 47, had what he fears might be his last Father's Day with his daughters, Julie, 7 months, and Julie is at the University of Minnesota Hospital awaiting a transplant. Doctors say Amee must have a transplant within a few days.

"It was especially meaningful since a potential that this might be my last Father's Day," Bohrer said.

Bohrer, assistant administrator at the Joseph Medical Center in Wichita, Kan., wife, Cathie, have started a media campaign to draw attention to Julie's immediate and the needs of other children.

The Battalion

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