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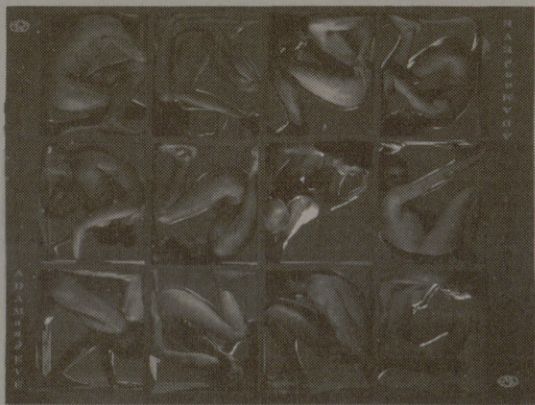
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Joe Kennedy decides not to run for governor

BOSTON (AP) — Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy II, sensitive to the negative publicity he and his family have received, announced Thursday that he has decided not to run for governor next year.

Kennedy, whose approval ratings have plummeted this year, said he feared his candidacy would end up highlighting recent scandals within his family, such as his brother's alleged relationship with a teen-age baby sitter, rather than weighty issues such as health care, jobs and education.

"In recent weeks, I've come to the conclusion, reluctantly, that if I am a candidate for governor next year, the focus will not be on those issues," he said at a news conference. "The race will focus on personal and family questions. It's not fair to my family. It's not fair to the people of Massachusetts, and it's not the right thing to do."

Although Kennedy, 44, never formally declared his candidacy, he often said he planned to run.

Kennedy also said Thursday he planned to run again next year for Congress, an office he first won in 1986. He represents the 8th District, which covers much of Boston and Cambridge and is the same seat held by his uncle, the late President John F. Kennedy.

Kennedy, the eldest son of the late Robert F. Kennedy, had been viewed as a heavy favorite in the governor's race as recently as a year ago. The Kennedy family has gone 18-for-18 in general elections in Massachusetts over the past 50 years, and Kennedy was re-elected last year

with only token opposition.

Throughout 1997, however, his public standing has been undercut by negative publicity.

"It's not fair to my family. It's not fair to the people of Massachusetts, and it's not the right thing to do."

JOSEPH KENNEDY II

First, his wife, Sheila Rauch Kennedy, published a book accusing him of trying to bully her into granting him an annulment of their marriage. His brother Michael then was investigated for allegedly having sex with his family's teen-age baby sitter.

More recently, Joe Kennedy and one of his 16-year-old twin sons were lighting fireworks on July 4 when the boy was accidentally burned. Fireworks are illegal in Massachusetts.

Just as that news was dying down, his cousin John F. Kennedy Jr. said Joe and Michael Kennedy had become "poster boys for bad behavior."

The congressman, flanked by his campaign supporters and staff, said Thursday that his cousin's article in *George* magazine was "very, very much misunderstood."

But, he said, "You have to be realistic about

the fact that people are very angry at members of my family and me in particular, and I have responsibility for that."

"I don't think Joe Kennedy relished the thought of being the first member of Cambridge to lose a battle in Massachusetts," said political analyst Kevin Sowyrd.

Just this past weekend, Joe Kennedy had a stroke of bad luck, injuring an ankle in a football game on Cape Cod that sought to capture the atmosphere of happier days when his uncle was president.

Kennedy apologized for both his and his brother's conduct at a state Democratic Caucus convention in June. In several meetings with reporters afterward he insisted he would still run for governor next year.

He had about \$1.8 million in his federal campaign account, much of which he figured would be used in a state race. Earlier this month he opened a state campaign committee and named a campaign manager.

As recently as January, Kennedy was viewed favorably by 60 percent of those surveyed in a poll released by *The Boston Globe* and *WBZ*. In another *Globe*/*WBZ*-TV released in June, Kennedy was viewed favorably by 34 percent of 400 people surveyed, while 45 percent viewed him unfavorably.

The polls had a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percentage points.

Study: Little Ice Age may slow global warming

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lingering effects of a frosty 500 years called the Little Ice Age may be helping to slow global warming, according to a new study.

Researchers at the University of New Hampshire said cold winds roaring over the North and South poles are almost the same now as they were during the period of global chill that started in 1400 and apparently ended at the beginning of this century.

"This shows we are still feeling the effects of the Little Ice Age," said Karl J. Kreutz of the Climate Change Research Center at the University of New Hampshire. "This could be modifying the temperatures caused by the greenhouse effect, although we can't be certain of that."

Another scientist said the research adds important new understanding about the Little Ice Age

and raises the possibility that the warming effects of greenhouse gases may be worse than now believed.

A report on the study will be published Friday in *Science*, the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

During the Little Ice Age, global temperatures are thought to have dropped by 2 to 3 degrees F; enough to make winters longer and harder and summers cooler throughout countries in the Northern Hemisphere where most weather records were then kept.

In the 15th and 16th centuries, glaciers that had been receding started marching down mountains and, in some cases, casting increased numbers of icebergs into the sea. The timberline retreated down mountainsides, away from the chilled peaks. Some agriculture areas were abandoned to the creep-

ing cold. Vikings who had homesteaded in Greenland gave up their settlements, never to return.

Kreutz said new cores drilled from permanent ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica show the Earth has yet to fully recover from the Little Ice Age.

Kreutz said layers of ice cored from more than 500 feet below the surface clearly show that wind patterns suddenly changed at the beginning of the Little Ice Age. Gales started blowing in from the ocean dropped concentrations of sea salt — a compound of sodium, chlorine, magnesium and potassium — onto the surface of ice sheets near the poles. The chemicals became a part of the seasonal ice layers.

The sea salt, in effect, left a fingerprint of wind patterns: The stronger and more frequent the winds, the greater the amount of

sea salt. Thus, by measuring concentration of sea salt in ice, researchers can determine the intensity of the winds.

New ice cores show that the patterns established at the beginning of the Little Ice Age are the same as the patterns of today, said Kreutz.

"We're seeing the same trends in winds blowing into the polar regions that occurred during the Little Ice Age," said Kreutz. "That means some of the effects from that period are still happening."

"This is pretty important because it shows that the Little Ice Age was a global effect," said D. Keigwin of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Massachusetts. He said there are worldwide data on the Little Ice Age and any new information eventually help scientists understand what caused it.

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