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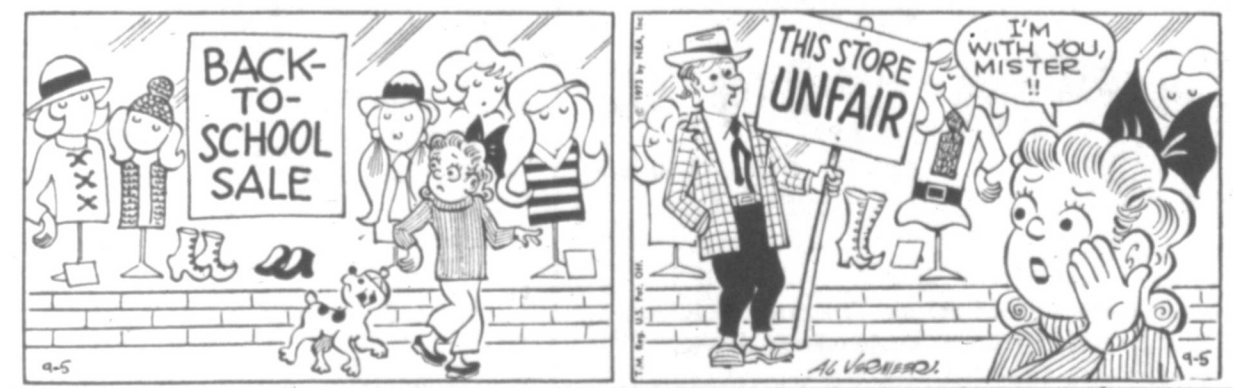
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FUNNY BUSINESS



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By Marty NEW YO To many can Drea bedroom, style hon garage st with tre laws. Al ca's own! But, have pur homes in atest, ge Tudor is gle. Sur other half Horror owners' terms

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# A man's home is his hassle

By Marty Rabovsky  
First in a series

**NEW YORK (NEA)** — To many people, the American Dream is owning a four-bedroom, split-level, colonial-style home with a two-car garage set on a street lined with trees and manicured lawns. Ah, suburbia: America's own Shangri-La.

But, as many people who have purchased their dream-homes in the last decade will attest, getting into the typical Tudor is only half the struggle. Surviving in it is the other half.

Horror stories from homeowners are as common as termites in damp wood. They

ranties on the homes they build and sell — five years on the roof, three years on the septic tank, a year on the electrical wiring, etc. But, the Bureau said the plan is at least five years away from being implemented.

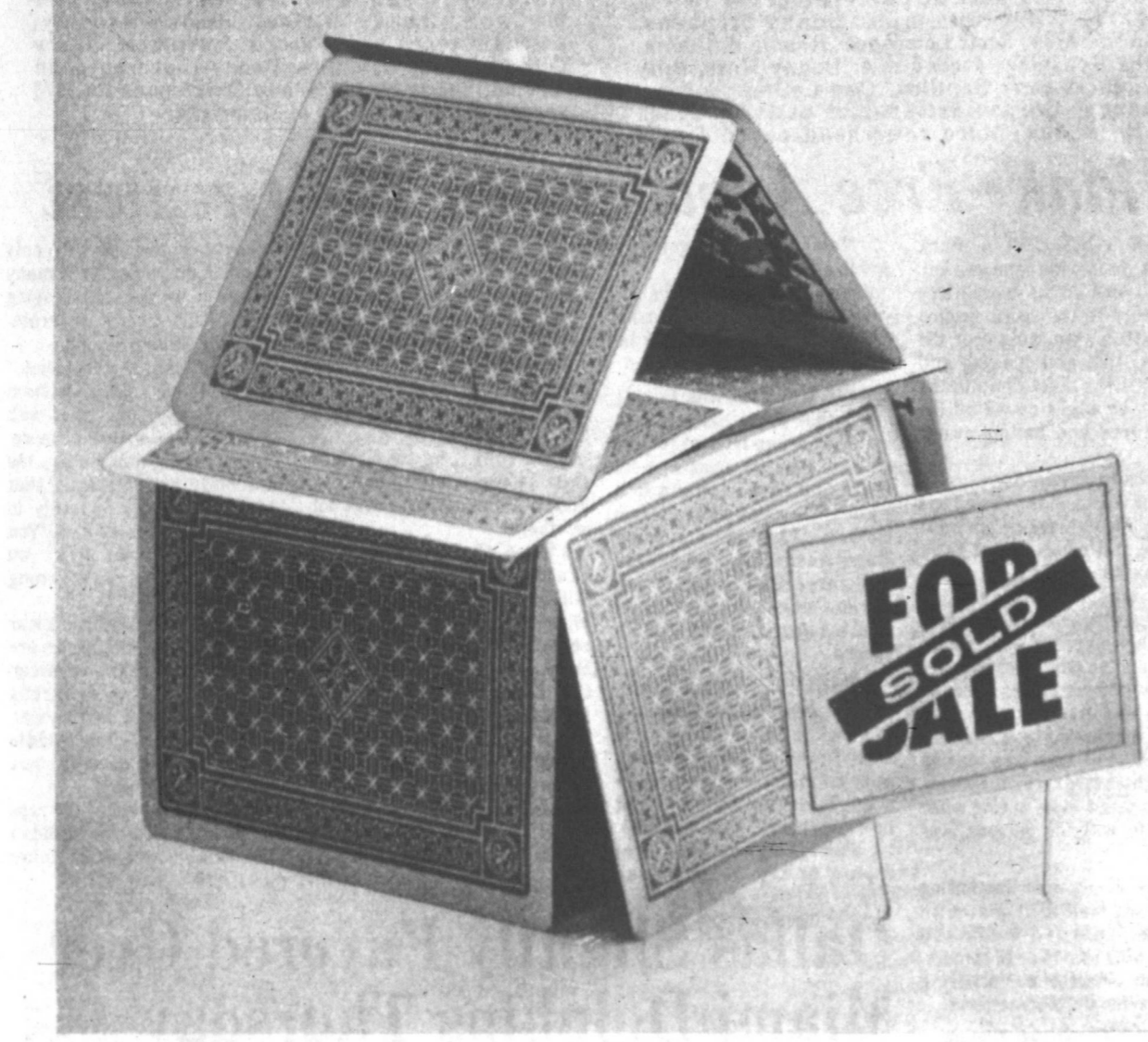
All of which leaves the typical American Dreamer in a perilous position. He can get a warranty on the new automobile he drives. He can get guarantees on the appliances he purchases. He can even get a free refill from his dentist if the silver falls out of his teeth less than a year after it was put there. But on the greatest single investment of his life — his home — he runs the risk alone.

Richardson asked the other buyers to refrain from out-bidding him on his own house. "Everybody in that room did have compassion," said Richardson, "except for one man. He was not a gentleman. There were several real-estate people and investors, who make a living by purchasing and reselling homes, and even they refrained from bidding. But thankfully, I was able to buy my own house."

Richardson said the two and one-half-year ordeal "was the most horrible thing I have ever gone through. This was gambling worse than in Las Vegas, not knowing what my fate would be at the auction,

got an extension to May 28. I sold in Bergenfield and, from then to now, the house has increased in value from \$10,000 to \$12,000. If I didn't wind up with this home, I would have been left with the closing value of the Bergenfield house in 1971. I lost the equity and increased value of my home."

The builder of the Richardson home, Michael Pollotta, of the Distinctive Dwellings Corporation, blamed the entire affair on the Borough of Northvale. He said the reason he abandoned the Richardson house was because the borough had promised him two easements — and then reneged. The easements, he said, would have enabled him to build proper storm-drain-



will tell you about leaky roofs, settling foundations that crack bedroom and kitchen walls, water in their cellars, septic tanks that over-flow, driveways that buckle, sieves that masquerade as picture windows in their living rooms.

Even more horrifying, perhaps, is the lack of consumer protection that is offered to the home-buyer in America. The Consumer Affairs Bureau in Washington, D.C., will tell you that it cannot come to the aid of every single home buyer burned by a slick contractor who sold them a faulty house. The Bureau will also tell you that it has been working on a plan that would require contractors to give war-

If the L-shaped ranch on Regal Avenue begins to self-destruct three months into the payment book, the buyer has nowhere to turn for help. He cannot run, face distorted with outrage, to the contractor or to the bank which is holding his mortgage, and ask for a refund. Most homeowners who have already survived the rigors of loose shingles and crabgrass will tell you that, in times of crisis, they were left to sink or swim in their own flooded basements. Which means, of course, that they were left to pay for the repairs themselves — \$300 to pump the cellar dry, \$200 to drain the septic tank, \$500 for a new roof, and so on.

The horror stories of homeowners are endless. They range from plain, old plumbing deficiencies to more exotic problems such as less-than-adhesive cathedral ceilings. (The chandeliers become loose and, usually at 3 in the morning, disassociate themselves from the ceiling, crash through the living room floor, and finally demolish themselves on the floor of the play room, somewhere near the fireplace). Inevitably, the contractor or the builder of the home is blamed. In most cases, the blame is well-placed. It is no secret among seasoned homeowners that many contractors are not above using plywood where a piece of cherry hardwood should go.

As horror stories go, the case of the Donald Richardson family of Northvale, N.J., is enough to make apartment-dwellers of us all. In the spring of 1971, Donald Richardson sold his old home in Bergenfield, N.J., and bought a new one in Northvale from a concern called the Distinctive Dwelling Corporation. Although the new home was not completed, the Richardson family moved in and waited for the closing date — May 28, 1971 — to arrive. During the time the family was waiting, the contractor abandoned the project (he had 22 homes under construction in the development) and disappeared.

Although Richardson had a certificate of occupancy, and although he had already made a down payment, the deal was never legally closed because of heavy liens on the house. So, Richardson was forced to live in the unfinished house for two and one-half years without even knowing whether he would be able to afford to buy the house when it finally went on sale at a court-ordered public auction.

When the house finally was placed up for auction in August, 1973, the sheriff in Northvale, one Joseph Job, allowed Richardson to make a plea for compassion to the other buyers before the auc-

Nobody knows the money I have spent on legal fees. I had legal judgments against Distinctive Dwellings for \$5,000 which I will never collect. I had them in court, I had their books and all it showed was that they had no money. The money was uncollectable, including the down payment.

"I had \$2,000 in legal fees. I sold my old house in Bergenfield under the assumption I would take possession of the new one on April 1, 1971. The closing date in Bergenfield was for the same date, but we

age lanes. (An easement is special permission to install facilities on property which is normally protected from construction.)

"It was," Pollotta said, "the responsibility of the planning board to acquire the easements. And it didn't."

The Richardsons, meanwhile, now have a roof over their heads which they finally can call their own. They are not planning to move again. Ever.

(Next: The House Hustlers)

## The Lighter Side

By DICK WEST  
WASHINGTON (UPI) — Ancient scrolls, some of which appear to contain variations of biblical narratives, continue to turn up in the Dead Sea area.

At the moment, I understand scholars are trying to piece together a crumbling parchment that bears some semblance to the familiar account of the origin of the Ten Commandments.

In the Old Testament version, Moses descends from Mt. Sinai with two stone tablets of laws written by "the finger of God." Subsequently he breaks the tablets in anger over finding his people worshipping the golden calf.

Not enough of the Dead Sea parchment has been restored for scholars to state with finality that it deals with the same event.

Comparison is interesting. From what has been translated thus far, the differences seem to overshadow the similarities. Nevertheless, it is interesting to compare the two accounts.

In the scroll version, a man whose name may be rendered in English as Mozis, or Mozis, is chosen as leader of a group of people.

He spends some time on a mountaintop in communication with an adviser, who may or may not have been God.

When he returns, the people are eager to learn what Mozis, or Mozis, said to God and what God told Mozis, or Mozis.

But Mozis, or Mozis, refuses to reveal the nature of the conference, citing executive privilege.

He explains that the chosen leader of a group of people must seek advice and counsel from a great variety of sources, including Divine Guidance.

These consultations must necessarily be held in strict confidence, he continues. Otherwise, his advisers would not feel free to speak frankly

and without fear of their points of view being misconstrued.

His followers accept this argument. But subsequently it becomes known that Mozis, or Mozis, has secretly recorded the mountaintop conversations on two stone tablets.

The people contend that the stone transcripts constitute a breach of confidentiality and that the contents of the tablets should therefore be made public.

Mozis, or Mozis, rejects the demand, insisting that the tablets were inscribed for historical purposes. He says different people reading the tablets might interpret them in different ways.

And he reiterates that the chosen leader of a group of people has the inherent power and right to withhold such information.

If it comes to a showdown, he says he will break the tablets rather than reveal their contents. The scrolls do not make clear what happens after that.

## Hearing Slated For Extortion

AUSTIN (UPI) — A preliminary hearing for William R. Barron, charged in an extortion plot against state and federal officials, has been scheduled for Friday.

Barron, the public information director for the Texas Air Control Board, is accused of using the mails to threaten Arthur Busch, regional administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Herbert McKee, chairman of the Texas Air Control Board.

A second charge alleges that Barron attempted to extort Cad E. Williams, an Austin bank president, in 1972. The charges say Barron asked \$50,000 each from Busch and McKee and \$25,000 from Williams under a threat to expose the men to bad publicity.

## Social Security Q & A

(Have you a question about social security? Address it to Howard L. Weatherly, Branch Manager, Social Security Administration, 1541 N. Hobart, Pampa, Texas 79065. You will receive an answer in this column or by mail.)

By HOWARD L. WEATHERLY  
Q. I began receiving social security benefits at age 62. At that time, I filed an application for our son who has been totally disabled since age 20. His claim was denied because he was not disabled before age 18. Can we apply again under the new social security amendments?

A. Yes. Effective with January, 1973, childhood disability benefits are payable if the child became totally disabled before age 22.

Q. Our adopted son was receiving benefits on his deceased father's social security account. These benefits terminated when we adopted him. Can he reapply under the new social security amendments?

A. Yes. If your son would be entitled to social security benefits except for his adoption he may reapply. His benefits would become effective with the month of October, 1972.

Q. I am drawing a reduced social security benefit. I have been told that I will be automatically enrolled for Medicare when I become age 65. What if I do not want to take the supplementary medical insurance?

A. If you wish to decline supplementary medical coverage, you must notify your social security office in writing before the month in which you become age 65 and you will be considered not to have enrolled.

## Quarrel Erupts Over Bank Hostages Photograph

STOCKHOLM (UPI) — A bitter internal quarrel within the Police Department was reported over the publication of an exclusive photograph showing a convict and three weary hostages in a besieged Stockholm bank vault.

A police spokesman said officers involved in the successful operation to free the

hostages last month were "upset" over the release of the photograph.

It was taken by a policeman who lowered a camera into the vault from the roof and was published by the West German magazine Bild Am Sonntag Sunday.

The spokesman said the policeman signed a written

agreement not to release the photograph to newsmen.

The bank drama involved a gunman, Jan-Erik Olsson, who seized four hostages and won the release from prison of convicted bank robber Clark Olofsson. All six were held up in the bank vault.

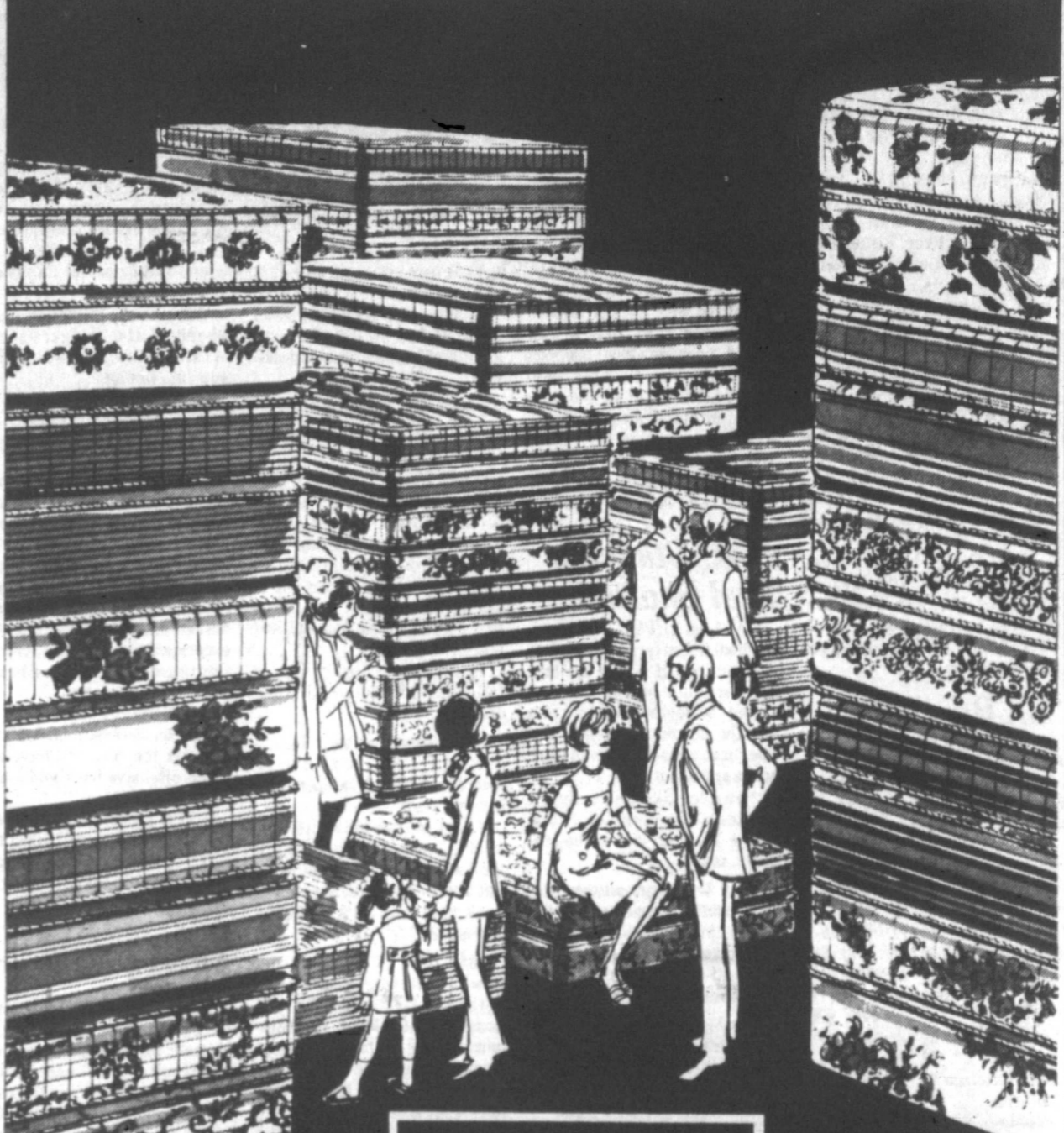
The photo was taken before the five-day ordeal ended with

the capture of the gunman and the convict in a storm of tear gas.

It shows Olofsson standing and three hostages, two of them women, seated near safety deposit boxes with nooses dangling over the heads.

Jet is fossilized wood or a mineral like coal. It is opaque and in color is velvety black.

# BEDDING CLEARANCE



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- SAVINGS ON OUR ENTIRE LINE\* —

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**SHOWBEAT**

**Will Michelle's short cut bring back old styles?**

By Dick Kleiner

**HOLLYWOOD** — (NEA) — Next — short hair for girls. That is the prediction from Michelle Phillips, the former Mama of The Mamas and The Papas who is now costarring in "Dillinger." She's cut her hair short and likes it.

"I think," Michelle says, "that I may have had a part in starting the long hair style but I've grown tired of it. And so are a lot of other girls. Short hair is coming in."

Bill Bixby went to Las Vegas to film an episode of his new NBC show The Magician. Everything went fine — until the last five minutes of his stay in Vegas.

Bixby is not a gambler, but in those last few moments, while he and Brenda waited for their car he sat down at the blackjack table. And, as



JOSEPHINE BAKER

he expected, he lost the \$20 he had allowed himself.

But, while he was losing the \$20 his pocket was picked. It was an expensive five minutes.

Hollywood isn't the only film center that's hurting these days. Franco Zeffirelli, the great Italian director, says the Italian movie industry is in dire straits.

"Italian films," he says, "still have ideas and personalities but they are crippled by economic and political turmoil, like everything else in Italy. The unions are going too far in their demands and often damage their own interests."

"I am pessimistic. Wherever you put your finger, you find a snake bite. People are losing their sense of balance, losing their optimism and enthusiasm. Foreign capital is not coming any more. There is no respect for budgets and time schedules. Life in the movie business in Italy is becoming impossible."

Tim Conway and George Plimpton stayed as Hugh Hefner's guest in his gaudy Playboy Mansion here. The house has 54 rooms and all kinds of accessories — including 32 bunnies who live there.

Somebody mentioned to Conway about the 32 bunnies.

"Well, that takes care of tonight," Conway said to Plimpton. "What'll we do tomorrow?"

Indian star Jay Silverheels comment on the Oscar night stunt, when Sacheen Littlefeather declined Marlon Brando's award and substituting an appeal on behalf of Indians:

"I don't think it did any harm or any particular good. I knew Sacheen and I don't think it was her idea at all — I am sure Brando recruited her."

Shirley Bassey wants to play Josephine Baker in a hoped-for movie version of the international singing star's life. She thinks it could do for her what "Lady Sings the Blues" did for Diana Ross.

**WORRY CLINIC**

By George W. Crane, Ph.D., M.D.

Amanda has a sex puzzle! Dr. Burkhart, at his big church in Columbus, Ohio, faced the same dilemma when two wives withdrew from his church after my Marriage Clinic. For they resented my letting their husbands get out from under their nagging "thumbs."



CASE Y-509: Amanda G., aged 28, has an interesting sex question.

"Dr. Crane," she began, "some of the older women in our church Women's Society seem to think you are a sex maniac!"

"But we younger wives can't figure out how they ever obtained that notion."

"For you have tried to show wives how to avoid divorce. You have exposed the 'cheesecake' vs. 'roast beef' strategy of those younger sirens who wean middle-aged husbands away from their stodgy wives."

"And even our local Guidance Counselors in high school quote your constant veto of promiscuity and mere sexual infatuation."

"So why do these older wives criticize you?"

**THE SHOE FITS**

Actually, I have been using this newspaper column as a form of vital vaccination against marital disasters!

Never have I urged anybody to rush into a Divorce Court! And my medical discussions of bouboir problems have always been couched in euphemistic language, such as bouboir cheesecake or erotic calories, instead of vulgar 4-letter words.

"The shoe fits" is thus the usual reason why some of these older stodgy wives protest. They demonstrate the "buck-passing" strategy by then blaming me for their unhappy homes, instead of frankly facing the facts.

In Columbus, Ohio, a couple of such wives caught their mates in illicit affairs and thereafter threatened the men with divorce.

But when Dr. Roy Burkhart invited me to conduct an all-day Marriage Clinic in his famous church, those two women didn't grow irate when I addressed the 2,000 ladies in my afternoon clinic.

But they almost had a fit when I repeated the identical address before the husbands at the banquet session that same night and these wives eavensdropped.

For I had mentioned in both addresses that even supposedly

innocent wives are usually at least 50 percent to blame for straying husbands.

These two wives then realized that their husbands were now out from under their thumbs!

So they criticized Dr. Burkhart and also started a write-in attack on my column in the morning Scripps-Howard paper at Columbus.

For whenever the shoe fits, there are two alternatives.

One is to criticize the doctor who gives the diagnosis.

The other is to remedy the matter and eliminate the faults that have produced the threat to the marriage.

The latter is far more difficult, for it may entail shedding 30 to 50 pounds of excess blubber, plus the new strategy of diaphanous nighties, perfume and the other components of that "bouboir cheesecake" technique which I often mention.

Because it is so much simpler just to attack me, the lazy wives then wage a campaign to kill off this column by demanding that the local editor cancel it.

Indeed, some publishers have cancelled because their own wives were twins for those two Columbus, Ohio, buck-passers.




But most of the women readers, though irate at first reading of this column, then recognize that if they don't follow the sexual advice outlined herein and via the medical booklet offered as a fringe benefit, they will lose their mates permanently!

Send for my booklet "Sex Problems in Marriage," enclosing a long stamped, return envelope, plus 25 cents.

(Always write to Dr. Crane in care of The Worry Clinic, Hopkins Bldg., Westhill, Indiana 47382. Enclose a long stamped, addressed envelope and 25 cents to cover mailing and printing costs when you send for one of his booklets.)

Tree ailment

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (UPI) — The sycamore, Missouri's answer to California's redwoods, has been plagued this year with a sycamore anthracnose, a leaf and twig disease which causes defoliation, the Missouri Conservation Commission reports.

**Bodin Knits a Handsome Blazer**

A wanted style fashioned to match our pants - or yours at home. Made of 100% polyester with great washability - good patch pocket and top stitch detail. Now in dark brown or black. 8 to 16.

**24.00**

Vest-20<sup>00</sup> Pants-20<sup>00</sup> Shells-13<sup>00</sup> to 18<sup>00</sup>

New Arrival -

**Gay Printed Caftans**

A most popular lounging or, for at-home entertainment, long look - easy, comfortable, pretty fabrics in washable blends. All in interesting prints, designs and treatments. One Size.

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**Printed Long Skirts**

Imported hand screened colorful prints in an assortment of patterns typical of our Hawaiian State. Elastic waists, self tie belts. 100% washable acrylic fabric. 8 to 16.

**16.00**

Danville's famous popular priced quilted long skirt in acetate (washable) with polyfil. Black or red combos. S.M.L.

**13.00**

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**Aileen Girl Sportswear**



Aileen Girl coordinate sportswear is at the top of the list for Fall '73. Stylish easy care outfits are great for every young girl. Create the look you want by mixing or matching the tops and bottoms.

Sizes 4-6X, 7-14

**5<sup>50</sup> to 11<sup>00</sup>**

**Antron Nylon Long Halfslip**



Tailored for a smooth fit under all long skirts... Anti-static to prevent bunching or clinging even after countless washings. Nude or white. S.M.L.

**5<sup>00</sup>**

Fall "1973"

**Polyester Double Knits**



Still the most wanted and most desirable fabric for home sewing. Now a great new selection of Fall tonings and weaves in 60 inch widths. See, select yours now.

**3<sup>99</sup> and 4<sup>99</sup>**

Designer cuts in 2 to 5 yard lengths. 100% polyester. Specially priced. **1.99**

**Girl's Coats**



- Pant Coats
- Dress Coats

A great collection of fashion styles from Daisy or Carrcraft, two famous makes. Infants 18 months thru girls size 14. Casual or dressy styles in a selection of fabrics.

**16<sup>00</sup> to 32<sup>00</sup>**

**Vinyl Placemats**



Rectangular, oval or wedge shape in wipe clean vinyl. Colors of red, blue, gold, green, orange or white. Reg. 1.25

**3 for 2<sup>00</sup>**

**Farah Young Fashions**



Farah presents for you boys (girls like them too) an outstanding put-together jean and jacket. Permanent press polyester and cotton in denim blue or green brushed denim.

Jacket Sizes 2 to 7 ..... **8<sup>00</sup>**

Jeans Size 3 to 7 ..... **5<sup>50</sup>**

**Today's girl.**

**All-Sheer Panty Hose**



Start fall with Today's Girl. Great fit. Great wear. Great price. And they're just for you. If they were for somebody else we would have put somebody else's name on them. Selection of colors in sizes A and B.

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**Electric Blankets**

Automatically adjusts to changes in room temperature. Convertible corners, moth proof, washable blend of 80% polyester and 20% acrylic.

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Double, dc ....	<b>18<sup>99</sup></b>
Queen, dc ....	<b>23<sup>99</sup></b>
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