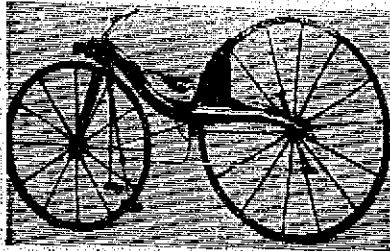




A Query on Bicycles



I'm a bike riding enthusiast. Please tell me when the bicycle was invented.

For years, our out-of-state visitors have expressed amazement that Texas allowed slow drivers to hog the left lanes of our freeways, forcing cars traveling at normal speeds to pass them on the right. Although the recently updated Texas Traffic Code now requires slower drivers to keep right, few persons appear to be aware of this change in the State Traffic Code?

—GLENN E. McCLURE.

ACTION: Little by little, improvements may be noted as slow drivers begin to get the message. You might like to know, however, that this change in the law still does not prohibit passing on the right. To be sure, it's a dangerous thing to do. The slow driver who won't move over in consideration of his fellow motorists would probably be just as thoughtless in switching lanes without looking—and WHAM!

★ ★ ★

About three weeks ago, I decided I'd like to buy a typewriter because I'd entered a class down here at San Antonio College. The class has paper work and correspondence, so I could use a typewriter — they say it's a lot easier. Anyway, I went down, and I had to fill out the standard forms and give local references. They said they'd wait to hear from the company I gave as a reference and that they'd notify me as soon as possible whether my application for credit was approved. Ten days later, I went back and found I had not been approved. The reasons given were:

1. That I am too young (I am 21).
2. That I haven't had any experience with money (I had given two local references, and I'm sure they came back good).
3. I'm living in a barracks (true).
4. I'm single (true).
5. I'm not permanently assigned (I've been here eight months and I should be here for another two years).
6. I'm not a resident of Texas (But what's this got to do with it, since the store is part of a nationwide firm?).

I had arranged to give a deposit of more than 20 per cent and then another 20 per cent on receipt of the typewriter. After talking with the manager, I concluded it probably was not an obvious case of discrimination against Air Force personnel but rather that they

Also, were there ever bicycles with the larger wheel in back? I know they used to have big wheels in front.

JERRY YUSE, age 11.

ACTION: The bicycle first was made by a Scotchman, Kirkpatrick Macmillan, in 1839, according to the Encyclopaedia Britannica. In its account, the Britannica has a picture of an early bike with a rear wheel larger than the front (see photograph). It is called "Macmillan's hobbyhorse."

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thought I wasn't responsible enough. I asked about this. In effect, they agreed.

I talked to my commanding officer, and he said stores probably do have enough evidence to the effect they can't take chances on young people in the Air Force. I'd appreciate it if you people could give me a better explanation.

—AIRMAN I.C. B.M.O., Kelly AFB.

ACTION: Youth has most good things going for it, but credit privileges are seldom among them. Call it irony if you like, but the "swinging young" — who've played the biggest part in the "enjoy now, pay later" style of existence — are the very ones the credit system seeks to shun. Creditors prefer the "old shoe" type person, the very one who probably had just as soon not go the credit way, and someone almost has to come around and sell him on the idea.

ACTION LINE thinks your analysis is correct — that the store turned you down for reasons other than your being Air Force.

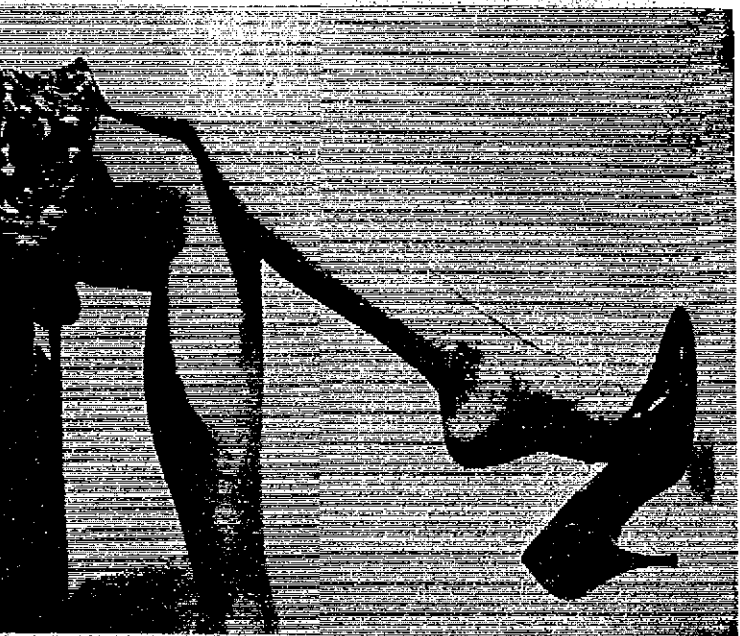
While you're single would be a good time to learn to lay some savings aside each month so that you can pay for some things with cash when the need arises. Heaven forbid that we'd dare extol that tiresome old middle class value known as "thriftiness"! But if you saved first and bought later, despite the temporary inconvenience, you'd have yourself a bargain typewriter and with no credit worries whatsoever.

★ ★ ★

I have been married almost 25 years and my husband has left me. He is drawing Social Security. Am I entitled to draw part of it? —NAME WITHHELD.

ACTION: If you are of retirement age, and your husband furnished more than half your support in the year before his retirement, you may be eligible. Gather up your records which prove these points and present them at the Social Security office at 309 Dwyer.

(ACTION LINE is a reader service. When you dial 222-0391, a recording will tell you when to state your question or problem. Those of most significance and



Tilting Shoe Means Shoo!

When a woman sits there lifting her shoe up and down as she talks, does it have any significance? —H. N.

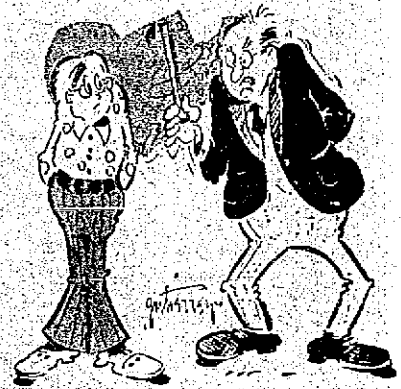
ACTION: Only a college professor would be intrepid enough to hazard a guess. A recent Houston Chronicle publication quotes a Professor Erving Goffman as observing that women lifting a shoe up and down are showing "detachment — probably wishing that you, or the matter at hand, would just go away quietly."

A 'Panting' Subject!

While back, you had a discussion of bell bottom trousers being prohibited, as well as other forms of mod dress, at one of the local high schools. Tell me, don't you receive a lot of complaints from parents about schools meddling too much in such things as dress and deportment?

—SHARON RHEE.

ACTION: No, not many. In fact, you might be exaggerating the number of parents who would protest such rulings. A recent poll sponsored by the National Education Association dealing with the opinions of American adults about teachers and schools reveals that the "chief complaint" against public schools is that students "do not receive enough discipline." The attitude seemed to be, concluded the survey, that "if the school officials cannot keep



students in line, then the school is a poor one."

Of course, if you want to say that dress is not a legitimate part of discipline, you are sure to have some school administrators rising quickly to agree with you in hopes of an easy way out . . . because it's really their hot potato. More than one principal has met his Waterloo when he went forth, rules in hand, to fight the Battle of Mod Dress.

interest will be answered in ACTION LINE. Calls may be placed between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Write us anytime.)

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today's cover

Youthful pair swinging into their first season with Ice Capades are Kathy and Jamie Beard. Big show opens Oct. 28 at the HemisFair Arena. See Page 12 for details.