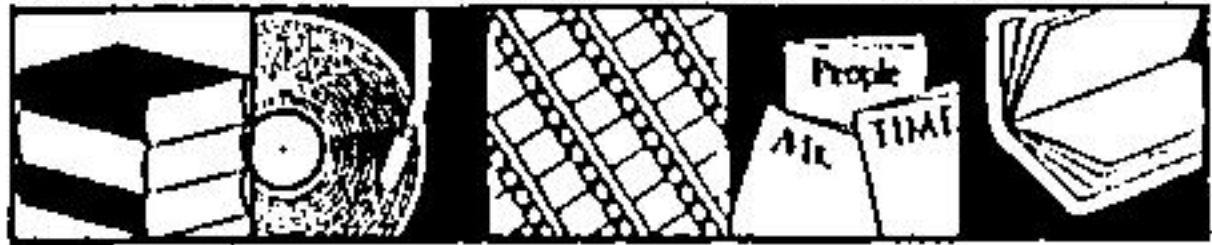


Outlook on Lifestyle

LOOKING INTO THE LIBRARY



The Rattle-Rat

By R.R. CORNWELL
Halton Hills Library

The Rattle-Rat, by Janwillem Van de Wetering, Random House, 1985

A Dutchman I know once said that Friesland is to the Netherlands as Newfoundland is to Canada. This latest in Van de Wetering's suspense/mysteries featuring the Amsterdam Metropolitan Police detectives Grijpstra and DeGier is largely complicated by the illusions and delusions of being, or not being, a Frieslander.

In a rather weird way the Grijpstra/DeGier series could be called police procedural. What makes this author's work unique is his subtle characterization and his ability to capture the special ambience, one might almost call it the claustrophobia, of this sea locked society.

Van de Wetering's Dutch are frequently unhappy people, swinging between the extremes of their repressive morality and religions and their oddly official tolerance of aberrant and anti-social behavior. Their society creates some interesting tensions for police forces that are not common to North America.

Much of the action in The Rattle-Rat proceeds along rather surreal lines. There is a vein of black humor, rather like an inside joke of Dutchmen laughing at themselves - presenting to the outside world a picture of what that world expects Dutchmen to be.

More delusion, and illusion and by the time the reader gets close to the solution of the mystery the veils

begin to lift on the idiotic mazes of Dutch society, bureaucracy, and human behavior. Long before the end of the story the reader will be laughing out loud at the special brand of Dutch lunacy and recognizing the universal human connection.

Here's a sample:
"An Air Force vessel?" DeGier asked.

"No, Marines. They ride their armoured vehicles on the islands' beaches, and one of their ferries will be lent to the Air Force, but the ferry is really Army."

"The Wet Engineers?"
"The Dry Engineers," Private Sudema said. "The ferries are built to transport tanks and tanks are dry, but the Dry Engineers don't have boats, so they borrow them from the Wet Engineers and run them temporarily - but that can take forever - for the Air Force."

There are many scenes in The Rattle-Rat with its squad of extremely human detectives that calls to mind the scattered wits of William Marshall's Yellowthread police series, set in Hong Kong. Perhaps all police work is crazy."

Grant awarded

A grant of \$1,885 has been awarded to the Town of Halton Hills, Municipal Affairs Minister John Eakins announced this week.

Mr. Eakins said the grant will be used by the Town "To achieve conformity between the Official Plan for Halton Hills and the Niagara Escarpment Plan."

BRIDGE

James Jacoby

Getting hooked on finesses

By James Jacoby

Declarer thought he knew this important bridge principle: Don't take unnecessary finesses. After arriving in six spades under his own steam, he won the ace of diamonds and carefully played the club ace and trumped a club. Then he played a spade to dummy's jack and ruffed another club. Since East now showed out on the third round of clubs, there was no way to establish a long club trick.

So declarer shifted mental gears by playing a spade to dummy's king. He next played a heart and put in the nine. If East had both the jack and the 10, that would force out the king, and declarer's queen would be a winner. West took the 10 and played another club. South ruffed, returned to dummy

with the diamond king and now finessed the queen of hearts, losing to the king for down one.

South lost the hand because of a mental blank. He was so engrossed in his plan of establishing the fifth club for a discard that when he discovered it wasn't going to work, he simply took heart finesses, hoping to find East with either the king or the J-10 of hearts.

Declarer had a sure way to make the contract. After the third club, he gets back to dummy with the spade king to ruff the fourth club, then returns to dummy with the king of diamonds. He leads dummy's last club and discards his nine of hearts. West takes the trick and must lead into the A-Q of hearts or play a diamond. If West leads a diamond, declarer will ruff in dummy while shedding the queen of hearts.

A new book by James Jacoby and his father, the late Oswald Jacoby, is now available at bookstores. It is "Jacoby on Card Games," published by Pharus Books.

POLLY'S POINTERS



Polly Fisher

Try making play dough for the kids

By Polly Fisher

DEAR POLLY - Do you have a good recipe for homemade play dough? - KELLY

DEAR KELLY - Here's an excellent formula. The mixture is not sticky and it's very clean to work with. It keeps nicely in a closed container for several weeks at room temperature.

Mix 1 cup of flour, 1/2 cup salt, 2 teaspoons cream of tartar, 1 tablespoon vegetable oil, 1 cup water and a few drops of food coloring in a saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until the mixture forms a ball. Remove from heat and knead briefly (allow to cool until comfortable to work with) to smooth out.

I'm sending you a copy of my newsletter, "Kids' Crafts," which has other recipes for play-clay mixtures (although not the recipe above, so be sure to copy it down!) including the recipe for bread-dough ornaments (baker's clay). Others who would like a copy of this newsletter should send \$1 for each copy to POLLY'S POINTERS, in care of this newspaper, P.O. Box 93863, Cleveland, OH 44101-5863. Be sure to include the title. - POLLY

DEAR POLLY - I found a way to keep the fitted bottom sheet on the bed at night. I sewed a six-inch piece of elastic four to six inches from the seam at the corner on each side. When I put it on the bed, I slip the elastic under the mattress. The sheet stays on. You only have to sew the elastic to the top corners, since the bottom usually stays on by itself. I used the elastic from a pair of my husband's old shorts! - WILLA

DEAR POLLY - I save the fronts of old greeting cards and write special recipes on the blank side. I often get requests for some of these recipes, and I enjoy passing them along to people on these cards. - M.R.

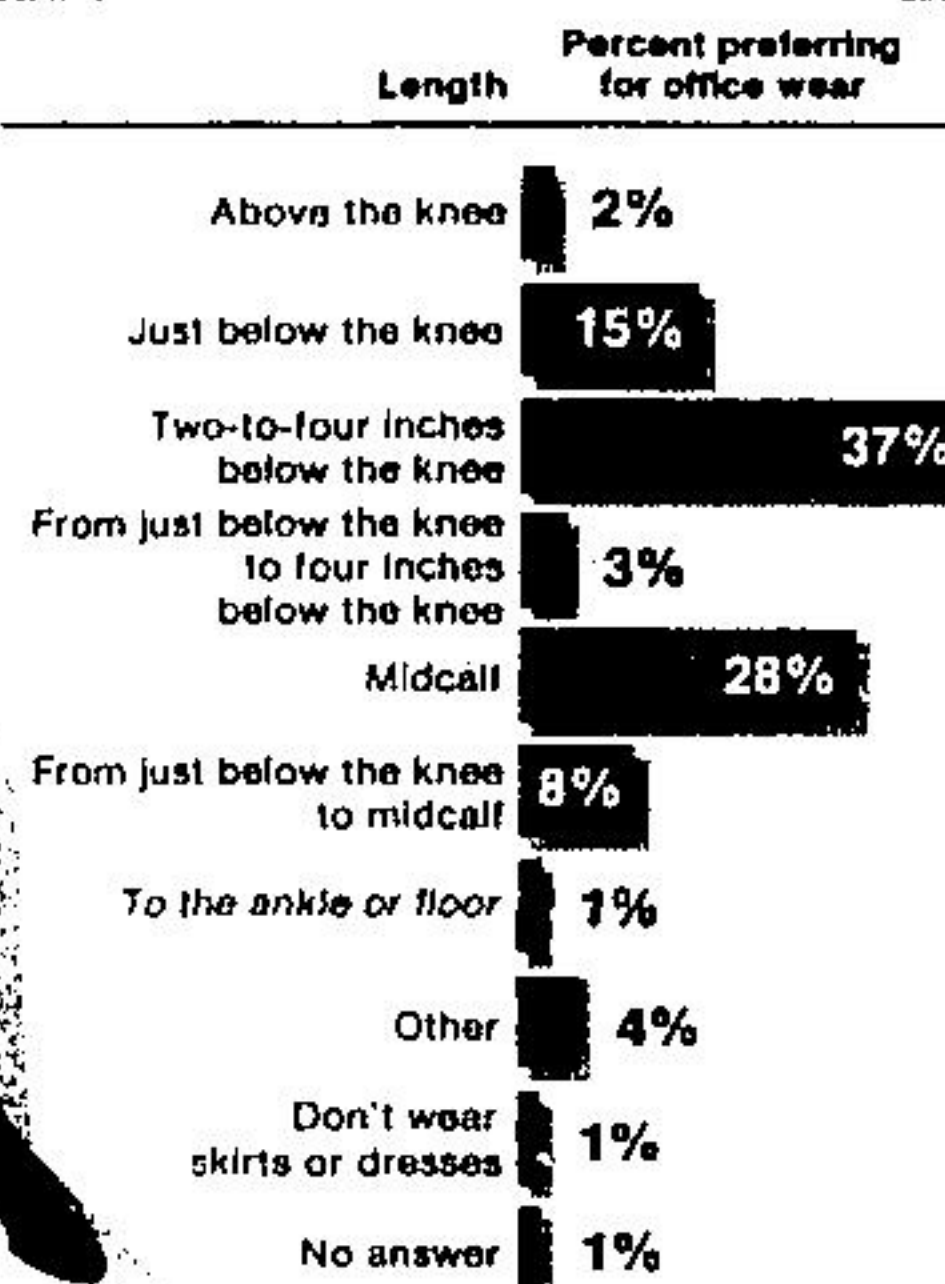
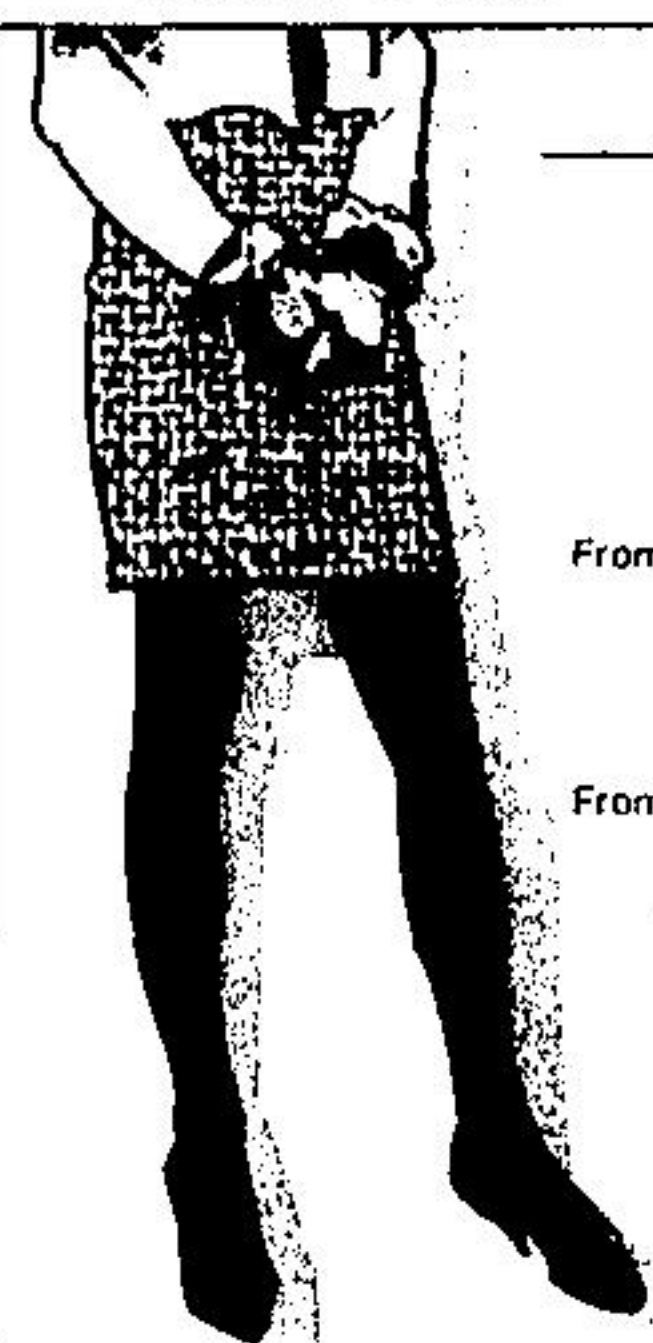
Polly will send you a Polly Dollar (\$1) if she uses your favorite Pointer, Peeve or Problem in her column. Write POLLY'S POINTERS in care of this newspaper.

Singles

Twenty-three percent of all families are run by single parents. An estimated 59 percent of all children born last year will spend some time growing up in a single-parent home.

Battle of the Hemlines

Where women want their skirts to stop



Source: Laura Caspari Ltd.

NEA GRAPHICS

A recent survey of working women in six major U.S. cities found that, despite the latest fashions, 92 percent preferred to wear longer skirts - those with hemlines below the knee - to work.

ROYAL CITY REALTY LIMITED

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Home Post Scripts



By Glenda Hughes

877-5296

As much as I hate to mention it this early, the Christmas season is fast approaching, and that means, if you have a house that is currently on the market, and you want to have it sold by Christmas, you will have to do some heavy duty thinking about how to get that job done. Your agent will tell you that buyers will soon start to drop off as mid-December approaches, so you are left with about 5 weeks (at most) for a purchaser to find your home, and buy it. Good grief!

That is not a lot of time for action to take place, in this buyers market. Here's some little hints for you to think about if you are in the above mentioned position. Firstly, you must consider your price, above all else. If your agent has previously suggested to you that your price should be lower, and you have held on, I would suggest that you ask him or her to run a list of the last 30 days sales in your area, with the same style of home, and about equal on most points. If your home is above the selling price of these homes, I would suggest that you get it down. Pare your price to the bone if possible to attract an offer fast, and then your agent can get to some serious work for you in negotiating.

Obviously, we can't get your home sold, if we can't get something in front of us on paper. Next, ask your agent if there is anything that you can do to make the home more saleable. Perhaps there are a couple of things that could be done, fairly quickly, like a coat of paint, that will make all the difference in eye appeal. Please remember that we act in your best interest - it is you that pays us - and we want to get your home sold. Your home will only bring in what the market will bear, so try not to take offense at what your agent tells you. We don't try to "give your home away", we really want to help you get the best price we can for your home.

If you don't have to have a sold sticker on your sign by year end, January and February are great months to have your home on the market, as they are traditionally months that we are scarce on listings - so take heart - all homes do sell eventually. It's just very difficult to sell an over-priced home. Wouldn't your nerves like to see that "SOLD" out there?

Homes Sold Creatively

THIS WEEK'S MORTGAGE RATES

AS OF NOVEMBER 5/87

	VARIABLE	3 MO. OPEN	6 MO. OPEN	1 YR. OPEN	2 YR. OPEN	3 YR. OPEN	4	5	7	10
Bank of Nova Scotia	9%	-	10	11	10%	10%	11	11	11%	-
Bank of Montreal	9%	9%	-	11	10%	10%	11	11	11%	11%
Canada Trust	-	9%	-	-	10%	10%	11	11	11%	-
CIBC	10%	9%	-	11	10%	10%	11	11%	11%	-
Halton Comm Cr. Union	10%	-	-	11	10%	-	-	-	-	-
T.D. Bank	10	-	10	11	10%	10%	11	11	11%	-
Royal Bank	9%	9%	-	11	10%	10%	11	11	11%	-

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