

All in the Family

By Sarah Child

Briefcase? How About Ice Bag?

The woman who is an executive (and which of us is not?) should carry a briefcase and nothing else, according to the latest fashion decree.

I learned Sarah Child this last week sometime in between reading the funny papers and mourning for the umpteenth time the absence of the New York Sunday Times.

Having given up reading discourses on what is stylish and what is not in favor of less masochistic pursuits some time ago, I

broke my vow in the renewed knowledge that a Sunday without the Times ads (Hamacher Schlemmer, I miss you) is a long Sunday indeed.

The story was diverting enough. I learned that Rochesterians are so well-educated as to be above fashion dictates and that dresses with slits to the knee are frowned upon by local office managers.

But it was the briefcase edict (the pronouncement made by a male, of course) which captured my attention. (Briefcases are classy enough although I gave up the plastic one I carried since it had no handle and kept slipping from under my arm for one of the kid's discarded school folders with inside pockets.) Where, I wondered, are these briefcase-carrying women

supposed to carry their lipstick and comb, the batch of bran muffins and zucchini they take in to their fellow workers, the eight-year-old's boot that has to be left off at the shoe repair, the swatch of material for matching purposes, etc., etc. etc.?

No, dear readers, the briefcase is not the definitive answer for the woman executive.

Actually, a woman, or man for that matter, can't go wrong if she carries an L. L. Bean ice bag.

For the uninitiated, L. L. Bean is a store in Freeport, Maine, specializing in outdoor goods, which is open 365 days a year, 24 hours a day and does a mail order business that must keep Sears executives awake at night figuring out how to cash in on the phenomenon.

The ice bag, made of sturdiest white canvas,

comes in several sizes. Mine is the largest and is trimmed in red and was a Christmas gift from the man with whom I first entered the Freeport portals some years ago.

The original purpose of the ice bag is for carrying ice. You chop a hole in the lake and carry as much as you can tote in your stylish bag to your cabin.

If you don't have a cabin and have no need of chopped lake ice you can use it for other things, i.e. all the things you couldn't get in the suitcase, towels for the pool, trip to the public market, overnight at camp and, of course, going to work.

My Bean bag not only carries my folder with papers plus surplus garden produce and the telephone book, should I feel like transporting it, but my purse as well. Now, that's what I call class.

Refuse Plan Dead But Churches Wary

By JOHN DASH

At least for the time being it looks as if a plan to create a city refuse district is dead.

In hearings on the question, church leaders strongly denounced aspects of the plan which would have had churches charged for refuse collection based on the assessed tax valuation of church properties.

The plan was drawn up in response to the Waldert decision. The planned district would make up for almost \$2 million lost by the city because of that decision.

At last week's County Legislature meeting it became evident that nearly a third of the Democrats and almost all of the Republicans on the legislature are opposed to

creating the district.

Father William Flynn, chancellor of the diocese and one of the churchmen who spoke against the plan, noted after that meeting that it was not the churches' intention to stop altogether the creation of such a district. "It was charging the churches on the basis of assessed valuation," he said. He explained that "the churches want to pay their fair share for the services the city provides," and would encourage the legislature to base a refuse collection charge on a user fee basis.

The unwillingness of the legislature to create a refuse district could mean the loss of \$900,000 worth of services, according to city manager Elijah Freedman.

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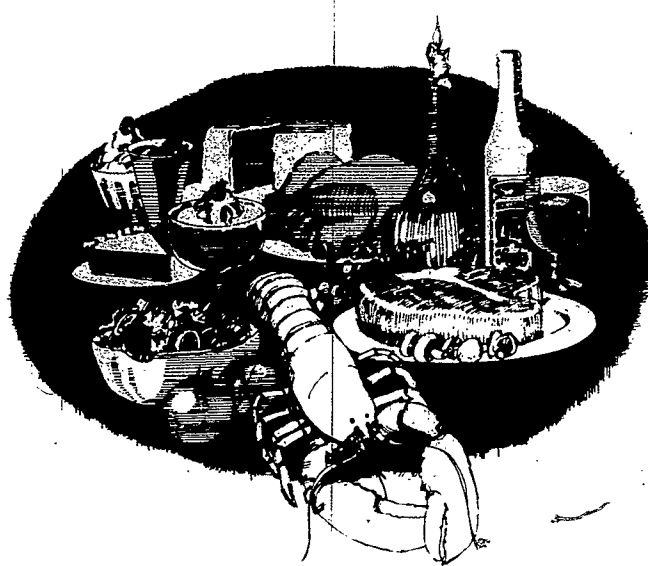
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