ADVICE

Man has always enjoyed smooth silk on his skin

Dear Abby
Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: Since I was a small boy, silk fabric has always made me feel "safe." I remember wearing tights in the bathroom in front of the mirror or under my pajamas. Throughout the years, if nobody was around after work, I continued, but not around my wife, kids or now grandkids. I don't know why I enjoy them now in my 50s. Is this OK, or is something wrong with me? Am I missing one can in my six-pack?

-- SMOOTH AS SILK IN VIRGINIA

DEAR SMOOTH: I don't think you are missing anything in your six-pack or anywhere else. Males have been known to wear silk tights because it helps them stay warmer in cold weather. They have also been known to do it because it feels good next to their skin.

I wish you had mentioned why you felt it was necessary to smuggle this past your wife all these years, because there is nothing shameful about it. (Perhaps if you discuss it with her, she will tell you she wasn't fooled but never mentioned it because you didn't seem eager to talk.)

DEAR ABBY: Yesterday, my wife and I went out to the cemetery to lay some flowers for her brother and father, who passed away many years ago. After we were finished and on our way out, I stopped for a few minutes to check on my first wife's crypt before returning to the car. When she asked what I had been doing, I told her I was making sure the plastic flowers were still there. My wife was surprised that I still check on her crypt because she had been gone for more than 16 years.

I married my second and current wife 15 years ago. It was a wonderful marriage -- until now. She said her feelings were hurt that I was still checking out the crypt. She asked me how often I do it, and I told her twice a year. She's now upset with me. Was I wrong to pay my respects? My parents' crypts are nearby, and I check on theirs as well.

-- STILL CARE IN THE WEST

DEAR STILL CARE: Your wife is being childish, and I hope you will point that out to her. Much as she might wish otherwise, you came to her with a history. (You were, I assume, happily married before your first wife's death.) Tell "Number Two" that checking on your deceased wife's crypt isn't a threat to her unless she chooses to make it so, and that Dear Abby suggests she knock it off before she damages a good thing.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable -- and most frequently requested -- poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby -- Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 446, Kings Mills, OH 45034-0446. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

HOUSEHOLD ADVICE

Keep flag hems fray-free

Hints from Heloise
Heloise

Dear Heloise: People spend their hard-earned money on outdoor flags only to have the hems fray in a short time from weather. If you turn the hem over and restitch on a sewing machine, the edges will not become ragged from the elements. I especially like to see the American flag flying fray-free in the wind.

-- Brenda Richardson, in Shelbyville, Kentucky

REVISITING THE CHECK ENGINE LIGHT

Dear Heloise: Regarding Jim and his check engine light fix, after 40+ years in the automotive industry, I have seen my share. Be advised that the check engine light monitors numerous items. Some are a simple fix like Jim's; others are far more complex and expensive to repair, espe-cially, if neglected or not diagnosed properly or promptly. Many auto-part chain stores provide a complimentary scan of exactly what the issue is. Once determined, then the plan to repair can begin. That is my first stop, as soon as the check engine icon lights up on any of my cars, particularly if traveling.

-- Dan, The Car Man Centerville, in Ohio

CLOCKS AND MORE

Dear Heloise; I read your hints in the Port Charlotte Sun. Alice from Virginia's comment about digital clocks and cursive handwriting reminded me of a quip I heard that tickled my septuagenarian funny bone.

How to mess with the mind of a millennial: Lock the millennial in a room with: an analog clock; a rotary telephone; a cash register that does not tell you how much change to give a customer; a manual typewriter; a neck tie; and a road atlas. Write the instructions on how to use these in cursive.

-- Dan Klein, via email

Dan, quips aside, all these skills (using a road atlas, reading an analog clock, etc.) seem like lost arts! It sounds like a great opportunity for a funny septuagenarian to teach the younger kids a thing or two.

-- Heloise

SUDOKU

Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle.

	5			1				4
		4	3					
6		1	8		9			
			2					
		9	5	8		1		
							7	6
4	8			5				
	7					4		
1			6					2

Level: Intermediate

8	5	3	7	1	6	9	2	4
7	9	4	3	2	5	6	1	8
6	2	1	8	4	9	3	5	7
3	4	7	2	6	1	5	8	9
2	6	9	5	8	7	1	4	3
5	1	8	4	9	3	2	7	6
4	8	6	9	5	2	7	3	1
9	7	2	1	3	8	4	6	5
1	3	5	6	7	4	8	9	2

CROSSWORD

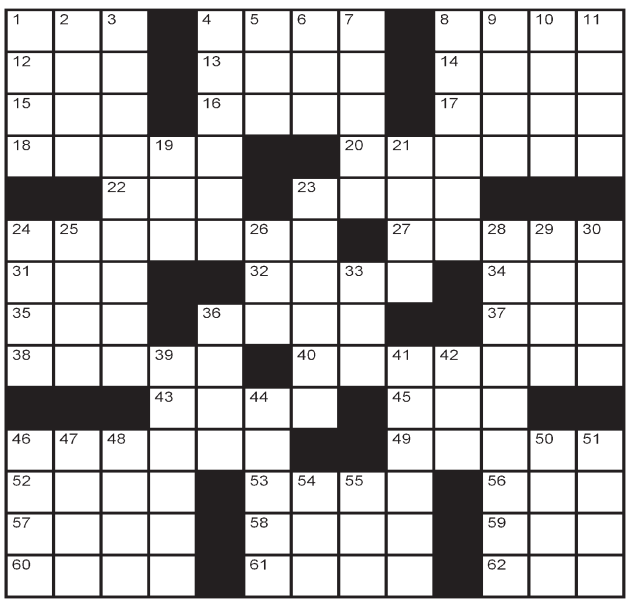
NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1 "There ought to be a —!"
4 A few
8 Press
12 Friend in France
13 Barber's concern
14 At hand
15 "— in Black"
16 Remotely
17 Barbecue fare
18 Mountain range in South America
20 City in Denmark
22 Calendar abbr.
23 Inter —
24 Draw in
27 Laziness
31 Scary yell
32 Idaho neighbor
34 Singer — Orbison
35 Abbr. in timetables
36 Quarrel
37 Venomous reptile
38 Speed
40 Huge
43 Actor — Alda
45 Assoc.
46 Reflective surface
49 Blond lock
52 — the Red
53 Freebie
56 Mimic
57 Identical
58 Racetrack shape
59 Loud sound
60 Loaf end
61 Hawaiian goose
62 Tip

DOWN
1 Dalai —
2 Prayer ending
3 Tornado, for one
4 — daisy
5 Clumsy fellow
6 Actress — Farrow
7 "Harry Potter" owl
8 Imaginary
9 Check
10 Talks on and on
11 Gaelic
19 Mug handle
21 Platter
23 Achieve
24 Like — — out of hell
25 Ripped
26 Recipe measure
28 Citrus drink
29 Fling
30 Ballyhoo
33 Bank lobby convenience, for short
36 Alone
39 Package
41 Mark with blotches
42 Goof
44 Inert gas
46 Interlock
47 "Dies —"
48 Hoarfrost
50 Go around and around
51 "— in the Clowns"
54 "— Got a Secret"
55 Devotee

Answer to Previous Puzzle

W	I	N		H	O	S	T		O	B	O	L
A	D	O		E	D	I	E		U	R	G	E
Y	E	S		L	E	A	N		T	A	R	O
	A	T	O	M		M	O	I	S	T	E	N
		A	B	E			R	T	E			
S	P	L	O	T	C	H		S	T	I	R	
S	A	G	E		A	I	L			N	I	B
E	L	I			T	E	E		S	A	F	E
	S	C	A	T		D	I	S	P	U	T	E
			D	U	B			P	A	D		
R	E	A	D	E	R	S		A	R	I	D	
A	R	I	L		A	L	A	R		B	O	A
S	I	D	E		C	A	R	S		L	O	T
H	E	A	D		E	Y	R	E		E	R	E



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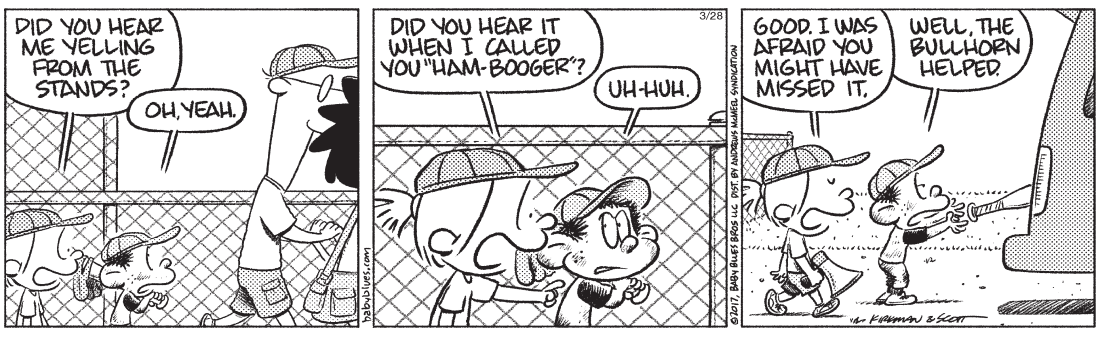
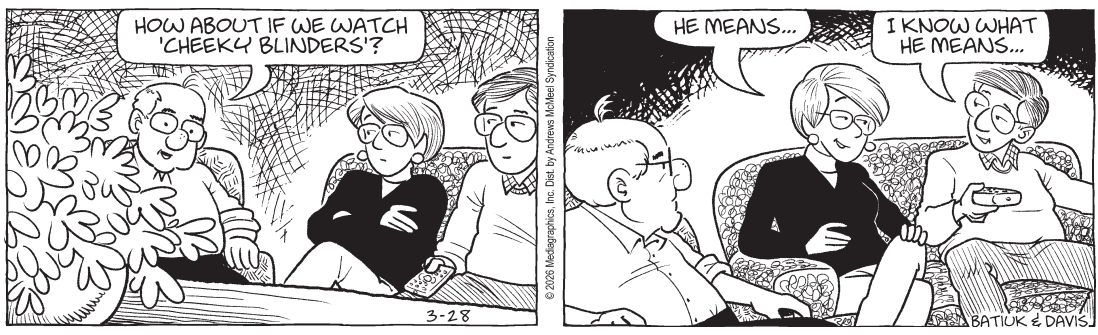
DUSTIN

BABY BLUES

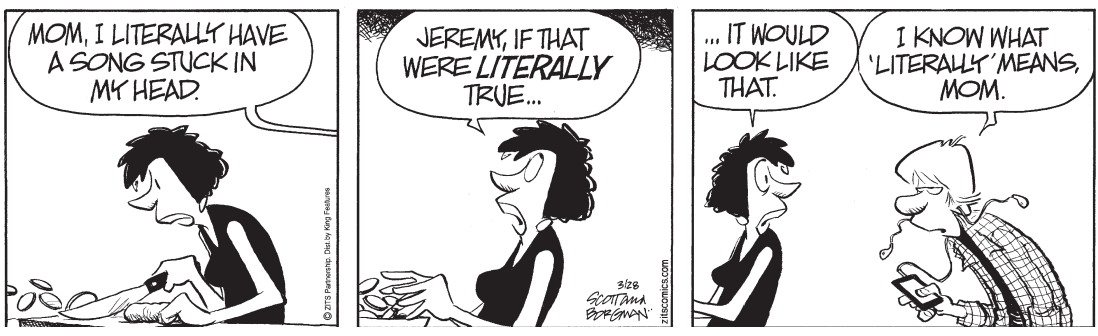


RHYMES WITH ORANGE

CRANKSHAFT

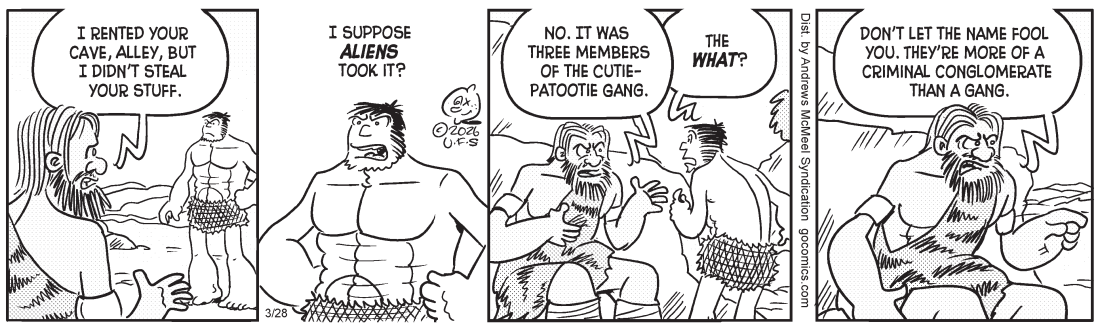


ZITS

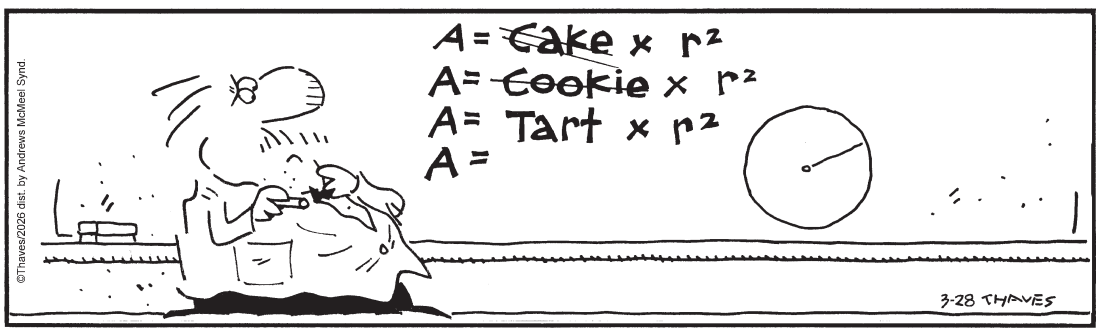


ARLO AND JANIS

ALLEY OOP



FRANK & ERNEST



HERMAN

"Turn left at the light, and it's the 79th street on the right."

BIZARRO

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