

DEAR MEG



Meg Whitcomb

Boss's son-in-law nods out at work

By Meg Whitcomb

DEAR MEG — My problem is keeping me awake nights. I manage the bond-trading department at a Wall Street firm. The president is a self-made man who runs the place with an iron hand. Last fall he sent his son-in-law to me for a job interview. The message was clear: Hire him or else. So I did.

The kid is a college dropout who never pulled his own weight. I've warned him several times about his performance. But when I complained to the boss, he said, "One sign of a good manager is the success he makes of his subordinates."

But the kid's useless. He comes to work late and unshaven, nods off during the day and makes poor trades. I suspect he's on cocaine and may even be dealing. But I don't dare do to the boss. What can I do? — MAN IN THE MIDDLE

DEAR M.I.T.M. — If you have an addict on your hands, take action immediately. Your job could ultimately go down the tube with his. Call 1-800-843-4971, the new Drug Abuse Management help line. It's open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. (EST). Professionals will advise you on what to do, and can even help the firm set up drug-education, employee-assistance and treatment programs. Then tell Mr. Self-Made that one sign of a good manager is the success he makes of saving subordinates from killer drugs.

DEAR MEG — Since we moved into this house a year ago, the widow across the street has been asking my husband to do chores for her — cutting the ivy, putting up a new clothes-line, fixing the garage door, etc. She has plenty of money and could easily afford a repairman and a gardener. This woman only talks to us when she wants a favor. She's a real user.

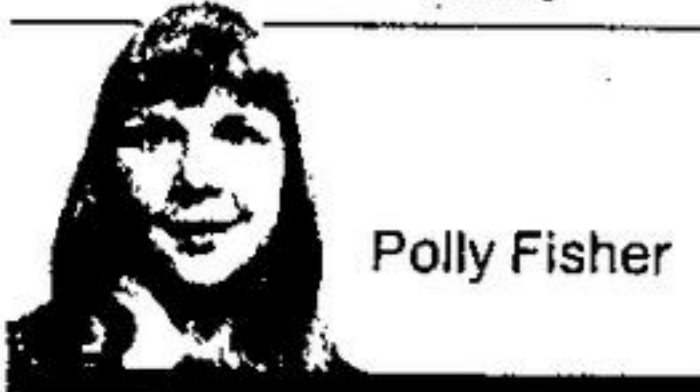
I don't trust my husband around this woman. (She's in her 60s, we're in our 50s.) Besides, we both work and we need time to ourselves. How do I put an end to this? — READER IN MONTANA

DEAR READER — Maybe you and hubby should have a heart-to-heart. Apparently he doesn't see time priorities the way you do. That's not surprising, though. A recent Phillip Morris Family Survey showed that a majority of Americans feel they have too little time to take care of household tasks or enjoy themselves.

Forty-seven percent felt house-cleaning was a shared responsibility. While 54 percent of men thought they were doing their half, only 40 percent of women agreed.

Apparently your mate thinks you spend enough time together. If you don't agree, let him know.

POLLY'S POINTERS



Polly Fisher

DEAR POLLY — I'm handicapped and can't write very small. When paying my bills, I cut out the doctor's or company's name and address from

their bill or envelope, then tape this on the return envelope or inside a windowed envelope so the address shows. I no longer have mail returned to me because the addresses aren't readable. — D.H.

DEAR D.H. — This is an excellent suggestion for anyone who feels their handwriting may not be as clear as they'd like — and anyone else who ever makes mistakes while copying down addresses (which I've certainly done!). Your helpful Pointer earns you the Pointer of the Week award, and a copy of my book, "Polly's Pointers: 1081 Helpful Hints for Making Everything Last Longer." Others who would like this book may order it for \$6.50. Make check payable to POLLY'S POINTERS and send to POLLY'S POINTERS, P.O. Box 93863, Cleveland, OH 44101-5863. — POLLY

DEAR POLLY — Garlic cloves stored in a little oil will keep a long time.



Children played in the leaves at Terra Cotta Conservation Area Sunday during the park's special Harvest Colours Day. Some of the events also included a pancake breakfast, fiddlers and arts and crafts concession booths. (Herald photo)



Parents looked over the many craft booths set up at the Terra Cotta Conservation Area Sunday for Harvest Colours Day. While children played in the leaves or in the park's playground, adults had their fill of pancakes and listened to fiddler's music. (Herald photo)

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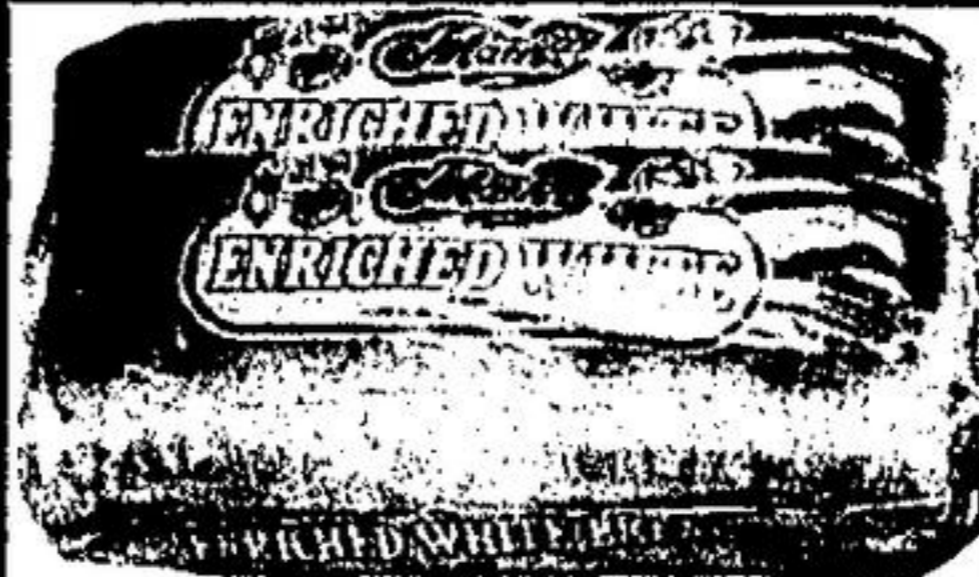
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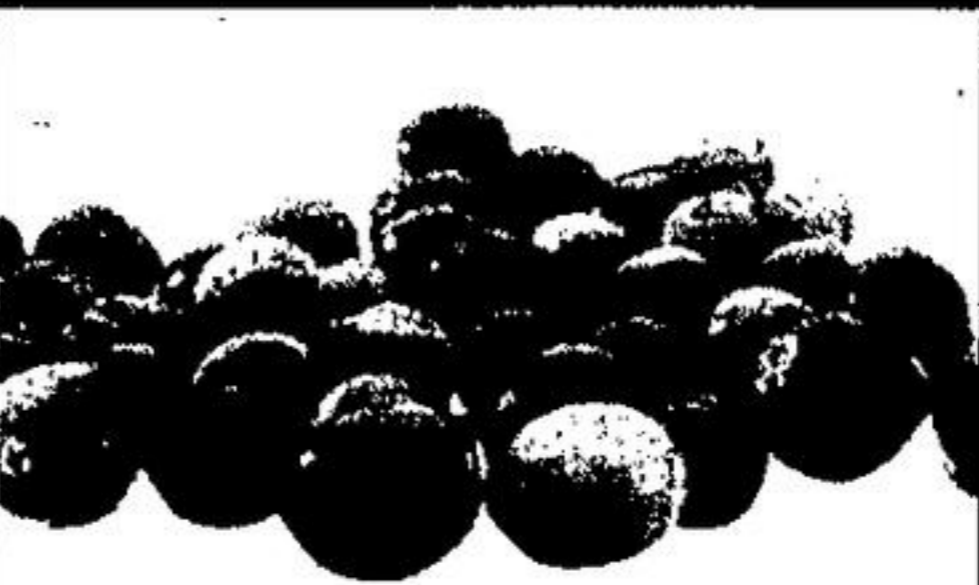


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