

Bathrooms can be dangerous places for children

L57—The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, April 11, 1990

Dear Abby: I am writing this because I believe it may help your readers to avoid a tragedy.

Last year, our 11-year-old son, Daniel, fell through a glass shower panel severing an artery, a nerve and three muscles above the elbow. He required five-and-a-half hours of reconstructive surgery and five units of blood. He is still undergoing physical therapy and we are hoping that eventually he will regain full use of his arm and hand.

Abby, please ask your readers to check their shower enclosures to make sure they have shatter-proof glass, or some kind of plastic glass substitute. (Plexiglas is one.) A law

Dear Abby

with ABIGAIL VAN BUREN



passed about 20 years ago made installation of non-shatter-proof glass in showers illegal. However, showers installed before that time, may have glass that is not shatter-proof.

Also, it's a good idea to teach young children never to lock the bathroom door, because a bathroom

can be a dangerous place. If Daniel had locked himself in the bathroom when he fell through the shower door, much time would have been lost in our efforts to help him.

Grateful
Dear Grateful: And I am grateful to you for a valuable letter. You are correct to point out that a bathroom can be a very dangerous place. Pills, razor blades and electric hair dryers are potentially hazardous in the hands of an unsupervised child. Also, toddlers have been known to drown in toilets and scald themselves with very hot tap water.

Your suggestion to teach very young children never to lock the bathroom door is a good one. A better idea would be to have no lock on the bathroom door accessible to a child.

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Dear Abby: Your suggested

response for the woman whose "friends" telephone to mention having seen her son's name in the newspaper (for an arrest) was far too gentle.

A proper response would have been: "Thank you for calling this to my attention again. Excuse me, I have an errand to run." (Click)

Judy T.
P.S. And people who persist in bringing this up should be told, "Out of respect for my son, we do not discuss this matter outside the family."

Dear Judy: You're right. Especially since these "friends" were people she hardly knew.

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Dear Abby: You had something wonderfully funny in your column about love. It ended with "and the position is ridiculous." What's the rest of it, and who said it?

Going Crazy

Dear Going: Here it is: "The price is prohibitive, the pleasure is transitory and the position is ridiculous." Lord Chesterfield supposedly said it.

□□□

Dear Abby: I can't believe I'm doing this, but here goes. My wife and I have been married for 34 years. We have four grown children and two grandchildren.

My wife is worried about getting pregnant. She will be 36 years old this year.

My question: When does a woman fall into the non-bearing age? And is it possible for my wife to get pregnant at her age?

Her Husband

Dear Husband: Although there are exceptions, if a woman's menstrual periods have ceased for a year, the possibility of pregnancy is inconceivable. (No pun intended.)

Keep it Green Day coming

The second annual "Keep it Green Day" will take place Saturday, Apr. 21 at the Bell School Line entrance to the Bruce Trail, starting at 10 a.m.

The purpose is to clean up litter that has accumulated over the winter. It is being organized by KEEP (Keep the Escarpment Environment Protected) in recognition of Earth Day, which takes place April 22.

Last year volunteers attacked the roadside junk and collected more than 600 garbage bags of litter along with boxes full of returnable bottles and cans.

Organizers are hoping enough volunteers will come out this year to clean the area bounded by Tremaine Road, Derry Road, Appleby Line and

Steeles Avenue. Any volunteers willing to help are asked to contact Joe Yamorski before the 18th at 878-3959.

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CORRECTION

We regret that due to limited supply, the following items may not be available at all store locations during the "Welcome Spring Sale" flyer.

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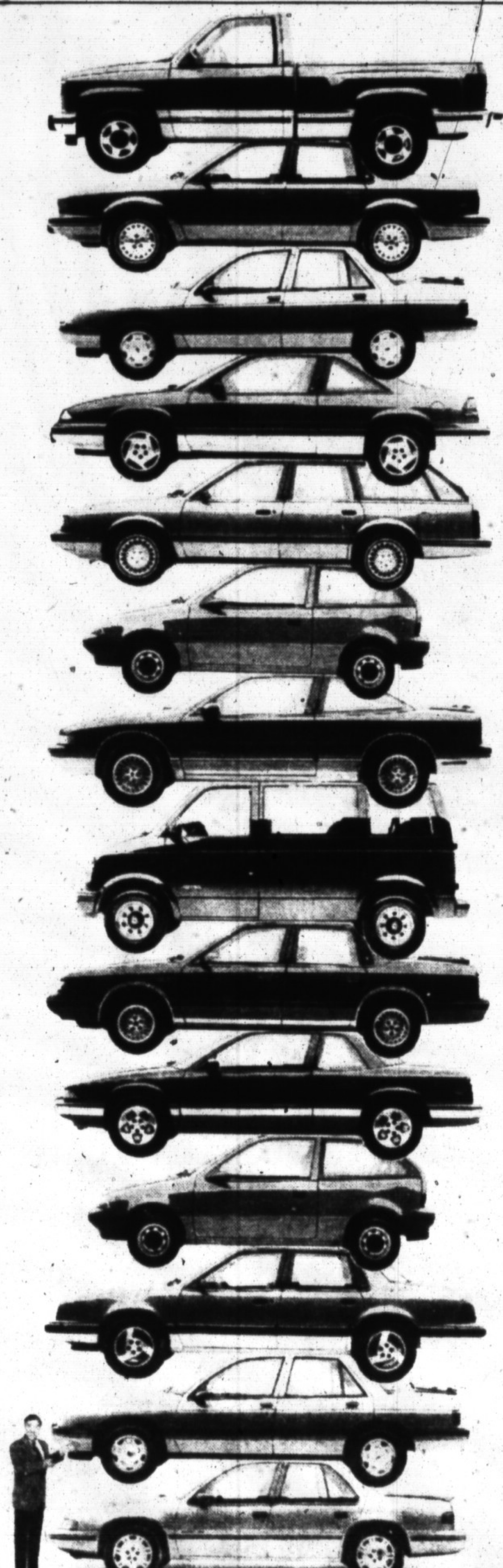
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