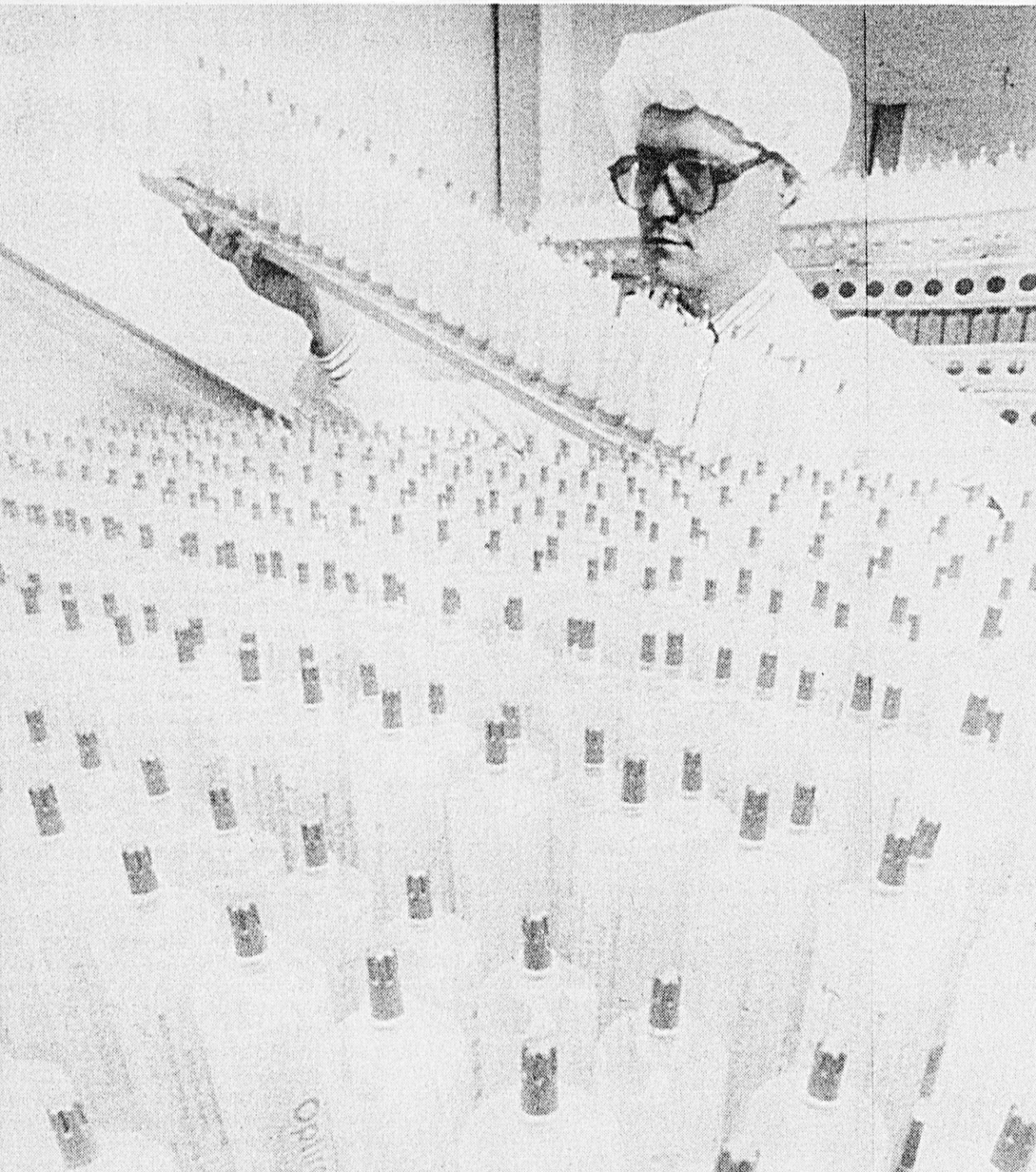


Home and Family



Pre-filled
Lamont Tidwell, packaging supervisor, inspects plastic syringes at Mallinckrodt Medical Inc.'s pharmaceutical plant in Raleigh, N.C. The syringes are pre-filled with X-ray contrast dye which the company offers as a safer and more convenient alternative to manually-drawn dosages.

MEN BUYING FOR MATES

Lingerie shops beckon

ST. CATHARINES, Ont. (CP) — "The first time I went in a lingerie store I felt like a pervert," says a male customer at a shop specializing in women's underclothes.

"But hey, it's the '80s — the '90s," he adds.

"It's like a statement — you're a little less masculine to come in here — but I don't think so," said the man, still feeling uneasy enough that he didn't want his name published.

Phoebe Knauer, owner of Phoebe's lingerie store, says men have been getting more confident during the two years she has been in business.

"When I first opened up, I couldn't get men into the shop. Now they take their time, browse and look at things without my help."

But before male Christmas shoppers hit the stores, they should be warned — women want comfort in lingerie as well as beauty.

"Women look for comfort,"

says Dianne Gibson, co-owner of Annabelle lingerie shop. "When men come in they look at what's appealing to them."

She says there's nothing wrong with a man buying something he likes but he should keep his partner in mind, too — what good is it if she's never going to wear it?

For the most comfort, lingerie should be made from natural fibres — 100-per-cent cotton or better yet silk.

"Women like it because it's cool in the summer and warm in the winter," says Catherine Fowler, who designs and sews silk lingerie as a hobby in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.

Her pieces are simple and elegant — cream silk with at most a ribbon trim.

"I think silk carries itself (without fancy trim)," says Fowler.

Although silk is more expensive than synthetic fabrics and is not machine-washable, Fowler says, it offers durability and style.

Lingerie companies are also be-

ginning to cater to comfort by creating lacy pieces in cotton, says Knauer.

"Cotton lace is comfortable and still gives a little support," she adds, noting the most popular items in this fabric are bustiers and matching panties.

Many European companies are coming out with cotton lingerie in a sport or dance motif — with leggings, briefs cut high in the thigh, and matching bustiers opaque enough to wear as loungewear or even outside in summer.

Similar looks are available for men.

COMPLAINERS RAPPED

Freedoms taken lightly

Dear Ann Landers: I am 14 years old and in the 9th grade. Maybe because I am young, a lot of people will think I am not worth listening to, but please print my letter anyway.

I'm tired of hearing people complain about the "shape" America is in. I hate it when they bad-mouth our president and our vice-president and knock our foreign relations and our trade agreements. They complain about the drug problem, crime and pollution, but what are they doing to help?

In history class, we studied the American Revolution and learned what our forefathers went through to free our country from English rule. They started a brand-new nation full of hope and promise. Our ancestors fought hard to secure the freedoms that so many people take for granted. But now, we, the descendants of those courageous pioneers, complain about every little thing that goes wrong in our country.

I agree that the United States could use some improvement, but instead of criticizing, I plan to do

Ann Landers

something to make things better when I get older.

Ask your readers to think about how lucky they are to be able to go where they want and say what they want, whenever they please. That's what freedom is all about, and that's why I am proud to be an American. — B.R., Danville, Calif.

Dear B.R.: You've made some good points, especially about making things better instead of complaining about how bad they are. And I really like your comments on freedom. It's nice to be able to go wherever we want and say whatever we please, and that includes criticizing the president, the vice-president, foreign relations and trade agreements. This, too, is what freedom is all about, and don't ever forget it.

Dear Ann Landers: This is for

people who live in apartments where there is a resident manager.

Ninety-five percent of you are great. You pay your rent on time and respect office hours. It's the other 5 percent that tick me off.

Just because I happen to live in the building does not mean that I am on call 24 hours a day. I have a family and a life, same as you.

If your faucet is dripping, why didn't you let me know about it before 9 p.m.? What do you think I am going to do about it at 11 o'clock at night?

If you lock yourself out of your apartment or lose your keys, please understand why I am not in a terrific mood when you wake me up at 3 a.m. to let you in.

If you are going to be late with your rent, let me know instead of ducking around corners. I would be glad to give you a few weeks of grace if you tell me you have a problem but your intentions are honorable.

When I take you to court you tell the judge you didn't pay the rent because I didn't fix something that I never knew was broken. Is that fair?

I have had it with you folks and wish you'd move somewhere else, preferably to a single dwelling so you don't drive another manager nuts. — Burned-Out Landlady (Mich.)

Dear Landlady: Your letter is sure to be clipped by resident managers in many cities around the world. The problems you describe are universal. I also expect to hear from tenants eager to tell their side of the story. I'll print the best responses.

Books just sound good

FREDERICTON (CP) — Author and story-teller Sheree Fitch says her books don't contain any deep messages for children. They just sound good out loud.

"Poetry is a celebration of sound that cannot be read silently," says Fitch. "That's why the performance of my books is as important as the writing."

The part-time professor at the University of New Brunswick began telling stories publicly eight years ago. She decided it was time to publish after teachers and parents of her young audiences began asking for copies of her stories and poems.

interesting sounding words, like "gorgonzola cheese," that will intrigue and please even a child who usually hates to read. She says she has received letters from parents who say their children were not interested in reading until they read her books.

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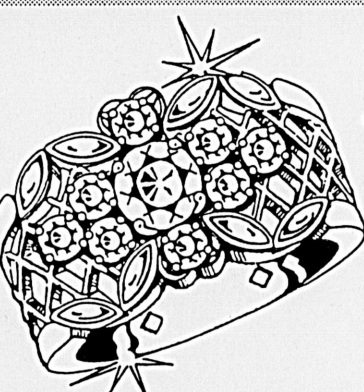
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Coming events

Preschool

PRESCHOOL: Prince George Public Library will hold registration for the winter session of preschool programs beginning Jan. 2. Programs offered are Family Storytime for children from infant to five years, accompanied by an adult, and Preschool Storytime for children three to five years old. For more information phone 563-9251.

Dinners

DINNER: St. Vincent de Paul will hold a Christmas Day dinner for all those alone or in need, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Dec. 25 at the Sacred Heart Auditorium. Families welcome.

NORWEIGAN: A Norweigan Christmas service will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday at Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1014 Douglas Street. Coffee and Norweigan baking follows service. For more information phone 564-4020 or 962-7697.

Volunteers

ICEMAN: Prince George Ice-man 1990 needs your help in running this winter multi-sport event which will be held Jan. 27 and 28, 1990. Two to four hours of your time from 10 a.m. to 3

p.m. these days will be required. About 200 to 250 volunteers are required. As volunteers you will be invited as honorary guests to the Iceman pre-event social Jan. 27 and to the post-event banquet Jan. 28. Grand prizes will be drawn for volunteers. For more information phone Mel 563-6951 or Lori 562-8083.

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