

MEL

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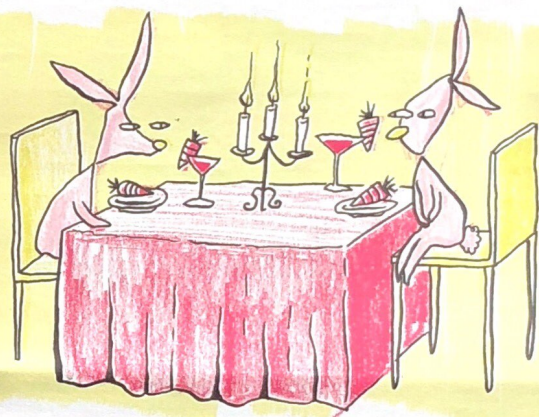


VERY VITAL INFO

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WHAT I'VE LEARNED ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS FROM BREEDING RABBITS

Karen Callahan, of Karen's Rabbits in Easton, MD, has been breeding the floppy-eared critters for 37 years—here's what all those Easter bunnies have taught her.



You Should Know When it's Time to Leave Home

"Usually, baby rabbits stay with their mothers for four to six weeks after birth—then, it's time to move out," says Callahan. "For both people and rabbits, staying home for too long can lead to an unhealthy relationship with mom. With humans, the 32-year-old millennial may grow dependent on mom cooking their meals. For rabbits, if a male is kept with his mother for too long, he may try to breed with her. Obviously those are pretty different problems, but the bottom line is, eventually, you have to face the world on your own."

It Takes Two to Tango

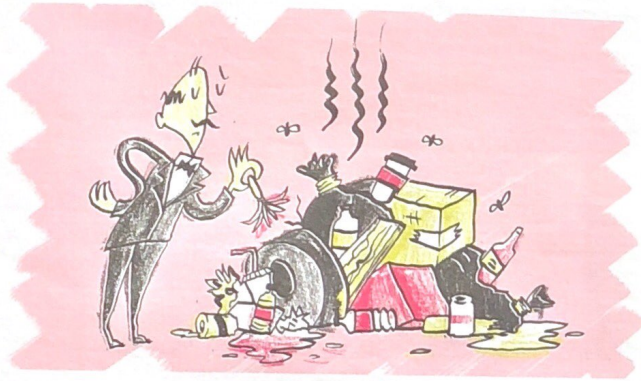
"Males are considered to be the dominant bunny sex, but when it comes to canoodling, nothing happens without the female's say-so," says Callahan. "Male rabbits will pursue a doe relentlessly, but if she's not in heat, he's getting nowhere with her: To make her point, she'll hide in the corner, run away or simply hunker down, so the buck can't access where he needs to. Consent matters, in other words—even when you're a bunny."

The Easter Bunny Digs Being a Bachelor

"Rabbits are animals that don't need to be with another rabbit in order to live," says Callahan. "Some similar creatures—a chinchilla, for example—can't be alone because they'll get depressed, whereas rabbits are usually just fine by themselves. For me, I've never had kids, never been married, and when people ask me why, I just say that my kids are four legged and furry, and when they act up, I can throw them in the stew pot. Can't do that with a two-legged kid!"

HOW CLEAN SHOULD YOUR RECYCLING BE?

It turns out, you really do need to rinse out that glass jar on its way to the crusher. Here's how meticulous you need to be (and not just on Earth Day).



That Greasy Pizza Box

Be sure to empty out the box: "A little bit of pizza grease will dilute in the recycling process," says David Mendelson from Donco Recycling Solutions, but he adds that leaving melted cheese or pizza crust in your box is not cool. If enough waste like that makes it through, it could contaminate a whole bail of recycled paper.

That Unfinished Beer

"Used beverage containers are the most valuable recyclable collected," says Mendelson, meaning that they won't be thrown out if you didn't rinse the beer out of an empty can. But Mendelson explains that, "Leaving it could contaminate other recyclables, like paper, and attract rodents to the recycling plant." Then, of course, you'll have drunk rats everywhere, and no one wants that.

That Little Bit of Sour Milk

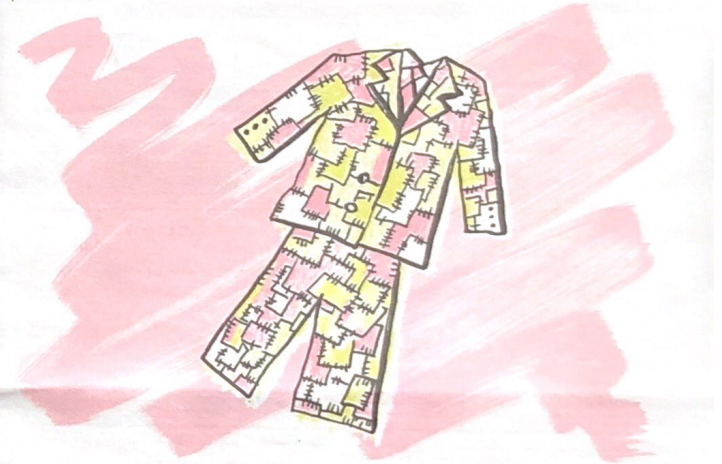
"Much of recycling is still sorted by humans," says Mendelson, and those jugs will cause a miserable smell if too many people fail to rinse out their chunky sour milk. If too much contamination happens, it might cause it to end up in the landfill because it's too much trouble to clean.

That Annoying Jar of Tomato Sauce

Rinsing out your glass is really important: Mendelson explains that, "Recycling is not about collection, it's economics just like any other business." So the dirtier you leave your pasta sauce jars, the more it needs cleaning at the plant, and that costs money. The cleaner the recyclable, the cheaper it is to recycle. "Keeping the recycling process cheap makes it more efficient, in the same way that buying recycled goods increases the demand for recycled goods," says Mendelson.

WEARING PASTELS WITHOUT LOOKING LIKE AN EASTER EGG

It's tough to pull off those spring-like colors, but stylist Todd Hanshaw is here to explain how (and where) to do it.



Don't Pink to Excess

"Pastels have to be a part of something," says Hanshaw. "They can't be the whole look." So you can forget about wearing pastel pants or suits or anything like that. Instead, for a really modern look, Hanshaw advises you to, "Take a light grey suit, wear a white shirt, your normal shoes, and then matching pale pink socks and a tie, plus a muted belt that goes with the suit." In other words, use pastels as an accessory, rather than being an accessory to a fashion crime.

A Match Made in Heliotrope

So does anything look good with pastel accessories besides a light grey suit? Hanshaw cautions that a pastel tie will "never will look right with black—it's a complete clash." That's because black is bold, while pastels are soft and light. Hanshaw says that a blue suit could work, and adds that you may even be able to pull off a cotton khaki suit if it's the summertime, but only if you're in the right place. Talking of which...

South for the Wintergreen

While little pastel accents are fine anywhere, pastels with a cotton khaki or light seersucker suit are really only going to fly south of the Mason-Dixon line. "It's typically a more southern-gentlemanly thing," Hanshaw cautions, adding that it might look out of place somewhere like New York or San Francisco. "If you fly into JFK with your pastels, expect your wallet to be gone within five minutes," Hanshaw jokes.

ARE COLD SHOWERS REALLY PASSION KILLERS?

We consulted a reproductive expert to find out the cold, semi-hard truth.



While cold showers suck generally, their most notorious side effect for men is their legendary ability to kill an erection. Even the Cambridge English Dictionary lists the phrase, "take a cold shower" as, "an expression used when someone needs to calm down when something has made them feel sexually excited."

But what does science say? Does cold water really turn your salami into a noodle? We reached out to Ranjith Ramasamy at the University of Miami to get a definitive, "Probably."

"No one has directly studied cooling of the penis during a natural erection, so no one actually knows what cold water does," says Ramasamy. "Most of what we know is guided by studies on using cooling methods to treat priapism [an unwanted erection lasting more than four hours]."

While still unproven, Ramasamy explains that it is believed that cooling kills an erection by "inducing increased smooth muscle activity."

The smooth muscle, Ramasamy says, surrounds the blood vessels in the penis that control an erection. During increased activity, it squeezes the blood vessels closed, stopping blood from entering—this leads to your little soldier going from "attention" to "at ease."

In other words, a cold shower will, in theory, dampen your enthusiasm by cutting off the blood supply to your penis, but it's yet to be scientifically proven. And considering it's unlikely any man would consent to the kind of tests you'd need to do to prove this theory, it may very well stay unproven.

THE SCIENCE OF THE SHOWER BEER

Hot shower + cold beer = ecstasy. But how come it feels so right?



Never heard of a "shower beer?" A quick online search will show you just how passionately some people feel about hitting the showers with a can of their favorite adult soda. Or you could just try one for yourself—we'll wait.

There, wasn't that great? Now, let's dig into the science of why drinking a frosty beverage in a piping hot shower makes you feel so good.

It's all to do with something called "thermic alliesthesia," according to Davide Filingeri, a leading expert on thermosensation and physiological thermoregulatory responses. "All physiological processes within the body are regulated so that the organism stays within a range that's optimal for physiological function, i.e., homeostasis," says Filingeri. "In terms of body-temperature regulation, our body adjusts its internal temperature

so that this is maintained within a certain range (around 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit)."

Whenever we do something that shifts us out of that range—warming up in a hot shower, in this case—our body starts working its inner temperature back to normal. "In essence," Filingeri explains, "your cold beer is seen by your brain as a useful stimulus that could help bring its temperature to the range it likes to be within." Both hot showers and cold beer cause the release of the brain's pleasure chemical, dopamine, so when combined with the satisfying sensation of alliesthesia, the whole shower beer experience becomes utterly sublime.

Sadly, the effect is short lived, since alliesthesia only occurs while the body is trying to return to its normal state. Once you're there, the rush is over, leaving you with nothing more than shampoo in your beer.

WHEN DID BASEBALL BECOME SUCH A METAPHOR FOR SEX?

Getting to second base; catching and pitching; even striking out: Almost anything sexual can be described in baseball terms. But how did this happen?



"Think about baseball." That's the classic advice for trying to last longer in the sack, the idea being that there are few things in life as deeply unsexy as baseball. So why, then, has the game become America's preferred sex metaphor?

"I have no idea where it came from!" one baseball historian tells us, noting that he and other colleagues have looked into the matter, but always fell short of a "smoking gun" as to its origin. What's certain is that baseball as a metaphor in general—not just for sex—has grown along with the game's popularity in America. In 1860, a political cartoon shows Lincoln battling up against his election opponents. In 1920, an agricultural book refers to "bases" in terms of progress. By World War II, it was common to refer to the war in baseball terms: Admiral Kelly Turner, commander of American amphibious forces in the Pacific, e.g., argued for action in the Guadalcanal by saying it was America's "turn at bat."

As for sex, "getting to first base" first appears in the 1935 novel *Studs Lonigan* by American author James T. Farrell. While the metaphor surely existed earlier, its inclusion here, as well as in the magazine *Hearst's International* in 1936, likely helped to popularize the analogy. "In 1948, 'third base' appeared in a Norman Mailer novel," notes Slang lexicographer Tom Dalzell, implying that by then, the metaphor was fully realized.

By the 1970s, it was firmly entrenched in the American lexicon, appearing in an episode of *M*A*S*H*, and in 1977, in a much extended scenario in Meat Loaf's hit song "Paradise By The Dashboard Light."

While some now argue that the baseball analogy is outdated—since it focuses on the idea of conquest, rather than consensual fun—it will likely persist. Because in America, baseball is a metaphor for, well, everything.

THE (FOUL) BALL'S IN YOUR COURT

Legal scholar and co-author of "Baseball Meets the Law" Ed Edmonds says that nearly 1,000 foul balls have ended up in the courtroom. But these were the foulest...



Finders Keepers

Originally, fans were expected to return any foul balls, but when Reuben Berman caught one at Giants stadium in 1921, he was determined to keep it. He tried running away, but once caught, he was forced to return the ball and ejected from the game. Humiliated, Berman sued and won. Edmonds explains that, "This lawsuit resulted in the decision that foul balls can be kept by fans."

Watch at Your Own Risk

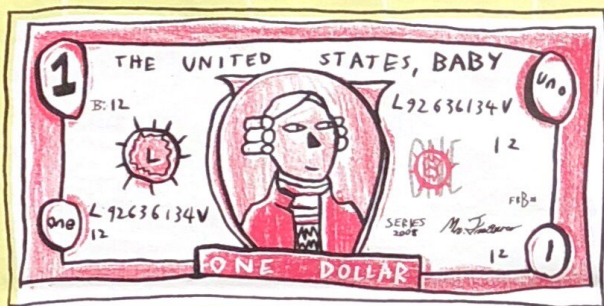
In 1913, Millers fan Robert Wells was struck by a foul ball, so he sued. "This case, and a few others in the 1910s, saw the establishment of 'The Baseball Rule,'" says Edmonds. This basically means that fans assume all risk of getting hit by stuff at a ballgame, as long as there is a section of seating with a net. The problem is, because ballfields don't want to eliminate the experience of attendees catching a foul ball, many stadiums skirt this law by putting a net only behind home plate. Since this area features seats too expensive for most, there's little option of safety for the fans.

Another Reason to Hate Mascots

Although not technically a foul ball, this one is worth mentioning. In *Coomer v. Kansas City Royals*, a fan received an eye injury from a hot dog fired out of a gun by mascot Sluggerrr in a 2009 game. After six years in court, it was decided that neither the fan nor the stadium were at fault, but Edmonds notes that this was one of the most successful challenges to the aforementioned 'baseball rule.' "Similar cases would have been thrown out, but the Missouri Supreme Court ruled that if stadiums are doing something to increase the likelihood of an injury beyond the basics of the game, it is worth considering in court."

HERE'S WHAT EVERY MARKING ON THE ONE DOLLAR BILL MEANS

Before you fork it over to the IRS, here's what's going on, on your greenback (and front).



1. The Federal Reserve Seal and the Federal Reserve District Number

Here, the bill says which Federal Reserve Bank the bill was printed in. For example, "B" on the left and "2" on the right means New York.

2. The United States Treasury Seal

The green stamp on the front is the U.S. Treasury Seal. The scales symbolize justice, the key means an office of authority, and the 13 stars are for the original 13 colonies.

3. Serial Numbers

Appearing twice on the face of the bill, the serial number's first letter will match the district number. The series of numbers following that are not unique to each bill; in fact, they will appear on a total of 832 bills. That's because there are 32 bills printed from each plate, and each plate is printed 26 times, once for each letter of the alphabet. Which print it was is noted as the last letter of the serial number, e.g. if the last letter is "C," that was the third print.

4. Series Date

This one's easy—it tells you the year it was printed.

5. Plate Series Number

This tells you which engraving plate was used to print the front of the bill.

6. Note Number Position

This tells you where on the engraving plate the bill was printed from. For example, "A1" would be in the top left and "H4" would be on the bottom right of each plate.



7. The Great Seal of the United States [front]

The two symbols on the back of the dollar bill represent the two sides of the same Great Seal of the United States.

On the back right, the obverse of the seal shows a bald eagle holding an olive branch in one claw and 13 arrows (referring to the 13 original states) in the other. This symbolizes that the United States has a desire for peace, but will always be ready for war. In front of the eagle is the national shield, which sports 13 stripes to signify—you guessed it!—the 13 original states, joined under one force. The latin motto, "E Pluribus Unum," written on the ribbon hanging from the eagle's beak, translates to, "Out of Many, One."

8. The Great Seal of the United States [back]

The reverse of the Great Seal is a pyramid underneath the Eye of Providence, which is the symbol for permanence, strength and God watching over mankind. The year of our founding, 1776, is written in Roman numerals at the base of the pyramid. The latin motto above the pyramid, "Annuit Coeptis," translates to "He [God] has favored our undertakings." "Novus Ordo Seclorum," which is written out below the pyramid, means "A new order of the ages," referring to the founding of America.

HOW DO I SHAVE IN THE SHOWER?

DSC's shaving expert Travis Fields explains how to save time (and blood) by shaving in the shower.



1. Buy a fogless mirror—it's about 20 bucks and totally worth it.



2. In the shower, turn the heat up: This softens your whiskers and opens up your pores.



3. Gently scrub your face in a circular motion with hot water and an exfoliating prep scrub.



4. Shave with the grain while looking in that fogless mirror. Remember to rinse after every stroke.



5. After showering, apply an alcohol-free post-shave cream to prevent irritation.



6. Use that time you just saved to marvel at your smooth face in the nearest shiny surface.

GET TO KNOW YOUR BODY: THE NOSE

The nose knows. But what does it know? And how did the nose come to know all the stuff it purportedly knows about? Let's find out, just in time for allergy season.

Sneak Past the Guard

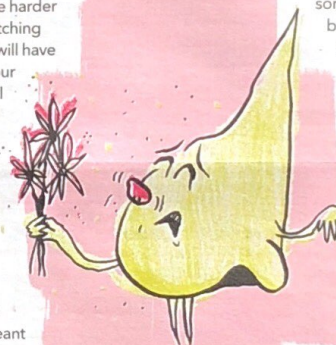
Basically a filter for your lungs, the nose is good at catching big allergens like pollen and mold spores. But rhinologist Josef Shargorodsky warns that, "Smaller ones like dust mites and cat allergens are harder to filter." Luckily, watching hours of cat videos will have no such effect on your nose, although it will make you question your life choices.

Going the Distance

Ever wondered just how far away you can smell something? Shargorodsky says it depends on the concentration of odor particles in the air, but that some noxious odors can be detected at "about 50 feet." If your first thought went to your shoes, it's time to throw them out.

Allergy Sneezin'

Why do some people always sneeze in threes? Shargorodsky explains that since a sneeze is a reflex meant to remove foreign particles, "The first sneeze may loosen the particles, the second may move them to the front of the nose, and the third may remove them." We're saying it now: Yes, you only need to say "God bless you" once.



Old School Smells

Nothing triggers nostalgia quite like an old, familiar smell. That's because, "The nerve center for the sense of smell is closely connected to the part of the brain that processes memory," Shargorodsky says. This explains why the smell of vinyl might trigger memories of opening toys as a kid, or why the odor of old books might bring you back to your grade school library.

CORRECTION: In our February issue, we stated that the average heart weighs 10 pounds, when it actually weighs 10 ounces. We apologize for any concern people might have felt over their surprisingly lightweight hearts.

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Change just one letter in each word to make a new word, gradually transforming the word at the top to the word at the bottom.



Cheat if you must...
Almost every word starts with "H"

Answers to both this month's Rompecabezas:
Visit content.dollarshaveclub.com/april-2018-romp-answers.

Instead of falling down an internet rabbit hole, challenge yourself with some math. Figure out what number each letter must represent to reach the totals when added together, both left to right and top to bottom.

M	O	T	N	14		
N	Q	5	U	P	7	23
S	P	7	M	Q	5	20
R	S	O	T	16		
20	15	19	19			

Cheat if you must...
The value of each letter has nothing to do with its position in the alphabet.

You deserve better than a plastic bag.



We designed the DSC Traveler with you in mind:

- ✓ A razor holster
- ✓ A zipper drop top for easy access
- ✓ Pockets for your DSC products

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