

New librarian gathers statistics by asking trivia questions

One of the most important parts of a librarian's job is to collect and analyze statistics. Statistics are used to help librarians decide what services to offer that may be beneficial to a community. To aid in my quest of gathering and compiling statistics, I propose two trivia questions: 1. Who is the arch-enemy of the great Sherlock Holmes? and 2. In the book (or the movie) *Holes* by Louis Sachar, what are the dimensions of the holes that Stanley Yelnats has to dig?

If you can answer either of these questions I hope that you will stop



Library Link

• Jeffrey Friesen

by the director's office in the Pioneer Memorial Library, introduce yourself, give the answer and collect your prize. (no further obligation)

My purpose for this is two-fold: first, I will get a feel for how many read the Library Link column and

second, I will become acquainted with the many of you that I have not met...yet.

If you do not know the answer to either of these questions, you can do one of two things.

You can either Interlibrary Loan a Sherlock Holmes book such as *The Final Problem* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (hint, hint) and find the answer or you can cheat and find the information on the Internet at say <http://www.louissachar.com/HolesBook.htm>.

For some of you that pre-date the Internet, this would be equivalent to

reading the "Cliff's Notes" rather than reading the book. Since there will not be a quiz, I won't know the difference so...do whatever suits your fancy.

As always, there are far too many good books to be read. Most of you have probably been hearing about the big release of Clinton's autobiography *My Life*.

Reviews are mixed, most claim that the book is not as much personal as political.

Clinton glosses over much of his affair with Monica Lewinsky and gives little inside information about

his relationship with Hillary during this time. He does, however, tell the reader about his childhood experiences and his political "ups and downs" both as governor in Arkansas and during his presidency in the White House. Although the word "abridged" is not in this 957-page account of Clinton's life, the library does have a condensed version of *My Life* on books on audio.

Speaking of autobiographies, come check out some of our latest additions including *I had brain surgery, what's your excuse* by Suzy Becker. Suzy can add a humorous slant to anything. This is evident in her recount of the life-threatening brain surgery that she underwent and ultimately lived to tell about.

Halfbreed: The Remarkable True Story of George Bent by David Halaas is a "remarkable true story" set during the time of struggle between the Indian and the white man. George Bent is half white and half Indian. His viewpoint is very objec-

tive as he lived in both "worlds" and, as such, provides an interesting narrative on why he ultimately turned to savage attacks against the whites.

For those of you keeping up with the Tour De France, Lance Armstrong's book *Every Second Counts* might be an interesting read. In this book Lance with the help of Sally Jenkins conveys his thoughts on balancing his personal and professional life, his emotions in winning the Tour De France five consecutive times, his battle with cancer, and the ever-present accusations of doping.

Pioneer Memorial Library is located at 375 W. Fourth and open seven days a week.

The summer hours are as follows: Monday through Wednesday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-4 p.m.

For more information contact the library at 462-4470.

Parents, friends think youth needs a haircut

DEAR ABBY: I am an almost-14-year-old boy in Iowa. My father thinks my hair is too long and says I should get a summer cut — short like his, of course.

The reason, according to my mom, is adults have said how bad my hair looks. I believe if they're going to be so rude as to say that to my mom, I should keep it long to keep them mad.

I get the feeling that my dad is afraid, as a physician, that it's hurting his reputation.

Abby, I'm a good kid. I get straight A's. I'm involved in many constructive activities, and my hair is just a little over my ears, almost touching my T-shirt collar in the back, and my bangs are brushed to the side. Who's right here?

— IRRITATED IN IOWA

DEAR IRRITATED: You appear to be intelligent and a high achiever.

Please don't let a power struggle over the length of your hair ruin your summer. A compromise may be in order.

Take a long, hard look in the mirror. If a number of people have said your hair looks "bad," perhaps it could be shaped — a little — into something less shaggy and more flattering. If you're afraid your dad's barber might scalp you, consider consulting your mother's hairdresser.

Where I live, it's common to see males in beauty salons because their girlfriends, wives or mothers have sent them there.

DEAR ABBY: Every year, on my in-laws' birthdays, I prepare a beautiful dinner, bake or purchase a



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

decorated cake and buy them a nice gift. My parents do the same for my husband.

When my birthday comes, my in-laws acknowledge it with only a card. My husband has talked to them about it (they are well off financially and could afford to take us out for dinner if his mom doesn't want to cook), but they feel that a card is adequate. They say, "People shouldn't do things for others because they expect something back."

Am I wrong to expect some kind of reciprocation? Frankly, I'm hurt.

— SLIGHTED IN MISSOURI

DEAR SLIGHTED: Your feelings are justified. Although I agree that people should not do things for others because they expect something back, by putting forth no effort on your birthday, they are sending the message that they haven't accepted you as a daughter.

Perhaps when their next birthdays roll around, their son should be the one to prepare the dinner, make sure there's a birthday cake and purchase their gift. If he remembers, that is.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have a great marriage. We're crazy about each other. There's just one thing we can't seem to agree on: He wants to travel to faraway places and I don't. I even suggested that if

it means that much to him, he could go with one of his friends or a family member. He insists that he doesn't want to go without me.

This issue isn't hurting our marriage, but it sure isn't helping it, either. Any suggestions?

— HOMEBODY IN NORFOLK, VA.

DEAR HOMEBODY: Everyone should have your problems — a husband with an appetite for world travel, the pocketbook to back it up, and the desire to share the excitement of the adventure with his own true love. If I were you, I'd quit complaining and start packing.

DEAR ABBY: I'm embarrassed to admit this, but my husband doesn't brush his teeth every day. To make matters worse, he wears upper dentures, which he soaks and cleans only about once a week. He hasn't been to a dentist in the 13 years we've been married, and I suspect he hadn't been for some time before that.

I have talked to him about how this limits my desire to kiss him. Smelling his breath from 3 feet away is something I can't ignore.

I have tried reasoning with him that dental health is part of a total health program, but he also hasn't been seen by a doctor in the time we've been married — despite a family history of heart problems, prostate cancer and diabetes. He appears to be in good health, but I worry about him.

When I tell him how his lax dental hygiene affects my physical desire, he listens intently, says he understands — and then nothing

Oberlin hosts forum on Saturday

There will be a "Meet the Candidates" forum starting at 2 p.m. Saturday at Decatur County High School in Oberlin.

Candidates for the following seats will be present to speak to the public and answer questions: Republicans Ralph Ostmeyer and Dan Rasure and Democrat Tim Peterson, 40th District Senate Seat; Incumbent Republican John Faber, Republican Doug Sebelius and Democrat Bob Strey, 120th District Representative Race; Incumbent Republican Ralph Unger and Republican Phillip Lahman, District 2 County Commissioner Race.

Rural school issues will also be discussed and other unopposed candidates may be present.

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changes. I love him. We have a good marriage, but he simply won't budge. Please give me some advice. Perhaps if he sees this in the paper he'll recognize himself.

— LONGING FOR A SWEET-SMELLING KISS IN GEORGIA

DEAR LONGING: Don't bet on it. There is none so blind as he who will not see. Your husband also appears to have selective deafness when it comes to hearing something he'd rather not act upon.

Frankly, I don't know how you have stood it this long. Insist on "clearing the air" with a marriage counselor. Your husband's refusal to attend to his oral hygiene is childish and disrespectful. Ask for a referral to a health-care provider who is familiar with medical and dental phobias. The alternative is to spend the rest of your life wearing a clothespin on your nose when your husband feels amorous.

Editor's note: Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

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