

showers I lay out their school clothes for the next day. And then...."

"Hold on right there," "How old are your girls again?" "Um, they're seven and five," she answered, being the

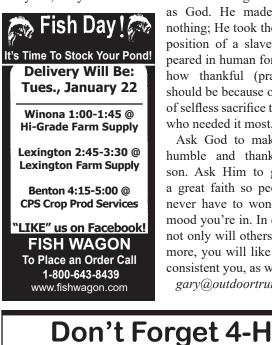


one's patience. This is espe- around them. cially true if the season has had hoped for.

Everything from the weather to the inability to hunt as often as we like, can make us a very unsociable human. Sometimes our rank disposiwe love, and sometimes it's aimed at someone we really want to dislike anyway.

I had better not "cop an attitude" with my wife. First, she would be quick to straighten me out. But secondly, it's not her fault that I'm tired and that I missed the shot. She is not deserving of my ornery mood. But neither is anyone else. As for those people that I dislike; I try to make them few. All in all, our hunting and fishing escapades only do a little to determine our character, they mostly just reveal it.

If a person is moody, loves to grumble and complain, and finds fault in just about everyone, they will do the



The rigors of late season same in the outdoor world. hunting can put a toll on And I don't want to be

I read one time that moodinot produced the results we ness is a sign of spiritual immaturity because it shows a lack of faith in God who is always constant and consistent. When our faith is in God, circumstances will have very little effect on our tion is turned toward those mood. Of course, there are periods of undue distress such as the loss of a loved one or a serious illness, but A long time ago, I learned overall our lives must be one where our mood-swings are few. And why would a person complain and grumble so much when we are such a blessed people?

> When we grumble and complain we become both egocentric and unthankful. We are egocentric in that we put our needs above everyone else's, and we are unthankful in that we continue to utter our complaints. God's way is two-fold; humility and praise. It's the picture of Christmas. The Bible says concerning Jesus, "Though he was God, He did not demand and cling to His rights as God. He made himself nothing; He took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form." And how thankful (praise) we should be because of this act of selfless sacrifice toward us who needed it most.

Ask God to make you a humble and thankful person. Ask Him to give you a great faith so people will never have to wonder what mood you're in. In doing so, not only will others like you more, you will like the new, consistent you, as well. gary@outdoortruths.org

thirty-something mother of the girls in question. "Why?" "I guess I need you to explain to me why you're doing that."

"You mean laying out their clothes the night before?"

"Yes. Why are you doing that?"

"Well, I, well, if I didn't, I don't know, they might pick out something inappropriate."

"Like what? T-shirts with satanic messages on them?" (Laughing) "Oh, no, not

that! I mean like tops and bottoms that don't match." "Like stripes and polka dots together? Or two shades

of orange that clash?" "Yes, something like that."

"That's...you used the word inappropriate...that's inappropriate? I thought inappropriate was like punching someone in the face for no reason. Wearing stripes and polka dots is inappropriate?

"Well, I mean, the other kids might laugh at them."

"Okay, so here's my very important question: I seriously doubt that kids this age have a developed fashion sense, but that aside, so what if some other kid or kids did laugh?"

(Long pause) "Well, I don't want my daughters to be made fun of."

At this point, I had to suppress the almost irrepressible urge to tell this mother that I hadn't been born yesterday; that I knew the real reason she picked out her daughters' clothes every evening. The real reason is that with rare exception, today's moms personalize everything - and I do mean EVERYTHING that happens to their children or that their children do.

So, if a five-year-old managed, somehow, to get by her Designated Micromanager and wore to school an outfit consisting of stripes and polka dots (I'm having memories of when I was a hippie), her DM, when she found out, would be con-

cerned, convinced even, that anything that goes wrong people might have been talk- is potentially apocalyptic; ing about and laughing at therefore, everything must HER by proxy. Furthermore, be managed. Everything even if the child in question even slightly off the beam is came home and did not com- cause for reading yet another plain of being mocked, mom book. (Did I actually just say would still be certain that that?) someone out there is thinking that she's one of the Bad came to me because she

Mommies you hear about. а clothes – something my to let you tell them what foot mother must've stopped do- to lead with when they begin ing for me before my third walking. We made a list of birthday because I have no what was really, truly impormemory of it - is emblem- tant parenting stuff to which atic of the current state of she absolutely had to attend motherhood in America. It's It was fairly short, actually. why I often say to audiences hither and yon, "Raising months later. She's no longer children has become threat- in near-constant conflict with ening to the mental health of her daughters; she's having a American women."

everything, and I do mean college. Yay! I mean, YAY! EVERYTHING! detail is important, which to do it! means, essentially, that in their minds there are no Rosemond: johnrosemond. details. Everything

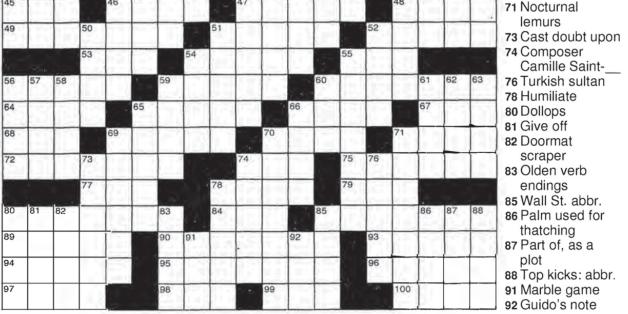
The mother in question was having lots of conflicts Choosing and laying out with her daughters. Good for seven-year-old child's them, I told her. They refuse

I heard from her three much, much happier mother-I mean, they worry about hood; and she's gone back to Every You go, girl! That's the way

> Family psychologist John and com, parentguru.com.

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