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Currently logged in as **Mark O'Brien**.

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Byline	Category	Element	Keyword	Section
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark O'Brien (3)	<input type="checkbox"/> 100006 (1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Column (1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Condo living (1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Local (2)
	<input type="checkbox"/> 19 (1)		<input type="checkbox"/> condominium (1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Online LOCAL (1)
	<input type="checkbox"/> 200097 (1)		<input type="checkbox"/> Lifestyle (1)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 200012 (1)			

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Archive: Text Archive - 3
documents found.

Byline: "Mark O'Brien", Full text: "Condo Man"

- Sunday, August 9, 2009

Section: Online LOCAL

Edition:

Book: C

Page: 1C

Byline: Mark O'Brien

From: Staff

Source:

Publication: Pensacola News Journal

Correction:**Condo Man laughs at house-owners**Mark O'Brien
mobrien@pnj.comAugust is **Condo Man**'s favorite month.

"There but for the grace of God go I," **Condo Man** says as house-owners trudge through the heat and the humidity, filled with regret and self-loathing for the money and sweaty effort that August takes from them.

They're patching bald spots in the grass when they're not cutting the lawn, alternately wishing the rain would stop and praying rain will fall so they don't have to spend so much on their water bill.

The pool must be nursed back to health from those sudden pollen attacks. And it's prime hurricane season, so house-owners look nervously at the trees and wonder if it's time to call in an expensive tree-surgeon.

Mondo condo

Yes, August is a great time to be **Condo Man**. He spends his weekends napping, watching ball games and driving around town, feeling sorry for house-owners and their addictions to chemicals — lawn and pool chemicals, that is.

Then again, **Condo Man** lives like this 12 months a year. He has shed the big lawn, the pool, the yard work. He is free at last, thanks to a modest little condominium in town, a poor city cousin to all those big condos on the beaches.

He has shaken the addiction that grips so many people who own houses.



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They start each spring full of hope, stocking up on plants and weed-killer, lawn mowers and other costly equipment they hope will transform their yards into veritable Edens of delight. Yes, it's spring and they feel good to be outdoors, and they bustle about. At first.

Condo Man, however, knows the novelty of yard work will fade. June, July and August will kick their spirits and sap their joy.

They eventually will wish they were enjoying **Condo Man's** good life. For **Condo Man** doesn't lift a finger at home (except once a month when he gulps, winces and pays the condo maintenance fee).

Horror of houses

Condo Man cannot cast the first stone. He, too, once had a big house, a big pool, big maintenance.

He would be very happy living in one of those extended stay motels, which you rent by the month. You get a room, a color television with all the channels, and weekly maid service.

Mrs. **Condo Man**, however, insists on larger quarters. Hence the condo, a compromise.

It all goes back to his childhood. **Condo Man**, you see, is the son of Handy Man, who could fix anything and who never got rid of anything. Handy Man had lived through the Great Depression and vowed to never hire anyone or waste anything.

Condo Man had heard Handy Man's stories once too often. He went in the opposite direction. He downsized, and he is living happily ever after.

Caption:

Element:

Graphic:

Image:

Keywords: Condo living

Subkeys: NEWS01

Subject:

Day:

Freekey: LS, When it comes to home, comfort matters more than size.

Category: 19

Country:

Resale: Yes

Status: Sent

City:

State:

DC3 Id:

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	<input type="checkbox"/> 200095 (1)	<input type="checkbox"/> column (1)		<input type="checkbox"/> Online Local (1)
	<input type="checkbox"/> 19513 (1)			
	<input type="checkbox"/> 200012 (1)			

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Byline: "Mark O'Brien", Full text: "briefs"

- Friday, October 23, 2009



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Section: Online Local

Edition:

Book: B

Page: 18

Byline: Mark O'Brien

From: Staff

Source:

Publication: Pensacola News Journal

Correction:

Judge junks man's suit over briefs

Mark O'Brien
mobrien@pnj.com
435-8516

Albert Freed doesn't put on his pants the same way as many men. That's one reason why a judge dismissed his suit against an underwear company.

Freed sued Hanesbrands Inc. for damages he blamed on a gap in brand-new underwear his wife bought him for a trip to Hawaii, which an employer gave him for selling \$20,000 worth of diet products.

Freed, who weighs about 285 pounds, said a gap in his **briefs** exposed him to painful rubbing, although he didn't discover the cause until late in his two-week vacation. He sued for up to \$5,000 in damages.

The firm's expert witness, an engineer experienced in textiles, insisted the underwear was fine. His testimony involved "vertical tension" and "horizontal" pressure on a man's **briefs**.

Passed up \$1,500

Escambia County Judge Pat Kinsey said the fault lies with Freed: "Plaintiff testified he dresses by placing his underwear inside the pants he plans to wear that day and then pulls both on together. He testified he never puts his underwear on and adjusts himself to get comfortable."

Freed, 62, said the company offered him \$1,500 to settle the case, but he wanted \$3,000. Freed, who paid \$315 to file the suit, regrets acting as his own attorney. He wasn't prepared for the courtroom.

"If you're your own lawyer, you have a fool for a client," the southwest Escambia County

resident said Thursday.

A spokesperson for Hanesbrands didn't answer a call for comment.

Sand in his briefs

Here is what Kinsey said in her four-page ruling:

Freed believed that his irritation was caused by sand he picked up in his bathing suit while enjoying the Hawaiian surf early in his vacation. Over time, he kept walking and the condition worsened. However, he didn't examine the sore spot, saying his weight prevented an up-close look and he wouldn't ask his wife to look lest it "ruined her vacation" as well.

Kinsey said Freed didn't show the underwear was defective or that it caused the injury. The judge recruited a lawyer who happened to be in the courtroom to serve as a model as witnesses discussed how "vertical tension" is greater than "horizontal tension" and there's no tendency for the fly to "gap."

She wrote, "It was proved to the court that plaintiff's manner of getting into his underwear was far more likely to have caused his problem than defective manufacturing."

Once Freed treated the sore spot with an over-the-counter ointment, the abrasion was cured within a day or two.

Freed did win one small victory. Kinsey rejected Hanesbrands' request to ban him from posting videos about this case on the Internet. She said her jurisdiction didn't extend that far.

Caption:

Element: column

Graphic:

Image:

Keywords:

Subkeys: NEWS01

Subject: Albert Freed

Day:

Freekey: em, He could have settled his suit for \$1, 500, but a man pressed ahead with a \$5, 000 claim against an underwear manufacturer.

Category: 19513

Country:

Resale: Yes

Status: Sent

City:

State:

DC3 Id:

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Currently logged in as **Mark O'Brien**.

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<input type="checkbox"/> Mark O'Brien (1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Opinions (28)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hurricane (19)	Online Local (82)
<input type="checkbox"/> mark O'Brien (1)	200012 (95)	<input type="checkbox"/> O'pinions (13)	<input type="checkbox"/> politics (14)	<input type="checkbox"/> Main (57)
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2709 (46)	<input type="checkbox"/> College football (5)	<input type="checkbox"/> Government (13)	<input type="checkbox"/> Online Main (7)
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	200095 (24)	<input type="checkbox"/> opinions (2)	<input type="checkbox"/> county government (11)	<input type="checkbox"/> Online local (5)
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Panhandle politics (2)		Local Online (4)
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Byline: "Mark O'Brien"

- Friday, December 25, 2009

Section: Main

Edition:

Book: C

Page: 1C

Byline: Mark O'Brien

From: Staff

Source:

Publication: Pensacola News Journal

Correction:

I just wish my father had told me

Mark O'Brien
mobrien@pnj.com
435-8516

My father was a wonderful man. He taught me how to break in a baseball glove, rig a sailboat and calculate batting averages.

But I wish he had told me other important manly Man Things when I was a kid. (Then again, maybe he told me and I didn't listen.)

Instead, I learned these things on my own, the hard way:

Keep a blue blazer handy. You may suddenly get summoned to an important meeting, and a blue blazer will qualify you as a Big Boy. A blue blazer can go anywhere and give you a professional look. Also, it's handy as a cover-up if you spill food on your shirt.

Cut the comb-over

Lose the comb-over, dude. You look silly tacking down the street, going from left to right with the wind lest your flyaway hair expose the bald spot atop your head.

Better to get your hair cut real short and be a blatant baldy. If you have a comb-over, people will wonder what else you're trying to hide.

Brush your teeth before you put on a necktie. Otherwise, the tie will have little flecks of white Crest.

You doubt me? Next time you're in a dull meeting, study the neckties and look for telltale specks of white. It's a more interesting way to kill time than counting the holes in the ceiling tiles.

Do not date a woman who has more than one dog or two cats. The animals will have seniority

over you. And when they die, she will want more animals and you still will lack seniority. The folks in Human Resources will be sympathetic to you, but ultimately they work for the employer, not the employee.

Home, cheap home

Live close to where you work. It saves fuel, but more importantly it saves time sitting in a car when you could be with your family (or sneaking in a nap on a slow workday).

Buy a home you can afford. Live below your means. Your pals may live in fancier neighborhoods, but a smaller mortgage means you are more free to travel, less beholden to the boss, and more able to ride out the inevitable midlife crises that make us yearn for motorcycles, boats or just a break from the rat race.

Plus, if you live in a modest neighborhood, your kids won't think the world owes them a living.

Buy only standard transmission cars. They keep you more involved in driving, they take less fuel, and they eliminate freeloaders who want to borrow your car — except they don't know how to drive a stick-shift.

Stifle the instinct to be a backseat driver, which is very irritating. Before you get in the vehicle, check to see if it has any dents. No dents — trust the person. But if there are three or more dents, take a taxi.

Bottom line: Keep expectations for yourself high and expectations of others low, and you will be pleasantly surprised.

Caption:

Element:

Graphic:

Image:

Keywords:

Subkeys:

Subject:

Day:

Freekey: column

Category:

Country:

Resale: Yes

Status: Sent

City:

State:

DC3 Id:

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