



THE EMMY® AWARD -
WINNING SERIES
RETURNS

FASHION DAILY

HOME & LEISURE

[\(/homeandleisure/fashiondaily/\)](#) / [\(/homeandleisure/\)](#)

Fashion Daily News

SUBSCRIBE

Email Address

Subscribe

By clicking submit, I authorize Arcamax and its affiliates to: (1) use, sell, and share my information for marketing purposes, including cross-context behavioral advertising, as described in our Privacy Policy , (2) add to information that I provide with other information like interests inferred from web page views, or data lawfully obtained from data brokers, such as past purchase or location data, or publicly available data, (3) contact me or enable others to contact me by email or other means with offers for different types of goods and services, and (4) retain my information while I am engaging with marketing messages that I receive and for a reasonable amount of time thereafter. I understand I can opt out at any time through an email that I receive, or by [clicking here \(/unsubscribe\)](#).

Answer Angel: 'The Hemline Index'

Ellen Warren, Tribune News Service on Mar 4, 2025

Published in Fashion Daily News (/homeandleisure/fashiondaily/fashiondailynews/)

Dear Answer Angel Ellen: I was told years ago that the length of a woman's dress or skirt was in direct proportion to the state of the economy.

Is that still true today? And/or what would be the modern equivalent barometer?

--Jennifer S.

Dear Jennifer: You're talking about "The Hemline Index." This holds that women's skirts are shorter in good economic times and longer in bad. Like most such handy theories, it has proved to be true *sometimes*. And, often, it has been the exact opposite: longer hems in good times than in bad.



Today, you can toss it out the window since, hemline-wise, anything goes. Mini, midi, maxi and all skirt lengths in between turn up everywhere these days. While this hemline theory is most often attributed to economist George Taylor in 1926 — 99 years ago — there's credible evidence that he's not actually responsible for this not-always-true dictum.

You ask for a more modern barometer. How about the "Lipstick Index" proposed by Leonard Lauder, then board chairman of Estée Lauder cosmetics? His theory was that during the recession in the early 2000s, cosmetic sales—especially lipsticks—were a good indicator of a recession as women turned from more expensive splurges like clothing to a cheaper mood pick-me-up from the cosmetics counter. That theory too has proved true — *sometimes*.

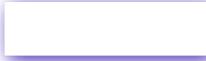
Then came the "Nail Polish Index." And during the COVID-masking era, the eyes became the thing, hence the "Mascara Index." Not one of these theories is always true. Sadly, the economy is not that simple to explain--or predict!

Dear Answer Angel Ellen: Here is my problem: Several of my sweatshirts, jackets, and coats have metal zipper pulls and sometimes other metal objects attached to the zipper that bang around in my dryer and chip the enamel. What can I use to cover these objects in the dryer so this doesn't happen?

--Debbie G.

Dear Debbie: There's a product sold for precisely your problem. But first, try this: Zip up your sweatshirt, coat etc., then securely safety pin your zipper pull to your garment. Next, turn the clothing inside out and wash and dry as normal.

Another solution is to place the clothing in a mesh laundry bag sold for washing delicates and keeping socks from disappearing. Most of these are small but you'll find jumbos big enough for most clothes (amazon.com (<http://amazon.com/>), 26 by 28 inches, 3 for \$14.99; 26 inches by 36 inches, \$6.19 each).



If the problem is only metal buttons, Amazon sells button covers to prevent the washer/dryer damage and noise.

Now the products for your precise issue: On amazon.com (<http://amazon.com/>) search for "zipper protector for laundry" and you will turn up Zhunpingan brand reusable stickers for zipper pulls, etc. in two different sizes (amazon.com (<http://amazon.com/>), 2.4 diameter circles; 3.5 inch long strips, \$9.99). Also, Nevixtal brand special tape to cover metal zipper pulls and other metal objects (amazon.com (<http://amazon.com/>), 5 rolls of tape, \$11.88).

Reader Rants

Harry W. writes, "Why do men — mostly older gentlemen — douse themselves in cologne or aftershave until you want to go blechhh!? The scent is overpowering and highly unpleasant. It used to be that women would also overdo the perfume with the same horrid effect. However I do not encounter that issue as often as I used to. Now, the big offenders are men. On public transportation or in a theater this is especially offensive since it is impossible to escape and I find myself sometimes reeking for hours after these encounters in a closed space!!"

And this...

Olivia P. complains: "I have noticed a startling increase in the number of inconsiderate women in my yoga class and a dance class who spray huge amounts of perfume or cologne on. It makes these classes hard to breathe and unpleasant. Please ask instructors to post signs and make announcements in class that scents of any kind are not considerate of others, especially those of us with respiratory issues or allergies. The same goes for taxi and ride share drivers who make any ride unpleasant with the fragrances they wear or those they spray in their cars."

©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

SHARE

[\(http://www.tribunecontentagency.com/sharing/facebook/3622712\)](#) [\(http://www.tribunecontentagency.com/sharing/twitter/3622712\)](#) [\(http://www.tribunecontentagency.com/sharing/email/3622712\)](#) [\(http://www.tribunecontentagency.com/sharing/print/3622712\)](#) [\(http://www.tribunecontentagency.com/sharing/home/3622712\)](#) [\(http://www.tribunecontentagency.com/sharing/search/3622712\)](#) [\(http://www.tribunecontentagency.com/sharing/user/3622712\)](#) [\(http://www.tribunecontentagency.com/sharing/close/3622712\)](#)

➔ [\(/HOMEANDLEISURE/FASHIONDAILY/FASHIONDAILYNEWS/S-3621242\)](/HOMEANDLEISURE/FASHIONDAILY/FASHIONDAILYNEWS/S-3621242)

➔ [\(/HOMEANDLEISURE/FASHIONDAILY/FASHIONDAILYNEWS/S-3630485\)](/HOMEANDLEISURE/FASHIONDAILY/FASHIONDAILYNEWS/S-3630485)

[\(/\)MORE FASHION DAILY NEWS](#)

Trendy art that only costs \$1: Vending machine art is popping up nationwide (/homeandleisure/fashiondaily/fashiondailynews/s-3621242)

Fashion Daily News (/homeandleisure/fashiondaily/fashiondailynews/) / March 04, 2025

At New York's Grand Central Station, there's a line at least 100 deep from Vanderbilt Hall down to the terminal's 42nd Street entrance. A mix of tourists and locals stand behind a roped-off area waiting to try their ...[Read More \(/homeandleisure/fashiondaily/fashiondailynews/s-3621242\)](#)

Isis Brantley, natural hair matriarch, reflects on activism and aims to train next generation (/homeandleisure/fashiondaily/fashiondailynews/s-3621241)

Fashion Daily News (/homeandleisure/fashiondaily/fashiondailynews/) / March 04, 2025

DALLAS — Isis Brantley has spent decades fighting to break down state imposed barriers governing hair braiding. Her vision all those years ago was a state where people could earn a living from the African ancestral ...[Read More \(/homeandleisure/fashiondaily/fashiondailynews/s-3621241\)](#)

Answer Angel: Real benefits of faux fur (/homeandleisure/fashiondaily/fashiondailynews/s-3613717)

Fashion Daily News (/homeandleisure/fashiondaily/fashiondailynews/) / February 25, 2025

Dear Answer Angel Ellen: I am really liking the faux furs I am seeing at the stores. I hope they catch on even more next year. I bought one at Target for \$48 bucks and it is so cute. I wear mine with ...[Read More \(/homeandleisure/fashiondaily/fashiondailynews/s-3613717\)](#)

'Larger, fancier and shinier': Why some shoppers are buying lab-grown diamonds (/homeandleisure/fashiondaily/fashiondailynews/s-3612135)

Fashion Daily News (/homeandleisure/fashiondaily/fashiondailynews/) / February 25, 2025

MIAMI -- When Hollywood, Florida, engineer Cristina Montiel and her fiance Ruben Yrady decided they were going to get married, Montiel wanted a ring that conveyed their years-long romance. The couple met as high school ...[Read More \(/homeandleisure/fashiondaily/fashiondailynews/s-3612135\)](#)

Why your low-fiber diet could be risky (/homeandleisure/fashiondaily/fashiondailynews/s-3612134)

Fashion Daily News (/homeandleisure/fashiondaily/fashiondailynews/) / February 25, 2025

New research shows fiber does far more than keep you regular — it could be a powerful weapon in cancer prevention. Yet, fewer ... (<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-06-americans-fiber-diets.html>)[Read More \(/homeandleisure/fashiondaily/fashiondailynews/s-3612134\)](#)

Answer Angel: Cropped tops (/homeandleisure/fashiondaily/fashiondailynews/s-3604813)

Fashion Daily News (/homeandleisure/fashiondaily/fashiondailynews/) / February 18, 2025

Dear Answer Angel Ellen: When do you think the fad of cropped tops will end? I admit to having a muffin top and because of this fad I find it very hard to find tops with basic coverage! --Louise ...[Read More \(/homeandleisure/fashiondaily/fashiondailynews/s-3604813\)](#)

COMMENTS

ArcaMax

[Home \(/\)](#)

[News \(/news\)](#)

[Columns](#)

[Comics \(/comics\)](#)

[\(/search\)](#)

[\(/login\)](#)

(/)

Sponsored

7 Things Trump Plans To Do for Seniors On SS In 2025

Super Saving Online

AI Bot Flips Wall Street on Its Head: Turns \$1K into \$50K in Record 30 Days

FX Market Insights

[Click Here](#)

Mature Dating Starts Today

Secretmeet

[Read More](#)

Don't Play This Game If You Are Under 30

RAID

[Play Now](#)

Seniors Can Now Fly Business Class For the Price Of Economy

Airlines

Amazon's Worst Nightmare: Shoppers Canceling Prime for This Clever Hack

Online Shopping Tools

[U.S. Privacy](#)

(/)

0 Comments

Login ▾

Rate and comment ★★★★★



Start the discussion...

LOG IN WITH



OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS ?

By clicking submit, I authorize Disqus, Inc. and its affiliated companies to:

- Use, sell, and share my information to enable me to use its comment services and for marketing purposes, including cross-context behavioral advertising, as described in our [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)
- Supplement the information that I provide with additional information lawfully obtained from other sources, like demographic data from public sources, interests inferred from web page views, or other data relevant to what might interest me, like past purchase or location data
- Contact me or enable others to contact me by email with offers for goods and services (from any category) at the email address provided
- Process any sensitive personal information that I submit in a comment for the purpose of displaying the comment
- Retain my information while I am engaging with marketing messages that I receive and for a reasonable amount of time thereafter. I understand I can opt out at any time through an email that I receive. Companies that we share data with are listed [here](#).



Share

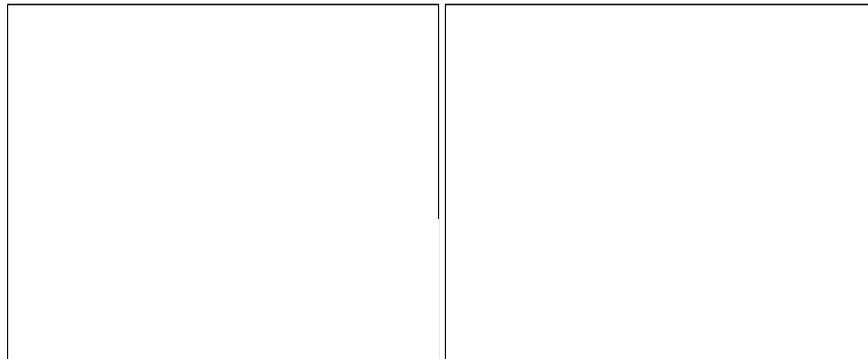
Best Newest Oldest

Be the first to comment.

Sponsored



Sponsored



CREATE CHANGE DAY ONE

Career-Relevant Programs.
Community Service Internships.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Drew Sheneman for 4/17/2025

17 hours ago · 13 comments
Political cartoons by Drew Sheneman

Luann for 4/18/2025

26 minutes ago · 4 comments
Created by Greg Evans, Luann is a look into the dramatic and (most of all)

Chris Britt for 4/17/2025

6 hours ago · 2 comments
Liberal leaning editorial cartoonist Chris Britt

One 4/18

23 mi
Rick I Happ of six

blog comments powered by Disqus (<http://disqus.com>)



ArcaMax

(/)

TOPICS:

- [Business \(/business/\)](#)
- [Entertainment \(/entertainment/\)](#)
- [Health \(/healthandspirit/\)](#)
- [Home & Leisure \(/homeandleisure/\)](#)
- [Knowledge \(/knowledge/\)](#)
- [Politics \(/politics/\)](#)
- [Sports \(/sports/\)](#)

CATEGORIES:

- [News \(/news\)](#)
- [Comics \(/comics\)](#)
- [Columns \(/columns\)](#)
- [Quizzes \(/quizzes\)](#)

COMPANY:

- [Contact Reader Services \(/feedback/custserv\)](#)
- [My Account \(/login\)](#)
- [Why ArcaMax \(/reference/about\)](#)
- [Media Center \(/mediacenter\)](#)
- [Newsletter Directory \(/mediacenter/newsletters\)](#)