

The Style Invitational

Week CXXII: Comixing

Cross Snuffy Smith with Rex Morgan, M.D., and get a character who looks like Snuffy, but instead of chickens, he's always stealing Percodans.

Cross Spider-Man with Trixie from "Hi and Lois" and get a baby who wets the ceiling.

If you cross Dilbert with Huey from "The Boondocks":

DILDOCKS



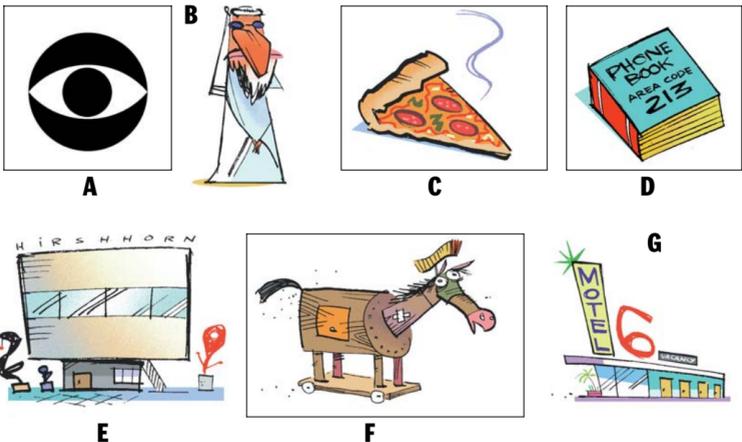
ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

This Week's Contest was suggested by Bruce W. Alter of Fairfax Station. Bruce proposes that you create new comic characters by crossing two existing characters, as in the above examples. Then describe the new character. First-prize winner gets an Official Major League Baseball in a plastic cube, distributed to the media by the Walt Disney Co. in the hopes of garnering good publicity for "The Rookie," a harmless piece of Hollywood pap.

First runner-up wins the tacky but estimable Style Invitational Loser Pen. Other runners-up win the coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt. Honorable mentions get the mildly sought-after Style Invitational bumper sticker. Send your entries via fax to 202-334-4312, or by e-mail to losers@washpost.com. U.S. mail entries are no longer accepted due to rabid,

spit-flying fanaticism. Deadline is Monday, June 3. All entries must include the week number of the contest and your name, postal address and telephone number. E-mail entries must include the week number in the subject field. Contests will be judged on the basis of humor and originality. All entries become the property of The Washington Post.

Entries may be edited for taste or content. Results will be published in four weeks. No purchase required for entry. Employees of The Washington Post, and their immediate relatives, are not eligible for prizes. Pseudonymous entries will be disqualified. The revised title for next week's contest is by Thos. Witte of Gaithersburg.



Report from Week CXVIII, in which we asked you to tell us how any two of these cartoons were related.

- ◆ Fourth Runner-Up: **D and G: Both are inhabited by an overwhelming number of Smiths.** (Jean Sorensen, Herndon)
- ◆ Third Runner-Up: **B and F: Misreading the invitation, Joe Camel and Mister Ed dress up as a Sheik and a Trojan for the Condo Association Masquerade Ball.** (Chris Doyle, Rockville)
- ◆ Second Runner-Up: **In E, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. In G, it is in the eye of the beerholder.** (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)
- ◆ First Runner-Up: **C and F: It's a little-known historical fact that after 10 years of unsuccessfully attempting to sneak soldiers into Troy as pizza delivery men, the Greeks finally came up with another idea.** (Morgan Malino, Fremont, Calif.)
- ◆ And the winner of the book of kids' letters to President Johnson: **D and E: One is an archive of the great artists of the 20th century, tragically unrecognized for too long because their blinding brilliance offended the smug bourgeoisie, and the other is the Hirshhorn Museum of modern art.** (Dan Steinberg, Columbia)

◆ Honorable Mentions: **A has excellent ratings for "60 Minutes"; G has excellent rates for 60 minutes.** (Milo Sauer, Fairfax)

B and D: In the L.A. phone book, you could probably find a bridal shop for men. (Kelli Midgley-Biggs, Columbia)

If you hit A with C, you know what amore feels like. (Kelli Midgley-Biggs, Columbia; Megan Lewis, Wheaton; Niels Hoven, Houston)

B and D: Ronald Johnson of Duluth, Minn., due to collect the \$25 million for information leading to the capture of Osama bin Laden, is quoted saying, "Finding him was tricky, because he was listed under the L's and not the B's." (Morgan Malino, Fremont, Calif.)

F and G: When your stay in each is over, you feel like killing someone. (Mark Young, Washington)

C and G: A practical joke falls flat when Linda Tripp orders 10 pizzas for "Mr. and Mrs. William Jefferson Smith at the Motel 6," and they are accepted. (Mitch Mularz, Aberdeen, Wash.)

F and G are related by this ill-known historical fact: The hidden Greek soldiers got no sleep at all thanks to the ice machine in the horse's butt. (Jennifer Hart, Arlington)

F and C: If you gave a big tip to the Trojan Horse delivery person, you would feel very silly later. (Jennifer Hart, Arlington)

F and G: Ajax was present in neither. (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

A and G: A certain vacancy is required to appreciate each. (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

F and G: The bathroom facilities in both leave something to be desired. (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

D and E: Both are places where you are unlikely to run into people wearing Style Invitational Loser T-shirts. (Richard Wong, Arlington)

C and F: Free delivery, heartburn later. (J.D. Berry, Springfield)

B and F: Neither will be seen in a derby. (Seth Brown, Williamstown, Mass.)

In F, a trick is turned on the Trojans; in G, tricks are turned using them. (Steve Fahey, Kensington)

C and G: No matter how much you enjoy garlic-anchovy pizza, giving it to your wife for your anniversary will cause you to become familiar with G. (Niels Hoven, Houston)

A and G: You can love Raymond in either place. (Dave Ferry, Leesburg)

D and G: 2 plus 1 plus 3 equals the number of shots on the Zapruder film plus the number of shots fired by Jack Ruby, and also equals the number of letters in "Oswald," who was staying at a Motel 6 when witnesses, who had been bribed, testified that they had seen Oswald in another city with Clay Shaw, which proves that Oswald was framed. (Oliver Stone, Los Angeles; Roy Ashley, Washington)

Next Week: The Days of Whining Russes

Richard's Poor Almanac Restaurant Closings

The following establishments have been ordered closed for health code violations:



OUSPENSKAYA GALLERY—Operating without a liquor license. Current show of paintings derivative & sterile. Hey, Modernism's over!

TACO OUTLET—Menu of over 2000 items confusing & gratuitous, considering there are only 5 ingredients.

BLADDERWORT'S BREWPUB CAFE—Featured beer, old Bladderwort's Extra Chunky Barium Ale, still untested on humans.

CHAT'N'CHEW'N'PAY'N'LEAVE—Whole place smelled like old people.

ANN LANDERS

Dear Ann: I have been married to "Elmer" for two years and have never been allowed inside his parents' home. My in-laws are wonderful people, and they have always been nice to me. However, they insist their house is dirty and they are ashamed to have "outsiders" see the mess. Even though I am married to their son, I guess they do not yet consider me part of the family.

Elmer visits his parents once a week while I stay home. When he phones me from their house, I can hear laughter and talking in the background, which makes me feel excluded. Even worse is when Elmer and I are together and he stops in to see them. I have to sit in the car or wait on the front porch until he is finished visiting. I find this demeaning.

My in-laws have told me it will take years before they are ready to have me in their home. I am hurt by their attitude, and it is putting a strain on our marriage. How should I handle this?

—Insulted in Utah

You have every reason to feel excluded and insulted. No matter how messy the house, it is not a valid excuse to keep you out. Is it possible that Elmer and his parents prefer to spend time together without you?

Tell Elmer the next time he visits his folks, you are coming inside whether he likes it or not. Inform the in-laws that it doesn't matter how messy their house is, it's time they made you a full-fledged member of the family, warts and all. Let them know their exclusionary practice is hurting your relationships, both with your husband and with them. (Even if their house is an absolute pigsty, keep a smile on your face and the lower half of it shut.)

Dear Ann: My 36-year-old sister, "Denise," is alcohol-dependent, although she is very successful in business and gets along with everyone. Our family members have encouraged her to get help for her alcoholism,

but she has done nothing about it, as far as we know.

Here's the problem: We decided a long time ago to stop serving alcohol when Denise is present. However, Denise sneaks off and drinks from bottles she has stashed in her purse. In the last few weeks, she has turned down our invitations for dinner because she knows we won't serve her alcohol.

We miss Denise at these gatherings and want to be supportive. Tell me, Ann, would it be better to serve alcohol and have her join us, or should we leave things as they are?

—Concerned Sister in California

Serving alcohol to Denise will not make the problem better. In fact, she will think you have accepted her drinking, and it will become worse. Please contact Al-Anon, a wonderful organization for family and friends of alcoholics, and ask for advice. Look in your phone book, or call 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666 or www.al-anon-alateen.org) for information.

Dear Ann: This is in response to "Not Grateful in Richmond," whose husband gives her cheap presents. I have a solution for her.

Many years ago, my neighbor's husband could not be bothered to look for a suitable birthday gift, so he handed her a bathroom rug and said, "Happy birthday, honey." She thanked him, set the gift aside, wrapped it nicely, and gave it back to him for his birthday. He got the hint, and from then on, he gave her more appropriate gifts for all occasions.

—Can't Stop Smiling in California

You're smiling? I'm laughing out loud. Thanks for the upper.

To find out more about Ann Landers and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com
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BRIDGE | Frank Stewart

Both sides vulnerable

NORTH
 ♠ K 7
 ♥ 8
 ♦ A K 7 4 3
 ♣ A Q 8 7 4

WEST (D)
 ♠ Q 10 3
 ♥ K J 10
 ♦ Q J 9
 ♣ J 10 9 6

EAST
 ♠ A 2
 ♥ 9 6 3
 ♦ 10 8 5 2
 ♣ K 5 3 2

SOUTH
 ♠ J 9 8 6 5 4
 ♥ A Q 7 5 4 2
 ♦ 6
 ♣ None

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

Opening lead: Choose it

The dynamic expert Lew Mathe had idiosyncratic "rules" of play. One was "Never lead trumps, unless it turns out right." Any partner who violated that dictum knew he was risking his life.

Still, an expert leads trumps often. Many auctions suggest a trump lead because dummy has shown few values: A trump may give nothing away and leave declarer to struggle for tricks. If dummy has shown ruffing power, a trump lead may stop ruffs. If you think a trump lead is vital, lead one regardless of your holding.

Today's West led the jack of clubs against four spades and watched South wrap up the game. South took the ace, ruffed a club, cashed the top diamonds and ruffed a diamond, took the ace of hearts and ruffed a heart. South

then ruffed a club and ruffed a heart with the king of trumps. He'd won nine tricks, and another club ruff made ten.

"Never lead away from the queen of trumps" may seem to be a good rule, but West had the minor suits stopped and two heart tricks. Moreover, North had shown spade support and heart shortness. A trump lead stood out.

If West leads a low trump, East can win and return a trump to the king. South can pitch hearts on dummy's minor-suit winners but loses two hearts and another trump.

Actually, South may put up the king on the first trump, thinking West may have led from the ace but not from the queen. When East wins and returns a trump, South goes down two.

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