

The Style Invitational

Week CLIII: A Word From Our Co-Sponsors



ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

The Pearce-Franks-Pryor-Burns Act to require proper hot dog placement on rotisserie spits.

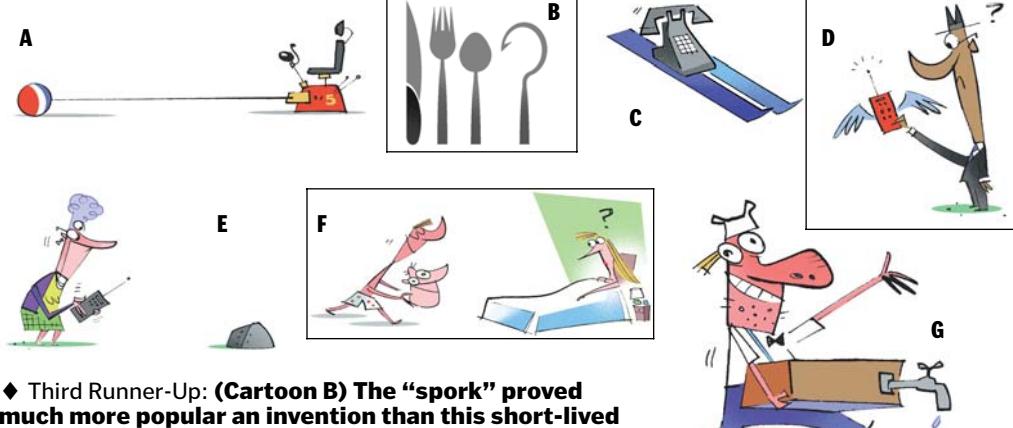
Alexander, Alexander, Ballance, Barrett, Beauprez, Bell, Bishop, Bishop, Blackburn, Bonner, Bordallo, Bradley, Brown-Waite, Burgess, Burns, Cardoza, Carter, Chambliss, Chocola, Cole, Coleman, Cooper, Cornyn, Davis, Davis, Diaz-Balart, Dole, Emanuel, Feeney, Franks, Garrett, Gerlach, Gingrey, Graham, Grijalva, Harris, Hensarling, Janklow, King, Kline, Lautenberg, Majette, Marshall, McCotter, Meek, Michaud, Miller, Miller, Murphy, Musgrave, Nunes, Pearce, Porter, Pryor, Renzi, Rogers, Ruppersberger, Ryan, Sanchez, Scott, Sununu, Talent, Turner, Van Hollen.

This Week's Contest: Above are the last names of the new members of Congress who will be taking their seats next month. Come up with bills they might sponsor, as in the example illustrated above. Each bill must have at least two sponsors. (Choose your words carefully; similar ideas will be judged based on the best explanation of the purpose of the bill.) First-prize winner gets a genuine vintage "Acquit Bernhard Goetz" T-shirt. 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. Deadline is Monday, Jan. 6. 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 Stephen Dudzik of Olney.

Report from Week CXLIX, in which we asked what these gadgets are for:



♦ Third Runner-Up: (Cartoon B) The "spork" proved much more popular an invention than this short-lived "knoon."

(Marc Leibert, New York)

♦ Second Runner-Up: (Cartoon B) Silverware for "Gaff Your Own Seafood Night."

(Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

♦ First Runner-Up: (Cartoon F) A Don Rickles mask. This is a birth control device.

(Jennifer Hart, Arlington)

♦ And the winner of the vintage "I Love Lucy" clock and matching coffee mug: (Cartoon F) Ronco's new Bed Head, which talks to women after sex, so you don't have to.

(Seth Brown, Williamstown, Mass.)

♦ Honorable Mentions:

Cartoon A:

A yo-yo from the Neiman Marcus holiday catalogue.

(Milo Sauer, Fairfax)

Dental Chair Bowling was passed over as an Olympic sport because of the unwieldy ball return.

(Daniel Helming, Maplewood, N.J.)

A beach bunny lure.

(Jennifer Hart, Arlington)

Cartoon C:

Other companies may feature smaller units and cheaper plans, but the Matterhorn® Wireless definitely offers the most peak minutes.

(Dave Zarow, Herndon)

Used only once, with disastrous results: the Sonny Bono Phone.

(Chuck Smith, Woodbridge; Ned Bent, Oak Hill)

A Norwegian car phone.

(Jennifer Hart, Arlington)

That final slide into technological oblivion.

(Pete Hughes, Alexandria)

Cartoon D:

Some cell phone companies are trying

desperate design modifications to reduce "roaming" charges.

(Milo Sauer, Fairfax; Stephen Fahey, Kensington; Charlene Talcott, Williamsburg)

Early prototype of a mobile phone.

(Bruce Johnson, Annapolis)

Cartoon E:

IRS agent uses latest technology to try to get blood out of a stone.

(Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

Cartoon F:

For when you don't want to get out of bed to go to the head.

(Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

It never fails. You sleep with a guy, and then he starts playing head games.

(Paul Dudley, Ellicott City)

Cartoon G:

Countless inferior designs preceded the invention of the colostomy bag.

(Milo Sauer, Fairfax; Nancy Marmorella, Charles Town, W.Va.)

In France, instead of Beer Man, there is Bouillabaisse Man.

(Jennifer Hart, Arlington)

Pay-per-hand-wash, so they can now charge for absolutely everything at sporting events.

(Beth Davidson, St. Louis)

Next Week: The Grin Reaper

TELL ME ABOUT IT

TELL ME, From F1

have to have someone at knife point for it to work out, it ain't worth it.

Second, I've seriously come to question that whole "relationships are hard work" mantra. Sometimes, yes, you have to set aside your self-interests when you've had a bad night but the person on the other side of the bed has had a worse one and it's your turn to get up and let the dog out. But in my personal life and in this column I see SO many people working working working at stuff that should be a pleasure. Like, finding things you enjoy doing together. If you get in a fight every time you want to watch sports and he wants to go on a romantic stroll, why are you even together? Life is hard enough.

Carolyn:

Two of my best friends have been going through bouts of "I'm not married, don't have kids or a house therefore am 'behind'" sadness. I am also in their boat (we're all 28) but feel like taking advantage of this time in our lives. I have been dating someone for the past few months, but still feel that I can relate. I have suggested that they get involved with community service, churches, etc., to bring more fulfillment to their lives. They both aren't responding to my "let's

live it up while we can" attitude; I'm running out of solutions, suggestions and patience. Could be the holidays, could be the approaching 30, who knows. What else can a gal say to them without being insensitive?

—Fort Worth

"Pitthht." How's that.

Or, as the Tim Robbins and then Morgan Freeman characters said in "The Shawshank Redemption," "Get busy living, or get busy dying." I have no patience with people who think life comes with an itinerary.

Dear Carolyn:

After divorcing me two months ago, my ex wants to get back together. We were married about two years and there are no kids. Have you heard of divorced couples getting back together?

—Bethesda

Who cares what I've heard of? Do you want to try again? And should you?

Write to Tell Me About It, Style, 1150 15th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20071, or tellme@washpost.com, and join Carolyn's live discussion at noon Fridays at www.washingtonpost.com/liveonline



NO, IT'S RIGHT HERE IN THE JOB DESCRIPTION
BETWEEN "TAKE OUT TRASH" AND "RUB MY FEET."

BY NICK GALIFIANAKIS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Richard Thompson is away. Richard's Poor Alamanac will resume when he returns.

BRIDGE | Frank Stewart

Both sides vulnerable

NORTH

♠ K 9 7

♥ K 7 J 5 4

♦ 9 5

♣ 10 9 7

WEST (D)

♠ J 6 5

♥ 10 2

♦ A 11 10 2

♣ K 5 3

EAST

♠ Q 8

♥ A 6 3

♦ 8 7 6 4 3

♣ 6 4 2

SOUTH

♠ A 10 4 3 2

♥ Q 9 8

♦ K Q

♣ A Q 8

The bidding:

West North East South

Pass Pass Pass 1 ♠

Pass 1 NT Pass 2 NT

Pass 4 ♠ All Pass

Opening lead: ♥ 10

A sign with big blue letters hangs in my club. It perches on the wall like a scolding blue jay, chiding players who slow down the game with learned analyses.

"Members are reminded that only coroners and surgeons are entitled to hold inquests and postmortems."

This, of course, is like telling some of our players not to breathe.

In North's system, a direct raise to two spades would have shown a better hand, so he responded 1NT but bid game when South showed strength. When West led a heart, East ducked; he knew South would have bid hearts with a four-card suit. South took the queen and next led the king of diamonds (a heart might have been better). West won and led another heart.

This time East took the ace,

shrugged and returned a heart for West to ruff. South won the diamond return, drew trumps and threw two clubs on the good hearts. Making four.

The inquest started right away. West said East could beat the contract with a club shift at any stage. East said he'd only given West the ruff if he'd seemed so intent on.

Who was at fault?

Perhaps East's defense was wrong, but when West took the ace of diamonds, he should return the jack. When South doesn't draw any trumps, he may have a trump loser, hence West shouldn't lead another heart, which will set up dummy's suit and may mislead East.

South will take the queen of diamonds and lead a heart, but when East wins, he'll surely lead a club, assuring four tricks for the defense.

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TODAY'S HOROSCOPE | Sydney Omarr

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Let go of preconceived notions; be inventive and creative, and take cold plunge into future prospects. Wear bright colors, make special appearances. Aquarius will play fantastic role.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18) If single, you will encounter future mate. If married, there will be an addition to family. You will be offered partnership deal; get commitments in writing. Capricorn plays sensational role.

PISCES

(Feb. 19-March 20) Write, advertise and publish. Your humor and intelligence will receive greater recognition. You will be

popular; people want to wine-and-dine you. Sagittarian figures in scenario.

ARIES

(March 21-April 19) You exude aura of creativity, personality and sex appeal. Money will come from unorthodox source. Highlight original thinking and pioneering spirit. Leo plays dramatic role.

TAURUS

(April 20-May 20) Go slow, time is on your side. Do not equate delay with defeat. Focus on home, marriage and family. Love spark reignites; you will be vigorous, dynamic. Capricorn involved.

GEMINI

(May 21-June 20) You will be involved in entertainment associated with

co-workers. Emphasize versatility and humor. Display gift of making people laugh, if even through moments of grief.

CANCER

(June 21-July 22) Despite early setback, you will rebuild, beat the odds and win the game. Find outlet for creative urge; imprint style, do not follow others. Taurus, Scorpio play roles.

LEO

(July 23-Aug. 22) You help others and yourself to find suitable living quarters. Last-minute change of plans will actually work in your favor. Read and write, learn by teaching. Virgo figures prominently.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Relative who had been