

The Style Invitational

Week 506: The Battle of All Mottoes



ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

The CIA: **Why are you asking about our motto?**

The Department of Transportation: **Oddly enough, we don't transport much of anything.**

This week's contest was suggested by Russell Beland of Springfield, who points out that most federal agencies and departments have mission statements, but no mottoes. He proposes that you provide a slogan for any federal government agency, department, office, etc. First-prize winner gets a Stan Musial porcelain bobblehead doll.

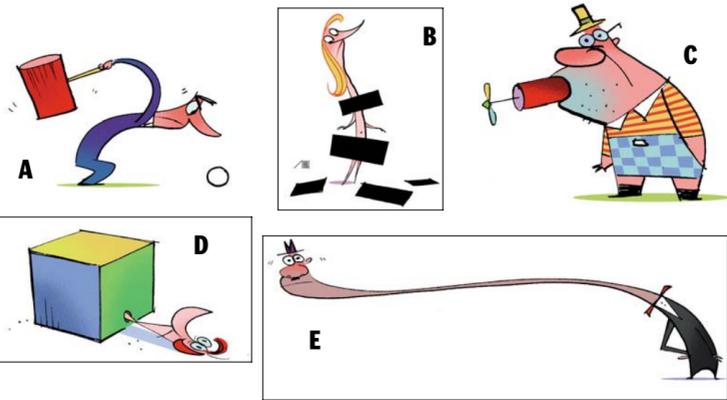
First runner-up wins the tacky but estimable Style Invitational Loser Pen. Other runners-up win the coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt. Honorable mentions get the mildly sought-after Style Invitational bumper sticker. Send your entries via fax to 202-334-4312, or by e-mail to losers@washpost.com. U.S. mail entries are no longer accepted. Deadline is Tuesday, May 27. 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 Joseph Romm of Washington.

Report from Week 502,

in which we asked you to provide an explanation for any of these cartoons.



◆ First Runner-Up: **(Cartoon F) What happens when you're only MILDLY scared.** (Jean Sorensen, Herndon)

◆ And the winner of the model of the world's first armor-covered ship: **(Cartoon A) Even the White House Easter Egg Roll was infected by the administration's war fever.** (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

◆ Honorable Mentions: **Cartoon A** Steve's stress therapist advised him to relax by blowing soap bubbles and popping them. (Dan Steinberg, Falls Church)

Principal Schneider reverses the school's zero tolerance policy. (Jonathan Paul, Garrett Park)

Former dot-com millionaires now have to settle for riding virtual polo ponies. (Russell Beland, Springfield)

New PGA rules allow competitors to adjust Tiger Woods's lie before each shot. (Milo Sauer, Fairfax; Geneva Collins, Silver Spring)

At the Style Invitational holiday party, people entertain the crowd by banging their butts with a mallet until a Christmas ornament pops out of their nose. (Anthony DeVico, Alexandria)

Some guys get really mad at nothing. (Ned Bent, Oak Hill)

John McEnroe was a bad sport at croquet, too. (Jennifer Hart, Arlington)

Cartoon B Calista Flockhart rues her winning eBay bid for Marilyn Monroe's bikini. (Geneva Collins, Silver Spring)

What if Eve used fig BARK instead of leaves? (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)

Cartoon C The Pentagon's lesser-known Archie Bunker busting bomb. (John Griessmayer, Roanoke)

After the success of the MOAB, the Pentagon experimented with the UBILAB, the Unemployed Brother in Law of All Bombs. (John Griessmayer, Roanoke)

A scene from the reality show "Who Wants to Marry a Millionaire With Mismatched Clothes and a Stick of Dynamite in His Mouth?" (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

Clarence had heard that to be a New York cabbie, you had to have a turbine. (Jennifer Hart, Arlington)

Cartoon D Having learned that one wears a toga to a toga party and pajamas to a pajama party, this recent immigrant prepared herself for her first block party. (Dan Steinberg, Falls Church)

◆ Third Runner-Up: **(Cartoon B) It took the future Mrs. Ashcroft several months of practice before she was able to hold all the required cardboard pieces in place while coming out of the shower.** (Rodrigo Sanchez, Montgomery Village)

◆ Second Runner-Up: **(Cartoon C) Harold was the only tourist at the Kyoto temple trying to catch dragonflies using the "traditional" Japanese method of sucking them into a toilet paper tube, and he began to think the monks were pulling his leg.** (William MacDonald, Alexandria)

The highlight of the tribute dinner to Albert Einstein was having the emcee squared. (Sue Lin Chong, Washington)

Wanda misunderstood the advice: She thought she would get better gas mileage if she bought a compacted car. (Dan Steinberg, Falls Church)

When cubism petered out, so did Lola's career as an artist's model. (Jonathan Paul, Garrett Park)

Alice figured she couldn't go wrong wearing basic block. (Jonathan Paul, Garrett Park)

One of the contestants on the sequel to "Mr. Personality." In this, a man must choose from a group of women based on the premise that what really attracts a man to a woman is "her mind." (Susan Reese, Arlington; Talia Greenberg, Washington)

This would be Herblock's cartoon of American Idealism trapped in the box of Unprincipled Old World Power Politics, but Staake can't draw like Herblock could. (Kenneth S. Gallant, Little Rock, Ark.)

This is what \$350,000 gets you in Potomac. (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)

Cartoon E Curiously, Ron looked absolutely normal in the fun house mirrors. (Russell Beland, Springfield)

Why basketball teams no longer recruit seven-foot players sight unseen. (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

Thanks to photo finishes, Carl was in great demand as a jockey. (Jennifer Hart, Arlington)

Percy quickly learned never to storm into a biker bar and yell, "Gimme a longneck—NOW!" (Jennifer Hart, Arlington)

Cartoon F Few people know syrup of ipecac is an excellent remedy for writer's block. (Meg Sullivan, Potomac)

Eric found out too late that his system was not compatible with Adobe. (Meg Sullivan, Potomac)

No matter how much he complained, the loud noises in the roach motel still kept Alvin up all night. (Jennifer Hart, Arlington)

LITERARY CALENDAR

by Mr. Richard Thompson

19 | Monday
7 P.M. Author/liar Stephen Glass ("the Fabulist") discusses his work and describes how he won the Nobel Prize for Literature, deciphered the human genome & created Spongebob Square Pants. Reception to follow. Reminders Books.

20 | Tuesday
The "American Idol" finale is on. Stay home & watch TV. And tomorrow.

22 | Thursday
7 P.M. All 8, 18, 34 Democratic Presidential Candidates sign their bloated, unnecessary biographies. Pushing & shoving to follow. Politics'n'Stuff.

23 | Friday
7 P.M. Edna Weebles, author of "Lardass Nation: Americans Are Food Pyramids," discusses it with her mouth full. Wideaisle Books.

24 | Saturday
7 P.M. Errol Flemma reads & gestures from his graphic novel "Spazoid Wars: Giant Mangaloid Robots Explode Things." Heavy breathing to follow. Holy Jeppers Comic Shop.

7:30 P.M. Pulp This Book Writers' Workshop explores techniques for turning poorly selling books into those crappy cardboard drink trays they hand you at McDonald's. Creative crisis to follow. Silage Books.

DEAR ABBY

Dear Abby:
My mother is in her early seventies and was recently diagnosed with dementia. My family and I are in the process of looking at assisted-living facilities.

The problem we're facing is well-meaning neighbors and old family friends who say that Mom is "too young" to consider assisted living as an option. This is causing her (and me) much undue stress. She has lived in her home for more than 30 years and has been alone since Dad passed away 10 years ago.

Abby, none of these people understand that my mother forgets to take her medication, loses her checkbook, has gotten lost driving—or forgets why she's in her car in the first place. They don't realize that performing simple household tasks like laundry and cooking meals has become a burden for Mom and exhausts her.

It has been a difficult decision for my mother to agree to leave her home and accept the assistance she needs—and some people are making it harder. What can I say to these folks to change their attitude about our decision and encourage them to support my mother with love and acceptance as we move forward? She needs that now more than ever.

Want What's Best for Mom

Sit down with these well-meaning people and explain exactly what you have told me. It is important that they understand your mother is no longer the person she once was, as much as you all might wish it. Dementia is a disease that affects not only the sufferers but also everyone who loves them. I'm sure these people will be less resistant once they fully understand what is going on. Be sure to encourage them to visit her and remain a part of her life.

Dear Abby:
My wife, "Bonnie," and I have been married for 25 years and have two great kids. When our daughter left

for college three years ago, Bonnie began to "rediscover herself." In the process, she became friendly with "Roger," a 35-year-old single man from our church. I found a picture of him hidden in Bonnie's Bible.

Roger lived with our family for two weeks before moving to a neighboring city. Every morning when he was here, Bonnie got up early to make his breakfast and was at the door to say her "goodbyes." She has never done that for me.

A few months ago, Roger contacted our daughter when he was passing through her college town and took her to dinner. Afterward they stopped by her apartment, and Roger kissed her on the lips, telling her it would be "their secret." As soon as our daughter was able to convince him to leave, she called us to tell us what happened.

My problem is that Bonnie has forgiven Roger, but my daughter, son and I have not. My wife continues to see him on occasion, although always in the company of others. However, in paying our bills, I have discovered that she calls his cell phone up to 70 times per month. Needless to say, I do not want Roger in our home. Bonnie refuses to understand why the children and I feel so unforgiving toward him. What do you think, Abby?

Empty in New England

It's time for you and Bonnie to get some pastoral counseling. It appears that Bonnie has a crush on Roger, and Roger has the hots for your daughter. If Bonnie refuses to go to counseling, go without her, and don't be afraid to name names.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

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TODAY'S HOROSCOPE | Jeraldine Saunders

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take initiative. What was abstract becomes crystal clear tonight, which should see you in pleasant surroundings enjoying company of loved ones. Beware of rash decisions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You want to know why, how and what for. You are leading your own investigation. You dream of faraway places. You feel sexy and long for escape.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A loved one or family member is apprehensive; help to elevate the mood. Evening sees you trying to evade an emotional trap. Capricorn featured.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You're in love, but partner declines the offer of dancing to your tune. You discover facts that you'd rather not know. Aquarius, Taurus delight you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Partners and superiors are encouraging and engage you in a brand-new venture. Be sure it's worthwhile and beneficial. Tonight you listen to loving overtures.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Can you beat the odds? Nostalgia, romance and sex make you want to change your surroundings. Your friendly diplomatic self will find the answers. Virgo, Aquarius are helpful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your mind is on loved ones and partners. You're evaluating your position and possessions. You want to apply the final touches. Others sense a new mellowness and want to take advantage.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Family and close relatives exert hold. You want change and new excitements. You could be taught a lesson. It will be a day of duty before the party starts.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): People rely on you and need your help. You are on edge today. Maintain your high standards. You're in the mood to make a new start.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You want to please. Preserving your energy is propitious. Relax near water, or spend time by the ocean. You are thinking of making home improvements or changing the wallpaper.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Today best spent with close dependents. You feel restless and creative. Your mind is on conquest and applying your talents. The writing is on the wall. You demand satisfaction and rewards.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your hopes and wishes may become reality. There is magic in the air. You win friends and influence people. By tonight, the scene will change. Scorpio in the background.

IF MAY 18 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: You are artistic, sensitive and generous; you can be very passionate. As a child, you experienced more ups and downs than most. Being in love gives a feeling of completion and fulfillment. This year could mean change of residence or marital status. Heightened romance on the horizon in September, October, August, September to be rewarding financially.

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Next Week: Rhyme and Punishment