

The Style Invitational

Week 515: A Celebration of Tasteful Living

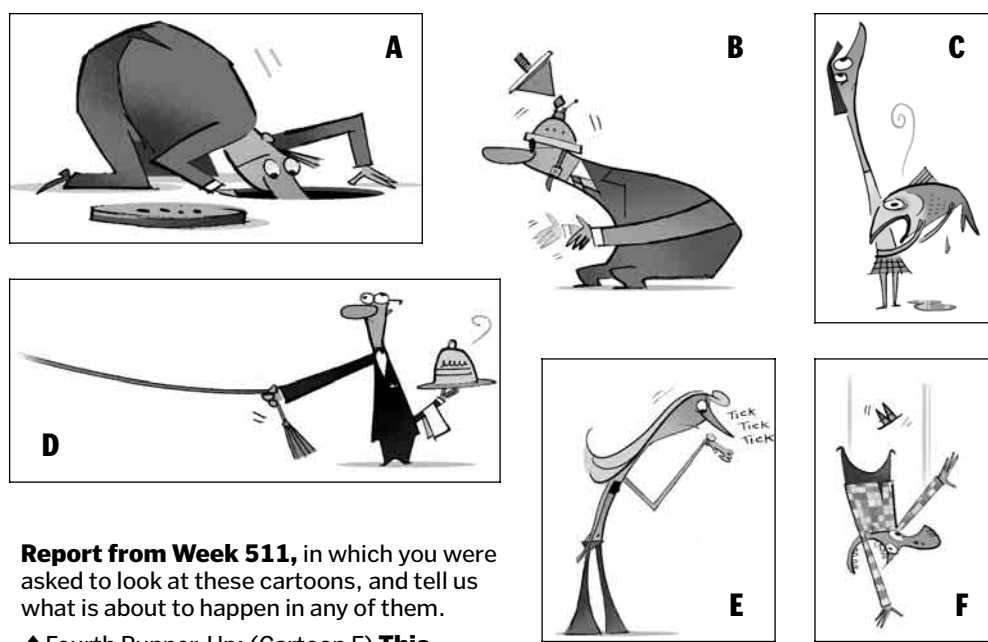


ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

This Week's Contest was suggested by Joel Knanishu of Rock Island, Ill. Anticipating a prison sentence for Martha Stewart, Joel suggests that you come up with ways that Martha can prettify and improve her new surroundings using only her skills, her impeccable taste and those resources available to her. First-prize winner gets a vintage Wireless brand cloth ice bag, circa 1949, in its original box.

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, July 28. 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 Sean Cain of Hyattsville.



Report from Week 511, in which you were asked to look at these cartoons, and tell us what is about to happen in any of them.

- ◆ Fourth Runner-Up: (Cartoon E) **This blonde is about to throw out her watch because there are no "tocks."** (Pete Hughes, Alexandria)
- ◆ Third Runner-Up: (Cartoon D) **Corporate America is going to eat the U.S. Capitol for lunch. Again.** (Chris Doyle, Forsyth, Mo.)
- ◆ Second Runner-Up: (Cartoon F) **In the bare-knuckles world of fine art, Frankie is about to learn the hard way not to cut into Piet "Dutch" Mondrian's turf.** (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)
- ◆ First Runner-Up: (Cartoon C) **Having received the Holy Mackerel she requested, Carol waits with some trepidation for the Holy Cow.** (Elden Carnahan, Laurel; Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)
- ◆ And the winner of the raccoon-vertebra jewelry: (Cartoon B) **Sadly, Carl's new Global Toilet Positioning System for the Blind is about to fail him.** (Dave Hebda, Springfield)

- ◆ Honorable Mentions:
- Cartoon A:
The FBI man is about to discover that Jimmy Hoffa sleeps with something less appealing than the fishes. (Thad Humphries, Warrenton)
- The Czar is about to find next week's grand prize.** (Roger and Pam Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.)
- Inspectors are about to declare victory by discovering Saddam's Weapons of Biomass Destruction.** (Dave Zarrow, Herndon)
- Cartoon B:
The new direct-to-your-head satellite receiver makes you feel you're in the thick of the action. Here, Pete is about to receive the snap from center in the Skins-Giants game. (Roger and Pam Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.)
- Cartoon C:
Next, a bicycle is about to fall out of the sky on Gloria Steinem. (Chris Doyle, Forsyth, Mo.; Bruce Alter, Fairfax Station)
- The woman is about to say: "Are you deaf, God? I asked you to grant me a WISH."** (Richard Wong, Derwood; Jeff Brechlin, Potomac Falls)
- Myrtle's doctor is about to diagnose a severe case of carp tunnel syndrome.** (Roy Ashley, Washington)
- Minutes later, Bob Ryan will finally admit error. He had predicted cats and dogs.** (Bob Grossman, Columbia)
- A very large pelican is about to drop something else on this woman's head.** (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)
- Bertie Bass is about to test the widely held fish theory that humans are cold-blooded, and thus feel no pain when bitten.** (Mary K. Fitzsimmons, Reston)
- Thelma is about to be struck by lightning because she kept the Chilean Sea Bass.** (Debbie Patrick, Mount Airy)
- Debbie has just died, and she and her sole are about to go to Heaven.** (M.K. Phillips, Falls Church)
- Cartoon D:
Tarzan's new butler is about to seriously regret having lied about being "expert on vine swinging" on his résumé. (I-Li Sherwood, Arlington)

What happens next is that the guy explains: "Oui, Monsieur, is very simple. I pull on elephant, ze tail, he does his business, I clean up ze mess on zis covered Limoges platter zat has been in my family for generations. After all, monsieur, I am not just a, how you say, carry. I am a Frenchman." (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

Ralph the butler is about to experience the rich person's version of "Go ahead, pull my finger." (Mary K. Fitzsimmons, Reston; John Kupiec, Springfield)

Cartoon E:
Any second now, Joan's time-release breast implants will inflate. (Joe Braverman, Silver Spring)

Let's just say you don't want to be standing between this lady and the Twinkies when her biological clock stops ticking. (Kevin Mellema, Falls Church)

If she has to wait for him at the top of the Empire State Building one more second, what's likely to happen is Cartoon F. (Russell Beland, Springfield)

Calista Flockhart is about to tip over, unable to support the weight of her new wristwatch. (Mike Hammer, Arlington)

Cartoon F:
The world is about to lose its greatest newspaper impressionist, as he attempts to imitate the crossword, the fashion section, the comics and the stock market report all at the same time. (Seth Brown, Williamstown, Mass.)

Pretend cat ears: \$4.99. Ugly plaid shirt: \$29.99. Nine hits of PCP: \$300. Learning you aren't a calico cat that can land on its feet when dropped from great heights: priceless. (Amy and Christian Clymer, Washington)

Well, one thing that won't be happening next is this guy trying to steal Madonna's bra again. (Russell Beland, Springfield)

Sadly, Nick was about to find out that, while applicable in certain life-threatening mountaineering situations, chewing one's arm off will not save oneself from falling to one's death. (Bryan Utter, Gaithersburg)

Next Week: A Contest Requiring Ordinary Names, Yet Monstrous Skill

Richard Post Almanac **RESTAURANT CLOSINGS** by Richard Thompson
The following establishments have been closed for health code violations.

346 FLAVORS ICE CREAM - Several suspicious flavors (Spongesqueezins, Maybeberry, Death by Vanilla, Thingy & Countertop) listed merely to boost the total to 346.

LUGUBRIOS - Grim edifice & decaying waitstaff prompted patron complaints of anxiety & depression. Also, gaping hole blown through salad bar sneezeguard.

MUGHRAEIBHNAORHEACH - Undeterminable ethnicity - Scandinavian? Gaelic? Urdu? Plus most dishes on menu contain gravel, silt or pumice.

HOMERULE AUTHENTIC D.C. CUISINE - There is no such thing, not since they closed down all the "Little Taverns."

DEAR ABBY

Dear Abby:
My boyfriend, "Sammy," and I have been living together for three years. We have an 8-month-old son. About two months ago, my sister "Angie" went to Sammy and asked to borrow money. She told me he winked at her and said they could "work something out" and she wouldn't have to pay him back.
Angie told Sammy she wouldn't have sex with him because of me and the baby. Sammy said, "No one would ever have to know." He made it sound like a business deal.
When I asked Sammy in front of my sister if he had been joking or serious, he just laughed. Now I'm wondering if he makes "deals" like this with other women.
Things haven't been the same between my sister and me since the incident—even though I know she did nothing wrong. Angie says she regrets telling me about Sammy's offer. She says he's a good man who made a mistake, and she urged me not to walk away from him.
Now no matter what Sammy says, I don't believe him. I don't trust him anymore. Please tell me if I've got it all wrong, Abby.
Unsure and Unhappy in the Bronx

You haven't got it all wrong. You have the whole sordid story about what happened. It's time to move on. And if I were you, I'd consult a lawyer and work out a "business deal" of my own—namely, child support and custody rights for the baby.
P.S. One day you'll realize how much courage it took for your sister to speak up.

Dear Abby:
Our daughter, "Debbie," just turned 15. The problem is, an 18-year-old boy wants to hang out with her this summer and get to know her. Her father and I feel he is too old for her and have told her so. We think we are only asking for trouble if

we allow it. Debbie is upset with us and is pushing the subject.
Are we doing the right thing? We trust her—but we don't trust him.
Carrie in Connecticut

You are doing the right thing. Enforcing the rules is part of responsible parenting. Keep in mind that good parents are not always popular with their children.
Explain to Debbie that you are concerned about the balance of power in a relationship where there's such a disparity of age and experience. Tell her that in spite of her trustworthiness, it would be difficult to establish and enforce boundaries with someone that much older.
Perhaps it would be helpful for your daughter to participate in activities and sports with teens her own age. Goal-setting for college should also be a focus.

Dear Abby:
I have a crush on a guy at church, and I'm pretty sure he likes me, too. The problem is, my parents think I'm too young to be interested in boys. I'm almost 12.
I've given this a lot of thought. Abby, would you please give me some advice on how to break it to my mom and dad that I like boys?
Jennifer in Alabama

Start out by saying, "Folks, I've got some good news and some bad news. Your little girl is growing up . . ."

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

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A good day to get domestic chores behind you. Someone is willing to share tasks and responsibilities today. Preventive health medicine catches your interest.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It's not whispers but loud voices in the background that disturb your peace. The moon in a harmonious angle to your sun and Jupiter could make a trip especially enjoyable.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Doing good comes naturally. You're lucky in dealing with friends—especially older ones—today. Aspects show need for alertness when talking on a cell phone while driving.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Mind and heart are focused on partners. You want to spoil them today and enjoy the good times while you can. Enjoy the ambiance and picture the best for them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You catch bits of information but, unsure of the source, you dismiss them. You'll be on target if you take the middle way. Late evening finds you involved in a worthy cause.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Interruptions today prevent you from arranging a family event. Your words have power, so watch what you say. Children, lovers or partners could be demanding.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You take center stage in a family affair. In fact, you manage to pull a rabbit out of a hat! Associates are willing to give you a second chance. Cancer and Aries are involved.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Something you want to commit to needs careful scrutiny. The uncertainty you've been feeling turns to a sure thing. Playing hard to get whets someone's appetite.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Planetary aspects are offering many alternatives, from entertainment to love, barbecues to dinners out. Someone you like may let on how he or she feels about you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The moon in your sign gives impetus to actions taken today. You have no time for foals. You're pursuing an exciting personal idea. The powerful Pluto angle renews your energies.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): What's brewing behind the scenes causes you to wonder what the future has in store. You're charming others into supporting your way of thinking. Be persistent.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You're relying on others to keep their promises. You're busy obliging relatives and complying with their suggestions. Don't lay all your cards on the table.

IF JULY 20 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: You are loyal, sensitive and compassionate. Your emotional nature has led you at times into making wrong choices; you carry your bruises well. You could be a teacher, preacher or artist/writer. This year should bring honors and accolades, giving you a glimpse of power at work. August will be red-letter for money; romance in December. Letters B, K and T follow you around.

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