

The Style Invitational

WEEK 258: IT'S A BIRD. IT'S A PAIN.

1. The ability to fly.
2. The ability to read minds.
3. The ability to communicate with animals.
4. The ability to belch fire.
5. The ability to become invisible.

"I AM SORRY, MONSIEUR, BUT I DO NOT TAKE WINE REQUESTS. I SHALL SUMMON THE SOMMELIER."



BY BOB STAMME FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

This Week's Contest was proposed by Stephen Dudzik of Silver Spring, who wins a rubber pig nose. Stephen suggests that you choose one or more of the super powers above and tell us what you would do with it. First-prize winner receives a vial of reindeer antler powder, a fine product for sexual potency donated to the Style Invitational by Sarah Worcester of Bowie. It is from Finland, and the instructions come in Finnish ("Hyppysellinen poronsarvi jauhetta aamiaisella kuumaan teehen tai kohlvin sekoitettuna auttaa..."). Fortunately they are translated: "This powder helps you on the same evening or at least on the following morning after a good night rest. You really feel vigour into your body.") It is worth \$50.

First runner-up gets the tacky but estimable Style Invitational Loser Pen. Other runners-up receive the coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt. Honorable Mentions get the mildly sought-after Style Invitational bumper sticker. Winners will be selected on the basis of humor and originality. Mail your entries to The Style Invitational, Week 258, c/o The Washington Post, 1150 15th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20071; fax them to 202-334-4312; or submit them via Internet to this address: losers@access.digex.net. Internet users: Please indicate the week number in the "subject" field.

Entries must be received on or before Monday, March 2. Please include your address and phone number. Winners will be announced three weeks from today. Editors reserve the right to alter entries for taste, humor or appropriateness. No purchase necessary. Dudzik cuts a fine figure, forsooth. Not long of ear so much as long of tooth. Next Week: Nostradamus ear credit. Employees of The Washington Post, and members of their immediate families, are not eligible for prizes.

REPORT FROM WEEK 255

In which you were asked to tell us what any of seven cartoons had to do with the ongoing presidential scandal.

Third Runner-Up: (cartoon G)

In a weird Dorian Gray twist, every time Bill Clinton does something sleazy, his official portrait looks more wide-eyed and innocent. (David Genser, Arlington)



Second Runner-Up: (cartoon C)

Coverage of this scandal stinks so bad that Post readers are forced to rub the paper with rotting fish to improve the smell. (Ken Huck, Fairfax)



First Runner-Up: (cartoon A)

Hillary has taken over the selection process for White House interns. (David N. Johnston, Elkridge; Mike Genz, La Plata)



And the winner of the Elvis Rug:

Cartoon "A" completes the following SAT question: "M. Lewinsky is to _____ as L. Tripp is to _____" (Drew Knoblauch, Great Falls)



Honorable Mentions:

Cartoon A:

The Washington Post unwisely sends some old-guy cartoonist to do the courtroom sketch of Monica Lewinsky. (Jean Sorensen, Herndon)

Ernie Bushmiller is an anagram for "Ruin Embellisher," which the scandal appears to be doing to Lewinsky, Tripp, Goldberg, Starr and Jones. (Phil Frankel, Washington)

Intern applicants without knees were sent home. (Niels Hoven, Silver Spring)



Nancy has just passed George Stephanopoulos in the hall and is smiling because she is not wearing a bra! (Mary K. Phillips, Falls Church)

Cartoon B:

The Independent counsel's crack team of investigators have immersed themselves in Whitewater. (Mike Genz, La Plata)

William Ginsburg needed oxygen while surfacing between talk show appearances. (Richard Stromberg, Front Royal)



Desperate for hard evidence, Kenneth Starr has divers scouring the bottom of the Potomac for used condoms. (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)

Cartoon C:

Monica's Valentine's Day gift from the president was not exactly what she was anticipating. (Robin D. Grove, Arlington)



Cartoon D:

In Ted Kennedy's office, they try to avoid these kinds of problems. Here, an intern brings the senator his lunch. (David Genser, Arlington)

Sometimes, President Clinton resorted to having women smuggled into the Oval Office inside large pots of stew. (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)

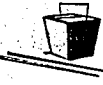


White House laundresses are kept busy round the clock, removing suspicious stains from presidential clothing. (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)

Cartoon E:

A wonton soup, indeed. (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)

Moo Goo Gai Cam utilized by Linda Tripp during her chats with Monica. (Mike Genz, La Plata)



Sources allege that POTUS ordered Chinese food during one meeting with Monica. Ken Starr immediately ordered his investigation expanded to cover Asian influence in the White House. (Vance Greer, Sterling)

Cartoon F:

The letters in this picture can be rearranged to spell "Ken Starr pukes me so." (Niels Hoven, Silver Spring)

Since Buddy already occupies the dog house, Hillary found different accommodations for Bill. (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)



Bob Woodward has another clandestine meeting with "Deep Throat" in an effort to ferret out dope on the new scandal. (Paul Alter, Hyattsville)

This guy once pandered a quarter from a woman who knows a man who knows the bus driver who drives Monica's manicurist's second cousin, Ariene, to work in Beverly Hills. He has already been subpoenaed. (David Genser, Arlington)

Linda Tripp's hairdresser after she went public. (Jean Sorensen, Herndon)

Cartoon G:

Some hydrocephalics disapprove of Clinton's lifestyle. (Niels Hoven, Silver Spring)

In addition to Barbara Streisand, Winona Ryder rallies to Clinton's defense. (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)



The discovery of White House intern trading cards undermined the president's credibility. (David Genser, Arlington)

This is Monica's lawyers' defense strategy: She's just a wide-eyed innocent who has been framed. (Susan Reese, Arlington)

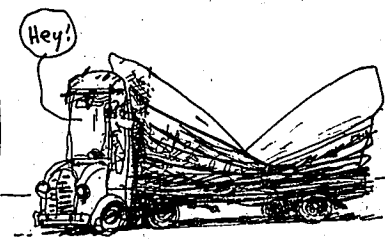


Next Week: The Pyle Invitational

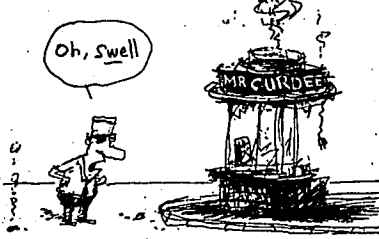
VELVEETA-BRIE SURVEY SPARKS UGLY CHEESE INCIDENTS

The release of a survey that divides the D.C. area by cheese preferences has apparently provoked a series of ugly incidents.

A Velveeta truck that strayed into Sandy Spring, Md., a brie stronghold, was crushed flat by an angry mob.



While in Capital Heights, Velveeta Territory, a Mr. Curdee Brie Stand was firebombed. The owner was uninjured.



EXPERTS NOT AT LOSS FOR WORDS IN UGLY CHEESE INCIDENTS

We may be in for a string of Velveeta-Brie incidents, like the Vienna Sausage-Prosciutto riots of '83 or the Wonder Bread-Croissant rampage last year.

There is a possibility it could escalate into a full blown ugly cheese war.



UGLY CHEESE WAR NARROWLY AVOIDED

Fears of a long hot February receded today when both sides of the increasingly fractious Velveeta-brie struggle discovered a shared fondness for Cheez Whiz.



MISS MANNERS

Tease and Sympathy

By Judith Martin

The difference between teasing and taunting is like the difference between kissing and spitting. The ingredients are the same; it is the emotion that determines whether they are pleasing or repellent.

Teasing is based on love or affection and annoyance and often worse. Therefore, teasing is not rude by definition but taunting is.

Miss Manners is the last person to suggest that anyone's behavior in this or any other matter be guided by instinct. She has seen what etiquette-free instinct prompts people to do to their families, not to mention to the rest of us who are only trying to cross the street.

But teasing is based on intimate knowledge of the other person—not only that individual's foibles, but his particular sensitivities, humor and mood at the time. Those who are authorized to tease certain people ought surely to have some feeling for how.

So here is the way it works: Both teasing and taunting depend for their subject matter on special observation of the person being teased. This is what gives them their power. Everyone wants to feel that his or her unique combination of qualities has not passed unnoticed in this world.

What makes this foolhardy is that everyone also expects, against all evidence and reason, that the natural outcome of close and accurate observation will be approval.

This is why people who get into trouble are quick to say that they have been misunderstood. We all feel that anyone who really understood us would be crazy with admiration. Make that adoration.

Nevertheless, a steady diet of straight compliments doesn't quite satisfy. We are awfully picky and want the admiration we expect to be laced with proof that we have been fully observed.

"You don't really know me!" is the way people respond to premature avowals of love, finding them more laughable than flattering. And taunts that miss the mark aren't deeply hurtful. Only ones that target weaknesses that are known to the person being teased do that.

However, Miss Manners does not feel obliged to instruct unsuccessful taunters how to be effective.

She prefers to save her assistance for helping teasers avoid delivering taunts. Proper teasing says, in effect, "I know all your little oddities and faults, but as they are part of what makes you special, I find them charming." Taunting, in contrast, makes only the harsh statement "I have noticed what is wrong with you."

Therefore, the rules are: ■ Teasing can only be about characteristics that are not a source of worry or shame. You might tease a young person about being absent-minded, but you would not tease an old person about memory loss.

■ A cheerful and affectionate tone is required, to make it clear that there is no serious complaint involved. You don't tease someone about knuckle-cracking or leaving dishes in the sink if it makes you homicidal. You just ask or beg that it stop.

The desired effect is a look of pleasurable embarrassment, as if you administered a compliment. Anyone who doesn't stop teasing immediately upon producing real embarrassment, anger or tears is not really teasing.

DEAR MISS MANNERS:

My husband and I are retired. We keep a squeegee in the shower stall for use after each shower to prevent water spots on the clear glass enclosure and other shower surfaces.

My husband says that when we have overnight guests, we should remove the squeegee from the shower stall. He feels that guests should not be expected to squeegee down the shower stall and that having the squeegee in the shower implies that they are expected to use it. I disagree.

Gentle Reader:

Your husband hasn't been retired long enough. Miss Manners is afraid that once he gets a chance to look around, he will notice that there is a laundry hamper somewhere near the guest room, which might seem to prompt the guests to take over laundry day, and an assortment of soaps and sponges in the kitchen implying that they should start scrubbing.

There is no such implication in leaving cleaning materials where they might reasonably be used by those responsible for the house. Polite guests may reach for something anyway, simply because they like to clean up after themselves.

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Today's Horoscope

By Sydney Omarr

Aries (March 21-April 19): Stand tall for rights; don't be intimidated by pompous individual. Focus on promotion, production, ability to put forth intelligent argument. Pisces, Virgo involved.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Lunar aspect coincides with long-distance communication, friendship and ability to retrieve lost article. Meet and beat deadline. Deal gingerly with Capricorn individual.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Indignation from foreign land could become mysterious stranger in your

life. Listen and learn, doing so with amused interest. Proposals received concerning career, marriage. Aries involved.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Toss aside preconceived notions. Imprint style, be ready for romantic interlude. Focus on initiative, originality, color coordination, new direction. Leo figures prominently.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Recapture spirit of winning despite odds. Cancer native offers encouragement and more. Question concerning marriage continues to loom large. Information sought in history book. Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Deci-

pher code—give full play to intellectual curiosity. Lunar position stirs creative juices. Fun and games must be kept under control. Sagittarius plays top role.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): What was taken away will be returned—unannounced. Family member involved; the less said about it the better. Read between the lines; information is being withheld.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Spotlight is on. You could be knocking on doors of fame, fortune. Written word becomes powerful ally. Excellent reviews accompany creative efforts. Relative inveigles you into short trip.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Surroundings will be familiar. You'll ask, "Haven't I been here before?"

Focus on family, home, domestic adjustment involving marital status. Aries, Libra persons figure in scenario.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Cycle moves up. By waiting, you win. Avoid self-deception, be realistic concerning relationship. Neptune keynote blends fantasy with actuality. Pisces, Virgo natives play roles.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Focus on secrets, mystery, intrigue, gossip. You'll be asked to act as intermediary between disputing partners. Handle with care. Cancer native helps with repairs at home.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll agree, "What goes around comes around." Individual who betrayed you in past year will ask for favor.

Smile, but avoid being cruel. Aries figures prominently.

If Feb. 22 is your birthday: You are progressive, controversial, possess winning ways. You create your own tradition, possibly were separated from one or both parents at relatively early age. Your personality has been described as explosive. Taurus, Leo, Scorpio persons play interesting roles in your life, could have these letters, initials in names: D, M, V. Current cycle relates to possible change of residence, marital status. November memorable.

For a detailed horoscope from Sydney Omarr, phone 1-900-656-8488. The cost is \$1 a minute; average call lasts four minutes.

Soaps On Call

The Washington Post provides daily updates of soap operas through its free telephone information service. Call 202-334-9000 from a touch-tone phone and enter the category code of the soap opera you want: All My Children (8201); Another World (8202); As the World Turns (8203); Bold and the Beautiful (8204); Days of Our Lives (8205); General Hospital (8206); Guiding Light (8207); Port Charles (8208); One Life to Live (8209); Young and the Restless (8211). For a complete directory of the codes, enter 8200.