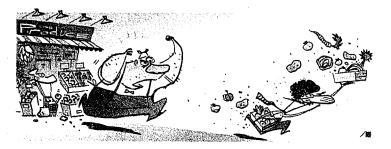
## The Style Invitational



**Week CII:** No contests until mid-January. Instead, Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the All-Time Stars of The Style Invitational in 100-Word Autobiographies That Contain One (and Only One) Falsehood. The revised title for next week's column is by Tom Witte of



TOM WITTE

■ i am a very, ve very, (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)



DAVE ZARROW

■ Born in 1951 in Paterson, N.J., I'm America's Funniest Office Products Dealer. (You can't imagine the pressure!) My encounters with my fellow celebrities are eerily linked. Just before my birth, my parents went to a basketball game. Lou Costello entered the arena, smiled and tipped his hat at Mom. I once played in the prelim to a basketball game featuring Wilt Dasketball game featuring Wilt Chamberlain, famous scorer, and coach Red Auerbach, famous cigar smoker. Once, a car carrying Monica Lewinsky drove beside me. Weeks later, President Clinton's limo drove right past me. See how everything fits together? Who? What? I dunno. Third base.

(Dave Zarrow, Herndon)



SANDRA HULL (right) ■ Middle child, raised in Cleveland, had a grandparent called "Bompa." It was either develop a sense of humor or undergo massive therapy, okay? I once tried my luck as a stand-up on "Star Search" but lost by one lousy quarter-star. However, Ed McMahon said something that prepared me well for The Style Invitational: As I slunk offstage he hissed, "Loser!" My attempts at humor writing can be found here, at www.topfive.com and at www.dailyprobe.com. And last. I'd like to say hi to my mom and send a sloppy wet kiss to my number one guitar hero, Stephen Stills (Sandra Hull, Arlington)



**KEVIN CUDDIHY** 

■ Closest to jail: Accidentally threatened major international airport Bones broken in myself: None Bones broken in others: Back, wrist, finger, nose Favorite childhood story: When I was 6, my 2-year-old sister accidentally drank my pee Favorite adult story: [Deleted by ombudsman] Shameful admission: Pro wrestling fan Prideful admission: Outstanding baker Secret ingredient in gingerbread men: Cardamom

Did I shave today? Nope, not today How about yesterday? Not then either Best brush with a celebrity: Worked on Wolfman Jack's very last radio show And? He, umm . . . called me Ken. (Kevin Cuddihy, Fairfax)

Next Week: Ha Polloi

## ann landers

**Dear Ann:** 

Every February, Americans open their hearts to our country's hospitalized veterans by sending cards and letters to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers across the country through your "Valentines for Vets" program. Over the years, millions of your readers have demonstrated their appreciation of our nation's veterans by sending them valentines during the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans. Also, hundreds of teachers take this opportunity yearly to educate their students about our veterans and arrange in-person visits at VA facilities. I cannot tell you how much these thoughtful gestures have meant to our honored veterans
Approximately 3.4 million of our veterans

receive health care in VA facilities annually, and another 2.8 million receive other VA benefits. As a result of your column last venearly 900,000 valentines were delivered to VA medical centers, and more than 73,000 patients were visited by members of the community. We are hoping for an even bigger response from your readers this year, due to the increased wave of patriotism sweeping the country following the terrorist attacks of Sept.

I would like to urge all of your readers to take a little time out of their busy schedules to contact a VA medical center Voluntary Services office and find out how they can assist our country's most honored heroes.

The National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans will be observed the week of Feb. 10-17, which includes Valentine's Day. Addresses of our facilities can be obtained from local telephone directories, by calling the VA toll-free number at 800-827-1000 or by accessing the VA Web site at www.va.gov/volunteer. Thank you, Ann, for your generosity and support of our nation's veterans. Sincerely yours,

Anthony J. Principi secretary of Veterans Affairs, Washington, D.C.

I've always known that my readers are the most warmhearted, responsive people in the world. When I ask them to do something, they come through like champions. It's time once again to let our veterans know we appreciate them. It won't cost a lot,

and it's sure to bring enormous pleasure to our vets, to whom we owe so much.
On any given day, there are approximately 187,000 veterans treated through the 172 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers nationwide. These men and women served in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Bosnia, Kosovo and all the places where our soldiers have been sent around the world. These soldiers represent every race, color and creed. We now have sol-diers in Afghanistan who may one day need the services of our VA medical centers. We can never repay these valiant vets for the sac-rifices they have made, but we can do some-thing to cheer them up and let them know that they have not been forgotten.

Thousands of Salvation Army volunteers distribute valentines and gifts to various VA facilities around the country. Camp Fire Boys and Girls have been giving valentines to our veterans for quite some time. God bless them. This year, the National Headache Foundation will be delivering giant cards and cakes to VA hospitals across America, including Chicago, Los Angeles and New York.

Teachers, you have always been extremely helpful and supportive. I'm depending on you once more to make this a class project. Those handmade valentines are real heart-warmers, especially the ones made by the younger students. Please encourage your students to be creative, and let them learn firsthand the satisfaction that comes from doing something

This year, please make a special effort to drop off your valentines in person. It means so much to the veterans when you take the extra time to visit and say hello. I know of nothing you can do that would cost so little and bring so much happiness to the men and women who were willing to lay down their lives for us. They deserve to be remembered. Thank you all and God bless.

To find out more about Ann Landers and To the out more wount and Lander's and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2002, Creators Syndicate

## TODAY'S HOROSCOPE | Sydney Omarr

(Mar. 21-Apr. 19) Forces are scattered. Light touch wins along with humor. Be aware of legal rights, permissions. Marital status figures prominently. Sagittarian plays

**TAURUS** 

(Apr. 20-May 20) Go slow. Make necessary repair work at home. Be willing to review, revise and rebuild. What had been rejected could now be accepted. You'll ask, "Is it love or lust?"

**GEMINI** 

(May 21-June 20) Read and write, communicate ideas. Keep plans flexible; be alert for change, travel and variety of experiences. You will exude aura of sensuality and sex appeal.

CANCER

(June 21-July 22) Attention revolves around necessity for beautifying surroundings, including home. You will receive luxurious gift that brightens living quarters. Libra represented.

(July 23-Aug. 22) Play waiting game; time is on your side. You require additional information; element of deception exists, deliberate or otherwise. Follow through on 'psychic impression.'

VIRGO

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Focus on power, authority and ability to correct engineering problem. Funding will be obtained once you get format in writing. Shortcuts will not do; be as thorough as possible.

(Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Lunar cycle high. Judgment and intuition honed to razor sharpness Imprint style. Lead the way, and do not wait to be told what to do. Circumstances turn in your favor.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Provide enlightenment for those who fear the unknown. Take initiative, make fresh start and take yet another chance on romance. Visit individual confined to home, hospital.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Wish comes true tonight. Attention revolves around where you live, marital status, Resolve dilemma concerning direction and motivation. Cancer native plays major role.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You learn perhaps more than you care to

know. Individual in position of authority will confide "secret." Highlight versatility, humor and intellectual curiosity. Gemini in picture.

AOUARIUS

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Attend to details early; later, communicate with individual in a foreign land. Emphasis on advertising, publishing and writing thesis. Scorpio figures prominently.

PISCES

(Feb. 19-Mar. 20) Investigate financial position of one who would be partner or mate. You will be surprised by money that has been accumulated. Flirtation is serious; don't play games with emotions.

IF JANUARY 6 IS YOUR

BIRTHDAY: You have unusual

voice and appreciation of music. You are gentle and diplomatic, but in love you are passionate. Taurus, Libra and Scorpio persons play important roles in your life, could have these letters, initials in names: F, O, X. On the ninth, 18th and 27th of this month, you will be involved in sociopolitical activity. During this cycle you receive proposals that include husiness career and business, career and

© 2002, Tribune Media Services

## BRIDGE | Frank Stewart

Both sides vulnerable

EAST

♠ QJ94 ♥ K

NORTH ↑ 1086 ♥ A98

♦ KO8 WEST (D) \* 10754

♠ AK72
♥ 754
♦ 96 **♣** A 6 3 2

> North East

♦ J1054 ♣ QJ98 SOUTH **♠** 53 ♥ QJ10632 The bidding:

West South Pass 3 ♥ Pass All Pass Pass

Opening lead: A K

ne definition of an expert is someone from out of town, so when a newcomer joined my club, we were curious about his bridge. Cy the Cynic soon gave us a

report.
"Judging from this deal, it's going to be toll bridge," Cy said.

to be toll bridge, 'Cy sain.

Our new member, sitting South at rubber bridge, opened with a weak two-bid. North boosted preemptively to three hearts, and East-West sold out timidly when they might

have taken ten tricks at spades.
"The guy ruffed the third spade," Cy told us, "and let the queen of trumps ride. East won and led the queen of clubs: king, ace. South ruffed the next club and drew trumps. He then cashed the top diamonds and, when West showed out, lost a diamond. Down one. "I see what you mean," I said.

I expect South's play took a toll

on North as well as on South's wal-let. After South ruffs the third spade, he can lead the king of clubs. When West, who passed as dealer, shows the ace in addition to the A-K of spades, South knows East has the king of hearts. Even after South lost his futile

heart finesse, he had a chance. After ruffing the second club, South could runing the second chip, South conial try drawing only one more trump before testing the diamonds. South would win if diamonds broke 3-3 or if the defender with the last outstanding trump also held four or

standing trump also need four or more diamonds. That play would fail, but South could succeed by instead running all his trumps. East would be squeezed unable to keep four diamonds as well as the jack of clubs to beat dummy's ten.

@ 2001, Tribune Media Services

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