

The Style Invitational

Week CLV: No Rest for the Query



“What do you send a sick florist?” —Henny Youngman

“Has any turtle ever outlived the shaker of turtle food?”
—Jerry Seinfeld

“How come it’s a penny for your thoughts, but you have to put in your two cents’ worth? Somebody’s making a penny!”
—Steven Wright

“When you mix flour and water together, you get glue. And when you add sugar and eggs, you get a cake. Where does the glue go?”
—Rita Rudner

“Why did kamikaze pilots wear helmets?” —Dave Edison

The last few contests got enormous numbers of entries, so for **This Week’s Contest** we thought we’d slow things down with something really hard. Your challenge: Come up with a vexing, funny question about life, like the excellent ones above. Only original questions, please—spare us the parkway-driveway conundrum or ruminations on why there is no other word for “thesaurus.” First-prize winner gets a second bubblegum-wad purse. 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. 20. 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 Seth Brown of Williamstown, Mass.*

Report from Week CLI, in which you were asked to tell us what would happen if an existing company ran a different business:

◆ Second Runner-Up: **If Apple Computer ran a dating service, only members of the same family would come up as compatible.**
(Brian Barrett, Bethesda)

◆ First Runner-Up: **If Fox News ran the Redskins, every play would be “slant right.”**
(Sara Ulyanova, San Pedro Sula, Honduras)

◆ And the winner of the vintage 1963 cardboard hot dog trays:
If Greyhound ran a psychiatric clinic, it would charge more for extra baggage.
(Milo Sauer, Fairfax)

◆ Honorable Mentions:
If Citibank designed computers, whenever you were in a rush there would be only one window open.
(Seth Brown, Williamstown, Mass.)

If General Dynamics or some other Pentagon contractor ran Starbucks, a grande skim latte would cost, well, about what it costs now. Maybe a little less.
(Lee M. Goodwin, Washington)

If Kate Spade made gardening tools, teenage girls would be, like, sooo into troweling.
(Brian Barrett, Bethesda)

If NPR made roller coasters, it would be hard to tell an amusement park from a Metro stop.
(Brian Barrett, Bethesda)

If Johnson & Johnson made wedding cakes, there’d be no more tiers.
(Allison Wetterhahn, Silver Spring)

If E! Entertainment TV designed swimming pools, there would be no deep end.
(Jonathan Paul, Garrett Park)

If Reebok grew rice, at least the sweatshop employees could eat.
(Marc Leibert, New York)

If PepsiCo created laxatives, the Pepsi Challenge would become a reality TV show.
(Jeff Brechlin, Potomac Falls)

If Ben & Jerry designed fighter jets, the F-14 would have a catchier name, something like “Bomb-y Weather.”
(Jeff Brechlin, Potomac Falls)

If Chevrolet made boats, it would change the “Like a Rock” campaign.
(Milo Sauer, Fairfax)

If the Washington Blade made mints, they’d be “bi-curiously strong.”
(Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)

If 3M made chocolate candy, it’d call it M&M’s.
(Chris Doyle, Forsyth, Mo.)

If Tommy Hilfiger ran a hospital maternity wing, all birth certificates would be submitted as “Tommy Hilfiger.”
(David E. Romm, Minneapolis)

If the Washington Redskins made cars, they wouldn’t run.
(Robert Doherty, Alexandria)

If Wonder Bread made Wonderbras, they would be really tasteless.
(Maja Keech, New Carrollton)

If Jim Beam made Viagra, a fella could simply pour himself a stiff one.
(Dennis Millner, Manassas)

If the makers of Kaopectate made pantyhose, there would be no problem with runs. (Jennifer Hart, Arlington)

If Corning Glass made luggage, airport security would still miss the Uzi in your carry-on.
(Chris Doyle, Forsyth Mo.)

If Amtrak made diaphragms, a lot of women would be late.
(Vanessa Winans, Toledo, Ohio)

If Suzuki made 401(k) plans, they would be easier to roll over.
(Martin Schulman, Herndon)

If Yugo maintained Metro’s escalators, you wouldn’t notice the difference.
(Jonathan Paul, Garrett Park)

If Larry David’s production company published Shakespeare, his plays would be renamed “Much Ado About Nothing” and “Much More Ado About Nothing” and “Nothing—What’s That All About, Anyway?”
(Jonathan Paul, Garrett Park)

If AOL made Viagra, women would have to deal with even more of those annoying pop-ups.
(Pai Rosenthal, Sterling)

If Starbucks made bras, a 32A would be called a “grande.” And you’d be paying a lot more for each cup.
(Jason Meyers, Charlottesville)

Next Week: **Asterisk You Take**

BRIDGE | Frank Stewart

Both sides vulnerable			
NORTH			
♠ K 10 9 5			
♥ 5 3 2			
♦ Q 7 6 5			
♣ J 10			
EAST			
♠ 7 4			
♥ AK 9 4			
♦ 10 9 2			
♣ A 7 6 3			
SOUTH			
♠ A J 8 3			
♥ Q J 7			
♦ 8 4			
♣ K Q 9 2			
The bidding:			
West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♠	All Pass	
Opening lead: ♠ K			

In duplicate bridge, the basic goal on a partscore deal is to get a plus score. In today’s

deal, few of the East-West pairs went plus. Many Easts opened the bidding with one club after two passes, and West responded one diamond. When East was willing to try one heart next, West bid 1 NT, passed out. Good defense—a spade opening lead and an early shift to clubs—netted 200 points for North-South.

Even when East passed West at one diamond, East-West usually went minus. Even the contract of one diamond wasn’t a lock, and South often “balanced” with a double, driving East-West to a higher contract that was sure to fail.

A few Easts passed in third seat, as in today’s bidding, and then North-South landed at two spades. After West cashed the king of diamonds, he led a heart,

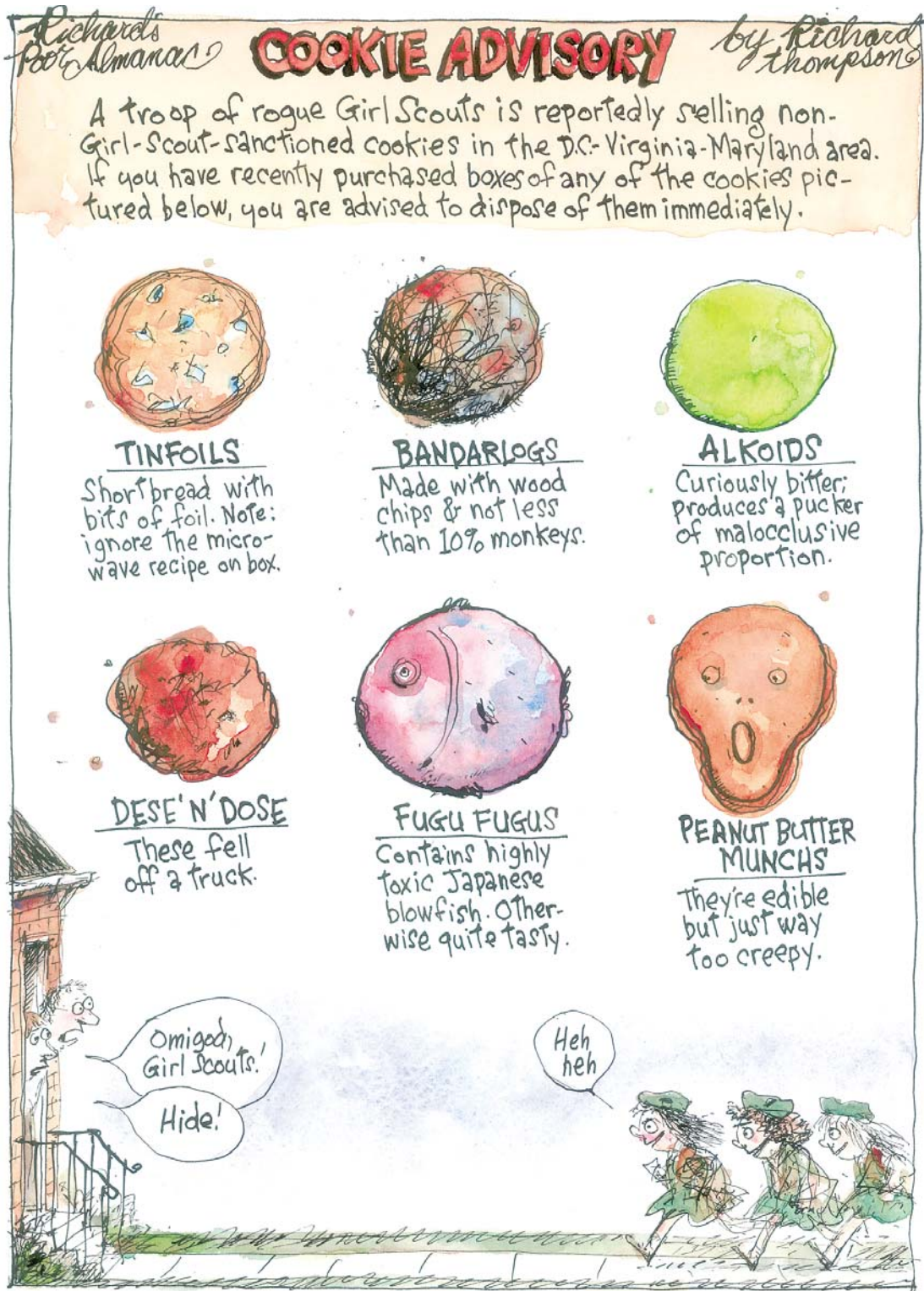
and East took the K-A and led a third heart. South won, led a trump to the king and returned the ten to finesse, and West took the queen and cashed the ace of diamonds. East’s ace of clubs won the setting trick, and North-South were minus 100 points for a bottom score on the deal.

Should South have made two spades?

When South won the third heart, he knew West had the A-K of diamonds and East had the A-K of hearts. Since neither player had opened the bidding, the ace of clubs and the queen of trumps had to lie in different hands.

South should have led a club at Trick 5. When East had the ace, South would know West held the queen of trumps.

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TELL ME ABOUT IT

TELL ME, *From F1*

you raise kids, but I’m going to wonder.

That said, it is possible the rawness of your feelings on this subject has you interpreting “Relax, it’ll be okay” as “If you relax it’ll be okay.” It’s a minor distinction with major emotional impact, and miscommunication is more rule than exception in a charged situation like this.

You’re due for a we-need-to-talk, for which you wait till you’re both calm and then ask how he really feels about the whole quest to conceive.

Psychosomatic, however, is a word that doesn’t leave any room for interpretation, and if he has used it on you specifically, you’re really due for a we-need-to-talk.

“It’s all in your head” is not only wrong but also extremely condescending, not to mention about 12 kinds of insensitive.

Anger is a justifiable response to being told you’re the problem when you aren’t, especially when that problem has become an artery of anguish in your life. True, anger doesn’t forward the kid cause at all, and in fact will set it back. But that’s exactly why you need to air it: Until you pull it out by its roots, it’ll stay with you, baby or not.

Carolyn:
My close friend is living with a new boyfriend.

Since newest BF (a nice enough guy) moved in, I hardly ever see my friend anymore. I have repeatedly invited both over to my house for parties, dinner, etc. They usually come late, stay for about 15-20 minutes and then leave. One time they did this for a five-person dinner party. Since then, I’ve stopped inviting these guys (both guys) over.

Should I just give up? My friend has invited me over once or twice, but only when BF is out of town.

—Virginia

Unless your friend has cut all of his old ties wholesale, newest BF might just dislike you.

Which would be good news, in a way. For one thing, it’s normal.

Anybody worth knowing is going to be heartily disliked by somebody; having the mate of a close friend (or relative) dislike you is so normal it’s a cliché.

If you suspect it’s just you, and not the sign of a larger ill, let it go. And try inviting your friend to things he can easily come to alone.

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



I STILL LOVE YOU EVEN THOUGH YOU’RE THE PROBLEM.

BY NICK GALIFIANAKIS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST