

The Style Invitational

Week 514: Ask Backwards



WMD-40	Porky McBeal	Just the Parts You Can See	Once in a Blue Moonves
Woody Allen's Analyst	Ben Afflack	Because It Just Sounds Wrong	A Concerto in Lee Majors
Wheee Monsieur	Because It Could Cause Asphyxia	Paris, Zurich and Certain Parts of West Virginia	Chilean Sea Bass, but Not George W. Bush

BY BOB STAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

This Week's Contest: You are on "Jeopardy!" These are your answers. What are the questions? Answer one or more. First-prize winner gets Amber InsectNside Candy, which is a big appetizing hard candy containing an actual dead cricket larva.

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 21. 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 Elinor Braun of Herndon.

Report from Week 510, in which we asked you to sneak a bogus question in during the final interview segment of the Miss Universe Pageant.

- ◆ Third Runner-Up: **If the United States decides to impose "regime change" on your country, would you prefer that it use precision-guided munitions, cruise missiles or Special Forces commandos?** (Russell Beland, Springfield)
- ◆ Second Runner-Up: **There are many problems facing young women in the world today, such as bulimia and anorexia. Which do you think is a more effective weight-loss method?** (Jennifer Wildt, Zunyi, China; Colette Zanin, Greenbelt)
- ◆ First Runner-Up: **What idiotic custom or religious ritual does the most to reinforce unfair stereotypes we all have about your country?** (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)
- ◆ And the winner of the Baghdad Bob T-shirt and thong: **Let's say you're at home with your roommate and your younger sister, the three of you wearing flimsy negligees and sucking on popsicles. What is your favorite color?** (Jack Welsch and Sugar Strawn, Alexandria)

- ◆ Honorable Mentions: **Would you rather be a quadratic equation or a cake mix? Why?** (Trish Hackman, Springfield, and Maureen Langan, New York)
- How would you dispose of a body really fast, like if the cops were on the way to your house?** (Glenn V. Morrison, Atlanta)
- Say this quickly 10 times: I slit the sheet, the sheet I slit, and on the slitted sheet I sit.** (Jennifer Hart, Arlington)
- Here's a check for \$25,000. Will you take it and drop out now, or take your chances on what is, at best, a 1-in-10 shot?** (Jennifer Hart, Arlington)
- In order to save the rest of humanity, how many puppies would you be willing to personally strangle to death?** (Joseph Romm, Washington)
- What are your hygiene tips and tricks for masking the fetid body odor so common among your countrymen?** (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)
- Does it bother you to think that somewhere in Kansas, or Rawalpindi, or Kuala Lumpur, there's a 12-year-old boy who's been denied all access to porn, cable or R-movies, and watching you and your fellow contestants walk around in swimsuits and high heels is the most erotic thing that has ever fired up his hormonally driven imagination?** (Dan Steinberg, Falls Church)
- Will you be my mommy?** (Dan Steinberg, Falls Church)
- How do Bruce Banner's pants stay on when he changes into The Hulk?** (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)
- Which historical figure do you think had the best skin?** (Meg Sullivan, Potomac)
- Had you known he would NOT be judging tonight, would you still have slept with Jamie Farr?** (Steve Fahey, Kensington)

- Name something you accomplished in your life without planning to use it one day on your pageant résumé.** (Steve Fahey, Kensington)
- How will you wield the awesome power of this office to pacify war-torn Congo?** (Brian Broadus, Charlottesville)
- If you could date any one of the Brothers Karamazov, which one would it be, and why?** (Jennifer Wildt, Zunyi, China)
- We know that beauty pageants have been criticized for propagating negative body image in young women. Would you support letting big, fat, slobby girls into beauty pageants?** (Jennifer Wildt, Zunyi, China)
- Have those been in your immediate possession at all times?** (Jonathan M. Kaye, Washington)
- Okay, miss, I don't know what you are trying to pull here, but what have you done with the REAL representative of your country?** (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)
- My son is getting bar mitzvah next month. Can you make it?** (Larry Cynkin, Kensington)
- Please compare and contrast the existentialist philosophies of Jean-Paul Sartre and Martin Heidegger, with specific attention to their views on the nature of death, or just jiggle your boobies a little.** (Daniel Mannion, Manassas)
- How long can you keep a smile on your face? Go ahead, we'll time you.** (Chris Doyle, Forsyth, Mo.)
- Is the following statement about you true or false: You are not the kind of person who wouldn't oppose the idea of not taking a negative stance against those who do not fail to protest the opposition to legislation that would legalize child pornography?** (Scott Campisi, Wake Village, Tex.)

Next Week: **It's in Portent**

BRIDGE | Frank Stewart

Both sides vulnerable

NORTH
 ♠ A
 ♥ 6 3 2
 ♦ A 9 6 3
 ♣ A K 5 3 2

WEST
 ♠ K J 9 8 5 2
 ♥ 9 4
 ♦ 8
 ♣ J 8 7 4

EAST
 ♠ Q 10 7 6 3
 ♥ 8
 ♦ K Q J
 ♣ Q 10 9 6

SOUTH (D)
 ♠ 4
 ♥ A K Q J 10 7 5
 ♦ 10 7 5 4 2
 ♣ None

The bidding:

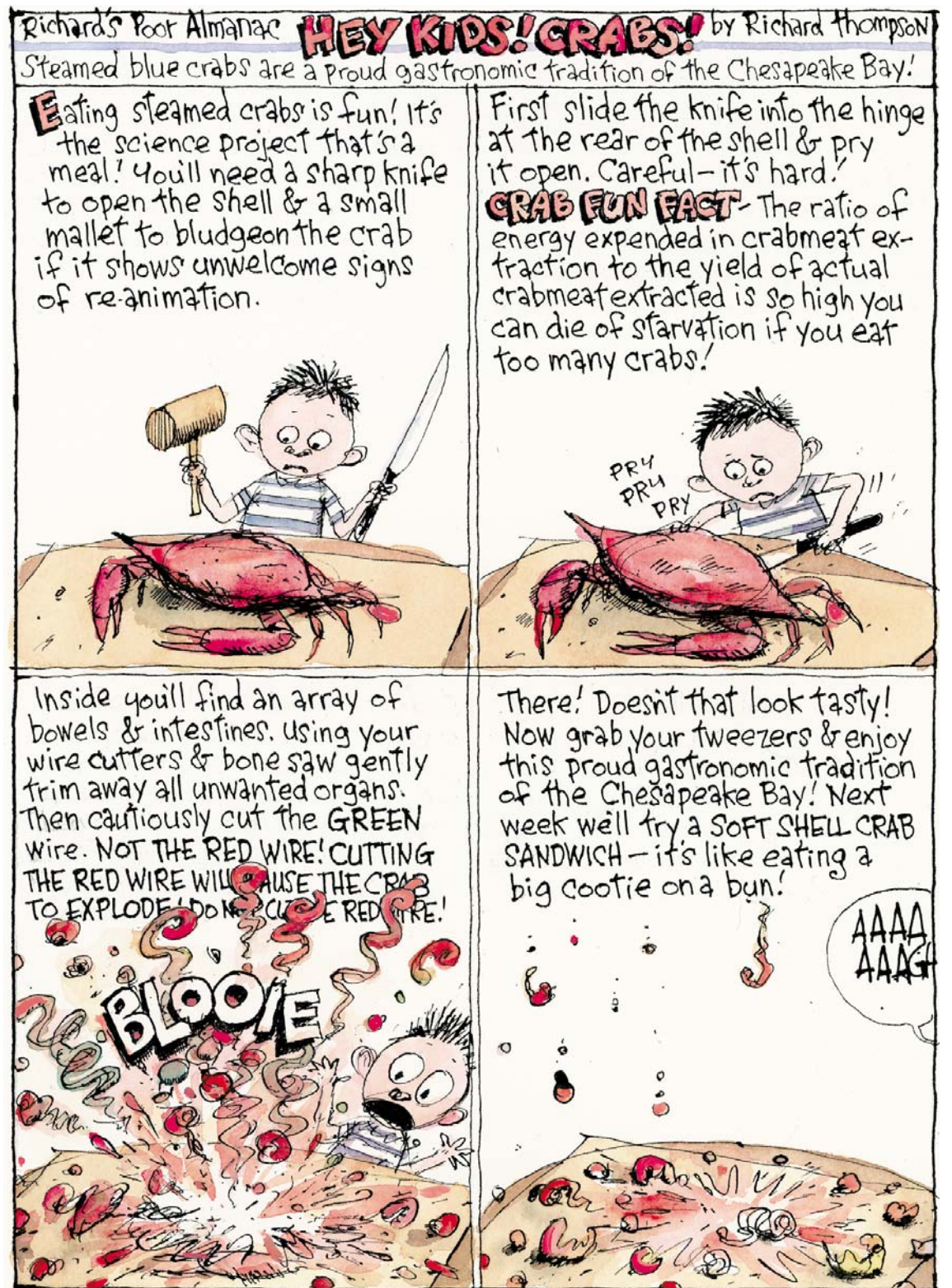
South West North East
 4♥ Pass 6♥ All Pass

Opening lead: ♠ 8

Beginners count points to evaluate trick-taking power, but experienced players often use a shortcut, especially in considering a trump contract. They imagine some possible hands for partner and try to imagine how the play will go. Say you open one heart on A J 5 4, A K 7 6 5 3, 5, K 6, and partner raises to two hearts. Count points if you must, but bid game. Four hearts will have a fine chance if partner has only the king of spades and any four trumps. Today's North hears South open four hearts. If South has a solid suit, North can visualize 13 tricks: seven hearts, two clubs, a diamond, a spade, and either two spade ruffs in dummy or maybe one ruff plus an extra club trick. But North can't be sure—South's heart suit may have a hole in it—so North settles for a small slam.

Alas, North's crystal ball is a little cloudy. South has no spade losers for ruff! After West leads a spade, how should South play for 12 tricks? South ran off six rounds of trumps, but nobody discarded a diamond. South then led the ace and another diamond—and lost two diamonds. South has an extra chance: At the second trick he ruffs a club with a high trump. He draws trumps, leads the five of trumps to dummy's six, discards two diamonds on the A-K of clubs and ruffs a club. When clubs break 4-4, South can lead a diamond to the ace and throw another diamond on the good club, losing one diamond. If clubs failed to break, South would still get home if diamonds broke 2-2 or if an unlikely end-position developed.

© 2003, Tribune Media Services



DEAR ABBY

Dear Abby:

Several months ago, I discovered my wife was having an affair with one of our closest single friends from church. Their relationship had been going on for almost a year. This was her second affair in our 12-year marriage, and I'm about ready to cut my losses and file for divorce.

My wife has expressed great remorse for her mistake and claims she will do "anything" to save our marriage. I am still very much in love with her—and I have the happiness of our young son to consider. My wife and I are in counseling, but my feelings of betrayal and anger are so great that I don't know if I can trust her—or any woman—ever again. I feel as though I've not only been betrayed by my wife, but also by my "friend," my church—even by God.

Is it possible for a spouse who has a history of extramarital affairs to change? And if change is possible, how do I begin to trust again when the person I loved and cared for most in the world is the one responsible for my pain and misery? I would be grateful for any insight you can offer, Abby.

Shattered In Bluegrass Country

Yes, it is possible for a spouse who has a history of extramarital affairs to change. But to do so, the person must be willing to confront the reasons for the cheating. Rebuilding trust, however, can take years, because even with the most forgiving spouse, the memory of the transgression is always lurking in the background.

Now I'll paraphrase a question I usually ask my female readers: Are you better off with or without her? Only you can answer that.

Dear Abby:

I have been seeing "Ted" for two years. He is the love of my life. Last week, out of the blue, he said he didn't want to see me anymore and ordered me

out of his apartment. He raged at me as if I had done something terrible to him. I left immediately.

The day after Ted's blowup, I talked to him on the phone and his anger was gone. He explained that he needed his space, and I accepted it. The following day we talked again, and I could hear the anger was back in his voice. The day after that, he was as sweet as he's ever been. We tearfully discussed breaking up, but remaining friends.

I would like nothing more than for Ted to enjoy his "space" and discover that I really am the one for him. But I love him, and this is the hardest thing I have dealt with in our two years of ups and downs.

Until three months ago, Ted was a drug user. Now I wonder if he's using again. I am all too familiar with the signs. Because of Ted, I have learned more about drugs than I ever thought possible. But my love for him has endured.

When Ted got clean, we joined a church and I believed we were finally in a better place. Now I don't know what to think. Am I spinning my wheels here, Abby? What should I do?

Scared And Confused In West Virginia

I suspect your instincts are on target—he is using again. However, as much as you might wish to, you cannot "save" Ted. Only he can do that. Please don't tolerate his irrational mood swings. They will destroy your self-esteem. Let him go. Direct your interests and energies elsewhere. Get some counseling. It'll be the smartest, most self-protective move you have ever made—and a favor to yourself.

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.

© 2003, Universal Press Syndicate

TODAY'S HOROSCOPE | Jeraldine Saunders

CANCER (June 21-July 22) The full moon is giving you a buzz. Your mood swings from high to low. Relationships are in on-or-off mode. Your friendly smile works like magic.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Everyone wants something from you today. You're so busy helping others that you neglect your own interests. Breathing fresh air is like a vacation for your lungs.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) The Capricorn full moon puts you on top of the world but distracts you from chores and goals. Would-be partners are hovering like hummingbirds to make life sweeter.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Focusing on getting on with everyone is what counts. You could be in charge of the barbecue this afternoon. You set the trend and others will follow.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You're tired of being typecast. The full moon frees you from unconscious fears and Neptune's confusion-making influences, and puts you in touch with higher

realms and original truths.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) The full moon in your second house gets you excited about plans involving upcoming sale or acquisition of property. You're making long-term plans to improve your cash flow.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) This powerful full moon falls in your sign and focuses on relationships, partners and marriage. Make up your own mind and avoid listening to others' well-meaning opinions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Displaying edginess, your imagination is in psychic overdrive. Pleasing others beyond your capacity is causing you to neglect your own interests.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Your efforts are well-received. Children and elderly take up your time. Arrangements made, you discover you cannot compromise. Compromising now would be the wrong thing to do.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You're the center of attention today and

calling the tune. Some wacky ideas make you children's best friend. Entertaining looks easy in your hands. You impress people with your fun and games.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You want to get away from it all and relax by the ocean or on water. You start thinking about further education, technical upgrading and communication skills.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Panache and style are tipping the scales in your favor. You're in a romantic frame of mind and are looking for some adventure. Hanging out on your own porch will not do today.

IF JULY 13 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: You're resourceful, sometimes surprising even yourself; you can be a fish out of water, different in every way. The full moon today means you are about to harvest the results of your good deeds. Lady Luck is smiling on your endeavors. If you haven't found a mate so far, this should be the year. There's success having to do with art, drama or music. December brings work, money and travel.

© 2003 Tribune Media Services Inc.