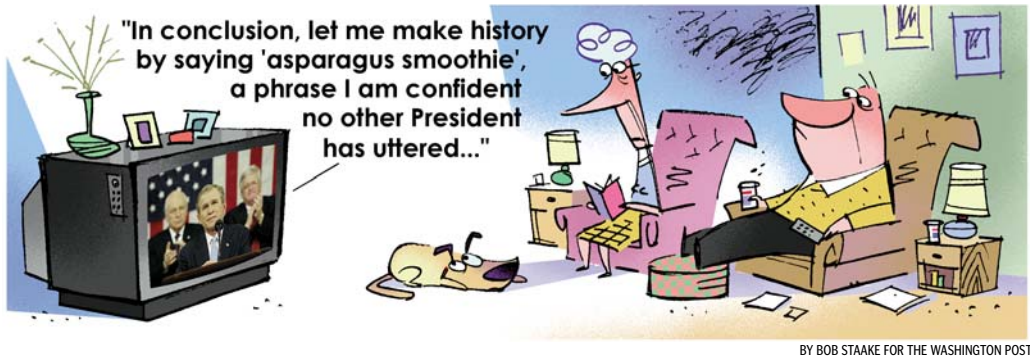


The Style Invitational

Week 517: Insert Joke Here



This Week's Contest was suggested by Hank Wallace of Washington. Inspired by our recent contest to slip in a question to ask Miss Universe contestants, Hank proposes that you slip a single bogus sentence into next year's State of the Union address, figuring the Prez will probably just read it right off the teleprompter. First-prize winner gets a "Keen Eddie" dartboard, with magnetic darts, a rather elaborate and expensive promotional item from Fox, featuring photos of principals from the new Fox TV show of the same name. Fox was hoping for good publicity, and we're happy to give it: The "Keen Eddie" dartboard is a class act, well-conceived and well executed, unlike the vapid TV show.

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, Aug. 10. 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. There is no revised title for next week's contest because they all stank.

Report from Week 513, in which we asked you to come up with Subject lines guaranteed to cause a person to delete an e-mail, unread. And no, we aren't playing favorites. We are playing LPMOE, the diversity-scorning game played by the Last Pure Meritocracy On Earth.

- ◆ Third Runner-Up: **tH!s 1s n0T \$p@M!!! Opè No V\V!!!! Qqr pblt** (Tom Kreitzberg, Silver Spring; Josh Feldblyum, Potomac)
- ◆ Second Runner-Up: **An important message for you from Lyndon LaRouche's nephew.** (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)
- ◆ First Runner-Up: **Earn Thousands Through Hard Work and Diligence!** (Tom Kreitzberg, Silver Spring)
- ◆ And the winner of the colorectal necktie: **Meet LONELY MARRIED WOMEN who want to go shopping for window treatments with your wife!** (Tom Kreitzberg, Silver Spring)

◆ Honorable Mentions:

Michelle, enlarge your penis NATURALLY! (Michelle Bowen-Ziecheck, Chicago; Joe Morse, Burke)

First time ever, the 1936 Republican Convention on CD! (Dean N. Alterman, Portland, Ore.)

I found you on classmates.com—you slept with my mom 18 years ago. (Jacki Lippman, Washington)

You may have won a trip to East St. Louis! (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)

See Britney Spears in a heavy parka! (Michael S. Golden, Wichita, Kan.)

THE WOMEN OF HAMAS! (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

Need Help With Your Resumay? (Jean Sorensen, Herndon)

I am Lulu, voluptuous, horny, and 13. Contact me at OPERATIONJAILBAIT.gov (Barry Blyveis, Columbia)

We are just barely 18, and we have print cartridges! (Luke S. Wassum, Washington)

No nipples? No problem! (Roger Strukhoff, Danville, Calif.)

This is the seventh-to-last-time you will receive this message! (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)

Stop paying for barium enemas! (Ranald Totten, Kitty Hawk, N.C.)

Free screen saver—The Faces of Smallpox (Michael Beller, Potomac)

An important message for below-average male drivers! (Tom Kreitzberg, Silver Spring)

Lose 40 Pounds TODAY! (Jeff Brechlin, Potomac Falls)

Help me find myself! Send \$\$\$ (Jeff Brechlin, Potomac Falls)

Unemployed Telemarketers Need Your Help (Jennifer Hart, Arlington)

Want a king-size F.I.S.T.U.L.A. in one week? (Bella Stander, Charlottesville)

You may already have won a necktie promoting awareness of colorectal cancer! (Bruce Carlson, Alexandria)

Hot Afghan women in skimpy burqas! You can almost see their ankles! (Meg Sullivan, Potomac)

Fat Tony & Co. will take care of your debt FAST. (Michael Hurwitz, Chevy Chase)

Urgent Assistant required for penniless beggar. (Tom Kreitzberg, Silver Spring)

Free! Alex Trebek's guide to Balto-Slavic pronunciation! (Chris Doyle, Forsyth, Mo.)

Gals, get droopier breasts! (Jennifer Hart, Arlington)

Watch TEENAGE GIRLS taking the SAT exam! (Bella Stander, Charlottesville)

Defeat the Do-Not-Call Censorship Nazis! (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

Deposit \$100,000, get FREE CHECKING (Courtney Knauth, Washington)

Get Your Internet Provider to Add Al Jazeera (Barry Blyveis, Columbia)

Three out of two people win at the Nigerian Powerball! Why not you? (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)

Teach your pet monkey to yodel (Joel Knanishu, Rock Island, Ill.)

Lonely singles in your area looking for help moving to a five-story walkup this weekend! (Tom Kreitzberg, Silver Spring)

Sign Up Now for Glorious Martyrdom Operations (Meg Sullivan, Potomac)

Subjects needed for genital wart lancing tests. (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

Make Your Wife Think You Are Bob Dole in Bed! (Danny Bravman, Potomac)

Did you know you can REQUEST an IRS audit? (Scott Campisi, Wake Village, Tex.)

SEE DON ZIMMER NUDE (Phil Frankenfeld, Washington)

Please help me check my computer: Is this attachment a virus? (Dan Steinberg, Falls Church)

Master Tic-Tac-Toe in 30 minutes! (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Old joke, but still funny (Bruce W. Alter, Fairfax Station)

Alan Greenspan-Andrea Mitchell honeymoon video XXXX (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)

And Last: Make big Buck\$ selling colorectal neckties! (Susannah Maisel, Bowie)



DEAR ABBY

Dear Abby:

Last night, after we had been engaged for three months, my fiancé, "Blake," informed me that he owes \$25,000 to creditors. He said part of that debt is because he bought and sold a condo (at a loss) six years ago, and he felt he needed a nicer car after we met. What concerns me, in addition to his huge debt, is that he gave me an \$8,000 engagement ring.

Blake is pressuring me to get married, but I am having second thoughts. Will I be responsible for his debts if we are married? Should I marry him, or should I wait until he pays off his creditors?

Feeling Insecure in Toronto

Your concerns are valid. Your fiancé appears to be romantic, but not very practical when it comes to financial matters. Before the engagement goes any further, I urge you to consult an attorney who can explain any possible obligations you will—or will not—assume by marrying him. Please don't wait. It will be money wisely spent.

Dear Abby:

I am 80 years old and all alone. Cancer took my wife 11 years ago. I am still healthy and in control of my affairs. I have been trying to carry on without my wife, but there isn't much to live for. I just returned from putting my truck in the garage, and I hated coming back into my empty house.

I wish every human being in the world could be as lonesome as I am tonight. If this were true, there would never be another war, or killing, or robbery, or any form of deceit. I feel certain that everyone would say, "I am satisfied with what I have, because I never want to be as sad or as lonesome as that old man."

Lonesome in Texas

I'm glad you wrote to me because 11 years is too long to be alone and grieving. Since you are of sound mind and body, it's time to reenter society

—and by that I mean put yourself in situations where you can help your fellow man, meet new people and have some fun.

Volunteering is a wonderful way to start. Call your local hospital, library, museum or senior center, and see what openings are available. It will be a way to do something worthwhile for your community and the beginning of a new life for you. Trust me.

Dear Abby:

I recently met "Shelly," the girl of my dreams. She is everything I ever wanted in a girlfriend and more. This is the greatest relationship I have ever had in my life—and she feels the same.

Shelly is leaving for college in September and I still have one more year of high school. I know in my heart it will never work with me here and Shelly there—but I am not ready to lose the love of my life.

Abby, please give me some advice. I know my heart is going to break when Shelly leaves.

Lovestruck in St. Louis

I hope Shelly has a wonderful freshman year in college—and that you have an exciting senior year in high school. Over the years I have heard from many teens in your situation. They have maintained their friendships by staying in contact through phone calls, letters and e-mails. What they haven't done is demand an exclusive relationship.

Now is the time for both of you to develop new friendships with people of both genders. Exclusivity ties you down and is not fair to either of you. When you develop new interests, you will have that much more to share when you do get together.

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

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Your lovable side is on display, and you could be meeting Mr. or Ms. Right, if single. Children and family show affection. Your doubts are evaporating.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You're confident when you talk about your work. A new relationship needs to be taken step by step, as Mars and Uranus invite caution. The moon in your second house puts you in a spending mood.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
You're introspective and in soul-searching mode. Neptune is stirring your imagination, and you're envisioning big plans for your life at home and at work.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Allow extra time to get to a meeting or party. Heed a phone call. Love and passion are winding you up and interfere with a job you have to do today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Mars and Uranus are keeping you on your toes. You get a lot done at home today. Before making a commitment, check what's really

going on in your mind and with your emotions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Doubts about money prevent you from putting your plans into action. Someone has a splendid and practical idea and comes to your rescue.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
A languishing partnership gets moving again. Someone from the past wants to rekindle a friendship. If single, you're still looking for the ideal mate; he or she should materialize soon. It's party time.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
An invitation appears out of the blue. You feel like celebrating an artistic or design assignment you've completed. An emotional bond is strengthened.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
With Mars, your ruler, in the 12th house, you could be experiencing anxiety. Have no fear, Mars: Being well-anchored to Saturn is harmonious, and any fallout should be negligible.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Helping out today, you show off

your domestic skills; perhaps you handle the barbecue. A friend, lover or loved one is keeping a secret. Libra wants to give a helping hand.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
The more subtly you move, the more likely you will get what you want where love is concerned. There's plenty of fun with siblings and relatives. Aquarius gives input.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Take time to set forth your plans to loved ones. Someone may be admitting a mistake. Being wise, you can forgive but not forget. Neptune is enticing you to overspend.

IF AUG. 3 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: You have a happy-go-lucky attitude and a high-powered intellect; you'd make a good politician, journalist or lawyer. You love to excel and be better than others. If unattached, you should be meeting your dream partner this year (with Neptune's blessing). Romance could even flower on a cruise. This is a year for reflection on spiritual values. December brings a breakthrough.

© 2003 Tribune Media Services

BRIDGE | Frank Stewart

Neither side vulnerable

NORTH (D)	
♠ Q J 4	
♥ J 5	
♦ 5 3 2	
♣ A K Q J 2	
WEST	EAST
♠ A K	♠ 5 3 2
♥ 10 7 4 2	♥ A K Q 6 3
♦ Q 10 9 4	♦ 8 7 6
♣ 8 5 4	♣ 10 9
SOUTH	
♠ 10 9 8 7 6	
♥ 9 8	
♦ A K J	
♣ 7 6 3	

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♥
2 ♠	Pass	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	Pass	3 ♠	All Pass

Opening lead: ♥ 2

In a 1969 article, Jean-Rene Vernes proposed the Law of Total Tricks (later elaborated on by Larry Cohen): The total number of trumps both sides have in their best suit equals the number of tricks they can win. If North-South have nine spades and East-West have nine hearts, 18 total tricks are available: In theory, if North-South can make four spades, East-West will be down two at four hearts.

Today's West has an easy bid of three hearts at his second turn. He knows East-West have nine trumps, and to compete at the level of three will usually be correct. If North-South have eight spades, 17 total tricks should be there, and if three hearts fails, three spades would not.

After two passes, it's up to South. If either side has nine

trumps, he should bid three spades. If he takes only eight tricks, East-West could have made three hearts. Even if both sides have only eight trumps, South's three spades may be right. If the cards lie badly for North-South, three spades may go down two, but three hearts would have made.

West led a heart against three spades, and East took two hearts and led a diamond. South won, led a trump, eventually drew trumps and ran the clubs to make the contract.

The deal vindicates the Law—in theory. Three hearts is cold, and South is down at three spades if East shifts to a minor suit at Trick Two or to a club at Trick Three. But deals are played at the table, and bridge won't ever be reducible to a formula.

© 2003, Tribune Media Services