

The Style Invitational

Week 519: Hey, Baby, What's Your Sector?



BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

"Someone stole my heart, and the FBI considers you a person of interest."

"If you were OMB draft circular A-561, then my public comment would have to be, 'Yowza!'"

"Care to come by my place and search for my weapon of mass destruction?"

This Week's Contest was suggested by Andrew Goldberg of Potomac, who invites you to come up with pickup lines that could be heard only in Washington, as in the examples above. First-prize winner gets a vintage, framed "American Commemoratives"

announcement by the U.S. Postal Service, including four stamps, commemorating the 1973 issuance of a Lyndon Johnson stamp. It includes a highly complimentary summary of his life and works by Lady Bird, neglecting to mention Vietnam.

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. 25. 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 515, in which you were asked to come up with ways Martha Stewart might make a prison stay more stylish and/or livable. A Loser T-shirt goes to attorney Karen Bond of Reynoldsburg, Ohio. Karen writes that an "awesome" cheesecake can be fashioned from Cremora, Oreo cookies and milk stolen from the prison kitchen, and that toilet paper and wire hangers stolen from the officers' supply cabinet can make a passable Christmas wreath. This may not be pant-wettingly funny, but it has the considerable virtue of truth. Karen did three years in the federal pen for interstate securities fraud. Stealing, she warns, "can land you in the hole. But guards can be bribed."

◆ Second Runner-Up: **Persuade the warden to upgrade the electric chair to a Louis XIV.** (Milo Sauer, Fairfax)

◆ First Runner-Up: **Give a special name to each of your head lice (e.g., Wilberforce).** (Maureen and Russell Beland, Springfield)

◆ And the winner of the antique ice bag: **Flypaper can do an excellent bikini wax.** (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

◆ Honorable Mentions: **Press wet paper napkins into shape of pistols; let dry. Color with shoe polish. Save for that special weekend getaway.** (Judith Cottrill, New York)

Using lint from laundry, make an attractive shiv cozy. (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge; Mark Leibert, New York)

Turn catfights into refereed bake-offs. (Chris Doyle, Forsyth, Mo.)

If prison deals you rock piles, make rock gardens. (Chris Doyle, Forsyth, Mo.)

Wet TP spitwads flung at cell walls make excellent faux stucco. (Brendan Beary, Great Mills; Kevin Mellema, Falls Church)

Mashed potatoes applied to bars can simulate Doric columns. Use fingernail or back of spoon for fluting. Or try small cauliflower florets at the capitals for a whimsical faux Corinthian. (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

Be like the Birdman of Alcatraz, but turn the pigeons into squab. (Chris Doyle, Forsyth, Mo.)

Convert shank to oyster knife. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Cellmate's femur can be carved into a relief of the gods of Olympus frolicking on the Elysian fields. If you're bad enough. (Russ Beland, Springfield; Rose McNeely, Bethesda)

Set fire to cell in order to get that special smoky flavor in the mouse kebabs. (Russell Beland, Springfield)

Step 1: File ends of matchsticks into sharp points. Step 2: Push matchsticks into bar of soap so point ends stick out. Step 3: Scare off cockroaches by placing heads of their dead on the ends of the sticks. Step 4: Wash hands thoroughly using mild hypoallergenic astringent. (Russell Beland, Springfield)

Make a dining hall fork into a crochet hook, then use blanket thread to make a cardigan for your pet rat. (Russell Beland, Springfield)

For 50 packs of smokes, the screws will smuggle you in a nice tea cozy. (Russell Beland, Springfield)

Next Week: **A Foot Sandwich**



DEAR ABBY

Dear Abby:
I am a 13-year-old who has already ruined her life. I stay up late, eat tons of junk food and yell at my sisters. It may not sound that bad, but on more than one occasion I have stayed up way past midnight. I'm known as the one in the family who can drink a six-pack of soda at one sitting and eat an after can of tuna fish. My sisters are so worried about me, I've driven them to tears. Every week I put on more weight. I've got acne and my teeth are horrible. Please help me, Abby. Nobody in my family understands what I'm going through.

Unhappy With Myself in Salt Lake City

It sometimes takes a series of "baby steps" to change patterns that don't work for you. Self-improvement cannot be accomplished overnight, so please stop being so hard on yourself.

There is help for each of the problems you have described. The first step is to ask your parents to schedule an appointment for you with your pediatrician to discuss your nutrition and anger issues. Your doctor also can refer you to a dentist and a dermatologist. You would sleep better if you began a regular program of exercise.

P.S. A final thought: If your parents are unable to help, talk to a counselor at school when it resumes in the fall.

Dear Abby:
I recently graduated from high school and will attend college in the fall. I will be rooming with my good friend "Marla," whom I have known since second grade.

Marla's father has decided he won't buy her a computer (one of the school's admission requirements) or let her take her car to college. The reason? He expects me to allow Marla to use my computer when she needs it—and to drive my car! Marla doesn't understand that this is unfair, and

sees no problem with it. Abby, I feel used, disrespected and hurt. I don't feel a friend would be so presumptuous. How can I set her straight?

Angry in Alabama

Have your parents call Marla's father and straighten him out regarding the computer and the car. Since the computer is an admission requirement, one must be provided for her. And as for your car—no one should drive it who isn't listed as an "additional" driver on your insurance policy. Period.

P.S. Do not blame Marla. She is just trying to follow her father's "wishes."

Dear Abby:
I am a 23-year-old woman in need of your advice. About five years ago I met and fell in love with a wonderful man. You could call us high school sweethearts. We dated for a year and nine months.

We broke up when he went into the Air Force, but I'm still very much in love with him. We e-mail each other almost every day, but I haven't been able to bring myself to tell him how I feel. Perhaps your advice could help me make the right decision.

Secretly in Love With a Military Man

Some secret! He already knows you care for him, since you are e-mailing him almost daily. And it's a safe bet that he has similar feelings. Tell him how much his communications mean to you and sign the next message "Love." After that, the next move is his.

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.

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BRIDGE | Frank Stewart

Neither side vulnerable

NORTH
♠ K J 4
♥ K Q 3 2
♦ J 6 3
♣ 9 5 3

EAST
♠ 10 9 8 7
♥ 9 7
♦ Q 9 8 5
♣ J 7 6

SOUTH (D)
♠ A 6 3 2
♥ A J 10 6
♦ K 4
♣ A 10 2

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 ♥	All Pass		

Opening lead: ♣ K

"My partner is pretty opinionated," a fan writes. "He dispenses advice by the bushel but takes it by the grain. He didn't like my bidding in the enclosed deal."

North-South reached four hearts on their 4-4 fit when my fan, North, used Stayman over South's 1NT opening bid.

South refused the first club, and West next led a low club: three, jack, ace. South then drew trumps, finessed with the jack of spades and took the king.

East followed with the ten and seven, and when West's queen fell, South accepted that card as true and exited with a club.

West won with the queen and saw that leading the 13th club would concede a ruff-sluff. He therefore led the ace and then a low diamond, but South produced the king and claimed the rest, making game.

"Despite the result," my fan writes, "my partner insisted I

shouldn't use Stayman with such flat distribution. Is he right?"

I avoid using Stayman with 4-3-3-3 pattern when my hand contains mostly queens and jacks; then nine tricks may be the limit at either a suit or at no trump. But if the 1NT bidder's hand happens to be mildly distributional, to use Stayman may work well.

One deal proves nothing, but today's North-South might make 3NT. If West led the king and then a low club, South could take the ace, cash some hearts, finesse with the jack of spades and take the king. South could then exit with a club and force West to lead a diamond, yielding the ninth trick.

South's actual contract might have failed. If West leads his last club at Trick Nine, the ruff-sluff gives South nothing since he can score his two remaining trumps separately in any case. South could still succeed with inspired play but would probably go down.

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TODAY'S HOROSCOPE | Jeraldine Saunders

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
The moon entering the top of your chart fires up your ambition, and you really want to set new goals. Input from older friends could be fortuitous.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
As the day begins, you yearn to do more with your life. You've been postponing and avoiding decisions that are actually quite easy to make. Your feelings about a love relationship could be deepening.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Someone you had dismissed actually thinks a great deal of you. Don't let an old quarrel or discourse influence you. Someone is doing some hot matchmaking on your behalf.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Partners are going all-out to influence you today. You're seeing family relationships in a new light as some financial news concerning property or investment comes your way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You want to do more with your life. It's within your power to restore a relationship and to turn

a lazy love partner into a red-hot lover. Hold back as your ideas trump someone else's.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
It would be perfect timing to turn a sour relationship around or reignite an old love. You're in the mood for love and fun; a night out could turn into an adventure.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Are you cooperating with fate? Are you taking advantage of social invitations and networking opportunities? A financial kickback is very likely if you hitch your wagon to fortune's wheel.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Your patience pays off. Think matters through before you act, and use discretion when dealing with a well-meaning gossip who gets it wrong.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
This morning should see you doing tasks you've been putting off; they could involve children. It promises to be a great day for recreational challenges.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Family and group adventures keep you busy today. The fun

could involve water. By evening, you're of two minds about something. Virgo is helpful.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Friends are proposing a trip. You may be traveling to a cultural event of some kind. Partners are not volunteering the answers you seek. Don't get discouraged.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Partners are candid. A property investment or talk about moving has you wondering. Someone older is encouraging. Your talent for seeing what's going on behind the scenes helps you make the right choice.

IF AUG. 17 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY:
You're honest, hardworking, responsible and a bit of a dreamer. You could be a wonderful designer or artist. There's an edge to your personality that can land unusual situations and circumstances at your door and also get you into difficulties. Make the most of this lucky year, which sees travel abroad and a renewal of energy. If single, it's very likely you'll meet your love. Don't speculate. Curb your sweet tooth.

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