

The Style Invitational

Week 528: Ask Backwards



Mary, Susan and Beyonce	Loaves and knishes	Hamsters, Poi and that Britney-Madonna kiss
Anthony "Big Pancreas" Santucci	Yasser Arafat but not Daffy Duck	Daffy Duck but not Ariel Sharon
Benedict Arnold Schwarzenegger	Only People who are very skinny	Because you need the right undergarments
	It's like a peanut, only bigger	A toaster and Antonin Scalia, but not a Reuben sandwich

This Week's Contest: You are on "Jeopardy!" These are the answers. What are the questions? First-prize winner gets a 1976 vintage ceramic plate celebrating the splendors of the town of Brunswick, N.Y. (e.g., "The Old Soup House").

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, Oct. 27. 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 Brendan Beary of Great Mills, Md.

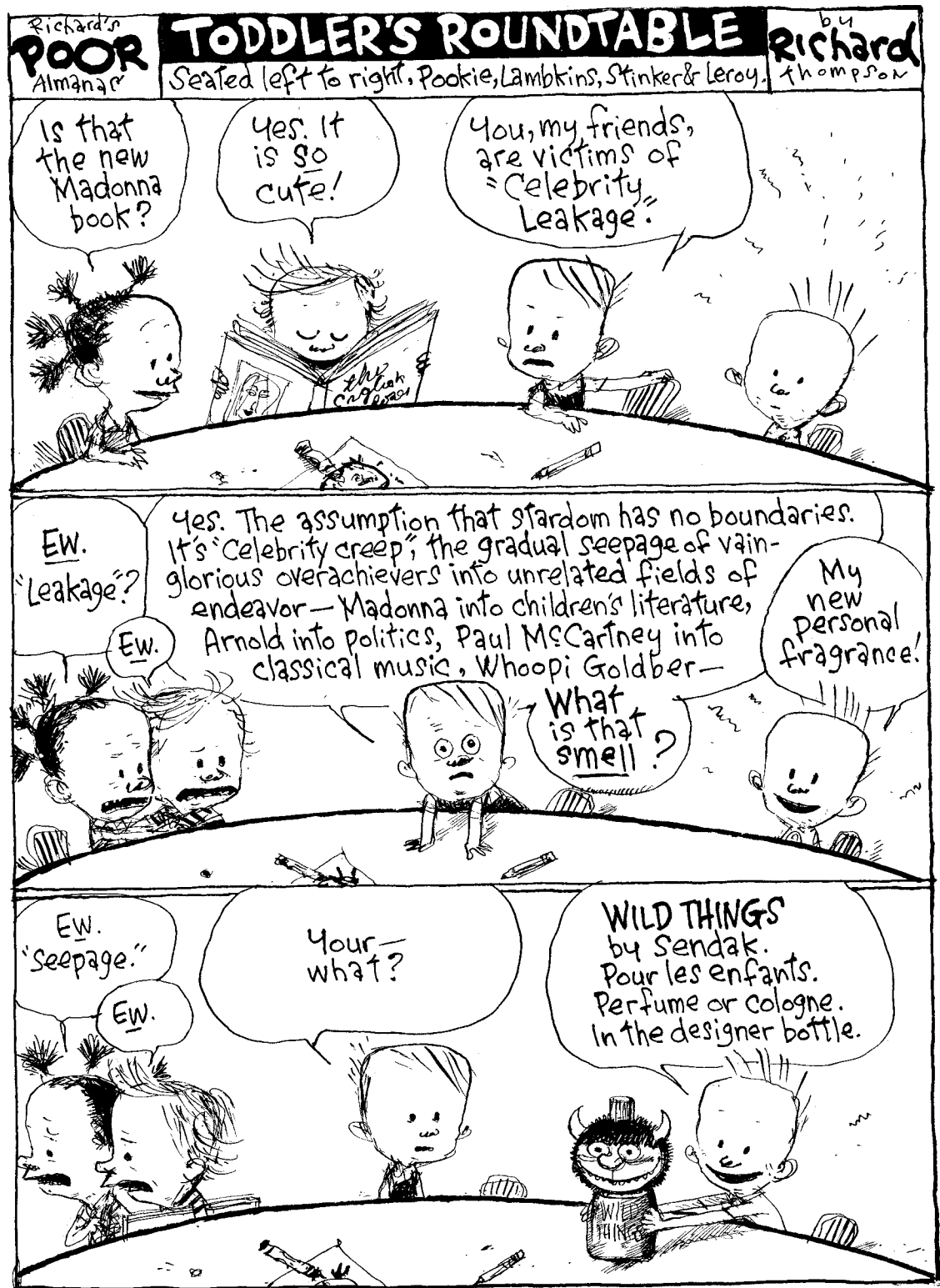
Results from Week 524, in which you were asked to scramble the words of any book or movie, and come up with a new product. An extraordinary week; great entries, and in great numbers. Good ideas too popular to reward with prizes: Ferris Bueller's Off-Day (a boring movie); Mr. Washington Goes to Smith (the father of our country as a cross-dresser); The Rye in the Catcher (a documentary on alcoholism in sports), and The Wrath of Grapes (various vegetal revenge scenarios).

- ◆ Sixth Runner-Up: **The Brief Pelican: Impressed with the success of the Aflac Duck, the Hanes underwear company signs a new mascot.** (Gene McMath, Reston)
- ◆ Fifth Runner-Up: **Kampf Mein: And other German-Chinese recipes.** (Bob Wallace, Reston)
- ◆ Fourth Runner-Up: **"Space A: 2001 Odyssey": Student filmmakers park a two-year-old Honda minivan in Daniel Snyder's reserved spot at FedEx Field and recount the action as it unfolds.** (Malcolm Fleschner, San Mateo, Calif.)
- ◆ Third Runner-Up: **"You Are 54: Where Car?": A senior moment strikes in a parking garage.** (Julie Thomas and Will Cramer, Herndon; Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)
- ◆ Second Runner-Up: **"French the Lieutenant's Woman": The enlisted man's guide to courts-martial.** (Frank Mullen III, Aledo, Ill.)
- ◆ First Runner-Up: **"Who the Man Shot Liberty Valance?": In this sequel, Superfly Valance arrives from Chicago to avenge his brother's death.** (Tom Kreitzberg, Silver Spring)
- ◆ And the winner of the log containing a diorama containing a plastic fawn: **"What? Did Daddy Do You in the War?": A young girl learns of her father's overseas affair when a Korean woman comes looking for him.** (Russell Beland, Springfield)

- ◆ Honorable Mentions: **Love Thing: A Many-Splendored "Is": Bill Clinton's guide through the pitfalls of romance and semantics.** (Mary Ann Henningsen, Hayward, Calif.)
- Dogs' Reservoir: Documentary on house pets and their fascination with drinking from the toilet.** (Kevin Doherty, Manassas Park)
- Heat Body: Episode 1 in the suspenseful trilogy "Reviving Ted Williams." Coming soon: "Episode 2: Attach Head."** (Jeff Kraus, Ashburn)
- The Red Man with One Shoe: The story of Nikita Khrushchev.** (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)
- OK Gunfight at the Corral: One thumb up for this B-movie western.** (Tom Kreitzberg, Silver Spring)
- Enemy Behind-Lines: A workout book to eliminate butt wrinkles.** (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)
- Asphalt the Jungle: Joni Mitchell's "Big Yellow Taxi" becomes a feature film.** (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)
- Powers of Austin Man: International Mystery: How the governor of Texas became president of the United States.** (Brian Lochrie and Jennie Reiff, Lake Forest, Calif.)
- Private-Saving Ryan: The touching story of a man who decided to wait till marriage.** (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)
- Ted's Excellent Bill and Adventure: A day in the life of a senator from Massachusetts who passes an important piece of legislation AND scores with an intern.** (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)
- Wrong! She Done HIM!: A Clinton apologist reviews the Monica affair.** (Chris Doyle, Forsyth, Mo.)
- F.J.K. : In this documentary, disappointed Harry Potter fans complain about the author.** (David Vacca, Washington)
- You Were Always Afraid to Know About Everything to Ask, But Wanted Sex: A teenage angst coming-of-age sequel.** (William Spencer, Exeter, N.H.)
- Out? No Way! : A biopic on the life of Rock Hudson.** (Glen Crawford, Germantown)
- From Dawn Till Dusk: The most boring vampire picture ever.** (Steven J. Allen, Manassas)
- Dalmatians 101: Everything you wanted to know about these fascinating dogs. In black and white.** (Marcia Asquith, Washington)
- The Lightness of Being Unbearable: The Richard Simmons story.** (Drew Knoblauch, Falls Church)

- The Virtues of Book: Bill Bennett's guide to Vegas gambling.** (Chris Doyle, Forsyth, Mo.)
- The Man Who Mistook His Hat for a Wife: The sequel to "Portnoy's Complaint."** (Jonathan Kaye, Washington)
- Big Wedding, My Fat Greek!: The behind-the-scenes story of Jackie's ultimatum to Onassis.** (Judith Cottrill, New York)
- The Titanic Raise: Dick Grasso's guide to negotiating your salary.** (Carl Northrop, Fairfax)
- Life: It's a-Wonderful: The Lawrence Welk Story.** (Joe Cackler, Falls Church)
- Stupid With I.M.: A sociological study on how computer chatting is ruining our children's minds.** (Kelli Midgley-Biggs, Columbia)
- She-Him Done Wrong: The true story of a botched sex change operation.** (Steven L. Harris, Mountain View, Calif.)
- Pizza Mystic: It's the mushrooms.** (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)
- Red! Blue! One, two . . . Fish Fish Fish Fish!: The complete guide to understanding quarterbacks' audibles.** (Russell Beland, Springfield)
- Phantom Wars Episode Menace the One-Star: A brigadier general tries to avoid becoming the scapegoat for America's failure to find the weapons of mass destruction.** (David Vacca, Washington)
- The Earnest Being of Importance: John Ashcroft's life and times.** (Jeff Brechlin, Potomac Falls)
- The Too Much Man: Who Knew! A jockey continually surprises his dates.** (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)
- Black at Bad Rock Day: A young African American tries to make sense of Ozzfest 2003.** (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)
- Can Me If You Catch: Charlie the Tuna taunts the Old Man in the Sea.** (Nick and Chris Sibilla, Reston; Michael Gips, Bethesda)
- Left? My Foot! The Democratic presidential candidates squabble over who's the most liberal.** (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)
- Escape From the Apes of the Planet: A single gal struggles with the dating scene.** (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)
- Blue Devil in a Dress: High jinks ensue when the Duke basketball team fields a transvestite power forward.** (David Vacca, Washington)
- Bride of the Father: The unauthorized biography of Soon-Yi Prewin.** (Larry Cynkin, Kensington)

Next Week: **The Odd Won Out**



MISS MANNERS

Judith Martin

Tipping the Scales

Going for tips is getting ever more aggressive. Even the generous among Miss Manners' gentle readers complain of feeling hounded.

Tip jars and saucers have appeared everywhere, from counters where pre-wrapped fast food is handed directly to customers, to private events where hosts who are paying the hired staff a service charge and tips on top of it little suspect that their guests are being targeted as well.

People on the receiving end are franker about stating the size they expect those tips to be and using embarrassment to pressure tippers into giving more. A particularly insidious technique in vogue now is to refrain from offering change and then loudly asking whether the customer wants it, as if taking the change would be a breach of manners. One gentle reader reports being asked if he wanted change after submitting a \$100 bill for a \$40 meal.

Those in positions that were never associated with tipping, notably the owners of establishments such as restaurants and hairdressing salons, are letting it be known that they would be far from offended by being treated like their employees when it comes to tipping.

Holiday collections are initiated by the would-be recipients, who are often not shy about announcing what is expected. Those who used to be tipped annually, such as newspaper deliverers, have added a line for tips on their monthly bills as well.

"I'm at my wits' end with the number of people expecting tips," writes one reader. "I know they deliberately underpay waiters and waitresses, so I don't mind leaving 15 percent (though I do mind that the standard, I've recently been informed, has become 20 percent). I don't like it—why don't their employers just raise the prices that much and actually pay them, so at least customers could make a reasonable budgeting decision upon ordering?—but I don't object."

"But on deliveries, I'm already being charged an extra fee. Why am I tipping on top of it? Maintenance workers are paid as well as I am, but I'm told that the reason my previous apartment was always in disrepair was that clearly I wasn't tipping the company's workers and it was revenge. Isn't that why I was paying a ridiculous rent in the first place? "Hairdressers? Please! They already overcharge, given that I usually just want a shampoo and a very basic trim. Bellboys? Cabbies? Homeless men who

decide to employ themselves opening doors without being asked? (I always say, "Thank you, sir," of course, but I don't expect a doorman at 7-Eleven and am not going to pay for one.)

"The situation is totally out of control. I can't seem to budget for a day out because I never know how many people are going to expect a handout along the way. I was chastised for being 'un-American' because I'm not willing to give people money for doing their jobs, but it was always my understanding that paying an agreed-upon fee was paying for services rendered.

"It's not as if the services are cheap, or I'm a member of some idle rich class that can afford to just throw money around to show my largess. Is there any way at all to stop this trend? Or should I just put a tip jar out on my desk at work to cover the tips I'm supposed to be giving everyone else?"

Miss Manners can comfort you only by reporting that it is the custom of tipping that is historically un-American, as American workers at all levels of employment used to consider themselves too dignified to accept tips.

Alas, the custom is now built into the pay scale of many jobs, and ignoring it would cut into the wages of those who can least afford it. For the others—those who have simply decided to trade their dignity for handouts—Miss Manners gives you full leave to refuse to succumb.

Dear Miss Manners:
I work at a small company that just hired a new truck driver to make our deliveries. This man always invades my personal space. Is there a way to kindly tell him to back off?

Impound his truck?
Wait, for a minute there, Miss Manners thought he was taking your parking space. If he is standing too close to you or hovering over your desk, it is you who back up or turn your chair away saying, "Would you excuse me, please? I have work to do."

Feeling incorrect? E-mail your etiquette questions to Miss Manners (who is distraught that she cannot reply personally) at MissManners@unitedmedia.com or mail to United Media, 200 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016.

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BRIDGE | Frank Stewart

Both sides vulnerable
NORTH
♠ A 9 8
♥ 8
♦ K Q 10 9 7 5
♣ Q 5 4

WEST (D)
♠ None
♥ Q J 10 5 4 2
♦ 8 6 3 2
♣ 9 7 2

EAST
♠ J 10 4 3 2
♥ K 6 3
♦ A 4
♣ 10 8 6

SOUTH
♠ K Q 7 6 5
♥ A 9 7
♦ J
♣ A K J 3

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠
Pass 2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠
Pass 3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠
Pass 4 ♠ Pass 6 ♠
All Pass

Opening lead: ♣ 2

One semifinal of the Spingold Teams at the ACBL Summer Championships matched two titans: Rose Meltzer's world champions against Nick Nickell's squad that has dominated the major team events for a decade. Both teams comprised top professionals who were being paid by their sponsor.

I'm guessing, but I imagine the total payroll amounted to hundreds of thousands of dollars. NICKELL was favored since Nick Nickell is a more experienced player than Rose Meltzer, but MELTZER won by 33 IMPs—about a touchdown in football.

Today's deal was crucial. When Alan Sontag, South for MELTZER, played six spades, West led a club. Sontag won in his hand, led a trump to the ace and returned the nine: ten, queen. South next led the jack of diamonds to dum-

my's king, and East took his ace and led a heart.

Sontag won, went to dummy with a club and led high diamonds. When East ruffed, Sontag overruffed, ruffed a heart and continued diamonds. East was helpless.

When he ruffed, Sontag over-ruffed, drew East's last trump and claimed.

East, one of the world's top players, beats the slam if he plays low on the second trump.

If South forces out the ace of diamonds next, East leads the jack of trumps, killing a heart ruff in dummy—an entry declarer needs to bring off his trump coup. (A heart or club also works.)

In the replay, six spades failed on a heart opening lead (although it can be made with any lead), giving MELTZER a big gain.

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