

The Style Invitational

Week 532: Short Pans



BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

**'The Sting': Just a B Picture**  
**'Citizen Kane': Welles' Farrago**  
**Fellini's '8 1/2': Nein!**

**This Week's Contest** was proposed by John O'Byrne of Dublin. John cited the famous three-word review by Walter Kerr of John Van Druten's play "I Am a Camera": "Me No Leica." Your challenge is to come up with a terse review (four words or fewer) of any work of art—film, book, whatever. As in the examples above. First-prize winner gets a package of edible napkins ("Shock your guests") made from potatoes.

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](mailto:losers@washpost.com). U.S. mail entries are no longer accepted. Deadline is Monday, Nov. 24. 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 Russell Beland of Springfield.

**Report from Week 528**, in which you were asked to give "Jeopardy!"-type questions to any of 12 answers we supplied.

◆ Third Runner-Up: (Answer: Daffy Duck but not Ariel Sharon) **Who might have Porky Pig for dinner?** (Dave Zarrow, Herndon)

◆ Second Runner-Up: (Answer: Anthony "Big Pancreas" Santucci) **On orders of capo Sal "The Gastroenterologist" Gastrone, which wiseguy was taken out?** (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

◆ First Runner-Up: (Answer: A toaster, Antonin Scalia, but not a Reuben sandwich) **What gets very hot when you push the right buttons?** (Joseph Romm, Washington)

◆ And the winner of the souvenir plate of Brunswick, N.Y.: (Answer: A toaster and Antonin Scalia, but not a Reuben sandwich) **What poses a severe risk of electrocution?** (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

◆ Honorable Mentions:



◆ **Who is even harder to find in The Post than a picture of Dennis Kucinich?** (Russell Beland, Springfield)

Benedict Arnold Schwarzenegger: **Which of George Washington's generals dropped his surname because "it sounded too Hessian"?** (Russell Beland, Springfield)

**What is the name of the breakfast dish made of poached eggs, hollandaise sauce and a huge slab of ham?** (Marty McCullen, Gettysburg, Pa.; Fil Feit, Annandale)

**Who joined the British after accusations were made by Martha Washington, Sally Hemings, Dolley Madison and Betsy Ross?** (Mark Young, Washington)

**Who is famous for saying, "I'll be backstabbing"?** (Seth Brown, Williamstown, Mass.; Chris Doyle, Forsyth, Mo.)

**What do the Shivers secretly call their son-in-law?** (Roger and Pam Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.; Chris and Nick Sibella, Reston)

**Whose plot to betray America was exposed by the capture of John Andre the Giant?** (Joseph Romm, Washington; Stephen Fahey, Kensington)

**Who said, "Don't fire until you see the whites of their thighs"?** (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

Yasser Arafat but not Daffy Duck:

**Who told Elmer Fudd to chase that "wascally wabbi"?** (Chris Doyle, Forsyth, Mo.)

Anthony "Big Pancreas" Santucci:

**Who is a master of gland larceny?** (Chris Doyle, Forsyth, Mo.)

**Which mobster is bitter because all the cool nicknames have been taken?** (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village; Mark Kipperman, Reston)

**Who invented the "Big Pan" pizza?** (Jim Holt, Washington)

**What was Tony "Sugar Lips" Santucci known as in his later years?** (William Spencer, Exeter, N.H.)

**Who is a better prom date than Nick "Massive Festering Goiter" Santucci?** (Jeff Brechlin, Potomac Falls)

Mary, Susan and Beyonce:

**What girls' names rhyme with "Harry's losin' a fiancee"?** (Seth Brown, Williamstown, Mass.)

**What were the most popular girls' names of the 19th century, the 20th century, and Aug. 7-9, 2003?** (Milo Sauer, Fairfax)

**If I'm only being paranoid, why is The Post running this anagram for "Candy-Ass Beary on Menu"?** (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

Only people who are very skinny:

**Did Jeffrey Dahmer ever meet any people he didn't like?** (Russell Beland, Springfield)

**What minority group will be completely eliminated from America by the year 2020?** (Mark Young, Washington)

**Who takes advantage of Virginia's new HOV-12 lane?** (Mike Hammer, Arlington)

Daffy Duck but not Ariel Sharon:

**On Saturday mornings, whom is George W. Bush most concerned about?** (Paul Hildebrand, Severna Park)

**Whose naked aggression usually engenders a response of amused tolerance?** (William Spencer, Exeter, N.H.)

**Who looks good in shorts?** (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

Loaves and Knishes:

**Name the humanitarian organization that feeds homeless Hasidic Jews.** (Phyllis Reinhard, East Fallowfield, Pa.)

**What got changed to "loaves and fishes" to make the New Testament "less Jewish"?** (Fil Feit, Annandale)

**With what did Jesus feed the multitudes, according to the Gospel According to Izzy?** (Peter Levitan, Sherman Oaks, Calif.)

It's like a peanut, only bigger:

**What is a big peanut?** (Josh Borken, Bloomington, Minn.)

**What is the Nietzschean ideal of an Ubergoober?** (Brendan Beary, Great Mills; Chris Doyle, Forsyth, Mo.)

**What do elephants dream of?** (Mike Genz, La Plata)

Hamsters, poi, and that Britney-Madonna kiss:

**What are three things that most 6-year-olds are not ready for?** (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

**What's Syrian, Hawaiian and French?** (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

**What's warm and fuzzy, moist and tasteless, and all of the above?** (Jose Cortina, Oak Hill)

A toaster and Antonin Scalia, but not a Reuben sandwich:

**What makes a sound that causes Clarence Thomas to leap up and respond immediately?** (Joe Cackler, Falls Church)

**What would Al Franken really not want to see beside him in the bathtub?** (Drew Knoblauch, Falls Church)

Because you have to have the right undergarments:

**Why do intelligence, talent and drive alone not ensure success as a White House intern?** (Chris Doyle, Forsyth, Mo.)

Next Week: **Four Lines, No Waiting**



MISS MANNERS

Judith Martin

Which Turkeys to Stuff?

**I**n planning family holiday dinners, figuring out the guest list used to be the easy part. For polite families, the answer to all the ticklish questions about whom to invite was always yes. A resigned yes, but yes all the same.

"Remember last year, when she drank too much and picked fights with everyone? Do we have to ask her?"

Yes, she's your aunt.

"Those children don't play fair and break all my things. I don't want them here."

Yes, but we have to have them just this one day—they're your cousins.

"After he complained that he hates coming into this neighborhood, and he brought his own food because he doesn't like ours, and he wanted to know why we didn't have a newer car, you said you'd never let him in the house again. Do you mean to say you are actually going to invite him?"

Yes, because it doesn't matter that I can't stand him; he's still married to my sister.

As Miss Manners looks back, those troubles seem minor. Current difficulties are more basic. The debate has become who is entitled to be considered part of the family and who is not.

"Look, I went along when you said we had to include whoever is living with a member of the family, but they're not even living together. Frankly, I don't think he's that serious about her."

"He says that his wife won't come if his ex-wife does, and then he won't come, either. But if we don't invite his ex-wife, she won't let the children come."

"Grandma says she might hook up with one of them but she hasn't yet decided which, and she wants to bring them both."

"Those are not her children, they're his, and he doesn't have custody of them, so that doesn't make them related to us."

On the surface, all of this seems reasonable. If it is accepted that family membership overrides difficulties and dislikes, one should be able to ban the unwelcome who are unrelated.

Yet defining the family in these complicated times leads to etiquette disaster.

Disputing eligibility for attendance at holiday dinners is only one way to produce feuds and hurt feelings. Every year, Miss Manners receives reports about festive gatherings at which certain people who were invited have then been shooed away from picture-taking sessions or omitted from exchanges of presents.

At the same time, she sympathizes with those who are expected to be blind to distinctions between relatives and those who may just be passing through. That

an intimate conversation might be conducted in front of strangers, and grandparent-size presents distributed to unknown children, does not make emotional sense.

Serious partnerships and step-relationships are recognized by society, which puts them in the category of "Like them or not, they're yours." But for those with families in flux, the compromise is inclusiveness tempered by the hospitality that ought to be offered to all guests.

They must be welcomed and drawn out, and not left out of the rituals. Exchanging presents should be postponed unless there is something for everyone there, although not necessarily full-family bounty. If there are photographic sessions, enough pictures should be taken so that no one feels excluded.

Those who resent having various attachments at family occasions should take comfort in knowing that this puts them in a new light for the relatives who bring them. In case of a family misfit, how gracious the family is may determine whether it is the actual relatives or the not-quite-relatives who are more worth keeping.

**Dear Miss Manners:**

**You know we spend the greater part of our time in our offices, and this has given rise to holding various celebratory events at the office. I am averse to any events at the office other than a welcome or retirement party and the employee picnic.**

**I just got an invitation to attend a wedding shower during my lunch hour. The bride-to-be, an employee of a subcontractor who works for my company, and I have never maintained any friendship outside the office. At most, we exchange hellos in the hallway and/or exchange documents, etc. I am at a loss here as to how to respond to this invitation. Do you have any ideas?**

Decline, politely, on the grounds that you have work to do.

Miss Manners notices that people are constantly citing work as an excuse to skip social activities, even in situations where they have far more obligation than you have here, including the obligation of having already accepted the invitation. Only in the workplace is this considered a bizarre reason for skipping a party.

*Feeling incorrect? E-mail your etiquette questions to Miss Manners (who is distraught that she cannot reply personally) at [MissManners@unitedmedia.com](mailto: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	♦ 8 4	♥ J 6 3	♦ A Q 8 2	♣ A 10 5 4
WEST	♥ Q 10 7 2	♠ A 10 2	♦ J 9 7 4	♣ Q 6
EAST	♠ J 9 6 3	♥ K 9 8 5	♦ None	♣ J 9 7 3 2
SOUTH (D)	♠ A K 5	♥ Q 7 4	♦ K 10 6 5 3	♣ K 8

The bidding:  
 South West North East  
 1 NT Pass 3 NT All Pass

Opening lead: ♠ 2

**T**he great Hall of Famer Norman Kay, who left us in 2002, was a meticulous declarer. Once, in an important match, Kay huddled interminably before playing the first card at what looked like a routine slam. At intermission his opponents complained to the tournament director.

"Look," they said, "he had no reason to think that long. Only a 5-0 trump break could endanger the contract."

The director went to Kay.

"Norman," he asked, "why'd you take so long on that deal?"

"I was wondering," Kay replied, "what I'd do if trumps broke 5-0."

A 5-0 break will occur about one time in 25. A 4-0 break is only 10 to 1 against, but today's declarer must consider that possibility. He wins the first spade and counts nine easy tricks if diamonds break 2-2 or 3-1.

Even if a defender has all four missing diamonds, South can pick up the suit if he cashes a top honor from the right hand first. So South must decide which defender is more likely to have four diamonds.

Is South's play a guess?

West's lead of the deuce of spades suggests a four-card suit. Suppose West were void in diamonds. Then he'd have at least five cards in clubs or hearts and would have led that suit after a 1NT-3NT auction.

South should cash the king of diamonds first, reasoning that only West can have four diamonds. When East discards, South can lead a diamond to the nine and queen, return a club to his hand and lead a diamond to the eight. He cashes the ace and gets back with a high spade for the last diamond.

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