

The Style Invitational

Week 535: Picture This



ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

This Week's Contest: Bob Staake has just learned some astonishing news. But since he is an artist, he is illiterate and can't tell you in words. So he is going to try to communicate through cartoons. Unfortunately, he is also a lousy cartoonist, so he isn't doing a very good job. Can you tell what news he is trying to pass on? Choose one or more. First-prize winner gets a pen belonging to The Czar of the Style Invitational. It says, "The Czar."

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, Dec. 15. 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 Thos. Witte of Montgomery Village.

Report from Week 531, in which you were asked to take an inspirational statement and express it with cynicism. We were in love with this one, until we learned it was not original: "There is no 'I' in 'team,' but there is an 'eat me.'"

◆ Second Runner-Up:

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. Of course, so does falling down a flight of stairs. (Richard Doty, Washington)

◆ First Runner-Up:

You can do anything if you want it bad enough. That is why we see so many people who can fly. (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

◆ And the winner of the CD of the Bob Graham 2004 "Charisma Tour":

Never say die. I've tried, and it doesn't actually make people die. (Tom McCudden, Durham, N.C.)

◆ Honorable Mentions:

Never underestimate your ability to overestimate your ability. (Donna Lewis, Vienna)

Laughter is the best medicine, but in certain situations the Heimlich maneuver may be more appropriate. (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

While others complain that their glasses are half empty, find joy in the fact that yours is half full. Just make sure it's twice as big as everyone else's glass. (Sebastian Hayman, Denver)

It takes a village to raise a child to hate all of the people in the next village. (Charles Star, New York)

Dare to dream the impossible. I mean, why not? Dreaming doesn't take any effort. (Beth Morgan, Palo Alto, Calif.)

Others see things as they are and ask, "Why?" I see things that were and ask, "Wow, where did you get this stuff?" (Beth Morgan, Palo Alto, Calif.)

Keep your chin up—the water's rising. (John Held, Fairfax)

Think globally, act like you care locally. (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

The key to someone's heart is never lost: It's just that the locks were changed 'cause you're some sort of psycho. (Jean Sorensen, Herndon)

You have to learn to crawl before you can grovel. (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs, you're probably the executioner. (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

Each dawn brings us a fresh start, because we never freakin' learn, do we? (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

You've got to kiss a lot of frogs before you find the prince. But he probably isn't going to be interested in some frog-kisser. (Amanda Richards, Palatine, Ill.)

Say not that honor is the child of boldness, nor believe that the hazard of life alone can pay the price of it; it is not the action that is due, but to the manner of performing it. You got all that? Me neither. (Chris Doyle, Forsyth, Mo.)

Every failure is a step to success up a ladder that will eventually collapse under the weight of all those failures. (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

True beauty is on the inside, where no one will ever see it. (David Iscoe, Washington)

One person can make a difference, if that person is, like, Bill Gates or whatzisname, the speaker of the House of Representatives. (Russell Beland, Springfield)

Every dog has his day. Of course, his day consists of smelling other dogs' butts. (Mark Briscoe, Arlington)

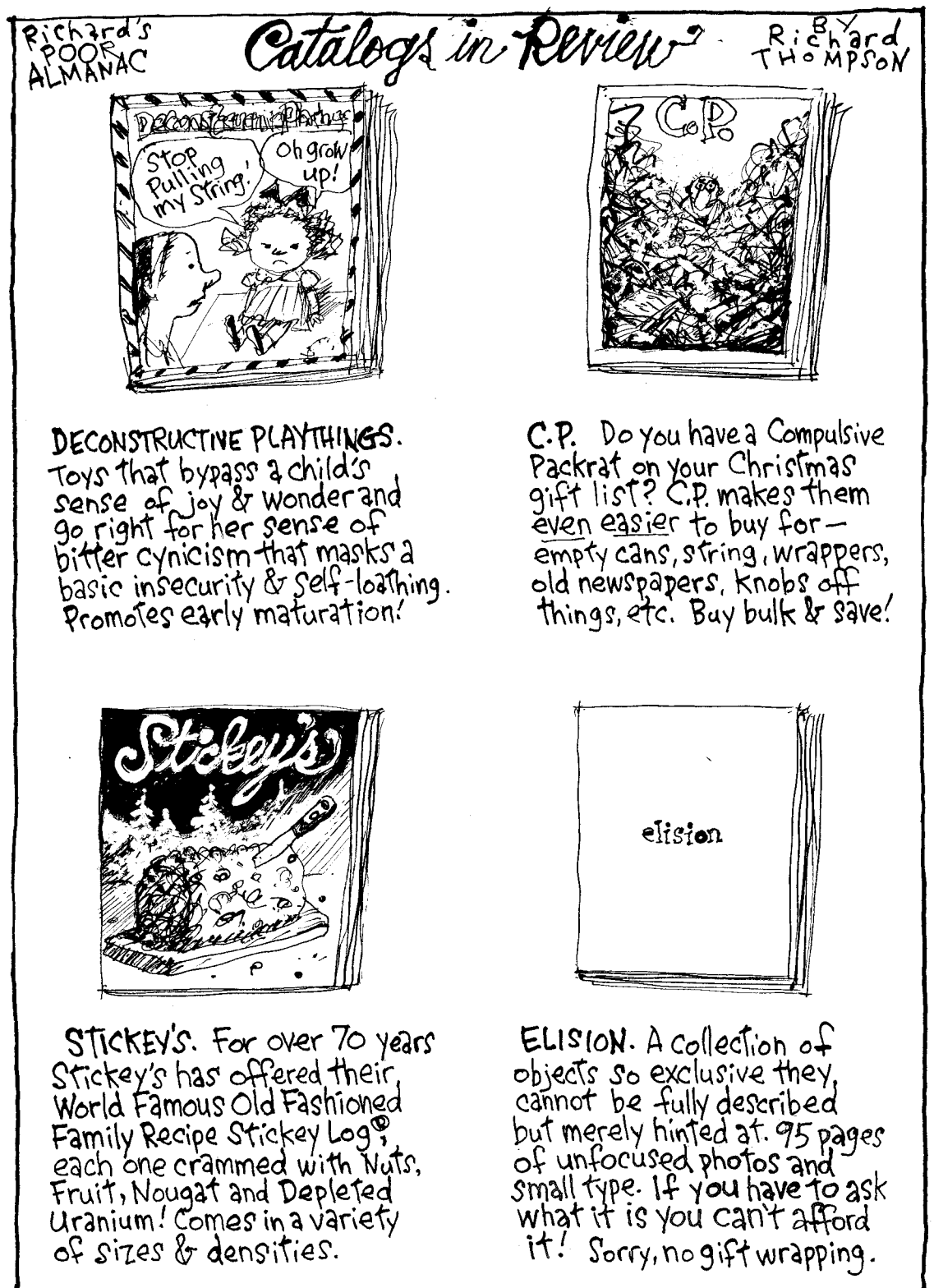
Aspire to greatness. But remember that no one ever assassinated a refrigerator repairman. (Bird Waring, New York)

A high tide lifts all boats, except those with a big gaping hole in the bottom. (Bobby Welsh, Annandale)

There are none so blind as those who have been in an accident at a fertilizer factory. (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

You can run but you can't hide, except apparently along the Afghan-Pakistani border. (Bob Wallace, Reston)

The early bird gets the worm. Of course, you can also get a worm by drinking a whole bottle of tequila. (Ben Schwalb, Severna Park)



DECONSTRUCTIVE PLAYTHINGS. Toys that bypass a child's sense of joy & wonder and go right for her sense of bitter cynicism that masks a basic insecurity & self-loathing. Promotes early maturation!

C.P. Do you have a Compulsive Packrat on your Christmas gift list? C.P. makes them even easier to buy for—empty cans, string, wrappers, old newspapers, knobs off things, etc. Buy bulk & save!

STICKEY'S. For over 70 years Stickey's has offered their World Famous Old Fashioned Family Recipe Stickey Log[®], each one crammed with Nuts, Fruit, Nougat and Depleted Uranium! Comes in a variety of sizes & densities.

ELISION. A collection of objects so exclusive they cannot be fully described but merely hinted at. 95 pages of unfocused photos and small type. If you have to ask what it is you can't afford it! Sorry, no gift wrapping.

DEAR ABBY

Dear Abby:

"Loving Grandma in Omaha" was unsure whether it was okay to still hold her 11-year-old grandson on her lap.

Her letter reminded me of the time my 10-year-old nephew and my mother and I were at a restaurant. (Mom had helped to raise him as a baby.)

Toward the end of dinner my nephew went to sit on my mother's lap. I asked him, "What happens when you're too big for Grandma to hold anymore?" Without blinking, he replied, "Then I'll hold HER." I had tears in my eyes the rest of the evening.

Commack, N.Y.

Smart child. That is what I used to do with my mother. Read on:

Dear Abby:

I was close to my maternal grandmother. Some mornings she would call my mother at 7 a.m. and tell her to take my temperature because I was sick. (She was ALWAYS right!) After I was 10 or so, I grew too big for her to hold, so I'd lie on the couch and put my head in her lap and she'd rub my neck and head.

She died just before my 13th birthday. I was in school, but I "knew" it had happened before I was told.

She had a wonderful Yiddish saying: "Tsuris [trouble] is what you get from children. Naches [joy] is what you get from grandchildren!"

Sentimental in New Rochelle, N.Y.

There's truth in those old Yiddish sayings. Here's another: "When a man who has been previously married marries a woman who has been previously married, four people go to bed." But I digress. Back to the subject:

Dear Abby:

I rocked my son when he was a baby. When he was 6 or 7, he began having minor problems at school. His teacher suggested that I start rocking him again. I did, and within a few days, his teacher began commenting on how much better behaved he was.

I did not rock my son to sleep. We used the time to talk.

TODAY'S HOROSCOPE | Jeraldine Saunders

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Feeling under pressure, as Pluto and the waxing full moon are indicating, you question your high goals. Diligence and persistence count when it comes to harvesting aspiration's offshoots.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You may have to outline your agenda more effectively when someone takes your talents for granted. It's unfair for others to expect you to be on standby for idle tasks—especially as you never shirk duties.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Are Aquarians unemotional? Altruistic and sympathetic to others' problems, you mask your feelings well. The waxing full moon projects your true nature, which may be overly sensitive.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Rumors and gossip can envelop you like a cloud. Be critical of what you hear. The royal road would be to trust your intuition. With charm, you can pave your path, at present at least.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You are put on alert. Perhaps you're starting a job or finding a new home. It's not a time to set limitations.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

With long-term prospects on your mind, you're not letting others know your feelings. It's your right to keep your emotional needs to yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

The moon entering your sign this morning has you looking at life from an unusual angle. The inner child has anticipations, but the adult you is somewhat

cynical. Asking the right questions is your prerogative.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

To look back at who gave you 100 percent support when in need, you must look in the mirror. Believe in yourself and the successful outcome of what you're about to be involved in.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Though your instinct is to offer moral support, you don't want to encourage someone to lean on you. Stalling support could be interpreted as being unfeeling.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Looking over your shoulder, you're unsure where the problem lies. It's that nagging feeling that something isn't right that gets to you. Martian energies need channeling. Capricorn has his or her own ideas.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

There's a cosmic plan with a new future awaiting. The turbulences you've experienced can be an important catalyst. It's a question of trusting and not controlling. Smiling can open doors.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Denying home truths when you know on inner levels you're playing dice could lead to a potentially embarrassing situation. Be on guard and express key truths in just so many words.

IF DEC. 7 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: You are sensitive, musical and artistic; you're a dreamer who often enjoys privileges and life at the top. Though you prize your own company, you'd make an excellent teacher. This year sees dreams come true with love and money in March, June and September.

Next Week: **Weeviews**