The Style Invitational

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST To a conservative, Cartoon C symbolizes how government bureaucracy creates a drag on the airline industry; to a liberal, it illustrates the right wing's blatant disregard for consumer safety. ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Week 646: Warped Perspectives

steemed (adj., syn: employed as a charity case) Style Invitational cartoonist Bob

"Robert" Staake offers these pyratical within a cartoonist Bob "Robert" Staake offers these puzzling scribblings. What to make of them? Depends on who you are. This week: Tell us how two different types of people, animals, organizations, etc., would interpret any of these cartoons.

Winner receives the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. First runner-up gets a prize that was actually awarded on Feb. 16, 2003, to Beverly Miller of Vermont: the Eggbutt Horseball, which is a ball that is a toy for a horse. (How the horse knows it's supposed to play ball, we don't know.) Anyway, Beverly had the misfortune of winning her contest under the Czar rather than the Empress, and so she never got her prize. Contacted recently, Beverly willingly offered it up again in exchange for a Loser Magnet and a \$42,000 settlement.

Other runners-up win a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt. Honorable mentions get one of the lusted-after Style Invitational Magnets. One prize per entrant per week. Send your entries by e-mail to losers@washpost. com or by fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Jan. 30. Include "Week 646" in the subject line of your e-mail, or it risks being ignored as spam. Include your name, postal address and phone number with your entry. Contests are judged on humor and originality. All entries become the property of The Washington Post. Entries may be edited for taste or content. Results will be published Feb. 19. 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 Douglas Frank of Crosby, Tex.

REPORT FROM WEEK 642

When the Empress asked for new, original words beginning with O, P, Q, R or S. As you'll see below, many of the entries turned out to be portmanteau words, or two words smushed together; or the old classic of an existing word changed by one letter. But there are also some that really matched the contest, like the first runner-up: They're words for concepts that cried out for a good word to describe them. Note: Many people sent in novel meanings for actual words (e.g., "Placid: A mild form of LSD," from Tom Witte of Montgomery Village). This was specifically forbidden in the rules. Because it is another contest. Save those entries for another time.

Scatalyst: Someone with the opposite of the Midas touch. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Scienara: A rejection of reason and evidence. "The Kansas Board of Education said scienara to evolution." (Jonathan Guberman,

The winner of the dreidel-motif hospital scrub shirt: Postrophe: A punctuation mark used to indicate plurals and third-person verbs. "Using lot's of postrophe's make's writing very good." (Steve Langer, Chevy Chase)

> AND THE WINNER **OF THE INKER** Oxymorose: Laughing on the outside, crying on the inside. (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

AND A DICTIONARY OF HONORABLE MENTIONS

Occupotion: That afternoon coffee that gets you through the rest of the day. (Michelle Stupak, Ellicott City)

Ogul: A bigshot in the porno biz. (Ed Gordon, Ashburn) **Onanotechnology: The latest in inflatable dolls.** (Chris

Doyle, Forsyth, Mo.) O'nyms: Pseudo-Irish names given to American products, like O'Doul's Fake Beer. (Kevin Dopart,

Oopsnoxious: Said of someone who "accidentally" bumps into women at a bar. (John Shea, Lansdowne, Pa.)

Oppository: What a Labor Party MP calls a Conservative. (Marty McCullen, Gettysburg, Pa.)

Orgas: An unpleasant end to what was promising to be a beautiful experience. (Dot Yufer, Newton, W.Va.)

Orgee: A revel at which no one was particularly enthusiastic. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Orifuss: Monicagate. (Michelle Stupak)

Ostentitious: Having Pamela Anderson-size implants. (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

Ovareasy: A very fertile woman. (Jonathan Guberman) Pachydermine: A fat lady in a fur coat. (Brendan Beary,

Parsehole: One who constantly interrupts a friend to correct their grammar. Excuse me, his grammar. (Brendan Beary)

Placcid: Soft and limp, but okay about it. (Paul Kocak, Syracuse, N.Y.)

Qaqa: Assessment of the CIA's Arabic translations. (Kevin Dopart)

Quipecac: Sick humor. (Tom Witte)

Pastriarchy: The upper crust. (John O'Byrne, Dublin)

Perfidiot: Someone who's both a backstabber and a moron. (Brendan Beary)

Presleyterians: They believe that God Is Love — a **hunka hunka burning love.** (Brendan Beary)

Prudendum: A flap that the city authorities made **strippers wear over their G-strings.** (John O'Byrne) **Punchkins: The little circles you pop out of paper to**

Pudjorative: A nasty comment about someone's weight. (Mary Ann Henningsen, Hayward, Calif.)

put it in a binder. (Ben Schwalb, Severna Park)

Rabbinicate: When a Jewish mother lectures. What. you thought she'd be pontificating? (Peter Metrinko

Ragony: Menstrual cramps. (Tom Witte)

Rectomb: A big soft cushion for parking your butt. (Stephen Dudzik)

Remedius: The return of a driving salute. (Helen and Paul Stone, Silver Spring

Renebriant: The hair of the dog that bit you. (Brad Alexander, Wanneroo, Australia)

Rhettorical: Not giving a damn about how your speech went over. (Michelle Stupak)

Rhinoblasty: A punch in the nose. (Greg Arnold,

Ringoligarchy: An organization led by its least

talented member. (Jonathan Guberman) Rototeller: Someone who enjoys dishing the dirt.

(Peter Metrinko) Roueh: A Canadian playboy. (Tom Witte) Sabbratical: What a schoolteacher needs every now and then. (Tom Witte)

Sanitarry: To spend too much time in the lavatory.

(Douglas Frank, Crosby, Tex.)

Sapphomore: A woman in her second lesbian relationship. (Kevin Dopart)

Scheisster: A really bad lawyer. (Dan Seidman, Watertown, Mass.)

Sensylvania: The state that voters in Dover, Pa., finally came to. (John Johnston, St. Inigoes, Md.)

Serendeputy: The only way Barney Fife ever managed

to capture a criminal. (Brendan Beary) **Shelf-gratification: Thumbing through the men's**

magazines at a newsstand. (Chris Doyle)

Shoddenfreude: The perverse pleasure one gets at seeing someone break a heel of her \$400 Manolos in a **heating grate.** (Chris Doyle)

Snackrifice: The act of buying something you don't want in the vending machine because it's in front of the item you do want. (Ben Schwalb, Severna Park)

Snideways: How one sneers at merlot-drinkers. (Tom

Stirruptitiously: How a gal got out of trouble before Roe v. Wade. (Steve Fahey, Kensington)

Sudokuku: Addicted to filling in numbers in little grids. (Pam Sweeney, Germantown)

Swain't: An ex-boyfriend. (Tom Witte)

And Last: Opicuarous: Containing the letters called for in this contest. (Mike Connaghan, Alexandria)

Next Week: Post Mortems, or Ded Poetry Jam

ASK AMY

Dear Amy:

I have been happily married for 20 years. I am 42; my wife is 44. We have two great kids. My problem is that for the

past five years our sex life has become a twice-a-year event and then only after I feel I force her into it. I do not mean rape or anything like that. I basically caress and massage her until she gives in. I would never hurt her and when she says, "Not

I am not expecting sex every day or even every week, but twice a year is crazy. We had a very active sex life early on. She has put on some weight (not a lot), but so have I (also not a lot). I think she is still beautiful. I would think most women would be ecstatic that their husband still thinks they are sexy in middle age.

I am supportive. I try to do the things I hear women say they need, like cuddling. massaging and listening to her problems. I do laundry, vacuum and help with the kids as

needed. I am tired of excuses. I have asked her many times what I can do to help and she says nothing, it's just her. I do not think she would even consider counseling over this. Ready to Cheat

Surely you can imagine that if your wife feels "forced" into having sex twice a year, then the other 363 days of the year she is wondering if you will attempt to coerce her again. I'm not blaming you for trying to get what you need, but it might help if you understand the type of pressure your wife might feel she is under. That pressure doesn't help her to feel relaxed and sexual.

I'm sympathetic to your problem, but you need to change how you are dealing with it.

You should assume that your wife wants to be happy, just as you do. Assume that she wants to love you in the way that you love her, but that there is something going on — either physical or emotional — that is preventing her from doing what you want her to do.

When you talk to your wife about counseling, you should tell her that you want to talk

about your relationship and that you hope to make your marriage stronger. A good counselor will help both of you to express your frustrations and feelings. Your relationship isn't only about sex. Unfortunately, her withholding and your methods of dealing with it are making it seem that way.

Dear Amy: My husband of 19 years recently had an affair. It was an emotional affair. Would you please explain what an emotional affair is and tell people that it is just as hard to recover from as from a sexual affair? It seems that everyone thinks it is not a big deal because there was supposedly no sex involved — at least

that's what my husband claims. I need some support, and most people do not understand how this could affect me so badly. We were friends with the couple and he had the affair with the wife.

Betrayed by Both in Illinois

An emotional affair is when someone falls in love with another person without having sex. Of course emotional affairs are painful, and if people in your life can't understand that, then they're just not trying hard enough.

Please become more assertive in getting the support you need to get through this. You and your husband should sit down with a counselor right away. You need to talk this out and listen to each other. Marriages can survive infidelity, but if you just "paper over" this scar in your relationship, you're going to continue to feel betrayed and misunderstood. You might benefit from reading, "NOT 'Just Friends': Rebuilding Trust and Recovering Your Sanity After Infidelity" by Shirley Glass and Jean Coppock Staeheli (2004, Free

Write to Amy Dickinson at askamy@tribune.com or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

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MISS MANNERS

Home Economics

hat particular kind of party known as a housewarming used to be a rare event, as Miss Manners recalls. Once, perhaps twice, in a lifetime, when people made what they deemed to be a permanent move, they would be eager to direct their friends to the address where they would be entertaining them from then on.

Pleased for them, the friends might bring the traditional, symbolic housewarming presents of bread and salt. They also might refrain from asking whether those little marks could be from termites and whether the neighborhood was safe. But that was back when people first had

to save up to make a down payment on the property. The idea of inveigling others to sponsor the move, via such maneuvers as the gift registry, had not yet surfaced. Miss Manners suspects that this break-

through was not unconnected with the burgeoning popularity of the housewarming party. Suddenly, housewarming parties are being given for every move, and not just temporarily rented quarters, but dormitory rooms and vacation sublets. A Gentle Reader reports being invited to a housewarming for a condo that the host had bought only as a quick-turn-around investment in which he never planned to live.

Normally, Miss Manners does not question the motives of party-givers. She has no patience with those who believe that people only finish school and get married for the sake of collecting dry goods from their hapless friends.

But when they name their parties after

present-giving events that have only the vaguest relationship to the situation, it looks suspicious. Furthermore, they don't keep their guests in suspense — they enclose their lists of presents they have chosen for themselves, but not paid for.

Miss Manners is not opposed to housewarming parties. As noted above, the proper motive for giving one is to show one's friends the way to the new dwelling. People who never expect to be entertained there again, either because they have never before been entertained by the new homeowners or because they are business colleagues rather than friends, may feel curious enough to attend. But they are not being invited in the true housewarming spirit, and they know it.

A passable motive is to show off. You probably didn't think Miss Manners would sit still for that one, but under the guise of hospitality and friendship, it is permissible to show one's intimates around the new home this one time. With any luck, that will head off the house tours that tedious hosts insist on giving their guests on other occasions, or that nosy guests may cheekily de-

Hoping to furnish one's quarters on other people's budgets is not a proper reason for giving a housewarming party.

But Miss Manners doesn't only hear about this issue from greedy people and their targets. Polite people worry that a housewarming party always looks grabby.

No, not if it is given in connection with a serious move for people who are likely to be going there often. Anything unsolicited they

choose to bring may be gratefully accepted. And if the house is not new but the guests are, it is still fine to give a party. Just forget that word "housewarming." It's a lot warmer, in that case, just to call it a party.

Dear Miss Manners:

My husband and I have been invited to the wedding of a childhood friend. We have a young child and inquired of the mother of the groom months ago if children would be welcome at the festivities. She told us that the bride did not want children and child care would be provided.

I thought this was a perfectly acceptable compromise. However, we just received the invitation and the reception card says "Adult Reception." We were planning on going to great

lengths to attend, but now we are so offended by the wording on the card that we no longer want to go. Is this acceptable? Was word of mouth not enough?

Not if they want to warn you that the content of their reception is — well, whatever the content is at adult bookstores and in adult movies. Miss Manners wouldn't know.

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.

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BRIDGE | Frank Stewart

Neither side vulnerable

♠ AKJ95 **EAST** ♣ Q8652 ♠ J9764 **♠** 1083 **♥** K965 ♥ Q10842 ♦ Q 10 2 SOUTH ♣ KJ3

WEST (D)

♦ 743

None

Pass

All Pass

The bidding: West North East South **Pass Pass** Pass Pass 5 NT

Pass

♣ A 10 9 7 4

♠ K 5 2

♥ A J 7

♦ 86

Opening lead: ♦ 3

s the game at the Mad Hatter's went on, Alice found herself trying not to of-I fend either of the Red Queens, who were kibitzing.

Their rivalry was bitter. "That greedy Queen of Hearts wants to win

a trick on every deal," the Queen of Diamonds whispered to Alice as the Dormouse dealt the cards, "but I know self-sacrifice is nobler."

The Hatter and the March Hare, North-South, reached a good slam. North's 5NT was the "Grand Slam Force," asking South to bid seven if he had two top honors in the agreed

The Dormouse pondered his lead, with the Queen of Hearts breathing on his neck, and tried the three of diamonds.

"Off with his whiskers!" shrieked the

Queen of Hearts. "Lead from me!" "Please, Your Majesty," Alice sighed.

The Queen of Hearts withdrew into a sulky silence, and the Hare surveyed his dummy. Since he had no side losers, the Hare planned a safety play in trumps. He would lead low from dummy at the second trick, and if East followed with the three, South would play the

If West could win, declarer could later draw

the last trump with the ace. But when dummy's ace won the first diamond, Alice, sitting East, recalled what the Queen of Diamonds had said — and she dropped her queen under the ace!

Now the Hare was afraid to adopt his safety play. If the Dormouse got in, he might give Alice a diamond ruff. So the Hare led a trump to his ace at Trick Two — and down he went.

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