

**THIS WEEK'S CONTEST**

## Week 725: Beggars For Description



NOT YET BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Harry Truman is at a table with Sally Forth. She is yammering, "So then Ralph said he thought the department should be reorganized and I pointed out that it was just like a man to blah blah blah . . ." Harry looks at her balefully. Above his head, in a thought balloon, is a vision of her chair, with a mushroom cloud over it.

- Old dog learns new trick.
- When Harry met Sally Forth
- "No, no, Sonia! It was supposed to be a harmonical!"
- Watson discovers Sherlock's secret.
- Bob just wasn't a "word person."
- The Founding Fathers wept.
- A small error in pronunciation can have huge consequences.
- Just remember, no underpants!

A few weeks ago, the Empress received an urgent communique from a figure in her distant past: the Czar of The Style Invitational, who was evidently getting a bit restless out there in "retirement" on the Siberian steppes. "I have a great idea for an Invitational," it burred with characteristic modesty. "It may be the best and most original and most fantastic in the entire history of the written word."

Yes?  
"What about a REVERSE caption contest? We supply the captions, they come up with what the cartoon should be (just a written summary). Staake draws the winner and runners-up."

The Empress expressed certain reservations, citing the well-established 1,000-to-1 word-picture-worth ratio and possibly using the words "idiotic" and "doomed."

**This week: Go ahead, prove the Czar right and the Empress wrong: Describe, without being boring, a cartoon to fit any of the captions given above, as did the Czar in the example above. Bob will indeed draw the winner and runners-up.**

Winner receives the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy, plus Bob Staake's signed pencil sketch of the winning entry. Runners-up get Bob's sketches of their entries.

**Honorable Mentions** (or whatever they're called that week) 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](mailto:Losers@washpost.com) or by fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Aug. 13. Put "Week 725" 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 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 Sept. 1. 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 Dave Prevar. This week's Honorable Mentions name is by Russell Beland.

**REPORT FROM WEEK 721**

In which we provided these four photos and asked readers to submit pairs of captions: one that would appeal to the wholesome, accessible sensibilities of the Harrisburg Patriot-News, and one that would appeal to The Style Invitational:



A BY MICHAEL WILLIAMSON — THE WASHINGTON POST



C BY FRANCISCO BONILLA — /REUTERS



D BY RICKY CARROTTI — THE WASHINGTON POST

**4** Photo D: Patriot-News: "Hmmm, smooth. Maybe I will switch to that four-track razor!" Style Invitational: "Idiot, you hide the Vaseline behind your own ear!" (Steve Fahey, Kensington)

**3** Photo C: PN: "I spy with my little eye . . . you!" SI: The latest in rapper bling: a \$2,000 Gucci leather snot rag. (Ned Bent, Oak Hill)



B BY ANDREW PROPP

**2** The winner of the macho Nestle Yorkie candy bar: Photo B: PN: It's the "X" men — up, up and away! SI: The government's new "Stop at Rail Crossings" campaign had some novel elements. (Russ Taylor, Vienna)

**AND THE WINNER OF THE INKER**

Photo B: Patriot-News: In the new "Little Mermaid" ballet, dancers do the "Starfish" piece. Style Invitational: In the new "Little Mermaid" ballet, dancers do the "Cod" piece. (Ben Aronin, Washington)

**THE PALE OF TWO CITIES: HONORABLE MENTIONS**

**PHOTO A:**  
PN: "We've got to stop meeting like this!"  
SI: "We've got to stop meeting like this. My horse is beginning to suspect." (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

SI: Mary was acutely aware that the new relationship was one of her last, best chances to avoid dying miserable and alone.  
PN: Mary had a little llama. (Elwood Fitzer, Valley City, N.D.)

PN: "Just between us girls."  
SI: "Dr. Dolittle never told you what else Pushmi-Pullyus have two of . . ." (D.L. Williams, Bethesda)

PN: That lady just made him one lucky llama!  
SI: Monica Lewinsky moves up in the world. (Russell Beland, Springfield)

PN: "Ewww! Hairy lips!"  
SI: The new Breathallama device twitches its floppy ears when it smells alcohol. (Martin Bancroft, Rochester)

PN: She nose I love her!  
SI: "Eat your own boogers, lady." (Martin Bancroft)

**PHOTO B:**  
PN: "Oh, oh, pick me, Miss DeMille!"  
SI: The FBI boot camp was supervised directly by Mr. Hoover. (Russell Beland)

PN: Up With People!  
SI: One of the controversial NRA shooting range target series. (Jeff Brechlin, Eagan, Minn.)

PN: If your shorts were that tight, you'd be jumping too!  
SI: The Romney campaign explained that the governor returned to square dancing the month after the photo was taken. (Larry Yungk, Arlington)

PN: Let me hear you sing it now: Y-M-C-A!  
SI: The finalists in the National Vitruvian Man Competition. (Richard Licata, Wheaton)

SI: Surveyed afterward, 95 percent of the "Family Feud" audience preferred X's displayed on the scoreboard, rather than this human version. (Martin Bancroft)

HP: The Patriot-News apologizes for printing the above photo in yesterday's Living section. The editor responsible is no longer with us. (Martin Bancroft)

**PHOTO C:**  
PN: The "nose" have it!  
SI: Rupert Harrison, of 378 N. Oak St., uses his own handmade disguise after budget cuts hit the state Witness Protection Program. (Peter Metrinko, Chantilly)

PN: "I can still see you!"  
SI: "I can beat you with one eye tied behind my back." (George Murray, Vienna)

PN: "I could have had a V-8!"  
SI: The Olympic Committee has ruled that Wen Liu did indeed cheat in the hide-and-seek medal round. (Dan Colilla, Pittsburgh)

PN: "Peek-a-boo, I see you."  
SI: "Aw, man, that's my brother dancing in Picture B." (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

**PHOTO D:**  
PN: Washington may have the Nationals, but Harrisburg has a baseball team called the Senators! (Though we're both in last place.)  
SI: After Congressional Night at RFK, Nationals players check each other for earmarks. (Michael Peck, Alexandria)

PN: A Nat swats a gnat.  
SI: The only solid hit the Nats got in all night. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

PN: What's wrong with this pitcher?  
SI: Viagra won't help, you fool. The doctor said you need a cochlea implant! (Martin Bancroft)

Next Week: Let's Play Nopardy! or Taising 'Nope for an Answer

**BRIDGE | Frank Stewart**

N-S vulnerable

**NORTH (D)**  
 ♠ A K J 2  
 ♥ K Q 10 8  
 ♦ 8 7 6  
 ♣ 10 3

**WEST**  
 ♠ 9 8 7 6  
 ♥ 7 4 3 2  
 ♦ A K 10 4 2  
 ♣ None

**EAST**  
 ♠ Q 10 4 3  
 ♥ A J 5  
 ♦ Q J 5  
 ♣ 8 5

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ 5  
 ♥ 9 6  
 ♦ 3  
 ♣ A K Q J 9 7 6 4 2

The bidding:  
**North** 1♥ Pass  
**East** Pass  
**South** 4 NT(1)  
**West** Pass  
 5♦ Pass 6♣ All Pass

Opening lead: ♦ K

Since Easley Blackwood devised it 73 years ago, the poor old Blackwood convention has suffered more abuse than all other conventions combined. Players use Blackwood when it won't tell them what they need to know. They use it when they aren't sure whether the agreed trump suit is sound. They use it when they lack a control in an unbid suit. They use it when the values for slam may not be present.

Today's South had solid trumps, controls and winners, but he ignored another Blackwood problem: His suit was clubs. When North was indiscreet enough to respond five diamonds, South had to bid a slam knowing he was off two aces.

At least he must have looked confident. West led the king of diamonds and, not dreaming East had an ace, continued with the ace. South ruffed and ran eight trumps, throwing dummy's hearts. With three tricks left, dummy had A-K-J of spades, and South had a spade and 9-6 of hearts. East kept Q-10-4 of spades, hoping West had a high heart, but South won the last three tricks with the nine of hearts and A-K of spades. Making six!

"Couldn't you shift to a heart?" East grumbled.

"I should believe the man bid himself to slam with two aces missing?" West replied.

"He wouldn't have used Blackwood with two low diamonds," East pointed out.

"He shouldn't have used it on the hand he held," roared West.

Unless you're as lucky as South, use Blackwood only when you can place the contract confidently no matter what your partner responds.

## Is the Chemistry There? We Mean Literally.

FISHER, From D1

**What chemicals do the Negotiator and the Director correlate to?**

The Director is the high-testosterone type. They're direct, they're decisive. They're tough-minded, they're competitive. . . . They have poorer people skills, which you would expect. And very fine spatial skills.

The Negotiator is associated with estrogen.

The characteristics associated with estrogen are, first of all, verbal skills. I mean, we know that. A woman's ability to find the right word rapidly goes up in the middle of the menstrual cycle when estrogen levels peak. . . . It's not just women, though. Men can have a lot of estrogen and be very much of a man.

**Hillary's a Director — which suggests she has a high testosterone level? Is that possible for a woman?**

Oh, yes, absolutely. You can be very high in testosterone *and* estrogen. Sure. As a matter of fact, there's all kinds of studies that show that higher-testosterone women tend to be less interested in home and family; they move into competitive businesses.

**And Bill Clinton? You said he is —**

Oh, I think he is an absolute cream-puff Negotiator. I mean, "I feel your pain?" That was a famous statement, "I feel your pain." Only a Negotiator is going to tell you that. He wants desperately to be liked by everybody. There's quite a bit of nuance to him. He can't stop talking.

**And you said that Negotiators and Directors**



Professor Helen Fisher says her survey can help determine whom someone will fall for.

tend to go together?

I've looked at 28,000 people on Chemistry.com, on the dating site. . . . Negotiators choose Directors and Directors choose Negotiators. It's quite staggering.

I think the reason is that they need each other's skills, and I think you can see this in Hillary and Bill. For example, the Director really needs the warmth and the nurturing and the people skills of the Negotiator. The Negotiator needs the decisiveness, the ambi-

tiousness.

**I think you mentioned in our earlier conversation that you had looked into Obama as well.**

My hypothesis is — and I hope you put these down as hypotheses — that he is an Explorer. And I think the secondary type might actually be a Negotiator. I'm not quite sure. He has an energy level that you almost can feel and he has an optimism that is very much the Explorer. He's very daring — I mean,

Dear Amy:

**I am a successful contractor, and one of my clients employs a woman 25 years younger than me. I have enjoyed working with her for four years, and I have earned a certain level of trust with her regarding our personal lives.**

**She has told me things about her family and social life that make me value the friendship. A couple of years ago, she went through a bad breakup with a boyfriend, and I noticed that she withdrew socially and isolated herself quite a bit. Thinking that she was just coming down with "bad breakup-itis," I asked her to lunch, to try to draw her out and get her back in the saddle. And I think it worked . . . sort of.**

**She has a new boyfriend, and he seems like a very good guy, but my friend seems to be drifting back into isolation again. I'm worried because she at one point told me that her mother was bipolar. I'm worried that, at 30, she may have this problem too.**

**She often seems depressed. She is pretty**

and is often very charming, but she can go into a funk for weeks at a time, and I want to talk to her about it. I am no psychiatrist, and I don't want her to think I'm analyzing her. At the same time, if she is having problems, I want to be there for her. I just don't know how to get her to talk about it. Any ideas?

*Older, But Not Too Wise*

I think you're plenty wise, and a good friend too. Friends can't be expected to diagnose or analyze someone else's depression or bipolar disorder. (Advice columnists can't do that, either.)

Good friends do as you are doing — observe, query and express concern. The best way to get your friend to talk about what's going on might be to do a version of what you did before. Take her to lunch and ask her how she is doing. She has been open about her family's mental health history, so it's acceptable for you to ask her about it.

Tell her, "I notice that you seem to be

withdrawing more recently, and I'm worried about you. Have you checked in with your doctor?" Sometimes, the best thing a friend can do is to say, "I'm worried; can you tell me what's going on?" Then listen patiently and without judgment.

Dear Amy:

**I am a 13-year-old girl, and I wear braces. Even though it's against school rules, many of my classmates chew gum in class. When I'm offered, I politely decline. When they ask me why, I tell them that my orthodontist says not to chew gum. Then my friends tell me it's okay if it's sugar-free.**

**My braces might be coming off soon. Until then, how do I deal with these "friends" who pressure me to do something that is wrong, according to both my dentist and the school?**

*Metal Mouth*

My understanding is that the objection to chewing gum with braces has to do with

gum's stickiness, rather than its sugar quotient (though the sugar isn't good for you, either). Regardless, this is good practice for some of the pressures you'll face as you get older. Trust me, there is always going to be somebody standing in the background of your life telling you to "just do it, because everybody else is." You don't have to explain yourself by saying that your orthodontist, school or mom doesn't want you to do something.

All you have to do is say, "No thanks" or "I don't want to."

Be strong and stand tall. Your pearly whites and strength of character will be evidence that you've made the right choice.

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