



**CAROLYN HAX**  
*Hey, jealousy. What's up?*

Adapted from a recent online discussion.

Dear Carolyn:

I usually trust my instincts, but lately I've noticed that I'm jealous or suspicious of most women in my boyfriend's life. Like, if they leave the room together I start to think they are up to something. This is obviously me and not him — any thoughts or suggestions with how to get over this and relax?

Wisconsin

It's not obvious to me that it's you. I do rant on a regular basis against chronic jealousy and those who try to justify it, but I am also a firm believer in trusting jealousy when it flares up in atypical ways. If you're not usually jealous but are now, then please look for the triggers — not just at your boyfriend's behavior, but also at your own mental state and physical health. If he's doing stuff that doesn't seem aboveboard, or if you're hormonal or under pressure, then all of those are quite capable of making you feel jealous, and are worth taking seriously. So please don't jump to I'm-the-problem forced relaxation. Take a good look at what the problem might be.

Dear Carolyn:

My mom hates my boyfriend and has told me, gently but firmly, that she respects my ability to make adult decisions; he is not welcome in her home. She tends to be very laissez-faire and has chosen not to be specific because she feels it would undermine my decision to be with him. I don't know if it was a psychological tactic or what, but the more she smiles and keeps quiet about her dislike, the more I feel I HAVE to know what's wrong. She is generally a good mom and a good person and I really trust her opinion. What can I do?

Louisiana

Wow, what a mind, uh, bender she is.

If she has a minor complaint about him, then banning him from her home is needlessly punitive.

If it's a major complaint, then refusing to speak up is putting you at needless risk.

So, basically, one of these two prominent people in your life is untrustworthy, and your mom has declined to empower you with the information pointing to which one it is. Wow again. You might want to run this analysis by her to see if it changes her mind on sharing her opinion.

And you might want to revisit the "good mom and a good person and I really trust her opinion," just to make sure you haven't missed something big.

Dear Carolyn:

Any advice for waiting for potentially bad news? My grandmother who raised me has to go into the doctor for her test results today and the hours seem to creep by with "what ifs."

Anonymous

Maybe it's exactly what you don't need to hear, but aren't we all just waiting for bad news?

Or, the version of it we choose to live with, so all our days aren't lived as you're living today. Aren't we all just enjoying whatever time we're allotted before the inevitable bad news?

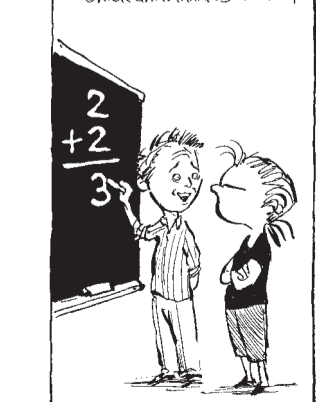
No matter what the test results say, your grandmother's place in your heart is constant, assured and eternal, and your time with her is limited. Take comfort in the former, and make the best of the latter.

Sending good thoughts your way.

Read the whole transcript or join the discussion live at noon Fridays on [www.washingtonpost.com/discussions](http://www.washingtonpost.com/discussions).

Write to Tell Me About It, Style, 1150 15th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20071, or [tellme@washpost.com](mailto:tellme@washpost.com).

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NICK GALLIFIANOS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

REPORT FROM WEEK 838

In which we sought captions for these drawings by Nonstop Art Generator Bob Staake: Because we just don't like making things easy for you, we didn't put any identifying letters on them at the time (they're there now, yes, we see that, thank you). We liked how so many Washingtonians matter-of-factly described the man in Cartoon E as "tourist." Everyone, of course, called Cartoon C the "rock station," and many Losers identified the man in Cartoon D as the head chef.

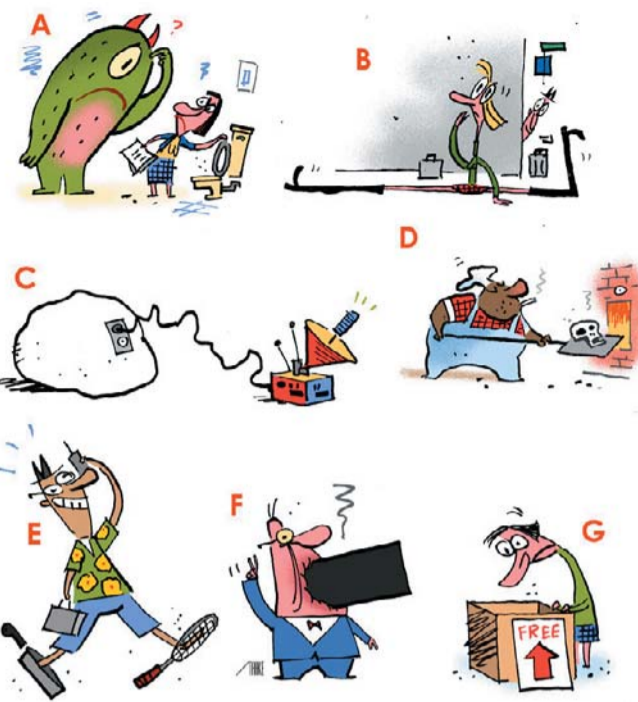


Cartoon B: When pantyhose decide to run on their own. (Andrew Hoenig, Rockville)

2 the winner of the bag of fake hair: Cartoon E: "Dress Like an American" Day is now an official French holiday. (Elwood Fitzner, Valley City, N.D.)

3 Cartoon A: Grzxoplpg still didn't get the rule: If it's shxkraszt, flush it fast. (Dave Zarrow, Reston)

4 Cartoon E: Distracted by his odd sartorial style and footwear, security completely missed the stick of dynamite in the terrorist's left hand. (Jeff Contompassis, Ashburn)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

RETCH-A-SKETCH: HONORABLE MENTIONS

Cartoon A: Eventually, young monsters will accept that there aren't any toddlers hiding in the toilet. (Jay Shuck, Minneapolis)

It was time, Mommy decided, to answer Benny's questions about where he came from. (Jim Noble, Lexington Park)

Gwendolyn was more upset by the lid being left up than she was at having had her blouse eaten. (Craig Dykstra, Centerville)

The Warner Bros. summer intern had hoped for a more glamorous experience than accommodating the extras from "Where the Wild Things Are." (Elise Jacobs, Silver Spring)

Cartoon B: This is why they don't let porn stars leave prints on Hollywood Boulevard. (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)

Trying her best to emulate Marilyn Monroe's billowing skirt, the D.C. resident forgot that while the New York subway blows, Metrorail sucks. (Peter Metrinko, Gainesville)

A very small audience saw

Twyla's interpretive dance about urban sprawl. (Larry Yungk, Arlington)

Cartoon C: Since the Predator attacks started, al-Qaeda karaoke nights have been thinly attended. (Elwood Fitzner, Valley City, N.D.)

In reaction to Iranian missile advances, Israel unleashed its new Matzah Radar. (Russell Beland, Fairfax)

While no life was ultimately found on Mars, they did find lots of conveniently placed electrical outlets. (Russ Taylor, Vienna)

No one will steal your satellite radio system when it's cleverly disguised as just another stone in your garden! (Russell Beland)

Cartoon D: The new cook misunderstood the word "scullery." (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

Alas, poor Yorick shoulda paid up. (T. Soprano, New Jersey)

Pizza Hut's new

Halloween-themed "Sculzone" wasn't as popular as they'd hoped. (Erik Wennstrom, Bloomington, Ind.)

Cartoon E: "You can't miss me — I'll be the one with the cellphone." (Judy Blanchard, Novi, Mich.)

Bob never lived down the fashion faux pas of wearing a fedora with casual clothes. (Bruce Alter, Fairfax Station)

Orly Taitz's crack Hawaiian birth certificate investigator, hot on the case. (Pam Sweeney, St. Paul, Minn.)

No scientific study has conclusively shown a link between cellphone use and brain damage... (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

Cartoon F: George W. Bush spoke only once to the National Galoshes Association. (Elwood Fitzner)

The congressman was finally forced to eat his words, but in the interest of national security they were redacted. (Carl Gerber, Annandale)

The trunks on some of these

new compact cars aren't big enough to carry a spare. (Mel Loftus, Holmen, Wis.)

Fed up with humanity, the "2001" monolith destroys the world, starting with campaign speeches. (Ned Bent, Oak Hill)

Cartoon G: Cathy isn't sure what's more upsetting: to discover a box of nude photos of her, or to discover nobody wants them. (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

"They may be free, but they're still maggots." (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

Angela was uncertain about bringing home another tchotchke, but the Nobel Peace Prize did have a pretty ribbon. (Jeff Hazle, Woodbridge; Sneha Kannan, Cambridge, Mass., a First Offender; Alexander Ring, New York, a First Offender)

Next Week: Overlap Dance, or Lexiconsolidation

Online discussion Have a question for the Empress or want to talk to some real Losers? Join the Style Conversational discussion at [washingtonpost.com/styleconversational](http://washingtonpost.com/styleconversational).

Q&A: DAVID ADAMSON

Technology helps, but digital photography is still an art

BY BLAKE GOPNIK

Over the coming days, as art lovers take in the hundreds of images mounted around town at FotoWeek D.C., most of them will probably look a fair amount like photos always have. The technology used to produce them, however, will almost certainly be new. They will have been shot and printed digitally.

David Adamson, a 58-year-old Englishman, played a part in that change. Twenty-five years ago, as a budding computer geek, he got his hands on what he thinks was the first Macintosh computer in the District — bought, Adamson says, in the vacuum-cleaner section of Hecht's department store, with money he made working as a skilled lithographer. He never imagined the future it would bring.

Even a decade later, when Adamson became one of the first people in the country to make digital art prints, he didn't think the technology would ever be within the means of amateurs. His first digital printer, built around the complex Iris technology, cost him \$150,000, and he paid for it by making prints for some of the biggest names in contemporary art and photography: Chuck Close (his first star client), Robert Rauschenberg, Kiki Smith, Jenny Holzer, Annie Leibovitz. "We were the only game in town — in the country! ... In the pantheon of artists, I guess I've worked with most of them." (Such art-stars still travel to Adamson Editions in downtown Washington for his services.)

Now that printers can cost a thousand times less than they used to, and any hobbyist can turn out an impressive image, I asked Adamson about the ubiquity of digital photography, its virtues and pitfalls.

Here is some of what he said: **What do you see as the biggest benefit of digital photography?**

You used to go out with a camera with 35 shots in it, so you had to consider each shot — a lot of people think that was a very good thing. Yet the other side is also true: If you had thousands of shots, you could shoot limitlessly, then go back and edit and cull out the best, whereas considering each shot might stop you from making the perfect shot —



JUANA ARIAS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

IMAGE ENHANCEMENT: David Adamson, a master printer who works with photographers such as Annie Leibovitz and Chuck Close, has seen digital photography through every step of its evolution.

that's my belief. The best thing about digital is that you can just shoot hundreds and hundreds of images and then at your leisure go back and pick out what you felt were the best shots, or the best accidents.

**What are the biggest benefits of digital printing, specifically?**

In digital, you can go down to the pixel level, and control the density and contrast and brightness and sharpness throughout the film plane. So you have absolute control over an image.

**What is the most common flaw you see in digital printing?**

Over-processing — you have the facility to control all the mi-

nutiae, and some people run wild with it. And gradually the image gets eroded by the constant processing, by the backwards and forwards of playing with light and contrast, sharpness and blurring. And finally the image becomes quite obviously digitally manipulated.

**Is there too much digital retouching?**

We did definitely go through a period where, "Wow, I can put this person here" or "I don't like her head there, but I like her body in this shot. Let's swap." I think people are pulling back to a more honest way of shooting, and only using [retouching] in

extreme situations, where something has to be fixed, or something has to be taken out. I'm seeing less and less of what was overtly collaged together, and a return to a more honest look.

**Now that everyone can make a decent print at home, why do you still have work?**

I remember being invited to Vienna, Austria, to see the first Epson [inkjet] printers. It must have been around 2002. At that time I have five Iris printers, maybe \$700,000 in equipment — no one else does, because who's crazy enough to do this? And then I go out, and see these printers that are producing images

Week 842: Ask backwards

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

- Only with the public option
- Bo Obama's chew toy
- A Hefty drawstring balloon
- William Shakespeare's Flying Circus
- What an unfortunate URL!
- A rectangle and its father
- The Beltsville Kazoo and Drum Corps
- Not even at Walmart
- A bad color name for GM's electric car
- 349 Facebook friends
- Squeeze relish
- The new Loser T-shirt and two magnets

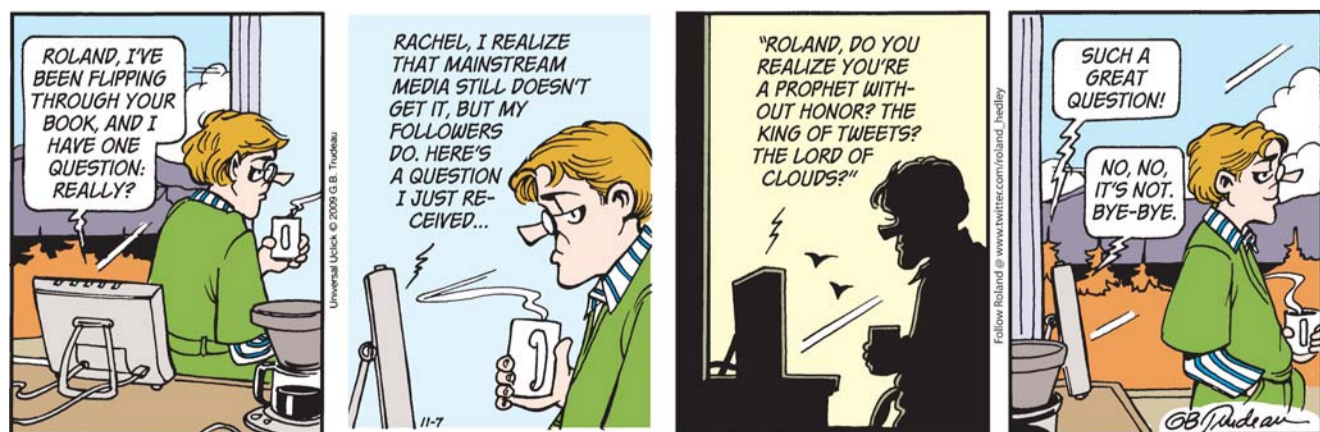
Week 842: Ask backwards again: Here are your 12 possible answers. Tell your joke in the form of a question, please.

Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place gets a vintage large plastic cow that wears clothes and, of course, noisily performs the Mexican Hat Dance. Donated by Cheryl Davis, an amazing font of prize-perfect kitsch. Because You Can Find Everything on the Internet, there is actual video of a cow just like this one doing this dance (you can find it on the online version of this column at [washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational](http://washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational)). We expect thousands of Losers to beg us not to find their entries the best, but to like them only, exactly, second best. Other runners-up win their choice of a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt or yearned-for Loser Mug. 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](mailto:losers@washpost.com) or by fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Nov. 16. Put "Week 842" 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. Results may be edited for taste or content. Entries will be published Dec. 5. 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 results is by Larry Yungk; this week's honorable-mentions name is by Pete Morelewicz.

FotoWeek D.C. continues through Nov. 14 at venues all across Washington. Call 202-337-3686 or visit [www.fotoweekdc.org](http://www.fotoweekdc.org).

ON WASHINGTONPOST.COM To see David Adamson's expert diagnosis of common flaws in digital photography, visit [www.washingtonpost.com/museums](http://www.washingtonpost.com/museums).

DOONESBURY BY GARRY TRUDEAU



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KURT VILE, BY ANY OTHER NAME His slow-burning show Thursday night at Black Cat has a nice paint's-still-wet feel. [voices.washingtonpost.com/postrock](http://voices.washingtonpost.com/postrock).

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