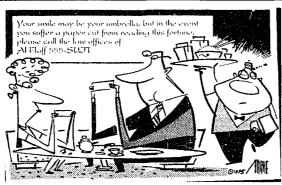
The Style Invitational WEEK 102: HELP! I'M A PRISONER IN THIS CONTEST

You will win the lottery, and then die. Your lucky numbers are 12, 23, 9, 38, 17 and 40.

This restaurant never serves cat meat. To our knowledge.

You must find the jacle monkey to save the Pu Ping Dynasty.

This Week's Contest was suggested by Joseph Romm, of Washington, who wins a picture of a really fat guy, and simultaneously by Bill Steinmetz, 13, of McLean. Bill wins a fabulous 1965 Pickett slide rule. Bill and Joe suggest coming up with fortune cookie messages that you would love to see, but never will. First-prize winner gets a pair of green and yellow feathered maracas Carmen Miranda would have rejected as too ostentatious, a \$40 value. Runners-up, as always, get the coveted Style Invitational losers' T-shirts. Honorable mentions get the mildly sought-after Style Invitational bumper stickers. Winners will be selected on the basis of humor and originality. Mail your entries to the Style Invitational, Week



BY BOB STARKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POS

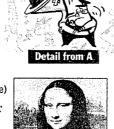
102, The Washington Post, 1150 15th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20071, fax them to 202-334-4312, or submit them via the Internet to this address: losers@access.digex.net. Entries must be received on or before Monday, March 6. Please include your address and phone number. Winners will be announced in three weeks. Editors reserve the right to alter entries for taste, appropriateness or humor. No purchase necessary. Of course last week was no mistake, you chowderheads. It was a Rorschach test for humor. The Style Invitational never makes mistacloudy with brief periods of rain.

SHENNYW SSIW Prices may vary outside Metropolitan Washployees of The Washington Post and their immediate families are not eligible for prizes.

REPORT FROM WEEK 99,

in which you were asked to find what was wrong with any of three pictures.

- ◆ Third Runner-Up: (Picture A) Although the tuba is stuffed with a man's torso, the little notes indicate that the player is making musical sounds somehow. You people are absolutely disgusting. (J. Calvin Smith, Laurel)
- ◆ Second Runner-Up (Picture B) No pitchfork. (Linda K. Malcolm, Silver Spring)
- ◆ First Runner-Up (Picture B): I never really cared for Hillary's personal style during the Arkansas years. (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)
 - ◆ And the winner of the copper outhouse music box: (Picture B) After having posed 30 straight days for the great artist, the woman seemed serene and surprisingly free of infections. (George Wills, Blacksburg)











♦ Honorable Mentions:

Picture A: There is a pig flying. As the Style Invitational has yet to show a sign of good taste, pigs should not have flown yet.

The newsboy cannot be selling The Washington Post, because the headline would be "Feds Register Concern Over Beverage Ramifications." (Jennifer Hart, Arlington)

Picture B:

It's a brilliant forgery, but to fool the experts it should be a bit larger. (Russ Beland, Springfield)

Fashion no-no: Failure to accessorize. (Linda K. Malcolm, Silver Spring)

Leonardo da Vinci could not have painted a portrait of L. Edgar Hoover since da Vinci died a few hundred years before Hoover was even BORN. (Russ Beland and Jerry Pannullo, Springfield)

Insert credit line to avoid artist's lawsuit:

BY LEONARDO DA VINCEFOR THE WASHINGTON POST. (Ken Krattenmaker, Landover Hills)

Picture C

The cabbie in the lower right-hand corner speaks fluent English (Kurt Beals, Staunton) No one has any feet. Shoe City would have folded months ago. (Ken Krattenmaker, Landover Hills)

◆ And Last:

(All pictures) They're damp, smeared and torn. You tell the delivery person to wrap my Sunday paper in one of those damn plastic bags or I cancel my subscription. (John Kammer, Herndon)

Next Week: The Joke's On You

Horoscope

By Sydney Omarr

Aries (March 21-April 19); Reflect on achievement, prepare to take cold plunge into future. By tomorrow you will be on the stump, garnering adherence, advancing professionally and creating aura of personal happiness

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Moon leaving Capricorn represents upturn of cycle—soon everything you wish for could be fulfilled. Includes travel, romance, added recognition, Libra plays role.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Gain added wisdom by studying Aries, Taurus messages, Answer: You're ready for fresh start, different direction, independence, a different kind of love. Check travel agent first thing tomorrow!

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Intuitive intellect works overtime. Grasping relative or associate wants more than fair share. Legal obstacle removed almost as if by magic-Monday. Aquarian figures in scenario.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Diversify, entertain, keep antenna up to re-ceive subtle hints relating to overseas market. Contract being pre-

pared, might be presented to you late afternoon Monday. Gemini is represented.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Revise, review, rebuild, let others know you will fight if cause is right. Scorpio plays key role, could have these letters, initials in name: M, V, D. Proofread with care! Pays off!

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Obtain valid hint from Virgo message. Share information, report and photograph, be alert to current events. Scenario highlights flirtation, chance meeting, physical attraction. Gemini involved.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Focus on music, design, color, domestic adjustment involving lifestyle, residence, marital status. Building report due, will verify views. Taurus,

Libra persons in picture. Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Relative speaks up! You'll be told in no uncertain terms by younger relative, "You try to do too much and better listen to me!" Your reaction one of amusement, surprise. Okay!

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Emphasis on time, responsibility, controversial relationship. Money picture brightens, you'll get refund,

you'll also know you are not alone. Another Capricorn plays major

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It's finished! Avoid being trapped by petty annoyances, red tape—give attention to current project that could open markets overseas. Love relationship picks up steam. Whew!

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Obtain hint from Gemini message. What was held back will be released in your name-could result in sizable profit. Answer: Yes, get started in new direction, accent

creativity. Inspiration! If Feb. 26 is your birthday: You are stubborn, loyal, creative, con-troversial, when chips are down you are up—the word "surrender" is not in your vocabulary. Capricorn, Cancer persons play fascinating roles in your life. You might appear distant, coarse on the outside but inwardly you are sensitive, psychic. You are drawn to secret missions, photography, spy thrillers. During March, you'll experience thrill of discovery, joy and pain of new love. October also memorable.

© 1995, Los Angeles Times Syndicate For a detailed horoscope from Sydney Omarr, phone 900-656-8488. The cost is \$1 a minute; average call lasts four minutes.

MISS MANNERS

Nonnegotiable at the Table

By Judith Martin

t's a sad commentary on the state of modern manners that the dinner table is regarded less as a succulent scene than as a social booby trap. What is all that stuff?

Miss Manners sometimes ponders such a question herself, but only in regard to the food. Between today's adventurous cooks and analytical eaters, there's some weird-looking stuff appearing.

Everything else on the table is just equipment to eat it with, along with a few decorative touches. That shouldn't be frightening. It's designed to feed you, not test you. And it's supposed to be appetizing, not off-putting.

This is why although originality counts, it usually counts against. Digestion being a complicated enough process, everything on the table should be decipherable.

It is all very well to spend hours constructing centerpieces of tiny golf courses with living grass, or chase scenes made with the children's action figures, but there is a great deal more to be said for flowers, and even more for fruit, which can be eaten afterward, or even instead of the sweet dessert. (Notwithstanding people who oddly respect the chastity of parsley and garnishes carved to look like flowers, all food that appears on the table is considered fair game, as it were.)

Candlesticks should appear only after dark, when their presence is explicable. Napkin rings, however whimsical, should be used when necessary to identify napkins for reuse. Salt, in shakers or more formally in cellars with wee spoons, should be within reasonable reach.

Ashtrays now serve the purpose of dividing the diners into opposing, enraged camps, which is why they have entered peacetime service as candy or nut dishes. Menu stands, however, should have a new lease on life, as they enable people to forage for food to which they have no moral, religious, medical or philosophical objections. Place cards not only mean that the hosts' memories will not be taxed in telling guests where to sit, but that guests who have forgotten one another's names can sneak a quick look, and strangers who fall in love at the table can write their telephone numbers on them.

In the basic setting, you probably know that the plate in front of you and the napkin on it are yours. But there seems to be some confusion about what is farther afield, and one person going in the wrong direction can throw off an entire table. The glasses assigned to you are on your right, and you may plop bread or salad-not both unless you like oily bread-on any little plates you find on your left at informal meals.

The flatware issue is the emotional one, Miss Manners realizes, although she has never understood why. Most pieces give at least a hint of their function-the salad fork has a cutting edge on the side, and the fish knife has a bone-picking point on the end-but in any case, they are all sensibly lined up in the order they should be used.

Forks are put on the left, in strict outside-to-inside order of use; their matching knives are in the same order to the right, and first course utensils-soup spoons or oyster forks-are to the right of the knives. Anything above the plate is dessert silver, its handles facing in the direction from which it would have traveled had it gone upward from plate-side.

So what's the problem? People who run out of silver prematurely don't arouse the hostess's scorn-only the worry that she set the table wrong, or that she should install a metal detector by the door as the guests leave.

As for sneering waiters, there should be some relief in knowing that restaurant tables are inevitably set wrong, because the setters cannot know in advance what the diners will be eating. That's why restaurants serve salad before main courses, unlike the usual practice in private houses where there is no need to stave off starvation because dinner is already cooked.

Besides, restaurants are sadly deficient in fish knives, and they succumb to a peculiar but widespread teaspoon fetish—the belief that every place setting requires one, and that it can be used instead of a larger soup or dessert spoon. Teaspoons belong on the saucers of cups.

However, there are only two simple things one needs to manage any restaurant meal correctly. One is the knowledge that big utensils are used for main courses and small ones for small courses; and the other is the courage to summon a waiter and say, "I don't believe I have a fork for this," even if the reason is that you dropped it on the

Miss Manners hopes she has made all this sound as easy as pleasant eating should be. But not so much so that the concept of practicality is thrown back in her face, an unseemly procedure at table.

No, no, no--you cannot put mustard jars, pickle bottles, cream containers, packages of crackers, boxes of cereal, plastic honey or syrup bottles, take-home covered food trays, Chinese carry-out cartons, pizza boxes or any other commercial container on any table, even a breakfast table. Not if you want to consider yourself civilized.

Never mind that this is the fast, sensible, easy, practical way to serve things. Miss Manners has been talking about setting a table, not a trough.

© 1995, Judith Martin

Datebook

The Season Marches On

By Robin Groom

Winter-to-spring parties.

March 1—The National Democratic In-March 1— The National Democratic in-stitute for International Affairs dinner hon-oring South African First Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine K. Albright is at the Omni Shoreham. Tickets: \$750. Call 202-328-3136.

the unit shorenam. Terkets: \$750. Cail 202-328-3136.

March 2—The Howard University Charter Day dinner honoring six distinguished alumni—John F. Clark Jr.; Barbara Rose Hatton; Robert Lee Moore Hilliard; Elaine R. Jones; Jeanne C. Sinkford and Togo West—is at the Washington Hilton, Tickets: \$250. Cail 202-806-2180.

March 3—Nobel laureate Toni Morrison will read from "Paradise," her novel in progress, at the Howard University Department of English's gala dinner to endow the Sterling Allen Brown Professorship. The dinner is at the University's Armour J. Blackburn University Center. In the 1940s at Howard, Brown inaugurated the first

Blackburn University Center. In the 1940s at Howard, Brown inaugurated the first formal study of African American literature. Tickets start at \$100. Call 202-806-6730.

The Washington Project for the Arts will hold a members opening for "Superbia," the Options '95 Biennial Exhibition of Emerging Artists. The exhibition opening party (with performances from Bang Bang Machine and Lickety Split) and band party (with the zinmermans, 3 Levels of Genius with the zimmermans, 3 Levels of Genius and the Delta '72) benefits the WPA's 20th Year Anniversary Fund & Celebrations.
Contributions required from nonmembers to the opening (contribution unspecified) and the band party (\$5). Call 202-347-4813.

The American Cancer Society's Bache-The American Cancer Society's Bache-lor/Bachelorette Auction is at the Pooks Hill Marriott in Bethesda. The evening also includes a silent auction, music and danc-ing. Tickets: \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Call 301-933-9350.

March 4—The Hexagon Club gala be-March 4—The Hexagon Club gala begins with a buffet dinner at the Car Barn, followed by a performance of "Hexagon at 40: Faze the Nation," a political, satirical musical comedy revue, at the Duke Ellington Theater, followed by a dessert reception back at the Car Barn. The show, which runs March 1-25, benefits the D.C. Central Kitchen/Capital Area Community Food Bank. Gala tickets: \$75. Show tickets: \$15. Call 202-333-SHOW.

The National Kidney Foundation's au-

Call 202-333-SHOW.

The National Kidney Foundation's authors luncheon with Lindy Boggs, Ronald Kessler, Connie Briscoe and Jan Pottker is at the Holiday Inn Bethesda. Tickets: \$35 in advance; \$40 at the door. Call 202-244-7900.

"Pop Goes the Corcoran," a Beaux-Arts masquerade ball at the Corcoran Gallery of Art saluting the pop art movement, is sponsored by the 1869 Society—the gallery's young-adult group—and the Corcoran School's student council. Music by Soul Crackers, a sale of handmade Venetian masks and a raffle are all part of the evening, which benefits the school's scholarship fund. Tickets: \$50. Before the ball, there is an additional event offered to patrons: "Top of the Pop," a 1960s buffet dinner and cabaret entertainment by Joan Cushing of "Mrs. Foggybottom and Cushing of "Mrs. Foggybottom and Friends." Tickets: \$125. Call 202-638-3211, ext. 506.

La Belle Soiree, Suburban Hospital Auxiliary's 17th annual gala, is at the Pooks erade ball at the Corcoran Gallery of

iliary's 17th annual gala, is at the Pooks Hill Marriott in Bethesda. The evening marriott in bernessa. The evenies benefits the hospital's Auxiliary House, an assisted-living residence for senior citizens, and the hospital's cardiac catheterization laboratory. Dancing to Center Stage. Tickets: \$175. Call Barbara Richardson at 2015.09.200

301-530-3000. March 6—Forty-two Napa Valley vint-March 6—Forty-two Napa vaney vineners present their recent releases at wine-tasting benefit for the Phillips Collection at the Onni Shoreham. Tickets: \$45 for Phillips Collection members; \$65 for others. Call 202-387-3036, ext. 268.

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March 8—The Whitney M. Young Jr. Memorial Dinner of the Greater Washing-ton Urban League is at the Washington Hilton. Tickets start at \$150. Call

March 9-The first of four Washington Project for the Arts contemporary art pa-trons' dinners, each with a special arts subject, venue and audience, is at Halcyon House, the Georgetown home of sculptor John Dreyfuss and photographer Mary Noble Ours. Tickets: \$175. Call 202-347-4813.

■ The Zonta Club of Washington's benefit preview party for the annual Town and Country spring antiques show and sale at Mount Vernon College. Tickets: \$18 (which also includes admission to the show March 10-12). The proceeds provide educational opportunities for women. Call 703-780-9200. ■ South African Ambassador Franklin

Sonn is host of a wine and cheese reception at the South African Embassy to benefit Medical Education for South African Blacks Inc. The ambassador is slated to talk about the progress of democracy in his country. Requested contribution: \$20. Call 301-816-6325.

March 11—Bid on a new Lexus LS400 at "Hooray for Hospice," a gala dinner dance for the Hospice of Northern Virginia at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Tysons Corner, Tickets: \$175, Call 703-538-2061.

ner. Tickets: \$175. Call 703-538-2001.

"You Are the Light," the Bethesda Academy of Performing Arts' 15th-anniversary benefit and reunion, is at the Monzdac Center for the Performing Arts at the Landon School. The evening features performances by past and current BAPA stu-dents and cameo appearances by Mont-gomery County Executive Doug Duncan, Rep. Connie Morella (R-Md.) and others. A reception follows. Tickets: \$45. There is a pre-performance reception for sponsors—guests paying \$250—at the home of the BAPA president. Call 301-320-2550.

"Celebrity Serve," a dinner at the Shera-ton Premiere at Tysons Corner, benefits the Northern Virginia chapter of the American Diabetes Association. At each table a celebrity host will help serve dinner and entertain guests. Tickets: \$45. Call 202-331-8303.

■ A murder mystery dinner-Murder"—presented by the Murder"—presented by the Wayside The-ater at the Xerox Training Center in Leesburg benefits the student athletic scholar-ship fund of Loudoun Valley High School. Tickets: \$25. Call Tom Harbin at 703-338-2959. ■ The FANS (Friends Assisting the Na-

tional Symphony) concert and reception and at the Shirlington Artists' Guild in Arlington. Tickets: \$30 for members; \$35 for non-members. Call 202-416-8090.

March 13-Mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves (an Ellington School of the Arts graduate who has the lead role in the Washington Opera's production of "Carmen" later in March) and WETA President and CEO Sharon Percy Rockefeller are the honorees at the Young Audiences of the District of Columbia annual benefit dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel. The Duke Ellington School Choir is the entertainment. Tickets start at \$150. Call ment. Tickets 202-944-2790.

Bridge

By Alfred Sheinwold and Frank Stewart

Players often ask about the value of unguarded honors, especially singleton aces. Aces are pleasant to hold—the more the better—but a singleton ace loses part of its value; for one thing, there are no accompanying honors that a lonely ace can

Moreover, you can choose when to win a trick with a guarded ace; but a bare ace is gone the first time the suit is led. South threw a diamond on dummy's

ace of hearts, drew trumps, and led a spade to the queen. West won the next spade with the ten and forced South to ruff a heart. South eventually had to lose a diamond to West's king. South treated the ace of hearts a

though it were singleton. South should ruff the first heart, deferring the discard on the ace. He next cashes the king of trumps and leads a spade. West must play low to avoid giving South two spade tricks and a discard for dummy's low diamond.

When the queen of spades wins, South ruffs a heart, leads a trump to dummy, and at long last takes the ace of hearts to discard a spade. He then ruffs dummy's last heart and exits with a spade.

West takes the ace, but any return gives South the slam. If West leads a diamond, South wins with the queen; if West leads a heart or a spade, South throws a diamond from dummy, ruffs in his hand, and easily takes the rest. North-South vulnerable

EAST

♠AJ108

♥QJ1096

♦ KI62

NORTH **4**Q5 ♥A753 ♣A9872 WEST (D) **♥** K 8 4 2 ♦ 1074 A None SOUTH

463 ♠ K 6 4 ♥ None A 8 5 3 **♣**KQJ1054

The bidding: North West East South Pass 2 NT Pass 3 **♣** 6 **♣** Pass 5 💠 Pass All Pass

Opening lead: ♥ Q

1 ♥

Pass

Pass

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