"My doctor says I have the 24-hour Fire Hose Diarrhea virus, and it is extremely contagious. I could try to come in..."

"Hey, I'm a little stressed out today and — CHOPPER! WE NEED A CHOPPER OVER HERE!— I seem to be having some sort of strange flashbacks but I'm sure — INCOMING MORTARS! KISS THE DIRT!— I'll be okay as long as — MEDIC! MEDIC! — no one at the office is wearing black and..."

"Nightline" wants to come over and interview me about what I think of the company."

"My uterus exploded. I could give you details if you want..."

This week's contest was proposed by Leslie Burkit of Alexandria, who wins a realistic foam-rubber brick, perfect for hurting at people's heads. Leslie suggests that the suddenly beautiful Washington weather has made it essential to come up with inventive ways to call in sick or otherwise persuade your employer you must miss a day. First-prize winner receives the fabulously talking parrot, who repeats whatever is said to him; plus the Rockad'Lumsawer ("the film that's a camera"), a total value of $40. Runners-up, as always, get the coveted Style Invitational T-shirts. Invitations must be presented on your Style Invitational Harper stropers. We will be selected on the basis of humor and originality. Mail your entries to the Style Invitational, Week 56, The Washington Post, 1110 15th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20071, fax them by 202-334-4312 or upload them via the Internet at: Invitations MUST be present on or before Monday, April 4. Please include your address and phone number. Winners will be announced in three weeks. No purchase necessary. Employees of The Washington Post and their immediate families are not eligible for prizes.

REPORT FROM WEEK 53,

In which we present the first annual Style Invitational Quiz, responding to commonly asked reader questions. Tell your knowledge about America's most sophisticated newspaper column regularly featuring poppy jokes. Answers below.

1. Who has won the Style Invitational the most times?
2. Who is the Czar of the Style Invitational? And who appointed him the world's greatest authority on what's funny?
3. Why are we reading this? Why aren't you awarding prizes for "How the Style Invitational Has Changed America," as you promised?
4. Who is that Chuck Smith of Woodbridge, anyway?
5. What are the average person's odds of winning the Style Invitational?
6. How many readers does the Style Invitational have?
7. Who has been the most successful female entrant?
8. Where is Leslie, N.C.?-
9. Who is the Faire of the Fine Print & The Ear No One Reads? Is it a man or a woman? What is the Ear No One Reads?
10. Has the Style Invitational ever been conserved for taste by purist journalistic overlords? Specifically, in Week Two, "Celeste Marketos" did someone submit a headline extra for which they were not rewarded?— "The Peewee Herman Public Click" that never ran?
11. What would be a great name for a dog?
12. Who are these people?