

"Hey, you! Doggie breath!"



*"Face it—in this town, either you're a star
or you're just another brown dwarf."*



"And as part of your severance package you can choose either a jar of my homemade salsa or some of my Texas-style barbecue sauce."



"Whither NATO?"



*"Sounds like a heart attack. Tell him to take
two aspirin and call my office in the morning."*



*"Hell! When I was Tony Randall's age,
I was playing the whole dang field."*



"When Sam came into my life, she was a cat at risk."

SKETCHBOOK BY RONALD SEARLE
NEW YEAR'S IRRESOLUTION





"Have you any idea of the breakup value of this marriage?"



"I do like it here, but I'm ready for my own apartment."



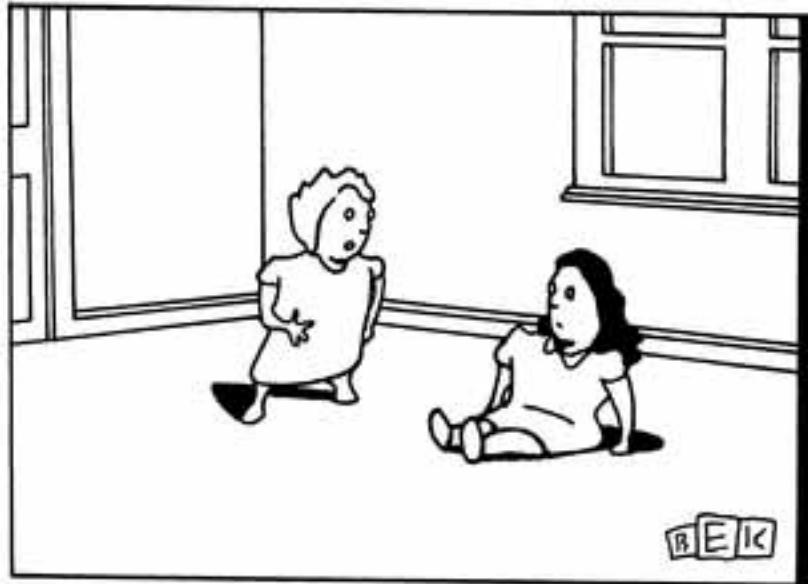
"It's time to bring in the wax begonias and your mother."



*"Your Honor, I think you'll get a kick out
of my client's extenuating circumstances."*

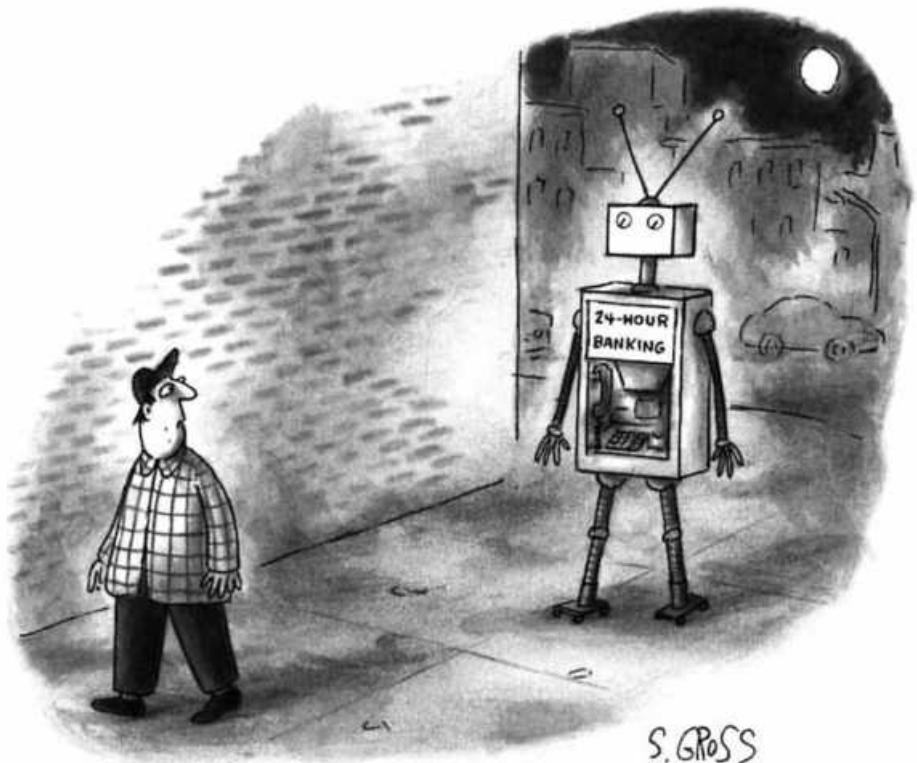
TRIAL BALLOONS IN APARTMENT 3-B





*"I thought I'd go slowly—
maybe start with a few stuffed animals in the corner."*







*"I'm having trouble deciding whether
he's classically Rabelaisian or just low-end."*



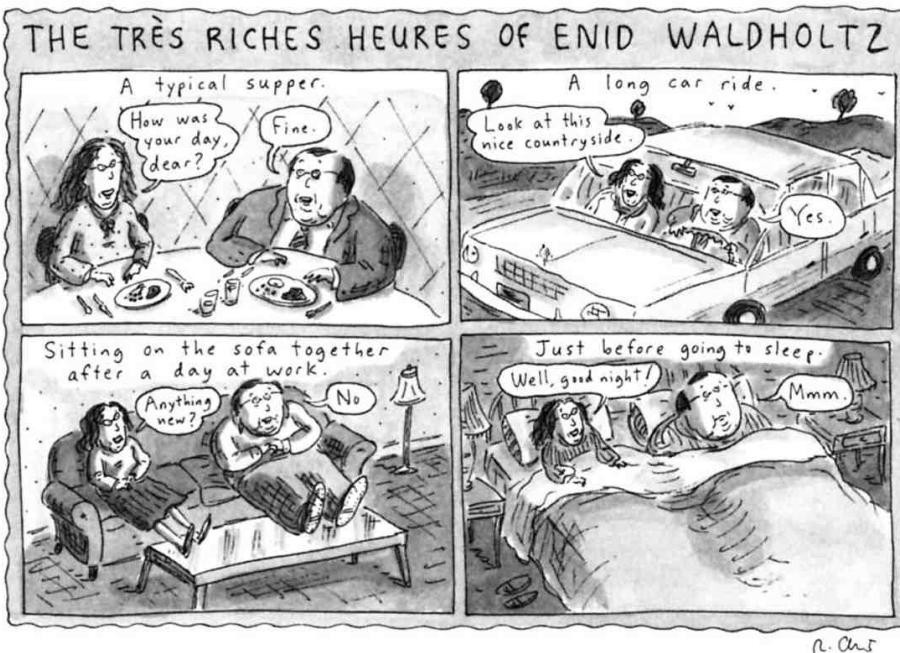
*"He didn't exactly ask for a divorce—
he offered me an early-retirement package."*



"Good news—those lumps were just coal."



"So what'll it be tonight—pig in or pig out?"





"There was 'reasonable doubt,' Ma'am, so we're hanging a few lawyers."



"Plutardo, babe."



"Pam here is the winner of our 'How small a salary can I live on?' essay contest. The rest of you are fired."



"Ben is my given name, and E-Z Stomper is my street name."



*"Can you just give me a synopsis of your rage
so we can move on from there?"*



"Is this one of those films you can take the whole damn family to?"



"And now, God help us all, Rachmaninoff's Concerto in C Minor."



"I'll throw in a few extra pinstripes."



"Au contraire' to you, too."



"I just figured it out—we're in the cheap seats."



"I think the vomitorium would look terrific in Pompeian red, don't you?"





"Oh, that Jane. I thought you were talking about Jane Austen."



"He's philosophy-driven."



*"Sorry about the mask. I'm always afraid
my fame will overwhelm people."*



"It's your agent. Everyone wants a piece of you."





"You wouldn't understand, Muriel. It's a drunk thing."



"Ms. Harmon, send in Mr. Dexter, and tell him he can bring his chair."





"My first Social Security check."



"We'll be performing the operation using original instruments."



*"You're thinking computer nerd, right?
Actually, I don't know diddly about computers."*



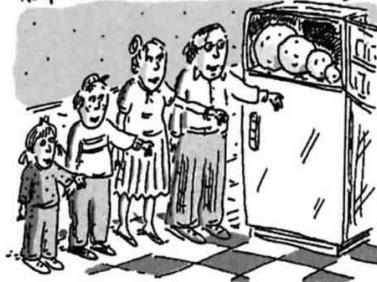
"I now believe in God."



*"It appears you're a bit overqualified to be exploited
but somewhat underqualified to exploit others."*

HOW TO GET RID OF ALL THE SNOW

Every man, woman, and child in New York should make a snowball and keep it in the freezer till spring.



Some entrepreneur can package it and sell it in jars labelled "Blizzard of '96" to people who missed out.



Encourage people to get out there with a battery-powered hair dryer.



There's always the snow-cone approach - tasty, and fat-free.





*"Then it's been moved and seconded that we send
a special commendation to Metro-North."*



*"It's a good location. Two blocks north of Kissinger
and across the street from Cuomo."*



"I'll have two thousand calories in any form the chef creates."



"He's the alpha gopher—the other guys are just gofers."



"Let me tell you what it's like to be seven in this city."



*"We don't use the Congressional Budget Office.
We have our own figures."*



"And one for the old prostate."



Joseph Farris (1/29/1996)

[Return to Main Menu ▶](#)



*"We're looking for the kind of bad taste that
will grab—but not appall."*



"O.K. Will somebody please bring me up to date?"

CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED
THEMES
FOR THE DAYTIME TALK SHOWS



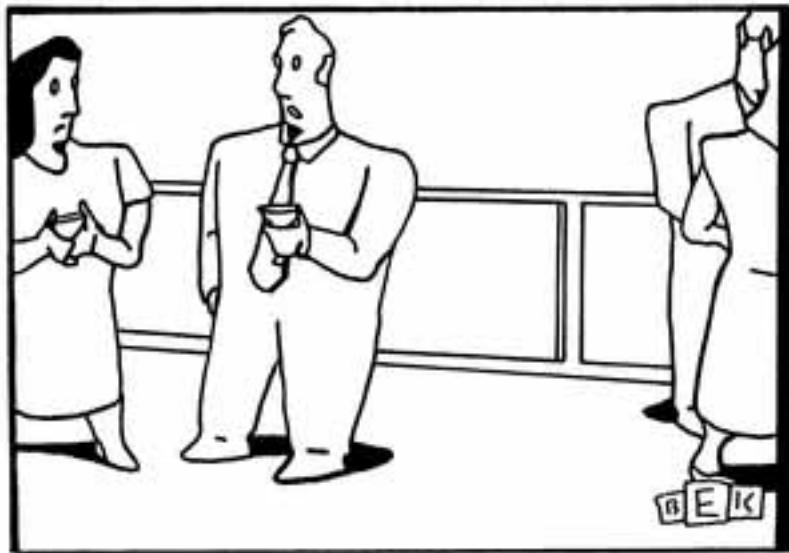
"WIVES WHO MAKE ASPIC WHEN THEIR HUSBANDS ARE AWAY"



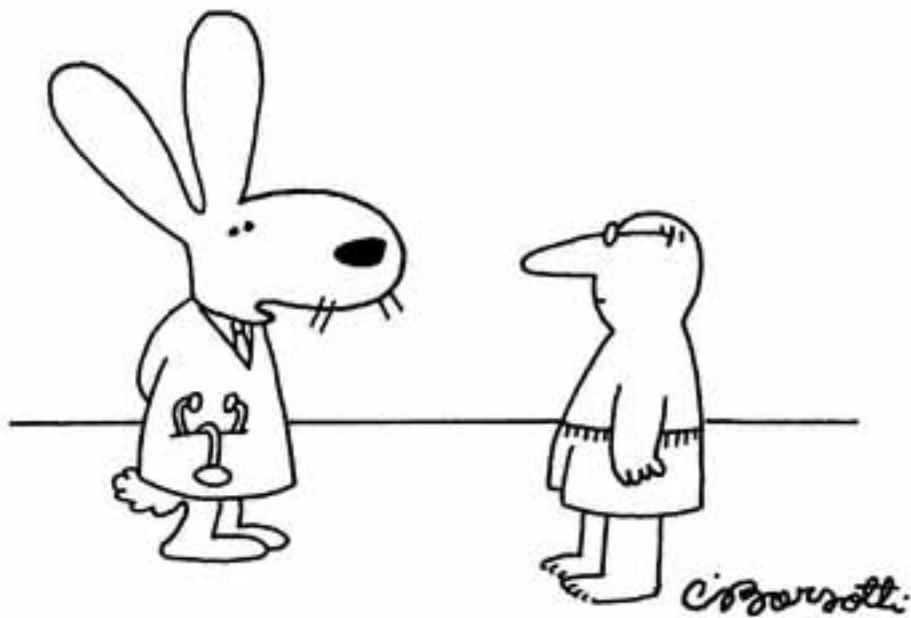
"IS MY BRIDGE PARTNER PSYCHIC?"



"I MARRIED A LOVABLE LUG WHO MAKES ME COFFEE"



*"You look as if you don't expect fireworks, you act as if you don't expect fireworks, you say you don't expect fireworks.
But something tells me you expect fireworks."*



"Eat lots of carrots."

WHAT TO DO IF SALMAN RUSHDIE SHOWS UP AT YOUR PLACE

- ① Prepare one of those tasty homemade casseroles you have stacked in the freezer.



- ③ Mr. Rushdie loves American TV, especially daytime. So you can just SHUT UP about what you want to watch.



- ② Let him sleep in your bed, and you go sleep on the foldout



- ④ Don't invite the neighbors. You never know who knows whom, so why take chances?



R. Chast



"Has there been any unusual activity in our stock? The canary just died."



"Mr. Skelton, can I go out and play now?"



"What about that! His brain still uses the old vacuum tubes."



"Am I doing something wrong? You don't say 'Good dog' to me anymore."



"No, I don't. And I'll tell you why."



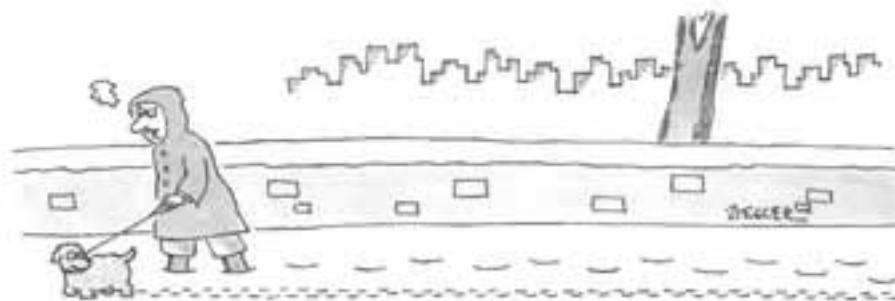
*"I didn't like the stamp, I didn't like the opera,
and I don't like the movie."*



*"I'm sorry, but he's having his teeth filed to needle-sharp points.
Can I take a message?"*



"Would you look at the carrot on that guy!"



"Can we forget about our dainty little tracks in the snow for five seconds and try to concentrate on what we're out here for?"



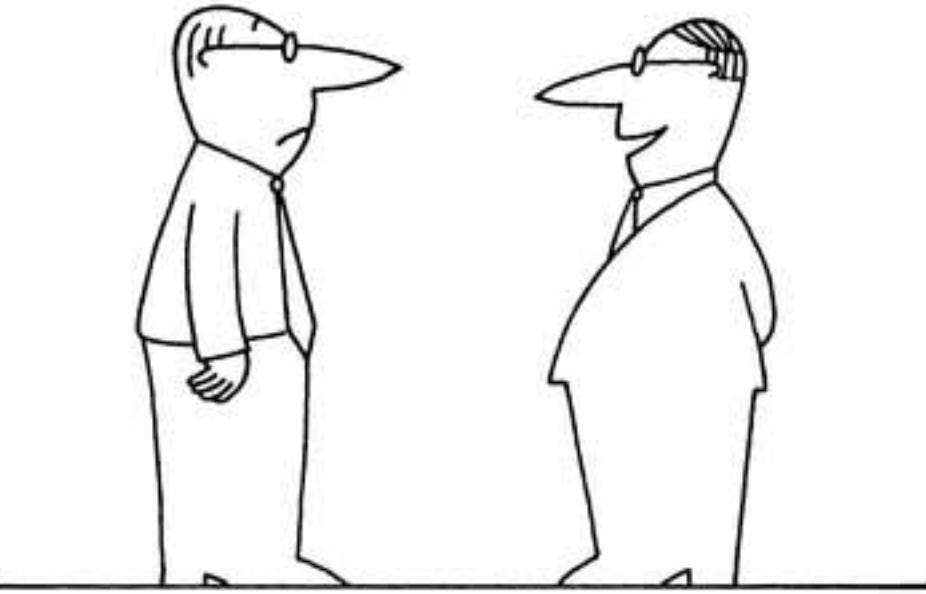
"You can come out now. The Beatles are gone again."



*"I'm desperately in need of a new husband—
my body rejected the last one."*



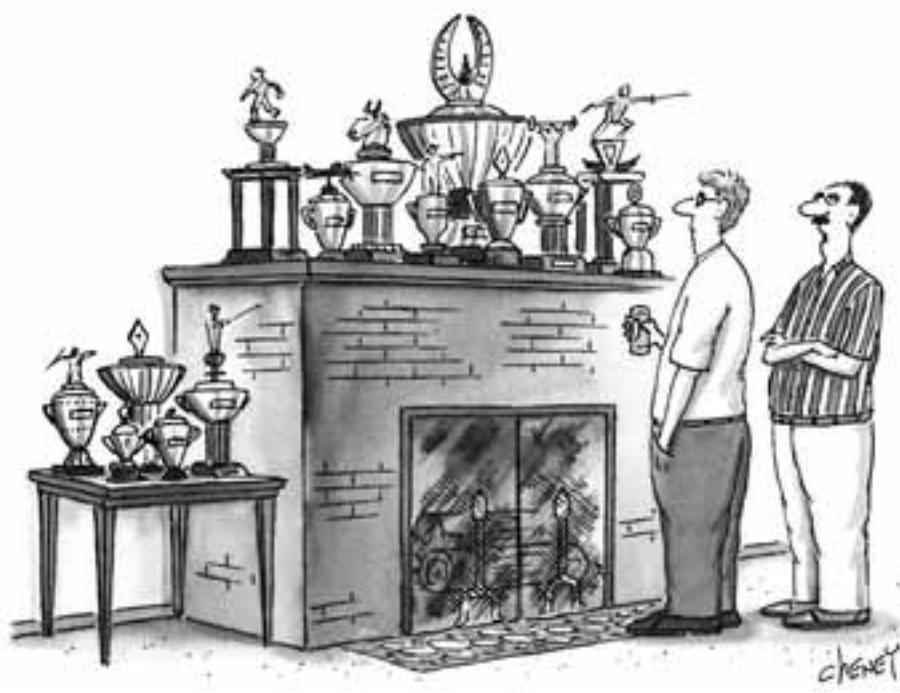
"Rebecca, I'm looking for a bigger emotional share here."



"Yes, and the fact that you've been an outstanding employee for twenty-five years is going to look great on your résumé."



*"The good news is that you will have a healthy baby girl.
The bad news is that she is a congenital liar."*



"Those? Oh, just a few souvenirs from my bipolar-disorder days."



"Attention, shoppers. We have a lost boomer at the information desk."



*"I'm sure that when you're ready you'll tell me
what you've done with my wife."*



*"He said he's always between the Hamptons and Manhattan.
It turns out he means Babylon, Long Island."*



"Rufus, stop being naughty with Mrs. Curtis!"



"Still waiting for the weather to clear, sir?"



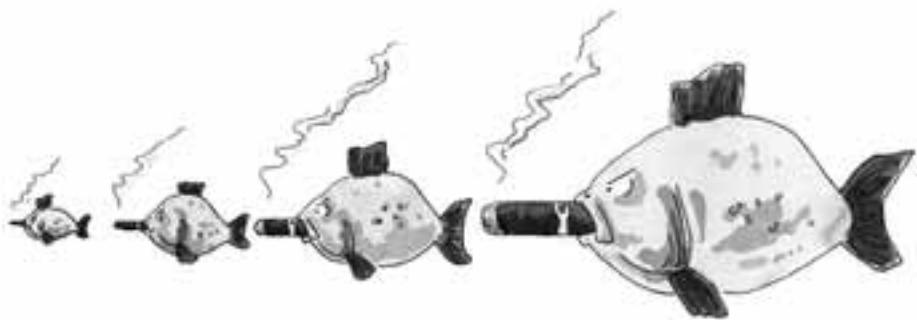
"The meaning of life is cats."



"Right now we're at a budget impasse. I maintain that you provide an essential service, and my wife feels that you do not."



*"It has come to my attention, Collins, that
you are hydrating on company time."*



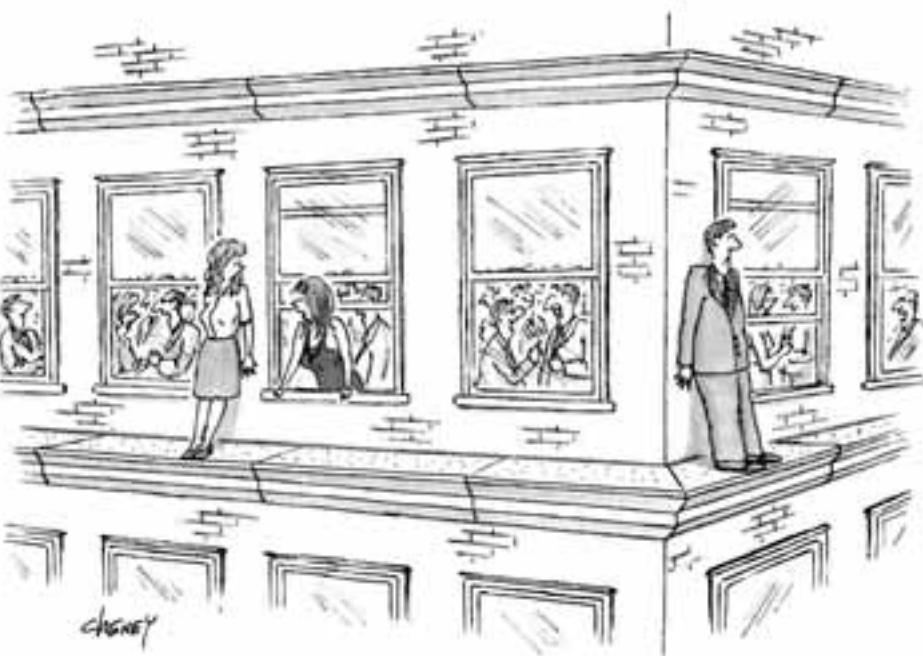
Danny Shanahan



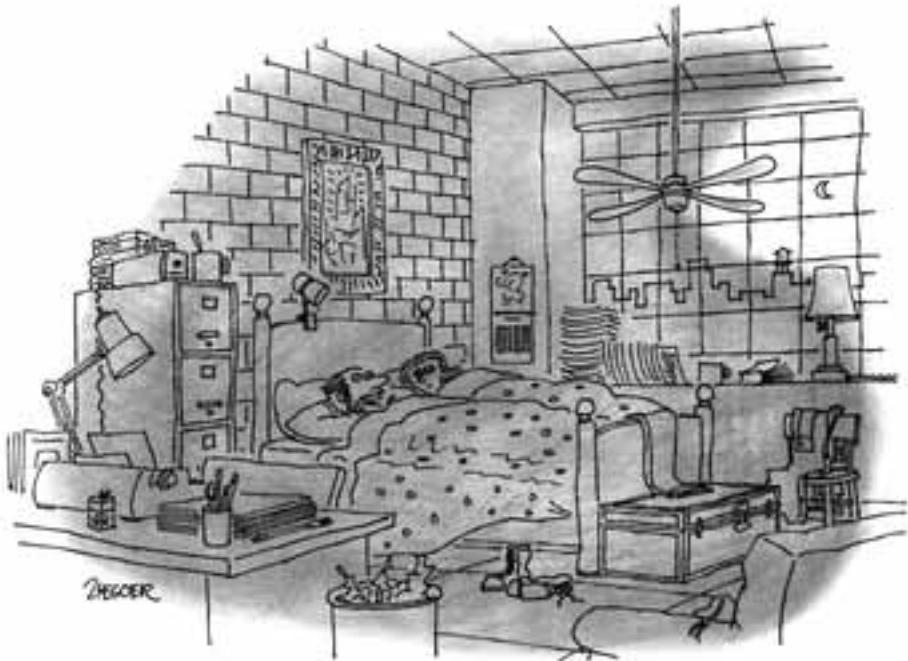
"Oh, I like Forbes, but he hasn't got Dole's charisma."



*"I'm into whole grains and long dirt baths, and I'm looking
for someone who's not afraid to cross the road."*



"There's someone I'd like you to meet."



"I had a wonderful dream that Anonymous turned out to be me."



"I exiled the lot of them. How are your kids?"



"Hold it, sweetie, you forgot your heat."



"I don't get out much—I'm usually locked in a cellar."

Come... let us journey to
**THE LAND OF THE
UNCOMFORTABLE PAUSE**

THIS WEEK: AT THE PARK



**AWFUL,
HORRENDOUS
LACK OF
ANYTHING
TO SAY**



**VAST,
DEAFENING
SILENCE**



**RESOUNDING
ECHO OF
LAST REMARK**



**COLOSSAL
GAP IN
CONVERSATION**



NEXT WEEK: AN ENCOUNTER IN A SUPERMARKET



*"I'm afraid I have to recuse myself, ladies.
I don't want to be responsible for the Trojan War."*



"Bad news. It's jungle fever."



"I was unreliable in a previous lifetime."





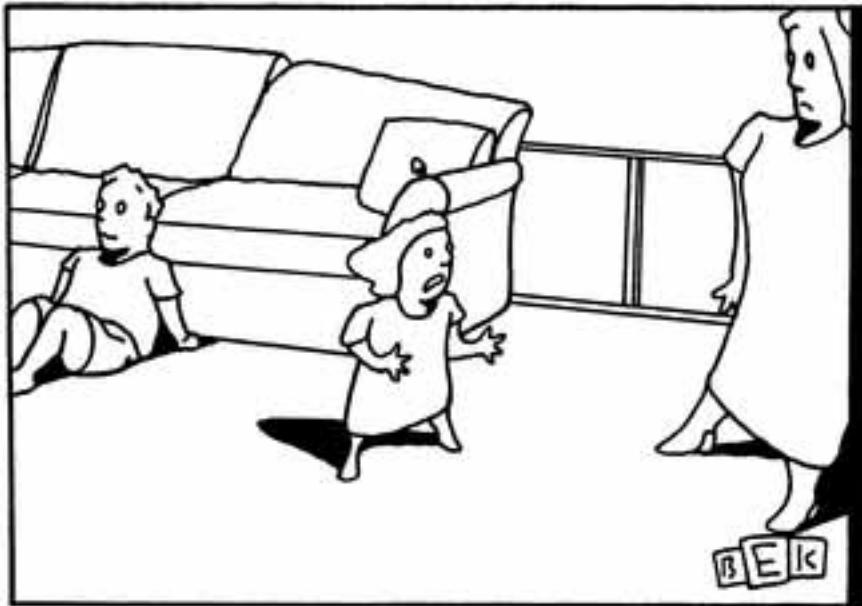
*"Even though you're exceptionally well qualified, Kate,
I'd say that 'victim' is not a good career choice."*



"Here's to wellness—women's wellness!"



*"Bring me the head of John the Baptist.
Just kidding. Get me the Paulson file."*



"Why does he always get to be the boy?"



“Some kids at school called you a feminist, Mom, but I punched them out.”



"It's all about power—getting it and keeping it."



"What's the right age to tell him he's stuffed?"



"Uh-oh. I think they're having a Bryn Mawr moment."



"Happy fortieth. I'll take the muscle tone in your upper arms, the girlish timbre of your voice, your amazing tolerance for caffeine, and your ability to digest French fries. The rest of you can stay."



"I love you too, Daddy, but it just kills me that you're a man."



"Anyone here not a feminist?"



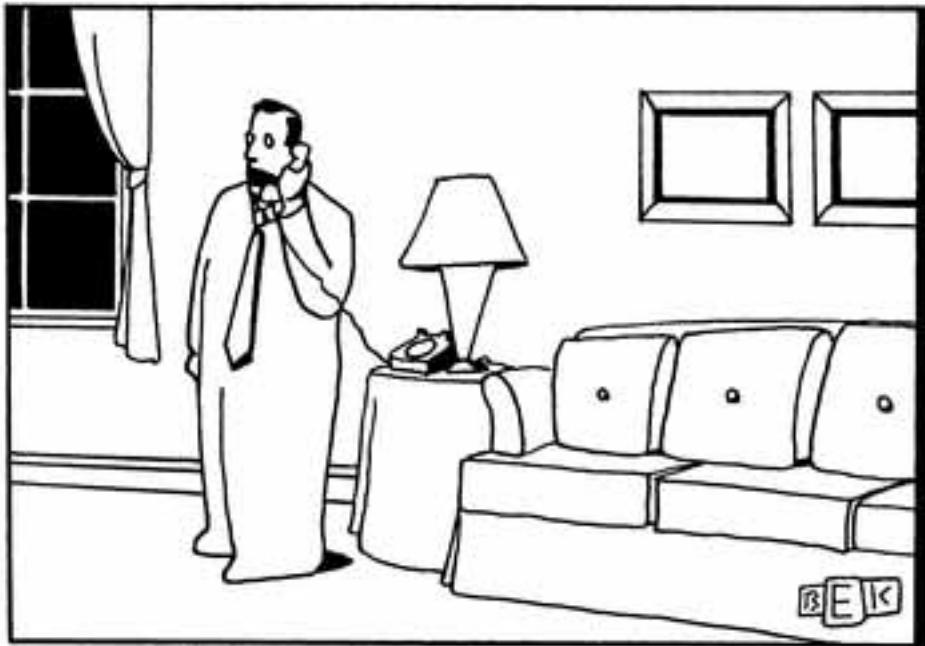
"First we had couples therapy, then we had you."



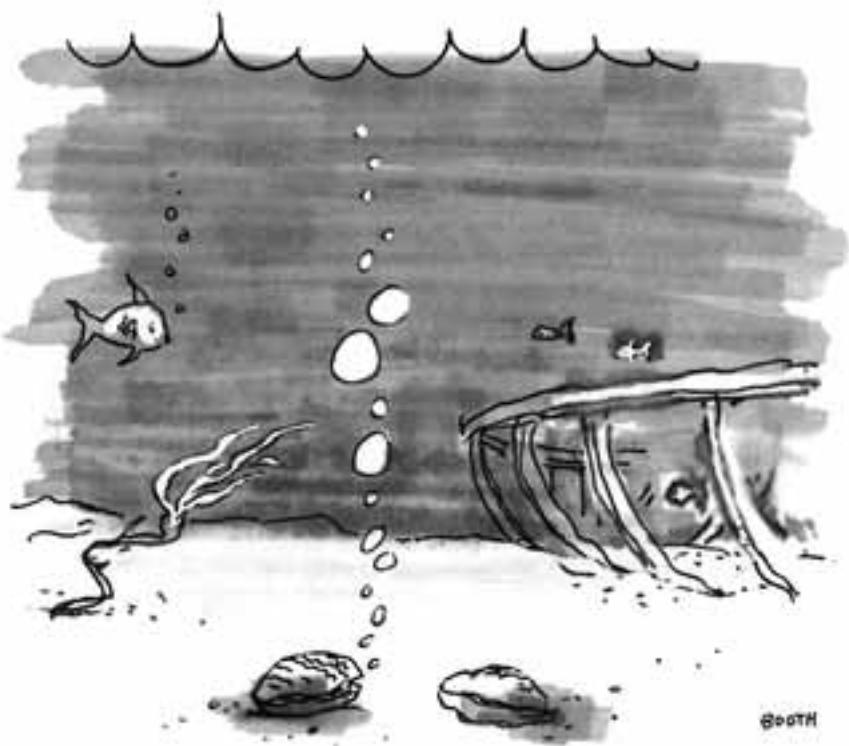
"Thank goodness you're here. His dish is empty."



"I'm leaving to spend more time with my family."



"Listen, Mom, I'm not your little girl anymore."



"The ultrasound showed it wasn't a pearl, but I am pregnant."



"So you're the little lady who invented the wheel. Do tell me more."



"Remember, now—you're sense, I'm sensibility."



*"I've never said this to a woman before, but here goes:
We're not paying you enough."*



"There's the cute years, then the sexy years, and then comes marriage and the alimony years."

BAD MOM CARDS

COLLECT THE ENTIRE SET!

#4: ESTHER J.



Ran out of orange juice one morning and served kids orange soda instead.

#17: GLORIA B.



Promised to take daughter to the mall after school - and then didn't.

#20: JAYNE R.



Sent child to school with 99.1°F temperature - and child was sent home.

#23: LUCY L.



Told friend "funny" story about kid and had a laugh at kid's expense.
And then he...

#35: MARTINA F.



Didn't put up the St. Patrick's Day decorations one year.

#39: DAWN K.



When daughter left stuffed bear in Grand Union, waited until next day to retrieve it.

#48: SUZIE M.



Let kid play two hours at Nintendo - just to get him out of her hair.

#61: DEBORAH Z.



Has never even tried to make Play-Doh from scratch.

#89: BECKY O.



While on phone, told child to SHUT THE HELL UP, or she would brain her.

Roz Chast



"I knew Heaven would be by Chanel."



"You don't have to go to this party. It's 'Men Optional.' "



*"I don't know about you guys, but I don't feel like
I've lost one goddam bit of my femininity."*



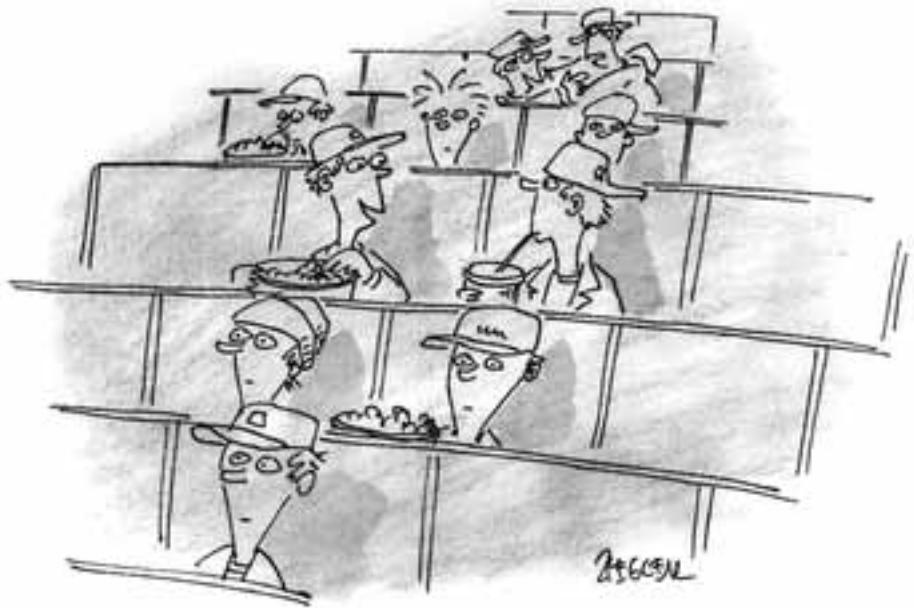
*"You want only happiness, Douglas.
I want wealth, power, fame, and happiness."*



"Oh, how sweet. I haven't seen any mother-daughter outfits since the late forties."



"It's right about here that my socks fall down."



"Jackie Chan is great, but John Woo is God."



"Really? Everyone we hang out with we also met through our puppies."



"I've been thinking about the flat tax and how it would inflict hardship on the poor, and I can live with that."



"Howard is my second husband once removed."



"Isn't it true that you did not love the victim, as you claim, but, in point of fact, feigned affection for the sole purpose of obtaining tuna fish?"



"They're from David. He's been so much more considerate since I shot him."



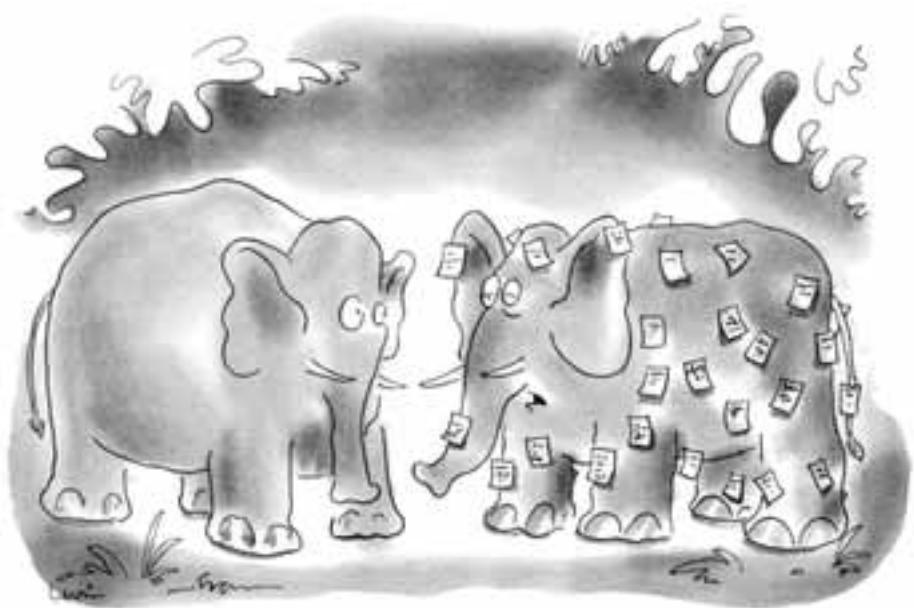
"I'd like to donate all my organs to Republicans for Bob Dole."







"People who watched 'Donahue'—next on 'Geraldo'!"



*"As I get older, I find I rely more and more
on these sticky notes to remind me."*



*"Dad, I've been thinking it might make things
better between us if I just called you Ed."*



"One more thing, Hasbruck. Lose the Christmas tree."



*"Marge and I passed a continuing resolution lasting
at least until the kids are in college."*



"The Doge ate my homework."



*"We'll probably vote for the least qualified candidate.
We have no judgment skills."*



*"It's O. J. Simpson. He wants to know if we can
spare a couple of minutes of our time."*



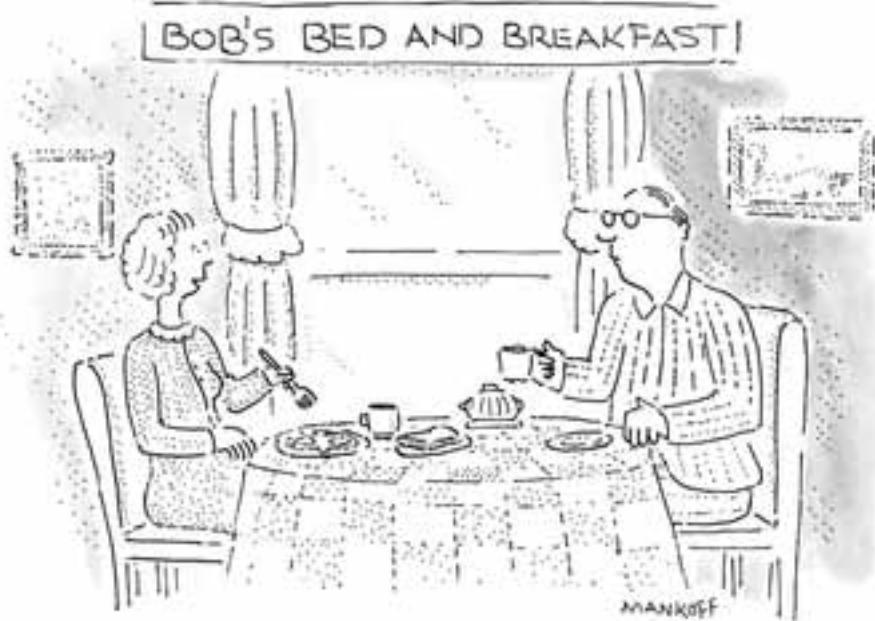
"The horse is nice, but we could really use the blender."



"Good dog!"



*"The minute you walked into the room, I said to myself,
Now, he looks interesting.'"*



"Well, Bob, bed wasn't much, but, I must say, breakfast is delicious."



"I'd like to propose a bill to the effect that we can remain freshmen indefinitely."



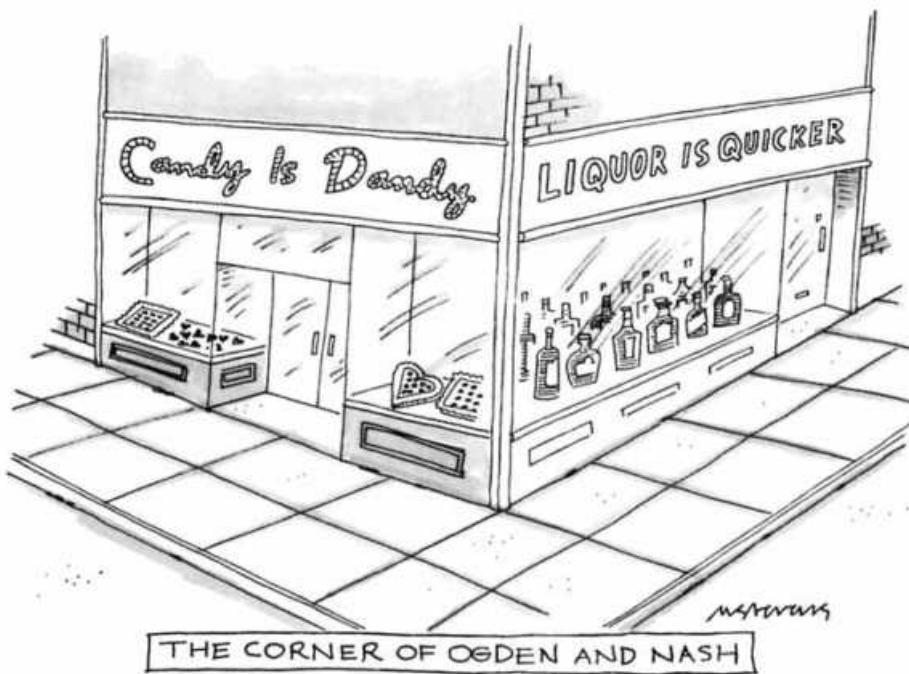
"I reside in New York, but my mind is based in L.A."



"I'm off now to reproduce—but I'll be back!"

RIGHTS OF SPRING







"Please hold my calls and disregard any cries for help."



"I'm the victim of negative advertising."



*"Please, Doc—nothing too aggressive.
I'm kind of attached to my symptoms."*

1996

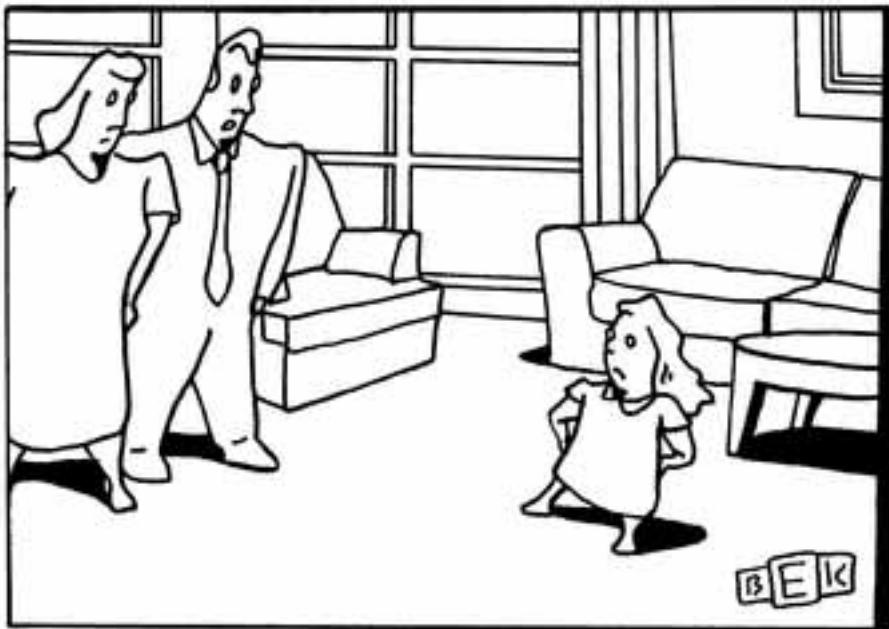
HEART OF DARKNESS



R. Chast



*"He's the guy I'm interested in.
He's just not the kind of guy I'm interested in."*



"Yes, we do have the authority to regulate you."



"And don't go auctioning off my stuff."



"Who among us is safe if they can put F. Lee Bailey in chains?"



"Mr. Potato Head on Line Two."



"Everybody on the bus today was played by Anthony Hopkins."



"I just got here—which gender are we bashing?"



"And you can assure me that you're right in the head now?"



"Our integrated approach to medicine skillfully combines an array of holistic alternative treatments with a sophisticated computerized billing service."

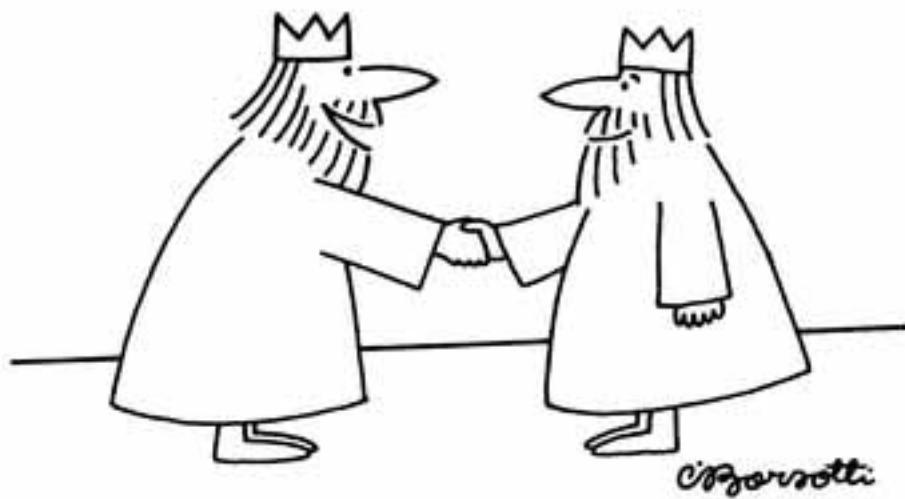




"Son, now that you've turned sixty there are a few things you should know about the family."



"The cheese balls—can I get that as an entrée?"



"Wow! I can feel the synergy already."



"My composition is called 'Mrs. Torrence Is a Big Fat Idiot.'"



"Living with you has been a wonderful opportunity for me."



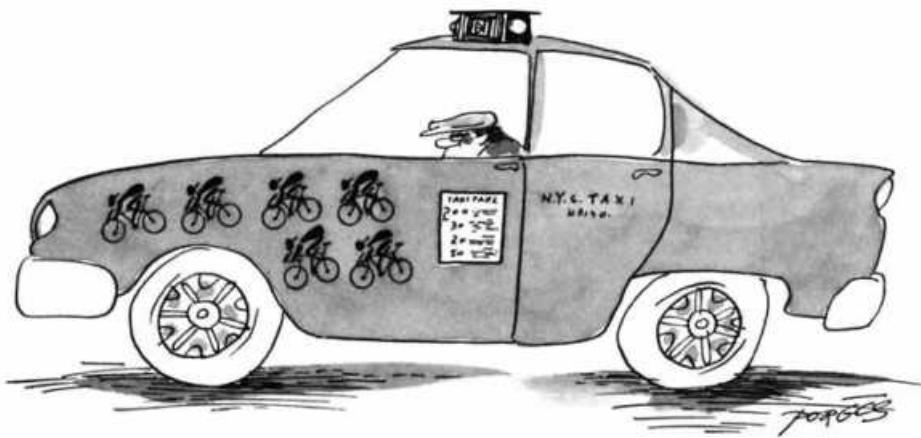
"Hi, this is Bill Gates. Time to buy some new software."



"It's our credulity tax—we owe seventy-two hundred dollars."



"O.K., who has to go potty before we disappear into the Federal Witness Protection Program?"







*"He's in an H.M.O. Get some of the King's horses
and a few of the King's men."*



*"It's no use, Marc. There've already been
too many decaf cappuccinos between us."*



"Great! Let's have sex—I mean, let's do business."



"Anyone here a 'worthless, no-good drunken bum'?"



"By the way, Sam, as someday you'll be paying for my entitlements, I'd like to thank you in advance."



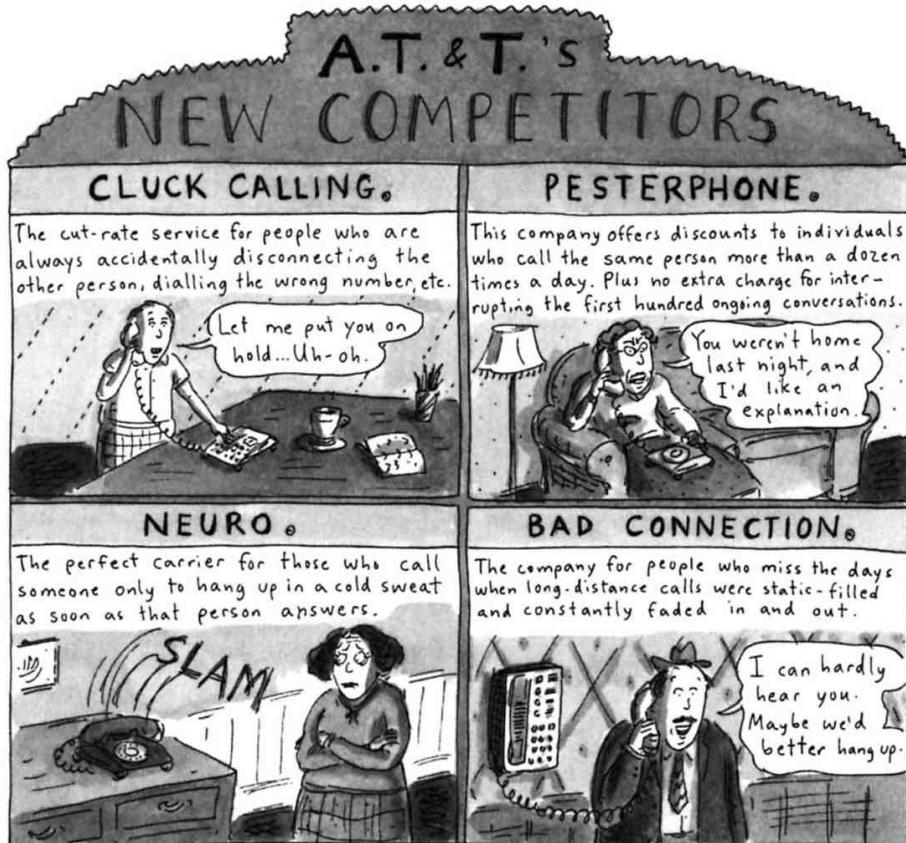
"Well, being single and a robot, I'm able to put in a lot of overtime."



"Howard, you've met my ukulele ladies before."



*"A pretty good day so far. Someone asked me
how to get to Central Park West."*



R. Chast



*"What's wrong with me?
Why don't I care how their apartment flows?"*





"Drowning. What's new with you?"





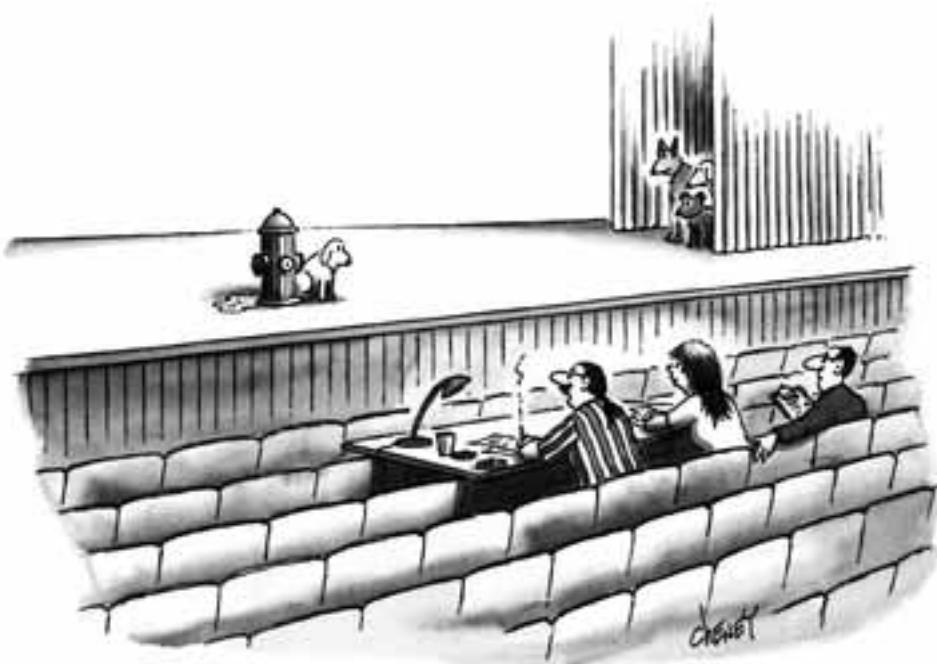
"You're responding beautifully. Let's go ahead and see what happens if we increase your deductible."



"I bit someone once. It tasted like chicken."



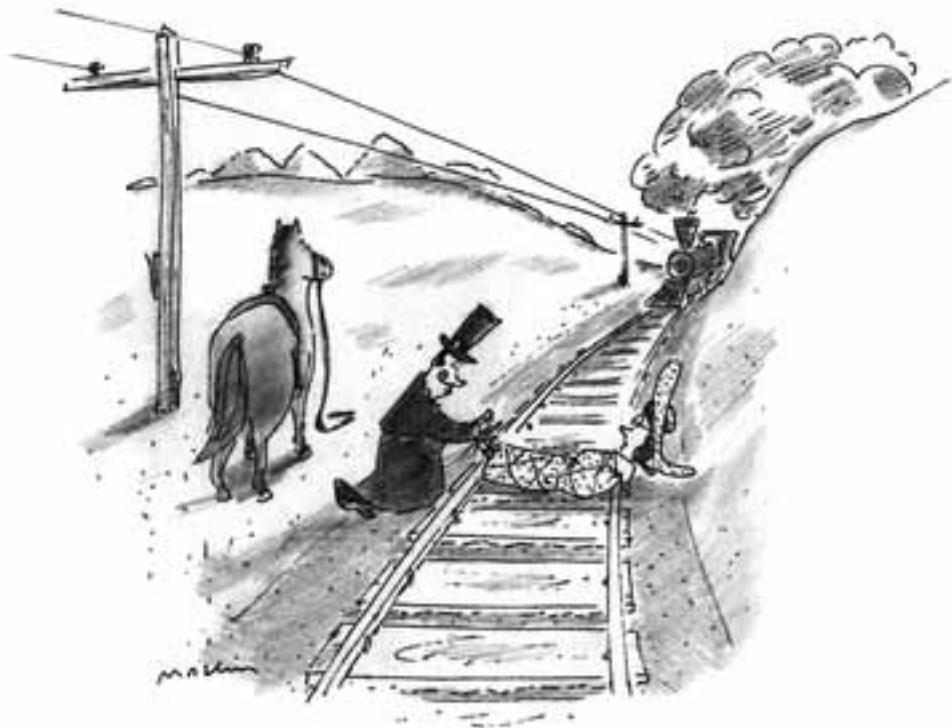
*"They're a perfect match—she's high-maintenance,
and he can fix anything."*



"Thank you, that was very nice. Next!"



"My client pleads great wealth."



"I sense a great deal of hostility coming from you."



"Tightening the buttocks."



Bernard Schoenbaum

"Young lady, don't get gutsy with me."



"Gentlemen, let's do lunch."



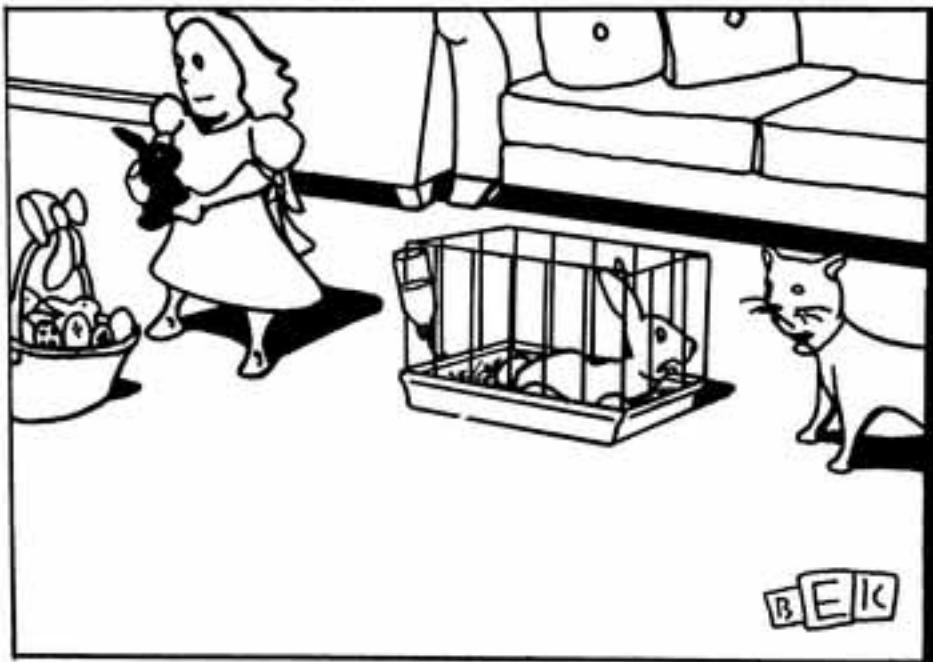
"This is Mr. Harrington, our mortgage nerd."



Peter Porges (4/8/1996)

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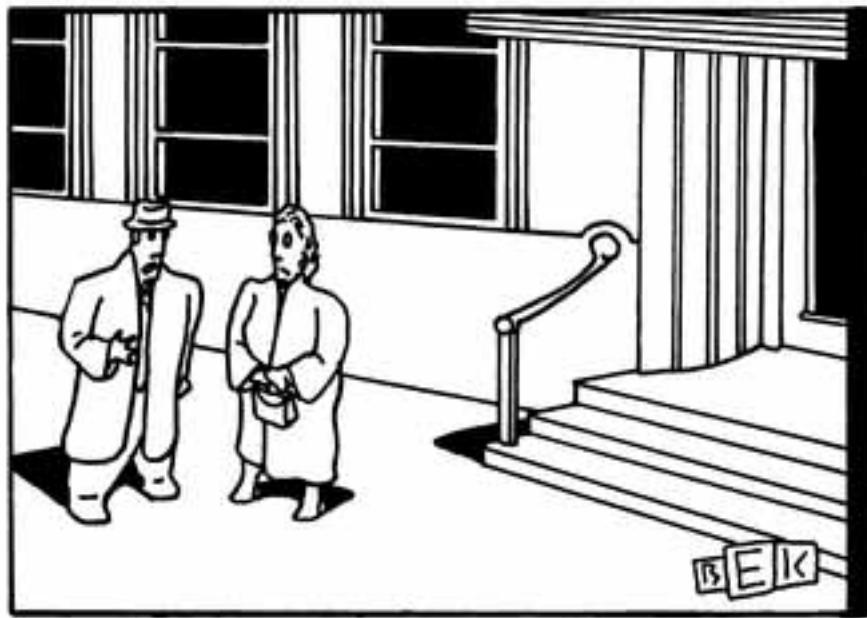




*"Wouldn't you know—the one time I fall in love
with a bunny he turns out to be chocolate."*



*"No, this is great. I love sifting through
the loam of your past relationships."*



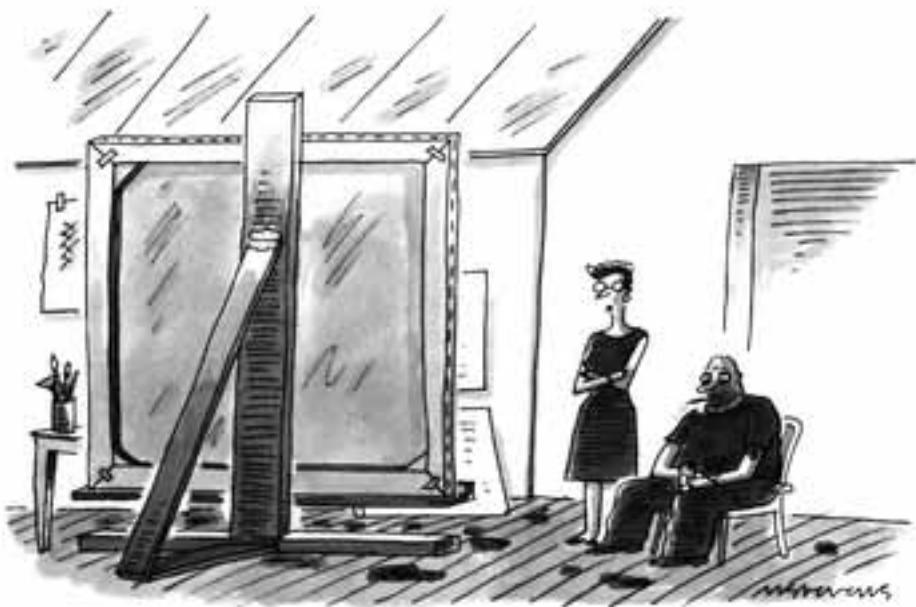
*"I'm sorry. I just feel I should be dating
someone closer to my daughter's age."*



"I forgot to say I was breast-fed."



"Dead man walking."



"It's very male."

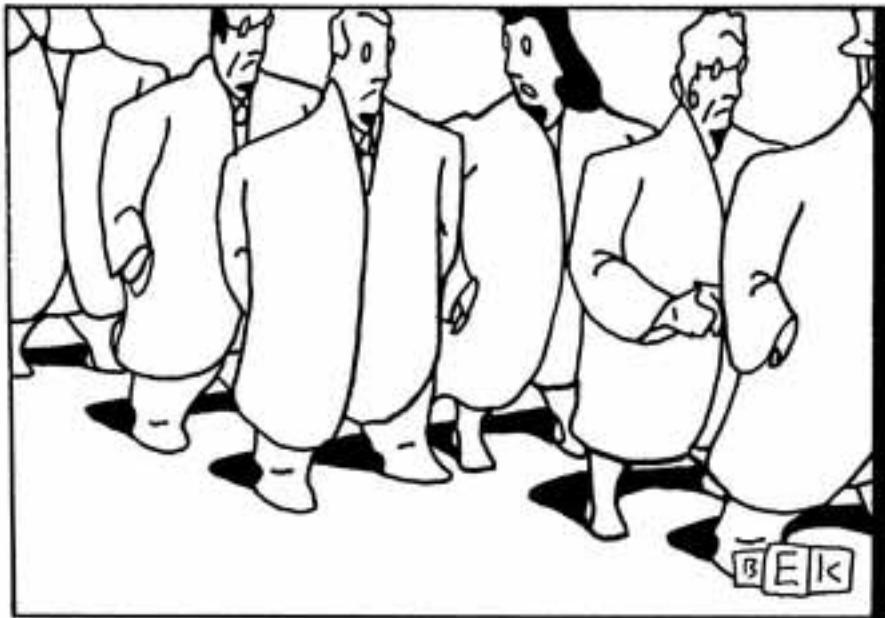


*"You'll find our Boulevardier Department on six, the Dandy's
Department on seven, and our Fop's Corner on eight!"*





"The wrangler within wants pancakes."



*"I forget—did we decide to see something life-affirming
or something mind-numbing?"*



Must you blue-pencil everything I say?"



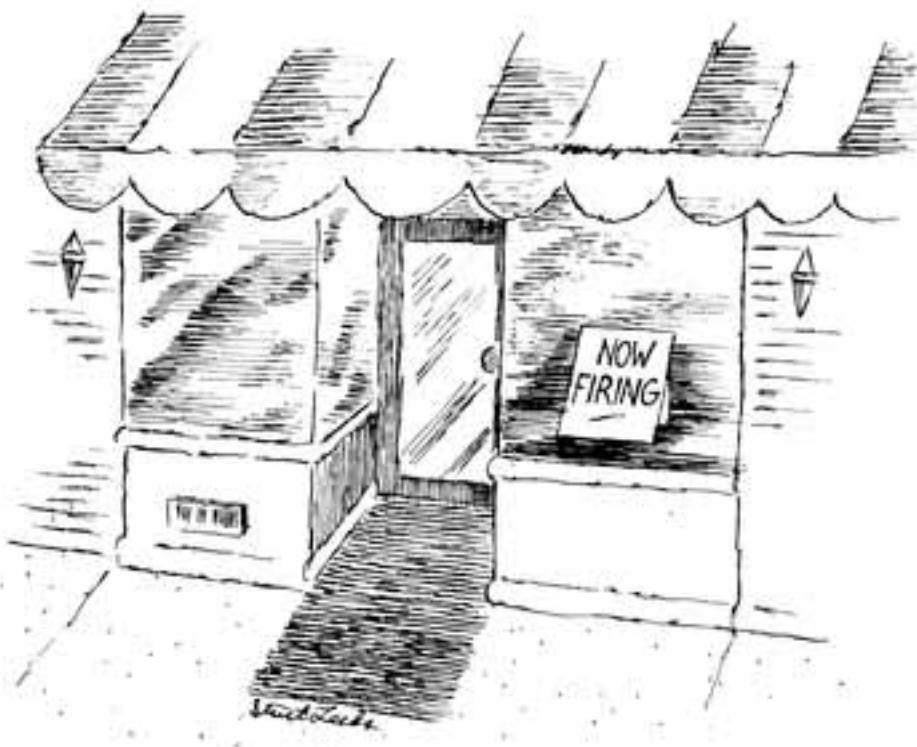
*"Hi! I'm the Bluebird of Happiness.
Can I get your ex-wife's new address?"*



"Sorry, we're all cat people. The dog people are in that boat over there."



"Ralph has his own little microbrewery."



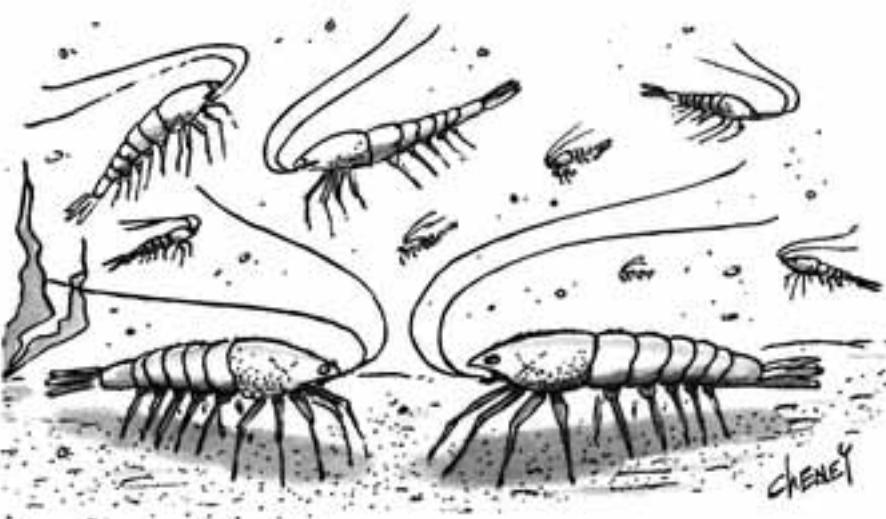


"I've always hated hospitals, dentists' offices, and jails."



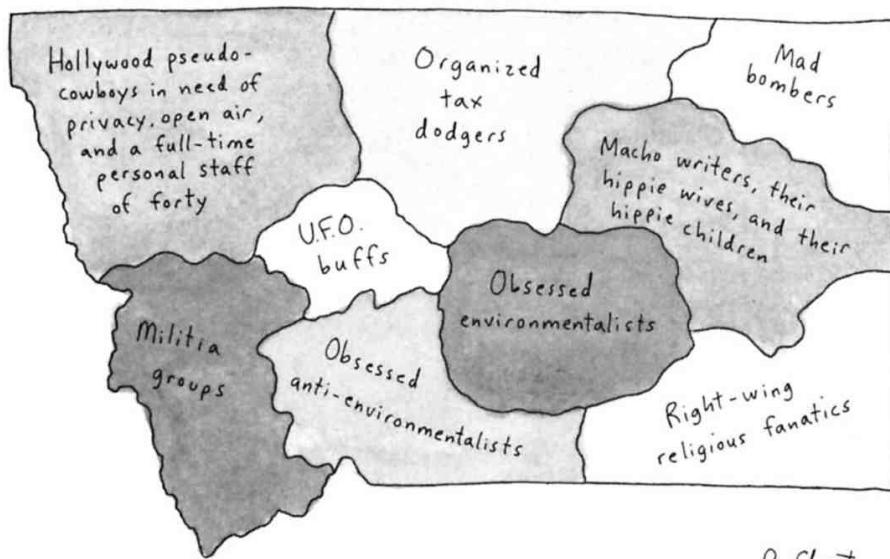


*"Five per cent of my income is from lemonade,
and the rest is from charity."*



*"Technically, I'm the dominant male,
but they never let me forget that I'm also a shrimp."*



1996
MONTANA, THE GORGEOUS MOSAIC

R. Chast





"The big guy wants to buy you a drink."



*"You used to have a funny little laugh, Marshall.
What happened to your funny little laugh."*



"After the judicial system, I'm my own harshest critic."



"I think I should warn you that the flip side of our generous bonus-incentive program is capital punishment."





"I'm trying to eat lower on the food chain."



*"I can't refill your prescription, Mrs. Rowley,
but how about a frozen Daiquiri?"*



"As children aren't an issue in this marriage, may I suggest that you consider staying together for the sake of the horse?"

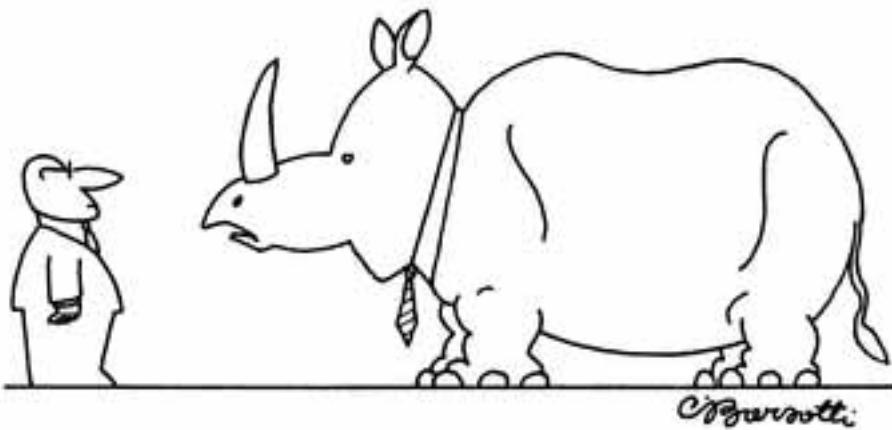


"I'm taking out two acres of pecan trees and putting in a fifteen-thousand-square-foot colonic-irrigation facility."





"Do you mind?"



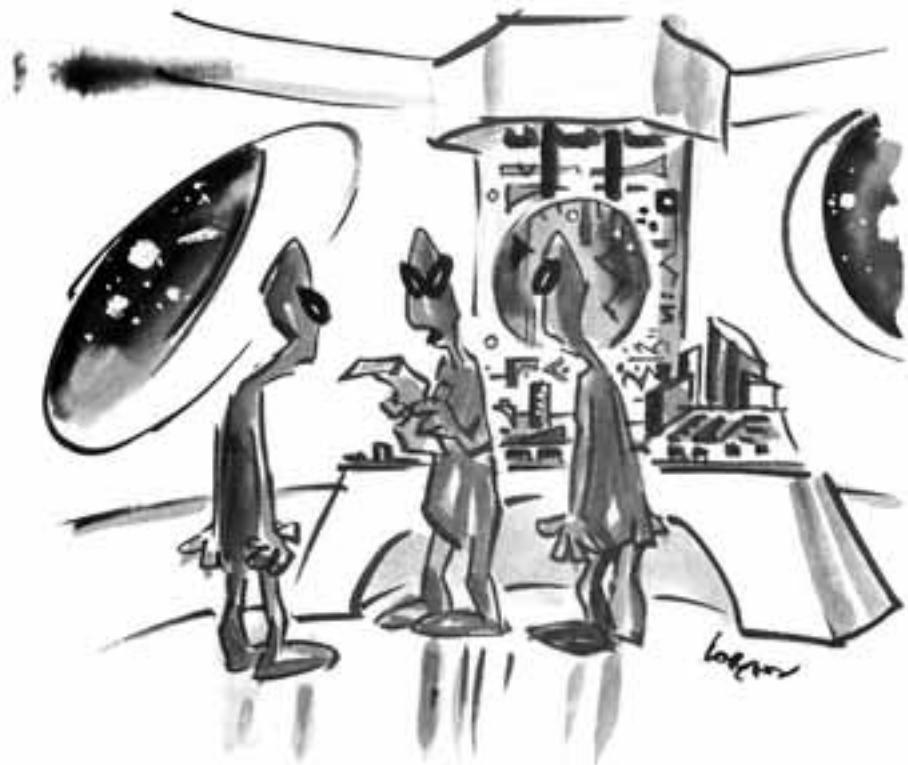
"Everybody else has health coverage."



"No, it's not going to be O.K."



"And, if elected, I promise to put more black people in cartoons."



"It's from headquarters—we're not abducting enough blacks."



*"I don't hate him because he's black.
I hate him because he's my husband."*



*"I've seen most of Spike Lee's movies,
so I know what you must be going through."*

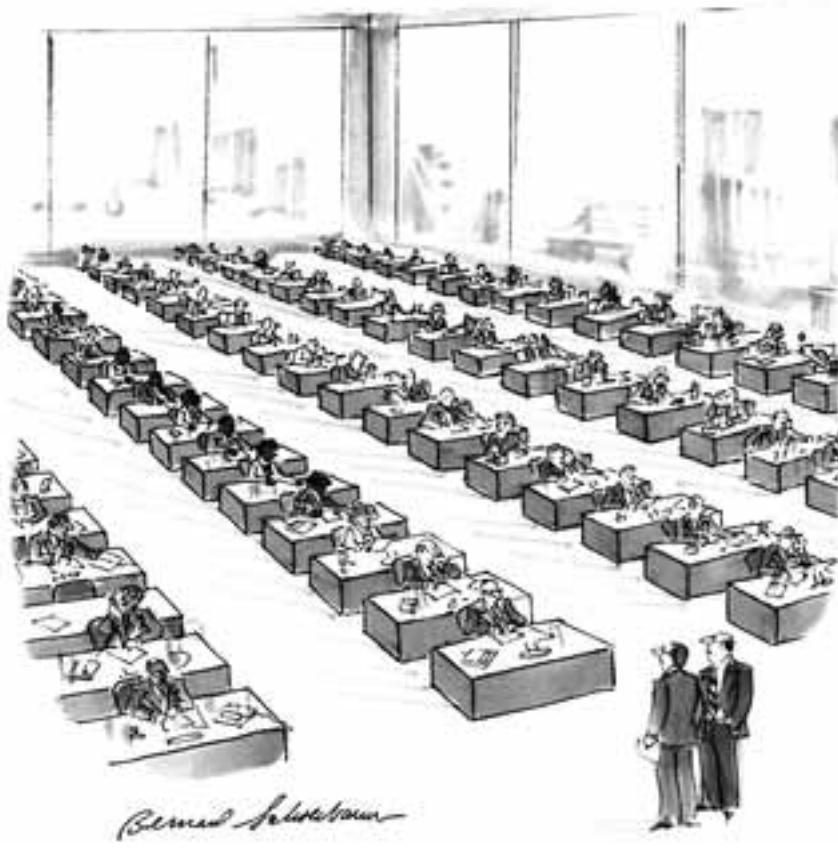


"Thanks, Dad, but I don't really want your old dashiki."





"My mother is black, my father is African-American, and my grandfather is Negro. I can hardly wait to find out about me."



"Good, Hennings, but sprinkle them around a little."





"That's what they all say, honey."



"Yeah, yeah, I know. You need a Laurence Fishburne-Forest Whitaker-James Earl Jones type."



"Robert is black and gay. Isn't that neat?"



"I be off in the hood, chillin' with my homeboys, white folks!"

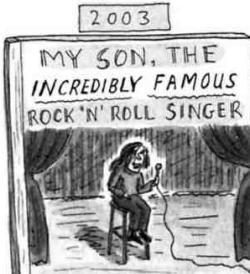
FUTURE CAREER MOVES OF
Michael Jackson



Michael teams up with Dolly Parton, Clint Black, and others as he moonwalks into the heart of the Deep South.



The folksy foursome sing about loggers, tugboat captains, miners, and more.



Michael's first comedy album is also an homage to Allan Sherman.



An operatic tour de force. Is there nothing this man cannot do?

R. Chast



"It's a baby. Federal regulations prohibit our mentioning its race, age, or gender."



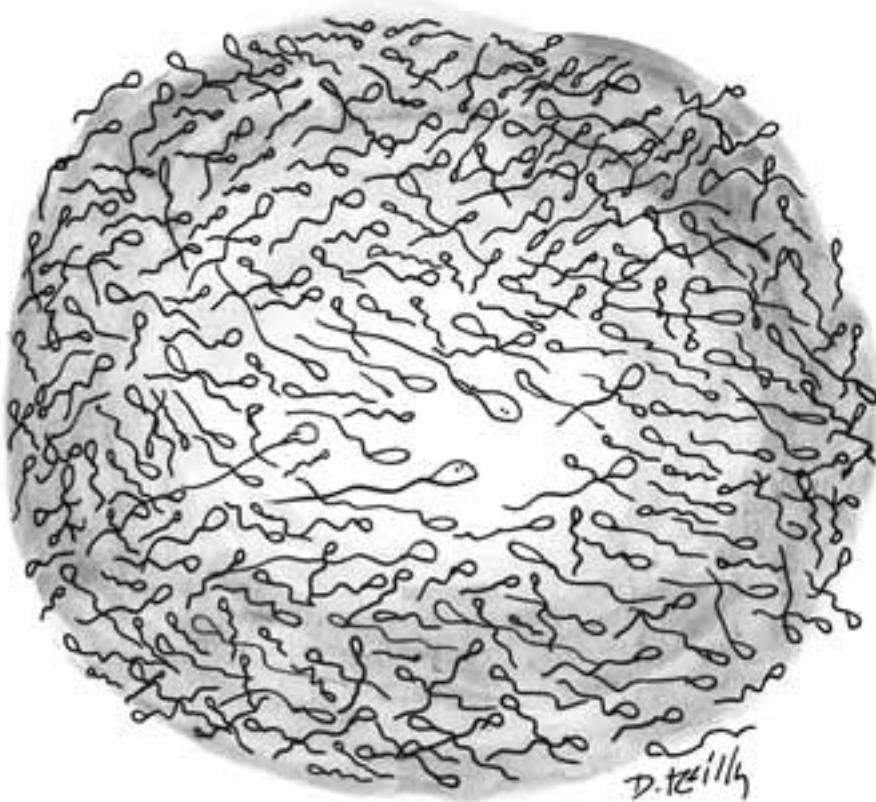
"Gosh, it kills me to do this to you, Worthington, but you're not turning out to be as black as we had hoped."



"Let's just forget for a moment that you're black."



*"Everybody says that without the specs I look like Grover Cleveland
and with them I look like Theodore Roosevelt."*



"I like New York, but it's awfully crowded."



"Ms. Dixon, bring in 'da noise, bring in 'da funk!"



"To my favorite palindrome."



"But, seriously . . ."



*"Negotiations are going to be tougher than I thought.
Your wife is being backed by Syria."*



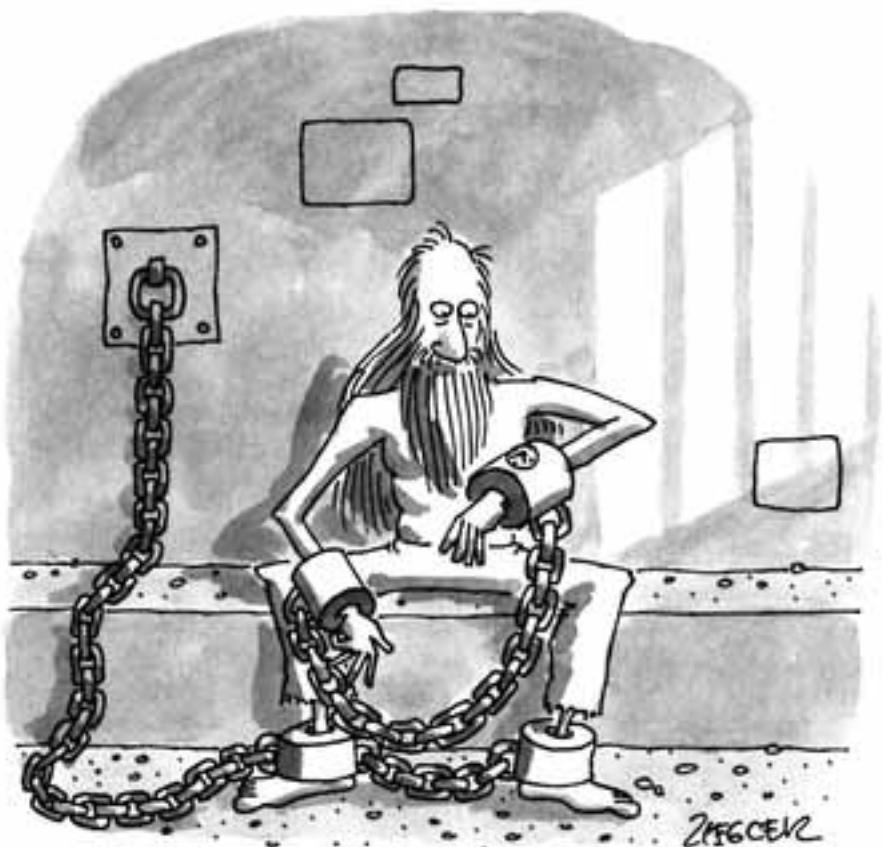
FALLOUT



R. Chast



"What's it like to have sexually active parents?"





"Oops! There goes another rubber-tree plant!"



"Something collarless. I'm being guillotined."



"Dad, can my attorney have a glass of water?"

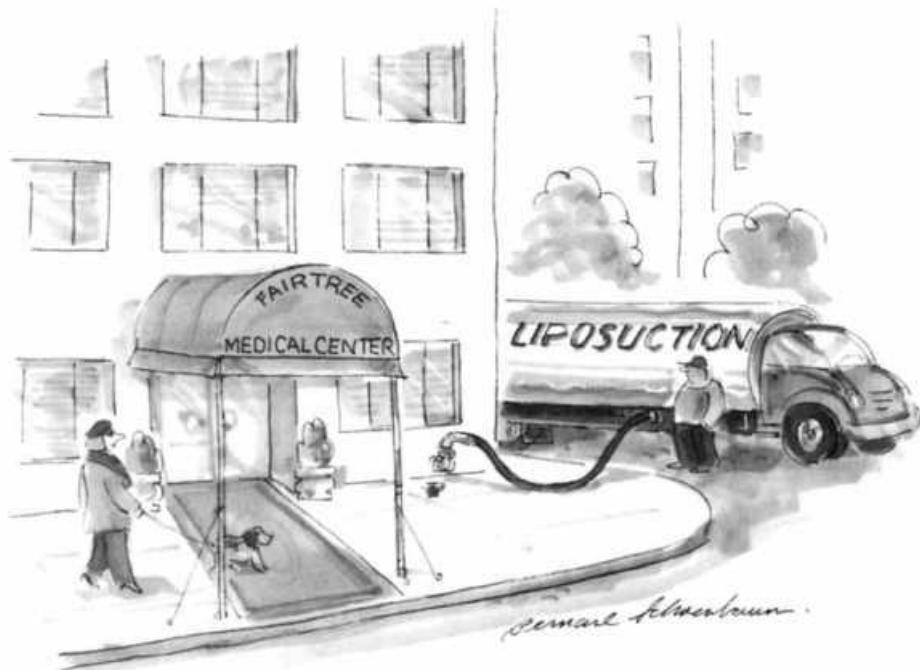




"I love you, but not in that way."



"Oh, just cellaring. You?"





"All he does is eat, sleep, and paint."



*“Congratulations, dude, and you may
now play tonsil hockey with the bride.”*



"Hey, I've operated on this guy before—there are my initials."



"Oh, sure, I remember him. He was quiet, mostly kept to himself, paid the rent on time. You know, we were only married for sixteen years."



*"I'll have someone from my generation get in touch
with someone from your generation."*

1996 THE GUY WHO INVENTED AN ALCOHOL SUBSTITUTE



R. Chast



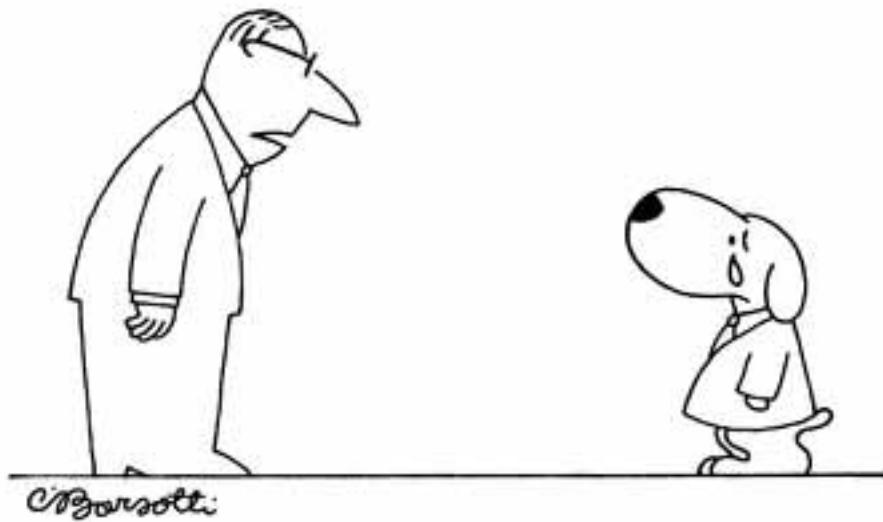
"You had more money than God. That's a big no-no."



"Those responsible for putting my client in charge of the henhouse should be on trial here, not my client, who, as a fox, was only doing his job."



"Whore of Babylon?"



"Of course the company appreciates your years of loyalty."



"Perot, party of one."





"Lock your door and roll up the window."



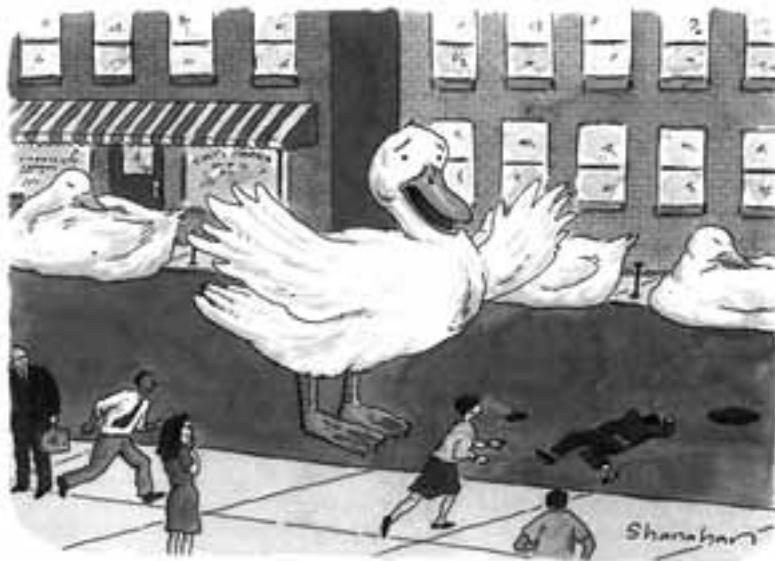
"Wow! You need professional help."



"Check it out."



“Never, ever do that again!”



*"You saw him, didn't you? Crazy guy stepped right
in front of me! No way could I stop!"*

FINALLY - A SOFTWARE PACKAGE THAT
MAKES IT A SNAP TO WRITE THAT NOVEL



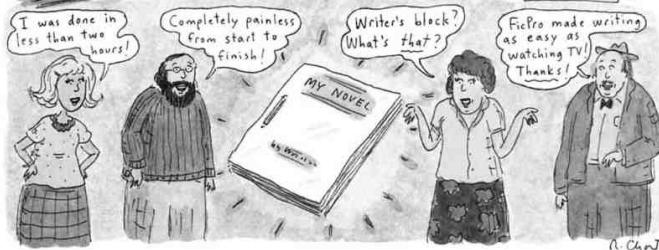
FIRST, ASK YOURSELF: WHAT DO I WANT TO WRITE?

- Romance Spy Medical Horror Sci-Fi Coming of Age Continue List

THEN DECIDE ON YOUR BOOK'S STYLE:

- Southern Gothic Norman Mailer in the '60s Hemingway-like
- '80s Anomie Folksy Flowery Continue List

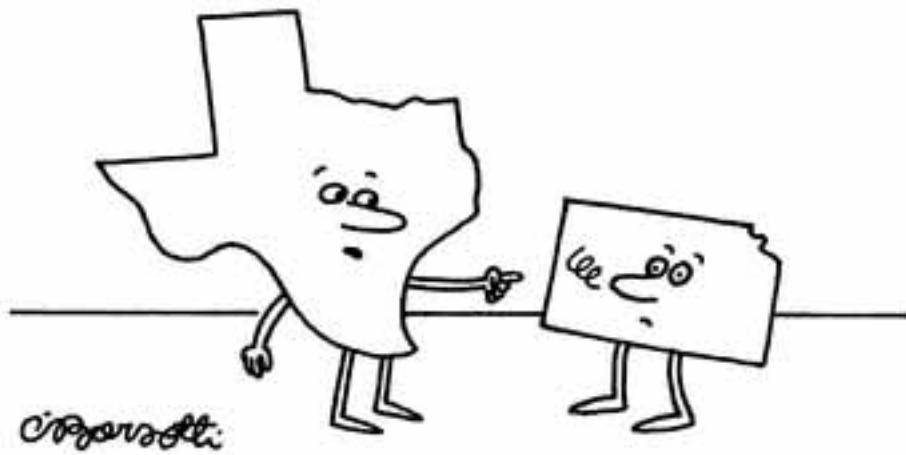
THEN CHOOSE YOUR CHARACTERS AND YOUR PLOTLINE,
BLEND IT ALL TOGETHER, AND VOILÀ!



R. Chast



"I'm sending you to summer camp."



"Ooh, you have a tornado right there."



*"We begin the day hammering. Then there's 'Regis and Kathie Lee.'
Then we do some more hammering, followed by lunch and
'Days of Our Lives,' more hammering, 'Oprah,' and, finally, home."*

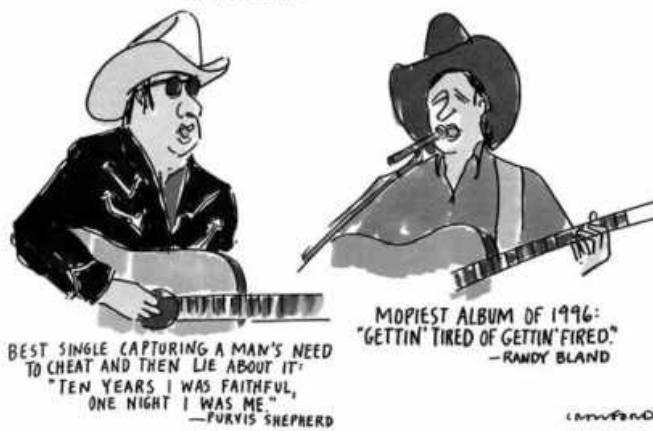
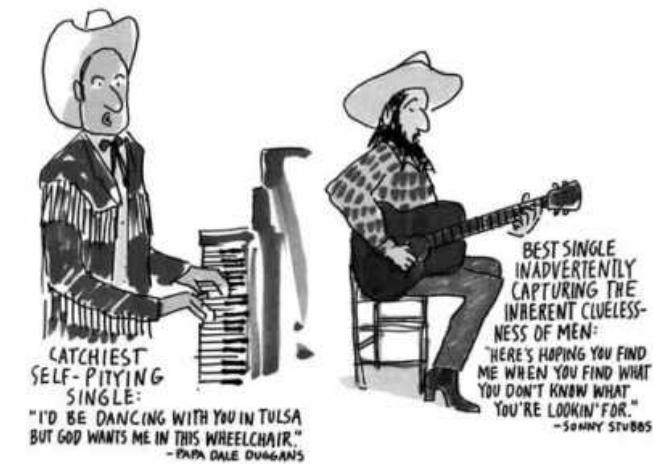


"Hank, when you're finished firing this gentleman I have some rather unfortunate news for you as well."

COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS (1 OF 2)



COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS (2 OF 2)







*"I'll tell you what this election is about. It's about homework,
and pitiful allowances, and having to clean your room.
It's also about candy, and ice cream, and staying up late."*

CHESHIRE CLASS REUNION





*"I can't believe it! I had the key right in my paw,
and you had to cough up a hairball!"*

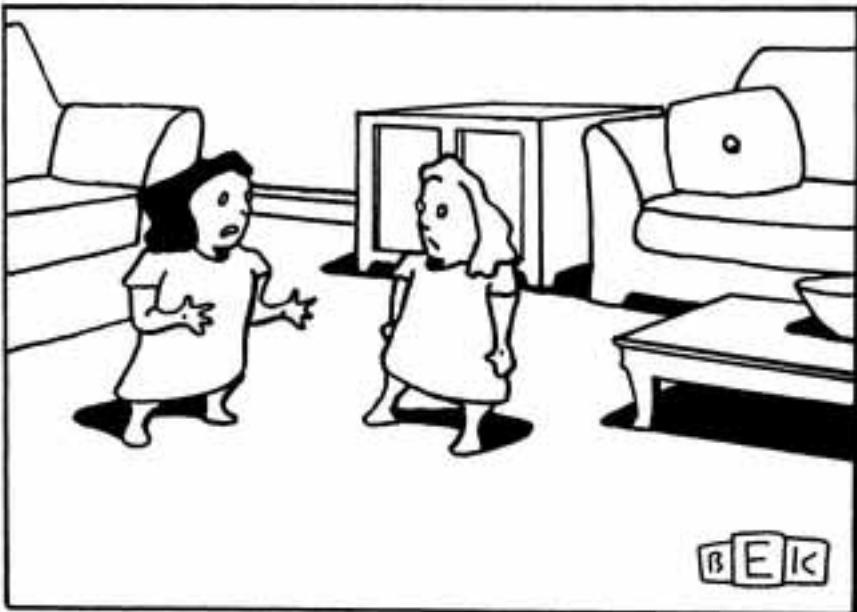


"Brad, talk to me—animal to animal."





"How did we let it get this bad, Melvin?"



*All he did was stick gum in my hair, and now
I have to put up with all this innuendo.*



"You went to Barneys without me? You slut!"



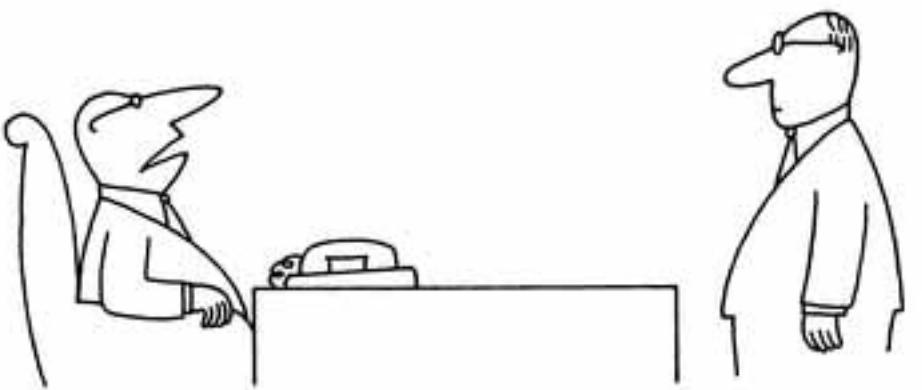
“Buckled up for safety, Slim?”



"No way! Wow! That's my favorite brand of Republicanism, too!"



"Carl! I thought I'd find you here."



"We only hire temps, and you have a look of permanence about you."



*"I'm delighted to love, honor, and obey,
but I'm keeping my electronic rights."*



"In my practice, I prefer to treat the whole hog."

(6/3/1996)



"So, how goes the quest for fire?"



"Very nice résumé. Leave a sample of your DNA with my secretary."



"This summer, my parents are sending me to divorce camp."



"The axe is falling! The axe is falling!"



"No, thanks. I'm trying to quit."



"Wow, our first date, and already I feel like it's our second."



*"I should be more like Sharon Stone?
You should be more like Sharon Stone!"*



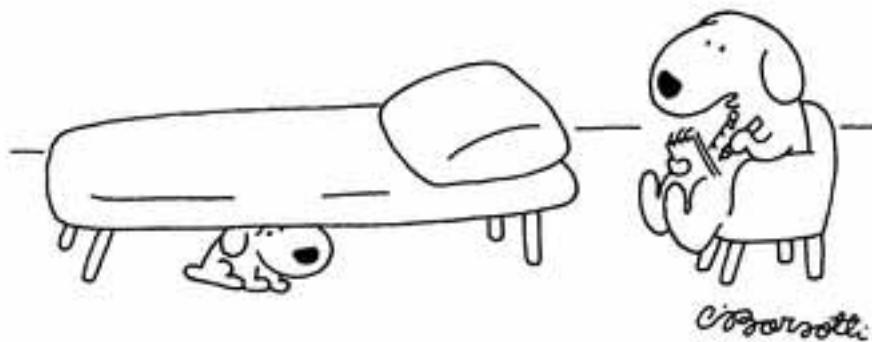
"I pronounce you husband and wife of opposite sexes."



"What about all those nasty cracks you made about Philip Morris?"



"What I'm proposing is this. No."



"And what do you think will happen if you do get on the couch?"



"It's come to my attention that some of the salaried employees are asking where the Hamptons are. Under no circumstances are they to be told."

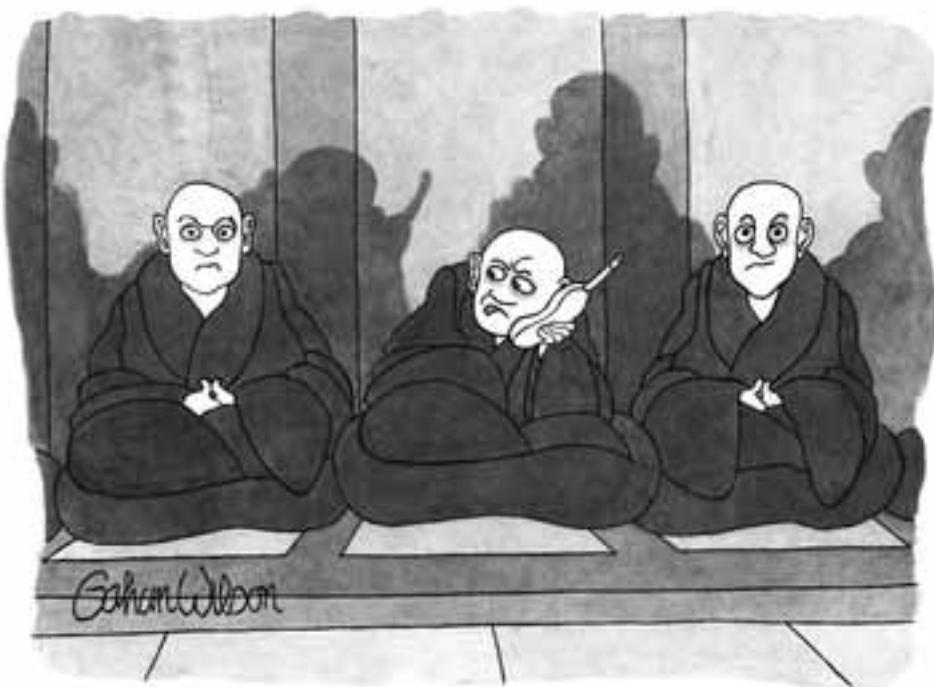


*"The top of the news is coming right up.
But, first, the bottom of the news."*



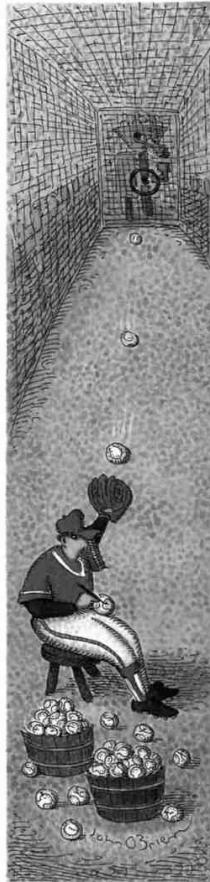
"I feel there's a whole culture around mules."





*"You notice how these telephone pitches always come just
when you're about to achieve satori?"*

SIGNING CAGE





*"I brought the bougainvillea in from the greenhouse.
It wasn't happy out there."*





"How about this? 'Old Bob Dole is a merry old soul.' "



Bernard Schoenbaum
“Charging you anything less would be improper.”



"That's my new au pair, Mr. Cochran, formerly with A.T.&T."



"A wonderful cat is coming into your life."



"See you later, Debbie. Try to combine the firm yet sensitive supervision of Mr. Clinton with the strict yet compassionate stewardship of Mr. Dole."



*"Hello, and welcome to another edition of
'Sweatshops of the Rich and Famous.'"*



*"No health or dental, no stock options, and no severance package.
We do, however, provide free burial at sea."*





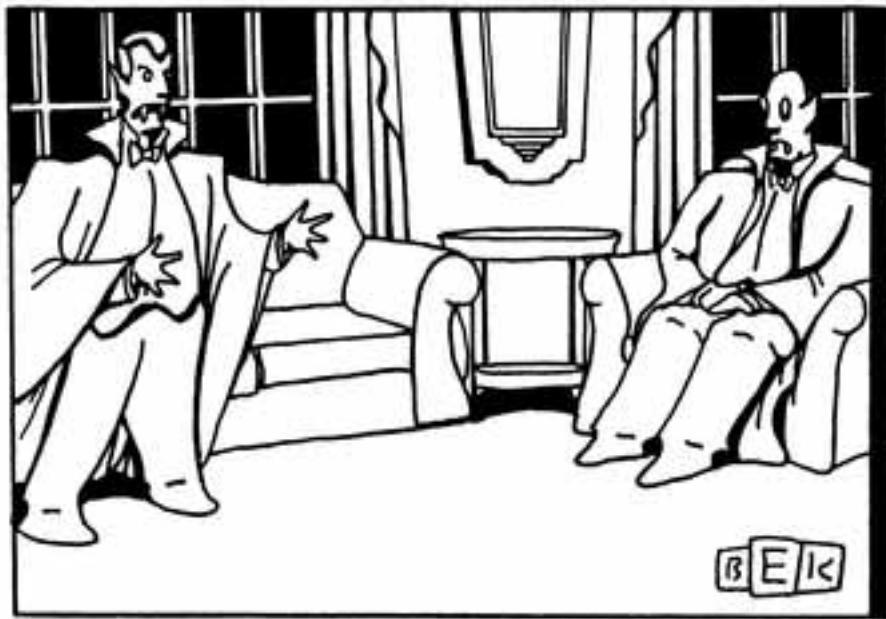
*"Jessica Jo's white, Tucker's black, Tag's white, Pepper's red,
Peekay is gray, Junie is gray, Jamie's brown—
and, by the way, Jessica Jo is gifted."*



"Love the bag, Stell! Very career."



"I've decided to outsource my emotional needs."



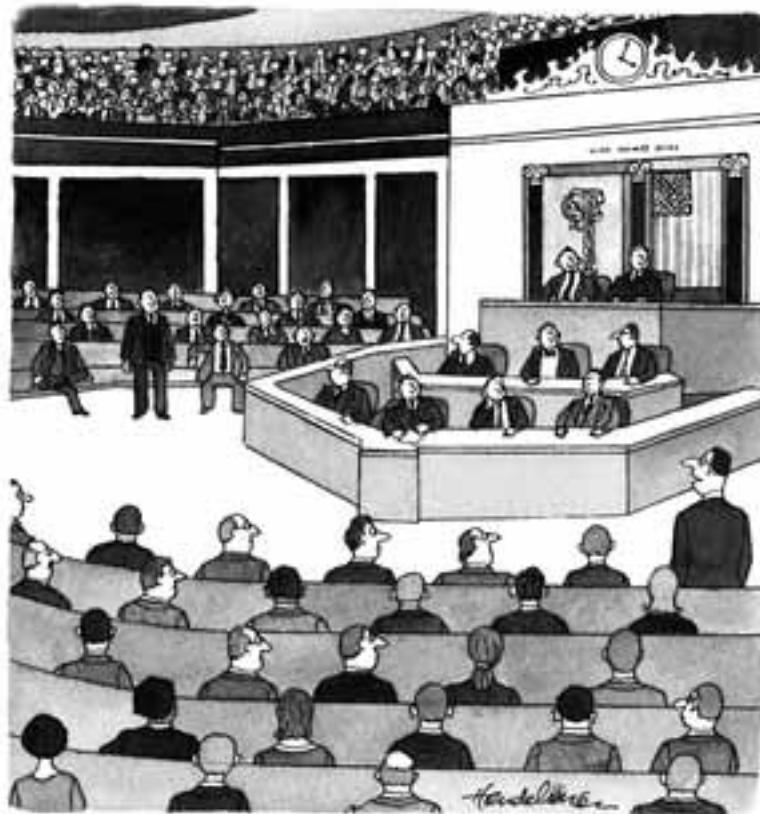
"Look, we're three thousand years old. No one's going to hire us."



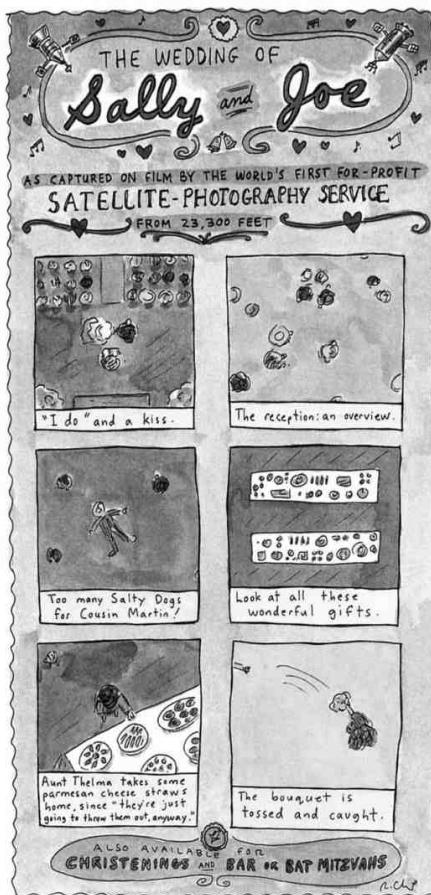
"My fellow victims. . ."



"Last weekend we planted basil. Period."



"Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman from Small Firearms yield the floor to the gentleman from the Big Tobacco?"





"First, let me pull up your file."



"Haven't you something more immense?"

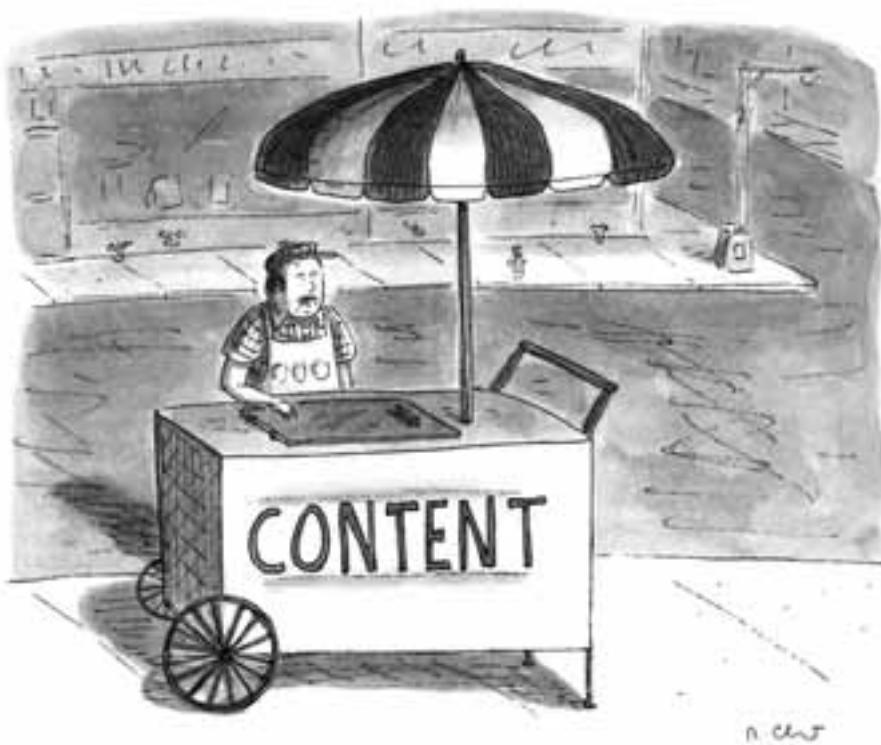




"Since this is only your first offense, and you've been found not guilty, I'll be lenient in my sentencing."

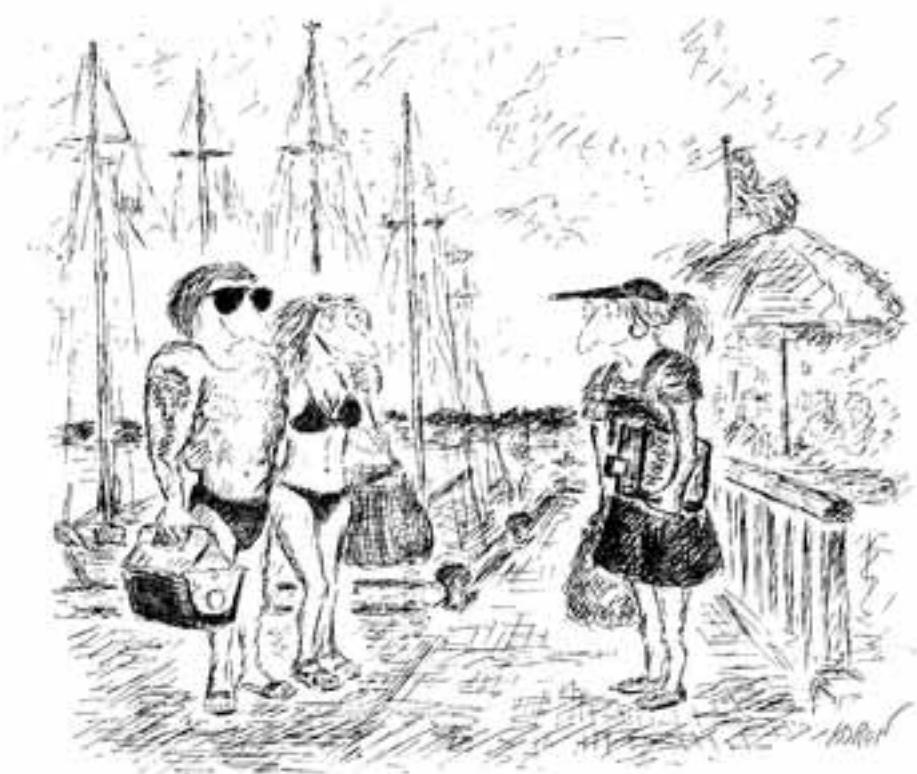


*"Yeah, the sixteenth. Right. Great. And, Dad?
Do you think you could cut your hair?"*





"Call me shallow—I like 'Good night Moon.' "

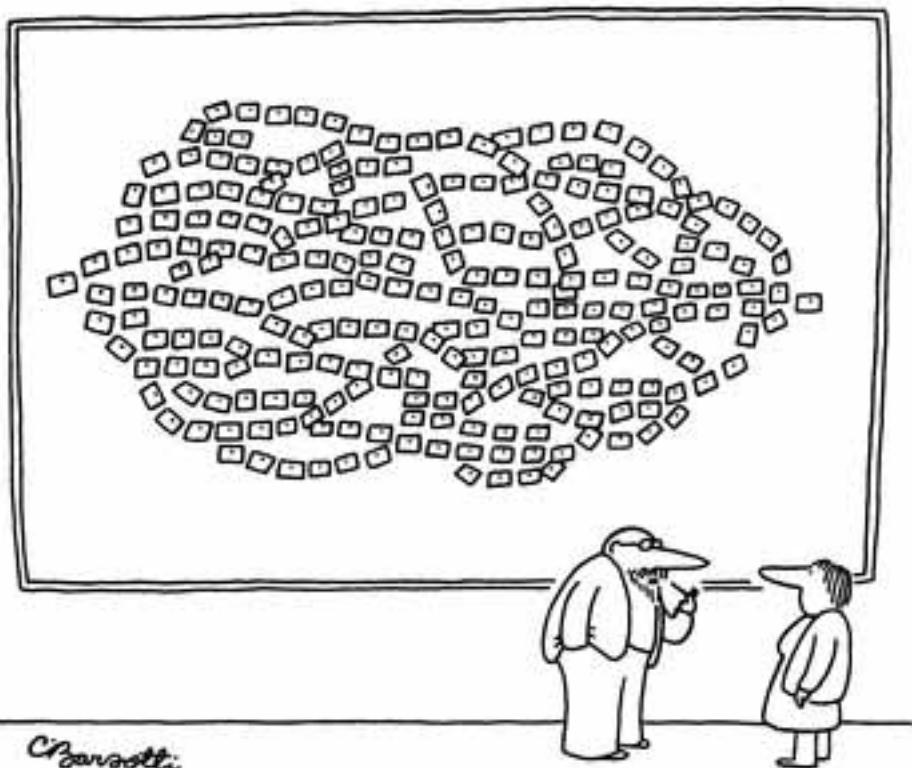


"Jason is my summer reading."



"I'll listen for a dollar."





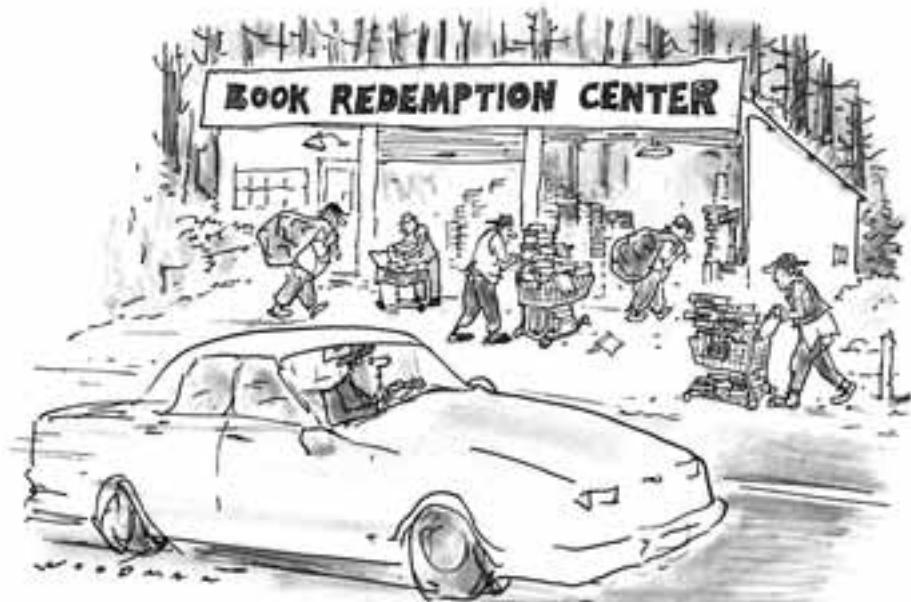
"It's plotted out. I just have to write it."



*"I'm perfectly willing to suffer the slings and arrows
as long as I can keep the outrageous fortune."*



*"The publisher loves my novel, but the
art director says I can't be on the jacket."*





*"I love your novel, and I feel that it would
make excellent nesting material."*



*"Promise me, son, that you'll never have
anything to do with book publishing."*



“Could you write, ‘To Penny, my darling ex-wife, who nurtured me and supported me all through my struggles as a fledgling writer, and whom I blew off the minute I had my first big success.’”



"I'll just have a Diet Coke. I'm in the middle of my novel."



"I'm sorry, Dave, but our marriage has lost its narrative flow."



"Job! I hear you've got a book out!"



"I'd like to see everything you have on girls."









"Tell me again about royalties."

FROM

THE DIALOGUES OF PLATO



Phrieda: Plato, what do you want for lunch?

Plato: Anything. Whatever.

Phrieda: How's tuna?

Plato: Not tuna.

Phrieda: I could make you some scrambled eggs.

Plato: Grilled cheese.

Phrieda: We don't have any cheese.

Plato: I want grilled cheese!



Phrieda: I'll go to the store later and buy some cheese, but right now we don't have any cheese, so tell me: what do you want for lunch?

Plato: I don't want anything.



Phrieda: You have to have something.

Plato: You can't force me.



R. CHAST



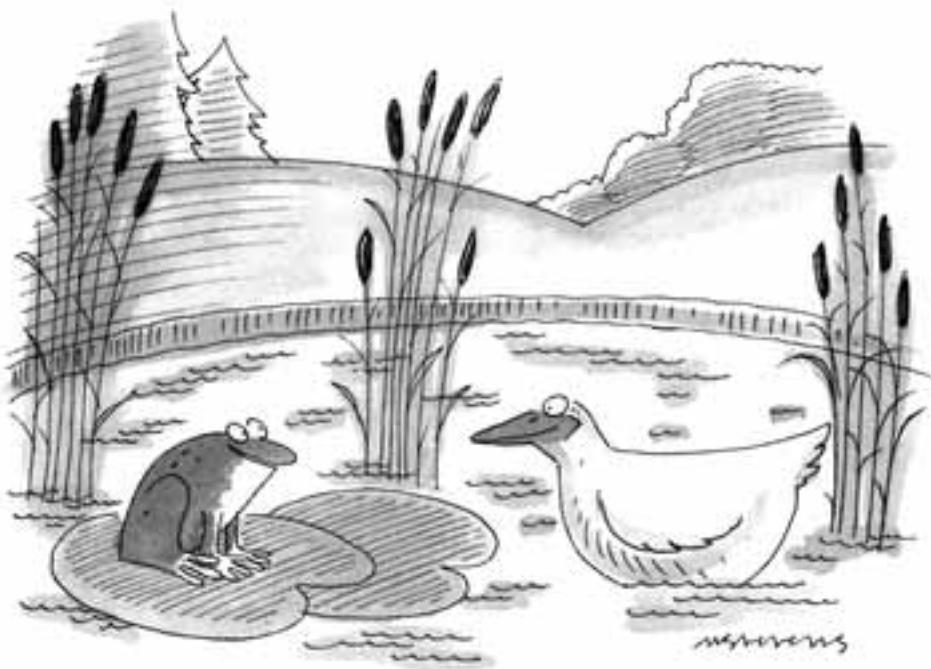
*"They never change. It's just that as we get older
we develop a higher tolerance for dorks."*



"My latest sighting turned out to be just another weather balloon."



"This is Mrs. McBride from marketing."



"My lawyer finally got me on the endangered-species list!"



"I'd love to chat, Al, but I've got to hit the road."

MANKOFF



"O.K., the third of July is out. How about the fourth?"



"As soon as one problem is solved, another rears its ugly head."

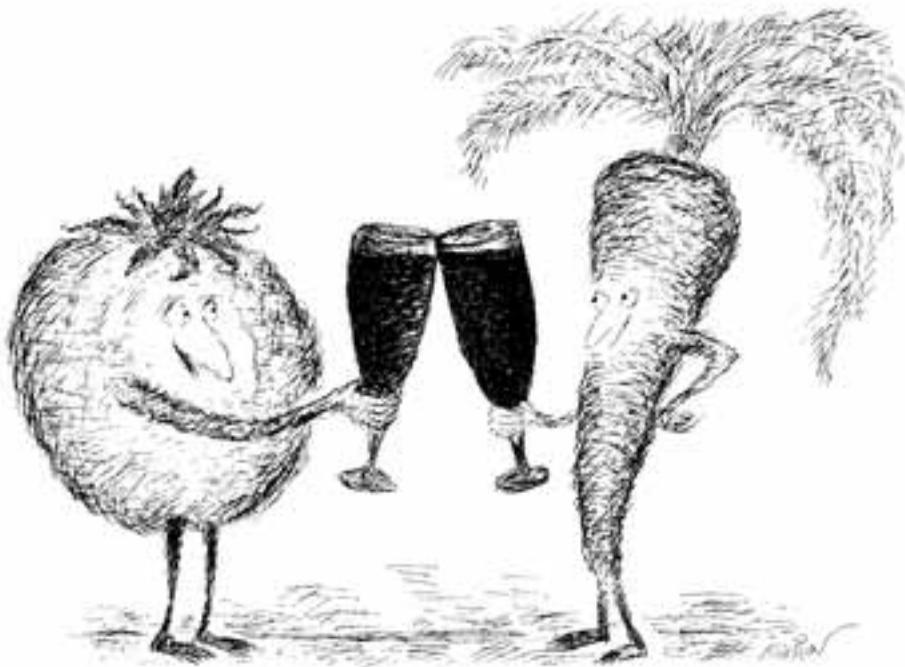


"We have only jobs here, Mr. Sanderson, not 'gigs.' "



"Our flavors of the day are Prodigal, Importune, and Mal de Siècle."





"Here's to us, kid—and the healing powers of raw juices."



"Does he usually ooze this much sincerity?"





"I try neither to encourage nor to discourage, Pookie."

NEXT ON THE AGENDA

Law making it illegal for child
to eat grilled cheese more
than fourteen times a week.



Law that criminalizes missing
the school bus because of over-
sleeping, dawdling, lost shoe, etc.



Law completely banning sleep-
overs on school nights.



Law requiring child to clean up
own room at least once a month.

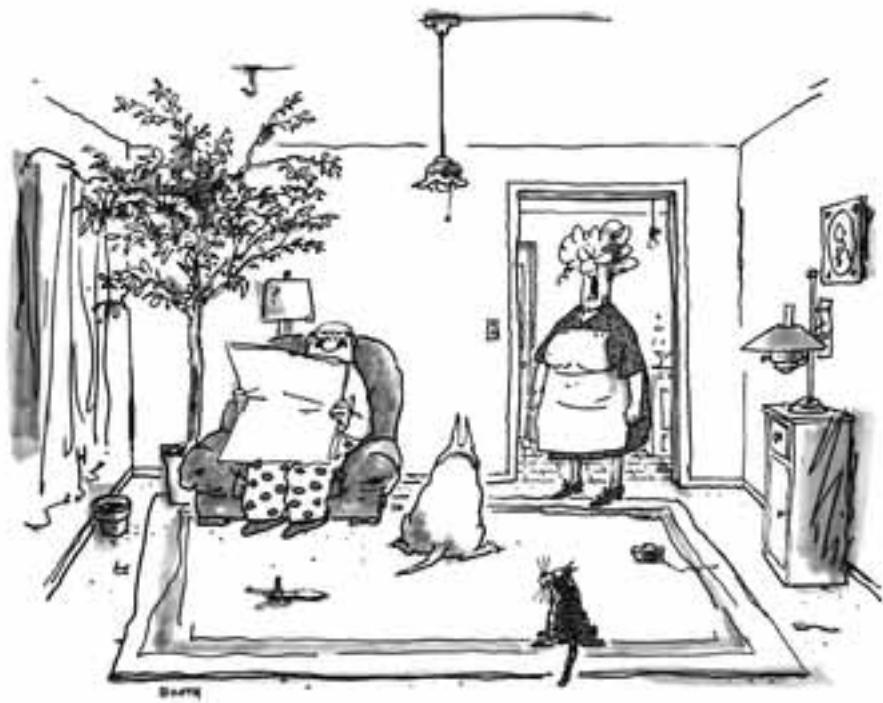




"I wouldn't marry you if you were the last gay person on earth!"



"Now, how many of you liked the viola player best?"



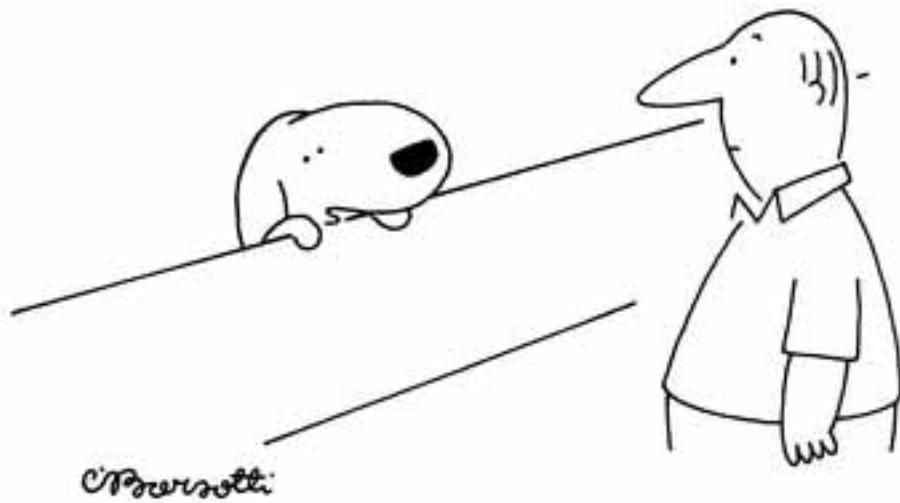
"I decided to spend the money and have my legs waxed."



"I just dialled 1-800-BAGUETTE."



"I'm sorry—the agency told me they'd cleared away last summer's people."



"This is a stickup."



"If you can't say anything nice about Kathie Lee Gifford, just shut up."



"I don't need to be with someone all the time. Being pursued is enough."



"My client is willing to do community service."

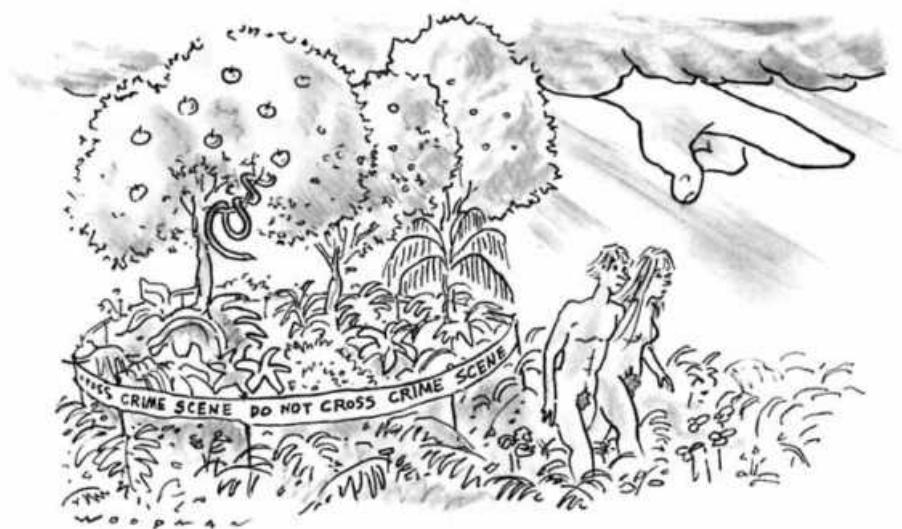


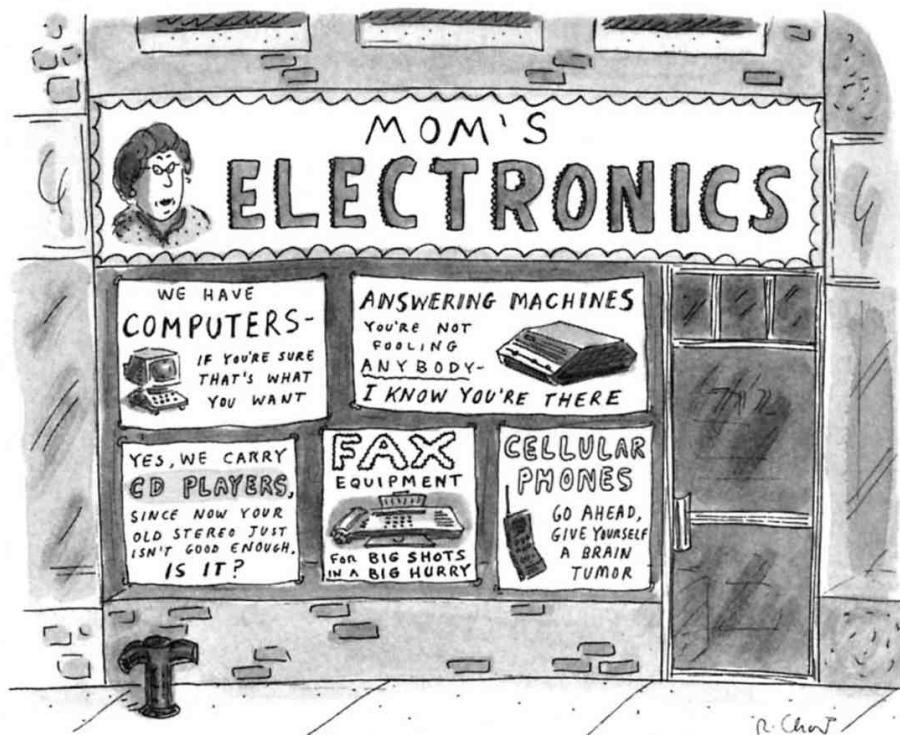
"On the other hand, it's great to be out of Washington!"





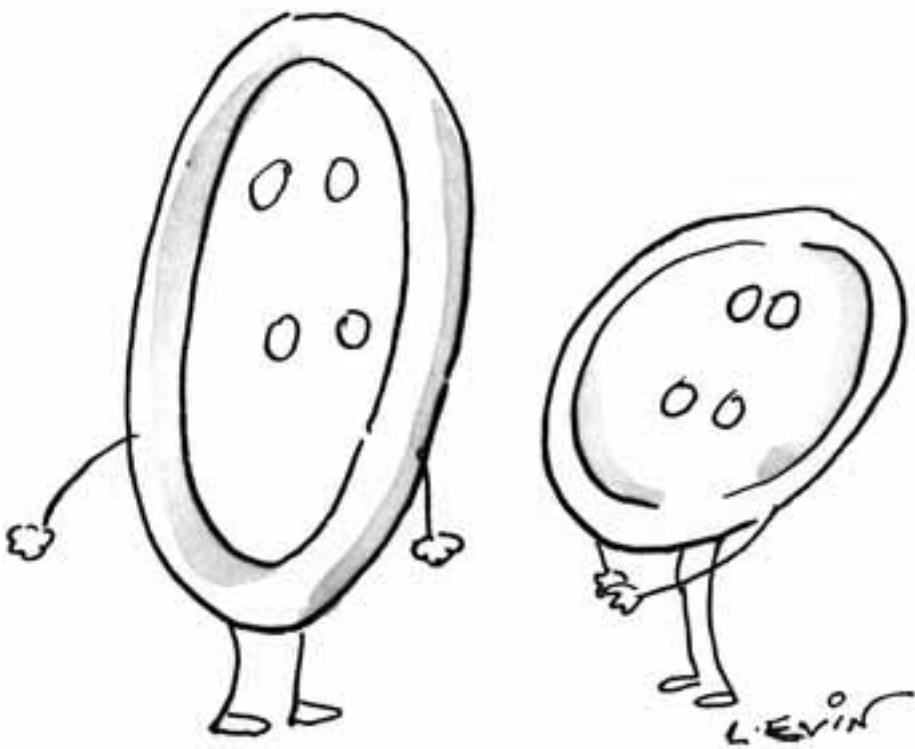
"I can only discuss salary and benefits. You'll have to analyze the babe situation yourself."







"He ain't heavy, Father. He's a noodle."



"You're cute, too."



"Can Jennifer come out and work?"



"Hi, Doc. We're from da union."



*"It would be cool to have your own tower
where you could dump stuff on people."*



*"Here's a cappuccino place. Oh, forget it—
too many nose rings with sketchbooks."*



"I knew this just had to follow!"



Bernard Schoenbaum

*"It's only fair that I warn you, Margaret.
I'm very subject to market fluctuations."*



*"Don't you threaten me, Felner!
I have a law degree and I know how to use it."*





"From here we continue on foot."



"Albert the Great—what a joke."



*"With the understanding that it's strictly on a trial basis,
I'd like you out of my life forever."*

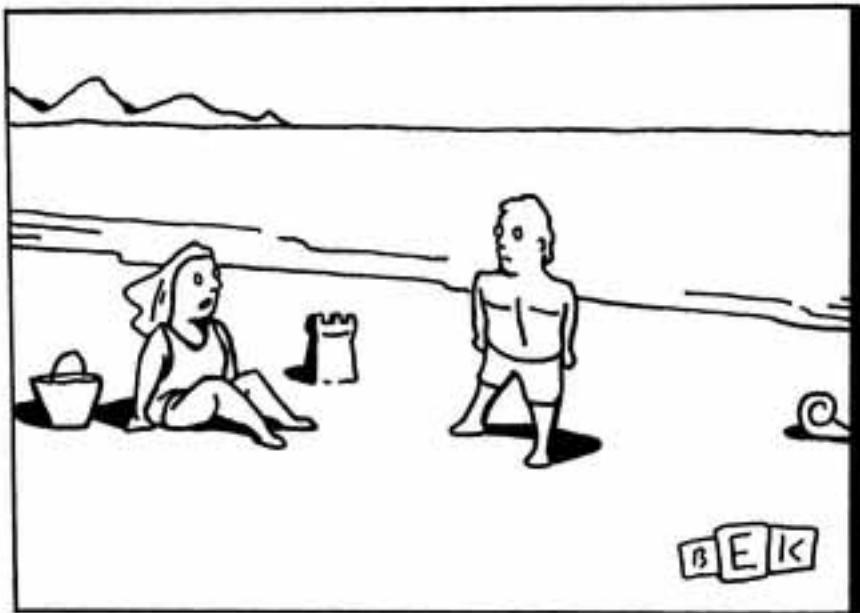




"Not much. Just holding a client's moist hand."



*"Cézanne has always been my man,
but is he worth a trip to Philadelphia?"*



*"I didn't realize how much I needed to get away
from that day-care grind."*





"That was my horse. He's in a whole passel of trouble, and I gotta go."



"This is a very impressive manifesto."



*"Now that I've got it, what, exactly,
do I do with my newfound strength?"*



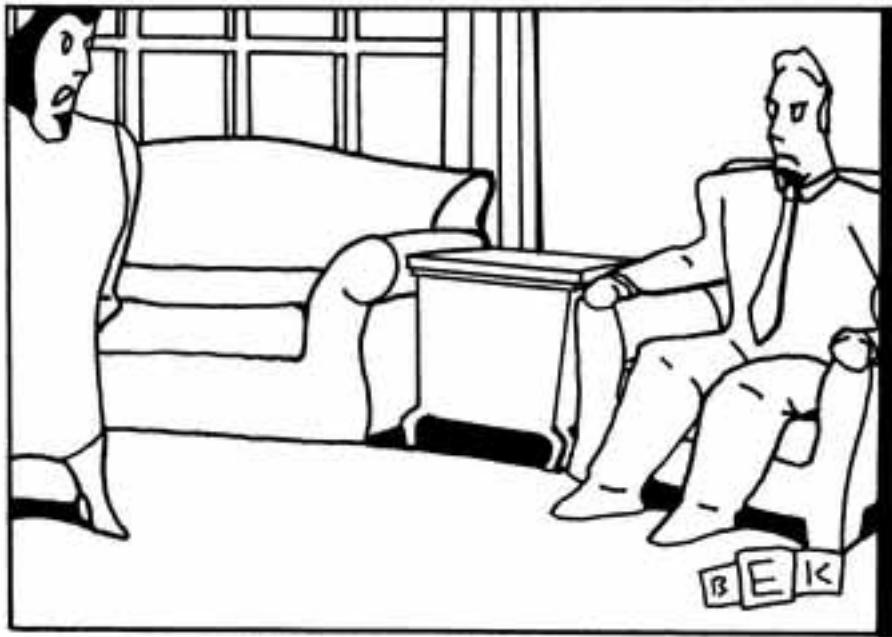
"No, the computers are up. We're down."



"Oh, I think I can be principled when necessary."



"On my order, could you hold the personal-approval rating?"



"Let's stop this before we both say a lot of things we mean."



"Summertime, chief, an' the livin' is easy."



"Looks like we grafted a few too many human genes into the kohlrabi."



"We had to let the animals go. No one informed them of their rights when they were arrested."





"It's bad news, I'm afraid. Now she's asking twenty-three million dollars and wants you to address her as 'Your Royal Highness.' "



*"I told you, Jared's the one who put nipples
on the mannequins at Saks."*



*"It's Irv Pelton, Mr. Mather, from the Voice
Crying in the Wilderness Department."*





"Miss Coleman, would you step in here, please, and take a Martini."



*"The economy is better under Clinton,
but I give all the credit to Greenspan."*



"You get your money back if you don't get laid in seven days."



"Admit it! You'd put me in a Winnebago if you could."



"Remember when people had only themselves to blame?"



*"The bank accepted bones in the eighties.
We don't accept bones anymore."*



“Damn, Tyler, I thought you’d worked through all that in therapy.”



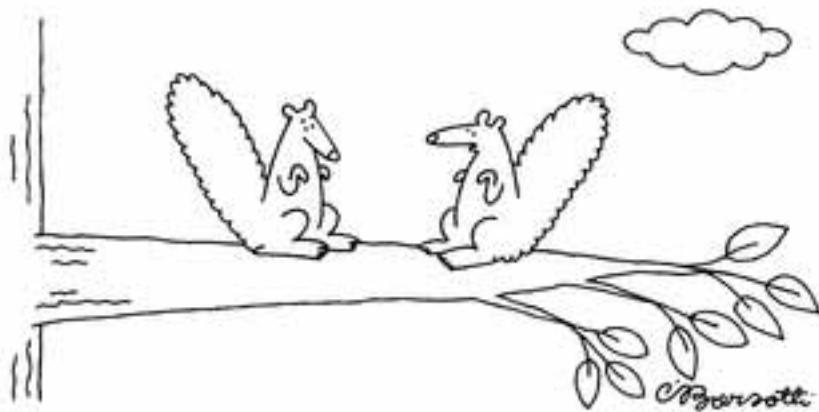
"Is Michael Eisner O.K.? I haven't seen his name in the papers for days."



“À la Recherche d'une Lentille de Contact,” d’après Millet.



"Nah, I didn't watch the Olympics—who won?"



*"How will you ever know whether you're
a flying squirrel if you don't give it a shot?"*



"Gee, you're not at all like your obituaries."



*"You only think you're barking at nothing.
We're all barking at something."*



"Before I pronounce you man and wife, a brief message from Archer Daniels Midland."



"Peters, make a joyful noise."



"I thought you liked museum reproductions."





"He's old money, but, unfortunately, minus the money."



*“Meaning no disrespect, Your Honor,
but fifty years to life is beyond my client’s comfort level.”*



"Could you get back to me in about two vodka tonics?"



"I'm upstairs right now. On weekends and holidays, I go downstairs."

HOW TO TURN A CLOSED-DOWN NUCLEAR REACTOR
INTO A THEME RESTAURANT:

A MASTER PLAN

First, come up with a snappy name.



Then plan a theme menu.



Have the waiters dress in protective gear, just for fun.



And, best of all, the food just cooks itself.





"I'm afraid your dental plan does not cover tusks."





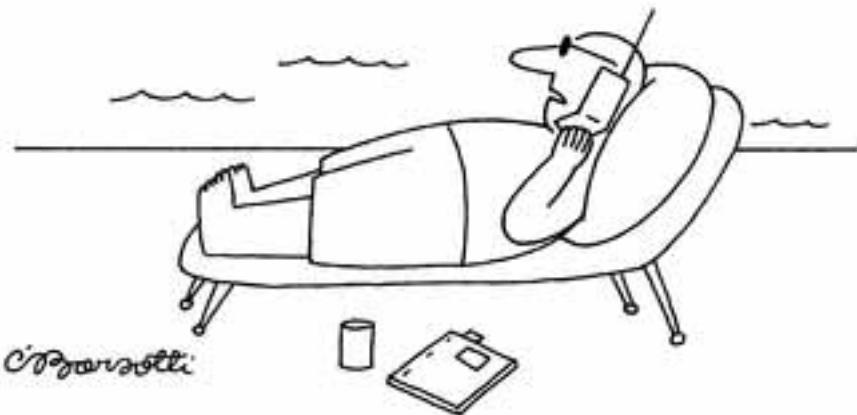
"When I grow up, I hope to spoil someone's bid for the Presidency."



"The knees are the first thing to go."



"I don't know the Latin, but the common name is climbing onion."



"Yeah, he's in rehab, but for the right role I can spring him."



“Dad’s ninety-three, according to the latest carbon-dating techniques.”



*"I just downgraded my relationship with
Richard from a 'hold' to a 'dump.'"*

SAFARI CLOTHES

"FOR PEOPLE WHO AREN'T GOING ANYWHERE"





"Oh, there's also a message of inclusion from Bob Dole."



Michael Crawford (8/19/1996)

[Return to Main Menu ▶](#)



"Thprinklth."



"Oh, by all means, James—claim the moral high ground."



"Ah, yes—Mr. Blenheim, and his obnoxious car alarm."







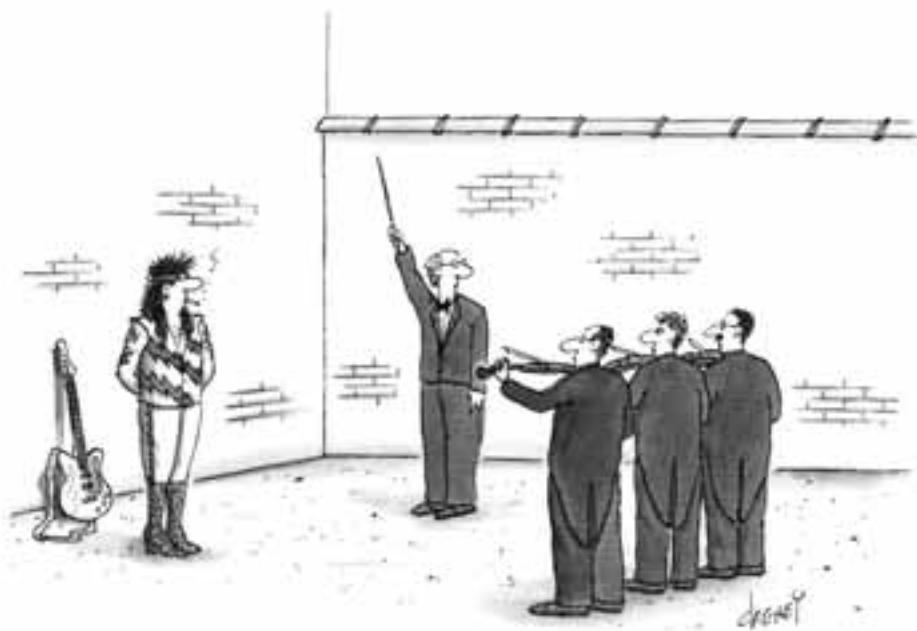
*"I took aim, pulled the trigger, and then,
suddenly, shots rang out."*



"Despite my best efforts, you're still the man and I'm still the woman."









"I'm warning you—it's a long story. It starts when I was a Deadhead and ends with me buying a John Tesh CD."

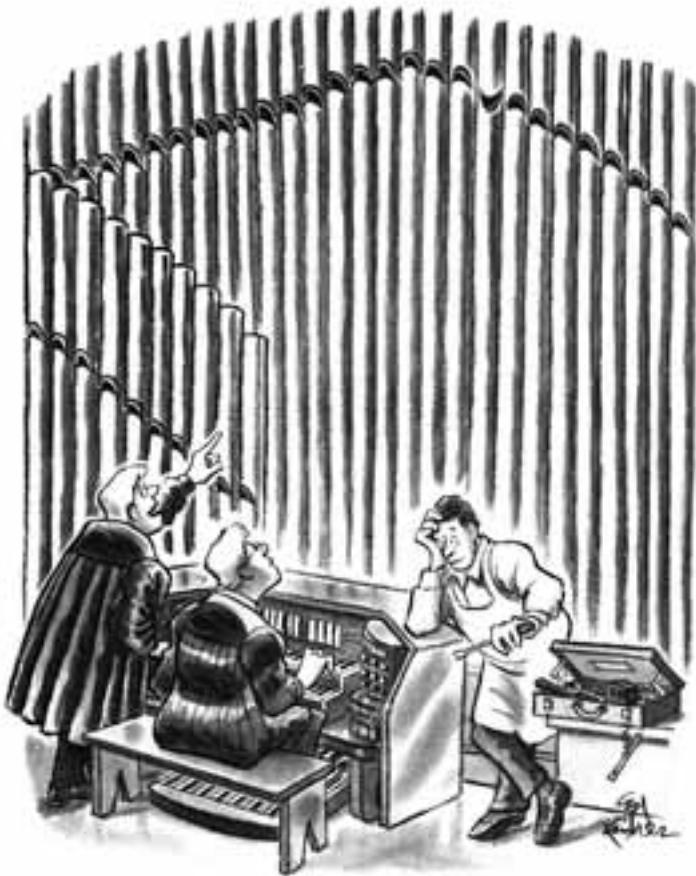




"Do you know 'Love Stinks,' by the J. Geils Band?"



"I gave on the E train."



"There! That's the one."



"Howard, I found my instrument!"



"You call that Wagner?"



"At least they're not swilling at the public trough."



"Let's run through it again. They're not budging."





"Hootie and the Blowfish, sir—on the headphones."



"Can Wolfgang come out and play?"





"I don't cook for Dave—I defrost things from my first marriage."



*"I love this hour at dusk when our
internes start that low, sweet crooning."*



"If I won the lottery, I would go on living as I always did."



"Someday, son, all this will be mine."



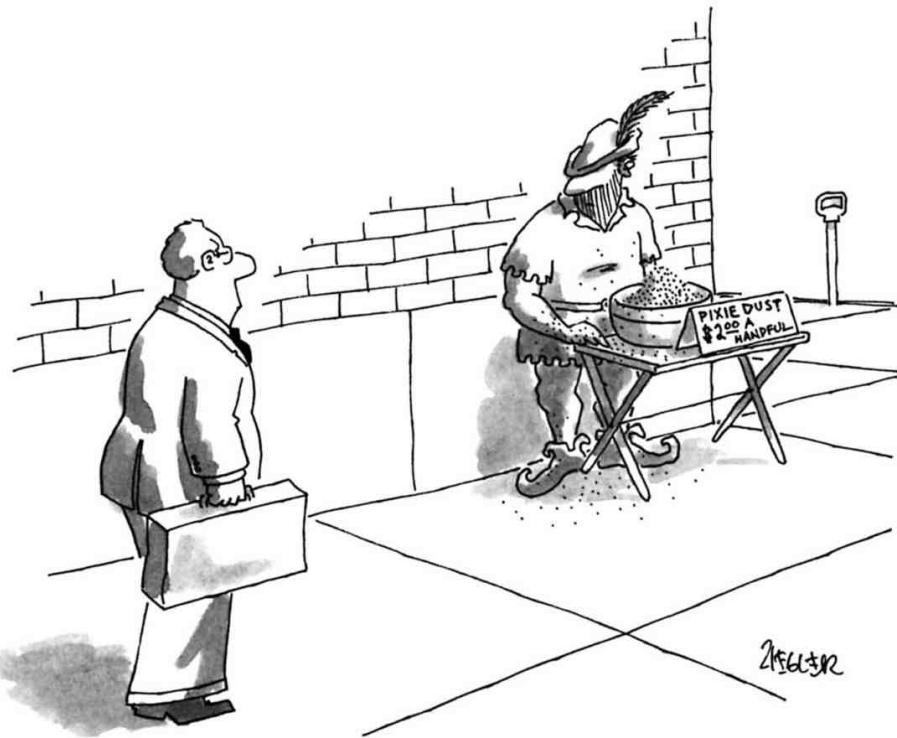
"And Thursday is karaoke night."



"I'm sorry, I didn't hear what you said. I was listening to my body."



*"Nothing important—nothing on fax, nothing on voice mail,
nothing on the Internet. Just, you know, handwritten stuff."*







"Please ask the people at the next table to stop talking about smoking."



"Well, it has been a great summer for chanterelles."



"Bert's inner core in spinning on its own."



*"You will laugh all the way to the bank, Degner,
but Purvis is to make the actual deposit."*



"Which one is the scalpel? I'm here on workfare."



"Fellow-earthlings . . ."



"I can't play squash tonight, Ed. I promised Linda I'd put in a little Kama Sutra time with her before the opera."



*"I've had a long talk with Jonah, and I think
he's willing to work with us."*





"Can you pray again in a couple of hours? He's in a meeting."

CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

— SUGGESTED GUIDELINES —

① Each employee shall be allotted a desk, a chair, a telephone, a computer, and miscellaneous office supplies, as long as job lasts.



③ Payment of salary is the sole responsibility of employer until employee is discontinued.



② Company shall provide janitorial services free of charge to current employees.



④ In the event of job cessation, it is up to the company to provide that information to the terminée.



a Chast



*"I tore her clothes off. She tore my clothes off. We put our clothes back on.
That was my summer. How was yours?"*



"I'm for Dole, the cockeyed optimist."



"How's the squid?"



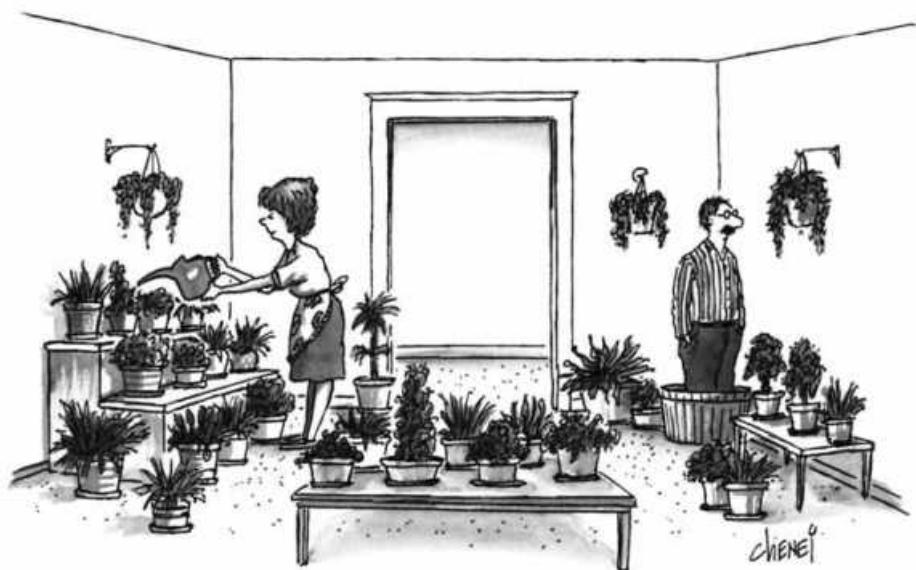
"I don't know you anymore, Ira."



“She sounds like a complete cad.”



"I could cry when I think of the years I wasted accumulating money, only to learn that my cheerful disposition is genetic."





"There, there! Two, maybe three floors down. Someone has an idea!!"



"I think it's time to give the word 'fabulous' back to the straight world."



"More ashtray, nurse! For God's sake, more ashtray!"



"Miss Gaines, send in someone who reminds me of myself as a lad."

DEMOCRATIC PARTY ACCESS
FOR UNDER \$100





“Could I have some privacy? It’s my boyfriend.”



*"It means taking a hefty pay cut, but I've decided
to accept the position as god of wine."*



"Tonight is open mike, n'est-ce pas?"



"A pod of attorneys to see you, sir!"





"Let's tow the trailer to a new state and make a fresh start."



"While you were out, somebody with three names called."



"First of all, forget everything you learned in obedience school."



"Come closer, Leroux—I like to work with my hands."



"Two, please—one senior and one tootsie."



"While it's not a cure, it does mean a guaranteed income for me."

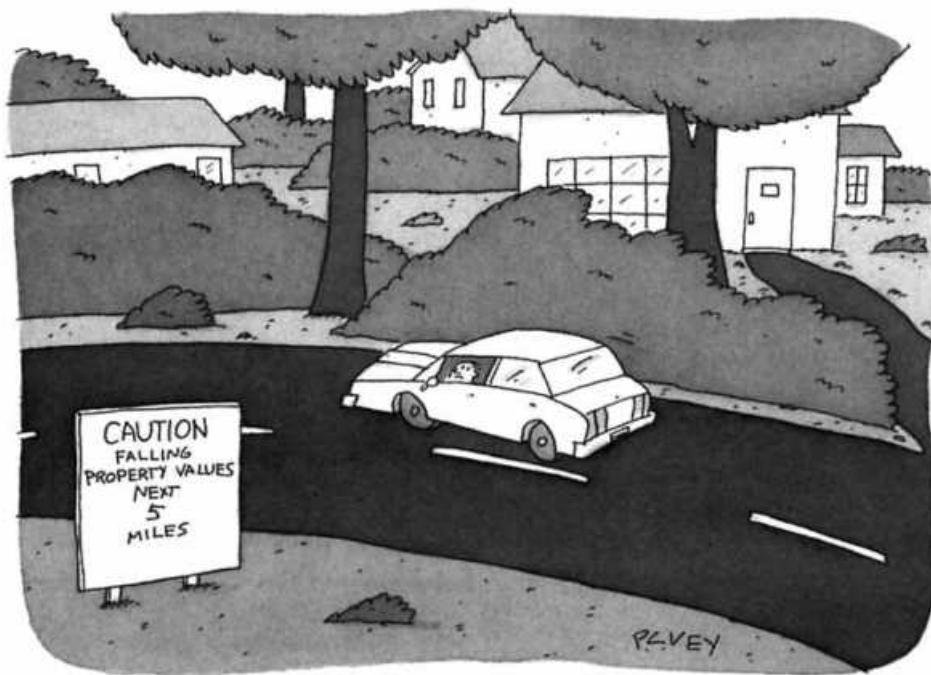




"Hello. May I speak to my broker, please?"



"Hey! Great shoes!"

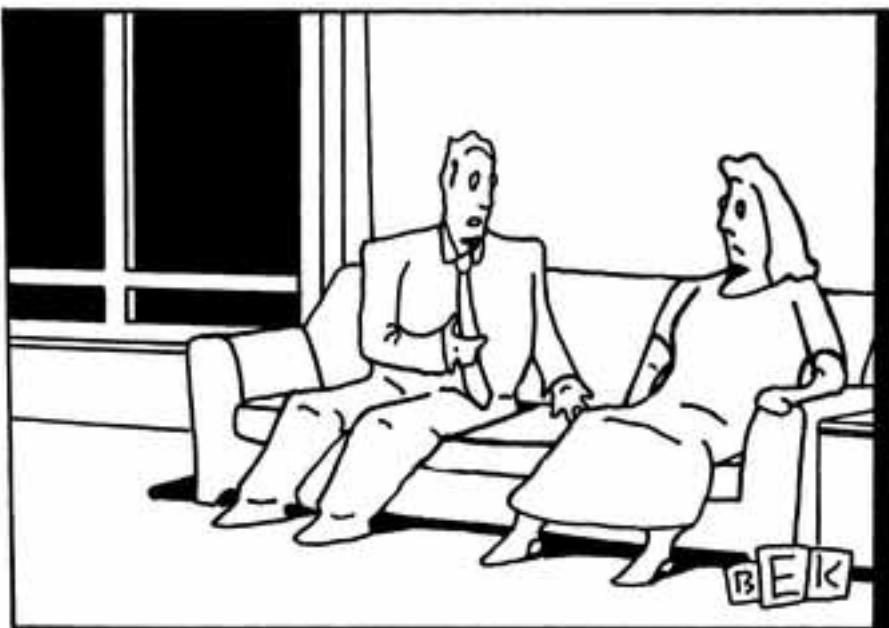




"I would share my cookies, but I'm afraid I'll set up a cycle of dependency."



"Don't you just love it when they lick the plates?"



"Let's cut the exposition and get straight to the sex."



"So, does anyone in the group feel like responding to what Richard has just shared with us?"



"You make handling domestic security look so easy, you must be good at it."



“Sure, we hobnobbed, but we never networked.”



*"All I can figure is that he must have been inspecting
the water quality of our lakes and rivers when he
became entangled in cement."*



"Of course you're bored, sweetie. It's the fin de siècle."



"Coiled and oiled and ready to go?"



"I heard something snap."

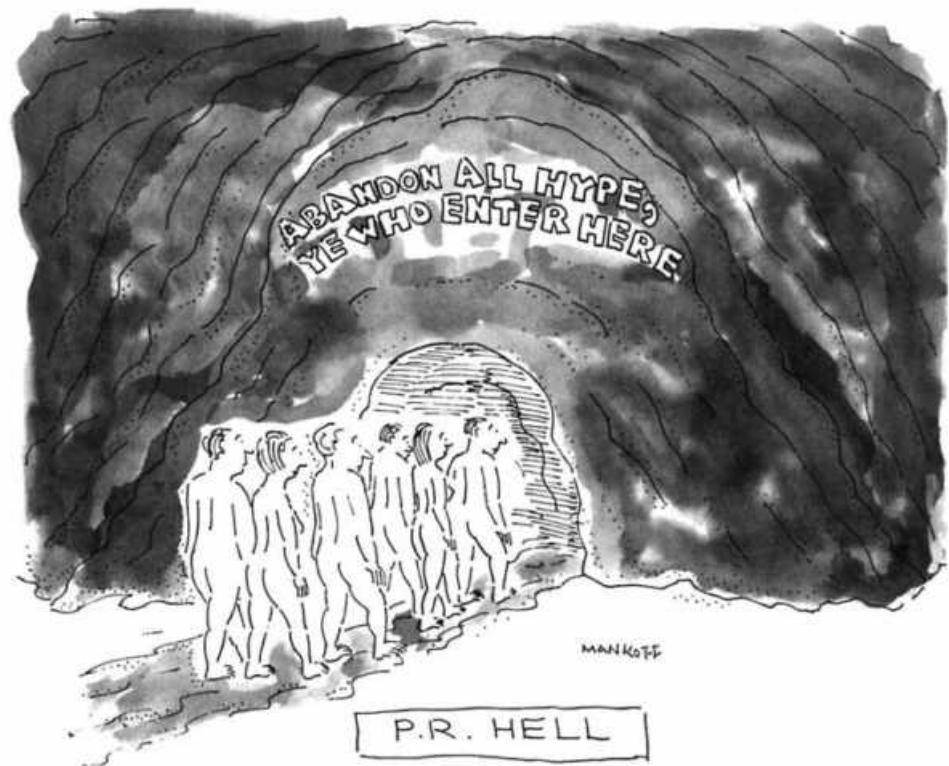


*"Goodbye, Roland. If you ever feel like talking,
I'll be on Maury Povich in early November."*



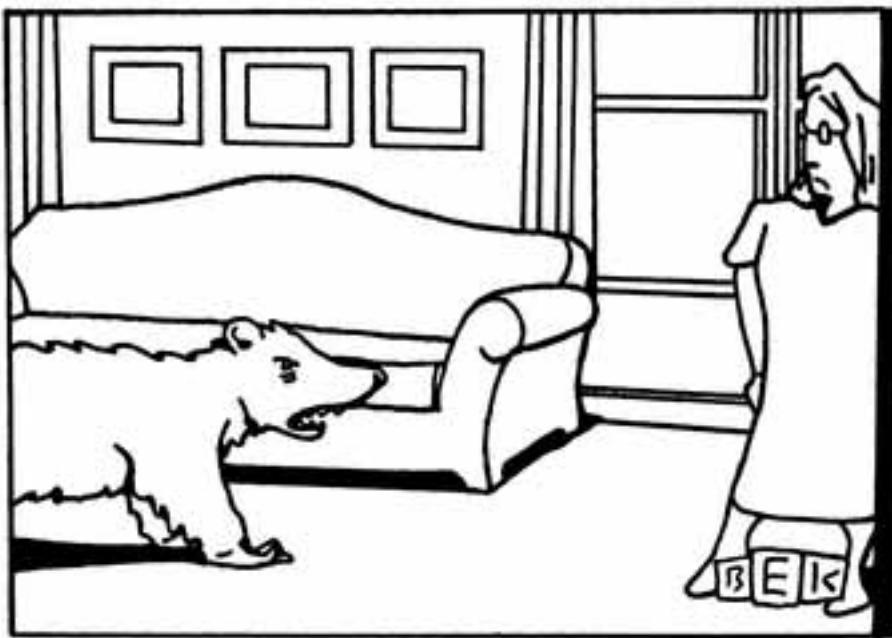
*“As a nation, we may be spending our children’s money,
but at my house it’s the other way around.”*







"That's tough, Eddie, but I told you she was trouble."



"I sleep half the year—how much more space do you need?"



*"I was a ruthless, driven, unfeeling son of a bitch—
and it worked out extremely well."*

CLANDESTINE CUISINE

Liver Surprise

16 parts macaroni and cheese
1 part liver

Mix. Serve in as festive a manner as possible.



Limas Incognito

43 parts macaroni and cheese
1 part lima beans

Grind the beans to a paste and stir them into the macaroni. Do not behave as if anything were amiss.



Cauliflower? What Cauliflower?

27 parts macaroni and cheese
1 part cauliflower

Combine ingredients. Arrange portion on plate in the shape of a bunny and act innocent.



Land Mine o' Halibut

188 parts macaroni and cheese
1 part halibut

Mash the hell out of the halibut and blend it in with the other stuff. Sit back and hope for the best.



Roz Chast



"I, too, used to drink the amber-colored fluids, gentlemen, but now, owing to health considerations, I drink only the crystal-clear fluids."



*"I don't think this is a diner about being a diner.
I think this is just a diner."*



"Too late. I already put the TV to bed."



*"Great legs, good cook, and not half bad in the sack,
but hopelessly tied to his mother's apron strings."*



"She has her mother's management style."



"Wilkins, this is Cosgrove. All our offices are now double occupancy."





"The gods must be on-line tonight."

TRULY EDUCATIONAL**CHILDREN'S
PROGRAMMING**

7-8 P.M. Your Parents: Gods Who Stride the Earth

The truth is revealed.



8:30-9:30 P.M. They Didn't Give a Damn

What became of people who didn't think algebra was "relevant."



8-8:30 P.M. Somebody's Sneezeing

All the ways you can catch a cold, including some that may surprise you.



9:30-10 P.M. The Wide World of "No"

Why grownups do not let you do every single thing that pops into your head.

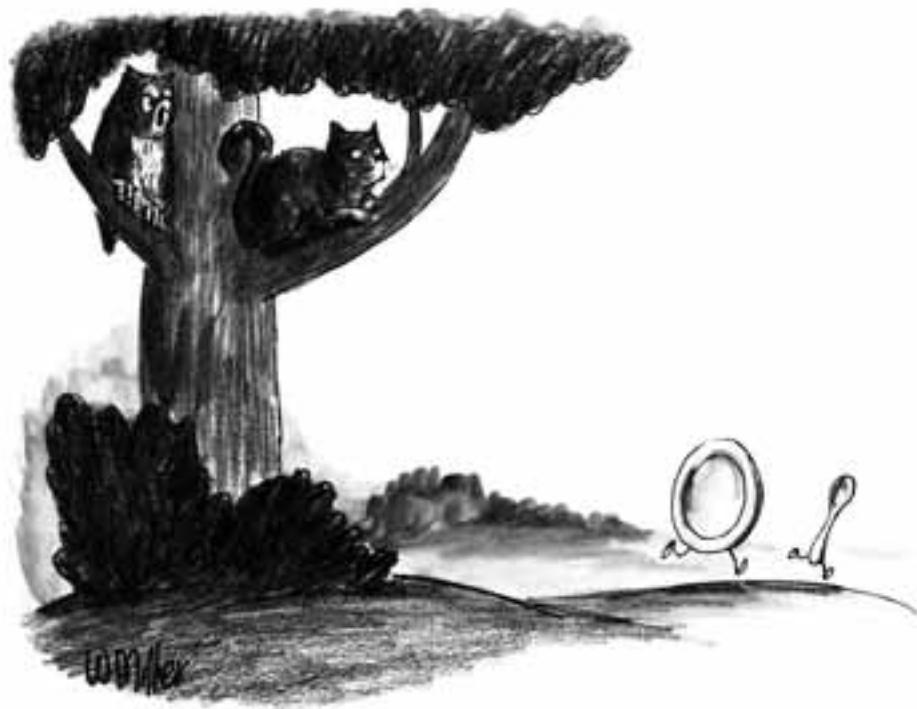




*"You're not fired, Harris. I'm just having you frozen
till things pick up again."*



*"Well, that was much better than yesterday,
but you're still using your salad fork for the entrée."*



"I myself don't see much hope for an inter-utensil relationship."



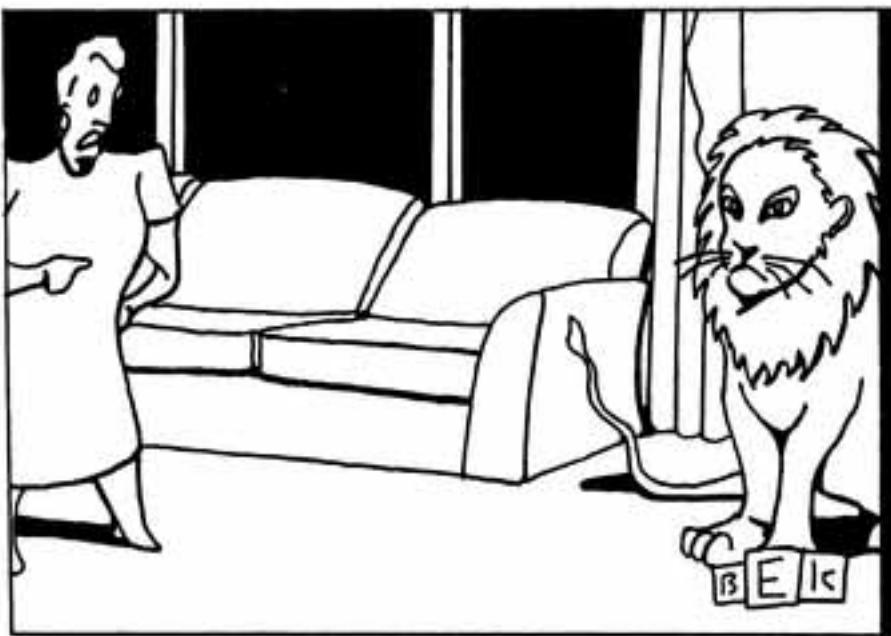
"Yet another bipartisan commission!"



"He's not Mr. Right, he's more like Mr. Now."



*"Just when I'm beginning to lose faith in the economy,
the market hits another all-time high."*



*"How do you think I feel when you say those years in
the jungle were the happiest time of your life?"*



"I see myself in a position where mediocrity is rewarded."



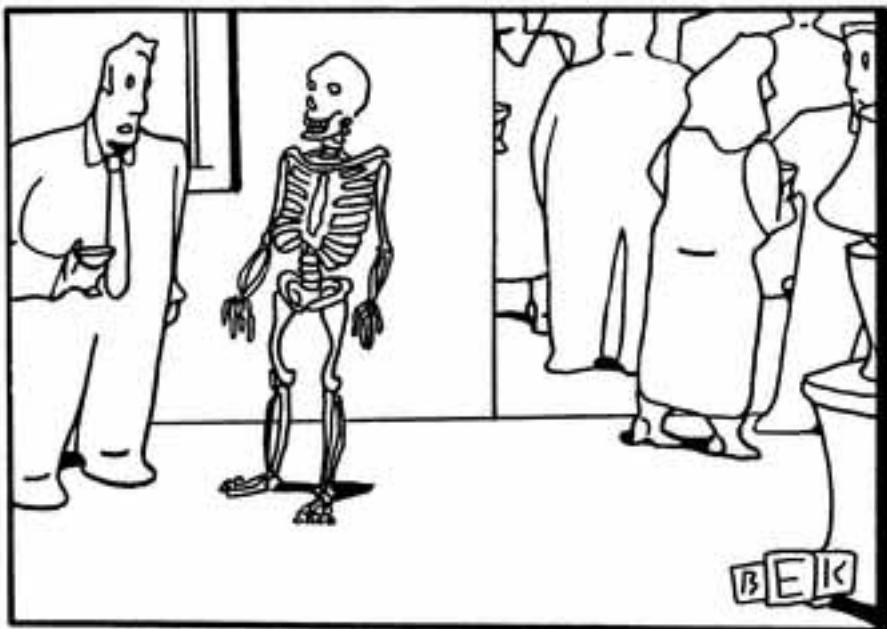
*"It's pro-active, Stan. I'm leaving you before you
become a midlife male sleazeball creep."*



"Can I see that 'National Law Journal' when you're through with it?"



"Are you still embroiled with Scott?"



"So—Helen tells me you're dead."



"Then he said Bob Dole needed him more than I do."



"Why don't I start you folks off with our exciting Fall Food catalogue."



"Now, for God's sake, leave the irony to people who can handle it."



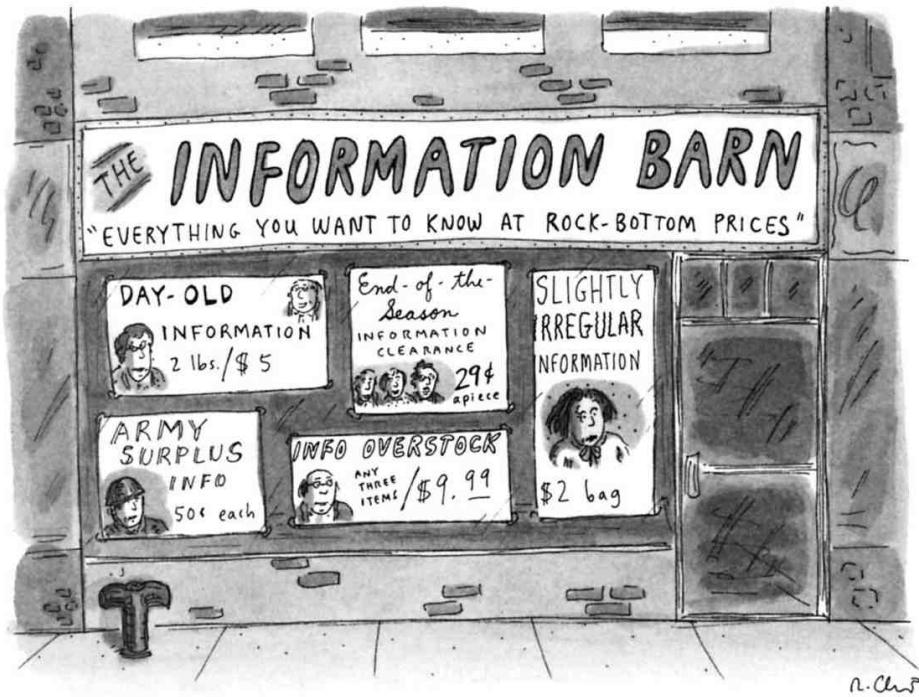
"Let's face it, Michele. We're not getting any older."



*"Would any of you guys be offended if
I told a joke that is a touch prurient?"*



"I see by your résumé that you're a woman."





*"At your opening, I see that you had two glasses of wine,
eight pieces of cheddar, eight crackers, and seventeen grapes.
That, of course, will have to come off the top of your end."*



"Just to be on the safe side, I'm putting both of us in the hospital."



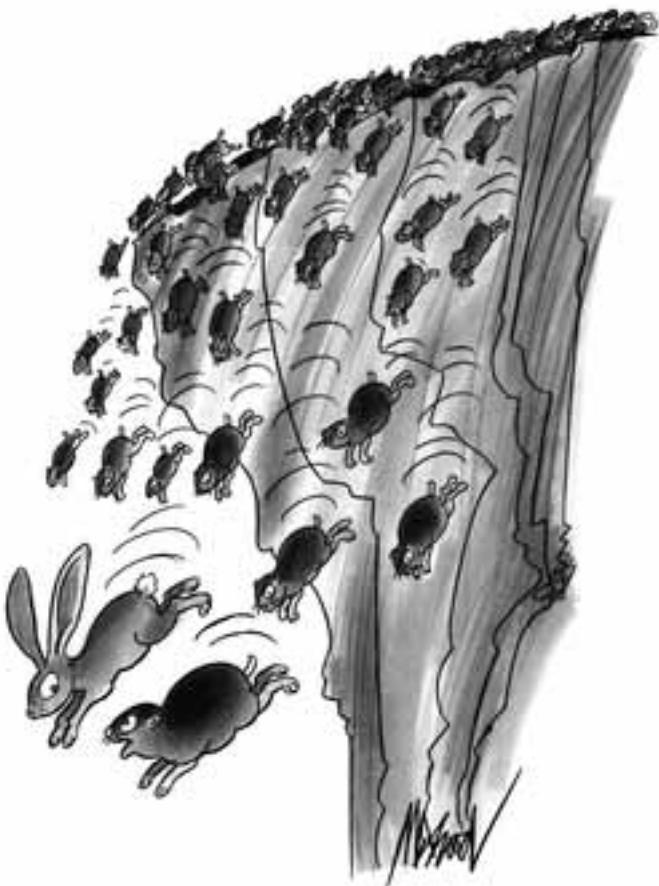
*"Joe, the beautiful people are back from their summer places.
Would you mind not coming in anymore?"*



"I only draw with software."



"Stalking is now a felony in this state, Miriam."



*"It's at times like this that you discover
who your real friends are."*



"You can't say the U.N. isn't trying."

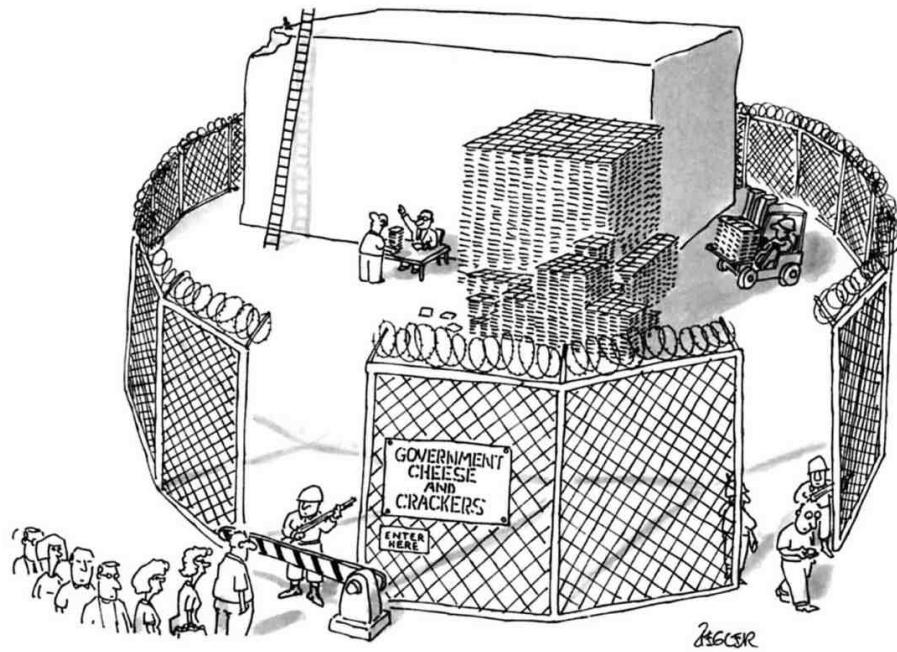


"On the other hand, it's Dole who feels our pain."

1996
CANDIDATES ON CABLE



"If you are a Democrat, Mrs. Hooper-Smith does the Macarena during your pancakes."





"The prince married the princess, the kingdom got most-favored-nation status, and they lived happily ever after."



*"And I'd like to ask my mud-slinging opponent if
he's been faithful to that moose he married."*



*"My alcohol intake has more than doubled over the last four years,
and the President has done precious little to prevent it."*



"Ah, but wait till he's reelected! Then you'll see principles."



"If that's Kemp again, just tell him we don't want to come into his goddam tent!"



"I think, Your Majesty, that you are perceived as an élitist."



"That's Jeremy. He never deviates from his prepared text."





"What I miss is pressing the flesh."



"It's nothing like that, Annie. I just want to start seeing women from other swing states for a while."



"Have you met Erica, my stimulus package?"



"And if I'm elected I promise to go with the flow."



“Could you spare some change for a guy fresh off welfare?”



"Well, if I'm going to hell I'd better get my butt in gear."



*"I know you're a working dog, Angus.
I just don't have anything for you right now."*



"Can't you tell? I'm a depressed and angry white working-class male."



"More wiggle room."



"You get in, but no skybox."



*"She took the house, the money, the Mercedes, and the Rottweiler.
Then she took a hammer and busted the still."*



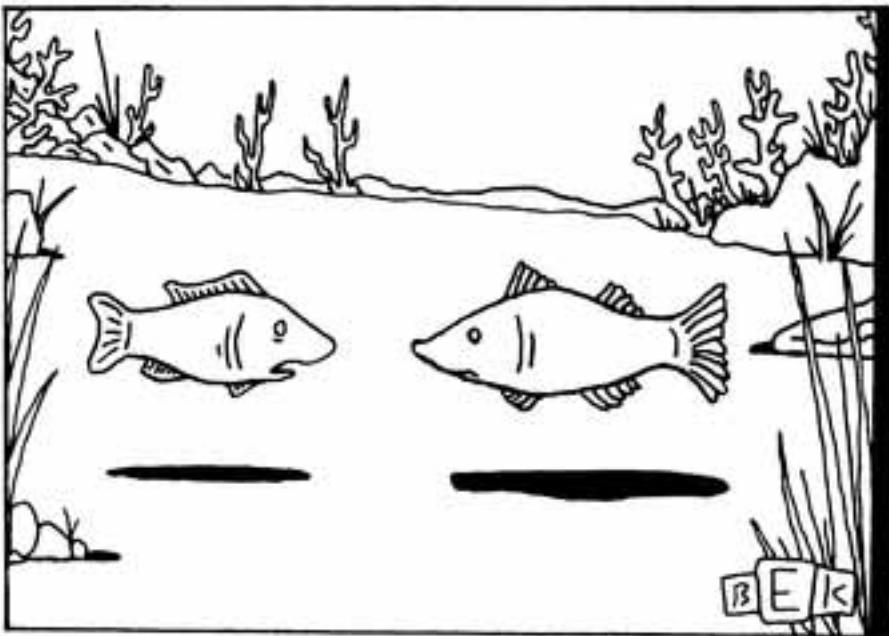
"I've never been a people pleaser."







"At this point, my privacy needs are interfering with my intimacy goals."



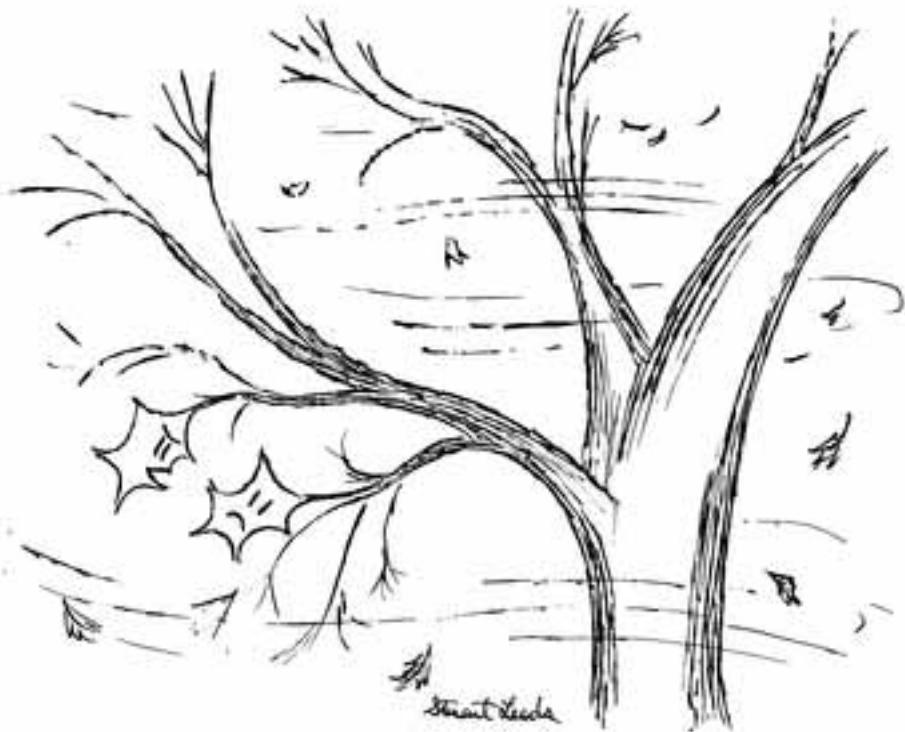
"I'd appreciate it if you talked to me without staring at my gills."



"Nice phone. Yours?"



"Even after all these years, I still find it very exciting using my vote to cancel out your father's."



"My career goal is not to fall off the goddam tree."



"So what's your custody deal?"



"I now pronounce you man and cleavage."



"Your check, on a bed of polenta."



"I love the new me, Virginia."



"It's time for us to go back to Sixty-fifth and Third, Richard."



"He wants you to shake hands."

COMING SOON~ MADONNA in ...

"Imelda"

You'll stare in amazement at her transformation into the dumpy little Mrs. Marcos!



You'll watch in stupefied silence as she racks up impressive totals on one shopping spree after another!



You'll gaze in mute astonishment as she sings about her passionate devotion to her country!



COMING SHORTLY THEREAFTER~ MADONNA in "Leona"

R.C.







*"You've got to meet Marc. Someday he's going to be
the answer to a question on Jeopardy!"*



"I just did a huge one in my diaper."



"What are you—some kind of justice freak?"



"Brodkin, now that the economy is creating jobs at a faster than expected clip, why don't you go out and find yourself one?"



"You just show up here illegally and expect us to tell you about corn?"



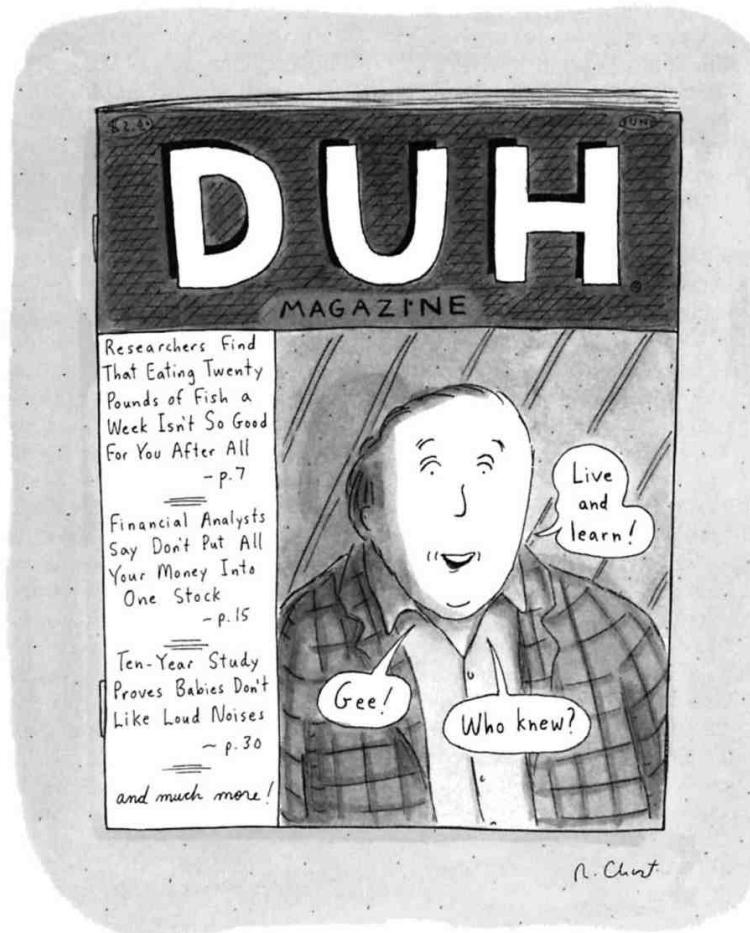
"These are some of my new friends from birthing class."



*"You wave at clowns, Peg. You don't marry them
and let them run your life."*



*"I sold my soul for about a tenth of what
the damn things are going for now."*







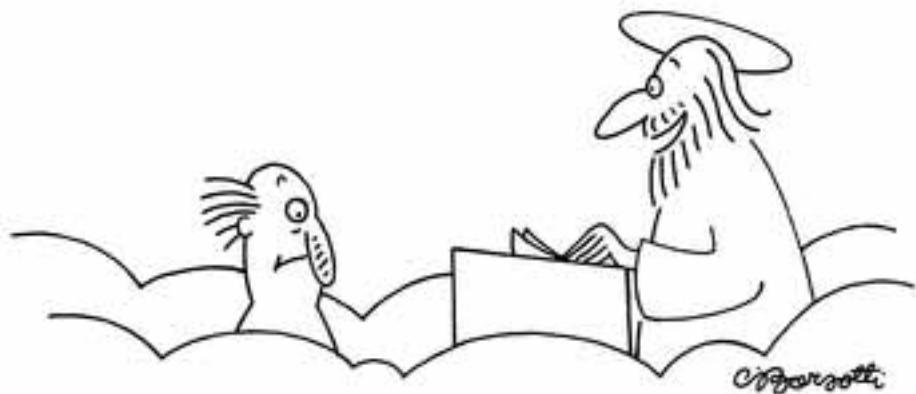
"I'm your co-mariner, not your matey."



*"What do you think I think about what you think
I think you've been thinking about?"*



*“Nancy is your type. Good-looking, some money,
not too much ambition.”*



"No, no, it was a heart attack. The air bag worked like a charm."

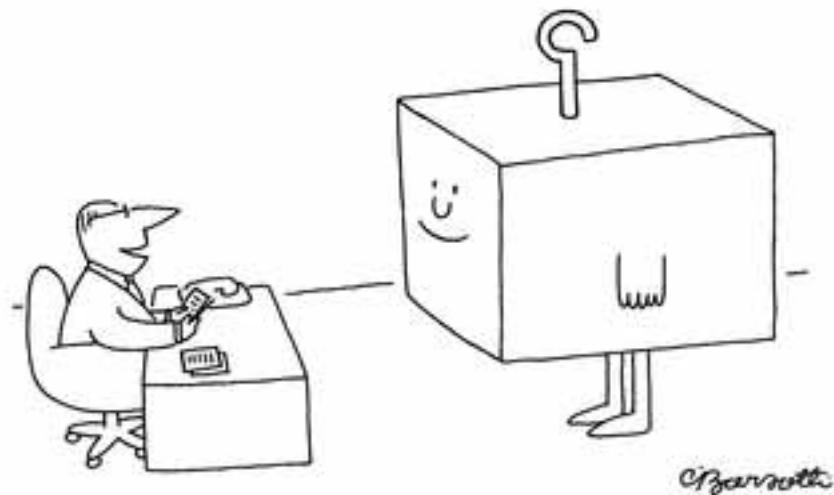


"Bad news, Kenny. When the judge awarded all your material goods and possessions to your wife, that included your socks."





"Do you mind? I happen to be on the phone!"



*“Congratulations. You have the skills we’re
looking for, and you’ll just fit a cubicle.”*



"My inner child just turned sixty-five."



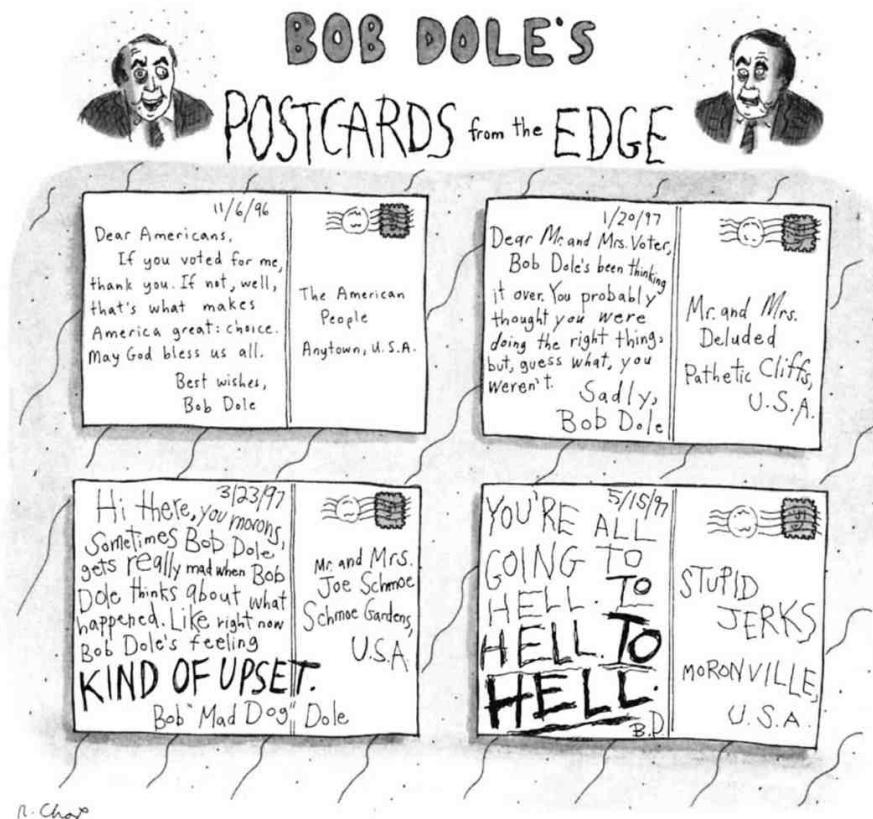
*"Everybody's just a teensy bit in love with me.
How about yourself?"*



"You call this 'death with dignity'?"



"You have such a familiar face. Who did it?"



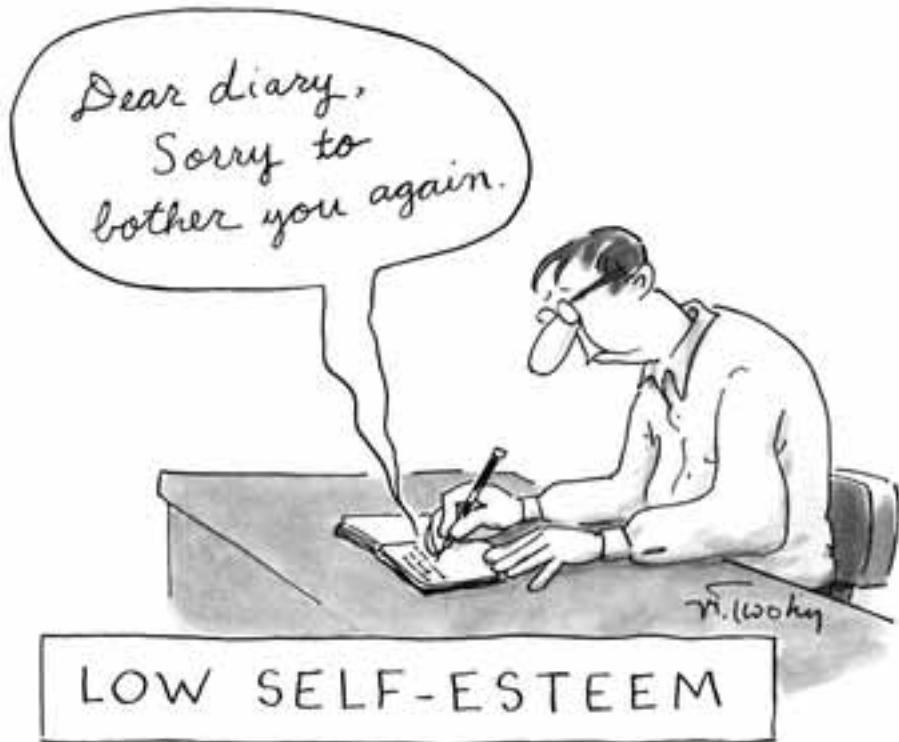


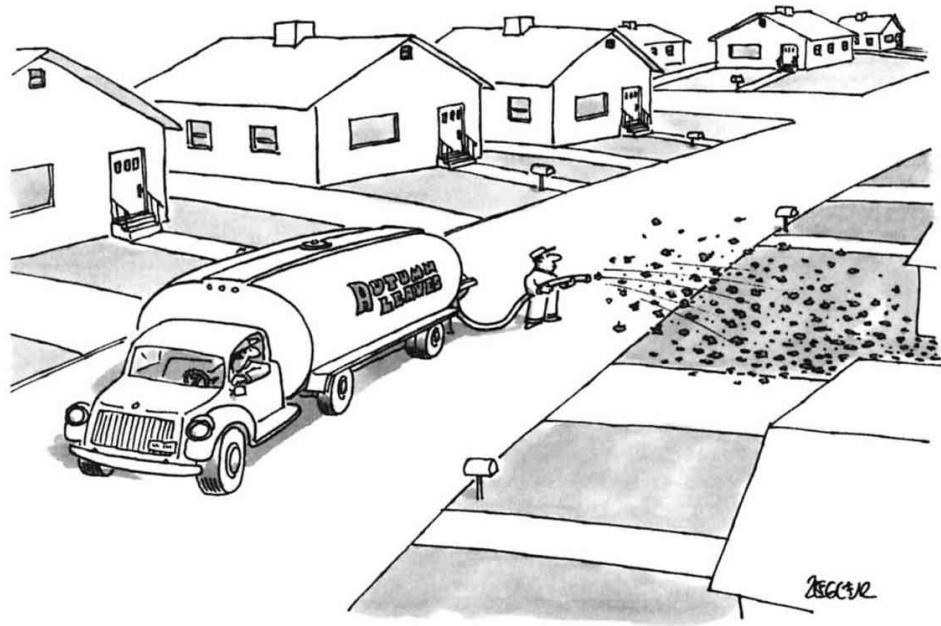
"Your Honor, we, the jury, find this one too close to call."



"And step on it. This restaurant may be over any minute."









"What have you done with my life list?"



"Well, it works for Susan Sontag."

DOING THE
MACADAMIA





AN ADVANCE VISIT
FROM THE
THREE WISE MEN





"Stop!" said former Mayor Koch."



*"He could have been the national bird,
but that was a long, long time ago."*

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS '96





"Before we get down to cases, I trust no one is wearing a wire?"



"So—who are you angry at currently?"

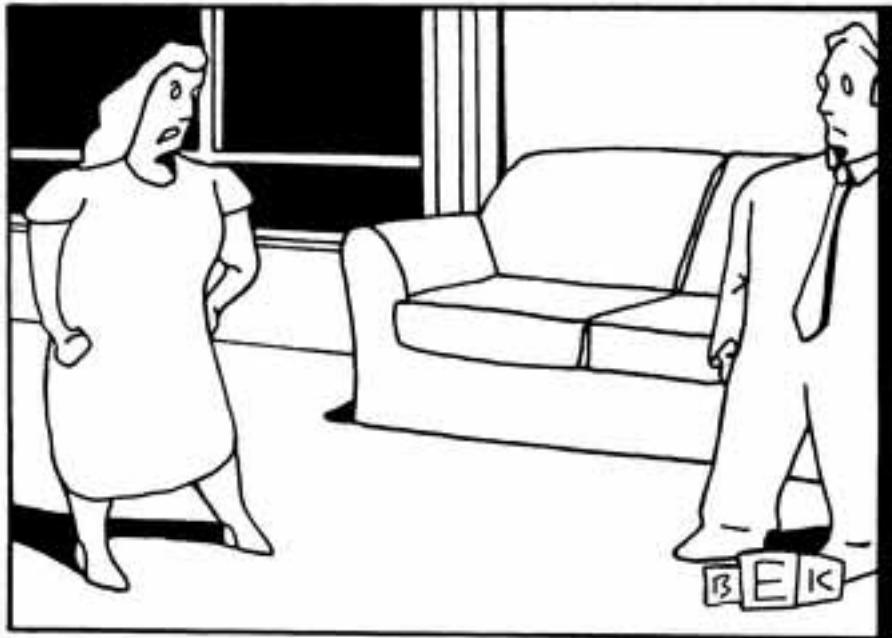


"Do me a favor before you come to bed, Ted. Get dressed."



"You inhabit the body of someone who has an impressive résumé."





"I'm only flesh and blood. And, of course, collagen."



"It's a great feeling to have dealt with the child issue."



"And just what color are your husband's beady little eyes?"









"Is everything intense, sir?"



"I'm off the leash, but I'm keeping my collar on."



*"Part of me wants to help you with your crisis, Hargraves,
but part of me wants to go to lunch."*



"I'm having second thoughts about those damn school uniforms."



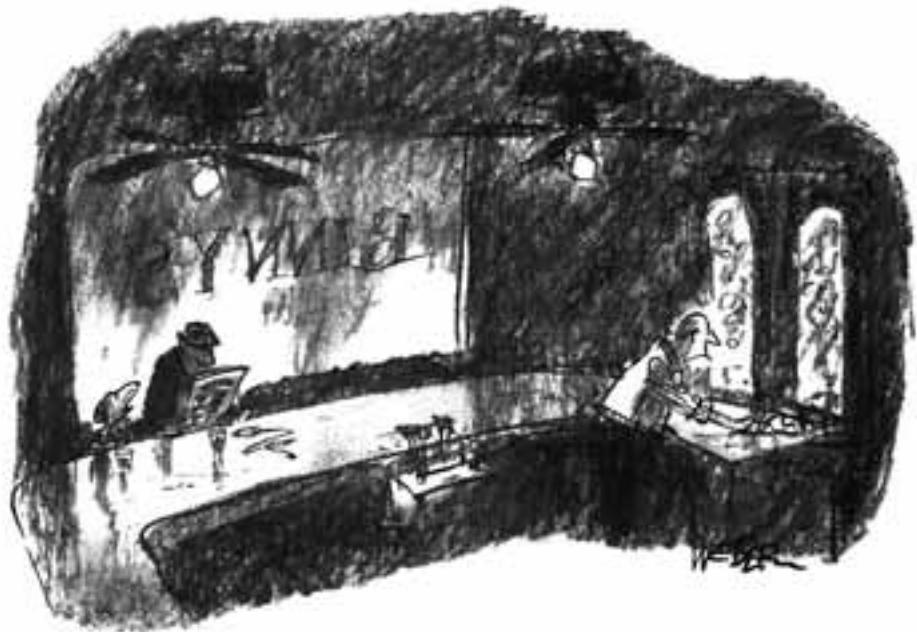
*"Why don't we make it simple this year,
and just give everyone the finger?"*



"How are the human rights on these?"



"I'm looking for a good man who won't get in the way."



"Look at me when I'm talking to you!"



"Tuition payments made me do it."



*"Don't get the wrong idea, but I think I should tell you
that all my furnishings are from Ikea."*



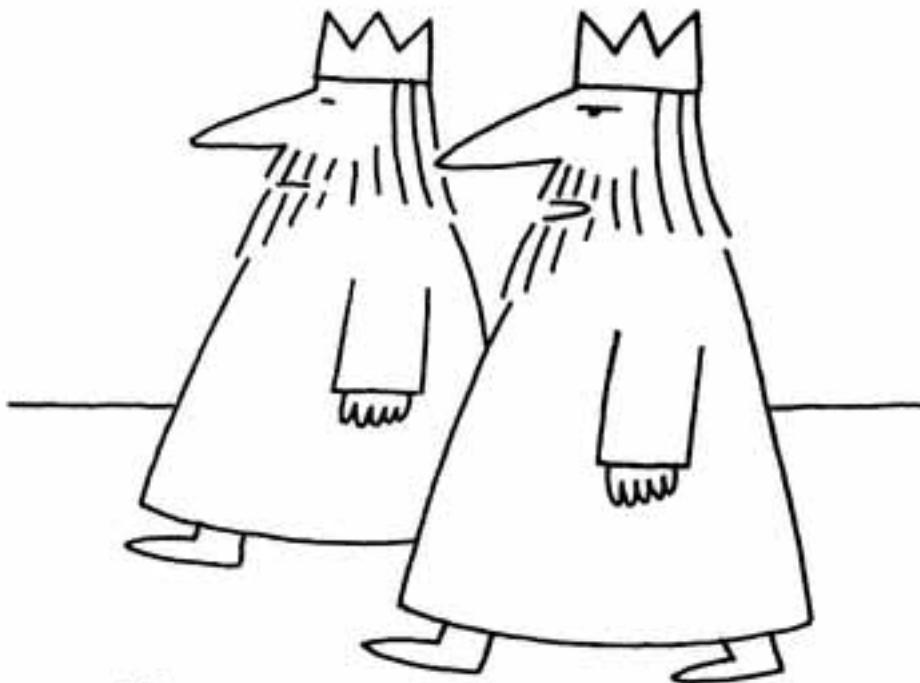




"Another sicko."



*"Wherever he's going, I just hope they
have frozen banana Daiquiris."*



"Yeah, everybody says I'm hard to shop for, too."



"I hope when I grow up I'll have an amicable divorce."



"And, while there's no reason yet to panic, I think it only prudent that we make preparations to panic."



"Nothing for me, thanks."



"I think older women with younger men threatens all the right people."



"Sipsies?"



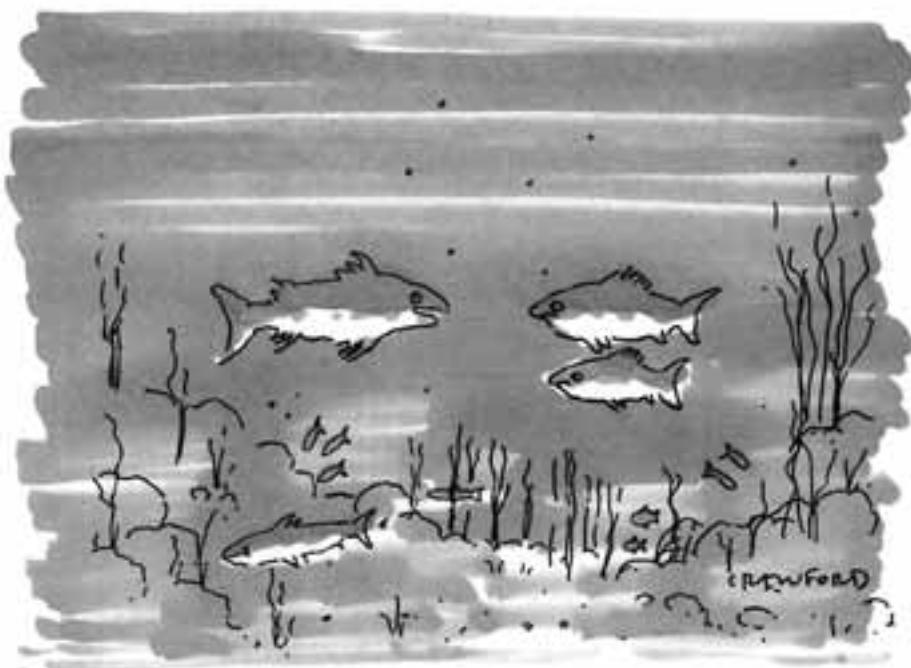
"Really, thanks a lot. It's the best party we've been to all night."



"The wattle fairy came again last night."



*"I feel I've outgrown this facility, Mrs. Thompson.
Could we see what else is around?"*

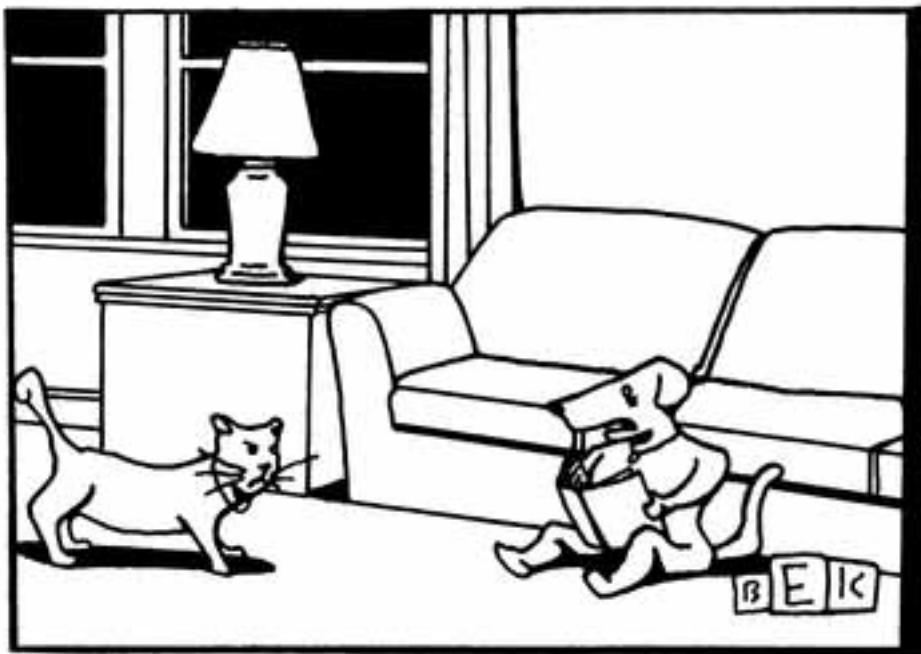


*"It's been over for a while now. I caught him trying
to fertilize some catfish eggs in June."*



"Someone to collect your works, dear."





"Of course I understand it. It's just some Grisham potboiler."







"I'm staying in my nightie until 1997."



"Goodness, if that clock's right I gotta be going!"



"I'm still pre-literate."



"It's Christmas, Melanie. Have young Cosgrove go down to the street and give something back to the community."





"As a matter of fact, I confess to modest hopes—not wildly unfounded, I trust—that my book may resonate beyond the reaches of academe."

HAMLET'S GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDSON CONTEMPLATES SHOW BUSINESS





*"It doesn't work as a novel. But we're willing
to publish it as a desk calendar."*



*"For big, important things, it's the Met and the Modern, of course—
but the Whitney is great for stocking-stuffers."*

