

Elizabeth's Ad-libs

ELIZABETH LEWIS

Contributing Writer

Phone antics turn life into game show

What ever happened to telephone etiquette? Long ago, when I first began using the telephone I was taught two things: Provide your name, then give the reason why you are calling.

I understand the friendships and between people who know each other well, these rules are fairly relaxed. But phone calls today can sometimes seem like a game show.

This episode features "Guess Your Caller."

"Hi. Guess who this is?"

"Mary?"

"No?"

"Tina?"

"Nope."

"Sally?"

"No. Guess again."

"I don't know."

"Oh, come on, guess."

Finally you run out of names and beg the person to tell you who they are. Not only do they act insulted, but they didn't just ask you to GUESS who they are, but they have the nerve to ask such questions as "Who is Tina?" Those callers are my biggest pet peeves.

Second runner up goes to the callers who just start talking and don't tell you who they are. I like to call these "Candid Callers."

"We're having a barbecue Saturday. Are you coming over?"

"Well that depends—sure are you?"

Another common pet peeve occurs often in my household—the wrong number.

I have the misfortune of having a phone number that is one digit different from a fraternity house's phone number. So during the school year, there are an endless amount of 2 a.m. phone calls. Haha, and I have toyed with the idea of getting even by pranking with them.

"Hey man, is Johnny there?"

"Yeah, but he's outside right now. We're having a party, want to come over? You can bring a few friends if you want."

However, I can never muster enough spitefulness to play tricks on them, even though I did wake me.

At least I have a sure fire way of handling another pet peeve: telemarketers.

"May I please speak to Elizabeth Lewis?"

"She's not in right now. May I take a message?"

Callers, beware.



Commentary

Putting mice and other pests in their place

For \$3 plus tax, at a local dollar store, I struck a double-blow at the rodents and rowdy hound dogs who have been ravaging the house and flower beds.

I got a dozen mouse traps. The old-fashioned wooden ones, with wire springs. Four of them will go inside. The remainder will be strategically placed in the two flower beds out front, un-baited, waiting for a snuffing nose or scratching paw to trip the trap.

Call the Humane Society if you want. They can come and observe.

Fences, bb guns, and harriers have not worked, with one more of the dogs, and I cannot pinpoint which one it is who breaks the dogs while I'm asleep or gone away. It should get easier, soon. The culprit will be the one with a mousetrap stuck to his or her nose, paw, or tail.

The offending hound will be given a fair trial before being punished.

The mice will not.

The dogs are only breaking

Head of the Hollar

Garry Barker

Guest Columnist

Huskies, so emphatically browbeat the timid little Dolly that I had to interfere, keeping Dolly chained for a night to get her used to being near people again.

Field mice do not hide in the flower beds. Which ever found it is that on-plants the geraniums is for, hopefully, a snapping good surprise.

Maybe even more serious punishment.

The judge and jury will decide.

No attorneys will be present, unless the accused hound chooses to employ one at his or her own expense. I will serve as the judge and jury.

And, if necessary, executioner.

You can count all the dogs I've eliminated during my life on no fingers, though once my father did make me lead a stray egg-sucking hound into the woods and shoot him. I was crying so hard that I only cussed his skull, and the old hound was waiting for me

on the porch when I came plodding home, dragging Daddy's rifle through the mud.

I was not ever sent again on such missions.

Proper punishment may be more mousetraps, sort of running the gauntlet through a maze of snapping wooden traps, surely enough to discourage a hound from returning to the flower beds.

Unless it's Molly. She'd just stare at me with pale blue eyes, almost scornful of my puny efforts to punish her.

Obviously there's no master of the hounds at my house, despite my threats and ploys, and it may be that the dogs don't take me seriously because I get so tickled at their derisive antics.

We'll see who laughs last, though, when the traps start snapping.

Contact the author at garrybarker@netscape.net or www.angelfire.com/ky/harker.

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NCHS students are Governor's Scholars

Staff Reports

Two high school junior classmates at Nicholas County High School have been selected to attend the Governor's Scholars Program for five weeks in June and July.

The students chosen for the prestigious honor are Elizabeth Faye McCarty and James Richard Reid.

They are just a few of the 1,000 outstanding students in the state chosen for the program.

The Governor's Scholars Program is an outstanding educational opportunity for these young people," said Governor Paul Patton.

"By participating in the program, they will have a unique opportunity to broaden their horizons and gain different points of view while interacting with other students and learning new disciplines. My congratulations to those young Kentuckians who have been chosen to share in this exciting program," Patton continued.

Students from public and private schools are invited to participate in the program representing 118 of Kentucky's



Hill receives award

Dustin Hill, Nicholas County High School, was selected to receive an award and possible scholarship from the Jerry D. Claiborne Chapter of the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame. The award was presented by Louis Stout, director of the High School Athletic Association, at the awards banquet in Lexington.



A tough lesson in life that everyone has to learn is that not everyone wishes you well.

—Dan Rather

New conservation assistance program funded by USDA

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman recently announced that \$30 million is available through the Conservation Reserve Program to fund additional conservation assistance to the nation's landowners.

"Farmers and ranchers can receive financial assistance to voluntary conserve their soil, water and related natural resources," said Veneman. "These programs will help with water management and erosion control by incorporating conservation into their farming operations."

The two programs—Agricultural Conservation Assistance (AMA) and Soil and Water Conservation Assistance (SWCA)—are part of a continuing effort to provide agricultural producers with conservation assistance.

Through AMA, producers can construct or improve water management structures or irrigation structures; plant trees for windbreaks or to improve water quality; and mitigate risk through erosion diversification or resource conservation practices, including soil erosion control, integrated pest management or transition to organic farming.

AMA is available in 15 states where participation in the Federal Crop Insurance Program is historically low.

SWCA will help landowners comply with federal and state environmental laws and make beneficial, cost-effective changes to cropping systems, grazing management, nutrient management and irrigation.

SWCA is available nationwide in areas that are not part of designated priority areas for Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Wetlands Reserve Program, or national priority areas for the Conservation Reserve Program.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service has leadership for SWCA and the conservation provisions of AMA. To be eligible,

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The Kentucky King Tobacco Warehouse in Mayville, KY will be open to receive and sell tobacco at auction with the best service and top prices available for the 2001 tobacco crop.

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Under the new plan in place this year in Kentucky, you are required to designate to your Farm Service Agency (FSA) office where you will sell your tobacco, we help you designate the Kentucky King Warehouse USDA # 31270 as your choice for this upcoming selling season.

Many changes have taken place in our tobacco program. We can be successful if we all support the Auction and Grading System, if we lose the Government Graders, our price support and the pool will be gone forever. Major tobacco companies are telling farmers if they do not contract the Auction and Grading System, they will not be allowed to so in the future. This is NOT true! This is nothing more than a scare tactic on their part.

In February 2001, growers and quota holders who share in the production of tobacco voted overwhelmingly to keep this quota system for another 3 years by voting 97.4% in favor of the existing system. In order to let our program going and to keep tobacco profitable for producers, we need the warehouse auction system. The current system has worked for 60 years, why change now and take a risk of losing the price support system? The tobacco companies make it look good now, but down the road, they will have you just where they want.

Please support the grading and warehouse auction system by selling at the warehouse this next selling season. Willa, Ross, Carroll, Kenny, Gwen and the rest of my people look forward to seeing you this year, as I do. If you would like to discuss anything regarding your crop, or the appropriate marketing thereof, please give us a call. You can also reach me at the Farmers Stockyards in Flemingsburg via our toll free number 1-800-658-1288. Thanks for your business.

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LETTERS FROM 4

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Elden "Dink" Ginn
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