

As the Autumn Season Bids Adieu, We Glimpse Ahead to the Things We Most Look Forward To This Winter

By Elijah Brisk



It is now mid-December. The leaves have all fallen, the temperature has dropped (drastically!), and the first snow has fallen. People are wearing two fleeces, and there is a constant mob around the cafeteria entrance as students struggle to get the last gyro. As I sit here today, I feel I must give my readers the pleasure of knowing all they have to look forward to this winter.

1) The mornings when you realize that there is no snow day, even though there was a good chance for one. Then you realize that you didn't get an ounce of your homework done because you were counting on having no school.

2) The mornings when you realize that you have a snow day, and can make snow forts and have snowball fights and drink as much hot cocoa as you can. Then you remember that you did all your homework last night because you didn't think it would be a snow day, and had to finish two papers and study for a calculus test.

3) The awkward family get-togeth-

ers for the holidays. So you go up to your third cousin, who you see maybe three times a year at best. Hug? Handshake? Neither? Do not fret, my child, for you are not alone. These are the questions paining millions around the country at this time of year. And, to put it frankly, there is no right answer. Whatever you end up doing, it will still be just as awkward. So, go into it with an open mind. Try out the fist bump, or even a salute! You never know - They may just decide to walk away without saying a word, allowing you the chance you had been waiting for to snag some of that spinach dip before it disappears!

Ask Mr. Motzko

Dear Mr. Motzko,

I am lonely and allergic to almost everything. I really want a pet but it can't have fur, scales, or feathers. My parent's said I could get one if I found one that met these guidelines, but so far I've had no success. Do you have any ideas for a really non-traditional domestic pet? I'm really open to anything.

Sincerely,

Pet-less in Pasadena, Texas

Dear Pet-Less,

While I do understand the nagging malaise that accompanies the knowledge that we are ultimately alone on this fragile rock, hurtling through space with no destination, I fail to see how you can offset said emotional freight with a hamster. Watching him toil on his wheel like a miniature Sisyphus, one would think that you'd be crushed on the anvil of irony. To

suggest the pointlessness of pet ownership is heresy to the domesticators and enslavers of nature's denizens. Frankly, the line of picketers around Chez Motzko is already ten-deep. To ameliorate the masses, if I must recommend an insensate companion, make sure that said pet is A) unique B) able to defend your property C) able to outlive you and D) edible.

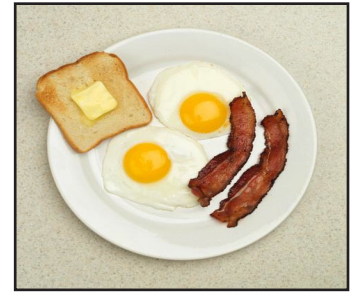
As to the first point, avoid the tried and true pets as they ultimately disappoint. I'm no fan of dogs, certainly since I assumed the title of Lord of Baskerville Manor. But what of the soulful eyes of the basset hound, you say? I get the same effect from the googly eyes glued to my pet rock, still going strong since 1972. Cats may have a cool independence about them but they stink like the bathrooms at the Atkins Institute. Cat urine may indeed glow under blacklight but so does my Jim Morrison poster. Let me

counsel you against considering anything from the superfamily Muroidea (rodents, for the Latin-challenged). One minute you've got a mouse for a friend, next minute you're strangling Curley's wife.

To the second point, consider that behind defense, we spend almost as much money in this nation on pets. Somehow I doubt that old Rex is going to keep the Viking hordes off my doorstep (again). Third, make sure your pet has the ability to outlive you. How many tear stained shirts do I have to burn, courtesy of "Where the Red Fern Grows"? Avoid the childhood trauma of burying a pet (or worse, burying a pet alive) through the careful selection of a long-lived companion (e.g. Joshua Tree).

To the last point, a simple gravy can be made with flour, salt and any former best friend.

Droid Still Can't Make Me Sunny-Side Up Eggs with Bacon, Whole Wheat Toast, and a glass of Orange Juice



Santa's Elves Busy Making Best Buy Gift Cards



You'll Laugh! You'll Cry! You May Throw Up a Little In Your Mouth... Come To Mr. DHS on Monday, December 14, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.! Tickets are \$5, Which Goes to School Chest.

Hot Girl Likes Books

By George Minkowski

DEERFIELD— As the old adage goes, never judge a book by its cover. Though we at *The Flipside* recommend judging books by their covers (i.e. *The Color of Water*), Junior Courtney Haber is a special exception. Those familiar with Courtney describe her as being "like, really hot," but she wants to make it clear that she is more than just a pretty face. She also likes to read and stuff.

"Thank you so much. Yes, I know. I'm really pretty, but that's not the way I want to be remembered at this school," Haber told *The Flipside* in an exclusive interview, "I'm really so much more than that. I like books and

homework and learning."

"I even read *The Da Vinci Code* all by myself," Haber added, "and I kind of understood it."

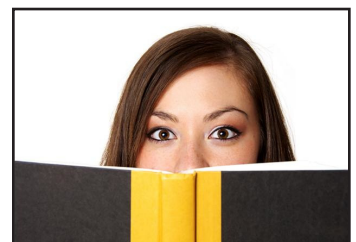
The young Eleanor Roosevelt can be found in the front row of her classes, busily taking notes and asking questions that she really wants to know the answers to. Her backpack is full of spiral notebooks and heavily annotated required reading material. Some would call Courtney a brown-noser, including her teachers. Others, such as her close friend Tiffany, contest that Courtney "just, like, really loves to learn."

Regardless of her confessed book-worm tendencies, Haber continues

to attract the attention of many male students at Deerfield High School. "Oh, uh... I was just stretching my neck. My bad," stammered sophomore Carl Ashcroft after making awkward eye contact with Haber during English class, "Yeah, uh... I used to hate nerds, but Courtney made me realize that there's more to a person than the way they look or dress. But right now it's hard for me to think about anything other than OH MY GOD SHE IS SO ATTRACTIVE."

Whether color-coding her history notes or printing a ten-page study guide for a reading quiz, Courtney Haber strives every day to both excel in her studies and make you feel

worthless in comparison. "She's pretty, I'll admit," says Junior Tara Reynolds, "...pretty good at making me want to drop out of school. Honestly, how can I compete with that? She's like a hot Ben Franklin."



THE FLIPSIDE CRYPTOGRAM CHALLENGE: Solve the Cryptogram, write down your name, then put your copy of *The Flipside* in locker I192. We will have a drawing to see who wins the sweet *Flipside* t-shirt!!!

QUOTE "You always put a spoon under your pillow to get a snow day the next day, duh!"

-Local Sophomore, having no idea how uncomfortable she would make my night. I assumed the bigger the spoon, the more snow... Guess not.

REBUS PUZZLES

Can you guess the common word or phrase portrayed below?

issue issue issue issue
issue issue issue issue
issue issue

chawhoworge

O_ER_T_O_

XQQQME

last weeks answers: POWER OF IMAGINATION, CHOPPED LIVER, CENSORSHIP, SOCIAL CUES

INFOGRAPHIC

Fight Club Rules People Know



CRYPTOGRAM CHALLENGE

This is a simple substitution code. Each letter is replaced by a different letter. Try to decode the message or quote below. Last week's Winner: Lanie Schlesinger. Come find us for your t-shirt!

HINT Q=L

"KQQ UWT SMTGECTPU EG, EG K DQVMEIETC SZNQEA MTQKUEVPG YKP RWV GST-PCG WEG UEYT IQKUUTMEPD, HEGGEPD, KPC HEAHEPD STVSQT UV DTU UWTY UV CV RWKU UWTJ KMT GZSSVGTC UV CV KPJRKJ." - WKMMJ G. UMZYKP

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWER: "I WANTED TO LIVE DEEP AND SUCK OUT ALL THE MARROW OF LIFE... AND NOT, WHEN I CAME TO DIE, DISCOVER I HAD NOT LIVED." -- HENRY DAVID THOREAU.

SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so each column, row, and 3x3 box has the numbers 1 through 9.

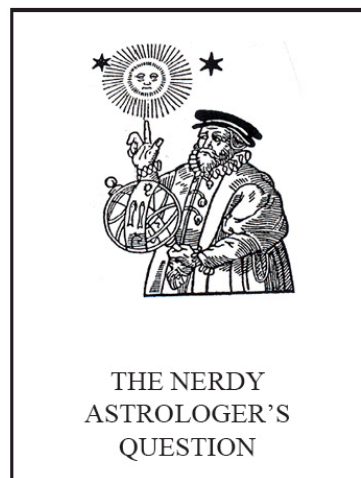
Level: Toughie

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Note: All names and stories are fictional, unless public figures are being satirized. Remember, these are all jokes.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four ordinary jumbles, and use the letters in circles to answer the final question.



THEAW
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NOMAW
□ □ □ ○ ○

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□ □ □ ○ ○ □

DEVASH
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LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS: MERGE SKULL COPPER SEWAGE how we keep time OUR GLASS