

QUESTIONS WISELY LEFT UNANSWERED

Sometimes even the far-famed Zouki Cultural Lab receives questions that it is unable, or perhaps unwilling, to answer. This doesn't happen often, but when it does, the queries are recorded in case relevant replies turn up later on. Herewith a sample of those queries.

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Should the fact that a Navajo-Armenian musician in my apartment complex is learning to play "Jenny's Welcome to Charlie" on a slightly out-of-tune flugelhorn be considered multicultural and protected, or can I go next door and tell him to cut it the hell out?

- waffling@sensitivity.com

My brother-in-law has been playing the tin whistle for five weeks now, and has learned (so he says) three tunes almost all the way through. What should he plan on charging for his CD?

- no_kidding@chutzpah.com

My neighbor threatens his goldfish when they misbehave by screaming that he'll chop them up, mix them with mayonnaise and a little paprika, and eventually feed them to Michael Flatley. Should the ASPCA be notified?

- meddlesome@nosey.com

Will weasel urine have an adverse effect on a bodhrán skin?

- rubbergloves@clapper.com

I'm trying to compose a lovable little song about a mythical beast who misses the Ark while all his pals - alligators, geese, and such - are saved. I just can't seem to come up with a name. Any suggestions?

- oblivious@dimwit.com

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I had an argument with my boyfriend over the presence of a link to "Cyndi the Luscious Love Hostess" on the Low Whistle website. He claims she performs many "necessary functions", but refuses to go into detail. This infuriates me because I'm the one who plays the whistle, not him. Where is our relationship headed?

- clueless@intacta.com

Is it true that the scientists who unearthed the remnants of a prehistoric piano accordion near Belgrade recently also found primitive musical notation for "Shoe the Donkey" in the same cave?

- mother.pearl@tasteless.com

My grandson wants to be an Irish musician and claims to be able to play the Coleman reel set on his fiddle twice in under 5.6 seconds. Are there any groups that might want to talk to him after he gets out of the mental institution?

- grannylove@salieri.com

How would a habitually indiscreet Irish-American politician get zinfandel stains out of a pair of pinkish leotards?

- trouble_again@vineyard.com

Is there any truth to the rumor that the next big Irish dance production will feature a story line about a village simpleton who discovers a new use for animal fat? And will it really be called "Lard of the Dunce"?

-no.friends@readersdigest.com

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Well, you see what the ZCL has to deal with. So many people to help, so little bandwidth.

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