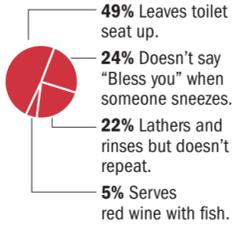




YOU TOLD US

Question: What's the latest untrue rumor about Barack Obama?



Survey questions print in Monday's *Dispatch*. To cast your vote in our weekly survey, visit Dispatch.com/flipside by noon Thursday.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

In the spring, NASA sought subjects for a study of the effects of micro-gravity on the human body — offering participants \$17,000 each to spend 90 straight days lying in bed.

— Chuck Shepherd
Universal Press Syndicate

TRASH TALKING

Trash Talking looks at the week's tabloids, so you don't have to.



Cover blurbs

- ▶ "Sarah Jessica's husband caught cheating!" (*Star*)
- ▶ "Oprah betrays Stedman" (*National Enquirer*)
- ▶ "Plot to kill Obama" (*Globe*)

Magic kingdom

- ▶ "Zac and Vanessa's sexy vacation" (*In Touch*)

Good idea

- ▶ "I'll never marry again — Christie's vow after winning dirty divorce battle" (*Globe*)

Parlez-vous crazais?

- ▶ "Suri's learning French" (*In Touch*)

Big pill

- ▶ "Watermelon works like Viagra!" (*Globe*)

Who wasn't?

- ▶ "Was A-Rod tricked by Madonna?" (*In Touch*)

Runner-up partner

- ▶ "Mark (Consuelos): I won't replace Regis" (*In Touch*)

Grandma by 30

- ▶ "Jamie Lynn (Spears) eager for another baby" (*National Enquirer*)

Love takes time

- ▶ "Mariah (Carey) and Nick (Cannon) marriage in trouble already" (*National Enquirer*)

Family fake-out

- ▶ "Jon & Kate Plus 8 labeled complete sham" (*National Enquirer*)

— McClatchy-Tribune News Service



HOW TO REACH US

FLIP SIDE EDITOR
Steve Berry.....614-461-8536
sberry@dispatch.com
E-mailtheflipside@dispatch.com
Fax614-559-1754
The Flip Side: requiring two weeks of mancation time per year.

THE FLIP SIDE

Guy celebs find pals for mutual-admiration club

MALE BONDING



By Amy Lieberman | THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Reality-TV pseudo-star Brody Jenner will document his hunt for an addition to his boy entourage on the MTV show *Bromance* (defined by UrbanDictionary.com as a "complicated love and affection shared by two straight males"). Jenner is hardly alone in seeking male companionship. Here are a few of our favorite big-name Hollywood bromances.

TOM CRUISE AND WILL SMITH

Cruise has appeared cuckoo for some time now, and it looked like he was *thisclose* to pulling bosom buddy Smith off the bandwagon with him. But even though Smith has yet to take up Scientology, he remains loyal to his pal, with whom he frequently walks the red carpet, arm in arm. "We disagree on a lot of things," Smith has said. "But even with different faiths and different beliefs, at the end of the day, goodness is goodness."

Let's hope that their love can withstand some healthy competition. Cruise was slated to star in the new flick *Edwin A. Salt*, but the 46-year-old star wanted supposedly too much dough. The role is going to — guess who? — Smith.

JOHN MAYER AND PETE WENTZ

They are two of the most angst-filled pop rockers out there, but the budding bromance of singer-songwriter Mayer and Fall Out Boy bass player Wentz might have given them something to giggle about.

In May, Wentz posted a video tribute to Mayer titled "Yes it's a crush." Mayer quickly responded with his own gushing praise of Wentz on his blog. "You're one of the best eggs in the music industry, hands down," Mayer wrote. "Every time we get the chance to hang, I'm inspired by your creativity. Your mind is like a stadium with the dome open." Hope Wentz's wife, Ashlee Simpson-Wentz, and Mayer's most recent fling, Jennifer Aniston, aren't too jealous.

BRAD PITT AND GEORGE CLOONEY

Clooney has been voted *People* magazine's Sexiest Man twice, but that doesn't mean he ignores his competition.

"He is very handsome, I think," Clooney said of Pitt.

The regular co-stars often take notes on each other's style (have you seen Clooney sporting Pitt's trademark newsboy cap?) and are even teaming up to aid cyclone relief in Myanmar.

But don't expect Pitt's hardcore family life with Angelina Jolie to rub off on Clooney, who recently called it quits with Las Vegas cocktail waitress Sarah Larson.

"If I need to . . . feel like I have this big, extended family," Clooney said, "I can always call Brad and Angie, and ask them to stay with me, just to remind me why I'm so happy without."

BRUCE WILLIS AND ASHTON KUTCHER

Kutcher was 27 when he married Demi Moore, then 42, three years ago. Moore's ex-husband, Willis, attended the wedding and has only the nicest of things to say about her much-younger squeeze.

"It's hard for people to understand, but we go on holidays together," Willis said. "I'm thrilled that Ashton turned out to be such a great guy."

The feeling is mutual. "Bruce Willis is a great guy," Kutcher said. "He's a really great, giving, sharing, open-hearted person. I'd be an idiot not to make an attempt to share what I have with a person who's sharing so much with me."

How do you settle that in a divorce court?

CHARLIE ZIMKUS | DISPATCH

CITY LIGHTS

Becoming White knight low-cost, tasty

A bowl of ice cream, a tank of gas, a sandwich of meat — sometimes a guy has to treat himself.

This summer, my world has widened considerably with the discovery of a treat that arrives before the workday begins, a treat in a sheet of aluminum foil hand-delivered through security glass.

Yes, at least one morning a week I do what has come to be known in my routine as "storming the Castle" — doing business with the White Castle at N. High Street and E. 2nd Avenue.

One glorious five-day stretch found me on location three straight mornings, pre-8 a.m., engaging in a pattern that unfolds this way:

Ride the commuter bike to the door and lock it up in quasi-secure fashion; open the door; fish around for \$1.49 while strolling to the glass separating customers from the kitchen; and place an order that requires some patience.

No Sliders, chicken rings or clam strips before 9 a.m. for me, thank you.

No, I'm having one fried egg — hold the meat, cheese, butter, napkins and sack.

The first time I ordered this humble delicacy, a battery of questions ensued: "No what? No sack? We ain't gonna put no sack on there, baby." But as the summer has rolled on, the cashiers and the grillers and I have become as straight as Broad Street.

Tootie, or another co-worker behind the security glass, asks how I am, and I tell her. I ask her how she's doing. She simultaneously answers and turns her head to call out my slight order.

Tootie and her people, God bless 'em, are conscientious, making sure that the person manning the industrial grill isn't new to this scene: "Yeah, he don't want no cheese or meat. Just egg and toast — and no sack."

To meet the demands of our busy lives, eggs have sometimes been fried before they've been ordered and piled at the ready to slide between two lightly toasted slices of wheat bread.

During fortunate mornings, the pace is gentlemanly: A cook cracks an egg (a *real* egg, not some mysterious lab concoction), plops it on the hissing griddle and flattens the thing between the pieces of paper-napkin-like toast.

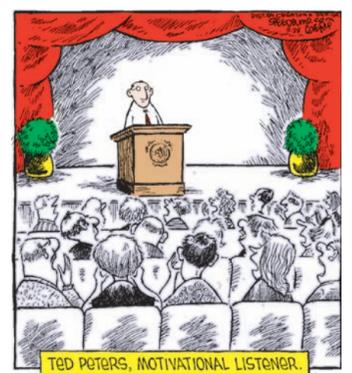
Next, the crucial step: wrapping the works in foil so it steams to perfection in the bike bag en route to Downtown.

A few short minutes later, the tiny bundle is uncovered, and Christmas in July is had.

Aaron Beck writes about pop music for The Dispatch.
abeck@dispatch.com

SPEED BUMP

DAVE COVERLY



TED PETERS, MOTIVATIONAL LISTENER.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Did he turn left?

Syndicated columnist and TV political pundit Robert Novak was issued a \$50 citation by Washington police this week after he hit a pedestrian while driving his sports car. Novak, 77, said he was unaware he had hit the pedestrian and that he was flagged down by witnesses. In 2001, Novak told *The Washington Post*: "I really hate jaywalkers. I despise them. Since I don't run the country, all I can do is yell at them. The other option is to run them over, but, as a compassionate conservative, I would never do that."

Nicksing the rumor

Teen queen Selena Gomez has been hailed as the next Miley Cyrus, but is the *Wizards of Waverly Place* star really dating Nick Jonas, as reported in *Us Weekly*? "(The Jonas Brothers have) become really good friends of mine," Gomez told *Extra*, "but I'm not dating any of them."

Gomez starred in the Jonas Brothers music video *Burnin' Up*, which might have triggered rumors. Gomez does admit to one celebrity infatuation: "I have a crush on Shia LaBeouf. I want to

Just friends? Selena Gomez and Nick Jonas



Birthdays

TODAY

- 51 | Ray Billingsley, cartoonist (*Curtis*)
- 41 | Matt LeBlanc, actor (*Friends*)
- 23 | James Lafferty, actor (*One Tree Hill*)

SATURDAY

- 90 | Marjorie Lord, actress (*Make Room for Daddy*)
- 86 | Blake Edwards, director (*Pink Panther* movies)

- 82 | James Best, actor (*The Dukes of Hazzard*)
- 65 | Mick Jagger, rock star (Rolling Stones)
- 63 | Helen Mirren, actress (*The Queen*)
- 49 | Kevin Spacey, actor (*American Beauty*)
- 44 | Sandra Bullock, actress (*Speed*)
- 35 | Kate Beckinsale, actress (*Pearl Harbor*)

- SUNDAY**
- 86 | Norman Lear, TV producer (*All in the Family*)
- 77 | Jerry Van Dyke, actor (*Coach*)
- 64 | Bobbie Gentry, singer (*Ode to Billie Joe*)
- 59 | Maureen McGovern, singer (*The Morning After*)
- 51 | Bill Engvall, comedian
- 40 | Julian McMahon, actor (*Nip/Tuck*)

work with him so bad. I think he's so cute."

Picture problems

Lawyers for Brad Pitt are threatening legal action against news outlets if photos taken of the actor and his family at their French estate are published, the *Smoking Gun* reports. The images, lawyers contends, would violate the star's privacy rights. They also might

gum up Pitt and Angelina Jolie's negotiations for a multimillion-dollar deal for the first pictures of their twins, born July 12 in France.

More dating games

Miley Cyrus is auctioning the hottest ticket in teen town: a date. The eBay bidding for a night on the town with the megastar will end Tuesday. The winner will attend the premiere of her

Disney animated film, *Bolt*, opening Nov. 26. The auction will benefit a charity for underprivileged children.

Mad money

Will Smith took in \$80 million last year, making him Hollywood's top earner, according to a new ranking from *Forbes*. Cameron Diaz is the top-earning female, at \$50 million. Oprah Winfrey still owns the bank: She made \$275 million last year.

Stori time

Tori Spelling, 35, is reportedly planning a book, tentatively titled *Mommywood*, that will focus on her life as a Hollywood princess-turned-parent.

Quote-unquote

"What's my illness? I guess I could say I have a terrible case of I-wanna-smoke-weed-all-day." — *Superbad* actor Seth Rogen, explaining in *Elle* why he won't get a medical-marijuana card

— Compiled by Mark Naegele
mnaegele@dispatch.com