

(1) BillyJo just raves about the food at this little hole-in-the-wall Chinese joint in San Francisco. Well, I went there last summer, when I was at the S&M meetings on NATO FUBAR radar at UCSF. Lemme tell ya — it's not **that** great. It's hard enough to find the place; it's on one of those cul-de-sac hill streets they have so many of in SF. And you can't park anyplace within 10 blocks of it without paying a fortune or driving for hours waiting for a space. As for the food — well, I gotta admit the hors d'oeuvres're terrific. But the dinner entrees're only so-so at best, I'm afraid. And the bill was \$135.72 for two, once you count the tip and the bar.

(2) Things aren't always what we call them. The White House is a white house, though maybe it's a bit too large to be called a *house*. Every blackbird is a black bird (although red-wing blackbirds aren't black all over, at least they're birds). Etc. But nowadays most blackboards aren't black, and anyway they're the wrong shape to be called a *board*. And what can you say about *snake bite* and *pony ride*? Turn the meanings around and you'll see what I mean — if you bit a snake, would it be a *snake bite*? And if a pony rides a bicycle in the circus, is that a *pony ride*? How come? And how do **we** know?

(3) Nit-picking historians (like the ones who edit *Who's Who*) like to point out that they don't allow Harry S Truman to be spelled with a period after the *S*, because Pres. Truman didn't really have a middle name. He just decided at some point that he ought to have a middle initial (he must've felt it was more dignified for a politician) and thought *S* sounded good. This bothers some people. Abbreviations like *Ms.* bother'em, too. They say "It doesn't stand for anything!" They should ask what *Mrs.* stands for. I. e., everybody knows that *Miss* isn't short for anything, while *Mr.* is short for *Mister*, OK? Well, without a Ph.D, who knows **what** word *Mrs.*'s supposed to be short for? And how's it spelled?

(4) Pres. John F. Kennedy had a real middle name, Fitzgerald. His son John F. Kennedy, Jr. had the same middle name (not to mention first and last), but he also had a suffix to his name (*Jr.*'s short for *Junior*). He had a nickname when he was younger, too; he was called *John-John*. The suffix isn't very surprising, I guess, but you couldn't've predicted the nickname. John-John mostly grew out of his nickname, but if he'd had a son and continued the tradition by naming the poor kid John F. Kennedy III, d'you suppose they'd've called him *John-John-John*?

If you're not finding your assignment as simple as ABC,
you can call Prof. Lawler at home for guidance.
His phone number is on the course syllabus.