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Dear Abbe

Humor

Dear Abbe,

I'm a huge fan of yours. Thanks for taking on the onerous task of providing solutions to our foibles. What do you do for recreation?

Devotee in Detroit

Dear Huge Fan,

It's not easy being *über* sensitive and suave. I work hard at deciphering the technical psyche while pursuing scientific inquiries. When I do escape, I join friends and other science glitterati for extreme relaxation, excessive calculating, and acute drowsing. Sometimes we get a little "freaky." One recent adventure involved Ron and Dale Anderson on their party boat, *The Naughty Microscopist*. They had just retired from producing *Microscopy Today* and were on hiatus before starting their second careers as production assistants for the popular cable show *Microscopists Gone Wild*. Once we reached open waters somewhere near the Bahamas, they broke out the Hennessy. In addition to the cast of *Science Nerds Next Door*, two of their other guests, Snoop Dogg and Cheddar Bob, amused us with their odd "rap" music and strange dance rituals. Toll! Because we were technically in international waters, no charges were ever filed.

Dear Abbe,

How do you think President Obama's Science and Education Provisions in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will affect scientific research in the United States?

Broke in Brooklyn

Dear Broke,

When I first heard that there was going to be a stimulus package, I incorrectly assumed that small packets of methylenedioxy-methamphetamine were going to be distributed to everyone. As interesting an experiment as that might have been, I was pleased to learn that the government will instead invest in infrastructure and research. This could not come at a better time as my Elmiskop 1A has been acting up and my phone calls to RCA for replacement vacuum tubes have been going unanswered. When I was a young scientist all that was required to obtain research funding was a solid hypothesis, a strong work ethic, and photographs of the grants officer with some Mädchen other than his wife. Today's young scientists face considerable hurdles, not the least of which is that most Americans believe that Adam and Eve kept a *Deinonychus* as a pet and that if you put a bottle cap under your pillow, the "Beer Fairy" will bring you a case of Pabst Blue Ribbon. Fortunately these arcane views are dying out and are now only promoted by the Texas State Board of Education.

Herr Abbe is always interested in affairs of state and the state of affairs. If you have some conundrum causing you sleepless nights, please forward them to his able assistant at jpsshield@uga.edu.