

Chill-Beating Bowls

Dear Tim:

I don't know about you, but I've just about had it with this winter. We've had more snow than my aching back can take, and I don't even want to think about what this bone-chilling cold has done for my gas bill. Will it ever end?

—Freezing on Friar



DEAR TIM

Dear Freezing:

I'm not a regular reader of the Farmer's Almanac, but history suggests that winter will be coming to an end right about the time spring starts. If that's not soon enough for you, you might want to stop by the store this Saturday for the first annual Huffman's Market Chili Cookoff. Some of the neighborhood's best chefs will be pitting their culinary creations against one another for the right to be crowned chili champion of 2005. In addition to bragging rights, the winner will be featured in an upcoming Huffman's Market ad. There may be nothing better to warm your frozen toes than a few steaming bowls of chili. So come in out of the cold,

check out the cookoff and serve yourself some soup behind aisle 5. We may not be able to rush Mother Nature, but we can sure heat things up while we wait.

Dear Tim:

I'm a student and an aspiring columnist, and I was wondering how you got such a great gig and if you could teach me some pointers about the newspaper game.

—Newsgirl on Newhall

Dear Newsgirl:

First of all, I should step out from behind the curtain and

let you know that I'm not a real columnist. I'm just renting this space until they find something truly enlightening to put in its place. Columnists are real professional journalists, and although I'm definitely real and occasionally professional, I'm certainly no journalist. Even if I were, I don't know if I'd make much of a mentor. I have no formal training, I'm more hunt-and-peck than Steinbeck, and I'm constantly having to watch my language. And I don't mean spelling. If you're looking to find a true mentor, you might start with the Tri-Village Mentoring League. They're a non-profit community organization that helps find mentors for youngsters like yourself. They might be able to match you up with a volunteer who's forgotten more about journalism than I've ever known. They're even starting a college scholarship program for volunteer teen mentors. Give them a call at 470-3224. Ask for Hayley.

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