

The Nickname Game

Dear Tim:

I've never had a nickname and I've always wanted one. You know, something my friends and co-workers can call me that's fun, quick and catchy. The trend seems to be taking the first letter of your first name and shortening up your last to make your nickname. You know, like A-Rod or T-Mac. Unfortunately my name doesn't lend itself well to this kind of abbreviation. I considered just giving myself a nickname and seeing if I could get it to catch on. So far I haven't come up with anything worth trying. Help me out.

—No Name on Northam

Dear No Name:

Don't be that guy. Only friends and family can dole out nicknames. Otherwise it's too contrived. Nicknames are typically derived from shortening a proper name, a personal or physical characteristic, or some defining behavior. The mob seems to come up with great nicknames. If you don't believe me, rent *GoodFellas* from our movie section in aisle 6.



DEAR TIM

Good stuff if you can handle the seriously bad behavior that drove its R rating. If that doesn't spark anything, I guess you can go with No Name, but even that's not very original. I think the 1972 Miami Dolphins defense has it registered.

Dear Tim:

My new teacher keeps telling me to use my melon. I eat a balanced breakfast that includes the occasional cantaloupe. What could she possibly be talking about?

—Clueless on Claremont

Dear Clueless:

I have no idea. But eating a balanced breakfast is never a bad idea. I'd keep with the cantaloupe, and I'm sure her meaning will eventually become clear. Melon's in the fresh fruit section in aisle 1. That's the very first aisle in the store. It's to your far left as you walk in. Left, like your left hand.

(Pssst...No Name. If you're still reading, Clueless has just demonstrated how one earns a truly descriptive nickname.)

Dear Tim:

Heard any good jokes lately?
—Jokester on Jervis

Dear Jokester:

How many politicians does it take to change a light bulb? Two. One to change it and another to change it back.

Dear Tim is presented as a public service by Tim Huffman, owner of Huffman's Market. Write to him in care of Huffman's Market, 2140 Tremont Center, Upper Arlington, Ohio, 43221 or at www.huffmansmarket.com. Or bring this ad in for a free 2005 calendar you can use to remember his birthday.