

LAURA ON LIFE

'Bee' Careful It's Springtime

"It's Spring! It's Spring! Time to get the hive in order. Wake up all you bees! It's Spring!"

"Are you crazy, Benny! The robins haven't even come back yet! Go back to sleep!"

"Don't you see, Bert? We can get a jump on the honey-making, hive development and baby bee production if we get up and out a little earlier this year than our next-hive neighbors."

"It's too cold."

"That's what's weird, Bert. It's not cold. And the flowers are all blooming. Let's go!"

"Grrrph... alright..."

Flying over the

landscape we witness winter's ravages: The brown grass, the mud, the naked trees.

"So where are all the damn flowers, Benny? Huh?"

"Look! There's one!"

"You got me out of a cozy hibernation for one lousy daffodil?"

"Well, okay, so the buds haven't quite opened yet, but we can still work on hive development, right?"

"Look! A human! Let's go buzz him!"

Buzzing is one of Bert's favorite things to do. It's not the part about flying directly into a human's face that excited him. It was all that dancing and swatting a human does after having been buzzed.

There was something different about this particular human, though. He was carrying something big. He raised it, pointed it at a squirrel and projected a mighty stream of water in its direction. The squirrel dived for cover.

It was a high-powered squirt gun. Wow... We don't usually encounter this type of advanced weaponry until at least June.

Before I could warn Bert, he was already in buzzing formation and had a lock on his target.

It was a successful buzz as the human danced and swatted to the unholy glee of Bert, but then... the weapon was locked and loaded and aimed at my friend.

It was time for me to go in. I buzzed past the little human's right ear just as he pulled the trigger. The shot went wide and Bert escaped the fierce on-



Laura Snyder

slaught. The water rained harmlessly down to the deck on which the human was standing.

Bert, having more brawn than brains, decided to have another go at the fellow to teach him a lesson that, hopefully, would stick with him all summer:

Never mess with bees.

Bert took a test fly, high above the human, scoping out the situation. The boy fired straight up and the water came straight down and soaked him. I wondered how prudent it was to make the half-man mad. As the hu-

man took a bead on my friend once more, I flew into action again.

"Bzzzzzz!"

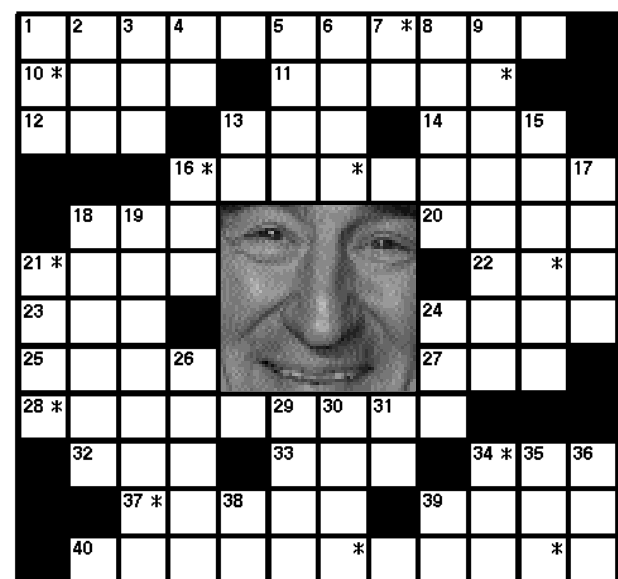
The squirt gun went flying. I dodged a flurry of flailing hands and arms and then the funniest thing happened...

The water had made the deck so slippery and the human's feet were moving so rapidly that, after his flight instinct kicked in, the momentum literally floored him.

One minute he was on his feet doing the whole dancing and swatting thing. The next, he was flat on his back with a stunned look upon his face.

With a mid-air victory bump, Bert and I flew away laughing our stingers off. What a great way to start the season!

Laura Snyder is a nationally syndicated columnist, author & speaker. You can reach Laura at lsnyder@lauraonlife.com Or visit her website www.lauraonlife.com for more info.



The identity of the featured celebrity is found within the answers in the puzzle. In order to take the TV Challenge, unscramble the letters noted with asterisks within the puzzle.

ACROSS

1. "Criminal Minds" role (2)
10. Declare firmly
11. Is ___ leader; easily attracts followers
12. "___ and Stacey"
13. Jackie O's second
14. "Sweet Nothing in My ___"; 2008 TV movie
16. Gary Sinise's role (2)
18. "___ Man Answers"; 1962 Sandra Dee film
20. Word in the title of a New Year's song
21. "___ Decision" 2001 Mare Winningham TV movie
22. "The Ballad of the ___ Cafe"; 1991 Vanessa Redgrave film
23. Composer Berlin, to pals
24. Lubricates
25. Plant part
27. Trip producer?
28. Role on "CSI" (2)
32. Hitchcock or Scorsese: abbr.
33. "Boys Don't ___"; 1999 Hilary Swank movie
34. Jethro Bodine, for one
37. "1,000 Places ___ Before You Die"; 2007 series
39. 1982 best actor in a comedy Emmy winner
40. "Private Practice" role (2)

DOWN

7. Rosie's initials
8. "___ Anatomy"
9. "Final ___"; 1992 Kim Basinger movie
13. Two-yr. degree
15. Reagan or Colman
16. "A ___ of the World"; 1999 Sigourney Weaver film
17. 1981 Warren Beatty movie
18. Make an ___; penetrate the enemy's territory
19. "My ___ Martian" (1963-66)
21. Laurence Olivier and Sean Connery
24. Vaudevillian Olsen
26. Fortuneteller's deck
29. Cake decorator
30. Game show host
31. Suffix for great or late
34. Word in the title of Julia Louis-Dreyfus' recent series
35. Summer refresher
36. "___ From Heaven"; 2002 Dennis Quaid movie
38. Initials for Eggar
39. Tim's co-worker on "Home Improvement"



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Broken Pipes...Wet Walls... Flooded Basement...

DO

- Stop the water flow if possible
- Remove as much excess water as possible
- Towel wood furniture, counter tops, etc. to a dry safe place
- Use wax paper or wood blocks under furniture that cannot be relocated to a dry area
- Pin up draperies and upholstery skirts to prevent water circles
- Turn on your heating and/or air conditioning system, provided water has not entered the ducts
- Remove all non-color fast items like rugs, pillows, etc. and place in a dry area
- Remove all loose items on the floor to a dry area

DONT

- Go near contaminated (sewer) water
- Use electrical appliances and outlets in wet areas
- Use your household vacuum to extract water
- Place wet items on any absorbent surface
- Turn on your heating and/or air conditioning system if water has traveled in or through the ducts
- Enter rooms if the ceiling is wet and sagging
- Leave absorbent materials like boxes, papers, pillows, etc. in the wet area
- Let children or the elderly enter the affected areas

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