

storyville eight

ORGANIZING A PARTY: Okay, the **keg of beer** will be there **by** six. I also **confirmed** the band, ordered the cake, filled out the place cards, **picked up** the funny cocktail napkins and I'm almost **done making** the centerpieces. It's all so much work, this party is just going to **wear me out**.

WHEN WILL MY SON FIND OUT: I just keep **thinking back to** that **time** when Dad **made us try** baseball. I will never forget the **humiliation**. I mean, I can live **with playing** badly in front of my co-workers, it's my son I'm worried about. He's still **at** that age where he thinks his father can do anything. I know **some day he's going to have to** learn that I'm not perfect, **it's just that** I was hoping it might be something less **humiliating** than **seeing me dance at** a family wedding.

ARE WOMEN CRAZY?: **What is it with** women **these days?** I'm seriously **at the end of my rope**. I mean, you **treat** a woman **to** dinner at a **fancy** restaurant, and **by the end** of the night, she's **either** telling you you're the greatest thing **ever** or she's **dumping** a bouquet of flowers over your head. And **as for** which response you get, well, that's **anybody's guess**. So tell me, are all women **nuts**, or just the ones I **cheat on** my wife with?

FENCING PRACTICE: For weeks, **all** Annie did for excitement was **float** in her swimming pool. But now she's **taken up** fencing, and I've never seen her more vital. She **stays up late into the evening**, working with her instructor. Manfred was the German champion three years **running**. He doesn't speak **a word of** English, so Annie **gets to brush up on** her German **while practicing**.