

tidbits

Dull casseroles need creative additions

By Lynn Roberts

If the thought of a hot casserole leaves you cold, you're not being creative enough.

Whether you're fixing a casserole to save time or money, don't save on the extras that can turn a dull dish into a good one.

Most casseroles consist of something starchy and filling, some meat and a sauce to hold the whole thing together. Use leftovers or start from scratch, but try adding extras for variety.

The basic blah casserole (tuna, noodles and mushroom soup) can, at the very least, be made a little more appetizing by a few additions.

For color add frozen peas, and for texture try stirring in some chow-mein noodles and sprinkling some on top before baking.

Most any casserole's flavor can be improved by cheese, whether you put in in the casserole or melt it on top. If you use cheddar it also can add some badly needed color.

Toasted almonds are good sprinkled on top before serving and sliced olives add both color and flavor.

Let your creative talents loose and don't be afraid to stir in anything edible if you think it will improve an otherwise uneventful meal.

I even read last week where a woman is into using insects instead of meat. That's a little too creative for me, so here are three recipes without bugs.

Baked Pork Chops and Rice

4 pork chops 1 can cream of celery soup
1 onion sliced 1 soup can water
1/2 tsp. salt 1 c. uncooked rice

Brown pork chops and add to the rest of the ingredients which have been mixed together. Bake 90 minutes at 350 degrees.

Chicken Spaghetti

1 frying chicken 1 can mushroom soup
10 oz. spaghetti 1 can tomato soup
1 green pepper chopped 1 c. grated cheese
1/4 c. margerine 1/2 c. sliced olives

Boil chicken 1 and one-half hours covered in water seasoned with salt and celery. Cool and remove from bones in small pieces. Cook the spaghetti in the chicken broth and drain.

Saute the green pepper in the margerine and add the soup. Stir sauce and cheese into the spaghetti and top with olives. Sprinkle with paprika and bake 45 minutes at 350 degrees.

Rigatoni

1 lb. ground beef 3 tbsp. cottage cheese
2-8 oz. cans tomato sauce 1 c. sour cream
1 pkg. spaghetti sauce mix 1/2 c. cheddar cheese shredded
6 green onions sliced 8 oz. cooked rigatoni noodles
3 oz. cream cheese

Brown ground beef, add tomato sauce and spaghetti sauce mix and heat until bubbly.

Mix together onions, cream cheese, cottage cheese and sour cream.

Layer rigatoni, meat sauce and cheese mixture. Cover with cheddar cheese and bake for 20 minutes at 350 degrees.

bernstein | A hissing possessive case on words | calls for 's to be omitted

By Theodore M. Bernstein

No hissing, please. The possessive case of most nouns is formed, of course, by adding an apostrophe and an s; Father's, Pennsylvania's, etc. However, exceptions occur when the noun ends in s or the sound of s and is followed by a word that begins with an s sound. Take a look at this passage from a review by Robert Brustein of Yale of a book by John Simon: "...the critical John Simon is composed of divided personae... which, for convenience sake, we'll call the good, the bad and the ugly." Normally, convenience in the possessive case would be convenience's, but when it is followed by sake, the succession of three s sounds would be difficult to pronounce. In such situations, therefore, the s is omitted, but the apostrophe is retained to indicate the possessive case. It should be "for convenience' sake."

Retort' Apparently there are more Miss Thistlebottoms teaching in schools than we thought. In a letter we wrote to Dr. Manly B. Donaldson of Clayton, N.M., we asked forgiveness for delay in replying to a letter of his. In a pleasant second letter he said we must have skipped school the day Miss Prim (that's an alias for Thistlebottom) taught about the difference between answer and reply; you answer a letter, said he, and you reply to a charge. Those definitions are far too confining. The American Heritage Dictionary, in its discussion of four synonyms, says that "answer, the most general, refers to any act that completes a process initiated by another" and that reply "means to answer in speech or writing to a direct question." We did indeed reply to Dr. Donaldson's letter.

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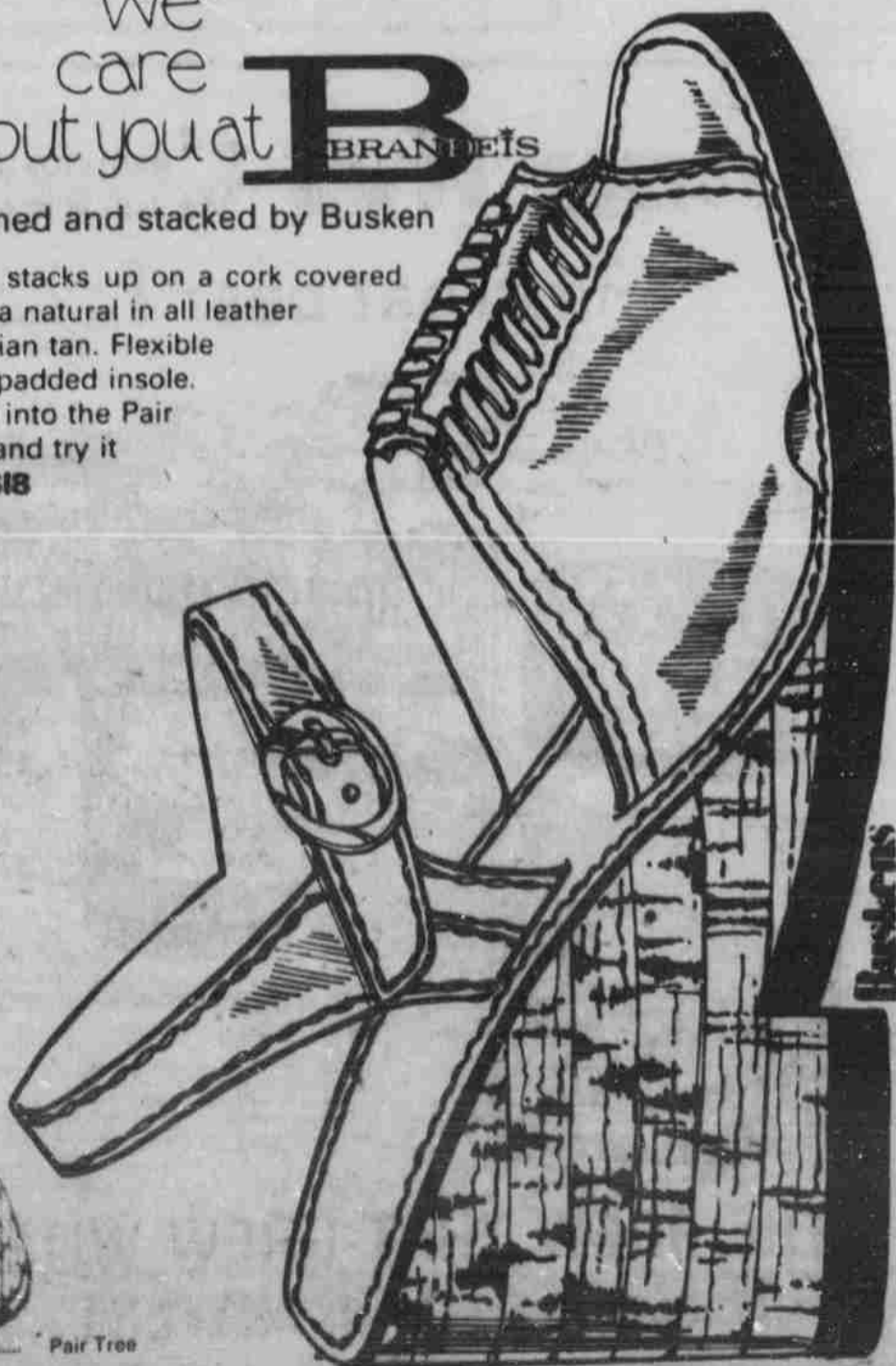
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