

LOOK INSIDE FOR TONS OF CHEAP WAYS TO TREAT YOURSELF!!!

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with MICHAEL RAY

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HOW TO... WORK THE ROOM

WHEN YOU'RE LOOKING TO IMPRESS...

Keep nerves in check. Before heading into a room full of strangers (or answering the door before your date), get the jitters out by hopping up and down.

Don't try too hard. Casual confidence always works: Have good posture, speak with conviction and make eye contact.

Watch out for over-gesturing. When we're put on the spot, we tend to talk with our hands. Only gesture when you really need emphasis, but avoid clichés: If you're saying something negative, no finger wagging.

WHEN YOU'RE LOOKING FOR LAUGHS...

Filter yourself. When you're meeting new people, always schmooze before you drop a zinger. That way, they can be sure it's a joke.

Take a cue from the tone of the room and the crowd. Tailor your teasing to the appropriate guests. Off-color humor won't fly in an office party or at your grandpa's retirement bash.

Keep it relevant. Random jokes ("Guy walks into a bar...") aren't as funny as situational humor. Rib on something happening at the party so everyone feels included.
—AMANDA WAAS

Sources: Stephanie J. Block, star of Broadway's *9 to 5: The Musical*, and Jeffrey Ross, author of *I Only Roast the Ones I Love* (\$25, Simon Spotlight Entertainment)



LET CHANGING LEAVES FALL WHERE THEY MAY. This month celebrate the peak corn season. Cornfields are at their fullest just before final harvests in November and December, so **Georgia's Rock Ranch** is sculpting its fields into a 4-acre maze—in the shape of Abraham Lincoln (this year is the 100th anniversary of his penny). Visitors can pick up clues by answering Lincoln-related trivia, or climb up mini bridges for bird's-eye views. Really lost? Ask "corn cops," farm members who give clues about the exit path. 15020 Barnesville Hwy., The Rock, GA, therockranch.com; admission \$13] —E.M.

DOG GONE RIDICULOUS!

We love to pamper our pups, but the new breed of highbrow hounds has got to stop.



What's with the designer shoes? Sure, paws and claws can be sensitive to hot and cold sidewalks. But do they really need separate pairs of hiking boots, slippers and moccasins? One pair of protective snow boots—if that—should do it.



Since when are their haircuts more expensive than ours? Apparently, the dog days of hair are over: Some pets are sporting trims as trendy as the ones seen on runways—with price tags to match. We'd rather spend the cash on treats.

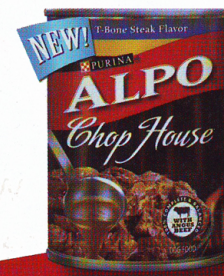


Model shots? Really? Your digital camera is packed with dozens of pictures of your dog looking cute, cuter and cutest. Snap away, we say! But we draw the line at creating a Dogbook (Facebook for dogs!) page to share them.

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