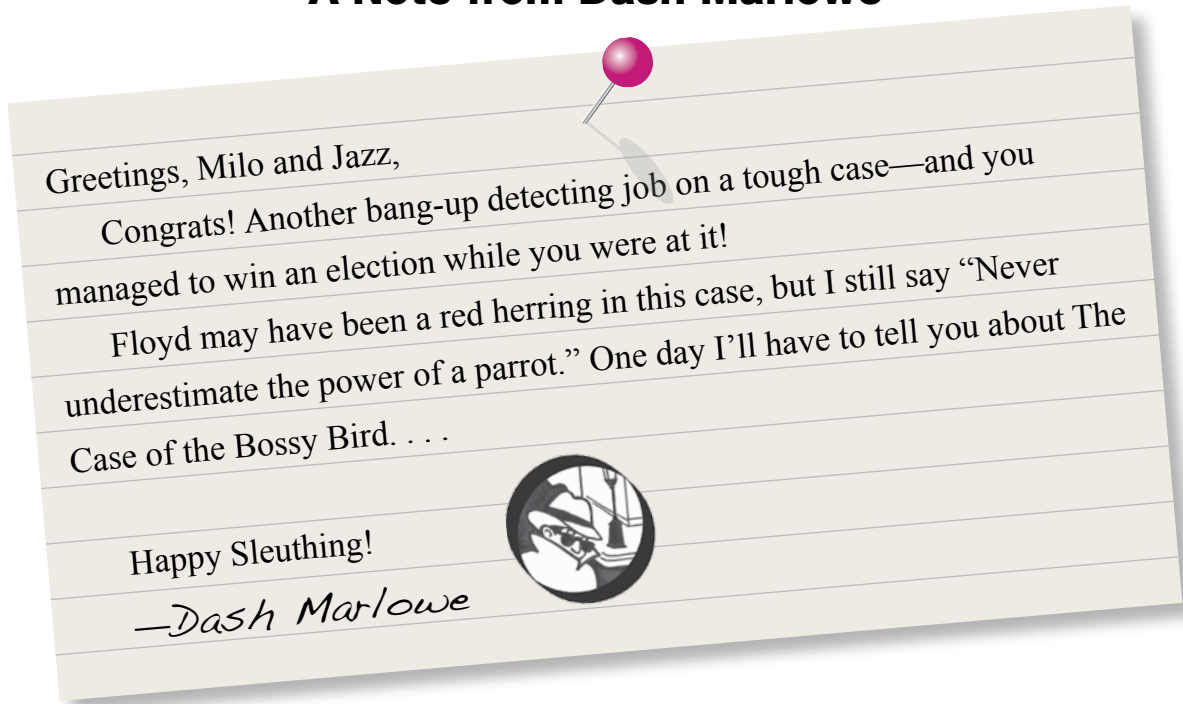




SUPER SLEUTHING PUZZLES

A Note from Dash Marlowe



Warm Up!

Here are a few brain stretchers to warm you up. (The answers to these and the other sleuthing puzzles are at the end of my letter.)

1. If your own uncle’s sister is not your aunt, then what is your relationship to her?

2. A clerk in a butcher shop is five foot ten. What does he weigh?

3. Before Mount Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain in the world?

4. What came first, the chicken or the egg?

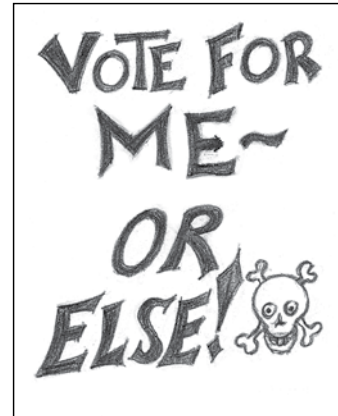
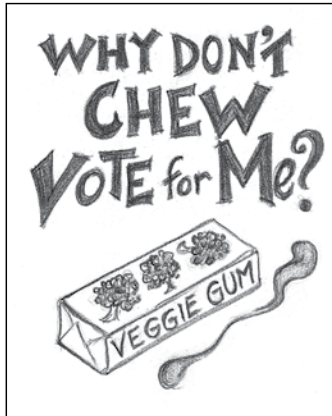
Spot the Difference: An Observation Puzzle

Dirty tricks aren't just confined to school elections! Not long ago a client, Jeff Jarvis, who was running for city mayor, told me that a newspaper had run a photo that seemed to show him making a payoff to a known criminal! Of course, the photo was a fake—someone from his rival's campaign had pasted Jeff's head on another man's body. Luckily it was a sloppy job. Take a look at the two photos and try to spot the differences between the fake Jeff and the real one! (I showed the two photos to the paper and they printed an apology.)



Answer:

Con Campaign: A Logic Puzzle



Back when ex-robbers Louie, Sal, and Rocky were in prison, there was so much fighting on their cellblock that the convicts decided they should elect an inmate to be Big Boss. The three friends all ran for the job. Can you figure out who of the three guys had which slogan and how each guy did in the race?

Look at the clues and fill in the answer box where you can. Then read the clues again to find the answer.

- Clue 1** Rocky’s slogan was BEST TATTOO ON CELLBLOCK 9. He promised everybody a free tattoo if he won.
- Clue 2** Sal came in second to last.
- Clue 3** The one who got the fewest votes gave away broccoli-flavored chewing gum.
- Clue 4** One robber’s posters said VOTE FOR ME—OR ELSE!
- Clue 5** Louie’s slogan was WHY DON’T CHEW VOTE FOR ME?

Answer Box

	Rocky	Louie	Sal
Slogan			
Place			

Answer:

_____ slogan was _____. Since he came in second to last, it must not have scared anybody.

_____ came in last. The cons like the broccoli-flavored chewing gum but they hated his slogan, _____.

_____ won! He was busy doing free tattoos for months.

Something Fishy: A Mini-Mystery

“Red herrings” reminded me of this quirky case. Give it a try—and draw a conclusion! A daring masked man had robbed a local bank. Police had trailed him to a nearby lake where it would be easy for the culprit to lose himself among the fishermen lining its shore. I was called in to help find him. I started by approaching three men on the dock and asking each one, “Did you see anybody show up here within the last hour?”

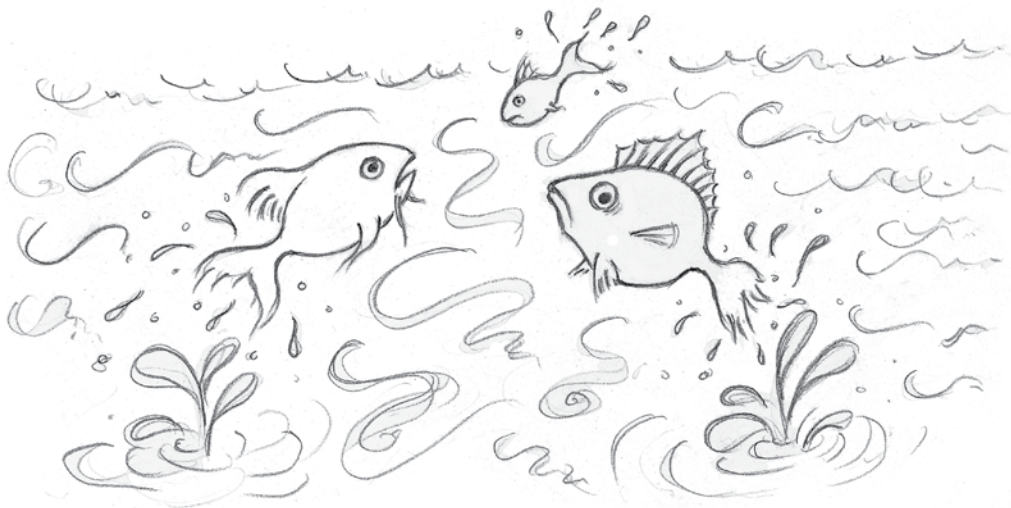
“I’m afraid I was asleep,” the first man said. “For me, fishing is an excuse for a nice nap. To tell you the truth, I don’t even bait my hook!”

The second man told me, “I was busy battling a scrappy little fish.” He chuckled. “Then when I finally landed him he looked so pathetic—eyes closed, gasping for breath—that I threw him back!”

The third smiled, “I wasn’t paying much attention. I was scoping out a pretty girl water skiing. I think she’s interested. She waved at me!”

All three stories sounded pretty suspicious. But I knew one of them contained a lie.

Sure enough, after a bit of grilling he confessed to being the robber. Which was it and how did I know?



Answer:

Yada Yada: A Relevant/Irrelevant Puzzle

A witness can really help a detective solve crimes. But witnesses can also tell you lots of things you don't need to know. Check out some of the things witnesses have told me. See if you can spot the irrelevant information a detective should ignore! (Remember: An irrelevant comment can be perfectly true; it just won't help you find out what you want to know.)

- I was hired by the owner of Pizza Pronto to catch whoever kept painting "YUCK! DON'T EAT HERE!" on the restaurant door. A customer said he might know who did it.

This is what he told me:

- Pizza Pronto stays open late.
- The food is fabulous, especially the meatballs.
- A place called Pizza Plus is across the street.
- The parking meter in front of Pizza Pronto is broken.
- The guy who owns Pizza Plus had paint in his hair.



Irrelevant comments: _____

The culprit was the jealous owner of Pizza Plus.

- My 8-year-old neighbor, Pete, was very angry. "I went to get more milk during lunch—and somebody took a bite out of my tuna sandwich!" His friend Owen broke in, "I'm not sure who did it, but I was at the same table."

Here's what Owen told me:

- Joey sat next to Pete and he loves tuna sandwiches.
- Karen sat next to Frank and she likes tuna too.
- Frank sat across from Pete but he loves peanut butter, not tuna.
- Joey's breath smelled like tuna.
- I like cheese sandwiches.



Irrelevant comments: _____

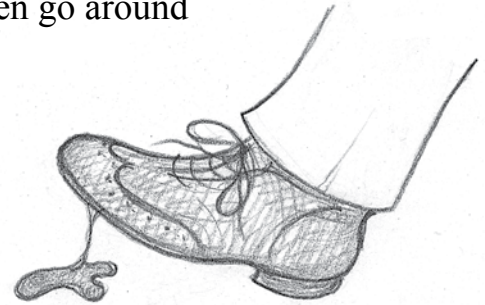
Tuna breath was the real giveaway. Joey admitted he took the bite. "I had baloney and I just wasn't in the mood!" He gave Pete a cookie to make up for it.

Yada Yada: A Relevant/Irrelevant Puzzle *(continued)*

3. Mrs. Wilson's brand new computer was stolen from her house in broad daylight.

Her neighbor reported:

- a. I saw a guy in uniform knock on the front door, then go around to the back.
- b. I'd been watching reality TV.
- c. He came out carrying something wrapped in newspapers.
- d. He stopped for a second to scrape something off his shoe.
- e. He had a green and white van with lots of dents.



Irrelevant comments: _____

I caught the guy after I checked for owners of green and white vans with bad driving records.

4. Just before closing time a woman burst into the Devastating Beauty Salon and said, "This is a stick-up!" Five minutes later she left with all the cash in the register. I asked Madame Cherie, the only one there at the time, to describe the robber.

She said:

- a. Her cut wasn't flattering.
- b. She was tall and had short bleached blond hair.
- c. I wouldn't be surprised if she cut her hair herself.
- d. I'm sure she used a very cheap shampoo.
- e. Probably no conditioner either.



Irrelevant comments: _____

The blonde was caught after she held up several other salons.