Word process for deprogramming this pest

United Feature Syndicate

Dear Miss Manners: The husband of one of my close friends is a computer buff.

He asks me every time he sees me when I am going to get a word processor. (I am a free-lance writer.)

The first time, I didn't mind; many writers do use word processors, and I was happy to explain why I prefer not to.



The problem is that he won't take no for an answer. He asks me the same question over and over.

I lose patience quickly in situations like this, but I managed to be polite for several months. Finally, I told him not to mention the subject again. He seemed offended.

Nevertheless, the next time I saw him, he asked me whether I had decided to get a word processor. I know that this man doesn't mean any harm, but if he doesn't lay off, I am going to explode.

Please understand that the issue is not computers; I am not anti-computer. The issue is how to deal with someone who is convinced that what is good for him must be good for me.

Gentle Reader: Well, when are you going to get one? Miss Manners is a writer, too, you know, and let her tell you....

Just kidding. Calm down. She didn't mean it. Indeed, there is an epidemic of unsolicited advice in this society. People are constantly pes-

tering one another to do things the right way, which is to say the way the pesterers do them.

It is not just buying goods such as computers, but choice of food and exercise, whether or when one should get married or have children, whether mothers should work at home or at offices, and just about every other topic that used to be considered an individual's own business.

The polite way of saying "Mind your own business" is a firm "Don't bother to keep asking — I promise you that if I change my mind, I'll let you know."

Dear Miss Manners: My wife and I like to barbecue, and we usually have four or five gala outings during the summer. On a couple of occasions, we will just serve basic hot dogs or hamburgers, and not any of our exotic treats.

I want to put out large bottles of ketchup and mustard, but my wife insists that this is highly improper and that we should have available those little packets of condiments.

Gentle Reader: Miss Manners admires your wife's delicacy and is sorry to have to say it is misplaced. The distinction is between serving foodstuffs in commercial containers and decanting them, as it were, not between one type of wrapping and another. The proper way to serve ketchup and mus-

tard is in small bowls, and were you having even a very informal meal indoors, Miss Manners would insist upon this.

However, a backyard barbecue can be counted either as a dinner party in the garden, for which this rule would also apply, or a picnic, in which case it wouldn't.

Dear Miss Manners: Several months ago, my beau and I decided that we would like to spend the rest of our lives together. To that end, we plan to buy a house, move into it and marry — in that

While we have made no formal announcements of any kind, we told friends and family about our plans when the subject came up.

The unresolved matter of etiquette is this: The young man in question believes that we are not formally engaged to be married unless and until we have a date for the ceremony.

It is my understanding that, on the contrary, in times gone by, long engagements without a set date for the wedding were quite common.

My feeling is that we are engaged to be married simply by virtue of our public intention to marry, and that no further announcements or signs (such as a ring) are required.

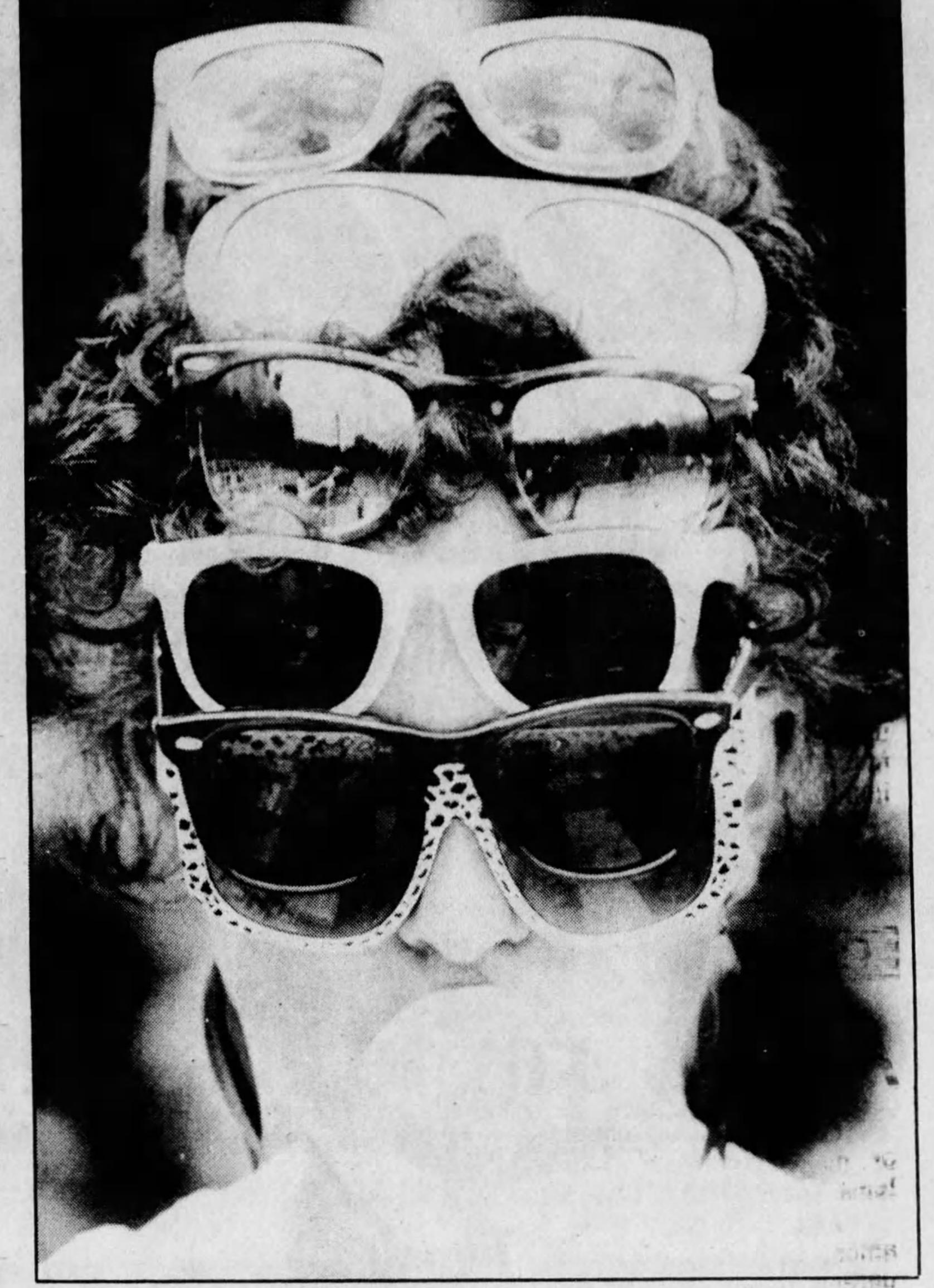
I hasten to add that this is a very proper young man who organizes his life according to Miss Manners. We would both appreciate it if you would let us know if he is, in fact, my fiance.

Gentle Reader: Please give the gentleman Miss Manners' congratulations on his engage-

The public declaration of an intention to marry is an engagement. (The private declaration is a secret engagement.) Rings, parties, check-off lists of tasks and prospective guests, and a relationship with a caterer are optional.

Besides, the gentleman ought to be grateful that this arrangement provides him with a proper and practical term, "fiance," by which he can be easily identified. If he can think of a term that would equally well describe the pre-engaged or un-engaged state of householding, Miss Manners would very much like to hear it.

Feeling incorrect? Address your etiquette questions (in black or blue-black ink on white writing paper) to Miss Manners, in care of this newspaper. The quill shortage prevents Miss Manners from answering questions other than through this column.



The Associated Press

In the shade — Rebecca Fabiano displays some of the sunglasses for sale at her stand at the Boston Common.

Volunteers are needed in Tucson to provide many services. Below are just a few of the openings. For more information about these and other opportunities, call or visit the Voluntary Action Center, 3813 E. Second St., between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays; 327-6207.

SPORTS PROGRAM FOR HANDI-CAPPED will begin in September. Director needs newsletter writers,

layout volunteers and sports photographers to cover events. Also needed are calligraphers for certifi-

PREVENTION CHILD-ABUSE FACILITY has moved to larger quarters and needs shelving, storage cabinets, large table/chairs, refrigerator and microwave. Donations tax-deductible. Speakers Bureau trainees are being sought for training this month.

FOSTER PARENT RECRUIT-MENT AIDE needed to provide program information by phone, develop recruitment sites, distribute materials and research results. Five to 10 hours per week, midday, for a minimum of six months requested.

VOLUNTEERS CLERICAL NEEDED in all departments of psychological hospital: school, medical records, accounting and medical transcription for experienced word processor.

VOLUNTEERS FRIENDLY needed to help in coffee shop of eastside hospital any weekday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

TEACH ADULTS TO READ. Tutor training will begin Sept. 12 for four Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at near-downtown site. Registration for training closes Aug. 17.

The cerem

Infants, toddlers August topics of La Frontera workshops

La Frontera Center will present two free workshops next month at its new Child/Family Center at 502 W.

The first, "The World of the Infant," on Aug. 15, will cover the latest research on infancy and suggest

activities to help stimulate the intel-

lectual, physical and emotional growth of infants. "The World of the Toddler," on Aug. 22, will offer advice for helping parents understand toddler behavior.

Both workshops begin at 9 a.m. and last two hours. For more information, call 884-9920.

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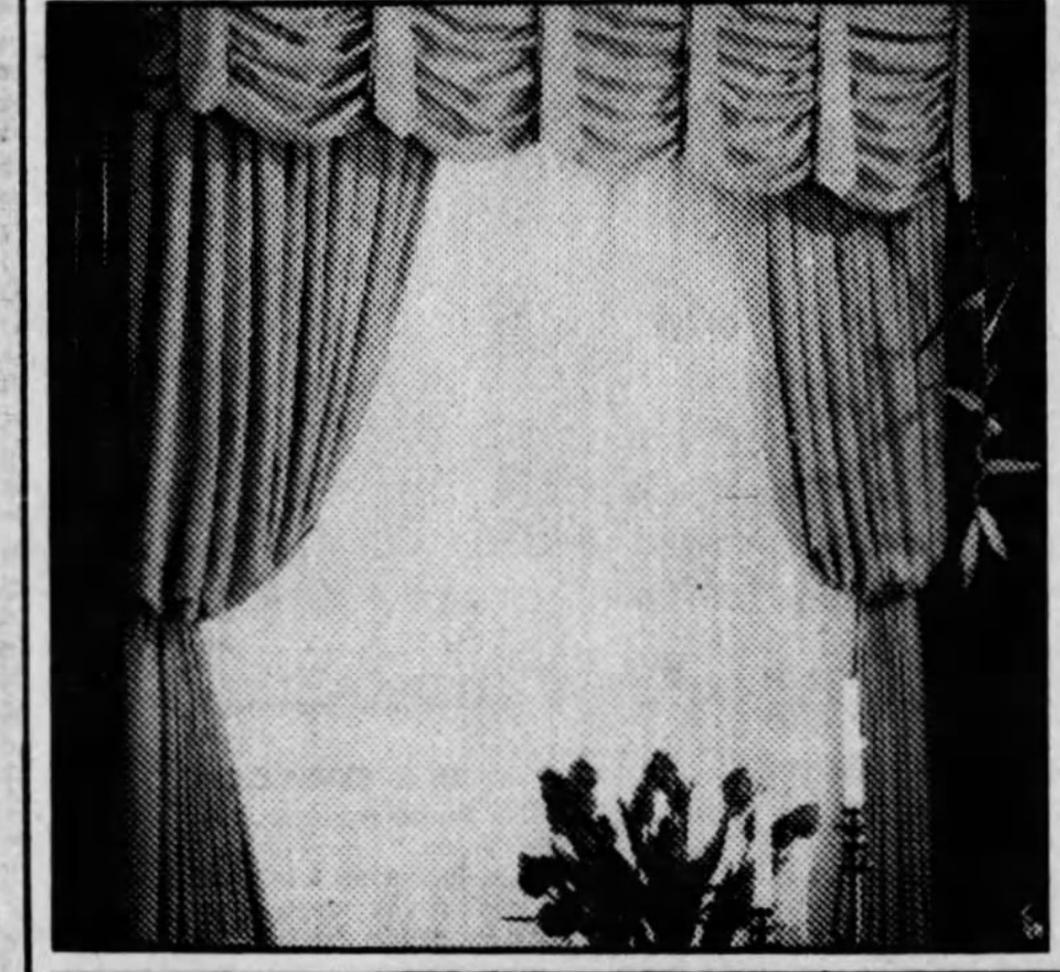
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Imagine, if you will, son, the originator of the tired in their prom Muppets.

While you're chomping on the salad, you're watching Fritz Scholder of his "Dream Horse."

tle down to a series of of the amount of salary lectures by Stephen or the amount of ad-Hassenfeld, CEO of verse criticism. They and furious! There's a Hasbro, the world's larg- took risks. They had fun little bit of everything est toy company; Su- with their work. zanne Farrell, the greatest ballerina of the 20th beck opened the confer- all kinds of accessories. century; Jane Goodall, ence she had said: the most influential and "This weekend is going renowned primate re- to change your lives." searcher in the world. You even get a hug from Ed Asner — or was it Lou Grant?

In the evening you truck on out to a barbeque where actress Olivia DeHavilland addresses the crowd. Westerndressed Nobel prize winners, poets and the foremost authority on the COUNTRYVILLE federal budget lick sauce from their fingers as they watch a past honoree, Loretta Lynn, ♥HOME ACCESSORIES♥ put on a special show We feature a large lijust for them.

their professions.

reason seven Nobel Prize winners, three Pulitizer Prize winners and 133 other overachievers I traveled to Scottsdale in 100-plus temperatures? It was to inspire 400 high school seniors who, by their exceptional aca-I demic achievements, were guests of the acad-

The weekend ended with a black-tie dinner which the academy sitting down to lunch made easy for the stuwith Pulitizer Prize win- dents. The tuxedos ning author Frances were already rented for Fitzgerald, then scoot- the boys and corsages ing the chairs around to were waiting for the girls make room for Jim Hen- who were elegantly at-

dresses. The weekend had taught them how ordinary people had done extraordinary things. The lesson was the create a vibrant painting same from all of the celebrities. They had chosen the work they had After lunch, you set- wanted to do regardless

> When Erma Bom-I'm sure it did.



COTTAGE GIFTS ♥ FOLK ART

selection of framed This scenario was not an country prints including imaginary weekend for handpainted watercome. It really happened. It lors in beautiful quilt was The American patterns. Our many Academy of Achieve- handcrafted items are ment's Salute to Excellin today's popular lence Weekend held this country colors. Stop by year in Scottsdale. No, I for that special gift or didn't share in any of the glory. My husband and I home accessory. Lowere guests of Jane cated on Grant, one Goodall, one of those Block west of Country being honored for out- Club. 322-9249. Look standing achievement in for the little red brick house.

Oh, did I mention the



The new fall merchandise is coming in fast beautiful dresses, sportswear, shoes, and

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non, 881-7613. Mon-Sat, 10-6.



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