

Olivia and Carmen turned to Mr. Cabral. "That's very... irregular," he said, taken aback. "Of course, I'd have to charge an extra fee for dressing the deceased twice."

Satisfied, Olivia and Carmen agreed.

Suddenly, it occurred to Mr. Cabral: his customers might really like this, having their loved ones wear two attractive outfits instead of one. Who knows, he thought, I might get a reputation for having the best-dressed deceased in town.

— Cynthia Lelos

East Freetown MA

SOME FRIENDS OF RUTH AND ELLIS GET MARRIED

— For Dan Lenihan

An obvious gatecrasher  
slides up to me, belches,  
and says that the wedding cake  
represents Alcatraz;  
I'm invited back and forth across the room  
to hear these bad stories about  
Adelaide, Morocco, and how  
they amputated the wrong leg  
on cousin so and so.  
After a while  
I stand off in one corner  
pretty convinced  
that I've found a pubic hair  
in my vol-au-vent.

The band at the reception  
was called the "The Yawning Haloes,"  
an a cappella group,  
all with speech impediments.  
Someone had invited an undertaker —  
he went red  
trying to tell me a joke about  
a left-handed gynecologist.  
The guy reading the telegrams  
lost his glasses  
in the soup tureen.  
When we left the reception  
most of us  
had parking tickets.

The wedding was held  
in a really nice public park

but the ceremony was delayed  
while some of the bride's cousins from Montana  
tried to lasso  
a giant, crazed brown bear  
just some hours fugitive  
from the nearby  
San Diego Zoo.

The priest was late too.  
Some of the in-laws  
got a bit touchy about  
raising his bail.

The couple  
were having their honeymoon  
in Kuwait.

"Dare to be different," they said.

We all cheered and waved  
the limo goodbye.  
Halfway out the park  
it got  
a flat tire.

Most of the guests  
rang the happy parents,  
the day after the wedding, to say  
they had had ...

food-poisoning.

#### OBSERVATION, NUMBER THREE

You can tell  
if a house is being rented by rock musicians  
by the number of empty pizza cartons  
out front  
on garbage day.

#### LA BREA TAR PITS OF THE MIND

The construction workers  
wolf whistle  
at the passing office girls,  
their leers  
setting in the concrete.

#### BATH PLUG

A way  
to edit  
water.