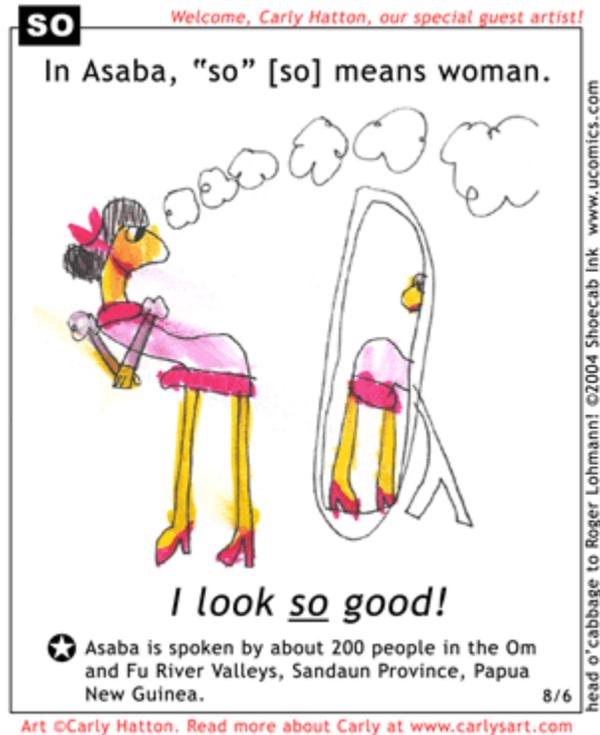


News Release

Legally Blind and Autistic Artists To Visit "Shoecabbage"



Kansas City, Mo. (08/04/2004) — As soon as Teresa Dowlatshahi read a local newspaper story about Erica Lunn, a 19-year-old sight-impaired woman who loves to draw, Dowlatshahi knew what she wanted to do next. She wanted to invite the award-winning artist to guest-draw an installment of "Shoecabbage," the uclick-syndicated comic panel Dowlatshahi normally co-creates with cartoonist David Stanford.

"Erica impressed me with her skill and passion for drawing," says Dowlatshahi. "But the clincher for me was finding out that she likes to draw cartoon characters."

When corrected, Lunn's vision is about 20/2200 or 2300. For detailed drawings, she often uses a closed circuit television to magnify images on a screen.

Lunn recently won second place in the American Printing House for the Blind InSights Contest, a national competition that this year had more than 500 entries.

Around the same time Dowlatshahi heard about Lunn, she also came across the remarkable drawings of 11-year-old Carly Hatton. Hatton was diagnosed as "high functioning autistic" at age 4. Living in her own world, Hatton was often unable to express her feelings and her frustrations, and so she began to draw. Hatton has won numerous awards for her artwork.

"I was enchanted with the artwork on Carly's Web site," says Dowlatshahi, "Her whimsical drawings are so full of energy, humor and truth."

"'Shoecabbage' is like a wacky bicycle," says Stanford "and it's a pleasure to see these talented young artists take it out for a spin."

Hatton will make her guest appearance in "Shoecabbage" on August 6-8 while Lunn will appear on August 13-15.

"Shoecabbage" is syndicated by uclick, a company of Andrews McMeel Universal, the parent company of Universal Press Syndicate and Andrews McMeel Publishing. uclick syndicates digital content on the Web, through wireless devices and by e-mail, including the highly sought-after work of more than 200 nationally syndicated creators of comics, puzzles, games and text features.

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