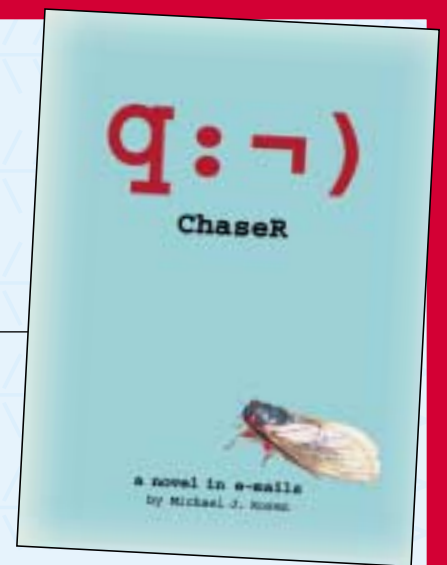


From: [www.candlewick.com](http://www.candlewick.com)

Subject: **Make a Mystery Smiley!**

In *ChaseR: A Novel in E-mails* by Michael J. Rosen, main character Chase Riley spends a LOT of time at his computer composing witty e-mails to send to his friends. Following are step-by-step instructions for making one of the original “smileys” he designs to illustrate his early e-mails. Follow the steps and see what you get! (Make sure you start at the left-hand margin of your page or screen.)



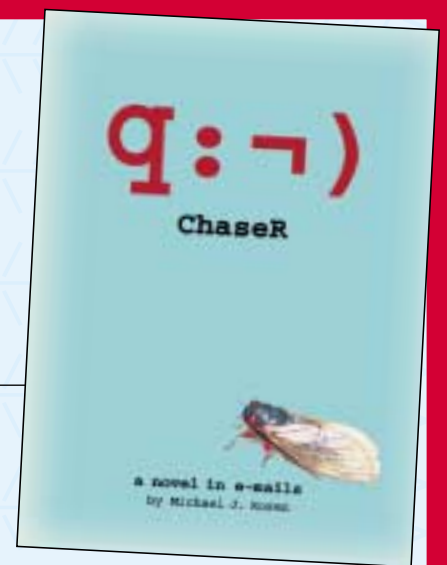
1. Type a backward slash.
2. Hit the space bar.
3. Type the number “0”.
4. Hit the space bar.
5. Press the “underline” key.
6. Type six forward slashes.
7. Type a “greater than” sign.
8. Undo the “underline” function.
9. Hit return.
10. Type a forward slash.
11. Hit the space bar.
13. Type the number “zero”.
14. Hit the space bar.
15. Type six backward slashes.
16. Type a “greater than” sign.

That’s it! You should have a smiley of something that Chase discovers in massive quantities when he moves to the country. If you’re REALLY stuck, you’ll find the answer spelled out on pages 4 and 5 of *ChaseR: A Novel in E-mails*. You can find another clue on the front cover of the book.

From: [www.candlewick.com](http://www.candlewick.com)

Subject: **What Would YOU Do?**

**Put yourself in these predicaments**



When the main character in *ChaseR: A Novel in E-mails* by Michael J. Rosen moves from the city to the heart of hunting country, he finds himself in a moral predicament. On one hand, Chase feels that killing deer for sport is revolting, and vows to do anything he can to stop it. On the other hand, he comes to realize that many of his neighbors are poor and actually depend on hunting to feed their families. What would you do if you were in his shoes? What are some of the pros and cons of both the pro-hunting and anti-hunting sides?

Now consider the following predicaments, contributed by *ChaseR: A Novel in E-mails* author Michael J. Rosen. What would you do in each case?

You discover that a tree has fallen into your backyard pond, a sure sign that a beaver is at work. At first you think this is sweet. As more and more trees keep dropping, however, the beaver shows no sign of stopping, clearly intending to munch happily on branches beneath the ice all winter. Your neighbors tell you that beavers will not only fell all your trees, but eventually gnaw through the pond's clay liner and ruin the whole pond. They suggest hiring a trapper, who promises to "relocate" the beaver. But you have no guarantee that he won't relocate the critter to beaver heaven. . . .

Your treasured rose bushes are swarming with Japanese beetles. The insects don't bite or sting, but they are devouring all the flowers and leaves. You could spray the bushes with pesticides, but then the birds and even your own dogs might be affected by the poison. Your other choices include plucking off the beetles one by one and throwing them into a bucket of soapy water to drown, or using a safe trap that entices the beetles into a narrow sack, which you must then empty of writhing, dying beetles. Or you could simply admit defeat—and plant something that beetles don't like.

From: [www.candlewick.com](http://www.candlewick.com)  
Subject: **Crimes of the  
Countryside**

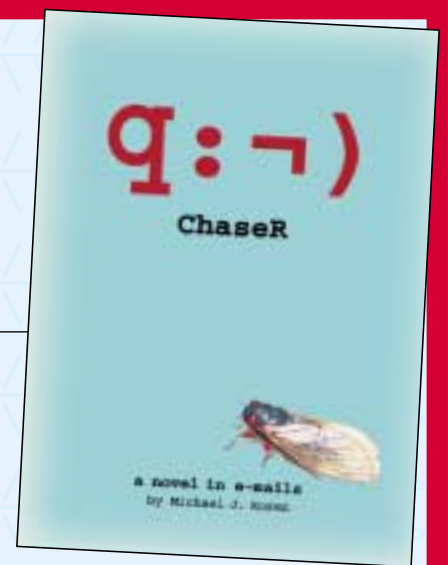
---

Here are a couple of newspaper reports from the local BEAVER CREEK BEACON that Chase finds amusing in *ChaseR: A Novel in E-mails* by Michael J. Rosen:

>>>>Mount Lime, November 18. Police received a complaint of loud music coming from a Saunders Road address. Police reportedly knocked on the door for ten minutes before the homeowner came to the door to let her dogs out. She said she hadn't heard the knocking because of the music.

>>>>Hebron, November 22. Police were called by a Timber Ridge woman to the scene of a tornado. When police arrived they could find no tornado and the sun was shining, but they did notice that the woman had been drinking. No further action was required.

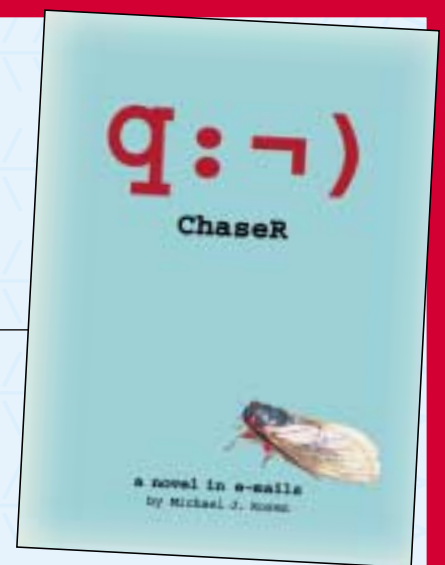
Small-town newspapers often run police reports that may seem quaint to residents of big cities. On the other hand, even big-city newspapers run typos, bizarre stories, and headlines that are unintentionally funny. Scour your own local newspaper for stories or headlines that make you smile, clip them, and start a funny collection on a bulletin board at home or at school.



From: [www.candlewick.com](http://www.candlewick.com)

Subject: **Chocolate Chirpie  
Chip Cookies**

When he first moves to the country, Chase Riley, the main character in *ChaseR: A Novel in E-mails* by Michael J. Rosen, is amazed to find a plague of cicadas (insects similar to grasshoppers or crickets). This noisy event happens only once every 17 years. Even more amazing is that the local newspaper suggests ways to cook up the little critters into tasty treats. Here's a sample recipe to try—if you dare. If not, these cookies will still taste delicious without the extra, uh, crunch.



Preheat oven to 375°

Ingredients: 2 1/4 cups flour  
1 tsp. baking soda  
1 tsp. salt  
1 cup butter, softened  
3/4 cup sugar  
3/4 cup brown sugar  
1 tsp. vanilla  
2 eggs  
1 12-ounce bag chocolate chips  
1 cup chopped nuts  
1/2 cup dry-roasted crickets or cicadas

In small bowl, combine flour, baking soda, and salt; set aside.

In large bowl, combine butter, sugar, brown sugar, and vanilla; beat until creamy [or you're dizzy].

Beat in eggs. Gradually add flour mixture and insects, mix well. Stir in chocolate chips and chopped nuts.

Scoop teaspoon-sized drops onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake for 8-10 minutes. Set aside to cool.