Would you like to join the tennis club? I'd LOVE to! How about the Sierra Club? NATURALLY! And the cereal club? Not on your LIFE! The Action Club? AFFIRMATIVE! You get the idea. In the two puzzles below, try to match each invitation in the left-hand column with the appropriate rejoinder in the right-hand column. If you think some are unforgivably awful puns, join the club!

Would you like to join

1. the Laverne club? a. aye, aye
2. the anti-scale club? b. count me out
3. the Good Morning America club? c. forget it!
4. the egotists club? d. gladly
5. the cross-eyed bear club? e. groovy
6. the Nanette club? f. guess not
7. the Newsweek club? g. I don't give a damn
8. the Calvin Klein club? h. I don't have time
9. the Miss Piggy club? i. I'll pass
10. the Ford-Nixon club? j. mo?
11. the Rhett Butler club? k. never, never!
12. the filthy-dirty club? l. no
13. the Ebert club? m. Roger
14. the proofreaders club? n. nope
15. the Peter Pan club? o. no soap
16. the slang club? p. not in a million years
17. the knockout club? q. not today
18. the quarterback club? r. no way!
19. the Alzheimer's club? s. o.k.
20. the exaggerators club? t. okey-dokey
21. the Annie club? u. oh, no!
22. the phonograph record club? v. pardon me?
23. the compulsive rhymers club? w. Roger
24. the Yoko club? x. surely
25. the initials club? y. tomorrow
26. the Dr. club? z. yess

Answers.

1. the varicose vein club?
2. the German philosophy club?
3. the Nancy Reagan club?
4. the first person plural club?
5. the anti-perspirant club?
6. the Japanese theater club?
8. the vigilante club?
9. the 18-hole club?
10. the Spanish optometrists club?
11. the gamblers club?
12. the Rush Limbaugh club?
13. the Diet Pepsi club?
14. the bad-hair-day club?
15. the Arafat club?
16. the Beethoven club?
17. the halitosis club?
18. the Groucho Marx club?
19. the darkroom club?
20. the shaving club?
21. the chess club?
22. the ennui club?
23. the Jeopardy club?
24. the relative club?
25. the nine lives club?
26. the pregnancy club?

h. I. Kant
i. I suppose
j. negative
k. mix
l. no
m. no(h)

n. no thanks
o. nothing doing
p. of course
q. oui
r. possibly
s. perhaps
t. si
u. sure
v. uh-huh
w. why not?
x. yessir
y. you bet!
z. you bet your life!

In a New York Times advertisement December 18, 1983, Fred the Furrier thanked "1475 Carols, 2870 Barbaras, 2567 Anns, 633 Alices, 22 Elizabeths, 675 Natalies, 1 Zoe" for their making him New York's Furrier. Is this a true tabulation of his customers? If so, their relative frequencies are somewhat at variance with figures cited in Leslie Dunkling's First Names First (Universe Books, 1977). Assuming Fred's customers were typically born in 1925, the ranks of these names are, respectively, 30, 2, 10, 22, 7 and above 50 for the last two. Fred seems to have far fewer Elizabeths than one would expect, but far too many Carols and Natalies. Was the copy-writer overly influenced by the nearness of Christmas?