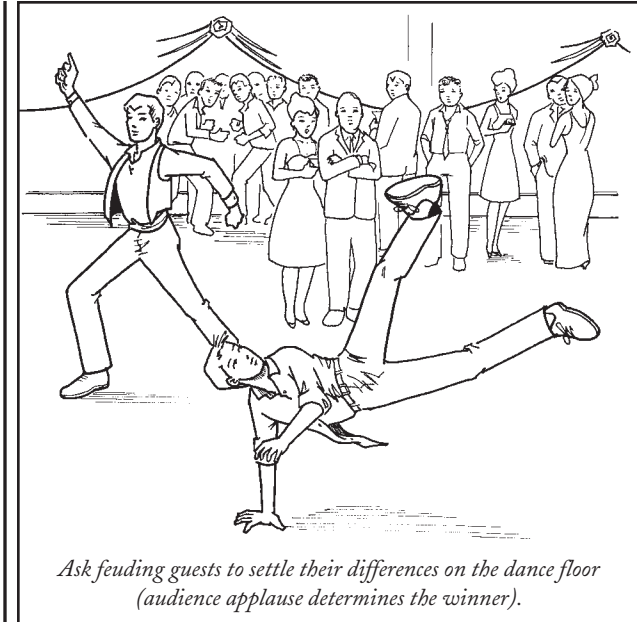


HOW TO BREAK UP AN ARGUMENT

- ★ **Speak to the offending guests softly and slowly.**
Quietly tell them that their behavior is inappropriate for a wedding, and that they must control themselves. Do not raise your voice.
- ★ **Reseat the guests.**
If the argumentative guests are at the same table, ask one to sit at another table.
- ★ **Propose a toast.**
As voices are being raised, begin tapping your glass with a spoon to signal a toast. Other guests will follow suit and the noise should drown out the shouting. The argument will be put on hold during the toast, and hopefully forgotten afterward—especially if the toast is long and boring.
- ★ **Stage a dance-off.**
Clear the floor of other guests and have the band play 20 seconds for each fighting guest. Use an informal survey of applause from other guests to determine the victor.
- ★ **Restrain the fighting guests.**
If guests are coming to blows, enlist the help of burly members of the wedding party or guests. Approach the offending guests from behind and wrap each



- of them in a bear hug, with arms held firmly by their sides.
- ★ **Propose a contest to resolve the dispute.**
Seat combatants at a table that has been cleared. Let them pick between arm wrestling or thumb wrestling. Two out of three wins determines the victor.
 - ★ **Set up an outdoor competition.**
Ask the fighting guests to step outside. Explain that you are authorizing a race that will establish who wins the argument. Lay out a very long course.