

REPORT FROM WEEK 830

in which we asked you to write funny "bank heads" for actual headlines in The Post: Lots of insensitive people saw "64 Killed in Plant Accident" and reinterpreted it as a Venus' flytrap run amok. And what naughty minds some of you have! To deter further off-color entries, we will not print the one from Jeff Brechlin of Eagan, Minn., about something done to one "Sen. Whistle." There were so many good entries that we'll run some more next week.

THE WINNER OF THE INKER

Talk All You Want!
Hook Up Now!
High School Adopts
'Progressive' Policies

(Beverly Sharp,
Washington)

- 2** *the winner of the Cushy Tushy knitted toilet seat rim cover:*
This Time, He Doesn't Answer Bell
Watson Said to Be Working on 'Voice-Mail Contraption' (Mike Fransella, Arlington)
- 3** **Zorn, Campbell Look at Big Picture**
But Neither Is Able to Identify Photo of End Zone (Jeff Brechlin, Eagan, Minn.)
- 4** **Several Methods Can Help You Find Studs Behind Drywall**
How to Pick Up the Hunkiest Construction Workers (Pam Sweeney, St. Paul, Minn.)

B-HEADED: HONORABLE MENTIONS

Neighborhood Watch
Recession Forces Bethesda Residents to Share a Single Rolex
(Christopher Lamora, Arlington; Cy Gardner, Arlington)

When a Towel Is Too Tough to Figure Out
Sarah Palin Throws In the Washcloth (David Smith, Santa Cruz, Calif.)

Nationals Sign Pitcher to Record Contract
'For That Kind of Money, He Better Be Able to Sing, Too,' Lerner Says
(Craig Dykstra, Centreville; Jim Lubell, Mechanicsville)

In Six Months, Williams Has Dropped 111 Pounds
British Poker Player Continues Modest Losing Streak (Russell Beland, Fairfax)

Death Row Prisoner Wins Hearing
Deafness Cured Days Before Execution; Will Be Able to Listen to Zapping (Lisa Trossarello-Christian, Rex, Ga.)

U.Va.'s Barker Follows Large Footprints
Campus Police Set Bloodhound on Trail After Sasquatch Sighting
(William J. Collinge, Gettysburg, Pa.)

Back to the Garden
Undaunted, God Vows to Try Again With Adam & Eve 2.0 (William Bradford, Washington)

Quirós Has Length. Now He Needs Drive
Mrs. Quirós Now Sorry She Let

Sportswriters Into Bedroom (Roy Ashley, Washington; Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)

Va. Commuter Trains to Get Millions From Federal Stimulus
Stafford County Carpooler Studies 'Cash In Now' Booklet 200 Times on Ride to D.C. (Ed Gordon, Georgetown, Tex.)

'Old Goats' Combine to Stifle Arizona
Why You Shouldn't Wear Cashmere in Phoenix (Dave Ferry, Purvis, Miss.)

Bolt's Best Times
Lightning Most Likely to Strike in Late Afternoon, NOAA Says (Russell Beland)

Obama Defends New Tack in Afghanistan
Says Geneva Convention Technically Bans Only Thumbscrews (Peter Metrinko, Gainesville)

Just Let It Soak In
New Transfusion Method Less Painful but Awfully Messy (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

Yoga Is for Everyone
Spandex Is Not (Pete Morelewicz, Washington)

Why Obama May or May Not Reappoint Bernanke to a Second Term
Because There's Not a Third Option, Is There? (Russell Beland)

Long Balls Are Costly for Tillman and Orioles
Pitcher Asks for Round Ones Next Time (Rick Haynes, Potomac)

Break-In at Lohan's
Panty Raiders Disappointed, Leave Empty-Handed (Craig Dykstra)

'Paradox Now!' Exhibit Will Be Postponed Until Yesterday
(Christopher Lamora)

Home Refinancers Have Little-Used Tool
'Women Won't Go Out With Me Anymore,' Mortgage Broker Laments (Rick Haynes)

Leader of North Sends Word to South's Lee
Lincoln's Battlefield Communique Arrives 144 Years Late (Mike Fransella)

'We Don't Have Anybody From Washington Down Here'
Sarcastic Satan Jokes With Friends (Marleen May, Rockville)

Palin's Red Menace
Ex-Gov. Releases Her Own Line of Lipstick (Jeff Contompassis, Ashburn)

Vick Begins Anew With the Eagles
'Parole Officer Only Said No Dogs,' QB Explains (Tom Fusco, Derwood, a First Offender)

Executive Openings Filled at Freddie Mac
But Congress Likely to Tear Them a Few New Ones (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Redskins Look at Bright Side
Team Keeps 'Going Toward the Light' (Lois Douthitt, Arlington)

Next Week: A Big To-Do, or Pre-Kickoff Activities

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST



BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Week 834: Fractured Compounds

Tap-fueled: The main type of energy system at a frat house.

Here's a word-combination contest that's a combination contest in itself: Over the years, we've asked you to define various compound terms formed by the page headings on dictionaries and the Yellow Pages, and we've asked you to join the beginning and end of two different words within a single Washington Post story. And so Uber-Loser Russell Beland, in his 59th Invitational contest idea to see print (yes, they keep stats for that), suggests: **Combine two full words within any single article appearing in The Washington Post or on washingtonpost.com into a hyphenated compound word, and define or otherwise describe the result,** as in Russell's example above from a Sept. 8 story on health insurance. Please identify the story and date.

Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a tiny metal "Do Not Throw Paper in Toilet" sign found in Greece by Loser Kevin Dopart, who says the toilet paper there is so stiff that it has to go in the trash can. (He also noted that The Washington Post doesn't seem to have a motto . . .)



For those with Spartan plumbing, this week's second prize.

Other runners-up win their choice of a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt or yearned-for Loser Mug. Honorable Mentions get one of the lusted-after Style Invitational Magnets. One prize per entrant per week. Send your entries by e-mail to losers@washpost.com or by fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Sept. 21. Put "Week 834" in the subject line of your e-mail, or it risks being ignored as spam. Include your name, postal address and phone number with your entry. Contests are judged on the basis of humor and originality. All entries become the property of The Washington Post. Entries may be edited for taste or content. Results will be published Oct. 10. No purchase required for entry. Employees of The Washington Post, and their immediate relatives, are not eligible for prizes. Pseudonymous entries will be disqualified. The revised title for next week's results is by Jeff Contompassis; this week's Honorable Mentions name is by Beverly Sharp. Happy New Year.



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Have a question for the Empress or want to talk to some real Losers? Join the Style Conversational discussion at washingtonpost.com/styleconversational.