

# The Style Invitational

**Week 559: Your Slogan Here**



BY BOB STAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

**On a septic tank truck: Yesterday's Meals on Wheels**

**At an optometrist's office: If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place.**

**This week's contest** was conveniently lifted by Dave Ferry of Purvis, Miss., from an uncredited Internet list that's been around forever and includes the examples above: Come up with a clever slogan or sign for a business. It can be generic like these, or it can be for a specific company.

First-prize winner receives the Inker, the official Style Invitational Trophy. First runner-up wins a tie clip featuring an actual dead minnow encased in plexiglass. Other runners-up win the coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt. Honorable mentions get one of the lusted-after Style Invitational Magnets. One prize per entrant per week. Send your entries via fax to 202-334-4312 or by e-mail to [losers@washpost.com](mailto:losers@washpost.com). Deadline is Tuesday, June 1. Put the week number in the subject line of your e-mail, or you risk 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 June 20. 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 contest is by Tom Witte of Montgomery Village.

**Extra Added Bonus Contest: The Oldest Joke in the Book**

John Lescault of Silver Spring (followed by others) called The Empress's attention to a fascinating article in a recent issue of the New Yorker, titled "Punch Line: The History of Jokes and Those Who Collect Them." Author Jim Holt tells about the only joke book that has survived from ancient times, a Greek text called the Philogelos, or "laughter-lover." Among the 264 drunk jokes, miser jokes, sex maniac jokes, etc., is No. 114, which for some reason is missing its punch line. It concerns a resident of Abdera, a town featured in ancient Greek dopey-people jokes, much as Chelm is used for Yiddish dopey-people jokes, and West Virginia is a proud component of the United States:

**"Seeing a eunuch, an Abderite asked him how many children he had. The eunuch replied that he had none, since he lacked the means of reproduction. Retorted the Abderite ..."**

Yes? Yes? What did he retort? Solve the riddle of the ages. The best punch line gets a second Inker; runner(s)-up will receive the Loser T-shirt.

**Re-Report from last week**, in which we awarded the Inker to Chris Doyle of Forsyth, Mo., for his brilliantly clever anagram of the presidential oath of office: One famously kvetching Loser, whom we will not identify—and who went inkless last week—wrote in immediately to protest that the winning entry far exceeded the 100-letter limit specified in the contest. Curiously, the first runner-up, Brendan Beary of Great Mills, whose entry contained exactly 100 letters, did *not* inform us of that oversight, making the Empress suspect that he may actually have a life. Brendan wins an Inker, too.

**Report from Week 555**, in which we asked for wholesome sentences that would be rejected by the filter of the very careful Neopets.com Web site. We heard from several actual Neopets aficionados with actual tales to tell: Donna Metler, for instance, reports that "I have learned the hard way that I can't tell people I play sax, as opposed to saxophone." And Andy Schwartz of Long Beach, N.Y., says the robo-censors wouldn't let him announce, "This Funny Pen is my badge of honor as a member of the Neopian Space Cadets." This week's entries were especially repetitive; if your idea is credited here to someone else, well, life on Earth can be unfair. Feel free to take your Petpet and relocate to the Neopian Moon of Kreludor. Watch your mouth, though.

♦ Second runner-up: **The aspiring painters and sculptors even created a Web page, which may be viewed at [www.festivalofarts.org](http://www.festivalofarts.org).** (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

♦ First runner-up, winner of the Feb. 25, 1972, copy of Life magazine: **"My horse is injured, but I'm going to win the race anyway," Steven insisted. "I'm just going to do it with a pony."** (Dan Steinberg, Falls Church)

♦ And the winner of the Inker: **Visiting cousins in Guadalajara, young Guillermo got lost and burst into tears. "Don't cry, little fella—Tio is right here!" said his uncle.** (Jane Auerbach, Los Angeles)

♦ Honorable Mentions: **Rev. Roberts had many evangelical achievements, but building his university in Tulsa really gave Oral satisfaction.** (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

**I commute from Maryland, see? So every morning I enter Virginia, I screw around all day, then I pull out of Virginia and go home.** (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

**"Ho! Ho! Ho!" cried Santa.** (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge; Jerry Pannullo, Kensington)

**Texas Instruments invites hearing-impaired customers to contact us on the TI TTY line.** (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

**Jimmy felt cross burning his ex-girlfriend's letters, the white sheets bound tightly in leather.** (Bill Spencer, Exeter, N.H.)

**Today's Bible reading is Zechariah 9:9, King James Version: "Behold, thy King cometh unto thee . . . riding upon an ass."** (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

**We were admiring the splendid rainbow when a sudden cloudburst brought pink and golden showers.** (Chris Doyle, Forsyth, Mo.)

**Virginia Catholic School Girls Dominate Ball Game, Snatch 69th Victory** (Erika Reinfeld, Somerville, Mass.)

**On our trip to California, we peeked into the downy nest of a pair of bushtits.** (Janet Millenson, Potomac)

**Before erecting structure, assemble pieces on bare surface: wooden parts A through G, screws and nuts. For best results, rub parts gently with oil.** (Mary Eaton, Arlington)

**Sen. Rick Santorum and Rep. Tom DeLay are Congress's staunchest defenders of family values.** (Peter Metrinks, Plymouth, Minn.)

**Eddie hated to walk home along Connecticut Avenue. Every day he was hassled by a group of Dupont Circle jerks.** (Chris Doyle)

**My brother once made a sandwich with Miracle Whip, Ding Dongs and a chicken breast—the same brother who graduated summa cum laude from Yale!** (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

**The job listing, perfect for Mic's friend, was on Getty.org. As Mic looked at it with Liz, they found exactly the right position.** (Jane Auerbach)

Next Week: **So Zoo Us, or Animalgams**

# The GOP: One Big, Unhappy Family?

GOP, From D1

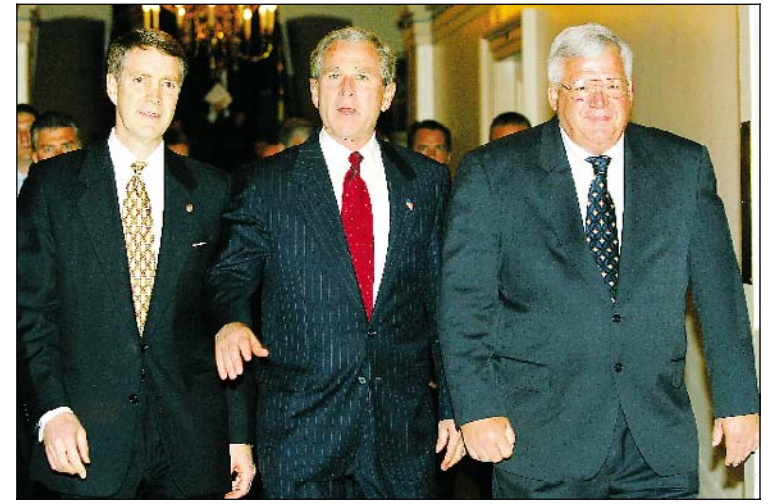
from an unfamiliar perspective—a state of cohesion. "The Republicans redcoats and their precision army have turned into a circular firing squad," says Democratic strategist Jenny Backus. Her party is unified—or acting unified—behind its presumed presidential candidate, John Kerry. They are forgiving his flaws and missteps in deference to their greater electoral hopes. At least for now.

On Wednesday, when Kerry appeared to contradict an earlier statement and said he might nominate anti-abortion judges—a sacrilege to many of his abortion rights supporters—no one at NARAL Pro-Choice America or Planned Parenthood complained too loudly. On the same day, when Kerry met with Ralph Nader and apparently distanced himself from the pro-corporate policies of the Clinton administration, moderate Democratic groups such as the Democratic Leadership Council stayed quiet.

In other words, everyone exhibited classic Republican behavior. They showed a spirit of decorum that was once embodied by Ronald Reagan's "11th Commandment," which stated, "Thou shalt not speak ill of any fellow Republican."

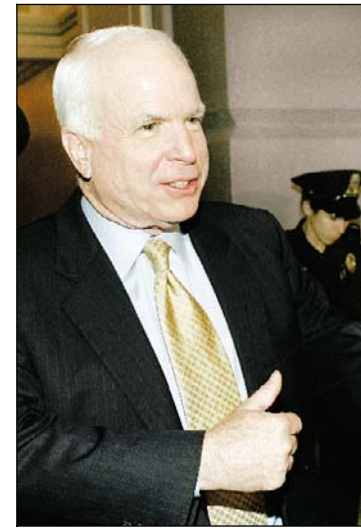
Recent days, however, have brought a free-for-all of GOP violations to their commandment. It got to a point where Bush visited Capitol Hill on Thursday for an intervention. But the president isn't immune. His poll numbers are dipping, as is support for his increasingly dicey foray into Iraq. Conservative pundits George Will and Robert Novak, among others, have sharply criticized Bush's spending, growing deficit and the mounting casualties abroad. Novak, in a column this week, cited a poll in which 20 percent of Republicans said they are not committed to voting for Bush.

In a recent meeting of the House GOP caucus, Hastert, usually a team player, criticized the administration and, according to an account in the newspaper the Hill, the attendees broke into applause. On Wednesday, Hastert questioned McCain's GOP bona fides after the



PHOTOS BY JASON REED—REUTERS

**President Bush strides in unison Thursday with Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, above left, and House Speaker Dennis Hastert, but disunity has emerged in the GOP ranks. For example, Sen. John McCain, left, has quarreled with Hastert.**



Arizona senator criticized Republicans for refusing to sacrifice their tax cutting and spending agendas in wartime. Hastert added that to understand sacrifice, the former POW "ought to visit our young men and women at Walter Reed [Army Medical Center] and Bethesda [Naval Hospital]. There's the sacrifice in this country."

McCain—perhaps the most popular Republican legislator in the country, except among Republican legislators—got the last word. "I fondly remember a time when real Republicans stood for fiscal responsibility," he said.

"It's extremely difficult to govern when you control all three branches of government," says Hastert spokesman John Feehery, a burden of which Democrats

would happily relieve them. Feehery and other Hill Republicans say that intraparty tension will inevitably bubble up amid adversity. But many political analysts say the recent infighting exceeds the usual steam-letting.

"Panic is too strong a word," says independent political analyst Stuart Rothenberg. "But when you're the governing party and you have the majority of Americans saying the country is on the wrong track, you're certainly going to have self-doubt."

Republicans have differed on many issues over the last three years, says William Kristol, the editor of the Weekly Standard. But there has always been a sense that the Bush people knew what they are doing, that they are in charge.

"What is worrisome today is the sense of drift and almost paralysis," says Kristol. "There's a difference between disagreeing with a particular decision and the idea that the wheels might be falling off."

Kristol adds that he doesn't think the wheels are falling off quite yet. "But they're certainly looser than one would like."



BY JOHN SCHULTS—REUTERS



BY VINCENT KESSLER—REUTERS

**French filmmaker Tony Gatlif, above, celebrates his best director award for "Exiles," a movie about two French-Algerians' journey to their homeland. Left, "Or" director Keren Yedaya, flanked by actors Tim Roth and Diane Kruger, holds the Camera d'Or award.**

# At Cannes, a Political Win for Moore

CANNES, From D1

tic—to take attention away from Bush's personal and business links with oil-rich Saudi Arabians, including members of the bin Laden family. It also portrays the president as out of his depth as a leader.

The movie, as of last night, was technically still without a distributor. Last month, Walt Disney, the distributor of the movie through its Miramax division, had blocked the release of the documentary, citing its politically divisive content. This left "Fahrenheit 9/11" high and dry as it approached its scheduled July 2 opening date. Harvey Weinstein, Miramax's co-president, has vowed to distribute the movie one way or another, whether by buying the film and distributing it independently or releasing it through a third party. Negotiations between Weinstein and Disney are ongoing.

"I have a sneaking suspicion, thanks to what you have done here and the response of everyone at this festival, you will ensure that the American people will see this movie," Moore said. Later he joked, "I'm happy to announce now we have a distributor in Albania. Which means every country but one can see it."

The whole evening, it seemed, had been a setup for Moore's crowning moment. When Jonas Geirnaert's "Flatlife" won a prize for best short film, the Belgian director issued from the stage a message urging "the American people not to vote for Bush." And moments later, British actor Tim Roth congratulated Geirnaert for his "brave" remarks.

As award after award went to everyone but Moore, a notable anticipation grew: It seemed that "Fahrenheit 9/11" was going to be completely ignored or given the top prize. There was a hint, however: The movie had received a special critics' prize the previous day. Moore, who had flown back to the States a few days ago to attend his 22-year-old daughter's college graduation, said he had received a call from a festival official saying "that maybe we should come back, but there was no guarantee of anything."



BY VINCENT KESSLER—REUTERS

**Best actress winner Maggie Cheung, selected for her role in Olivier Assayas's "Clean."**

He dedicated his award to his daughter and "to all the children in America and in Iraq, and throughout the world who suffer as a result of our actions."

It was the high point of an evening that had split the prizes among the contestants. This was the result of a new directive to the nine-member jury from festival artistic director Thierry Fremaux that no film should win more than one major award. Thus, Korean director Park Chan-Wook won the runner-up Grand Prize for his hard-core revenge mystery, "Old Boy," while French filmmaking duo Agnes Jaoui and Jean-Pierre Bacri took the prize for best screenplay ("Look at Me"). French filmmaker Tony Gatlif won the director's nod for "Exiles," a movie about two French-Algerians' journey back to their homeland.

And the acting awards went to Maggie Cheung for her role in Olivier Assayas's "Clean" and to Yagira Yuuya, a charming child actor in Kore-Eda Hirokazu's "Nobody Knows." Jury Prizes went to Irma P. Hall, the formidable Mrs. Munson in Joel and Ethan Coen's "The Ladykillers," and the film "Tropical Malady," the first Thai movie to be entered in the top competition.

Senegalese director Ousmane Sembene's "Moolaade," a drama about female circumcision in Africa, took the prize in the "Un Certain Regard" category (a secondary competition), and Israeli director Keren Yedaya won the Camera d'Or for her film called, appropriately, "Or."

A surprise non-winner was Brazilian Walter Salles' "The Motorcycle Diaries," about a road trip through Latin America by the young Che Guevara. The movie had drawn enthusiastic response from many corners. But the night belonged to Moore, whose film—the first documentary in almost 50 years to win the Golden Palm—may have received the distribution boost of its last life.

Desson Thomson will host a live on-line chat about the Cannes Film Festival at 12:30 p.m. tomorrow at [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com).

**WHO WHAT WHERE WHEN WHY**

... Most profitable dot-coms are still as shaky as Great Grandma on ice skates ...

... Humanity could blow the Information Revolution, as we did the Industrial Revolution ...

... Now that the pretenders and wannabes are gone, the Internet has a shot at being real again ...

Leslie Walker | .com Columnist

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