

The Style Invitational

Week 566: Get Whack



BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Earwax snoodle: What you are never supposed to see on a Q-Tip.

This week's contest takes us, after our recent wallow in the Invitational archives, back to the 21st century and back to the Internet for a game that's the darling of the geek circuit: Googlewhacking, whose challenge is to type a two-word phrase into the Google search engine that produces exactly one result. Not zero results, not two. We'll take this a step further: Your mission is to come up with such a phrase and to define it, as in the example above. Anyone who cheats on this and posts something to a Web site for the purposes of winning a no-money humor contest has the Empress's permission to go to a trophy shop and buy one of those really big trophies with eagles and stuff, and tack on a plaque saying Aren't I Great.

First-prize winner receives the Inker, the official Style Invitational Trophy. First runner-up wins a cassette tape labeled "Subliminal Persuasion Self-Hypnosis Cassette Tape: Subliminal: Stop Loss of Hair." 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. Deadline is Monday, July 19. Put the week number in the subject line of your e-mail, or it risks being ignored as spam. In-

clude 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 Aug. 8. 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 Elden Carnahan of Laurel. Today's contest was suggested by Jon Reiser of Hilton, N.Y.

Report from Week 562, in which the Empress asked for sentences made from the sounds of the names of the letters and digits: Remember, they're to be read out loud, letter by letter. If you think the entries below are a stretch, consider that a large share of the responses contained words like R-E-B-L (ar-ee-bee-ell) for "horrible." We'll say.

◆ Third Runner-up: U R APLN N NRSN, YL I M TDS N SN9. I F L O I Q. N I M M S XULE: I F V D N E D. R U BZ ZMRO? (Chris Doyle, Forsyth, Mo.) You are appealing and interesting, while I am tedious and asinine. I have a low IQ. And I am a mess sexually: I have VD and ED. Are you busy tomorrow?

◆ Second Runner-Up: IM NRE D H, I M, NRE D H, I M, I M. (Jon Reiser, Hilton, N.Y.) I'm Henry the Eighth, I am, Henry the Eighth, I am, I am.

◆ First Runner-Up, the winner of the "Mad About Martha" paper-doll book: LN DGNRS, U R L SBN. NBC VIP; ME, TV. NH S DVS. 8R06UL? KG, MBQS, AC/DC. (Chris Doyle)

Ellen DeGeneres, you are a lesbian. NBC VIP; Emmy, TV. Anne Heche is devious. Heterosexual? Casey, ambiguous, AC/DC.

◆ And the winner of the Inker: U C I 8 N 8 D ZT: S Y I F ENRMS CT. (Milo Sauer, Fairfax) You see I ate and ate the ziti: Is why I have enormous seatie.

◆ Honorable Mentions: Y TNQ LS. I, 2, 1 2 F 6 N D PNO! (Bill Spencer, Exeter, N.H.) Why, thank you, Alice. I, too, want to have sex in the piano!

ODS 4N XPDNC: LMN8 D NME N TNMN. (Tom Greening, North Bethesda)

Odious foreign expediency: eliminate the enemy in Tiananmen.

BUT S N D I F D 1 DLN N XS AL. (Natalie Rutkowski, Manassas)

Beauty is in the eye of the one dealin' in excess ale.

N NBC, UC KT 2 B A QT N D AM N J 2 B 1 N D PM. (Jim Tucker, Charlottesville)

On NBC, you see Katie to be a cutie in the a.m. and Jay to be one in the p.m.

F U R FMN8 N JL, UL B A 6 FND NDN. (Tom Greening)

If you are effeminate in jail, you'll be a sex offender in the end.

I 1 T RABN OEL. N D NRK: XEQ T NME. JL S NFXUL. C Z MR8 N Q8 2. (Tom Greening)

I want the Arabian oil. End the anarchy: execute the enemy. Jail is ineffectual. Seize the Emirate and Kuwait, too.

I M N XLN PNS. Y S N NE1 NVS M E? (Chris Doyle)

I am an excellent pianist. Why isn't anyone envious of me?

W, ON 2 BN CD, U "1" N '00; U L B N X N '05. (Jim Tucker)

W, owing to being seedy, you "won" in '00; you will be an ex- in '05.

F D US LX W N JNE, I L F 2 B A KNADN. (Lennie Magida, Potomac)

If the U.S. elects Bush and Cheney, I will have to be a Canadian.

F U R FRNR, U R SNFABH. (J. Ashcroft, Washington) (Seth Brown, North Adams, Mass.)

If you are a foreigner, you are an SOB.

"LO, QT. I M MEDM, N I M '4CN' U 2MRO. 'O?' NE BS N UL B '4CN' JL, YS S." (Chris Doyle)

"Hello, cutie. I am a medium, and I am 'foreseeing' you tomorrow."

"Oh? Any BS and you'll be 'foreseeing' jail, wiseass."

C D MP N Q8. E S N2 SNM. E Z POW OK N JL? (Carl Katz, Potomac)

See the MP in Kuwait. He is into S&M. Is the POW okay in jail?

I MNLAS. M I 2 FMN8 4 LN? (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

I am Menelaus. Am I too effeminate for Helen?

N I 4 N I B4 U XP8. (Steve Shapiro, Alexandria)

An eye for an eye before you expiate.

I 4C A 4A 2 QCR A B9 4N NME . . . O-O. (D. Rumsfeld, Washington)

(Dave Prevar, Annapolis) I foresee a foray to secure a benign foreign enemy . . . uh-oh.

O B! ND! OP S PN N2 A PNO! (Steve Fahey, Kensington)

Oh, Bee! Andy! Opie is peein' into a piano!

And Last: G, THIS IZNT 2 HARD! (D. QAL, FENX) (Roy Ashley, Washington)

More losers from Week 559, in which you were asked to take a sentence from The Post and write a question that the sentence might answer:

It means a lot.

What does \$300,000 buy you in the D.C. housing market? (Russell Beland, Springfield)

Waving from the rear of the expansive peach dining room is a seated, bronze-colored Buddha.

What's a sign that someone has slipped LSD into your soda at McDonald's? (Peter Metrisko, Plymouth, Minn.)

I didn't come to hear frogs.

What Bush comment caused a flap at the D-Day ceremony in France? (Chris Doyle)

We are just going to have to make a determination as to what level they can do that at.

How do editors explain how they decide whether to let writers end sentences with prepositions? (Russell Beland)

Most Iraqis did not understand the vulgarities shouted by U.S. soldiers.

Why did President Bush request funding to send more translators to Baghdad? (Seth Brown)

That gives him a vocabulary similar to dolphins, apes, sea lions and parrots who have undergone extensive training.

Did you hear that President Bush fired all his speechwriters? (Chris Doyle)

He married her.

What's the main difference between Soon-Yi and her mother? (Russell Beland)

He's way overblown.

What's the buzz on Bill Clinton's memoirs? (Paul Kocak, Syracuse, N.Y.)

People will badger you about what you did all summer, and their faces will be unable to conceal their horror as they realize you mostly ate Fritos.

What did Karl Rove say to President Bush in advising him against another televised press conference? (Robin Grove, Chevy Chase)

They move into dens in late March or early April to give birth, and stay until their young are able to fend for themselves four or five months later.

What's the newest wrinkle in the trend of grown children moving back home with their parents? (Russell Beland)

She says she protested at every leg of the journey.

What did the loser of the bikini-waxing marathon have to say? (Milo Sauer)

Many people who hire us feel it in their gut and have their suspicions confirmed.

Monsieur Chef, why do you think your catering business went bankrupt? (Jane Auerbach, Los Angeles)

Next Week: Take Two, or Just Duet

Negotiations Stalled on Broadway

Producers Reject Actors' Offer; Shows Scheduled to Run Today

NEW YORK, July 10—Labor negotiations between Broadway actors and theater producers broke off early Saturday, but shows were scheduled to continue through the weekend, a union spokeswoman said.

Talks stalled just before 1 a.m. after the Actors' Equity Association presented its final offer and the League of American Theaters and Producers did not accept it, said Maria Somma, spokeswoman for Actors' Equity.

The parties did not schedule a new meeting, but Equity's council,

the governing body of the union representing about 45,000 theater actors and stage managers, called a special meeting for Monday, Somma said. Any strike would have to be approved by the council.

League spokeswoman Kelly Sullivan did not immediately return a call for comment Saturday.

The actors' contract expired June 27. Talks broke down over key issues such as nonunion tours of Broadway shows, health care costs and worker safety.

Although union road companies

still dominate in tours of Broadway shows, the number of cheaper non-union tours has grown, including the current road companies for "Oliver!" and "Oklahoma!" Many union actors fear their jobs will be given to younger, less experienced actors who have never worked on a Broadway stage.

In March 2003, more than a dozen Broadway musicals shut down for four days after the musicians' union walked out, resulting in lost theater revenue estimated at more than \$5 million.

THE TV COLUMN

Ripping Them Off Before They're Even On

TV COLUMN, From D1

Champ," on the air before NBC's. Burnett retaliated by announcing he was developing a rock version of Fox's "American Idol," in which he searches for the next lead singer for the '80s band INXS, which Burnett subsequently sold to CBS. NBC, meanwhile, retaliated by announcing a new David E. Kelley-produced legal reality series soon after Fox announced it was developing a legal reality series called "The Partner," though NBC's series won't debut before Fox's, and the two shows actually aren't too similar in detail.

Fox next targeted ABC, which had announced plans for "Wife Swap," to debut in late September, in which two very different families trade moms for two weeks. Fox's version, "Trading Spouses: Meet Your New Mom," is expected to debut well in advance of ABC's show.

"Quite frankly, [Fox] used to be innovators and now they're imitators," Zucker told critics feelingly. He added, "It's having no impact on us—if we really were concerned about their boxing show, we would rush our boxing show on and beat theirs. . . . But it's just bad for the business and it's bad for everybody and I don't think that all is fair in love and television."

Right around then, Zucker added, "We happen to know what Fox's two secret [reality] shows are, but I'm not going on. . . . I wouldn't do that." "Why don't you tell us what they are and we'll take it from there?" one critic responded.

"Let's see how the rest of this session goes and we'll talk at the end. But they have two," Zucker said.

The talk turned to this and that until one critic, grabbing a mike, hollered: "Jeff . . . I think I speak for everyone in the room when I say that the orange tie, blue shirt—you're probably the most fashionable executive we've seen in years up there onstage. And do you suppose you could tell us the name of those two Fox shows?"

And then he did. At least "Who's My Daddy." He said he couldn't remember the other one (but he did later).

A Fox rep, contacted Saturday on his way to Dodger Stadium, said the network would not

comment on its development plans.

Later in the day, during a Q&A session on "The Contender," DreamWorks chief Jeffrey Katzenberg was asked about Fox's maneuverings. "I've never experienced anything like this," Katzenberg said. "I've spent 30 years in Hollywood in the business I love and is everything I know, and the sanctity of the idea is an ideal I was taught from the time I arrived in the business."

"This is really disheartening and disappointing; if imitation is the highest form of flattery, theft is the lowest form of creativity."

"Bootlegging has finally made it to prime time," chimed in Sylvester Stallone, who is also involved in the NBC boxing project.



With a little coaxing from curious critics, NBC's Jeff Zucker revealed two of Fox's planned reality shows.

NBC Universal Sports and Olympics Chairman Dick Ebersol says he's confident his team of more than 3,100 workers will be

safe at the Summer Olympics in Athens next month. At a meeting with President Bush in February about security for the Olympics, Ebersol said, Bush was dazzlingly together compared with the man he knew during their college days at Yale.

"I had a one-on-one with President Bush in February where he dazzled," Ebersol told critics.

"I went to college with him. I don't remember him as being that curious and up to date on all the facts. But at this one, he really did know the facts and he talked about—no, I'm serious. Heck, I was there—the guy liked to drink in college."

"You know," said NBC's prime-time Olympics anchor Bob Costas, turning to Ebersol, "there's every chance that's the only quote that comes out of here."

Bingo.

Appearing Saturday afternoon, NBC Nightly News anchor Tom Brokaw told critics he had not wanted to even come to the press tour because, he said, he did not think the press or his company should be making a big deal about the fact that he is retiring from the job in December after more than 21 years.

We respect that.

TODAY'S HOROSCOPE | Jeraldine Saunders

Cancer (June 21-July 22) Tend to squeaky wheels in the vicinity. Focus is on finance and getting ahead, and the spirit of the day is relentless ambition. Use wisdom and generosity to handle intense situations.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) You are in danger of stumbling over your words while taking a power trip this week. The attitude that nothing will stand in your way provides determination that spells success for projects—and romantic prowess.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Others with passionate intentions could interfere with your good cheer. Drive and ambition are the keywords of the day. Attend to important matters now to avoid misunderstandings later this week.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Press for success and set your intentions now if you wish your business ends to justify the means. The almighty dollar may take up all your time and resources, but romance lurks in the wings.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You can strut your stuff proudly, and are likely to be surrounded by an admiring flock. Heightened ambition could lead you to take major steps where business is concerned. Crow a little.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Follow your ambitions now, and there will be a chance for fun and games later in the week. Partners could oppose your dreams, or work at cross purposes. Act on your impulses.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Pay attention to what others close to you are engrossed in, and follow their lead. Power to succeed is in the air and you can hitch your wagon to a star. Taking shortcuts will not pay off.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Working diligently now can help you achieve your objectives. Friends and acquaintances point out ways to make your dreams come true. Whatever is started now could become an obsession.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Getting ahead in business can become an engrossing game. Put your important irons in the fire and take a gamble, as you are unlikely to fail. Partners could distract you from key issues.

Aries (March 21-April 19) Focus on ambitions and put your philosophy to work to overcome recent frustrations and problems, especially in the business world. Significant others and romantic needs will require more attention.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) The determination to succeed has taken hold of a partner. If you go along for the ride, you should profit. Pay attention to intuition where romance is concerned. Your heart may connect with an intriguing prospect.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) You are in the mood to be light and frivolous when others are intent on achieving their ambitions, and this can cause misunderstandings. Your grace and diplomacy can soothe the situation. Keep focused on what is important.

IF JULY 11 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: You are likely to work relentlessly to reach your goals with enormous ambitions to achieve success coloring your soul. Make sure you put key plans into motion this week before less favorable conditions temporarily slow you down at the end of the month. Those who truly care about you should show up on your doorstep today, and may have words of wisdom to impart. Passions can put you in the winner's circle where love or money are concerned.
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