**D2** SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2005

The Washington Post

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# The Style Invitational Week 607: Contest Fodder Created!



BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Sept. 1, 1939: The Dawn of History Channel Documentary Footage. Death in Dallas, 1963: A Triumph for Super-8 Home-Movie Cameras.

This week's contest was suggested by ace Post reporter Paul Farhi, who told the Empress of a poster in a graphics editor's office titled "Columbia: The day graphics ruled," referring to coverage of the shuttle disaster. Paul suggests that the Losers produce other absurdly parochial views of historic events, as in the examples above.

The winner receives the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. First runner-up gets a copy of the excellent book "Muslims in the United States" — in Arabic. Even the page numbers are not in "Arabic numerals," but in Arabic numerals. Fortunately, the book is also available in its entirety on the Internet in English, so you can learn to read Arabic from it and then get a government job.

Other runners-up win a 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 by e-mail to losers@washpost.com or, if you really have to, by fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, May 2 Put the week number 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 May 22. No purchase required for entry. Employees of The Washington Post, and their immediate relatives, are not eligible for prizes. Pseudonymous entries will be disgualified. The revised title for next week's contest is by Russell Beland of Springfield.

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Report from Week 603, in which we asked you to string together words, in order, from one or two consecutive chapters of Genesis (King James Version) to produce your own sentences. This contest drew a great wail from the Losers, who were sore vexed about having to actually read the Bible for once (though several were pleased to report the discovery of several juicy passages that had been conveniently omitted in Sunday school).

♦ Second runner-up: Chapter 36: Duke, duke, duke.... Duke of Reuel. Duke duke.... Duke of Reuel . . . Duke duke. (Russell Beland, Springfield)

♦ First runner-up, winner of the Bonsai Potato kit: Chapters 8-9: And God made Windows, saying: Go forth and multiply upon the earth. The fear and dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth. (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

♦ And the winner of the Inker: Chapters 37-38: Being seventeen years old, the lad could not speak peaceably. He told his brethren and mother to "flock off." Father said, "My son's an evil beast — be pleased the kid is not twins!" (Michelle Stupak, Ellicott City)

### ♦ Honorable Mentions:

**Chapter 1:** In the beginning God created the waters, the fly, and the fish, and he went to the river and slept. (Chris Doyle, Raleigh)

Chapters 2-3: And a man went to the Garden of Eden to dress up as a woman, and God said, Why hast thou taken the flaming way of life? (Chris Doyle)

Chapters 2-3: God created herb, and Adam said, "Thou the man!" (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

Chapters 2-3: Every plant and every herb of the field grew, and a mist watered the whole face of the man, and his nostrils became a river. And the man said: Surely the garden is the mother of all evil. (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

Chapters 31-32: Strangers in the night, do be do be do. (Frank Mullen III, Aledo, III.)

Chapter 34: The damsel spake unto the young man: "Behold, it is large enough, only ye stink." (Carol June Hooker, Landover Hills)

Chapters 36-37: Riches more than their firstborn: these are found in Rehoboth in their habitations, for even some pit empty, no water — to rent. (Brendan Beary)

Genesis 41: And the Pharaoh hastily devoured the Good-and-Plenty in plenteous handfuls, and he left plenteousness over all the face. (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

Genesis 44-45: Food is indeed evil. This my

## **MISS MANNERS**

Judith Martin

# Embraceable? Eew.

stonishing new testimony has come to light in connection with the issue of socially promiscuous hugging.

Miss Manners had always understood the difference of opinion to be whether embraces should be used to inspire warm human feelings or warm human feelings should be present before people are inspired to embrace. Much as she deplores the techniques used by

the advocates of hugging-without-benefit-of-relationship, she believed that they felt the results would be beneficial. If they sprang on people with whom they were not on close terms and enveloped them in their arms, it was to give those otherwise isolated souls a glowing sense of being valued. If they directed others to hug one another, it was because they anticipated the act would turn strangers into friends.

This is why Miss Manners had felt it her duty to pass on testimony that this wasn't working. Not everyone feels in need of charitable tokens of affection, and a great many want to retain the privilege of choosing their own friends at their own pace. A recent airing of the issue brought on a new slew of letters from Gentle Readers who were fleeing individuals, churches and social events to avoid being summarily hugged.

What took Miss Manners by surprise was a letter from former president Jimmy Carter that surfaced in news reports about the firing of the president of Habitat for Humanity on charges of sexual harassment. It seems that when charges had arisen previously, the former president used himself as an example of someone whose hugs could be misunderstood.

It is not Miss Manners's purpose here to deal with the serious issue of sexual harassment. While that can be mistaken for - or passed off as — social hugging, sexual harassment is properly a legal issue while social hugging is an etiquette one.

What disturbed her about the former president's description of innocent behavior was his saying that he had bestowed hugs and cheek kisses that were unwelcome on both professional and social acquaintances. He wrote that at the opening of the John F. Kennedy Library, he had kissed the late president's widow and she had "visibly flinched." Another incident, which he omitted, was that he had kissed Britain's Queen Mother, who roundly expressed her displeasure for a long

time afterward.

So why — after finding that these actions caused annoyance - did he keep doing it? And why do others persist in believing that bestowing unauthorized hugs and kisses on those they hardly know constitutes a benefit?

At the protocol level, it is dangerous even to be a passive recipient of such gestures. Embracing someone confers general approval, both on the individual and on what he represents - now, in the future and regardless of whatever may be dug up about the past. Photographs have a tendency to surface when such approval becomes damaging. So prudence ought to dictate keeping one's arms to one's side in professional situations at any level.

That politicians are sometimes imprudent does not shock Miss Manners. That people who seem to care about spreading kindness will persist after they discover that their behavior offends people does shock her.

#### **Dear Miss Manners:**

My husband and I disagree on one point of dining manners, and it's causing quite a bit of confusion for our preschooler. He maintains that it is rude to blow on hot food to cool it. I assert that his practice of cooling the food by inhaling as he takes a bite, which often includes a slurping noise, is more rude. I also believe that it's dangerous to set this example for our small children, as it could lead to inhalation of small (or even large) pieces of the food. Please help us resolve this disagreement.

When Miss Manners has to declare that one spouse is right and the other wrong, she worries about what it will do to the marriage. So she is happy, in this case, to declare that you are both wrong

Polite people do not use their wind power in either direction — to cool their food. They use patience.

Feeling incorrect? E-mail your etiquette questions to Miss Manners (who is distraught that she cannot reply personally) at MissManners@unitedmedia.com or mail to United Media, 200 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016.

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## ASK AMY

#### Dear Amy:

Why is it that when tragedy strikes, the worst in people comes out?

I am 38 years old, and five weeks ago I lost my husband to a sudden and unexpected death. My life changed forever.

My husband's family was supportive so that they could get the arrangements they wanted at the funeral. Not one dime was donated to help bury him. I bent over backward to make sure I did not step on any toes.

of this petty behavior and contact your in-laws, to check in with them and see how they are doing. Perhaps you have some photos or other personal items from your husband that you would like to share with them. As you point out, this loss is their loss, too, and it would be easier on everyone if you could come to terms in order to support one another.

Dear Amy: Regarding the discussion in your column

**Chapters 15-16:** Take my wife . . . pleaseth. (Russell Beland)

Chapters 17-18: Beget thee all day when in heat. Lift up your feet, quickly knead the calf, and butter thy wife. (David Witt, Marshall, Va.)

Chapters 25-26: Esau did eat pottage of lentiles and it came to pass . . . and it came to pass. (Lawrence McGuire)

Chapter 30: And when Rachel saw Jacob, she gave unto him womb service. (Chris Doyle)

ass hath found out. So, no more fat laden bread and meat. Enough, before I die! (Jeff Covel, Arlington)

Genesis 45-46: Joseph, refrain from saying your stuff is "way great!" (Bill Spencer, Exeter, N.H.)

Chapter 48: And Joseph said: "I will make thee a Reuben." And Israel blessed Joseph and said, "God fed me all my life long. This be greater." (Ken Gallant, Little Rock)

Genesis 49: And Jacob said (his eyes red with wine) unto the judge: Biteth me! (Chris Dovle)

And Last: Genesis 26: For she now hath made room for us and sent away Beeri. (Chris Doyle)

### ♦ And we even have room for the rest of the winners of Week 602,

in which we asked you to take a word beginning with A, B, C or D, alter it by one letter or transpose two letters, and redefine it:

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Callipygmian: Having a cute little behind. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Cannabus: A VW van with those flower decals. (Russell Beland)

Carion: An auto left out on a city street for a week. (Katherine Hooper, Jacksonville, Fla.)

Cerebrawl: Kant and Hegel go at it. (Kyle Hendrickson, Frederick)

**Catechasm:** The gap between what the church teaches and what its followers believe. (John Shea, Lansdowne, Pa.)

Chia pit: A hairy underarm. (Dave Komornik, Danville, Va.)

Chock Full o' Outs: Don Larsen, 1956. (Les Greenblatt, Ann Arbor, Mich.)

**Coinkidence:** When two people send in precisely the same Style Invitational entry. (Steve Fahey, Kensington; Ervin Stembol, Alexandria)

ConservaTiVo: A device that will record only the Fox News Channel. (Pam Sweeney, Germantown)

**Consumemation:** Praying mantis sex. (Stephen Dudzik)

Contrapceptive: Mrs. Rube Goldberg hated this one. (Ned Bent, Oak Hill) Cosa Nostar: A small-time mobster. (Chris Dovle)

GOPulation: Strictly between a man and a woman. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

**Dorkage:** A service fee for bringing your own idiot into a restaurant. (Andy Bassett, New Plymouth, New Zealand)

**Corre\$pondent:** A reporter the White House can rely on. (Harry Farkas, Columbus, Ohio)

Cummerband: A music group consigned forever to play weddings. (Rob Poole, Ellicott City)

Drvdream: A wholesome fantasy. (Dan Seidman, Watertown, Mass.)

**Demongraphic:** Blue states. — K. Rove, Washington (Cheryl Davis, Arlington)

**Debtritus:** What's left after the repo men leave. (Ross Elliffe, Picton, New Zealand)

Neuteronomy: A censored book of the Bible where nobody gets to "know" anybody. (Jon Reiser, Hilton, N.Y.)

Diasporap: "Hey Ya Nagila." (Judith Cottrill, New York)

Disembowl: Punish a college for recruiting violations. (Ned Bent)

Mr. Seuss: What happened after the AMA found out that he recommended the consumption of green eggs. (Mel Loftus, Holmen, Wis.)

Oldrums: AARPathy. (Chris Doyle)

**Doughn'ts:** The stuff that's not on your diet. (Danny Organek, Alexandria)

Wowager: A rich, good-looking and newly available woman. (Peter Metrinko, Chantilly)

**Dubying:** Replacing the president's words with English. (Jonathan Paul, Garrett Park)

Kdumb: Said of a word with an unnecessary silent letter. (Danny Organek)

Dyspeepsia: The result of eating too much Easter candy. (Marian Phelps, Vail, Colo.)

Next Week: Fun for the Roses, or A Horse With New Name

Now that the dust has settled, I have not heard one word from any of them in two weeks. They are also spreading rumors that my husband did not love me and that I was having an affair. This is ludicrous.

My husband and I were together for 41/2 years and only married for nine months. Thank goodness I have my friends and family for support. My husband would hate the way his family is treating me.

I know when this whole thing is settled they will come knocking on my door. I feel like if they couldn't be there for me when I truly needed them, then why bother now? I have become a victim to a situation I could not control.

I realize that they lost a brother, uncle and father, but do they not realize that I lost my husband — my life partner?

I am hurting as much as they are, and it saddens me to see them acting this way.

Grieving in Arizona

Your husband died five weeks ago. Don't you think that everyone is freaking out just a little bit?

If you weren't freaking out, I would think that was strange, but at this very early stage, when feelings are running high, it isn't surprising that people are expressing their grief, anger and sadness in inappropriate ways.

It is so good that you have family and friends to help you through this tough stage of your life. I hope you continue to lean on them. It might also help if you were able to sit down with clergy or with a grief counselor in order to express some of your feelings and get guidance about how to manage your late husband's family. Check the back of your local paper to see if you can join a grief support group in your community.

Because you seem to have your wits about you, I think it would be nice for you to rise above some

concerning saying "Shut up" to a child: At our house, "Shut up" means "Be quiet."

Within the last few years I've been hearing that saying these words is a terrible thing, which makes me think it means something different to the people complaining than it does to me.

Lots of other parents I know feel as I do. "Shut up" is what you say with a raised voice after repeatedly asking your children to be quiet and they can't even hear you because they are so loud. It lets them know you really mean business.

I really resent the sudden push to tell my children that I've done something horrible when I've told them, "Shut up."

Why do others think it's so horrible and demeaning?

Michele From Illinois

In my house, "Be quiet!" means "Be quiet!" When I mean business. I say, "I really mean business!" Okay. Sometimes I yell it.

My problem with "Shut up" is that it is a verbal slap. Just as I would never want someone to tell me to shut up (though many have tried), I can't bring myself to say it to someone else.

Has anyone ever told you to shut up? Has your husband or have your kids said this to you in anger? If it doesn't offend you, then maybe it doesn't offend your family, but if there are other ways to tell someone to be quiet, then why not use those?

Ask Amy is written by Amy Dickinson, a journalist who has worked for NBC News. Time magazine and National Public Radio. Write to her at askamy@tribune.com or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

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## **BRIDGE** | Frank Stewart

inishing second in a major bridge event is like shooting 280 at the U.S. Open and losing to someone who shot 279: The winners played scarcely better.

In the Blue Ribbon Pairs at the ACBL's 2004 Fall Championships, Robert Levin and Steve Weinstein, East-West, produced the outstanding deal of that event. When North-South stopped at three clubs, Levin found the remarkable bid of three spades as East.

I advocate bids like this only for players capable of them. Since Levin had length in clubs and hearts, he inferred that Weinstein's hand was short in those suits, hence long in spades.

South should have doubled or tried 3NT, and when instead he went to four clubs, the defense made him regret it. Weinstein, on

opening lead, judged that Levin had length in hearts and clubs, else how could he know West had spades? So Levin's hand was short in diamonds, and Weinstein therefore led the nine of diamonds.

South played dummy's ace (an error), and Levin ruffed and led a spade. If South ducked, West would win and give East another diamond ruff with the ace of hearts to come. South instead took the ace of spades, picked up the trumps and led a diamond to the 10, but he had no re-entry to his hand to repeat the finesse. He led a heart, but Levin took his ace, and the defense cashed two spades. Down one.

Weinstein-Levin were runnersup in this prestigious event. With more opportunities like this, they'd have won it all.

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South

2♣ 3♣

4 🖡

♥Q8 ♦ Q 9 8 5 3 2 🗣 K SOUTH

The bidding:

West

 $1 \blacklozenge$ 

Pass

Pass

All Pass

🗣 A 3 WEST (D) EAST 🔶 K J 6 4 None

♦ 764

North

1 🖤

2 ♦

Pass

**Opening lead:** Choose it

🐥 Q J 10 9 7 2

East

Pass

Pass

3

A Q 7 5 2 ♥ A 10 7 5 2 **\*** 8654

🔺 A 8 3 ♥ K

Neither side vulnerable NORTH **1**0 9 ♥ J 9 6 4 3 ♦ A K J 10