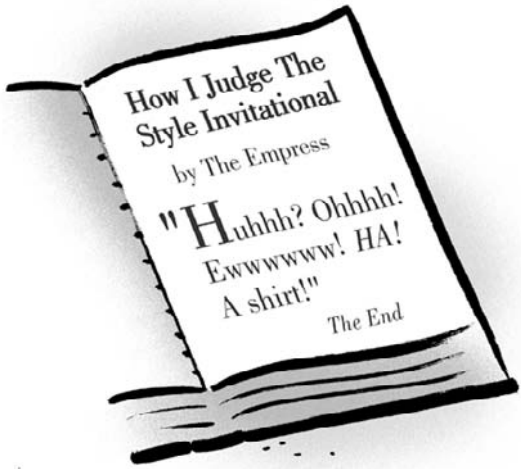


The Style Invitational

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

Week 688: Making Short Work



BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

"For sale: baby shoes, never worn."

Ernest Hemingway famously wrought exquisite drama and poignancy in that six-word story. Almost as famously (judging from the number of people who e-mailed us), *Wired* magazine recently asked 33 well-known writers to try to match it. (The results are in the November issue.) They did okay — it's a tough order — but they didn't have the motivation of prize magnets the size of business cards. You can do better: You could be more topical, more local and, most of all, funnier. **This week: Write a humorous six-word story.** Winner receives the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. First runner-up gets a flimsy metal lunch box promoting Living Dead Dolls, a pricey series of ghoulish collectible figures that we hope are made better than this. Just the thing for little Madison to take to preschool at the Nurturing Garden Institute.

Other runners-up win a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt. Honorable Mentions (or whatever they're called this week) get one of the all-new 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, Nov. 20. Put "Week 688" 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 Dec. 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 contest is by Ken Gallant of Little Rock. The Honorable Mentions name is by Dave Prevar.

REPORT FROM WEEK 684

In which we asked you to spell an actual word backward and come up with a definition for the result. The Empress patiently read backward through thousands of entries this week; among the funny ideas that everyone thought of were "noisivelet: a loud device that takes care of children" and "tengam: a very attractive leg."

4 **lh:** The standard response to people who cheerily say "Good morning!" at 5:30 a.m. (Steve Offutt, Arlington)

3 **Evor:** A cloistered madman's grotesque henchman, whose servile repetitions of "Yes, Master!" mask his own nefarious schemes. (Anne Paris, Arlington)

2 **Winner of the book "Everything I Ate: A Year in the Life of My Mouth":** Kazum: File-sharing software that nobody will use. (David Franks, Wichita)

MORE FROM THE DYSLEXICON

Acacam: A device for filming a politician who behaves like a lower primate. (Anne Paris)

Aerok: The site of the latest foreign policy crisis. (John Doucette, New York)

Amam: The ultimate ruler. (Peter Metrinko, Chantilly)

Amaso: Latin for "I hate you." (Tom Witte)

Arn: Rifle: "Hand me muh shootin' arn." (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

Asip: The largest amount of wine you can drink after you're already tilting 6 degrees. (Ira Allen, Bethesda)

Ay, Bud! A false familiarity that serves to assert dominance over one who is not in a position to either object or reciprocate. (**T. Blossom, Washington**) (Pam Sweeney, Germantown)

Derf: Someone whose name has become unfashionable. (Fred Dawson, Beltsville)

Demood: To tell your date all about your ex-wife. (Kevin Dopart, Washington; Daniel Bahls, Brighton, Mass.)

Drut: Cigar. (Bird Waring, New York)

E! but Oog! A quickly changing reaction to exciting good news when you suddenly realize the negatives. (Seth Brown, North Adams, Mass.)

Edun: No fig leaves in THIS garden. (Roger Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.)

Egap: The difference between teens' and adults' techno-savvy, or one who suffers from it: "What an egap! He didn't even know about IM transcripts!" (Noah Meyerson, Washington)

Elbbub: The demon responsible for keeping your house on the market all year. (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

Enigami: It's not just a crumpled-up piece of paper — it's actually a bear, if you take the time to really look at it . . . or maybe it's a dog . . . (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

eRif: The most cowardly way to lay off an employee. (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

Esebo: A diet pill that doesn't work. (Tom Witte)

Eyder: A bird that flies only from dusk till dawn. (Tom Witte)

Ezepart: What acrobats consider swinging by their teeth, compared with filing their health insurance claims. (Jane Auerbach, Los Angeles)

F-4: How Cheney flew over Vietnam. (Kevin Dopart)

Gnop-gnip: Better onomatopoeia for the same game. (Phil Frankenfeld, Washington)

Kartma: A spiritual journey that usually starts late. (Mick Cranston, Eugene, Ore.)

Kayak: A boat that is paddled backward and forward equally easily. (Rick Peters, Bethesda)

Laffo: The gags comedians save for use on low-rated talk shows. (Stephen Dudzik)

Lecrap: Your free gift with any Lanco purchase. (Kyle Hendrickson, Frederick)

LeMac: A sandwich made in desert outposts of the French Foreign Legion. (Mike Peck, Alexandria)

Megatarts: Target of careful planning when guys go out on the town. (Jeff Brechlin, Eagan, Minn.)

Mop mop: What some ex-cheerleaders shake when their looks finally go. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

NAPS-C: A powerful sedative for those who wish to sleep during daytime. (John Glenn, Tyler, Tex.)

Niagra B: The cheapest prescription drug in Canada. (Kevin Dopart)

Nogatco: A company that manufactures stop signs. (Tom Witte)

Nopac: Tacap's decidedly less virile brother. (Mary Ann Henningsen, Minden, Nev.)

NU: A Yiddish expression meaning "And so? You expected them to do something?" (Seth Brown)

Oozak: The only thing worse than Muzak. (Tom Witte)



AND THE WINNER OF THE INKER

Atnas: The man who bears the weight of the entire American economy on his shoulders. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Oy oy oy: Refrain made popular by the Jewish rapper Cardiologist Dre. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Palwed: Your married buddy, the one with the triple chin. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

Pmart: Where did you think streetwalkers got those clothes? (David Franks)

Porc: D.C.'s primary agricultural export. (Kevin Dopart)

Pot-pit: lowest classification; the absolute bottom. (Drew Bennett, Alexandria)

Red-negsnart: What your negsnart area looks like right after the surgery. (Bruce Alter, Fairfax Station)

Rellik: A once-notorious but now mostly forgotten murderer, like David Berkowitz. (Dave Komornik, Danville, Va.)

Seno: A gambling resort town for the very frugal. (Tom Witte)

Spit: One way of showing how much you liked your waiter's service. (Amy Smith, Washington)

St. Nemlia: Patron saint of hypochondriacs. (Bill Spencer, Exeter, N.H.)

St. Tub: Patron saint of the big-boned. (Kevin Dopart)

Stun OD: The stupor brought on by a sugar rush at Krispy Kreme. (Jim Cottrell, Damascus)

Swollag: A suddenly interrupted gulp of air. (Tom Witte)

Sydnew: A chewy bit in your chili that you suspect didn't come from a cow. (Paul VerNooy, Wilmington, Del.)

Tibo: A replay of one's life. (Tom Witte)

Tsal: There ain't no more. (Ned Bent, Oak Hill)

Tubed: Failed on the first try. (Toby Gottfried, Santa Ana, Calif.)

Yesnik: Someone who's agreeable to sex anywhere, anytime, any kind. (Tom Witte)

And Last: St. Luser: For whom I religiously light a candle each Saturday night. (Kevin Dopart)

Next Week: Thank It Over, or Mutiny Against the Bounty

Stan Jones, Somewhere Between Blue and Red

BLUE MAN, From D1

"I'm tickled about that," said Jones. After some reflection, he added, "There is excitement for you to be talking to the guy who changed the country."

In the past, elections have given Jones little to be tickled about.

He is a perennial loser in Montana politics, a kind of Harold Stassen of the interior West, a fringe candidate who sometimes has to sue to get invited to television debates. He is also a man who accidentally turned his skin blue by drinking a homemade antibiotic laced with silver.

He first took the medicine in 1999, he said, fearing that the year 2000 would wreck computers, spread terrorism and disease, and make prescribed antibiotics unavailable. He concedes now that he miscalculated.

Jones granted an interview at the Leaf & Bean coffeehouse on Main Street in Bozeman and later at the nearby Academy of Cosmetology, where he sometimes gets cheap haircuts and where the fluorescent lighting brings out the blue in his face.

One of the students at the academy, Jessica Wagner, recalled that the first time she approached Jones to cut his hair, she caught a glimpse of him in a barber's chair and thought: "Oh, my God, he's dead." Over time, she said, she grew accustomed to his face and found him to be "really a neat guy."

Jones's excitement over the outcome of this election is substantially constrained by his contempt for Democrats and Republicans, for Tester and for Burns, and for the American political system, which he says has been ruined by big money.

Jones, it is safe to say, has not been ruined by big money.

He said he spent \$1,652 on his campaign (the filing fee as Senate candidate), plus a few hundred dollars to buy gas to drive to the few campaign events that would allow him to speak.

"Republicans spend and borrow, Democrats tax and spend," said Jones, who said he quit being a Republican during the 1970s. "Whoever is in there — the government grows and grows."

The one ray of light that Jones sees in the Democratic Party's takeover of the Senate and the House is a precedent for increased scrutiny of President Bush, whom he fears. "This president is closer to a dictator than any we have had



BY BLAINE HARDEN — THE WASHINGTON POST

Stan Jones, right, with Jessica Wagner, a student at Bozeman's Academy of Cosmetology.

in history," said Jones, adding that the only president who could compare was Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Jones is pleased that Tester, the president of the Montana Senate and an organic farmer, beat Burns, but not because he likes anything about Tester. "I believes Burns is a pawn of Bush," Jones said.

There are Stan Jones skeptics in Montana who say that the eccentric libertarian may not have swung the election for the Demo-

graduated with a degree in general science from Montana State. He spent 28 years in the Air Force and Air Force Reserve, retiring as a lieutenant colonel.

During many of those years, he said, he was an administrative contracting officer, based in Seattle and buying aircraft and other hardware for the Air Force. He said he purchased several 747s from Boeing, three of which ended up in the Air Force One fleet.

current.

But using the same technique in Bozeman, where the mineral content of tap water is much higher, the silver bonded with other elements in the water, and the resulting mixture gave Jones argyria. It is an extremely rare but relatively harmless condition that can permanently stain skin a bluish gray.

Jones said he was not aware that he had argyria until he participated in a televised debate as part of his failed 2002 campaign against Montana Sen. Max Baucus, a Democrat.

"After the debate," Jones recalled, "a reporter came up and asked me: 'Are you okay? Your face is really blue.'"

He sought medical advice, learned that his condition was not life-threatening and resumed his hopeless biennial campaigns against Montana big shots. Since 2000, he has run twice for governor and twice for the Senate.

Until the next Senate race rolls around in 2008, Jones said, he and some libertarian buddies are planning to place a series of initiatives on the state ballot to enforce the literal meaning of the U.S. Constitution.

"We plan to organize the constitution police," Jones said, breaking into a broad, bluish smile. "We are going to drive the secretary of state crazy."

Jones was married for 18 years to a Seattle woman. They had no children.

"When I retired and told my wife I wanted to go back to Bozeman and fight political corruption and get involved in politics, she decided to stay in Seattle," he said. "We split the sheets. It was an easy divorce. I gave her the house and the time-share in Hawaii."

It was the move back to Bozeman, Jones said, that caused his skin to turn blue. Using tap water in Seattle, he said, he had been making a "colloidal silver" antibiotic by charging two silver wires in a glass of water with an electric

TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Holiday Mathis

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Your way of relaxing may seem strange to some, but different strokes for different folks. If you're getting some kind of comfort, peace or help from it, keep it.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You're very persistent. It's your blessing and your curse. Try to see different angles now. If there's another way to solve your problem, you'll find it tonight.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

You're a person who intuitively knows that you are a part of every person you come into contact with. Commit yourself to the ties that bind — families, cultures and ultimately countries.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Either things are getting out of hand, or things were never really in your hands. This lack of control is a wonderful occurrence. It makes you realize the extent of your control.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

High self-esteem is what people aim for, but that's not to say it's ideal. A little low self-esteem makes you try harder. And by trying harder, you'll get places — places that people who never tried will never go.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Though your ideas are unconventional, they're also extremely practical. Smart people are listening to you. What matters is that you love what you're about. Don't worry about what anyone else thinks.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

You're an adventurer. If you go down the wrong road today, don't worry. You can always get wonderfully lost, and then turn back. What really matters is that you dared to go.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Anyone can get along with someone they are like. But you do something rare today — you connect with someone who doesn't agree with you. This gives you points in heaven.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You feel free to do what you want because you're certain about how loved ones will react to you. If you were a betting person, you would put your money on it. But don't. Today, you'd lose it.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You're ready to take the next step in a relationship. Being ready is enough. The other person can sense your readiness, and you don't even have to say a word.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

The standard you have been trying to achieve with your talent is so high it may be causing you stress. Still, with practice you'll get there. Once you laugh at your own mistakes, everything seems better.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

You speak up about what's bugging you, and it turns out the same thing bugs other people, too. You could band together to make a difference, or you could just let it go. Both choices are good.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY, NOV. 12:

It's not only that you have things you want to do this year, but that you also have a person you want to be — a version of yourself that is confident and in control of your health, your influence and your lifestyle. It's all attainable. The work you do to change a few beliefs and overcome a fear in the next 10 weeks will be key. Taurus and Cancer people adore you.

© 2006, Creators Syndicate Inc.