# The Style Invitational

DS

THE WASHINGTON POST

#### **REPORT FROM WEEK 6991/2**

The second set of Losing entries from our contest to take a real word beginning with E, F, G or H and coin a new word by adding, subtracting or substituting a letter, or transposing any two letters. We printed the Eand, er, F-words Feb. 25; here are the G's and H's.

Gangst: 50 Cent's dread of turning into Tupac. (Ken Gallant, Little Rock)

Ahemorrhoid: An annoying person who points out flaws after it's too late to correct them. (Jay Shuck,

Hovernment: Big Brother. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

the winner of the magnetic Greek alphabet letters: Home Despot: Martha Stewart's new chain of decorating stores. (John Conti, Norfolk, Mass.)



#### THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COINAGE

George W. Bust: History's verdict. (John Holder,

Whomicide: Murdering the King's English. (Chris Doyle, sent from Bangkok)

Gardenerd: One who would rather get a leaf than get a life. (Phil Frankenfeld, Washington)

you can fill up the tank on your Suburban. (M. Lilly Welsh, Oakton) GenUrine: You'll always pass the drug test with

Gasolien: The financing you have to arrange so

this guaranteed-clean Whizzinator sample **only \$99.95.** (Tom Greening, North Bethesda)

**Douse of worship: Baptism.** (Chris Doyle)

**Geopolitics: Foreign policy based on the latest** opinion survey. (Rick Bell, London)

**Blogal Warming: The contribution to the** greenhouse effect made by people using electricity to go online to rail about climate change. (Russell Beland, Springfield)

Glonads: A sign that you shouldn't have gone to the sushi bar with those Russians. (Martin Bancroft, Rochester, N.Y.)

Gotmo: Prison for the well-heeled detainee. (Pam Sweeney, Germantown)

Hiltoon: A girl who has become a caricature of herself. (Tom Witte)

**Codfather: A Mafioso who swims with the fishes.** 

Haste couture: The newest menswear look on the runway: the deliberately mis-buttoned shirt. (Ira Allen. Bethesda)

Randiose: Given to excessive embellishment of one's sexual appetite and conquests. (Tom Witte)

**Guanon: Constipation.** (Elaine Gillespie, Derwood)

Hagwash: The lies you tell when trying to set up a blind date for an unattractive cousin. (Marc Channick, San Diego)

Halls of IV: Yale Medical School. (Chris Dovle)

Hiphazard: A woman with a walk that causes men to bonk into trees. (Ann Davie, Fern Tree, Tasmania,

Haringue: The froth of spittle on the edges of a demagogue's mouth. (Tom Witte)

Hasta la visa, baby: Gov. Schwarzenegger's **immigration reform slogan.** (Cheryl Davis, Arlington)

#### THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

# Week 705: Simile Outrageous

Her face was a perfect oval, like a circle that had its two other sides gently compressed by a ThighMaster.

His thoughts tumbled in his head, making and breaking alliances like underpants in a dryer without Cling Free.

hese two brilliantly awful similes head up a Web page titled "The 25 Funniest Analogies (Collected by High School English Teachers)," just one of a slew of similarly titled Internet sites providing the very same list. Of course, they are actually classic Style Invitational entries, by veteran and still-cranking-it-out Losers Sue Lin Chong (results of Week 310, 1999) and Chuck Smith (Week 121,

Let's give these Web people some more excellent material to rip off with narv an attribution: This week: Come up with funny analogies, perhaps with some 21st-century references. Links to the earlier results are posted at

www.washingtonpost.com/ styleinvitational. Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. First runner-up gets The Wedding Slinger™, a little gun that shoots little hard plastic bride and groom figurines at the newlyweds as they emerge from the

wedding. How heartwarming to be able to send Ashley and Jason off on their honeymoon with his-and-hers eye injuries!

BY JULIA EWAN — THE WASHINGTON POST

The Wedding

Slinger: Why toss a

bouquet when you

can shoot a bride?

Invitational Loser T-shirt, Honorable Mentions (or whatever they're called that week) 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, March 26. Put "Week 705" 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

> Results will be published April No purchase required for entry. Employees of The Washington Post and their immediate relatives, are not Pseudonymous entries will be

disqualified. The Wedding Slinger was donated by Peter Metrinko of Chantilly. The Honorable Mentions title is by Chris Doyle of Ponder, Tex. The revised title for next week's contest is by Eric Murphy of Ann Arbor,

Hearthbreaker: 1. An old flame 2. A woman who makes an ash out of you. (Mark Eckenwiler,

Holy Bile: The rantings of televangelists. (Russell

Geishaq: A seven-foot-tall, 350-pound Japanese **hostess.** (Chris Doyle)

Nonad: A eunuch. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Hogan's Herpes: Close quarters in the stalag; high jinks ensue. (Veggo Larsen, Palmetto, Fla.)

**Herculess: Someone who realizes one evening** that he's taken too many steroids. (Roy Ashley) Histrioincs: The acting in "Deliverance." (Tom

**Bohoken: The town in New Jersey where Ugg boots are made.** (Pam Sweeney)

Gonadolier: Someone you don't want poling you through Venice. (Brendan Beary,

**Testiculate: To conspicuously readjust** one's package. (Tom Greening)

Moneysuckle: A vine that grows wild in front of any building with the word "Bureau" on it. (Drew Bennett, Alexandria)

**Hula-oops: A grass-skirt malfunction.** 

**Hyenta: A doggedly persistent** matchmaker. (Mark Eckenwiler)

Hymend: To recover one's lost innocence. (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

Next Week: Unreal Facts, or Faux-Finding Mission

What can I do?

## **DILBERT** | By Scott Adams



SO I PUT IT

BETWEEN TWO PIECES OF BREAD AND LEFT IT

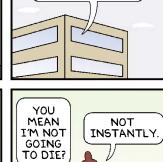
IN THE BREAK ROOM

REFRIGERATOR.









IT'S NOT LEGAL

TO POUR IT DOWN

FLUSH IT.



The March 11 "Dilbert" was mistakenly published in today's Washington Post Magazine. The March 18 comic appears above.

### **TODAY'S HOROSCOPE**

Holiday Mathis

### Aries (March 21-April 19)

You're utterly enthralled by things other people don't find the least bit interesting. This is part of your uniqueness — a sort of talent in and of itself. Something lucky happens after you've spent hours being fascinated.

# Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You make it your mission to be a little kinder than is necessary, and this is how you attract friends, soften enemies and enchant everyone else.

### Gemini (May 21-June 21)

When you don't get what you want, you throw up your hands and say, "So what? I have love, and that's all that matters." That you're able to react this way indicates you are rich, rich,

### Cancer (June 22-July 22)

You're learning discipline and restraint. When you can subdue your passions instead of chasing them, you grow amazingly strong and more able to handle what you want when you finally get it.

### Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

No person lives in a vacuum. The more integrated you are with what's going on around you, the happier you feel. "Cross-pollinate" your ideas with those of people whose interests are right in line with yours.

### Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

A relationship passes from the warm and glowing phase into something much more reality-based. There may be turbulence with the transition, but it signals positive growth.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Love is never wasted. You may send it in a direction from

whence it does not come back to you, but it will come from

another direction. And if it's real love, it won't matter to you if

it's not immediately reflected.

### Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

You may think there's not enough time to do what you would like to do. And so you're doing what you have to do instead. But you may find out somewhere in the process that you actually like it.

### Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You come across two types of people — those who have problems, and those who somehow, miraculously, don't! Spend time with the second group. See if you can learn their

### Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You may feel that a commitment you made long ago is now running you and that you're no longer in a position of choice. But you always have a choice. Knowing that, you'll see more options than you did before.

### Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You're on the go, and the less baggage you have to carry the better. Try working in energetic spurts and taking rests often — you accomplish much more this way.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) A relationship is blossoming! You're through with wanting someone to change and ready to accept this person exactly

as-is. Change will happen in its own time.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY MARCH 18**: You're an agent of positive change this year as you decide it is no longer necessary for you to struggle. You find peace within and create it in your experiences. Over the next 10 weeks, a financial issue gets completely sorted. Take a chance and start an extra income source in July. Lucky love signs are Libra and Capricorn.

© 2007, Creators Syndicate Inc.

### **ASK AMY**

#### **Dear Amy:**

How can I tell a friend and co-worker that her gum smacking and cracking is irritating to me and to others in the office? I don't want to cause any

discomfort or hard feelings. This is something that happens all day long in the office and in social situations

as well. Needless to say, this is a sticky situation. Thank you for any suggestions. LMP in Chicago

As an avid gum chewer, I can testify to the fact that for some of us the sounds of chewing gum (the smacking, slurping and popping) is noise that we believe happens only in our heads. I maintain that those of us who chew gum don't mean to offend others and can only know that we are offending others if we are told.

Here's what you do: Take your friend and colleague out for coffee and say, "I have a confession to make. I'm embarrassed that I didn't mention this earlier, but the sound you make when you chew gum is really loud. I can hear it in my cubicle, and it's pretty irritating to me. I'm sure that you're not aware of it, but do you think that you could chew silently?"

Asking a question at the end of this sort of statement is key. Framing it as a challenge ("Do you think that you could chew silently?") invites the person to say, "Sure. I can do that."

It's not a good idea to say, "This bugs me and everybody else too" because you shouldn't presume to speak for other people.

If this persists, it is completely legitimate to speak to your supervisor about it. It's a small thing but a major irritant that easily can be corrected.

### **Dear Amv:**

I've been obsessed with a guy for almost three years. We met through a chat room and then in person, and the attraction was amazing. When he suggested sex, something scared me — I think it was the fact that I never desired anvone as much until then - and I did not go to bed with him. After some time passed, I realized I

made a mistake. I wanted him more every day, and I told him so. Now he no longer wants to get together. Sometimes he e-mails me and

whenever I enter the chat room, he goes to me immediately, but I want to meet. He says he is too busy, but he keeps saying how attractive I am.

I need to either have sex with him once so that it is out of my system, or to be free of him. I cannot seem to make a choice. He seems to get some kind of a thrill from communicating with me. keeping me on a short leash but not

closer. A month ago I asked him to stop bothering me because he is causing me pain. He promised to leave me alone, but last night in the chat room, there he was again, asking me if I miss him.

Karen

Do you feel good being yanked around on such a short leash? No, you don't. Do you need to have sex with him once to get him out of your system? No, you don't.

You won't get this guy to stop bothering you by asking him. If you are serious about this, then stop going into the chat room, change your e-mail address and disappear from his virtual world.

I want to offer an additional comment after reading letters in your column

about who should pay for weddings. When our son got married, everyone communicated about the expenses. Her dad paid for the wedding; my husband and I paid for the honeymoon; and an aunt who is a minister flew into town to do the ceremony.

Everyone was available for advice, but only when asked.

Five years later, when the young couple bought their first home, everyone contributed. Her side of the family did a lot of the remodeling; we contributed a fair sum of money; and we all chipped in with work. On any given day a friend or family member would be there doing something (cleaning, moving things and unpacking). We all had keys to the place.

Recently, my son put his arm around me and said — not for the first time -"Thanks, Mom. We couldn't have gotten the place without you!"

Now they are expecting their first child, and I know there will be a "village" of friends and family involved as time goes on. We all continue to be there for them, and needless to say they are there for us, too.

A Portland Reader

Though I've gone on record advocating for couples to finance their own weddings, when they come from families such as yours, with the means and ability to get along even as you are writing checks, this more traditional arrangement can work out very well. This is a lovely example of how levelheaded and well-adjusted families operate.

If more families operated like the proverbial "village," the world would be a much better place.

Thank you for providing a solid example, for your son and his wife and also for the rest of us.

© 2007 by the Chicago Tribune Distributed by Tribune Media Services Inc.