

REPORT FROM WEEK 699 1/2

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 E- and, er, F-words Feb. 25; here are the G's and H's.

- 5 Gangst: 50 Cent's dread of turning into Tupac. (Ken Gallant, Little Rock)
4 Ahemorrhoid: An annoying person who points out flaws after it's too late to correct them. (Jay Shuck, Minneapolis)
3 Hovernment: Big Brother. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)
2 the winner of the magnetic Greek alphabet letters: Home Despot: Martha Stewart's new chain of decorating stores. (John Conti, Norfolk, Mass.)

AND THE WINNER OF THE INKER Sackenhack: A town in New Jersey founded by Vikings. (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)



BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COINAGE

- George W. Bust: History's verdict. (John Holder, Charlotte)
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)
Gasolien: The financing you have to arrange so you can fill up the tank on your Suburban. (M. Lilly Welsh, Oakton)
GenUrine: You'll always pass the drug test with 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 Warning: 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. (Chris Doyle)
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 Doyle)
Hipazard: A woman with a walk that causes men to bonk into trees. (Ann Davie, Fern Tree, Tasmania, Australia)
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.

These two brilliantly awful similes head up a Web page titled "The 25 Funniest Analogies (Collected by High School English Teachers),"

Let's give these Web people some more excellent material to rip off with nary an attribution: This week: Come up with funny analogies, perhaps with some 21st-century references.



The Wedding Slinger: Why toss a bouquet when you can shoot a bride?

BY JULIA EWAN — THE WASHINGTON POST

Other runners-up win a coveted Style 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 entry per week.

- Hearthbreaker: 1. An old flame 2. A woman who makes an ash out of you. (Mark Eckenwiler, Washington)
Holy Bible: The rantings of televangelists. (Russell Beland)
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.)
Hercules: Someone who realizes one evening that he's taken too many steroids. (Roy Ashley)
Histrioins: The acting in "Deliverance." (Tom Witte)
Bohoken: The town in New Jersey where Uggs boots are made. (Pam Sweeney)
Gonadolier: Someone you don't want poking you through Venice. (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)
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. (Russell Beland)
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

DILBERT | By Scott Adams



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.
Taurus (April 20-May 20): You make it your mission to be a little kinder than is necessary.
Gemini (May 21-June 21): When you don't get what you want, you throw up your hands.
Cancer (June 22-July 22): You're learning discipline and restraint.
Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): No person lives in a vacuum.
Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A relationship passes from the warm and glowing phase.
Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Love is never wasted.
Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): You may think there's not enough time to do what you would like to do.
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You come across two types of people.
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may feel that a commitment you made long ago is now running you.
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You're on the go.
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): A relationship is blossoming!

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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 chews, I can testify to the fact that for some of us the sounds of chewing gum... are irritating to me.

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."

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."

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.

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.

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.

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.

What can I do? 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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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