

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

Week 744: You OED Us One



BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Aurigo: An acute reaction to having ugly furniture in this house. "Either that Redskins-theme recliner goes aurigo!"

Here are a bunch of words gleaned from a small section of the Oxford English Dictionary. If you know what they mean, get out of here. Or at least forget you know that, for example, an alectoria is a precious stone found in a cock's gizzard. **This week: Make up a humorous and false definition for any of the words listed below.** Feel free to use it in a hilarious sentence. Do not feel free to use it in an un-hilarious sentence.

Acrazy	Almagra	Belswagger	Cerilla
Adad	Anthypophora	Benjoin	Chabuk
Adject	Aptote	Besonio	Chavel
Adure	Assythe	Bizcacha	Chebec
Aestuation	Assoin	Blin	Dartars
Agazed	Auge	Boschbok	Dawark
Aggrate	Aurigo	Browster	Deboise
Alectoria	Avolation	Bulse	Dennage
Alepine	Barling	Caffa	Desidiose
Alexiteric	Baum-cricket	Casamat	Deuzan

Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives "Find It: A Compass for Chronic Losers," donated by the Lost Kyle Hendrickson of Frederick, who was pictured here this past summer with his custom-designed Loser ear picker. This cool cardboard wheel lets you point to any of dozens of commonly lost items (e.g., keys, hair, confidence), and it'll give you hints about (1) the obvious place to find it, (2) the hidden place, (3) the trick place and (4) Plan B.

Other runners-up win their choice of a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt or yearned-for Loser Mug. 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, Dec. 24 (and you'd better not pout about it). Put "Week 744" 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 Jan. 12. No purchase required for entry. Employees of The Washington Post, and their immediate relatives, are not eligible for prizes. Pseudonymous entries will be disqualified. This week's contest was suggested, and an even longer list of words contributed, by Russell Beland, who owns some version of the OED. The revised title for next week's contest is by Brendan Beary of Great Mills. This week's Honorable Mentions name is by Dave Prevar.

REPORT FROM WEEK 740

in which we . . . well, we were a little vague, it seems, when we asked for clues that situations weren't working out well. But we ended up with lots of funny stuff of the Rodney Dangerfield variety, basically filling out the sentence "You know you're a loser when . . ." Sometimes we just sit back and see what shows up. Something good usually does.

- 4** In order for the crossword to come out right, 14 Across has to be "Marie Antoinette." (Marc Naimark, Paris)
- 3** When your wife went to shop for a new mattress, she took the dog. (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)
- 2** the winner of the electric fan that says "Hey Loser," etc.: When you said you could lick any man in the bar, you hadn't realized what kind of bar you were in. (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

THE REST OF THE BOTCH

Your girlfriend will sleep with you only if you're asleep first. (John O'Byrne, Dublin)

The entire office building where you run the pastry concession was just leased to Elite Model Agency. (Judith Cottrill, New York)

In your boxing match, you throw a punch and knock your IV bottle off the pole. (Steve Fahey, Kensington)

Your date sighs and says, "Uh-oh, my necrotizing fasciitis is flaring up again." (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

At the wedding reception your bride says longingly, "He really IS the best man." (Jim Ward, Manassas)

The only place you can play hide-and-seek anymore is in old-growth forests. (Erica Hartman, Wilmington)

The marriage counselor asks your wife to dinner. (Mike Pool, Vienna)

Your dad tells your new boyfriend, "Just remember, I don't mind going back to prison." (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

Your wife's pimp called and said she had to work late again. (Russell Beland, Springfield)

Your job interviewer gets up to go to the bathroom but says, "I'll be back. Just keep talking." (Fil Feit, Annandale)

Your dentist says, "Just hold on to this while I look something up . . ." (Larry Schott, Gainesville, Fla.)

The guard with the news about the governor's reprieve is carrying a menu. (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

Your obstetrician asks the nurse to hand her the can of WD-40. (Beth Baniszewski, Somerville, Mass.)

"Mr. Smith, we received the result of your recent IQ test . . . and I have brought along these finger puppets to help explain what it means." (Larry Yungk, Arlington)

"Milady Anne, His Majesty has canceled your appointment with the royal milliner." (Kevin Dopart)

During your driving test, you notice the cop pick bits of dog out of his hair. (Jeff Brechlin, Eagan, Minn.)

At the Christmas pageant you're directing at your church, the back of the Virgin Mary's blouse is tucked into her thong. (Beth Baniszewski)

The members of the parole board seem to be staring at the swastika on your forehead. (Russell Beland)

At your 20-year high school reunion, your old boyfriend looks at you quizzically and asks, "Now, what did you teach?" (Drew Bennett)

The interviewer keeps telling you that her eyes are "up here." (Chuck Smith)

Your first novel is reviewed in Landfill Finds Monthly. (John O'Byrne)

You ask the audience to name a place and a person during your improv comedy act, and they suggest the Bermuda Triangle and you. (Jay Shuck, Minneapolis)

AND THE WINNER OF THE INKER

While you're haranguing the U.N. General Assembly about the superiority of your country's economic system, the sole falls off the shoe you are gesturing with. (Ben Aronin, Washington)

The babysitter says, "You mean there were four of them?" (Beverly Sharp, Washington)

"Sorry, Senator Dodd, the greenroom is for the candidates only." (Larry Schott)

You're running for president, and with the general election just 11 months away you realize there are still three farmers in Iowa and a diner waitress from New Hampshire you haven't even met! (Russell Beland)

"Mr. Cage, the applause sounds just like your piece '4'33' '1'!" (Kevin Dopart)

Your art collection becomes suspect when someone points out that the counterman in Edward Hopper's "Nighthawks" is wearing an iPod. (Chuck Smith)

The loan officer wouldn't let you keep the Bic pen with the bank's name on it. (Mel Loftus, Holmen, Wis.)

"Reverend, we were looking for an increase in converts TO our church." (Kevin Dopart)

Your fortune cookie says, "Tip 30% for antidote." (Beth Baniszewski)

You get a thin envelope from Vanity Press Inc. with a form letter saying, "Your manuscript is not in line with our editorial standards." (Martin Bancroft, Rochester, N.Y.)

Something looks just a little off about your Rollex watch. (Marjorie Streeter, Reston)

Next Week: Well, What Do You Know? or Gross Learnings and Deductions

The Role Romney Played In a Mormon Temple Saga

TEMPLE, From C1

the temple sits on a hill high above this well-heeled suburb, surrounded by tall trees, an immaculate lawn and an even more immaculate parking lot. Though it isn't as luminous as its Washington counterpart, it's said that on clear days you can see the steeple, with its gold-leaf statue of the angel Moroni, five miles away in Harvard Square.

Unlike "meetinghouses," which serve as chapels where Mormons and non-Mormons can gather, sing hymns and listen to sermons, there are no regular Sunday worship services at a temple. (The building is in fact closed on Sundays.) Instead, this is a place for different rituals — ceremonies for eternal marriages, occasions where you can bind yourself to family members for eternity or retroactively baptize the dead.

Despite its pristine appearance, though, this temple is the product of a messy civic battle that went all the way to the state's highest court.

For many on both sides, the debate is still raw seven years after the temple opened. John Forster, the onetime spokesman for a group of neighbors, says, "I don't care what they believe. Why did they have to put a facility for the whole Northeast in a residential neighborhood? Romney and other Mormons always tried to cast themselves as victims of oppression and religious discrimination and it was never about that. It was about square feet."

Grant Bennett, who represented the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints during the temple's construction, called the endeavor a "significant struggle."

Like Romney, Bennett came east from Utah for graduate work at one of the Cambridge schools — he studied at MIT, while Romney earned business and law degrees from Harvard. Both are part of a ward — the Mormon equivalent of a congregation — that was created in Belmont after the one in Cambridge outgrew its quarters on Harvard Square.

Romney held the unpaid position of bishop of the Belmont ward from 1984 to 1986 and supervised construction of the meetinghouse, which sits at the bottom of the hill where the temple now stands. As



BY JANET KNOTT — THE BOSTON GLOBE

both the ecclesiastical and administrative head of the congregation, Romney set up Sunday school assignments and speakers, and counseled people about marital troubles or wayward teenage kids.

It was also his job to reinvestigate those who served alongside him. Harvard Business School professor Clayton Christensen remembers a period during Romney's tenure as bishop when both Christensen and his wife, Christine, were emotionally drained by their religious obligations. One evening the couple sat at their kitchen table feeling depleted when someone knocked on the door. In came Romney, on his way home from work.

"I needed to come here and tell you that God loves you. He's been trying to tell you directly and it doesn't seem like you're hearing him," Christensen recalls Romney saying. "The Lord must have given me the message so that you could hear it for yourselves." The Christensens both broke down crying.

After serving as president of the Boston stake (the equivalent of a diocese) from 1986 to 1994, Romney stepped down for his unsuccessful U.S. Senate run against Ted Kennedy. Afterward, Bennett,

now the bishop of the Belmont ward, appointed the future governor to teach Sunday school.

Thus it was Bennett who was charged with helping the president of the Mormon Church, Gordon B. Hinckley, look over the property in Belmont in 1995. For some time Hinckley had yearned to build a temple in the Northeast, with his focus on Hartford, Conn. But when informed that the church owned 8.9 acres close to Boston, he called Bennett asking to see the site.

By the time of his visit, prominent members of the Mormon faith had become established in Belmont. In addition to Romney, there was Kim Clark, dean of the faculty at Harvard Business School from 1995 to 2005, and now president of Brigham Young University's campus in Rexburg, Idaho. There was his HBS colleague Kent Bowen, a noted research scholar. And there was Romney's longtime friend John M. Wright, president of a boutique investment-banking firm dealing with mergers and acquisitions.

Hinckley wouldn't tell the world of his intentions until the following September. In its original conception, the building was to be 94,000 square feet with six



BY ELISE AMENDOLA — ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mitt Romney was among prominent Mormons who supported building a temple in Belmont, Mass., despite legal challenges and community opposition. With the addition of a steeple in 2001, the structure is 139 feet tall.

spires reaching high into the New England sky. The central spire would be 144 feet high and topped by the angel Moroni, the figure said to have come to young Joseph Smith in 1823 and supposedly one of the authors of the Book of Mormon.

Even Bennett, in retrospect, says, "It was a very large building on that site. It was 94,000 feet on top of a hill in a residential area and it was very, very prominent."

Too prominent, it turned out, for those who were to live alongside it.

For months leading up to the local Zoning Board of Appeals decision in late 1996, Belmont High was the site of tightly packed, emotionally charged meetings where people argued about the temple. For many opponents, the issue wasn't religious freedom, but the town's own ordinances, which set a height limit of 72 feet. Despite protests, the zoning board voted 4 to 1 to approve the original proposal for the temple. Then, it unanimously approved scaled-back plans introduced in early 1997 that slashed the size of the building to 72,000 square feet and reduced the number of steeples to one.

This did not end the tumult. On the first day of blasting, some-

thing went terribly wrong, sending rock and debris and dust all over the neighborhood. Another time, an underground explosion caused a rubber mat to overheat, sending flames 20 feet into the air. Neighbors consistently complained about noise from the construction site.

Romney's public role in the debate over the temple was limited. In the spring of 1996, Romney and his wife, Ann, hosted a series of get-togethers with neighbors where both the architect and landscape architect answered questions. In 1999 he temporarily moved to Utah to organize the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. But even when in Belmont, he barely spoke publicly on the issue, Christensen says.

"We had a steering committee and he would attend the meetings," Christensen says. "At one meeting he said his very participation might be a lightning rod for additional controversy since he had run against Ted Kennedy. He was there and would give us advice but did not take a public role."

Two lawsuits were filed against the project. The first, in state court, challenged the variance that allowed the steeple to be built. This was followed by a suit in federal court challenging the right to build the structure itself. It claimed that the Massachusetts law allowing religious and educational institutions immunity from local zoning restrictions violated the U.S. Constitution. Those suing said the Massachusetts law in essence favored the spreading of

religion. Both cases were decided in favor of the Mormons. The temple opened without a steeple, but the structure, rising 139 feet, was added after the state Supreme Judicial Court ruled in the Mormons' favor in 2001.

"It's hard to know how much of it was bigotry and how much of it was wanting to try and keep the tranquility of Belmont neighborhoods," says the banker Wright, after watching Romney's Texas speech on the Internet from his office. "I suppose it was a little of both."

Critics of the project still bristle at such comments.

Charles Counselman, a former professor in MIT's planetary sciences department, bought his home in 1997 and later became one of the plaintiffs in the federal lawsuit.

"I was attacked many times in many forums for being a religious bigot or worse," Counselman says. "I don't have anything against the LDS church. The LDS church has had a meetinghouse in this neighborhood for a long time. When I was in college I had two Mormon roommates. I contributed to Mitt Romney's Senate campaign. It's not about that at all. In my mind it's a zoning issue."

When the building was finished (except for the steeple) in 2000, thousands came to tour the site. Among the visitors was Kennedy, who was guided around by Romney, his onetime political opponent. Kennedy called the structure "magnificent," adding he wished that Romney were a Democrat.