The Style Invitational

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST



Marie Antoinette bobblehead Huckleberry Norwegian **Recycled fingernails** 505 unbelievably stupid Web pages, in no particular order Mud wrestling etiquette Fine McDining Three guys walk out of a bar Bodacious tapas Accountants of the Serengeti She's very sweet (except after dark) Full frontal checkmate

ast week in this space we ran the results of our contest seeking Googlewhacks, phrases that would each generate one and only one Google hit. Here are a dozen more entries to the same contest. This week: Describe any of these Googlewhacks in the form of a question, "Jeopardy"-style.

Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place — or the highest-placing Loser willing to pick it up (read on) — wins a massive glass-and-ceramic not-snow globe promoting a certain long-named circus: Inside the heavy glass sphere are a frightened-looking Bello the clown (well, the poor man is drowning!), a tiger and an elephant, along with some feckless glitter. Here's the catch: You must accept

this fine prize in person from the Empress at the 13th annual Flushies, the Losers' own annual awards banquet, Saturday afternoon, May 17, in College Park. See the Losers' Web site, www.gopherdrool.com, for details. If the second-place Loser doesn't come, he'll get a T-shirt instead, and the globe goes to the highest-placing Loser in attendance.

Other runners-up win their choice of a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt or yearned-for Loser Mug. 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 by fax to 202-334-4312 Deadline is Monday April 21 Put 'Week 760" 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 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 results is by Tom Witte. The authors of the Googlewhacks in this week's contest are Pam Sweeney, Michael Peck, Jacob Aldridge, David Malinowski, Ken Washington, Ed Gordon, Jon Graft, Anne Harrison, Peter Metrinko, Jon Graft and Jan Mehle

REPORT FROM WEEK 756

in which we asked readers to write a "bank head" that would put a twist on an actual headline appearing in that week's Post or on washingtonpost.com. There were far too many good entries to print here; a list of dozens more including some that were sent by too many people to be given individual credit — appears at www.washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational.

White Male Vote Especially Critical Simon Cowell's Remarks More Cutting Than Ever (Jay Shuck, Minneapolis)

Washington Remains in Contention With a Victory Over Atlanta Lincoln Heartily Thanks General Sherman (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park; Kathy Hardis Fraeman, Olney, whose last ink was in 1997)

the winner of the pen that screeches "The Star-Spangled Banner": American's Dream Comes True Man, 37, Shows Up Naked and Totally Unprepared for Meeting (Michael Levy, Silver Spring)

> **AND THE WINNER OF THE INKER Expansion Is Approved for**

Alamo **Pentagon Notes 'Regrettable'** Delay but Predicts Troop Surge Will Thwart Santa Anna (Christopher Lamora, Arlington)

CAROLYN HAX

HEADS, YOU LOSE

Forecasters Warn of Flooding in Ark. Noah Shouldn't Have Added Portholes Before Invention of Glass, Critics Say (Pie Snelson, Silver Spring)

7th Graders Take a Stand 'Lemonade Was My Life,' Wails 4th-Grade Bullying Victim (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Three Wise Guys: Urinal Etiquette, Mystery **Statues and More Potatoes** Loony Names Aren't Limited to Hollywood Offspring (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

McCain Campaign Suspends Aide After Leak of Ceiling-Chaining Photo, Candidate Accused of Flip-Flop on Torture (Dave Zarrow, Herndon)

For Young Area Lawyer, the Supreme Compliment 'You Don't Act Like a Lawyer' (Ben Aronin, Washington)

Md. Budget Crunch Has Residents on the Ropes Home-Brand Cereal Makes Baltimoreans Puke Into Inner Harbor (Ira Allen, Bethesda)

More Than a Way In and Out 'I Do Have Other Redeeming Qualities, You Know,' Girlfriend Protests (Andrea Kelly, Brookeville)

FDA Warns Against Cantaloupes **Breast Implants Should Be Limited to Grapefruit** Size, Agency Says (Rick Haynes, Potomac; Phil Frankenfeld, Washington)

N. Korea's No. 2 Begins Africa Tour **But Traveling Display of Kim Jong II's Bowel Movement Draws Little Interest Outside** Homeland (Sanford D. Horn, Alexandria)

Hokies Polish Up Their Résumé

Va. Tech Woos Duke Coach Krzyzewski (Howard Walderman, Columbia; Peter Metrinko, Chantilly)

Who Says the Elite Aren't Fit to Serve? Ivy League Art History Majors Prove Excellent Waiters (Cy Gardner, Arlington; Cheryl Davis, Arlington)

Reports Cite Lack of Uniform Policy for Terrorist Watch List **Suicide Bombers Were Supposed to Wear** Matching Blazers With Crests (Roger Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.)

Rockets Come Back Down to Earth NASA 'Stunned' by Findings of \$1.6 Billion Study (Russell Beland, Springfield)

A Hurler's Investment Pitch Few Remember Karen Carpenter's Early Career at Merrill Lynch (Jay Shuck)

A Skillful 'Kiss' That Lacks True Passion What Happens When Wine Snobs Turn Into

Chocolate Snobs (Barbara Turner)

Big Red Knocks Down Big Two On Visit to Cuba, Dolly Parton Shoved by Castro in Sudden Burst of Energy (Harry Rosenberg, Arlington, a First Offender)

Pittsburgh Finds Itself in Familiar Spot Still at Intersection of 3 Rivers, Study Finds (Jerrie Olson, Frederick)

West Virginia's Globe Trotter **Appalachian Man Returns Home After Whirlwind** Trek to Wheeling (Jonathan Gettleman, Ashburn)

Van Pelt Has Some Fun Rug in '67 VW Bus Still Gets Lots of Groovy Action (Jane Auerbach, Los Angeles)

United to Pull Older Planes

Trip From N.Y. to L.A. Will Average 47 Days (Christopher Lamora)

Border Patrol Job Fair Immigration Cops Pleased With Improvement Over 2007's 'Poor' Rating (Christopher Lamora)

Biggest One-Day Gain Since '02 Kirstie Alley Regrets Eating Whole Carton of Breyer's (Beverley Sharp, Washington)

On War's Anniversary, Bush Cites Progress: 'Strategic Victory' Is Near, He Asserts Former President Reflects on 25th Year in Iraq (Warren Rudman, Central City, Colo, a First Offender)

SEC Probes Shorting of Bear's Stock **Goldilocks Questioned About Missing Porridge** (Roy Ashley)

Greenspan Gets Harder Look Fed Retiree's Pilates Regimen Produces Awesome Abs, Andrea Mitchell Says (Roger Dalrymple)

Clinton's Experience Is Debated More Than 200 Women Just While Governor, or Including Presidency? (Kevin Dopart)

Gearing Up for Court Gun Battle Ginsburg Packs Twin Uzis, Scalia Opts for AK-47 (Eric Murphy, Ann Arbor, Mich.)

A Surprise at the Top Surgeon Errs, Implants 3rd Breast (Jeff Brechlin, Eagan, Minn.)

High Court Declines Tobacco Suit 'Thanks, but Too Itchy - We'll Stay With the Robes,' Roberts Says (Rick Haynes)

Next Week: Gorey Thoughts From A to Z, or Ghastly, Dumb, Tinny

Jailed Chinese Writer To Receive PEN Award



The Washington Post

Adapted from a recent online discussion:

Carolyn:

I've heard that people shouldn't consider having kids unless they're 100 percent for it. I'm not. I'm about 49 percent. Is the answer as simple as that? New York

No. It's the rare person who's reliably 100 percent for something they've never experienced firsthand.

Unless it's vague, like, 100 percent for the right to do something.

Though 49 percent seems awfully low.

But I digress.

I would say instead that people shouldn't consider having kids until they're ready to back their decision 100 percent, no matter where it takes them. Parenthood is no place for parttimers.

Carolyn:

I broke up a few months ago with someone I'd been with for over a year. Truth is, he started to appear to be not that nice a person, doing things (to others, not me) that were unkind, deceptive or selfish.

Although I spoke up while these things were happening, when I did break up, he appeared blindsided. I gave him the "my feelings have changed" talks in different versions. but he keeps hounding me for specifics. I just want him to leave me alone but am not comfortable giving him a laundry list of all the lousy things he did, because that doesn't seem nice, either. What to do?

North Brunswick, N.J.

First, his pressure strikes me as inappropriate. If the past and present inappropriate behavior add up to feeling uncomfortable in any other way (i.e., if you feel at all threatened), trust it and read "The Gift of Fear" by Gavin de Becker. Your ex could just be clueless about dealing with people, but I have to throw out the worst case just so you know it's there.

Second, I don't believe "my feelings changed" was your only alternative to the laundry list. You could have said succinctly, and still can now, that you found his treatment of others upsetting and remind him of one or two situations. Specify that they had a cumulative effect

Then I think you need to say explicitly that you have nothing more to add



BY NICK GALIFIANAKIS FOR THE WA

and ask that he not contact you any-

more. Hold firm by not taking the call

or opening the e-mail. It's not "nice,"

It is also, by the way, an argument

for speaking the truth the first time

And be prepared for him to challenge

you: claim that you are too uptight,

that argument. Simply say his

reasons to end the relationship.

overreacting, whatever. Don't get into

treatment of others was not acceptable

to you, and you wish no further contact.

The worst trap women fall into, keeping

them in bad relationships, is the feeling

that they must be nice and defend their

Words to underscore: "Your treat-

ment of others was not acceptable to

me." It is not open to debate that way,

which someone can then point out

when the other tries to debate. "I said

it wasn't acceptable to me, so there's

women fall into." Men fall into it, too.

Words to strike: "The worst trap

Read the whole transcript or

join the discussion live at noon

Fridays on www.washingtonpost.

Write to Carolyn Hax, Style, 1150

20071, or tellme@washpost.com.

15th St. NW, Washington, D.C.

nothing more to discuss."

com/discussions.

Anonymous

but it's time.

someone asks to hear it.

For North Brunswick:

04.12.08

FIDNAKIS

By Jeremy Gerard Bloomberg

Yang Tongyan, a Chinese writer serving a 12-year prison term for posting anti-government articles on the Internet, will receive this year's PEN/Barbara Goldsmith Freedom to Write Award.

The \$10,000 prize, announced yesterday, is made annually to an imprisoned or persecuted writer in jeopardy because of health or other reasons. It is underwritten by Goldsmith, a historian, author and philanthropist, and presented by the American chapter of PEN, an international organization that monitors the persecution of writers.

"I was particularly pleased that the advisory committee selected someone from China," Goldsmith said in a telephone interview. "With the Olympics and the economic conference following them, this is a unique chance to focus on human rights there, and on the secrecy in which they've conducted these repressions.'

Yang, an essayist, poet and novelist who suffers from diabetes and arthritis, was arrested in December 2005 for "subverting state authority." The following May, he was sentenced to 12 years in prison. Also known by the pen name Yang Tianshui, Yang previously spent

Yang Tongyan is imprisoned for writing anti-government articles.

a decade in Chinese prisons for his opposition to the treatment of prodemocracy protesters in Tiananmen Square in 1989.

Yang is one of 38 writers, including five PEN members, currently imprisoned in China, according to Larry Siems, director of the PEN American Center's Freedom to Write program.

ASK AMY

Dear Amy:

I'm a man in my late 40s who has been married for 25 years.

My wife and I have two kids in their early teens.

I have been fighting depression for several years and am in therapy.

A root issue in my depression is the decline of the relationship with my wife. About 10 years ago she lost interest in sex. I have talked to my doctor, who says this is common. My therapist, who is female, says it's not.

My wife says she can't do anything about it.

I have a pretty healthy sex drive and am at my wits' end. I don't know if I can continue living this way. I love my wife, but I don't want to be a monk for the rest of my life.

What do other men do when faced with this problem, other than making like Eliot Spitzer or having foolish affairs?

Helpless Husband

I have read that about one-third of marriages suffer from one or both spouses losing their desire. I think the percentage is much higher; we just don't talk about

Men who suffer from a lack of desire often blame outside stressors, such as workplace or financial problems, while for women, sexual problems often stem from relationship problems.

After 10 years, your wife may not even remember how the problem started; she has been living with it for such a long time that not having sex has become normal for her.

Besides the sex, I assume that you

would also like to rekindle your intimate relationship with your wife — because you can't really have one without the other (with your wife, anyway - "Spitzering" your way around this issue isn't much of a solution).

Intimacy starts with talking. You need to discuss this in a way that builds intimacy. A therapist can help give you the tools to talk.

There are many books addressing this issue, and you should start by browsing through them to see if you can gain some insight.

One book I like is "The Sex Starved Marriage: Boosting Your Marriage Libido: A Couple's Guide," by therapist Michele Weiner Davis (2003, Simon & Schuster).

Dear Amy:

I believe there's an epidemic of married men looking for action on the Internet. I opened the mail and found a credit card charge made to an online "personals"

site by my husband. His profile, with a picture no less, said he was divorced. That's funny — I thought he was still in a 24-year marriage.

He had been "just looking" for seven months. He never password-protected his account. I read all of his correspondence. I e-mailed all the women he had contacted and explained who I was. I invited them to contact me.

I then asked him to choose between me or his "Cyber Girls." He left so fast, I thought the friction

would set the carpet on fire.

Four months later, he's alone: I'm happier than I've been in years and I'm

looking forward to our divorce being final. Almost Single

Your husband obviously wanted to get out of your marriage. By being so obvious and laying out a virtual trail of bread crumbs for you to follow, he got what he wanted.

Dear Amy:

"Socially Conscious" wrote of her wounded pride when her stepdaughter wanted her parents to walk together down the wedding aisle.

Twenty-two years ago, I was the bride facing the same issue at my wedding.

I love my stepmother, "Arlene," dearly, but I wanted my parents by my side that day.

Arlene's graciousness at my wedding was one of many, many kind and loving things she has done for me. One of my happiest memories from my wedding was seeing my mother, father and stepmother embracing after the reception.

Even though my parents' divorce was bitter and my mother did her best to poison my relationship with Arlene, I see my stepmother as a model mother and wife, and I try my best to be like her.

A Loving Stepdaughter

Sometimes people behave beautifully, and the result is beautiful too. Thank you.

Write to Amy Dickinson at askamy@ tribune.com or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611. © 2008 by the Chicago Tribune

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