

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

REPORT FROM WEEK 845

in which we supplied a list of neologisms submitted in several previous contests and challenged you to come up with your own definitions:

THE WINNER OF THE INKER

Botherhood: A group such as the United Telephone Solicitors, the American Association of Fragrance Sprayers, and the Fraternal Order of People Who Really Need Their Petition Signed. (Russell Beland, Fairfax)

2 the winner of the elephant-dung-mache Christmas ornaments: C-SPANdex: Coverage of Congress that provides way too much information. (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

3 Attacky: Not removing your Odor Eaters before throwing your shoes at the president. (Rick Haynes, Potomac)

4 Frosttute: A Siberian hussy. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

DEF VALLEY: HONORABLE MENTIONS

Academicro: What must be causing the verbal-diarrhea epidemic among college professors. (Andrea Kelley, Brookeville)

Adiposeur: Someone who exaggerates his weight at the beginning of a diet so his "loss" will be more impressive. (Michael Turner, Takoma Park)

Amis Manners: The columnist you ask, "Which fork do I use to pick my nose at the table?" (Jeff Contompassis, Ashburn)

Anomalyrics: A country song in which you land the promotion, you keep your wife, and your dog finds his way home. (Dion Black, Washington)

Antipathytherapy: The practice of the Viennese psychiatrist Schaden Freud. (Beryl Benderly, Washington)

Apparellic: Mummy's outfit. (Bernhard D. Saxe, Springfield, a First Offender)

Apparellic: A garment not used for decades. "Dolly Parton's training bra is an apparellic." (Rick Haynes)

Banalogy: Routine study of routine study. (Pie Snelson, Silver Spring)

Banalogy: A simile that's as dull as dishwater. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

Barduous: Describing a task most vexing: "How barduous, alas, my lot/ The choice between to be and not." (Craig Dykstra, Centerville)

Blabyrinth: The untraceable trail back to the person who started the rumor. (Cindy Johnson, Kingstowne, a First Offender)

Blunderstanding: An agreement not to dwell on a mistake. "He and she came to a blunderstanding to never discuss that drunken New Year's Eve." (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

Botherhood: What younger siblings are born into. (Andrea Kelly)

Cerealistic: Knowing there's no Chex in the mail. (Judy Blanchard, Novi, Mich.)

Chopstuck: Why Louis Armstrong couldn't play his trumpet that bitter day in Oslo. (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

Cowardrobe: The closet that Sir Noel had to stay in. (Ken Gallant, Conway, Ark.)

Cowardrobe: A closet full of moooms. (Tony Arancibia, Falls Church)

Beverly Sharp, Washington)

Capture: The belief by baby alligators that one day there will be a reverse flush. (Chuck Smith)

Frostitute: A member of the world's coldest profession. (Cy Gardner, Arlington)

Metrick: Switching your digital speedometer to KPH when your mother's in the car. (Ken Gallant)

Mobius trip: The journey from Saigon to Kabul. (Charles Miehm, Hamilton, Va., a First Offender)

Mundame: Edna Average. (Chris Doyle)

Oliver Twits: pls sr i wnt sm mor (Tom Murphy, Bowie)

Phoneupmanship: "Mine is smaller than yours." (Ari Unikoski, Tel Aviv)

Phoneupmanship: Having a ring tone that plays the second part of Bartok's Third String Quartet — you know, the lively Allegro. No, you probably don't. (Edmund Conti, Raleigh)

Scar de la Renta: Creator of the alleged mob tie. (Chris Doyle)

Theoretical: How you'd behave if you knew you wouldn't get caught. (Mark Richardson, Washington)

And Last: Contestosterone: The hormone that accounts for why 14 of the 15 all-time top Style Invitational Losers are male. Females instead have the hormone havealifeogen. (Dot Yufer, Newton, W.Va.)

See more honorable mentions at washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational.

Next Week: Season's gratings, or All I Vaunt for Christmas

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Week 849: Homonymphomania

Auntacid: Saliva on a tissue used to wipe your face. (Mike Levy)

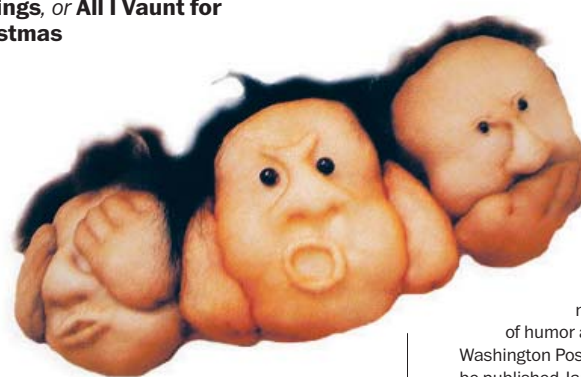
Amfiban: A frog who, after you kiss him, remains a frog. (Milo Sauer)

Masseus: A Lorax who rubs your thorax. (Tom Witte)

Here's a neologism contest we did once before, back in 2002 when the Invitational confused everyone, including itself, in its middle years with Roman numerals: Create a new homonym (or homophone, for you linguo-nerdy types) of any existing word and define it, as in the examples above, the top entries for Week CXLVIII. The new word must be spelled so that it is obviously pronounced the same as the original word.

Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. First runner-up receives this "soft sculpture" (a.k.a. panty-hose-faced creepy knickknack) depicting see/hear/speak-no-evil, which is not exactly the Inverte Entry Philosophy but does at least produce a similar expression of "ick" (especially by the ready-to-barf guy on the right); donated by Loser Craig Dykstra and his mom, Shirley.

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 Loser Magnets. First Offenders get a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (Fir Stink for their First Ink). 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, Jan. 4. Put "Week 849" 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. 23. 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; this week's honorable-mentions subhead is by Kevin Dopart.



CRAIG DYKSTRA FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

The three faces of pantyhose: This week's second prize.

3 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS
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(COMEDY OR MUSICAL)
BEST ACTRESS Meryl Streep BEST SCREENPLAY Nancy Meyers

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RICHARD CORLISS

BEST PICTURE
4 GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS NOMINATIONS

BEST PICTURE
9 CRITICS' CHOICE MOVIE AWARDS NOMINATIONS

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Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13
INTENSE EPIC BATTLE SEQUENCES AND WARFARE
SENSUALITY, LANGUAGE AND SOME SMOKING

Adapted from a recent online discussion.

Dear Carolyn:
My boyfriend is really overweight but doesn't really do anything about it. A few times I have mentioned that I was worried about his health, and he says he will make some changes but never does. It keeps me up at night and makes me miserable. I guess I just have to accept that he will likely never change. For what it's worth, he was not like this when we first got together.

Washington

Well, maybe he will change someday, but he's not inclined to change based on anything you do or say. That much you've



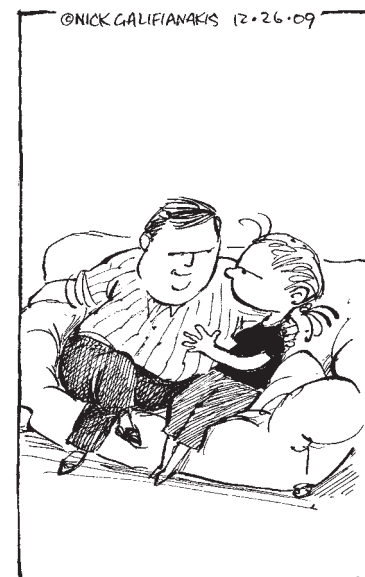
learned.
Before we get into the choice you need to make, though, I think it's important to make a connection between his weight and his habits. Since you say it wasn't always this way, I'm assuming he has become sedentary and/or indiscriminate about what he eats. If he is well and lives an active life — in other words, his weight gain is

just from a metabolism slowed by age — then you might be wasting hours of sleep over nothing.

If he has become a slug, then you still can be more specific in approaching him: either, "You sit around all day snacking, and I really miss doing stuff together"; or, "I find myself resenting that you don't take better care of yourself. I don't want to curtail our activities — or bury you — for a completely preventable problem."

If his epiphany isn't forthcoming, then your choices are either to stay with him and make peace with the risks — or to break up.

Finally, if this is really about your attraction and not his



health, then that changes the conversation, if not the ultimate choice.

Re: Overweight boyfriend:
If the boyfriend hasn't become a slob, it's possible he's naturally predisposed to be heavy and was only keeping himself thin via unhealthy/disordered eating. Obviously the girlfriend may still feel duped or unhappy because she no longer finds him attractive, but the weight gain may be a GOOD sign that he's stopped hurting himself.

Anonymous

Something to consider, thanks.

Dear Carolyn:
I broke my marriage vows and have since tried to work it out with spouse. I now fear my child will grow up to hate me with all his fury as an adult, should he find out.

Parent

You're talking about one act. Parenthood is the accumulation of a lifetime's worth of acts. Start being the parent you'd want to have if you were your child. Start today. And, if you ever find yourself deviating from that again, start again — with your very next act — to be that parent.

Join the whole transcript or read the discussion live at noon Fridays on www.washingtonpost.com/discussions.

Write to Tell Me About It, Style, 1150 15th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20071, or tellme@washpost.com.

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