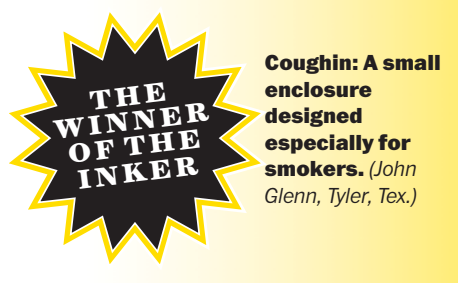


# THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

**REPORT FROM WEEK 853**  
in which we asked you to create new words or terms that contain a block of three successive letters of the alphabet (going forward):



**Coughin:** A small enclosure designed especially for smokers. (John Glenn, Tyler, Tex.)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

**2 the winner of the little solar-powered "dancing cactus":** Mno: The kind of response that makes you want to ask her again. (Edmund Conti, Raleigh)

**3 Noplow:** The District's snow emergency plan. (Jack Clark, Westfield, N.J., a First Offender)

**4 Geode-face:** Someone whose beauty is "sparkling inside." (Craig Dykstra, Centreville)

## THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

### Week 857: All FED up

**A**s this week's results demonstrate yet again, the Losers' gushing font of neologism seems never to run dry. So let's turn that contest on its head.

This week: Create a brand-new word or phrase that contains a block of three successive letters in the alphabet — but the series must go backward through the alphabet. The three letters may stretch across a hyphen or two words.

Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place gets — only if the Loser really would like it, because we want to see it go to a loving home — this diorama depicting "Sweeney Todd," with actual Peeps marshmallow bunnies as the human characters (including the meat pie material). An honorable-mention winner in last year's Washington Post Peeps diorama contest, "The Demon Barber of Peep Street" was created and donated by Losers Craig Dykstra and Lois Douthitt. We're not going to risk mailing it (but could drive it to you), so if you're not in the D.C. area, or you'd rather not gaze repeatedly upon this cubic-foot-or-so sculpture, we'll send you a mug or T-shirt instead.



CRAIG DYKSTRA

**SWEETLY TODD:** "The Demon Barber of Peep Street" — last year's diorama, this year's Loser prize.

**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](mailto:losers@washpost.com) or by fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, March 1. Put "Week 857" 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 March 20. 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 and this week's honorable-mentions subhead are both by Jeff Contompasis.

## TRI AGAIN: HONORABLE MENTIONS

**Abcadaver:** The woman who really did get sawed in half in the magic act. (Larry Yungk, Arlington)

**Afghanistunned:** Simply amazed that a country the British Empire and Soviet Union couldn't conquer might put up a tough fight. (Russell Beland, Fairfax)

**Bat-uvula:** A weird glob of something that hangs from your ceiling. (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

**Beef galosh:** Really tough steak. (Beverley Sharp, Washington)

**Blooperstown:** Where Bill Buckner's headed. (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

**Cudgelmnemonics:** The old-school practice of hitting the kid until he got it right. (Peter Metrinko, Gainesville)

**Defeast:** Barf. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

**Defecrate:** A porta-potty. (Howard Walderman, Columbia)

**Deficits pending:** The fate of a public that wants lower taxes and higher government benefits. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

**Deflawyered:** Screwed by one's attorney. (Jan Brandstetter, Mechanicsville, Md.)

**Mnemonic:** A device that helps you forget. (Willard Goodman, Bethesda; Cathy Lamaze, North Potomac, both First Offenders; Kyle Hendrickson, Frederick)

**Flabcake:** Beefcake after a number of years and a number of beers. (Steve Glomb, Alexandria, a First Offender)

**Flabcoitus:** When two heavy people make love, it's like having their own built-in waterbed. (Peter Metrinko)

**Franklindelanophobia:** The fear of fear itself. (Chris Doyle)

**Gandhi jacket:** A loincloth. (Kevin Dopart)

**Gopquiz:** A test in which the answer to every question is "No." (Brian Baker, Washington)

**GPStupido:** Someone who blindly trusts technology to the point of following the direction to "turn left and proceed" in the middle of the Wilson Bridge. (Craig Dykstra)

**Granophone:** Last year's Nokia. (David Kleinbard, Jersey City)

**Guanopolis:** Rhymes-with-city city. (Kevin Dopart)

**Hearstay:** Unsubstantiated gossip that lives forever on the Internet. (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)

**Hijerk:** A terrorist who tries to take over an airplane by threatening to blow his pants off. (Jim Noble, Lexington Park)

**Hog Hillel:** A barbecue joint that never got any customers. (Kevin Dopart)

**Hymnosis:** The method televangelists use to encourage people to part with their money. (Dion Black, Washington)

**Laughingstick:** An embarrassingly small member. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

**Limbaughing:** Seeing how low you can go. (Erik Wennstrom, Bloomington, Ind.)

**Luvwoo:** Kissy-talk that causes others to vomit. (Kyle Hendrickson)

**Noplanetarium:** The new Pluto Museum. (Judith Cottrill, New York)

**Ohnophile:** Someone obsessed with gloom and doom. (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

**Popquest:** A visit to the sperm bank. (George Smith, Frederick)

**Preno:** An agreement to abstain until the wedding night. (Lois Douthitt, Arlington)

**Omnoxious:** Managing to annoy everyone. (Tracy Griggs, Reston, a First Offender)

**Rotwurst:** Roadkill. (Tom Witte)

**Sexyzygote:** The one that wins the race. (Laura Miller, Gainesville)

**Side-fry:** Illegitimate children. (Tom Witte)

**Snide-flushing:** Repeatedly running the toilet in the stall next to the guy on the cellphone. (Kevin Dopart)

**Stud pharm:** The Viagra factory. (Craig Dykstra)

**Stupa dupa:** A really good Buddhist. (Robert J. Inlow, Charlottesville, a First Offender)

**Xenophib:** Spiteful lie told to tourists (e.g., "You'll want to take the Metro Green Line to Georgetown . . ."). (Randy Lee, Burke)

**Zaideflora:** The thick growth that sprouts out of old men's ears. (Michelle Stupak, Ellicott City)

**And Last: FirStank:** Why you didn't win a tree-shaped air freshener. (Ellen Raphaeli, Falls Church)

**Next week: What's not to liken? or Parallel lines**

**Online discussion** Have a question for the Empress or want to talk to some real Losers? Join the Style Conversational at [washingtonpost.com/styleconversational](http://washingtonpost.com/styleconversational).

# Hilfiger brings down the tents and era at N.Y.'s Bryant Park

FASHION FROM CI

tication. There were thigh-skimming kilts with paper-bag waists, a cherry-red pea coat cropped just above the waist, duck boots propped up on four-inch heels. The collection walked a fine line, indeed, it walked a Spirograph of fine lines. The style was preppy but not staid. It was joyful but not childish. It was cozy but not smothering.

## Reed Krakoff collection

These were all lessons that Reed Krakoff, who had once worked for Hilfiger might want to take to heart. Krakoff has become a wealthy man as creative director for Coach, where he has masterfully developed a leather goods company that hits the pricing sweet spot between \$1,500 designer bags and \$100 mass market ones. Under his aesthetic guidance, Coach has developed into a \$3.2 billion company. On

Wednesday evening, he presented a luxury ready-to-wear collection, a division of Coach, that bears his name. It has the same whispers of American sportswear innovator Bonnie Cashin and classic preppy style that have been the foundation of Coach. But what Krakoff's heavy cabin coats, baggy trousers and awkwardly cut leather skirts reveal is that simplicity is not easy. It requires a keen eye for proportion and an astute feel for fabric that may take some time to develop in a designer who has been immersed in accessories.

There was nothing terribly wrong with Krakoff's collection, but in a mature fashion industry in which companies such as J.Crew and Ann Taylor can offer as much style as any designer label — a reality that Krakoff, himself, has exploited at Coach — the onus lands on high-priced labels to not just get things right. They must be as close as humanely possible to perfect.

sible to perfect.

The collection that Francisco Costa showed for Calvin Klein achieved just that. This wasn't one of Costa's more experimental seasons. He was not trying to work magic with geometry, as in the past when he was a wizard who made squares and rectangles of fabric hang elegantly around the curves of the female form. Instead, exaggerated seams, softly molded shoulders and subtle asymmetrical hemlines defined this collection.

His palette was austere — shades of gray and ivory, mostly — and his fabrics boasted a sheen that reflected the light and gave the models a refined glow. The clothes were not gimmicky. They looked incredibly simple, but that was pure misdirection. Simplicity is never quite so captivating.

Bryant Park, by consolidating so many of the runway shows, set the American fashion industry on a trajectory toward growth and maturity. It gained a critical mass and became more centralized. But if any designer's growth — in terms of dollars and mythology — has outpaced that of the industry as a whole, it's Ralph Lauren's. It's been more than a decade since he showed a collection in Bryant Park. Lauren deserted the tents for his wood-paneled Madison Avenue showroom and then for SoHo, where the welcoming floral arrangements in his foyer cost almost as much as a Smart Car. His swagger and influence make the tents seem small and quaint. After all, Lauren once presented his collection in the terraced gardens of New York's Central Park.

## Isaac Mizrahi's collection

Designer, talk show host, lounge singer and bon vivant Isaac Mizrahi could only conjure up a Central Park set — a mere facsimile of the real deal — for his Thursday afternoon Bryant Park



MARIA VALENTINO FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

**SPARKLING:** Isaac Mizrahi's collection included glittering dresses with abstract prints.

show. He offered an upbeat collection of glamorous sportswear with sequined cable-knit sweaters, glittering parkas and dresses with an abstract skyline print. One could almost hear Mizrahi's effusive hyperbole — It's fabulous, right? — as the models strolled the runway. For the record: Yes, Isaac. It is, indeed, fab.

But back to the Lauren, who's name resonates beyond the insular world of fashion insiders. His sensibility is pure Mayflower Americana. He practically saved "The Star-Spangled Banner," committing more than \$10 million for its restoration. But the collection he showed Thursday morning was a curious confluence of "Princess Bride" meets Stevie Nicks. There was a purple-velvet tunic with Elizabethan sleeves, cropped tweed jackets

with puffy leg-of-mutton arms and long, flowing floral dresses. When the collection focused on sharply tailored garments such as the olive tweed coats it spoke confidently in the Lauren vernacular. But when it strayed into garments that had the feel of costume, one longed for Lauren to return to his roots, get in touch with real people and go back to the classic style that put him on the path to building his \$5 billion brand.

In the past 17 years, American fashion companies such as Polo Ralph Lauren have expanded globally and gone public. They have transformed from mom-and-pop companies into corporations that must answer to stockholders. All of that growth could lead to a dilution of creativity. But along the way, the industry has nurtured young designers and helped them come into their own.

Lazaro Hernandez and Jack McCollough, the designers behind Proenza Schouler, exemplify how Seventh Avenue has sought to build its future. They have been helped along by editors, business mentors and financial prizes. They presented their collection Wednesday evening in a small art space in Chelsea. They created high-waisted, rubber-printed jeans in conjunction with J Brand denim. They also mixed in jacquard mini-skirts, layered knits and wool coats inspired by varsity jackets. The collection wasn't perfect. Some of the bubble-hem skirts looked like prom attire — albeit in a very well-to-do school district. But it was filled with creativity, surprises and daring. And as the fashion industry prepares to move into its new home at Lincoln Center and begin a new era, those ingredients will be invaluable.

[givhan@washpost.com](mailto:givhan@washpost.com)



CAROLYN HAX

## Does she want 'the one' or fun?

Adapted from a recent online discussion.

Dear Carolyn:

My girlfriend has told me that she's finally done "sowing her oats." She cheated on me two months into our relationship (she says we weren't exclusive at that point — I argued that we'd slept with each other and were). I just found out that after two years of dating, she slept with two other guys as well. She cried and told me how sorry she was, but I don't know if I can ever trust her. She says she has an extremely high sex drive, but I don't buy that excuse. How can I rebuild trust between us?

Va.

"I" can't. She has to do it. And all she's building now are defenses and excuses, which are anathema to trust.

Trust can be built only on a smooth foundation, meaning there are no residual lumps of bad behavior, and no cracks of resentment for that behavior.

And as evidence that she's finished cheating on you, you have nothing except her words, which have negligible value — not just because of her past dishonesty, but also because of her present need to rationalize her mistakes. "I have an extremely high sex drive"? Seriously? She thinks that makes deceiving you okay?

I don't necessarily agree that your having slept with her at the two-month point meant you were automatically exclusive (if that's what you were arguing); while she should have told you she was sleeping with other people, you should have made your expectations clear.

But that's a minor point. She needs to own her behavior one way or the other — either by admitting openly that commitment isn't for her, or by realizing she is ready to change. To make a credible case for the latter, she needs to acknowledge the dark part of her that drove her to cheat and lie, and deplore that side of herself, and articulate the way she wants to be.

I don't see any sign of her owning anything. Without that, expect the status quo: She'll want the security of a relationship, the freedom to do what she wants and a pass on doing any hard work on herself.

**Re: Va.'s girlfriend:** How should she address her behavior? Does this fall under the sexual addiction category that would require a specialist, or is this just a general therapy issue?

Anonymous

It doesn't have to be either, if it's just a choice to satisfy herself in a way that seems appealing at the moment.

If it's just a choice, then all it takes is for her to 1) want to change, and then 2) start being the person she'd rather be.

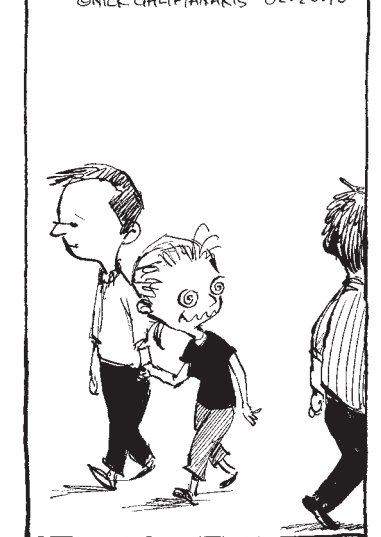
If it's not a pure choice — meaning, say, she feels regret when she strays, doesn't like herself for it, but still does it — then I would suggest therapy with someone who at least has solid experience treating hypersexuality, if not necessarily specializing in it.

And if she wants to keep "sowing her oats" without apology, then all she needs is to start telling the truth.

Read the whole transcript or join the discussion live at noon Fridays on [www.washingtonpost.com/discussions](http://www.washingtonpost.com/discussions).

Write to Tell Me About It, Style, 1150 15th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20071, or [tellme@washpost.com](mailto:tellme@washpost.com).

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BY NICK GALIFIANAKIS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

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SERIOUSLY, ROZ? YOU'RE GETTING AN AUTOGRAPH?

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ALL PRETTY GOOD VALUES.

THE BEST! I WAS PRACTICALLY RAISED BY THE WIFE!