

Among the 230 blots of Invitational ink (1996-2025) by Howard Walderman (1938-2025)

[\(read his humorous self-penned obituary here\)](#)

From a contest for bad criminal ideas:

1. Selling pirated Milli Vanilli tapes.
2. Using the competitive bidding process to hire a hit man. (1996)

Things to write on the blackboard as punishment, a la Bart Simpson:

I am not a licensed gynecologist. (1997)

A cautionary proverb during the Clinton administration:

Any further White House shenanigan

Must not involve the presidential bananigan. (1999)

Bad pickup lines:

"Hi. I have a very fancy signature." (2001)

"I don't get no respect" jokes:

The tollbooth operator told me to take my business elsewhere. (2001)

The week after the September 11 attacks: "Make us laugh."

There is one huge problem with the guarantee of 70 virgins for each martyr in Paradise. What can one do with six dozen women? The guarantors either don't know Paradise or don't know women. (2001)

Sign of incompetence at one's profession:

Middle Eastern terrorist: Travels under the name Joe-Bob El Aziz. (2001)

Children's books you will never see:

How to Help Strangers Find Lost Puppies (2003)

Rhyming couplets about historical events:

1. In 79, Mount Vesuvius flashes,
Knocks those Pompeians right on their ashes.
2. In '38 Chamberlain traveled to Munich,
Had a nice chat and he came home a eunuch.

Ways to boost The Washington Post's declining circulation:

Snazzy new section names: The obituary page would be "Post Crypts," and Weekend would be "Get Your Big Butt Up and Out." (2005)

What was said vs. what was thought:

Upon visiting your 3-year-old grandson: "What a big boy you are!"
(Do you think your parents might get you toilet-trained in time for your wedding?) (2007)

Googlenopes – phrases that had no Google hits:

"Darfur condo rentals" (2007)

Stupid questions at a job interview:

"So on my time card, would March Madness count as sick leave or religious observance?" (2007)

Questions for the "Car Talk" guys:

I plan to drive to the top of Pikes Peak this summer. Is there a training regimen I can put my car through so it'll be prepared for the altitude? (2007)

Lessons learned from watching a presidential debate:

If you can't say something nice about someone, compensate by saying bad stuff over and over. (2008)

Similarities between any two people on a list we supplied:

Moses said, "Do not commit adultery."

Clinton said, "Do not admit adultery." (2008)

Awwk-ward situations:

1. Your dog deposits on a stranger's lawn, and the stranger is standing right there watering the flowers, and you realize that the only possible pickup device on you is your Nationals cap.
2. The song selected for your "American Idol" round is "The Itsy-Bitsy Spider." (2008)

Bogus trivia:

A mixture of Screaming Bubbles and green tea makes an excellent laxative as well as an effective oven cleaner. (2009)

Define someone or something in exactly ten words:

Benjamin Netanyahu: In any conflict, depend on him to make a settlement. (2010)

If one institution on our list ran another one on our list

If WikiLeaks ran FedEx Field, it would pre-publish the Redskins' Sunday game plans, which opponents apparently have access to anyway. (2010)

Spin a negative headline into positive news

Tom DeLay, former U.S. House leader, sentenced to 3 years in prison

Spun: DeLay will be following in the footsteps of Mandela, Gandhi and King . . . (2011)

Bank heads:

1. *Real headline:* Some Assembly Required

Bank head: Tea Party grudgingly acknowledges necessity of legislative branch (2011)

2. *Real headline:* Davis ends hitless streak in a big way

Bank head: First baseman finally punches heckler (2018)

Combine two movie titles:

Annie Halloween: The horror of having an affair with Woody Allen. (2011)

Translate one of The Post's horoscopes:

Libra: "It's also a great time to head outdoors with your friends, if that can be managed."

Meaning: The prison break is a go. (2014)

If certain people were more honest:

If NBA players were more honest, when a teammate missed the first of two foul shots, they would slap his face rather than his hand. (2016)

Predictions for 2018:

In the seventh round, the Minnesota Vikings draft an end zone choreographer out of Juilliard.

Tweaked movie titles

Martin Scorsese could do a documentary on the White House: Malice Doesn't Live Here Anymore. (February 2021)

Helpful hints for life:

When I learned that my son's English class had been assigned to read "Moby-Dick," I gave my son the comic book version so he'd have more time for football practice. (2022)

Signal text chats among Trump officials:

MarcoR: Karoline, how are you going to spin it when they ask about the Maryland man we sent to the horrible Salvadoran prison by mistake?

KaroLev: I'll say to err is human, so this is an excellent illustration of our administration's amazing humanity. (2024)

“Air quotes”

AD“VANCE”: To climb the political ladder by suddenly ignoring all your previous views. (2025)