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Editorial Freelancers  
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71 West 23rd Street  
New York, NY 10010-4181

# THE FREELANCER

## Freelancing, Copyright, and the Law

**T**HE SCENE OPENS on a press conference. The president of a global magazine speaks into the mike. "Global Geographic is planning to reproduce all issues of our magazine on CD.

The profits will go to the many fine women and men who have contributed to our magazine over the years."

The camera pans the audience. There in front, beaming at these words, is Gene Hackman ... wait, no, it's a prominent New York attorney. Though not mentioned in this speech, he and the speaker know his hand in this decision. He doesn't want recognition, he just wants the right thing to be done. And the girl.

As the clapping and cheering subsides, the attorney looks at his companion, the young woman who hired him. The case now settled, they are no longer attorney and client. As they gaze into each other's eyes they can finally speak to what their hearts have been whispering.

[Fade to black.]

[The End.]

Well, that's not exactly how it happened. Stephen Weingrad, an attorney specializing in copyright infringement, tried a case involving *National Geographic*, but the outcome was different from the version depicted here. Weingrad wants to turn his dozens of boxes of case files from this lengthy and complex case into an exposé or documentary, or possibly a movie. After an evening listening to Weingrad, it seems clear that this colorful character belongs on the big screen.

Weingrad came to the EFA office on January 25 to share some of the wisdom he's acquired in almost 40 years of practicing law. You already know most of the advice he gave: keep good work records, keep track of rights given, keep records in a safe place and let important people in your life know where to find those records in case something happens to you. It's also a good

idea to register your new work at least once a year with the Library of Congress ([www.copyright.gov/register](http://www.copyright.gov/register)).

The good news is that keeping these records can help in case of copyright infringement. For instance, Milton Greene, the fashion photographer, promised his friend Marilyn Monroe that he would safeguard her autobiography until after her death.

After she died, he signed an agreement with a publisher. That publisher went bankrupt, another publisher bought the bankruptcy assets, and a book was published without proper attribution to Greene. Eventually, Weingrad was able to help sort things out

and the book will be published in the near future, with appropriate attribution to Greene.

The bad news is that interpretation of rights is not a black-and-

white issue. In the mid-90s, the National Geographic Society was planning a CD collection of its entire magazine production, spanning more than 100 years. They considered it a re-publication of the magazine and so did not pay additional royalties. A number of contributors brought cases against *National Geographic*, stating that the CD was a new publication and required additional payment. These cases were handled in several locations, including New York and Florida. One notable case, *Greenberg v. National Geographic*, was initially dismissed by a Florida court. An appeal in the 11th District ruled in favor of Greenberg.

A similar case, *Tasini v. The New York Times*, was being tried at the same time. *Tasini* involved the National Writers Union in protest against major news publications that were selling previously published material to online databases, like LexisNexis, with no additional payment to the original authors. The Supreme Court decided that these articles, appearing in online databases

*Continued on page 2*

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**The new terrain of digital media and  
the Internet is like the Wild West; it  
has not yet been tamed.**

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# Happy Trails

All members will soon be getting cards from the Hertz Corporation entitling them to an EFA discount on automobile rentals in the United States, Canada, and abroad. Here is a rundown on the discounts and applicable regulations:

***In the United States:***

- 15% discount on Hertz Daily Member Benefit Rates (car classes A through F compact 2-door through full-size 4-door)
- 10% discount on Hertz Standard Daily, Weekend, Weekly, and Monthly rates (all car classes)
- 5% or greater discount on Hertz Leisure Daily, Weekend, Weekly, and Monthly rates (all car classes)

***In Canada:***

- 10% discount on Hertz Standard Daily, Weekend, Weekly, and Monthly rates (all car classes)
- 5% or greater discount on Hertz Leisure Daily, Weekend, Weekly, and Monthly rates (all car classes)

***International:***

- Where such discounts are permitted by law, a 20% discount in Europe and a 10% discount at all other participating international locations on published “Basic Time and Kilometer Rates” or “SUM Daily Rates”
- 5% discount on Hertz Affordable Europe non-prepaid rates
- From time to time Hertz may add discounts in specific countries subject to agreement by each country’s Hertz affiliate or licensee.

All renters are required to meet Hertz’ standard qualifications in effect at the time and place of rental for financial responsibility and for renting or operating Hertz vehicles. Hertz Rental Agreement terms and conditions shall apply to all vehicle rentals. In the United States, the minimum age for any renter to receive rates, discounts, or other benefits under this agreement is age 25 (exceptions apply).

—Louise Weiss

**Freelancing, Copyright, and the Law***Continued from page 1*

out of their original context, constituted a new publication, not a re-publication.

The Tasini and Greenberg cases seemed like good news for Weingrad and his clients. However, a New York court ruled in favor of *National Geographic*. In *Tasini*, the online databases supplied articles as separate entities, not in the context of the original publication. But in the *National Geographic* case, the CDs had a virtual reproduction of the magazine, complete with digital page turner. This court saw the CDs more like microfiche, an acceptable re-publication of the original content. So now there were two decisions, one for and one against. A request was brought to the Supreme Court to make a ruling, but they declined to accept the case.

The new terrain of digital media and the Internet is like the Wild West; it has not yet been tamed. Try to understand exactly what rights are needed for a particular project and give only those rights, retaining all others.

Weingrad offered a few other simple tips, such as adding the phrase “Rights transferred upon final payment” to your invoice or statement. If some clients take a very long time to pay, it’s acceptable to charge interest after a period of time. Add a phrase like “A charge of 1.5% will be added to all amounts past due 60 days” to your invoice. If a client has a standard contract, it’s okay for you to request that a particular paragraph be removed. You may have to negotiate about it, but it’s perfectly acceptable to ask for what you want. If a client comes to you with a rush project, see that as a red flag. And understand that they may need you more than you need them. If you are interested, use their need as leverage to get what you want.

If all goes well, we will not need the services of Mr. Weingrad. If we do need his expertise, let us hope we will catch him between blockbuster movies, where he’s sure to become a star.

—Helen McLean

*McLean, a technical writer at the computer center in the central office of CUNY (City University of New York) for over 15 years, recently joined EFA.*

# Ten Days with the Prince

## A True Story

IT WAS EARLY one morning when I checked my e-mail for the day. I didn't expect anything to be in my "business" e-mail identity yet, but it never hurt to check—and there it was: Services Required. To paraphrase, the sender, Hassan Omar, wanted to engage my services as a translator for his "french" (definitely not my capitalization error) wife and their five-year-old son while they shopped on a little vacation in Washington, D.C. I would be needed six hours a day for ten days. How much would I charge? Signed Hassan al-Omar. The signature on the e-mail read: In the light of truth....ABDU RU SHIN [THE ROYAL COURTS], 44 AL-BARAHA ROAD, DEIRA, DUBAI – UAE. At the very bottom of the e-mail was: Do you Yahoo!?

Well, I still had my chores and errands to occupy my day, so I decided to think (thinking being one of my favorite pastimes). So what was I thinking? Well, The Royal Courts? United Arab Emirates? Yahoo!? How much should I charge? How did he get my e-mail address? I tried to Google different possibilities for French translators, and I never found myself. Furthermore, that address wasn't yet very well advertised.

Finally, a few days later (yes, I can spend a long time thinking), I replied in the affirmative, politely asking a healthy fee to go shopping and sightseeing with his family. I also asked where he found my contact information and for details regarding exact dates and times. The reply was positive and slightly vague. He would be arriving in about three weeks, his protocols would be handling all the reservation details (it was also one of his protocols who had found my contact information). He reminded me that this would be strictly a sightseeing and shopping trip, and if I would acknowledge via e-mail that I wished to proceed, he would instruct an advance payment of five thousand dollars to "book down" my services. This e-mail was signed Hassan Ibn al-Omar, followed by a phone number.

Okay, so I'm receiving a pretty deposit. Five days after the initial e-mail, I receive a message that Hassan Omar has concluded with his "USA correspondent in texas [sic] and payment will be with [me] next week." I should keep in mind that I may have to do a few pre-arrival arrangements, but I will be reimbursed for any extra charges before he leaves the U.S. Oh, his first son in high school really wants to come also, so it will be his family of four (and all their protocols).

So the check is in the mail. Here and there in my life, I have had moments of wisdom. Along the lines of "don't count your chickens before they hatch" are "you haven't won the lottery until you've received the check" and "the money's not in the bank until the check clears." Of course, my husband and I are thinking about what we'll do with this little windfall, but we don't go out and buy a car on credit or anything—how silly would that be? I send an e-mail to Hassan Omar that I look forward to touring Washington with them. He replies that I should come visit Dubai sometime and see what tourism is all about—"enjoy our little royalty, too." At this point, I notice that the return e-mail address shows Hassan to be Prince Hassan Omar. So the Royal Courts of Dubai use Yahoo! Maybe Charles and Camilla Yahoo! too! Really, what do I, diluted commoner that I am, know about the habits of the pure bloods?

Continued on page 4

## Calendar

### Monday, March 13

#### Scrabble Night, 6-9 P.M.

Wordplay with freelance colleagues and friends.

### Thursday, March 30

#### General Meeting

#### Networking 6 P.M., Program 6:30

*Science Writing and Editing for Kids Books and Magazines*

Sponsored by the EFA & *Science Writers in New York (SWINY)*.

Panel moderated by Sarah Webb, a freelance science writer and regular contributor to *Science News for Kids*, a Web site of *Science News* magazine, for kids aged 9-13.

### Monday, April 10

#### Scrabble Night, 6-9 P.M.

And more wordplay—the freelancer's delight. For more info: *Elizabeth Parry* @ [ziffdavis.com](mailto:ziffdavis.com)

### Wednesday, June 21

#### Annual business meeting, election, and party

Watch the EFA Web site for details.

Unless otherwise specified, meetings, special events, and affinity groups begin promptly at 6:15 P.M. in the EFA offices, Suite 1910, 71 West 23rd Street (networking for 30–45 minutes beforehand).

Affinity groups usually meet once a month; the schedule and meeting topics are announced on the Web site or by e-mail to members. Contact the office or affinity group leaders for late-breaking information on dates, topics.

#### Affinity Groups and Leaders:

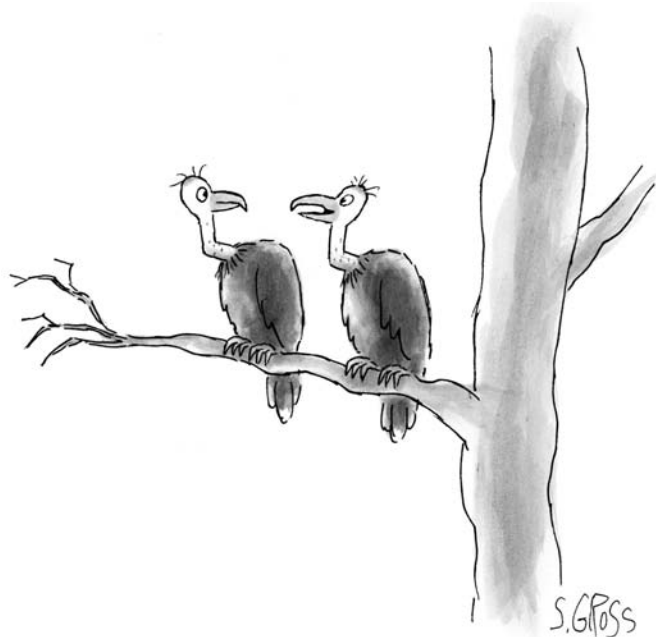
##### New Freelancers

Margaret L. Moser

[margaret.moser@verizon.net](mailto:margaret.moser@verizon.net)

Please check the Web site ([www.the-efa.org](http://www.the-efa.org)) for up-to-the-minute announcements of EFA meetings and events coast to coast.

As the EFA's newspaper of record, *The Freelancer* often includes in the calendar events which will have already taken place when you receive it.



"Only two things are certain—death and food."

## New Members

NEW MEMBERS  
January 15–March 4

Adelman, Harriet Natick, MA  
 Altman, Ellen Bearsville, NY  
 Antrim, Kathleen New York, NY  
 Barnett, Andre Columbia, MD  
 Beehler, Barbara New York, NY  
 Benson, Kenneth Chatham, NY  
 Bermudez, Sandra Miami, FL  
 Bernstein, Corinne Rego Park, NY  
 Biggar, Virginia Chevy Chase, MD  
 Bleasdale, Dagmar Toluca Lake, CA  
 Boyd-Owens, Rebekah Shelburne Falls, MA  
 Brodsky, Allen Morganville, NJ  
 Casper, Elizabeth Brooklyn, NY  
 Cochran, John New York, NY  
 Cole, Hilary New York, NY  
 Crompton, Carrie Andover, CT  
 Cross, Jane New York, NY  
 Dagle, Michele Cliffside Park, NJ  
 Dinas, Paul Rego Park, NY  
 Eller, Ellen Shelburne Falls, MA  
 Gibbons, James New Haven, CT  
 Greene, Anne Huntsville, AR  
 Gregson, Susan Exton, PA  
 Hedges, Dan New York, NY  
 Hedwig, Mimi Patterson, NY  
 Henshaw, Juli Scottsdale, AZ  
 Himmelstein, Susan East Stroudsburg, PA  
 Hotchkiss, Kate Isle au Haut, ME  
 Johnson, Bruce New York, NY  
 Kinnes, Paula Commerce City, CO  
 Klimek, Julia Sarasota, FL  
 Lail, Heather Evergreen, CO  
 Lambert, Glenn North Hollywood, CA  
 Lane, Cynthia Santa Fe, NM  
 Leonard, Shannon Venice, CA  
 Licardo, Daniel New York, NY  
 Lindner, Jennifer Minneapolis, MN  
 Lucas, Shane Boscobel, WI  
 MacArthur, Cathy Lake Forest, IL  
 Marcus, Steven Newton, MA  
 Masten, Leslee Grafton, MA  
 Meade, Tom Bradford, RI  
 Mehlman, William New York, NY  
 Reveal, Judith Greensboro, MD  
 Rodriguez, Editha Houston, TX  
 Savidge, Charlotte Washington, DC  
 Schott, Sarah Bronx, NY  
 Sharp, Tammy Hombeck, LA  
 Sonnenschein, Barbara New York, NY  
 Staats, Tammy Granville, OH  
 Stratmoen, Jo Columbia, MD  
 Uebelacker, Barbara Beloit, WI  
 Volkman, Janet Sonoma, CA  
 Waldron, Theresa Marietta, GA  
 Walton, Virginia St. Augustine, FL  
 Wheeling, Jennifer Jacksonville, FL  
 White, Cynthia Reno, NV  
 Woodward, Stefanie Golden, CO  
 Wright, George Bayside, NY  
 Wright, Hope South Orange, NJ

## Just as Challenging— and Only a Little Colder

*EFA talks with one of its northernmost members*

WHAT'S A TYPICAL day in the life of a freelancer in Alaska? Wake up, walk across the igloo, thaw out the computer and get busy—and if you're on deadline, only stop long enough to order some takeout blubber—right? (Admit it—that's *kind of* what you were thinking.) Truth is, freelancing in Alaska is very much like freelancing everywhere else. Ask Emily Triplett of Eagle River, a suburb of Anchorage. She's been writing and editing there for about six years—and she thoroughly enjoys what she does. And for the record, the weather in Anchorage is pretty temperate, since it's a coastal city. “It does tend to get dark up here during the winter,” she admits, “but otherwise Anchorage is like any other city. We have Starbucks on every other corner just like everyone else.”

Triplett, a native of Chico, California, has spent her entire life on the West Coast. Her decision to relocate to Alaska began as a whim, she admits: “I wanted to go as far away as I could get without a visa.” Like so many others, Alaska enchanted her—and she decided to stay. “I can't tell you how many times I've gone places around this state and found myself saying, ‘This is so beautiful—I can't believe I live here.’”

Of course, this “last frontier” aura is only so true—and Triplett knows this as well as any of her neighbors. Just as well, because in a true frontier she'd probably have a hard time finding editorial work. Currently she works in the editorial department of a daily Anchorage paper, specifically its weekly arts section. She's also written some freelance articles about local artists and musicians. (She studied both music and literature in college.)

“I'm really just starting with the freelancing,” she says, “but I'm really looking forward to the time when I can be a full-time freelancer.” The first time she got a freelance check, she recalls, “I felt such a sense of accomplishment. People were paying for my writing.” She's also found EFA to be a valuable source of information

about freelancing, especially the members-only e-mail discussion list.

Alaska stereotypes aside, does living there make it harder to get work? “I've found that a lot of potential clients are reluctant to work with someone from so far away,” Triplett says. “I think that even though they know I have e-mail and access to faxes and FedEx, there's still this feeling that we're one big wilderness.” On the other hand, those long,



*New member Emily Triplett extols Alaska's temperate climate.*

dark winter days have proven conducive to work. “When it's cold and dark most of the day,” she explains, “I find it can be a terrific incentive to hunker down and be productive.” She's also found a community of writers and editors who offer advice and encouragement. “I was so glad when other established writers told me I could make a living here,” she says. “I didn't want to have to relocate to San Francisco or New York—and now I know I don't have to.”

All in all, sounds like a pretty nice way to live one's life. (Still—how *does* one thaw out a computer...)

—George A. Milite

*A former co-executive, George specializes in business communications, translating corporate jargon and buzzwords into clear, concise English.*

## Ten Days with the Prince

*Continued from page 3*

I tell my mother about the gig, and she adamantly tells me not to do it. It could be a plot to kidnap me. Yes, Mother, the terrorists want to kidnap me because they've learned about the computer chip embedded in my right pinkie containing the secret launch codes for all the U.S. nuclear arsenal. Shh, don't tell anyone else.

A week passes, no check. My Principoo calls, and with all the attendant overseas call delays (very annoying), he tells me the check is coming, don't worry we'll have a great time, no, he doesn't speak French himself—only his wife and his son. Soon after, there's trouble in The Royal Kingdom, the Royal E-dict comes down, Prince Omar has had to travel quickly to Kuwait, "I am still in kuwait [sic], my wife's mum took ill and we needed to attend to her needs before we jet out of town." He has a sudden shortfall of funds and I'll have to send money to his agent so the limousine chauffeur and other things can be reserved. My skepticism is at an all-time high by now. How did my Prince end up with a shortfall of funds? Where are his protocols, don't they have any money? At any rate, all my previous business dalliances with foreign princes have shown them to be nauseatingly eccentric and shockingly careless about money, so maybe I shouldn't be too surprised. They're just not very good at budgeting.

Ah, the literary climax presents itself. The e-mail arrives: He has instructed that a cashier's check in the amount of \$6,500 be sent to me instead of the \$5,000. As soon as I receive it, I must send \$2,700 to his agent (an address in London) via Western Union (he gave me the address of the closest one to me—what a nice guy!). He's "counting on me." Of course, this time I receive the check promptly. There is no return address and the envelope is postmarked from Geneva. I rush to the bank—not to cash the check but to see if it's good. It sure looks authentic. The bank manager says it's drawn on a real bank (in Houston, Texas), but there was no way for her to tell if it was fraudulent or not, so she sends the check to the security department of the bank. Meanwhile, I dash off a missive to my Royal Client saying I wouldn't be able to cash the check for another few days, out-of-state cashier's checks are not treated with the same reverence as in-state ones.

Amazingly, I get a return e-mail. Funds won't be available for a few days? They've had to push back the trip for another week, mum-in-law is critically ill (sniff, sniff). Let him know when I've received the funds, hope I haven't been inconvenienced. Now for the dénouement—climaxes always dénouent, don't they? The call came from security; the beautiful, authentic-looking cashier's check was completely fraudulent. It would have bounced, bounced, bounced. I would have been out \$2,700 of my own money. I'm too polite: I send an e-mail to my Royal Yahoo! to tell him that the check was fraudulent. He doesn't reply.

The fairy tale was not meant to be: no shopping, no sightseeing, no limo (I get carsick when I'm not driving anyway—excuse me, Prince, can I drive the limo for a little while? Of course I can translate while negotiating D.C.), no hatching eggs. The moral? Don't wire money until the cashier's check clears. One last thing: Sometimes ten days last twenty. I didn't charge him extra for the double time—it was too much fun.

—*Dominique Agnew*

*Dominique Agnew has over ten years of experience copyediting, translating between French and English, and writing for newspapers.*

## Free Writing Workshops Offered Nationwide

**W**OMAN'S DAY MAGAZINE is sponsoring free two-hour workshops across the country that will focus on writing for women's magazines. Topics include crafting query letters, developing story ideas, doing research. The workshops will take place on April 4, during National Library Week. Interested persons should contact the library directly to sign up for a spot.

- San Francisco, CA  
Louise & Claude Rosenberg Library  
(415) 452-5569
- Centennial, CO  
Koelbel Library  
(303) 220-7704
- Skokie, IL  
Skokie Public Library  
(847) 673-7774
- Rockville, MD  
Montgomery County Libraries  
(301) 251-7915
- Brookline, MA  
Public Library of Brookline  
(617) 730-2344
- Dobbs Ferry, NY  
Dobbs Ferry Public Library  
(914) 693-6614
- West Chester, OH  
West Chester Library  
(513) 777-3131
- Vancouver, WA  
Lewis D. Cannell Library at Clark College  
(360) 992-2504
- Bettendorf, IA  
Scott Community College Library  
(563) 441-4150

—*Kim Fields*

*EFA North Carolina Chapter Coordinator*

## Classifieds

**FRUSTRATED OR NEW PC USER:** I'll help you learn the Web, e-mail, Windows, Microsoft Word, folder/file organization. Specializing in individual training. Harriet Serenkin, 212-769-1506.

**LEARN TO INDEX.** 3-cassette video—\$159+s&h. Indexers make about twice as much as proofreaders, 50 percent more than copy editors—and they are in demand. Includes lots of info on how to find work and run a successful freelance business—plus lifetime phone support. See *Is Indexing for You?* at [www.abbington.com/holbert](http://www.abbington.com/holbert) or call toll free 877-408-7299

**Bring laughter** into the life of stressed-out brides-to-be with a shower gift of *The Accidental Bride*, "a witty and wise comedy of manners that pays homage to Jane Austen" (*Publishers Weekly*). [www.janiceharayda.com](http://www.janiceharayda.com)

**Learn to Write Speeches**  
Skilled speechwriters can earn \$3,000–\$10,000 per assignment. Joan Detz (author, *HOW TO WRITE & GIVE A SPEECH*, St. Martin's Press, 3rd edition, 2002) offers seminars for Basic, Advanced and Master levels. Visit [www.joandetz.com](http://www.joandetz.com), or call (215) 340-9752 for a brochure.

*Classified ads are accepted on a first-come, space-available basis. \$2/line (approx. 28 characters); 10% discount on yearly (6-issue) contract. Copy to EFA office, [petulatwo@juno.com](mailto:petulatwo@juno.com), attn: M. Ratcliffe.*

**“By necessity,  
by proclivity, and  
by delight, we all  
quote.”**

—*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

## BookExpo America/ Writer's Digest Books Writers Conference

The 4th annual BEA/Writer's Digest Books Writers Conference on Wednesday, May 17, in Washington, DC (prior to the BookExpo America trade show), offers a full day of programming and workshops to help writers improve their craft and get published. For more information: [www.writersdigest.com/bea](http://www.writersdigest.com/bea). Register online at [www.bookexpoamerica.com/writersconference](http://www.bookexpoamerica.com/writersconference). Registration fee (\$189) includes one-year subscription or renewal to *Writer's Digest* magazine.

## Not Just for Scrabble® Buffs

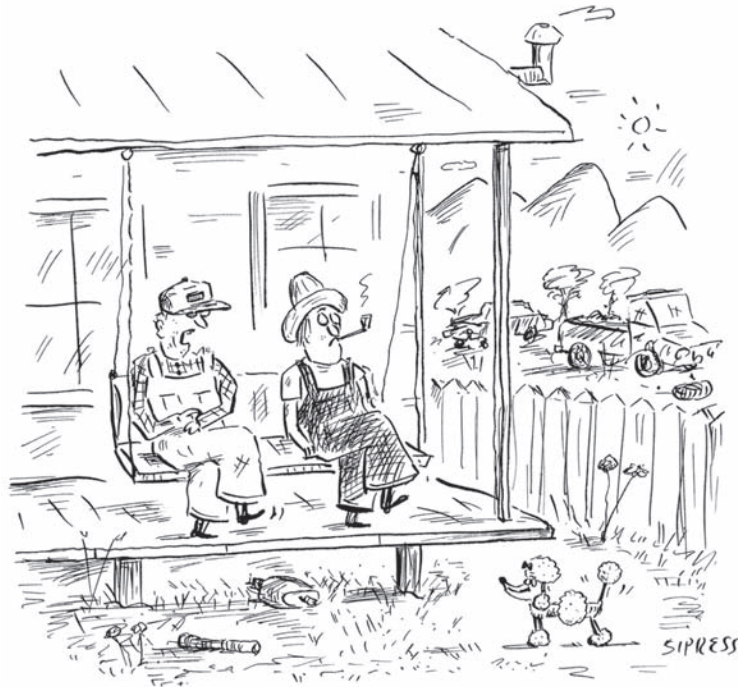
Can you rearrange the letters of these words to form a word or phrase that they (loosely, perhaps) define?

The prize for the first correct entry received: *The Copyeditor's Handbook: A Guide for Book Publishing and Corporate Communications* by Amy Einsohn, 2nd ed., University of California Press, paperback, \$19.95. Send your solution to [wiseword@juno.com](mailto:wiseword@juno.com).

We'll give you a start.  
PRESBYTERIAN  
When you rearrange the letters  
BEST IN PRAYER

Now it's your turn.

DORMITORY  
ASTRONOMER  
DESPERATION  
THE EYES  
GEORGE BUSH  
THE MORSE CODE  
SLOT MACHINES  
ANIMOSITY  
ELECTION RESULTS  
SNOOZE ALARMS  
A DECIMAL POINT  
THE EARTHQUAKES  
ELEVEN PLUS TWO  
MOTHER-IN-LAW



*"That dawg won't hunt."*

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## A Dog's Breakfast of Canine Colloquialisms

***It's not easy being a  
dog-lover and a word-lover.***

**T**HOUGH DOGS HAVE contributed almost as much to human language as they have to human society, many dog-related words and expressions are just not very fair to Fido. There seems to be a metric buttload of "dog-faced liars" in the world, though I've never heard of a dishonest dog, and though some country is always unleashing "the dogs of war," I've yet to see any pooch drop a missile or sever diplomatic relations.

But just as every dog deserves a chance to live and let bark, every dog expression is worth at least a listen, and many are worth a laugh. With apologies to the bazillions of terms I'm leaving out, I'm going to take you on a tour through eleven of the dogs of language. While this mix of obscure and familiar verbiage probably won't help you persuade your own dog to stop digging holes or leave the cat alone, I hope you'll find a phrase to freshen up your next personal ad or letter to the editor.

### ***Dog my cats!***

Maybe you're making do just fine with your

proven, field-tested repertoire of exclamations. I do pretty well myself, when surprised or appalled, with my rotation of "Holy guacamole!" "Yikes!" and "Sweet mother Mary in a motorboat!" Still, "Dog my cats!"—which goes back to at least 1839, according to the *Oxford English Dictionary*—is so silly and catchy that I fully intend to use it next time I'm startled, perplexed, or flummoxed. "Dog my cats!" also reminds me of "Kiss my grits!" which is a good thing.

### ***Every dog is brave in his own yard***

There are variations like "Every dog is a lion in his own home," but no matter how you say it, this proverb is well suited to describe petty

tyrants of all stripes, including the supervisors, cops, politicians, and bus drivers who have a little, tiny bit of authority over a smallish, miniscule piece of turf—and make you suffer for it. I'm an English teacher, so I'm something of an expert in this area.

### ***Dog-collar worker***

Get your mind out of the gutter; this one isn't quite what it sounds like. You're thinking of a "scarlet-collar" worker. A dog-collar worker—which Paul McFedreis in his book *Word Spy* says originated in 1991—is a priest or any other religious type with the proper neckware.

### ***Fill-in-the-blank dog!***

I still don't get why such a benevolent animal is used so often in insults, but doggone it, I can always use a new (or old) way to belittle my fellow man. Shakespeare was particularly fond of putting dog-related insults in the mouths of his characters, and by thumbing through his plays, we can find examples such as "inhuman dog," "Spartan dog," "unpeaceable dog," "thievish dog," "hellish dog," and "whoreson dog." Two of my favorites: In *Timon of Athens*, the title character says, "Away, thou issue of a mangy dog!" and in *The Tempest*, Sebastian says, "Pox o' your throat, you bawling, blasphemous, incharitable dog!" Not exactly the way I'd talk to my dog,

but these poetic lines of venom will come in very handy with some of my relatives.

**Dog-ape**

I deeply love this word (which can also be found in Shakespeare, circa 1600) but I don't know if I can justify my love. It just sounds cool, and a little scary, kind of like the result of an unholy experiment in an Ed Wood movie. But "dog-ape" is a real word, which the *OED* defines as a "dog-faced baboon." This word has many close cousins—linguistically if not biologically—such as "dog pig," "dog cat," "dog ferret," "dog mouse," "dog badger," "dog flea," "dog bee," and "dog bat."

**Proud as a dog with two tails**

This little comparison—which the *OED* traces back to 1953—is often amended to include a somewhat different appendage, but even in its PG-rated form, it sure beats "proud as a peacock" (though I do have a soft spot for the even more obscure "proud as Satan").

**That dog won't hunt**

I couldn't find it in any dictionary, but Google was able to locate over 30,000 examples of this Southern expression. It means that something won't work, especially an idea or strategy that's a bit long in the tooth, like an old dog that is starting to like lying around as much as I do. This expression is one of a few that slanders no dogs, except to make the inoffensive observation that older dogs slow down.

**Dog-whistle politics**

Grant Barrett's *Double-Tongued Word-Wrester* defines this relatively new term (1997) as "a concealed, coded, or unstated idea, usually divisive or politically dangerous, nevertheless understood by the intended voters." In other words, dog-whistle politics subtly appeal to racist, sexist, homophobic, and nationalistic impulses, inspiring many a vile "woof" of mean-spirited support. The types, varieties, and flavors of political deceit will never all be accounted for, but whoever thought of this one has done political writers a huge favor: Now, at least one form of BS can be properly named.

**Dog's breakfast**

This refers to a mess, a hodgepodge, a failure, a clusterboink, or all of the above, and *The Random House Historical Dictionary of American Slang* cites it first in 1934. I think it's safe to say that if you can't find a dozen or two dogs' breakfasts in

your family, workplace, or favorite newspaper, then you just aren't paying attention.

**The dog of God**

This dramatic term, which was used by someone, somewhere, in 1922, simply refers to a polar bear. But some polar bear, huh? Like "hammer of the gods" and "nectar of the gods," "dog of God" is catchy as hell—and great PR for bears to boot.

**I have to see a man about a dog**

Since 1867, folks have been using this euphemism to disguise a visit to the bathroom, though it can also conceal a visit to a bar. Variations abound. Some people say "I have to see a dog about a man," while others have to see a man about a sheep or horse. My friend's son Koan once misheard me and deadpanned "I have to see a man about God," though I may have also misheard Koan, who might actually have said, "I need to see a man of God." That's a lofty goal for a two-year-old, no matter how full his bladder. Hey, whatever gets you out of the room—or article—is all right with me.

Now if you'll excuse me, I have to see a man about a dog-ape.

—Mark Peters

*Mark Peters has written about word-related subjects for American Speech, The Buffalo News, Grist, Mental Floss, Other, Psychology Today, Punk Planet, Slayage, and Verbatim.*

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**Coming Full Circle—Whether or Not a Project Materializes**

**B**ACK WHEN I was new to freelancing, I joined a certain organization for computer users. Contacts first made while that organization still existed have led, directly or indirectly, to my obtaining proof-reading work on half a dozen IT books for one client, obtaining copyediting work on a bunch of white papers for another client, and joining the EFA and a few related associations. The three strands have recently reunited in a rather interesting way.

Some months back, I attended an event sponsored by one association and met a fellow member of the organization; a couple of days later, I sent her my newly redone résumé. (Participation in a couple of EFA programs had played a key role in the redoing.) Several weeks afterward, my IT background (which does of course transcend the handful of materials cited above) helped inspire her to give me a holler about a pending project with a client of hers.

I was asked whether I had a sample available that would speak reasonably directly to

the needs of the project. At the time I had none; indeed, I considered and reluctantly ruled out a few superficially promising past projects as bases for a sample. But then I remembered that one of those white papers had, although on a topic about as narrow as can be, proven to be chock full of readily generalized recommendations; a general discussion of the subject of the pending project being just the kind of sample that had been requested, I had myself a template.

My colleague forwarded credentials plus sample. The project may or may not still be afoot. Still, I think that the story has an interesting moral or two—including about the clear value of always networking.

—Chuck Brandstater

**“I believe in an open mind,  
but not so open that your  
brains fall out.”**

—Arthur Hays Sulzberger



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