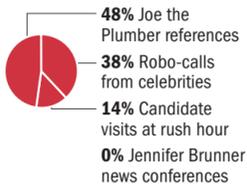


YOU TOLD US

Question: What will you miss least about the election?



Survey questions print in Monday's Dispatch. To cast your vote in our weekly survey, visit Dispatch.com/flipside by noon Thursday.

TRASH TALKING

Trash Talking looks at the week's tabloids, so you don't have to.

Cover blurbs

- ▶ "Jen (Aniston) looks pregnant" (*In Touch Weekly*)
- ▶ "Patrick Swayze collapses" (*The National Enquirer*)
- ▶ "Dying Ted's (Kennedy) desperate gamble!" (*Globe*)
- ▶ "Twins for Jen (Aniston)!" (*Star*)



Hot issue

- ▶ "Why won't Tom & Katie put a coat on Suri?" (*In Touch Weekly*)

Eager partner

- ▶ "Reese (Witherspoon) is finally ready to marry again" (*In Touch Weekly*)

Snap judgment

- ▶ "Miley terrified more steamy photos will end up on the Internet" (*The National Enquirer*)

Nuptial no-no

- ▶ "Martha (Stewart) blows off invite to ex's wedding" (*The National Enquirer*)

Deja news

- ▶ "Britney's back with bad-boy ex" (*The National Enquirer*)

Old flame

- ▶ "Why George (Clooney) went back to his ex" (*In Touch Weekly*)

Green giant

- ▶ "Justin (Timberlake) and Jessica (Biel): Jealousy rears its ugly head" (*The National Enquirer*)

Pitt stop

- ▶ "Finally! Jen spills Brad's darkest secrets" (*The National Enquirer*)

— **McClatchy-Tribune News Service**

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Christina Downs, 24, of Portsmouth, N.H., mounted a full-blown defense against a speeding ticket (44 mph in a 25-mph zone) she received last year — even though, according to the officer, she had to be stopped a second time after leaving the scene. As her own lawyer at her trial, Downs put the officer through a meticulous, 96-point cross-examination about matters such as work hours, training, engineering studies of road speeds, traffic flow, weather conditions, radar technology and the use of a tuning fork to calibrate the radar device. The judge ultimately ordered Downs to pay the \$100 ticket.

— **Chuck Shepherd Universal Press Syndicate**



HOW TO REACH US

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 The Flip Side: Failure is always an option.

THE **FLIP SIDE**
FALL-SAFE
ADVANCE

Losing is just one step on road to **success**

By **Dan Zak**
 THE WASHINGTON POST

With Election Day behind us, many Americans might feel like losers. ★ But experts remind us that just because you fail doesn't mean you're a failure. ★ The trick, they say, is to be a constant student of your evolving strengths and weaknesses — and keep moving forward. ★ As Vince Lombardi — the legendary football coach and mass producer of aphorisms — put it: "Winning isn't everything; the will to win is the only thing." ★ Here are some winning words from people who have known defeat:



▶ "In God's economy, nothing is wasted. Through failure, we learn a lesson in humility which is probably needed, painful though it is."
 — **Bill Wilson**, co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous, in *As Bill Sees It* (1967)

▶ "Failure meant a stripping away of the inessential. . . . Had I really succeeded at anything else, I might never have found the determination to succeed in the one arena I believed I truly belonged. I was set free because my greatest fear had already been realized and I was still alive, and I still had a daughter whom I adored, and I had an old typewriter and a big idea. And so rock bottom became the solid foundation on which I rebuilt my life."
 — **J.K. Rowling**, a billionaire author (the Harry Potter novels) who spent her early writing life broke and jobless, in a Harvard University commencement speech (June)

▶ "Life is to be lived, not controlled, and humanity is won by continuing to play in face of certain defeat."
 — **Ralph Ellison** in *Invisible Man* (1952), his novel about a young black man negotiating racial tension in Harlem

▶ "Remember, if you take risks, you may still fail, but if you do not take risks, you will surely fail. The greatest risk of all is to do nothing."
 — **Roberto Goizueta**, a Cuban immigrant who rose from Coke bottler to chairman and chief executive officer of the Coca-Cola Co.

▶ "Failure is the condiment that gives success its flavor."
 — **Truman Capote**, perhaps hinting at his problems with drug use and celebrity, in his book of essays *The Dogs Bark* (1973)

▶ "Twenty-two years ago, (Stephen) Douglas and I first became acquainted. We were both young then, he a trifle younger than I. Even then, we were both ambitious — I, perhaps, quite as much so as he. With me the race of ambition has been a failure, a flat failure; with him it has been one of splendid success."
 — future **President Abraham Lincoln** (1856), comparing himself with an eventual opponent for the presidency and proving unwittingly that a string of failures doesn't disqualify someone from triumph

CITY LIGHTS

Celebrities have power to stun brains

I've talked to celebrities: Jimmy Dean, Stella Parton, a dude from Korn. You name 'em, I've delved deeply into their affairs.

Before I chat with brand-name humans, I write 20 to 25 questions to try to outline our conversation.

But when I run into celebrities on the street, I'm as star-struck as the next yokel.

On E. Broad Street years ago, I noticed Jim Brown walking next to me.

"I loved you in *I'm Gonna Git You Sucka*," I said — to which the Cleveland Browns' all-time leading rusher replied, "Uh-huh, yeah, thanks," and admirably refrained from punching a hole through my torso.

At Indiana University in the early '90s, Penn Jillette — the tall, speaking half of Penn & Teller — asked me where in Bloomington to buy a Discman. "You're Penn," I said.

"Yes," he said, "Let me ask this again. . . ."

Imagine my delight last month when I was walking past Mitchell's Steakhouse and noticed a man I'd spoken with days prior — ZZ Top guitarist Billy Gibbons, a long, tall Texan with whom I'd had a very good rapport.

While chatting on the phone, Gibbons had talked about a '58 Thunderbird he was overhauling.

"What's your e-mail?" he had asked. "I'll send you some photos."

Days passed; no photos. I chalked it up to life on the road as Billy Gibbons.

I wasn't fixing to start Billygibbonsliedto.com, but did I really think that Billy Gibbons takes time away from chasing skirt and growing beard to e-mail dudes at newspapers?

The guy who sings, "I spied a little thing and followed her all night in her funky, fine Levi's and her sweater kind of tight" messes with e-mail? Come on.

So, when I saw Gibbons chatting in front of Mitchell's, I thought: "Huzzah! I finally actually have something legitimate to talk about."

Alas, Gibbons was deep in a cell-phone conversation and wanted no part of your reporter — a schlep in shorts and a backpack — interrupting his off-the-clock time.

He did notice me hanging around like a pigeon waiting for a crumb.

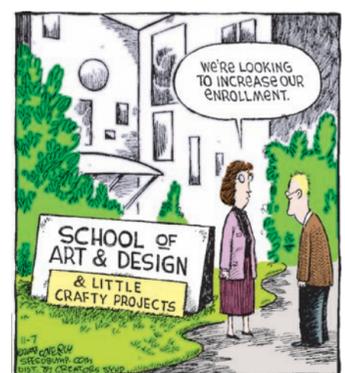
Gibbons broke his hand, I shook it, he didn't break stride in his conversation, and that was that — making me zero for, oh, about 13 in the realm of fruitful encounters with stars on the street.

Aaron Beck covers pop music for The Dispatch.

abeck@dispatch.com

SPEED BUMP

DAVE COVERLY



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

The torch passed

Leonardo DiCaprio is thrilled to have shed the sex-symbol status of his younger days. "I look at young **Zac Efron** and think, 'Go get it, pal; leave me in peace.' I was never happy with the teen-idol tag — never wanted to be a sex symbol or all that stuff." He adds that he has "total respect for how young stars like Zac handle it all."

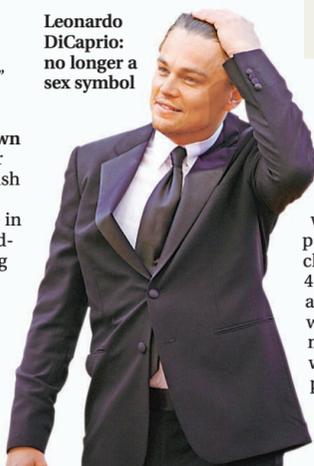
Parting shot

Playwright **Wallace Shawn** blames **President Bush** for causing writer's block. "Bush has mocked law and proclaimed a certain pleasure in sadism and exulted in holding prisoners and torturing them," the *Princess Bride* actor said. "This affects me emotionally. My emotional life has been strongly affected by the fact that Bush was president, and my writing life is affected by my emotional life."

Winners and losers

Ellen DeGeneres is devastated by the passing of a ban on same-sex marriage in California. "Like millions of Americans, (I) felt like we had taken a giant step toward equality" by electing **Barack Obama** as president. But by passing California's Proposition 8, the star said, residents "took a giant step away."

Leonardo DiCaprio: no longer a sex symbol



Birthdays

TODAY

- 90** | Billy Graham, evangelist
- 65** | Joni Mitchell, singer (*Big Yellow Taxi*)
- 51** | Christopher Knight, actor (Peter on *The Brady Bunch*)

SATURDAY

- 59** | Bonnie Raitt, singer
- 47** | Leif Garrett, '70s teen idol
- 41** | Courtney Thorne-Smith, actress (*According to Jim*)
- 33** | Tara Reid, actress (*American Pie*)

SUNDAY

- 56** | Lou Ferrigno, actor (*The Incredible Hulk*)
- 39** | Papa, rapper
- 36** | Eric Dane, actor (*Grey's Anatomy*)
- 35** | Nick Lachey, singer (98 Degrees)
- 20** | Nikki Blonsky, actress (*Hairspray*)

A different role

For comic actor **Tom Arnold**, the role of a child molester in *Gardens of the Night* was more than a job: It was his attempt to put his past as a sexually abused child behind him. From ages 4 to 7, Arnold says, he was abused by a male sitter. "I was a smart kid, and he (my molester) still got to me. So I wanted to portray a pedophile in a way no one has seen before in order to explain how these things can happen. I even wore

the same clothes as him in the movie."

Family affair

Emilio Estevez will appear in an episode of *Two and a Half Men*, joining brother **Charlie Sheen** on the set of the CBS hit comedy. But Estevez won't play a relative to Sheen's character, Charlie Harper. Instead, Estevez will play one of Harper's old drinking buddies.

Fox and friends

Michael J. Fox joined the *Who* during the finale of his

annual "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way To Cure Parkinson's" charity concert on Wednesday in New York. After trading windmill guitar riffs with **Pete Townshend** during the band's performance of *Magic Bus*, Fox said, "This is almost worth getting Parkinson's for!"

No deal

Three *Deal or No Deal* models are suing the Nervous Tattoos photo agency for \$54,000 in Los Angeles. **Claudia Jordan**, **Aubrie Lemon** and **Lauren Shiohama** claim they were promised \$600 each for a one-day photo shoot but were never paid. That's a big markup.

Quote-unquote

"Don't worry about me. I don't need a lonely-hearts ad. I'm off women now." — **Simon Cowell**, after his split from **Terri Seymour**, to Britain's *Daily Mirror*

— **Compiled by Mark Naegele**
mnaegele@dispatch.com