

SMARMY HOMEOWNERS AND LICKED WOUNDS More Funny Bloopers and Snappy Comebacks

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One of my favorite singers is Karen Akers. On October 5, 2009, *The New York Observer*, a weekly newspaper, published a rave review of her new cabaret show. The critic opined that “even seasoned performers twice Ms. Akers’ age are reluctant to try” certain challenging songs. On October 13, a week after the article was published, she turned 64. Reading the article, I wondered: Where are all those 128-year-old singers?

Here’s a new batch of media errors and anomalies, each followed, as usual, by a witty or snarky riposte. Contributions, to the above address, are welcomed.

The Wall Street Journal, Corrections & Amplifications, November 14-15, 2009:

“The Smyrna, Ga., dateline on a page one article Friday about home buyers seeking smaller, simpler homes was incorrectly given in some editions as Smarmy, Ga.”

▶ **Smarmy residents are furious about this mixup.**

The New York Times, Corrections, December 5, 2009:

“A Spare Times entry on Friday about holiday cooking classes misstated the given name of the artist whose portrayal of a family about to eat a holiday meal was described. He was Norman Rockwell, not Normal.”

▶ **But those paintings of small-town Americana all look so. . . .**

The Rosetta Key, a historical novel by William Dietrich (Harper, 2009), Chapter 27:

“The English captain had escaped in part by signaling a lady he’d bedded through the prison windows. . . .”

▶ **With that sort of flexibility, he should have made his escape earlier.**

Chelsea Now, a Manhattan community weekly, January 14-27, 2010:

“Their proposal for the multistory, 2,100-person-capacity space includes . . . a retail shop . . . selling ‘souvenirs, clothing, apparel and T-shirts’”

▶ **Maybe customers will need something to wear with their clothing and apparel.**

The New York Times, March 3, 2010:

“The supermodel Naomi Campbell, who has twice pleaded guilty to assault charges in the last three years, hit her driver on Tuesday as he drove through Midtown, the police said. . . . The driver had a small bruise under his eye from hitting the steering wheel after Ms. Campbell struck him. . . . [Commented her spokesman:] ‘There is more to the story than meets the eye.’”

▶ **We know that the steering wheel did.**

Company website:

“The internet, social media, cell phones, texting and video games have eclipsed the art of person to person interaction, yet basic social skills and respect for others are essential. *socialsklz:-) tools to thrive in the modern world* was founded . . . to equip our children, tweens and teens with these tools to succeed in life. . . .”

▶ **Perhaps spelling should be among them.**

The New York Times, September 5, 2009:

“The author Erica Jong first became socially acquainted with former Lt. Gov. Betsy McCaughey of New York in the late 1990s, a dark time [because of her divorce and a failed political campaign] for Ms. McCaughey. . . . So when Ms. McCaughey started a new charity, the Committee to Reduce Infection Deaths, fighting hospital-borne infections, a few years ago and asked Ms. Jong to join, the author said, she happily agreed. ‘I was happy for her that she had a place to lick her wounds’. . . .”

▶ **Now we know what’s causing all those infections.**

targetwoman.com, a website on health and other topics:

“Diary free lifestyle becomes mandatory for anyone who may be allergic to milk or intolerant to lactose. For some others, a diary free food habit can help subside migraine, reduce cholesterol, increase energy levels and result in permanent weight loss but healthier muscle mass.”

▶ **And with a diary-free diet, you never have to eat your words.**

The Wall Street Journal, book review, March 16, 2010:

“The battery is a relatively simple device. Its powers rest on the differing ability of metals to attract and hold electrons. . . . You can confirm this phenomenon by placing a dime and a penny on your tongue.”

▶ **But who would want to?**