

# Entering the Blog-o-sphere

Using Blogs in the classroom.

# What the heck is a Blog?

*It is not....*

1. A blog is more than just a personal journal.
2. It is more than just a list of random thoughts.
3. It is more than you ranting about how much you dislike the lunchroom pizza.

• • •

*It is....*

1. It is a way for you to organize information, provide analysis (commentary), and interact with others.
2. It is a way for you to engage with each other.
3. It might be about pizza.

U.S.S. Mariner is a site dedicated entirely to coverage and analysis of the Seattle Mariners. They provide in-depth analysis of players, statistics, and opinions about the team and what it should be doing.

This post discusses some of the stranger statistics that the team has logged since the start of the season.

### Numerical Oddities

marc w · April 29, 2010 · Filed Under [Mariners](#)

As you know, the M's enter the final game of April with an 11-11 record, and they've done so without the benefit of Cliff Lee or home runs. All in all, that's not bad.

Much has changed since last April, but looking at the overall numbers, you'd be hard-pressed to see it. For the 2009 season, the M's made contact on 79.6% of their swings. So far in 2010, they've improved that mark to... [79.8%](#).<sup>(1)</sup>

For the 2009 season, the M's were 0.18 runs below average per 100 fastballs – 5th worst in the majors. Thus far, the 2010 team has slumped to 0.72 runs below average per 100 fastballs, or 2nd worst in the majors. All in all, the M's posted a .301 wOBA so far, as opposed to their .300 mark in April last season. *Plus ça change...*

This seems meaningless until you consider the moves the M's made in the offseason. Amongst hitters with at least 50 PA in 2009, 8 of the bottom 10 in contact% haven't played this year: Russ Branyan, Adrian Beltre, Bill Hall, Wlad Balentien and Ronny Cedeno have moved to other teams while Saunders, Carp, Hannahan and Langerhans all play in Tacoma.


The M's acquired Kotchman and Figgins who were solidly above average in contact%, while Milton Bradley was quite close (above average in some years, below in others). So why hasn't the M's contact% gone up? I have no idea, but the M's are swinging and missing like crazy this year. Of the M's hitters, only three have a lower whiff% in 2010 than they had in 2009. Those three are Ichiro, Matt Tuiasosopo and Rob Johnson. Tuiasosopo and Johnson had poor marks in 2009, and Tuiasosopo's 30%+ mark in 2010 is still a cause for alarm. Ichiro is Ichiro, a player who seems to toy with sabmetricians with bizarre small-sample variations.

For the others, though, the difference is striking, particularly since contact rate is amongst the first statistics to [stabilize](#). Milton Bradley's whiff rate (the rate at which a batter swings and misses) is up over 30% from 2009, and well above his career average. Eric Byrnes, for all his faults as a hitter, always made contact... until this year. Franklin Gutierrez's rate is slightly higher than 2009 or his career average, as is Jose Lopez's, Jack Wilson's, Casey Kotchman's and the two-headed hugging machine at DH. The player with the biggest divergence from his average to date? Chone Figgins.<sup>(2)</sup> For the past several years, Figgins annoyingly made contact on 88-90% of his swings. This year, that's down by 10 percentage points. I wouldn't expect this to last, but it's something to watch, and it's about as weird as Kotchman's improved fly-ball rate.

# artsbeat.blogs.nytimes.com

ArtsBeat is a blog run by The New York Times dedicated to covering what is happening in the art world. They discuss music, comics, paintings, poetry, and anything else that is artistic.

This entry covers graphic novels, and links to lists of best-selling graphic novels.



## Arts Beat


The Culture at Large

April 30, 2010, 10:00 AM

### Graphic Books Best-Sellers: Bad Meaning Good

By GEORGE GENE GUSTINES

This week is all about villains. The first volume of "Gotham City Sirens" stars a cabal of Batman's female arch-foes – Catwoman, Poison Ivy and Harley Quinn – and is at No. 9 on the hardcover list. The book, published by DC Comics, emerged after a reshuffling of the line of Batman books following the apparent death of the Caped Crusader. At No. 7 on the softcover list is "Deadpool: Suicide Kings," the latest collection of adventures starring that mutant mercenary whose powers seem to include an infinite reserve of popularity: In June alone, he is the title character in five books published by Marvel Entertainment and he guest-stars in a sixth.



Another team of tough Gotham women is up for grabs as part of a special eBay sale that begins on Sunday. Among the items that will be offered during that auction site's "Comic Book Superhero Event" is the cover to "Birds of Prey" No. 1, illustrated by Ed Benes, an artist known for his ability to render curvy super-ladies. The cover features the duo of Oracle (a.k.a. Barbara Gordon) and Black Canary, along with Huntress, Lady Blackhawk and a cleverly disguised Hawk and Dove. Other collectibles in the special sale, which runs through May 9, include original art, statues and a replica of Iron Man's mask. The full selection of auction items [is available here](#).

The cover of "Gotham City Sirens," Volume 1.

[The complete lists can be found here](#), along with an explanation of how they were assembled. See you next week!

[Add a comment](#) [E-mail This](#) [Print](#) [Share](#)

# hootenannie.com

Hootenannie.com is a site run by a friend of mine. Hers is more of a journal, but she does a good job integrating images and links.

And yes, she was front row at the CMA's earlier this month.

## Swifty

Written by hootenannie on April 8th, 2010

You can take the girl out of Nashville, but you can't take the stage-side-at-the-Taylor-Swift-show-and-THIS-IS-SO-AWESOME out of the girl.

Jenn and I had tickets for the uppermost balcony last night, literally behind the stage. But my most excellent friend Kelli (SHOUT OUT) back in Nashville pulled some strings, and all of a sudden, a man was tapping us on the shoulder and giving us wrist bands and we were... well, we were this close:



# NYTimes blogs!

1. Go to the Googles.
2. Search “New York Times Blogs”
3. Pick one! Skim through it.
  - Follow the hyperlinks to other stories to see the source information.
4. Check out two more blogs, including one that you have exactly zero interest in.

## Current Blogs

### ArtsBeat

A Culture blog providing up-to-the-minute reports from arts and entertainment.



RSS



ATOM

### At War

Notes from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and other areas of conflict in the post-9/11 era.



RSS



ATOM

### Bats

Times sports reporters on the latest news and best stories in baseball.



RSS



ATOM

### Bay Area

Gathering and expanding on the news, politics and culture of Northern California's Bay Area.



RSS



ATOM

### Bits

Insights and discoveries about technology from Times reporters in Silicon Valley and beyond.



RSS



ATOM

### Bucks

Helping consumers sort out the choices in their financial lives.



RSS



ATOM

# Some quick questions...

No one-word answers, please :)

1. What do the blogs you read have in common? **Give examples!**

2. In what ways are they different?  
**Give examples!**

3. Did they provide links to additional information? **Which ones?**

4. Did they discuss the importance of that information? **How?**

5. Did they integrate images into the body text? **Who took them?**

ARCHIVES RSS FEED LINE OUT TIP? MOBILE

## LINEOUT

MUSIC & NIGHTLIFE


**SLOG**  
NEWS & ARTS

@SEAsnows  
Twitter feed of Seattle shows on sale now

**SOUND CHECK** Billy the Fridge: IS LARGE  
posted by TRENT MOORMAN on THU, APR 29, 2010 at 2:09 PM

**Billy the Fridge** is a Seattle MC. He's also a competitive speed eater / nerdcore enthusiast who's not afraid to get large, live large, and be large. Gargantuan actually. Billy is a big man, dicey with his humor and flows. We met at Top Pot Doughnuts for an interview and a speed eating lesson. Rainbow Sprinkle doughnuts are not made to be eaten fast.

**Billy the Fridge: "Cadillac Rollin' Fat"**  
(Featuring Gatsby and Barfly)



**Describe what you do.**  
*Fridge:* I am an entertainer. I started working with local hip-hop back in 2001, out of high school. I dabbled in comedy, rap, even a short stint as a wrestler, trying to find outlets for creativity. I've always been a large human being, so playing up to my fatness was a key ingredient to my character. Now, I just perpetuate my fatness as a positive element, rather than the morbid undertones carried with obesity. Dangling a doughnut from a heavy chain around my neck helps turn stereotypes into conversation pieces.

**Break down some of your speed eating techniques.**  
I'm very grizzled. I always drink a lot of water, as hydration is very important in a machine of my size. That helps to expand my stomach to hold more than your average amount. Also, I don't chew my food very much. It's probably a bad habit in the long run, but it works out well for this arena. Although this didn't work for sushi, some foods can be stacked for maximum intake.

The Stranger's LineOut Blog

# The joys of Wordpress



The screenshot shows the WordPress.org homepage. At the top left is the WordPress logo and the text "WORDPRESS.ORG". To the right is a search bar with "Search WordPress.org" and a "Go" button. Below the logo is a navigation menu with links: Home, Showcase, Extend, About, Docs, Blog, Forums, Hosting, and Download. The "Download" link is highlighted in orange.

The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column is titled "Media Library" and shows a list of media items. The right column contains promotional text about WordPress.

**Media Library**

All (60) | Images (59) | Video (1) | Unattached

Bulk Actions | Apply | Show all dates | Filter

File
<input type="checkbox"/>  Tybee Island Sunset JPG <a href="#">Edit</a>   <a href="#">Delete</a>   <a href="#">View</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>  Maggie at the Beach MP4

WordPress is a state-of-the-art publishing platform with a focus on aesthetics, web standards, and usability. WordPress is both free and priceless at the same time.

More simply, WordPress is what you use when you want to work with your blogging software, not fight it.

New to blogging? [Learn more about WordPress](#), then follow the three easy steps below to start blogging in minutes. Or, for the ultimate in ease of use, [get a free blog on WordPress.com](#).



Ready to get started? [Download WordPress 2.9.2](#)

Wordpress.com is a free blog site and it totally rocks.

## Media Library

All (60) | Images (59) | Video (1) | Unattached

Bulk Actions Apply Show all dates Filter

<input type="checkbox"/>	File
<input type="checkbox"/>	 <b>Tybee Island Sunset</b> JPG <a href="#">Edit</a>   <a href="#">Delete</a>   <a href="#">View</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	 <b>Maggie at the Beach</b> MP4

WordPress is a state-of-the-art publishing platform with a focus on aesthetics, web standards, and usability. WordPress is both free and priceless at the same time.

More simply, WordPress is what you use when you want to work with your blogging software, not fight it.

New to blogging? [Learn more about WordPress](#), then follow the three easy steps below to start blogging in minutes. Or, for the ultimate in ease of use, [get a free blog on WordPress.com](#).

Ready to get started?

[Download WordPress 2.9.2](#)

1. Click “Get A Free Blog”
2. Enter the relevant info.
3. Write down your password somewhere safe.

# Making a Blog

Get your own WordPress.com account in seconds

Fill out this one-step form and you'll be blogging seconds later!

**Username**   
(Must be at least 4 characters, lowercase letters and numbers only.)

**Password**

**Confirm**   
Use upper and lower case characters, numbers and symbols like !"\$%&^\*( in your password.  
**Password Strength:**  
**Strong**

**E-mail Address**   
(We send important administration notices to this address so triple-check it.)

**Legal flotsam**  I have read and agree to the [fascinating terms of service](#).

Gimme a blog! (Like mrisakson.wordpress.com)  
 Just a username, please.

1. Go to [www.wordpress.org](http://www.wordpress.org)
2. Sign up for a free blog. You'll need an email address.
3. **Don't use your full name.** Your handle can be totally fictitious—perhaps “elfwarrior2010”

**End of Part I.**