

Re: WFB goes for the sound

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2005-04/msg01618.html>

- *From:* "Peter T. Daniels" <grammatim@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 30 Apr 2005 13:41:42 GMT
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Ron Hardin wrote:

- >
- > Wm F Buckley
- >
- > It is instructive that the reporters at the press conference ? a full
- > house ? pressed Mr. Bush hardly at all on energy policy. That reflects
- > in part the sense of futility in pursuing a policy question the only
- > effective answer to which is excluded by rudimentary political
- > considerations.
- >
- > Presumably he's avoiding ``question whose only effective answer"
- > because ``whose" seems to him to be the genitive of ``who."

Prescriptivists believe that "whose" can only be used of animates, or even humans.

- > But ``question to which the only effective answer" would have been
- > fine, or even, bravely, ``question which the only effective answer
- > to."

Buckley has been writing like a snobbish asshole for half a century. He's certainly not going to start writing well at his age.

- > Maybe it's the sound of the inversion that he likes, like a moth
- > circling a light.

He also doesn't have the slightest grasp on the facts in this case, either.

He doesn't seem to know that if a reporter challenges this president, said reporter never gets to ask this president a question again.

—
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- *Follow-Ups:*
 - ◆ *[Re: WFB goes for the sound](#)*

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◇ *From: Ron Hardin*

• **References:**

◆ **WFB goes for the sound**

◇ *From: Ron Hardin*

- Prev by Date: **Re: "th" sounds in loanwords**
- Next by Date: **Re: WFB goes for the sound**
- Previous by thread: **WFB goes for the sound**
- Next by thread: **Re: WFB goes for the sound**
- Index(es):
 - ◆ **Date**
 - ◆ **Thread**