

# **Never Threaten to Eat Your Co-Workers: Best of Blogs**

EDITED BY ALAN GRAHAM AND BONNIE BURTON

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## About the Editors

**Alan Graham** is the creator and editor of the Best of Blogs series. A digital chameleon, his career in technology spans over 10 years; he has worked with some of the biggest and brightest companies in the Internet firmament. During that time, appearances include *Wired* magazine, *The London Observer*, Po Bronson's *The Nudist on the Lateshift* (sadly, he is not the nudist), and the Jim Lehrer NewsHour. Since leaving the business side of technology for a writing career three years ago, he has become an author for O'Reilly & Associates, Apress, and WordWare, and he has written for *MacWorld* magazine, *MacAddict* magazine, and the *O'Reilly Network*. Most notably, Alan planned and executed a trip sponsored by CompUSA and Handspring to traverse 10,000 miles, through 20+ states, in just 30 days, using only his trusty PDA to navigate and document the trip. He plans a second trip later this year. His regular columns and blog can be found on the O'Reilly Network at: <http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/au/165>.

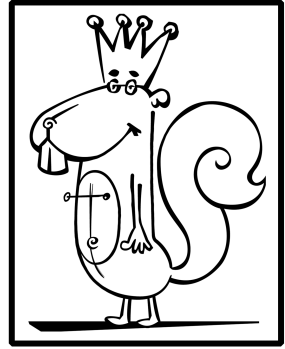


**Bonnie Burton** submersed herself into Web culture long before the word “blogging” was even coined. She's written about everything from online dating adventures to unusual eBay.com collecting obsessions. Her work has appeared in the magazines *Wired*, *The Net*, *Yahoo Internet Life*, *BUST*, and *Organic Gardening* as well as online at @Home Network, MissClick.com, Backwash.com, Winamp.com, and Teenwire.com. She has appeared as a Web pop culture media expert on E! Television, CNN Headline News, BBC, ABC News, Tokyo Broadcasting System and TechTV; and she has been featured in the books: *Complete Idiot's Guide to Online Dating and Relating*, *Net Chick*, *Fierce.Com*, *Alt.Culture: An A-To-Z Guide to the '90s-Underground*, *Online*, *Over-The-Counter*, and *The Real Bettie Page*. The Bonnie Blog and additional columns can be found on her Web site, [Grrl.com](http://Grrl.com).



## About the Artist

**John Burton** is a graphic designer and freelance illustrator living in Connecticut. His recent projects include illustrations for Teenwire.com, Grrl.com, and various other pop culture Web sites. To see more of his illustrations, bizarre haiku, and unfinished plays, visit his Web site, [Ragingsquirrel.com](http://Ragingsquirrel.com).



# Introduction

*Weblog (blog)—A journaled web site composed of personal observations, often with excerpts from additional web sites. Blogs are sometimes associated with online journals or diaries, but are quickly evolving to encompass and suit the needs of their authors.*

A year and a half ago...in the middle of a particularly steamy brainstorming session, somewhere between the Calvin Klein bar soap and the loofa, I was struck with an idea. I was reflecting on an excellent weblog (blog) entry and the remarkable evolution and emergence of the blog in our daily lives, I thought to myself that a lot of this content was as good as anything in print today. I had come to the realization that blogging was not only redefining journalism, but was quickly revolutionizing literature as well. I noticed that I was starting to read more online blog content and less content from magazines and other literary sources.

As a writer, my own blogging is an exercise in saying more with less, and the art of self-editing, a tool to help me be a better writer. But what I found remarkable is that thousands, if not millions, of bloggers aren't professional writers. They push brooms, cook food, park cars, clean hotel rooms, etc. There was this entire writing community who never perceived of themselves as writers, they just had something to say.

Some of it was funny, some thought provoking, but regardless of the message, the one constant is that each blog gives us an in-depth view of another person, without the message being clouded by an editor. Millions of daily observations, thoughts, experiences, memories, rants, all condensed into these neatly packed moments across the World Wide Web.

As I towed off I thought to myself, these people deserve to be published and discovered by others. And so began the journey that would later become this book series.

However...

I found that reading blogs, and more importantly, finding good content, was complicated and time consuming. I was looking for a few needles in an ever-expanding haystack. Together with my co-editor, Bonnie Burton, we spent months reading and collecting the best content we could find. We then struggled for months on how to best present the material. Nothing like this had ever been done before, so no guidelines existed.

Now, some purists will say that translating the blog into print defies everything the blog stands for. It loses some of its power and impact. It loses the dynamic link that makes it a living thing. But, I'd say to them that ideas are always living things, regardless of the medium, because they are linked between our minds. Great ideas transcend their medium and what we found were great ideas.

This book has no political agenda. The task was simply to find people who knew how to convey their thoughts in a way that might make you think, challenge your views, make you laugh or cry, and possibly inspire you to add your voice to theirs. We wanted to be the *Consumer Reports* of blogging.

So enjoy!

## How to Use This Book

Other than the obvious act of reading, you might be interested in how to get the most out of this book.

In order to preserve the feel that what you are reading is literature, we've placed all the information about each blog (site name and URL) at the end of each entry. In addition, you'll find an index in the back of the book so you can easily locate entries from a particular blogger.

Finally, since the only permanent thing you can count on is change, in the event that an author might remove or move their site to a new home on the web, we've assembled a web site to keep this information timely:

<http://bestblogs.blogdns.com>

Also on this web site, you'll find links to a number of bloggers who unfortunately didn't make the final cut of the book. Due to the inevitable issue of page count restrictions, we had to leave out some of our favorite bloggers. So if you enjoy the book and want to take a spin around what we also thought were remarkable entries, please visit the site. And just in case you feel inspired, we've also included a guide with information to help you too get started blogging.

On page 251 you'll find the Editor FAQ which contains all the information on how we assembled this book. Since every aspect of the project was something that hadn't been done before, the learning curve was challenging. And we're still learning. In fact, I want to hear from you. If you want to see us change something, have a suggestion, or just want to give some feedback, you can personally email me at [agraham999@mac.com](mailto:agraham999@mac.com). Like the bloggers in this book, you are part of this project and your input matters.

Thank you for purchasing this book. Each of the blogging contributors is paid an equal percentage of royalties. Your purchase is a show of support for the blogging community and for a new type of literature. It will also help to ensure other Best of Blog books in the future.

Alan Graham

Editor