

Style Invitational

BY PAT MYERS

Report from Week 951

in which we asked you to pair a word with the same word (or the same spelling) or with a homophone — a differently spelled word that sounds the same — and define the resulting phrase. Because the Empress has absolute power niftily combined with Always Knowing What's Best, she decided also to allow a word to be "paired" with a multi-word phrase, and for two multi-word phrases. If you disapprove of the violators, please do not be amused by them.



Fact shun faction: The Fox News Channel lineup. (Kathy Hardis Fraeman, Olney)

2 Winner of the Dear Leader Tongue Scraper, picturing Kim Jong-Il on the package:

Auntie-dote antidote: Spray to ward off smoochy relatives. (Ann Martin, Bracknell, England)

3 Caucasus caucuses: "Everyone who favor Oleg, line up in this corner over here. Everyone who favor other guys, line up in front of open pit." (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

4 Ta-ta ta-ta: Breast reduction. (Dion Black, Washington)

Alexander, Wanneroo, Australia)

Kraft craft: The ancient art of turning cheese into plastic. (Stephen Gold)

Mitt mitt: The glove reluctantly selected from the dugout because all the others were missing, had huge holes or were burned up. (Jon Hensley, Washington, a First Offender)

Mount Mount: The highest point on Lovers' Lane. (Nick Laflamme, Austin)

Moo muu: Muumuu. (Brian Cohen, Potomac)

Putin بوتين': For 10 years it didn't even smell. (Steve Offutt, Arlington)

Staaake Stack: A pile of cartoons in your bathroom, for reading and then, um, repurposing. (Bill Verkuilen, Brooklyn Park, Minn.)

Stayed staid: Calvin Coolidge's most notable achievement. (Dixon Wragg, Santa Rosa, Calif.)

Styx sticks: Oars. (Beverley Sharp)

Tex texts techs: What a cowboy does when his iPod isn't working properly. (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

Toilet toylet: A fixture in Barbie's Dream House. (Barry Sackin, Murrieta, Ga.)

Toto toe tow: How to get Dorothy across the Field of Poppies. (Ann Martin, Bracknell, England)

Verses versus verses: The Style Invitational limerick competitions. (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

See more pairs in the online Invite at washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational.

Next week: Dead Letters, or Hearsery Rhymes



STYLE CONVERSATIONAL
Have a question for the Empress or want to talk to some real Losers? Join us at washingtonpost.com/stylconversational.

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Week 955: Twits' twist

Meteor remote: It lets a couch potato repel falling space junk without getting off his fat asteroid.

Inspired by the word-pairing challenge of Week 951, whose results run this week, Loser Ann Martin suggests a variant: **This week: Create a phrase by combining a word or phrase with an anagram of that word or phrase, and define or describe it**, as in our artist Bob Staaake's very Bobbian example above. The anagram of a single word may be a multi-word phrase, or vice versa.

Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a 2012 Talking Fortune Teller calendar — a large wall-hanger with two buttons that call forth various male and female predictions that are about as daring as a blue blazer and khaki pants at a D.C. budget hearing (e.g., "The odds are in your favor — if your intention is clear"). Donated by the Style section's Donna Peremes, who bought it but said it had started to "creep me out." Donna is easily creeped out, clearly.

Other runners-up win their choice of a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt or yearned-for Loser Mug. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet. First Offenders get a tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Jan. 30; results published Feb. 19 (Feb. 17 online). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include "Week 955" in your e-mail subject line or it may be ignored as spam. Include your real name, postal address and phone number with your entry. See contest rules and guidelines at washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational. The revised title for next week was submitted by both Tom Witte and Dave Prevar; the subhead for this week's honorable mentions is by Tom Witte. Join the Style Invitational Devotees on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev.

Nixed doubles: Honorable mentions

Airline err line: The lost-luggage counter. (Kathy Hardis Fraeman)

Ark arc: A rainbow. (Jason Talbott, Pendleton, Ore., a First Offender)

Boll Bowl: Football game where at halftime the crowd sings "Weevil weevil rock you!" (Christopher Lamora, Guatemala City)

Boring boring: Uninspired adult movies. (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg)

Bris squawk brisk walk: What many a new father has to do as soon as the ceremony is completed. (Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

Bunga bunga: I tink you say in English "executive privilege." — S. Berlusconi (Roger Carignan, Guatemala City, a First Offender)

Butte beaut: Montana Hannah. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

Dip-thong diphthong: Yeow! That's a low bikini! (J.D. Berry, Springfield)

Faux foe: The charmingly annoying co-star at the beginning of any romantic comedy. (Jeff Brechlin, Eagan, Minn.)

Faux tow photo: Car insurance fraud. (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Feted-fetid: The career trajectory of many a politician. (Stephen Gold, Glasgow, Scotland)

Gilt guilt: What the top 1 percent don't suffer from. (Harvey Smith, McLean)

Hangover hang-over: Traditional position at the porcelain throne. (Craig Dykstra, Centreville)

Jerk in jerkin: Unavoidable sight at every Renaissance festival. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Junk junk: To undergo sex reassignment surgery. (Brad



MARLON CORREA/THE WASHINGTON POST

A HAZY POINT OF VIEW: "American Idol" alum Kellie Pickler seems caught between country's traditionalist and insurgent wings.

POP CD REVIEW

Kellie Pickler 100 PROOF



Kellie Pickler came in sixth during her season of "American Idol," but she's eked out a more successful career than most of the show's winners. In a crowded field of Nashville blondes, she's the sweet, scatterbrained one, the one with the troubled back story and the limited range.

Pickler isn't demonstrably sassy or rebellious, torchy or tough. As a substitute for a point of view, "100 Proof," her third album and first in almost four

years, uses Tammy Wynette as a kind of honky tonk spirit guide. On the opening track "Where's Tammy Wynette," Pickler wonders: "Tell me how you fry a skillet of chicken in high heels and a skirt / Where's Tammy Wynette when you need her?" For, say, Miranda Lambert, these would not be pressing concerns, but for Pickler, caught between country music's traditionalist Wynette wing and its insurgent Taylor Swift division, they're reasonable questions.

She picks her way through these entirely decent, thoroughly unremarkable songs without laying a glove on most of them — their fault, not hers. She exorcises a bad childhood on twin ballads

"Mother's Day" and "The Letter (To Daddy)," exercises her newly powerhouse voice on "Unlock That Honky Tonk," and demonstrates some newfound, moderately Wynette-like confidence on "Tough." Or at least, she tries to: "There ain't nothing wrong with a woman that got a little backbone," Pickler reasons, and though women have been saying as much in country songs as long as there have been country songs, she still doesn't sound entirely convinced.

— Allison Stewart

RECOMMENDED TRACKS

"Turn on the Radio and Dance,"
"Where's Tammy Wynette"