



Style

Style Invitational Week 991: Tour de Fours IX: V-O-T-E now; and those messed-with heads



(Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

By **Pat Myers**
October 4, 2012

Vel-veto: A smooth, easy-to-swallow but ultimately cheesy rejection: “He gave her the old ‘it’s not you, it’s me’ vel-veto.”

Love-toad: The once and future prince.

Given that the results to this contest will be published the weekend before Election Day, we figured that the letter block for our ninth annual Tour de Fours neologism contest ought to be pertinent (but shouldn’t be a-r-g-h).

This week: Create a new word or two-word term containing the letter block V, O, T and E and define it, as in the examples above; those four letters may be in any order, but there may be no other letters between them. Hyphenate and capitalize (or not) as you wish. Using the word in a funny sentence is fine; using the word in a blah sentence is unfine.

Winner gets the [Inkin’ Memorial](#), the bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a vintage but unused U.S. military surplus “Supporter, Athletic” from 1946. Donated by Loser Andrea Kelly, who dates from well after that. It’s the Style Invitational, where we give you an old jock for your new joke.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for [Loser Mug](#) or the ardently desired [Grossery Bag](#). Honorable mentions get a lusted-after [Loser magnet](#). First Offenders receive a smelly, 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, Oct. 15; results published Nov. 4 (online Nov. 1). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include “Week 991” in your e-mail subject line or it might be ignored as spam. Include your real name, postal address and phone number with your entry. See contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/inviterules. The subhead for this week’s honorable mentions to be revealed shows the alternative headline in



Most Read Lifestyle

- 1 Analysis**
 A short investigation into Trump’s claims of ‘RIGGED’ Google results against him
- 2** John Goodman reveals Roseanne will be killed off in ‘The Conners’ spinoff
- 3** Why our culture’s mild obsession with Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen may never end
- 4 Perspective**

week's honorable mentions is by Beverly Sharp; the alternative headline in the "next week's results" line is by Chris Doyle. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/inudev.

Report from Week 987

our perennial contest in which we asked contestants to take any headline from a week's worth of The Washington Post and washingtonpost.com and follow it with a made-up "bank head," or secondary headline, that either misinterpreted the original or commented humorously on it:

The winner of the Inkin' Memorial

(Actual Post headline) Romney: 'The sky seems to be crying'
(Fake bank head) 'It's called rain, sir,' explains butler who had accidentally lowered boss's umbrella *(Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)*

2. Winner of the Japanese teeny toy potty with rubbery yellow

mini-poo: Nats throw away chance at the end, fall to Atlanta
New version of 'Gone With the Wind' is big hit in Ga. (Steve Honley, Washington)

3. With Senate at stake, GOP awaits Akin's next move
Many hope it's to Paraguay (Howard Walderman, Columbia, Md.)

4. Rookie Morris gives ground game just what it needs
New Redskins chef makes perfectly seasoned squirrelburgers (Larry Carnahan, Arlington, Va.)

The outer banks: honorable mentions

Thousands protest new austerity cuts
'Keep government's hands off our austerity!' protesters chant (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

Bound for greatness, but not yet
New Obama campaign slogan announced (David Ballard, Reston, Va.)

Councilman's license suspended in past
Brown says he can't produce document because of 'time warp' problem (Rob Cohen, Potomac, Md.)

Obama reaches out to middle-class voters in Colorado
GOP accuses president of 'inappropriate touching' (David Genser, Poway, Calif.)

Capitals players prepare for lockout
Hide extra Verizon Center key under mat (Rob Wolf, Gaithersburg, Md.)

Garcon 'very limited' in practice
Maitre d' slams trainee for insufficient snottiness (Ira Allen, Bethesda, Md.)

Woolly Mammoth goes to the mat, artfully
But mastodon can't master backflip on the balance beam (Gary Sampliner, Rockville, Md., a First Offender)

Prince Harry back in Afghanistan
Palace relieved he escaped Vegas to safer locale (Brad Alexander, Wanneroo, Australia)

Reiley loses job at MWAA
Aunt Edith deemed much better at making kissing noises (Christopher Lamora, Guatemala City)

The peris or being a woman who s
just asking to be left alone



5 Perspective
Carolyn Hax: A kiss-and-don't-tell
with an ex-boyfriend's buddy



washingtonpost.com

© 1996-2018 The Washington Post

Help and Contact Us

Policies and Standards

Terms of Service

Privacy Policy

Print Products Terms of Sale

Digital Products Terms of Sale

Submissions and Discussion Policy

RSS Terms of Service

Ad Choices

ADVERTISEMENT

ADVERTISEMENT

A rockin' place to be

Veranda is most popular area at Lazy Acres Nursing Home (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

Chris Christie versus the world

'May the bigger equator win,' says N.J. governor (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

After robbery, church won't change open-door policy

Action delayed until door is recovered (Elden Carnahan, Laurel, Md.)

Lessons learned in College Park

Experimental academic offering complements football program (Elden Carnahan)

Where are all the Redskins bars?

Fans complain of poor cellphone reception at FedEx (Matt Monitto, Elon, N.C.)

Tuskegee Airman broke barriers

WWII Army deducted barrier cost from his paycheck each month (Mel Loftus, Alexandria, Va.)

A 60-day drive to Election Day gets underway

Romney vows this time Seamus will ride inside car (Robert Schechter)

DNA considered in MacDonald case

Farmer to stick with EIEIO (Jonathan Hardis, Gaithersburg, Md.)

Citing leak, Netanyahu defers security meeting

'When you gotta go...' prime minister explains (Roy Ashley, Washington)

He had the world on a violin string — until it unraveled

New theory of creation poses challenge to Flying Spaghetti Monster (Adam and Russell Beland, Fairfax, Va.)

The top cars for tailgating

Models with good brakes top the list (Zack Beland, Fairfax, Va.)

A president cornered

Obama stunned to find his office no longer oval (Ira Allen)

Take the kids this weekend

Desperate for break, local mom goes public with plea (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Born with a one-way ticket south [an article about dragonfly migration]

Breast-sagging linked to genetics (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

Love of the Boss crosses party lines

Holidays especially tricky time for office romance (Steve Honley)

Vick salvages ugly opener

Inexplicably scores in bar with 'Hey, baby, what's your sign?' (Mel Loftus)

Friday's top rushers, passers

Police release list of Beltway's most obnoxious drivers (Beverley Sharp)

Become a snap organizer

Clothing factories offer jobs you've never even heard of (Christopher Lamora)

Precipitation, participation, perspiration

'... preparation! THAT's what I was supposed to do,' Eastwood says (Gary Crockett)

Medvedev: Release three punk rockers

A, *'And give them a five-minute head start'* (Gary Crockett)

B. *Hope he didn't really say 'rockets'* (Marty McCullen, Gettysburg, Pa.)

[Bartlett](#) says he regrets remark

'Just wanted to get in my own dang book,' says quotation compiler (Mike Gips, Bethesda, Md.)

Obama doubles down

White House pillows restuffed with extra feathers (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

Maryland at Temple

Jewish holiday draws entire state population (Rick Haynes, Boynton Beach, Fla.)

Clinton urges calm as Asian nations feud

Stress, for once, dampens ex-president's libido (Roger Hammons, Ashburn, Va.)

Recognizing the sacrifices of grandparents

Continued denial of Nana and Pop-Pop's Santeria rituals is futile (Jeff Contompasis)

Breast-feeding professor spurs debate

'If students can have a snack in class, why can't I?' he asks (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Ovarian cancer screenings not recommended as a routine

Miss America contestant must find new talent (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.; Melissa Balmain)

Strasburg decision will be felt for years to come

Pitcher invited to choose Nats' new ball caps for next decade, goes retro (Pie Snelson, Silver Spring, Md.)

More officials on board to connect Loudoun, Prince William

Critics claim a road would work better (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

Millions saved by teleworking

New no-visit strategy pays off for Jehovah's Witnesses (Steve Honley)

Nicaragua refuses departure of U.S. citizen after prison release

Farting in jail cell earns him another 30 days (Rob Wolf, Gaithersburg, Md.)

And last: Influential imbeciles

But others claim Style Invitational Losers actually have no clout (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Still running — deadline Monday night — is Week 990, jokes about people with the same last name. See wapo.st/inv990.

Visit the online discussion group [The Style Conversational](#), in which the *Empress* discusses today's new contest and results along with news about the Loser Community — and you can vote for your favorite among the inking entries, since you no doubt figured the *Empress* chose the wrong winner. If you'd like an e-mail notification each week when the *Invitational* and *Conversational* are posted online, write to the *Empress* at losers@washpost.com (note that in the subject line) and she'll add you to the mailing list. And on Facebook, join the far more lively group [Style Invitational Devotees](#) and chime in.

Next week's results: A Faster Break, or Fools Speed Ahead, *the contest for how to make sports and other activities go faster or be more exciting*



Going Out Guide newsletter

What to do, where to eat and where to go in the D.C. area — a can't-miss list delivered Mondays and Thursdays.

[Sign me up](#)

By signing up you agree to our [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)

0 Comments



Pat Myers

Pat Myers is editor and judge of The Style Invitational, The Washington Post's page for clever, edgy humor and wordplay. In the role since December 2003, she has posted and judged more than 700 contests. She also writes the weekly Style Conversational column and runs the Style Invitational Devotees page on Facebook. [Follow](#)

The Post Recommends

Dershowitz says federal probe in New York, not Mueller, is 'greatest threat' to Trump

"There are no constitutional defenses to what the Southern District is investigating," Dershowitz, an informal Trump adviser, said Sunday.

1 day ago



Opinion

Distinguished persons of the week: Breaking into Trump's inner circle

Who stood tall?

2 days ago



Trump recently sought his lawyers' advice on possibility of pardoning Manafort, Giuliani says

Trump attorney Rudolph Giuliani said Trump was seeking advice on pardons generally, and was upset that Manafort faced criminal exposure on charges unrelated to his work on Trump's campaign.

