

Style

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The Style Invitational

By the Empress

Style Invitational Week 1063: Same Difference — compare/contrast 2 items from a wacky list



Bob Staake for The Washington Post - The difference between a three-cupped bra and the Human Barbie: One of them is associated with a far more freakish distortion of the human female form.

By Pat Myers, Published: March 6

A three-cupped bra and the Human Barbie: One of them is associated with a far more freakish distortion of the human female form.

Bob Staake's No. 2 pencils and the Arizona legislature: Whatever comes out of either of them is sure to be greeted with utter astonishment.

The Style Invitational

The Style Invitational is The Post's weekly humor/wordplay contest, serving up since 1993 an irreverent mix of highbrow and lowbrow -- haughty and potty -- in genres ranging from neologisms to cartoon captions to elaborate song parodies. A new contest appears at washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational every Friday.

Archive

- A Fleetwood Mac reunion
- Sriracha Life Savers
- A Sochi hotel
- The polar vortex
- Bellybutton lint
- A three-cupped bra
- April Fools' Day
- Bob Staake's No. 2 pencils
- The Human Barbie
- "Jeopardy!" champ Arthur Chu

Style Conversational | E-mail

The Post Most: Lifestyle

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- 2 National Zoo's longest-serving keeper bids farewell
- 3 H&M is making a \$99 wedding dress. Here's what that says about economics.
- 4 Judge says prosecutors should follow the law. Prosecutors revolt.
- 5 Kerala, India: They don't call it 'God's Own Country' for nothing



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(Pat Myers/The Washington Post) - Put your bread of affliction right here: This week's second-prize matzoh-motif toilet seat cover.

- **The Arizona legislature**
- **West African fufu**
- **Buzzfeed quizzes**
- **A USB stick marked "Property of NSA"**
- **XL jeggings**
- **Adele Dazeem**

It's our perennial compare/contrast contest, in which you **take any two items from the list above and explain how they're similar or different**, as in the examples above. This week's items are how-you-say Loser-generated content: The Empress asked the members of the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook — now numbering more than 700 Losers and various hangers-on — to cough up a bunch of nouns or noun phrases. Then she picked 16 of them — each from a different person — to ensure randomness.

Winner gets the [Inkin' Memorial](#), the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives — in time for Passover, though it's just as useful all year round — a [toilet seat cover](#) that looks like a big oval matzoh, emblazoned with "Let my people go" in that awful ersatz-Hebrew lettering. Given the tendency of matzoh to be somewhat "binding" on the digestive process, the legend bears a certain irony. Donated by Loser Mike Gips, who might want to pray a little harder for forgiveness at the seder this year.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for [Loser Mug](#) or the ardently desired "Whole Fools" [Grossery Bag](#). Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet, either the [Po' Wit Laureate](#) or [Puns of Steel](#). First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" ([FirStink](#) for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or, if you were born in the 19th century, fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, March 17; results published April 6 (online April 3). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include "Week 1063" 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/InvRules. This week's honorable-mentions subhead is by Tom Witte; the alternative headline for the "next week's results" line is by Chris Doyle. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev, and click "like" on Style Invitational Ink of the Day at bit.ly/inkofday.

Report from Week 1059

in which we asked you to add some words in parentheses to the title of a well-known song:

The winner of the Inkin' Memorial:

(Ad)just the Way You Are (*Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.*)

2. Winner of the [Bimbo](#) (food stores) shopping bag:

Me and Bobby McGee (Are English Majors) (*Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.*)

3. Papa's Got a Brand New Bag (But He Had to Pay the Damn Five Cents) (*Jeff Seigle, Vienna, Va.*)

4. Masters of War (Johnson of Love) (*Bill Smith, Reston, Va.*)

Pa(ren)thetic: honorable mentions

Wishin' and Hopin' (That Key Between the F and the H Starts Workin') (*Russell Beland, Fairfax, Va.*)

(Workin' at Walmart, So I'm) Livin' on a Prayer (*Marni Penning Coleman, Falls Church, Va.*)

I'd Really Love to See You Tonight (So I Hope You Open Your Blinds) (*Robyn Carlson, Keyser, W.Va.*)

We Gotta Get Out of This Place (Before Deer Season Opens) – The Animals (*Larry Neal, McLean, Va.*)

You Can Do Magic (But You Can't Put the Toilet Seat Down) (*Robyn Carlson*)

Greensleeves (How About Using Kleenex?) (*Kathleen DeBold, Burtonsville, Md.; Sylvia Betts, Vancouver, B.C.*)

I Will Always Love You (Don't Play This at Your Wedding, You Moron, It's a Breakup Song) (*Jeff Seigle*)

Like a Rolling Stone (Follow Mick on Facebook) (*Bill Smith*)

Take It to the Limit (It's My Parents' Card) (*Jennifer Gittins-Harfst, Annandale, Va.*)

(Playing Garage Band on My iPhone) While My Guitar Gently Weeps (*Marni Penning Coleman*)

Hold On, We're Going Home (I Told You I'd Turn This Car Around if You Threw That Crayon) (*Andrew McLean, Huntingtown, Md., a First Offender*)

Respect Yourself (But First, Go Fetch Me a Beer) (*David Garratt, Silver City, N.M.*)

Baby I Need Your (Payment Before We Start the) Loving (*Gerald Diamond, London, Ontario*)

(Why Is Your Name Tattooed on) My Boyfriend's Back (*Steve McClemons, Arlington, Va.*)

Every Face Tells a Story (Yours Was Written by Stephen King) (*Lawrence McGuire*)

I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For (Where Are Those \$3.98 Clearance Pants In Neon Orange?) (*Lawrence McGuire*)

I Got You Babe (Love Theme From "Paul Bunyan") (*Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.*)

Since U Been Gone (Learning to Live With Only 25 Letters) (*John McCooey, Rehoboth Beach, Del.*)

To All the Girls I've Loved Before (You Might Want to Get Tested) (*Kristen Rahman, Silver Spring*)

Don't Ever Change (The Baby's Diaper Again Using a Staple Gun) (*Brian Allgar, Paris*)

(My Sex Change Operation Is Tomorrow) Bye Bye Birdie (*Dan O'Day, Alexandria, Va.*)

Wild Is the Wind (And Overspiced Was the Eggplant) (*Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.*)

Hard Knock Life (For a Jehovah's Witness) (*Mike Gips, Bethesda, Md.*)

I Will Always Love You (Within the Contractual Terms of Our Agreement) (*Art Grinath, Takoma Park, Md.*)

You've Got a Friend in Me (The Orgy Song) (*Warren Tanabe, Annapolis, Md.*)

Three Little Words (Click to Learn This Weird Seduction Secret!) (*Harold Mantle, Lafayette, Calif.*)

Buffalo Gals (Are Not as Hot as Buffalo Wings) (*Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.*)

My Eyes Adored You (But My Nose Disagreed) (*Kevin Jamison, Gaithersburg, Md.*)

(First I Saw Yore in the Dictionary) Then Came You (*Kevin Jamison*)

Thou Swell (When Thou Gettest Stung by a Jellyfish) (*Mae Scanlan, Washington*)

(How I Wish I Still Lived in My Parents' Basement, I've Got Those) Subterranean Homesick Blues (*Douglas Goralski, McLean, Va.*)

(My Horse Was Double-Parked Here First, So It's My) Space Cowboy (*Kevin Dopart, Washington*)

Stuck in the (Hi!) Middle With You (*Kevin Dopart*)

I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing (In Perfect Harmony) (As Long as Everyone's Singing in English) (*Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.*)

The Devil Went Down to Georgia (Next Stop, Ukraine) (*Dann Sklarew, Arlington, Va., a First Offender*)

We Didn't Start the Fire (We Just Pulled the Alarm to Get Out of History Class) (*Danny Bravman, Chicago*)

(Putin Is Totally) Over the Rainbow (*Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.*)

I'm Looking Through You (That's One Nasty Exit Wound) (*Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.*)

Turn! Turn! Turn! (Recalculating . . .) (*Brendan Beary; Danielle Nowlin, Woodbridge, Va.*)

Papa Was a Rolling Stone (Coulda Been Any of 'Em — Mama Was a Groupie at Altamont) (*Brendan Beary*)

What Doesn't Kill You Makes You Stronger (The Denny's Song) (*Barbara Turner, Takoma Park, Md.*)

If Ever I Would Leave You (The Dog's Going With Me) (*Chris Doyle, The Villages, Fla.*)

Ain't No Sunshine (Where You Ought to Put Your Opinions) (*Elden Carnahan, Laurel, Md.*)

I Will Always Love You (After You Sign Here, and Initial Here) (*Laurie Morrison, Rockville, Md.*)

(My) Turn! (My) Turn! (My) Turn! (*Bonnie Speary Devore, Gaithersburg, Md.*)

(I Got Ink! Now) Da Ya Think I'm Sexy? (*May Jampathom, Oakhurst, N.J.*)

Still running — deadline Monday night: A contest for current-events poems:

See bit.ly/invite1062.

See the Empress's online column [The Style Conversational](#) (published late Thursday), in which she 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, [sign up here](#) or 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 there.

Next week's results: Picture This, or Art of Dorkness, a contest to write captions for any of four Bob Staake cartoons. See bit.ly/invite1060.

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