

Entertainment

Style Invitational Week 1242: Generation Yux — give us a then/now joke

Last time we did this contest, it was about aging boomers. Now it's millennials. And aging boomers.



Then: Men getting hair plugs. Now: Men getting hair plucked. (Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

By Pat Myers August 24, 2017 [Email the author](#)

(Click [here to skip down](#) to the winning D-E-F phrases)

Then: Men getting hair plugs.
Now: Men getting hair plucked.

Then: Baked Alaska.
Now: Baked in Alaska.

Then: "The Kids Are Alright."
Now: The kids are alt-right.

Yeah, we've been around awhile.



In [Week 303](#), in 1999, the *Empress's* predecessor, the *Czar*, ran a contest called "Boom Times," asking readers to "come up with old and new concerns for the baby boom generation." The results were classic;



Most Read Entertainment

1 First glimpse of Kennedy Center's much delayed expansion unveiled





Pair your pizza and pinot right across your shirt — heck, it's going to end up there anyway. This week's second-prize package. (Pat Myers/The Washington Post)

the winner, by Elden Carnahan: “Then: Getting out to a new, hip joint. Now: Getting a new hip joint.” (See the rest in this week’s Style Conversational column at wapo.st/conv1242.)

Eighteen years later, there’s a new generation reading the Invite, but lots of the original models are still around — including, like Elden, some of the entrants who got ink in Week 303.

Which prompted Biggest Loser Ever Chris Doyle to suggest a multigenerational update. **This week: Give us a “then/now” joke** like Chris’s examples above — about (a) getting older or (b) comparing a past generation with the current one, no matter whether you, personally, are a “then” or a “now.”

Submit entries at this website: wapo.st/enter-invite-1242 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Inkin’ Memorial**, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy — one of the last few before we officially announce the new design that we’ve been giving to recidivist winners. Second place receives a fabulous **Total Nerd Party Two-Pack**: a holster from which you suspend your wineglass in front of your belly, thus allowing you to dribble your spanakopita crumbs straight into the merlot; and, courtesy of Loser Edward Gordon, a Pizza Pouch, for all those times you need to carry one small slice of pizza across your torso. (Our tip: Don’t get extra cheese.) The holster is dead serious; the pouch, sold by an outfit called Stupidiotic, a tad less so.

Other runners-up win our “You Gotta Play to Lose” Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, “I Got a B in Punmanship.” Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, “No Childishness Left Behind” or “Magnum Dopus.” First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” (**FirStink** for their first ink). Deadline is Monday night, Sept. 4; results published Sept. 24 (online Sept. 21). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week’s results is by Jeff Contompassis; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Jesse Frankovich. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. “Like” Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday; follow [@StyleInvite](https://twitter.com/StyleInvite) on Twitter.

The Style Conversational The Empress’s weekly online column, published late Thursday afternoon, discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.





[And from The Style Invitational four weeks ago . . .](#)

DEFinitions: Report from Week 1238

In [Week 1238](#) we continued three-letter abbreviating through the alphabet with some DEF, FED, EDF, etc., phrases. Some of the inking entries below are a bit of a stretch, but the Empress put on her YJPs — her Yoga Judging Pants — and flexed a little. Not surprisingly, many of the entries contained various forms of the f-word. They canceled one another out.

4th place:

EDF: Electoral District Freshening: Oh, “gerrymandering” sounds so unsavory. (Jeff Contompassis, Ashburn, Va.)

- 2 Celebrities, fashion insiders react to death of Kate Spade 
- 3 **Perspective** President Trump’s power to pardon himself, as skewered by cartoons 
- 4 **Review** Sex, politics and art painted in broad strokes in ‘Botticelli in the Fire’ 
- 5 **Analysis** Do the dismal box-office returns of ‘Solo’ signal a problem for Star Wars? 



Word Wipe
Word game



Mahjongg Dimensions
Arcade game

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3rd place:

EDF: Elf Defies Fate: Jeff Sessions's tagline on memos as he keeps his job for one more week. (As of press time.) (Ellen Ryan, Rockville, Md.)

2nd place

and the [pink rubber octopus fingers](#):

DEF: "Don't Even" Face: "I was just about to float the idea of having the guys over for poker night, but I got the DEF." (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial:

FED: Flagrantly Elementary Deduction: Printable euphemism for "No @#\$\$, Sherlock." (Peter Shawhan, Silver Spring, Md.)

Lo-DEF: Honorable mentions

Defenders of Flat Earth: "Our members are fighting for truth around the globe." (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

Domestic Fish Eggs: Low-rent caviar — a.k.a. "skid roe." (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

messages. (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

Duplicity For Everyone: You can fool all of the people some of the time, so let's go ahead and do that. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

Extraterrestrial Defense Fund: Established in Roswell, N.M., to assist illegal aliens. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Electronic Deposit Fairy: She puts the tooth money right into the kids' bank accounts. (Julia Shawhan, Silver Spring, Md.)

Escalators Down Forever: Revised, pragmatic Metro repair schedule. (David Friedman, Santa Clara, Calif., an ex-Arlingtonian)

Expressive Digit Fluency: Sign-language requirement for cabbies. (Jon Gearhart)

"Emailing For Dollars": The most popular game show in Nigeria. (Jesse Frankovich)

Elaborate Fling Denial: "I can overexplain everything!" (Tom Witte)

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Ever-Fluid Disclosure: “Meeting? What meeting? There was no . . . Oh,

Elaborate Fling Denial: “I can overexplain everything!” (Tom Witte)

Ever-Fluid Disclosure: “Meeting? What meeting? There was no . . . Oh, yeah . . . there was a meeting – but no one important was there. Except a Russian or two. All we talked about was adoption. Emails? Specifying ‘oppo research’ on Hillary? There were no — Oh, right . . . there were some emails. But no one we know was included. Except . . . maybe Don Jr. And Kushner. And Manafort . . .” (Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

Ego-Feeding Department: One federal agency that’d be sure to be fully funded. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Ex Facie Donaldus (“From the face of Donald”): Bracketed term used to indicate that the previous statement is an obvious lie. (John McCooey, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

Ex Flagrate Delicto: Caught cheating on your spouse, with your former spouse. (Mark Raffman)

EFD: “What do you mean I’m a B-FD? I’m ENORMOUS.” (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park, Md.)

Freeze-Dried Escargot: What French astronauts eat. (Jesse Frankovich)

Fairy Dust Economics. How to cut taxes and still reduce the budget deficit by 2020. (Mark Raffman)

Fatal Dating Error: “So, I’ve asked my mother to join us for dinner.” (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church, Va.)

Flog Deceased Equine: “ ‘Here’s our 873rd piece on Benghazi,’ Fox announced in yet another FDE.” (Duncan Stevens)

Franklin Delano Eisenhower: “Probably the third-greatest president after Abe and me.” — D.J.T. (Dave Zarrow, Reston, Va.)

Foreign Dignitaries’ Entrance: The back door of the White House. (Josh Feldblyum, Philadelphia)

Females for Erectile Dysfunction: Women of a certain age who, quite frankly, have had enough already. (Nan Reiner)

Front End Deficiency: Marketing-agency term for a breast that does not meet Hollywood standards. (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

Firing Every Day: “Mr. President, what will be your main focus for the remainder of your term?” “I’m gonna keep going with the FED.” (Stephen Gold, London)

Flat-Earth Day: The unit of time it takes the world to flip over twice. (Jesse Frankovich)

Danger! Flailing Elephants!: Warning sign posted outside the Capitol. (Julia Shawhan)

Executive Daily Flattery: [That folder](#) presented to the president twice a day with only positive articles about him. (Lynne Ann Larkin, Vero Beach, Fla.)

Emergency Fruitcake Delivery: A post-Christmas service provided by gifting centers. (Chris Doyle)

Funky Diaper Examination: A close encounter of the turd kind. (Chris Doyle)

Facebook Etiquette Directive: Don't feed the trolls! (Chris Doyle)

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Fidelity Enthusiasm Depletion: Malaise that commonly affects marriages after several years (or three months for those involving professional entertainers, athletes or Kardashians). (John Hutchins, Silver Spring, Md.)

And Last: **Failed-Entry Dumpster:** The Empress's trash can. "Welp, another whole page for the FED." (Chris Doyle)

Still running — deadline Monday, Aug. 28: Our contest to fill in a partial crossword. See wapo.st/invite1241.

0 Comments



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 @patmyersTWP](#)

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