

# Style Invitational

BY PAT MYERS

## Report from Week 923

In which we asked for new chemical terms: By far the most frequent submission was for "palinium"; we include two. Alas, the terms "honoring" presidential candidates are all for Republicans; there just weren't any good Obama-themed entries.

THE  
WINNER  
OF THE  
INKER

**Binladium:** When combined with lead and immersed in water, it almost instantly disappears. (Christopher Lamora, Guatemala City)

**2 Winner of the football made entirely of Bubble Wrap:**

**Platitudinum:** A metal that becomes more dull each time it is used, yet somehow is never discarded. (Beth Baniszewski, Cambridge, Mass.)

**3 Marionbarium:** Highly reactive with alcohol and other substances. Difficult to purge from the system long after peak effectiveness. (Marcy Alvo, Annandale)

**4 Madoffium:** Catalyst capable of turning liquid substance, overnight, into absolutely nothin'. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

then self-destructs. (Nancy M. Lawrence, Annandale)

**Ryanide poisoning:** A toxic reaction exacerbated by inadequate medical care. (Kathy El-Assal, Middletown, Wis., a First Offender)

**Bachmanium:** Similar to palinium in its dullness and abrasive properties but is lighter in weight despite being more dense. (Scott I. Berkenblit, Baltimore, a First Offender)

**Sellulose:** Superabsorbent substance that sucks value from whatever it touches; commonly used as home insulating material in the past decade. (Larry Gray, Union Bridge, Md., a First Offender)

**Arsenice:** Especially in those genes. (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

**Debtceillum:** Toxic gas that expands to infinity unless contained. (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

**Cantonite:** Causes headaches in married women. (Craig Dykstra, Centreville)

**Jockabromide:** Common substance found in locker rooms that never fails to yield 110 percent one day at a time. (Ira Allen)

**Silicone bimboxide:** Compound that causes swollen protuberances on the upper torso. (Dixon Wragg)

**Tatanium:** New marketing name for silicone. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

**Alumnium:** The metal used to make class rings. (Matt Monitto, Elon, N.C.)

**Romneyum:** Key ingredient of modern plastic; noted for reversing polarity at will. (Stephen J. Kelley, Sykesville, Md., a First Offender)

**Stromtium 90:** Reproductive agent that remains potent throughout an exceedingly long half life. (Ira Allen)

**Next week: History in the remaking, or Jesterday**

**Pepconium:** Theoretically capable of great bursts of energy, it becomes inert when in contact with water. (Elden Carnahan)

**Abbottabadite:** One explosive compound. (Mark Eckenwiler)

**Newtium:** Heavy element found often in Iowa and New Hampshire. Bonds frequently but not permanently. Attracted to precious metals and gems. Emits an inaudible buzz. (Russell Beland, Fairfax)

**Sulaimonoxide brownate:** Activated by silver. Decomposes in hot water. (Marcy Alvo)

**Bieberium:** An element of little substance or weight; apparently harmless by itself, but added to any volume of shelium produces an earsplitting squeal. (Andy Bassett, New Plymouth, New Zealand)

**Weinerium:** Previously stable element that expands, flashes and

## Byproducts & residue: Honorable mentions

**Palinium:** Its magnetic properties decrease by half every year, but never entirely dissipate. (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

**Palinium:** A rigid, polarizing substance that appears to glow brightly when examined from the right side but appears to be a black hole when viewed from the left. (Bill Nilsen, Arlington, a First Offender)

**Greecium:** A substance unable to stabilize because of its weak bonds. (Lawrence McGuire)

**Tachygiftcardium:** What symbiotic organisms give off in late December. (Ira Allen, Bethesda)

**Nordegrenium:** Reacts violently with iron. (Mark Eckenwiler, Washington)

**Led:** A heavy metal. (Dixon Wragg, Santa Rosa, Calif.)

## POP CD REVIEW

### MellowHype BLACKENEDWHITE



Hip-hop duo MellowHype is an offshoot of Odd Future, the Los Angeles-based collective that birthed blog darling/scourge Tyler, the Creator. MellowHype's latest album, "BlackenedWhite," adheres to a Tyler-like mission statement: lots of impressive rapping and beats, and even more carefully calibrated controversy (starting with the cover, an upside-down cross), although,

unlike Tyler's latest, it's more concerned with violence than sex.

"BlackenedWhite" was initially released as a free download last Halloween, and this physical, remastered version, which seems to have subtracted more songs than it has added, is casually ghoulish (creepy single "64"), depressingly literal ("Gunsounds" has lots of gunshots) and occasionally great ("Rico," with OF's Frank Ocean).

But mostly, it's a gangsta-rap album made by kids who grew up absorbing the genre's surface lessons but not its terrible urgency. Spacey and self-absorbed (one track is titled "[Expletive] the Police"), it's history's most languid gangsta-rap album.

—Allison Stewart



GANGSTAS: MellowHype's Left Brain and Hodgy Beats, right.

## THIS WEEK'S CONTEST: WEEK 927



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## Drive-by shoutings

The Empress was beseeched recently to give another go to a contest we last did 12 years ago: It's for mini-poems written in the style of the old Burma-Shave ads, which used to appear on pre-interstate roadsides as a series of six little signs, a few words at a time, either promoting the shaving cream or serving as a PSA to drivers, as in "Big mistake / Many make: / Rely on horn / Instead of / brake. / Burma-Shave." Last time we asked for welcome signs to states or towns; this week we'll stay closer to the original purpose: **Write a very short four-line poem promoting a product or company, or offering advice to drivers; the poem must rhyme, in ABAB or ABCB rhyme scheme. A fifth, non-rhyming line may state the product name or a conclusion.** Don't make the lines more than three or four words each unless they're very short. Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a cloth ball cap from Cluster Springs Sanitary Services Portable Toilet Rentals of Middle of Nowhere, Va. (a.k.a. Danville); the embroidered slogan on the back says, "You dump — it, we pump — it." Donated by Loser Dave Komornik of Danville, who brought it up on a visit to Washington.

**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 smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (Fir Stink for their first ink). E-mail entries to [losers@washpost.com](mailto:losers@washpost.com) or fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, July 11; results published Aug. 7 (Aug. 5 online). Include "Week 927" 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](http://washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational). The revised title for next week's results is by Tom Witte; this week's honorable-mentions subhead is by chemical engineer Jeff Contompasis.



**STYLE CONVERSATIONAL** Have a question for the Empress or want to talk to some real Losers? Join us at [washingtonpost.com/stylconversational](http://washingtonpost.com/stylconversational).

## HISTORY

### Cultural Tourism offers jaunts in D.C.

Ever wondered what geologic structures compose the swamplands that Washington was built upon?

Get ready to inflate your bicycle tires and get a new pair of socks for your walking shoes, as Cultural Tourism's WalkingTown DC and BikingTown DC 2011 present 150 guided tours in 10 days through all eight of Washington's wards.

The free tours will run the gamut from community heritage to the environment and will begin Sept. 23 and run through Oct. 2.

—Erin Williams