

Style Invitational

BY PAT MYERS

Report from Week 1050

our annual look back at most of the year's previous contests, in which we invited readers a second chance to enter: More honorable mentions, including some terrific song parodies, are in the online version of the Invite at bit.ly/invite1054.

THE
WINNER
OF THE
INKIN'
MEMORIAL

Week 1036, "Liffs," place names used as new terms:

Natchez: More than merely. "Peepa talk funny'n lotta places, natchez Miss-sippy." (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

Mulligan stew: honorable mentions

Week 1000, change a word by one letter: Momfoolery: Mrschief. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Week 1003, repurposed ad slogans: For Depends: "You're soaking in it." (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

Week 1004, 2012 obit poems: It's time we accorded Neil Armstrong his due — Assuming his death wasn't falsified, too. (Brendan Beary)

Week 1005, joint legislation: The Yoho-Kaine-Kildee-Payne Act to legalize "medical prostitution." (Kelley Rogers, Darnestown, a First Offender)

The Pocan-Cotton-Holding-Titus Act regulating the thickness and resiliency of bra fabrics. (Michael Jacobs, Columbia)

Week 1006, superheroes: Eye-Tee: Has the ability to slow or disable any software and hardware by "upgrading" it. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

Week 1007, crossword clues: ARROGATE: Woodward and Bernstein investigate the team-name brouhaha. (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

Week 1008, rearrange the words in a movie title: "Sheba, Come Back Little": A man sends his spouse to a fat farm. (Howard Walderman, Columbia)

"Club Dallas Buyers": When a Black

2 Winner of the Dead Sea souvenir T-shirt featuring a sunbathing ibex:

Week 1009, write something about someone using only the letters in the person's name: Manti Te'o: I meet a mate; I mention a moment, an intimate tete-a-tete, a time; I omit to note I met mate on Net, mate ain't animate, mate a man . . . An Onion meme? I nominate me. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

3 Week 1003, repurposed ad slogans: "Because you're worth it" (L'Oreal) . . . for Dollar Tree. (Kristen Rowe, Silver Spring)

4 Week 1012, current-events limericks: Said Obama, "The people will hail My 'Affordable' Act and regale Me with hearty huzzahs!" The reality was: When he rolled the thing out: Epic fail. (Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

Friday riot breaks out, Texas mall cops take matters into their own hands. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Week 1009, write something using only the letters in the person's name: Donald Trump: Rump on top. (William Kennard, Arlington)

Week 1015, bogus music trivia: "Vuvuzela" is Zulu for "butt trumpet." (Jeff Contompasis)

Week 1019, headlines using just one vowel not counting Y: Toronto's Rob Ford on D.C. Sports Show: Boozy Bozo's Sooo Not Sorry! (Mark Raffman)

Week 1020, "grandfoals": Urine the Money x A Penny Urned = Second Kidney Sold (Danielle Nowlin)



BOB STAAKE

Week 1010, cartoon captions: A rare public appearance by the least popular Doody sibling, Hidey. (Danielle Nowlin)

Woodbridge)

Round Yon Virgin x Unlimited Losses = Carol of the Bills (Perry Beider, Silver Spring)

Week 1023, haiku sent to Mars: Here's greetings from Earth Thirty minutes to your door By Amazon drone (Bruce Carlson, Alexandria)

Week 1024, alphabet couplets: E's for Enrolling in health care — now book me! F's for the Fifty-three times that it took me. (Danielle Nowlin)

M for Mandela: huge chains he helped break. N for the nut job who "signed" at his wake. (Nan Reiner)

Week 1026, "You might . . .": You might want to cut back on the coffee if you have trouble finding a vein for your French IV drip. (Jeff Contompasis)

Week 1027, paired building elements at particular places: At the Statue of Liberty: Sign on benches: "Your Tired"; sign on trash cans: "Your Wretched Refuse" (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Week 1031, words within words: R'amen': God's gift to the starving grad student. (Pam Sweeney, Burlington, Mass.)

Week 1033, Limericks featuring a word beginning with fa-: After foolishly downing a jawful Of food that included a waffle And over a pound Of fava beans, ground, I could honestly say I falafel. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

Week 1036, Liffs: Azerbaijan: Describing "In My Life," "Come Together" and other "Lennon/McCartney" songs that Paul had no hand in. (Brendan Beary)

Michigan: What you'll do on your next turn after losing a round of beer pong. (Danielle Nowlin)

Richmond, v., past tense: "The governor left office under a cloud, but he soon richmond into a good law firm and seats on some well-paying boards." (Mike Barnes, Arlington, a First Offender)

Week 1042, neologisms with the letter block s-a-n-e in any order: Sinsane: Realistic about what you can get away with. (Fred Dawson, Beltsville)

Week 1044, comical safety rules: To deter skin cancer, tanning on public beaches will be allowed only at night. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

Week 1045, pair a line in a song with a question: A. And the sign said longhaired freaky people need not apply. Q. What sign was recently ripped down at the Red Sox employment office? (Cate Magennis Wyatt, Waterford, Va., a First Offender)



ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

Week 1054: Dead letters

Mikhail Kalashnikov has died. He designed the AK-47. Let's hope Saint Peter lets him slide (After all, he helped fill Heaven!).

As we welcome Little Squalling Infant 2014, it's the Style Invitational's tradition to mark the other end of the life "cycle" by "honoring," in verse, those who just missed the chance to assist in the delivery. **This week: Write a short, humorous poem commemorating someone (or maybe even something) who died in 2013,** as in the example above from Washington Post Oddest Odist Gene Weingarten. It doesn't have to rhyme, but poems that do rhyme, as well as those with a consistent meter, tend to work better as light verse. Song parodies are not forbidden. As always, long poems have to be funny enough to justify taking up a lot of space, and they're more likely to run only online.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives, in honor of the holiday of Epiphany, a hotel-minibar-size bottle of "anointing oil" that Loser Marleen May picked up in Israel. It contains "myrrh, frankincense, and spikenard" (you'll have to provide your own pyrite). And since we're feeling especially gift-bearing, we'll toss in a small container of Doctor Wacko's Silly Sludge. "Stretch it! Pour it! Watch it drip!"

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 fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Jan. 13; results published Feb. 2 (online Jan. 30). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include "Week 1054" 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. The subhead for this week's honorable mentions is by Mark Raffman. 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.



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

A. Get a good job with more pay and you're okay.

Q. Congressman, what advice do you have for the millions of Americans affected by the cut in food stamps? (Douglas Goralski, McLean, a First Offender)

And Last: A. "Gangnam style, eh, sexy lady."

Q. What could be less stylish than the Style Invitational? (Heather Spence, New York)

And Even Laster: **Week 1030,**

cinquains:

SI
Limericks, puns
Scatological fun!
But there is no Swimsuit Issue.
(Thank God.) (Todd DeLap, Fairfax)

Still running — deadline Monday night — our Questionable Journalism contest, in which you take any line from a newspaper article and pair it with a funny question it might answer. See bit.ly/invite1053.