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Please note: The Style Invitational has moved to a new page [here](#).

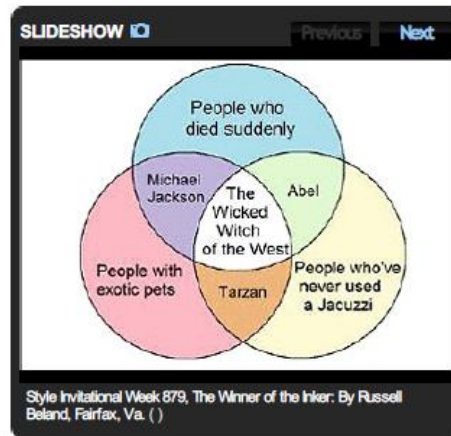
## The Style Invitational

By the Empress

### Week 883: Compare and contrast two things from a list; and readers' Venn diagrams

By The Empress  
Saturday, August 21, 2010

- Chicken lo mein
- The New York Yankees
- Water balloons
- A dental appointment
- Illinois
- Montezuma's Revenge
- Arlington National Cemetery
- An Elizabethan sonnet
- Gulf Coast beaches
- Venn diagrams
- A Real Housewife of D.C.
- School lunches
- The Nobel Prize
- Your friend's nose



#### THIS STORY

- » THIS WEEK'S CONTEST: Week 883: Same difference
- [Talk: The Style Conversational](#)
- [Read previous contests](#)

Here's a perennial Invitational contest that treads some of the same ground as this week's results, without all the circles and stuff: **Choose any two items from the list above and explain why they are alike or are different from each other.** Some of the categories were used in non-inking entries for the Venn diagram contest; maybe they'll feel more at home here.

Winner gets [the Inker](#), the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives the fine reference book "Five People Who Died During Sex, and 100 Other Terribly Tasteless Lists."

**Other runners-up** win their choice of a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt -- [current](#) or [classic](#) model -- or yearned-for [Loser Mug](#). Honorable Mentions get one of the lusted-after Style Invitational Loser Magnets. First Offenders get a smelly, tree-shaped air "freshener" (Fir Stink for their First Ink). One prize per entrant per week. Send your entries by e-mail to [losers@washpost.com](mailto:losers@washpost.com) or by fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Aug. 30. Put "Week 883" in the subject line of your e-mail, or it risks being ignored as spam. Include your name, postal address and phone number with your entry. Contests are judged on the basis of humor and originality. All entries become the property of The Washington Post. Entries may be edited for taste or content. Results to be

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published Sept. 18. No purchase required for entry. Employees of The Washington Post, and their immediate relatives, are not eligible for prizes. Pseudonymous entries will be disqualified. The revised title for next week's results is by Chris Doyle; this week's honorable-mentions subhead is by Kevin Dopart. The diagrams were produced by Bob Staake and Valerie Holt; Craig Dykstra did his own.

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The advertisement features a red and white logo for 'The Washington Post wine club' with a wine glass icon. Below the logo is the tagline 'Compromise is for politics, not wine.' A central coupon box offers '\$50 OFF your first shipment (6 wines for \$59.95)' with a 'LEARN MORE' button. To the right of the coupon is a photograph of several hands holding wine glasses in a toast.

### Report from Week 879

in which we asked you to express some observation about similarities and dissimilarities as a Venn diagram (or, in some cases, a Euler diagram, which doesn't show every possible intersection): The Inker-winner, the three runners-up and the honorable mentions -- "Below-grade intersections," as they're labeled in the print edition of this column -- appear in the slide show on the top right of this page.

*And there were too many honorable mentions to be included in the slide show. Here are links to the others:*

[Bruce Alter, Fairfax Station, Va.](#)

[Russell Beland, Fairfax, Va.](#)

[Beverley Sharp, Washington](#)

[Russell Beland, Fairfax, Va.](#)

[Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.](#)

[Kevin Dopart, Washington](#)

[Sheri Tardio, Prince Frederick, Md.](#)

[Kevin Dopart, Washington](#)

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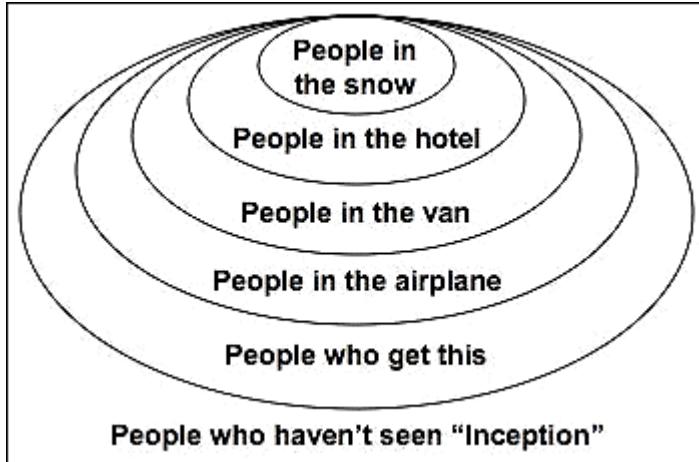
[Kevin Dopart, Washington](#)

[Kevin Dopart, Washington](#)

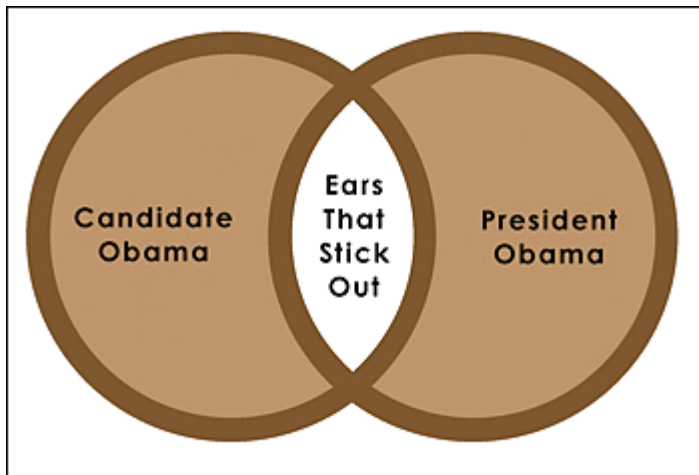
[Barry Koch, drawn by Bob Staake](#)

*Next week: Our greatest hit, or Lex-change operations*

Slideshow contents:



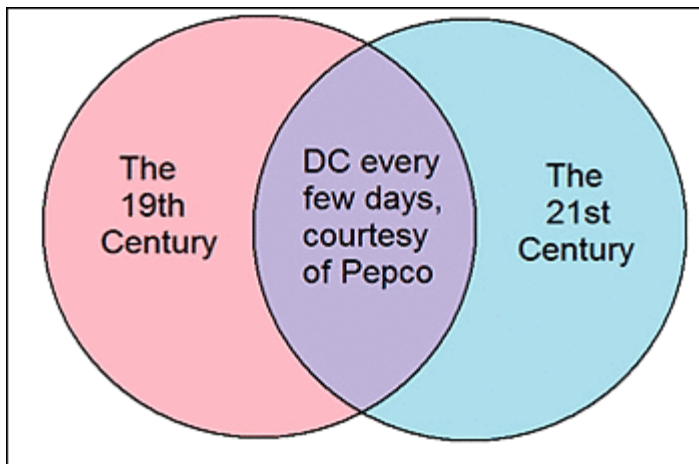
Second place: Craig Dykstra, Centreville



Third place: Ring Alexander, New York

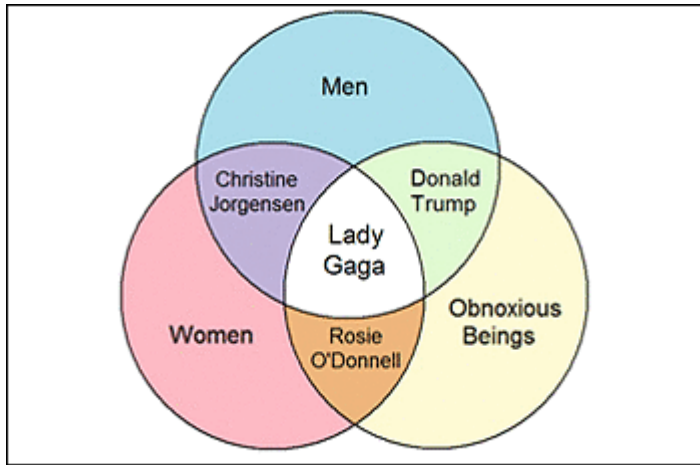


Fourth place: Joshua Kaplowitz, Arlington

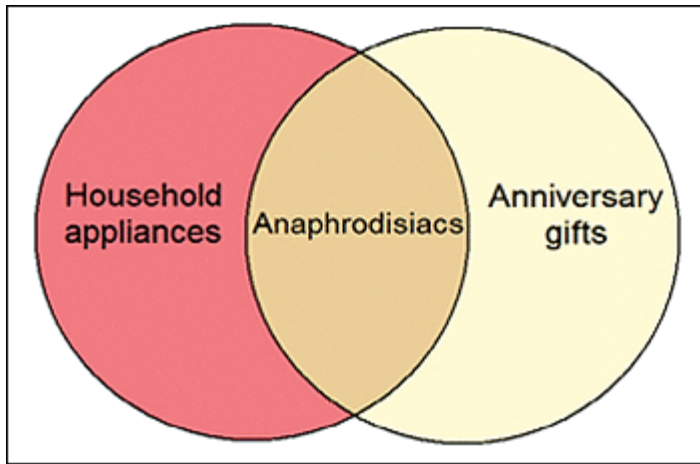


Honorable Mention: Beverley Sharp, Washington

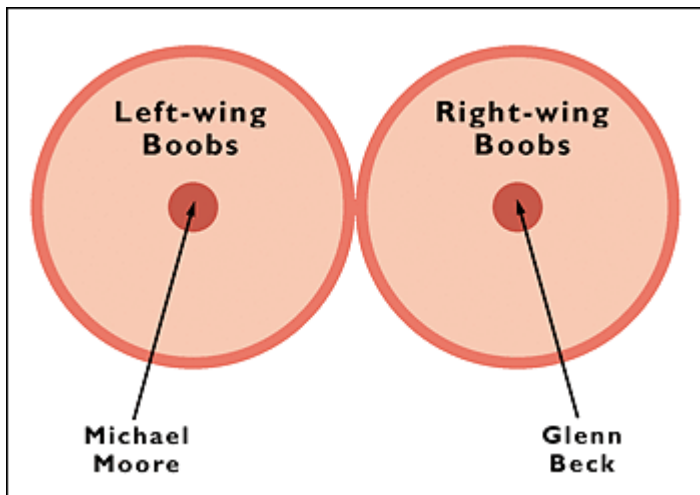




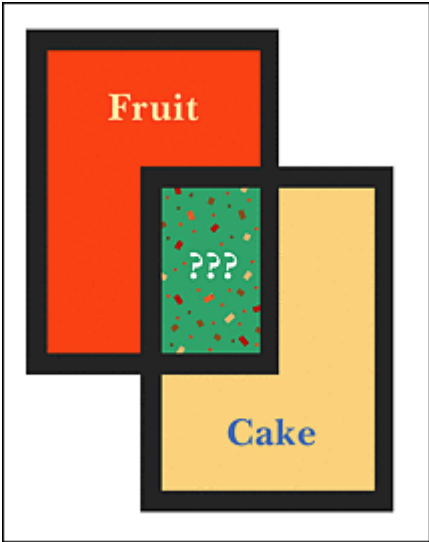
Honorable Mention: Russell Beland, Fairfax, Va.



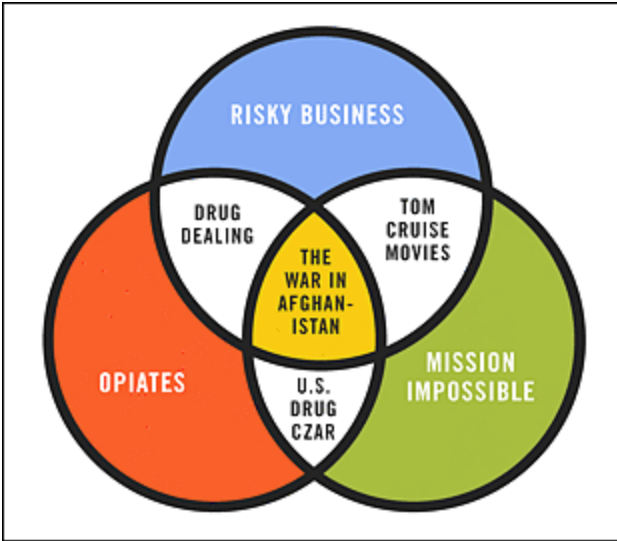
Honorable Mention: Dion Black, Washington



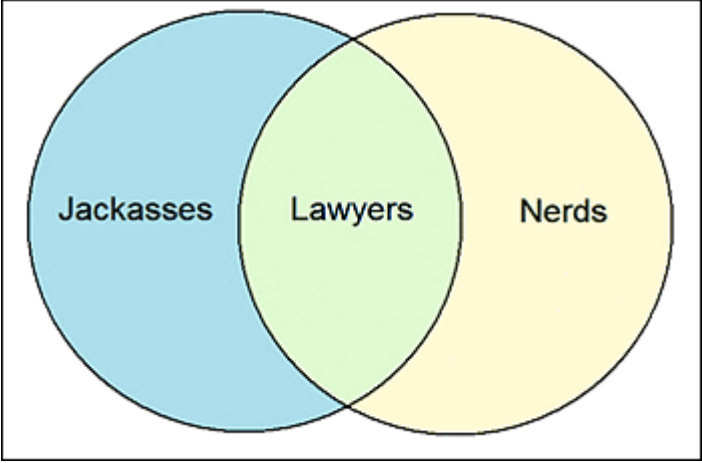
Honorable Mention: Eric Murphy, Washington



Honorable Mention: Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.



Honorable Mention: Russell Beland, Fairfax, Va.



Honorable Mention: Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.