



Entertainment

## Style Invitational Week 1088: Ask Backwards — our answers, your questions

Plus the winning F-word limericks (no, not that one)



The Plunger Games, of course. (Bob Staake for The Washington Post )

By Pat Myers September 4 at 2:11 PM 

New for Week 1088: Ask Backwards

with our answers, your questions

(Click [here to skip down](#) to this week's winning limericks)

**\*The Plunger Games • \*An octopus doing the Hokey Pokey • Rick Perry's glasses • \*A man, a plan, a cannoli • \*iPad Thai • A joyride in a Ferrari • Not Kim Kardashian, but Kanye West • A cross-country trip in a Miata • com.org • 14, 102 and 39,000 • \*Mary had a Little Lemming • \*Romeo and Joliet • \*Tysons Coroner • \*James and the Giant Brussels Sprout • A Your Mama joke about a bicycle • The print version of The Washington Post**

Forty contests ago, the last time we ran our perennial Ask Backwards — in which we give the answers and you supply the questions — one of the 12 categories was “An answer for the next Ask Backwards.” The Empress printed just one entry for that category in the [results of Week 1048](#): “What will cause you to invent several genuinely funny entries while reading the results of the next Ask Backwards?” (Frank Osen). But there were lots of actual suggestions for categories — and eight of them are the asterisked items in the list above (three by Chris Doyle; two by Cheryl Davis; and one each by Howard Walderman, Alex Jeffrey and Barbara Turner). It's the regular drill, but with a few more choices than usual: **Above are 16 answers. You supply the questions to as many of the answers as you like, up to the usual 25 entries total.** In your entry, write the answer first, then your question.

Winner gets the [Inkin' Memorial](#), the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. And speaking of milking material from earlier contests: Second place receives one of our favorite items of promotional swag ever, courtesy of the National Pest Management Association: It's [Pest World](#), a set of lacquered wooden Russian-style nesting dolls with various household critters painted on them, all fitting into a pestilent little round house. We were shocked that the initial winner of this prize, in Week 1067, told us not to bother sending

it. While the Empress coveted this prize for her own house, Mount Vermin, it demands to be in the home of a genuine Loser.

Advertisement

Download Google  
Chrome

[google.com](http://google.com)

A free browser that lets you do more of what you like on the web.



We can't get rid of 'em! Pest World nesting dolls with critters painted on them, our second prize once again. (Actual dead stink bugs added for scale and general yuckiness.) (Pat Myers/The Washington Post )

**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](mailto:losers@washpost.com) or, if you were born in the 19th century, fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Sept. 15; results published Oct. 5 (online Oct. 2). No more than 25 entries per entrant per contest. Include “Week 1088” 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](http://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 Beverley Sharp. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](http://on.fb.me/invdev), and click “like” on Style Invitational Ink of the Day at [bit.ly/inkofday](http://bit.ly/inkofday).

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

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

FROM WEEK 1084: THE FIVE-LINERS OF LIMERIXICON XI

Our annual contest to write a limerick featuring a word from one sliver of the dictionary — this year, words beginning fi- through fo- — yielded 848 efforts, a large number of them utterly failing to follow even the mini-nutshell rule that Lines 1, 2 and 5 have to include the rhythm of “hickory-dickory-dock”; and Lines 3 and 4, “dickory-dock.” But as always, it doesn’t matter if even 800 of them stank up the joint — as long as the rest were this good:

The winner of the Inkin’ Memorial:

A new horsemeat to-do! There’s no telling  
That it’s clear what our vendors are selling —  
Like the sandwich I’d bought  
From a truck, when I thought  
“**Filly** cheesesteak” was just a misspelling! (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

2nd place and the Pee-wee Herman doll:

Law enforcement was wrong to endorse  
Making SWAT teams a matter of course  
In the war against drugs,  
Since police become thugs  
When they make it a habit of **force**. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

3rd place

I recall, as we sit by the **fireside**,

How exciting the life I've led by 'er side:

When my **football** side scored

She'd make love, to reward

Not just me, but each man — the entire side. (Hugh Thirlway, The Hague)

4th place

Informality's fine among blokes,

Buds and gal-pals, but everyone chokes

When the dude who's our prez

Quite offhandedly sez,

Yeah, too bad that "we tortured some **folks.**" (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Advertisement

Lo-fi: honorable mentions

The newborn colt's life had just started

When the stable boss, cruel and coldhearted,

Turned the mare into glue.

It's a tale we all rue:

Just a **foal** and his mommy soon parted. (Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

The middle-aged man sadly said,

"I've been losing the hair from my head.

And it seems diabolical

That every last **follicle**

Has appeared on my back now, instead!" (Christopher Lamora, Los Angeles; we can vouch for the first part but haven't seen his back)

Mr. Jones is a **fop**; his attire

Shows the flair to which many aspire,

But with haute couture tweeds

From Milan, he exceeds

What his ditch-digging job would require. (Brendan Beary)

Bruce Wayne gave up trying to raise

Young Dick Grayson, who'd run off for days:

He'd turn up at the edges

Of ornate **floral** hedges:

The ward lurks in wisteria's maze. (Craig Dykstra, Centreville, Va.)

If to undo a law you connive,

Don't ask Congress — they're barely alive.

Just go straight to the clowns

In the silly black gowns:

All you need is to sell it to **five**. (Nan Reiner, Alexandria, Va.)

The McDonnells, with lack of **finesse**,

Let a pal fill their lives with largess.

In return they were shills

For his nostrums and pills:

Their "oblige" lacked a certain noblesse. (Dan O'Day, Alexandria, Va.)

Said the hipster, "It's weird to behold:

Vintage clothes leave today's **fogies** cold,

From checked shirts to knit ties

To those hats shaped like pies.

Age is wasted, it seems, on the old." (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

Some think **fornication** is sin.

An act they are squarely agin'.

But faced with the chance

For some no-strings romance,



I suspect most would give it a spin. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

Advertisement

I'm aghast at the tasteless depiction

Of sex in contemporary **fiction**:

Just impulsive insertion,

Agitation, exertion —

Hence, as reader, my hopeless addiction. (Hugh Thirlway)

I'm not lacking in charm or in wit,

And my body is ripped — that's not it —

Though I'm perfectly nice

Seems the girls won't look twice

At a guy who's not **fiscally** fit. (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

**Flabellation** just means that you fan,

Though my aunt caused a scene in Spokane

When the temperature flared,

And at church, she declared

She would flabellate any hot man. (Frank Osen)

At the loss of my hair I am placid,

And my beer gut don't raise stomach acid,

But big Pharma has learned

They'll get all that I've earned

By instilling fear that I'll go **flaccid**. (Harvey Smith, McLean, Va.)

This Olympian showed us his mettle;

For convention he just couldn't settle.

It was over the top

For the **Fosbury Flop**

Also known as “arse over teakettle.” (Jeff Shirley, Richmond, Va.)

There once was a Scotsman named Smith,

And his penchant for liquor? No myth.

He was traveling north

On the **Firth of the Forth**

When he guzzled a **fourth** of the **fifth**. (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

It's said that one ought to **forgive**;

It's better to live and let live.

But with *some* **fools** we suffer,

That job might be tougher

Than pushing cement through a sieve. (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

Since Kim K. has been **fiscally** shrewd

And from time to time physically lewd,

Any way you define

Our Ms. K's bottom line,

There's no doubt that much interest's accrued. (David Swerdloff, Washington)

Advertisement

We practice as hard as we can

But still there are **flukes** we don't plan:

The fluffed bump-and-run,

The freak hole-in-one,

Or when the mis-hit hits the fan. (Graham Lester, Roeland Park, Kan.)

This app can send pheromones yonder,

And my husband's now off to Rwanda.

Hope he calls on the phone

When he's feeling alone,



Because app scents can make a heart **fonder**. (Chris Doyle)

An excited young fellow named Dan  
Had big plans for his date with Diane.  
But as she posed demurely  
He, quite prematurely,  
Was **finished** before he began. (Craig Dykstra)

I kept mum (didn't want him to suffer),  
When my golfing companion, a duffer,  
Said his daughter coifs hair  
In the movies somewhere  
In L.A., and is now the head **fluffer**. (Chris Doyle)

Your clothes have been hastily doffed,  
And your paramour begs to be boffed,  
You're entwined in the sack,  
But a member you lack —  
Drat! It's **flaccid** — it's hard to be soft. (Diane Wah, Seattle)

A "bosun" is someone who's facile  
At shortening terms like "**fore-castle**."  
That **fo'c's'le** is great  
As the place to relate  
How your lubberly cap'n's an as'le. (Kevin Doport, Washington)

A **fiasco's** a total debacle.  
What example will serve? Oh, Iraq'll.  
Or a limerick whose rhyme  
Runs out ere the **fifth** line,  
And you **flail** around and eventually give up. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

**Still running — deadline Monday night: our contest for novel college courses. See [bit.ly/invite1087](http://bit.ly/invite1087) .**

Next week's results: **Eww-venirs**, or **Improprieters**, ideas for what items might be sold at various real or imagined gift shops. See [bit.ly/invite1085](http://bit.ly/invite1085).

SHARE ON FACEBOOK

SHARE ON TWITTER

0 COMMENTS

0 | SHOW COMMENTS

# 0 Comments

[Discussion Policy](#)

You must be signed in to comment. [Sign In](#) or [Register](#)

People included in Post stories qualify for Preferred Commenter status. [Learn more](#)

Conversation Live

## All Comments

Newest First



There are no comments yet

- Newest First
- Oldest First
- Most Replies
- Most Liked

## Most Read Entertainment

1

Critic's Notebook: Loving Joan Rivers meant never having to say you're sorry



2

Comedian Joan Rivers has died, says her daughter Melissa Rivers

3

Comedian Joan Rivers has died, says her daughter Melissa Rivers

4

Gustavo Cerati, Latin American rocker, dies



5

Downey Jr., wife talk pregnancy at TIFF premiere



Don't miss a single story!

SUBSCRIBE >

## The Most Popular All Over

---

THE DODO

Video: Pug And Coyote Become Friends, Meet Up...



THE ATLANTIC

Is There Any Rational Case for Banning Gay Marriage?



THE WASHINGTON POST

Mitt Romney: The need for a mighty U.S. military



Most popular stories from around the web

THE MOST >

trove trending articles

**Woman reportedly beheaded in broad daylight in a London garde...**

**An Image So Powerful NASA Spent 20 Years Debunking It [VIDEO]...**

**Here's What Joan Rivers Wanted Her Funeral To Be Like**

---

washingtonpost.com

© 1996-2014 The Washington Post

[Help and Contact Us](#)

[Terms of Service](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Submissions and Discussion Policy](#)

[RSS Terms of Service](#)

## Ad Choices