

Entertainment

Style Invitational Week 1145: It's a DICEy situation — Tour de Fours XII

Our annual neologism contest, plus the winning reinterpreted headlines

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Bob Staake came up with “paramedic”: Can you make up a term that includes the E-D-I-C block, in any order? (Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

By Pat Myers October 15 [Follow @PatMyersTWP](#)

(Click [here to skip down](#) to the results of our Mess With Our Heads bank headline contest.)

Paramedic: an EMT who performs stand-up while you lie down in the ambulance.

Ice-damsel: The person in distress if you try to “rescue” this princess is you.



This week's second prize, the Mr. Tea Infuser, so appropriately goes to Rob Wolf's Bush-watering joke. (VAT19.COM)

Pasturededic: A mattress that brings the freshness of the outdoors into your bedroom (antihistamine available separately).

Pundecided: Should we go with 'Surfin' DOA' or 'No Vibrations' for the obituary headline?

This year's Tour de Fours neologism contest uses two letters never used in the preceding 11 Tours: C and D. But the game's the same: **Coin a word or multi-word term that contains the letter block D-I-C-E**, and describe it, as in the examples above; the letters may be in any order, but there may be no other letters between them. Feel free to use it in a funny sentence.

Winner gets the [Inkin' Memorial](#), the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives "[The Art of the Bonsai Potato](#)," consisting of a little plastic stand on which you place a real potato, whose sprouts you trim with serene concentration as if they're hundred-year old pine twigs. "Zen — without the wait," it cheerfully promises. Mini-tools and "hilarious 32-page book" included. Donated by longtime Loser Christina Courtney.

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 designed by Bob Staake: either "[The Wit Hit the Fan](#)" or "[Hardly Har-Har](#)." First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" ([FirStink](#) for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or, if you were born in the 19th century, fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday night, Oct. 26; results published Nov. 15 (online Nov. 12). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1145" 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 headline for this week's results is by Jeff Contompasis; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Kevin Dopart. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. "Like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday.

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column 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 contest announced four weeks ago . . .](#)

QUIPPED FROM THE HEADLINES:

REPORT FROM WEEK 1141

Week 1141 was our perennial Mess With Our Heads contest, in which you chose a real headline from that week's Post and wrote a bank head, or subtitle, that either misinterprets the original head or comments wryly on it. Great results, as always.

4th place:

How first lady can avoid a dress flap

Aides suggest she drop designer [Dr. Denton](#) (Pie Snelson, Silver Spring, Md.)

3rd place:

A no-brainer on Syria

Palin weighs in on Mideast conflict (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

2nd place and the Mr. Tea Infuser:

Bush's unfamiliar position: underdog

Transplanted azalea withers from warm, yellow watering (Rob Wolf, Gaithersburg, Md.)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial:

Amid pomp and circumstance, a shepherd tends his flock

'Quit playing FarmVille on your phone — they're about to call you up for your diploma!' friend mutters to classmate (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.)

Bank reserves: honorable mentions

Ben Carson says a Muslim shouldn't be president

And Muslims say Ben Carson shouldn't be president
(Neal Starkman, Seattle; Gregory Koch, Falls Church, Va.)

Stocks close down on growth concerns

Colonial Williamsburg removes replicas because 'fat tourists keep getting their arms caught' (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

Tortorella to coach U.S. squad in Cup

Embarrassed players wish he would put more clothes on (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

The beginning of Trump's end?

That would be right on top of his neck (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

Israeli supermodel wanted a no-fly zone for her wedding

All male guests had to wear yoga pants, kilts (Sylvia Betts, Vancouver, B.C.)

Carly Fiorina subdued in victory lap after debate

Police allege "she looked black" (Stephen Litterst, Newark, Del.)

'I've tried three wheels before, but not two. I'm a little nervous.'

Brie addict struggles to reduce daily cheese consumption (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Candidates on both sides bashing China

Senate Dining Room spat between Sanders, Cruz turns into plate-throwing brawl (Rob Cohen, Potomac, Md.)

When dating in your 40s, is it better to be divorced or never married?

Experts agree that, yes, married people shouldn't be dating (Christopher Thorpe, San Francisco)

Culture of reprisals against whistleblowers

Disgruntled fans routinely toss stuff at refs (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

At debate, many candidates spell out their strategy on Iran

'B-O-M-B' (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

Washington Post honored at food journalist conference

Paper edges Times of London in coveted Fish & Chip Wrapping category (John McCooney, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

Md. man 'touched everyone's hearts'

Out-of-control surgeon performed unwanted, invasive procedures (Rebekah Bundang, Vienna, Va., a First Offender)

Groupon to shed 1,100 jobs

Company-wide e-mail titled '10% off!' wasn't best way to break the news, execs say (Brendan Beary)

White House picks florist

'Ha, now you know how we feel,' say Rose Garden inhabitants (Danielle Nowlin)

Doesn't get any easier for Virginia

Tyke to be told there is no Easter Bunny (Mark Raffman)

Metro nears new deal to keep cellphone users connected

Riders will be able to call the office to say they're stuck on the Red Line again (Brendan Beary)

GOP hopefuls spell dread for federal employees

Only 3 forgot to include the silent A (Neal Starkman)

How to make 2016 the year of the tomato

Trump urges GOP to recruit women candidates with 'huge personas' (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Copper returns as an agent in the battle against resilient bacteria

Officer McGruff says: 'Take a bite out of grime' (Jeff Contompassis, Ashburn, Va.)

A look ahead at Wednesday's Mass

After Tuesday's banquet, Christie predicts 5-lb. gain (Rick Haynes, Ocean City, Md.)

Amazon announces new \$50 tablet

'Amateurs,' scoffs pill-gouger Martin Shkreli (Brendan Beary)

Another disappointing transportation meeting

Metro seatmate turns out not to be soul mate for 7,653rd consecutive morning (Danielle Nowlin)

Name the panda Elvis

CIA reveals Bin Laden's cryptic last words (Frank Osen)

Number of uninsured fell steeply last year

Owner of free Novocain clinic lost control on double-diamond ski slope (Gary Crockett)

Obama is now letting U.S. telecom carriers go to Cuba

Country told to expect installer between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. next Tuesday (Roger Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.)

On Lesbos, endless waves of boats and fears of a more treacherous voyage

U.S. government slow to aid because senators cannot say 'Lesbos' without giggling (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

Overdue praise for the line

Classic 'Would you like to come up and see my etchings?' gets new life in tat age (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

Papal visit to Washington will start in summer, end in fall

Psychics agree that pontiff's first Segway outing won't fare well (David Garratt, Silver City, N.M.)

Pope meets with Fidel Castro, urges Cubans to 'serve people,' not ideas

'Soylent Verde' policy unveiled (Bird Waring)

To minimize lumber damage, quickly get rid of water

Infections from chronically full bladders can spread to nearby parts (Jeff Contompasis)

Too much time behind bars

Ted Danson regrets early TV career (Mark Raffman)

Waiting hours and hours for a joyous few seconds

'Dinner and a movie' retains its romantic utility (Elden Carnahan, Laurel, Md.)

With today's offenses, reaching triple digits doesn't look quite as impossible

Irritated Beltway drivers growing extra middle fingers to adapt (Danielle Nowlin)

First commute goes well at Silver Spring Transit Center

'Tomorrow we'll try a second passenger,' officials vow (Duncan Stevens)

Get ready for three-on-three

'Man-man-woman marrying man-man-dog is next,' Santorum warns (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

U.S. sees opportunity for military gains against ISIS in Syria

Wishes everyone luck with that, changes channel (Mike Connaghan, Alexandria, Va.)

Still running: Deadline Monday night, Oct. 19: Our contest to give a brand name a better use. See bit.ly/invite1144.

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