

## Style Invitational Week 1204: At least ...

Comfort (or 'comfort') a Never-Trumper with a silver lining; plus winning cynical definitions



(Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

By Pat Myers • Entertainment December 1 

(Click [here to skip down](#) to the winning 12-word “Devil’s Dictionary”-style entries)

- **Melania won’t be nagging you to eat your vegetables.**
- **The “Hamilton” cast won’t have to come all the way down to the White House Blue Room anymore.**
- **The Trump Library won’t take up very much space.**
- **There’s at least a chance we won’t keep hearing about her damn emails.**



If you win, you get Abraham Lincoln. If you finish second, you get him. (Pat Myers/The Washington Post)

In Week 1202 we asked for song parodies that expressed some kind of hope. If you've been in a funk since Nov. 8 but aren't the lyrical type (or even if you are) — or if you *are* happy with the election results but would like to buck up a funk-dweller: **Note some good news for the coming year to comfort — or “comfort” — those who are depressed about the change of presidential administration.**

**Submit entries at this website:** [bit.ly/enter-invite-1204](http://bit.ly/enter-invite-1204) (all lowercase).

Winner gets the [Inkin' Memorial](#), the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a hefty-feeling eight-inch-tall [Donald Trump bobblehead](#) from RoyalBobbles.com, the same company that sold us our extremely limited edition (just 19 left!) Bobble-Linc. It's a pretty good if too svelte likeness of the president-elect except for the uncharacteristic closed mouth (and single chin). Donated by Loser Dave Prevar.

**Other runners-up** win their choice of the yearned-for [“This Is Your Brain on Mugs” Loser mug](#) or our Grossery Bag, [“I Got a B in Punmanship.”](#) Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, [“Magnet Dum Laude”](#) or [“Falling Jest Short.”](#) First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” ([FirStink](#) for their first ink). Deadline is Monday night, Dec. 12; results published Jan. 1 (online Dec. 29). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline “Maledictionary” was suggested by Kevin Dopart; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Jon Gearhart. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](http://on.fb.me/invdev). “Like” the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](http://bit.ly/inkofday); follow [@StyleInvite](https://twitter.com/StyleInvite) on Twitter.

● **The Style Conversational** The Empress's weekly online column, published late Thursday afternoon, 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 . . .](#)

### **MALEDICTIONARY: THE CYNICAL DEFINITIONS FROM WEEK 1200**

Flailing around in search of *some* tie-in for **Week 1200**, the Empress trotted out a recurring contest in which we ask for wry, cynical “Devil’s Dictionary”-type definitions of words or expressions; the catch was that the term plus the definition had to consist of exactly 12 words (two words connected with a hyphen counted as two).

#### **4th place**

**Mythology:** Religions no one will get angry that you call mythology anymore. (Daniel Galef, Montclair, N.J.)

#### **3rd place**

**A nail-biter:** The first 30 seconds of a Cleveland Browns game. (Dave Airozo, Silver Spring, Md.)

#### **2nd place**

and the [ski mask with curly tentacles under the eyeholes](#):

**Promises:** These need to be made frequently, since they don’t keep well. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

#### **And the winner of the Inkin’ Memorial:**

**Sex:** Something to do during the lame sketches on “Saturday Night Live.” (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church, Va.)

#### **The twelves of nether: honorable mentions**

**“Eat your vegetables”:** Phrase uttered before finding spinach dangling from dog’s mouth. (Hildy Zampella)

**Hands:** In a severed country, the man with tiny ones is king. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

**Negligee:** Sleepwear for times you expect to neither sleep nor wear it. (Kevin Dopart)

**Reality TV:** How people genuinely act while performing scripted stunts on camera. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

**Telephone:** A retro app that some people actually use on their phones. (Daniel Galef)

**Hoi polloi:** If you have to ask, you’re surely one of them. (Cindi Rae Caron, Blowing Rock, N.C.)

**“Believe me”:** A lie has just been told, or shortly will be. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

**“Make America great again”:** Fill in the blank with your chosen prejudice. (William Kennard, Arlington)

**“With all due respect”:** “Prepare, as I snort in your general direction.” (Gigi Thompson Jarvis, McLean, Va., a First Offender)

**“My bad”:** “I’m scoring points by flippantly admitting that I messed up.” (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

**“Locker room talk”:** A terrible defense used to cover a terrible offense. (Jesse Frankovich)

**“Use at own risk”:** “Legal team made us write this. Have fun!”(Nathanael Dewhurst, Lynn, Mass.)

**Ego trip:** The belief that people worship the water you walk on. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

**Bar:** A place characterized by raising of glasses and lowering of morals. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

**Good old days:** When we could afford two spaces after a period. (Mary Kappus, Washington)

**Bridgagate:** The story of how clogged arteries caused a fat politician’s demise. (Dave Airozo)

**Buyer’s remorse:** Coming to a neighborhood near you on January twenty-first. (Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

**Cialis:** You want something to happen? Get in the same bathtub, dummy! (Hildy Zampella)

**“Drain the swamp”:** Get rid of those who don’t look like you. (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

**Cubs:** A team that has managed to disappoint its most masochistic fans. (Gary Crockett)

**Dieter:** Someone who counts the calories in what everyone else is eating. (Chris Doyle)

**Diplomacy:** The art and practice of committing international extortion without obvious hostility. (Kevin Dopart)

**Election:** A quadrennial event that one is tempted to elect to shun. (Douglas Raybeck, Amherst, Mass.)

**Electoral college:** Designed over 200 years ago specifically to defeat your candidate. (Jerry Birchmore, Springfield, Va.)

**Empty-nesters:** Parents who fear their chickens may come home to roost. (Chris Doyle)

**Exercise bike:** An oddly shaped coat rack usually found in basement corners. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

**Fine print at the bottom:** An anagram of “Often the important bit.” (Jesse Frankovich)

**Grace:** The ability to wish a scoundrel well while gritting your teeth. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

**Mike Pence:** A politician who willingly hitched his wagon to a tsar. (Kevin Dopart)

**Pollster:** An oracle who has swapped entrails for numbers, with similar accuracy. (James W. Hertsch III, Fairfax)

**Roller coaster:** A carnival ride to help you relax after the election. (Mary Kappus)

**Sinkhole:** When God decides a vacation home in Florida needs a basement. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

**Subway:** Mass transit technology that is rumored to work in other cities. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

**Supermoon:** No prettier than other hardworking moons, but better lit and publicized. (Melissa Balmain)

**Tim Kaine:** Someone whose favorite expression is “Don’t quit your day job.” (Hildy Zampella)

**Tootsie Roll:** Food that, when chewed, helpfully removes old, worn-out fillings. (Duncan Stevens)

**Understudy:** An actor who *means* “break a leg” when he says it. (Kevin Dopart)

**Veterinarian:** A sort of magician who pulls things out of a rabbit. (Daniel Galef)

**Voter:** One who studiously gathers all available misinformation about candidates for office. (Duncan Stevens)

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**Voters:** People with their middle fingers on the pols of the nation. (Chris Doyle)

**Loser:** A person who succeeds at a pursuit you deem insufficiently worthwhile. (Tom Witte)

**Style Invitational:** Contest used to prove who has the most free time. (John Hutchins, Silver Spring, Md.)

**Still running — deadline Monday night, Dec. 5: two simultaneous contests!**

**Week 1202**, song parodies containing some lyrics about hope: [bit.ly/invite1202](http://bit.ly/invite1202)

**Week 1203**, what you would do with any of several magical powers: [bit.ly/invite1203](http://bit.ly/invite1203)

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