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## Entertainment

# Style Invitational Week 1348: Same Difference

How is John Bolton's mustache like/unlike Einstein's tongue? Plus winning limericks.



(Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

By **Pat Myers**

September 5

(Click [here to skip down](#) to the winning limericks featuring “gr-” words)

**The difference between charred mollusk on a stick and the 50,000 people of Greenland: It’s possible that Denmark would sell out the mollusk.**

- A hard Brexit
- A bicycle built for 20
- Charred mollusk on a stick
- The 50,000 people of Greenland
- Albert Einstein’s tongue
- Clown shoe Friday
- Will Shortz
- Jockey shorts
- Hand-marked ballots
- 50-yard-line Redskins tickets



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- **Bedbugs**
- **Boris Johnson's hair**
- **Russian dressing**
- **John Bolton's mustache**
- **Sean Spicer doing the tango**
- **Avocado toast**
- **A dot matrix printer**

It's our more or less annual contest in which we supply you a motley list of nouns and noun phrases — this time most of them were volunteered by members of the [Style Invitational Devotees](#) group on Facebook — and ask the Greater Loser Community to think up some clever, surprising connections among them, as it always manages to do. **This week: Explain humorously how any two or more of the items above are alike, different or otherwise connected**, as in the example above.

Submit up to 25 entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1348](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1348) (no capitals in the Web address).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a **pink T-shirt brought back from Germany** by Loser Elden Carnahan with the famous photo of [Albert Einstein laughingly sticking his tongue out](#). It's advertising the [renowned bistro in Garmisch](#) whose name isn't printable here but begins with "Mukke" and ends with a word that more or less rhymes with it.

**Other runners-up** win our ["You Gotta Play to Lose"](#) Loser Mug or our ["Whole Fools"](#) Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, ["Too-Weak Notice"](#) or ["Certificate of \(de\) Merit."](#) First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" ([FirStink](#) for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday, Sept. 16**; results published Oct. 6 in print, Oct. 3 online. See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline for this week's results is by Tom Witte; Mark Raffman wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. 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](#) 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 ...](#)

#### DogGRel: 'Gr-' LIMERICKS FROM WEEK 1344

**Week 1344** was our 16th annual Limerixicon, in which we help out [OEDILF.com](http://OEDILF.com) — a project to create a whole dictionary in limerick form — by seeking limericks featuring a word from one sliver of the dictionary. And for the fifth year running, we're still on the G's.

#### 4th place

Aunt Elizabeth's gifts used to bore us  
Till she told us we'd get a thesaurus.  
We were thrilled past belief

praise be: Margaret Atwood has published a sequel to 'The Handmaid's Tale'



- 2 Perspective**  
Burna Boy is an 'African Giant' with a sound that defies geography



- 3** Actor Malik Yoba wanted to support an upcoming transgender march. An accusation followed.



- 4** Nicki Minaj apologizes for 'abrupt' and 'insensitive' retirement tweet. But... is she still retiring?



- 5** What happened when Trump visited the African American History Museum, according to its founding director



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Till we found, to our **grief**,  
She had *not* bought a dinosaur for us.  
(David Smith, Stockton, Calif.)

### 3rd place

"I'm the richest, with all the best clout!"  
Crowd the Prez. "Folks keep talking about  
All the profits I've **grossed!**"  
Sighed his wife, "Darling, most  
Are just saying you're **grossing** them out."  
(Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

### 2nd place

and the [World's Smallest Men's Swimsuit](#):  
In the churches of Santo Domingo  
You will find no more popular **gringo**  
Than the cardinal who  
May one day be the new  
Holy Father: Pope John Paul George Ringo.  
(Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

### And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

At his rallies, they **gripe** by design  
'Bout the other-hued folks they malign.  
Though the Prez doesn't drink,  
It is easy to think  
He's a very big fan of white whine.  
(Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

### Grimmer 'ricks:

#### Honorable mentions

To tell me "You're pregnant!" is rude.  
I get comments and queries most crude.  
For beer I am avid,  
So my gut sticks out "**gravid.**"  
But don't ask when I'm due — I'm a dude.  
(Sam Mertens, Silver Spring, Md.)

It's **grotesque**: Trump sends tweet after tweet,  
With supremacist comments replete.  
Does he send these from bed?  
'Cause it seems, from what's said,  
That these thoughts come from under a sheet.  
(Paul VerNooy, Hockessin, Del.)

A New Mexican tourist named Sheila  
Was attacked by a lizard near Gila.  
Though **grotesque** is the swelling,  
The discomfort she's quelling  
With a couple of shots of tequila.

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Some contend that impeachment makes sense,  
But I'm not on the side of the fence  
That believes this morass could be  
Solved or the grass would be  
**Greener** with President Pence.

(Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

"Here's a stock that's made folks millionaires,"  
Said two techies while peddling shares  
To The Fridge, Jim McMahon,  
And Mike Ditka — a plan  
That Chicago called "Geeks **Grifting** Bears." (Chris Doyle)

For birthdays that come in two weeks  
I've bought Spartan friends just what each seeks:  
Admission for each  
To a cool nudist beach.  
I love giving gifts baring **Greeks**.

(Beryl Benderly, Washington)

"Your stomach's the way to your heart,"  
Says my wife as I wolf down a tart.  
**Grinning** back, I reply,  
"You are aiming too high"  
And suggest an alternative part.  
(Stephen Gold, London)

Will Brexit occur? Let's just wait  
And hope that, whatever its fate,  
At the end of the day  
We will still get to say  
That Britain somehow remains **Great**.  
(Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

My new website does not get much traffic,  
It's erotica (straight, gay and Sapphic).  
There's no pix, only prose —  
And the ratings disclose  
That reviewers say: it's "poor: no **graphic**." (Mark Raffman)

She escaped the witch, showing her mettle,  
But her brother's in not-so-fine fettle:  
Grew a long, **grasping** tail  
While the hag brewed her ale.  
They're now known as "Prehensile and **Gretel**."  
(Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

After hiking o'er hills and o'er dales,  
Said the campers: "Good night: happy trails!"



Said the bear: "What a scent!  
It's a meal-in-a-tent!"  
(I will spare you the **grizzly** details.)  
(Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

If you're tempted to kiss or embrace  
A stranger whose beauty and **grace**  
Make her hard to resist,  
Don't do it! Her fist  
Just might land in a delicate place.  
(Madeleine Begun Kane, New York)

**Grotesqueries** suddenly seem  
To have broken the bounds of a dream.  
Nightmares are one thing,  
But we wake to our Sun King,  
Who makes "**grossly**" seem quite un-extreme.  
(Rick Foucheux, Silver Spring, Md., a First Offender)

When the markets are tanking, he **growls**,  
His face twisted with hideous scowls.  
But to say "It's on me"  
Is a thing we won't see  
Cause [the blame \(he will claim\) is all Powell's](#).  
(Frank Mann, Washington)

The young suitor was hot for the game,  
But the lass thought his moves were just lame  
When a kick to the **groin**  
Did his ardor enjoin,  
That's how "her-knee-ya" first got its name. (Mark Raffman)

The doubters should think about how  
Things'll be much more peaceful than now  
If the liberal crew  
Gets their **Green New Deal** through,  
'Cause they won't allow having a cow.  
(Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

Ride a bike — don't consume gasoline!  
Stop your AC and washing machine!  
Now we all can confirm it:  
That message from Kermit  
Was true — it's no cinch bein' **green**.  
(Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

It may strike you as strange, but it's true:  
When you breathe you exhale CO<sub>2</sub>.  
And so it might be  
That some bush or some tree

**Grew** a branch from what came out of you.

*(Robert Schechter)*

With the **grass** growing fast near the sewer

The homeowner sought out a chewer.

It's now all in hand:

A cow's in command —

An efficiently working lawn mooer.

*(Kevin Ahern, Corvallis, Ore.)*

Since the diva had slept in a crouch

On a too-tiny rollaway couch,

She came on like a meanie,

Which suited Puccini,

Who'd cast her as Tosca the **Grouch**.

*(Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)*

I **groom** what is left of my hair;

Long ago, *magnifique!* No compare!

But tresses sublime

Fall away over time.

Now I'm left here with only a pair.

*(Roger Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.)*

Oscar Wilde, in a Bangkok cafe,

Caught a whiff of a fruit in decay

That gave rise to a dread

Of putrescence and led

To "The Picture of Durian **Gray**." *(Chris Doyle)*

**And Last:** Chris at 3: "Dolly, send in the clone!"

Of Kate Moss: "Does she read Rolling Stone?"

His wordplay's precocious,

His puns are ferocious;

We're braced for the day he's full **groan**. — Mr. & Mrs. Doyle

*(Duncan Stevens)*

**Still running — deadline Monday night, Sept. 9: our contest to come up with funny definitions for some brand-new words we supply. [See wapo.st/invite1347](http://wapo.st/invite1347).**

**DON'T MISS AN INVITE!** [Sign up here](#) to receive a once-a-week email from the Empress as soon as The Style Invitational and Style Conversational go online every Thursday, complete with links to the columns.

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#### Pat Myers



Pat Myers is editor and judge of The Style Invitational, The Washington Post's page for clever, edgy humor and wordplay. In the role since December 2003, she has posted and judged more than 700 contests. She also writes the weekly Style Conversational column and runs the Style Invitational Devotees page on Facebook. Follow

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