



The Washington Post

Entertainment

Style Invitational Week 1124: We need your advice for daily life — in verse.

Plus links for inks — the winning and losing comparisons from Week 1120

YOU CAN'T MISS. TEXT 'NATS' TO 29292 FOR NATIONALS ALERTS.
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Don't just seethe. Write Mr. Seat Space Hog a little poem. (Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

By Pat Myers May 14 at 11:22 AM  [Follow @PatMyersTWP](#)

(Click [here to skip down](#) to the results of Week 1120, humorous comparisons between any two items on a list we supplied)

***Don't recline your seat;
Remain upright and kind.
Then I won't stab my feet
Into your fat behind.***

- **Don't recline your airplane seat.**
- **Close cover before striking.**
- **Don't chew with your mouth open.**
- **Use your parking brake.**
- **Stop to smell the flowers.**

This week's contest — one we've never really done before, but one I can promise you we'll do again — was suggested by 35-time Loser Todd "the Lap" DeLap: **Give one of the above reminders in the form of a humorous poem of eight lines or fewer**, as in the example above by the famed airline behavior fulminator Gene Weingarten. All (printable) genres are welcome.

Winner gets the [Inkin' Memorial](#), the Lincoln statue



Nobody will tiptoe through YOUR tulips if they're protected by this foot-tall zombie garden gnome, sent to use from Britain: This week's second prize. ([MediaPRUK.com](#) /)

bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place wins a cute little — actually, it's little but it's really *not* cute — **Zombie Garden Gnome**, made of genuine “terror cotta.” It was sent by from Britain by its PR guy Kieran Elsby, who, in amazing serendipity, had sent out an e-mail press release to The Media that (a) had the subject line “Lawn of the Dead” and (b) avoided the spam filter of the Empress of The Style Invitational.

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 May 25; results

published June 14 (online June 11). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include “Week 1124” 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 Tom Witte; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Stephen Dudzik. 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.

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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 the results of the Style Invitational contest posted four weeks ago . . .](#)

SOME LINKAGE MAY OCCUR: THE RESULTS OF WEEK 1120

In Week 1120, we looked back at our hardy perennial “Same Difference” contest — to compare or contrast any two items from a list we supply — and put together a motley bouquet: **Each of the 17 items in this year’s list was taken from a different Invitational contest from 1996 to 2014.** While we hoped that meant all new answers this time around, several Losers made the same “compare thee to a Summer’s Eve” joke for “an Elizabethan sonnet” as the [one that got ink in 2010](#). Brand-new this time around but sent by too many people: Gandhi and the Skins’ offensive line are both famed for nonviolent confrontation.

4th place:

Mohandas K. Gandhi vs. Ruth Bader Ginsburg doing the macarena: One's a Mahatma and one's a Hot Mama. (Jack McBroom, Fort Valley, Va.; John Conti, Norfolk, Mass.)

3rd place:

"American Gothic" vs. the Redskins' offensive line: In the painting, you'll just see two sad sacks. (Elden Carnahan, Laurel, Md.)

2nd place and the full-size photo cutout of President Obama:

Yemen and an overactive bladder: The first: Middle Eastern crisis. The second: You're a peein' emergency. (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial:

A \$4 haircut and the Redskins' offensive line: With one, three snips and you're out; with the other, three snaps and they're out. (Jaclyn Yamada, New York, a First Offender)

LinkedInanity: honorable mentions

A \$4 haircut and a tattoo of Joe Biden: You hope the haircut isn't just a cheap ripoff — and pray the tattoo is. (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

The 400-meter dash and a Biden tattoo: One lasts two furlongs; the other lasts for too long. (Greg Johnson, Victoria, B.C.)

A Biden tattoo and a three-cupped bra: They both represent one boob too many. (Brian Allgar, Paris)

Ruth Bader Ginsburg doing the macarena: Justice imprudent; a Biden tattoo: just as imprudent. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

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A \$4 haircut and a three-cupped bra: They're consecutive verses in "The Twelve Days of Deep Discount Christmas." (Mary Kappus, Washington)

A \$4 haircut and a three-cupped bra: Both are unlikely to be on fashion critic Robin Givhan as a [Lilly Pulitzer dress from Target](#). (Roy Ashley, Washington)

A three-cupped bra and pizza-scented shampoo: Both are regular line items in the "Jersey Shore" production budget. (Steve Honley, Washington)

The 400-yard dash and an overactive bladder: With only one of these, there's an award for finishing Number 1. (Wendy O. Sparks, Rockville, Md.)

The 400-yard dash and Gandhi: One's over fast; the other overfasted. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

The 400-yard dash and an overactive bladder: The first is a Sprint; the other requires Pee-Mobile. (Jonathan Hardis, Gaithersburg, Md.)

Yemen is like the 400-yard dash: At the sound of a gun, you'd better run. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

A pile of socks and that "not-so-fresh" feeling: Both can be found in the bottom of your drawers. (Edmund Conti, Raleigh, N.C.)

Yemen vs. that not-so-fresh feeling: One means trouble in the Middle East; the other, trouble with the middle's yeast. (Stephen Dudzik, Olney, Md.; Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

Yemen vs. that not-so-fresh feeling: One is in the Middle East; the other is in the middle south. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

Gandhi and a \$4 haircut: Both might make you call out: "Ma! Hat! Ma!" (Pie Snelson, Silver Spring, Md.)

Gandhi and a \$4 haircut: Only the second would involve a cowlick. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

With an overactive bladder, you need to pee urgently; with a \$4 haircut, you need a toupee urgently. (Brendan Beary)

An elderly Labrador retriever and the Redskins' offensive line: No matter how determined, they both tend to fall short of that critical yard. (Lawrence McGuire)

The Redskins' offensive line and an elderly Labrador: More than a few blocks are a struggle for both of them. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond, Va.)

Dilbert's necktie and the Redskins' offensive line: Only the guy behind the necktie has reliable pocket protection. (Kevin Doport)

Gandhi and the Redskins' offensive line: Both are famous for giving away possessions. (Elden Carnahan)

The Redskins' line and an overactive bladder: With both, you end up with problems in the end zone. (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

The Redskins' line and a \$4 haircut: 16 quarters aren't enough to make either look good. (Rick Haynes, Boynton Beach, Fla.)

An overactive bladder and Justice Ginsburg doing the macarena: It's embarrassing when they can't contain themselves at work. (David Friedman, Arlington, Va.)

A Biden tattoo and a Style Invitational Loser magnet: You might be willing to show your friends the tattoo. (Christopher Lamora, Los Angeles)

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The 400-meter dash is won by running madly, a Loser magnet by punning badly. (Kathleen DeBold, Burtonsville, Md.)

An overactive bladder and a Loser magnet: One results in frequent thoughts of toilets; the other, from them. (Kevin Dopart)

An Elizabethan sonnet and a three-cupped bra:

The more I see of Man, the more I feel
That Eve was never fashioned from his chest,
But vice versa, in this sort of deal:
God first made Woman with an extra breast
And knew that she was fair, but Eve said, "Nay!
My crowded bosom is a needless strain."
God saw her point and threw one breast away,
Forgetting it until He came again.
Then Eve declared, "Each creature hath a mate
But me, and, Deity, I'm getting bored!"
So God replied, "You're right; I shall create
A Man from you," and Eve cried, "Thank You, Lord!"
Then God said: "He won't be a work of art . . .
Let's see, where did I put that extra part?"
(Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Still running — deadline Monday night, May 18: our ScrabbleGrams neologism

contest. See bit.ly/invite1123.

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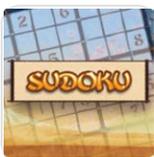
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