

Entertainment

Homes'pun' humor: The la'ugh'able 'air quotes from Style Invitational Week 1134

And our new contest, Week 1137: Be a published author in 28 days! (By spicing up a book title.)



SU“PERV”ISOR: This week’s winning “air quotes” entry, by Brendan Beary. (Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

By Pat Myers August 20 at 12:23 PM

(Click [here to skip down](#) to this week’s new contest, Week 1137)

In Week 1134 we gave another run to our popular “air quotes” contest, in which we wanted you to find a telling word inside another word or name. Sorry, many of you, but we already did **Donald T“rump”** in 2001. In fact, The Donald has been very good to The Style Invitational ever since Year 1 in 1993; a runner-up in Week 21 was “Donald Trump is so annoying that Amnesty International wants him beaten and locked up.” (Tom Gearty) See a collection of Trump Ink in this week’s [Style Conversational](#) column.

4th place:

Se“dated”: Out for a romantic evening. — W. Cosby (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

3rd place:

The“irs”: That which, after April 15, no longer belongs to us. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

2nd place

and the [horse-head squirrel feeder](#):



Our man in Richmond: Campaign swag for Virginia state Senate candidate Carl Loser. (Rhymes with “poser.”) (Pat Myers/The Washington Post)

Com“place”nt: Second best is good enough for me. (Yuki Henninger, Vienna, Va.)

And the winner of the Inkin’ Memorial:

Su“perv”isor: The boss who believes too strongly in “hands-on management.” (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

So f’un’ny: honorable mentions

Se“rape”: See, I told you. — D. Trump, New York (Jeff Hazle, Woodbridge, Va.)

Ce“meter”y: Tick. . . tick. . . tick. . . — G. Reaper (Brendan Beary)

“Can”dor: “Well, yes, it does look big in that dress.” (Dion Black, Washington)

“Ass”uage: “Oh, no, it doesn’t look big at all.” (Danielle Nowlin, Woodbridge, Va.)

“Spa”ghetti: A plate of bean sprouts. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

Affordable Ca“re Act”: Also known as “The sky is falling! The sky is falling!” (Frank Mann, Washington)

iP“hon”e: “Dear, we should talk. Can you look at me when we talk?” (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

Red“ski”ns: Going downhill since the 1990s. (Ward Kay)

P“lung”ing neckline: Deepest cleavage ever. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Sa“turd”ay Night Live: What the show is now vs. whenever the complainer was in college. (Steve Honley, Washington)

“Tref”oil: The least popular Girl Scout scout cookie in Brooklyn. (Jeff Covel, Arlington, Va.)

A“sham”ed: “I regret that some people found my remarks offensive.” (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

“Lame”ntations: Crocodile tears. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

“Was”hingtonian: D.C. resident who complains about how much better it used to be when she could shop at Garfinckel’s and Woodies. (Steve Honley)

“Ha”ir: The thing on Trump’s head. (Melissa Balmain)

A“sparta”me: Switching from regular to Diet Coke. (Mike Gips, Bethesda, Md.)

Calip“hate”: No elaboration necessary. (Mike Gips)

Cav“eat” emptor: Word to the wise at the \$3.99 buffet. (Rick Haynes, Ocean City, Md.)

Chris “Christ”ie: A candidate with just a bit of an ego. (Ed Scarbrough, Germantown, Md., a First Offender)

Co“it”us: Birds do, bees do. (Edmund Conti, Raleigh, N.C.)

Infi“deli”ty: A venue for sampling a wide variety of tasty dishes. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

Com“miser”ation: All you get from a wealthy friend when you’re badly in debt. (John Shea, Philadelphia)

So“cialis”m: Whatever it is, it’s giving Bernie a big rise. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Cont“race”ption: The rush to get the condom package open before the mood wilts. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond, Va.)

Exe“cute”: “No, Mr. Bond, I expect you to watch cat videos until you kill yourself.” (Dion Black)

Exhi“bit”ionist: A poorly endowed flasher. (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

F“utility”: After a summer storm, waiting for Pepco to get the power back on. (Howard Walderman, Columbia, Md.)

Gen“eros”ity: What Your Mama showed to the football team. (Robert Schechter)

Gua“camo”le: Fatigued avocado dip with dark-green and brown splotches. (Jeff Contompasis)

H“usb”and: Computer geek who claims to have a wife. (Philip Justus, Potomac, Md.)

House of Rep“resent”atives: A legislative body with a 16 percent approval rating. (Christopher Thorpe, San Francisco, a First Offender)

I“ow”a: Spending \$7 million on campaign ads and still coming in third. (Mike Ostapiej, Mount Pleasant, S.C.)

Journa“list”: A writer whose entire body of work consists of that “Ten Things You Need To Know. . .” clickbait. (Lawrende McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

Large Had“ron Co”llider: It slices! It dices! It smashes to bits! (Michael Rosen, New York)

Long I“slander”: Those stereotypes? They’re all true. (Ken Stern, New York)

Mob enfor“cement”: These guys really know how to take care of you. (Beverley Sharp)

Plastic s“urge on”: “Have your husband’s eyes been wandering? This week only, 20 percent off facelifts.” (Arnold Berke, Washington, a First Offender)

Re“cog”nition: The award the boss gives you to make you forget how unimportant your job is. (John O’Byrne, Dublin)

Se“cur”ity: Junkyard dog. (Jeff Hazle)

Washing“ton” Post: The Sunday paper before the Internet. (Michael Woodward, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories)

[And this week’s new contest:](#)

WEEK 1137: BE A PUBLISHED AUTHOR IN 28 DAYS!

TRY A THREE-WAY! *Utilizing Polarized Plugs* (Bruce Alter)

PULLING STRINGS TO GET AHEAD: *Collected Transcriptions for the Harp* (Bruce Alter)

TRIGONOMETRY THE HARRY POTTER WAY (Stephen Dudzik)

As of this writing, the number of different paperback titles available on Amazon.com: 29,465,646. Hardcover: 10,721,497. Kindle books: 2,509,059. And so it’s certainly no easier to get people to buy *your* book, rather than the competing volume on how to re-porcelain your sink, than it was in 2001, when Style Invitational Losers Bruce Alter and Stephen Dudzik got ink in a contest for spicy titles for boring books. It wasn’t, however, an Invite contest; Bruce and Steve were moonlighting with the now-defunct Invite-like contest in the Canadian paper the Globe and Mail. I agree wholeheartedly with Steve’s suggestion that we rip it off.

This week: Give us a spicy title for a boring book, real or imagined. You might explain the boringosity in a subtitle, as in the first two examples, or integrate it into the title, as in the third. **A short pitch for the book would not be out of line.**

Winner gets the [Inkin’ Memorial](#), the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place gets one of our favorite prizes ever: genuine swag from the current Virginia state Senate campaign of Libertarian Carl R. Loser of the Richmond area: The **Loser for Liberty tote bag and deck of cards** were acquired for us by Richmond-based Loser (not related) Jeff Shirley. (By the way, Mr. Loser rhymes his name with “poser” — although, he says, “I do not correct people when they say ‘loser’ because I find that they remember the name better.”)

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, Aug. 31; results published Sept. 20 (online Sept. 17). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include “Week 1137” 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 Chris Doyle; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Beverley Sharp. 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.

Still running — deadline Monday night: Our “ga-” word limerick contest. See bit.ly/invite1136.

Most Read Entertainment

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4 From 'Jessie' to 'Ricki,' Rick Springfield keeps it fresh



5 Expanded media coverage of this year's National Book Festival



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