

Style Invitational Week 1191: Mess with our heads

Our recurring contest to reinterpret a headline with a funny 'bank head'; plus the top neologisms from Week 1187



Actually, the headline "Big families, squeezed out?" referred to a story about the dearth of affordable multi-bedroom apartments in Washington. (Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

By Pat Myers • Entertainment September 1

(Click [here to skip down](#) to the winning neologisms from Week 1187.)

*Real Washington Post headline: **Big families, squeezed out?***

*Fake bank head: **Plus-size patrons sue Six Flags over small seats on roller coaster*** (Brendan Beary)

*Real headline: **Lucy, the world's most famous fossil, may have met her demise in a fall***

*Bank head: **Museum technician regrets texting while carrying skull*** (Dave Prevar)

The Post, in recent years, has put a welcome emphasis on writing lively, engaging headlines, with less of the "headlines" language (missing "the" or "to be" verbs; clichés like "raises ire"). But lively or no, there should be plenty to choose from in **this week's contest: Reinterpret (or comment wryly on) a headline appearing in The Post (print or online) and dated Sept. 1-12 by writing a bank head, or subtitle, as in the examples above from the Aug. 30 Post** (a few days ago I invited the Loser Community, on the [Style Invitational Devotees](#) page on Facebook, to contribute ideas for this week's sample head/bank combos).

In the print paper, you may use an article's main headline, or a significant part of it (for example, everything before or

after a colon); the story's bank head; or the jump head (the headline on the story's second page). Online, you may use not only headlines (or significant parts) above an article, but also headlines on the home page and elsewhere that serve as links to the article. And for both, you may use headlines in ads. See the Style Conversational column for further guidelines at bit.ly/conv1191. (The Conversational will be published late in the afternoon of Thursday, Sept. 1.)



Eternally Patient Royal Consort Mark Holt displays this week's second prize, a fleece cap topped with a whale fin. We will call it (not the RC) the Dorca. (Pat Myers/The Washington Post)

Submit your entries at this website (*note, Mr. and Ms. I Have No Use for Computers: This is a website, not an email address*): bit.ly/enter-invite-1191 .

Winner gets the [Inkin' Memorial](#), the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives yet another in a series of prize hats that would surely add dignity to any Loser, while subtracting it from anyone else: This week it's a [fleecy whale-motif hat](#), complete with big flippery tail at the top. We will call it the Dorca. Donated years ago by Universal Prize Donor Cheryl Davis.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for [Loser Mug](#), the older-model ["This Is Your Brain on Mugs" mug](#) or our new 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, Sept. 12; results published Oct. 2 (online Sept. 29). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. Both "Snip Judgment" and the

honorable-mentions subhead are by Tom Witte. 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; 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.

[And from The Style Invitational four weeks ago . . .](#)

SNIP JUDGMENT: THE INKING NEOLOGISMS FROM WEEK 1187

In Week 1187 we asked you to drop the last letter from any word, name or phrase, then describe the resulting neologism. In the late-summer deluge of more than 2,000 entries, the Empress received 23 separate ideas for “Faceboo,” suggesting everything from Unlike-buttons to zits, none of them quite inkworthy.

4th place:

World Wide We: Oneness and harmony with all humankind. Mutually exclusive with Internet use. (Daniel Galef, Montclair, N.J., a First Offender)

3rd place:

Prince Charmin: A seemingly debonair gentleman who turns out to be a complete ‘wipe. (Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

2nd place

[*and the figurine of a teddy bear grabbing Mother Goose around the neck:*](#)

GrateFU: “Thanks for the foreign aid, but you’re still the Great Satan.” (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

And the winner of the Inkin’ Memorial:

Obamacar: The glitchy second-rate vehicle your partner made you get because it was cheaper, and now constantly complains about. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.)

Clip flops: honorable mentions

The Nuclear Butto: Someone who’d ask: If we have all these atomic weapons, why couldn’t we use them? (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

Swimming poo: Going off the Depend. (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

Billie Jean Kin: Son of Michael Jackson — though he denied it (Kevin Tingley, Vienna, Va.)

Invertebrat: One as spoiled as he is spineless. (Nathanael Dewhurst, Lynn, Mass.)

Capture the Fla.: All-or-nothing game played by Bush and Gore in 2000. (Larry Gray, Union Bridge, Md.)

Canada goos: Hazards in the grass near any large pond. (Larry Gray)

VuLGA: Language used by New Yorkers whose flights have been canceled. (Pete Kinsella, Glen Allen, Va.)

Humble pi: “3.1 is close enough.” (Howard Walderman, Columbia, Md.)

Equipmen: Guys who get a fourth date (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

Achilles hee: The one little spot you're ticklish. (Danielle Nowlin)

Finge: The shortest digit on the shop teacher's hand. (Sylvia Betts, Vancouver, B.C.)

PharMac: A burger made with no natural ingredients. (Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

Beltwa: Cry of despair at 10 miles of brake lights. (Ellen Ryan, Rockville, Md.)

Blunderbus: Metro's alternative transportation solution during SafeTrack work. (Mike Gips, Bethesda, Md.)

Universit: The traditional four-year waiting period before a student graduates to debt. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

Militar: An invisible substance that keeps America mired in a war. (Lawrence McGuire)

Chevroilé: "Yay! That new manufacturing plant is going to bring a lot of jobs here!" (Danielle Nowlin)

Unequa: Native American tribe vanquished by the U.S. Cavalry. (William Liss-Levinson, Great Neck, N.Y., a First Offender)

Heavy Meta: Aggressive style of music with lyrics that focus on describing an aggressive style of music (Josh Feldblyum, Philadelphia)

Websit: Why American rear ends have expanded since 1993. (Ellen Ryan)

Outloo: The software Hillary used to dump her email. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Asphal: The outcome of my extremely brief attempt at skateboarding. (Pam Sweeney, Burlington, Mass.)

LaundroMa: Not my preferred job description, son. (Ann Martin, Falls Church, Va.)

Unloade: Loaded, as in "Don't worry, this gun is unloade . . ." (John Glenn, Tyler, Tex.)

The Dead Poo: The number two movie of the year! (Mark Prysant, Silver Spring, Md., a First Offender)

Parent-hoo: Any kid knows that "If you make that face, it's going to freeze that way" is pure parent-hoo. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Gobbledegoo: turkey-flavored Jell-O. (Beth Morgan, Palo Alto, Calif.)

Confederat: Someone who uses "heritage" to excuse bigotry. (Joanne Free, Clifton, Va.)

Labore: The first-time mom who never stops recounting the agony and ecstasy of childbirth. (Amy Harris, Charlottesville, Va.)

Ketchu: A sneeze with a bloody nose. (Mark Raffman)

Stupid as . . . : Someone so clueless you can't even describe how clueless. (Burt Freiman, East Amherst, N.Y.)

"Your call is very important to u": But not to us! (Jamie Martindale, newly relocated to Riga, Latvia)

All the world's a stag: And the men merely playas. (Susan Geariety, Menifee, Calif.)

A tooth for a toot: Worst. Deal. Ever. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

Grind to a HAL: What your computer sometimes does — clearly with spite — when you're on deadline. (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

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Running mat: The lesser half of a presidential ticket. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Newscaste: The mainstream media or, as I call them, the lowest form of life. – D. Trump (Chris Doyle)

Washington POS: Any op-ed piece that I disagree with (G.T. Bowman, Falls Church, Va.)

The beaten Pat: A contest judge after reading hundreds of entries from folks who think instructions are for the less gifted. (Lawrence McGuire)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Sept. 5: our name-chain contest. See bit.ly/invite1190.

 **0 Comments**

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