

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 (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. 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. “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 . . .](#)

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

Week 1203, what you would do with any of several magical powers: bit.ly/invite1203

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