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Entertainment

Style Invitational Week 1301: Tell us a Fib

As in Fibonacci — mini-poems of 20 syllables in 6 lines. Plus the winning “typo” headlines.



(Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

By **Pat Myers**

October 11

(Click [here to skip down](#) to the winning “typo” headlines)

“Hell,
Yeah,
I like
To drink beer!”
He said with a slurp.
“It’s party time, bro judges! [Burp.]”

Here’s a poetry contest we’ve done only one other time, and that was back in 2006, right after it was introduced by blogger [Gregory Pincus](#). It’s called the Fib, for Fibonacci sequence, a numerical series in which, after the first two, each number is the sum of the two before it. It’s reflected all over nature, such as in nautilus shells, spiraling tree branches, and Week 659 of The Style Invitational. The Fib counts by syllables, and we’ll do this week’s contest as we did back then, except that we won’t insist on subjects from today’s headlines (though we know we’ll get them anyway). **This week: Write a humorous poem of 20 syllables divided among six lines like this: 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8.**



Cancer Treatment
Centers of America

Cancer treatment
can be
complicated.



Become a
patient

Most Read Entertainment

- 1 ‘Milkman,’ by Anna Burns, wins 2018 Man Booker Prize



And at least two — any two — of the lines must rhyme. As in the Fib above by Bob Staake Himself.

Submit entries at the website wapo.st/enter-invite-1301 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a giant ceramic mug — or maybe it'd be better as a vase — from the Rattlesnake Museum in Albuquerque, donated (as was an earlier one we gave out, as well as, yay!, a future one) by Invite fan but not a Loser Mary Ellen Stroupe.

Other runners-up win our “You Gotta Play to Lose” Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, “I Got a B in Punmanship.” Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, “We’ve Seen Better” or “IDiot Card.” First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” (**FirStink** for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, Oct. 22;** results published Nov. 11 (online Nov. 8). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week’s results is by Nan Reiner; David Peckarsky, Roger Dalrymple and Roy Ashley all submitted the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. “Like” Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday; follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

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. This week’s column looks back on some of the from-the-headline names in our 2006 Fibs contest; do you remember Kaavya Viswanathan?

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

ScOops! Headline ‘typos’ from Week 1297

In **Week 1297** we asked you to change a real headline with a “typo,” then write a bank head, or subtitle, to explain the resulting story.

4th place:

Autumn activities abundant in area urea

Pumpkin spice use detected by new drug tests
(J. Larry Schott, West Plains, Mo.)







3rd place:

Target tries to entice seasonal workers porkers

Call goes out early for store Santas
(Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

2nd place

and the [pathetic tractor glitter](#)

- 2 Yes, Pete Souza is throwing shade at Trump. Now there’s a whole book of it. 
- 3 **Perspective**
Trump’s strange ‘Republican Club’ painting is now a meme. There’s a Star Wars version, of course. 
- 4 **Review**
A look back at the ‘supreme hostess’ of the American gilded age 
- 5 How cartoons spoofed Kanye West’s meeting with Trump 



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If the snake's expression doesn't wake you up, the vat of coffee will. (Pat Myers/The Washington Post)

[globe:](#)

Still ~~tick~~ing tickling, with a message

New Elmo toy teaches kids to obtain consent before touching
(John Hutchins, Silver Spring, Md.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:



Honorable-mention entry by David Young,
Falmouth, Mass.

can't eat just one'
(Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

For the first time, the ~~Met~~ Mets will perform opera on Sundays

After lousy season, players hope for more success with different kind of tragedies
(Dave Airozo, Silver Spring, Md.)

Amazon's Alexa is coming for your microwave, wall clock and ~~more~~ amore

Will offer bedside coaching during lovemaking (John O'Byrne, Dublin)

School district's plan to ~~arm~~ harm employees rejected

Staffers won't have to eat cafeteria fish sticks after all
(Eileen Doll, Gwynn Oak, Md.)

Still ~~boldly~~ oldly going

Costly Harvard study determines that centenarians are more likely to die than the young
(Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

Still ~~boldly~~ coldly going

Local family celebrates refrigerator's 50-year mark, promises to 'clean it out someday'
(Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

Still ~~boldly~~ going goring:

Former pacifist Ferdinand prepares for 12th bullfight (John Hutchins)

There's no such thing as a good ~~wedding~~ welding poem

A verse on flux/unduly sucks. (Jeff Contompasis)

3 charged with ~~huge~~ luge fraud on investors

Was just an old sled with 'Rosebud' painted on it

~~Crude~~ Crud stockpiles fall for a fifth week

Experts fear end of yard sales if shortage worsens
(Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Typo negatives: Honorable mentions

Senate approves \$8.4 billion legislative package to combat opioid ~~erisis~~ crisps

Grim new meaning for 'Bet you

(Roy Ashley, Washington)

Apple's priciest iPhone model yodel will cost \$1,100

The crazy hot market for upscale ringtones (Jeff Swallen, Richmond, Va., a First Offender)

Congress shields airlines from scrutiny over fees feels

TSA pat-downs were only the beginning (Francesca Kelly, Highland Park, Ill.)

... over fees pees

... over fees feces

Drops requirement for working toilets on planes

(Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.; Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

... over fees feet

Guy sitting next to you can still take off shoes

(Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

Better Butter without dudes

All-female remake of "Last Tango" hits theaters

(Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.; Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Choosing the right shampoo to maintain the most vibrant color colon

Our crack team of reporters reviews 6 cleansing products

(Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

Forty-four siblings and end counting

Duggars finally give up on keeping track

(Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.)

Heavier workload forkload looks likely for Capitals' Holtby

Coach orders goalie to bulk up for season opener (Chris Doyle)

Terps Bounce Right Back With Big Ten Den Blowout

U-Md. finally wins a game by trouncing Cub Scout pack

(Rick Haynes, Ocean City, Md.)

Republicans set dates rates to draw new districts

Reportedly a flat \$1 billion for a "very gerry" (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.; Rick Haynes)

Michelle Obama Book Boo Tour Selling Out Arenas

Haters Gonna Hate: Thousands of Birthers Buy Tickets to Jeer at Former First Lady (Dave Airozo)

A fresh beginning for early nearly music

Paleo Grunting & Rock-Banging Ensemble begins new concert series

(Dave Prevar, Annapolis, Md.)

Holding Folding pattern

Nats, Redskins, Wizards fans tire of annual end-of-season fade

(Howard Walderman, Columbia, Md.)

After Massachusetts gas explosions, weary weary residents ask, what happened?

Question was actually more like 'WTF?' (John McCooey, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

Bulgarian Vulgarian President Signs Decree

Uses Extra-Large Crayons to Scrawl Curse Words on Document (Frank Osen)

United ends the day with a deflating tie tire

Soccer team just wants to get home to a hot bath and Netflix, must wait for AAA
(Elden Carnahan, Laurel, Md.)

Think you know D.C. D.T.?

Bill advanced for Smithsonian Museum of Trump (Elden Carnahan)

The merits of building bridges brides

More men opt for DIY robots as mates; “She’ll never sag or nag” (Tom Witte)

What’s old is new ew

Stormy Daniels recounts her famous ‘dinner’ date (Tom Witte)

LSU beats Auburn on last-second FG FU

Vulgarity during audible paralyzes shocked defense (Chris Damm, Charles Town, W.Va.)

Patriots acquire Gordon Gorgon in trade with Cleveland

Belichick hopes for better protection for Brady (Chris Doyle)

SpaceX changes plans for first moon moan flight

All-sex-all-the-time mission increasingly viewed as impractical
(Duncan Stevens)

Apple Watch’s potential side snide effects

Status symbol brings out worst in braggy owners (Jeff Contompasis; Howard Walderman)

54% back single-payer prayer health care, poll finds

Don’t waste God’s time with redundant requests, say proponents (Gary Crockett)

Trump may prefer a trade tirade war to a deal with China

Would have chance to pull out whole new set of epithets
(Ken Gallant, Sequim, Wash.)

Bama Mama makes it look easy

Yours is setting new scoring records every week (Jesse Frankovich)

Still running — deadline Monday evening, Oct. 15: “13” a movie by changing the plot to where something humorously terrible happens. See [wapo.st/invite1300](https://www.wapo.st/invite1300).

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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 [Twitter](#)

The Post Recommends

Warren releases video on her Native American heritage | Campaign 2018

Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) released a video on her family's heritage, featuring personal records, a review of her DNA and interviews with family.



[▶ Play Video](#) 5:37

1 day ago

Md. officer accused of raping woman after traffic stop. leaving after witness

