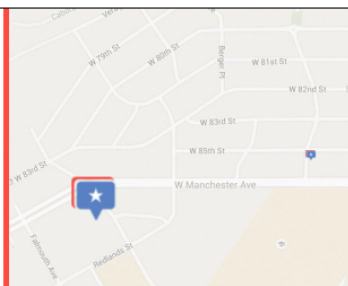


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Entertainment

Style Invitational Week 1304: What if you
could wonder . . . whatever?

Plus the winning ‘thirteening’ of movie plots to make something go wrong



(Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

By **Pat Myers**

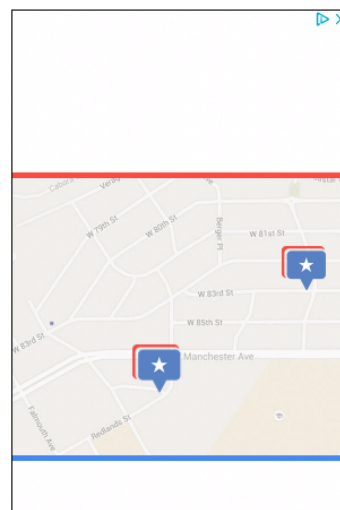
November 1

(Click [here to skip down](#) to the winning “13” movies)

- **What if we evolved from reptiles? We would go to McDonald's and order a Big Rat and an order of flies.** (Jonathan Paul)
- **What if, instead of air bags, they put sharp metal spikes on the steering column? Seat belt use would go way up.** (Art Grinath)
- **What if men really did enjoy being “just held and cuddled”? What would they carry in their wallets — tiny packets of Snuggle fabric softener?** (Sue Lin Chong)
- **What if instead of an Easter Bunny, we had an Easter Fish? It sure would be tricky, decorating caviar.** (Jean Sorensen)

Here's a contest that's as wide open as they come, and I think the only time the Invite ran it was all the way back in 1995, in the pre-Empress days of the Czar. **This week: Present a “what if” scenario and explain its effect,** as in the examples above from Week 140.

Submit entries at the website wapo.st/enter-invite-1304 (all lowercase).



Most Read Entertainment

1

Perspective
Art can help distinguish between conspiracy and reality, and this exhibition proves it



Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a **Bovine Recycling Two-Pack** consisting of a nice little blank-page journal of paper made from cattle dung (donated by Dave Prevar), plus a dainty, Chihuahua-size “candy cane” dog chew made from beef pizzelle, which is the bull’s, you know, pizzelle. Donated by Donna Peremes.

Other runners-up win our “[You Gotta Play to Lose](#)” Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, “[I Got a B in Punmanship](#)” (or perhaps a new design). 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, Nov. 12**; results published Dec. 2 (online Thursday, Nov. 29). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The “Wryday the 13th” headline was submitted by both Mark Raffman and Beverley Sharp; Kevin Dopart and Jesse Frankovich each submitted this week’s honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees 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, published late Thursday afternoon, discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/conv1304; this week the Empress looks back on the inking entries of Week 140, the last time we did this week’s contest.

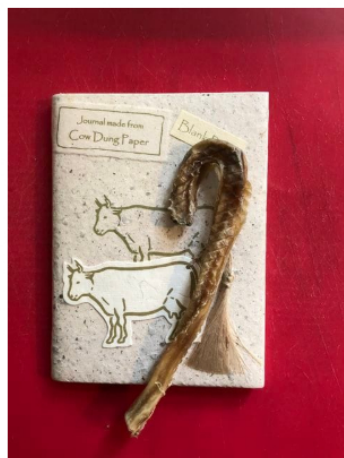
[And from The Style Invitational four weeks ago . . .](#)

WRYDAY THE 13TH: MOVIE REPLOTS FROM WEEK 1300

To celebrate [Week 1300](#), going with the debatable premise that “13” in a film title signifies that something will really mess up, we asked you to “13” a real movie and describe the plot.

4th place

Pinocchio 13: The first wooden president finds his arms are too short to pick his nose. (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)



Bully! This week’s second prize: a journal made of cow-dung paper, and a dog chew made of beef “pizzelle.”

3rd place

Snakes on a Plane 13: The would-be assassin is foiled when a gate agent questions his “emotional support viper.” (David Peckarsky, Tucson)

2nd place

and the [Hebrew Ben & Jerry’s T-shirt](#):

Bad News Bears 13, Washington Nationals 6 (Ken Gallant, Sequim, Wash.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Basic Instinct 13: Sharon Stone uncrosses her legs, flashing her Depends. (Dave Matuskey, Sacramento)

Gaffers: Honorable mentions

2 ‘Red Dead Redemption 2’ is jaw-dropping on every level



3 Candidate chides “SNL’s” Pete Davidson over eyepatch joke



4 **Perspective** Liberal satire is getting dangerously lazy in the Trump era



5 The midterms are heating up, and cartoonists are making fun of nonvoters



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All Quiet on the Western Front 13: German soldiers in World War I look up and watch their ace pilot battle a flying doghouse. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Taxi Driver 13: Travis Bickle finds a welcoming work environment at Uber. (Mark Raffman)

13 Dalmatians: The remaining pooches will stop at nothing to avenge their 88 littermates who didn't escape Cruella de Vil's fur coat factory. (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

Animal House 13: New pledge Brett Blutarisky, a studious young man from Washington, just pumps iron and "works his tail off." (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

The Social Network 13: Instead of presenting the entire movie, the projectionist shows you, in random order, the parts of the movie that he thinks you will like best. (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

Casablanca 13: Ilsa can't escape to the United States because of a hastily passed travel ban for travelers from Morocco, upheld by a 5-4 Supreme Court. (Duncan Stevens)

Casablanca 13: Rick gently but firmly pushes Ilsa into the plane, insisting that "Really, Paris was enough," as his "special friend" Louis looks on. (Rob Huffman)

Casablanca 13: Ilsa thought she would always have it, but the 4.2-ounce bottle of Paris Eau de Parfum doesn't get past security and the plane leaves without her. She regrets it that day, the next, and for the rest of her life. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Being There 13: An aging simpleton with a child's understanding of the world is presented as a presidential candidate — and wins! (Dave Airozo, Silver Spring, Md.)

Seven Plus Six: After working his way through the Seven Deadly Sins, sociopath John Doe justifies more bizarre murders by tying them to the Six Hurtful Sins, including forgetting an anniversary and leaving the toilet seat up. (Peter Boice, Rockville, Md.)

Singin' in the Rain 13: A soaked-through Gene Kelly is left with a less than glorious feeling as he catches a nasty cold. (John McCooey, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

Speed 13: Our hero must defuse a bomb on a moving Segway without letting it dip below 5 mph. (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

The Little Mermaid 13: As Ariel saves the Prince from the sinking boat and is taking him to shore, a large fin appears behind them . . . (Dave Prevar, Annapolis, Md.)

13 Shades of Grey: His promiscuity having finally caught up to him, Christian Grey exhibits symptoms of multiple venereal diseases. His urologist has never seen anything quite so . . . colorful. (Bill Dorner)

Animal Crackers 13: Captain Spaulding is back from the dead and he wants his pajamas back. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis, Md.)

Apollo 13 13: During Elon Musk's maiden voyage, his ego becomes so big that it perforates the spaceship's hull, necessitating a dangerous rescue. (Steve Honley, Washington)

Bee Movie 13: Jerry Seinfeld riffs for 72 minutes about how the number 13 looks like the letter B. (J. Larry Schott, West Plains, Mo.)

13 Pretty in Pink: Prom turns into a brawl when 13 girls turn up wearing the same pink dress. (Jane Auerbach, Los Angeles)

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid 13: The boys head down to Venezuela and rob banks, but nobody cares because the currency is worthless. (Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

E.T. 13: A severe allergic reaction to peanuts ends young E.T.'s life as it eats some candy left for it by the well-meaning Elliott. The boy grows up racked with guilt, sending reams of hate mail to Reese's executives. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond, Va.)

Hair 13: The shining gleaming streaming flaxen waxen goes bald. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

Iron Man 13: Tony Stark falls prey to a villainous plot when he orders a new suit and agrees to get the rustproofing. (Jesse Frankovich)

Manhattan 13: The film ends abruptly when an old creep is finally busted for soliciting a minor. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

Mary Poppins 13: When Mary's umbrella tears, she reaches terminal velocity in 5.6 seconds. (David Young, Falmouth, Mass.)

Pocahontas 13: She agrees to return to England with John Smith and becomes a member of Parliament, but her heritage is ridiculed by King James as just "high cheekbones." (Kevin Dopart)

Field of Dreams 13: A farmer gets hauled before the Dyerville, Iowa, zoning commission for building an unauthorized recreational facility. (Duncan Stevens)

James Bond 13: James meets a woman named "Octopussy" and . . . never mind. That's just TOO stupid. (Todd DeLap, Fairfax, Va.)

Last Tango in Paris 13: At exactly the wrong time, Marlon Brando finds the refrigerator is empty. (Mark Raffman)

Lady and the Tramp 13: Tramp loses interest after Animal Control rounds him up in a trap-neuter-return program. (Jeff Contompasis)

Psycho 13: Norman Bates's status as a Korean War veteran finally gets verified, and he begins the process of submitting paperwork to Veterans Affairs seeking treatment for mental illness. (Bill Spencer, Cockeysville, Md.)

Raiders of the Lost Ark 13: Indiana Jones finds the elusive ark, only to discover that all it contains is the remains of Millard Fillmore. (Steve Fahey, Kensington, Md.)


The Sound of Music 13: After fleeing the Nazis and settling in the United States, all is well with the von Trapps until Stephen Miller discovers they once sought public assistance in 1945 and deports them all back to Austria. (Frank Mann, Washington)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Nov. 5: Our neologism contest in which you replace two letters with two other letters. See wapo.st/invite1303.

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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** 