



0

THE POWER TO  
make a difference

BANK OF AMERICA

Learn more

## Entertainment

Style Invitational Week 1306: PolitiCaroling  
— a song parody contest

Write a song about today's news to a holiday tune. Plus our Ask Backwards winners.



(Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

By **Pat Myers**

November 15

(Click [here to skip down](#) to the winning and Losing entries to our Ask Backwards contest)

***From Week 585, back in the middle of the George W. Bush administration:***

*To "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"*

**Putin the Red knows tactics**

**He learned at the KGB.**

**Rigging Ukraine's election,**

**That's a covert specialty.**

**He's not for spreading freedom,**

**He just wants complete control.**

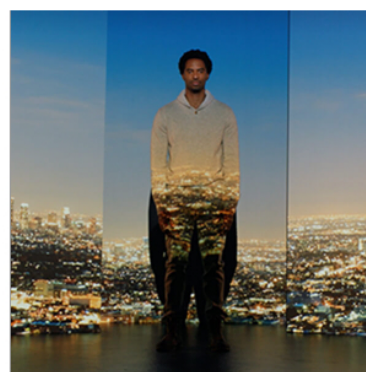
**Mr. Bush, one suggestion:**

**Look again into his soul.** (Harvey Smith, McLean, Va..)

Fourteen years ago, and only one of the names has changed. In the Empress's first song parody contest, Loser Harvey Smith referred to the president's response when a reporter asked him if he could trust Vladimir Putin: "I looked the man in the eye. I found him very straightforward and trustworthy — I was able to get a sense of his

THE POWER TO  
make a difference

Learn more



BANK OF AMERICA

Learn more

## Most Read Entertainment

- Perspective**  
How record-setting art auctions are ruining the old neighborhood



- 11 things to do in the D.C. area this week**



soul.”

After all these years, we again combine two of the E’s passions: song parody contests and Christmas songs. **This week: Write a song about something in the news lately — political or otherwise — using a Christmas, Hanukkah or New Year’s tune.** We’ll give you an extra week to get the parodies done. If you make a video, we might feature it in the online Invite, but it’s the quality of the lyrics that matters most.

Submit entries at the website [wapo.st/enter-invite-1306](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1306).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. And since we’re getting our holiday season underway, second place receives a dainty collectible porcelain toilet ornament, in a gift box. Martha Stewart always includes one of these on her own tree. Well, she should. Donated by Kyle Hendrickson.

**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, Dec. 3;** results published Dec. 16 (online Thursday, Dec. 13). See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline for this week’s results is by Jesse Frankovich; Jesse also wrote this week’s honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://on.fb.me/invdev). “Like” Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](https://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 the parody contest, check it out at [wapo.st/styleconv](http://wapo.st/styleconv).

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

## INKQUIRIES: ASK BACKWARDS WINNERS FROM WEEK 1302

In [Week 1302](#), our perennial Ask Backwards contest, the Empress listed 15 “answers” and asked for the questions. Too often for individual credit, the Supreme Court softball team was said to have **no one who’d play in center field**, or that its **games always ended up 5-4**. And that a pith helmet is **what should be worn to a golden shower**.


### 4th place:

#### A. Grace at the Trumps’ Thanksgiving dinner.


Q. After Lisa at the White House Halloween party and Julie at the Veterans Day breakfast, whom did he grab next? (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)





### 3rd place

- 

**3 Review**  
I watched Bravo’s ‘Dirty John,’ and now I’m the one who feels conned


- 4 Perspective**  
A portrait of Vincent van Gogh as a tormented soul


- 5** What to watch on TV tonight: ‘The Little Drummer Girl’ premieres, etc.





The Washington Post  
**Thank you.**

Your subscription supports journalism that matters.

[washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com)

© 1996-2018 The Washington Post

[Help and Contact Us](#)

[Policies and Standards](#)

[Terms of Service](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Print Products Terms of Sale](#)

[Digital Products Terms of Sale](#)

[Submissions and Discussion Policy](#)

[RSS Terms of Service](#)

[Ad Choices](#)

ADVERTISEMENT



Yule log not included: This ornament is this week's 2nd prize

**A. The Supreme Court softball team.**

Q. What is the latest place Brett Kavanaugh was caught trying to steal third base? (Peter Jenkins, Bethesda, Md.)

**2nd place**

*and the [squeezy eyeball](#) and [splatty poop emoji](#):*

**A. An almost-everything bagel.**

Q. What favorite food did Elizabeth Warren cite as evidence of her Jewish heritage? (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

**And the winner of the Lose Cannon:**

**A. A pith helmet.**

Q. After her [idea for special makeup](#) was rejected, what did Megyn Kelly suggest that Melania wear on her Africa trip? (Bob Kruger, Rockville, Md.)

**Flat is the question: Honorable mentions**

**[\\$3.33 AN HOUR](#)**

What is half the minimum wage in Hell? (Robyn Carlson, Keyser, W.Va.)

What is Metro's latest fare for a trip from [Dupont Circle to Metro Center](#)? (Ira Allen, Bethesda)

What's probably not the best way to receive your Mega Millions winnings? (Jesse Frankovich)

How much would it now cost me to have my event catered by [Mario Batali](#)? (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

**AN ALMOST-EVERYTHING BAGEL**

What's a good breakfast choice for people who are allergic to kitchen sinks? (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg)

Which Dunkin' Donuts product contains every ingredient except taste? (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

What name change did the deli's lawyers suggest for the everything bagel? (Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

When you straight-arm the cash register guy, run behind the counter and scream "HOLD THE CARAWAY, DAMMIT!" what do you really want? (Sharon Neeman, Pardes Hanna, Israel)

**IT'S A POPULAR DRINKING GAME, OF COURSE**

What is Imbibe and Consent? (Jeff Contompasis)

What is Ring Around the Rosé? (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

## **FLAKE, CAKE AND RAKE**

What are someone Trump always [puts down](#), something he *never* puts down, and something he never picks up? (Bob Kruger)

“Can you please read the instructions on this Budget Back-Hair Removal Kit?” (Will Stutzman, Millersville, Ohio)

What words were discarded from early versions of McDonald’s slogan “You deserve a break today”? (Beverley Sharp)

What’s a thing that falls when it’s cold, a thing that rises when it’s hot, and a thing that goes back and forth when fall rises? (Jesse Frankovich)

## **GRACE AT THE TRUMPS’ THANKSGIVING DINNER**

What is “Let us prey”? (Mark Raffman)

What includes lots of bragging about electoral college totals? (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

What is as rare as chitlins at the Trumps’ Thanksgiving dinner? (J. Larry Schott, West Plains, Mo.)

When a dozen new indictments are announced on Nov. 22, what will Fox News be airing? (Allen R. Breon, Clarksville)

What are three choruses of “I Feel Pretty”? (Joshua Rokach, Silver Spring, Md.)

## **AND SO WE NAMED HIM KANYE**

You say your new puppy is snippy, wags his tongue a lot, and won’t stop yelping? (Mark Raffman)

You wanted to name your son an anagram of a country, but didn’t like “Uper”? (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

After the call from Verizon, what name did Mr. and Mrs. HearMeNow choose for their son? (Connie Schott, West Plains, Mo.)

## **ELON MUSK COLOGNE**

What drives the opposite SECs wild? (J. Larry Schott)

What product’s slogan is “For when you want to ‘go private’”? (Mark Raffman)

How does Tesla prevent “new-car smell”? (Dave Christovich, Woodstock, Va., a First Offender)

What perk makes the \$175 million fare for the SpaceX moon flight such a bargain? (John McCooey, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

## **A PITH HELMET**

What was the entirety of that Sexy Sir Henry Stanley costume? (Jeff Contompasis)

What do you need if you’re on the ground floor of a two-thtory outhouth? (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.; Dana Austin, Palmyra, Va.)

What hat protects its wearer from the glare of an African sun, but not



from the [glare of a media spotlight](#)? (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

### THIS WEEK'S LEAST WATCHED PODCAST

What is "Philately Phunhouse"? (Jeff Contompasis)

What is "Finding the Real Killers, With O.J. Simpson and Mohammed bin Salman"? (Duncan Stevens)

What is "Money-Saving Halloween Ideas With Megyn Kelly"? (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park, Md.; G.T. Bowman, Falls Church, Va.)

What's "Dan Snyder's Greatest Sports Moments"? (John Hutchins, Silver Spring, Md.)

What is "In Pog We Trust: Legends of the 1990s Milk Cap Craze"? (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

### THE FAIR TO MIDDLING PUMPKIN

What comes on before "A Charlie Beige Christmas"? (Art Grinath, Takoma Park, Md.)

What do you use to make the Pumpkin Spice Blahhte? (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.; Jeff Shirley, Richmond, Va.)

What did the grandparents call their ordinary grandchild? (Kristin Braly, Baltimore)

After the ball, what public transportation did Cinderella take to get back to East Middling? (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis, Md.; Frank Osen; Will Stutzman)

### THE SUPREME COURT SOFTBALL TEAM

Who's No. 1 in the D.C. Justice League? (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

What team has no pitchers because they've switched to kegs? (Gary Crockett)

Whose mascots are named the [Racing Precedents](#)? (Jeff Contompasis)

Whose pitcher would have been drafted by the Red Sox had Game 3 gone one more inning? (Hildy Zampella, Alexandria, Va.)

### [SUPERMAN'S HAT](#)

Okay, what *can* you [tug on](#)? (Dave Christovich)

### THE WOMB WHERE IT HAPPENED

How does Donald Trump refer to his mother? (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.; Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

**Still running — deadline Monday night, Nov. 19: our Googlenopes/Googleyups contest. See [wapo.st/invite1305](#).**

**DON'T MISS AN INVITE!** [Sign up here](#) to receive a once-a-week email from the Empress as soon as The Style Invitational and Style Conversational go online every Thursday, complete with links to the columns.



## Read These Comments newsletter

The best comments and conversations at The Washington Post, delivered every Friday. Join the conversation.

**Sign me up**

By signing up you agree to our [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)



### 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

#### After a terrifying year, my family is learning to be grateful for normal, humdrum life

After my daughter's cancer diagnosis and treatment, we see life differently.

3 days ago



#### Man fatally shot near Fredericksburg Va., just east of Interstate 95.

Killing occurs at gas station, officials say.

8 hours ago

