



Entertainment

Style Invitational Week 1344: Well, that's just great — it's Limerixicon XVI

+ Add to list

Write a limerick featuring a 'gr-' word. Plus 'Mitch McCarnal' and other altered names.



(Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

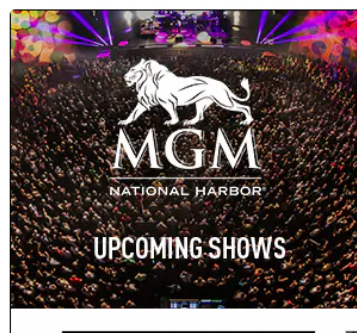
By **Pat Myers**

August 8

(Click [here to skip down](#) to the winning plays on people's names)

**If a peddler in Athens declares
You'll receive, if you purchase his wares,
A free panda that dances,
Don't take any chances:
Beware of a Greek gifting bears.** (Tim Alborn, *Week 624, 2005*)

As comes August, lo, so comes the Limerixicon, our annual check-in with [OEDILF.com](#), where, inexorably since its founding in early 2004, Chris Strolin and a large band of contributors have been creating an Omnificent English Dictionary in Limerick Form, tiptoeing through the alphabet as they strive to complete a whole dictionary with descriptive and mechanically sound limericks, one letter (or less) at a time. The Style Invitational latched on in OEDILF's very first year, and we haven't



let go, as the site has passed the 100,000-lim mark and predicts that it'll be all done by Nov. 3, 2063.

This week: Supply a humorous, previously unpublished limerick significantly featuring any English word, name or term beginning with “gr,” as in the example above from Limerixicon 3.

Please see our guide “**Get Your ‘Rick Rolling’**” at wapo.st/limericks1344 for our fairly strict rules on limerick rhyme and meter (in a nutshell: “perfect” rhyme, and a strong “hickory-dickory-dock” rhythm in Lines 1, 2 and 5; a “dickory-dock” in Lines 3 and 4; additional unaccented syllables on either side are fine. See OEDILF.com about submitting limericks there after this contest is over.

Submit entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1344 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives what is described on ultra-cheapo Wish.com as “**Mens Contoured Pouch Tanning Sleeve Swim Cover Up Swimwear**” and is the **smallest men’s garment imaginable**; it is essentially a screaming yellow, very narrow stretch nylon sock with elastic at the top. We suggest you not swim in it. Or move.

Other runners-up win our “**You Gotta Play to Lose**” Loser Mug or our “**Whole Fools**” Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, “**Too-Weak Notice**” or “**Certificate of (de) Merit.**” First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” (**FirStink** for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, Aug. 19;** results published Sept. 8 in print, Sept. 5 online. See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline “Maiming Names” was submitted by both Jesse Frankovich and Tom Witte; Jesse also wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. 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 the week’s new contest and results. Check out this week’s at wapo.st/conv1344.

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

MAIMING NAMES: REPORT FROM WEEK 1340

In **Week 1340** the Empress asked you to slightly alter a famous name and describe this new person. There were so many funny names, not so many funny descriptions. I may, in a future contest, put a bunch of non-inking names out there and ask for the whole Greater Loser Community to improve on them.






4th place:



Mitch McCarnal: He often “has knowledge of” the American people. (*Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.*)

3rd place:

President Nicolás Manuro: Creating ordure out of chaos. (*Stephen*

REPORT FROM LAST WEEK


- 1** **Constantly rewatch ‘The Office’?**
Stream ‘Fleabag’ on the bus?
Behold, the ways we watch TV now. 
- 2** **Perspective**
More actors of color are being cast in roles traditionally played by whites — while feeling extra pressure to succeed 
- 3** **Perspective**
I’ve seen plenty of beautiful artworks. But the Matisse Chapel overwhelmed me. 
- 4** **Analysis**
Who should play the Democratic presidential candidates on ‘Saturday Night Live’? 
- 5** **Review**
Welcome home, ‘Dear Evan Hansen.’ You’re back where you belong. 

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Gold, London)

2nd place and the socks that look as if you're wearing sandals with them:

Edgar Allan Po'boy:

Once upon a midnight dreary,
While he pondered, weak and weary,
Suddenly a rapping eerie sounded at his chamber door.
Unperplexed by all the hubbub,
Said he: "It's the guy from Grubhub,
Bringing me my favorite pub sub.
Just a sandwich, nothing more."
(Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Marlon Blando: "Stella, could you come here for a minute?"
(Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

Name-dropping: Honorable mentions

Genghis Khan't: He couldn't take that first steppe. *(Ryan Martinez, Takoma Park, Md., a First Offender)*

Frank Snotra: Ol' Green Nose is back! *(Stephen Gold)*

Frank Sumatra: Island crooner who hit the charts with "Fly Me to the Monsoon." *(Arnold Berke, Chevy Chase, Md.)*

James Brownnose: The hardest-working man in the Trump administration. *(Warren Tanabe, Annapolis, Md.)*

Jeans Valjeans: Levi's [24601](#). *(Sarah Walsh, Rockville, Md.)*

Martin Luther Queen: "I have been 78 percent of the way to the mountaintop!" *(Jesse Rifkin, Arlington, Va.,)*

Abraham LinkedIn: "Wait, why is he inviting me to join his team? I thought we were [rivals](#)." *(Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.; Richard Wexler, Alexandria, Va., a First Offender)*

AE\$OP Rocky: "Hey Mabel, I'll tell you a fable. I need a donor to [give me some kronor](#)." *(Roy Ashley, Washington)*

Alexander Gramps Bell: "What's that, Watson? Speak up, I can't hear you!" *(Hildy Zampella, Alexandria, Va.)*

Andherson Cooper: How he was known before he became a cele-brity. *(Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park, Md.)*

Brad Pittstain: Hardest-working actor in Hollywood — and just too [me some kronor](#)." *(Roy Ashley, Washington)*

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(*Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park, Md.*)

Brad Pittstain: Hardest-working actor in Hollywood — and just *too*
hot. (*Stephen Dudzik, Olney, Md.*)

Charlie Parka: The *coolest* jazz. (*Warren Tanabe*)

C.O.P.D. James: Her mystery novels will leave you breathless. (*Jeff*
Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

Davy Crock-of-it: C'mon, no 3-year-old ever killed a b'ar. (*David*
Stonner, Washington, a First Offender)

Felon Musk: Holds record for number of battery charges. (*Stephen*
Dudzik)

George Lucuss: "What the #&%*! did Disney do to my Star Wars?"
(*Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.*)

Hermit the Frog: "Leave me alone, you pig!" (*Dave Airozo, Silver*
Spring, Md.)

I.B. White: Some pig who wrote "The Elements of Heil!" Now a GOP
speechwriter. (*Kevin Dopart, Washington*)

Jair Bowsandarrows: President who plans to take Brazil back to the
Stone Age. (*Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.*)

Jeanine Pyro: Pro-Trump pundit given to inflammatory statements.
(*John Kupiec, Fairfax, Va.*)

Julius Geezer: I came, I saw, I conked out. (*Jeff Hazle, San Antonio*)

Julius Seizure: He constructed Rome's Grand Mall. (*Gary Crockett*)

Julius Sneezer: "Ah choo, Bruté?" (*Mike Phillips, Washington*)

Justin Timberrake: The White House appointed him to put an end to
wildfires. (*Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.*)

Mae Westminster Abbey: A stunning feat of engineering with two
eye-catching spires and a nice apse. (*Pete Morelewicz, Fredericksburg,*

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Va.)

Mark Struckaberg: CEO who thought his company was unsinkable.
(Warren Tanabe)

Pillory Clinton: “STOCK HER UP!” (Gregory Koch, Falls Church, Va.)

Rip Van Tinkle: Slept for two whole decades, but had to get up every couple years to pee. (Mike Phillips; Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Santayana Claus: Those who don't remember their present are bound to regift it. (David Stonner)

Shaquille O’Kneel: Appears to be only 6-8. (Jesse Rifkin)

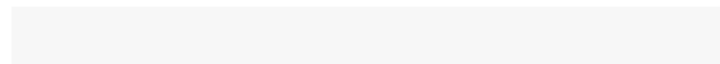
Shimmy Hoffa: Union boss who invented the shakedown. (Jeff Hazle)

Sir Lunchalot: A Round Knight of the Table. (Jonathan Jensen)

Squadzilla: Giant lizard whose attempts to stomp on four congresswomen leveled his party. (Frank Osen)

Stevie Wonderbread: Played piano with the Osmond Brothers. (Dave Ferry, Purvis, Miss.)

Trumpelstiltskin: An evil gnome who spins golden opportunities into straw. (Lawrence McGuire)



The Writhe brothers: They downsized airline seats. (Marli Melton, Carmel Valley, Calif.)

Adipose Rex: Greek king who quipped, “Your Mama’s so fat, even I wouldn’t do her.” (Chris Doyle)

Bris Harper: The best cutoff man in baseball. (Jeff Hazle)

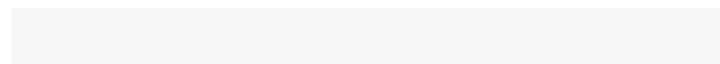
Coward Beale: A network anchor who announced, “I’m mad as hell, and I’m not going to take this any, um, further.” Played by Peter Flinch. (Chris Doyle)

Davy Crockpot: Bear stew in 6-8 hours (4-6 on high). (Tracy Schultz, Chicago, a First Offender)

Ernest Lemmingway: The author gives up his rugged individualism and just goes with the flow. (David Kleinbard, Mamaroneck, N.Y.)

George Cloney: “O Twin Brother, Where Art Thou?” (William Kennard, Arlington, Va.)

George Frideric Handeljiggler: Finally figured out how to make the “water music” stop. (Paul Burnham, Gainesville, Va.)



German Melville: Author of “Der Mobie Schwanz.” (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

Ichabod Cranium: He had something the Headless Horseman really wanted. (Pam Sweeney, Burlington, Mass.)

Jay-Zzzz: He topped the charts with the hip-hop lullaby “REMPire State of Mind.” *(Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)*

Rainy Descartes: “Thinking about Mondays always gets me down!” *(John McCooey, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)*

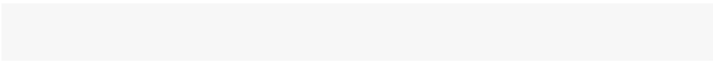
Unclear Sam: “I want you for the U.S. Army. Or the Agricuture Department Or the Kiwanis. Whatever.” *(Frank Mullen III, Aledo, Ill.)*

SpongeBob SwearPants: Successful cartoon character who can’t believe he still lives in a #@&! pineapple under the *%*! sea. *(Frank Osen)*

William Merkinley: Orchestrated the first White House sex cover-up. *(Steve Fahey, Olney, Md.)*

Lee J. Throbb: The leading man in the porn flick “Twelve Angry Inches.” *(Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)*

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