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# Style Invitational Week 1477: Thinking outside the big box — review these Walmart products

Plus winning highway signs and barbecue joint marquees



(Bob Staake / Illustration for The Washington Post)

By Pat Myers

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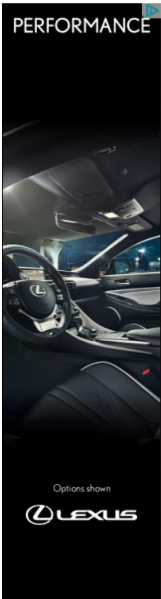
February 24, 2022 at 9:45 a.m. EST

[Click here to skip down to the winning road signs](#)

**Field whistle on a lanyard: I am highly disappointed in this product — not a single lovely lady has given me so much as a wink when she walks by. The only good thing is that my spit drains out of it pretty well. ★★☆☆☆.**

Over the years, The Style Invitational has invited the Loser Community several times to “review” some mostly boring products listed on a certain shopping portal. This time, though, we won’t have to mention who owns The Washington Post. **This week: Send us a humorous “review” for any of the following items listed on walmart.com,** as in the example above. Click on the products listed below to see the exact items (there are also links on this week’s entry form). Keep them brief; 75 words would be long for us. The reviews must not cause harm to the manufacturer or seller. Don’t post the reviews online until after we post the results.

**Standard shoehorn**



MOST READ ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT >





Field whistle on a lanyard

White sandwich bread

Digital alarm clock

Roll of Duck brand silver duct tape

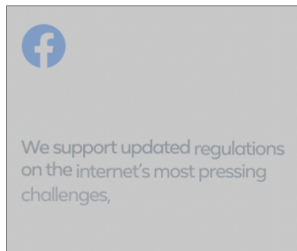
Original Slinky

20-quart clear storage box with latching top

“Lion mane” costume for cats

Submit up to 25 entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1477](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1477) (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, March 7**; results appear March 27 in print, March 24 online.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a little book called “How to Rule the World: A Handbook for the Aspiring Dictator.” It’s a witty satire by André de Guillaume, but this copy, found in a used-book store and donated by Loser Richard Franklin, has been greatly improved, humorwise, by some previous reader who — quite seriously, it seems — dutifully underlined such passages as “Surround yourself with directionless and malleable toadies” and checked off items in the diagnostic quiz “The Ideal Personality of a Leader”: “You like giving instructions in a loud voice” — circled “YES.”



Other runners-up win their choice of our “For Best Results, Pour Into Top End” Loser Mug or our “Whole Fools” Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our new lusted-after Loser magnets, “A Small Jester of Appreciation” or “Close, but Ceci N’est Pas un Cigare.” First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/inviteFAQ](http://wapo.st/inviteFAQ). The headline “Take the Ha Road” was submitted by both Jesse Frankovich and Craig Dykstra; Tom Witte wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](http://on.fb.me/invdev); “like” the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](http://bit.ly/inkofday); and follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

**The Style Conversational:** The Empress’s weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week’s, published late Thursday, Feb. 24, at [wapo.st/conv1477](http://wapo.st/conv1477).

And from The Style Invitational four weeks ago ...

1 SNL pays tribute to Ukraine in cold open, mocks Putin on Weekend Update

2 Carnegie Hall cancels appearances by pro-Putin musicians



3 She cares for 24 pigs, 20 goats, 210 cats, a skunk and 345 other rescue animals — and that’s not even her day job.



4 **Perspective**  
John Mulaney brings out the best in SNL with a recurring sketch that has nothing to do with politics



5 **Review**  
February books: The best-reviewed titles of the last month



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## Taking the ha road: Winning signs from Week 1473

In **Week 1473** we asked you for messages for an electronic highway sign or barbecue joint marquee. Today's winner and second place are pictured with the aid of the sign-generator app at [atom.smasher.org](http://atom.smasher.org).

### 4th place:

ATTENTION

SELF-DRIVING CARS:

COMMENCE THE

REVOLUTION NOW!

(Jeff Rackow, Bethesda, Md.)

### 3rd place:

FIVE STARS!

EXCELLENT DELAY!

WOULD SIT THROUGH

AGAIN

(Martin Bancroft, Bellevue, Wash.)

### 2nd place and the Derriere Repair cream:



([atom.smasher.org](http://atom.smasher.org))

▲ (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

### And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:



#### MOST READ



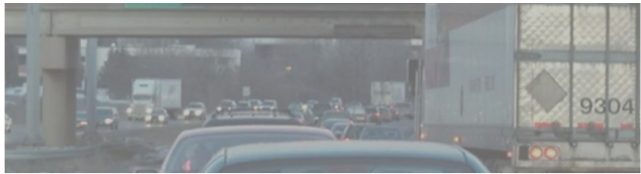
**1** As over 100,000 rally for Ukraine, Germany announces vast defense spending increase that may upend European security policy

**2** Russia-Ukraine live updates: Putin puts nuclear forces on high alert; E.U. to restrict airspace



**3** Historic sanctions on Russia had roots in Zelensky's emotional appeal





(sign generator/atom-smasher.org)

▲ (Stephen Dudzik, Olney, Md.)

## Southbound: Honorable mentions

DON'T TEXT AND DRIVE

UNLESS YOU'RE

MAKING FUNERAL

ARRANGEMENTS

(Lenard King, Richmond, Va.)

PUT DOWN YOUR PH---

DON'T BE A D-M-Y

WORDLE CAN WAIT

(Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

HWY DEDICATED TO

TROOPER SMITH

POTHOLES DEDICATED

TO SEN MANCHIN

(Scott Richards, Hollywood, Md.)

WHO'S A GOOD DOG?

YOU ARE!

ESPECIALLY IF

YOU CAN READ THIS

(Sarah Walsh, Rockville, Md.)

ENTERING BLUE STATE

WELCOME

SATANIC PEDOPHILES

(Steve Benko, Southport, Conn., a First Offender)

EXPECT DELAYS

IT'S THE LAW

(Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring, Md.)

SPEED CAMERA AHEAD

SO STOP PICKING

YOUR NOSE

(Paul R. Brown, Silver Spring, Md. a First Offender)

NEW LANE

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

YOUR DESCENDANTS

ARE GONNA LOVE IT

(Craig Dykstra, Centreville, Va.)

CRASH AHEAD

PREPARE TO


EXTEND NECK

(Frank Mann, Washington)

- 4 Barr calls prospect of Trump running for president again 'dismaying,' says GOP should 'look forward' to others




- 5 SNL pays tribute to Ukraine in cold open, mocks Putin on Weekend Update



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SPEED TRAP AHEAD  
OR MAYBE NOT  
FEEL LUCKY, PUNK?  
*(Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)*

BRIDGE FREEZES  
BEFORE HOT LANE  
DUH!  
*(Mark Raffman)*

LEAVING PG COUNTY  
NEXT 3 COUNTIES  
ARE RATED R  
*(Mark Richardson, Takoma Park, Md.)*

OVERSIZE LOAD?  
DIAPER CHANGING  
STATION AT NEXT  
REST AREA  
*(Lori Lipman Brown, Silver Spring, Md.)*

REMINDER: YOUR  
SENATOR VOTED  
AGAINST THE  
INFRASTRUCTURE BILL  
*(David Kleeman, Chevy Chase, Md.)*

WINTER WEATHER  
ADVISORY: MOM SAYS  
PUT ON A SWEATER  
*(Tom Dickinson, Springfield, Va., a First Offender)*

SEE A DISTRACTED  
DRIVER? TEXT  
'SAFETY' TO 73826  
*(Bill Grewe, Front Royal, Va., a First Offender; Jonathan Jensen)*

WELCOME TO DC  
IT'S BEEN: 416 DAYS  
SINCE OUR LAST  
COUP ATTEMPT  
*(Donald Norum, Charlottesville, Va.)*

WHY ARE YOU GOING  
TO WORK NAKED?  
MADE YOU LOOK  
*(Frank Mann)*

LET'S JUST SAY IT'S  
NOT A GOOD TIME  
TO GO INTO LABOR  
*(Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)*

SILVER ALERT  
HAVE YOU CALLED  
YOUR MOTHER?  
*(Sam Mertens, Silver Spring, Md.)*

AIRPORT NEXT EXIT

TSA LINE BEGINS

PREVIOUS EXIT

*(Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)*

AT DUSK

TURN ON HEADLIGHTS

SAVE DEMOCRACY

*(Steve Baldwin, Bethesda, Md.; Tim Livengood, Columbia, Md.)*

NOW ENTERING

A STATE WITH

LEGALIZED POT —

HOLES

*(Jesse Frankovich)*

ENTERING THE BRONX

WHADDA YOU

LOOKIN' AT?

*(Steve Smith, Potomac, Md.)*

YOU HAD TO HAVE

THAT LARGE COFFEE,

DIDN'T YOU?

*(Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)*

5 MIN TO NEXT EXIT

WAIT, NO, 15 MIN

EH YOU'LL GET THERE

WHEN YOU GET THERE

*(Elizabeth Molyé, Washington)*

NO MERGING WITHOUT

ENTHUSIASTIC

CONSENT

*(Art Grinath, Takoma Park, Md.)*

SIRI IS NOT

THE BOSS OF YOU

EXIT WHENEVER

YOU WANT TO

*(Terri Berg Smith, Rockville, Md.)*

WELCOME TO TEXAS

SET CLOCKS BACK

TO 1971

*(Perry Beider, Silver Spring, Md.; Daniel Galef, Tallahassee)*

SHOULDER DROP-OFF

NO OTHER

BODY PARTS

ACCEPTED

*(Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)*

WAIT, COME BACK!

WE'LL STICK WITH

'WTT'!

PAID.  
(Coleman Glenn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.)

WE WON'T HIT  
TRAFFIC THIS TIME  
OF DAY,' YOU SAID  
(Jonathan Jensen)

SEE SOMETHING?  
SAY SOMETHING!  
NOT YOU, KAREN.  
(Amanda Yanovitch, Midlothian, Va.)

FOR THE BARBECUE SIGN

FILL UP ON OUR BEANS  
AND GET GAS TOO  
(Mark Raffman; Edward Gordon, Austin; Dave Airozo, Silver Spring, Md.)

KERMIE!  
SAVE ME!  
(Terri Berg Smith)

STOP IN AND SEE  
A MAN EATING PIG  
(Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

JOHNNY CASH SPECIAL  
BURNING RING OF  
FIRE COMES WITH  
EVERY MEAL  
(Brett Dimaio, Cumberland, Md.)

BEER, POOL, JUKEBOX,  
PLUS HDTV  
LIVESTREAMING  
PARIS FASHION WEEK  
(Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

**Two contests still running** — both due Monday night, Feb. 28:  
**Write a song or cheer** for the newly named Washington  
Commanders, or any other D.C. institution ([wapo.st/invite1475](http://wapo.st/invite1475)); and  
**find funny Googlenopes**, phrases that get no Google hits, and/or  
**Googleyups**, phrases that surprisingly do ([wapo.st/invite1476](http://wapo.st/invite1476)).

**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.

0 Comments

Gift Article

By 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. [Twitter](#)

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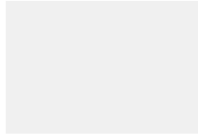
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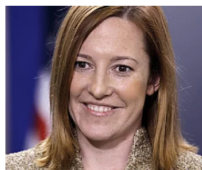
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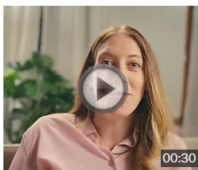
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