

The Style Invitational

Week 594: History Loves Company



The Donner Party expedition, brought to you by Slim Jim™!
"If they'd only had some Slim Jim meat sticks . . ."

The Salem Witch Trials, brought to you by Duraflame!

The Saga of John Wayne Bobbitt, brought to you by Snap-On Tools!

This week's contest, suggested by Tom Ponton of Columbia, is pretty clear from the examples above: Name an appropriate corporate sponsor for some historical event or for someone's life story. Note that it's pretty easy to come up with entries for this challenge, so bear in mind that yours will have to be especially novel and clever to ensure that 50 other people don't send the same one (see below).

First-prize winner receives the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. First runner-up receives a bottle of "1959er Erbacher Honigberg Spatlese" Riesling that was given to Emilie Bruchon of Arlington by her grandfather, who brought it back from Germany years ago. Unfortunately the cork is broken and so the contents are worthless, rendering it an appropriate Loser reward.

Other runners-up win a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt. Honorable mentions get one of the lusted-after Style Invitational Magnets. One prize per entrant per week. Send your entries by e-mail to losers@washpost.com or, if you really have to, by fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Jan. 31. Put the week number in the subject line of your e-mail, or it risks being ignored as spam. Include your name, postal address and phone number with your entry. Contests are judged on the basis of humor and originality. All entries become the property of The Washington Post. Entries may be edited for taste or content. Results will be published Feb. 21. No purchase required for entry. Employees of The Washington Post, and their immediate relatives, are not eligible for prizes. Pseudonymous entries will be disqualified. The revised title for next week's contest is by Phil Frankenfeld of Washington.

Report from Week 590, our biennial contest to produce "joint legislation" by combining the names of outgoing and incoming members of Congress: As usual, we received enormous e-bags of e-mail overflowing with entries, many of them similar; sometimes a commonly submitted combination still got ink by virtue of clever wording. Among the many funny but too frequent entries were the Poe-Nethercutt-Cleaver Circumcision Regulatory Act, the Kuhl-Frost-Burr bill to reduce global warming, and the Jindal-Bell-Schrock Act to prevent tipsy Christmas caroling. These do not include the ton of inspired work like (this is verbatim) "the Moore-Green-Bean bill to subsidize green bean farmers." If the entry you sent, however, is the exact duplicate of one that appears below, the Empress suggests that you write your congressman.

Notes: Over the years, this contest has tended to produce a higher than usual don't-get-it rate among readers. The trick is to say the entries out loud a few times. Okay, we'll translate one somewhat challenging winner for you: Nickles-Dunn-McKinney-Dent is "Nickles don't make any dent." For the rest, you're on your own. Remember, "Ose" is pronounced "oh-see," "Bereuter" is "bee-writer," and "Melancon" is roughly "melan-sahn."

◆ **Third Runner-Up:** **Ose-McHenry-Burns bill to promote new, pithy lyrics to "The Star-Spangled Banner."** (Fred S. Souk, Reston)

◆ **Second Runner-Up:** **The Hill-Bean bill to . . . oh, it doesn't matter.** (Tom Kreitzberg, Silver Spring)

◆ **First Runner-Up**, the winner of the CD of the Style Invitational Losers "singing" some of the Week 589 Christmas carol parodies: **The Foxx-Stenholm resolution, stating that no daughter of mine is leaving the house dressed like that.** (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

◆ **And the winner of the Inker:** **Poe-John-Dunn-Barrow-Nickles-Fortenberry-Breaux Bill for regulation of funeral costs.** (Angela Murphy-Walters, Accokeek)

◆ **Honorable Mentions:** **The Moore-Carson-Hill Act replacing the Capitol steps with a multilevel parking garage.** (Mark Eckenweiler, Washington)

The Kuhl-Miller Draft Reinstatement Act (Steve Shapiro, Alexandria)

The Inglis-Schrock-Costa-Nickles Act, to purchase Gibraltar cheap from Great Britain. (Chris Doyle, Freeport, Bahamas)

The Burr-Dunn-DeMint bill requiring U.S. coins to be redesigned every six months. (Kyle Hendrickson, Dunkirk)

The Nethercutt-Greenwood-Vitter-Cleaver bill to promote logging safety. (Erich Snoke, Stafford)

The Mack-Inglis-Moore-Boren Act expanding the FCC's indecency penalties to cover such expletives as "Dang!" and "Gee willikers!" (Mark Eckenweiler)

The Davis-Isakson bill to condense the Old Testament by removing a bunch of extra generations. (Jerry Ewing, Orlando)

The Ose-Melancon-Foxx bill to finance extended lunch breaks for construction crews. (Virginia M. Friedman, Philadelphia)

The Vitter-Breaux-Graham bill to motivate you to get serious, start paying attention and join us. (Mira J. Kopolovsky, Washington)

The Moore-Jindal-Obama bill to establish a distillery in Mobile. (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

The Tauzin-Lipinski Act to find a cure for foot-in-mouth disease. (Marty McCullen, Gettysburg, Pa.; Peter Metrinko, Chantilly)

The Cleaver-Dunn-Toomey Resolution in honor of Abby and Andrew Borden. (Peter Metrinko)

The Kuhl-Breaux-Boren-Poe bill to fund poetry slams for young rappers. (Beverly Miller, North Clarendon, Vt.)

Davis-Moore-Boren-Toomey resolution in appreciation of Jay Leno. (Jeffrey Scharf, Burke)

The Greenwood-Burns-Poe bill to prevent chimney fires. (Stephen Dudzik)

The John-Breaux-Cleaver Act to mandate some necessary maintenance in the Senate washroom. (Brendan Beary)

The Goss-Edwards-Toomey Law, requiring anyone claiming to be receiving directions from the Almighty to provide

material proof. (Brendan Beary)

The Moore-Boren-Nickles bill to replace Thomas Jefferson's likeness with Millard Fillmore's. (Kurt Stahl, Frederick)

The John-Edwards-Costa-Toomey Election Reform Act. (J.F. Kerry, Washington) (Russell Beland, Springfield)

The Burr-Davis Act requiring common animals to be referred to by their Latin names. (Brendan Beary)

The Kuhl-Majette Bill to promote, you know, just hanging out. (Jack Cackler, Falls Church; Teri Chism, Winchester, Va.)

The Smith-Breaux bill to limit Medicare drug coverage to cough drops. (Chris Doyle)

The Fitzgerald-Bereuter resolution Declaring Gatsby to be "Not So Great." (Russell Beland)

The Moore-Collins bill to increase participation on radio talk shows. (Kyle Hendrickson)

The Ose-Westmoreland-Burns bill to provide forest-fire aid to California. (Corey Reid, Gaithersburg)

The Price-Bereuter bill to make Bob Barker's birthday a national holiday. (Brent McBurney, Alexandria)

The Cleaver-Melancon-Toomey bill to support breast donation surgery. (Virginia M. Friedman)

The Nickles-Dunn-McKinney-Dent resolution rejecting the idea of collecting deposit bottles to reduce the federal deficit. (Dave Zarrow, Herndon)

The Burr-Stenholm Act to repeal the Fourth Amendment in cases of national security. (Chris Doyle)

The Burr-Poe-Bell bill expressing resounding support for fast food. (Kyle Hendrickson)

The Green-Salazar-Boren Meat Industry Promotion Bill (Jeff Brechlin, Eagan, Minn.; Dave Zarrow)

The John-Fitzgerald and Quinn-Fitzpatrick Act endorsing gay marriages. (Joseph Romm, Washington)

The Edwards-Breaux-John-Fitzgerald-Dunn-Moore-Foxx Joint Report on Infidelity in the Kennedy Family. (Russell Beland)

Dunn-Turner-Cuellar Bill authorizing funding to study effects of incest in the Deep South. (Angela Murphy-Walters; Dave Hanlon, Gainesville)

The Moore-Marchant-Dunn-Conaway Act limiting the expansion of Wal-Mart. (Stephanie Thomas, Arlington)

The McCaul-Costa-DeMint bill to limit roaming charges. (Pam Sweeney, Germantown)

The Turner-Lampson Wet T-Shirt Day bill. (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

The Poe-Conaway Bordello Establishment Act. (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

And Last: **The Smith-Carnahan-Boren-Toomey Bill to restrict the number of times the same contestants can win newspaper contests.** (Pie Snelson, Silver Spring)

THE TV COLUMN

Where Do Ex-Starlets Go? To WB Reality Show

TV COLUMN, From D1

"Paddy Chayefsky did what any great artist does," Dunaway continued. "They predict reality, and then, suddenly you think, 'Oh my God, it's all come true.' But that's this kind of, I won't call it a monster, but it is some kind of, you know, being that we have to really use properly and I don't know that we always do it perfectly. But you know, this whole, this eye, this television medium, it's something that's incredibly powerful and I think that's what Paddy was getting at."

There was more. Dunaway likened reality TV to film noir—ahead of its time and getting no respect.

"I know you're probably going to give me a bad laugh now on this, but I wonder, I wonder what the film noir, when film noir just started, Sam Fuller, and they all started in Cecil B. De Mille territory, you know, I wonder," she said. Extra points if you can figure that out.

"The point is," Dunaway continued, to the chagrin of several critics who were pretty much at the end of their ropes after two weeks listening to nonstop blather while stuck at the Universal Hilton Hotel. (Note to self: Suggest to Fox execs that for the next edition of



Faye Dunaway, here in 1976's "Network," will be a judge on WB's "Starlet."

"The Simple Life" they force Paris Hilton to shack up in this dive for two weeks and listen to network suits brag about their new lineups.) "Starlet" involves 10 wannabe actresses who fight to win a management deal and a one-time guest gig on WB's teen angst drama, "One Tree Hill." Dunaway, who appeared at the penultimate day of Winter TV Press Tour 2005 to discuss "Starlet," was seated next to Jamie Kennedy, one of the show's executive producers. While Dunaway explained that she was doing this to pass along her wisdom to future generations, Kennedy wanted to make sure critics were aware that the 10 contestants are "banging."

By which, of course, he meant they were very hot. The judges, on the other hand, are "redic," Kennedy said.

Chayefsky rolled over in his grave.

And yet, Dunaway's appearance on the same panel as Kennedy and Fleiss was not, believe it or not, the most cringe-inducing moment of WB's day at Winter TV Press Tour 2005.

That distinction goes, hands down, to Amy Sherman-Palladino, the extremely needy creator of "The Gilmore Girls." Sherman-Palladino is one of those people who like to make sure all eyes are on her, and so says outrageous things and dresses in hideous hats and loud outfits—today it was a black-and-white polka-dot strapless sundress with a sort of veil at the bottom, a little black cardigan, a sort of Wicked Witch of the West hat and red pumps.

During a Q&A session promoting the upcoming 100th episode of "The Gilmore Girls," she was asked her thoughts on the impact "American Idol" has had on her show's ratings.

"'American Idol,'" she replied "is the Nazis marching through Poland. You gotta let them go and get out of the way."

See what we mean?



Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld schmoozes with Sen. Mitch McConnell, right, at last night's dinner.

Weather Can't Snow Alfalfans

DINNER, From D1

He was referring, of course to the origin of the club's name back in 1913: the legume whose roots probe deeply for liquid. An Alfalfa, it is said, will do anything for a drink.

By late afternoon, only about six Alfalfans and their 12 guests had called to say they couldn't make it. They were said to be jet-setters from New York and New England who, alas, couldn't get their Gulfstreams through the heavy weather.

That left 600 or so black-tied and silk-gowned swells to participate in one of the most unshakable yet curious rituals of Washington's permanent establishment. The whole zig-zag of political, corporate, military, judicial and media power was on display, with President Bush and Vice President Cheney and their wives perched at the apex.

"As at all Alfalfa dinners, lots of well-known faces are here tonight," Bush said, according to excerpts of his dinner remarks obtained through the usual journalistic voodoo. (Reporters aren't allowed into the dinner; they must waylay potentes in the lobby, cadging for bits of wit.)

"Good to see Vice President Cheney," Bush continued. "I have this habit of giving out nicknames, but Dick is the only person who's given me a nickname. He calls me 'The Apprentice.'"

Bush also said, "Secretary of State-designate Condoleezza Rice is here. People often ask me what Condi is like. Well, she is creative; she is tough—think Martha Stewart with access to nuclear codes."

Bush also singled out his nominee for attorney general, Alberto Gonzales. "As you know, he's replacing John Ashcroft," Bush said. "John's heading home to Missouri—where he intends to cover up naked statues in the private sector."

In the bipartisan tradition of the club, Sen. John McCain spoke as the outgoing club president, former Democratic senator from Tennessee and Ambassador to China James Sasser spoke as the incoming club president, and Breaux spoke as the club's joke nominee for president of the United States.

"Now I know what many of my Republican friends in this room are thinking: A Democratic president of the Alfalfa Club?" Sasser said, according to the excerpted remarks. "How did we let that happen? Well, I've got three words for you. Bob. Shrum. Retired."

Sasser added, "I've decided to model my presidency after the presidency of the man to my right—



Henry Paulson Jr., CEO of the Goldman Sachs Group, chats with philanthropist Catherine Reynolds.

George W. Bush. I intend to go to bed early and often. I will vacation frequently. I will admit no mistakes. I pledge to leave no major donor behind. And I will surround myself only with good friends. It's a pleasure to be among good friends this evening."

Breaux kept it up. "I'm out of work—no check, no food stamps, no welfare. They've thrown me to the wolves. I feel like Colin Powell! I even called Dick Cheney for help. I said, 'Dick, any jobs for me down there?' He said, 'No, but I have some friends over at Halliburton!'"

Before the dinner, the lobby was thick with Cabinet members and Cabinet member-designates, Supreme Court justices, senators and ambassadors from administrations past and present. It was a portrait of the continuity and bipartisan chumminess that is the secret bedrock of Washington. There may be lots of shouting on Capitol Hill and out on the campaign trail, but that's just the surface. Time passes, presidents come and go, snow melts—but a certain order of things abides.

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, marched in with medals gleaming, followed by Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, World Bank President James Wolfensohn and FBI Director Robert Mueller. Former secretary of state James Baker was bundled tightly in a trench coat and a bright red scarf. Another former sec state, George Shultz, huddled with Sen. Richard Lugar.

Philanthropist Catherine Reynolds chatted with Henry Paulson Jr., chairman and CEO of the Goldman Sachs Group, and Henry Kravis, founding partner of a Wall Street takeover firm.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld encountered an impromptu fan club among the tourists who happened to be staying at the hotel

and lined up in the lobby for celebrity photo-ops. "I love you!" said Janis Cherry, who described herself as "one of the few Republicans in San Francisco," before planting a kiss on Rummy's cheek.

Coming on the heels of the inauguration, the Alfalfa Dinner's numbers swelled to the largest guest list in recent memory as many out-of-town VIPs tarried.

"It does have a bit of a feeling this year of being the post-prom," said Alfalfan C. Landon Parvin, a writer from Fredericksburg.

So what's the secret—how does a 92-year-old dinner attract such a crowd in a snowstorm?

"It's just so unusual in a commercial world and a fundraising world . . . to have one dinner that has absolutely no purpose," said Richard E. Pearson, secretary of the club.

Ah, but it does have a purpose. "To me it is the last refuge of political camaraderie," Parvin said. "If this mood could spread outward from here, we'd be a lot better off in Washington."

The crowd was also thick with Bushes.

"Because of the inauguration, we have a lot of Bushes here tonight," the president said. "George Herbert Walker Bush, George W. Bush, Barbara Bush, Jeb Bush, George Prescott Bush, Marvin P. Bush, Laura Bush, William H.T. Bush, Doro Bush Koch and John Ellis Bush Jr."

"Or, as we are known within the family: 41, 43, 44, 45, 47, 49, 50, 51, 52, and Marvin."

Bush also said: "Jim Baker and Vernon Jordan are here. These two Alfalfans negotiated the debate rules for the two campaigns. A lot of people said the debates served no useful purpose whatsoever and were simply designed to avoid risk and to preserve the status quo.

"Well, precisely, that's why we put Alfalfans in charge."

Next Week: **Dead Letters, or Reaper Madness**