

# The Style Invitational

## THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

### Week 683: What a Piece of Work



ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

#### What is most foul, strange and unnatural, even with milk? Instant.

Here's a variation, suggested by Literary Loser David Smith, on a contest we did in Week 603: Back then, we asked you to write funny sentences using only words that appeared in a chapter of Genesis. Given that a reader or two objected to your taking sacred texts and producing phrases like "flock off," David suggests a secular, but still widely available, tack: **String together words in a single scene, or two consecutive scenes, of "Hamlet" to produce one or more funny sentences, preferably unrelated to the original content. The words must appear in the order in which they appear in the play,** as in David's own example above, taken from Act I, Scene 5. You can find the complete play all over the Internet, on sites such as [www-tech.mit.edu/Shakespeare](http://www-tech.mit.edu/Shakespeare).

Winner receives the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. First runner-up gets Pimp My Cubicle, a kit including a mouse pad that says PIMP, a "bling" keyboard key, and a glittery disco ball the size of a ping-pong ball, donated by Loser Drew Bennett of Alexandria, who as a Marine colonel can't exactly use this stuff at work.

**Other runners-up** win a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt. Honorable Mentions (or whatever they're called this week) 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](mailto:losers@washpost.com), by fax to 202-334-4312 or by postal mail to The Style Invitational, The Washington Post, 1150 15th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20071. Deadline is Monday, Oct. 16. Put "Week 683" 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 Nov. 5. 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 Honorable Mentions name is by Art Grinath. The Revised Title for next week's contest is by Roy Ashley of Washington.

## REPORT FROM WEEK 679

In which, a la "Jeopardy!," you came up with questions for any of the "answers" we supplied:

- 4** Answer: Eating With Scissors. Question: Who was Dances With Wolves' stupid brother? (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)
- 3** Answer: Texas Nurture 'Em. Question: In what game do you auntie up? (Roy Ashley, Washington)
- 2** The winner of the thumb wrestling kit: Answer: MyAppendix.com. Question: What unfortunate URL did Microsoft buy for Version 9 of its MyAppend footnoting program? (Seth Brown, North Adams, Mass.)



## AND THE WINNER OF THE INKER

Answer: Well, why wouldn't she? Question: Does God ever regret creating a world in which a single hormone — testosterone — is the root of so much war, belligerence and strife? (Elwood Fitzner, Valley City, N.D.)

## OF QUESTIONABLE MERIT

### Anywhere but a bathtub

Where is a good hiding place for the Wicked Witch of the West? (Sue Lin Chong, Baltimore)

In what situation is a toaster more useful than George W. Bush? (Seth Brown)

Where would you like to see Barbara Walters and Star Jones settle their differences? (Roger Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.)

Where will a 3-year-old willingly get naked? (Drew Bennett, Alexandria)

### Texas Nurture 'Em

At Montgomery County PTA Vegas Nights, what game is now as popular as Five-Card Family Man? (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

In what game does a pair beat a flush? (Ted Weitzman, Olney)

What did they name the Caesars Palace day-care center? (Ed Gordon, Hollywood, Fla.)

What state juvenile-offender rehabilitation program was replaced with Texas Electrocute 'Em? (Ezra Deutsch-Feldman, Bethesda)

### The Bureau of Idiot Affairs

What agency uses "The Peter Principle" as its employee advancement handbook? (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

What Foreign Service division has a consulate in the Paris Hilton? (Michael Platt, Germantown)

For its office team-building retreat, which agency schedules a snipe hunt? (Chuck Smith)

What agency has a toll-free 900 number? (Jay Shuck, Minneapolis)

### Mel Gibson, Rob Reiner and a moose

Who play Archie, Mike and Gloria in the remake of "All in the Family"? (Miles D. Moore, Alexandria)

Who are a giant whack, a giant hack and a giant rack? (Andrew Hoenig, Rockville)

At the Zoo Speakers Series, who engaged in a heated debate on "Are Some Animals Jewish?" (Jeff Brechlin, Eagan, Minn.)

If Kirstie Alley and Roseanne are together on one side of a seesaw, what do you need on the other side? (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

### Because it's sooo purple

Why did Harvard Professor Timothy Leary say he liked to go to Fenway Park to stare for hours at the Green Monster? (Ira Allen, Bethesda)

Why is "throbbing manhood" a favorite phrase of romance novelists? (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Why is purple Paris Hilton's favorite color? (Bird Waring, New York; Karen Dunn, Alexandria)

How could my doctor tell I was a wino just by looking at my blood sample in the test tube? (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

### What's left of Tony Kornheiser's hairline

What's that stuff growing in Tony Kornheiser's ears? (Gerard Zarchin, Annapolis)

What can now join King Canute, the Great Wall of China, Hadrian's Wall and the Maginot Line as a symbol of a failed attempt to hold off the inevitable? (Elden Carnahan; Chuck Smith)

What's the only thing thinner than Tony Kornheiser's skin? (P. Farhi, Washington) (Pam Sweeney, Germantown)

What is a back-hair combup? (Chuck Smith)

### Eating With Scissors

What was easier for Edward to learn than putting in contacts? (Beth Baniszewski, Somerville, Mass.)

What was the blonde found doing after she was told to cut out sweets? (Tom Witte)

What is the secret to the Swiss Army Diet? (Andrew Hoenig)

What is a euphemism for depending upon coupons to stretch your food budget? (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

### Well, why wouldn't she?

What question doesn't a guy want to hear from his buddies on Sunday morning? (Pam Sweeney)

Why does that woman think that teetering across a rooftop is going to make me want a mortgage? (Mike Herring, Washington)

When Maria Sharapova makes love, does she grunt? (Levi Goldfarb, Temple Hills)

### MyAppendix.com

Where can you find images of what had been the last unphotographed part of Madonna's body? (Kevin Dopart)

Who will first report the arrival of The Rupture? (Jay Shuck; Ted Weitzman)

### ESPN 37

What channel's prime-time lineup includes the Scholastic Jacks Championship, Celebrity Yahtzee and night games of Little League croquet? (Pam Sweeney; Drew Bennett; Joseph Romm, Washington)

What cable niche channel is devoted to director Kevin Smith, Casey Stengel, Bill Lee, the element rubidium, Cuban primes, Richard Nixon, Nebraska and the 2003 Super Bowl? (Ira Allen)

What was the final score of the ESPN vs. C-SPAN football game? (Seth Brown)

What sports channel is devoted to watching Tony Kornheiser's hairline recede? (Margaret Welsh, Oakton)

### The best mnemonic for the eight planets

What is "Memorably visible equipment malfunction: Janet showed us nipple"? (Wilson Varga, Alexandria)

What is "Meretricious Variegated Etruscan Mystagogues Jurisprudently Soliloquized Unequivocal Neologisms"? (What could be more catchy!) — William F. Buckley (Steve Fahey, Kensington)

What is certainly not Moogy Voogy Eoogy Moogy Joogy Soogy Uoogy Noogy? (Seth Brown)

What's a lot easier to remember than the best mnemonic for the 535 members of Congress? (Brendan Beary)

What is "Many Virginians e-mailed mediocre jokes saying 'Ur-anus,' no"? (Greg Johnson, Reston)

Next Week: Rendered Speechless, or Drawing Blanks

## Music

# Swingin' Good Time at Ellington Jazz Fest

By MIKE JOYCE  
Special to the Washington Post

Jazz festivals don't always turn out as festive as hoped, which is why having drummer Roy Haynes and reedman Paquito D'Rivera on the bill is one of the best insurance policies out there.

Among the many things the two world-renowned musicians have in common, in addition to being NEA Jazz Masters, is a contagiously lighthearted spirit that never fades in concert. It's a trait that quickly endears them to audiences, as was obvious at the Lincoln Theatre on Friday night, and one that makes their virtuosity appear as natural as drawing a breath.

The centerpiece of the second annual Duke Ellington Jazz Festival and the Washington Performing Arts Society season premiere, the concert opened with Haynes leading his Fountain of Youth Quartet through a program that, like the bandleader's own extraordinary career, spanned several generations.

Energetic, responsive and often beaming, the 81-year-old drummer nimbly referenced some key collaborators he's worked with over the years, via tunes composed by Charlie Parker, Thelonious Monk and Pat Metheny. For starters, there was Monk's "Trinkle Tinkle," vibrantly arranged, veering back and forth between turbulent rhythms and unencumbered swing. When pianist Martin Bejerano introduced a fluid, thoroughly modern improvisation, laced with fresh harmonies and chromatic flights, Haynes kept Monk's whimsical theme from disappearing entirely with a combination of splashing accents, sharp blows and staccato cadences.

Later, when the band looked to pop standards for inspiration, the results were similarly impressive. "My Heart Belongs to Daddy" was transformed into a spiraling rhapsody, stoked by Haynes's fierce attack until it finally tapered off into a simple stick-on-stick clave pattern that set the stage for "Sky-lark." A showcase for alto saxophonist Jaleel Shaw's seductive melodicism, the Hoagy Carmichael ballad was made all the more entrancing by Haynes's feathery brushwork and Bejerano's blues-tinged lyricism.

Guest trumpeter Roy Hargrove,



Drummer Roy Haynes, above, and reedman Paquito D'Rivera combined whimsy and brash energy to delight the crowd at the second annual Duke Ellington Jazz Festival on Friday night.

who briefly and brashly augmented Haynes's quartet, ignited more fireworks during the second half of the concert when he joined D'Rivera, playing alto sax, and his United Nation Orchestra on Dizzy Gillespie's "A Night in Tunisia." In sharp contrast, "A Night in Englewood," a tune composed by D'Rivera in Gillespie's honor, was a bossa nova charmer, aglow with the sensuous tones and supple phrases the orchestra leader drew from his clarinet, right up until he fashioned an amusing quote-filled coda that enticed the delighted crowd to shout out the bop refrain "Salt Peanuts."

With both scheduled and surprise guests turning up, a traffic jam onstage cut into the orchestra's time, though several members of the 14-piece multicultural ensemble, including reed players Scott Robinson and Anat Cohen, distinguished themselves in solo spots.

The concert also held a big revelation for most listeners: the vibrantly colorful and percussive pairing of the Mexican marimba ensemble Na'Rimbo and Colombian harp virtuoso Edmar Castaneda. Together, they drew one of the evening's biggest responses by boldly

recasting a Venezuelan folk tune with the orchestra's help. Singer Roberta Gambarini got a chance to shine as well. She has a lovely voice and exceptional range, but her tone proved better suited to the sunny "Chega de Saudade" than the torchy "Lover Man."

The festival concludes today with performances at the Lincoln Theatre, Willard Hotel and other locations around town.



BY FRANK STEWART

## ASK AMY

Dear Amy:

I totally disagree with your answer to "K in Illinois," who felt that if a husband didn't start taking household chores seriously, the marriage should be reevaluated.

You told her she didn't place a very high value on marriage.

To the contrary, I felt she placed a high value on marriage, to the degree that chores, which are necessary to keep a household running, are a very important part of living together.

If the dopey husband refuses to take them seriously, he is in effect saying that he doesn't care to put any quality and care into something so basic about the marriage.

I have been married for a long time to a person like that, and no amount of talking or compromising made any difference. These kinds of men just don't change. They agree to anything and then do what they want. The wife ends up doing all of the chores and home maintenance. I am not the only person I know who is in a situation like this. The wife ends up a frazzled shrew.

Here is my solution: When my husband does the chore in a careless manner, I don't get upset — I just take from his wallet what I feel the job is worth to do it correctly, then I pay myself.

I don't need the money, as I have a fine job, but it is a very concrete way for the man to see that my time is important, too, and men understand the concept of money very well.

It doesn't mean that I don't consider my marriage important; it means that he has to consider the domestic part of our marriage as important too.

Of course I tell him what I did, and sometimes I even use the cash for something pleasant for both of us.

P. in Wisconsin

For someone with such a dim view of men, it is impressive that you have managed to stay in your marriage. Good for you.

What I can't figure out is if you both have enough money for you to filch from your husband's wallet the amount of money that a domestic job is worth, then why don't you just use that mon-

ey to hire somebody else to come into your home to do those jobs that you value but neither of you wants to do?

Readers who want to resolve this pesky domestic issue can get ideas by reading "A Housekeeper Is Cheaper Than a Divorce: Why You Can Afford to Hire Help and How to Get It," by Kathy Fitzgerald Sherman (2000, Life Tools Press).

The book features an endorsement from Ann B. Davis, who played Alice on "The Brady Bunch." Need we know more?

Dear Amy:

My husband's brother recently invited my husband and me to join them for dinner at a local restaurant to celebrate his son's birthday. At the end of the evening, the check came and my brother-in-law paid the tab for a party of 11 (all family members).

I whispered to my husband, asking why he wasn't offering to pay the tip.

After further discussion (out of earshot of others in the party), he relented and offered to pay the tip, which his brother accepted.

On the car ride home, my husband remarked to me that when one receives an invitation to dinner, that invitation should come with no expectations of the guest paying for anything. I disagreed, stating that I thought it was the courteous thing to do.

What is appropriate in this instance?

Lois

I'm with your husband. When you are invited to be someone's guest, then you are his or her guest — lock, stock, drinks, dessert and tip.

It was gracious of your husband to offer to pay the tip.

What isn't gracious is your whispering to your husband that he needed to do it and implying that it would be rude not to do so.

Write to Amy Dickinson at [askamy@tribune.com](mailto:askamy@tribune.com) or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

© 2006 by the Chicago Tribune Distributed by Tribune Media Services Inc.