

The Style Invitational

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

Week 696: Send Us the Bill



BY BOB STAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

The Fallin-Space Act, which requires the law of gravity to be enforced universe-wide.

Below right are the last names of the new members of Congress who took their seats last week. As we ask at the beginning of each term, **come up with legislation these freshman senators and representatives might sponsor together**, as in the painfully obvious example illustrated above, chosen so we wouldn't get 200 entries with the same joke. (Now we'll just get 50 or so.) Each bill must have at least two sponsors. Among similar ideas, the ink will go to the best explanation of the bill.

Winner receives the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. First runner-up gets some Heinz Microwaveable Spotted Dick, a canned pudding that people buy in Britain, where they also eat boiled sheep. It was donated by Post movie critic Desson Thomson, who grew up in England and also likes cricket, which may or may not taste just as good.

Other runners-up win a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt. Honorable Mentions (or whatever they're called that week) get one of the listed-after Style Invitational Magnets. One prize per entrant per week. Send your entries by e-mail to losers@washpost.com or by fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Tuesday, Jan. 16. Put "Week 696" 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. 4. No purchase required for entry. Employees of The Washington Post, and their immediate relatives, are not eligible for prizes. Pseudonymous entries will be disqualified. This week's Honorable Mentions name was submitted by both Dave Prevar of Annapolis and Phil Frankfeld of Washington. The revised title for next week's contest is by Kevin Dopart.

REPORT FROM WEEK 692

In which, on the third anniversary of the Empress's imperium, we invited readers to enter any of the previous year's Invitational contests, with one restriction: Every entry had to contain "three," "third" or some variant thereof. We feel a little bit bad for the several people who sent in long lists of entries but hadn't read the rules. Nah, we don't either. Not surprisingly, this contest drew a high proportion of serial Losers; as we figured, a few of them actually went back, two weeks before Christmas, and delved into each of the past 50 contests.

4 Week 642, neologisms beginning with O, P, Q, R or S: **Proctogynommogram: A woman's three least favorite tests rolled into one convenient, if unpleasant, visit.** (Jeff Brechlin, Eagan, Minn.)

3 Week 641, a name for a combination of businesses: **A bank, a ticket service, a tire center and a urologist: One for the Money, Two for the Show, Three to Get Tready and Four to Go** (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

2 The winner of the clear plastic promotional coffin: Week 661, retitled an actual movie: **"Triumph of the Will": Third Reich's the Charm"** (Howard Walderman, Columbia)

AND THE WINNER OF THE INKER

Week 683, string together words from one or two scenes from "Hamlet": **Act 5, Scenes 1 and 2: What base may I have, I wonder? I round first, second. A touch, a touch, I do take third! I pray you, part them. Nay? Why, my dear? O villainy! Ho! The door be lock'd!** (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

NICE TRI, BUT . . .

Week 640, state mottoes: **Mississippi: See the Third World Without a Passport** (Chris Doyle, Kihei, Hawaii)

Week 648, stupid consumer hotline questions: **To Doublemint Gum: I'd like to triple my pleasure — do I chew a piece and a half? Or should I chew two pieces and pull them out early?** (Peter Metrinko, Chantilly)

To 3M: "My son's art project looks funny, and I was wondering just how much Scotch you put in your tape, anyway?" (Jeff Brechlin)

To Mars Inc.: What's with all these 3s, E's and W's on my M&M's? (Jay Shuck, Minneapolis)

Week 651, add a character to a book or movie: **"Richard III": Mr. Ed joins the cast and becomes King of England.** (Kevin Dopart)

The Bible: Add the Wife of the Third Wise Man: Baby Jesus receives gifts of gold, frankincense and some adorable onesies. (Pam Sweeney, Germantown)

Week 654, creative recycling: **The same old Third World countries can be invaded over and over again. It really saves on rebuilding efforts.** (Russell Beland, Springfield)

Week 656, breed two racehorses and name the foal: **Starbucks Day x One Lucky Buck = Need 3 More Bucks** (Kevin Dopart)

Week 665, coin a word ending in -ion: **Safetyation: The effort to outlaw all risk from society, e.g., a three-day waiting period to purchase a glue gun.** (Mel Loftus, Holmen, Wis.)

Imménagenation: Thinking creatively about (1) how to invite that hottie across the street into a threesome; (2) how to innocuously broach the topic with your wife; and (3) how you'll survive when (1) and (2) don't go as planned. (Brendan Beary)

Week 668, colorful wrap-up lines for "World's Wildest Police Videos": **This mathematician had his hands all over his date — but he's not getting to Base Three tonight!** (Jay Shuck)

As the K-9 units closed in, this criminal ended his three-dog night wishing his mama told him not to come. (Mike Cisneros, Centreville)

Week 672, electronic highway signs: **TIWT Y3H !TIX3 OT 3MIT** (Kevin Dopart)

OK EVERYBODY-WHEN I COUNT TO 3, SLAM ON YOUR BRAKES. 1 . . . 2 . . . (Elizabeth Molyé, Vienna)

Week 673, a "bank" headline for a real headline in The Post: **Kaine Seeks \$79.5 Million for Education 'I Have 3 Kids to Put Through College,' Governor Explains** (Russell Beland)

Future Diplomats May Face Less Grueling Foreign Service Exam 'Name Three Bush Administration Successes' Removed From Test (Kevin Dopart)

Man Carrying a Laptop Is Sought Three Area Residents Found Not to Fit This Description (Kevin Dopart)

Week 674, limericks that include a word beginning with ca-: **In the Land of the Ever-Facetious, A new fiat strikes many as specious, "All your jokes must use threes." So it goes on the Isle of Capricious.** (Brendan Beary)

Week 683, string together words from "Hamlet": **Act 3, Scene 2: It offends me to hear the dumbshows and noise. Dull and tedious Queen rock thy brain, groaning and worse, croaking. Drugs and midnight weeds thrice blasted the ears.** (Andy Bassett, New Plymouth, New Zealand)

Week 684, backwards words: **Dworc: A third wheel.** (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Week 687, what was said vs. what was thought: **Upon visiting your 3-year-old grandson: "What a big boy you are!" (Do you think your parents might get you toilet-trained in time for your wedding?)** (Howard Walderman)

Week 688, six-word stories: **Wanted: baby shoes, set of three.** (Jay Shuck)

One car, two teenagers, three trimesters. (Russell Beland)

Next Week: Everything Being Sequel, or Dis, Continued

New members of Congress: Altmire, Arcuri, Bachmann, Bilirakis, Boyda, Braley, Brown, Buchanan, Cardin, Carney, Casey, Castor, Clarke, Cohen, Corker, Courtney, Davis, Donnelly, Ellison, Ellsworth, Fallin, Giffords, Gillibrand, Hall, Hare, Heller, Hirono, Hodes, Johnson, Jordan, Kagen, Klein, Klobuchar, Lamborn, Lampson, Loebach, Mahoney, McCarthy, McCaskill, McNeerney, Mitchell, Murphy, Murphy, Perlmutter, Rodriguez, Roskam, Sali, Sanders, Sarbanes, Sestak, Shea-Porter, Shuler, Sires, Smith, Space, Sutton, Tester, Walberg, Walz, Webb, Welch, Whitehouse, Wilson, Yarmuth

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PHOTOS BY LINDA DAVIDSON — THE WASHINGTON POST

About 15,000 were on hand to fete Mayor Adrian Fenty, a D.C. native. "It feels good to have a homegrown individual in charge of my home town," said one person.

A Hometown Hoedown for the New Mayor

FENTY, From D1

wife, Michelle Cross Fenty, pointed out that "we're very excited." Down on the ballroom floor, Miss District of Columbia USA 2007, Mercedes Lindsay, was asked her thoughts on the new mayor. "I'm so excited."

Fan yourself, D.C. You're getting flushed.

There were little portions of the ballroom sectioned off to represent each ward, with photographs, artwork and campaign materials. There were fried green tomatoes from Georgia Brown's and crab cakes from Clyde's, and the lines were long, real long.

"The crab cake line was all the way back to Ward 8!" a woman said.

The people waited for Fenty, whose appearance onstage was somewhat delayed. A group of senior citizens somehow lost their



There was plenty of excitement and optimism in the air as Fenty supporters took in the sights and sounds of the inaugural bash.

seats and got upset. People were sitting on the press risers. Everyone's feet hurt. Some announcements were made from stage — people who got separated, people looking for other people, the city it-

self a little lost and trying to find it-

self. "Ruby is looking for you, she really wants to go," the announcer said from the stage. "She say her feet hurt."

Ruby, hold up, we're comin' for ya!

Onstage, soul singer Anthony Hamilton sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" and, finally, Fenty came out with the D.C. Council. He thanked God and his wife and former mayor Williams and Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton and the council and everyone, and said "this is the time to party."

And then, up on stage, while Fenty shook hands with the crowd, Barry and Carol Schwartz boogied. Then Vincent Gray and Norton boogied. Then Barry came over and tried to cut in.

"I wouldn't let him," Norton said a few minutes later. "I told him he wasn't born in D.C. I said, 'Look, Barry, you country boys don't know how to dance.'"

Staff writers Yolanda Woodlee and Nikita Stewart contributed to this report.