

# The Style Invitational

## REPORT FROM WEEK 728

In which we asked you to make up words containing, contiguously, the letters A, S, T and R, in any order. Most commonly submitted entry: "Astronut: Lisa Nowak." Best example of how not to tell a joke: "Astrograph: Autograph from a Houston Astro."

**4 First-Rationalizer:** Unofficial title of the White House press secretary. (Peter Metrinko, Chantilly)

**3 E-fenestration:** tossing out your old version of Windows. (Russell Beland, Springfield)

**2 The winner of the dinosaur poop fossil:** Retrash: To have a yard sale to get rid of all the junk you picked up at other people's yard sales. (Dot Yufer, Newton, W.Va.)

**AND THE WINNER OF THE INKER**  
Oughtacrats: People who have half a mind to solve all the world's problems with their brilliant ideas, one of these days . . . (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

## THE STRA-GGLERS

**Overstraightment:** I am not gay. I never have been gay. The men I have sex with are not gay either. (Chris Doyle, Kihai, Hawaii)

**Dorkestra:** A kazoo ensemble. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

**Drivertashk:** A DUI test. "See, offisher, I can touch my noezh! Gimme another drivertashk, like balanshing on the light wine!" (Randy Lee, Burke)

**Arstistic:** Able to make creative butt-pictures on the photocopier. (Stacey Kenkeremath, Alexandria)

**Reprocrastinate:** Put off having children. (Dan and Suzanne Colilla, Pittsburgh)

**I-strain:** What egotists give others. (Tom Witte)

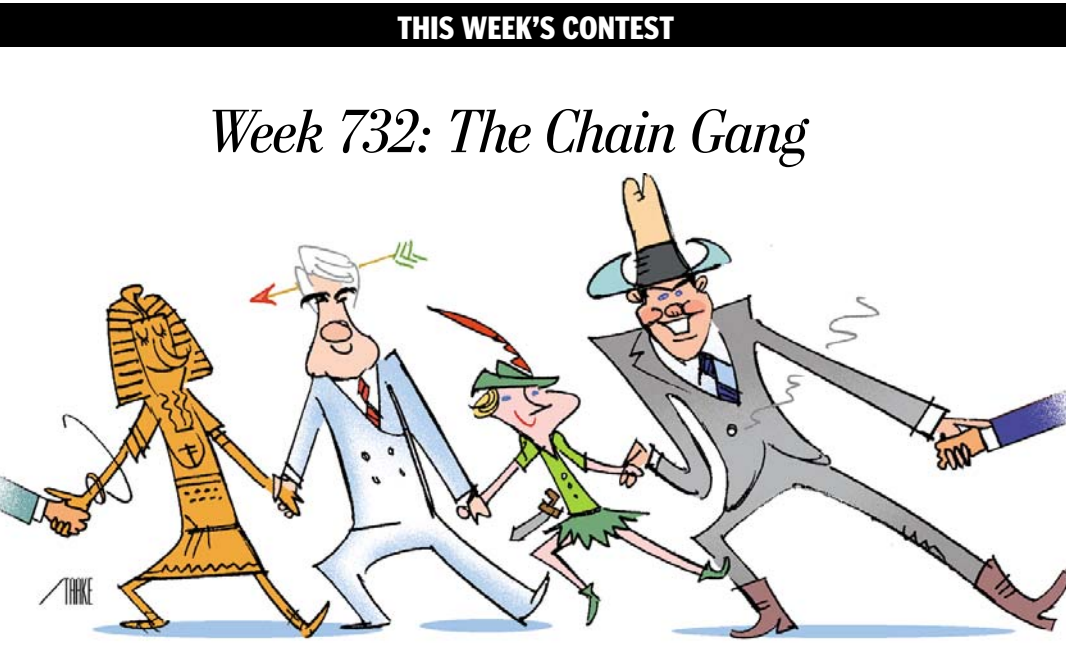
**B'arstool:** What's left after a grizzly sits in the woods. (Chris Doyle)

**Aversatile:** Repelled by anything. (Jay Shuck, Minneapolis)

**Starjones:** A huge celestial body that loses two-thirds of its mass and disappears from "View." (Rick Wood, Falls Church)

**Understarved:** Obese. (Kevin Dopart)

**E-tasr:** The cyber equivalent of a poison-pen letter. (Patrick Mattimore, San Francisco)



Mary Ann Madden, Mary Tyler Moore, Grant Tinker, Tinky-Winky, Jerry Falwell, Oral Roberts, Monica Lewinsky, Bill Clinton, Isis, King Tut, Steve Martin, Mary Martin, J.R. Ewing, Stella Dallas, Stanley Kowalski, Dr. Livingstone, Jonathan Livingston Seagull, Richard Bach, W.A. Mozart, Figaro, Red Barber, Mel Allen, Gracie Mansion, New York, Mary Ann Madden.

The above chain of 25 names, composed by Style Invitational Hall of Famer Chris Doyle, was the winning entry for an Invitational contest seven years ago. (That chain begins and ends with the name of the editor of the erstwhile New York Magazine Competition, the long-running inspiration for the rather less refined feature that currently looms before your eyeballs.) **This week: Supply a chain of 25 names as in the example above — they may be names of people, places, organizations, products, etc., but they must be names — beginning and ending with "George W. Bush."** As in the example, the links can be based on a connection with the names, or on some relationship between the two elements. The trick is to make the links clever, original and imaginative, but not impossibly obscure. Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a half-dozen of the deluxe Sigmund Freud Head Lollipop pictured here, donated (unsucked on) by Loser Mark Eckenwiler of Washington.

**Other runners-up** win their choice of a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt or yearned-for Loser Mug. Honorable Mentions (or whatever they're called that 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 or by fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Oct. 1. Put "Week 732" 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 Oct. 20. 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 Roy Ashley. This week's Honorable Mentions name is by — ta-da! — Chris Doyle.

**Brat's-Mitzvah:** An opulent party thrown by over-indulgent parents. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

**Camper-trash:** Those aspiring to become trailer-trash. (Dot Yufer)

**Dogastrophe:** What the Atlanta Falcons suffered. (Dan Gordon, Arlington)

**Airsatz:** What we breathe inside planes. (Chris Doyle)

**Tsartisfaction:** What the Bolsheviks didn't get no of. (Ellen Raphaeli, Falls Church)

**Earstool:** Nasty wax buildup. (Paul Kocak, Syracuse, N.Y.)

**Eweparts:** What support ramparts. (Tom Witte)

**Tapperstance:** Position on the throne marked by widely spread legs, noisy feet and, perhaps, crossed fingers. (Tom Savonick, Milford, N.J.)

**Bra-stapler:** "Order this fine chastity belt in the next 30 minutes and receive, for no extra charge . . ." (Dot Yufer)

**Fantastrick:** A guy who's so skilled that he gets one on the house. (Jeff Brechlin, Eagan, Minn.)

**Flotsram:** Your three previous computers that are still in your basement. (Dan Colilla)

**OnSartre:** A navigation system that provides no route and sees no exit. (Ellen Raphaeli)

**Ickstras:** Background freaks in a Fellini film. (Phil Frankenfeld, Washington)

**Tarsupial:** Roadkill possum. (Chris Rollins, Cumberland, Md.; Tom Lacombe, Browntown, Va.)

**Pornstarch:** Viagra. (Russ Taylor, Vienna)

**Precrastination:** Waiting till tomorrow to decide to put things off. (Edmund Conti, Raleigh, N.C.)

**Teetertatarstan:** A politically unstable Russian republic. (Chris Doyle)

**S-ration:** The Army finally renames the MRE for what it tastes like. (Andrew Hoernig, Rockville)

**Seat-sardine:** The person on a plane between two fat guys. (Pam Sweeney, Germantown)

**Carstrati:** Police on Segways. (Ellen Raphaeli)

**Starmina:** A measurement of one's ability to stay in the news for months without doing anything remotely interesting. (Laurie Brink, Cleveland, Mo.)

**Strategicalfragilistic:** The greatest plan you ever heard and this is how it goes . . . — G.W.B., Washington (Russell Beland)

**Straddlesore:** Said of a politician who grows weary of having to pander to every view. (John Shea, Lansdowne, Pa.)

**Ultra-sedate:** Dead. (Kevin Dopart)

**Untrashy:** What Britney ain't. (Tom Witte)

**And Last:** Trashure: Style Invitational prizes. (Ellen Raphaeli)

**Next Week: Otherworldly Visions, or Reading Between the Lies**



Sometimes a lollipop is just a lollipop. Sometimes not. This week's runner-up prize.

## Beyond Burns's 'War': Latino Vets and the Birth of a Movement

VETS, From C1

derstand phenomena like César Chávez, Chicano power, Latino civil rights activism, those big immigrant-rights marches of last year, Daddy Yankee and the recent Democratic presidential candidates' debate in Spanish on Univision without a feel for World War II — and the bittersweet homecoming.

"I always think of World War II as being the moment in history when the Latino American became acceptable as a full-fledged American," Bill Lansford of Los Angeles, one of the two Latino Marines finally included as a compromise in "The War," says in the telephone interview.

"It's very hard to look at the guy in the foxhole and say, 'Oh, he's a Mexican,'" continues Lansford, 85, who raided behind enemy lines at Guadalcanal and landed at Iwo Jima. "That was the watershed, that was the turning point for Latinos. When we came out of the war, we knew that we were Americans."

Latinos weren't segregated in the service, as African Americans were. One of the few virtually all-Latino outfits, the 65th Infantry Regiment, owed its makeup to its origins in Puerto Rico. Several units drawing recruits from the Southwest also had a large Hispanic presence.

But Latinos did face discrimination.

"Our sergeant was killed and I was next in line," recalls Riojas, 85, a former infantryman who fought in North Africa before invading Italy. "I had the most experience in combat. The second lieutenant in charge of our platoon was from North Carolina. He chose a young guy from Georgia to be sergeant. I went in a PFC and came out a PFC."

"I think it was 'little Texas' in the Marine Corps, and as you know, Texans and Mexicans weren't exactly bosom buddies in those days," Lansford says in the episode airing tomorrow night. His mother was from Mexico, and she raised him as a single parent in a Latino neighborhood of Los Angeles until he was a teenager. His father was a gringo who himself was raised speaking Spanish. Lansford lied about his age so he could join the Marines at 17.

When the nation went to war, Latinos wanted to "show that they are as patriotic as anybody, as some



AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN GEICH, GERMANY, 1944; FROM "THE WAR"; NATIONAL ARCHIVES PHOTO VIA PBS AND REUTERS

blue-eyed, blond guy," the former Marine continues in the documentary. War was a great equalizer. "These Texan guys began seeing that we weren't what they thought we were, and we began seeing they weren't what we thought they were."

What was not equal was the welcome home. Oh, sure, there was dancing in the streets, kisses for everyone, V-E Day, V-J Day, blizzards of ticker tape, President Truman pinning medals on lads who looked as stunned at that moment of the camera flash as during a bombardment.

Latinos earned 13 of the 301 Medals of Honor awarded for service in World War II, according to records compiled by Virgil Fernandez, a Vietnam-era Navy vet and author of "Hispanic Military Heroes."

Back home in Texas, two of those medal recipients were denied service in restaurants, according to Fernandez. Returning veterans also found public swimming pools, schools and housing segregated in some communities, especially in the Southwest and California. "Absolutely no Spanish or Mexicans," said the signs.

A general pinned a Bronze Star on Riojas's chest in Italy. Then he was refused service in a restaurant in his

own home town. At technical school, on the GI Bill, he learned refrigeration repair and got a job with Montgomery Ward. After a stint at a Kansas City store, he was transferred to one near San Antonio. There, he tried to check into a hotel and was told, "We don't rent rooms to Mexicans." On one of his first assignments, he knocked at the back door of a customer's house, and the woman inside told him, "I don't allow Mexicans in my house." Riojas quit and went on to a career with the railroad in Kansas and Missouri.

He says he coped with injustice through his faith in God, looked past the slights and kept marching on to his American dream. Three years ago, at the dedication of the National World War II Memorial, he shook President Bush's hand.

Other young WWII veterans, having proved themselves alongside Anglos in battle, refused to accept the pre-war social contract that made them second-class citizens. They played prominent roles in voter registration drives and lawsuits against the unequal treatment of Latinos.

"We fought it in battle and we got to fight it at home . . . that fight there's no super-race," Louis Tellez, 84, recalls from Albuquerque. "It's a hell of a feeling. There's nothing you

can do except prepare yourself and continue fighting."

After serving in the Army in the Pacific, Tellez returned to Albuquerque, got a solid federal job, and was turned down for a \$300 bank loan. People he knew weren't allowed to buy houses in certain neighborhoods. The police treated Latino suspects harshly.

Tellez became an early member of American GI Forum, a veterans organization for Latinos that functioned as a civil rights outfit. It was founded by another Army veteran, a doctor named Hector Garcia, who saw his comrades facing similar obstacles on returning home. "Dr. Garcia liked the word 'American' — as opposed to say, Hispanic GI Forum — because we always had to prove we were Americans," says Antonio Gil Morales, national commander of the forum, which this year helped lead the charge against Burns and PBS.

César Chávez served in the Navy in the Pacific before he became a farm labor organizer. Pete Tijerina, who studied law on the GI Bill, told oral historian Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez that his war experience "taught me that I was a first-class citizen, that I was an American," and he went on to found the Mexican Amer-



COURTESY ROQUE RIOJAS

**A half-million U.S. Latinos, including Roque Riojas, above, served in the military during World War II. Like many others, Riojas was cited for bravery.**

ican Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

The treatment of Latino veterans appalled many Anglos on the home front. Some of the cases became notorious — none more so than a small-town Texas funeral home's refusal to handle the remains of Felix Longoria, because "the whites might object." Longoria had been killed in the Philippines. His family had the remains exhumed for reburial back in Three Rivers in 1949. Garcia and the GI Forum promoted the case, and then-Texas Sen. Lyndon Johnson commanded a national spotlight when he intervened to have the remains buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

The change in attitude forged on the battlefield began to work its way slowly through society. Then came "The War." Burns has said no Latinos stepped forward to participate in the six-year project when he was seeking people to interview.

Around the country — down at the American Legion hall, or at home surrounded by ghosts and pictures of grandchildren and yellowed snapshots of their younger selves — Latino vets shook their heads. The perceived snub felt familiar.

"It's too late now, the damage is done," says Navy vet Osvaldo Espada, 91, of Potomac, a commander of a local American Legion post that was a gathering place for Puerto Ricans.

He served on a transport ship carrying Marines in the Pacific, then stayed on for a full career, retiring as

a chief petty officer. A proud Puerto Rican, Espada nevertheless sees little point in dwelling on differences among people. The Navy, and the war, taught him that. "I'm a Navy man, period!" he exclaims. To Latinos with grievances, his advice is: "Improve yourself. Vote. Don't start complaining."

Lansford says it's not a matter of complaining, but standing up. That's the essence of his role in the documentary tomorrow night, as he speaks of heroism and death in the jungle. He is also leading a project to erect a memorial in downtown Los Angeles to Latino Medal of Honor recipients in all wars.

After the war, Lansford went on to a writing career in his beloved second language — English. He wrote combat journalism, a biography of Pancho Villa, scripts for television series — including "Bonanza," "Ironside," "CHiPS," "Fantasy Island," "Starsky & Hutch" — and movies, including, "Villa Rides" (1968) for Paramount Pictures and "The Deadly Tower" (1975) for television.

He sees the huge marches of Latinos for immigration reform last year, as well as this year's protest of Burns's documentary, as extensions of the spirit that awakened within returning veterans two generations ago. "The fight continues, and will continue," he says. "Latinos aren't looking for notoriety, or any special treatment or anything. The fact of the matter is, Latinos are tired of being invisible in their own country."

Riojas thinks about the immigration issue whenever he sees a police car in Kansas City. He wonders if the current spotlight on illegal immigrants heralds a return to the days of reflexive disdain for all Latino-looking people. If anyone dares question his status as an American, he has his answer prepared. One of the documents of which he is most proud is his lifetime membership card in the 34th Infantry Division Association. In a swelling voice, he reads aloud part of what's printed on the card: "Among the greatest fighting units that ever carried the Stars and Stripes into battle."

"That's what I carry in my pocket," Riojas says. "That's what I'll throw at them."

**ONLINE DISCUSSION** Ken Burns will be online Monday at 11 a.m. to discuss his World War II documentary, "The War."