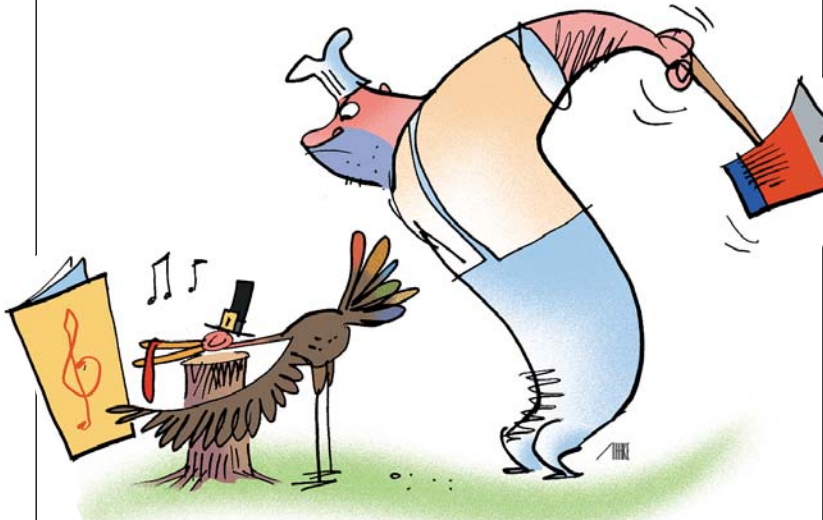


THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

Week 737: No River, No Woods



BY BOB STAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

So it's Oct. 27 — and you've already heard a Christmas carol this year, right? Aside from the marketing tie-ins, a major reason for the premature delivery of "The First Noel" to elevator speakers is that there are hardly any good songs for the holidays that occur during the rest of the year. Fast-Track Loser Kevin Dopart suggests we come to the rescue: This week: **Send us a funny parody of a well-known song, with lyrics that commemorate an occasion other than Christmas or Hanukkah.** The results will appear on Thanksgiving weekend.

Ye winner receives the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place gets a set of large Slang Flashcards, which helpfully define and illustrate such terms as "crunk" and "tap": Sample sentence: "What say we take some crunk pictures when we tap tonight?" You'll be speaking slang in no time with these helpful aids. Donated by crunk Loser 4 Ever Elden Carnahan of Laurel.

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, Nov. 5. Put "Week 737" 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. 24. 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 David Smith of Santa Cruz, Calif.; this week's Honorable Mentions name is by Anne Paris of Arlington.

REPORT FROM WEEK 733

In which we asked you to create a word by dropping the first letter of an existing word, and then supply a definition. Submitted frequently among the 4,000 entries were "rankfurter" (hot dog from the back of the refrigerator), "pectacular" (unbelievably chesty), "Assachusetts" (where Ted Kennedy comes from, etc.) and Hardonny (you can guess).

- 4** **Ouchdown:** Joe Theismann's last play. (Ira Allen, Bethesda)
- 3** **Mnesia:** Forgetting a mnemonic device. (Jack Held, Fairfax)
- 2** **The winner of the No Plot? No Problem! Novel Writing Kit:** Riskies: Chinese-made cat food. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

AND THE WINNER OF THE INKER
Riminal: A man who doesn't clean up his toilet dribble. (Deanna Busick, Knoxville, Tenn.)

LOSE, BUT NO CIGAR

- Amburger:** my realization about myself as I'm kidnapped by cannibals. (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)
- Amished:** Hungering for a simpler way of life. (Brad Alexander, Wanneroo, Australia)
- Ammogram:** A loaded message. (Dianne Thomas, Fairfax)
- Asperries:** Snake doots. (Howard Walderman, Columbia)
- Assover:** Any holiday dinner at which an unwanted in-law makes an appearance. (Jeff Brechlin, Eagan, Minn.)
- Atheter:** An even worth medical applanth. (Jay Shuck, Minneapolis)
- Bacus:** A simple device to count the number of alcoholic beverages consumed by your designated driver (Jeffrey Scharf, Burke)
- Bracadabra:** A really good boob job. (Howard Walderman, Columbia)
- Brupt:** Really, really sudden. (Fil Feit, Annandale)
- Egotiation:** An I for an I. (Chris Doyle, sent from Hong Kong)
- Eminar:** Eminem's fifth child. (Mae Scanlan, Washington)
- Ental breakdown:** When Fangorn starts crazily shedding all his leaves and losing his bark. (Seth Brown, North Adams, Mass.)
- Etard:** A person who constantly replies to all in e-mails directed to only one person. (Jeffrey Scharf)
- Gonize:** To kick someone in the groin. "I'd like to gonize the idiot who moved the Invitational to Saturday." (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)
- Hick-Fil-A:** A squirrel that tried to cross the road. (Elwood Fitzner, Valley City, N.D.)
- Ho's Who:** National registry of prominent hookers. (Chris Doyle)

- larrhea:** Running on about oneself. (Jack Held)
- Ickled:** How you feel when your creepy uncle touches you with his fingertips. (Carson Miller, Newark, Del.)
- Ickpocket:** A place to put your used Kleenex. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)
- Idwife:** Every guy's dream. (Kevin Dopart)
- Irates:** After 15 consecutive losing seasons, what's left of Pittsburgh's fans. (Jon Reiser, Hilton, N.Y.)
- Itchhiking:** Chasing a tingle from toes to tushy. (Susan Collins, Charlottesville)
- Kin-diving:** Incest. (Tom Witte)
- Ngland:** Vietnam. (Michael Fransella, Arlington)
- Nowplov:** An entirely fictitious device for D.C. residents. (Brendan Beary)
- Ococo:** Chanel's frilly style before she came out with the simple black dress. (Phyllis Reinhard, East Fallowfield, Pa.)
- Omenclature:** The Homeland Security threat-level warning system. (Edmund Conti, Raleigh)
- Ompadre:** A Buddhist monk. (Bill Strider, Gaithersburg)
- Onaganarian:** An old hand at stress relief. (George Vary, Bethesda)
- Ooperstown:** Home of the Bill Buckner Hall of Fame. (Ed Gordon, Deerfield Beach, Fla.)

- Oreplay:** Laying the groundwork for entering the mineshaft. (Chris Doyle; Tom Witte)
- Orgy-and-Bess:** The Secret Truman Memoirs. (Chris Doyle)
- Ouch-and-go:** A dominatrix's house call. (Kevin Dopart)
- Oxtrot:** A particularly ungraceful "Dancing With the Stars" performance. (Pam Sweeney, Germantown)
- P-ortunity:** Rest stop. (Christopher Lamora, Arlington)
- Rackdown:** the inevitable result of the battle between breast and gravity. (Jeff Brechlin, Eagan, Minn.)
- Ubergine:** An enormous eggplant. (Ken April, Arlington)
- Unich:** German city voted World's Safest Town for Women. (Jeff Brechlin)
- Urotrash:** Cigarette butts used for target practice in the men's room. (Brendan Beary)
- Urple:** The color of vomit. "For feeding the baby, Mom always wore her urple sweatshirt." (Chuck Koelbel, Houston)
- XY-moron:** A man. (Peter Metrinko, Chantilly)
- Anti-Invitational (add a letter to the front of a word):** Shysterectomy: Disbarment. (Peter Metrinko)
- And Last:** NV-italational: A contest that seeks to frustrate by accepting entries from thousands but rewarding only a small group of toadying favorites who obviously have nothing better to do with their time. I don't want your stupid prize anyway. It looks stupid. (Peter Ostrander, Rockville)
- Next Week: Turnaround Time, or Total Inanity Lives!**



BY MARTHA WRIGHT — THE WASHINGTON POST

Edwards, Edwards, He's Their Man

EDWARDS, From C1

capel)
Pomerantz is trying to stop the Clinton juggernaut by converting the great state of Iowa, one voter at a time. She tells people what Edwards is like up close — genuine and passionate, reminiscent of John F. Kennedy. "Such a mensch," she says. One time, she took her older sister to see Edwards speak. Another time, she took her handyman.

Two converts. Just a few more to go.

There's another Democrat up there in the running for president, by the way. His name is Barack Obama.

Edwards's Iowa supporters don't talk about the senator from neighboring Illinois quite as much as they talk about the senator from New York, even though Obama runs second behind Clinton in national polls, with Edwards a distant third.

Neither does Edwards.

During informal community meetings across southwestern Iowa in recent days, the jeans-clad former North Carolina senator says little about Obama but mentions Clinton several times by name. He criticizes her for taking money from lobbyists and for voting last month in favor of labeling the Iranian Revolutionary Guard a terrorist organization, which he and other Democrats believe gives President Bush free rein to attack Iran. Mentioning a news report indicating that Clinton has shifted from primary mode to general election mode, Edwards pulls out one of his favorite new lines. "Did I miss somethin'?" he teases his audience. "Did we already have the Iowa caucus and I wasn't there?"

Edwards is scheduled to visit his 99th of the 99 counties in Iowa today. In his visits across the state, many to small towns in rural areas, he emphasizes his ability to capture both Democratic and Republican votes. ("You're looking at the only candidate who's actually won in a red state," he tells one crowd, referring to his victory in North Carolina's 1998 Senate race.) He takes questions and in recent weeks has been concluding his visits with a plea for voters to evaluate every candidate's trustworthiness above all.

He fields the most questions about his plan for universal health care, which his supporters always point out he offered in detail months before Clinton rolled out hers. "We hear about Hillary's hangnail," says Michael Fox, a man in a group of about 75 in a Sidney church. "We don't hear about what John Edwards's position on health care is."

But Edwards's supporters talk with foreboding about the Hillary Clinton "ma-



chine," like it's some sort of gravitational force. They know their candidate needs to do well in Iowa, which he has visited doggedly since 2005, to catapult him through the other early states, particularly since he has opted to take public financing, putting him at a monetary disadvantage to Clinton and Obama. He and Obama are currently neck-and-neck in Iowa polls — trailing Hillary, though not by much. But if Edwards feels any such foreboding, of course he doesn't say so. Instead, he says, voters are just beginning to pay attention.

The polls are "deceptive," the candidate says, during a brief interview in a high school band room in the small town of Corning. He is seated in a tiny chair, as is his questioner, with a tiny desk in between. (On the white board next to him, someone has written, "Please Find My best friend's mouthpiece! PLEASE.") Edwards is drinking a Sprite. He says he feels far more confident than he did when he ran for president and then vice president four years ago.

"I mean, I lived through the 2003 Dean juggernaut, which happened in exactly a similar way at this point in time," he says. "And Howard, who I like, didn't win a single primary. So I just think that we're going to have a very tough, heartfelt contest here and in New Hampshire and in Nevada and South Carolina and somebody's going to come roaring out of that process."

Back at the Iowa headquarters, Leslie Pomerantz is still working on her campaign sign. She's a retired teacher who carefully drafts her sign first in pencil, then erases her pencil marks. She decorates her next



PHOTOS BY DAVID PETERSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST



Leslie Pomerantz, a 64-year-old Iowan, says John Edwards's candidacy has inspired the most political passion she's felt since she campaigned for JFK as a teenager.

poster with silver stars. On days Pomerantz volunteers, she brings sunflower seeds for the staffer who likes them, and chocolate-covered Oreos on another staffer's birthday. It's a teacher thing, she says. She brings food from a deli, run by a rabbi who last time around voted for Bush — but that was before Pomerantz went to work on him. This time around, she's pretty sure she's got him caucusing for Edwards.

Pomerantz, who first caucused for Edwards in 2004, hasn't felt this way about a candidate since she volunteered for Kennedy's campaign when she was a teenager. Edwards has a combination of honesty and charisma, she says. She senses that when he talks about poverty, he means it, and that despite his success, he hasn't forgotten his

roots as the son of a millworker. She likes the attention to detail he shows in his policies. She feels for his wife, Elizabeth, who is struggling with cancer, and to whom she gave a necklace with a Hebrew word that means "life."

She likes the fact that when his daughter Cate showed up once to speak at an event, "she came in flip-flops. . . Her feet hurt. They're real people."

The room is filled with people making posters. There are old folks and young kids. There's a staffer calling people to ask them to come out to some of the 17 events Edwards is packing into four days. There's a guy named Ken Johnson, who teaches at Des Moines University and started volunteering when Clinton overtook Edwards in state polls.

"It was time to fish or cut bait," he says. There's a woman named Susan Mills, 47, who works for Iowa Foundation for Medical Care, who says the race is going well in Iowa, but "you know, across the United States it's looking kind of bleak."

The juggernaut again. "Don't you think a lot of that is media-produced?" Pomerantz asks. "They haven't really gotten into the election yet. Big money is very attractive but once they start listening, if they start listening. . ."

What do people see in Clinton? Mills and Pomerantz go back and forth. It's the woman thing! No, it's the Bill thing. The Hillary-lovers are all around them.

"My best friend tells me, well, she was really happy when Bill was in office so she'll be happy with Hillary because he'll be there, too," Mills says.

"But do they know anything about the issues?" Pomerantz asks.

"I had several people who said to me also that they know that Edwards is for totally getting out of Iraq," Mills says.

"But sensibly, sensibly," Pomerantz says. "And they've told me they're afraid that if he becomes president that maybe he won't defend our country strong enough like Hillary would."

"Oh, like going into Iran?" Pomerantz says. "I don't trust her for a moment."

Edwards has been coming on tougher in debates, Pomerantz says, but maybe people can't tell when those moderators direct so many questions to Clinton and Obama.

If only more people could see him up close, Pomerantz says.

"Like my sister said, 'If they could see him the way he was in Wauke. . .'"