

The Style Invitational

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

Week 804: Our Type o' Joke



BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Senators in Both Parties Call For Big Guts in Stimulus Bill

Fast-Food Tax Credit Proposed: 'Snarf a Whopper, Heal the Economy'

Here's a contest that the Empress was going to run years ago but forgot about until a few weeks back, when the Royal Consort, Mr. Empress himself, suggested it. Noting a recent headline on CQ.com, "Boehner Decries Party Radios on Two Powerful House Panels" (perhaps the spell-checker didn't like "ratios"), Mr. E figured that Invitational readers shouldn't wait around for amusing headline typos to show up when they can just write them themselves. **This week: Change a headline by one letter, or switch two letters, in a headline (or most of a headline) appearing on an article or ad in The Washington Post or on washingtonpost.com between Feb. 14 and 23, and elaborate on it in a "bank" headline (subhead) or a brief first sentence of an article that would run under it.** (The example above plays on one from the front page of the Feb. 6 Post.) We'll probably prefer entries in which it's obvious what the original word was. For washingtonpost.com headlines, please copy the originals onto your e-mail. Note to Obsessive Losers: We are offering you 10 whole days' worth of headlines for your convenience, not your punishment — don't gripe to us that mean old Empress forced you to scrutinize every one of them. Anyway, we like you to read our fine newspaper. Heck, someone ought to.

Winner receives the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place gets a plain brown book titled "Boring Postcards USA," an artistically presented collection of 1950s-'70s postcards with which a tourist would document his visit to, say, "the Portland-Columbia Toll Bridge Plaza on Route 611." Donated by the not-all-that-boring Kevin Dopart of Washington.

Other runners-up win a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt. Honorable Mentions get one of the lusted-after Style Invitational Magnets. First Offenders get a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (Fir Stink for their First Ink). 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, Feb. 23. Put "Week 804" 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 March 14. 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 Mention name is by Wayne Rodgers; the revised title for next week's results is by Kevin Dopart.

REPORT FROM WEEK 800

In which we asked you to pair two similar words or terms (one of them could be coined) and define them:

- 4 Google:** Search for online information.
- Go ogle:** Search for online porn. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)
- 3 Centaur:** Human with a horse's body.
- Senator:** Human who is a part of a horse's body. (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

- 2 the winner of the didactic European Commission comic book "The Raspberry Ice Cream War":**
- Amnesia:** When you can't remember your name.
- Ma'amnesia:** When you can't remember the name of the woman you woke up next to. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

WINNER OF THE INKER

- DUI:** Causes alcohol-related accidents.
- IUD:** Prevents alcohol-related "accidents." (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

IN PAIRGATORY: HONORABLE MENTIONS

Tarp: Weather protection.
TARP: Whatever protection. (Mike Ostapiej, Tracy, Calif.)

Tort reform: Affects liability.
Tart reform: Affects layability. (Tom Witte)

Illegible mail: Can't be read.
Eligible male: Can't be dead. (Beverly Sharp, Washington)

Deference: Showing proper respect to your 80-year-old grandpa.
Deafeance: I said, "SHOWING PROPER RESPECT . . ." (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

Conservation of mass: A universal observable law of physics espoused by all.
Conversation of mass: A universal law that you shall not observe physical changes in your spouse. (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

Average White Band: Rock group, 1975.
Overage White Band: Rocker group, 2009. (Chris Doyle)

Yes, We Can!: U.S. slogan.
Yes, We Canel: Singapore slogan. (Pam Sweeney, St. Paul, Minn.)

Carve: What you do when you have a hot turkey.
Crave: What you do when you go cold turkey. (Beverly Sharp)

Nickname: Sweet Cheeks.
ickname: Sweat Cheeks. (Kevin Dopart)

Parasailing: Flying on a wing and a prayer.
Sarah-paling: Flying on a wink and a prayer. (Peter A. Siegwald, Arlington, a First Offender)

Porch Swing: A nice, quiet way to relax with your wife.
Porsche Swing: What some guys go for to prove they're not ready for the former. (Wayne Rodgers, Satellite Beach, Fla.)

Brackish: Briny.
Barackish: Brainy. (David Garratt, Glenn Dale)

Verzazano Narrows: A unique bridge from Staten Island to Brooklyn.

Verizon Narrows: Every freakin' underpass anywhere I'm shhhhhh trying to kkkkkkk can you ppppppp breaking up ztztztz CAN YOU HEAR

ME NOW??? (Brendan Beary)

Maverick: McCain.
Maverisk: Palin. (May Jampathom, Oakhurst, N.J., a First Offender)

Rank and file: Industrial workers.
Rank and vile: Industrial stocks. (Larry Yungk, Arlington)

Barbecue: Grilled meat.
Carbecue: Grilled grille. (Tom Witte)

Eco-friendly: Not harmful to the environment.
Ego-friendly: Not harmful to your environment. (Vic Krysko, Suratthani, Thailand)

Carpe Diem: Seize the day!
Crappy Diem: Please, God, let it end! (Stephen Gold, Glasgow, Scotland)

Mosey along: Take a long time to get somewhere.
Moses along: Take 40 years to get somewhere. (Peter Metrinko, Chantilly)

"... preserve, protect and defend": U.S. Constitution.
"... reverse, protect and defend": Chief Justice Roberts (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Exist: Am.
Ex-is: Was. (Kevin Dopart)

"Milk," "The Reader" . . . : Academy announces Best Picture nominees.
Milk the readers: Post announces yet another inauguration commemorative. (Lee Dobbins,



FROM "BORING POSTCARDS USA." COPYRIGHT 2000 BY PHADON PRESS
From the Famous Mariners' Restaurant Fishboil, one of the Boring Postcards from this week's second-prize book.

Arlington)

Orchid: The most sublime of God's creations.
Our kid: And did I tell you she also made the honor roll? (Marty McCullen, Gettysburg)

Brainstorm: A sudden agitation of the mind.
Branstorm: A sudden agitation of the bowel. (Andy Bassett, New Plymouth, New Zealand)

Ex-worker: Laid off.
Sex worker: Laid on. (Russ Taylor, Vienna)

The former senator from Illinois: Change we can believe in.

The former governor from Illinois: Currency I can believe in. (Russell Beland, Fairfax)

Example: Model.
Ex-ample: Diet model. (Kevin Dopart)

President pro tempore: A senator who subs for the veep when he's off.

President pro temper: A veep who snubs a senator with "Eff off." (Chris Doyle)

Scarlett Johansson: Lots of guys would like to sleep with.

Scarlet johnson: No guy would want to wake up with. (Brendan Beary)

Bride to nowhere: Makes you think of Sarah Palin.

Bride to nowhere: Makes you think of Bristol Palin. (Chris Doyle)

Sidekick: A buddy who's close.

Sidelick: A buddy who's a little too close. (Larry Yungk)

Onomatopoeia: "Quack," "meow," "murmur."
Economatopoeia: "Crash," "thud," "kaboom," "poof." (Jeff Brechlin, Eagan, Minn.)

Roe v. Wade: Choice.

Roe v. Whale: Choice at a sushi bar. (Tom Witte)

And last:

"The Elements of Style": Since 1918, a renowned authority on writing with conciseness and taste.

The Excrements of Style: Since 1993, a renowned repository of writing with, uh, conciseness? (Michael Gips, Bethesda)

Next Week: Ask Backwards, or The Ink Choir Inquires

Trump Buys Lowes Island Golf Club in Va.

By ROXANNE ROBERTS
Washington Post Staff Writer

It's official: Donald Trump has purchased the Lowes Island Club, making the Washington region part of his luxury golf empire.

"This place, when it's finished, will be the finest club anywhere in the country," he told The Washington Post last night. "There will be nothing like it. I already own the best ones, so I know."

The private country club has been on the market since last summer, for a reported asking price of \$18 million, by owner Chevy Chase Bank.

Trump, his son Eric and business advisers took a tour of the property last week, which sparked rumors that he was seriously interested in the purchase. An e-mail announcing the sale went out to members yesterday afternoon, and Trump confirmed the deal soon afterward. He declined to discuss the purchase price other than to say, "I paid a lot."

The flamboyant developer already owns seven award-winning courses — in New York, Florida and California — and has big plans for his new 800-acre property, which sits along the Potomac River in Sterling. First up: a name change to — what else? — "Trump National Golf Club, Washington D.C.," he said.

He's bringing in golf architect Tom Fazio to remake the two 18-hole championship courses, with plans to maximize the site's natural beauty. The clubhouse, pool and facilities will be renovated, he said. Trump said he expects it will take two years "to make it great," and he wasted no time getting started: He's already ordered 150 top-of-the-line golf carts.

He said he expects the club to be a destination for hosted parties and other high-profile events, much like his jewel in Palm Beach, Fla.: Mar-a-Lago.

As soon as word leaked that Trump was interested in Lowes, golf nuts in the Washington area started buzzing that he'll make a serious run at bringing all the big-name tournaments to his greens — especially Tiger Woods, who holds a tournament at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda. "Congressional doesn't have a chance," Trump said yesterday.

The enthusiastic golfer — Trump reportedly has a 7 handicap — also expects some high-power golf partners. "I look forward to teeing up with President Obama," he said. "He's a great-looking basketball player. I saw his golf swing, and it's got tremendous potential."



PHOTOS BY LOIS RAIMONDO — THE WASHINGTON POST

Sarah Blandy, costumed as a worker in a Japanese "maid cafe," delivers an order to fellow anime fans attending Katsucun 15.

At Anime Fest, They're Maids for a Day

KATSUCUN, From Page C1

the fantasy.

"I do seasonal work at Disney World, and it's pounded into you that even if a customer slits your wrists, you have to be like, 'Ohhh, that's okayyy, let's take you to the information desk,'" she says, slipping into a sweet SnowWhite-like voice. She looks at 30 tables, 15 maids and a long line of hungry conventioners. "This will be no problem."

This is Katsucun's first attempt at a maid cafe, a kind of themed costume restaurant that has sprouted in Tokyo within the past decade and has just cracked the American market. (There's exactly one cafe stateside, in Culver City, Calif.) At maid cafes in Tokyo, bedraggled white-collar men and lonely video gamers can get a bit of companionship in addition to a meal. The maids will sit and chat. They'll blow on your hot soup, or bring around a kitten for you to pet. It's just this side of sexual. The point is not bondage but bonding.

The only happy ending here is a hug goodbye and maybe a couple of sweaty dollars as a tip from the customer — which is donated directly to Relay for Life, a cancer charity.

What if a 17-year-old anime fanboy gets a little handsy?

"We have a purple rape whistle," deadpans Magome — a.k.a. Meagan Wallace, 22, who is at least two feet too tall to pretend to be a petite Japanese maid. Yet here she is from Upper Marlboro, in a plus-size purple maid outfit, a tiny black bowler hat pinned to her ponytail and glitter smeared on the nape of her neck. The main difference between Japanese maid cafes and this temporary maid cafe in Crystal City?

"Obviously larger women," Wallace says. The maid cafe at Katsucun is a study in how traditions transition between cultures — the earnestness of Tokyo's maid cafes becomes self-aware and a smidge ironic in Crystal City — and how far fantasy can go when the reality is that people are hungry and want their food now so they can make

the panel discussion on "Classic Anime: The Way We Should Remember."

The Hyatt's own wait staff, in dull gray vests, lends a sure-handed dose of reality to the proceedings. The fantasy persists, though, for hours on end. The maids do their best with the constant stream of hungry, lipstick-stained mouths. They skitter to the heat lamps to grab Japanese rice balls. They sit down to play Jenga with their customers. They take photos with smiling fanboys and squeak out Japanese phrases. They pause to hoist up their white stockings.

And, in a crowded convention of 6,000 noisy anime fans hidden behind makeup and masks, the maids offer a sense of sweet intimacy. Emporia, Va., resident Jackie Stutts, 21, (a.k.a. Medi) sends one of her customers on his way with a full embrace, careful to avoid the broadsword holstered on his belt.

"He was very sweet and he was here all by himself and he looked like he needed a hug," she says with a shrug.



Cassandra Kehnast, center, helps customers Kaylee Hall, left, and Donna Sarka.