

The Style Invitational

REPORT FROM WEEK 825

In which we asked you to write some lyrics (on any subject) to a piece of music that didn't originally have lyrics. We got hundreds of parodies from a wide and imaginative group of sources...

THE WINNER OF THE INKER

To Fucik's "Entrance of the Gladiators" (the traditional music for circus clowns). Clowns are entering the three-ring circus. In the center ring are scary smirkers...

2 the winner of the silkworm pupae in sauce, plus the Kelp Energy Bar: Sprint to the Finish To the "Chariots of Fire" theme: So out of breath running, I can't even cuss...

IMPERFECTLY PITCHED: HONORABLE MENTIONS

To Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance" No. 1 (the graduation march): Just got my diploma, It took me six years. Most days in a coma, 'Cause I majored in beers.

I'm not a go-getter, Job markets are bad. No life as jet-setter, Looks like I've been had. Wait... I... know, Till prospects are better, Sponge off Mom and Dad.

Brünnhilde's Lament To Wagner's "Ride of the Valkyries" I come from Valhalla, Where there's no mall, a Woe to befall a girlie like me.

My breastplates are tight, this Helmet's a fright, why Must a dead knight be My company? (My dad says I'm odd Well, he thinks he's God. I want an iPod but

He says, "No way!" I'd trade in my spear For bling and a beer. There's nothing cool here, Just death and decay...

Beethoven's Fit To Beethoven's Symphony No. 5: Having done four, I did one more... I've lost the score! I thought I'd put it in a drawer. My cleaning lady found it lying on the floor...

To the theme from "Bewitched": When springtime hits, my nostrils start to twitch, Though as a witch, I've tried to stop that itch, I've used pills and capsules and potions and every nasal mist,

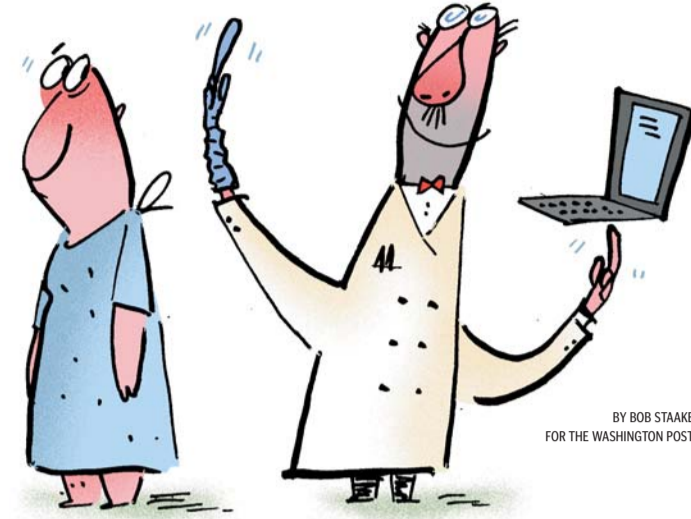
But my allergies — sniffle, sniffle, sniff — they still persist! With every sneeze, someone gets turned to cheese, Each time I cough, the power grid shuts off.

I turned my dad into an iPod, my dachshund is now a hose, That pollen, it messed with my nose. (Dave Zarrow, Reston) To the "Raiders of the Lost Ark" theme: Indiana: He's our man! If he can't do it, no one ca-a-an! Indiana, he's so cool! But that fourth film... I swear that I saw Indy drool...

And Last: My doorbell chime: "Get lost!" (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Next Week: The Inside Word, or Def'in'itions

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST



BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Week 829: Limerixicon 6

If it's "digital," it's about RAM Or, say, e-mail or evites or spam. It's modern and cool — Unless it's the tool That is used in a prostate exam.

It's not enough that we make you slog for a week, in exchange for the slim possibility of receiving a piece of junk... As we do every August, we'll be furthering the cause of the indefatigable Chris J. Strolin of Belleville, Ill., founder of the online Omnificent English Dictionary in Limerick Form...

Other runners-up win a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt or Loser Mug. Honorable mentions get one of the lusted-after Style Invitational Magnets. First Offenders get a smelly tree-shaped air 'freshener'...

Have a question for the Empress or want to talk to some real Losers? Join the Style Conversational at washingtonpost.com/styleconversational.

Van Morrison at Constitution Hall: No Hootin', but a Lot of Hollerin'

MUSIC, From Page C1 ent! An artist's supply, even. Morrison's current tour show-cases material from "Astral Weeks," a 1968 record that got him his greatest reviews...

he didn't like the tempo and screamed at his drummer to switch from brushes to sticks. Morrison was close enough to the microphone that the crowd couldn't avoid taking in the humiliation. He later summoned a roadie to the center of the stage to move his microphone and music stands a few feet away from him...

TV PREVIEW

'Shark Tank': ABC Is Out for Blood

By TOM SHALES Washington Post Staff Writer

Unhappily implicit in "Shark Tank," the title of a new reality show from producer Mark "Survivor" Burnett, is the promise that viewers will, metaphorically speaking, see contestants gobbled up and devoured — or at least suffer public humiliation. Embarrassment remains the indispensable ingredient of much reality television...

from his kids' college funds to finance the start-up of what sounds like a lame notion: some sort of iPod-like thing that plays informational programs and commercials to people waiting in doctors' waiting rooms.

The harshest of the judges has no patience even for tales of hardship.

fill a crying need. "Stop this madness" is how one judge reacts to the man's willingness to pour more and more money into following his "dream." As the judges shoot the concept full of holes, we can see that dream disintegrating in the expression on the man's face, especially in his eyes...

sweet-potato pies based on an old family recipe, and when he recalls how one of his previous business ventures failed and he spent "four months living in my car," the memory brings tears to his eyes.

Anonymous 1 No argument here.

Re: Canoeing: Male heart. Give the guy a break — he was trying to come up with something distinctive and memorable. Beats the heck out of the fallback coffee date.

Thanks. Asking someone out is always a leap — worth the benefit of the doubt.

Read the whole transcript or join the discussion live at noon Fridays on www.washingtonpost.com/discussions.

Write to Tell Me About It, Style, 1150 15th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20071, or tellme@washpost.com.

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Shark Tank (one hour) premieres Sunday night at 9 on ABC.

Best Picture Winner 12 International Awards. Shallow water. Deep secret. THE COVE. PG-13. LIONSGATE participant. www.takepart.com/thecove.

The battle of the sexes is fought by two tough foes in this sassy, sexy screwball comedy! It's wicked fun! Katherine HEIGL and Gerard BUTLER in the ugly truth.

The Magic Continues... Biggest Worldwide Opening Ever! HARRY POTTER AND THE BLOOD AWAKENING. NOW SHOWING - CHECK DIRECTORIES FOR LISTINGS.

CAROLYN HAX

Adapted from a recent online discussion.

Dear Carolyn: I have a first date this weekend. He suggested an activity that I consider both too athletic and not really first-date appropriate (minds out of the gutter, people). I said no thanks, and suggested something else.

Probably not, but I'm curious. Do you remember exactly how you turned down the [canola-oil naked Twister]?

Carolyn: Canoeing. No canola oil involved. I tried to pass it off humorously — that I'm not a human Mountain Dew and I'd rather go for a walk. I wound up having to spell out that if you're small and female, and don't have a lot of upper-body strength, yes, it's athletic.

We're going for the walk instead. What annoys me is that if I suggest an activity, and the other person declines, I figure they have their reasons and I leave it alone. I find it uncomfortable to explain wimpy arms and fair skin before we've even gone out.

Which brings us back to the other issue, whether someone with sur restrictions, who thinks "female" belongs on a list of arguments against canoeing...

Re: Canoeing: Okay — as a small, pale-than-Casper, wimpy-armed female, allow me to say canoeing is not hard and the insinuation that females don't like to canoe is just outrageous.

Re: Canoeing: He was definitely creative as to why you rejected the idea so he could come up with something equally memorable that might be a better fit. If you're going out with him, surely you have common ground, so focus on that and maybe help him out!

Anonymous 2 The world is too small and life is too long to not try everything once.

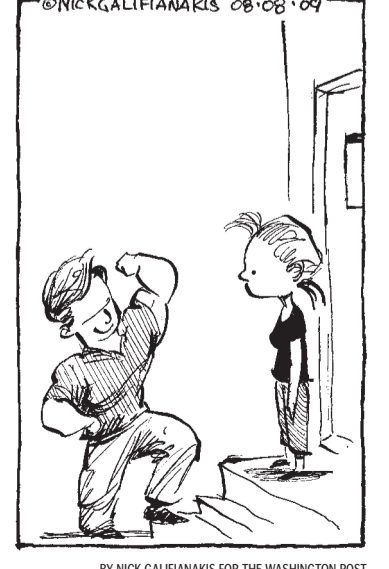
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BY NICK GALIFIANAKIS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST