

# Style InvitAational

BY PAT MYERS

## Report from Week 921

We asked for Little Willie poems, a genre of horribly tasteless four-line verses — regularly printed in newspapers of yore — in which Willie does a nasty thing for which he isn't usually punished, and is often even praised by an even more immoral relative:

THE  
WINNER  
OF THE  
INKER

Cousin Philip, uninvited,  
Eyed the dinner, quite excited.  
Willie threw him on the grill:  
"With extra guests we eat our  
Phil." (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

## Quatrainees: honorable mentions

Willie with a sharpened rod  
Skewered up his neighbor Maude.  
As he turned her o'er a pit,  
Pa said, "Stop — she ain't worth spit."  
(Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

Little Willie smoked cigars,  
He wooed the girls and went to bars.  
His mom was quick to give him  
notice:  
"Someday, my son, you'll be the  
POTUS." (Judy Blanchard, Novi, Mich.)

Little Willie, underage,  
hacked his mother's Facebook page.  
He added pics of her undressed—  
She got ten thousand friend  
requests. (Amanda Yanovitch,  
Midlothian, Va.)

Willie's new rebellious tactics:  
Sabotage the prophylactics.

## 2 Winner of the mug with the cat litter logo:

Little Willie went to town, and just to  
be a pain,  
He pushed his father underneath a  
speeding Metro train.  
"He's half the man he used to be,"  
said Mom, "and not so handsome;  
But, hey — when we forget our key, he  
slides right through the transom!"  
(Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

3 Willie put the car in gear  
But didn't check both front and  
rear.  
The dog ran where he should have  
not.  
So now they call ol' Fluffy "Spot."  
(Craig Dykstra, Centreville)

4 Little Willie used kung fu  
To slice poor sister Sue in two.  
Splitting her from stem to sternum  
Didn't in the least concern him.  
(Stephen Gold, Glasgow, Scotland)

"Together, we shall bug my mother —  
Me and future baby brother!" (Hugh  
Thirlway, The Hague)

Willie, always such a dream,  
Put glue in Mommy's hemorrhoid  
cream.  
Dad thanked Willie: "Now at last  
The septic tank won't fill so fast."  
(Susan Gearity, Menifee, Calif.)

Little Willie, what a cad,  
He stole at every chance he had.  
D.C. voters yawned, "So what?"  
And chose him for a council slot. (Nan

this week's honorable-mentions subhead is by Jeff Contompasis.

**Last week marked the induction** of Ultimate Loser Russell Beland into the Style Invitational Triple Hall of Fame — where he's likely to be the sole member for some two years — for scoring his 1,500th blot of ink. The disturbingly high-ranking Pentagon official has been Inviting since 1994 and has been a winner or runner-up 161 times, but he still manages to gripe regularly to the Empress about her judging. See a sampling of Russell's favorite entries at [washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational](http://washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational).

Reiner, Alexandria)

Little Willy, just last Easter,  
Knifed a slice from Daddy's keister.  
Mama said, without much pique,  
"My, that took a bit of cheek!" (sent  
pseudonymously and later revealed to  
be The Post's Gene Weingarten)

Little Willie had big fits,  
He slashed Ma's raincoat into bits.  
But Ma said, "I won't give you flak —  
All you did was knife the mac." (Kathy  
Hardis Fraeman, Olney)

Little Willie need not fear  
A lifetime in the wrong career.  
Weak in English, poor at math,  
Willie's on the psycho path. (Chris  
Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

Little Willie vended fish.  
When spurned by Jane, a tasty dish,  
He took revenge for being jilted —  
Sadly, Jane is now gefilted. (Stephen  
Gold)

Little Willie, feeling mean,  
Took a course in haute cuisine.  
Deftly he deboned his sister;  
Now she's dynamite at "Twister."  
(Beverley Sharp)

And last:  
Our Little Willie verses tell  
The stories of the boy from hell —  
A child so loathsome, gross and vile  
We celebrate him here in Style. (Chris  
Doyle)

More Little Willie rhymes appear in the  
online version of this column at  
[washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational](http://washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational).

**Next week: A banner week, or  
National anathemas**

## THIS WEEK'S CONTEST: WEEK 925



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## A remeaning task

**Negligent:** Describes a condition in which you  
absentmindedly answer the door in your nightie. (Sandra Hull,  
Arlington)

**Pimple:** A panderer's apprentice. (Meg Sullivan, Potomac)

One of the most widely circulated sets of Invitational results — often incorrectly credited — are from a 1998 contest for new meanings for actual words, including the two examples above. Three years ago we ran the contest again, but only for words beginning with A through H. **This week: Redefine a word in the dictionary beginning with I through O.** The definition should differ greatly from the original.

Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place wins a pair of boots: (a) a heavy glass high-heel shoe filled with mango margarita mix (no alcohol included), donated by longtime Loser Sarah W. Gaymon, and (b) a flimsy plastic cowboy-boot-shaped mug commemorating the Washington Post-Newsweek Interactive "second annual poker party," from back when The Post Co. was in more of a partying mood.

**Other runners-up** win their choice of a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt or yearned-for Loser Mug. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet. First Offenders get a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (Fir Stink for their first ink). E-mail entries to [losers@washpost.com](mailto:losers@washpost.com) or fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Tuesday, July 5; results published July 24 (July 22 online). Include "Week 925" in your e-mail subject line, or it may be ignored as spam. Include your real name, postal address and phone number with your entry. See contest rules and guidelines at [washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational](http://washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational). More entries appear in the online version of this column. The revised title for next week's results is by Barrie Collins;



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## POP CD REVIEW

### Thievery Corporation CULTURE OF FEAR



The D.C.-based Thievery Corporation is known for its sonic restlessness, if only to a point.

The DJ duo's latest, the expert and solid "Culture of Fear," follows a familiar pattern, draping mainstream club sounds over its standard bedrock of lounge and smooth fusion beats.

It's immaculate, if unsurprising: Blissful trance that isn't too trance-y? Check. Region-

non-specific world beat? Check. Stevie Wonder funk, excessively chilled? Check and check.

"Culture of Fear" is nominally less political than Thievery Corps' last disc, the fin de Bush era "Radio Retaliation," although in both subject and sound, it works many of the same themes. The title track features Mr. Lif, an emcee from Boston who ventures a few wan pronouncements about terrorism alert levels ("It seems to me like they want us to be afraid/Or maybe we just like being afraid") over a groove too cheery to evoke the necessary menace its title requires.

— Allison Stewart



JIMMY COHRSEN/COURTESY OF FRESH AND CLEAN MEDIA

**DJ DUO:** Thievery Corporation's Eric Hilton and Rob Garza follow a familiar pattern in "Culture of Fear."

## MUSIC

### BET Awards adds Bieber to lineup

Justin Bieber, Queen Latifah, Gladys Knight, Bruno Mars, Nicki Minaj, Beyonce, Alicia Keys, Lil Wayne, Jill Scott, Drake and Mary J. Blige will perform on Sunday's BET Awards, network officials say. That enough star power?

The show will be broadcast live at 8 p.m. from the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

The BET Awards honor the year's top actors, athletes and musicians. Chris Brown leads nominees with six nominations, followed by Lil Wayne with five.

— Associated Press