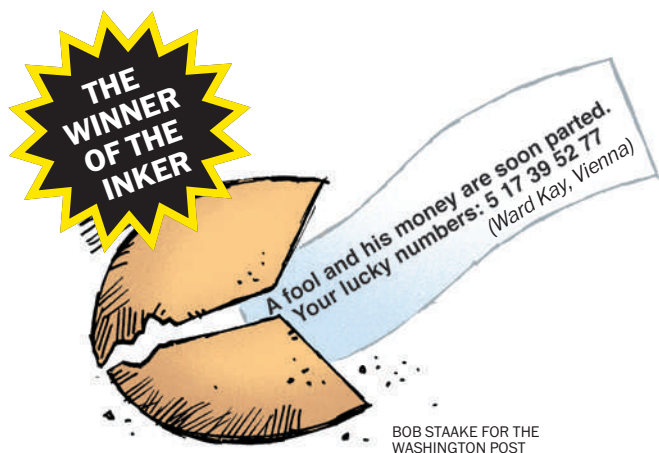


# Style Invitational

BY PAT MYERS

## Report from Week 926

in which we asked for novel fortune cookie messages: FYI, dozens of people: "I'm being held prisoner in a fortune cookie factory" is not novel.



**2 Winner of the bottle of Loo-pourri "preemptive bathroom scent" spray:** I am reading this aloud in a juvenile, attention-seeking way. (Amanda Yanovitch, Midlothian, Va.)

**3** If you add "in bed" to the end of this fortune, you will suffer greatly. (Drew Knoblauch, Arlington)

**4** Remember when these were made in China and computers in the United States? (Larry Yungk, Arlington)

## THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

# Week 930: How dare we?

**"Dear Washington Post: How come you didn't invite ME to your humor contest?"**

Post readers have never been all that shy about complaining about things they see in the paper — and now, with a chance to do so anonymously in online comments, barely a word goes by that doesn't offend someone or another. Of course, many of the objections are reasonable, but of course, we have no interest in those. **This week: Complain comically unreasonably about some innocuous thing appearing in the print Post or on washingtonpost.com over the next week or the previous few days.** Don't write a whole essay; 40 words will be a long entry.

Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives the fabulous book "Chinglish," a collection of photos of English-language signs found in China, with comically over-literal translations like "Slip and

fall down carefully" and "Deformed man toilet."

**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" (FirStink for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Aug. 8; results published Aug. 28 (Aug. 21 online). Include "Week 930" 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). The revised title for next week's results was submitted by both Tom Witte of Montgomery Village and Beverley Sharp of Montgomery, Ala.; Tom also wrote this week's honorable-mentions subhead.

**STYLE CONVERSATIONAL** Have a question for the Empress or want to talk to some real Losers? Join us at [washingtonpost.com/stylconversational](http://washingtonpost.com/stylconversational).

## Mu shu dork: honorable mentions

I really wanted to be a tweet. (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

Hang on to this — our bathroom is out of toilet paper. (Larry Yungk)

Confucius say: "Subject-verb agreement not important." (Malcolm Fleschner, Palo Alto, Calif.)

These tiny typewriters are a real pain. (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

If your fortune cookie is defective, please return it unopened to get a replacement. (Anne Day, Rockville, a First Offender)

If we had lucky lottery numbers, do you think we'd stuff them in fortune cookies? (Steve Honley, Washington; Chuck Smith)

Do not remove this tag under penalty of law. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.; Craig Dykstra, Centreville)

Sign up for paperless delivery! (Jonathan Hardis, Gaithersburg)

You have something stuck in your teeth. A little to the right. No, lower. Forget it. (Nandini Lal, Bethesda)

Tip generously — don't make us go all Tiananmen Square on you. (Dixon Wragg, Santa Rosa, Calif.)

By breaking this cookie you agree to the revised iTunes terms of service. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

"Sanitized for your protection" (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

Your reading of this fortune may be monitored to ensure quality perusal. (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

Your lucky number is 9-1-1. We suggest you use it now. (Larry Yungk)

Melamine content acceptable (Pet Food Examiner #237) (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

According to the USDA, this is now a

fortune vegetable. (Benjamin Blanchard, Novi, Mich., a First Offender)

All your debt are belong to us. (Kevin Dopart)

Free acupuncture with inadequate tip. (Mike Peck, Alexandria)

If any part of your meal tasted like leather, that was just bits of collar. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

This is the world's worst pinata. (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

You don't want to know what the babysitter is doing right now. (Andrew Hoenig, Rockville)

Why are you wasting time reading this cookie? Get back to your violin! — Tiger Mom (Christy Tossatto, Olney)

**And some more "remeenings" from Week 925:**

Kernel: Chief officer of the Iowa State Patrol. (Brad Alexander, Wanneroo, Australia)

Knee-slapper: A reluctant mob enforcer. (Tom Witte.)

Larghetto: The back corner of the trendy restaurant where the maitre d' seats the fat people. (John Shea, Philadelphia)

Metastatic: Really excited about being excited. (Jamie Pazur, St. Simons Island, Ga.)

Lobotomies: Hip-hugger jeans. (Judy Blanchard, Novi, Mich.)

Locomotion: Finger-drawing circles near the head to opine on someone's sanity. (Pam Sweeney, Burlington, Mass.)

Noshes: Queasy after scarfing down the giant bag of Doritos. (Chris Doyle)

Judicious: Two sets of dinnerware. (Craig Dykstra)

**Next week: Drive-by shoutings, or Highway ribbery**

## POP CD REVIEW

### Fountains of Wayne SKY FULL OF HOLES



After years of noble semi-obscure punctuated by one novelty hit ("Stacy's Mom"), Fountains of Wayne went on a hiatus that sometimes seemed permanent — their new album, "Sky Full of Holes," is only their second studio release in eight years.

Fountains of Wayne albums are usually unimpeachable: poignant and gently ironic, and ridiculously well made. Even the bad ones are

pretty good. "Sky," with its carefully detailed stories of suburban schlubs, feuding bar owners and luckless Acela riders, hits all the right notes, but something feels off.

Slow and sentimental, more wistful than droll, "Sky" is as interested in loping, acoustic country-folk songs as it is in vigorous pop. If the band's last album, 2007's "Traffic and Weather," was a Cars homage, "Sky" is an unofficial tribute to the Jayhawks. It's not a misfire — one of its gentlest songs, "A Road Song," is also one of the band's all-time finest — but those who expect the usual gimlet-eyed power pop (that is to say, most everyone) will be left wondering where it went.

— Allison Stewart



JAMES BAILEY/YEP ROC MUSIC GROUP

**TONED DOWN: Fountains of Wayne's new album gets folk.**

## TELEVISION

# Red carpet honors for hero dogs

Film star Ewan McGregor and actress Betty White will join Whoopi Goldberg and other stars on a panel to judge a new heroic-dog awards show, the Hallmark Channel announced.

The American Humane Association's "Hero Dog Awards," a TV contest that recognizes "thousands of specially trained dogs giving comfort to people every day," will be broadcast Nov. 11.

The winning dogs will get their own red carpet gala in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Dogs compete in eight

categories: law enforcement and arson dogs; service dogs; therapy dogs; military dogs; guide dogs; search and rescue dogs; hearing dogs; and emerging-hero dogs, for "ordinary pets who do extraordinary things," the Hallmark Channel said.

Canine movie star Rin Tin Tin, a dog rescued from the front lines of World War I in France, will be given a special legacy award, presented to one of his doggie descendants.

— Reuters