

BY PAT MYERS

## Report from Week 931: Limerixicon 8

in which we asked for limericks featuring words beginning with *ea-* to *el-*. As usual, the 700-plus verses came from all over the English-speaking world, many from people who enter the Invite only for limerick contests. But we don't see how anyone can dispute that some of the world's best limericists are our own frequent Losers, as all this week's top winners happen to be.

Jocasta rolled over in bed,  
Out of breath, and contentedly said,  
"I have not been that had  
Since I slept with your dad"  
To the suddenly **edified** Oed.  
(Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

THE  
WINNER  
OF THE  
INKER

### 2 Winner of the Paparazzi Shades sunglasses that look like identity-masking tape:

Any **Eastern** cuisine I'll endorse,  
For they're tasty and healthy, of course.  
Any litchi or lentil  
In foods Oriental  
Is a great anti-Occident source. (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

3 A mathematician named Fry  
Was the shape of a sphere. When asked why,  
He replied, "That's abstruse,  
But I roundly **educe**  
My circumference follows from pie." (Stephen Gold, Glasgow, Scotland)

4 Anatomical study will show  
That five letters are all you need know:  
The **ELBOW** is placed  
Somewhere over the waist,  
While the BOWEL is found down BELOW. (Ann Martin, Bracknell, England)

## Just south of Nantucket: Honorable mentions

A bigoted comic named Seamus  
Went to **Ecuador** just to get famous  
By reprising old swipes  
At race stereotypes  
In his one-man show, "Andean  
Amos." (Brendan Beary)

**Eavesdropping's** really the pits.  
Scrounging for snippets and bits  
On friends and on foes

Is the lowest of lows,  
And those who employ it are  
standard people. (Mae Scanlan,  
Washington)

Sherlock Holmes is a man quite well  
rounded,  
And his brilliance leaves others  
astounded.  
But when asked by his pals  
Where he picks up the gals,  
"Elementary" will get him  
impounded. (Harry Wood, Andover,  
Mass.)

**Ecologically** sound, the whole lot:  
Greens grown on my own little plot!  
But you hesitate — why? Oh,  
Don't fear, it's a bio-  
degradable slug that you've got.  
(Hugh Thirlway, The Hague)

The young woman beseeched the  
librarian:  
"The handsome young man I'll be  
marryin'  
Says he eats birds of prey.  
Got a book that'll say  
How to cook for an **egalitarian**?"  
(Larry Gray, Union Bridge, Md.)

Not one to forgo a transaction,  
P.T. Barnum was guile in action:  
To "See the **Egress**," folks paid  
Before realizing they'd  
Seen the exit, and not an attraction.  
(Mike Gips, Bethesda)

**Easy money** is funny, you know.  
Without effort, your wealth seems to  
grow,  
But you'll find there's a catch  
To each buck that you snatch.  
"Easy come" has its match: "easy  
go." (Sheila Blume, Sayville, N.Y.)

She lay flat in the street in despair,  
But still living — I called out with  
care  
While I pointed above:  
"Ms. Karenina, love,  
It's an **el train** — the tracks are up  
there." (Brendan Beary)

To the Senate comes Brutus one day  
In a toga that's yellowish-gray.  
It's so out there that Caesar,  
A notable teaser,  
Can't help but say, "**Ecr**u, Brute?"  
(Chris Doyle)

Now that you're in the rhythm, see lots  
more honorable mentions in the online  
version of this column at  
washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational.

**Next week: It's Mother's day, or  
Cheap shots by the dozens**

## THIS WEEK'S CONTEST



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## Week 935: The 400 blows

As you all no doubt have been noting on your calendars since you bought them in February for 75 percent off, this week's contest is the Empress's 400th consecutive column; she deposed that pesky Czar in Week 536. To commemorate this earthshaking occurrence, we invite you to commemorate some other ones, in a contest suggested last week by several Losers: **Write a humorous poem — choose your form — about the Virginia earthquake, Hurricane Irene or another well-known natural event.** As usual, poems have to merit the space they take up; long ones rarely make the print version of the Invite.

**Winner gets the Inker**, the official Style Invitational trophy. Second prize gets, courtesy of Loser Michael Kilby of Wildau, Germany, a set of five DemocraTea tea bags (*Demokratie* is German for "democracy"). Each bag is attached to a little cardboard caricature of Obama, Sarkozy, Putin, Berlusconi or, of course, Merkel; you hang the bag on the side of your teacup so that it looks as if the world leader is stewing chest-high in your beverage.

**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](mailto:losers@washpost.com) or fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Sept. 12; results published Oct. 2 (Sept. 30 online). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include "Week 935" 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 is by Tom Witte; this week's honorable-mentions name is by Kevin Dopot.



**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).

## POP CD REVIEW

### Grace Jones HURRICANE/DUB



Scenery  
chewing '80s  
disco goddess  
Grace Jones  
hadn't made an  
album in 19  
years until

"Hurricane" was released in the U.K. in 2008 (it lands in the United States on Tuesday). Leonine and imperious, voracious and terrifying, Jones's influence on a generation of dance divas, particularly Lady Gaga, cannot be overstated. "Hurricane" is her first release

since Gaga took over, and the Jones of the late 1970s might have used the opportunity to take Gaga to school. "Hurricane" takes a different tack: It's subtle. It's (gulp) tasteful.

Jones, 63, sings about corporate greed ("I'll make you scrounge/In my executive lounge"), ruminates sentimentally about her childhood and generally behaves with distressing appropriateness.

Tricky and Brian Eno show up to fine-tune this not-bad-just-different set of dancehall and electro-disco tracks (available by itself or packaged with an import-only disc of corresponding dub mixes), but even they can't help much.

—Allison Stewart



LAWRENCE WATSON

**The songs on Jones's new album are tamer than her '70s tracks.**

## WP MAGAZINE CONTEST

### Want to write an advice column?

There's plenty of advice out there about writing résumés and acing interviews, but the real questions start once you have the job.

The WP Magazine is launching a contest to find the person with the smartest, liveliest advice on navigating workplace culture: how to deal with an annoying co-worker, what to do when your boss wants to be your Facebook friend and whether skipping the company holiday party will kill your career.

Finalists will participate in

four rounds of face-offs, with winners selected by readers and a panel of judges, including advice guru Carolyn Hax. The last columnist standing could get a four-week column published in the Magazine and on [washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com).

Think you're the one with the workplace savvy to win? Starting Wednesday, go to [washingtonpost.com/workadvice](http://washingtonpost.com/workadvice) to fill out the application and read complete contest rules. And if you're a worker bee with a question, head to that page to submit it.