

Style InvitAational

BY PAT MYERS

Report from Week 940

in which we asked you to change a Washington Post headline by one letter or by punctuation or spacing, and then supply “bank head” that expanded on that altered headline:

THE
WINNER
OF THE
INKER

Just ice for a terrorist
Gitmo cooler diet gets colder
(Kevin Dopart, Washington)

2 Winner of the two-foot-long Gummi snake:

Hangers headed to World Series
Texas team's uniforms stolen en route to St. Louis (Jim Reagan, Herndon)

3 Tebow gets God as Denver's QB

Born-again athlete persuades Almighty to sub for him in critical third-down situations [“gets nod”] (Mike Gips, Bethesda; Roy Ashley, Washington)

4 A smorgasbord of oddities
The epicure's guide to unusual aphrodisiacs (Roger Hammons, North Potomac)

Bobble heads: honorable mentions

Police investigate shooting dearth in Pr. George's County

No gunfire reported for last two days (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

New airport scanners to identify phony IUDs

Privacy activists outraged as TSA counters novel tactic to hide explosives [“phony IDs”] (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

Anti-sluts bill advances

Thousands of reality TV jobs at risk [“anti-slots”] (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

NRA cancels first 2 weeks of the season

Liberals can breathe easier for a little while longer (Edmund Conti, Raleigh)

Prince Harry Land in California

At new theme park, you're always second in line [“Prince Harry lands . . .”] (Dori Moura, Chico, Calif., a First

Offender)

What to eat after your ruin

A dumpster-diving guide for the new economy [“after your run”] (Dixon Wragg, Santa Rosa, Calif.)

Some Dulles abuses old, unreliable

TSA agrees to develop new ways to annoy passengers [“Dulles buses”] (Jeff Hazle, Woodbridge)

The fruits of sandal in D.C.

Local farmers' markets now sell homemade toe jam (Christopher Lamora, Guatemala City)

Mexican drag cartels reach into Belize

10 metric tons of man-size stiletto heels, feather boas smuggled along coast (Ernst Mayer, Cupertino, Calif., a First Offender)

Copper heft widely reported

Doughnut-heavy diet takes toll on D.C. police [“copper theft”] (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

GOP rebate in New Hampshire

Special tax cuts for Republican candidates cause controversy [“debate”] (Samuel Aaron, Newton, Mass.)

Local hoarding tsk forces aim to get sufferers the help they need

Teams of trained finger-waggers visit cluttered homes (Judy Blanchard, Novi, Mich.)

Can electric cats actually save electricity?

Scientist touts feline-rubbing as a low-cost energy source [“electric cars”] (Bruce Alter, Fairfax Station)

Congress approves 3 traded Accords

Used Hondas are part of limo-downsizing move [trade accords] (Jeff Loren, Manassas)

Roasted feet salad

Sophisticated dish complements blue cheese. [“beet salad”] (Jeremy Porto, Navarre, Fla., a First Offender)

Eagles have their backs to the ball

Coaches discover reason for team's poor play [“to the wall”] (Robert Gallagher, Charleston, S.C.)

Coin is the GOP flavor of the month

And this is news how? [“Cain is”] (Todd Carton, Silver Spring)

Snuggled Libyan weapons flood into Egypt

‘Happiness is a warm gun,’ says Islamic Brotherhood leader (Jerry Birchmore, Springfield)

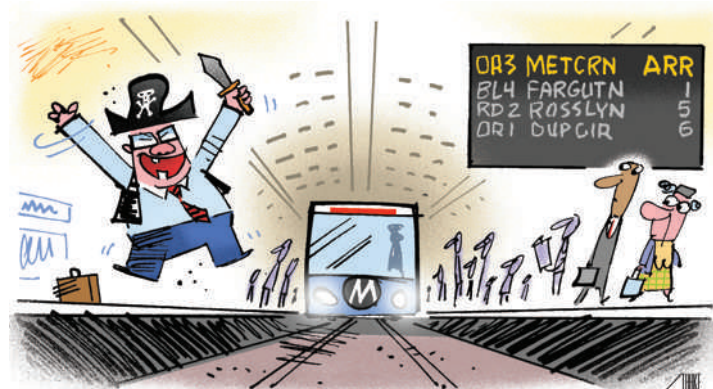
The best private bank in North America

Discreet service now available for visiting Brits [“private bank”] (Barrie Collins, Long Sault, Ontario)

See more headline “typos” in the online version of this column at washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational.

Next week: They Don't Say, or Cite Gags

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST: WEEK 944



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Uh, yeah, it's just you

“Is it just me, or do other D.C. commuters talk like a pirate when the Metrorail information sign flashes ‘ARR’?”

“Is it just me, or do others feel compelled to parody the song ‘Moves Like Jagger’ with cow references? Like ‘I’ve got to mooooooooooooooove an udder’?”

The above musings were posted on the Style Invitational Devotees page on Facebook by Jeff Contompasis, who has blotted up 206 blots of Invite ink and was recently named Loser of the Year by his Loserly peers. Anyway, the immediate answer, of course, was: “It’s just you, Jeff.” Jeff didn’t dispute that. Instead, he wrote to the Empress and suggested a contest. **This week: Give us one or more “Is it just me” questions**, as in the examples above. It doesn’t have to be about something that really happened to you, but if it is, let the Empress know.

Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a mug for those who are dismayed by the actual tastefulness of our current Loser Mug (“My cup punneth over”): This one has a cartoon of lobsters crowded in a tank; one of them says, “Who farted?” Donated by Loser Kathy Fraeman.

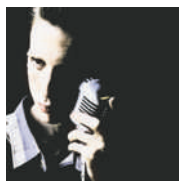
Other runners-up win their choice of a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt or yearned-for Loser Mug. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet. First Offenders get a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” (FirStink for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Nov. 14; results published Dec. 4 (Dec. 2 online). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include “Week 944” 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. The revised title for next week is by Chris Doyle; this week’s honorable-mentions subhead is by Jeff Contompasis. Read and join the Facebook page at on.fb.me/invite-devotees.



STYLE CONVERSATIONAL Have a question for the Empress or want to talk to some real Losers? Join us at washingtonpost.com/stylconversational.

POP CD REVIEW

Atlas Sound PARALLAX



Deerhunter frontman Bradford Cox has been making music under the nom de bedroom

Atlas Sound since he was a pre-teen. The two outfits are a study in contrasts: Deerhunter is known for its ambient noisiness and unruly live shows; Atlas Sound, mellow, insular and mostly sad, is a shifting target for Cox’s tastes, which include psychedelic pop, classic rock,

tropicalia, droney shoegaze and lots of falsettos.

The dreamy, typically pared-down “Parallax” is Atlas Sound’s most cohesive work — it feels like an album, not a collection of found sounds tied together with reverb. It’s often beautiful and awkward — and sometimes just awkward.

Everything floats by and nothing hits hard, even great songs such as the ’60s retro folk exercise “Terra Incognita,” the ambient standout “Flagstaff” and the gentle, trippy “Modern Aquatic Nightsongs,” a gurgly, ephemeral pop track that comes exactly as advertised.

— Allison Stewart



MICK ROCK

STUDY IN CONTRASTS: In “Parallax,” Bradford Cox offers the most cohesive work from his project known as Atlas Sound.

TELEVISION

Seinfeld to do stint on ‘Live!’ post-Regis

Jerry Seinfeld will be the first guest co-host of the syndicated daytime show “Live!” after the Nov. 19 departure of Regis Philbin.

Seinfeld will assume co-host duties alongside Kelly Ripa from Nov. 21 to 23, the show’s producers said. Guests will include Kim Cattrall, Howie Mandel, Jason Segal and Muppet Miss Piggy.

Philbin, 80, is ending 28 years on the program. No replacement has been named. Ripa joined Philbin in 2001, replacing co-host Kathie Lee Gifford.

— Reuters