

# Style Invitational

BY PAT MYERS

## Report from Week 944

in which we asked you to finish an “Is it just me . . .” sentence. There were two basic categories of just-mes: the self-effacing entries saying, “I’m so pathetic/clueless/nerdy/weird” and those that served as an excuse for snarky observational humor. We got good entries in both categories.

THE  
WINNER  
OF THE  
INKER

Is it just me, or do you also think Texans must have had to sign a pledge to reinforce their stereotype when they’re in public? (*Neal Starkman, Seattle, a First Offender*)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

**2 Winner of the lobster-tank fart-joke mug:** Is it just me, or are more women becoming immune to charisma? (*Chuck Smith, Woodbridge*)

**3** Is it just me, or does anyone else find it hypocritical that Certain Media Outlets won’t cover third-party candidates who have zero chance of winning — but still continue to cover the Baltimore Orioles? (*Gregory Koch, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.*)

**4** Is it just me, or does anyone else think movie trailers should include the disclaimer “You have just seen all the best parts of this movie”? (*Susan Gearity, Menifee, Calif.*)



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

## Is it just meh? Honorable mentions

Is it just me, or do other people arrive early at the dentist just to catch up on Goofus & Gallant in the waiting room? (*Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.*)

. . . or do other people like to have pretend cellphone conversations with their proctologists while on crowded elevators? (*Kevin Dopart, Washington*)

. . . or is popcorn too loud for the movie theater? Shouldn’t we be eating

pudding at the movies instead? (*Dixon Wragg, Santa Rosa, Calif.*)

. . . or do other people get excited passing through Yonkers, N.Y., and realizing it’s the home of Consumer Reports? (*Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn*)

. . . or are all porn videos unnecessarily long? (*David Genser, Poway, Calif.*)

. . . or do all Catholic kids growing up in Rhode Island think “INRI” is atop the crucifix only in that state’s churches,

and that, say, the ones in Pennsylvania say “INPA”? (*Christopher Lamora, Guatemala City, who wasn’t set straight till age 12 or so*)

. . . or are caterpillars getting saltier? (*Chuck Smith*)

. . . or does the voice on your GPS system appear barely able to contain an increasing rage as you continue to miss exit after exit? (*Susan Gearity*)

. . . or do other listeners wonder why WAMU-FM keeps announcing that

“the mind is Armenian”? (*L. Suzanne Gordon, Takoma Park, a First Offender*) [The slogan is “The mind is our medium.”]

. . . or do other guys face the same direction when they use the toilet sitting down as they do when standing? (*Kevin Dopart*)

. . . or do other women take an extra birth control pill every time they see that gushing mother of eight in the Giant supermarket ads? (*Diana Todd, Silver Spring, a First Offender*)

. . . or do you think Dave Barry would be a good name for a rock band? (*Christopher Lamora*)

. . . or do I sometimes get ink when I don’t really deserve it? (*Tom Witte, Montgomery Village*)

*More just-mes in the online Invite at [washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational](http://washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational).*

**Next week: Another round of Bierce, or Ha la carte**

## POP CD REVIEW

### Nils Lofgren OLD SCHOOL



It’s no wonder that Nils Lofgren — guitarist for Bruce Springsteen’s E Street Band,

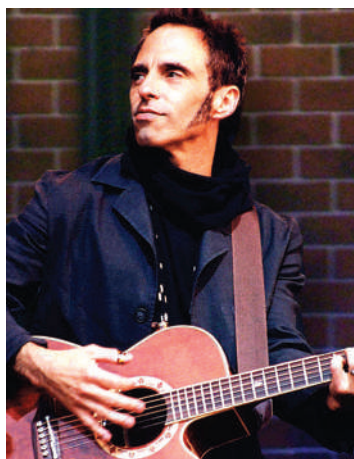
underrated solo artist and sometime Montgomery County resident — has mortality on his mind. He recently turned 60, had both hips replaced and lost two bandmates, Danny Federici and Clarence Clemons, to whom his first album of new material in five years is dedicated.

Alternately rueful and upbeat, “Old School” spotlights midlife crisis anthems (“60 Is the New 18”), get-off-my-lawn rockers (the title track) and graceful, just short of gloomy ballads (“Miss You Ray”).

“Old School” sounds like a distant musical relative of “Born in the U.S.A.,” with a similar mix of barroom rave-ups and R&B-spiked rock, although it can feel excessively nostalgic.

Not helping: cameos from classic rock stalwarts such as Foreigner’s Lou Gramm, Bad Company’s Paul Rodgers and Sam and Dave’s Sam Moore, who shows up for the self-explanatory rave-up “Ain’t Too Many of Us Left.”

— Allison Stewart



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**AGING BALLADEER:** On “Old School,” Nils Lofgren focuses on mortality and midlife issues.

## POP CULTURE

### Australian artists use Legos to depict Challenger space shuttle disaster

Australian artists Claire Healy and Sean Cordeiro have traveled worldwide for their work, but a must-see stop on their first trip to Europe wasn’t an art gallery or a museum. It was Legoland in Denmark, home of the toy blocks.

Cordiero and Healy chose Legos to make sense of the 1986 Challenger space shuttle explosion. The disaster killed all seven crew members, including teacher Christa McAuliffe.

Healy and Cordeiro, who are

married and have collaborated since 2001, built Lego wall sculptures that emulate the TV images of the explosion.

The Lego sculptures, part of a series called “Where We’ve Been, Where We’re Going, Why,” are featured in the pair’s first U.S. show, “Are We There Yet?” It opens Dec. 3 at the Corcoran Gallery of Art. The show addresses themes of space travel, taking its cues from “2001: A Space Odyssey.”

— Maura Judkis