

Style Invitational

BY PAT MYERS

Report from Week 946

in which we asked for cynical, or at least wryly funny, definitions of common words or terms, a la the 1911 "Devil's Dictionary" by Ambrose Bierce:

THE
WINNER
OF THE
INKER

Hero: Someone who, in a crisis, exceeds our lowest expectations. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

2 Winner of the "Dork" T-shirt spoofing the York candy logo:

Music: Songs you listened to in college. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

3 Grammar: The rules of language as spoken by the generation immediately preceding one's own. (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

4 Supercommittee: A committee designed by a committee. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

Honorable mentions: Column filler.

Standardized test: A precision tool for measuring how well one performs on standardized tests. (Ann Martin, Bracknell, England)

Occupy: To take or fill up space without actually remembering why. (Mike Caslin, Round Hill, Va.)

Heathen: Person who shares 0 to 99 percent of your religious views. (Alan Hochbaum, Marietta, Ga.)

Baby grand: A bulky black and white object that evolves from a musical instrument into a pedestal for children's photos. (Yuki Henninger, Vienna)

Lifestyle: The sum of the things that distract us from the fact that we're going to die someday. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Independent: A voter who likes to let people he doesn't trust narrow down his choices for him. (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

New Hampshire primary: Whack weeder. (David Genser, Poway, Calif.)

Hajj: It's Saudi duty time. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

Banker: A gambler who preaches thrift. (Dale Hample, Silver Spring)

Like: A verbal comma unwittingly used by the grammatically challenged as a warning not to mate with them. (Judy Blanchard, Novi, Mich.)

Butt: The sole body part that one fears might look too big in a given pair of trousers. (Robert Schechter)

Walk-in closet: A place to store abundant amounts of "nothing to wear." (Yuki Henninger)

Kardashian: Someone who wouldn't be caught dead shopping at the Kardashian Kollektion at Sears. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Scrawny: Thinner than you.

Arrogant: Smarter than you. **Greedy:** Richer than you. (Melissa Balmain)

Victory: A military triumph granted by God to the side with the heaviest

battalions. (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

Plutocrat: Croesus manager. (John O'Byrne, Dublin)

Freedom of religion: Freedom of my religion. (Dave Ferry, Key West, Fla.)

Just sayin': A phrase used by small-minded idiots who believe that they can make stupid, hateful comments without appearing to be small-minded idiots. Just sayin'. (Larry Gray, Union Bridge, Md.)

Pound: What you can gain by eating one snack, or lose by skipping 100 snacks. (Gary Crockett)

Presidential: Possessing the particular combination of qualities required to play a president on television. (Ash Carter, New York, a First Offender)

Two-minute warning: Announcement made 15 minutes before the end of a football game. (Mel Loftus, Alexandria)

Terps football fan: Someone who sees the glass as half empty or completely, bone-dry empty. (Jeff Hazle, Woodbridge)

Tithe: Prayola. (Kevin Dopart)

Yard sale: A public airing of your past purchasing mistakes. (David Kleinbard, Jersey City)

Foreign policy: Alienation-building. (David Garratt, Glenn Dale)

Yoda: A supposedly super-intelligent creature who could not learn to speak proper English in 900 years. (Elden Carnahan)

More devilish definitions in the online Invite at washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational.

Next week: Laugh-baked ideas, or Ha la carte

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST: WEEK 949



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Putting the SAT in satire

Style Invitational is to Style as funny bone is to funny. (Leonard Greenberg, *the Style Invitational*, 1995)

Greece is to the euro as Keith Moon was to hotel rooms. (Kevin Dopart, *TopFive.com*, 2011)

Here's a contest that we haven't done in 16 years, but one we saw recently on the humor site TopFive.com, where the Invitational's No. 1 ink-getter for the past five years popped up among the winners. We've had other analogy contests, but this one is in the classic old-SAT form. **This week: Give us an analogy using "a is to b as x is to y."** Links to the Week 133 and TopFive results are in the online Invite at washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational.

Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives two little bottles of oral magic: From Sylvia Betts of Canada, a pocket "Magic Life-Transforming Breathspray" that promises to make you "look and feel Canadian instantly" (it's peppermint-, not maple-flavored); and from Nan Reiner of the United States, "Really Positive Energy Breathspray" ("made with 'real' unicorn juice!") that "instantly heightens your inner magnetism." They're from the same company.

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 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, Dec. 19; results published Jan. 8 (Jan. 6 online). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include "Week 949" 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. This week's contest was suggested by Jeff Contompasis. The revised title for next week is by Chris Doyle, just as it was last week when we accidentally ran it a week early; this week's honorable-mentions subhead is by Kevin Dopart.

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

Robin Thicke
LOVE AFTER WAR



Robin Thicke's last CD, 2009's "Sex Therapy," was an experiment in R. Kelly-style electro goof-

funk. His latest, the more assured and mostly fantastic "Love After War," is an aerobic collection of falsettoed ballads and rapturous, full-on funk explosions that draws from the Marvin Gaye School of Socially Conscious Babymaking.

When Thicke channels Prince,

as on old-school dance floor fillers "I'm an Animal" and "An Angel on Each Arm," the CD soars. But "The New Generation," a socially conscious, down-with-greed jam erected in the image of "What's Going On," is bogged down by its own earnestness.

Also awkward: "Boring," in which Thicke assures his girl that he would rather hang out with her than do exciting things that guys like to do ("There's no need to go to a Victoria's Secret show/Or stay in St. Tropez on Jay and Beyonce's boat"). It's as unctuous as it is implausible.

— Allison Stewart



COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP

THICKE IN 'LOVE': Robin Thicke's "Love After War" proves mostly fantastic.

POP CULTURE

50 Cent to write a book on how to stay in mint condition

50 Cent has rapped about getting rich. Now he's focusing on getting fit.

The hip-hop star is putting out a fitness book that's set to be published in January 2013 by Avery Books. Titled "Formula 50: A 6-Week Total Body Transformation Plan," the book will tout metabolic resistance training as the key to getting in shape. It will also include a nutrition guide.

The buff rapper says he

wants to help people "make positive changes and take charge of their overall health."

"Formula 50" will be the latest credit for 50 Cent as an author. He recently released the teen novel "Playground" and also wrote "The 50th Law."

The rapper's latest book will be co-written by Jeff O'Connell, editor-in-chief of Bodybuilding.com.

— Associated Press