

Style Invitational

BY PAT MYERS

Report from Week 949

in which we asked for analogies in the "A is to B as C is to D" form: Lots and lots of entries about the presidential candidates; see more of them, plus other honorable mentions, in the online Invite at washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational.

THE
WINNER
OF THE
INKER

Joe Biden is to Dick Cheney as Igor is to Iago. (Edmund Conti, Raleigh, N.C.)

2 Winner of the "Magic Energy Breathspray" and "Really Positive Energy Breathspray": Washington is to Baltimore as an air kiss is to a hickey. (Peter Jenkins, Bethesda)

3 Justin Bieber is to music as Barney is to paleontology. (Nancy Schwab, Washington)

4 Middle age is to vanity as windshield is to bug. (Scott Poyer, Annapolis)

As kissing is to sister: Honorable mentions

Jon Stewart is to Bill O'Reilly as a whoopee cushion is to a fart. (Kathy El-Assal, Middleton, Wis.)

Euro is to Europe as screw is to screwup. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

Demonstrator is to spring as dictator is to fall. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

Snow is to beautiful as your street is to plowed. (Barr Weiner, Washington, a First Offender)

"Team building" is to fun as "family holiday gathering" is to love. (Mairzy Salander, Arlington, a First Offender)

The justice system is to justice as doxy is to orthodox. (Dixon Wragg, Santa Rosa, Calif.)

Bethesda drivers are to the rules of the road as the Shoe Bomber was to foot health. (Peter Jenkins)

Canada is to the United States as a dialogue coach is to a porn actor. (Scott Weinstein, Montreal)

Watching women's indoor volleyball

is to watching women's beach volleyball as watching Irish dancing is to watching pole dancing. (Rick Haynes, Boynton Beach, Fla.)

VDOT is to traffic as M.C. Escher is to architecture. (Craig Dykstra, Centreville)

The federal government is to Social Security as Cruella De Vil is to pet-



Poop deck! One of the Plop Trumps playing cards, this week's 2nd prize.

sitting. (Craig Dykstra)

Being a Redskins fan is to the Super Bowl as being Jewish is to Christmas. (Rob Cohen, Potomac)

Students are to frat parties as slugs are to beer. (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

A man is to a woman as a multiple-choice test is to an essay exam. (Mardy Grothe, Southern Pines, N.C., a First Offender)

Facebook is to book as cowpie is to pie. (Perry Beider, Silver Spring)

Beer is to beer bellies as muffins are to muffin tops. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Utah is to jazz as Los Angeles is to lakes. (Paul Burnham, Gainesville)

Holidays are to restful as family is to elsewhere. (Barr Weiner)

Liberal Republican is to conservative Republican as Mitt Romney is to Mitt Romney. (John Glenn, Tyler, Tex.)

President Obama is to leadership as Barney Fife is to law enforcement. (Kirk Conover, Columbia, a First Offender)

Mitt Romney is to flip-flops as Herman Cain is to sneakers. (Steve Gorman, Falls Church, a First Offender)

Mitt Romney is to \$10,000 as Rick Perry is to one execution. (Gary Crockett)

Hurricane is to Herman Cain as wind is to windbag. (Harold Mantle, Lafayette, Calif.)

Eye of newt is to gourmet cooking as mouth of Newt is to uplifting political discourse. (Paul Burnham)

Tea party is to serious political discourse as T-shirts are serious political discourse. (Doug Frank, Crosby, Tex.)

White chocolate is to chocolate as rainbow trout is to a rainbow. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

Week 953: Clue us in

It's another of our backward-crosswords: We give you the filled-in grid to a puzzle that's already run in The Post — this one's by Bob Klahn of the CrossSynergy syndicate — and you come up with creative, funny clues for the words and multi-word terms in the grid. We left the numbers out so we could make the letters bigger; you don't need them, anyway. Our usual limit of 25 entries per person remains in effect. The clues should be very brief but don't have to be quite as short as required for a real crossword.



BY BOB KLAHN

Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a double prize of two sets of playing cards: from Jeff Contompasis, Tupac cards featuring photos of "one of the best-selling hip-hop artist of all time," and — all the way from England courtesy of Ann Martin — Plop Trumps, "50 stunning photos of poo like you've never seen before."

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 Tuesday, Jan. 17; results published Feb. 5 (Feb. 3 online). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include "Week 953" 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 Tom Witte; the subhead for this week's honorable mentions is by Gary Crockett. Join the Style Invitational Devotees on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev.

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

Date Lab is to Washington Post Magazine as bacon is to BLT. (Emily Cumberland, Washington, a First Offender)

And Last: "The Thinker" is to the

Inker as Edwin Newman is to Alfred E. Neuman. (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

Next week: Of All the Nerve! or Gall Tales

POP CD REVIEW

Snow Patrol FALLEN EMPIRES



These days, stadium-friendly Brit pop is paying diminishing returns for bands such as Coldplay and Snow Patrol, who now must figure out how to nudge their middle-of-the-road, guilty-pleasure anthems into the modern while seeming not to change at all.

"Fallen Empires" offers up a number of worthy heirs to "Chasing Cars," the ballad that

made Snow Patrol's career. Some of them, like the equally swoony "This Isn't Everything You Are," are almost as good.

But at the margins, things feel different: There's a bravely attempted electro-folk banger ("Called In the Dark") that doesn't quite come off, an exercise in goth nostalgia ("The Weight of Love"), several detours into delicately gorgeous symphonic pop and the soaring, odd "Lifening," a cheery wish list ("Ireland in the World Cup/Either North or South") in ballad form. From a group that has historically operated on only two moods — sad and sadder — it might be the biggest departure of all.

—Allison Stewart



DAVE J. HOGAN/GETTY IMAGES

SAD PATROL: "Fallen Empires," Snow Patrol's latest album, offers ballads to savor, although its new, happy mood doesn't jibe.

MUSIC

2011 sees sales grow for albums

Album sales in the United States rose in 2011 for the first time since 2004, partly reflecting cheaper album prices and special offers, as well as a booming vinyl market, music industry analysts said.

Album sales grew by 1.4 percent to 330.6 million units last year, according to Nielsen Soundscan figures published in Billboard magazine. Vinyl album sales soared to 3.9 million copies vs. 2.8 million in 2010.

—Reuters