Style Invitational

by Pat Myers

Report from Week 982

our annual-or-so song parody contest; this time the restriction was that you had to include an actual line from the song you were parodying. Many, many more great parodies appear in the online Invite at bit.ly/inv986, on everything from same-sex marriage to Tim Tebow to Vincent Gray, plus videos of some of the songs, and YouTube links to all the songs so you can listen to the music while your read the parody lyrics.

THE WINNER OF THE INKIN' MEMORIAL

The Congressional Theme Song (to "I Won't Grow Up," from "Peter Pan")
We won't grow up!
We don't wanna legislate.
We are always out campaigning
Till the next election date.
We just cast votes for special perks;
On all the rest, the filibuster works.
We'll never grow up, never grow up, never grow up —
We're jerks!

We won't grow up!
We will never compromise;
To obstruct the other party
Is our one and only prize.
We've pledged to veto every tax
For Grover Norquist and the super-PACs.
We'll never grow up, never grow up, never grow up –
We're hacks! (Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

2 Winner of the cute plush ulcer bacterium :
(To "Another Brick in the Wall")

We don't need no education,
Texas is a thought-free zone.
No evolution in the classroom:
Teachers leave them kids alone.
Hey! Teachers! Leave them kids alone!
We'll stop y'all with another brick in the wall.
Our kids will all be just another hick in the mall. (Dixon Wragg, Santa Rosa, Calif.)

3 Friday, Maybe: The Derecho Song
(To "Call Me Maybe")
I like electrical stuff, I never can get enough,
Not having power is rough, can't stand the dark and heat.
I like to turn on a light, have AC running at night,
Make sure my fridge is all right so I won't lose my meat.

The rain was flowing, thunder sky was glowing,
Hot night, wind was blowing,
Not again, our power's going!
Hey, I call Pepco, and then they say we
Won't get back power till Friday, maybe. (Kathy Hardis Fraeman, Olney)

4 (To "Born to Run")
In the day we work out on the streets, guaranteeing the American Dream.
At night we glide through mansions of donors, basking in their esteem.
Stung in the pages of the New York Times:
We're well heeled, well connected, not deigning to explain old crimes.
Ann, this task rips the stories from our past.
Your horse and Seamus, they always wanna blame us.
We've gotta hit Barack till we've won
'Cause champs like us, baby, we were born to run. (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

Subpar-odies: honorable mentions

(To "Let It Snow")
Oh, the weather outside is frightful,
Summer's hot both day and nightful.
Every winter leaves us aglow:
There's no snow! There's no snow!
There's no snow!

[Bridge:] But the scientists can't be right.
Climate studies don't fool me, folks.
Phony data's been brought to light.
Global warming is just a hoax!

Soon the heat will show signs of stopping,
Average temps will start to dropping.
That's the truth 'cause a Fox News show
Tells me so, tells me so, tells me so.
(Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

(To "The Hokey Pokey")
You put your right foot in, you put your right foot out;
You've trashed your brand-new shoes, and profanities you shout;
A steaming pile of excrement has turned your plans around;
Who let the Great Dane out? (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

(To "White Rabbit")
One pill makes you larger
And two pills wow the gals
And with the lift we'll give you
You'll be the envy of your pals.
For Cialis, click this link now. (Mike Gips)

And last:The Empress's Invitation
(To "Side by Side")
Oh, we ain't got a barrel of money,
Even for jokes that are funny,
But we'll send you a shirt;
Send us your dirt;
Snide! Be snide! (Beverley Sharp)

Still running — deadline Tuesday night — is Week 985, our contest featuring the cartoons of Bob Staake. See bit.ly/invite985.

BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

Week 986: Hear here!

"Our seedy pick of the week . . ."
"Moron Afghan refugees in a moment."
" . . . rated by Rodent Track magazine . . ."

Invitational reader Bruce Ferguson gets a lot of his news and music from the radio, and while he's never had Invite ink, he clearly thinks in a Loserly way, as evidenced by the above phrases that he's heard on the air recently. This week: Give us a sentence or short dialogue that would be a lot funnier if a word in it were mistaken for a homophone of that word, as in Bruce's examples above.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a Superfly Monkey, a stuffed animal that catapults from your fingertips when you pull back on its elastic arms and sails a remarkable distance while letting loose an annoying scream. This prize would have been a big hit when we gave it out for Week 826, except that its donor, Lois Douthitt, managed to win it back (this has happened to Invite prize-donors more than once; we don't use the term "Loser" for nothing). This time Phil Frankenfeld is the donor; let's see if he's luckier. See a video of Superfly in action at bit.ly/monkeyslingshot.

Other runners-up win their choice of a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt, a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired Grossery Bag . 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, Sept. 10; results published Sept. 30 (online Sept. 27). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include "Week 985" in your e-mail subject line or it might be ignored as spam. Include your real name, postal address and phone number with your entry. See contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/inviterulesThe subhead for this week's honorable mentions is by Tom Witte. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook aton.fb.me/invdev

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

MUSIC

One Direction sets November release for new albu

KAI PFAFFENBACH/REUTERS

One Direction performs at the closing of the 2012 Olympic Games.

British-Irish boy band One Direction took the music industry by storm earlier this year when its debut album topped the U.S. Billboard chart, and now the group is planning a second wave of success with a new record due in November.

The cheeky quintet, who rose to fame in 2010 on the U.K. television talent show "The X Factor," will release their sophomore album "Take Me Home" on Nov. 13, Columbia Records says.

"Take Me Home" will feature tracks co-written by the One Direction boys along with British artists such as Ed Sheeran and McFly's Tom Fletcher. The album's lead single "Live While We're Young" will premiere on radio on Sept. 24, and be available digitally from Oct. 1.

One Direction — made up of Niall Horan, Zayn Malik, Louis Tomlinson, Harry Styles and Liam Payne — surged onto the U.S. airwaves earlier this year with catchy pop hit "What Makes You Beautiful," gaining a strong following among teenage girls known as "Directioners."

The band made Billboard history in March this year, becoming the only U.K. group to debut at No. 1 with their first album, "Up All Night," which has sold 12 million records worldwide.

The new album comes on the heels of One Direction's performance at the London Olympics closing ceremony earlier this month and will be linked to their worldwide tour in 2013.

— Reuters