

Report from Week 983

our annual Limerixicon, in which we seek limericks focusing on a word from a sliver of the dictionary — this year it was eq- through ez-:



When poor Fido is “no longer here,”

We use words that are soft but less clear.

We may say he’s “passed on” Or “put down” or just “gone” — See, we’ve had the dog **euphemized**, dear. (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

2 Winner of the rotting-zombie *Mirror Clings*:

From my **exorcist** (feeling hard-pressed)

I beseeched time to pay. Should have guessed

He would say there’s no way.

I must settle today,

Or tomorrow I’ll be repossessed. (Stephen Gold, Glasgow, Scotland)

3 If we’re asked to coin terms that define

How both Mitt and Barack cross the line

With campaigns that attack

And exhibit a lack

Of all qualms, “**ethic** cleansing” is mine. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

4 “I’ve heard what you shepherd boys do

When you’re looking for something to . . . woo.

But take me to bed

And you’ll find out,” she said,

“That I’m quite a bit better than **ewe**.” (Craig Dykstra, Centreville)

Lower limbs: honorable mentions

It’s a subject I’m not keen to touch on: A blot on the family **escutcheon**.

The king granted arms

To Great-Grandma, whose charms He enjoyed when I fear she’d not much on. (Hugh Thirlway, The Hague)

“If it’s true non-consensual sex, it Doesn’t ‘take’; the gal’s body rejects it!” So says candidate Akin.

Abort THAT mistake, an’

Show Mr. Cro-Magnon the **exit**. (Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

In election years, pols never fail To say foolish things out on the trail,

Though you’ll probably not Hear one claim, “I smoked pot In my youth, but I didn’t **exhale**.” (Chris O’Carroll, Emporia, Kan.)

The upper-class lady who gloats As she shows off expensive fur coats Doesn’t know that the **ermine** Is a weaselly vermin.

She’s wearing the skins of dead stoats! (Dixon Wragg, Santa Rosa, Calif.)

Exhibitionist Mr. van Lear Has been told to quit flashing ‘round here,

Which has left him nonplussed,

And he’s asked, “Can’t I just

Stick it out till the end of the year?” (Brendan Beary)

A printed mistake’s an **erratum**, And an editor’s needed to spot ‘em. But as newspaper copy Gets more and more sloppy, I fear that won day we’ll hit boddum. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

In the District some think it’s all right That integrity’s not black and white: Where politicos stray, The area’s **Gray** And real **ethics** are nowhere in sight. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

While his wife’s horse is overseas prancing, Romney’s poll numbers aren’t advancing.

Though **equestrian** sport May play well with his sort, It’s a question to the folks out in Lansing. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

“Fifty Shades”: just erotic, or porn? It’s a question with many a thorn. Here’s a clue: When your kid Found you reading it, did You wish fiercely you’d never been born? (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

And Last: A classic Style Invite submission

Requires one part **erudition**, One part imbecility

And two parts puerility; Mix well; serve without inhibition. (Nan Reiner)

Many more *Losing Limericks* in the online Invite at bit.ly/inv987.

Still running — deadline Monday night — is Week 986, homophone humor. See wapo.st/inv986.



The Japanese mini-potty, complete with soft mini-poo.



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

THIS WEEK’S CONTEST

Week 987: Bank shots

Real Washington Post headline: Md. agency on a mission to unclog greasy sewer arteries

Fake bank head: ‘Stop eating all those Big Macs,’ health dept. urges seamstresses

In this perennial Invite contest — formerly called “Mess With Our Heads” when space used to allow it in the print paper — we ask you to take any headline, verbatim, appearing anywhere in The Post or on washingtonpost.com from Sept. 6 through Sept. 17 and reinterpret it by adding a “bank head,” or subtitle (like the joke bank head offered under the actual Post headline above). For heads in the print paper, include the date and page number; for heads from the Web, give the date and copy a sentence or two of the story (even better, copy the URL from the address bar). You don’t have to use the entire headline, but don’t skip words or change the essential meaning by cutting off the end, as from “President kills bill” to “President kills.” Headlines in ads and subheads within an article (as well as actual bank heads) can be used, as well as one-line links to articles online, but not photo captions. See last year’s results at wapo.st/inv920.

Winner gets the Inkin’ Memorial, the bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives an especially weird little toy from Japan, home to many, many weird toys. This one comes in a plastic capsule a little bigger than an egg, and features a teeny plastic pink potty containing two even teenier piles of bright yellow rubbery poo. Given out, appropriately, as a door prize at the Losers’ recent awards luncheon, the Flushies. Donated by Marleen May.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet. First Offenders receive 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. 17; results published Oct. 7 (online Oct. 4). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include “Week 987” 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/inviterules. The subhead for this week’s honorable mentions is by Kevin Dopart. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group 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.

MUSIC

Christian album tops Billboard 200

Christian singer TobyMac’s “Eye on It” landed the top spot on the Billboard 200 last week — only the third time a Christian album hit No.1 on the main U.S. album chart.

“Eye on It” was also the first Christian album since 1997 to claim the top spot on the Billboard 200 after selling 69,000 copies in its first week, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

TobyMac, 47, one of the first Christian rappers, also debuted

at No.1 on the Christian Albums chart.

Sales for “Eye on It,” his fifth studio album, were powered by Christian retailers and bookstores, Nielsen SoundScan said.

TobyMac’s success puts him in the company of country star LeAnn Rimes, whose inspirational record “You Light Up My Life” lit up the Billboard chart in 1997, and Bob Carlisle, who won two weeks at No.1 in the same year

with “Butterfly Kisses (Shades of Grace).”

Elsewhere, the Billboard 200 was dominated by the usual mix of hip-hop, rock and pop music.

Hip-hop group Slaughterhouse debuted at No.2 with “Welcome to Our House,” pushing rapper Trey Songz’s “Chapter V” to third place and “Now 43,” a compilation of hits by various artists, to fourth.

Canadian-born singer Alanis

Morissette’s new album, “Havoc and Bright Lights,” entered the chart in the No.5 spot, with 33,000 sales.

On the digital songs chart, country-pop crossover artist Taylor Swift held on to the top spot for a third week with single “We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together.”

U.S. album sales for 2012 stand at 197.4 million, down 4 percent from the same point in 2011.

— Reuters



RICK DIAMOND/GETTY IMAGES NORTH AMERICA

NO. 1: With “Eye on It,” TobyMac is in rare company.