

Style Invitational

BY PAT MYERS

Report from Week 987

our perennial contest in which we asked contestants to take any headline from a week's worth of The Washington Post and washingtonpost.com and follow it with a made-up "bank head," or secondary headline, that either misinterpreted the original or commented humorously on it:

THE
WINNER
OF THE
INKIN'
MEMORIAL

Actual Post headline: **Romney: 'The sky seems to be crying'**
Fake bank head: **'It's called rain, sir,' explains butler who had accidentally lowered boss's umbrella** (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

2 Winner of the Japanese teeny toy potty with rubbery yellow mini-poo: Nats throw away chance at the end, fall to Atlanta
New version of 'Gone With the Wind' is big hit in Ga. (Steve Honley, Washington)

3 With Senate at stake, GOP awaits Akin's next move
Many hope it's to Paraguay (Howard Walderman, Columbia)

4 Rookie Morris gives ground game just what it needs
New Redskins chef makes perfectly seasoned squirrelburgers (Larry Carnahan, Arlington)

open-door policy
Action delayed until door is recovered (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

Lessons learned in College Park Experimental academic offering complements football program (Elden Carnahan)

Where are all the Redskins bars?
Fans complain of poor cellphone reception at FedEx (Matt Monitto, Elon, N.C.)

Tuskegee Airman broke barriers
WWII Army deducted barrier cost from his paycheck each month (Mel Loftus, Alexandria)

A 60-day drive to Election Day gets underway
Romney vows this time Seamus will ride inside car (Robert Schechter)

DNA considered in MacDonald case
Farmer to stick with EIEIO (Jonathan Hardis, Gaithersburg)

Citing leak, Netanyahu defers security meeting
'When you gotta go... ' prime minister explains (Roy Ashley, Washington)

He had the world on a violin string — until it unraveled
New theory of creation poses challenge to Flying Spaghetti Monster (Adam and Russell Beland, Fairfax)

The top cars for tailgating
Models with good brakes top the list (Zack Beland, Fairfax)

A president cornered
Obama stunned to find his office no longer oval (Ira Allen)

Take the kids this weekend
Desperate for break, local mom goes public with plea (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

More messed-with heads in the online
Invite at bit.ly/inv991.

Still running — deadline Monday night — is Week 990, jokes about people with the same last name. See wapo.st/inv990.

The outer banks: honorable mentions

Thousands protest new austerity cuts
'Keep government's hands off our austerity!' protesters chant (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

Bound for greatness, but not yet
New Obama campaign slogan announced (David Ballard, Reston)

Councilman's license suspended in past
Brown says he can't produce document because of 'time warp' problem (Rob Cohen, Potomac)

Obama reaches out to middle-class voters in Colorado
GOP accuses president of 'inappropriate touching' (David Genser, Poway, Calif.)

Capitals players prepare for lockout
Hide extra Verizon Center key under mat (Rob Wolf, Gaithersburg)

Garçon 'very limited' in practice

Maitre d' slams trainee for insufficient snottiness (Ira Allen, Bethesda)

Woolly Mammoth goes to the mat, artfully
But mastodon can't master backflip on the balance beam (Gary Sampliner, Rockville, a First Offender)

Prince Harry back in Afghanistan
Palace relieved he escaped Vegas to safer locale (Brad Alexander, Wanneroo, Australia)

Reiley loses job at MWWA
Aunt Edith deemed much better at making kissing noises (Christopher Lamora, Guatemala City)

A rockin' place to be
Veranda is most popular area at Lazy Acres Nursing Home (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

Chris Christie versus the world
'May the bigger equator win,' says N.J. governor (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

After robbery, church won't change



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST: WEEK 991

Tour de Fours IX: V-o-t-e!

Vel-veto: A smooth, easy-to-swallow but ultimately cheesy rejection: "He gave her the old 'it's not you, it's me' vel-veto."
Love-toad: The once and future prince.

Given that the results to this contest will be published the weekend before Election Day, we figured that the letter block for our ninth annual Tour de Fours neologism contest ought to be pertinent (but shouldn't be a-r-g-h). **This week: Create a new word or two-word term containing the letter block V, O, T and E and define it**, as in the examples above; those four letters may be in any order, but there may be no other letters between them. Hyphenate and capitalize (or not) as you wish. Using the word in a funny sentence is fine; using the word in a blah sentence is unfine.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a vintage but unused U.S. military surplus "Supporter, Athletic" from 1946. Donated by Loser Andrea Kelly, who dates from well after that. It's the Style Invitational, where we give you an old jock for your new joke.

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, Oct. 15; results published Nov. 4 (online Nov. 1). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include "Week 991" 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/invrules. The subhead for this week's honorable mentions is by Beverley Sharp. 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.

« **The runner-up mug: It doesn't say "Loser," but you'll know.**

TELEVISION

From Potomac to the big league

BY DEENEEN L. BROWN

Issa Rae, creator of the popular two-year-old Web series "The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl," is making the jump to network television.

Deadline reported last week that Shondaland, the production company run by "Grey's Anatomy" creator and producer Shonda Rhimes, has sold a half-hour comedy by Rae to ABC.

Rae, 27, will write the show, "I Hate LA Dudes," and be co-exec-

utive producer.

According to Deadline, the comedy will center on "an aspiring journalist, new to Los Angeles, who becomes the lone female voice on a budding, male-driven Internet talk show, while learning to decode the often humiliating and exasperating rules of the LA dating scene."

Rhimes, who also produces the dramas "Private Practice" and "Scandal" for ABC, has wanted to expand into comedy, Deadline said.



Rae said in an interview with The Washington Post that Rhimes's team has "been a dream" helping her develop the idea. "It's a whole other level."

Rae came to the attention of television executives after "Awkward Black Girl" — which was originally posted episode by episode on YouTube — attracted millions of viewers and won a Shorty Award, honoring the best shows in social media.

The second season of "Awkward Black Girl" was financed by YouTube's "I Am Other" channel, created by Pharrell Williams.

Rae says her dreams of opening up television for "relatable" people of color seem to be com-

ing true — all at once.

One of her biggest issues about black characters on mainstream television and film had been that "I don't see me."

But, she says, the deal with ABC shows that "there are still opportunities for awkward black girls."

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Sunday's edition of The Washington Post Magazine contains a profile of Rae in which she discusses the impetus for "Awkward Black Girl," the show's future and her childhood years in Potomac, an experience she says was "like living in a Saturday-morning 'Saved by the Bell.'" Read the article in print, or view it online at washingtonpost.com/magazine.