

Style Invitational

BY PAT MYERS

Report from Week 989

in which we asked you to think of two jobs that one person could hold, and explain why:



If a politician also worked as a firefighter, he'd be able to hose down his own pants.

(Jeff Hazle, Woodbridge)

Help wanting: honorable mentions

A psychiatrist would be a good airport security agent: He's skilled in finding out what makes you tick. (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

A fortuneteller could take a second job as a hit man: Both deal with what's in the offing. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

American voters could all be poultry farmers — they're both getting ready to dispatch turkeys next month. (Amanda Yanovitch, Midlothian, Va.)

A Redskins quarterback would make a good wino: Both get blitzed all the time. (David Garratt)

A reform candidate could moonlight as a restroom attendant, and continue to work for change. (And he could probably use the money.) (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

A urologic surgeon has the makings of a presidential candidate: We're really happier with both if they're not too specific about what they plan to

2 Winner of the possible-to-arrange-tastefully Porkin' Pigs coin banks: A used-car salesman could moonlight as a body waxer: He's skilled at the arts of laying it on thick, and ripping off. (David Garratt, Silver City, N.M.)

3 The telemarketer who became an NFL replacement referee is now unemployed because everyone, and I mean everyone, hated his calls. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

4 A hotel maid by day and a waitress by night who also babysits on weekends also became a banking industry lobbyist — she got tired of being just a moocher. (David Genser, Poway, Calif.)

"We open drawers." (Chuck Smith)

A drag queen could have a day job as an executioner: In both jobs you pull switches to dramatic effect. (Tom Witte)

New York baseball coach/midwife: In both professions, one good Yank and you could be seeing the next Babe. (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

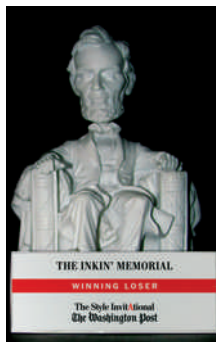
A philosophy professor might try also being a barber, since he's used to spending his entire career over people's heads. (Beverley Sharp)

A Virginia public school teacher should play for the Chicago Cubs: For both, their constant mantra is "SOL." (Amanda Yanovitch)

A personal trainer could moonlight as an undertaker: She's used to working with people who are out of breath. (Beverley Sharp)

I hear that a real estate agent is riding out the housing slump as a human cannonball: It's still all about location, location, location. (David Genser)

Still running — deadline Monday night — is Week 992, our contest asking how PBS shows and characters could go commercial.



Our weekly grand-prize bobble-head, a.k.a. the Bob-o-Linc.

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



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

Week 993: 'Versus' verses

Albert Einstein: "I'm a giant whose shoulders you'd have stood on, if you could stand.

I'll give you a brief history of pain with the back of my hand." . . . vs. Stephen Hawking: "And while it's true that my work is based on you,

I'm a supercomputer — you're like a Ti-82."

— from EpicRapBattlesOfHistory.com

Visit the hilarious, immensely popular Web site Epic Rap Battles of History and you'll see trash-talkin' Frank Sinatra vs. Freddie Mercury! Dr. Seuss vs. Shakespeare! Gandalf vs. Dumbledore! Abe Lincoln vs. Chuck Norris! In this brainchild of L.A. improv artists Nice Peter and Lloyd Alquist, the dozens of videos are even funnier than the rap lyrics they contain. But we tend to be Word People over here in Loserland — not to mention that the newsprint Invite doesn't come with audio, except when you smack it on your leg — and so our version needs to shine on the verses alone. **This week: Write a short "rap battle" between any two characters, real or fictional,** as in the example above, which quotes two couplets from a 2½-minute video. By short, we mean one or two rhyming couplets per character — so four to eight lines total. As for what counts as rhyme, the Empress *might* be a wee bit more lenient than usual, but don't go "rhyming," say, "stakes" and "blades," as does one of the Epics. **You say you want to make your own video? Sure!** Put it on YouTube or another accessible site and send us a link. This contest was suggested by Mike Gips, who heard about Epic Rap Battles from Matt Monitto.

Winner gets the Inklin' Memorial, the bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives the edifying volume "Now Wash Your Hands: More Than You Ever Wanted to Know About the Life and Times of the Toilet." Dumped on us by Longtime Loser Pie Snelson.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired Grocery 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. 29; results published Nov. 18 (online Nov. 15). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include "Week 993" 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 Beverley Sharp. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev.

TELEVISION

Protesters sign up for 'Puppet March'

BY MAURA JUDKIS

Raise your furry fists in protest: The Muppets are not going quietly into the night. What do they want? Public broadcasting funding! When do they want it? Now! They're here, they're puppeteers, get used to it!

More than 1,000 people have RSVPed through Facebook for a

"Million Puppet March" three days before the election that will advocate for the importance of funding public broadcasting, after Mitt Romney's remarks at the first presidential debate about cutting PBS loose if he were elected. The Nov. 3 rally, which will take place on the National Mall, is BYOP — bring your own puppet. It is not sponsored by or

affiliated with PBS.

Reuters wrote that the rally, originally called the "Million Muppet March," is the brainchild of Michael Bellavia, a Los Angeles animation executive, and Chris Mecham, an Idaho student, who came up with the idea separately and joined forces.

"It does seem like we might get close to the biggest ever assemblage of puppets in one place," Bellavia said to Reuters, "and probably the most ever puppets marching on Washington."

It's also a good way to get your money's worth on that Sexy Big Bird costume after Halloween is over. It's possible the atmosphere could be similar to 2010's Jon Stewart/Stephen Colbert-orga-



MATT SAYLES/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A IS FOR ACTIVIST? Big Bird, in all his endangered glory. A Nov. 3 march is planned to defend the funding of PBS.

nized "Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear."

As puppeteers and protesters make their arrangements for the march, they're hoping for a big

turnout and — in the eternal words of the "Sesame Street" theme — a sunny day, sweepin' the clouds away.

maura.judkis@washpost.com