

Style Invitational

BY PAT MYERS

Report from Week 995

our perennial Ask Backwards contest, in which we offered a dozen phrases and asked what questions they could be answering:

THE
WINNER
OF THE
INKIN'
MEMORIAL

A. The La Brea Tar Pits. Q. Other than the Cuban politburo, where is the best place in the Western Hemisphere to find a bunch of Pleistocene fossils? (Mark Raffman, Reston)

2 Winner of the baculum, or penis bone, of a mink:

A. A mink baculum.

Q. What does Donald Trump give his fired employees instead of a golden parachute? (Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

3 A. The thing that goes “woo”
Q: During one of his senior moments, what did Joe Biden call his beloved Metroliner? (Kevin Dopart, Washington; Susan Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

4 A. Wikipedia Jones.

Q. Who is the hero in “Raiders of the Lost Archive”? (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

Question mocks: Honorable mentions

A HUG FROM CHRIS CHRISTIE

What was the last thing the Hurricane Sandy survivor remembered before losing consciousness? (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

On the list of “Things People Most Fear,” what is immediately behind “A sloppy wet one from Joe Biden”? (Harold Mantle, Lafayette, Calif.)

What is an inexpensive way to get a breast reduction? (Frank Bruno, Columbia, a First Offender)

What possible reward causes the Jets to intentionally miss the playoffs every year? (Ken Schwartz, Burke)

THE LA BREA TAR PITS

Where did Maria Shriver plan to stop with Arnold prior to visiting the La Brea Feather Mounds? (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg)

What is the nickname of the LAX

smoking lounge? (David Garratt, Silver City, N.M.)

What’s the worst-named high school track team? (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

PORK BELLY WITH TWO SIDES

What do you call Chris Christie and his sign language and Spanish interpreters? (Bill Smith, Reston)

What do you get when you break apart a bacon Mobius strip? (Kevin Dopart, Washington; Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

A MINK BACULUM

What gift will make my wife wish she hadn’t asked so imprecisely for “something mink”? (Josh Feldblyum, Philadelphia)

What’s the best auto-correct for “Michele Bachmann”? (Seth Brown, North Adams, Mass.)

A LEGITIMATE BELCH

Other than women, what does Todd Akin try mightily to suppress? (Nan Reiner)

What would standing on one’s head and farting *not* count as? (Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

GANGNAM STYLE SECTION

What birthing method requires that the mother jump around like she’s riding a horse until the baby pops out? (Jerry Birchmore, Springfield)

What’s the worst car for a commute on the Seoul Train? (Kevin Dopart)

THE MARINE CORPS MARATHON

During what event does the average traffic speed in D.C. increase from 2 mph to 6 mph? (Mike Gips)

Which D.C.-centered race this year did conservatives correctly predict that the Kenyan wouldn’t win? (David Genser, Poway, Calif.)

What is the only Pentagon program that does not have an overrun? (Rick Haynes, Boynton Beach, Fla.)

What do the hookers in Quantico do every Saturday night? (Nan Reiner)

What is 500 feet shorter than the line to vote in Prince William County? (Pam Sweeney, Burlington, Mass.)

THE APPLE CORE MARATHON

What could you call the daily commute to Midtown Manhattan? (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

What institution was born when Adam and Eve started running around looking for fig leaves? (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

What device is slower, less sophisticated and yet inexplicably more popular than the Samsung Core Marathon? (Mark Raffman)

In which sporting event are the athletes allowed to be juiced? (Robert Schechter)

More questionable questions in the online Invite at bit.ly/invite999.

Still running — deadline Monday night — is Week 998, the contest for “dumb laws.” See bit.ly/inv998.



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

THIS WEEK’S CONTEST

Week 999: Drectrospective

We’d been calling this annual contest “Look Back in Inker,” referring to our old “Thinker”-spoof trophy, but “Look Back in Inkin’ Memorial” doesn’t have that same ring.

In any case, this is your big chance to send in that fabulous entry that you thought of when you were reading the results of another contest, or the one your computer ate a few months ago: This week: **Enter any Style Invitational contest from Week 946 through Week 995**, except for Week 948, this week’s counterpart from last year. You’re free to reference events that have happened since those contests. Use as few or many contests as you like, as long as your entry total doesn’t exceed 25. You may refer to events that have occurred since the contest was published (except for the Week 952 obit poems, which should still be about people who died in 2011); for contests that ask you to use that week’s Post, use this week’s. Since there’s little space in the print paper, longer-form entries are likely to run only online. And you don’t even have to clean out your birdcage: **Links to all the contests are at wapo.st/StyleInv** (note that there’s a single link to a page of other links for Weeks 946-951, and that they’re listed at or near the top of the list).

Winner gets the Inkin’ Memorial, the bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a can of genuine dehydrated water, donated by Loser Edward Gordon. The label advises that the dried H₂O is useful for a long list of pursuits, including dry-mopping floors, adding VW Bug coolant, and humidifying saunas. We guarantee that it will not spill.

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, Dec. 10; results published Dec. 30 (online Dec. 27). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include “Week 999” 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 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.

SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

Female directors poised to set a record in Park City

BY DAVID GERMAIN

The Sundance Film Festival has an apparent record lineup of female directors competing for its top honor next month.

Half the entries — eight of the 16 films — announced last week in the festival’s U.S. dramatic competition were directed by women for the next installment of Robert Redford’s independent-cinema showcase, which runs Jan. 17-27 in Park City, Utah.

Going back to 1992, the best showing before for female filmmakers was in 2000, when six of the 16 U.S. dramatic contenders were directed by women.

Sundance organizers were still trolling back to the early years of the festival’s 33-year history, but this January’s eight competition films appear to be most ever from women and the first time the entries have been evenly split between female and male directors.

Among the competition films from female filmmakers are Francesca Gregorini’s “Emanuel and the Truth About Fishes,” whose cast includes Jessica Biel and Frances O’Connor in the story of a troubled girl fixated on a mysterious neighbor; Lynn Shelton’s “Touchy Feely,” featuring Rosemarie DeWitt, Allison Janney and Ellen Page in a tale of a massage therapist who develops a distaste for bodily contact; and Liz W. Garcia’s “The Lifeguard,” with Kris-

ten Bell as a reporter who moves home to Connecticut and takes a job as a lifeguard.

The festival’s U.S. dramatic lineup also features the first Sundance entry for “Harry Potter” star Daniel Radcliffe, who stars as Allen Ginsberg in director John Krokidas’s “Kill Your Darlings.”

EVEN SPLIT: Francesca Gregorini is one of eight women in the 16-entry drama field.



FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES

— Associated Press