

Style Invitational

BY PAT MYERS

Report from Week 999

in which we let you enter, or reenter, just about any of our contests from the past year, updating the material for current-events contests. Not surprisingly, we were flooded with good entries; more — including a fabulous song parody about the Petraeus affair — appear in the online Invite at bit.ly/invite1003.

THE
WINNER
OF THE
INKIN'
MEMORIAL

From Week 946, cynical definitions:

Date night: A dinner out at which a husband and wife pretend they haven't seen each other on the toilet.

(Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

2 Winner of the can of genuine dehydrated water: From Week 982, song parodies including a line from the original:

To "Hit the Road, Jack," as sung by D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray and the Graylettes:

"Oh, people, my people, don't you fuss and complain; I didn't know nothin' 'bout my campaign. Don't know Jeffrey Thompson or Sulaimon Brown,

Or rakin' in cash without writin' it down. But I guess if you say so, I'll have to pack my things and go."

"That's right! Hit the road, Vince. You suckered us since Day One, Day One, Day One, Day One!

Hit the road, Vince. You played us but now you're done." (Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

3 Week 989, combine two professions: A Tlingit carver stars in "Death of a Salesman" because he always wanted to be Loman on the totem pole. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

4 Week 975, debunk a myth: It is not true that the American Dream is for a chicken in every pot. Actually it is in a large paper bucket. With a 32-ounce soda. (Jeff Hazle, Woodbridge)

Much redo about nothing: honorable mentions

Week 946, cynical definitions:

Mistress: A miss who can only lead to stress. (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

Blogger: Someone with high self-esteem and a keyboard. (Jeff Hazle)

Genius: One percent inspiration, 99 percent PR. (Lawrence McGuire)

Week 955, pair a word with its anagram:

Website eewbits: Icky stuff that pops up on your screen when you were searching for something else. (David Ballard, Reston)

Kilned Kindle: What you find at a book burning these days. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

Week 958, wellerisms (wordplays featuring quotes):

"It totally failed to deliver," the critic griped about the "Silence of the Lambs" remake. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Week 959, move a TV show to another channel: "Finding Bigfoot" moves to TruTV, is renamed "Not Finding Bigfoot." (Dixon Wragg, Santa Rosa, Calif.)

Week 963, "before and after" names: John Milton Bradley: Pair o' dice tossed. (Nancy Schwalb, Washington)

Week 967, "before and after" phrases: Fiscal Cliff Notes: In a nutshell, it'll cost you. (Brad Alexander, Wanneroo, Australia)

Week 970, finish a couplet: When you are old and grey and full of sleep (W.B. Yeats) / I know a nursing home that's really cheap. (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Week 971, two-in-one books: "Scoop" by Evelyn Waugh with "Go, Dog, Go" by P.D. Eastman. (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

Week 976, combine the beginning and end of two words in that

week's Invitational: Bobblehead + Politburo: Bobbleburo, a cabinet of yes-men. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Week 979, how to tick people off: Guess people's weight as they get on the elevator, and then press the corresponding floor button for each number. (Kevin Dopart)

Week 987, bank heads: Post's headline: Frederick man's body found in a trunk. Fake bank hed: National Zoo elephant's respiratory problem solved (Pie Snelson, Silver Spring)

Headline: Va. party chair looking ahead to 2013; bank: Hopes Clint will be available for chat at GOP conference (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

And Last, from Week 967: Washington Post Traumatic Stress Disorder: A condition that afflicts untold thousands whose surefire Style Invitational entries were not published. Currently there is no treatment, but wine may help a little.



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

Week 1003: Just do it

For Otis Elevators: "Good to the Last Drop"
For Crest fluoride toothpaste: "Tastes Great, Less Filling"

The first is an old joke, the second maybe not. In any case, we were surprised that we couldn't find this contest — suggested by Loser Jeff Contompasis — on the list of our previous 1,002 columns kept by Proto-Loser Elden Carnahan. (We'd had one recently for altering a slogan, but not for using it as is.) Your mission is pretty clear: **Use a well-known advertising slogan for a different company, organization or product to humorous effect, as in the Maxwell House and Miller Lite slogans above.**

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives an amazing self-published large paperback book sent to the Post newsroom presumably by its author, Steven Discenza, "New Boss of All Bosses on Staten Island." Its title inexplicably refers to a "magical" sex organ, while the subtitle is "Knowledge Is Power and Education Is the Key to Success." It's not easy to discern the point of the book, but it seems that Mr. Discenza is very angry with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Lavishly illustrated, though fortunately the title character is nowhere to be found.

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, Jan. 7; results published Jan. 27 (online Jan. 24). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include "Week 1003" 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 Chris Doyle. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev.

(John Shea, Philadelphia)

Some of the best entries were too long to fit on this page. Be sure to see the online Invite at bit.ly/invite1003.

Still running — deadline Monday night — is our contest to make up your own meanings for obscure words. See bit.ly/invwk1002.

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



PETER MUHLY/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE VIA GETTY IMAGES

LOOKING GOOD AT 125: National Geographic will air shows about exploration, including a look at the Titanic with James Cameron.

TELEVISION

NatGeo marks anniversary with 'Exploration' of Titanic, lightning strikes, Genghis Khan

The National Geographic Channel is celebrating the 125th anniversary of the National Geographic Society with a new, weekly "Night of Exploration" that will look at Titanic, Stonehenge, Easter Island and other mysteries of the world.

The network will air programs about exploration every Friday from 8 to 10 p.m. starting Jan. 11, when it will premiere "A New

Age of Exploration: National Geographic at 125," which will feature such explorers as storm chaser Tim Samaras, who tries to film a lightning bolt the moment it hits the ground.

The special will also feature research scientist and engineer Albert Lin, who believes he has found the burial ground of Genghis Khan, and James Cameron and Bob Ballard as they

plunge the ocean's depths. NGC will also re-air "Titanic: The Final Word With James Cameron" on Jan. 11.

Subsequent programming includes re-airings of "The Human Family Tree," "Stonehenge Decoded," "Easter Island Underworld," "Drain the Ocean," "King Tut and the Lost Dynasty" and "King Tut's Final Secrets."

— *TheWrap.com*