

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

A load of carp: Winning complaints

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1245 we invited you to complain "in a humorously missing-the-point way" about something in The Post or another publication. Some of you made the mistake of pointing out actual inaccuracies, like the "\$81" that was supposed to be "\$81,000," or the fact that The Car Pages is actually A Car Page, or that the Weekend section has listings for the whole week. Or you noted valid irritants, like ad stickers covering parts of the front page. We can't stand those, either, so no ink for you.

4th place

Once again, The Post's TV critic thoughtlessly ruins the viewing experience. I was eagerly awaiting the PBS documentary on the Vietnam War until Hank Stuever blabbed, "It ended 30 years later in failure." (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

3rd place

I am appalled by the sexist photo you published that focused lasciviously on men's muscular buttocks. Of course, it was by a female photographer — a man would never have taken a picture of NFL players bent forward in a huddle. (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

2nd place and the Romney campaign magnets:

I have experienced your unbalanced coverage firsthand: Two of my obnoxious neighbors — one had a dog that once pooped on my lawn; the other never returned my pruning shears — died in the past year. And each received a glowing obituary — yet not once was I contacted to provide my side of the story. (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

My well-intentioned but not-so-bright friend wrote some time ago to alert you that some of the people pictured in your death notices did not look dead. It's silly, I know. But going forward, you can eliminate this problem simply by superimposing X's over their eyes. (David Garratt, Silver City, N.M.)

Rants' tomb: Honorable mentions

If The Post claims to care about the truth when it comes to science, then tell me why the **Sept. 10** "Doonesbury" shows the crescent moon pointing the wrong way in the Northern Hemisphere! Cancel my subscription immediately. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

I don't understand why you have a category of advertisement called "**Legal Notices**." Is there also a page of "Illegal Notices" that I need to look for? (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Enough already with all the **false news about President Trump!** Now for the truth — please tell us how things have been going for President Clinton all year! (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

Why have the media not applied more pressure to Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin? It is patently wrong that **U.S. money** honors a president who forcibly relocated nonwhite Americans into deplorable conditions. The FDR dime must go! (Jeff Contompson, Ashburn)

Yet again, The Washington Post has entirely ignored the state sales tax battle in Olympia AND the trash pickup controversy on the Seattle waterfront! #LiveUpToTheName (Kyle Hendrickson, Frederick)

The White House chief of staff does not own this town! So why does The Post print on Page B3, five times a week, "**John Kelly's Washington?**" Besides, dude, get a new photo! (Mike Creveling, La Plata)

Tell your owner that we're on to his subliminal shenanigans. The bottom of the front page of Monday's A-section directed us to an article on Page 11 — a prime number. **As in Amazon Prime.**

And what did I also find on that page? An ad for a kitchen remodeling company. What do you put in kitchens? That's right, food. Which you can buy from, oh, perhaps . . . Whole Foods? Coincidence? I think not. (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church)

Hey, Gregg J. Fernandes, Washington Post vice president for



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1249: Ask Backwards 36

A. Melania's left shoe.
Whom in the White House — or what — has Trump *not* challenged to an IQ test?

A. Oops, that was a typo.
Q. Secretary Tillerson, did you really write "[redacted]" in the stall of the White House men's room?

A Slim Jim smoothie • Melania's left shoe • Bleechsit • A fidget spinner, an infinity scarf and Cher • 280 characters • I don't think they have that at Whole Foods • Oops, that was a typo • Wynken, Blynken and Stynken • Despacheeto • Mike Pence's favorite pastime • Fluffy or something • The comma before the storm • Fargo, North Dakota • Nose hair extensions • There's still no app for THAT

Yes, it's the 36th time — at least — that The Style Invitational has run this contest in its almost 25-year history, though the last time was 13 months ago.

This week: Choose any of the 15 items above and follow it with a question that it could humorously answer, as in the examples above. Submit entries at this website: wapo.st/enter-invite-1249 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our new Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a unique prize (except for one other, still in the possession of its creator): **an enormous custom-made T-shirt** that says, in Maori, "Kaua e uapare mai. I tuku Poti ahuau ki a Hillary!" As well as its English translation, "Don't blame me! I voted for . . ." Donated by Loser Ed Sobansky, who had it made before he and his wife visited New Zealand earlier this year: "It helped me not to have to answer the constant question from the Kiwis: 'What's up with this Trump fella, anyway?'" (If you end up in second place but did not vote for Hillary, or just don't want the shirt, you may have a mug or bag instead.)

Other runners-up win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Punnmanship." Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "No Childishness Left Behind" or "Magnum Dopus." First Offenders receive only a smelly smelly-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). Deadline is Monday night, Oct. 23; results published Nov. 12 (online Nov. 9). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Jesse Frankovich; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Chris Doyle. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. "Like" Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday; follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. Check it out at wapo.st/conv1249.



SHIRT BY ED SOBANSKY

Say it in Maori: This week's 2nd-prize T-shirt.

customer care and logistics: My daughter Olivia, who's a big fan of KidsPost, was sick today. **But when I called you to come watch her**, you didn't show up or even arrange for someone to do it!

That's not "care" and it's not even "logistics!" (Mark Raffman)

Judging by the putrid quality of your publication, I can only assume the name "The Washington Post" was chosen as an **anagram of "That news thing's poo"** — not to mention an anagram of "What pigs! Not Honest!" (Jesse Frankovich)

Why did you print the **crossword puzzle right below the Sept. 21 KidsPost**? Our 9-year-old figured out the clue "Big glitch" was for "snafu," then looked it up in the dictionary and learned a disgusting word. Shame on you! (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

I'm tired of trying to decode those **secret messages** that The Post prints in tiny type at the top of its pages, like "EZ RE K" at the top of my Sept. 24 Weather page. Is that a subliminal ad for a tow truck company? And who is "EZ SU"? I'd sure like to meet her! (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park, Md.) [We leak this top-secret code in this week's Style Conversational.]

Yet again the liberal elite Post shows an insulting failure to understand us regular Americans. That op-ed headline **"Just when you think Republicans can't get more irresponsible . . . ?"** I assure you that I have NEVER thought that Republicans couldn't get more irresponsible. (Todd DeLaP, Fairfax)

Browsing the online classifieds today, I was appalled to discover a link for The Post's "**Place a death notice**" service. I can't believe the paper would take money to publish mortal threats! Can't people make do with a "Place a stern warning" service instead? (Frank Osen)

I am both appalled and terrified that **The Post published my Social Security number** in its Sunday print edition. Sure, you broke up the digits and placed them randomly throughout the page numbers. But it took me less than a minute to hunt down all nine — and surely a sophisticated hacker could do it even faster. (Hildy Zampella)

Must your **lingerie advertisements** be so graphic? I don't mind having to take cold showers in the summer, but chilly weather is approaching. — M. Pence, Washington (Roger Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.)

So according to your ad, The Post is giving a \$5 discount off Taste of DC — "**the largest culinary festival in the mid Atlantic.**" Like that's going to help much toward paying for a cruise to the middle of the ocean. (Dave Prevar)

More rants in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1249.

Still running — deadline Monday night, Oct. 16: our contest for Colbert-style "midnight confessions." See wapo.st/invite1249.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"EATS UP" By C.C. BURNIKEL	91 Org. for the Sky, the Stars and the Sun	125 Classic game consoles	11 "Lucky Guy" was her last play	43 View as Engraved jewelry item	82 Topper made from the jipijapa palm
ACROSS	92 Went wild	126 "This looks bad for us!"	12 PBS "Science Kid"	44 Perfect game, e.g.	84 K2 and Hood: Abb.
1 Octopus octet	96 Chum, in Cherbourg	127 Shelter adoptees	13 Holiday in the month of Adar	45 Adam's love	86 Wax Ready-Strips maker
5 Pro-___ fundraisers	97 Majesty	128 Heat-resistant glass	14 Minnesota's annual one is held in Falcon Heights	50 Run over	91 "Easy there!"
8 Looks over quickly	98 Pueblo pronoun	129 Drops at dawn	15 Guru	51 Team covered at amazinavenue.com	93 Charged bits
13 "Hey, you!"	99-ish, after a number	130 "Symphony in Black" artist	16 As a result	52 Princess with a twin brother	95 Bonkers
17 Backyard raft	100 Old theaters	120 "Tsk tsk!"	18 Luxury handbag	53 Juice bar freebie	100 Garage capacity
20 Russian wolfhound	103 Firing offense?	119 "Funny joke!"	19 President between Harrison and Polk	104 "Dillbert" creator	102 Juice bar freebie
21 Jazz home	105 Big Sky Brewing Company home	120 Loud insect	20 Spoiled	106 Doctoral hurdles	104 "Dillbert" creator
22 "Just kidding"	108 PC key used in combinations	122 Flat across the pond?	21 Adam's garden	107 In the know	105 In the know
23 On deck	110 Zoo keepers	123 Run the country	22 Captain of the Adventure Galley	109 Drew (in)	106 Doctoral hurdles
24 Pasta sauce brand	113 Lasting marks	124 CDs and LPs	23 Sushi fish	111 Max of Dedalsim	107 Hit the mall
26 Annoyed	115 Bench for a flock	40 Like two peas in a pod	24 Former FAO Schwarz parent	112 Sicilian seven	108 Way into the mountain
28 The Heart of Dixie: Abb.	116 "Casablanca" setting	125 "Temporary lack of inspiration?"	25 Toxin fighters	113 More, to Miguel	109 Drew (in)
29 They have strings attached	118 Kaplan Test Prep focus:	26 Shangri-La offerings	26 Pet shelter's concern	117 Backstage staff	110 Drawers
30 Comparable to a beat	119 Funny joke!"	27 Track activity, to Brits	27 Adam's garden	120 Limit	111 More, to Miguel
32 Gave the once-over	120 Funny joke!"	28 Cry out loud	28 Outstanding	121 Fort in New Jersey	112 Backstage staff
33 Driver's reservation?	122 Loud insect	29 Many a University of Zagreb student	29 Sicilian hot spot	122 Toon bartender Szyslak	113 Hit the mall
35 Run the country	123 Run the country	30 Augusta National shrub	30 Mound stats	114 Way into the mountain	114 Way into the mountain
37 CDs and LPs	124 44 Down shape	31 Sushi fish	31 Sushi fish	115 More, to Miguel	115 More, to Miguel
40 Like two peas in a pod	125 "Temporary lack of inspiration?"	32 Former FAO Schwarz parent	32 Former FAO Schwarz parent	116 Backstage staff	116 More, to Miguel
41 Supplied in a comedy skit, as straight lines	26 Shangri-La offerings	33 Track activity, to Brits	33 Track activity, to Brits	117 Backstage staff	117 Backstage staff
44 The Pac-12's Golden Bears	27 Shelter adoptees	34 Cry out loud	34 Former FAO Schwarz parent	118 Toon bartender Szyslak	118 Toon bartender Szyslak
45 LAX abbr.	28 Heat-resistant glass	35 Lady of pop	35 Lady of pop	119 "Tsk tsk!"	119 "Tsk tsk!"
47 Pitch indicator	29 Many a University of Zagreb student	36 Time-out at work	36 Time-out at work	120 Pet shelter's concern	120 Pet shelter's concern
49 Supply with fluid	30 Augusta National shrub	37 Outstanding	37 Outstanding	121 Fort in New Jersey	121 Fort in New Jersey
51 Safari runners?	31 Sushi fish	38 Sicilian hot spot	38 Sicilian hot spot	122 Toon bartender Szyslak	122 Toon bartender Szyslak
52 The pick stops here	32 Former FAO Schwarz parent	39 Outstanding	39 Outstanding	123 Toon bartender Szyslak	123 Toon bartender Szyslak
54 Reasons for missing school	33 Track activity, to Brits	40 Mound stats	40 Mound stats	124 Toon bartender Szyslak	124 Toon bartender Szyslak
56 Article in Der Spiegel	34 Cry out loud	41 Sushi fish	41 Sushi fish	125 Toon bartender Szyslak	125 Toon bartender Szyslak
57 Pink Floyd label	35 Lady of pop	42 Former FAO Schwarz parent	42 Former FAO Schwarz parent	126 Toon bartender Szyslak	126 Toon bartender Szyslak
58 Iridescent shell lining	36 Time-out at work	43 Sushi fish	43 Sushi fish	127 Toon bartender Szyslak	127 Toon bartender Szyslak
59 Biceps, for one	37 Outstanding	44 Mound stats	44 Mound stats	128 Toon bartender Szyslak	128 Toon bartender Szyslak
60 Soho stroller	38 Sicilian hot spot	45 Sushi fish	45 Sushi fish	129 Toon bartender Szyslak	129 Toon bartender Szyslak
61 Perfect —	39 Outstanding	46 Former FAO Schwarz parent	46 Former FAO Schwarz parent	130 Toon bartender Szyslak	130 Toon bartender Szyslak
63 "The Piano" actor	40 Mound stats	47 Sushi fish	47 Sushi fish		
65 Like a locked bathroom	41 Sushi fish	48 Former FAO Schwarz parent	48 Former FAO Schwarz parent		
67 "Mmm, delish!"	42 Former FAO Schwarz parent	49 Sushi fish	49 Sushi fish		
69 Japan is in it	43 Sushi fish	50 Sushi fish	50 Sushi fish		
71 Fire starters	44 Sushi fish	51 Sushi fish	51 Sushi fish		
75 Team up	45 Sushi fish	52 Sushi fish	52 Sushi fish		
77 Brand for cold sores	46 Sushi fish	53 Sushi fish	53 Sushi fish		
79 Carry __: sing on pitch	47 Sushi fish	54 Sushi fish	54 Sushi fish		
80 Was visibly moved	48 Sushi fish	55 Sushi fish	55 Sushi fish		
83 Begin successor	49 Sushi fish	56 Sushi fish	56 Sushi fish		
85 Harry's love	50 Sushi fish	57 Sushi fish	57 Sushi fish		</td