

BY PAT MYERS

## Report from Week 962

our perennial contest in which we asked you to choose a sentence appearing in The Post that week and to write a question that it might be the answer to: Fabulous results as usual; many more are in the online version of Week 966 at [washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational](http://washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational).

**THE  
WINNER  
OF THE  
INKER**

A. "We're working our way happily and steadily through the process of production."

**Q. What did the mechanical engineer reply when his mother-in-law said, "We hope you'll soon make us proud grandparents"?** (Cathy Lamaze, North Potomac)

### 2 Winner of the personal journal made of cow-dung paper: A. "I support it."

Q. Senator, are you a cat or a dog person? (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

3 A. "Your family gives you, hopefully, roots and wings."

Q. What was the opening diary entry of a Donner Party pioneer? (Sue Lin Chong, Baltimore)

4 A. But please, don't mess with the kebabs.

Q. In the Beirut airport security line, what's the equivalent saying of "Don't touch my junk"? (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

## Q & Eh: Honorable mentions

A. It happened more than a quarter-century ago, at the start of a Romney family summer vacation.

Q. When is the last time anyone saw Mitt's hair move? (Mark Richardson, Washington)

A. "I'm interested in distinctly engaging the histories of the paper bag."

Q. What statement led analysts to question Jon Huntsman's debating abilities? (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

A. You don't hear it when you step off the train.

Q. How do you stop the bride's cussing during the wedding ceremony? (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

A. The potential was there, but the ends were loose.

Q. Dr. Oz, was your all-fiber diet successful? (Mike Ostapiej, Mount Pleasant, S.C.)

A. "We compare all the teams irregardless of what conference they come from."

Q. Mr. Head Judge, why do you think criticism of the National Grammar and Word Usage Championships is unfounded? (Roy Ashley, Washington)

A. "As we get those, we take them out."

Q. Do you treat anti-gun protesters outside your NRA meetings with respect? (Dave Prevar)

A. The release of employment numbers by the Bureau of Labor Statistics has long been a ritual in Washington.

Q: Hi, I'm new to D.C. and I was wondering what fun things there are to do on a weeknight around here. (Christopher Lamora, Arlington)

A. White-nose was detected in Alabama

on March 2 and confirmed two days later.

Q: Now that mimes have escaped from their invisible boxes, how far have they spread? (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

A: "We'll call it a tie, because I don't want to make him look bad."

Q: Mr. Gingrich, how do you plan to concede the race to Mr. Romney? (David Genser, Poway, Calif.)

A. "He would get under our bed and shake it, yelling, 'Earthquake! Earthquake!'"

Q. Why did you suspect your husband didn't understand the concept of foreplay? (Randy Lee, Burke)

A. It's a two-man race.

Q. How did Cain break the news about Abel's death to Eve? (Russell Beland, Fairfax)

A: It rose about 15 feet, lifted the ocean and tipped the Pacific's waters onto the Japanese coast.

Q: What did Godzilla do after seeing his daughter's cellphone bill? (Arika Seymour, Clarksburg, a First Offender)

A. "Then two 40-gallon trash cans."

Q: "Mr. Putin, the votes for your opponents are overflowing this 40-gallon trash can. What should I do?" (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

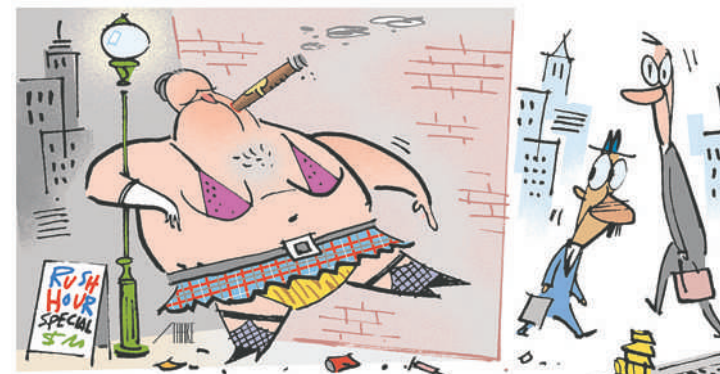
A. As James demonstrates how to make a cucumber roll, the room goes silent.

Q. What makes you think today's kids are so physics-challenged, they don't even know how a cylinder moves? (Brendan Beary)

A. They do.

Q. What did Warren Jeffs always say at his weddings? (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

**Still running — deadline Monday night: Our annual breed-the-horses contest. See [washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational](http://washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational) and click on "Week 965."**



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## THIS WEEK'S CONTEST: WEEK 966

# Inkremental change

**RUSH; lush; lust; lost; lout; gout; glut; SLUT.**

This week's contest was inspired by the example above, which was an entry by the Amazing Loser Chris Doyle for Week 961, that contest asked entrants to write something in which all the words had the same number of letters. Here's how we'll do it: **Start with any word or name, and create a series of words that change by one letter at a time (it's up to you how long the series is), until you come up with a related word or name. The middle words should relate to the end words or relate to the preceding word. Changing by one letter means you may also add a letter to the word, or drop a letter, in a given step.**

Winner gets the new Style Invitational trophy, the Inkin' Memorial, an exceedingly dignified Lincoln Memorial-statue bobblehead. Second place receives a little tin of the world's most tightly folded Uh Oh . . . Emergency Underpants ("Always ready to use!"), donated — unused — by Amanda Yanovitch. Britney Spears is under court order to carry these at all times.

**Other runners-up** win their choice of a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt, a yearned-for Loser Mug or the brand-new, yet-to-be-designed but surely hotly desired Grossery Bag, a lightweight tote. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet. First Offenders get a smelly, tree-shaped air "freshener" (Fir Stink for their first ink). E-mail entries to [losers@washpost.com](mailto:losers@washpost.com) or fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, April 16; results published May 6 (online May 4). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include "Week 966" 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 [washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational](http://washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational). The subhead for this week's honorable mentions is by Judy Blanchard. Join the Style Invitational Devotees on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](http://on.fb.me/invdev).



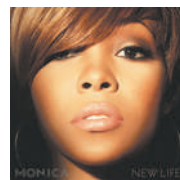
**STYLE CONVERSATIONAL** Have a question for the Empress or want to talk to some real Losers? Join us at [washingtonpost.com/stylconversational](http://washingtonpost.com/stylconversational).



RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

## POP CD REVIEW

### Monica NEW LIFE



Monica's long-ago monster duet with Brandy, "The Boy is Mine," installed her, briefly, as one of R&B's reigning princesses. But princesses should be a little lovable, and Monica, well, she isn't. She's regal, severe, as brittle as

Brandy is soft, and twice as interesting.

Her new disc, "New Life," starts with what sounds like a voice mail message from Mary J. Blige, who endorses Monica's abilities as a wife, a mother and a singer at such length that you're not sure whether Monica is launching a new album or running for Congress. What follows is an offering that's heavy on hard-luck ballads and light on snappy, elbow-throwing joints.

Most of "New Life" is middle-of-the-road R&B with a few

electro flourishes baked in, and though Monica deserves something meatier than these passive done-me-wrong songs, she doesn't get it until the penultimate track, the Adele-recalling "Time to Move On," an old-school call that emphasizes her astounding range.

The closest "New Life" comes to a defining moment is "It All Belongs to Me," a reunion duet with Brandy notable mostly for its lineage. A kiss-off to a bad boyfriend, it's a more rapacious version of "Irreplaceable" (get off my MacBook, leave the car, etc.); call it "The Stuff Is Mine."

— Allison Stewart