

The Style Invitational

By the Empress

Style Invitational Week 834, Fractured Compounds; and 'Mess With Our Heads'

Saturday, September 12, 2009

Tap-fueled: The main type of energy system at a frat house.

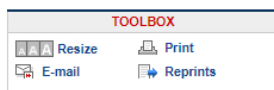
Here's a word-combination contest that's a combination contest in itself: Over the years, we've asked you to define various compound terms formed by the page headings on dictionaries and the Yellow Pages, and we've asked you to join the beginning and end of two different words within a single Washington Post story. And so Uber-Loser Russell Beland, in his 59th Invitational contest idea to see print ([yes, they keep stats for that](#)), suggests:

Combine two full words within any single article appearing in *The Washington Post* or on [washingtonpost.com](#) into a hyphenated compound word, and define or otherwise describe the result, as in

Russell's example above from a Sept. 8 story on health insurance. Please identify the story and date.



(Bob Staake for The Washington Post)



Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a tiny metal "Do Not Throw Paper in Toilet" sign found in Greece by Loser Kevin Dopart, who says the toilet paper there is so stiff that it has to go in the trash can. (He also noted that The Washington Post doesn't seem to have a motto . . .)

Other runners-up win their choice of a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt or yearned-for Loser Mug. Honorable Mentions get one of the lusted-after Style Invitational Magnets. One prize per entrant per week. Send your entries by e-mail to losers@washpost.com or by fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Sept. 21. Put "Week 834" in the subject line of your e-mail, or it risks being ignored as spam. Include your name, postal address and phone number with your entry. Contests are judged on the basis of humor and originality. All entries become the property of The Washington Post. Entries may be edited for taste or content. Results will be published Oct. 10. No purchase required for entry. Employees of The Washington Post, and their immediate relatives, are not eligible for prizes. Pseudonymous entries will be disqualified. The revised title for next week's results is by Jeff Contompassis; this week's Honorable Mentions name is by Beverley Sharp. Happy New Year.

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Report From Week 830

in which we asked you to write funny "bank heads" for actual headlines in The Post: Lots of insensitive people saw "64 Killed in Plant Accident" and reinterpreted it as a Venus' flytrap run amok. And what naughty minds some of you have! To deter further off-color entries, we will not print the one from Jeff Brechlin of Eagan, Minn., about something done to one "Sen. Whistle." There were so many good entries that we'll run some more next week.

The Winner of the Inker

Talk All You Want! Hook Up Now!

High School Adopts 'Progressive' Policies (Beverley Sharp, Washington)

2. *the winner of the Cushy Tushy knitted toilet seat rim cover:*

This Time, He Doesn't Answer Bell

Watson Said to Be Working on 'Voice-Mail Contraption' (Mike Fransella, Arlington)

3. Zorn, Campbell Look at Big Picture

But Neither Is Able to Identify Photo of End Zone (Jeff Brechlin, Eagan, Minn.)

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