Report from Week 1043

in which we asked for ideas for character-focused reality shows that would be even nuttier than the actual “Vanilla Ice Goes Amish”:

2 Winner of the More Cowbell cowbell. “Turnabout for Ted”: Sen. Ted Cruz visits a preschool and surprise — he’s the teacher today! Ted’s challenge is to persuade all the tykes to cooperate — even the little boy who screams all day and isn’t interested in anything the other kids want to do — so they can complete their class project before recess. (Laurie Tompkins, Rockville)

3 Miley Cyrus on “Toddler and Tiaras”: Ms. Cyrus counsels the young pageant contestants on the dangers of being typecast as cute children and demonstrates her technique for earning respect as a serious artist. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

4 “Angela Merkel on “Flip That House,” but he got bored after a while. (Barbara Turner, Tokama Park)

“Burnt Citrus is the New Black”: Martha Stewart pays a nostalgic visit to Pasadena, Calif.)

“Wall Not to Wear, Sochi Edition”: Host Vladimir Putin (formerly of “Black Eyes for Queer Guys”) tours the Olympics venues, rounding up suspects and sending them to fashion re-education camp. This week: how to accent a rainbow T-shirt with tan and feathers. (Frank Osen)

“What Knot to Wear”: A behind-the-scenes look at Lady Gaga’s bondage fashion videos. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

Chuck Norris was on “Flip That House,” but he got bored after a while. (Barbara Turner, Tokama Park)

This week: how to accent a rainbow T-shirt with tan and feathers. (Frank Osen)

“America’s Got Talons”: Who will be able to outsnark Joan Rivers? (Craig Dykstra)

“Where’d it Go?”: Each week John Boehner leads a crew around the world — through the Amazon rain forest, across the Gobi desert, beneath the Indian Ocean — in search of his spine. Tonight: Could it be in an abandoned Kentucky mine? (Neal Starkman, whose entry actually had the House speaker searching for a pair of more intimate body parts)


Channel suffring: honorable mentions

“The Ex Factor”: In this mashup of “The Bachelor” and “Beat the Clock,” Larry King is surrounded by a bevy of lovely women, and must persuade one of them to marry him. He and his bride must then attempt to stay married for the remainder of the 30-minute show. (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

“The Winner of the Inkin’ Memorial”

NYC age to buy tobacco highered

(The University Daily Kansan, Nov. 5)

Will student editor be figured?

It’s our perennial contest that we used to call “Mess With Our Heads.” But this year we’d add: “Or Anyone Else’s.” Now that most out-of-town Invite buffs aren’t able to surf all over washpost.com, with a paid subscription just to be able to give us free jokes, the Empress has decided to broaden the pool: This week: Quote a headline appearing in The Washington Post, washingtonpost.com or another publication, print or online, dated Nov. 14 to Nov. 25, and publish it in our “bank” headline that either misinterprets it, as in the example at left, or comments wryly on it, as in the one above. For a non-Post headline, you’ll have to include a link to a Web address where I can verify it, or, if it’s in print, a scanned copy. For a head in the print Post, include the date and page number. You may omit the beginning or end of the head if that doesn’t change its point substantially. What we’re counting as a headline: (a) the main heading above the text of an article or ad; (b) the bank head under a headline; (c) a “jump” head on the second page of an article; (d) a subhead within an article; (e) a headline-style link from a home page to an article (you’re on the honor system for those, because there’s no link to give). Don’t capitalize a word that’s lowercase in the headline to turn it into a name. Winner gets the Inkin’ Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives something very cool: an old edition of the 1830 English novel “Paul Clifford,” which nobody knows but whose opening line everyone knows: “It was a dark and stormy night.” Its author, Edward Bulwer-Lytton, has achieved immortality with the annual namesake contest for bad openings to a novel. Donated by intermittant Loser Larry Pryluck.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned for Loser Mug or the ardently desired Crossrey Bag. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet. First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” (FireStink for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Nov. 25; results published Dec. 15 (online Dec. 12). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include “Week 1047” 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 Beverley Sharp. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev, and click “like” on Style Invitational Ink of the Day at bit.ly/inkiday. “fighered” joke was made in a comment by Ed Byers on Jim Romenesko’s Facebook page.