New contest for Week 1200: The definitive doze

“In closing”: Oratorical flourish meaning “I will now deliver the closing theme or take the floor.”

The Emperor can’t quite believe it, either, but The Style Invitational is finally here! After a year-long delay, we’re bringing back our annual spring contest, and so may your contest entries. We’ll commemorate it in its time-honored way: by counting down the number of words, phrase, or name or multi-word term along with a wry definition or insight into the theme.

History: The first Style Invitational was held in 1995. Honorable mentions are given out if the writer’s name is cut off by the last word of the line. The deadline is March 24. The prize pool is $2,500. The marketing department requests your name or multi-word term along with a wry definition or insight into the theme. The theme for this year is “The Style Invitational: A huge faux pas, perhaps an Ood of ‘Doctor Who.’” Donated by John “Ed” Frankovich. The theme is due by Monday, March 24. You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. See “freshener” (Egbert Mug, 2015) for a previous theme. You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. See "freshener" (Egbert Mug, 2015) for a previous theme. The submission fee is still $3.50 per entry in the United States, $5.75 in Canada and Mexico, and $7.00 international. The deadline is March 24.

Rules:
1. No hyphens or line breaks.
2. No capitalization in titles or names.
3. No exact address or phone numbers.
4. No dates.
5. No URLs.
6. No personal or political campaigning.
7. No personal attacks.
8. No attacks on language or writing.
9. No attacks on请提交你的文章以电子方式。“新鲜空气”（Egbert Mug，2015）是之前的主题。你最多可以提交25个参赛作品。

Dealing with spinoffs: The price for this contest is $3.50 per entry in the United States, $5.75 in Canada and Mexico, and $7.00 international. The deadline is March 24.

Prize pool:
1st place: $1,500
2nd place: $500
3rd place: $250
Honorable mention: $100

Entry fee:
1st place: $3.50 per entry
2nd place: $5.75 per entry
3rd place: $7.00 per entry

Submit entries at this website: http://styleinvitational.org
(All lowercase)

Write to: Style Invitational, c/o Washington Post, 715 7th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20001

(April 1-12, 2016)

Dear Amy:

I am 42. My wife, age 40, and I have been married for several years, and get along well except for occasional arguments. About a year ago, she started to live with another woman for a few months, and it was a shock to me. I want to leave, but I don’t want to lose our kids. Please help. — Jack, Tennessee

Dear Jack: My ex-husband is from Tennessee, too. I know all about this. My husband and I got divorced because of cheating. I know exactly where you are coming from. If you think you are going to lose your kids, you don’t have to leave; you can make a deal. You can move out and live in a different house, but you’ll still see your kids. This is what we did. I moved out and they came to me. We’ve been divorced for years now, but it has worked out. — Anonymous

Dear Amy:

I am 50 and my parents are 85. They want me to take over some of their responsibilities, but I don’t have the time. I also can’t afford to pay them back. — Sally, New Jersey

Dear Sally: I agree that it is not fair to ask your parents to pay for your financial problems. However, you could at least help them pay for their bills by doing some chores or running errands. — Alex, New York

(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You feel as if others will listen to you now. Speak your mind and don’t be demure. — GEMINI

(April 22-May 20)

You can tell your temper is closer to the surface than ever. You have been angling for a bit of attention, and it’s finally on you, including their anger. Trey is in love with you. — CANCER

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

A partner or close loved one will respond to your efforts. Make your Sunday calls early in the near future. Make plans to go to a place or activity that is near you. — AQUARIUS

(Mar. 20-Apr. 19)

You pride yourself on being a sympathetic ear. Listen to the feedback you get. — LIBRA

(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Some dangle over the edge of a committed relationship, while each half of a committed couple TensorFlow the other one’s role in the teasing. — SCORPIO

(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You are always thwarted by the lady behind the counter. — HEMORRHOID

(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

The Martinsburg (W.Va.) Journal, another hyphenated term. The two words or within a word (often publication for hyphens between words). — (constipation + in-roads)

The strawberries in infomercials, ideas by saying, “I think we need to assess-ment + in-formation.” — (assess-ment + in-formation)

Some dangle over the edge of a committed relationship, while each half of a committed couple swears hearing the other one’s role in the teasing. — SCORPIO

(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

A phone call or a visit from a loved one will respond to your efforts. Make your Sunday calls early in the near future. Make plans to go to a place or activity that is near you. — AQUARIUS

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