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Style

Style Invitational Week 1019: What a turnoff!



(Bob Staake for the Washington Post)

By **Pat Myers**, Style Invitational editor
April 25, 2013

29. Make pizza dough from scratch utilizing only three ingredients: flour, water and old USB cables.

7. Instead of relying on Photoshop to digitally remove the wrinkles from your grandfather's face, use clothespins and duct tape.

24. Bake cookies cut in the shape of every U.S. state — so you can pretend that Colorado is an iPad and Wyoming is a Kindle.

Monday marks the start of what used to be known as TV Turnoff Week and now, in this multi-platform age, is called Screen-Free Week: The idea, of course, is that families set aside their various electronic crutches for seven days and look up momentarily at the world around them, as well as reacquaint themselves with proto-tablet technology. To the latter end, our very own Bob Staake has just produced what everyone is calling his finest children's picture book yet: the wordless "Bluebird," a lovely rumination on bullying, loneliness and the redeeming power of friendship. (Yes, we're talking about the same person who regularly defaces this page with cartoons of [banana-nosed cretins](#), [horses with backward legs](#), and [unclothed hot babes](#).) Bob, who lives on Cape Cod, will visit Washington's Politics and Prose bookstore [on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.](#), along with three other authors, to promote "Bluebird" and Screen-Free Week in general. Before he started the book tour, the Huffington Post's parenting blog asked Bob for some activities that families could do without a screen. He helpfully complied with a [list of 31 ideas](#) — including the examples above — that might or might not have been what the bloggers had in mind. **This week: Tell us some other creative things that children and families could do during Screen-Free Week.** Do remember that the Style Invitational is a humor contest.

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Most Read Lifestyle

- Perspective**
The perils of being a woman who's just asking to be left alone
- Perspective**
Carolyn Hax: If you play the coquette, everyone loses
- 'I ain't kill nobody': Sacha Baron Cohen pranks O.J. Simpson on 'Who Is America?' finale**
- Analysis**
HBO's 'Sharp Objects' finale twist was extremely grisly. And confusing. And infuriating.



Winner gets the [Inkin' Memorial](#), the Lincoln-statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a fine, many-inch-long perfectly edible gummy rat, in an appetizing grayish-black. Never used! Donated by Loser Melissa Yorks.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for [Loser Mug](#) or the ardently desired [Grossery Bag](#). Honorable mentions get a lusted-after [Loser magnet](#). First Offenders receive a smelly, tree-shaped air “freshener” (FirStink for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, May 6; results published May 26 (online May 23). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include “Week 1019” 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 Kevin Dopart; the alternative headline in the “Next week’s results” line is by Howard Walderman. . Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev; see the Ink of the Day, a sampling of jokes from the archives, at bit.ly/inkofday.

Still running — deadline Monday night — is our “reologism” contest to outdo the Losers’ own definitions for words they made up. See bit.ly/invite1018.

Report from Week 1015

in which we asked for fictoids — totally bogus trivia — about music and the music world:

The winner of the Inkin' Memorial

Van Morrison wrote “Brown Eyed Girl” about his then-girlfriend Elizabeth Taylor. They broke up shortly thereafter. (*Paul Kondis, Alexandria, Va.*)

2. Winner of the box of fish floss crackers: On her European tour, Ke\$ha has agreed to perform under the name K€sha. (*Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.*)

3. In the fade-out of the Archies’ “Sugar, Sugar,” you can clearly hear the phrase “I buried Jughead.” (*Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.*)

4. It’s a myth that they showed Elvis only from the waist up on “The Ed Sullivan Show” because of his suggestive dancing; actually, his fly was open. (*Danielle Nowlin, Woodbridge, Va.; Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.*)

Johnny won-nots: honorable mentions

“[Pompatus](#)” is the Latin word for “festering disease.” (*Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.*)

Johannes Brahms suffered from chronic insomnia. (*Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.*)

If you play “I Am the Walrus” backward, you can clearly hear John Lennon saying, “Hey, mate, the bloody thing goes the other way round.” (*Dan O'Day, Alexandria*)

5 How to send your child to school with a tasty lunch without turning your routine upside down



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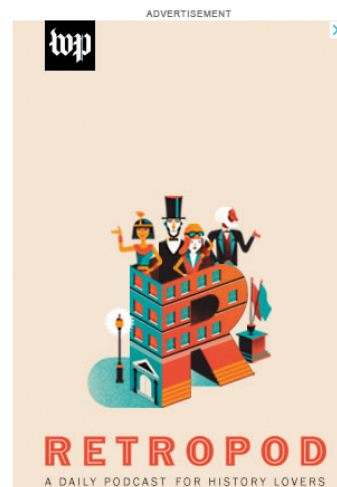
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Joni Mitchell's tax records reveal investments in a Hawaiian parking lot firm. (*Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.*)

Bob Marley died of glaucoma. (*Kevin D'Eustachio, Beltsville, Md.*)

Styx was named for the part of Kentucky where the band members were born and raised. (*Jeff Wadler, Ocean Pines, Md.*)

In 1952, the Victor Recording Co. made John Cage shorten his composition "12'55"" so it would fit on a single 78-rpm side. (*Steve Edu. Friedman, Washington, a First Offender*)

Jimmy Page and Robert Plant had considered naming their band Molybdenum Zeppelin, but they didn't know how to spell it. (*Jeff Hazle, Woodbridge, Va.*)

"[Carmina Burana](#)" is Latin for "sports commercials." (*Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.*)

When "I Shot the Sheriff" was released as a 45-rpm single, a small but humorous typo in the title made it an instant collector's item. (*Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.*)

Mama Cass's real name was Anita Heimlich. (*Michael Greene, Alexandria, Va.*)

Upon reaching puberty, children release pheromones that interfere with their parents' ability to enjoy music they do not already know. (*Josh Feldblyum, Philadelphia*)

Eager to ride the tide of the mid-'60s "British Invasion," some American acts took to coloring their teeth beige. (*Brendan Beary*)

The Fender Telecaster custom-made for Gene Simmons replaces the guitar's usual [F-hole](#) with an A-hole. (*Stephen Dudzik, Olney, Md.*)

The Tuareg nomads of North Africa sing a version of "Happy Birthday" that can be roughly translated: "Have a nice day, and may you avoid stepping in fresh camel poop." (*Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.*)

The world premiere of Verdi's "Aida" ended in tragedy when the lead soprano accidentally crushed an elephant to death. (*Madeleine Begun Kane, New York*)

The lyrics to "We Will Rock You" originally appeared in Shirley Jackson's short story "[The Lottery](#)." (*Carroll Reed, Centreville, Va.*)

Chubby Checker has a chiropractic degree. (*Bruce Alter, Fairfax Station, Va.*)

After the plane crash on "[the day the music died](#)," NTSB inspectors said the accident could have been averted with a small or medium Bopper. (*Brendan Beary*)

"Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds" is a coded reference to a secret military alliance involving Liechtenstein, Suriname and Delaware. (*Christopher Lamora, Guatemala City*)

In Greece, the leather case of a bouzouki traditionally includes a mini comic strip and a dumb joke. (*Christopher Lamora*)

One of today's superstars got the money to pursue her dream when she won a bingo jackpot in the little Dominican church in her neighborhood. She decided to take her stage name from the winning bingo call: B-11 — [said in Spanish](#) of course. (*David Sverdloff, Washington*)

Next week's results: Foaling around, or Whinny-ha-ha, [our annual contest](#) to "breed" two horses nominated for this year's Triple Crown races and name their foal.



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Pat Myers

Pat Myers is editor and judge of The Style Invitational, The Washington Post's page for clever, edgy humor and wordplay. In the role since December 2003, she has posted and judged more than 700 contests. She also writes the weekly Style Conversational column and runs the Style Invitational Devotees page on Facebook. Follow [🐦](#)

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"There are no constitutional defenses to what the Southern District is investigating," Dershowitz, an informal Trump adviser, said Sunday.

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Opinion

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Who stood tall?

1 day ago



Trump recently sought his lawyers' advice on possibility of pardoning Manafort, Giuliani says

Trump attorney Rudolph Giuliani said Trump was seeking advice on pardons generally, and was upset that Manafort faced criminal exposure on charges unrelated to his work on Trump's campaign.

