

Entertainment

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Style Invitational Week 1141: Mess With Our Heads — our ‘bank head’ contest

And the Losers get ink with spicy titles for boring books

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“I’m not going to use that bidet thing!” Reinterpreting the Washington Post headline “An American Void.” (Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

By Pat Myers September 17 at 12:33 PM [Follow @PatMyersTWP](#)

(Click [here to skip down](#) to the results of our contest to write spicy titles for boring books)

Real Washington Post headline: **An American Void**

Fake bank head: **‘No WAY am i sitting on that bidet thing — I’d fall right in,’ Omaha tourist declares in Paris**

Post headline: **Trump, Carson top GOP race**

Bank head: **Otherwise, African Americans are bottom GOP race**

And once again, we invite readers to comically misinterpret what The Washington Post was saying — and not just by writing letters to the editor.

This week: **Reinterpret (or comment wryly on) a headline appearing in The Post (print or online) Sept. 17-28 by writing a bank head, or subtitle**, as in the examples above from last Sunday's Post. In the print paper, you may use an article's main headline, or a significant part of it (for example, everything before or after a colon); the story's bank head; or the jump head, the headline on the story's second page. Online, you may use not only headlines (or significant parts) above an article, but also headlines on the home page and elsewhere that serve as links to the article. And for both, you may use headlines in ads. See the Style Conversational column for further guidelines at bit.ly/conv1141.



Well, there's a lot of caffeine in there: Mr. Tea will let it all out as he relaxes inside your cup. This week's second prize. (VAT19.COM)

Winner gets the [Inkin' Memorial](#), the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives the **Mr. Tea Infuser**, a little man with perforated rubbery pants into which you put some tea, then set him inside the hot tub of your cup until the brown stuff seeps out. Donated by Dave Prevar, who, while he is admittedly a 263-time Loser, swears he does not personally seep into hot tubs.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for [Loser Mug](#) or the ardently desired "Whole Fools" [Grossery Bag](#). Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet designed by Bob Staake: either "[The Wit Hit the Fan](#)" or "[Hardly Har-Har.](#)" First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" ([FirStink](#) for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or, if you were born in the 19th century, fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday night, Sept. 28; results published Oct. 18 (online Oct. 15). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1141" 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/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Jeff Contompasis; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Beverley Sharp. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. "Like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday.

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.

[And the results of the Style Invitational contest posted four weeks ago . . .](#)

A WRINKLE IN TOME: SPICY TITLES FOR BORING BOOKS

In **Week 1137** we asked you to come up with an exciting-sounding title for a book with less than spicy content. Many amateur publishing shills offered entries along the lines of "Tits and Boobies: Field Guide to Birds"; "Succulent Breasts: 101 Chicken Recipes"; and "Secrets of a Stripper: Tips for Wallpaper Removal." (Titles in quotes below are actual book titles.)

4th place:

Eat All You Want and Still Lose Weight

A Simple Guide to Intestinal Parasitic Diseases (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

3rd place:

Call Me Bruce Again

Small-Town Librarian Mildred Bruce Chronicles the Aftermath of Her Divorce (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

2nd place

and the [“Loser for Liberty” tote bag](#) from the campaign of Carl Loser for Virginia state Senate:

Unmasking the First Muslim President

The Hidden Genius of Kemal Atatürk (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

And the winner of the Inkin’ Memorial

Stick It to the Man

Phlebotomy Handbook: Blood Collection Essentials (Amy Harris, Charlottesville, Va.)

The bibliography: honorable mentions

Elvis Lives!

The Big Book of 5-Letter Anagrams

Larry Gray, Union Bridge, Md.; Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

Catholic School Hookers

Home Ec Projects Vol. 2: Crochet a Prayer Shawl (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

Awesome Cleavage

Principles of Zygotic Cell Division (Michael Landauer, Bethesda, Md., who last got Invite ink in 2003)

Murder Between the Sheets

Eradicate Book-Damaging Silverfish and Other Insects (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Score on One-Night Stands

The Ins and Outs of the Bleacher-Rental Business (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

How to Hustle

The Comprehensive English Dictionary, Volume 8-D (Jeff Contompasis; Hugh Thirlway, The Hague)

How Kinky Is Too Kinky?

A Guide to the Perfect Perm (Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

Viva las Vegas

Celebrating The 1970s Chevy Subcompact That Everyone Hated (Ellen Goldlust, Blacksburg, Va., a First Offender)

Spanking Women

Grade School Nuns Through History (Frank Osen)

How to Make Her Ask for More

Successful Therapies for Anorexia (Rick Haynes, Ocean City, Md.)

Screw Your Way to the Top

A Step-by-Step Guide to Building Your First Tree House (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

Secretly! Passionately! Lustfully!

The Thesaurus of Adverbs (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

The Ultimate Bong

My Life as a National Cathedral Bell-Ringer (Duncan Stevens, Vienna)

Hot Secrets the Kardashians Won't Tell You About Drupal (Laura McGinnis, Silver Spring, Md., a First Offender)

I Clicked Here and You'll Never Believe What Happened Next!

Learn From My Grammar Mistakes in the !Kung Language and Avoid Major Cultural Misunderstandings (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.)

Get It On With a German Shepherd

Rancher Gunther Schäfer Shows You the Right Way to Dress in Lederhosen. (Michael Daws, Drobak, Norway, a First Offender)

I Lost 100 Pounds 10 Years Ago, and They're Still Gone!

Scammers: Britain's Continuing Scourge (Neal Starkman, Seattle; G.T. Bowman, Falls Church, Va.)

Young, Hot and Wet

A Parent's Guide to Everything From Infant Fevers to Potty Training (Jon Gearhart)

A Peek Behind Shower Curtains

The Development of Waterproof Spray Shielding (Dave Prevar, Annapolis, Md.)

Snuff Films!

Howto Remove That Tobacco Residue That Coats Your Mouth (Todd DeLap, Fairfax, Va.)

Learn the Ways of the Force

Introduction to Physical Science, Rev. Ed. (Kevin Dopart)

Drop Acid for Better Health

The All-New No-Citrus Diet (Mark Raffman)

Ghostbuster!

My Quest to Discover Who Really Wrote Celebrities' Memoirs (Selma Ellis, Rolling Meadows, Ill., a First Offender)

The Joy of Doggy Style

50 Cute Outfits for Your Poodle (Frank Mann, Washington)

MILF and Me

My 30 Years as Stenographer for the McMinnville Independent Laparoscopy Foundation (Frank Osen)

How an Undocumented Immigrant Nearly Brought Down the Seat of the British Empire: A Lesson for America

(Previously titled "A Bear Called Paddington") (Richard Wong, Derwood, Md.)

Camel Toes

And Other Ways to Know Whether Meat Is Kosher (Edward Gordon, Austin)

Restraint and Submission

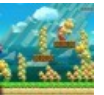
How Not to Get Ink in The Style Invitational (Bill Smith, Reston, Va.)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Sept. 21: Our good-name/bad-name contest. See bit.ly/invite1140.



Most Read Entertainment

- 1 A loss for words: Listening to the post-verbal brilliance of Young Thug
- 2 Live sketch: Who won, and lost, the GOP debate in a skewed cartoonist's eyes?
- 3 "Super Mario Maker" is an engine for circulating horrible new "Mario" levels
- 4 Style Invitational Week 1141: Mess With Our Heads — our 'bank head' contest
- 5 So Charlie Hebdo drew the drowned Syrian boy. Was it wrong?



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