Style Invitational Week 931: Limerixicon 8, plus the winning Burma-Shave-style rhymes

By Pat Myers  
August 8, 2011

An ecdysiast likes to be nude,  
Which to some people seems a bit crude.  
But some others applaud  
This most talented broad.  
(By “some others” we mean genus Dude.)

If it’s August — and this year it’s abundantly obvious in Washington — then it’s time for the Invite to catch up with the monumental task of Chris J. Strolin and his minions to produce the Omnificent English Dictionary in Limerick form, five lines at a time. They’re now just about to reach the 70,000-limerick mark since starting with A in 2004, and are now all the way to...This week: Supply a humorous limerick significantly featuring any English word, name or term beginning with the letters ea-through el-, as in the example above (“ecdysiast” is a fancy word for stripper) by Washington Post Limerician on Retainer Gene Weingarten. See washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational for our fairly strict rules on limerick rhyme and meter, and see oedlif.com for submitting limericks there after this contest is over.

Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. Second prize receives Paparazzi Shades, a pair of sunglasses that looks in a photo as if someone’s stuck a strip of identity-hiding tape across your eyes. The Empress wears them in her Facebook status photo. Donated by totally visible Loser Jeff Contompasis.

Other runners-up win their choice of a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt or yearmed-for Loser Mug. Honorable mentions get a lustied-after Loser magnet. First Offenders get 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, Aug. 15; results published Sept. 4 (Sept. 2 online). Include “Week 931” in your e-mail subject line, or it may be ignored as spam. Include your real name, postal address and phone number with your entry.
Report from Week 927: Drive-by shoutings,

in which we sought the short poems of the sort that used to be posted as a series of roadside signs to advertise Burma-Shave shaving cream. Like those relics, they sometimes hawk a product and other times serve as a driver-safety PSA.

The winner of the Inker:

Why exercise
To get a date?

(Wonderbraz.
(Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

2. Winner of the Cluster Springs Sanitary Services Portable Toilet Rentals official ball cap:

Tip for new drivers
In the Sunshine State:
Blinker on means
Going straight.
AARP.
(David Ballard, Reston, Va.)

3. On a bridge
With breezes wafting,
Drive carefully
Or you’ll be rafting.
(Phyllis Reinhard, East Fallowfield, Pa.)

4. Sure, do your makeup!
That should please
The first responding
EMTs.
(Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

Kerouwhacked: Honorable mentions

The same-sex marriage
Path is cleared,
So now’s the time
To lose your beard.
Burma-Shave.
(Brendan Beary)

Lather up
So you can stop
Approximating
ZZ Top.
Burma-Shave.
(Mike Caslin, Round Hill, Va.)

Life is tough
And that’s for sure —
Luckily
We have the cure!
Philip Morris.
(Dixon Wragg, Santa Rosa, Calif.)

He watched the female
Jogger's leister;
With eyes off road,
He predeceased her.
(Brendan Beary)

don't txt an driv
or u wd b
not LOL
but OMG.
(Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

No longer alive,
Since, sadly, he blundered:
He thought 95
Was the Indy Five Hundred.
(Mae Scanlon, Washington)

Sex at the wheel
Is horribly risky,
So hire a driver
Before you get frisky.
Acme Limo Service.
(Stephen Gold, Glasgow, Scotland)

Now I lay me
Down to sleep.
I pray the Lord
Knows how to beep.
No-Doz.
(Judy Blanchard, Novi, Mich.)

If, Mrs. Sprat,
You choose to fly,
Please greet your mate
Like this: "Jack! Hi!"
TSA.
(Ann Martin, Bracknell, England)

You drink champagne
And dine on partridge?
If so, you can
Afford our cartridge.
HP Printers.
(John Glenn, Tyler, Tex.)

An ample breast,
A supple thigh.
Come on in
And watch us fry!
KFC.
(Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

Congressman Weiner
Has resigned,
But we still have
The other kind.
Massengill.
(Amanda Yanovitch, Midlothian, Va.)

We know you now
Depend on us —
So please don’t leave
For Google+.
Facebook.
(Stephen Litterst, Newark, Del.)

The call of FarmVille
Never ends
From all your so-called
Facebook friends.
Google+.
(Christopher Lamora, Guatemala City)

And last:
Lady Bird.
Don’t spin distressed,
We’re only doing
This in jest.
— The Style Invitational. (Kevin Doport, Washington)

Visit the online discussion group The Style Conversational, where the Empress discusses today’s new contest and results along with news about the Loser Community — and you can vote for your favorite among the inking entries, since you no doubt figured the Empress chose the wrong winner. If you’d like an e-mail notification each week when the Invitational and Conversational are posted online, write to the Empress at losers@washingtonpost.com (note that in the subject line) and she’ll add you to the mailing list. And on Facebook, join the lively group Style Invitational Devotees and chime in.

Next week: Play feature, or Back Talkies

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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 [Follow Pat Myers on Twitter](https://twitter.com/patmyerswpost)

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Trump says golf legend is “very smart” for not divulging much about his feelings toward the president.

1 day ago

NBC announced John McCain’s death — then abruptly cut to men kissing in dolphin masks

One viewer quipped: “What did I just watch? What the heck?”

2 days ago