Homes‘pun’ humor: The la‘ugh’able ‘air quotes from Style Invitational Week 1134

And our new contest, Week 1137: Be a published author in 28 days! (By spicing up a book title.)

SU*PERV*SOR: This week’s winning “air quotes” entry, by Brendan Beary, (Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

By Pat Myers  August 20 at 12:23 PM  

(Click here to skip down to this week’s new contest, Week 1137)
In Week 1134 we gave another run to our popular “air quotes” contest, in which we wanted you to find a telling word inside another word or name. Sorry, many of you, but we already did Donald T”rump” in 2001. In fact, The Donald has been very good to The Style Invitational ever since Year 1 in 1993; a runner-up in Week 21 was “Donald Trump is so annoying that Amnesty International wants him beaten and locked up.” (Tom Gearty) See a collection of Trump Ink in this week’s Style Conversational column.

4th place:
Se”dated”: Out for a romantic evening. — W. Cosby (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

3rd place:
The“irs”: That which, after April 15, no longer belongs to us. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

2nd place
and the horse-head squirrel feeder:

Our man in Richmond: Campaign swag for Virginia state Senate candidate Carl Loser. (Rhymes with “poser.”) (Pat Myers/The Washington Post)

Com“place”nt: Second best is good enough for me. (Yuki Henninger, Vienna, Va.)

And the winner of the Inkin’ Memorial:
Su“perv”isor: The boss who believes too strongly in “hands-on management.” (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

So f’un’ny: honorable mentions
Se”rape”: See, I told you. — D. Trump, New York (Jeff Hazle, Woodbridge, Va.)

Ce“meter’y: Tick . . . tick . . . tick . . . — G. Reaper (Brendan Beary)

“Can”dor: “Well, yes, it does look big in that dress.” (Dion Black, Washington)

“Ass”uage: “Oh, no, it doesn’t look big at all.” (Danielle Nowlin, Woodbridge, Va.)

“Spa”ghetti: A plate of bean sprouts. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

Affordable Ca“re Act”: Also known as “The sky is falling! The sky is falling!” (Frank Mann, Washington)

iP“hon”e: “Dear, we should talk. Can you look at me when we talk?” (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)
Red-ski’ns: Going downhill since the 1990s. (Ward Kay)

P’lung’ing neckline: Deepest cleavage ever. (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Sa’turd’ay Night Live: What the show is now vs. whenever the complainer was in college. (Steve Honley, Washington)

“Tref’oil: The least popular Girl Scout scout cookie in Brooklyn. (Jeff Covel, Arlington, Va.)

A’sham’ed: “I regret that some people found my remarks offensive.” (Gary Crocket, Chevy Chase, Md.)

“Lame’ntations: Crocodile tears. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

“Was”hingtonian: D.C. resident who complains about how much better it used to be when she could shop at Garfinckel’s and Woodies. (Steve Honley)

“Ha”ir: The thing on Trump’s head. (Melissa Balmain)

A’sparta’mene: Switching from regular to Diet Coke. (Mike Gips, Bethesda, Md.)

Calip’hate: No elaboration necessary. (Mike Gips)

Cav’eat emptor: Word to the wise at the $3.99 buffet. (Rick Haynes, Ocean City, Md.)

Chris “Christ’ie: A candidate with just a bit of an ego. (Ed Scarbrough, Germantown, Md., a First Offender)

Co’it’us: Birds do, bees do. (Edmund Conti, Raleigh, N.C.)

Infi’delity: A venue for sampling a wide variety of tasty dishes. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

Com’miser’ation: All you get from a wealthy friend when you’re badly in debt. (John Shea, Philadelphia)

So’cialism: Whatever it is, it’s giving Bernie a big rise. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Cont’race’ption: The rush to get the condom package open before the mood wilts. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond, Va.)

Exe’cute: “No, Mr. Bond, I expect you to watch cat videos until you kill yourself.” (Dion Black)

Exhi’bit’ionist: A poorly endowed flasher. (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

F’utility: After a summer storm, waiting for Pepco to get the power back on. (Howard Walderman, Columbia, Md.)

Gen’eros’ity: What Your Mama showed to the football team. (Robert Schechter)

Gua’camole: Fatigued avocado dip with dark-green and brown splotches. (Jeff Contompasis)

H’usb’and: Computer geek who claims to have a wife. (Philip Justus, Potomac, Md.)

House of Rep’present’atives: A legislative body with a 16 percent approval rating. (Christopher Thorpe, San Francisco, a First Offender)

I’ow’a: Spending $7 million on campaign ads and still coming in third. (Mike Ostapiej, Mount Pleasant, S.C.)

Journa’list: A writer whose entire body of work consists of that “Ten Things You Need To Know…” clickbait. (Lawrende McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

Large Had’ron Co’llider: It slices! It dices! It smashes to bits! (Michael Rosen, New York)
Long *l* slander*: Those stereotypes? They’re all true. (Ken Stern, New York)

Mob enfor*cement*: These guys really know how to take care of you. (Beverley Sharp)

Plastic s*urge on*: “Have your husband’s eyes been wandering? This week only, 20 percent off facelifts.” (Arnold Berke, Washington, a First Offender)

Re*cognition*: The award the boss gives you to make you forget how unimportant your job is. (John O’Byrne, Dublin)

Se*cur*ity: Junkyard dog. (Jeff Hazle)

Washing*ton* Post: The Sunday paper before the Internet. (Michael Woodward, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories)

And this week’s new contest:

**WEEK 1137: BE A PUBLISHED AUTHOR IN 28 DAYS!**

**TRY A THREE-WAY! Utilizing Polarized Plugs (Bruce Alter)**

**PULLING STRINGS TO GET AHEAD: Collected Transcriptions for the Harp (Bruce Alter)**

**TRIGONOMETRY THE HARRY POTTER WAY (Stephen Dudzik)**

As of this writing, the number of different paperback titles available on Amazon.com: 29,465,646. Hardcovers: 10,721,497. Kindle books: 2,509,059. And so it’s certainly no easier to get people to buy your book, rather than the competing volume on how to re-porcelain your sink, than it was in 2001, when Style Invitational Losers Bruce Alter and Stephen Dudzik got ink in a contest for spicy titles for boring books. It wasn’t, however, an Invite contest; Bruce and Steve were moonlighting with the now-defunct Invite-like contest in the Canadian paper the Globe and Mail. I agree wholeheartedly with Steve’s suggestion that we rip it off.

This week: Give us a spicy title for a boring book, real or imagined. You might explain the boringosity in a subtitle, as in the first two examples, or integrate it into the title, as in the third. **A short pitch for the book would not be out of line.**

Winner gets the Inkin’ Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place gets one of our favorite prizes ever: genuine swag from the current Virginia state Senate campaign of Libertarian Carl R. Loser of the Richmond area: The Loser for Liberty tote bag and deck of cards were acquired for us by Richmond-based Loser (not related) Jeff Shirley. (By the way, Mr. Loser rhymes his name with “poser” — although, he says, “I do not correct people when they say ‘loser’ because I find that they remember the name better.”)

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, Aug. 31; results published Sept. 20 (online Sept. 17). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include “Week 1137” 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 Chris Doyle; 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.

Most Read Entertainment

1. In Banksy’s new Disney-spoofing “Dismaland,” your screams will come true

2. One of the world’s most respected curators vanished from the art world. Now she wants to tell her story.

3. Oh, “The Fix” these dirty politicians are in

4. From ‘Jessie’ to ‘Ricki,’ Rick Springfield keeps it fresh

5. Expanded media coverage of this year’s National Book Festival

The Most Popular All Over

The Globe and Mail
Macedonian troops fire stun grenades to disperse migrants stuck on border with Greece

Slate
A Crystal Clear Explanation of Hillary’s Confusing Email Scandal

Business Insider
Democrats are pouncing on a ‘vile’ term that Republican presidential candidates won’t stop saying