Style Invitational Week 1152: Oops? You do it again — enter a previous contest

Plus the winning TankaWanka 5-line poems on the news

You don’t need a time machine, just a handy index we provide for the past year’s contests you can reenter for Week 1152. (Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

By Pat Myers  December 3  Follow @PatMyersTWP

(Don’t get your paper on July 23? Did you miss the deadline for Week 1105? Did the Empress rob you again for Weeks 1120, 1121 and 1122? Stop complaining already — here’s your chance to do something about it: our annual retrospective contest. **This week: Enter any Style Invitational contest from Week 1098 through Week 1148, except for Week 1101, last year’s do-over.** Use as few or many contests as you like, up to 25 entries total. You may refer to events that have occurred since the contest was published (exception: the Week 1105 obit poems should still be about people who died in 2014); for contests that ask you to use that week’s paper, use Dec. 3-14 of this year. You may submit an entry you’ve already sent, but remember that it’s the same old lady judging them. Where to find all these previous contests? There’s a link to each one at [washingtonpost.com/styleInvitational](http://washingtonpost.com/styleInvitational) (click on “More News” at the bottom of the page to see the oldest few). You can...
And the results of the Style Invitational contest announced four weeks ago . . .

**It’s a tanka gas: The top TankaWanka news poems**

In **Week 1148** we presented our second annual contest for TankaWanka poems on the news. The TankaWanka — a form the Empress named so nobody could accuse us of doing it wrong — is a variation on tanka, a classic Japanese poetry form. Like tanka, the TW has five lines of 5-7-5-7-7 syllables (like a haiku that forgot to stop), but it also contains at least one rhyme.

**4th place:**

Ben Carson believes Egyptian pyramids were used by biblical Joseph
Carson: Pyramids
Were for the storage of grain.
Evidence for this:
They're sealed against the outside.
Much like Dr. Carson’s brain?
(Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

3rd place:
Coywolf, coyote-wolf hybrid, sees population boom
Wolf, in search of mate,
Struck out, then said, “You know what?
Coyotes look great!”
Fairy tale changes wryly
When Riding Hood meets Wile E. (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

2nd place and the “Jewjitsu” T-shirt plus Christian-themed jellybeans:
Nationals lose manager choice over too-low offer
“Bud Black is our guy!
He can run our pitching staff!”
But they made a gaffe
With their offer so mulish—
Penny-wise and mound-foolish. (Perry Beider, Silver Spring, Md.)

And the winner of the Inkin’ Memorial:
Google self-driving car pulled over for driving too slowly, impeding traffic
California fuzz
Stopped a car, and found it was
Driving by itself.
Gave a warning, didn’t cite.
Need I say the car was white?
(Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

PRO-PAIN TANKA: HONORABLE MENTIONS
Christian groups protest lack of Christmas symbols on Starbucks cups
Time to get riled up!
Hang a plain red Starbucks cup
On the highest bough,
And have yourself a merry
Little War on Christmas now.
(Nan Reiner)

San Diego SeaWorld ends killer-whale shows but keeps whales
Folks cry: “Free Shamu!”
SeaWorld has a different view.
Stubborn, they say no:
“How could we, in good conscience,
Let eleven killers go?”
Trump calls Mexican immigrants “rapists”
“Sending their rapists”
Makes it clear, for goodness’ sake,
That Donald Trump’s yen
Is to be the prez who’ll make
America hate again.

(Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

Carson’s home features a large double portrait
We thought the Donald
Possessed the biggest ego
Of them all, but then
This painting came to seize us:
It pictures Ben with Jesus.

(Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

Inclusion in GOP debates depends on latest poll
Poll ranking dictates
Which of umpteen candidates
Make the next debates,
Based on this week’s ups and downs.
Open car; reshuffle clowns.

(Nan Reiner)

“Star Wars: Episode VII”
I. “The Force Awakens”!
All of geekdom rejoices.
As we revisit
A galaxy that’s far far,
Let us hope there’s no Jar Jar.

(Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

II. “The Force Awakens”:
A movie for which we’ll queue.
For Disney, huge sums.
And in handy Yoda comes
When verse rhyming try we do. (George-Ann Rosenberg, Washington)

Former Russian official found dead in Dupont Circle hotel
Could be verry bad
If you get on outs with Vlad.
You haf “heart attack.”
This case, upon scrutiny,
Looking very Putiny. (Nan Reiner)

Asian leaders meet
China’s Xi Jinping
And Taiwan’s Ma Ying-Jeou met;
There should be an ad:
“Spacious meeting room to let —
The historic Ma-Xi pad.”
(Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

**Pitcher insists on finishing World Series game, loses it**
Matt Harvey, Mets ace,
Demands, “I’ll pitch the ninth frame
For a complete game!”
Soon the game, Mets fans could see,
Was complete, over, *finis*.
(Brendan Beary)

**Politicians exploit Paris attacks**
Carnage in Paris
Leaves us sad and dejected
Except for a few
Asking the age-old question:
Can this get me elected?
(Frank Mann, Washington)

**Water discovered on Mars**
Evidence showing
There’s liquid water flowing
On the planet Mars
Has made scientists zealous —
And Californians jealous.
(Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

**“Gum Wall” gets a cleaning**
Have you heard the news?
Seattle has a problem:
A sticky issue —
On a wall, not a tissue.
More gum control laws needed! (Andrea Dewhurst, Lynn, Mass., a First Offender)

**George H.W. Bush criticizes Cheney, Rumsfeld in biography**
George Bush the first, you
Paterfamiliously,
And biliously,
Trashed two top aides to Dubya —
Only now do they trubya?
(Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

**New baby panda**
The National Zoo
Pulled the new panda handler
Aside to warn her
That nobody — NOBODY! —
Feminist Germaine Greer rants that sex change surgery doesn’t make a man a woman*

So says Germaine Greer:

“You can lop off your penis,
And good luck, my dear,
But, no matter your keenness,
You’re not a woman, I fear.”

(Michael Rolfe, Cape Town, South Africa, a First Offender) [*Greer actually used much cruder language in her rant]

D.C. rated the “snobbiest city on the East Coast”

Look – some new website
Gave D.C. a top-10-ranked
Snooty ratio!
San Francisco ranks first, though …
(Left-Coasters. What do THEY know?) (Nan Reiner)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Dec. 7: our contest to rant at a rhymes-with-“glassbowl.” See bit.ly/invite1151.
The Most Popular All Over

The Atlantic
What ISIS Really Wants

Fast Company
This Grocery Store From Trader Joe’s Ex-President Makes Healthy Food As Cheap As Junk Food

TIME
See the Actual Telegram That First Spread the Word About Pearl Harbor

Our Online Games
Play right from this page

Mahjong Dimensions
Genre(s): Strategy
It’s 3D Mahjong: you don’t even need to wear 3D glasses!

The Sunday Crossword by Evan Birnholz
Genre(s): Word
Online crossword.

Spider Solitaire
Genre(s): Card
Spider Solitaire is known as the king of all solitaire games!

Daily Crossword
Genre(s): Word
Challenge your crossword skills everyday with a huge variety of puzzles waiting for you to solve.

Your Three. Video curated for you.
From clubfoot to climbing: Double amputee lives life of adventure

Steep advice you won’t find in baby books
1:45

How to make head cheese
1:23

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