Style Invitational Week 1242: Generation Yux – give us a then/now joke

Last time we did this contest, it was about aging boomers. Now it’s millennials. And aging boomers.

By Pat Myers  August 24, 2017  Email the author

(Click here to skip down to the winning D-E-F phrases)

Then: Men getting hair plugs. Now: Men getting hair plucked. (Bob Stokoe for The Washington Post)


Then: “The Kids Are Alright.” Now: The kids are all-right.

Yeah, we’ve been around awhile.

In Week 303, in 1999, the Empress’s predecessor, the Czar, ran a contest called “Boom Times,” asking readers to “come up with old and new concerns for the baby boom generation.” The results were classic;
Chris Doyle to suggest a multigenerational update. This week: Give us a “then/now” joke like Chris’s examples above — about (a) getting older or (b) comparing a past generation with the current one, no matter whether you, personally, are a “then” or a “now.”

Submit entries at this website: wapo.st/enter-invite-1242 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the Inkin’ Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Stylist Invitational trophy — one of the last few before we officially announce the new design that we’ve been giving to recidivist winners.

Second place receives a fabulous Total Nerd Party Two-Pack: a holster from which you suspend your wineglass in front of your belly, thus allowing you to dribble your spanakopita crumbs straight into the merlot; and, courtesy of Loser Edward Gordon, a Pizza Pouch, for all those times you need to carry one small slice of pizza across your torso. (Our tip: Don’t get extra cheese.) The holster is dead serious; the pouch, sold by an outfit called Stupidiotic, a tad less so.

Other runners-up win our “You Gotta Play to Lose” Loser Mug or our Grocery Bag, “I Got a B in Punnamship.” Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, “No Childishness Left Behind” or “Magnum Dopus.” First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” (FrisStink for their first ink). Deadline is Monday night, Sept. 4; results published Sept. 24 (online Sept. 21). See general 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 Jesse Frankovich. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev.

“Like” Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday; follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

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

And from The Style Invitational four weeks ago . . .

DEFinitions: Report from Week 1238
In Week 1238 we continued three-letter abbreviating through the alphabet with some DEF, FED, EDF, etc., phrases. Some of the inking entries below are a bit of a stretch, but the Empress put on her YJP’s — her Yoga Judging Pants — and flexed a little. Not surprisingly, many of the entries contained various forms of the f-word. They canceled one another out.

4th place:

EDF: Electoral District Freshening: Oh, “gerrymandering” sounds so unsavory. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)
3rd place:

**EDF: Elf Defies Fate:** Jeff Sessions’s tagline on memos as he keeps his job for one more week. (As of press time.) (Ellen Ryan, Rockville, Md.)

2nd place

and the **pink rubber octopus fingers:**

**DEF: “Don't Even” Face:** “I was just about to float the idea of having the guys over for poker night, but I got the DEF.” (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial:

**FED: Flagrantly Elementary Deduction:** Printable euphemism for “No @ $ %, Sherlock.” (Peter Shawhan, Silver Spring, Md.)

Lo-DEF: Honorable mentions

**Defenders of Flat Earth:** “Our members are fighting for truth around the globe.” (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

**Domestic Fish Eggs:** Low-rent caviar — a.k.a. “skid roe.” (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

messages. (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

**Duplicity For Everyone:** You can fool all of the people some of the time, so let’s go ahead and do that. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

**Extraterrestrial Defense Fund:** Established in Roswell, N.M., to assist illegal aliens. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

**Electronic Deposit Fairy:** She puts the tooth money right into the kids’ bank accounts. (Julia Shawhan, Silver Spring, Md.)

**Escalators Down Forever:** Revised, pragmatic Metro repair schedule. (David Friedman, Santa Clara, Calif., an ex-Arlingtonian)

**Expressive Digit Fluency:** Sign-language requirement for cabbies. (Jon Gearhart)

“Emailing For Dollars”: The most popular game show in Nigeria. (Jesse Frankovich)

Elaborate Fling Denial: "I can overexplain everything!" (Tom Witte)
**Ever-Fluid Disclosure:** "Meeting? What meeting? There was no ... Oh,"

**Elaborate Fling Denial:** "I can overexplain everything!" (Tom Witte)

**Ever-Fluid Disclosure:** "Meeting? What meeting? There was no ... Oh, yeah ... there was a meeting – but no one important was there. Except a Russian or two. All we talked about was adoption. Emails? Specifying ‘oppo research’ on Hillary? There were no — Oh, right ... there were some emails. But no one we know was included. Except ... maybe Don Jr. And Kushner. And Manafort ..." (Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

**Ego-Feeding Department:** One federal agency that’d be sure to be fully funded. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

**Ex Facie Donaldus** ("From the face of Donald"): Bracketed term used to indicate that the previous statement is an obvious lie. (John McCooy, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

**Ex Flagrante Delicto:** Caught cheating on your spouse, with your former spouse. (Mark Raffman)

**EFD:** "What do you mean I’m a B-FD? I’m ENORMOUS." (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park, Md.)

**Freeze-Dried Escargot:** What French astronauts eat. (Jesse Frankovich)

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**Fairy Dust Economics.** How to cut taxes and still reduce the budget deficit by 2020. (Mark Raffman)

**Fatal Dating Error** “So, I’ve asked my mother to join us for dinner.” (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church, Va.)

**Flog Deceased Equine:** "Here’s our 873rd piece on Bengazi,’ Fox announced in yet another FDE." (Duncan Stevens)

**Franklin Delano Eisenhower:** "Probably the third-greatest president after Abe and me." — D.J.T. (Dave Zarrow, Reston, Va.)

**Foreign Dignitaries’ Entrances** The back door of the White House. (Josh Feldblyum, Philadelphia)

**Females for Erectile Dysfunction:** Women of a certain age who, quite frankly, have had enough already. (Nan Reiner)

**Front End Deficiency:** Marketing-agency term for a breast that does not meet Hollywood standards. (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

**Firing Every Day** "Mr. President, what will be your main focus for the remainder of your term?" "I’m gonna keep going with the FED." (Stephen Gold, London)

**Flat-Earth Days:** The unit of time it takes the world to flip over twice. (Jesse Frankovich)
Danger! Flailing Elephants!: Warning sign posted outside the Capitol. (Julia Shawhan)

Executive Daily Flattery: That folder presented to the president twice a day with only positive articles about him. (Lynne Ann Larkin, Vero Beach, Fla.)

Emergency Fruitcake Delivery: A post-Christmas service provided by regifting centers. (Chris Doyle)

Funky Diaper Examination: A close encounter of the turd kind. (Chris Doyle)

Facebook Etiquette Directive: Don’t feed the trolls! (Chris Doyle)

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Fidelity Enthusiasm Depletion: Malaise that commonly affects marriages after several years (or three months for those involving professional entertainers, athletes or Kardashians). (John Hutchins, Silver Spring, Md.)

And Last: Failed-Entry Dumpster: The Empress’s trash can. “Welp, another whole page for the FED.” (Chris Doyle)

Still running — deadline Monday, Aug. 28: Our contest to fill in a partial crossword. See wapo.st/invite1241.