Style Invitational Week 1304: What if you could wonder... whatever?

Plus the winning ‘thirteening’ of movie plots to make something go wrong

(Boo Staake for The Washington Post)

By Pat Myers
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(Click here to skip down to the winning “13” movies)

- What if we evolved from reptiles? We would go to McDonald’s and order a Big Rat and an order of flies. (Jonathan Paul)

- What if, instead of air bags, they put sharp metal spikes on the steering column? Seat belt use would go way up. (Art Grinath)

- What if men really did enjoy being “just held and cuddled”? What would they carry in their wallets — tiny packets of Snuggle fabric softener? (Sue Lin Chong)

- What if instead of an Easter Bunny, we had an Easter Fish? It sure would be tricky, decorating caviar. (Jean Sorensen)

Here’s a contest that’s as wide open as they come, and I think the only time the Invite ran it was all the way back in 1993, in the pre-Empress days of the Czar. **This week: Present a “what if” scenario and explain its effect,** as in the examples above from Week 140.

Submit entries at the website wapo.st/enter-invite-1304 (all lowercase).
Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a **Bovine Recycling Two-Pack** consisting of a nice little blank-paper journal of paper made from cattle dung (donated by Dave Prevot), plus a dainty, Chihuahua-size “candy cane” dog chew made from beef pizzle, which is the bull’s, you know, pizzle. Donated by Donna Peremes.

**Other runners-up** win our “**You Gotta Play to Lose**” Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, “I Got a B in Punnishment” (or perhaps a new design). Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, “**We’ve Seen Better**” or “**IDiot Card.**” First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, Nov. 12; results published Dec. 2 (online Thursday, Nov. 29).** See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The “Wryday the 13th” headline was submitted by both Mark Raffman and Beverley Sharp; Kevin Dopart and Jesse Frankovich each submitted this week’s honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. “Like” Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Face-book at bit.ly/invofday; 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/conv1304; this week the Empress looks back on the linking entries of Week 140, the last time we did this week’s contest.

**And from The Style Invitational four weeks ago . . .**

**WRYDAY THE 13TH: MOVIE REPILOTS FROM WEEK 1300**

To celebrate **Week 1300**, going with the debatable premise that “13” in a film title signifies that something will really mess up, we asked you to “13” a real movie and describe the plot.

**4th place**

**Pinocchio 13**: The first wooden president finds his arms are too short to pick his nose. (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

**3rd place**

**Snakes on a Plane 13**: The would-be assassin is foiled when a gate agent questions his “emotional support viper.” (David Peckarsky, Tucson)

**2nd place**

**and the Hebrew Ben & Jerry’s T-shirt:**

**Bad News Bears 13**, Washington Nationals 6 (Ken Gallant, Sequim, Wash.)

**And the winner of the Lose Cannon:**

**Basic Instinct 13**: Sharon Stone uncrosses her legs, flashing her Depends. (Dave Matuskey, Sacramento)

**Gaffers: Honorable mentions**
All Quiet on the Western Front 13: German soldiers in World War I look up and watch their ace pilot battle a flying doghouse. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

 Taxi Driver 13: Travis Bickle finds a welcoming work environment at Uber. (Mark Raffman)

13 Dalmatians: The remaining pooches will stop at nothing to avenge their 88 littermates who didn’t escape Cruella de Vil’s fur coat factory. (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

 Animal House 13: New pledge Brett Blutarsky, a studious young man from Washington, just pumps iron and “works his tail off.” (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

 The Social Network 13: Instead of presenting the entire movie, the projectionist shows you, in random order, the parts of the movie that he thinks you will like best. (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

 Casablanca 13: Ilsa can’t escape to the United States because of a hastily passed travel ban for travelers from Morocco, upheld by a 5-4 Supreme Court. (Duncan Stevens)

 Casablanca 13: Rick gently but firmly pushes Ilsa into the plane, insisting that “Really, Paris was enough.” as his “special friend” Louis looks on. (Rob Huffman)

 Casablanca 13: Ilsa thought she would always have it, but the 4.2-ounce bottle of Paris Eau de Parfum doesn’t get past security and the plane leaves without her. She regrets it that day, the next, and for the rest of her life. (Kevin Dopsart, Washington)

 Being There 13: An aging simpleton with a child’s understanding of the world is presented as a presidential candidate — and wins! (Dave Airozo, Silver Spring, Md.)

 Seven Plus Six: After working his way through the Seven Deadly Sins, sociopath John Doe justifies more bizarre murders by tying them to the Six Hurtful Sins, including forgetting an anniversary and leaving the toilet seat up. (Peter Boice, Rockville, Md.)

 Singin’ in the Rain 13: A soaked-through Gene Kelly is left with a less than glorious feeling as he catches a nasty cold. (John McCoey, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

 Speed 13: Our hero must defuse a bomb on a moving Segway without letting it dip below 5 mph. (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

 The Little Mermaid 13: As Ariel saves the Prince from the sinking boat and is taking him to shore, a large fin appears behind them . . . (Dave Prevar, Annapolis, Md.)

 13 Shades of Grey: His promiscuity having finally caught up to him, Christian Grey exhibits symptoms of multiple venereal diseases. His urologist has never seen anything quite so . . . colorful. (Bill Dorner)

 Animal Crackers 13: Captain Spaulding is back from the dead and he wants his pajamas back. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis, Md.)

 Apollo 13 13: During Elon Musk’s maiden voyage, his ego becomes so big that it perforates the spaceship’s hull, necessitating a dangerous rescue. (Steve Honley, Washington)
**Bee Movie** 13: Jerry Seinfeld riffs for 72 minutes about how the number 13 looks like the letter B. (J. Larry Schott, West Plains, Mo.)

**13 Pretty in Pink**: Prom turns into a brawl when 13 girls turn up wearing the same pink dress. (Jane Auerbach, Los Angeles)

**Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid** 13: The boys head down to Venezuela and rob banks, but nobody cares because the currency is worthless. (Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

**E.T.** 13: A severe allergic reaction to peanuts ends young E.T.’s life as it eats some candy left for it by the well-meaning Elliott. The boy grows up racked with guilt, sending reams of hate mail to Reese’s executives. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond, Va.)

**Hair** 13: The shining gleaming streaming flaxen waxyen goes bald. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

**Iron Man** 13: Tony Stark falls prey to a villainous plot when he orders a new suit and agrees to get the rustproofing. (Jesse Frankovich)

**Manhattan** 13: The film ends abruptly when an old creep is finally busted for soliciting a minor. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

**Mary Poppins** 13: When Mary’s umbrella tears, she reaches terminal velocity in 5.6 seconds. (David Young, Falmouth, Mass.)

**Pocahontas** 13: She agrees to return to England with John Smith and becomes a member of Parliament, but her heritage is ridiculed by King James as just “high cheekbones.” (Kevin Doptap)

**Field of Dreams** 13: A farmer gets hauled before the Dyerville, Iowa, zoning commission for building an unauthorized recreational facility. (Duncan Stevens)

**James Bond** 13: James meets a woman named “Octopussy” and . . . never mind. That’s just TOO stupid. (Todd DeLap, Fairfax, Va.)

**Last Tango in Paris** 13: At exactly the wrong time, Marlon Brando finds the refrigerator is empty. (Mark Raffman)

**Lady and the Tramp** 13: Tramp loses interest after Animal Control rounds him up in a trap-neuter-return program. (Jeff Contompasis)

**Psycho** 13: Norman Bates’s status as a Korean War veteran finally gets verified, and he begins the process of submitting paperwork to Veterans Affairs seeking treatment for mental illness. (Bill Spencer, Cockeysville, Md.)

**Raiders of the Lost Ark** 13: Indiana Jones finds the elusive ark, only to discover that all it contains is the remains of Millard Fillmore. (Steve Fahey, Kensington, Md.)

**The Sound of Music** 13: After fleeing the Nazis and settling in the United States, all is well with the von Trapps until Stephen Miller discovers they once sought public assistance in 1945 and deports them all back to Austria. (Frank Mann, Washington)

**Still running — deadline Monday night, Nov. 5**: Our neologism contest in which you replace two letters with two other letters. See wapo.st/invite1392.

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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 🐦