

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

Week 791:
The 1K
Club



BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Today, with his Losing entry in this week's results, the phenomenally clever wordsmith Chris Doyle becomes the second Loser to be published 1,000 times in The Style Invitational, joining Russell Beland in the Double Hall of Fame. The amazing thing is that, except for seven entries, Chris did not start playing the Invite until March 2000, seven years after the contest began. Since then, Chris has managed to amass not only vats of Invitational ink, primarily in wordplay and poetry contests but also an incomparable 37 first-place finishes (he's been declining Inkers for years) and an even 100 runners-up. And much of this while the retired Defense Department big shot was traveling several times around the world, sending entries from Internet cafes, ferries, yak hookups, etc., along the way.

So what was Chris doing before 2000? He was a star of the fabled New York Magazine Competition, whose memory we regularly honor by stealing from it. In that spirit, we offer up this NYMag perennial contest: **This week: Supply a chain of 20 names — they may be names of people, places, organizations, products, etc., but they must be names — beginning and ending with "Chris Doyle."** The links can be based on a similarity between the names themselves or, better, on some humorous relationship between the two elements. For example, Chris's chain on "George W. Bush" from Week 732 finished with "Molly Pitcher, Nolan Ryan, the KKK, David Duke, Mike Krzyzewski, Carlos Boozer, A.A. Milne, Christopher Robin, Batman, Lestat de Lioncourt, Anne Rice, Condoleezza Rice, George W. Bush." That won a T-shirt. See all of the Week 732 chains at washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational (scroll down past that week's new contest).

Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives the latest in our series of Funny Hats Sent From Beijing, from Drew Bennett of West Plains, Mo., and modeled by Washington Post Scion Ava Beard (not included).

Other runners-up win a coveted Style Invitational-Loser T-shirt. Honorable Mentions get one of the lusted-after Style Invitational Magnets. First Offenders get a smelly tree-shaped air freshener (Fir Stink for their First Ink). One prize per entrant per week. Send your entries by e-mail to losers@washpost.com or by fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Nov. 24. Put "Week 791" in the subject line of your e-mail, or it risks being ignored as spam. Include your name, postal address and phone number with your entry. Contests are judged on the basis of humor and originality. All entries become the property of The Washington Post. Entries may be edited for taste or content. Results will be published Dec. 13. No purchase required for entry. Employees of The Washington Post, and their immediate relatives, are not eligible for prizes. Pseudonymous entries will be disqualified. The revised title for next week's results is by Tom Witte, who has 972 Inks himself. This week's Honorable Mentions headline is by Andrew Hoenig. Statistics are courtesy of Loser Elden Camahan at www.gopherdool.com.