

Style Invitational

BY PAT MYERS

Report from Week 1054

our annual Dead Letters contest, for poems to commemorate people who died in 2013. We received odes to everyone from Nelson Mandela to the poor lady who died in the traffic jam on the George Washington Bridge.



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Etch-a-Sketch Inventor Andre Cassagnes:

Andre Cassagnes, your Etch-a-Sketch showed us
We needn't just tweak, fix and patch.
That sometimes the best course, for peasant or POTUS,
Is shake and start over from scratch.
(Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

THE
WINNER
OF THE
INKIN'
MEMORIAL

2 Winner of the little bottle of "anointing oil" containing frankincense, myrrh and spikenard PLUS a container of Dr. Wacko's Silly Sludge:

Sir David Frost:

After three years' hibernation
Richard Nixon faced the nation.
In a five-part interview,
We learned just what Nixon knew.
With icy stare, he looked exhausted.
You might well say he was D. Frosted.
(Mike Duffy, Butte, Mont.)

3 Novelist Elmore Leonard:

'Passed'?" Elmore Leonard said.
"The f— is that? I'm dead." (Chris O'Carroll, Emporia, Kan.)

4 Cal Worthington, king of the used car salesmen:

Jingling-kingling,
Calvin "Cal" Worthington,
Tooled up to Heaven, went
Straight to the Lord.
Brimming with hucksterish
Conviviality,
Sold Him a peachy-keen
'63 Ford. (Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

Stuffed: honorable mentions

Special-effects artist and stop-motion filmmaker Ray Harryhausen:

Harryhausen made ten thousand
Models out of clay:
Of skeletons and Argonauts and
dinos in their day.
He photographed them, move by
move,
On land, in air and ocean.
But age and time both took their toll:
Now Ray has stopped his motion.
(Christopher Lamora, Los Angeles)

Eleanor Parker, the baroness in "The Sound of Music":

I concede that Maria did have a nice
voice,

But Georg von Trapp, he made the
wrong choice.
A skinny and innocent wannabe nun?
Baroness Schraeder looked way, way
more fun. (Tom Witte, Montgomery
Village)

Mousketeer Annette Funicello:

Annette, Annette, we watched you
grow
(As adolescent boys, you know).
Each passing week brought out our

cheers:

"They're getting bigger than her
ears!" (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

USA Today founder Al Neuharth:

Al Neuharth died at 89,
(No room to publish second line.)
(Rob Cohen Potomac)

Porn star Harry Reems:

Back in the day Harry Reems was
quite famous for
Starring in less-than-respectable
shows.
Now he's gone stiff again, this time all
over, so
Don't hold your breath for more
mustachey O's. (Danielle Nowlin,
Woodbridge)

Kenneth, 1960s celebrity hairstylist:

Whispered Kenneth, "Although I must
go,
All my secrets you never shall know.
It took tact, grace, and style
To coif Jacqueline, while
Simultaneously poufing Monroe."
(Nan Reiner)

Evangelist Harold Camping, who predicted the world would end in 1994, then 2011:

While Harold Egbert Camping
Was busily revamping
End-time predictions he had blown,
He missed a crucial one — his own.
(Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Tom Clancy's grave sin was his pride.

Told a journalist once, being snide,
"I make more in a day
Than your annual pay!"
(It got left behind when he died.)
(Mark Raffman, Reston)

Longtime White House reporter Helen Thomas:

Helen Thomas at the Gate
Has probing, arch suggestions.
Saint Peter tells her, "Please, just
wait
And let me ask the questions." (Gary
Crockett)

The famed **Lou Reed** has up and
died,
Now walking on the mild side.
Appropriately, he'd be found
Encased in Velvet, Underground.
(Seth Brown, North Adams, Mass.)

Richard Ramirez, a serial killer,
Spent 25 years in a cell,
Then finally died and was able to fill a
Deferred reservation in Hell. (Chris
Doyle, The Villages, Fla.)

The Brits are known (so goes the
quip)
For keeping a stiff upper lip.
For **Margaret Thatcher**, we'd
suppose,
The same is true from head to toes.
(Mark Raffman)

Mayor Koch isn't bogged down
pursuin'
Stats of afterlife credits accruin'
Toward eternal reward;
He goes straight to the Lord,
And says, "Hi, God. It's Ed. How'm I

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

Week 1058: Eastwood Ho

**Good: There is a new man in
your life.**

**Bad: He insists on knowing
where you are every minute of
the day.**

Ugly: He is a parole officer.
(Sandra Hull)

**Good: She says she won't try
to change you.**

Bad: You are 97 years old.

Ugly: She is your nurse.
(Chuck Smith)

Good: You've struck Gold.

Bad: Harvey Gold.

**Ugly: Of the law firm of Gold,
Dershowitz & Scheck.**
(Stephen Dudzik)

That's Eastwood as in "The
Good, the Bad, and the Ugly."
We bring back a contest we've
run just once before, 14 years
ago; the examples above got ink
back in Week 343 (also known
as Week X; don't ask). It's pretty
clear what we're looking for:
**Create a good-bad-ugly
progression in the mold of the
above.**

Winner gets the Inkin'
Memorial, the Lincoln statue
bobblehead that is the official
Style Invitational trophy. Second
place receives the absolutely
fabulous prize pictured here: It's
EneMan, a promotional mascot
issued by Fleet Pharmaceuticals
and donated to us by Invite Fan
but Not a Loser Earl Hughes,
who gave him to the Empress

last month at the Losers' annual
Post-Holiday Party. He (Eneman,
not Earl) is a plushy little
nozzlehead about the size of a
Beanie Baby and every inch as
cute, although you might say he
tends to be stuck up.

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, either the Po' Wit
Laureate or Puns of Steel. 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, Feb. 10; results
published March 2 (online Feb.
27). No more than 25 entries per
entrant per week. Include "Week
1058" 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 subhead for this week's
honorable mentions is by Jeff
Contompasis. Join the lively Style
Invitational Devotees group on
Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev, and
click "like" on Style Invitational
Ink of the Day at bit.ly/inkofday.

STYLE CONVERSATIONAL Have a question for the Empress or want to talk
to some real Losers? Join us at washingtontimes.com/stylconversational.

doin'?" (Nan Reiner)

The Russian man who filmed himself accidentally being killed by falling rubble:

Evgeny Titov used his cell
To film a building's poor condition,
And shot the very brick that fell
And caused his selfie-demolition.
(Frank Osen)

"Star Wars" makeup artist Stuart Freeborn:

Your work is beloved: the look of a
Wookiee,
The gut of the Hutt, and the whole
Ewok clan,
But your best, the green Jedi you
made in your image,
Is what makes the world hail you
thus: "Yoda man!" (Danielle Nowlin)

More obit poems in the online Invite at
bit.ly/invite1058.

**Still running — deadline Monday
night — our contest for fake sports
trivia. See bit.ly/invite1057.**



**It's the superhero that makes the
bad guys get up and go: It's . . .
EneMan, this week's 2nd prize.**