

Entertainment

Style Invitational Week 1263: Playing the short game

Combine Olympic country codes for novel matchups; plus winning euphemisms



Above and below are our new Loser Magnets for honorable mentions, designed as always by Bob Staake. They may be the size of a business card, but the Empress orders only 500 of each — and so they're really limited-edition Staake mini-prints. And they're not for sale, of course: You gotta play to lose. The slogans were inking entries in our 2015 contest for magnet ideas; "We've Seen Better" is by Brendan Beary, "IDiot Card" by Beverley Sharp. (Bob Staake for TWP/Bob Staake for TWP)

By Pat Myers January 18 [Email the author](#)

(Click [here to skip down](#) to the winning euphemisms from Week 1259)

If Canada (CAN) played the Netherlands (NED), the cheering from the stands would sound oddly inauthentic. (Duncan Stevens)

If Honduras (HON) played Estonia (EST) in soccer, there would be no cheating and diving, for once. (Chris Doyle)

If Germany (GER) played the University of North Dakota (UND), there would be running, jumping, yelling, cheering ... (Duncan Stevens)

This week's contest developed from [a recent brainstorm](#) in the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook, where the power of 1,500 brainy brains is frittered away day after day. ([Join up](#) and the Devotees will anagram your name in more ways than you thought possible.) The Olympics are coming up, and although it's a Winter Games year, that won't stop the Empress from wildly broadening our own game: **This week: Using the three-letter Olympic national abbreviations and/or the abbreviation for any college, tell what would happen if one abbreviated team played another**, as in the examples above from the

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Facebook back-and-forth. Naturally, it doesn't matter if the country or school doesn't really field a team in whatever sport you might cite. Find the Olympic abbreviations (on Wikipedia) at wapo.st/olympic-codes (here is a [printable PDF](#)); for colleges with football teams (via Reddit), see wapo.st/college-abbrev (and a [PDF for them as well](#)). You may also use valid abbreviations for non-football schools. **Note:** If you give the abbreviation without saying what it stands for, the Empress will toss you off the field.

Submit up to 25 entries at the website wapo.st/enter-invite-1263 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the [Lose Cannon](#), our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives, apropos of this week's globally conscious contest, **The Official Style Invitational Yodeling Pen**, a.k.a. Jodelkulli, brought back from Munich by Loser Since Week 22 Elden Carnahan. Listen to it — and you really must — at wapo.st/yodel-pen.

Other runners-up win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Punmanship." Honorable mentions get one of our new 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, Jan. 29;** results published Feb. 18 (online Feb. 15). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Jesse Frankovich; Jesse also wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Suzanne Barnhill offered up the PDFs for the abbreviations. 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](https://twitter.com/StyleInvite) on Twitter.

The Style Conversational The Empress's weekly online column 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 . . .](#)

TO PUT IT MILDLY: WINNING EUPHEMISMS (AND DYSPEMISMS)

For [Week 1259](#), after hearing that staffers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had been advised not to use [seven certain terms](#) in budget documents, the Empress ran a contest for euphemisms, terms that make unpleasant concepts seem less so. Of course, most of the civilized world doesn't need to disguise "science-based" or "diversity."

4th place:

Imprisoned: Scouting locations for the next Harvey Weinstein movie. (Ben Aronin, Washington)

3rd place:





Starving: In the faminy way. (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

2nd place


and the [Mustard Marvin gadget](#) plus [gross-flavored jelly beans](#):

Serial groper: Outreach engineer. (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park, Md.)

himself, as skewered by cartoons 

3 Celebrities, fashion insiders react to death of Kate Spade 

4 **Review** Sex, politics and art painted in broad strokes in 'Botticelli in the Fire' 

5 **Perspective** Trump's Super Bowl party without the Eagles, as mocked through cartoons 



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The second of this year's Loser Magnets. (Bob Staake for TWP/Bob Staake for TWP)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Excrement: Gross domestic product. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

Differently funny: Honorable mentions

Recession: Fun-size economy. (Bill FitzPatrick, Rochester, N.Y., a First Offender)

Shameless: Morally liberated. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

Climate change: Thermal advancement. (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

Pimples: Beacons of youth. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond, Va.)

Sluggish: Brisk-averse. "Our waiter at Slackers was chatty but extremely brisk-averse." (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Treason: Situational patriotism. (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

Alzheimer's disease: Cognitive decluttering. (Melissa Balmain)

Bad in bed: Horizontally challenged. (Frank Osen)

Projectile vomiting: The fountain of you. (Jeff Shirley)

Slaughterhouse: Animal destiny accelerated fulfillment center. (Jesse Frankovich)

Binge drinking: Imbibitional capacity determination. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Body fat: Core insulation. (Mark Raffman)

Sociopathic: Indifferently abled. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Cancer: Personal growth. (Mark Raffman)

Collusion: Special opportunity for international cooperation. (Jesse Frankovich)

Corruption: Market-based governance. (Ben Aronin)

Rotten meat: E. coli sanctuary. (Melissa Balmain)

Dating someone underage: Mentoring. (Steve Honley, Washington)

Death: Medical bill abatement process. (G. Smith, Vienna, Va.)

Electric chair: Power seating. (David Kleinbard, Mamaroneck, N.Y.)

Halloween vandalism: Free-range eggs. (Bill FitzPatrick)

Hideously ugly: Fashion-forward. (Frank Osen)

Helicopter parent: Intergenerational life coach. (Harold Mantle, Walnut Creek, Calif.)

Metro delay: Station aesthetics admiration session. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Murder: Surprise assisted death. (Davey FitzPatrick, Rochester, N.Y.)

Rudeness: Unvarnished courtesy. (Kevin Dopart)

Solitary confinement: Quiet time. (Davey FitzPatrick)

Swastika: Foldable "X." (Kevin Dopart)

War: Future History Channel programming. (Melissa Balmain)

Wino: Metabolism-challenged fermented-carbohydrate consumer. (Kevin Dopart)

We also invited the opposite — dysphemisms, terms that cast concepts in a worse light:

Critical reasoning skills: Satan's mind games. (Jeff Shirley)

Evidence-based: Disloyal. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis, Md.)

Nuclear button: Micropenis. (Daniel Helming, Maplewood, N.J.; Randy Lee, Burke, Va.)

Subjective: Whatever. (John O'Byrne, Dublin)

Fry cook: Arteriosclerosis engineer. (Jesse Frankovich)

Eats & Drinks newsletter

The latest buzz on the D.C. area dining and bar scene, featuring restaurant critic Tom Sietsema, every Wednesday.

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Optimized: Slowed. — Tim Cook, Cupertino, Calif. (Jeff Contompasis)

Family-friendly: ZZZZ. (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Jan. 22: our backward-crossword contest. See wapo.st/invite1262.

0 Comments





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 @patmyersTWP](#)

The Post Recommends

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It was one of the largest workplace immigration raids in recent years, and it left dozens of the workers' children stranded at day-care centers and with babysitters, local activists said.

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Perspective

Ask Amy: Mother worries about daughter's heavy drinking

Reader's adult child drove home from Mom's after drinking an entire bottle of wine.

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Oregon man breaks woman's arm, knocks out her fiancée in road rage attack, police say

The angry driver allegedly reached into Megan Stackhouse's window, twisting and breaking her arm before punching her in the face.

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