

The Style Invitational

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

Week 714: Amalgamated Steal



BY BOB STAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Grey Poupon and Dockers are expected to become PouponPants.

Polygram Records, Warner Bros. and Zesta Crackers join forces and become Poly Warner Cracker.

Zippo Manufacturing, Audi Motors, Dofasco and Dakota Mining will merge and become ZipAudiDoDa.

Are't those combinations marvelous? Well, they've been marveled about extensively in print, not to mention online, since at least 1998. According to a Nexis search, a list of these and other clever corporate mergers has been printed 47 times in major publications. Sometimes they're credited to the readers who sent them in. Sometimes they're credited to the other newspaper writer who printed them. A few times they're called anonymous. Quite often they're not credited at all, leaving the reader to assume they were original. Okay, clever person who wrote these, here's your chance: Step up and be celebrated. And it would be really, really!!! stupid if you lied, you know?

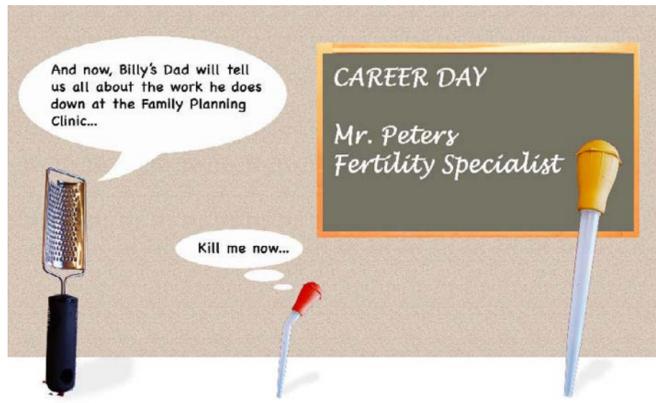
For the rest of you: **Merge two or more company or product names into a new, ORIGINAL company or product.** You may want to explain what it does or makes, if that makes it funnier.

Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. First runner-up gets "The Big Book of Duh!: A Bathroom Book," which features lots of dumb things people say and do. The Empress will sign it so that its resale value will plummet.

Other runners-up win a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt. Honorable Mentions (or whatever they're called that week) get one of the lusted-after Style Invitational Magnets. 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, May 28. Put "Week 714" 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 June 17. No purchase required for entry. Employees of The Washington Post, and their immediate relatives, are not eligible for prizes. Pseudonymous entries will be disqualified. This week's contest was suggested by Kevin Dopart, who also supplied this week's Honorable Mentions name. The revised title for next week's contest is by Tom Witte of Montgomery Village.

REPORT FROM WEEK 710

Our third photo contest, in which we asked for funny photos involving kitchen utensils and household gadgets. This contest is just about the opposite of our annual horse names contest, in that we got, well, pretty much the opposite of 10,000 entries. Which matters not at all. Because we got these:



AND THE WINNER OF THE INKER
(Jeff Brechlin, Eagan, Minn.)



3 High tea in London, 1976. (Jay Shuck, Minneapolis)

2 The winner of the Roy Orbison car antenna ornament and the Perfect Parker: "Wait a minute — you're going to be sitting in melted chocolate, and I'm going to be stuck WHERE?" (Dennis Lindsay, Seabrook)



NOT THE SHARPEST KNIVES



So would you girls like to come up to our place? (Jane Auerbach, Los Angeles)



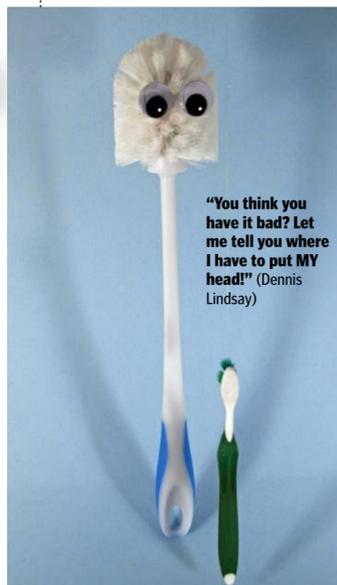
Fortunately for the Gellers, Uri's sister Suri could use the power of her mind to straighten bent spoons. (Jeff Brechlin)



Keith Richards and Dad. (Jay Shuck)



As soon as he accepted the job, Mr. Spooner realized he might have a problem answering the phone at this restaurant. (Jeff Brechlin)



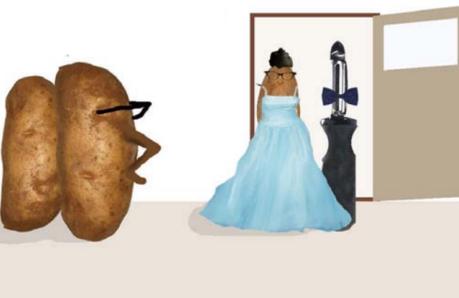
"You think you have it bad? Let me tell you where I have to put MY head!" (Dennis Lindsay)



Prince Harry is the subject of yet another Pepper ROTC photo. (Bob, Rosalie and David Dalton, Arlington)



"No, honey, it's not all that tea that makes Grandma act that way these days." (Jane Auerbach)



"Have her back by 11, kid, and don't think I don't know what you have on your mind." (Jeff Brechlin)

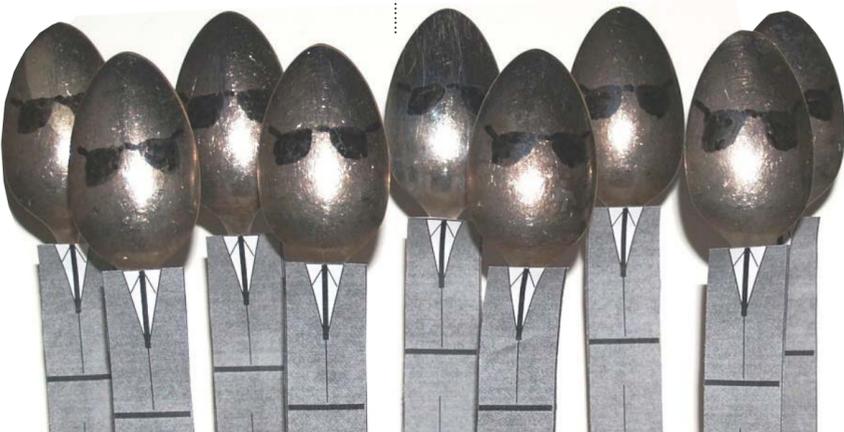


(Jeff Brechlin)



Spoon River Gothic (Drew Bennett, Alexandria)

Next Week: *Join Now!* or *Hitching Posts*



Spoon Feds. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)