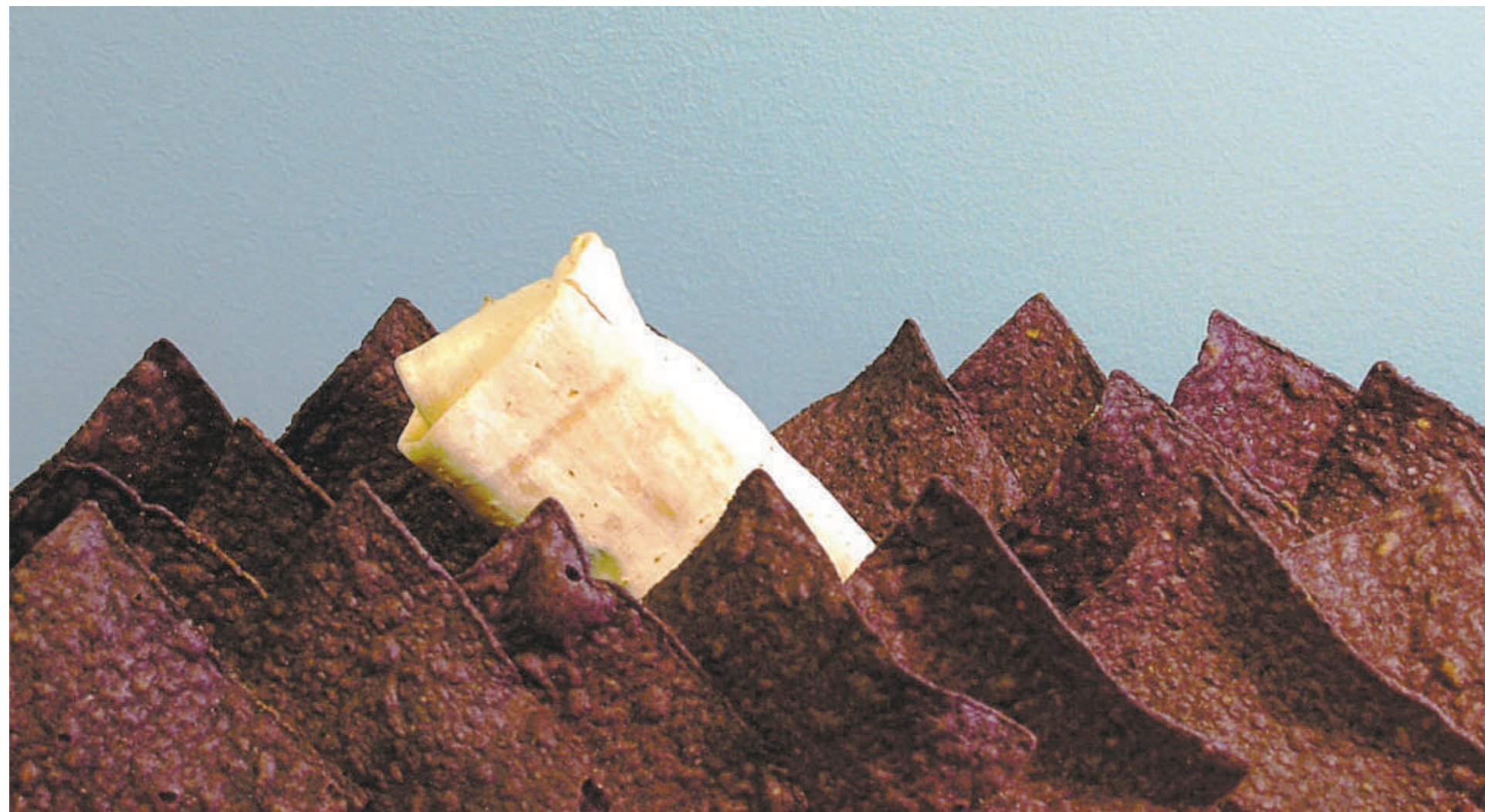


The Motley Food

WINNERS OF THE 2011 EDIBLE-ART CONTEST

What, you expected pretty gingerbread snowflakes? ¶ Just about every week for 19 years, we've asked the readers of The Style Invitational, The Post's famously irreverent humor/wordplay contest, to pull off varied feats of verbal agility, daring wit or just spit-out-your-coffee ha-has — everything from coining new words to writing limericks to telling Your Mama jokes. And the corps of regular Invite contestants — proudly called the Losers, after the slogan on the T-shirts awarded to runners-up — rises to challenge after challenge, zinging us merrily but

boldly with edgy, timely wit. ¶ Then, five weeks ago, we asked Invitational readers to put away their keyboards — and open their cupboards — for a contest to portray people or events from the 21st century using only food as materials. With a few exceptions, the winning entries from Week 945 aren't elaborately crafted works of culinary sculpture; in fact, our winner is darned minimalist. But they certainly reflect the Style Invitational's renowned mix of highbrow and lowbrow humor, not to mention those groaner puns.



THE WINNER OF THE INKER

"Bin Laden 2011: That's a Wrap" by Alethea and Kevin Dopart, Washington

When we asked for edible art depicting events of the 21st century — and remember, we were asking Style Invitational contestants, a group not exactly known for excessive good taste — we feared we'd be seeing fondant planes flying into cream-wafer Twin Towers, or little

pretzel-stick people washed away in a meringue tsunami. Or some horribly gory diorama of a gingerbread house in Pakistan visited by SEAL Team 6.

Kevin Dopart — a traffic safety expert for the nonprofit consulting company Noblis and, more important, the Style Invitational's top ink-scorer for each of the past five years — typically didn't shy from bold material. But he

and his daughter Alethea, a recent Wellesley international-relations graduate who just started a job with the World Bank ("this contest was the end of her fun employment," Kevin says), managed to depict the disposal of an evil man's corpse with a humorously minimalist, themed elegance: a burrito slipping through a sea of blue tortilla chips.



SECOND PLACE

"Hard to Swallow: The GOP Field" by Alethea and Kevin Dopart

Featuring Prawn Paul, Herman Cane, Fig Newt, Mitt Rameny, M'shell Bokmann and Rick Pear-y. Notable among the materials: potato lecterns; "Bokmann's" head of bok choy and pasta-shell mouth; and Pear-y's eyebrows of, ahem, Nutella. The Dopart daughter-father team scores again with the groaner puns for which the Invite is renowned, not to mention especially fetching depictions of the Republican presidential candidates (Herman Cain had not yet dropped out). If anything, they all look a little too dignified.



THIRD PLACE

"MalloMars Rover: Search for S'more Data" by Abigail Fraeman, St. Louis

Abigail, a grad student at Washington University, is a collaborating scientist on NASA's Mars rover missions, and here she applies her technical expertise to a vehicle made with a graham cracker body; Famous Amos wheels; antennas and instruments of pretzels and marshmallows; a Hershey-bar solar array; and a terrain (martain?) of, duh, Mallomars. Abigail is the daughter of veteran Invitational Loser Kathy Hardis Fraeman, but she's a First Offender herself.

FOURTH PLACE

"Bean Weingarten" by Craig Dykstra, Centreville, based on an idea by Valerie and Annie Dykstra, his wife and college-freshman daughter

Certainly the most impressively executed of this array of (dis)gustatory art, this leguminous mosaic rates as Invite material because only a true Loser would work for 23 hours to depict Gene Weingarten — The Post's humor columnist and the founder of the Style Invitational — in 5,000 pieces of six varieties of flatulence-generating plant matter. Unfortunately, this fine portrait now exists only as a photo: 242-time Invitational Loser Craig Dykstra never glued it down in its 30-inch-square frame; instead, he dumped all the beans into a jar to be a door prize at the Losers' upcoming holiday party.



HONORABLE MENTION

"The Bug Apple: New York Hotel Room," by Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.

The 276-time Loser depicts the hospitality industry's critterly scourge with coffee-bean bedbugs atop a lasagna-noodle bedspread and mattress. Taking coffee in bed will never seem the same.

MORE ONLINE See a gallery of these and nine other honorable mentions at [washingtonpost.com/style/invitational](http://www.washingtonpost.com/style/invitational).

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST: WEEK 950

Of all the nerve!

In his classic 1968 book "The Joys of Yiddish," Leo Rosten defined "chutzpah" as "gall, brazen nerve, effrontery, incredible 'guts,' presumption plus arrogance." As he often did in the book's definitions, Rosten included a joke as an example, further defining "chutzpah" as "that quality enshrined in a man who, having killed his mother and father, throws himself on the mercy of the court because he is an orphan." But these days the word isn't always used pejoratively; sometimes it's spoken with admiration for sheer gutsiness.

This week, as Loser Jim Lubell suggests: **Give us a humorous example of hypothetical (or true, but remember humorous) chutzpah**, along the lines of Rosten's example above. It may be the quality of the writing, not just the idea, that determines what will get ink this time.

Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a lovely teeny-tiny music box that you have to keep cranking to make work. How Loserly is that? On top of that, it plays "If I Only Had a Brain." Donated by Dave Prevar.

Other runners-up win their choice of a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt or yearned-for Loser Mug. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet. First Offenders get a tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Dec. 26; results published Jan. 15 (Jan. 13 online). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include "Week 950" in your e-mail subject line or it may be ignored as spam. Include your real name, postal address and phone number with your entry. See contest rules and guidelines at washingtonpost.com/style/invitational. The revised title for next week is by Beverley Sharp; the headline for this week's results is by Kevin Dopart, who just can't win enough stuff. Join the Style Invitational Devotees on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev.

STYLE CONVERSATIONAL

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