

Style Invitational

BY PAT MYERS

Report from Week 975

in which we asked you to debunk a "Sixth Myth" in one of a dozen topics that have been featured in the "5 Myths" essays of The Post's Sunday opinion section, Outlook:

THE
WINNER
OF THE
INKIN'
MEMORIAL

White people: White people don't lack rhythm, they just hear a different drummer — and HE lacks rhythm. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Mythellaneous: Honorable mentions

WHITE PEOPLE: White people don't really have smaller butts; they just look that way because of the clenching. (Larry Yungk, Arlington)

— We also clap and dance and sing loudly in church. But only when we see on our phones that our hockey team scored a goal. (David Genser, Poway, Calif.)

— White people *can* jump, but they are held down by the force of gravitas. (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

— White people *can* dance — who do you think invented the Hokey Pokey? (Roy Ashley, Washington)

FEMALE VOTERS: Female voters do NOT spend hours in the voting booth trying on different candidates. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

— It is not true that female voters

2 Winner of the Spam T-shirt featuring a Spam "ham":

Cheating: Students caught cheating at Harvard Business School are NOT immediately offered positions in the banking industry. They got CAUGHT, for crying out loud. (Larry Gray, Union Bridge, Md.)

3 School food: It is not true that the USDA ever counted ketchup as a vegetable. However, the school lunch program does classify school paste as a grain. (Ellen Raphaeli, Falls Church)

4 The American Dream: It is not uniquely American. People in all countries sometimes dream they've accidentally gone to school without putting any clothes on. (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

tend to vote for the best-looking politician. Rather, they prefer those who offer the most weight loss. (Mark L. Reese Jr., Springfield, a First Offender)

ABRAHAM LINCOLN: It is not true that Lincoln changed his name from Abdul to Abraham to get the Jewish vote. (Rob Cohen, Potomac)

— Despite the billions of likenesses produced, Lincoln's skin did not have a shiny coppery tone. (Larry Yungk)

— Lincoln never actually considered Ron Paul for a Cabinet post. Paul did, however, get a good speaking slot at the 1864 GOP convention. (David Genser)

SCHOOL FOOD: It is a falsehood that school lunches are reprocessed leftovers from airline meals. In fact, they are leftovers from hospitals. (Robert Schechter)

— It is not true that every time a

student drops his cafeteria tray, a teacher gets her horns. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

WATER: Calling water "dihydrogen monoxide" does NOT make you sound smarter. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

BREAST-FEEDING: It is not true that Christina Hendricks's baby almost died from overfeeding. However, her husband was nearly asphyxiated on several occasions. (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

— It is not true that New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg decreed that women may no longer nurse their babies with giant sodas. (Sally Sieracki, Fairfax)

— There actually is no conclusive data showing that babies breast-fed in public will develop an aversion to men with cellphone cameras. (Larry Yungk)

CHEATING: It is not true that the increased influence of corporations in America has had a negative impact on the Supreme Court™. (Les Greenblatt, Ann Arbor, Mich.)

— It is NOT cheating to submit a self-referential entry such as this one and win a prize even though it is not actually a joke. (Robert Schechter)

AMERICA'S DECLINE: This myth should be self-evident: Regardless of how foolish it is, when have Americans declined anything? (Brad Alexander, Wanneroo, Australia)

— America's decline did not in fact begin during the George W. Bush administration. The Style Invitational was first published in 1993. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

More Sixth Myths appear in the online version of this week's Invitational at wapo.st/inv979.

Still running — deadline Monday night — is our "framed couplets" light-verse contest. See wapo.st/inv978.



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST: WEEK 979

The madding crowd

If you have a glass eye, tap on it occasionally with your pen while talking to others.

In the memo field of all your checks, write "for sexual favors."

Joining one of the zillion ongoing discussions on the Style Invitational Devotees page on Facebook, Loser David Genser — who'd amassed more than 300 blots of Invitational ink before making himself scarce for a full decade, then came roaring back last summer — said he thought "the competition is better now, being on-line and worldwide. Also, the contests tend to be harder. More verse. More complex rules. Less ba-da-boom one-liners."

But we certainly don't want to short-shrift our ba-da-booms.

This week, a contest as straightforward as they come, based on a list the Empress saw, uncredited, on StumbleUpon.com that she knew the Losers would improve on immeasurably: **Suggest funny, original ways to tick people off**, as in the examples above from that list. They may target a specific person or group.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives, appropriately, a keychain called Annoying Orange; you push a little button and the little, nastily grinning fruit yells at you. Wait, there's more! We'll also throw in Lil' Stinker Bubbles: "Blow bubbles that reek!" It comes in three varieties; this one is Tommy Toilet. Donated ages ago by Peter Metrisko.

Other runners-up win their choice of a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt, a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet. First Offenders get a smelly, tree-shaped air "freshener" (Fir Stink for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, July 16; results published Aug. 5 (online Aug. 3). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include "Week 979" 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/inviterules. The subhead for this week's honorable mentions is by Tom Witte. 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 washingtontimes.com/stylconversational.

MOVIES

Tom Cruise tops Forbes list of highest-paid actors

Tom Cruise led Forbes's annual list of the 100 highest-paid actors, released last week, earning nearly twice that of second-place Leonardo DiCaprio and recapturing his spot among Hollywood's top-earning performers after his recent blockbuster movie "Mission: Impossible."

Cruise, 50, earned \$75 million between May 2011 and May 2012,

Forbes said.

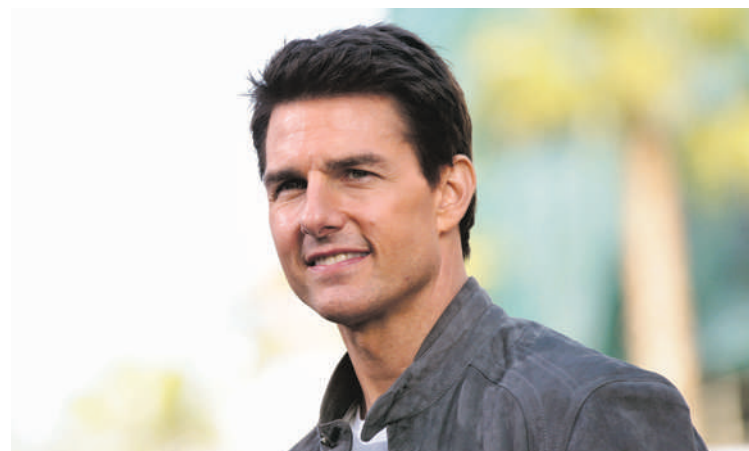
Forbes said Cruise in particular had enjoyed a successful year after "Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol," released last December, earned \$700 million worldwide.

Last year's top earner, DiCaprio, 37, tied for second place with funnyman Adam Sandler, 45, both with \$37 million.

DiCaprio's earnings dropped following his 2010 star turn in "Inception," which grossed \$825 million; his last film, "J. Edgar," disappointed at the box office. Sandler's income included his paycheck from 2011 film "Jack and Jill."

Former professional wrestler Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, 40, came in fourth, earning \$36 million including from his film "Fast Five," which took in \$626 million worldwide, and at No. 5 was comedian Ben Stiller with \$33 million, whose next film "The Watch" about a group of Neighborhood Watch dads, is due for release this month.

— Reuters



MARIO ANZUONI/REUTERS

BACK ON TOP: Tom Cruise earned nearly twice as much last year as Leonardo DiCaprio, Hollywood's second-highest-paid actor.