

# 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](http://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](http://on.fb.me/invdev), and  
click "like" on Style Invitational  
Ink of the Day at [bit.ly/inkofday](http://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](http://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](http://bit.ly/invite1058).

**Still running — deadline Monday  
night — our contest for fake sports  
trivia. See [bit.ly/invite1057](http://bit.ly/invite1057).**



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