

The Style Invitational

By the Empress

Week 746: We Err The World

Saturday, December 29, 2007

China: In Toys We Lead

A couple of years back, we invited you to come up with new mottoes for the 50 states. Loser-275-Times-Over Kevin Dopart, having seen a "Canada -- in six words or less" challenge in Our Northern Neighbor's National Post, suggests that we expand that contest to include all the countries. The Empress has her reservations about this contest, but invites you to cancel them: **This week: Give us a motto or short slogan for any country in the world.**

Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. First runner-up gets a can of Possum Ding Dongs, made with real possum, sent to us by Drew Bennett of West Plains, Mo. Drew wants us to know, however, that "we are much too cosmopolitan in the Ozarks for Possum Ding Dongs," and that he acquired this item in Alabama.



(Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

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Other runners-up win their choice of a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt or yearned-for Loser Mug. 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, Jan. 7. Put "Week 746" 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 Jan. 26. No purchase required for entry. Employees of The Washington Post, and their immediate relatives, are not eligible for prizes. Pseudonymous entries will be disqualified. The revised title for next week's contest is by Dave Prevar.

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Report From Week 742

in which we sought more out-there clues for a crossword that ran in The Post this past May. The puzzle's actual author, the renowned Paula Gamache, got to help with the final judging. She did not, at least to us, declare her creation "violated." Because so many entrants offered something for almost every clue, we ended up with a lot of duplication, but sometimes the funniest answer just happened to be sent in by 32 people. On the other hand, there were a few words for which no one managed anything thrilling. We'll spare you those. (We've included the winner and runners-up below, rather than show them out of order.)

[View the crossword.](#)

ACROSS

1. AVEC: U-Deux song " __ ou Sans Vous" (Randy Lee, Burke)

5. OWES: Calling Mr. Unseld! (David McEwan, Ellicott City)

9. SLIDE: A rule that's out of date (Fred Dawson, Beltsville)

What Kucinich's poll numbers can't do (Russell Beland, Springfield)

14. LILA: Girl Simon & Garfunkel sang about in "The Boxer" (Barbara Turner,

Takoma Park)

CONTINUED [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [Next >](#)

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