

Entertainment

Style Invitational Week 1108: Hearts of dorkness — your funny valentine

Plus the winners of our contest for three-letter abbreviations



(Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

By Pat Myers January 22 at 11:05 AM [Follow @PatMyersTWP](#)

To my Costco cashier:

**If you would be my one true guy
I'd stand in line for days and days.**

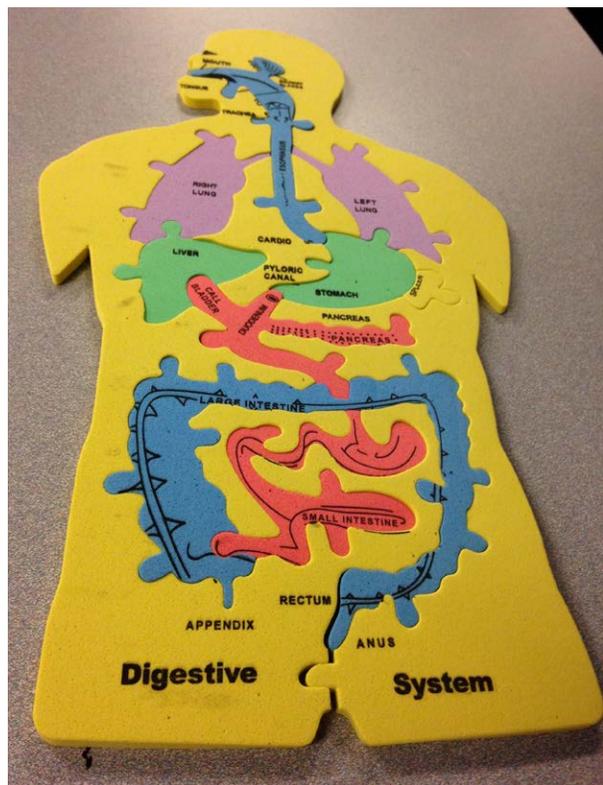
Since without you I can't buy

My 15-gallon mayonnaise. (Andrew Hoenig, Week 645, 2006)

From Poseidon to Medusa:

Oh, how I'd love to run my fingers through your snakes. (Lloyd Duvall, Week 544, 2004)

We're celebrating Valentine's Day in a Loserly way: by running a contest that asks for you to write valentines in January, with results that run a whole week after the holiday, like a forlorn box of chocolates on the clearance rack at Rite-Aid.



Prompted by Loser Daphne Steinberg's suggestion on the [Style Invitational Devotees](#) page on Facebook, the Empress discovered that the Invite had done three valentine contests — but none since 2006. So this week we'll combine elements from the earlier ones for another go: **Write a humorous Valentine's Day sentiment to someone (or to some organization), either real or fictional — either from you or from someone else you name, as in the missives above. Plus an all-new option: We'll also be willing to run at least one really funny, clever, well-executed graphic** (make sure you don't use copyrighted art, and send it as an attachment to

SURGICAL IMPRECISION: No Valentine's heart, but can we interest you in a "call bladder"? This week's second prize. (Pat Myers/The Washington Post)

your e-mail).

Winner gets the [Inkin' Memorial](#), the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy.

Second place receives a colorful foam puzzle of the digestive system, donated by registered nurse and registered Loser Marleen May. Without even bothering to reach for a scalpel, you or your child can yank out a human liver, rectum or even "call bladder."

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 designed by Bob Staake: either "[The Wit Hit the Fan](#)" or "[Hardly Har-Har.](#)" 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. 2; results published Feb. 22 (online Feb. 19). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1108" 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. The headline for this week's results is by Tom Witte; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Chris Doyle. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. "Like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday.

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.

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In [Week 1104](#), we asked you to compare or contrast two or three things (or somehow link them, when we're feeling lenient) that have the same three-letter abbreviation, or are three-letter words. We did this contest last year with abbreviations from AAA through DZZ; this time we have the EAAs-through-HZZs. Sometimes the abbreviation is for a foreign spelling that we're not going to spell out because it is Eesti Olumpiakomitee.

4th place

EAA: The **Experimental Aircraft Association** is *not* the official carrier of the **European Actuarial Academy**. (Kristen Rahman, Silver Spring, Md.)

3rd place

GSA: The **Geological Society of America** has experts on geysers. The **Gerontological Society of America** has experts on geezers. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

2nd place and the fossilized dinosaur poop:

EPA: Majority leader: "Senator, among the **Equal Pay Act**, the **Environmental Protection Agency** and **English Pale Ale**, you may keep only one." Ted Cruz: "Cheers!" (Frank Mann, Washington)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial:

HDP: The law firm **Harness, Dickey & Pierce** and **high-density polyethylene**: "High-Density Polyethylene" would make a lousy title for a porn flick. (Larry Gray, Union Bridge, Md.)

Barking up the wrong 3s: honorable mentions

FAC: Members of the **First Apostolic Church** are theists. Members of the **Freethought Association of Canada** are eh-theists. (Chris Doyle)

HDF: **Hadfield Railway Station** and **high-density fiberboard**: Where can I get the best ham sandwich on the British Railway and what does it taste like? (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

HPD: Histrionic personality disorder and highest posterior density: Both make these letters a great title for Kim Kardashian. (Chris Doyle; Frank Osen)

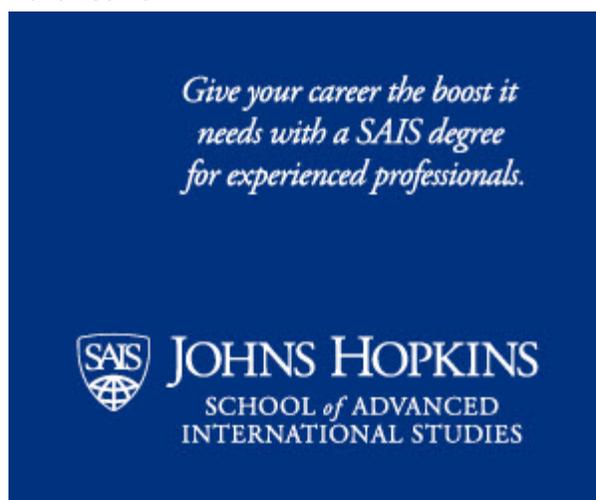
GMA: “Good Morning America” and “Good Morning Australia”: The difference between them is day and night. (Kristen Rahman)

ENS: Empty-nest syndrome and empty-nose syndrome: In both cases, the little boogers are gone. (Chris Doyle)

GGB: Greek government bond and Golden Gate Bridge: If you would buy one, then perhaps I could also interest you in buying the other. (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

And also: The Golden Gate keeps you *above* water. (Kristen Rahman)

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EOK: The Estonian Olympic Committee and the Hellenic Basketball Federation: One is a bunch of guys in Tallinn, Estonia; the other is a bunch of guys who are tall in Greece. (Edmund Conti, Raleigh, N.C.)

GFS: The Girls Friendly Society and the Global Financial System: You don't want to crash the second one. (Mark Raffman)

FCA: Financial collection agency and Funeral Consumers Alliance: I see debt, people.

(Chris Doyle)

FSA: A Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries studies ancient relics — like members of the **Florida Shuffleboard Association**. (Chris Doyle)

EAU: If you say “**eau**,” you’re in French; if you say “**European Association of Urology**,” urine English. (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

ETS: The **Evangelical Theological Society** and the **Educational Testing Service**: Both involve rooms of people beseeching God for the Answer. (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

HSI: High-speed Internet and **horizontal shaft impactor**: One is how we find porn. The other is why. (Rob Huffman)

EAT: If you’re in the shrinking middle class, your **earnings after taxes** might leave you barely able to do this. (Frank Mann)

GNU: The difference between a **wildebeest** and the **free software collaboration group** is that the wildebeests make better dinner party guests. (Todd DeLap, Fairfax, Va.)

GLB: The differences between the **gay, lesbian and bisexual** community and the **Girls’ Life Brigade** Christian youth organization are fewer than you would think. (Todd DeLap)

GMT: With **geometric measure theory**: Here’s looking at Euclid. With the **Giant Magellan Telescope**: Here’s looking at Uranus. (Chris Doyle)

GAG: A device to prevent speech and, ironically, a laugh-provoking act: Both refer to how people see China’s attempt to ban puns. (Frank Osen)

HRA: Health risk assessment and **home runs allowed**: With both, the more people you let score, the worse off you’ll be. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond, Va.)

GAL: “Get a life” and a **galileo**, a unit used measuring local variations in the acceleration of

gravity: For some reason, whenever I start talking about the latter, I hear the former. (Kevin Dopart, Washington; John McCooey, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

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FCI: Federal correctional institution and French Culinary Institute. The first does not use Gruyère in the sauce mornay. (George-Ann Rosenberg, Washington)

HSA: The Haiku Society of America and the Homeland Security Act:

Suspicious package?

Call us! We already know

Your number, neighbor.

(Barbara Turner, Takoma Park, Md.)

FWM: Four-wave mixing, an intermodulation phenomenon in nonlinear optics that will never be understood by . . . (**Frank William Mann,** Washington)

Still running — deadline Monday night: Our biennial “joint legislation” contest in which you combine the names of members of Congress. See bit.ly/invite1107.

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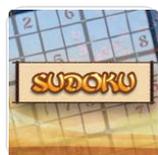


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