

Style Invitational Week 1183: C'mon, be honest

Plus 'BBC And Chill' and other winning ABC, BAC, etc., phrases



If they were more honest, car manufacturers would market "self-braking" cars as "texting-enabling." (Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

By Pat Myers • Entertainment July 7

If carmakers were more honest, they would be marketing automatic braking as "texting-enabling."
(Chris Doyle)

If the prunes called Sunsweet Ones were sold more honestly, they would be called Twos. (Jeff Contompasis)

If graduate schools were more honest, they'd be called Holding Patterns. (Phil Frankenfeld)

This week's contest sprang from [some Loserly musings](#) a while back on the Style Invitational Devotees page on Facebook (yes, you too can join! on.fb.me/invdev — the Devotees will even anagram your name as a welcoming gift). Loser 4 Ever Jeff Contompasis had reported “a germ of a contest idea festering in my brain. If X were more Y it would be Z.” Other Devotees, their brains perhaps similarly festering, weighed in with more ideas. We'll go with one of the suggested Y's: **This week: Write something in roughly the form of “If X were more honest, (then) Y,”** as in the examples above.



Melissa Balmain, a poet who teaches at the University of Rochester, will be adding this fine prize to her many other awards and accolades. (Pat Myers/The Washington Post)

NEW: No more emailing entries! Instead, submit them at this website: bit.ly/enter-invite-1183 (all lowercase).

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

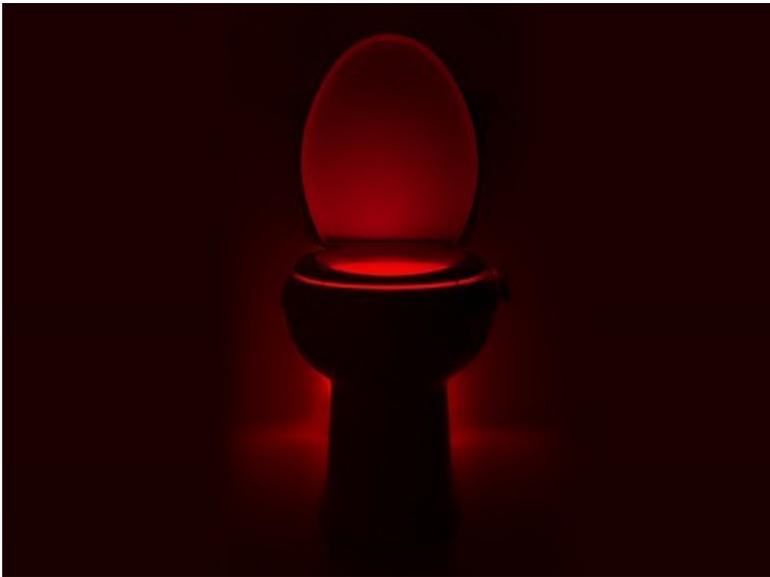
[The Illumibowl](#), a battery-operated, motion-activated device that lights up your toilet bowl in your choice of six colors, or a continuous rotation. (At least yellow is not among them.) If you aspire to compose some blue humor for a future Invite, we gotcher inspiration-throne right here. Donated by That Very Same Jeff Contompasis.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for [Loser Mug](#), the older-model “[This Is Your Brain on Mugs](#)” mug or a vintage Loser T-shirt. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, “[Magnet Dum Laude](#)” or “[Falling Jest Short](#).” First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” ([FirStink](#) for their first ink). Deadline is Monday night, July 18; results published Aug. 7 (online Aug. 4). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. See contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results and the honorable-mentions subhead are both by Jesse Frankovich. 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; follow [@StyleInvite](https://twitter.com/StyleInvite) on Twitter.

🗨️ **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.

ABC'ing You: Report from Week 1179

In [Week 1179](#) we asked for some fanciful ABC (or BAC, CBA, etc.) phrases. "Maniacal Noxious Orange: trending color in spray-on tans," by 155-time Loser Bird Waring, was certainly fanciful, but a tad alphabetically challenged. Loser.



This week's prize, the Illumibowl, is perfect for a "Game of Thrones" fan. Here's one of the six colors the motion-activated light offers. (Illumibowl.com)

4th place:

Business Class Alternative: Leg-shortening surgery so you can fly comfortably in coach. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md., who's about 6-6)

3rd place:

Carolina Bathroom Attendants: "Our business is watching yours." (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

2nd place

and the [farting-grandpa bubble machine](#):

Aryan Battle Cry: "They're bringing drugs, they're bringing crime. They're rapists . . ." (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial:

Cot And Bagel: A low-budget bed and breakfast. (Chris Damm, Charles Town, W.Va.)

A Cut Below: honorable mentions

Concealing By Acronym: A way of hiding one's true message, as in "MAKE AMERICA Get Really Exclusive And Terrifying AGAIN." (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

Assured Commercial Bankruptcy: What was stamped on the business loan application for Leakies brand diapers. (David Kleinbard, Mamaroneck, N.Y.)

Anesthesia by Clinton: Box set of the candidate's favorite policy speeches. (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

Before Advent of Cellphones: Term denoting ancient times. "Your mom's hairstyle is, like, BAC." (Edward Gordon, Austin)

Aluminum Blocking Chapeau: For those special occasions when your ordinary tinfoil hat just won't do. (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church, Va.)

Aging-Brain Cramp: Also known as a senior moment. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Audacious Brass Cojones: A "presidential" quality required to utter phrases like "I am not a crook," "I did not have sexual relations with that woman" or "The Hispanics love me!" (Todd DeLap, Fairfax, Va.)

Census Approximation Bureau: The government's plan to save billions by hiring one guy to browse Google Maps on an iPhone. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond, Va.)

Cummerbunds And Beanies: Specialty fashion store that quickly fired its market research team. (Jeff Shirley)

BBC And Chill: The Anglophile's alternative to Netflix. (George-Ann Rosenberg, Washington)

Bactrian Cataract Acupuncture: An alternative medical procedure in which a needle is passed through the eye of a camel. (Chris Doyle)

Below-Average Children: Lake Wobegon's dirty little secret. (John Hutchins, Silver Spring, Md.)

Certified Business Abomination: The creep in accounting who wants to go over your travel claim with you in person. (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

Beltway's Congested Again: Metro's new slogan, replacing "Sometimes We're Not on Fire" (Alex Jeffrey, Columbia, Md.)

"Arty! (Carnage! Boobs!)": How "Game of Thrones" was pitched to HBO. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Boneless Chicken Association: Raising rubbery, nugget-shaped birds since 1983. (Gordon Cobb, Marietta, Ga.)

"A Bear!" (Crunch.): The final line in Quentin Tarantino's new Goldilocks film. (Amanda Yanovitch, Midlothian, Va.)

Collective Boinking Agreement: Needed when there are lots of friends with lots of benefits. (Duncan Stevens)

Angry Birds Champion: What you should not list under "Awards" on your résumé. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

Cows Blasting Aardvarks: "Shouldn't we try to think of something other than another Angry Birds rip-off, boss?" "Whatever; just code something and get it out the door." (Will Cramer, Herndon, Va.)

“A Bollywood Christmas”: The Hallmark Channel tries “diversity.” (John Hutchins)

Bunyan’s Ax Conundrum: Why is it that even though he’s got the biggest tool, the best Babe he can get is an ox? (Mark Raffman)

Carbon-Based Assistance: Highly unusual phenomenon occurring when your call to customer service is answered by an actual human. (Hildy Zampella)

Cut And Bun: A discount cosmetic surgery clinic. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

Entertainment Alerts

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“Affairs, Being, Confusion”: How fifth-grade wiseacre Ethan Splunk responded when asked by his geography teacher to name three states. (Kimberly Baer, Woodbridge, Va.)

Congressional Buyout Auction: Where lobbyists do their bidding to ensure that Congress also does their bidding. (Jon Gearhart)

Anheuser-Busch Casket: It’s the king of biers! (Chris Doyle)

And Last: **Be Awarded Crap:** Motivational cheer for Style Invitational entrants. (Duncan Stevens)

Still running – deadline Monday night, July 11: Our What3Words map discovery contest. See bit.ly/invite1182.

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