

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

Week 703: Freak Trade Agreements



BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Barter: Baby Items for Disney Tickets "Well, we finally put the twins up for adoption — and we're off to Florida!"



Intermittent Loser Jerry Ewing of Orlando, when not whiling away the hours sending sarcastically flattering e-mails to the Empress, likes to peruse the "Barter" category on the Craigslist classified-ad Web site (the example at left is an actual proposed trade he found) — and wonder about the circumstances that prompted the offers (the example at left is Jerry's own warped speculation). **This week: Think of one thing to trade for another, and supply a short and funny explanation.**

Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. First runner-up gets a little box that may well be the oddest prize ever offered here: One day there mysteriously appeared in the Empress's mailbox an envelope whose return address said "LM" and a street in Ypsilanti, Mich. But the stamps and postmark were from the nation of Oman. Which is where LM presumably found this item, which, because The Washington Post is a little squeamish when it comes to certain body parts, we will call "Dr. James Fitting [Birth Canal] Tablet." The description on the back says that "leucorrhea will be disappeared when Herbal Capsules is inserted," and goes on to promise married women that, er, they will seem younger in a certain way. If you win this prize, we suggest you only look at it.

Other runners-up win a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt. 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, March 12. Put "Week 703" 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 April 1. No purchase required for entry. Employees of The Washington Post, and their immediate relatives, are not eligible for prizes. Pseudonymous entries will be disqualified. This week's Honorable Mentions name is by Mark Eckenwiler. The revised title for next week's contest is by Kevin Dopart.

REPORT FROM WEEK 700

In which we sought presidential campaign slogans for the actual candidates as well as for those who are even less likely to win. Huge response, much of it shockingly stupid ("Root for Rudy"?), along with some that were clever but just too tasteless even for us — sorry, no Sen. Tim Johnson jokes here.

4

JOE BIDEN

You'll Always Know Where He Stands, Because You'll Always Know Where His Foot Is.



(Bob Dalton, Arlington)

2

The winner of the ceramic hamantaschen-shaped grogger:



Alaska's Mike Gravel

Give a Snowball a Chance in Hell!

(Bob Dalton)

3

Hillary Clinton



You Know I Didn't Have Sexual Relations With That Woman!

(Armani Steele, Boston; Bill Cowart, Washington)

AND THE WINNER OF THE INKER



GEN. ERIC SHINSEKI

If You'd Listened to Me, We'd Be Home By Now



(Ira Allen, Bethesda)

DANGLING CHAD

Christopher Dodd: It's Time the Democratic Party Gave a Liberal New Englander a Try (Russell Beland, Springfield)

Lyndon LaRouche: Finally, a Candidate Who Actually Believes the Ridiculous Stuff He Says (Benjamin Cooper, Springfield)

Tom Vilsack: I've Never Heard of Me Either (Jay Shuck, Minneapolis; Danny Groner, Silver Spring)

Marion Barry: Getting Rid of Drugs, One Gram at a Time (Ira Allen)

The All-New McCain Straight-Talk Express for 2008: Now With Multispeed Reverse! (Horace LaBadie, Dunnellon, Fla.)

Dick Cheney: Why Settle for the Lesser of Two Evils? (Mark Eckenwiler, Washington)

Mark Foley: He'll Bring Our Boys Home (Elwood Fitzner, Valley City, N.D.)

Sam Brownback: I'm the Matter With Kansas (Ira Allen)

Dennis Kucinich: He'll Stand Up for America (Oh, Wait, He IS Standing Up) (Bob Dalton)

Howard Dean: EEEAAAGGGGGHH Was Just About Right, Huh? (David Smith, Santa Cruz, Calif.)

John Edwards: Because Every Democratic President Since Truman Has Had a Funny Accent (Russell Beland)

Dick Cheney: Hell, Let's Make It Official (Chris Doyle, on vacation in Tokyo; Chris Rollins, Cumberland, Md.)

Tony Blair: It's PM in America. (John O'Byrne, on vacation in Agra, India)

Barack Obama: It's Time to Do More Than Walk on Water and Cure Lepers (Anne Paris, Arlington)

Lorena Bobbitt: If Elected I Will Not Sever (Russell Beland)

George H.W. Bush: Let Dad Fix It (Benjamin Cooper, Springfield)

Biden-Kerry: Let Us Preface This Shortest Slogan

That Is Suitable for a Bumper Sticker on an SUV That Uses Too Much Fuel and Increases Our Dependence on Foreign Oil, Thereby Forcing Us to Become Involved in the Conflicts Between Arabs and Jews, Arabs and Arabs, Sunni and Shia, Iran and Israel, and Others in the Middle East to Defend a Vital National Interest, Which Reminds Us of the Joke About the Rabbi, the Mullah and . . . (Horace LaBadie)

Lisa Marie Nowak: It's Time for a Change (Ira Allen; Elwood Fitzner)

Hillary Clinton: One for the Price of Two (Drew Bennett, Alexandria)

Lance Armstrong: One Tough Nut (Ben Aronin, Washington)

Joe Biden: The First Mainstream American With Hair Plugs Who Is Articulate and Bright and Clean and a Nice-Looking Guy (Jay Shuck)

Tom Vilsack: As Seen on Cedar Rapids Cable Access TV! (Sue Lin Chong, Baltimore)

Joe Biden: Vote for Me and I'll Shut Up (Ira Allen)

Leonardo DiCaprio : He Knows What It's Like to Ride a Sinking Ship (Jon Reiser, Hilton, N.Y.)

Katherine Harris: She's Got Your Vote! (Bob Dalton)

Dennis Kucinich: Once You Stop Laughing, He Does Make Sense (Bob Kopac, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.)

Jimmy Carter: It's Morning in Palestine (Ira Allen)

Texas Gov. Rick Perry: You Know He'll "Faithfully Execute" (Mark Eckenwiler)

Rove-Cheney: Don't Switch Horses in Midstream (Paul Kondis, Alexandria)

Tom Tancredo: When in Doubt, Fence 'em Out! — That's Tom's Tan Credo (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

Sen. Jon Tester: Don't You Wish We'd Had a President Tester Long Before This? (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

Next Week: Untitlement, or Whatchamacalit

A Czech Mark on Modernism, the Tatra T77A Gets a Reserved Space



BY DAYNA SMITH FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A DESIGN SHOW has certain advantages over any fine-art exhibition. One is that it can mix up the "real world" of functional objects and the rarified universe of museum-style contemplation. With the approach of the Corcoran Gallery of Art's ambitious "Modernism" show, opening March 17, that mixing-up is proceeding apace: The street is invading the gallery. Yesterday, the Corcoran's front doors opened as wide as they could to admit one of the exhibition's treasures: An ultra-rare example of the Tatra T77A saloon car, first manufactured in the Czech city of Koprivnica in 1935. When the T77A came out, it stood for the very latest in streamlined technology: The traditional box-of-steel automobile had been rethought as a 15-foot teardrop of metal. A one-piece body, borrowed from airplane design, gave it the light weight and rigidity to achieve a top speed of almost 100 miles per hour. A headlight smack in the middle of the front hood, and a tailfin cutting through the air above its air-cooled rear-mounted engine, gave it the look of futuristic speed as well. That look may have come by way of advanced modern art — by way of the sleekly sculpted forms pioneered by Constantin Brancusi, slicing like a wing through space — but the Tatra's engineers helped bring it down to earth.

— Blake Gopnik

BRIDGE | Frank Stewart

West dealer
Both sides vulnerable

NORTH

♠ Q 7 4
♥ 6 3
♦ Q 8 6 4
♣ K Q 10 4

WEST

♠ 9 8
♥ A 7
♦ A J 9 3
♣ A J 9 5 2

EAST

♠ 6 5 3 2
♥ J 10 4
♦ K 10 5 2
♣ 7 6

SOUTH

♠ A K J 10
♥ K Q 9 8 5 2
♦ 7
♣ 8 3

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
1 ♣	Pass	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 NT	Pass	4 ♥
All Pass			

Opening lead: ♠ 9

When you're up to your ears in trouble, try using the part of you that isn't submerged.

In today's deal, North-South got in up to their necks in the bidding. South's jump to two hearts was "intermediate," promising a good six-card suit and opening values. Most players use preemptive jump overcalls in the direct position, but it makes no sense to play a "balancing" jump overcall as a weak bid.

North should have passed since what few values he had were too soft to try for game. His 2NT excited South, who barreled into four hearts.

West led a spade, and when South saw dummy, he was so dismayed that he won with the queen and led a trump to his king. West took the ace, and South was in over his head. Eventually, he lost to West's minor-suit aces and also lost another trump trick to East's J-10. Down one.

A kibitzer pointed out that South could succeed by leading to his nine on the first trump.

"How could I know that?" South snorted. "East could have held the ace."

South succeeds by using his brains. South can place East with the ace or king of diamonds since if West held both honors, his opening lead would have been a high diamond. So East, who couldn't respond to his partner's opening bid, can't have the ace of hearts: He'd have responded with as many as seven points. South must play East for J-10-x in trumps.

(Yes, East could prevail by playing an honor on the first trump. But South could always get home by winning the first spade in his hand and leading a diamond.)

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TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Holiday Mathis

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Blame is an insidious thief, robbing the blamer of the growth opportunity he or she would incur by making the choice of personal responsibility. When "Blame" rears his head, stamp him down.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You'll happen onto information that you weren't supposed to know. There was a time when eavesdropping was a crime. But your only punishment now will be having to decide what to do with this information.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Relationships require fun and whimsy in order to flourish, and you are a seasoned expert in the field of fun and whimsy. But sometimes you forget to use it. This is a good time not to forget.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Being afraid to lose makes you less effective.

Know what you're afraid to lose, and come to terms with it. When you realize you can survive and even thrive after a loss, you're more able to keep what you have.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

It's an upside-down day. The crazy things are true. The true things are crazy. Anything that seems sane and false is suspect. Sort it all out with a zany Aquarius person.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You're feeling a bit stifled, which makes it a good day to push your luck. Ride the edge of normalcy. Do something outrageous. If it doesn't work, do something else outrageous.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

The outcome is only glorious if it was fun to make the effort in the first place. Knowing what feels authentic and doing only that will lead to success — in love, in finance and in general.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Spiritual lessons come in the most mundane circumstances — perhaps having to do with the way the laundry turns out or the lawn gets mowed. You're open-minded and you accept the gift.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You're utterly ruthless about preserving your freedom. It's what allows you to go where you want — even when you don't know where that is. Especially when you don't know where that is.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You're learning magical and valuable lessons. Although, it feels more like you're being put through a frustrating and confusing maze. Trust the learning process.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You're observant, but also imaginative. You're willing to see things as they are —

but also as they could be. Warning: Don't fall in love with someone's potential.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

You're like a detective, sniffing out the true motivations of others. Seemingly illogical behaviors are disguises that you see right through. Use what you know to solve your own "case."

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY MARCH 4: To paraphrase the song, there's no mountain high enough, no river wide enough to keep you from doing what you love. You're starting to understand that you don't help anyone by ignoring your talents. You get an education in April that pumps up your paycheck. July is the adventure you've been waiting for. You don't go it alone, either. You have fun with Leo and Libra people.

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