

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

Week 752: The Might-Mates Rite



BY BOB STAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

“You just might be a . . . if . . .”: It's a joke form so well worn that you can see right through to the polka dots on its boxer shorts. But then again, so is the three-panel comic strip — and it can still yield plenty of original humor in the hand of the right creator. That would be you, yes? **This week: Fill out any of these five “you just might” joke-templates: You just might be an embarrassment to your child if . . . You just might be from Georgetown if . . . You just might not be an animal rights enthusiast if . . . You just might have a substance abuse problem if . . . You just might need a new car soon if . . .**

Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place gets this smolderin' cool J.S. Bach action figure, right, donated by Randy Lee of Burke. Okay, he may not be all that dynamic to look at, but he comes with a seriously sweet prop: a stool to sit on! Do that harpsichord thing, Sebastian!

Other runners-up win their choice of a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt or yearned-for Loser Mug. Honorable Mentions 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, Feb. 18. Put “Week 752” 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 March 8. 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 contest and Honorable Mentions name were both suggested by Kevin Dopart. The revised title for next week's contest is by Chris Doyle.

REPORT FROM WEEK 748

our annual contest in which we seek poems about those who died in the previous year: As usual, we had far too many outstanding verses than we could fit in the paper; you can find more of the Honorable Mentions at washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational.

4 Jerry Falwell: Not for being greatly good — Not because he knew he would — Jerry Falwell's gone above, Unto his Creator's love, Spending every night and day With angels black and angels gay. God our Father knows us all well; Knows what's Hell for Jerry Falwell. (David Smith, Santa Cruz, Calif.)

3 Lady Bird Johnson: Jackie's successor, a rather plain dresser, Was viewed by the press as much duller. For Lady Bird's way to enliven our day Was for highways to sparkle with color. A political wife, she spent most of her life With a blind eye to what Hubby sinned in. But on her ranch, though it slanted, She successfully planted Seven oak trees, four elms and one Lyndon. (Christopher Lamora, Arlington)

2 winner of the Steve Irwin beanbag doll: Carlo Ponti, movie producer and husband of Sophia Loren: The Roman figure Ponti made great: XXXVIII-XXIV-XXXVIII (Ira Allen, Bethesda)

AND THE WINNER OF THE INKER

Nonagenarian **Skinny McNabb**, Who, as you'd expect, wasn't fat, Whose stats with the Tigers were scanty and drab (He whiffed in his only at-bat), Has laid down his burden of tears and fatigue, But now something sweeter he savors: He plays every day in the Afterlife League, Picked up by the Angels on waivers. (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

STIFF COMPETITION: HONORABLE MENTIONS

John Backus, developer of the Fortran programming language in early computers: I had compiled my last regards But then I dropped my batch of cards. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Barbaro, in Heaven, was asked by “the Shoe”: What's a crummy joint doing in a nice horse like you? (Peter Metrinko, Chantilly)

Benazir Bhutto: She made herself a target Too big to be ignored, So Pakistan's onetime PM Received Urdu reward. — P. Musharraf, Islamabad (Brendan Beary)

Benazir's protectors Would have to be dismayed; It's simpler killing leaders Than covers of Parade. (Kevin Dopart)

Ernest Gallo: How often have I said, I wonder now: “A loaf of bread, a box of wine and thou”? (Jeff Brechlin, Eagan, Minn.)

Johnny Hart: Higgledy piggledey “B.C.’s” creator was Sure his hereafter was Shiny and bright: Ultra-conservative, Rigidly Christian, and Smugly in Heaven now (if he was right). (Anne Paris, Arlington)

Leona Helmsley: Leona's checked out, and the throng of her former Employees all hope she's now lodged somewhere warmer: A place where Beelzebub gets the last laugh By treating his guests the way she treated staff. (Brendan Beary)

Molly Ivins: Enjoy a calm retirement, Dubya; Molly's not around to “Shrub” ya. (David Smith)

Marcel Marceau: For you Marcel, O mime sublime, Imaginary bells now chime. Farewell to life and all its violence: It's RIP for Bip — the rest is _____. (Jeff Brechlin)

He listened to his mom's advice: “If you can't say something nice . . .” (Kevin Dopart)

Luciano Pavarotti: At last Pavarotti is resting in peace. He'd let himself go, and it showed. Let's face it, the guy had become so obese, He had his own aria code. (Brendan Beary)

Higgledy piggledey Charles Nelson Reilly a-Mused us for decades, but Died in '07. **Brett Somers** also died Coincidentally, Henceforth ensuring A Match Game in Heaven.



J.S. Bach: The best keyboard action ever!

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