

Style Invitational

BY PAT MYERS



Report from Week 964

in which the Empress asked for ideas for our latest runner-up prize, the lightweight tote that we dubbed the Grossery Bag. The winner gets to choose between our new first-place trophy, the Inkin' Memorial, or this bag with her own joke on it; the runners-up — as befits true Losers — win the bag, which of course has someone else's joke on it, along with Bob Staake's design that appears below.



(Slogan by Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

2 Cartoon of the Inkin' Memorial, with the slogan:

With malice toward none, With parody toward all. The Style Invitational.
(Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

3 In imitation of the store's logo:

WHOLE FOOLS Loser The Style Invitational
(Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

4 Well, I thought it was funny.

LOSER The Style Invitational
(Kathye Hamilton, Annandale)

DESIGN BY BOB STAAKE

Excess baggage: Honorable mentions

(Drawing of a nose)

They Should Have Picked ME Loser, The Style Invitational
(Nando Amabile, Frederick, a First Offender)

Cartoon of a pistol. Out of the gun barrel comes a flag labeled "Rim Shot." Have Pun, Will Travel
(Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

Shaded regions drawn at the bottom left and right corners of the bag, with scraggly hairs extending from them. They're labeled "Arm Holes." A semicircle at the center bottom is labeled "Neck Hole."

Remove Shaded Areas for Use as Shirt
(Martin Bancroft, Rochester, N.Y.)

I Just Saved 5¢ by Being Hilarious
(Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

Embarrass your family in print every week — ask me how!
(Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

The Winner Got a Statue and I Was Left Holding This Bag
Runner-Up, The Style Invitational
(Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

How to Bag a Loser:
WRONG: (Graphic of a person stuffed headfirst into the bag, sticking straight up)

RIGHT: (Bag over the head)
(Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

My Cheap, Tasteless Joke Won

This Cheap, Tasteless Joke From The Style Invitational
(Lynda Hoover, Shepherdstown, W.Va, a First Offender)

The Style Invitational:
Abandon all hope, ye who enter
(Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Cartoon of a Roman Empress giving the thumbs-down to a gladiator:

Veni, Vidi, Perdidi
I came, I saw, I lost
Runner-Up, The Style Invitational
(Scott Poyer, Annapolis)

(A Bride of Frankenstein-style Empress slams a tote over someone's head)
She Sacked Me!

Runner-Up, The Style Invitational
(Lawrence McGuire)

In fancy script:

I Got a B in Punmanship
Runner-Up, The Style Invitational
(Tom Witte)

Still running — deadline Monday night — is our "before and after" portmanteau-phrase contest: See wapo.st/StylInv; click on "Week 967."

Next week: Foaling Around, or The Neighm Game

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST: WEEK 968

Take us for grants

Proposal: A study to determine the effect of classical music on the human respiratory system.

Hypothesis: Having observed repeatedly the phenomenon of widespread coughing occurring immediately after the first notes of a concert are sounded, we suspect that the sound waves emanating from orchestral reed instruments . . .

Proposal: A study of the relationship between snowfall and diarrhea in the Washington metropolitan area. Evidence: It has long been noted that the presence of only a few flurries in the sky over the nation's capital has produced enormous increases in the purchase of toilet paper . . .



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This week's contest, suggested by Not-a-Loser-Just-a-Reader Tom Laufer: **Come up with a proposal to the National Science Foundation or other research-funding organization for a study based on a stupid hypothesis, like Tom's examples above.**

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln-statue bobblehead that is the new Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives this fine Rednek Wine Glass — a genuine Mason jar with a stem fused on, complete with screw-on lid. Donated by Craig Dykstra.

The perfect complement to a Chateau Rotchild.

Other runners-up win their choice of a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt, a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired Grossery Bag, whose design we show off today for the first time. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet. First Offenders get a smelly, tree-shaped air "freshener" (Fir Stink for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, April 30; results published May 20 (online May 18). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include "Week 968" 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/StyleInv. The alternate headline for the "Next Week" line is by Robert Schechter; the subhead for this week's honorable mentions was submitted by both Jeff Contompasis and Brad Alexander. Join the Style Invitational Devotees on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev.

STYLE CONVERSATIONAL Have a question for the Empress or want to talk to some real Losers? Join us at wapo.st/styleconv.

POP CD REVIEW

K'Jon Moving On



'00s smooth groove middleweights like Avant, or Kem. K'Jon got famous in 2009, with the No. 1 hit "On the Ocean," but it might as well have been 1999. His latest, "Moving On," offers more of the same: solid, stolid R&B songs, adult contemporary division. They're

often lush, always reliable, never thrilling and, unlike most contemporary R&B songs, they sidestep hip-hop almost entirely. "Call me Mr. Number One/Going for another one" (from the R. Kelly-like "Superman") is about as boastful as K'Jon gets. Everything else is modulated, temperate, like "Ex Amnesia," a ballad decorated with random laser noises meant to denote the union of slinky '90s soul and new world techno modernity. But nobody's heart seems to be in it, and the rest of "Moving On" pretends it never happened.

"Side Two Interlude" (need another sign that K'Jon is old school? He made an album with sides) even includes a spoken

word plug for his Twitter account, over a fern bar piano: You half expect him to tell you to try the veal. If Side One featured measured ballads and tightly controlled jams, Side Two features ... measured ballads and tightly controlled jams. There's a great quiet storm duet ("Wonderland," featuring a cooing, growling Mistee Merritt), and the heartfelt, terrible "Super Momma," an ode to K'Jon's mom ("You're my Michelle Obama / You're one bad super momma").

Unlike the rest of this durable, ultimately endearing disc, it's something only a mother could love.

— Allison Stewart



ROBERT ASCROFT/COURTESY OF SHANACHIE ENTERTAINMENT

OLD SCHOOL: K'Jon's slinky "Moving On" takes us back to 1999.