

Style Invitational

BY PAT MYERS

Report from Week 997

in which, in this season of giving, we asked you to offer up some Unworthy Causes, or dubious charities. There seems to be much Loser support for a Fund for the 1 Percent.

THE
WINNER
OF THE
INKIN'
MEMORIAL

Washington Wizards Basketball Camp Foundation: Contributions help provide basketball lessons to actual Washington Wizards. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

2 Winner of the caganer, the traditional Catalan Nativity figure of a pooping child:

Bigots Defense Fund: Did you know that Bigo-Americans are the most oppressed minority group in America today? Please give generously — even you Jews. (Dixon Wragg, Santa Rosa, Calif.)

3 Shy Bladders Anonymous: A 12-step public restroom program. “Pee all that you can pee.” (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

4 Tweeting Is Fundamental: Because today's teenagers really need lessons in how to be more sarcastic. (David Genser, Poway, Calif.)

Goof Samaritans: honorable mentions

The Young Men With Guns Club: Give now! I said NOW. (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

The National Foundation Foundation: A support group for fallen women. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Show Your Can! Your donations purchase fake cans of food to be used as props at future celebrity disaster fundraising events. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

The March of Loonies: Your spare Canadian coins can help find a cure for sanity. (Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

The American Rung Association: Sponsoring charity balls for social climbers. (Kathy El-Assal, Middleton, Wis.)

So Others Might Cheat: This

compassionate group provides cellphones, adult Web site memberships, and even money for motels to indigent married people who otherwise could not afford the joys of infidelity. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

National Trust for Histrionic Preservation: Show! Us! You! Care! (Anne Shively, Broadlands, Va.)

APPS (Adults Paired Proactively or Something): We pair teen mentors with adults to save the latter from such daily mortifications as mispronouncing Ke\$ha or wondering aloud what MILF means. (Amanda Yanovitch, Midlothian, Va.)

The Terrorist Reformation Society: We help would-be terrorists turn their lives around by giving them the tools they need for a legitimate trade, such as fertilizer for farming, nails for building and bullets for hunting. (Scott Poyer, Annapolis)

Plutocrats Anonymous: Brother,

can you spare a diamond? (Chris Doyle)

Graypeace: A commuter-centric organization focused on preventing the nation's precious parking lots from being wiped out and turned into unpaved, undrivable space. (David Garratt, Silver City, N.M.)

Yellow Kevlar Ribbon Fund: Your gift supports our troops with re-search into new high-strength materials to tie generals' zippers shut. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

Money to Burn: To combat society's obsession with the pursuit of money, we collect cash donations and publicly burn them. (No coins, please.) (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

The VDW: Addressing the needs of our surviving veterans of America's domestic wars. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

Floridians Lining Up to Fight Frostbite (FLUFF): We're winning the battle — no reported cases last year! (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

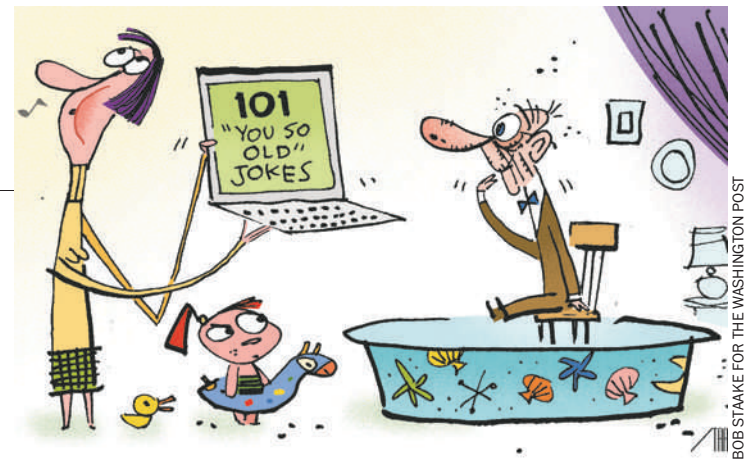
The EBookmobile: 40-foot-long RVs deliver e-books on thumb drives to kids who forget their network passwords. (David Genser)

Jaywalkers Against Verbal Abuse: A fund to provide earmuffs for sensitive street-crossers who get yelled at. (Nandini Lal, Bethesda)

Animals for the Ethical Treatment of People: A confederation of grizzlies dedicated to giving terrified hikers a 30-second head start. (Beverly Sharp)

Smooth-Tailed Urban Ground Squirrel Rescue League: “Look at this poor creature living in the shadows, scrounging to stay alive. Surely he would thrive in a good home . . .” (Mark Raffman; Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

More Unworthy Causes in the online Invite at bit.ly/invite1001.



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

Week 1001: Make us ROFL

If your 21st-century incarnation of the typewriter has you “typing” with one finger instead of 10, or if your “content-sharing platform” lets you impart your deepest thoughts as long as they don't exceed 140 characters, you can appreciate a good acronym. And our own (well, rented-once-a-week) cartoonist Bob Staake coined his own a while back, and even has a Web page to promote it: “LOL is too cute. ROFL is too lame. LMAO just isn't funny. The new Internet acronym is: PIMPL (Peeing in My Pants Laughing).”

This week, in a contest suggested in another context by Dave Scocca: **Give us a funny, original acronym** (and of course what it stands for). In its traditional definition, an acronym is a pronounceable word, not an abbreviation that you pronounce letter by letter. But while true acronyms are likely to be more interesting, I'll also consider short spell-out abbreviations that send me ROFLing. A funny sample tweet or other short sentence is a plus. An unfunny one isn't so great in a humor contest, KWIM? The acronym doesn't have to include every word of the spelled-out term; you may skip articles or prepositions.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a bubble wand depicting what Loser Barbara Turner deemed the Vampire Butterfly — presumably to make a better bubble somehow, the butterfly's mouth consists of a circle lined with teeth. Speaking of orifices (as we are wont to do), we'll also throw in a nose-shaped pencil sharpener, donated by Marleen May. Yes, you stick the pencil in a nostril.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet. First Offenders receive a smelly, tree-shaped air “freshener” (FirStink for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Dec. 24; results published Jan. 13 (online Jan. 10). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include “Week 1001” 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/inviterules. The subhead for this week's honorable mentions is by Tom Witte. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group 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 washingtonpost.com/stylconversational.



TIM MOSENFELDER/GETTY IMAGES

Britney Spears hit a high note with her new album and a tour.

MUSIC

Britney Spears takes the title of top earner

BY PATRICIA REANEY

Pop star Britney Spears edged past Taylor Swift to claim the title of top-earning woman in music after bringing in an estimated \$58 million from her album, endorsements and a perfume in the past year, Forbes said Wednesday.

Country-pop singer Swift, 23, was a close second with an estimated \$57 million paycheck thanks to her tour — which made more than \$1 million each night — a contract with CoverGirl cos-

metics, her own line of fragrances and her new album, “Red.”

R&B star Rihanna, 24, earned an estimated \$53 million to put her at No. 3, two places up from last year, followed by Lady Gaga, 26, who slipped from No. 1 in 2011 to fourth place with \$52 million.

Katy Perry, 28, the only musician other than Michael Jackson to produce five No. 1 hit singles from one album, rounded out the top five with about \$45 million in earnings.

“I think people love the come-

back story — Britney never really finished her run as a superstar,” Steve Stoute, marketing expert and author of “The Tanning of America” told Forbes.

Spears, 31, who was No. 10 last year, earned most of her money from her latest album, “Femme Fatale,” and her tour, according to Forbes, which compiled the list with estimated earnings from May 2011 to May 2012.

In September, Spears became a judge on the reality TV singing show “The X Factor,” reportedly

for \$15 million.

Despite their huge incomes, only eight of the top women music earners were among the 25 best-paid musicians, which Forbes attributes in part to career breaks to have children.

Madonna made the list in ninth place with an estimated \$30 million in earnings, which did not include profits from her latest tour because it was outside the time period considered for the ranking.

— Reuters