

Style Invitational

BY PAT MYERS

Report from Week 998

in which we asked for bogus "still on the books" laws: Perhaps before long they'll be appended to the almost just as bogus lists of such laws circulating everywhere online.



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

THE
WINNER
OF THE
INKIN'
MEMORIAL

In Bethlehem, Pa., an innkeeper **MUST** provide a room for a hugely pregnant woman (because you just never know. . .). (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

2 Winner of the dismembered-teddy-bear Christmas basket:

At Baltimore baseball games, it's illegal to sing more than one word of the national anthem. (Ed Molnar, Alexandria, a First Offender)

3 In Arizona, there is a 14-day waiting period for purchasing a gun lock. (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

4 In New York City, it is unlawful to initiate negotiations with a tabloid before Lindsay Lohan actually finishes assaulting you. (David Genser, Poway, Calif.)

Half-writs: honorable mentions

In California it is not illegal to feed animals in the park, but you are required to report the caloric content of everything you give them. (Josh Feldblyum, Philadelphia)

In Italy, sex with underage prostitutes is mandatory for all men who wish to become politicians. Female politicians just need to look hot. (Andy Bassett, New Plymouth, New Zealand)

It is illegal to spit on a functioning Metro elevator in the District of Columbia. No violations have yet been reported. (Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

In Colorado, it is unlawful to look wimpy. (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

In the Florida Everglades, it is illegal to catch and gut an alligator out of season, unless you are attempting to retrieve your severed arm. (Beverly Sharp)

In Arizona, it's illegal to pronounce

"Jesus" with an h-sound. (Dixon Wragg, Santa Rosa, Calif.)

In Texas, it is unlawful to refer to Barack Obama without making air quotes around "president." (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

New Jersey statute: All doors in the governor's offices and residences shall be at least as wide as they are high, with a five-foot minimum for both. (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

In Hawaii, it is illegal to drive your car to another state. (Gregory Koch, Storrs, Conn.)

In Roswell, N.M., it is illegal to hold three-headed races. (Roger Hammons, Ashburn)

It is illegal in Ireland to possess a long temper. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

On cars purchased in Massachusetts, directional signals are optional equipment. Nevah use 'em. Why pay for 'em? (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

In Alabama, all state laws must fit onto two equal-size stone tablets. (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

Wisconsin now permits public employee unions to bargain only over how many "Dilbert" cartoons may be displayed on cubicle walls. (David Genser)

In Topeka, Kan., mammogram results may be shown only between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. (Kevin Dopart)

More bogus laws in the online Invite at bit.ly/invwwk1002.

Still running — deadline Monday night — is our acronym contest. See bit.ly/invite1001.



STYLE CONVERSATIONAL
Have a question for the Empress or want to talk to some real Losers? Join us at washingtonpost.com/stylconversational.

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST: WEEK 1002

Wring out the OED

hiddy-giddy	humstrum	jeofail	kelch
higgle	idiopt	jerkinet	kerygma
hilus	ikat	jerque	kest
himple	impone	jobble	khor
hinderyeap	inti	jub	kikar
hirrie-harrie	izzard	juffle	kimkam
hispidulous	jaffle	jugum	kiver
hornito	jank	karabe	knosp
hounce	jargogle	karzy	komers
housty	jaunder	kasturi	kreep
huddon	jeg	kausia	kuki
huff-duff	jeistiecor	kebbie	kumiss
huffkin	jemmy	keek	kurvey
humdudgeon			

In the wake of some news recently that a number of words had been deleted by a former editor of the Oxford English Dictionary, we figured that it was time for another go at messing with the OED ourselves. It's Installment 3 of a contest we started in 2007: Here's a list of words that OED-subscribing Losers Ann Martin and Mike Gips found in two slivers of the vast tome of current and archaic terms. If you know what any of them mean — for example, that a kebbie is a stick with a hooked head — that's all well and good, but it's of no use this week, because we want you to make up a false definition for any of the words listed here. As usual with Invite word contests, you may use the word in a funny sentence but not in an unfunny sentence.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a tin of peppermint-flavored "Potenz Pillen," or potency pills, whose gag-giftiness is indicated by a cartoon of a hairy, um, men's potency center, and a rhyme roughly translated from the German as "If you swallow these pills down/ You'll be the finest lover aroun'." Donated by Loser Roy Ashley, who doesn't need no stinkin' pillen.

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. 31; results published Jan. 20 (online Jan. 17). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include "Week 1002" 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 Kevin Dopart. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev.

MUSIC

Adele voted AP Entertainer of the Year

BY JAKE COYLE

Though Adele didn't have a new album or a worldwide tour in 2012, she's still rolling. After a year of Grammy glory and James Bond soundtracking, Adele has been voted the Associated Press Entertainer of the Year.

In 132 ballots submitted by members and subscribers of the AP, Adele easily outpaced other vote-getters, including Taylor Swift, "Fifty Shades of Grey" au-

thor E L James, the South Korean viral-video star Psy and the cast of "Twilight." Editors and broadcasters were asked to cast their ballot for the person who had the most influence on entertainment and culture in 2012.

Adele's year began in triumph at the Grammys, took a turn through recording the theme to the 007 film "Skyfall" and ended with the birth of her son in October. The ubiquitous Adele was that rare thing in

pop culture: an unqualified sensation, a megastar in a universe of niche hits.

By the end of the year, her sophomore album, "21," had passed 10 million copies sold in the United States, only the 21st album in the Nielsen Sound-Scan era (began in 1991) to achieve diamond status. Buoyed by such hits as "Someone Like You" and "Rolling in the Deep" long after its release in early 2011, "21" was also the top-selling album on iTunes for the sec-

ond year running.

As David Panian, news editor for Michigan's Daily Telegram, put it: "It just seemed like you couldn't turn on the radio without hearing one of her songs."

Women have had a lock on the annual Entertainer of the Year selection. Previous winners include Swift, Lady Gaga, Betty White and Tina Fey. Stephen Colbert is the lone male winner in the six-year history of voting.

— Associated Press



KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/GETTY IMAGES

Grammy-winner Adele's good year included the birth of a son.