

Style Invitational

BY PAT MYERS

Report from Week 994

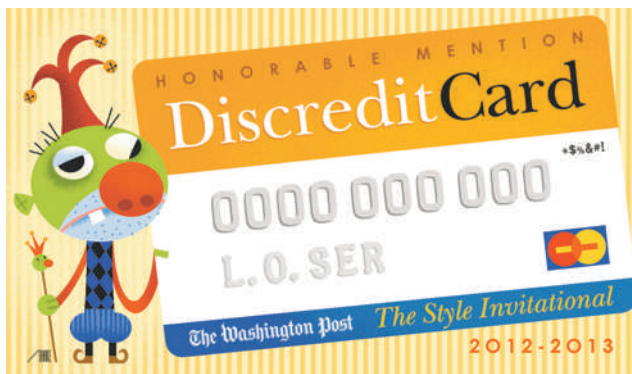
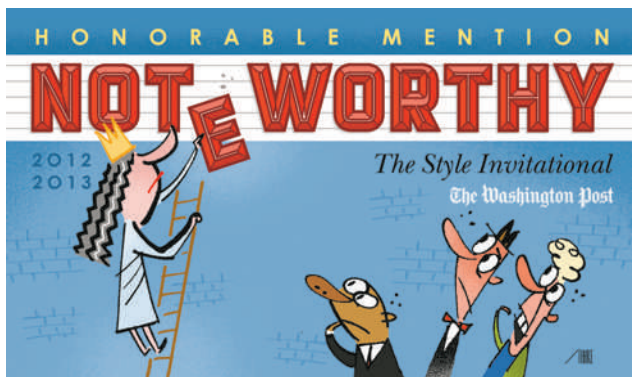
in which we asked for ideas for our two new lusted-after **Loser Magnets** given to honorable mentions. The slogans are by the Losers; the design and art are by our resident magnetician, Bob Staake, who has gained such stature in the Real Publishing World that we now value each business-card-size magnet at \$10,000, up from the previous 21 cents. As usual, we'll have 500 of each of these made, so this pair should last us about a year. After that, we might dig back into these results for the next set. More of these online at bit.ly/inv998.

1 Winner of the Inkin' Memorial plus the magnet at top: (Bruce Carlson, Alexandria)

2 Winner of the bottom magnet plus a romance/fantasy/sci-fi novel written by Tom Witte's mother-in-law: (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

3 Po' Wit Laureate (Roger Hammons, Ashburn)

4 (With picture of the Empress) We Ain't Not Amused /Honorable Mention (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)



Mag-nyets: honorable mentions

Magnum Dopus (Beverley Sharp)

Second to Some / Honorable Mention (Oliver Crown Williams, Arlington, a First Offender)

(With picture of a scornful Empress)

E. Loves Me Not (Ward Kay, Vienna)

Hardly Har-Har / Honorable Mention (Barbara Turner)

My Other Magnet Is From the Pulitzers (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

Glib Till It Hurts (Julia Shawham, Silver Spring)

My Other Refrigerator Is in the

Back Yard (Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

Certificate of Underachievement (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

I Submit to the Empress (Rick Haynes, Boynton Beach, Fla.)

Abandon Taste, All Ye Who Enter Here (Susan Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

(With picture of toilet) **Jest Passing Through** (Ellen Raphaeli, Falls Church)

Only 700 More of These and I Can Tile My Kitchen Floor (Andy Bassett, New Plymouth, New Zealand)

On the Verge of Average/ Honorable Mention (Arden Levine, New York)

Blather, Wince, Repeat: The Style Invitational (Michael Greene, Alexandria)

Lexicomical Relief: The Style Invitational (Lois Douthitt, Arlington)

The Wit Hit the Fan (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.; Jon Hamblin, Arlington, a First Offender)

Budget Metal Detector (David Genser, Poway, Calif.)

Crudos! Honorable Mention, The Style Invitational (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

Still running – deadline Monday night – is Week 997, a contest to come up with a dubious charity. See wapo.st/inv997.

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

Week 998: Set the law on us

Real law: In Massachusetts it is illegal to play only part of "The Star-Spangled Banner." (General Laws, Part IV, Title I, Chapter 264, Section 9)

Not a real law: In Massachusetts all dogs riding on car roofs must wear diapers. (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

You've probably seen those lists of "stupid laws still on the books." Eighty-two-time Loser Mike Gips did, and then suggested this week's contest: **Suggest an odd law for a particular place in the world**, perhaps prompted by some event that future generations would lose track of. You may also specify the punishment for breaking the law. Alas, most of the really ridiculous "still on the books" laws in these widely circulated lists — that women in Tucson are forbidden to wear pants, or that in Florida, it is illegal to fart in a public place after 6 p.m. — don't actually exist. But that doesn't stop us from adding to them.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a (we hope) unique product: An ill-conceived craft project that the Empress found at a church bazaar, it consists of a bonnet-shaped brimmed basket with a little glass bowl in the middle. On the brim have been glued various sections of a dismembered teddy bear lying on its back — arms on the sides, legs on one end, head at the other end, so that the bowl is in the middle (I would fill it with giblets). But to top it off, the bear head has been modified to include antlers and a red nose — so we have Rudolph the Red-Nosed, Fleshy-Pawed, Dismembered Reindeer/Bear Hybrid.



The disembodied-bear/reindeer holiday basket — fill its insides!

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired Grocery 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. 3; results published Dec. 23 (online Dec. 20). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include "Week 998" 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/invrules. The subhead for this week's honorable mentions is by Jeff Contompasis. 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.

MUSIC

Holdouts no more: AC/DC now on iTunes

AC/DC has finally released its music digitally on iTunes.

Columbia Records and Apple announced that the classic rock band's music is available at the iTunes Store worldwide.

Sixteen studio albums have been released, including "High Voltage" and "Back in Black." Several of the Australian band's albums and songs have made their way on iTunes' Top 100 albums and songs charts.

AC/DC was one of the few acts that would not release music through the digital outlet. Two years ago, Apple struck a deal



2003 PHOTO BY JAN PITMAN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

with the Beatles' record label, EMI Group, and management company and began selling the group's music. Kid Rock, who had also been against selling his music through the digital retailer, recently released "Rebel Soul" and made it available on iTunes.

AT LAST: The Aussie rockers have 16 studio albums in the iTunes Store.

It's something that I think artists realize they need to do in order to get their music into the hands of their fans and to make more money," he said. "Right now,

with CD sales being what they are, touring is the main source of income, and not every band is equipped to be out on tour 200 days a year to make the kind of money they need to make or want to make."

Garth Brooks, however, has yet to release his music on iTunes. Pi-etroluongo said he that thinks the country star will come around.

Four of AC/DC's live albums and three compilation records are also available. The statement said the songs have been mastered for iTunes "with increased audio fidelity."

The group's first live album in 20 years, "Live at River Plate," was released Tuesday.

— Associated Press