



Style

# Style Invitational Week 950

By **Pat Myers**  
December 16, 2011

In his classic 1968 book “*The Joys of Yiddish*,” Leo Rosten defined “chutzpah” as “gall, brazen nerve, effrontery, incredible ‘guts,’ presumption plus arrogance.” As he often did in the book’s definitions, Rosten included a joke as an example, further defining “chutzpah” as “that quality enshrined in a man who, having killed his mother and father, throws himself on the mercy of the court because he is an orphan.” But these days the word isn’t always used pejoratively; sometimes it’s spoken with admiration for sheer gutsiness.

This week, as Loser Jim Lubell suggests: **Give us a humorous example of hypothetical (or true, but remember humorous) chutzpah,** along the lines of Rosten’s example above. It may be the quality of the writing, not just the idea, that determines what will get ink this time.

Winner gets [the Inker](#), the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a lovely teeny-tiny music box that you have to keep cranking to make work. How Loserly is that? On top of that, it plays “If I Only Had a Brain.” Donated by Dave Prevar.







**Other runners-up** win their choice of a coveted Style Invitational [Loser T-shirt](#) or yearned-for [Loser Mug](#). Honorable mentions get a lusted-after [Loser magnet](#). First Offenders get a tree-shaped air “freshener” (FirStink for their first ink). E-mail entries to [losers@washpost.com](mailto:losers@washpost.com) or fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Dec. 26; results published Jan. 15 (Jan. 13 online). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include “Week 950” in your e-mail subject line or it may be ignored as spam. Include your real name, postal address and phone number with your entry. See contest rules and guidelines at [washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational](http://washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational). The revised title for next week is by Beverley Sharp; the headline for this week’s results is by Kevin Dopart, who just can’t win enough stuff.

**See the results of Week 945 — our edible-art photo contest — [here](#) or at [washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational](http://washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational).**

Visit the online discussion group [The Style Conversational](#), where the *Empress* discusses today’s new contest and results along with news about the Loser Community — and you can vote for your favorite among the inking entries, since you no doubt figured the *Empress* chose the wrong winner. If you’d like an e-mail notification each week when the Invitational



## Most Read Lifestyle

- 1 Analysis**  
 A short investigation into Trump’s claims of ‘RIGGED’ Google results against him 
- 2** John Goodman reveals Roseanne will be killed off in ‘The Conners’ spinoff 
- 3 Perspective**  
 The perils of being a woman who’s just asking to be left alone 
- 4** Why our culture’s mild obsession with Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen may never end 

winner. If you'd like an e-mail notification each week when the Invitational and Conversational are posted online, write to the Empress at [losers@washpost.com](mailto:losers@washpost.com) (note that in the subject line) and she'll add you to the mailing list. And on Facebook, join the far more lively group [Style Invitational Devotees](#) and chime in.

**Next week: Tour de Fours VIII: Noelogsms, or LO EN Behold**



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#### Pat Myers

Pat Myers is editor and judge of The Style Invitational, The Washington Post's page for clever, edgy humor and wordplay. In the role since December 2003, she has posted and judged more than 700 contests. She also writes the weekly Style Conversational column and runs the Style Invitational Devotees page on Facebook. [Follow](#)

### The Post Recommends

#### Dershowitz says federal probe in New York, not Mueller, is 'greatest threat' to Trump

"There are no constitutional defenses to what the Southern District is investigating," Dershowitz, an informal Trump adviser, said Sunday.

1 day ago

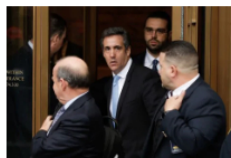


#### Opinion

#### Distinguished persons of the week: Breaking into Trump's inner circle

Who stood tall?

2 days ago



#### Trump recently sought his lawyers' advice on possibility of pardoning Manafort, Giuliani says

Trump attorney Rudolph Giuliani said Trump was seeking advice on pardons generally, and was upset that Manafort faced criminal exposure on charges unrelated to his work on Trump campaign.

4 days ago



1 Comments

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5 Perspective  
Carolyn Hax: A kiss-and-don't-tell with an ex-boyfriend's buddy



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