The Style Invitational

WEEK 2

WRITE A MOTTO. WIN A MONSTROSITY.

Lately, there has been a bit of a stink over the state motto of Maryland: "Fatti Maschii. Parole Femine." We could not understand what all the fuss was about, unless possibly it was insensitive to overweight individuals or incarcerated women. Then someone pointed out that this was in Latin, and translated it for us. "Manly Deeds, Womanly Words." What is that supposed to mean? Is it as condescending as it sounds? Is it just stupid?

Clearly, Maryland needs a new motto, a multi-purpose slogan suitable for placement on a state seal or a license plate. Something grand, something that embodies the full bodacious majesty of the state.

Something like . . .

Let’s see. We’ll come up with an idea any minute now. Hang on, we need to consult an Almanac or something. Okay, here we go:

“Maryland: Where John Wilkes Booth got his broken leg splinted”

No, wait, how about:

“Maryland: A Proud Part of the I-95 Corridor”

“Maryland: The Keno State”

“Maryland: Not at All Ashamed of Our Governor”

“Maryland: Its Second-Largest City Is Rockville”

or, for a faux Latin motto:

Fatti Governor, Parole Ex-Governors
Or, Forti Tamperi (“Power Corrupts”)