Report from Week 902

in which we asked you to find a line in one of that week’s Washington Posts and reword it in a more upbeat way:

**Original:** Maine’s governor told critics Friday to “kiss my butt” over his decision not to attend the state NAACP’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebrations.

**Spun:** Maine’s governor found it in his heart to turn the other cheek . . .

(J Dixon Wragg, Santa Rosa, Calif.)

**Winner of the FBI-NYPD Joint Terrorist Task Force mug:**

**Original:** Tom DeLay, former U.S. House leader, sentenced to 3 years in prison

**Spun:** DeLay will be following in the footsteps of Mandela, Gandhi and King . . . (Howard Waldman, Columbia)

**0:** Dominion Republic resumes deportations of Haitian migrants

**1:** A year after earthquake, many Haitians are returning home (Ward Kay, Vienna)

**2:** Virginia school officials have seen 120 cases of sexual misconduct over the past decade,

The upbeat goes on:

**Honorable mentions**

O: Tom DeLay, former U.S. House leader, sentenced to 3 years in prison

S: Government again calls DeLay to serve (Roy Ashley, Washington)

O: Winter weather gripped parts of the South on Sunday . . . causing hundreds of flight cancellations.

S: The number of complaints about security pat-downs at the Atlanta airport dropped enormously on Sunday. (Marty McCullen, Gettysburg, Pa.)

O: Longtime Truro Church minister fired for accessing online pornography at work

S: Today we bid farewell to Reverend Brown. For some time now he’s been looking at missionary positions. (Gary Cockett, Chewy Chase)

O: Haitians see little rebuilding, few new jobs

S: Haitians get a taste of American lifestyle (Joe Godles, Bethesda)

O: Incendiary mail goes off in D.C.

S: Innovation in packaging sparks interest from postal officials (Sam Wheeler, Alexandria, a First Offender)

O: School board in N.C. . . . abolishes integration policy

S: School board in N.C. takes a step closer to America’s roots (Matt Monitto, Elon, N.C., a First Offender)

O: Griffith cut up and tried to store the body (of his girlfriend) in containers filled with concrete.

S: After his girlfriend departed, Griffith kept mementos of their relationship. (Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

O: The number of homeless families

S: increased at an even greater rate, according to a report.

O: Despite the tough economy, many families are able to save on rent, mortgage payments and home repairs. (Ira Allen, Bethesda)

S: Strangers find “pennies from Heaven” (Dove Prevar, Annapolis; Rick Haynes, Potomac)

O: Major delays from N.Y. Ave. bridge work

S: Commuters linger after work in D.C. neighborhoods (Pam Sweeney, St. Paul, Minn.)

O: Arlington lawyer gets year in prison

S: Local attorney plans extended reunion with former clients (Nan Reiner)

O: Officials also presented the results “in ways that are incorrect and potentially misleading.”

S: Incredible results! (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

O: To government workers: “You will find the pressures greater than the pay. You may endure more public attacks than support.”

S: “You will have the unequaled satisfaction of knowing that your character and talent are contributing to the direction and success of this free society.” — John F. Kennedy, 1963 (Jeff Hazle, Woodbridge)

**4:** 

O: Tom Myers

S: Tom DeLay, former U.S. House leader, sentenced to 3 years in prison

The upbeat way:

**Week 906: Your mug here**

As devotees of the Invitational Fine Print know, the third- and fourth-place Losers of each contest “win” their choice of a coveted Loser T-shirt or yearned-for Loser Mug. We’ve had only one model of mug, pictured here, since we started giving it out almost four years ago, and our supply is running low. So:

**Give us a new design for the Loser Mug** — it can be just a slogan or it can be an idea for artwork (you can just describe it rather than draw it). A very intricate design, or one with several colors, won’t work well.

Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy — plus the new mug. Second, third and fourth place also get the new mug — which of course will have someone else’s idea on it. Loser.

**Honorable mentions** a lusty-offer Loser magnet. First Offenders get a smelly, tree-shaped air “freshener” (Fir Stink for their First Ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Feb. 14; results to be published March 6 (March 4 online). Put “Week 906” in the subject line of your e-mail, or it may be ignored as spam. Include your real name, postal address and phone number with your entry. See more rules at washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational. The revised title for next week’s results is by Tom Witte; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Beverley Sharp.

**THE WEEK’S CONTEST**

**Winner:**

**Loser Mug**

Give us a new design for the Loser Mug. First, second, third and fourth place also get the Loser Mug — which of course will have someone else’s idea on it. Loser.

**Honorable mentions** a lusty-offer Loser magnet. First Offenders get a smelly, tree-shaped air “freshener” (Fir Stink for their First Ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Feb. 14; results to be published March 6 (March 4 online). Put “Week 906” in the subject line of your e-mail, or it may be ignored as spam. Include your real name, postal address and phone number with your entry. See more rules at washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational. The revised title for next week’s results is by Tom Witte; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Beverley Sharp.