**We now have 4 digits, you now have 7 letters**

Today we commemorate the 1,000th time that The Washington Post’s illustrious masthead has been besmirched by The Style Invitational, its weekly repository for clever, pointed, sophisticated, irreverent, off-color and occasionally juvenile humor and wordplay — sometimes all of those in a single joke — from more than 4,500 devoted readers to date, some of whom have been entering the contest since Week 1 in 1993, sending entries first by mail, then by fax, then digitally (occasionally the third digit has come into play), to the Czar through 2003 and to the Empress since.

Worldwide, the Invitational’s name is best associated with what we’ve come to call Our Greatest Hit: a neologism contest to change a word by a single letter and define the result. Though we’ve repeated this contest several times over our almost 20 years of existence, it’s a list of results from back in 1998 that continues to be shared the most on the Internet, sometimes with the hyperlinks to the entries. Some combinations that were funny on their own without descriptions: Martha Stewart Living + American Jail = Better Homes & Pardons (Richard Wong, Derwood); Road & Track + Gourmet = Autobahn Appetit; plus Horse & Rider + Playboy = Undressage (Kathy El-Assal, Middleton, Wis.); and Mad + GQ = Goofus & Gallant (Amanda Yanovitch, Midlothian, Va.).

They Shouldn’t Be,” donated by Jeff Contompasis.

So let’s saddle up our most trusty of warhorses one more time: This week: Choose any word, name or two-word term beginning anywhere from T through Z; then add one letter, drop one letter, substitute one letter for another, or transpose two adjacent letters, and define the result. Remember that it’s the original word, not your neologism, that has to begin with T through Z.

Winner gets the Inkin’ Memorial, the bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives the fine walnut and slate desk clock. Other runners-up are mentioned in the journal.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yeamed-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired Glossy Bag. Honorable mentions get a lustred-after Loser magnet. First Offenders receive a smellly, tree-shaped air “freshener” (“FirStink for their FirStink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Dec. 17; results published Jan. 6 (online Jan. 3). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week.

Include your real name, postal address and phone number with your entry. See contest rules and guidelines at washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational.

**Report from Week 996**

In which we asked you to combine two magazines and describe the results, or name a story that might be included: Some combinations that were funny on their own without descriptions: Martha Stewart Living + American Jail = Better Homes & Pardons (Richard Wong, Derwood); Road & Track + Gourmet = Autobahn Appetit; plus Horse & Rider + Playboy = Undressage (Kathy El-Assal, Middleton, Wis.); and Mad + GQ = Goofus & Gallant (Amanda Yanovitch, Midlothian, Va.).

2 Winner of the rolling toy rat: Astronomy and Astrophysics + Nuclear Physics: Sure, it has pictures of heavenly bodies, but I buy it for the particles. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

3 Real Simple Sports Illustrated: This month’s action-packed issue highlights the 2012 International Tag Open. (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

4 Parenting + Commentary: Nagging (David Genser, Poway, Calif.)

**Weakies:**

**Honorable mentions**

Food & Wine + the International Journal of Transgenderism: How to Eat, Drink and Be Mary. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

Popular Mechanics + Oil & Gas Journal: This month: DIY fracking in your backyard. (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

Philosophical Review + High Times: The college freshman’s deep-thinking journal. Featuring “But Suppose, Like, We’re All Living in an Alternative Universe Right Now, You Know?” (Josh Feldblyum, Philadelphia)

Playboy + Popular Science: “Silicone: It’s Not Just for Bathtub Caulk!” (Frank Man, Washington, a First Offender)

Southern Living + Guns & Ammo: “How to Deal With Lingering Guests” (Tony Medici, Oakton, a First Offender)

Stone Soup + Cooking Light: “Pumice, the New White Meat” (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

This Old Penthouse: “Grab your tools, fellas, ‘cause it's time to get busy!” (Rob Huffman)

History Today + Sunset: Continued coverage of Mitt Romney. (David Genser)

Women’s Health + American Conservative: “Which Involuntary Invasive Ultrasound Is Right for You?” (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

AAARP the Magazine + Boxing News: “Sick of being patronized by people half your age? This month, Sugar Ray Leonard shows you how to turn ‘How ARE we today, Mrs. Johnson?’ into sweet, sweet silence.” (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

Scouting — Out: A magazine filled with blank pages for gay boys to write on while their friends are on a camping trip. (Brian Cohen, Potomac)

Readers Digest People + Harper's: “Hannibal Lecter’s secret liver recipe!” (Joe Neff, Warrington, Pa.; Rob Huffman)

Psychology Today + Cigar Aficionado: Sometimes just cigars. (Tony Medici)

Celebrity Hair+ Highlights for Children: “Honey Boo Boo Goes Blond on Blond!” (Gary Crockett)

Where + AARP the Magazine: This month: “10 Most Likely Places You Left Your Keys” and “10 Most Likely Places You Left Your Keys” (Frank Osen)

Science Prevention: How to keep the evils of evolution from reaching your schoolkids. (Howard Zahalsky, Vienna, a First Offender)

Cat Fancy + American Atheist = Dog doesn’t exist! (Lawrence McGuire)

Self O: Free with a subscription to Playboy. (Jason Russo, Annandale)

Papercrafts Magazine + Hustler: Creative origami for dirty fold men. (Lawrence McGuire)

More magazine mashups in the online gallery at bit.ly/invite999.