The Style Invitational

The Style Invitational: Week 831, Bucket Lists of the Famous; and Crank Calls to Product Hotlines

Saturday, August 22, 2009

On Sarah Palin's bucket list. Finally get to all the newspapers.

As if we don't have enough things to have hanging over our heads in our daily lives, it's become the thing to do to create a "bucket list" of goals to accomplish before you kick it. This week, 90-time Loser Larry Yungk -- who's already had his picture taken with Angelina Jolie -- suggests this week's contest. Name a "bucket list" item for a well-known real or fictional character.

Winner gets the ink -- the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place gets a pen that's a replica of the connected bones of the human finger -- a metacarpal and three half phalanges. Looks like the middle finger, judging from its attitude. Courtesy of newbie Bridget Goodman of Philadelphia, who brought it down with her to the Loserfest weekend in Baltimore last month.

Other runners-up win their choice of a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt or yearned-for Loser Mug. Honorable Mentions get one of the lasted-after Style Invitational Magnets.

One prize per entrant per week. Send your entries by e-mail to losers@washingtonpost.com or by fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Aug. 31. Put "Week 831" in the subject line of your e-mail, or it risks being ignored as spam. Include your name, postal address and phone number with your entry. Entries are judged on the basis of humor and originality. All entries become the property of The Washington Post. Entries may be edited for taste or content. Results will be published Sept. 19. No purchase required for entry. Employees of The Washington Post and their immediate relatives, are not eligible for prizes. Pseudonymous entries will be disqualified. The revised title for next week's results is by Mike Ostapij; this week's Honorable Mentions name is by Beverley Sharp.

Report From Week 827

in which we asked you to do free work for Washington Post Magazine humor columnist Gene Weingarten, in the form of coming up with stupid questions to ask customer service representatives on the phone. In return, Gene did free work for the Empress, choosing the winner and all the Losers below from a list of her finalists. Gene indeed plans to make some of the calls below.

The Winner of the Ink

To the White House: My 2006 Chrysler Sebring is hesitating when I step on the accelerator. When can I bring it in? (Jeff Hacie, Woodbridge)

2. To Procter & Gamble: I love your Charmin toilet paper, but I hate those rolls that dispense from the underside. Can you tell me where I can buy rolls that dispense from the top of the roll? (James Noble, Lexington Park)

3. To Whole Foods: Can I just come in to your downtown store and buy a cow? (Jane Auerbach, Los Angeles)

4. To Colgate: Goo goo ga ga ma ma. . . . What, you're not understanding? Then why do your instructions for your Peroxyl Antiseptic Oral Cleanser very clearly say, "Children under 2: Consult a dentist or physician"? (Les Greenshaw, Ann Arbor, Mich.)

The Lines Are Down: Honorable Mentions

Ikea: The table I ordered arrived, but all the legs are broken off! (Beverley Sharp, Washington)

I bought some Clairol Perfect 10 Hair Color for my wife. She's a wonderful woman, but she's normally a perfect 4. After using your product she's a 5½, 6 tops. Should she use more of the stuff or what? (Fran Meffer and Dave Zarrow, Benton)

Apple: Wouldn't it have been more practical to invent an Ear Phone? (David Kleinbard, Jersey City)

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