

The Style Invitational

REPORT FROM WEEK 773

In which we sought ideas for new religions: As often turns out to be the case, the Losers expressed their fervent and unshakable belief in the Power of the Pun.

- 4 Oxymormons:** A sect of polygamous monogamists. (Lisa Marier, Oak Hill, a First Offender)
- 3 Palindroman Catholicism:** Its central tenet was that a nun named Hannah would get elected ePope on 10-02-2001, put the church on the WWW (LOL), level the playing field for the sexes and be deified. Now mum, the faithful are keeping their eye on 01-02-2010. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

- 2 The winner of the photo book "Brides Behaving Badly":** Cheneyism: Premarital sex is prohibited, but you may go [have sex with] yourself. (Kevin d'Eustachio, Lynchburg, Va.)

AND THE WINNER OF THE INKER

Church of the Gauding Light: Adherents believe that no one truly dies; those who expire will become renewed as their evil twins — after a season or two. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

A CULT ABOVE THE REST: HONORABLE MENTIONS

Booboodhist: One who seeks spiritual guidance from his Yogi. (Jay Shuck, Minneapolis)

Bud'ism: Adherents strive to become the human ideal: a guy with a beer belly sitting under a tree. (Larry Flynn, Greenbelt, a First Offender)

Bureaucratism: The belief that all inaction has an equal and opposite inaction. (Rick Haynes, Potomac)

Cherisma: A belief in mummification while still alive. (Jack Held, Fairfax)

Church of St. Andrew: Followers of a little-known Scottish monk who manifested stigmata in nine places on each hand; its members celebrate these 18 bloody holes by playing golf every Sunday morning. (Peter Metrinko, Chantilly)

Church of the Wafering Stranger: It offers Communion to anyone. (Peter Metrinko)

Confusionism: The belief that death is final. No, just a temporary interruption. Maybe an abstract plane. Or something transcendental. I think. (Don Kirkpatrick, Waynesboro, Pa.)

When they proselytize, the Good Copts promise you heavenly rewards, while the Bad Copts threaten you with hellfire and brimstone. (Chris Doyle)

Depressbyterians: Those who think the End of Days actually did come in 2000. (Russ Taylor, Vienna)

Eunucharians: A sect whose hymnal is written for sopranos only. Its most prominent evangelist is the Rev. Jesse

Jackson. (Ira Allen, Bethesda)

Geek Orthodox: A sect that worships technology, but only up to the 2003 upgrades. (Peter Metrinko)

Hurling Dervishes: Believers in heaven on earth. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Jews for Allah: A group even more conflicted than Jews for Jesus. (Russell Beland, Springfield)

Kinduism: A religion practiced in West Virginia. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Lowest Common Denominationalism: The religion that lets you get away with the most stuff without going to Hell. (Steve Fahey, Kensington)

Monkeepiscopalians: They're true believers, without a trace of doubt in their minds. (Kathy Hardis Fraeman, Olney)

Netflixism: The belief that when you finish your life, you just send it back, rate it and wait for the next one to arrive. (Michelle Pangallo, Washington, a First Offender)

Nitarians: They believe nothing is too trivial to argue about at any time or any place. (Brent Spence, Arlington, a First Offender)

OCDeism: God will come to Earth to reveal His plan once He's sure the oven's turned off. (David Kofalt, Gaithersburg, a First Offender)

Pagangsterism: A church that receives large donations because "youse wouldn't want no Acts of Gods on ya's kneecaps." (Kevin Dopart)

Rhythm Methodists: The world's

fastest-growing religious group. (Jon Graft, Centreville)

Roman Candlecism: It holds that our existence will end with a Big Bang. (Marc Boysworth, Burke)

Salivationists: They not only speak in tongues, they speak in drool. (Marty McCullen, Gettysburg, Pa.)

She'ites: A group dedicated to removing all sexist references from the Bible. Prayers conclude with "Aperson." (Andy Bassett, New Plymouth, New Zealand)

Shihtzuists and Caninites: Their creed is "God spelled backward is Dog." (Dave Ferry, Key West, Fla.; Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

Spoonitarians: Offer prims of haze to their gourd Lod. (Seth Brown, North Adams, Mass.)

Sunnitarians: Believers face Mecca five times a day and then form a committee to figure out why. (Anne Paris, Arlington)

The Church of Latter-Day Stains: This group still believes the marks on the Shroud of Turin came from Christ, even though fabric was found to be much more recent. (Russell Beland, Springfield)

Transcendentalists: They believe God is one of us, just a stranger on the bus. (Chris Doyle)

Next Week: Tour de Forks, or Saturday Morning Snackdown