

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Candiditties: Political song parodies

BY PAT MYERS

In our Week 1177 parody contest, the Empress sought songs about the presidential campaign. While the more than 200 songs submitted ranged from old folk ballads to Kanye raps — with several “Hamiltons” — most of the lyrics had one of two themes: 1. He’s horrible. 2. They’re both horrible. **Many more parodies appear in the online Invite at bit.ly/invite1181.**

4th place

(to “Let It Go”) The crowd is white at the White House tonight, Not a brown face to be seen. A kingdom of deportation, And Ivanka is the queen. The kids are howling as we load them on the bus, But they’ve got to go — they don’t look like us. Don’t let them in. Don’t let them stay. Send Hispanics and Muslims all away! I’ll build a wall from sea to sea, for you and me.

Make ‘em go, make ‘em go, don’t want them here anymore. Let ‘em go, Let ‘em go, through the wall and slam the door. I don’t care what those people say. I’ll just send them home. We never wanted them anyway. (Jerry Birchmore, Springfield)

3rd place

Smile, Chris Christie (to “Smile”) Smile, though your soul is breaking. Smile, though the toll it’s taking Makes you a chump when you stand behind Trump. You can’t smile. You look so unhappy. Your life just seems so crappy. It’s all right there on my TV to see. Your eyes look red and misty. You blew it big, Chris Christie, Your great career may be ending right here. Just proclaim that you don’t support Trump, Announce you’ll work to thwart Trump. Just leave before you say “Sieg heil!” And then you’ll smile. (Barbara Sarshik, McLean)

2nd place and the DVD of politicians’ bloopers:

(to “My Way,” sung by Hillary Clinton) And now, this is the year; It’s time to choose a prez who’s female. Just who has got us here? Each one a vain and look-at-me male. Some great, and some third-rate, And now we’ve done a nonwhite-guy turn. Be good, dear Sisterhood, ‘Cause now it’s my turn.

Big deal, some mail exchange I set apart from full inquiry. To girls, that’s nothing strange; We’ve always kept a private diary. Some crooks, and we’ve had schnooks, And every one was an XY-turn. I’m fem, no worse than them, So why not my turn?

It’s high time for me, in my own right, To occupy that House of White. My Billy goat, he had his chance With open heart and open pants. Should have been hung, but I held my tongue So now it’s MY turn! (Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

And the winner of the Inkin’ Memorial:

(To the Major-General’s Song by Gilbert and Sullivan) I am the very model of a presidential candidate Whose every word has made The Don the most revolting man, to date. I ended Lyin’ Ted, he’s just a microscopic speck to me; On Clinton, I’m performing a political mastectomy. Since Barry said that gays can wed, a champion to them is he; I’ll overturn the court, we’ll see who really has supremacy! When dirty thugs fight whites, they lead this country to the coroner; I’ll end this racial dissonance by banning every foreigner.

We’ll build a wall that’s greater than that Lego fort of China’s is; Our country will be pure at last — there won’t be any minuses! My Donald-centered plans have left the voters in excited states, So soon I’ll be the president and run these Disunited States. (Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1181: Put it in Bee-verse

**PTYALISM: excessive salivating (pronounced TY-alism) Imagine having ptyalism, so you salivate a lot And also having nihilism, which means you haven’t got Much regard for others. Mix contempt with many drools, Et voilà! You’re free to walk the streets just spitting on those fools.** — Gene Weingarten, Washington Post Poet Wit Laureate

Now that the annual National Spelling Bee has become a virtually impossibly competitive prime-time sport — do the kids have agents yet to wangle flash card endorsements? — its organizers have been tinkering with the format, adding and dropping the number of rounds played, throwing in a vocabulary test to winnow the whizzes. But we’re waiting for a new question that a stumped seventh-grader can use to stall for time: “Would you use it in a poem, please?” Since once again, the Losers will be ready to oblige. **This week: Write a short, humorous poem using one of the 36 words below, all from the 2016 bee. Pronunciations and meanings are listed in the online Invite at bit.ly/invite1181;** they’re also all searchable on the Internet. **You need to use the word in its actual meaning, not a pretend one.**

NEW: No more emailing entries! Instead, submit them at this website: subpl.at/INVITE1181.

Winner gets the Inkin’ Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place in this lit’ry contest will receive two fine volumes: “How Animals Have Sex: A Guide to the Reproductive Habits of Creatures Great and Small,” donated by Melissa Balmain; and “Humpty the Moose,” a children’s book that has nothing to do with the reproductive habits of creatures great, despite the tsk-tsk thoughts of donor Jon Gearhart.

**Other runners-up** win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug, the older-model “This Is Your Brain on Mugs” mug or a vintage Loser T-shirt. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, “Magnet Dum Laude” or “Falling Jest Short.” First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” (FirStink for their first ink). Deadline is Tuesday evening, July 5 (you get an extra day!); results published July 24 (online July 21). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. See contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The “Candiditties” headline was submitted by both Tom Witte and Kevin Dopart; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Jesse Frankovich. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. “Like” the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday; follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

**THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL** The Empress’s weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.

The spelling bee words

- alpargata
- aplustre
- biniou
- campagnol
- chremslach
- dipnoous
- dulia
- écorché
- edacious
- ekka
- epistaxis
- ergataner

geländesprung

- haab
- iiwi
- klendustiy
- Mischsprache
- myiasis
- ochlocracy
- pilcrow
- piqueur
- promyshlennik
- ptyalism
- quadriga
- rerebrace

solenoglyphous

- solmizate
- somma
- sophrosyne
- strepitous
- taoiseach
- tilleul
- tourelle
- tyee
- vaccary
- vulnerary

See their meanings and pronunciations at bit.ly/invite1181

Voted down: honorable mentions

**Oh Donny boy,** the GOP is falling In line with you; objections they let slide; Summer’s upon us, time to end the stalling; It’s you, it’s you, it seems, and they can’t hide. But demographics, are they stacked against you? The voters aren’t all men or white as snow, Will enough others show up in November? Oh Donny boy, oh Donny boy, I sure hope so. (Maria LeBerre, Herndon, Va., a First Offender)

**To “My Favorite Things”:** Heaping abuse on the Mexican nation, Blaming tough questions upon menstruation, Making up myths and then giving them wings, These are a few of my favorite things.

Vile verbal volleys, with venom

unstintin’, Vacuous venting at Hillary Clinton, Forging my fortune with arrows and slings, These are a few of my favorite things.

As I look out from atop the Trump Tower, On the horizon is my finest hour. Immigrants, Muslims and Democrats too, People, get ready, I’m coming for you!

Isn’t ranting quite enchanting? All in war is fair. And Hillary, this is the place that you’ll kiss, When it’s in Obama’s chair. (Stephen Gold, Glasgow, Scotland)

See a video of Matt Monitto’s “Alexander Hamilton” parody “Presidential Candidates” at bit.ly/invite-hamilton

Many more parodies in the online Invite at bit.ly/invite1181.

**Still running — deadline Monday: our contest to play with comic strips. See bit.ly/invite1180.**

SUNDAY CHALLENGE

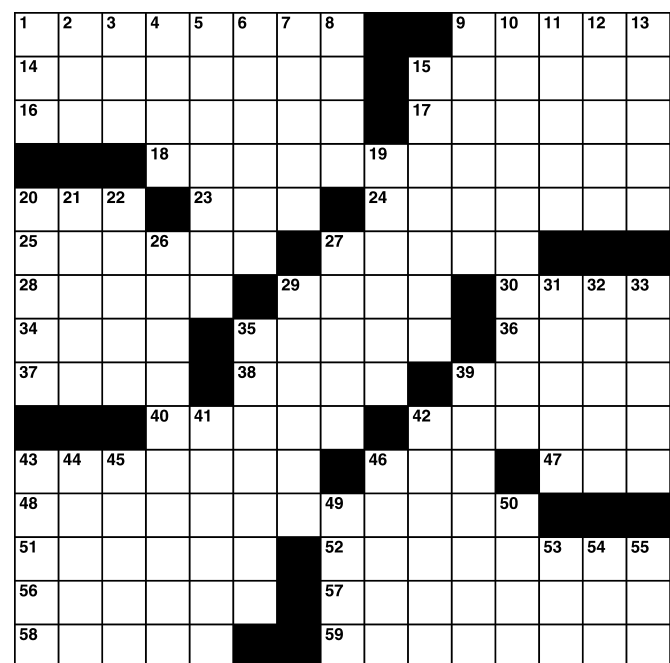
BY TONY ORBACH © 2016 CROSSYENERGY SYNDICATE LLC

- ACROSS**
- 1 It’s a sin
- 9 Obsequious flattery
- 14 Stern request to an unresponsive responder
- 15 Contract actor’s employer
- 16 Food with a shell that displays the golden ratio
- 17 Faux gold
- 18 Some self-help spoutings, say
- 20 CPR expert
- 23 Type
- 24 Like push-button cars
- 25 Taoism founder
- 27 Break down
- 28 Citi Field instigator
- 29 Polynesian menu platter
- 30 Move for a dumbbell?
- 34 Island near Corsica
- 35 Bulb grown in the Noordpolder in Flevoland
- 36 I Can’t Believe It’s Not Butter!, for one
- 37 2013 Katy Perry song with the lyric “Louder, louder than a lion”
- 38 Perennial from a bulb or a rhizome
- 39 Too-too boho
- 40 Curtin and Campion
- 42 European peninsula
- 43 Magazine with the slogan “Fierce, Fun, and Fabulous”
- 46 Leb. neighbor
- 47 “Cutting It: In the \_\_\_\_\_” (reality show about Georgia-based hairstylists)
- 48 No dumb bunny
- 51 Hit home
- 52 Highly anticipated appointments
- 56 People also called the Tenochca
- 57 Races and cares, for example

- 58 Ages
- 59 Enter by the droves
- DOWN**
- 1 Monogram of the inventor of the phonograph
- 2 ICU workers
- 3 Key for getting out of a jam?
- 4 Barter
- 5 Keep at
- 6 Varicolored diamond design
- 7 Lab coat
- 8 Actor Rogen of “Superbad”
- 9 Alley cats
- 10 Naturalistic genre with hard-to-hear dialogue
- 11 Sun-dried brick
- 12 Brooklets
- 13 Pouts
- 15 Dry out, in a way
- 19 Giraffes’ cousins
- 20 Fudd featured in “Rabbit Seasoning”
- 21 Thomas of “That Girl”
- 22 Italian skiing legend
- Alberto
- 26 Manipulatively maudlin movie
- 27 Shaggy-coated sheepdogs
- 29 Crushes to a pulp
- 31 Extreme
- 32 Convene again
- 33 True
- 35 “Walkie-talkies” connected by string
- 39 Shorten
- 41 High jinks
- 42 Bomb set off in the desert in 1987?
- 43 Think piece, perhaps
- 44 Urban air problem
- 45 Chimney creeper
- 46 “No way!”
- 49 Cries of surprise
- 50 Law office worker, for short
- 53 Floppy topper
- 54 Longtime U.K. record label
- 55 Hyphenated ID

Answer to last week

I	T	T	Y		P	I	C	N	I	C	A	R	E	A		
N	E	R	A		E	N	R	I	C	H	M	E	N	T		
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D	O	S			A	Y	N		W	A	T			T		
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HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY/JUNE 26:** This year your sensitivity to others becomes one of your hallmarks. Others count on your empathy and ability to help them find solutions. If you are single, you could stumble from one hot romance to another, unless you are looking for more. If you are attached, the two of you draw a lot of attention. Together, you will manifest an important mutual goal. Pisces feels as intensely as you do.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) You’ll need some time to yourself. Recognize your limits. Indulge in a lazy day: Read the paper, take a nap, watch a baseball game, or do whatever knocks your socks off. Just make sure that you love whatever you are doing.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) Zero in on what you want, but know that a friend might suggest a fun activity that could force you to compromise your initial plans. Be careful with a younger person who seems to think that you just don’t “get it.”

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) Relating on an individual level is far more rewarding for you than being out and about where you can see all of your friends. Stay home with a loved one. Make a special Sunday brunch together, or go out where the two of you can be alone.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) Be willing to let go and express your desire to do something unusual, or follow through on what you consider to be a special happening. In some way, you might feel vulnerable. Know that this is the case for anyone who decides to try something new.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) Plan on spending quality time with a loved one. You often are so busy running around that slowing down and focusing on one person might be uncomfortable at first. This discomfort is only momentary.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Deferring to others might not be as easy as you think. Nevertheless, you seem to have managed to do just that all weekend long. End this period without any hassles, and keep your grumbling to yourself for now.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Your imagination goes haywire when dealing with a problem. You might feel confused at first, but eventually a solution will appear. Don’t try to force an answer. Allow greater give-and-take between you and a loved one.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You feel like a teenager again and probably have given others a glimpse of this attitude, especially today. A romantic tie could start sizzling, even if you have been with this person for a long time.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Stay on top of a personal matter. Your understanding and growth will not go unnoticed by those close to you. A partner or loved one could feel threatened, as confusion seems to surround him or her. Let this person know that you care.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Speak your mind, and be willing to back up your words. Your integrity and support mean a lot to others. Refuse to get caught up in any situation that might be dramatic.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Decide to treat a child or dear friend to a fun day involving a pastime that you both love. Relax and share more of your mutual interests. Try to walk away from any gossip. In the long run, the less you know, the better off you are.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) What you do seems to work, with the exception of one person who tends to confuse situations and create hassles. Don’t take this personally; just let it roll off you. Whatever the plans are, you naturally bring family and friends together.

Beau not comfortable with ex situation

**Ask Amy** Dear Amy: I am gay and have been dating a great guy for 1½ years.

He is 45; I am 33. It is an amazing relationship, except for one thing. He was in a 24-year relationship that was ending when we met. His ex is 60 years old.

They stay in touch and reside in the same city.

My boyfriend and I have been committed fully for nine months. The problem is that he frequently tells me that he wants to attend out-of-state events that the ex will also be attending. Recently, he mentioned he would travel to attend a gay pride event and would stay with a mutual friend. His ex would also be there.

I am uncomfortable with this idea, and I get defensive. It ends up pushing us apart because I speculate about them.

We never fight, except when this subject emerges every few months.

I can’t control how I feel, and he seems reluctant to stay away from these events even though he knows it bothers me.

Is it wrong for me to ask him to not do these things or to include me in the events, rather than feel as if I have been shoved aside?

Wondering

**Wondering:** When it comes to the relationship with exes, the burden is on the common partner (your guy) to create boundaries and reassure the new partner (you) that all is well.

One way to do this would be to include you in events in which the ex will be present. If you two are partners, you should include each other openly in social events and introduce each other to friends and family members. Getting to know his ex would probably help you come to terms with this long-standing relationship.

It’s a delicate balance. You should not use your feelings to hurt or manipulate your partner, but he should be respectful of a natural sensitivity on your part.

**Dear Amy:** I had a guy best friend in high school. We tried to date and after graduation we

lived together, but things never worked out romantically. I couldn’t understand why.

I moved out and tried to rekindle our friendship. This did not last long, as I started to date a new man. We had a big falling out over it.

I haven’t spoken to said friend in almost five years, and I am no longer with the other guy. I find myself thinking constantly about my old friend. I’m at a point where I am not sure whether or not to contact him. Should I act? Do I leave it to fate?

Longing

**Longing:** Fate is not a matchmaker. Don’t passively wait for fate to do the work you could be doing. Relationships take different forms and assume different sizes and shapes over the years. Now that you seem to have some clarity on what you want, you should contact your former friend and see if he is interested.

Write to Amy Dickinson at askamy@tribune.com or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.