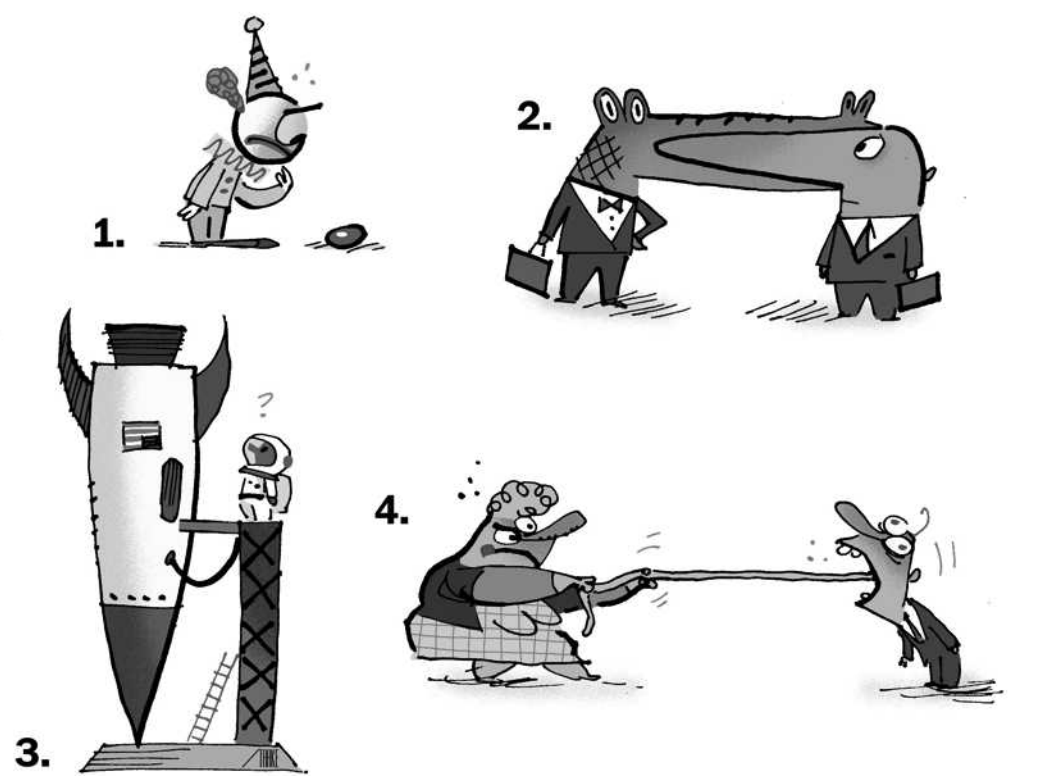


DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Week 1197: Picture This — It's a Bob Staake caption contest



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Since 1994, when the Czar of The Style Invitational took a chance on a hyperactively creative scribbler from St. Louis whose sense of humor seemed to mesh with his own, the Invite has been blessed (from the French *blessé*, “wounded”) virtually every seven days by the illustrations of Bob Staake. And at least a couple times a year, we make the Invite a Bob Contest. **This week: Provide a caption for any of the cartoons above;** be sure to label each entry “Picture 1,” “Picture 2,” etc., because that’s what Ms. Empress will be searching on during her Weekly Marathon of Judging.

Submit entries to this website: bit.ly/enter-invite-1197 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the Inkin’ Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives an awful faux-“primitive” wooden surfer figurine made in Indonesia for the tourist trade, donated by Loser Susan Thompson. We don’t call our runners-up Losers for nothing. (This prize actually has more monetary value than most of our offerings.)

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug, the older-model “This Is Your Brain on Mugs” mug or our new Grossery Bag, “I Got a B in Punmanship.” 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 Monday night, Oct. 24; results published Nov. 13 (online Nov. 10). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. See contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. “Hars Poedica” in the headline is by Chris Doyle; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Nan Reiner. 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.

Hars Poedica: 4-liners from Week 1193

BY PAT MYERS

No matter what challenges the Empress presents to the Greater Loser Community — especially the Loserbards of our verse contests — some intrepid few will meet them. With the **Week 1193** “Poed” contest, the few were fewer than usual. It proved a tough challenge to meet the Poed (named for a guy named Ed) format of exactly six one-syllable words in the first line, three two-syllable words in the second, two threes in the third, and one six-syllable word (or a name) in the last, plus a rhyme in there somewhere — and be funny. Here’s the wheat (or maybe we should call them wheatises) that we tweezed from the chaff.

4th place

All day the news shows blare, Donald-Donald-Donald! Hillary-Hillary! NPRtillery. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

3rd place

“Doc, give it to me straight: Zika? Buboes? Prostate? Leprosy? Myiasis?” “Hypochondriasis.” (Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

2nd place and the signed copy of “Bad Little Children’s Books”:

In what world can Trump be — Even only briefly — Sincerely considered Commander-in-chiefly? (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

And the winner of the Inkin’ Memorial:

Eight of me in my head. Crazy? Maybe instead Multi-me’s healthier: Biodiversity! (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

Po’ eds: honorable mentions

What is not so nice is Paying Mylan’s prices. Purchasers furious, EpiPenurious. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)
 The big news of the year? Brexit? Parted nation? Terrorists? Election? Brangelination! (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church, Va.)
 The game that spoils the peace Besides helping increase Nintendo’s revenue: Pokémonetizing. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)
 What is “truth” on the Web? Rumors: angry, unsourced, Biases reinforced, E-pissed-emology. (Gary Crockett)
 LPs. VCRs, yet! Carbon paper! Cassette Recorders! Telephones!



PAT MYERS/THE WASHINGTON POST

This week’s second prize: No, it’s not Trump after losing 100 pounds and taking up surfing; it’s an Indonesian “primitive” figurine made for the tourist trade.

Nana-technology. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)
 Fast-food staff, up in arms! Protest tiny wages! Suggested solution? Counterrevolution! (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)
 Dang! We ran out of booze. (Lousy party crashers!) Attendance inflated: Underestimated. (Beverly Sharp)
 Trump “tells it like it is”; Clinton uses finesse. Equally distrusted, Credibilityless. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)
 This is way out of hand! Coffee, candles . . . Pringles? Everything’s applying Pumpkinspicyfying. (Jesse Frankovich)
 Fire. Flood. Bad switch. Failed rails. Metro’s SafeTrack routing. Everyday commuting Reliability. (Kevin Dopart)
 A bell rings, a dog drools. Ivan Pavlov’s simple Notation: “Fabulous! RinTinTinabolous!” (Chris Doyle)

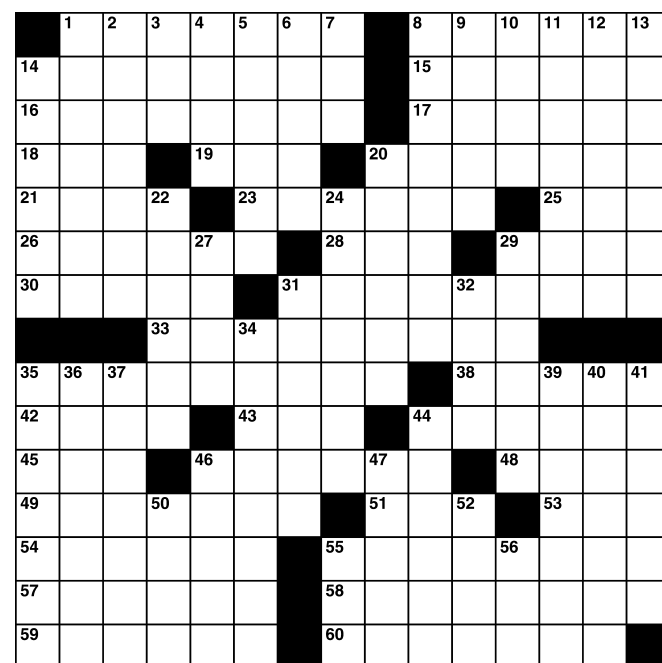
He sends “junk” mail by phone Today, sitting alone. Another subpoena, Anthony D. Weiner. (Ralph Nitkin, Rockville, Md.)
 My new phone bit the dust iPad’s also kaput. Infernal damnation! Ex-communication. (Beverly Sharp)
 Some Trump folks must be good People, although others . . . Reprobates, horrible, Ultradeploable. — H.R.C., N.Y. (Nan Reiner)
 What if they taxed “hand” size? Surely, bragging ceases . . . Adjusted decimal . . . Infinitiesmall! (Mark Raffman)
 It’s time for us to be Festive, forward-thinking: Passover, Hanukkah . . . Marijewanukkah. (Nan Reiner)
 When she says, “It’s fine!” her Meaning often implies Exactly otherwise: Gynecological. (Mark Raffman)
 Six moves in five states net Seven stupid magnets (Maryland repeated) Kevin d’Eustachio. (Of Beltsville, Md.)
 I just got my new Note! Samsung’s offers promote “Mind-blowing clarity.” Why’sitgettinghotACK — (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)
And last: Here’s what nerds feel as they’re Writing tricky verses: Frustration, vexation, Poedification. (Chris Doyle)
Still running — deadline Monday night, Oct 17: our Hyphen the Terrible neologism contest. See bit.ly/invite1196.

SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY BRAD WILBER © 2016 CROSSYNERGY SYNDICATE LLC

- ACROSS**
- 1 Catch sight of
 - 8 Marquee sharer
 - 14 Transporters of cups and saucers
 - 15 Performing preprogrammed functions
 - 16 How bad things crop up, according to some
 - 17 Headgear for the Archbishop of Canterbury
 - 18 Vietnamese holiday
 - 19 Subway map dot (abbr.)
 - 20 Last Supper attendee
 - 21 Puccini’s “Nessun dorma,” e.g.
 - 23 Without dissent
 - 25 Blotito
 - 26 Detail of etiquette
 - 28 Slammer
 - 29 Red flannel hash veggie
 - 30 All-too-public quarrel
 - 31 Cubes and pyramids
 - 33 Vegas hotel named for a legendary weapon
 - 35 Subject to checks and balances
 - 38 Everyday Knee Highs brand
 - 42 Longtime Yankee moniker
 - 43 Mideast gp. with United Nations observer status
 - 44 Trip through the bush
 - 45 Prohibit
 - 46 Cliché in the making
 - 48 Plug in your living room?
 - 49 Disneyland’s city
 - 51 In vogue
 - 53 Bird companion to Minerva
 - 54 Home of Italy’s main stock exchange, to locals
 - 55 Husband in 10 1940s-’50s film comedies
 - 57 List of Election Day choices
 - 58 Popular arbor vine with large blooms
 - 59 “Tennis, ___?”
 - 60 Mystify

- DOWN**
- 1 Nonspecific
 - 2 Piecrust decorative effect
 - 3 “I,” in Innsbruck
 - 4 “The War of the Worlds” enemy
 - 5 Considerably
 - 6 Dictation pro
 - 7 Soccer header?
 - 8 Jumpers at reveille, in songdom
 - 9 Bagel flavor
 - 10 Exams taken in high sch.
 - 11 Inverted, as a capsized boat
 - 12 Artist’s studio
 - 13 Stone discovery site
 - 14 Giants
 - 20 2001 French film with five Oscar nominations
 - 22 Source of “Beware of Greeks bearing gifts”
 - 24 Tragic NASA mission of 1967
 - 27 Message with an emoji, often
 - 29 Deprived
 - 31 Venerable baby cereal now owned by Heinz
 - 32 Storytelling Pacific dance
 - 34 Bay of Naples islander
 - 35 Ritchie Valens hit tune and biopic
 - 36 Many a Farsi speaker
 - 37 Way in which many feel superior
 - 39 Verb rhymed with “yacht” and “apricot” in Carly Simon’s “You’re So Vain”
 - 40 Cluster of symbols substituting for profanity, in cartoonist lingo
 - 41 Moves crabwise
 - 44 Large piece of barbecue equipment
 - 46 Part of a dovetail joint
 - 47 Fossil-yielding rock
 - 50 Saintry circle
 - 52 Seasonal hire
 - 55 Hallucinogen also called “angel dust,” for short “Que ___?” (José’s “How goes it?”)



Answer to last week



HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY|Oct. 16: This year you have an opportunity to see many sides of an issue. You will discover what voice to use in any discussion. You might want to weigh the pros and cons of using an intellectual approach as opposed to an emotional one. If you are single, you meet potential sweeties with ease. Still, wait for the right person to come along. If you are attached, the two of you often sit on opposite sides of a question. Taurus can be gentle yet demanding at the same time.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You might wake up feeling energetic, but as afternoon approaches you could feel as if you need to slow down. Whether you meet friends for brunch and overeat or you simply are dragging your feet, a nap could be in order.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You might need some time to yourself, or perhaps you’ll want to share a few private moments with a key person in your life. You could stumble into quite the social scene. Enjoy every minute.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You could be in the position of wanting a change of pace from your hectic and demanding social life. Take the afternoon off just for you and a friend or two.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You might feel drained and pressured beyond your normal limits. Listen to what someone else suggests you do to get yourself energized. Accept an invitation from a friend or loved one.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You could be worn out by recent demands. You might feel as if you have to be in many places at once. Enjoy a relaxing few moments with a family member or older friend.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You’ll draw quite a few friends to you. One-on-one relating in the morning could be rather fulfilling. Some of you might decide to reach out to a special person with whom you enjoy catching up.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You will enjoy relating to others on a one-on-one level. You’ll treasure special time with a friend. You both have a good time, no matter what your plans are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You could feel pushed to the max and will want to make an impression on a special person. Postpone plans until the afternoon, when you discover how many people could be seeking you out.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) The morning holds magic for you and a loved one. You could find that you both are playing a wild game. By the afternoon, you might decide to slow down the pace and enjoy some time on the couch.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You could be full of fun. You’ll want to make the most of your time at home. Lighten up in the afternoon. If you are single, you might meet someone who can be described as nothing less than tantalizing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You will speak your mind in the morning. How you feel about this newfound transparency will depend on what you end up saying, and how well you can accept being vulnerable. Keep communication flowing.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You might need to pull back and spend less. However, this doesn’t mean that you can’t still enjoy yourself. Listen to your sixth sense. In the afternoon, start returning calls to catch up on others’ news.

Reining in an overly gregarious friend

Ask Amy
AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: My husband and I are in our mid-30s. We’re not introverts, but we are particular

shows up with unexpected guests. Often these are people we’ve never met. Sometimes they’re people we have met and aren’t really interested in hanging out with.

Are we uptight for being irritated by this? Is there any way to address it without sounding like sticks in the mud?

Crowded House

One of our good friends is far more social than we are; she seems to meet a new close friend everywhere she goes. She is, as you might imagine, gregarious and fun to be around, but she has a habit that’s starting to get under our skin. Every time we (or I) invite her to do something, she invites other people to join us.

This happens whether the event is a small gathering at our house, a shopping excursion or a night out at a performance. Sometimes she asks if it’s okay to bring specific people, and sometimes she replies to an email invitation saying, “Yes, I’d love to attend!” with four or five new people unexpectedly copied and thus invited to join us.

And sometimes she just

Dear Amy: The letter from “Daughter at a Loss” was painful to read. She was struggling with how to deal with her abusive adoptive parents, who were now elderly and needy but had not changed their behavior toward her.

One of the Ten Commandments instructs you to honor your mother and father. What it should say is, “Honor thy father and mother, if they are honorable.”

Upset

Upset: Many readers responded with compassion and concern to the letter from this adult daughter, who had tolerated verbal put-downs and abuse her entire life. Now that her parents were elderly and in a nursing home, she struggled with the decision to perhaps cut them out of her life entirely.

Amy’s column appears seven days a week at washingtontimes.com/advice. Write to askamy@amydickinson.com or Amy Dickinson, Tribune Content Agency, 16650 Westgrove Dr., Suite 175, Addison, Tex. 75001. You can also follow her @askamy. ©2016 by the Chicago Tribune