a lot of baggage

dedicatee

Carlo Menotti

bowling split

EE

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Laughedovers: Recycling ideas from Week 1131

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1131 we listed some items available from RepurposedMaterialsInc.com everything from mineral oil to Jersey barriers to a hockey rink - and

asked for some imaginative ideas for using them singly or in combination. Many people suggested using the synthetic turf to accompany that non-crabmeat for an all-fake "surf and turf."

4th place

100-foot diameter military cargo parachutes: Your Mama can use one as a skirt. Well, more of a miniskirt. (Ben Aronin, Washington)

3rd place

Purple linen napkins: Sew 50 of them together to make a Baltimore Ravens uniform. Or sew two together to make a Baltimore Ravens cheerleader uniform. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

2nd place and the ceramic outhouse "sculpture":

Plastic ballot boxes: To keep illegal immigrants far away from Donald Trump, use the plastic ballot boxes to build a thick wall around him. (Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

And the winner of the **Inkin' Memorial**

10-milliliter glass vials: Want to see how clever squirrels really are? Make a glass harp — that set of glasses that makes music when you put water in the glasses and rub the edges - and set it up in front of a screen with a walnut behind it. When the squirrel learns to play "Anticipation," the screen opens and it gets the nut - and you'll get a zillion views on Instagram. You do have to be patient; it took more than 10 minutes for the ones in my yard to solve it. (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

Re(f)used: honorable mentions

Boardwalk boards: Surprise the wife and cover your bedroom ceiling with boardwalk boards, throw some sand and seaweed on the bed and relive some Drifters magic. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

Bowling alley wood: Great for kitchen countertops and tables especially when paired with repurposed pinsetters that automatically serve and clear away your meals. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Bowling alley wood: Roof your house with it: Based on my experience, anything that lands on it will quickly end up in the gutter. (Art Grinath, Takoma Park; Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Carpet tiles: Perfect vehicles for very small genies. (Beverley Sharp)

Carpet tiles: Install them on a brick patio in the D.C. area and you'll quickly have a mushroom farm growing out of the carpet just a step away from your kitchen door. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

Carpet tiles: To avoid the expense of carpeting and to make a fashion statement, glue carpet tiles to all your shoes. (Jeff Shirley)

Carpet tiles: Make a home exfoliation spa! 1. Cover the kid's slide in the back yard with carpet tiles, 2. Disrobe, 3. Slide down four times: front, back, left, right. 4. Did we forget to recommend a privacy screen? (For extra exfoliation, substitute the asphalt shingles.) (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park; Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg)

Escalator handrails: They'll fit perfectly as handrails for Metro's stairs. (Ben Aronin; Matt Monitto)

Escalator handrails: Advertise a handrail as the world's largest piece of licorice, and charge skeptics to take a bite because really, who could tell? (Jeff Shirley)

Concrete barriers and planters:

Always dreamed of living in a building as warm and welcoming as the HHS headquarters? Some of these will give you that same friendly ambiance! (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

A plastic hockey rink: How many times have you said, "Let's play plastic hockey!" and you had no rink? (Edmund Conti, Raleigh)

Jersey barriers: Okay, Christie's contained. Now we need two dozen other state barriers. (Ellen Ryan, Rockville)

Purple linen napkins: Start a blog called Build the Purple Line Now! Ask for supporters to buy your "Purple Line Flags" and display



New contest for Week 1135: The meter's running

Limit: 60 seconds or one transaction at the ATM, whichever is shorter.

Penalty: Your account and PIN get uploaded to hackerhangout.com.

Limit: 30 seconds to pay up in the cafeteria line. Penalty: You have to sit for five minutes with your meal in front of you, but not eat.

Washingtonians might not be as frenetic and impatient as New Yorkers, but for a bunch of bureaucrats, we don't have much patience for those who carry on their lives at a languid, la-di-da pace — especially when they're in front of us in the line at the post office, and it doesn't seem to occur to them that at the end of the transaction, they are expected to produce some sort of payment for the shipment of the package they'd failed to wrap properly in the first place; that must explain why they have not, in the previous many minutes, done some research into which little hidey-hole of their multi-pocket handbag is holding their collection of loose coins and shrinkfolded \$1 bills. Loser Mike Gips of Bethesda (by way of New York) suggests this week's contest: Suggest actions in daily life that should require a time limit - maximum or minimum and come up with a an appropriate penalty for running over (or under), as in the examples above. The entries don't have to be written in as short a form as these, but don't write more

than a short paragraph. Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place — perhaps apropos of this week's contest receives a top-of-the-line inflatable head-hatchet, complete with attached headband and decorated in a cartoony splashing-blood motif. Donated by Loser Nan Reiner. The Empress primly donned this hatchet in a restaurant at a Loser brunch; late arrivals had no trouble finding the Style Invitational table.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet designed by Bob Staake: either "The Wit Hit the Fan" or "Hardly Har-Har." First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or, if you were born in the 19th century, fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday night, Aug. 10; results published Aug. 30 (online Aug. 27). You may submit up to 25entries per contest. Include "Week 1135" in your e-mail subject line or it might be ignored as spam. Include your real name, postal address and phone number with your entry. See contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Tom Witte; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Jeff Shirley. 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/

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.



250-time Loser Nan Reiner with this week's second prize.

them on trees and utility poles in their neighborhoods. Then buy another truckload, paint a red slash on each napkin, and start a blog called No Purple Line in My Back Yard! (Joseph Mat Schech, Colesville)

Purple linen napkins: Finally I can make curtains to match my Chivas Regal bag duvet cover! (Barbara

Purple linen napkins: A new line of "Mankinis by Prince." (Mike Gips, Bethesda; Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

Plastic pallets: The Republican National Committee should stock up now - disposable platforms will be essential after the primaries. (Kevin Dopart)

Fire hose and mineral oil: Elephants may still be vulnerable to

poachers and loss of habitat, but with enough of these, you can cross constipation off their list of worries. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

Particle board: States with awful health-care systems can use them to build cheap coffins; they can even call the boards "death panels." (Kevin Dopart)

Ski lift cable: Research proves that children who have ski lift cable running directly from bed to bus stop have fewer absences and tardies. (Rob Huffman)

10-ml vials: Fill them with Coke, then advertise "97 percent less high-fructose corn syrup compared to our regular can of Coke!" (Joseph Mat Schech)

8-foot-diameter tires: Cruise lines need new life rings for their American passengers, especially on the final days of the cruise. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

Combination of items: Use the carpet tiles on the walls to upgrade the soundproofing of your rumpus room. Use the climbing rope, rubber sheets and mineral oil to upgrade your rumpus. (Doug Frank, Crosby,

Odor-eater fabric: Instead of parchment when publishing "The Best of The Style Invitational: Premium Collector's Edition"... (Kevin Dopart)

Still running – deadline Monday night, Aug. 3: Our "air quotes" wordplay contest. See bit.ly/ invite1134.

SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY ALAN ARBESFELD © 2015 CROSSYNERGY SYNDICATE LLC

- **ACROSS** 41 At a Nats home game, say Covers up 42 Hit the top 44 Happenings 15 Tallinn locale
- 16 Becomes suddenly 47 It may be taken hostile to or beaten 48 Cool quantity? 17 Schmoozes
- 49 Financial aid factor 19 Bojangles specialty 20 Commercial ending 50 JFK alternative with Star or Sun 53 Rave reviews
- 21 London spot? 59 Got less intense **60** Target of some 22 Verizon competitor urban hailing
- 25 Marzipan ingredient **61** Title girl in a 28 Olympic team 1968 Turtles hit member
- **62** Organs associated 30 "Star Trek: The Next Generation" role 31 Put together
- 32 Schedule opening DOWN Word with head 36 "Gee whiz!" 39 Least likely or foot
- Govt. watchdog to sit still 40 Dozer in an Everly agency Slam on the brakes **Brothers** song

Answer to last week														
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Overly 25 Weaponry 43 Person with Tolkien tree 26 "Luck Be a Lady" creature composer/lyricist 44 Roast host 27 Crown wearer 45 Like some Internet Take a chance Nicole Kidman's role since 1952 in "Moulin Rouge!" 28 Belgium-based 46 Beethoven Editor's reversal imaging company Center of activity 29 1982 Jeff Bridges 47 Business card abbr. 49 Scruff School basics, 30 Get even with **51** Composer initially 11 Prime divisor 32 Explosive letters **12** Be of ____ (aid) **33** The cellar, in sports 52 Embassy figs. **54** Pin in many a

13 Rose or bagel **34** Tom Joad, notably order 35 Prepared for 14 Hogan contemporary a drive? 37 Multivolume refs. 38 U.S. Army medal

55 Courtroom vow 18 DDE's predecessor 56 Mean sort 23 Connects, in a way 57 DCC/V 24 Fix, as brickwork 42 Breaks the rules

58 Links position

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | AUG. 2: This year you will be more sensitive and diplomatic, especially with those close to you. Others will meet your inquiries and concerns openly. You understand people who have dreams of what could be, as you are equally imaginative. It is possible that you will receive a pay raise or promotion. If you are single, you may meet someone this month who dazzles you. If you are attached, treat your significant other as you would like to be treated.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You discover a need for solitude. Make plans accordingly, whether they involve going to the beach or off to a spiritual retreat. You'll feel as if a burden is being lifted.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Listen to news, and be more realistic about what you want. Your sense of humor draws in others, as they enjoy your perspective and playfulness.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You'll accomplish a lot, and quickly at that. You might want to plan a meeting or get-together with friends and loved ones. Whatever the choice is, you will enjoy yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You are flexible by nature. Although you might not have intended to take a mini-trip, you probably won't have a choice. Take a walk by water.

LFO (July 23-Aug 22) It might seem that someone you care about is subtly reeling you in. This individual tends to be idealistic and sees only what he or she wants to see.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Open up to a more dynamic relationship than you have experienced in the recent past, providing you can accept each other's differences.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You have a way about you that encourages others to be more open. Share a favorite hobby with a friend or loved one. You might be surprised by the result.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You have a strong feeling that a lot is about to change, but you might not have as much say as you would like. Focus on your priorities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Your intuition is right-on as far as a family member and a domestic situation go. Think rationally and make decisions accordingly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Make calls in the morning, and catch up on your friends' news. Make plans to meet a special someone or go off and indulge in a summer sport you enjoy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Your sense of humor emerges when conversing with someone who is in a controlling mood. You know that this won't go anywhere, so just take a step back.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) A friend might really appreciate your support. Some of your ideas could help this person get away from a controlling situation. Get more exercise and keep yourself

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Conflicted about financial support

Ask Amy AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: I have a 12-yearold daughter. Her biological father passed away

when she was 2 years old. I remarried when she was 5. He and I separated when she was 10. We're now divorced. He loves my daughter very much and has considered her his own

He never formally adopted her, but he has seen her regularly, because of my cooperation. I never wanted to "punish" either of them by not allowing them to see each other. He calls and asks to take her

to dinner or to do fun things during the day. This is great, but he does not help me financially.

A huge part of me thinks he shouldn't have to. But I sometimes feel resentful that I am the one paying for school activities, birthdays and necessities, and he still gets to spend time with her whenever he wants without helping me. I've always wanted to be kind, and I can provide on my own, but this has become a nagging thought.

I wish he would help me by offering to pay for things he knows about, such as school pictures. Or that he would give me a monthly amount, like child support. But then I feel bad for even thinking he should have to help.

Am I wrong or should I talk to him about this? Resentful

If you want child support, then you should be prepared to further monetize your daughter's relationship with your exhusband. I don't recommend it (and I don't think you would succeed).

It seems that you resent him for having a fun relationship with your daughter when you are left holding the bag. I understand your reaction, but this is what it means to be a parent. When you're a parent, sometimes it seems that everyone else is on the dance floor, while you are left to guard their

You should offer your ex the opportunity to pay for school pictures or soccer cleats, but don't turn this into a fight over pennies.

Dear Amy: I recently retired after 42 years of working. I am enjoying my time so far, although there are some days when I feel sad. I know it's a transition from a busy profes-

sional life in academia. I run into people, friends or acquaintances, who ask me, "What do you do all day?" Other than saying, "Anything I want!" or providing a list of things I am doing, is there a better response to their queries? I can't help but feel put down for no longer working full time.

Retired and Happy

Someone posed this question to me once when I was a stay-at-home mother. "What do you do all day" comes out sounding like such a putdown, when for some people it might simply be their clunky way of asking what (and how) you're doing once your status has changed.

I love your response: "Anything I want!" I also think you should take this awkward question as an opening to a short conversation about what your life is like now that you are retired. If you're up for it, this conversation might lead down an interesting path.

Dear Amy: You received a letter from a professional woman who had become embroiled in some office drama by gossiping about a slacker at work. She was now labeled a "Mean Girl."

Mean Girl needs to be pleasant, professional, concentrate on her job, and mind her own business.

You're right.

Amy's column appears seven days a week at www.washingtonpost.com/advice. Write to Amy Dickinson at askamy@tribpub.com or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, III.

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