37 Made an oral

observation

confused

42 Some Windows

systems

46 Up and about

50 "... who lived in

53 Resistance units

47 Ring

48 Uproar

54 Gossip

41 What one is in when

45 Ancient assembly sites

EE

# **DIVERSIONS**

### THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

# Dart of snarkness: Winning zingers to "glassbowls"

### BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1151. we asked you to let loose a snarky rant to any of 13 types of rhymes-with-"glassbowl," to improve on those in the book "Dear [A----]: 101 Tear-Out Letters to the Morons Who Muck Up Your Life." Holy moly! To judge from most of the entries the Empress received, this challenge turned much of the Greater Loser Community into humorless scolds with gibes as irritating as the miscreants they were tut-tutting. Fortunately, dear readers, only the E had to read those. You get to read these.

### 4th place

**Dear Glassbowl Who Clips Your** Nails at Work: How thoughtful of you to anticipate your future sainthood and ensure that your coworkers have a sample of your nail clippings as relics of your earthly existence! Can we help with the martyrdom part? (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

#### 3rd place **Dear Glassbowl Who Had This Library Book Before Me:** Wow!

You tore out the last three pages! I admit it was a little disconcerting to read an entire book and not be able to find out what happened at the end. Just like the other night when your girlfriend and I got to talking and one thing led to ano (Frank Mann, Washington)

### 2nd place and the "Dear [Glassbowl]" book and "1001 Horrible Facts"

**Dear Constantly Cheery** Glassbowl: It's true that frowning takes more muscles than smiling. But it's well worth the extra effort. (Steve Honley, Washington)

### And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial

### **Dear Glassbowl Who Had This Library Book Before Me:**

This novel won the Man Booker Prize. It didn't need you to give it the Man-Booger Prize. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

### **Going down spiting:** honorable mentions

#### **Dear Glassbowl Who Had This Library Book Before Me:**

- † Your insightful annotations on "Hamlet" fascinate me, particularly "Ophelia = ho LOL." When will you publish the official version? (Duncan Stevens)
- † Your attempts to write smart marginalia Are a failia. (Melissa Balmain. Rochester, N.Y.)
- † Books are indeed food for the soul. Even without your lasagna glued between Pages 128 and 129. (Steve Honley)

#### **Dear Glassbowl Who Didn't** Clean Up After the Dog:

- † Don't be surprised if the next time I walk my dog by your house, he has a similar problem. That is, I expect he won't clean up after his human. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)
- † I found this on the ground. Since I didn't have a pen, I figured I'd use some of it to compose this note on the hood of your Audi. P.S. he needs more fiber. (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

#### **Dear Glassbowl Restaurant** Server:

- † Thank you for your extrapersonalized service - that was a perfect thumbprint you left in the mashed potatoes. (Bird Waring)
- † I didn't order eggs. If I had ordered eggs, I wouldn't have ordered them cold. If I had ordered them cold, I wouldn't have ordered them spilled on my new shirt. If I had ordered them spilled on my new shirt, I wouldn't have ordered you to laugh at your own clumsiness. And if I had ordered you to laugh at your own clumsiness, I wouldn't have ordered you take the rest of those eggs and insert them into your, um, pants. And I am ordering you to do that now. (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

#### † Dear Glassbowl Contagious **Restaurant Server:**

When I ordered my sandwich au

I did not want it dripping from you. (Melissa Balmain)

#### **Dear Glassbowl Always Trying to** Fix Me Up:

- † When I said I like a man in uniform, I didn't mean from a workrelease program. (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)
- † Where do you find these women? They don't know Scotty from Bones, or Buffy from Willow! I'll bet



# **New contest for Week 1155: Vowel movement**

Drop the vowels from "THE GODFATHER" and get "THGDFTHR."

Add vowels and get "THE GOOD FAT HAIR": It's a coiffure you

"PSYCHO" > PSCH > "PESACH": A tale of getting out before it gets too crazy.

Here's a brand-new contest idea from Extreme Loser Kevin Dopart, who has never failed to enter a Style Invitational weekly contest since October 2005 — except the week he got to guest-judge as an award for getting 1,000 blots of Invite ink. Kevin's examples above show you what to do: Choose a title of a book, movie, play or TV show; drop all the vowels (including Y when it's used as a vowel); then add your choice of vowels – as many as you like – to create a new work; and describe it. You may change capitalization and word spacing as you like. For his idea, Kevin wins an ice cream date with the Empress.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives yet one more masterpiece of shell shlock: this jaunty souvenir imported for us from Myrtle Beach, S.C., by Loser and Devoted Prize Donor Cheryl Davis.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug,  $\,$ the older-model "This Is Your Brain on Mugs" mug or the ardently desired "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our brand-new Loser magnets, "Magnet Dum Laude" or "Falling Jest Short." First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). Email entries to losers@washpost.com or, if you were born in the 19th century, fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday night, Jan. 4; results published Jan. 24 (online Jan. 21). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1155" in your email 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 Gary Crockett; 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.

you're doing this because I totally owned you at the Magic: The Gathering tournament with my Force of Will card. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

### **Dear Glassbowl at the Concert:** † My, you did a lot of singing

tonight! Just how much did you have to pay to hire the folks onstage as your backup singers? (Steve Honley)

- † The concert, I had thought, would
- To watch this band whose music I
- But only this could I see from my
- Gyrations of your cellulitic rear.
- (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)
- † Great show last night! When did you learn to play candy wrapper? (Frank Mann)

Dear Clean Freak Glassbowl: Did you know that, if you die alone in your apartment, your cat will eat you? (Michael Rolfe, Cape Town, South Africa)

# **Dear Glassbowl Goody-Two-**

† All of us at work feel so much for your pain. So we've taken up a collection so you can finally have that stick surgically removed. (George-Ann Rosenberg,



PHOTO BY CHERYL DAVIS

This little hard-shelled conga drummer is yours if your vowel play is just a wee bit lacking.

# Washington)

- † Thank you for informing me that the fork goes on the left and knife and spoon on the right. But I don't think the maitre d'McDonalds will throw out me and my toddler. (Roy Ashley, Washington)
- † You really have no memory of what you did at last year's Christmas party, do you? (Michael

# **Dear Glassbowl Who Parked**

Like a Moron: Thank you soooo much for taking up two spots. At first I was annoyed, but after I parked somewhere else and walked past your car, I noticed that a branch had fallen and dented your roof — that could have been my car! Also, a rock went through your passenger window, a key scratched the driver's side door, and dog poop showed up on your windshield. So glad you saved me from that! (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

#### **Dear Glassbowl Houseguest Who Overstaved Your Welcome:**

- † It's no longer a "visit" if you now qualify for in-state tuition. Gather your stuff and make tracks. (Not literally.) (George-Ann Rosenberg)
- † You've been using our bathroom so long, you've used up an entire seashell soap — and I saw you take out one of the starfish this morning. FRIENDS DON'T USE THE STARFISH, SHARON!!! (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.)

### **Dear Contagious Glassbowl:** † Here's my name, address, and

- phone number. I don't usually share my personal information, but I want the CDC investigators to be able to find me when they search for anyone who's had any contact with you recently. (Katherine Stikkers, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.)
- † Umm, maybe the memo came out before you were hired, but this office doesn't have a "Bring Your Dengue Fever to Work Day" going on. (Brendan Beary, Great Mills,

Still running – deadline Monday night, Jan. 4: Our parody contest for songs for, to or about animals. See bit.ly/ invite1154.

## SUNDAY CHALLENGE

**DOWN** 

Like New York's

Chrysler Building

"Are you \_\_\_\_ out?"

Get to the meat of,

as a coconut

Some desktop

to go

Mandela's org.

Corp. honchos

Salinger heroine

"The Hippopotamus"

spinners

### BY ALAN ARBESFELD © 2015 CROSSYNERGY SYNDICATE LLC

- **ACROSS** 39 Nabisco wafer 40 Strolling, say? 43 Asian leader? Did some replacement work, briefly 44 Region consisting 15 Boards a bomber, say of twelve states, **16** Eagle, often with "the" 17 Play-by-play 45 Former Chevy accompaniment subcompact
- 19 Long-necked antelope 46 Speech impairment 20 Singer once married to 49 It's a long story
- 51 New York restaurateur **21** Play to \_ **52** Put one's foot down 22 One percent of 55 Bantu language group a cool mil **58** Resolved a
- 24 Man whose name is disagreement associated with ethically shaking? 61 "Psst!" follower. 26 Altar agreements perhaps 28 Largest of the British 62 Ricardo Montalban's
- Virgin Islands role on "Fantasy 31 Draft source Island" 32 "Enough already!" **63** "The " (Bernhard 36 Last Oldsmobile model Schlink novel)

### 38 Velvet finish? 64 Clearly needing to chill



# 56 Cod kin writer **33** They have their ups 57 Had too much, 10 It's a long time and downs **11** 1931 title role for 34 Swing around briefly 35 Staple starch of the 59 Due follower Greta Garbo 12 Institute in Brooklyn South Seas 60 Watchdog's warning

13 Like "The Twilight

**14** Tumbling locale

**18** Bond purchases?

26 Biased writing? (abbr.)

27 "The Persistence of

Memory" artist

**29** Baking implements

30 Model/volleyball

star Gabrielle

**32** "As \_\_\_\_ my witness"

23 Sporty VW

25 Trolley sound

# HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | DEC. 27: This year you will be more in touch with your nurturing qualities. Others often come to you for solutions and feedback, and they might be surprised to see this caring stance. You recognize the need for solutions for the individuals involved. If you are single, you easily could stumble into an intense relationship. If you are attached, you enjoy being a duo. You love that special one-on-one time with your significant other. Leo often understands your bottom line.

| S | W | E | E | T | S | O | P

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You seem somewhat reticent to give in to your own desires. You feel the need to check in with an older relative. You also might want to touch base with a trusted confidant who often withdraws during the holiday season.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You could be more than willing to handle a problem, but others will demand to manage the matter in question. Reach out to someone at a distance who is not involved for some insight into this situation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Say what you want. You will receive powerful feedback that you might prefer not to hear, but it could give you tremendous insight. Internalize and process what is being shared.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Be aware of what is being offered, and don't automatically turn it down. Sometimes you react immediately and don't consider your best interests. Detach, pull

back and listen to advice. Once you feel secure, you can make a sound

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) You'll feel as if you finally can come up for air. Remind yourself that you still have to christen 2016. Do it in your classic Leo style, but start thinking of a resolution that holds special meaning. Sharing this goal will be the first step in making it so.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You might have enjoyed the past few weeks, but you need a break. Don't answer your phone. Get as much R and R as you can before New Year's Eve. You will need and want all your energy for celebrating.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You seem to get a second hit of the holiday spirit. Embrace it, and look toward New Year's Eve. Make plans that feel right; don't allow a tradition to rule you. A loved one might want to go out with friends. Be sure you agree before saying "yes."

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Some of you will catch up with an older friend or relative; others might decide to get a project or some work done. Apparently, a loved one really enjoys having you around. Your phone could ring and ring. Be flattered.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) A friend finally will get you on the phone. You might not be able to visit as long as you would like, though, as certain personal matters must be handled. Reach out to this person and others later in the day.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You might be holding back some information. Choose your response carefully. A dear friend or loved one senses that you seem disturbed by something, and could become overly doting. Verbalize what you feel without being dramatic.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Get back to feeling normal by handling some of your usual errands. You might become more relaxed just by taking care of these matters. A loved one is likely to try their best to drag you back into their world. Make it your pleasure.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Pace yourself, and allow more flexibility between you and a friend whom you might want to know better. An invitation heads your way. You won't want to say "no" to this person, but you might have to. Don't worry; he or she will understand.

# It's best to protect for the downside

Ask Amy DICKINSON

Dear Amy: I've been in the professional world for a little over two years. I have a question

about professional etiquette. I work in a fairly small town as a mid-level nonprofit

marketer. We're in the midst of a hiring process for a busy season in which I will be given an assistant for roughly six months. Fortunately, we found the perfect candidate, and I'd love to work with her. But she is wary of a temporary position.

I, on the other hand, would like to leave this small town in the dust within the next year and move to a larger city, but I haven't told my boss about that. My potential assistant would be the perfect replacement for me, but she doesn't know I'm leaving, either. So here's the question: Do I tell my boss I want to leave and give my assistant the chance to keep her job? Or do I keep it on the downlow in case my big-city dreams don't pan out?

Looking to Move On

**Looking to Move On:** This is not

an etiquette question. This is about protecting for the downside. (My own business card should read: Ask Amy: Protecting for the downside since 1981.)

Do not telegraph your ambitions concerning leavetaking to your boss until you have locked something down. Nor should you mention this to your new assistant.

The reason to be so circumspect is because in  $business-as\ in\ life-things$ happen. Work toward your goal, and once you have protected for your downside (what if you can't find a job within the next year?) you can disclose your plans.

Dear Amy: My Mom had been my inspiration throughout my childhood, teenage years and my 20s. She was a very brave woman who worked extremely hard for her family. She sacrificed and gave up her own needs to ensure that her two kids had a chance for a better and easier life.

Her needs were always secondary to her family's needs, and after 40 years of fighting (we were immigrants to a new country, her marriage to my dad

was difficult) she broke down and attempted suicide when I was a teenager. She recovered, but within a

decade she had become a different person.

I know that we all need to adapt to change that isn't in our favor. Still, I miss the brave Mom who was my hero for the first half of my life.

Any advice from your own experience?

Upset Daughter

**Upset Daughter:** My main piece of advice is to continue to appreciate your mother's history, but to love her as she is.

Your job is to accept your own grief about these changes and to make sure that you are doing everything possible to make her life as good as it can be. See your mother in person as often as you can. Pay her back by living your life fully and with integrity. You'll feel much better when you

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

can be a hero to her.

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