

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Report from Week 1072: The Tile Invitational

BY PAT MYERS

Week 1072 was our second contest in which we listed several dozen seven-letter sets from ScrabbleGrams, a word-uncrambling game that appears daily in The Post, and asked you to create new five-, six- or seven-letter terms from any set of letters and define them. (We also welcomed clever definitions of existing words.) There were 42 separate definitions for "vexpert," while numerous people defined "smirque" as what the French do when they hear your accent.

The winner of the Inkin' Memorial

AAURGNJ } Uganja: Country ruled by the surprisingly mellow dictator Weedy Amin. (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

2nd place and the two books about poo:

IYBLPSM } Blimpsy: Talented graffiti artist whose career was cut short by difficulty running from the authorities. (David Ballard, Reston)

3rd place

AUEALGB } Gabuela: A granny who can't keep her boca shut. (Maë Scanlan, Washington)

4th place

OIMDGSZ } OMGDS: Socrates' final text. (Dave Zarrow, Reston)

Racks of lame:
honorable mentions

AEGHTCD } Dechat: Shut up. (Joy Sibley, Fairfax)

HATEDC: Four hundred members of Congress applied for this D.C. license plate. (Jim Stiles, Rockville)

AEUHBP } Pheau: Knockoff perfume. (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

AINDLTN

Nitland: Elementary school. (Peyton Coyner, Afton, Va.; Brad Alexander, Wanneroo, Australia)

Nitland: Laos. (Chris Doyle, Kihei, Hawaii) **Nat lid:** A hat with a curly W. (Bill Rippey, Montgomery Village)

AOAOLHM

Aloham: Meaning "hello, bringer of bacon" and "goodbye, you pig." (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

Maolah: The bribe to the Beijing party commissioner. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

AOAYMND } Moandy: Three days after thanking God for Friday a little too much. (Edward Gordon, Austin)

AUEALGB

AA-bulge: The result of eating every time you feel the urge for a drink. (*David Alderstein, Apalachicola, Fla.)

AA-bulge: The result of choosing too small a bra size. (Hugh Thirlway, The Hague)

Galbeau: Transgender heartthrob (David Ballard)

Glube: What you get if you mix Elmer's with K-Y Jelly. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

Begaul: Try to impress with French expressions. "That pompous jerk kept begauling me with 'ma chérie.'" (Chris Doyle)

EAYLTGL } Gaytell: The easiest way to get your own TV show when you're a seventh-round draft pick. (Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

EEANPHX

Ape-ex: The epitome of bad former boyfriends. (Danielle Nowlin)

Pheanex: In your University of Phoenix application essay, close enough. (Gary Crockett)

EEVTPXR

Vexpert: One who knows which buttons to push. (Mike Gips)

Vexpert: The quicker ticker-offer. (Jeff Contompassis, Ashburn)

Texperv: A Redskins fan in Dallas. (John Shea, Philadelphia)

Ex-perv: A dead man (Alex Jeffries, Columbia)

EUWRLF } Fewrule: The needs of the ultra-rich outweigh the needs of ... who are you again? (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

EUMRSQ

Rimsqué: Teetering on the edge of lewdness. "The '2 Girls Go Shopping for 1 Cup' video was only rimsqué." (Christopher Lamora, Los Angeles)

Esquirm: What you do after confusing "reply" with "reply all." (*Luci Weigel, Vienna, Va.)

IATWRHM

Hamwit: The kiss of death. (Tom Witte)

Hamwit: Elmer Fudd does Shakespeare! (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

Whamit: Do-it-yourself TV repair instructions. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Higgledy piggledy,
House Speaker "Boehner": it
Reads a bit sexy, but
Spoke, it's benign.

Which is appropriate,
Etymologically.
There is no stiffness: He
Hasn't the spine.
(The Czar)

Rickety rickety,
"Rosie the Riveter"
Turned in her apron to
Work with the guys;

Found that she liked her new
Employability —
That's why you have to eat
Frozen pot pies.
(Beverly Sharp, Week 901
obit poem)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1076
Dactyl fractyly

The Empress has been in a higgledy-piggledy mood since crashing the West Chester Poetry Conference in the Philadelphia area last weekend. After I gave a talk about song parodies, Genuine Poet Kevin Durkin — who's also managing editor of the poetry journal Light — asked if the Invite ever did double-dactyl contests, because really, we should. The Empress's predecessor, the Czar, did do a DD contest — in 1994. So I guess it's time to give it another go.

The double dactyl is a form invented by writers Anthony Hecht and Paul Pascal on a whim over lunch in Rome in 1951. While this week we're not following every one of the pair's many rules — we won't insist, for instance, that the six-syllable word cannot have been used in a previous double dactyl — we're still not letting you off easy. I asked the Czar himself to put forth the rules for this week's contest, using his own poem as an example:

- A double-dactyl poem consists of **two mini-stanzas, each with four short lines.**
- The first, second and third lines of each stanza each contain six syllables in double-dactyl meter: **DUM-dee-dee DUM-dee-dee.** The fourth line is just four syllables: **DUM-dee-dee-DUM.**
- The two DUM-dee-dee-DUM **fourth lines have to rhyme** with each other.
- The first line must be a **rhyming nonsense phrase.**
- The poem must be **about a specific person** and must include at least some part of his name. (It's usually in the second line, but we won't insist.)
- Finally, one line must be a **six-syllable word** or hyphenated term. And of course, it's also in the DUM-dee-dee, DUM-dee-dee double-dactyl meter, like "etymologically" in the poem above.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place wins a souvenir snow dome from Brussels, featuring a little "Manneken Pis" statue that seems to be producing a fountain of ... I guess it's snow. Donated by Continual Snow Globe Donor Cheryl Davis.

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, either the Po' Wit Laureate or Puns of Steel. 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, June 23; results published July 13 (online July 10). No more than 25 entries per entrant per contest. Include "Week 1076" 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. This week's honorable-mentions subhead is by Jeff Contompassis. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev, and click "like" on Style Invitational Ink of the Day at bit.ly/inkofday.

• **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.

IENMVRN } Nvermin: Mr. Boehner's nickname for Ms. Pelosi. (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

IIODNSR

Oddsrsin: A bizarre fetish, e.g. the compulsion to French-kiss the finger holes in bowling balls. (David Garratt, Silver City, N.M.)

Snordid: Sleazy yet dull. "That reality show 'Brother! Accountants' sure is snordid." (Larry Gray)

IYBLPSM

Smilby: A photo-bomb. (*Jamie Martindale, McLean)

PMSibyl: The personality you really don't want to see come out. (Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

IYTMFSL

Timsfly: According to the NCAA "Tebow Rule," messages aren't allowed there either. (*Thom Link, Washington)

Flymist: What's left between a rolled-up Post and the window. (*Ken Linder, Arlington)

OAHMRF

Hamfort: The Third Little Pig's abode. (Ginny Cooper, Columbia)

Homfort: Where no one can hear you steam. (Bob Brown, Alexandria)

OANDGRN

Drag-onn: The fourth volume of a fantasy "epic" (Gerald Diamond, London, Ontario)

NRA-dong: The pistol in your pocket. (Kathy El-Assal, Middleton, Wis.)

QAOERDF } Frodeo: Dragon-wranglin' and Orc-ropin' down the shire (Craig Dykstra, Centreville)

ORHNLTG } Longth: The corresponding measure to an object's wideitude. — G.W.B., Crawford, Tex. (Brendan Beary)

OEADNHX } Headnox: Where the Three Stooges went to school. (Joanne Free, Clifton)

OIENZRC } Zero Inc.: Surprisingly candid name for a technology startup. (*Jim Derby, Rockville)

UAUTMPS } U-Stamp-U: Ill-conceived scheme in which the ticket gates at stadium concerts are replaced by the honor system. (John Kammer, South Riding)

UEURMRM } Remumu: What Mama Cass used to do at intermission. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

And last: **ORWNWN } Winworn:** Worn by dusting all the mugs and bobbleheads in the trophy room. (Ellen Raphaeli, Falls Church)

*First Offenders

Still running — deadline Monday: Our contest for automotive fctoids. See bit.ly/invite1075.

POST PUZZLER

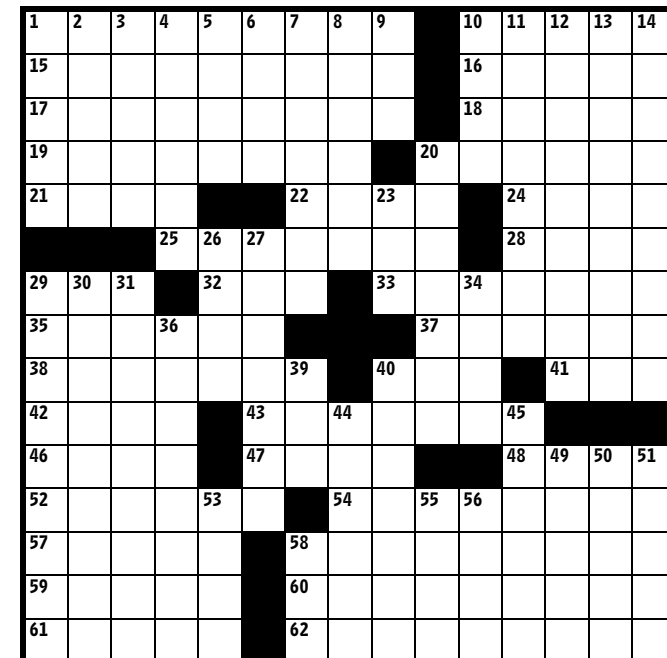
No. 219

BY TODD MCCLARY EDITED BY PETER GORDON • FIREBALLCROSSWORDS.COM

ACROSS
1 It has no arms
10 React to pressure, perhaps
15 Latin twist on water aerobics
16 Studio alert
17 Like many bikini models
18 Natural barrier
19 Politically correct possessive
20 Sharp
21 Westernmost body of land east of the International Date Line
22 ___ Hills (Southern California range)
24 Oz creatures
25 Many a popular live-stream lecture
28 "A Crossworder's Delight" author Blanc
29 NBC game show lasting about 11.5 days, for short
32 Ending for home or page

33 Entered, as a PIN
35 Quickness
37 Moving like a crane
38 They may be patronized
40 Seal coat material
41 Whirling Warner Bros. toon
42 Some fruit flavoring
43 Mouth, in a way
46 Indication that it's time for a change?
47 OPEC member
48 Washington's motto, meaning "by and by" in Chinook
52 Beverage with "Beware the penguins" ads
57 Name in the Jefferson Airplane hit "White Rabbit"
58 Romney Stadium campus
59 "Jesus Christ Superstar" figure

60 Breaks
61 Bull ring?
62 Works of fiction?
DOWN
1 Teen caregiver of Sunny
2 Lottery winner's announcement, maybe
3 "Spider-Man" actress
4 Celebrate, in a way
5 Task force chief, sometimes
6 "Pardon?"
7 Pardon
8 Madrid-based carrier
9 Trig unit
10 Manhattan Project scientist
11 Like some runs
12 Broadcast-friendly version of a pop single with profanity
13 Marsala miss
14 "Na Na" hitmaker
20 Riding path
23 "A Testament of Hope" monogram
26 Hairstylist José
27 "Be honest"
29 Seder soup dumpling
30 Form for itemized deductions
31 Goody party bowfults
34 Questionable account
36 Spreadsheet configurations
39 Military address
40 Technical drawing tool
44 Flock overseer
45 Dairy case?
49 Metal brackets with 90° bends
50 She interviewed Sarah in 2008
51 Great ones "originate in the muscles," according to Edison
53 Número representing nada
55 ___ Farm (clothing line)
56 Renaissance dynasty name
58 Let judge



Answer to last week, No. 218

C L I C K B A I T L E A S T
A A R O N B U R R O N C U E
M I A M I A R E A T I E G S
P D Q F L A P S T A B A T
S E L L E C K C A R P
C H I A N Y A N S A
M O A N S S T O P P E D U P
O M I G O S H T E E N A G E
V E R S A T I L E S E G A R
E S P K A R O M E R
S A I L T R O T S K Y
A L E U T S F O I E D D T
W I C C A C A N D Y G R A M
A V E R T P H I L O M E N A
Y E S E S A S C E N S I O N

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JUNE 15: This year you are secure and stable when it counts. You will be adventuresome with your ideas and with your plans as well. You become more accepting of others. If single, you are likely to meet someone very offbeat who intrigues you. Do not make a commitment quickly. If attached, your significant other will enjoy your newfound openness. Make it a point to try an experience that you have refused to participate in, despite your sweetie's requests.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Take care of an obligation first, and hook up with friends later. Once you join your pals, a good time will be had by all. The plans will be less relevant than the company.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Meet up with a friend or family member who lives at a distance. Once the two of you are together, you'll make spontaneous plans to indulge in a mutually loved activity or hobby. Leave plenty of time for talking.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

You'll love spending time with a special person in your life. Take off to wherever you want to go, or make impromptu plans.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

You and someone else have different ideas as to what would be

fun. Go along with this person's suggestion today. He or she cherishes your company.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Complete a project quickly, if possible. Later in the day, join friends or a loved one. You do not need to commit to any plans unless you want to.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Your desire for intimacy and fun will continue until a moment of reality hits. You will need to check up on a friend. You even might need to go to work.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

A loved one might be a veritable Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Accept this person as he or she is. You might encounter a friend who puts a smile on your face.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You'll wonder what is happening

with a neighbor or relative. You might not get the whole story, but you should remind this person that you care.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Look at your budget before you walk out the door. In the long run, this self-discipline will serve you well. Be sensitive to what is

happening around you. Meet up with a friend in the afternoon.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Your jovial nature emerges in the morning, even if you disagree with a friend. You may end up indulging this person for the remainder of the day.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You appear to be radiant and ready for anything. Others will notice the difference in your mood. You don't need to give an explanation. Accept all compliments with sincere thanks.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Use the morning to get together with a loved one. By the afternoon, you might want to retreat. You do not have to explain — the less said, the better.

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Man wants to warn suitor from his ex

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: I dated a young lady — 26 years old — who has five children by multiple fathers.

I was aware that she has psychological issues, but I loved her and tried pushing her to seek help, which she agreed to, but it never happened.

Now that we have broken up, I've sought counseling and done some reading of my own to try to understand her better and recognize my own mistakes. I've learned that she neatly fits the profile of someone with borderline personality disorder.

Here is my dilemma. She is dating a 20-year-old man who seems to be madly in love with her. He is not concerned that she has so many children by multiple fathers or that she lost custody of two of them. She has never been monogamous.

While I was reasonably aware of what I was getting into (I'm college educated and in my 30s), I'm concerned she could do real damage to him. I tried talking to her, to no avail (we are still friends).

I suppose there is nothing I can do and I should mind my own business, but I do know one of his parents. I've consid-

ered telling his parent what I know so they can at least offer guidance to their son, but I'm afraid I'm overstepping my bounds and will just make things worse because of my own past involvement with her. Your advice?

Worried

Unfortunately, as you know from your own experience, the insidious ferocity of someone with borderline personality disorder often matches the depth of the hubris of the person she is with. While it is not a good idea for amateurs like you (and me) to diagnose others, people with this psychological disorder are often very compelling and find themselves matched with people who think they can manage, help or cure them.

You should not tell this young man what to do but only offer your own experience as a guide. Do not go through his parents. You can expect that your warnings will fall upon deaf ears and that this guy will have to experience this human tornado on his own, just as you did.

Dear Amy: "Hard Working Mom" described a deadbeat dad.

I work for a construction company and thankfully work with men who have called child support services the minute they were hired to make sure their wages were garnished for their kids. Some people do the right thing, and it's important to remember that.

Reader

Fulfilling your legal obligations is definitely "the right thing" to do.

Dear Readers: I want to offer a special shoutout and thank-you to all the great fathers out there. Fathers (and stepfathers and grandfathers) don't always get all the respect they deserve, but so many dads do the true heavy lifting of family life.

I hope my readers take the time today to thank and celebrate the dads in their lives. Happy Father's Day.

Amy's column appears seven days a week at www.washingtonpost.com/advice. Write to Amy Dickinson at askamy@tribune.com or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

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