

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Report from Week 1073: Mess With (Y)our Heads

BY PAT MYERS

It was our perennial contest to reinterpret (or comment wryly on) headlines in The Post and other publications by following them with “bank headlines.” Too many people construed “Where’s the local pride gone?” as a story about lions escaping from the zoo.

The winner of the Inkin’ Memorial

Real headline (from The Post’s food section): **It’s not much to look at, but this pickle rocks**
Bank head: **Bill Clinton recounts best pickup line ever** (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

2nd place and the ice cream scoop whose handle is in the shape of Queen Elizabeth II:

Hoskins to depart D.C. for Prince George’s
Lesser-known Snyder team to be renamed Women’s Football Alliance, will play at FedEx Field (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

3rd place

Five interesting things about the Maryland lieutenant governor debate

Okay, we did have to make up three of them (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

4th place

Putin promises to ‘respect’ vote results

Russian leader’s use of air quotes during press conference worries Kerry (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

Cooler heads prevailed: honorable mentions

State parks get creative in search of funding
Officials predict ‘Don’t Throw Coins in Lake’ signs will bring huge influx of coins to lake (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

Strategy shifts on terror stalls

Al-Qaeda not fooled by fake restrooms labeled ‘Jihadists’ (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

‘By the Inch’ at the American Dance Institute

Men’s tights even more revealing than usual in new ballet (Edward Gordon, Austin)

My No-Soap, No-Shampoo, Bacteria-Rich Hygiene Experiment

10 days later, no wife (Jennifer Dickey, Silver Spring)

Pentagon chief calls for checkup on military health care

Told he can get an appointment in 90 days (John Kammer, South Riding)

0% interest for 36 months

Arranged marriages require lengthy adjustment period (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Castro nominated for HUD

Fox News: ‘Finally, Proof That Obama’s a Communist’ (Chris Doyle, Kihei, Hawaii)

Smart toilets arrive in U.S.

Stupid toilets lured to Moscow with promise they will be used as thrones (Paul Burnham, Gainesville)

Woman graduates college at 99

Procrastinators Anonymous chapter begins search for new president (Danielle Nowlin)

E. coli in water spurs boil alert

Pustules, carbuncles also possible, dermatologists warn (Terri Berg Smith, Rockville; Mae Scanlan, Washington)

Naked man near White House ID’d

Also given extra-long lanyard (Kevin Dopart)

NPR is narrowing its scope

More staffers now expected to opt for free colonoscopies (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Ukrainian troops drive rebels from Donetsk airport

‘We disagree on some things, but it’s nice to use the carpool lane,’ soldier says (Mark Richardson, Takoma Park)

School buses often violate D.C. traffic laws

Metro sees source for new drivers (Steve Brevig, Springfield)

Wasted millions in Mississippi

Smoke blankets state after fire at marijuana farm (Gary Crockett)

Prosecutors seek leniency for hacker

Request was in e-mail that prosecutors don’t remember sending (Gary Crockett)

Sensors send letter to NFL on ‘Redskins’

Native Americans VOLUNTEERED to serve as human parchment, lawmaker insists (Mark Raffman, Reston)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1077: Time marches Swiftly

“Oh yeah? Well, you try mooring this ship,” Captain Hazelwood said cantankerously. (Lee Giesecke, Week 44, 1994)
“We take stealing very seriously,” Saddam Hussein said offhandedly. (Harold Kerr; J. Neil Killalea)

As the Empress continues to delve into the Paleozoic depths of the Invitational archives, we bring back for the first time this contest from 20 years ago: It’s the venerable Tom Swifty joke, in which someone says or does something with an adverb, or sometimes a verb, relating to the person’s name. (In Week 44, the form was called the “Tom Swifty” by the Empress’s predecessor, the Czar, logically, historically correctly and, well, ingeniously.)

The first Invite contest sought jokes “for the ‘90s,” as in the two runners-up above from 1994. We hope you’ll find fresh inspiration with more current subjects. So: **This week: Give us a novel Tom Swifty, playing on either an adverb, as above, or a verb (e.g., “We care about the little people, the BP chairman gushed”).** Warning: It’s going to be hard to come up with something unique this week. Give it your best shot. If some of the swiftest Swifties are sent by many people, we’ll run them with no specific credit.

Winner gets the Inkin’ Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a shoe-polish-size tin of Magic Poop, donated by Nan Reiner: “It’s soft! It’s hard! It shatters! It melts!” It seems to be putty and is said to be “odor-free,” so except for its being brown, we’re not sure what its poopal qualities actually are. Along the same line, we’ll throw in some Chicken Poop Lip Balm, which is not chicken poop but is lip balm. Donated by Kathy El-Assal.

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 30; results published July 27 (online July 24). No more than 25 entries per entrant per contest. Include “Week 1077” 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 Kevin Dopart. 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.

Fairfax school plan cuts 720 positions

1-page Kama Sutra approved for HS libraries (Jeff Hazle, Woodbridge; Brendan Beary)

Dish a little dirt

And other new ideas for easy picnic casseroles (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)

Schlereth: ‘It is time to change the name’

Tired of spelling it out, former Redskin will become ‘Mark Smith’ (Christopher Lamora, Los Angeles)

Brewers slide into rough patch

Anheuser-Busch workers stumble in Clydesdale poop (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

Long-suffering Syrians resign themselves to a new Assad term

This time, the word ends with ‘hole’ (Ira Allen, Bethesda)

‘I always anticipate I’ll be back until somebody tells me I’m not’

First draft of “Terminator” script discovered (Gary Crockett)

Cracker Barrel deals with tough customer

‘Rude’ man undergoes surgery to remove pecan log from ear canal (Terri Berg Smith)

Three new elephants arrive at National Zoo after 2,400-mile trip across border

Cabdriver swears he took the shortest route from Virginia (Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

Bloomberg, in speech at Harvard, blasts attempts to ‘repress conservative ideas’

Comments immediately dismissed with derision (Jeff Contompasis)

Hotel guests reusing towels

Mostly in their home bathrooms (Rick Haynes, Boynton Beach, Fla.)

Montgomery high schools to have more police next fall

Commissioner will give bonuses to any who graduate (Bird Waring)

A commencement crib sheet

The right gift for the day-care graduate

(Pam Sweeney, Burlington, Mass.)

Wildfire grows, forcing evacuations

Residents say blaze ‘scared the you-know-what out of us’ (Mark Raffman)

Study shows spouses genetically similar

‘Well, duh,’ says Kentucky official (Chris Doyle)

Purcellville officer shoots, kills someone

Next week plans to shoot, kill something (Robyn Carlson, Keyser, W.Va.)

Sharks expand Larry Robinson’s role

‘Larry’s not just for breakfast anymore’ (Christopher Lamora)

A big push for one of Democrats’ rising stars

Investigating questions Clinton after Elizabeth Warren falls from dais at luncheon (Jeff Hazle; Mae Scanlan)

‘It really is easy when it’s the right one’

‘Orifices: A User’s Manual’ has multi-generational appeal (Kevin Dopart)

A headache that won’t go away

Canada continues to apologize for Justin Bieber (Craig Dykstra, Centreville)

After coup, general vows to create a ‘genuine democracy’ in Thailand

Also promises to ‘start that diet right after I finish this bag of Milk Duds’ (Larry Gray, Union Bridge, Md.)

Anti-gay-marriage group gets ethics fine

‘They may get it fine, but they don’t DO it fine,’ rules judge (Michael Jacobs, Columbia)

First lady backs school lunch rules

‘No apples!’ warns Eve (Roy Ashley)

And Last: When it’s not fit to print

How to know your Invite entry will get ink (Kevin Dopart)

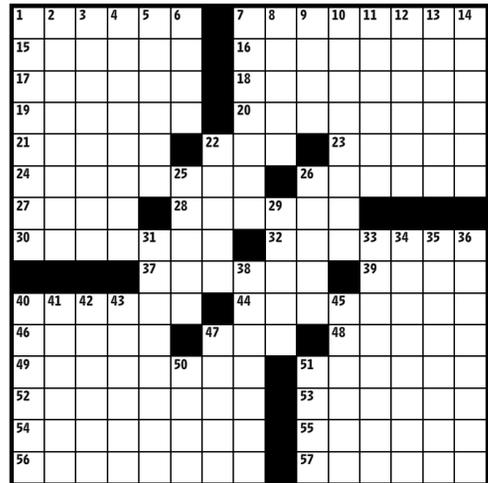
Still running — deadline Monday night: Our double-dactyl contest. See bit.ly/invite1076.

No. 220

BY PATRICK BERRY EDITED BY PETER GORDON • FIREBALLCROSSWORDS.COM

ACROSS
1 First mate?
7 Its original name was Criss Cross Words
15 Untimed game period
16 Book featuring a Whisper-ma-Phone, a Super-Axe-Hacker, Gluppy-Glupp and Schloppity-Schlopp
17 Subterranean space
18 Like even-numbered interstate highways
19 “Cabaret” character Sally
20 Just like that
21 Result of H. pylori infection
22 “It can only be postponed to the advantage of others,” according to Machiavelli
23 Rival of Terminus
24 Walk in a certain order?
26 Obstinate
27 Burns and Olin
28 Low price indicator
30 Was incensed
32 Occupy
37 Resident of the House at Pooh Corner
39 Voice mail prompt
40 Test subjects of the ‘40s
44 Star of the 1971 film “Mary, Queen of Scots”
46 Barbershop part
47 Family reunion nickname
48 Good press, perhaps
49 First Peruvian city to gain independence from Spain
51 Teach a lesson to
52 “You’re on!”
53 Enlarges
54 Subcompact introduced in model year 1976

55 Catch phrase?
56 Analyzes as an adjuster
57 Site of the first French Grand Prix
DOWN
1 Typical CEO’s earnings
2 Course taker
3 Fair purchase
4 Pro V1 ball brand
5 Deposits beneath the soil
6 All-star team’s baggage?
7 Person waiting on a plane
8 Stepladder alternative
9 Musical staff symbol
10 Granting that
11 English garden features
12 Starts a pool game
13 Nonhuman Hollywood Walk of Fame honoree
14 Stretch
22 In need of tending, maybe
25 Tundra’s lack
26 Beaten, in a way
29 Exhausts
31 Highlands islands
33 Unpredictably
34 Cape Verde isle whose name means “good view”
35 Back
36 Number one hits?
38 Camden Yards team
40 Supermax prison in New York
41 Space-efficient accommodations
42 Heavy loads
43 Where yucca palms grow
45 Feud fueller
47 Tombstone material
50 “I’d love to”
51 Sandbox toy



Answer to last week, No. 219

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

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | JUNE 22: This year you may see a pay raise or more funds coming in. Resist the urge to spend them as quickly as (or quicker than) you get them. If single, you will develop an even larger circle of admirers. Your next sweetie may be hidden within it. Don’t push this relationship to move quickly; trust its natural pace. If attached, the two of you act like newfound lovers. A major purchase may enhance your lives.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You’ll make an effort to reach out to a family member. A purchase made right now will add to the quality of your life. You may see a big difference in how this item enhances your home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You might feel burdened by a choice you feel you have to make. Know when to step away and say “enough.” Hang out with your pals.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Listen to your inner voice. You might not like what is going on, but your sixth sense whispers a perspective that you probably hadn’t thought of. Opt for togetherness.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

A parent might have a strong message for you. An older friend or family member finally will relax

and become less difficult.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Whether you’re out for Sunday brunch or just hanging with the family, others seem to look to you for answers. Before you know it, you’ll have organized the rest of the day for everyone.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Go where you’ll be among crowds. You might enjoy taking off for a daytrip with a loved one. Let your creativity flow.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Indulge a loved one, and make this a special day for the two of you. You will be smiling throughout the day. Make the most of the moment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Don’t worry so much about having certain situations play out as you

think they should. Be sure to tuck away your judgmental side.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Deal directly with someone you care deeply about. You are adventurous by nature, and therefore you like to take risks. Stop, get in touch with your feelings and express your more nurturing side.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Your ability to come up with a solution without even a second thought is one of the reasons you excel in the business world. Give that same gift to your immediate circle.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Put the brakes on an uncomfortable situation that ultimately might cause you a problem. You might enjoy spending time at home and reading the newspaper or watching a movie.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Speak your mind, and assume that others will be interested. If you are single, you might have a secret admirer. Hang out with a loved one.

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Feeling dejected by bullying group

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: A group of “freemies” recently went on a trip together. I wasn’t invited and didn’t have any expectation of an invitation. During their trip, someone in the group took a picture of them doing their thing with what they considered a funny caption and sent it to my e-mail (knowing that I don’t participate in Facebook and would not see it there).

I didn’t find it a funny friend share, if you know what I mean. I think it was a spiteful, mean-spirited thing to do (it’s not the first time something like that has happened).

When I spoke about it to someone who knows the situation and who has also been hurt by this group, I was told to put on my big-girl panties and get over it — double smackdown.

My question is: Am I wrong to interpret this as a kind of bullying? I have, however, finally taken the hint and distanced myself from this group.

I’m a grown woman, and this has put me in a deep funk. How do young people handle this stuff?

Rejected and Dejected

This is a kind of bullying. It is the

obnoxious, exclusionary, passive-aggressive, “Housewives of Atlanta” kind of bullying.

Young people handle this the same way you did — by feeling sad and dejected and wondering where they went wrong to somehow deserve this treatment. But let me pass along some wisdom gleaned from a decade of writing this column: Sometimes, it’s really not you. It’s them. Sometimes, people are the worst.

You should move on and up and away from this petty cruelty.

Then you and I are going to band together. We will hunt down the person who came up with this “big-girl panties” expression (I’m blaming Oprah), and we will do what we can to eradicate it from popular usage.

Dear Amy: Last year we bought a piece of property and will soon begin building a house on it. One of the things we love about the area is that it’s secluded, quiet and peaceful. However, the construction process is anything but peaceful, and even though we don’t have many neighbors, I’m afraid they will be impacted by our build.

I thought of baking cookies and taking some to each of them, introducing ourselves, apologizing in advance for the hassle and giving them our phone numbers

in case there are any problems (we won’t be able to be up there daily).

Is this appropriate? With the prevalence of food allergies, have cookies become passe? I’m not good with this sort of thing, but we plan on staying in this house for a long time and want to start off on the right foot.

New Neighbor

I think cookies or brownies are a sweet idea (you could disclose the ingredients). I would only caution you that this exposes you somewhat to your neighbors’ curiosity and point of view about what you’re up to. In advance of this mission, be prepared for the possibility of detailed questions about your project.

My advice is to be somewhat vague about your plans and extremely vague about your whereabouts. The last thing you want to do is telegraph “We’re not around” to people you don’t know.

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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