

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Report from Week 1074: Parody-hopping

BY PAT MYERS

The challenge in Week 1074 was to write a song about a stage or screen musical — set to the tune of a song from a different musical. The Empress was deluged with all kinds of devilishly funny parodies, of which only a few will fit here. See bit.ly/invite1078 for more inking lyrics, which include links to music so you can hear the tune as you sing the parodies to yourself. And I'll be sharing even more of the deserving entries with the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook over the next several weeks; go to on.me.fb/invdev to join.

The winner of the Inkin' Memorial

"The Sound of Music"
Sung to "Put On a Happy Face" from "Bye Bye Birdie"

Come join our troupe of seven — here in our sappy place. Lyrical sucrose heaven — it's a von Trappy place. Clad in the drapes, we traipse so merrily; each day is fun, Under the lilting lead of — verily — a singing nun! Soon she'll enrapture Daddy — with ingenue aplomb. He'll be so blithely glad, he — joins in our gay ensemble, And we'll keep singing, though Nazis may chase, 'Cause we're in a sappy place! (Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

2nd place and the 1994 Style Invitational Year 2 Loser T-shirt

"Frozen"
Sung to "I Caint Say No" from "Oklahoma!"

I'm just a girl who makes it snow, Yet looks as sultry as hell. Sick of my song? Oh, let it go — Or blame Idina Menzel. She's the one who sings it after all; I'm just another glamorous cartoon Who's proportioned like a Barbie doll, With eyes so wide they'd make a lemur swoon. What does a 2-D princess know? Well, I can say beyond doubt: People who grumble and shout Trying to stamp earworms out Just make them grow. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

3rd place

"Beauty and the Beast" on Broadway
Sung to "Under the Sea" from "The Little Mermaid"

Here is a play from a Disney movie Brought back to life on the Broadway stage. "Dad, can we please?" "Mom, it's really groovy!" 4 to 14 is the target age. You grown-ups might find it ranklin'!

You know this plot all too well And each ticket costs a Franklin — Why put yourself through this hell? It's rated G! It's rated G! Sure it is lame, but suitably tame, Profanity-free! Family fun for one and all As long as you're under 4 feet tall; Come out and clap for recycled pap, 'cause It's rated G! (Mark Raffman, Reston)

4th place

"The Phantom of the Opera"
Sung to "A Spoonful of Sugar" from "Mary Poppins"

A canoe in the sewer Is the way I get around! My mind is most unsound! But I am romance bound! A canoe in the sewer Is the way I get around 'Neath the Paris Opera House.

Though I'm an ugly S.O.B. She loves my air of mystery And longs to get a peek inside my mask. But if her boyfriend dares appear I'm gonna drop the chandelier You'll scream! With fright! And then I'll sing "The Music of the Night" . . . (Kathleen DeBold, Burtonsville)

The Parodies Oeuvre: honorable mentions

"Sweeney Todd"
To "Surrey With the Fringe on Top" from "Oklahoma!"
Gents and chaps and blokes better worry — I'm not here to make 'em less furry. They'll be cut up into a slurry once I've used my strop. When they sit and show their carotid, Drape laid out and carefully knotted, They've used up the time they're allotted and the clock must stop! My chair has levers, the upholstery's red,



BOB STAAKE/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1078: Hyphen the Terrible

Tour-tie: An out-of-towner who walks really slowly in front of you. (Paul Kondis, 2000)

Pro-zakstan: A country that is always at peace. (Tom Witte, 1997)

Think-ter: The muscle in one's brain that contracts to prevent crude or embarrassing thoughts from emerging. (David Hartman, 1997)

We've run at least 15 neologism contests over the years that have asked readers to combine parts of two words to create a new one. This week we bring back the contest's original name (rather than the more recent "Join Now") because we're redrafting the original punctuation mark: **This week: Combine one side of any hyphenated word or compound term with one side of another word to make a new hyphenated term, and define it humorously. Both halves must appear in the same issue of The Post or another print newspaper, or in writing published the same day on washingtonpost.com or another online publication** (online articles usually have the publication date attached). This is one week that print-paper readers might have an advantage, because narrow newspaper columns often break up long words at the ends of lines, while online publications usually don't. So you'll have more hyphens in print. **Please mention the two hyphenated words you're combining**, as well as what publication you got them from. You may combine two first halves or second halves, or put a second half first in your new word.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place gets a cool T-shirt that Loser Nan Reiner found in Florida (it turns out that the proprietor of the In Touch With You T-shirt shop on Key West was familiar with the Invite!). It says "We the People" in old-style Constitution lettering; then under it, in italics, it says: "are piffed."

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, July 7; results published July 27 (online July 24). No more than 25 entries per entrant per contest. Include "Week 1078" 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 Beverley Sharp. 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.

It has a chute to the pie shop. My clients go down to Mrs. Lovett's, dead, So no one will find them in my shop.

Some might think this treatment is nasty. It's no worse than some rhinoplasty. Down to meet their fate as a pasty they will go, ker-plop, Once I kill 'em with my razor in my fine Fleet Street shop. (David Franks, Greenland, Ark.) [A longer version appears in the online Invite.]

"Les Misérables"

To "Anything Goes"

Aboard the ship the slaves are rowing, We don't know where they are going, but we surmise Everyone dies. Javert, it seems, has quite a passion For giving Valjean a lashin' for stealing ryes — Everyone dies. And when they start to sing It won't mean a thing — They sing everything, And the songs they sing Tug at every string So we hope you bring Along Puffs for your eyes!

The women turn to prostitution, The men start a revolution, say their goodbyes, Everyone dies. They build a barricade of wicker, They should've used something thicker. It's no surprise Everyone dies. (Rob Cohen, Potomac)

"The Book of Mormon"

To "Hard Knock Life" from "Annie"

It's the knock-knock life for us,

It's the knock-knock life for us, Door-to-door we travel with All the words of Joseph Smith, It's the knock-knock life.

To Uganda we must go, There the knock-knock row to hoes; Though Orlando was our hope We will find some way to cope. It's the knock-knock life.

Don't you feel no one wants to be converted, Don't it seem no one wants to see the light? Add some "Star Wars" and they will be diverted And you'll have a congregation overnight! Do you have any issues that you've skirted, Do you fight inner demons in the night? If you have feelings you might think perverted, You can shove them down and bottle them up tight! That's the knock-knock life! (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

"Oh! Calcutta!"
To "Food, Glorious Food" from "Oliver!"
Nudes! Glorious nudes! Full bosoms and nethers! Both women and dudes In their altogether! Just flashing some naughty bits, In all of their glory, Sure rescues a show when it's Got no story! (Brendan Beary, Great Mills) [a longer version appears online]

Many more parodies, including a song about "Oklahoma!" set to "Anatevka" — and vice versa — appear in the online Invite at bit.ly/invite1078.

Still running — deadline Monday night: our Tom Swifty contest. See bit.ly/invite1077.

POST PUZZLER

No. 221

BY JOSH KNAPP EDITED BY PETER GORDON • FIREBALLCROSSWORDS.COM

ACROSS
1 Vital World War I issue
8 In a jamb?
14 One known for taking pictures
16 Comfort
17 Pick over a kill
18 It has an intense volleyball scene
19 Alternative to Jared or Zales
20 Still having two views
22 "The Things They Carried" setting, familiarly
23 Draining sign
25 Like some fall guys
26 Classic portrait subject usually seen with a bird
27 They might be chained for purchase
29 Rockers originally from Athens
30 Servo, e.g.
31 Waves, maybe
33 Basic seamanship skill

35 Give a clue in charades, essentially
37 Boring routines
38 Player
42 Gets ahold of
46 Make quiet
47 They're checked in some sales
49 See 65-Across
50 Suspect in the game Clue
51 Israeli prime minister after Netanyahu
53 Old Magic 8 Ball maker
54 Teachers College deg.
55 Ride around the suburbs
57 Big mouth
58 Old network associated with horror
60 Swing from the right, for most people
62 "Long Day's Journey Into Night" playwright
63 Mangler of Menzel's name
64 Knock

65 With 49-Across, author of "The Living End"

DOWN

1 Sealing rings
2 Pastoral paradise
3 Casual farewell on a rainy day
4 "Andy Warhol's Fifteen Minutes" airer
5 ["I'm standing right here"]
6 What a neti pot clears
7 Gathering with red cups, often
8 Opening number?
9 Any member of the "Tonight Show" band, e.g.

10 Many a European four-thousander

11 Attractive comics hero?

12 Divider of hemisferios

13 Most of Jutland

15 Get worse and worse

21 "Reason gone mad," according to Marx

24 Gentleman's agreement

26 Like some soy sauce

28 Not flat, in a way

30 Length of Vancouver Island?

32 Start of some blog comments

34 Furrowy furball

36 Spring setting in Europe

38 Hook-shaped destination

39 "Finished!"

40 Result of getting sacked?

41 Going with the flow

43 Outlet for fliers

44 Salsa specification

45 What some might pray for after a storm

48 Laps up

51 Volume in a court

52 Gold standard

55 Come together

56 River from Lake Ladoga

59 Japanese game box

61 Babe

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JUNE 29: This year you experience a different perspective, and you enjoy your life much more as a result. Fortunately, you will have greater access to funds and/or get a pay raise or promotion. If you are single, you will meet someone special who could knock your socks off. If you are attached, the two of you are likely to make a major purchase that will delight you both. Whatever it is, the process of choosing the item will be just as exciting as the purchase itself.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You might want to revamp your day to be with a loved one. Your instincts will tell you what words to use and when, although your sweetie already seems to know what to say.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You usually have the right words, and now is no exception. You might want to take your time and shop for a special gift for a loved one.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

You may be chattier than you want to be. If you are keeping a matter hush-hush, you will want to be careful. Make calls to loved ones and friends you don't normally see.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

You might decide that it's time to make a major purchase. You are

likely to overspend, but you'll love what you choose anyway. Stay within your budget, if possible.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You may feel as if there is no end to the possibilities right now. Field calls, and listen to others' news. You might be amazed at the amount of invitations heading your way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Bring friends and family together for a fun afternoon. You might be delighted by everything you hear. Although it will require a lot of work, you will have a lot of reasons to smile.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Encourage friends to join you at a little-known natural setting for a picnic and a fun afternoon of swimming and hiking, barbecue and s'mores. Be spontaneous.

Friend's cash woes breed resentment

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: I am worried about my best friend and her husband. They are always short of cash and do not have any savings. Their electricity has been cut off twice. They've been through numerous cars and have been in trouble with their mortgage company for consistently late payments.

We are now almost 30 years old, and I feel embarrassed when she is constantly short at the cash register and I have to open my wallet to pay the remainder of the bill. I don't think they spend their money foolishly — the majority of it goes to bills.

What troubles me the most is that they have two young boys who are growing up quickly.

I resent these people for having these children without being able to give them everything they will need. It breaks my heart knowing the boys will never have all of the opportunities most "normal" kids would.

I have tried to advise a spending limit per week or living off of cash (not plastic), but it went nowhere. I feel as though something bad is going to happen, such as wage garnishment or losing their house.

This is a sensitive topic. We rarely talk about it, but should I confront them about their lack of finances and my worry for the boys' futures?

Or should I keep my mouth shut, help out when needed and hope for the best?

Worried in Ontario

What you should not do is judge these parents for having children. It is possible for these parents to give their children a nice, quality life without having lots of material advantages, although the chaos that comes with poor financial management is definitely not good for them.

It is tough for kids to grow up in a household where the parents are stressed, behind the eight ball financially and basically on the run from their creditors.

There is no point in you confronting these parents about their poor financial choices. What you should do is point them toward resources that might be helpful and encourage them to change.

They would benefit from a "boot camp" approach to household financial management. They must go through this process together (otherwise one will undermine the

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You may be pushing someone away without realizing it. Give him or her some space, and you might get a different reaction.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Keep your eye on the long term. Now might not be the right time to discuss a special vacation with a loved one. Realize that this person loves staying close to home, even if you would prefer not to.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Listen to a loved one, as he or she might want to share a premonition. You will gain a greater respect and understanding of this person. A conversation will entertain you no end.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Defer to someone you care a lot about. Follow your intuition with a gift for a child or loved one.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Use your imagination to create a day of luxury and indulgence. You might decide to treat a loved one to a fabulous dinner. You will sense what is right. Count on your intuition.

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other's efforts). Their locality may have a free class for household money management. You could also hope to inspire them by giving them the book "The Total Money Makeover: Classic Edition: A Proven Plan for Financial Fitness" by anti-debt guru Dave Ramsey (2013, Thomas Nelson).

Among Ramsey's common-sense "baby steps" to reduce debt is to make a list of all debts and pay off the smallest amount of debt first. Having an early, modest victory can inspire people to build on their success.

Dear Amy: I was very disappointed to read the letter from "Sleepless and Sad," who has a relative who calls her son (playfully) "Stupid."

I have to say, I would never stand by while someone demeaned my child that way. I don't care what the intent. It is not acceptable.

Proud Dad

I completely agree.

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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