DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Playing the dozens: Neologisms from Week 1086

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1086, we asked you to:
• choose any 12-letter word or multi-word term;
• add or subtract one letter; switch the positions of two letters; or substitute one letter with another;
• and define the neologism you ended up with. (Spaces didn't count.) So some of these words have 11 or 13 letters.

The winner of the Inkin' Memorial

Saturated aft: Lots of junk in the trunk. (Larry Gray, Union Bridge, Md.)

2nd place and the non-Invite "You're a Loser!" T-shirt

SOB McDonnell: "I will love you and honor you all the days of my life. Some restrictions apply. Look out for the bus!" (Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

3rd place

Cream of What: Now that school cafeterias are serving breakfast . . . (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

4th place

Whorehearted: With full sincerity and conviction, assuming the price is right. "The senator gave his whorehearted support to the plan to route the oil pipeline through the bald eagle sanctuary." (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

The twelves of never: honorable mentions

Denial Snyder: "Like that old guy said: What's in a name?" (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

Nonfidential: Describing something private shared with just one Facebook "friend" . . . (Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

Prankincense: A stink bomb. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

Machobiotics: A diet based on the four basic food groups: grease, beer, Red Bull, and stuff eaten on a dare for YouTube. (Brendan Beary)

Flips the Bard: Tells one off in iambic pentameter. "Forsooth, methinks yon sun don't shine in there." (Nan Reiner)

Cornversation: Get good at it, Gov. Perry; Iowa has 99 counties. (Jacob Aldridge, Brisbane, Australia, but clearly up on the American Midwest)

Prosti-tuition: What it'll cost to have that nice lady on the corner teach you a thing or two. (Steve Langer, Chevy Chase)

Carbo dating: Dinner for two at the Olive Garden. (Melissa Balmain)

Bracketeering: Taking a little off the top from your company's March Madness pool. (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

Zen and Jerry's: mmmmmmmm (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

Moanlighting: Making porn films in your spare time. (Ann Martin, Falls Church)

Sindependence: Junior's first year in the frat house. (Rob Wolf, Gaithersburg)

Kindependence: For many millennials, the stage of life following college. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

Eat Humble Opie: Aunt Bee does the unexpected in the climactic scene of David Lynch's horror flick "Mayberry RIP." (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Shirtsighted: Describing a person who needs to be told, "My eyes are up here." (Stephen Langer)

Sinflammation: "Onan's wrist," for example. (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg)

Laissez fair: Festival where people get together to leave each other alone. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Incopacitate: To render a suspect safely immobile by blowing holes in him. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

Rushproofing: Removing the knobs from your radio. (Michael Greene, Alexandria)

Congratuplate: To buy lunch in lieu of a bonus. "Well, whoop-de-do: The boss rewarded me for landing that big account by congratuplating me at Chipotle." (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

'Pittin' image: Underarm stains. (Melissa Balmain)

Scantilevered: What the ballerina was when she danced in a Wonderbra. (Phil Frankenfeld, Washington)

BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1090: Talk undirty to us

My sister is truly a honey
But a ***peniaphobe,** as to money
So my sis sells her tail
To most anyone male
(Which is pretty ironically funny.)
***A peniaphobe is someone who's afraid of penury, or of going broke**

Aholehole * Aktashite * Assapanick * Assart * Bastinado * Boobyalla * Bum-bailiff * Bumfiddler * Bummalo * Clatterfart * Cock-bell * Cockchafer * Dik-dik * Dreamhole * Fanny-blower * Fartlek * Fuksheet * Gullgroper * Haboob * Humpenscrump * Invagination * Jerkinhead * Knobstick * Lobcocked * Nestle-cock * Nicker-pecker * Nobber * Nodgecock * Pakapoo * Peniaphobia * Peniston * Pershittie * Poonga * Sack-butt * Sexangle * Shittah * Skiddy-cock * Tetheradick * Tit-tyrant * Wankapin

What's the matter with you, anyway, you creep? Why WOULDN'T you assume that a fuksheet is an old term for the foremost sail on a ship, or that a shittah is a tree that's mentioned in the Bible (plural: shittim)? The above perfectly wholesome terms, many of them archaic, are included in a list of "50 Words That Sound Rude but Actually Aren't," gathered by the British writer Paul Anthony Jones and published on the Web site MentalFloss. Some of them are plants and animals; some are machines; some are natural phenomena; and one is an Australian lottery. Fifty-seven-time Loser Ward Kay suggested to the Empress: How about a poetry contest with those words?

Indeed, such a contest is certainly in keeping with The Style Invitational's erudite and sophisticated exploration of poetic forms *and* its use of obscure multisyllabic words; like the Miss America Pageant, we're really all about scholarship. Very well: **This week: Write a humorous poem in any form (no more than eight lines) that includes one or more of the words above; the word must make sense in the poem in its TRUE meaning,** as in the example above by Washington Post Children's Poetry Consultant Gene Weingarten. (Of course, it might also make sense to someone with the wrong idea, as well.) You may use a related form of the word, as Gene did. See **bit.ly/50rudewords** to see Jones's Mental Floss list and the definitions he cites.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives "The Klutz Book of Inventions," which depicts 162 ingeniously doofy — actually doofily ingenious — ideas, including blinking Turn Signal Earrings (traffic signal-shaped) for pedestrians; the Inflato Hydrant to place by the curb to save yourself a parking spot; and Inflatable Booster Pants with a pump to push your behind up and out of a chair (yes, dear, I'm afraid they do make your butt look big). All with funny photos we can't show you here because of copyright stuff. Donated by Pie Snelson.

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 — both of whose limited-edition runs of 500 are almost gone). 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, Sept. 29; results published Oct. 19 (online Oct. 16). No more than 25 entries per entrant per contest. Include "Week 1090" 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.

Mallnourished: Existing on a diet of Sbarro and Cinnabon. (John McCooey, Rehoboth Beach, Del.; Kevin Dopart)

Brandparents: Blue Ivy's and North West's moms and dads. (Kevin Dopart)

InvisiBillity: Dems can't agree whether Hillary needs more or less of this. (Melissa Balmain)

Rash Wednesday: The day after an overindulgent Mardi Gras. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

Typoglycemic: "You've got low blood, sugar," said the doctor. (Larry Neal, McLean)

Despicable Moe: Unauthorized tell-all by Larry and Curly. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Urp and running: The early warning signs of too much burrito casserole. (Frank Osen)

Hackjammered: It's late at night when your laptop seizes up and all of a sudden your debit card is buying a Lexus on eBay. You've been hackjammered. (Larry Neal)

Chickenshirts: People who take the ALS challenge in ponchos. (Frank Osen)

Costipation: A condition in which one's wallet becomes lodged in one's pocket when the check arrives at the table. (Rachel May Arusi, Tel Aviv)

Hot crass buns: The new Miley Cyrus tour. (Frank Osen)

Pledgehammer: What you'd like to use on the guy who calls for donations at dinnertime. (Steve Langer; Gerald Diamond, London, Ontario)

And Last: **Lafterthought:** The perfect Invitational entry you came up with right after the deadline. (Todd DeLap, Fairfax)

Still running — deadline Monday night: Our first contest ever using a word-search grid. See bit.ly/invite1089.

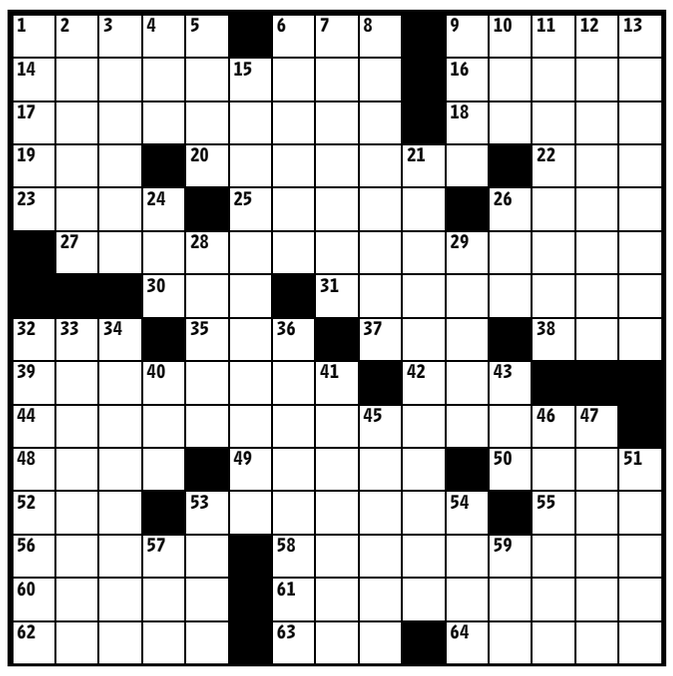
POST PUZZLER

No. 233

BY KAREN M. TRACEY EDITED BY PETER GORDON • FIREBALLCROSSWORDS.COM

ACROSS
1 Romantic text?
6 Rho lookalike
9 Saved for later, perhaps
14 Fops
16 Rosewall rival
17 Tops, in a way
18 Irish novelist Cecelia
19 Printer meas.
20 Most up to the task
22 French face card
23 Hauler
25 Happening
26 "____ Baby" ("Hair" song)
27 Internal control
30 Common bill encl.
31 Old explosive
32 Bermuda hrs.
35 FDR power project
37 Grade school subj.
38 Nav. rank
39 Historical heirs of France
42 Picante
44 His tombstone in Montmartre Cemetery has a statue of him as the puppet Petrushka
48 Galls
49 Staff up again
50 Advantages
52 Teutonic pronoun
53 Doesn't stick out
55 Anjou affirmative
56 TV actress Georgia
58 Coverage
60 Oswald, in "The Canterbury Tales"
61 Mariana Trench locale
62 Author of "The Education of a Golfer"
63 1040 ID
64 Yellow-flowered medicinal plant

DOWN
1 Touches, e.g.
2 Jewelers' tools
3 Span between reboots
4 Strength, in Latin
5 "A mind is a terrible thing to waste" org.
6 "Jason Lives," in the "Friday the 13th" film series
7 It may result in making new contacts
8 Spirits
9 Missing some sparkle
10 Cheery sound
11 Orthodontic concern
12 Turn one's attention to
13 "The Big Easy"
15 Delight in life
21 Closing, maybe
24 They, in French
26 Playboy Khan
28 Nickname of an early jazz pianist
29 Saw-billed petrel of southern seas
32 Cabinet makeup
33 Gateway Arch architect
34 Alabama birthplace of Rosa Parks
36 Segmented worms
40 Polite abbr.
41 Actress Signoret and cookbook author Beck
43 Dosage amt.
45 Speed skater Dan
46 Former coins of Germany
47 Words of encouragement
51 Tuscan tourist city
53 Ran in the wash
54 Some cheap digs: Abbr.
57 Sister of Zsa Zsa
59 Hole in one



Answer to last week, No. 232

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

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | SEPT. 21: This year you experience many changes, some of which are related to events that happened 11 or 12 years ago. It would be best not to initiate new projects this year, if possible. If you are single, many of you will feel as if you have met your soul mate. If you are attached, you may become much more me-oriented. Be sure to include your sweetie in your plans more often. A relationship is 50-50. Keep your ego under control.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19)*
Any efforts to reach out to someone at a distance may backfire. You might feel some insecurity if you overthink the issue at hand.

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20)*
You might be in the mood to relax at home and read the Sunday paper. A friendship means a lot to you, but be careful not to put this person on a pedestal.

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20)*
No one needs to tell you to speak your mind. However, you'll want to make sure others really understand what you are saying. Listen to a loved one's complaints.

CANCER *(June 21-July 22)*
Your more possessive side might emerge when dealing with a loved one. You'll discover the importance of communication and confirming what you believe you heard.

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22)*
Use the morning for any matter you feel is important. By the afternoon, you'll be feeling self-indulgent. A friend might be enticing you to head down this path.

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*
You'll perk up by midday after being a bit lazy in the morning. You might discover that a loved one or dear friend has made plans that you don't want to say no to.

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)*
Touch base with others in the morning. By the afternoon, you might discover that you would prefer some downtime. Do not pressure yourself into going out.

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*
A group of friends might entice you to join them for a fun happening. Use caution with spending, as you might be having such a good time that you lose track of your money.

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)*
Take action in the morning, and reach out to a loved one at a distance. You will make this person's day if you do. In the evening, friends may drop by, but you might feel too busy to entertain them.

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*
Listen to what a loved one shares in the morning. Try to root out the cause of someone's irritation. A discussion with a trusted friend may be helpful.

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)*
Try to understand what is ailing a loved one. Treat this person with compassion, even if he or she is demanding. Given some time, his or her attitude will ease up.

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20)*
Know what you want, and consider your options. An irritating situation might provoke anger, but it also could start an important conversation.

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Torn between relatives

Ask Amy
AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: I know I'm not *the only person to face this situation. I have elderly parents who need me, and my daughter living far away who also needs me.*

I returned to my home town 10 years ago because of my parents' health. They are now in their mid-80s, but other than my mother's dementia, they are doing well.

My daughter and son-in-law live on the West Coast and have three children, two with autism. I'm retiring soon and want to settle near my grandchildren, but my parents have repeatedly stressed that they expect me to stay here.

I'm an only child, but my parents have an extensive network of friends, other relatives and more than sufficient retirement income.

My daughter's family is struggling with the demands of caring for their children.

I have terrible guilt about wanting to move and pressure from my parents to stay, some of which is financial. However, I'm realistic about any potential inheritance; an extended nursing home stay could easily reduce that to nothing.

I feel as if I'm waiting for my parents to die before I can resume my own life. No matter my choice, I abandon half my family. What are the criteria for making such a decision?

Torn

I think when you are faced with two compelling situations, both drawing you toward them, you have to do what you want to do, as long as you do your best to prepare all parties involved for the consequences of your choice.

It seems obvious that you really want to be near your daughter.

Before moving permanently, you could test the waters by going there for a month (check an online apartment-rental site like Airbnb.com for a room or apartment to rent nearby). This might make the idea easier for your parents to accept.

Please understand that the pressure from your folks might be because they are anxious and unsure of their future. Assure them that you will be able to come back and see them for extended periods.

This move on your part might prompt them to get more household help or relocate to assisted living. You should explore this with them, because if your mother has dementia, this will cause an increasing strain on your father.

Dear Amy: Family reunions *are on the horizon. Friendly hellos pave the way for gossiping about other family members. No one is spared, if they dare not attend. Even the dearly departed are subjected to negative talk.*

I strongly believe in staying positive and not gossiping. I have tried changing the subject, defending the absent family member, staying quiet, but usually end up politely excusing myself and taking a hike.

What is a good way to handle family negative talk? Do you know a line that would direct the conversation away from gossip?

Staying Positive

Given the toxic atmosphere that seems to permeate your family, the line I suggest for you is, "Oh, now where did I put my hiking boots . . . .?"

Seriously, don't even bother defending the family member; this just incites more gossip. So say, "This has veered into the negative gossip area, and that makes me uncomfortable. Tell me how you're doing."

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