

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

A challenge indeed: Fund drive ideas from Week 1092

BY PAT MYERS

Week 1092 was headlined "Are We Having Funds Yet?" "Not much," grouched one Loser atop her entry. Indeed, this contest for fundraising ideas proved harder than we'd expected. Perhaps it was because its inspiration, the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge — either donate to the cause or pour a bucket of freezing water over your head — was so odd itself.

The winner of the Inkin' Memorial

For the Support Our Congress Trust: Each legislator asks constituents to dump a bucket of money over his head. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

2nd place and the Thomas Kinkadee/Disney jigsaw puzzle of Cinderella:

Google Foundation: For a generous donation, it won't share your Gmail clip of you air-drumming Black Sabbath's "Paranoid." (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

3rd place

DNC/RNC Bipartisan Partisan Challenge: Get your friends to sit through 15 minutes of television programming in October without fast-forwarding or muting the political ads; otherwise they have to give their donation to the other party. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

4th place

The YMCA-athon: Wave your arms frantically to spell out ALL the words to the song. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Lemon pledges: honorable mentions

The Red Cross Challenge: Send money or pour a bucket of blood on your head. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village; Jon Reiser, Hilton, N.Y.)

The Zen Institute: Dump an empty bucket over your head. (Frank Osen)

The Ayn Rand Center: Dump a bucket of ice over someone else's head. (Frank Osen)

Cosa Nostra Retirement Fund: The Tread Water With Your Feet in a Bucket of Cement Challenge. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

NRA Challenge: Shoot someone you don't much like, responsibly. (Edward Gordon, Austin)

Fraternal Order of Police: Handcuffs Across America. Stay connected! (Beverly Sharp)

Prostate Cancer Awareness Fund: See a male over age 45? Give him the finger to remind him to get the finger — and get checked for prostate cancer. For every finger you give, donate to the fund and know you're doing double duty! (Kevin Cuddihy, Fairfax)

The Michael Phelps Foundation Challenge: How fast can you swim after 10 beers? Make a video and show your friends! (Margaret Welsh, Oakton)

The Sex Addicts Anonymous Phone-athon: Operators are standing by to tell you what they are wearing right now. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

The Metropolitan Opera's Cabernet Challenge: Donate \$1,000 or drink Wal-Mart's Oak Leaf red from the box. (Ward Kay, Vienna; John Glenn, Tyler, Tex.)

Public Radio Pledge Rush: Faithful listeners don headphones and hear excerpts of "The Rush Limbaugh Show." The faster the person tears off the phones, the more he pays up to his NPR station. (John Glenn)

The Urology Foundation's Three-Legged Race for Erectile Dysfunction. (Kathleen DeBald, Burtonsville)

Help the NFL stamp out domestic violence: Make out with Roger Goodell's wife in an elevator. (Don't worry, he'll never watch the video!) (Frank Mann, Washington)

Audubon Society Challenge: Shell and eat 10 black oil sunflower seeds in a minute the way the birds do, with just your mouth. (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

The Children's Hospital Challenge: How many beans can you stick up your nose? (Margaret Welsh)

Goodwill: Either change your profile picture to a picture of the inside of your closet for a week or

Week 1096: Picture this

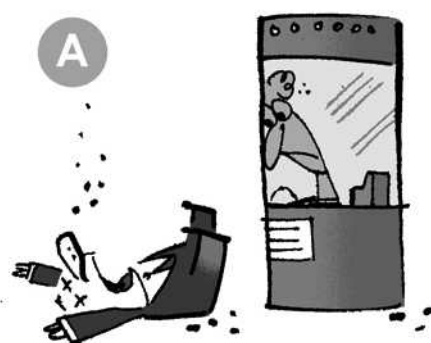
Now that The Style Invitational once again appears each week in black-and-white — as it did in its early days, when the pages were etched by scribes into stone tablets — we return to our pre-2004-look cartoon caption contest. See, we're just like The New Yorker, except with buxom stick figures and fart jokes.

This week: Write a humorous caption for any of the Bob Staake cartoons on this page.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a small eggnog glass in the shape of a moose head, complete with an impressive set of glass moose antlers; it's called the "National Lampon's Christmas Vacation Clark Griswold Moose Mug" and was donated ages ago by Loser Bruce Alter, who's a fan of moose.

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 in one of our two new Bob Staake designs: either "The Wit Hit the Fan" or "Hardly Har-Har." 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, Nov. 10; results published Nov. 30 (online Nov. 27). No more than 25 entries per entrant per contest. Include "Week 1096" 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 Stephen Dudzik. 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.



BOB STAAKE/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

donate enough of the contents that you're not horrified by the very idea. (Danielle Nowlin)

The Nose Hair Tug-of-War for Alopecia Awareness. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

Apple's charitable foundation: Those who don't donate will have U2's entire repertoire downloaded to their iPhones. (Frank Osen)

National First Ladies' Library Benefit Challenge: Order

embroidered Presidential Pillows from the library shop and Instagram yourself sleeping with a president. Do all 43 (Grover twice) and win a commemorative cigar box! (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Still running — deadline Monday night: Our TankaWanka contest for five-line poems. See bit.ly/invite1095

POST PUZZLER

No. 239

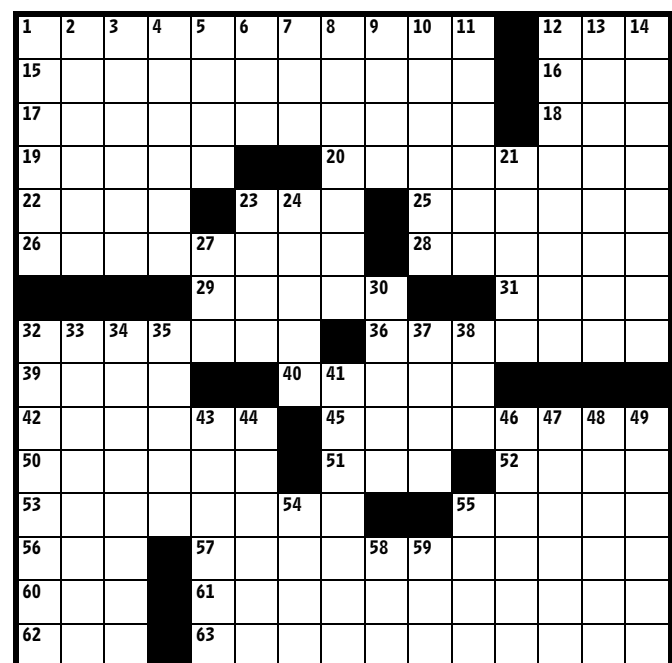
BY FRANK LONGO EDITED BY PETER GORDON • FIREBALLCROSSWORDS.COM

ACROSS
1 Follower of Hanging, Scramble or Chess
12 Temp elevator, often
15 Spelling statement?
16 Solar wind component
17 Solar or wind, e.g.
18 Easter fleur
19 Host of "Tattletales" and "Super Password"
20 "Back to the Batcave" autobiographer
22 ___-deucey
23 Hall of introductions
25 Piddling
26 NHLer before the name change to Avalanche
28 Sweet pea, e.g.
29 Andean capital
31 Pick from a spread, say
32 Guaranteed
36 Was powerless to proceed?
39 Be frank about

40 Dive to catch a fish, maybe
42 Even beyond that
45 Not just daunted by three sequels
50 1996 slasher film with three sequels
51 Delivery from Santa
52 It might turn you upside down
53 Oxy, Vike and the like
55 Hacks it
56 Orange finish?
57 Flash
60 Golden, to Gaspard
61 Like stalled negotiations
62 Man of Steel's character
63 One for whom silicosis is an occupational hazard

DOWN
1 Believer in the Horned God
2 Properly placed, to Pliny

3 Person planking, probably
4 Self-nicknamed "Overweight Lover" of rap
5 Inits. on Big Apple engines
6 Hot Chelle ___ ("Tonight Tonight" band)
7 Arabic patronymic part
8 Means of swiping books?
9 Academia nut?
10 He named Natal on Christmas Day of 1497
11 Paratroopers, informally
12 Start going after someone?
13 Pulitzer winner in a 2006 superhero film
14 Like bare hair?
21 Illusionists' props
23 Prefix with lateral
24 Much of a central air system
27 Prefix with lateral
30 Budget, in product names
32 Old film noir figure
33 They have large pits and lots of fat
34 Many nail-biters
35 Midst
37 Rich, in slang
38 Neanderthal
41 Throwing-in-the-towel point
43 Some carnival entertainment
44 Code keeping capos quiet
46 Cooking products
47 At the peak of development
48 Port named for a Scandinavian god
49 Grow in virulence
54 Sigourney played her in "Gorillas in the Mist"
55 "At the ___" (subtitle of a 1978 hit song)
58 Little story
59 410% of D



Answer to last week, No. 238

P I N G P O N G B A L L
 A N E Y E F O R A N E Y E
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HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | NOV. 2: This year you have the ability to make heads turn when you walk into a room. You will learn to use that gift when need be. Remember, we transform as our desires transform. If you are single, even if you meet someone who knocks your socks off, take your time getting to know him or her. This person's appearance may be very different from his or her true self. If you are attached, you might see a new addition to your family, or a change involving your home. This will add to your commitment to your sweetie.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 You might appreciate a day off from the hectic pace. When someone else suggests that very thing, you'll want to grab the opportunity.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 You could be rather fun to be with. Be spontaneous, and bring your friends together. You will be all smiles when you're surrounded by the people you love.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 You might question your involvement with someone who can be demanding. You also might be mixing work and play a little too much.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 You may be thrilled by what is going on with a child or loved

one. A trip might be in the offing, whether it is for business or pleasure.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 You will want time with a special loved one, and you will make sure that it happens. Hang out together where others will not look for you. This person needs quality one-on-one time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 Your inner circle seems to be spending a lot of energy on drawing you into their plans. Don't spread yourself so thin that you won't enjoy yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 Take today to relax and catch up on a home project. You might feel distracted and not sure which way to turn. A loved one may be touchy right now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 You seem to have a lot more to give when you relax. You also enjoy yourself more under these circumstances. Be more playful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 If responsibilities fall on you, it is because you seem to be able to step up to the plate more easily than others. You can be very intuitive about what others need.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 Make calls to those you care about, but who you rarely see and/or visit with. If you can, fit one or more of these people into your plans for today. You will enjoy all the reminiscing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 You have a wild streak. What you are capable of, especially on a day like today, might set your imagination on fire. Make it a point not to go overboard.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 Use today's energy to further your simple vision of a perfect Sunday. Others will seek you out. Choose to go for what you desire today and with whom.

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Time to talk about needs is before sex

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: I'm 24 and just started seeing a really great guy. Things have progressed

slowly (we didn't have our first kiss until date No. 4), but from the way it's going, I think he really likes me. We have a ton of sexual chemistry/tension, and I'd love to begin to explore that part of the relationship, but because of past experiences and the fact that I really like him, I don't want to sleep with him unless I know we are exclusive. How do I make this clear without scaring him off? I come from a generation of hook-up culture and blurred lines, so I can't assume anything. Guys my age probably aren't used to having such a convo, especially early on. When and how do I bring this up?

In Like

If you two enjoy great chemistry, you are both going to want to take it to the next level soon. The time to bring this up is well before you find yourself fumbling with your buttons.

Talking about sex is intimate, important — and pretty sexy.

If you are not brave enough to be honest with someone on this level and to frankly state

your needs, you should not be getting naked with him.

If he can't have this convo — or doesn't like your parameters — then he's not the guy for you.

Dear Amy: This issue has been eating at me for years. When my brother and his wife invite us to dinner, they ask us to pitch in money to defray the cost of the food.

My brother is well off and has a vacation home. When we visit his vacation home, we are basically asked to cater a dinner for him and his wife, friends, in-laws and anyone else who happens to be there. This can be costly.

I have never asked anyone to pay for food when I invite them to my house for dinner. I might ask someone to bring dessert or wine but never a check or cash for the meal. Should I start charging them for dinners at my house?

Fed Up

If you are a guest more than a couple of nights at someone's vacation home, then you really should contribute a meal. Otherwise, your brother's expectations are strange.

You could definitely retaliate for this inhospitable treatment by doing to your brother what

he is doing to you, but that would only prove that you are capable of being as rude as he is. And wouldn't it be easier — so much easier — to talk to him?

He's your brother. His behavior is confusing to you. So use your words. Say to him, "You're the only person I've ever met who invites us over and then asks us to pay for our meal. Mom didn't raise us this way. So what gives?"

Dear Amy: I thought I'd let "Tongue Tied Hostess" know that some of us love to send our dinner guests home with leftovers. It sure beats having a refrigerator full of food to deal with.

Sick of Leftovers

It is generous of you to send people home with food. But offering leftovers to your guests is vastly different from having a guest ask, "Can I take some leftovers home for my dog?"

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

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