

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Edgy-Sketch: Our cartoon captions from Week 1096

BY PAT MYERS

Week 1096 was another of our renowned Bob Staake cartoon caption contests, for the five pictures below. Funny but too frequently submitted for credit: For Picture B, noting that the Postal Service is marketing voice mail; for Picture A, various takes on "a box office hit"; for Picture C, a car for the Australian market.

The winner of the Inkin' Memorial

Picture D: "No, let MY client get it." (Frank Mann, Washington)

2nd place and the eggnog glass in the shape of an antlered moose head:

Picture C: Heaven wasn't exactly as Tom Magliozzi had pictured it, but it was pretty darn close. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

3rd place

Picture C: The artist known as Athena unveils her latest commentary on how men mistreat women: putting them on a pedestal, then turning their lives upside down just to get a peek up their chassis. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

4th place

Picture D: In restaurants that have banned phones, millennials have to pass notes back and forth to communicate. (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

Yuck of the draw: honorable mentions

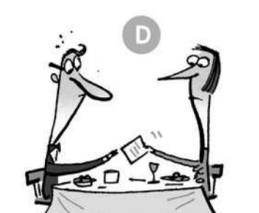
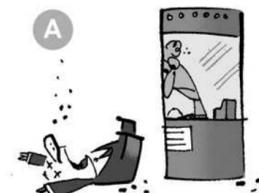
FOR PICTURE A

Man killed by booth at Ford's Theatre. (Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

In Harold's day, tickets were a nickel. #thanksobama (Marni Penning Coleman, Falls Church)

Even though George had ordered HBO, he was amazed when it actually arrived on his doorstep. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Edna didn't know you could head-butt someone through three-inch glass. (Todd DeLap, Fairfax)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1100: Pun and ink — the feghoot

It was a strange news day in Lexington, Va.: A man dressed in a Popeye costume dug into Robert E. Lee's grave, stole his left femur, and then used it to bludgeon a man during a robbery. Clearly a case of . . . a salt with a dead-Lee weapon.

A little story that ends in an elaborate pun: It's sometimes called a feghoot, named for a series of sci-fi tales by the pseudonymous Grendel Briarton, "Through Time and Space With Ferdinand Feghoot," starting in the 1950s. The feghoot above — pared down for the Invite — is by Ted Remington, an incorrigible punster whom the Empress discovered from his comment on a recent article about a football player who started celebrating his touchdown before he actually crossed the end zone, and ended up dropping the ball; Ted called it a case of "premature jock elation." In short order, Ted joined the Style Invitational Devotees page on Facebook and shared the groaner above, "the best pun I have ever created."

Which convinced the Empress that there are still original puns out there. And unlike when we did this contest before, almost 15 years ago, you can now Google your idea to see if it's already been posted 12,000 times. So **this week: Contrive an elaborate scenario that ends in a novel groaner pun on a familiar expression, title, etc.** While it's fun to string out a long story, we need you to keep it to just a few sentences; 75 words will be lengthy for us. On the other hand, it shouldn't be a simple one-sentence riddle joke.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a That's Gross™ Growing Body Part — a brain and a whole skeleton two inches tall that is said to grow by 600 percent if you put it in water for three days. It is not remotely gross. Donated by Nan Reiner. We'll also throw in a little toy nose donated by Kuohsien Huang. So if you win: cool prize. If you finish third or fourth: cool prize. If you finish second: total junk. This is why we call our contestants Losers.

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, Dec. 8; results published Dec. 28 (online Dec. 24, because what else is there to do that day than read the Invite?). No more than 25 entries per entrant per contest. Include "Week 1100" 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. The headline for this week's results is by Tom Witte; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Chris Doyle. 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.

The new smartphone-in-a-shoe makes it difficult to use Fandango. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

FOR PICTURE B

Delores noticed a marked increase in the volume of her mail. (Beverly Sharp; Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

The Postal Service announces with joy that someone under 65 actually wrote and mailed a letter. (Bill Lieberman, Ellicott City, a First Offender)

David Letterman becomes the new face of the Post Office. (Brad Alexander, Wanneroo, Australia; Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Before the TARDIS. Dr. Who tried several different blue boxes. (Robyn Carlson, Keyser, W.Va.)

FOR PICTURE C

While the new steering column was an elegant addition to the mini-hybrids, it tended to cause stability problems. (Ralph Nitkin, Rockville)

Introducing the car with an extra strong roof, internal roll bars and self-sealing cup holders so you don't spill your drink . . . the Ford Rob Ford. (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

At the 2015 auto show, all cars were required to be presented "recall-ready." (Curtis Morrison, Chesapeake, Va.)

The car wasn't the only thing defying gravity. (Steve Honley, Washington; Art Grinath)

"Vanna, that's not what I meant when I told you to put the top down." (Marleen May, Rockville; Beverly Sharp)

Nissan's electric-car division soon thought better of the slogan "Turn over a new Leaf." (Thad Humphries, Washington, Va.)

This model comes with extra

chassis support and dual airbags. Oh, and the car is good too. (Todd DeLap)

FOR PICTURE D

"It's from the chef. The good news: Our dinner is free. The bad news: He's been quarantined for 21 days." (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

With California's new active-consent law on the books, Bobby thought it best to have his dates start reviewing the paperwork at dinner. (Dan Ramish, Alexandria)

For their dinner date at Tofu Bistro, Millie thoughtfully sneaked in a Pop-Tart for her husband. (Kevin Dopart, Washington; Danielle Nowlin)

Mary asked Tom to review the check and see if they were charged for the table and chair legs they never received. (Jim Stiles, Rockville)

Lines That Don't Work No. 17: "You pay for dinner, I'll spring for the hotel." (Bird Waring)

"Yes, I know I've become boring, but unfortunately your warranty on me just ran out." (Mark Asquino, Malabo, Equatorial Guinea)

Bob discovered that when Svetlana said they were "going Russian," it meant she would take everything she wanted and he would pay for it. (Jim Stiles)

Although Mother had warned her to wait until the wedding night, Kirsten saw no harm in giving Henry her list of demands. (Lawrence McGuire)

FOR PICTURE E

"The upside is now I won't have to get that colonoscopy." (Alex Jeffrey, Columbia)

"Wait here while I see if there's any body around." (John O'Byrne, Dublin)

POST PUZZLER

No. 243

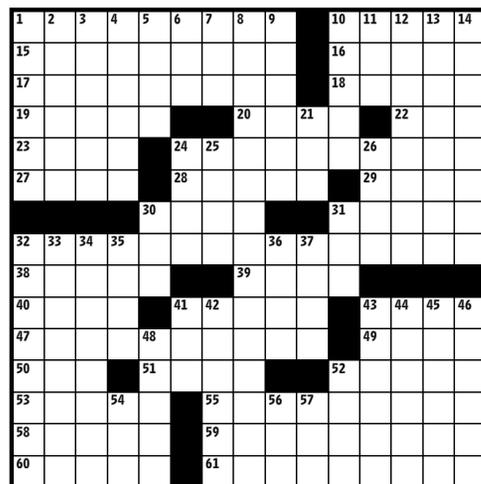
BY ANGELA OLSON HALSTED & ERIK AGARD EDITED BY PETER GORDON • FIREBALLCROSSWORDS.COM

ACROSS
 1 Heart-to-heart meeting?
 10 KwaZulu-___ (South African province)
 15 Do-re-mi for a potential singer?
 16 Show feels, so to speak
 17 Like some doctors' appointments
 18 Chuck who co-created "The Big Bang Theory"
 19 "Didn't we take care of this the last time?!"
 20 Gravlax ingredient
 22 Musician Mahal who scored the movie "Sounder"
 23 Istanbul native
 24 Whorled wood
 27 Actor and comic Mike
 28 Be one over?
 29 Director of "Sweet Liberty"
 30 "___ Meets World"
 31 It was originally called "Fiber A"

DOWN
 1 Connecticut prep school
 2 On the hook?
 3 Ditch wall
 4 Arab leaders
 5 Counterfeiter catcher
 6 "___ Meets World"
 7 Article published daily by French newspapers
 8 "Trust Your Next Shot" author
 9 Glitterer that is not gold
 10 "Grillz" rapper
 11 Lead of a Latin trio?
 12 Bowl material?
 13 How drug tests are often administered
 14 One source of the blues?
 21 Inc., in Britain

DOWN
 24 Jenner or Humphries associated with the Kardashians
 25 Member of a vengeful movie clique
 26 Feller
 30 Some refrigerators
 31 Love lines?
 32 NC State team
 33 Revered medicine man?
 34 Sandy, say
 35 Punishment for guff, maybe
 36 "Divine Secrets of the ___ Sisterhood" (Rebecca Wells novel)
 37 ___ Battalion (Ukraine fighting force known as the "Men in Black")

DOWN
 41 Swim-bike-run competition, for short
 42 Eminent
 43 Assigned to Gryffindor, say
 44 Commensurate (with)
 45 Like Venus
 46 Canadian debut album of 1991
 48 The hole matter?
 52 Actress who played Hazel's mother in "The Fault in Our Stars"
 54 "Bali ___"
 56 Character with multiple family trees?
 57 NaOH



Answer to last week, No. 242

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

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | NOV. 30: This year you enjoy your private time even more, as it seems to energize you. You have an unusually spontaneous, fun personality. Many of you will consider going back to school, traveling or taking a workshop. Through this experience, you may meet someone who opens new doors for you. If you are single, romance will be intense but not necessarily enduring. Realize that a lot of the excitement comes from the instability of change. If you are attached, you might plan a special adventure together.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 You might feel rather out of it despite everything you try to do. Instead of fighting this feeling, decide to give in to it and just relax. Make it okay to get in a nap.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 It is time to take a break from catering to family and friends and more of what you want. Refuse to let others get used to taking advantage of you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 Stay on top of a personal matter regardless of how uncomfortable it might be. Make plans to get together with friends.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 Call those you rarely get to see. You might want to arrange a visit with one of these special people in your life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 Try a different approach. You may

hear news that causes you some stress, but not for long. You can intervene, should you so choose. This decision needs to be yours alone.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 Others love commanding the moment, and you are kind enough to allow them to. A child or loved one taps into your playfulness. A serious conversation will bring you back to reality.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 Become involved in some kind of physical activity. Get into some yard work or decide to join friends for a fun outing. A change of pace will revive you as well as those around you. Use caution with spending.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 Your imagination will delight a loved one. Together, you might decide to take off on a flight of

fantasy or have fun making a holiday shopping list.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 You might want to call this a lazy day and sleep in. You could have difficulty doing this, however, as a friend may decide to drop by unexpectedly. A loved one will delight you with his or her ideas.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 Return calls and touch base with someone you haven't spoken to in a while. A child or someone who is childlike might amuse you with his or her imagination.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 Expenses will add up quickly, so keep a close eye on spending. Make a call later in the day to a relative or neighbor to whom you always love talking.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 You will feel in the spirit of the moment, but if you look around, many of your friends and family members might have disappeared. The fatigue of Thanksgiving celebrations may be getting the best of them. Use the afternoon for holiday shopping.

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Asian grandma resents stereotyping

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: My daughter-in-law is white and married to my son, who is half-white and half-

Asian. They have three beautiful children under age 5. When my daughter-in-law is out with the kids and they happen to see an Asian woman around my age, she always chats with the woman and tells her kids, "Doesn't she look like your grandma?" This happens all the time! I know this, because she tells me about it.

I am concerned that what she is doing is racial prejudice (or profiling) and not good for the kids or me.

This happened a few days ago. When I saw my grandchildren, the 4-year-old told me he does not like me anymore. He kept his distance. He used to be close and affectionate.

I want to tell her to stop telling the kids that every Asian woman "looks like your grandma." It is like telling them all Asians look alike. I want to be respected by my grandchildren and not to feel prejudice against me. Am I being too sensitive?

Please help me deal with this problem. I do not know if my son

is aware of this. Should I voice my concern to him?

Sad Grandma

You seem to be fusing two things that are likely unrelated.

First, the behavior of your 4-year-old grandson. Many children this age go through a sudden and inexplicable bout of shyness, especially when they sense any kind of tension.

Your grandson is just being a normal little boy. If he doesn't want to hug you, give him your friendliest smile and say, "It's okay to feel a little shy. I feel that way sometimes, too!"

Your daughter-in-law is likely well-meaning. She is pointing out Asian people and urging her children to identify with Asians. After all, the kids are part Asian. However, I completely agree with your concern about this. It is condescending and insensitive.

The next time your daughter-in-law tells you about this sort of encounter, respond, "Please understand that it's like you are saying that all Asians look alike. We don't. I'm a little sensitive about this; I'm sure you don't mean to be unkind, but it makes me a little sad." Tell your son you have had this conversation with

his wife; he can fill her in if she has further questions.

Because your daughter-in-law is so interested in Asian culture, I hope you will generously share any special recipes or customs with her and the children. The more she understands, the more culturally sensitive she will be.

Dear Amy: Give me a break. You were so sympathetic to the teenage farm boy ("Employee in Idaho") who said he felt like an employee rather than a son to his hardworking father.

I would have said, "Quit your whining, you brat. It's called a 'family farm' for a reason."

Disgusted Dad

The son did not want to stop working. He wanted a connection with his father. Given your attitude, I'm wondering what your relationship with your children is like.

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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