

## DIVERSIONS

## THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

## Some linkage may occur: Report from Week 1120

BY PAT MYERS

**In Week 1120**, we looked back at our hardy perennial "Same Difference" contest — to compare or contrast any two items from a list we supply — and put together a motley bouquet: **Each of the 17 items in this year's list was taken from a different Invitational contest from 1996 to 2014.** While we hoped that meant all new answers this time around, several Losers made the same "compare thee to a Summer's Eve" joke for an Elizabethan sonnet" as the one that got ink in 2010. Brand-new this time around but sent by too many people: Gandhi and the 'Skins' offensive line are both famed for nonviolent confrontation.

## 4th place

Mohandas K. Gandhi vs. Ruth Bader Ginsburg doing the macarena: **One's a Mahatma and one's a Hot Mama.** (Jack McBroom, Fort Valley, Va.; John Conti, Norfolk, Mass.)

## 3rd place

"American Gothic" vs. the Redskins' offensive line: **In the painting, you'll just see two sad sacks.** (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

## 2nd place and the full-size photo cutout of President Obama

Yemen and an overactive bladder: **The first: Middle Eastern crisis; the second: You're a peen' emergency.** (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

## And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial

A \$4 haircut and the Redskins' offensive line: **With one, three snips and you're out; with the other, three snaps and they're out.** (Jaclyn Yamada, New York, a First Offender)

## LinkedInanity: honorable mentions

A \$4 haircut and a tattoo of Joe Biden: **You hope the haircut isn't just a cheap ripoff — and pray the tattoo is.** (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

The 400-meter dash and a Biden tattoo: **One lasts two furlongs; the other lasts for too long.** (Greg Johnson, Victoria, B.C.)

A Biden tattoo and a three-cupped bra: **They both represent one boob too many.** (Brian Allgar, Paris)

Ruth Bader Ginsburg doing the macarena: **Justice imprudent; a Biden tattoo: just as imprudent.** (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

A \$4 haircut and a three-cupped bra: **They're consecutive verses in "The Twelve Days of Deep Discount Christmas."** (Mary Kappus, Washington)

A \$4 haircut and a three-cupped bra: **Both are unlikely to be on Robin Givhan as a Lilly Pulitzer dress from Target.** (Roy Ashley, Washington)

A three-cupped bra and pizza-scented shampoo: **Both are regular line items in the "Jersey Shore" production budget.** (Steve Honley, Washington)

The 400-yard dash and an overactive bladder: **With only one of these, there's an award for finishing Number 1.** (Wendy O. Sparks, Rockville)

The 400-yard dash and Gandhi: **One's over fast; the other overfasted.** (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

The 400-yard dash and an overactive bladder: **The first is a Sprint; the other requires Pee-Mobile.** (Jonathan Hardis, Gaithersburg)

Yemen is like the 400-yard dash: **At the sound of a gun, you'd better run.** (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

A pile of socks and that "not-so-fresh" feeling: **Both can be found in the bottom of your drawers.** (Edmund Conti, Raleigh, N.C.)

Yemen vs. that not-so-fresh feeling: **One means trouble in the Middle East; the other, trouble with the middle's yeast.** (Stephen Dudzik, Olney; Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg)

Yemen vs. that not-so-fresh feeling: **One is in the Middle East; the other is in the middle south.** (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Gandhi and a \$4 haircut: **Both might make you call out: "Ma! Hat! Ma!"** (Pie Snelson, Silver Spring)

Gandhi and a \$4 haircut: **Only the second would involve a cowlick.** (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

With an overactive bladder, you need to pee urgently; with a \$4 haircut,



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## New contest for Week 1124: Heed! indeed: Advice verse

**Don't recline your seat;  
Remain upright and kind.  
Then I won't stab my feet  
Into your fat behind.**

**— Don't recline your airplane seat.  
— Close cover before striking.  
— Don't chew with your mouth open.  
— Use your parking brake.  
— Stop to smell the flowers.**

This week's contest — one we've never really done before, but one I can promise you we'll do again — was suggested by 35-time Loser Todd "the Lap" DeLap: **Write one of the above reminders as a humorous poem of eight lines or fewer**, as in the example above, by the famed airline behavior fulminator Gene Weingarten. All (printable) genres are welcome.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place wins a cute little — actually, it's little but it's really not cute — **Zombie Garden Gnome**, made of genuine "terror cotta." It was sent by from Britain by its PR guy Kieran Elsby, who, in amazing serendipity, had sent out an e-mail press release to The Media that (a) had the subject line "Lawn of the Dead" and (b) avoided the spam filter of the Empress of The Style Invitational.

**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 designed by Bob Staake: 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 May 25; results published June 14 (online June 11). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1124" 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 Stephen Dudzik. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. "Like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday.

➲ **THE 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.

**you need a toupee urgently.**  
(Brendan Beary)

An elderly Labrador retriever and the Redskins' offensive line: **No matter how determined, they both tend to fall short of that critical yard.** (Lawrence McGuire)

The Redskins' offensive line and an elderly Labrador: **More than a few blocks are a struggle for both of them.** (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

Dilbert's necktie and the Redskins' offensive line: **Only the guy behind the necktie has reliable pocket protection.** (Kevin Dopart)

Gandhi and the offensive line: **Both are famous for giving away possessions.** (Elden Carnahan)

The Redskins' line and an overactive bladder: **With both, you end up with problems in the end zone.** (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

An overactive bladder and a Loser magnet: **One results in frequent thoughts of toilets; the other, from them.** (Kevin Dopart)

An Elizabethan sonnet and a three-cupped bra: **The more I see of Man, the more I feel**

**The Redskins' line and a \$4 haircut: 16 quarters aren't enough to make either look good.** (Rick Haynes, Boynton Beach, Fla.)

**An overactive bladder and Justice Ginsburg doing the macarena: It's embarrassing when they can't contain themselves at work.** (Lawrence McGuire)

**A Biden tattoo and a Style Invitational Loser magnet: You might be willing to show your friends the tattoo.** (Christopher Lamora, Los Angeles)

**The 400-meter dash is won by running madly, a Loser magnet by punning badly.** (Kathleen DeBold, Burtonsville)

**An overactive bladder and a Loser magnet: One results in frequent thoughts of toilets; the other, from them.** (Kevin Dopart)

**An Elizabethan sonnet and a three-cupped bra: The more I see of Man, the more I feel**

**That Eve was never fashioned from his chest, But vice versa, in this sort of deal:**

**God first made Woman with an extra breast**

**And knew that she was fair, but Eve said, "Nay!"**

**My crowded bosom is a needless strain."**

**God saw her point and threw one breast away,**

**Forgetting it until He came again.**

**Then Eve declared, "Each creature hath a mate**

**But me, and, Deity, I'm getting bored!"**

**So God replied, "You're right, I shall create**

**A Man from you," and Eve cried, "Thank You, Lord!**

**Then God said: "He won't be a work of art . . .**

**Let's see, where did I put that extra part?"**

**(Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)**

**Still running — deadline Monday night, May 18: our ScrabbleGrams neologism contest. See bit.ly/invite1123.**



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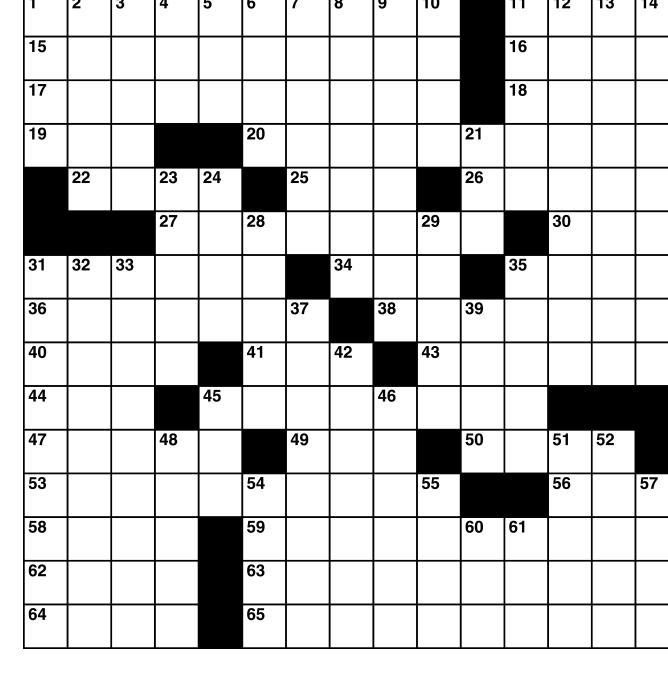
Nobody will tiptoe through YOUR tulips with his gnome.

## POST PUZZLER

BY BRAD WILBER © 2015 CROSSTSYNTHESIS LLC

ACROSS	36	One whose weight may be proclaimed proudly	64	Fired only briefly, maybe	11	Rubble employer, on TV	35	Takes off
1	Best Picture loser to "Go With the Wind"	38	Rind	65	College application data	12	Unburdened oneself	
11	Robert Louis Stevenson, by birth	40	Outlet insert	13	Picked up surreptitiously			
15	Japanese electronic "pet"	41	Diamond authority	14	Government seals affixed to some liquor bottles			
16	Hot stuff in a cone	43	Bovines with spiral horns	21	Unnamed seller of seashells			
17	Contre	44	Fictional planet that received regular dispatches from Boulder	23	Can			
18	"Don't leave home without it" slogan	45	Monitor of workers?	24	Hertz opening?			
19	Disonor	47	Pamplona pronoun for short	25	Got together			
20	Mountebanks	49	Olympia-to-Seattle dir.	29	Rock and Roll Hall of Fame designer			
22	Shakers, e.g.	50	Rush job notation	31	Ovoid winter fruit			
25	Head at 10 Downing Street?	53	New York Yankee who won the 1994 American League batting title	32	Start of many year-end delivery requests			
26	Gymnastics move also called a bird dismount	56	Certain migratory pattern	33	Architectural style marked by half-timbering and steeply pitched roofs			
27	Tangy dessert	58	Prefix with spore or skeleton	10	Hayseed			
30	Grazing spot	59	1974 chart-topper that begins, "You fill up my senses"					
31	Think the world of	62	Crowning					
34	Place to get a Th.D.	63	Editing out, in a way					
35	Tile layer's concern							

Answer to last week



## HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | MAY 17:** This year you are unusually dynamic and creative. The spark that emanates from you attracts others like moths to a flame. As a result, you'll become a bit me-oriented. A change on the home front will be for the better. You might decide to remodel or buy a new home. If you are single, you will want to become more exclusive with someone you meet after summer. If you are attached, be careful, as your significant other might get fed up with this me-orientation. You will find it easier to relate to each other by fall.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**  
Try to shake things up, especially with a loved one. This person absolutely adores you, and no matter what you do, it will be okay.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**  
Weigh the pros and cons of a change on the home front and get feedback from a loved one. A family member's response might be slightly exaggerated but delightful.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**  
Have a long-overdue conversation with a loved one in the morning. This person will be unusually upbeat. Keep your own counsel and say little for now, until you are surer of yourself.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**  
Don't allow yourself to be alone. Join friends at a favorite spot.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**  
Make a round of calls to friends and loved ones you rarely see. This type of attention will mean more to them than you realize. If you are single, you might meet someone who knocks your socks off.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**  
Pull someone aside from the group and let him or her know that others truly care. A new beginning in a money matter becomes possible. A close associate needs your time.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
Don't hold back your feelings. Instead, make a call or apologize, if need be. Eye a change in how you proceed with handling a neighbor or close relative who might be quite difficult at this time.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**  
Defer to others, and listen to an older friend's feedback. You might need to take extra time to handle a personal matter that has been on your mind.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**  
Dive into a project that means a lot to you. You have more endurance to follow through right now. In fact, you might accomplish what you want rather quickly. Don't forget the power of a nap.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**  
Make a point of delighting a child or loved one. If you want, funnel some energy into a creative project. You might be surprised by how successful the results will be.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**  
A family member might need your time and attention. The results will be positive if you accentuate your similarities rather than your differences. Make it a point to get some exercise.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
Don't hold back your feelings. Instead, make a call or apologize, if need be. Eye a change in how you proceed with handling a neighbor or close relative who might be quite difficult at this time.