

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 peeing 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 Contompassis, 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 Elsbey, 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.)

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.** (David Friedman, Arlington)

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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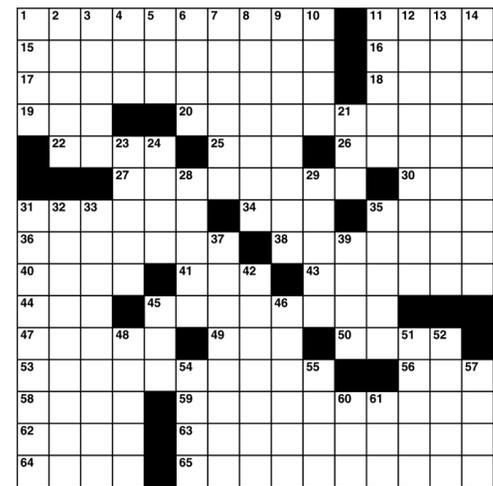
Nobody will tiptoe through YOUR tulips with his gnome.

POST PUZZLER

BY BRAD WILBER © 2015 CROSSYENERGY SYNDICATE LLC

- ACROSS**
- Best Picture loser to “Gone With the Wind”
 - Robert Louis Stevenson, by birth
 - Japanese electronic “pet”
 - Hot stuff in a cone
 - Contrite
 - “Don’t leave home without it” sloganeer, for short
 - Dishonor
 - Mountebanks
 - Shakers, e.g.
 - Head at 10 Downing Street?
 - Gymnastics move also called a bird dismount
 - Tangy dessert
 - Grazing spot
 - Think the world of
 - Place to get a Th.D.
 - Tile layer’s concern
- DOWN**
- One whose weight may be proclaimed proudly
 - Rind
 - Outlet insert
 - Diamond authority
 - Bovines with spiral horns
 - Fictional planet that received regular dispatches from Boulder
 - Monitor of workers?
 - Pamplona pronoun
 - Olympia-to-Seattle dir.
 - Rush job notation
 - New York Yankee who won the 1994 American League batting title
 - Certain migratory pattern
 - Prefix with spore or skeleton
 - 1974 chart-topper that begins, “You fill up my senses”
 - Crowning
 - Editing out, in a way

- Fired only briefly, maybe
- College application data
- Rebounds or assists
- Cantina menu array
- It makes it mondo go round
- Friday
- It’s often subject to inflation
- Teeth in continuous motion
- Verdi opera set in Cyprus
- Behavior
- City in western Massachusetts
- Hayseed
- Rubble employer, on TV
- Unburdened oneself
- Picked up surreptitiously
- Government seals affixed to some liquor bottles
- Unnamed seller of seashells
- Can
- Hertz opening?
- Got together
- Rock and Roll Hall of Fame designer
- Ovoid winter fruit
- Start of many year-end delivery requests
- Architectural style marked by half-timbering and steeply pitched roofs
- Takes off
- Distinction
- The “kid” in “Here’s looking at you, kid”
- Pressed lunch orders
- Flurry
- Word on an eBay button
- Not wait for the reading of the banns, say
- French auxiliary verb
- Edible “feathers”
- Tammany Hall lampooner
- Diminishing returns
- They’re often separated in the kitchen
- Pl. of ASCAP
- Sign at a box office window



Answer to last week

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

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.

Zero in on what is important to you within a friendship.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 Someone might be trying to restrict you or push you in a certain direction. Read between the lines. Let this person have his or her way, at least for now.

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.

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.

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Separate bank accounts — and rules

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: My husband and I have been married for seven years. We still have

separate bank accounts. I opened one joint account to which I deposit money monthly for our bills and expenses. My husband owns the house we live in and he pays the mortgage. He is more free-spending than I am and this is causing us problems. I feel I have the right to do as I wish with my funds, whether to lend to family or pay for my own expenses. He spends his own funds for whatever he needs; sometimes he shares this information with me but I hardly ever question what he spends on.

He, on the other hand, feels I should include him in the decisions I make with my finances. Does this seem fair to you? Am I out of line? Not Seeing Eye to Eye

I don’t think you are out of line, but there are also valid reasons for both of you to be more transparent.

You two would both benefit from meeting with an accountant and/or financial planner, who could review your income and investment/

retirement accounts, to start the all-important process of retirement planning. Part of this process should be for both of you to build in separate savings and the privacy to spend or save as you can afford.

One reason to be more transparent is so you can each have some awareness of loans/gifts. This protects you from having family members approach each of you for money, counting on your secrecy to double-dip. I like the approach of building a “family fund” together and making these loans/gifts as a couple.

A book you and your husband should read together is, “Til Money Do Us Part: Financial Planning for Couples,” by Maureen Richardson (2013, Motivational Press).

Dear Amy: I am a professional in an office that has two administrative assistants, “Mary” and “Sue.” Mary has decided that she has it in for Sue. She monitors everything Sue does, especially what time Sue comes in and what time she leaves. This monitoring has gone so far that even on days when Mary is out she will text other employees to ask what time Sue came and went. Now Mary has taken it upon

herself to talk to their supervisor, tattling about days when Sue has left early. Sue has no idea how much Mary has it in for her. My dilemma is this: Should I tell Sue what I know? Specifically that Mary is talking to Sue’s supervisor? Or should I just let the supervisor handle it?

Perplexed

You should let “Sue” know that “Mary” monitors her whereabouts. Tell her, “I think you should know that Mary has been double-checking what time you come and go at work. I’m just giving you a heads-up.”

Otherwise, I don’t think it’s wise to report to Sue on any possible conversations Mary is having with the supervisor. Your doing so would amount to you monitoring Mary’s activities — and reporting them secondhand. Sue is responsible for what, if anything, she wants to do about the information you provide to her.

Amy’s column appears seven days a week at www.washingtonpost.com/advice. Write to Amy Dickinson at askamy@tribpub.com or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.