

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Season of the Wit[ch]: Chopped song titles

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1125**, the Empress asked you to cut the beginning or end (or both) off a song title — as if it were on an electronic readout where the whole name didn't fit — and describe the result. Twenty-four people sent in "Stairway to Heave[n]," and 15 offered "Light My Fir" (the Doors' never-released Christmas album).

4th place

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO [Town]: Mrs. Claus sings about the aftermath of a night of excess with the eggnog. (Josh Feldblyum, Louisville)

3rd place

ITSY BITSY TEENIE WEENIE YELL(ow Polka Dot Bikini): Original title of "When Doves Cry." (Ed Flynn, Alexandria)

2nd place and the "melted" snow globe from Florida:

CHANGES IN LATITUDE, CHANGES IN ATT[itude]: A song about a dude who gets bad cell coverage on spring break in Fort Lauderdale. (Jeff Brechlin, Eagan, Minn.)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial

PAINT IT BLA[ck]: The new Sherwin-Williams jingle sings the praises of ecrú. (Tom Panther, Springfield)

Maim that tune: honorable mentions

[5]0 WAYS TO LEAVE YOUR LOVER: The new theme song of the Roman Catholic Church. (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

[H]OLD ME NOW: Yoda ponders himself in the mirror. (David Clayton, Alexandria)

[What's] NEW, PUSSYCAT?: The song you dread hearing on your first day of hard time. (G. Smith, Alexandria)

[E]BONY AND IVORY: The fashion industry tells what it's looking for in runway models. (Dion Black, Washington)

[All] ABOUT THAT BASS: Okay, maybe the fish wasn't quite three feet long . . . (Ben Schwalb, Severna Park)

[Priv]ATE EYES: Newly discovered single by the Zombies. (Larry Gray, Union Bridge, Md.)

[I] FEEL THE EAR[th Move]: Spinal Tap's follow-up to "Smell the Glove" (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

[R]OXANNE: "You don't have to turn on the light at all, actually . . ." (Craig Dykstra, Centreville)

[T]OUCH ME IN THE MORNING: Theme from "50 Shades of Grey." (Mark Raffman, Reston)

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS DR[eam]: A college student knows how to make his Tiger Mom proud. (Dion Black)

GET ME TO THE CHURCH ON TIM[e]: In this sentimental holiday ballad, Ebenezer Scrooge forces a boy on crutches to give him a piggyback ride to Christmas service. (Christopher Lamora, Los Angeles)

ETERNAL FLAM[e]: "Close your eyes, stick your heads in the sand / Voters, when your candidate's vying, everything is grand./ You won't give a damn even when they're lying./ You'll keep buying their eternal flam!" (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

I'D LIKE TO TEACH THE WORLD TO SIN[g]: By the Temptations. (Jeff Contompassis, Ashburn)

LAY ME DO[wn]: This original Beatles song title was cleaned up to "Love" for AM radio. (Ben Schwalb)

HAZY SHADE OF WIN[ter]: By the Brady Bunch, the official song of Super Bowl XLIX. (Jessica Mathews, Stanley, Va.)

RIVER DEEP, MO[untain High]: A song from "Exodus: The Musical." (Marni Penning Coleman, Falls Church)

ROLL OVER BEET[hoven]: Vegan-rock remake of "On Top of Spaghetti" (Ken Gallant, Conway, Ark.)

STREET FIGHTING MA[n]: A tribute to Toya Graham, Baltimore's recent "mother of the year." (Michael Levy, Silver Spring)

THANK GOD I'M A COUNTRY [Boy]: The Vatican national anthem. (Rob Wolf, Gaithersburg)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1129: Right in the pampootie

Pyopoisis! The word is a doozy. It's not about matters poetic. It's all about pustules that smell and are oozy! (How's that for a morning emetic?)

Last month's National Spelling Bee, like last year's, ended in a tie between the top two kids: Midwestern eighth-graders Gokul Venkatachalam and Vanya Shivashankar both correctly spelled every word put to them — 20 rounds' worth — until the judges declared them both winners, packed up their Webster's Thirds and went home.

While each speller gained national fame along with \$37,000 in money and prizes, their shared pursuit always brings out the critics who call spelling bees a colossal waste of time and effort put into memorizing lists of words that nobody ever uses.

Nobody? That's us! We'll use them! **This week: Write a humorous short poem (eight lines or fewer) incorporating one of the 50 words listed below**, as in the example above by that, er, udite man of letters (usually the letter F) Gene Weingarten; each was used at some point in this year's bee.

The poems have to make sense with the words' true meanings; you can't just pretend they mean something else. (Most of the real meanings aren't brain-achers; they include "horseshoe-shaped," "freckles" and "a wasp nest.") A Google search for any of these words should give you the definition and pronunciation on the first page of results. You may use the word in a different form, such as a plural or a different tense.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives, in keeping with this week's literary theme, two varied books: "Nature's Nether Regions," "a tour of evolution's most inventive — and essential — creations: animal genitalia"; and the out-of-print "The Art of the Fart," featuring historical anecdotes and various other observations attempting to stretch it out into at least a gift-size book. Donated by Loser 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 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 Monday night, June 29; results published July 19 (online July 16). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1129" 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 Jeff Contompassis; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Mae Scanlan. 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.

THE SPELLING BEE WORDS FOR WEEK 1129

acritarch	gnathostome	porwigle
backfisch	hippocrepiform	pyopoisis
bayadere	hoorooosh	pyrrhuloxia
bouquetiere	iridocyclitis	radicololous
bruxellois	kipuka	samadhi
caudillismo	lulliloo	scacchite
cerastes	mamaliga	scherschneitte
cibarial	minhag	scytale
cocozelle	myrmotherine	sdrucciola
collutorium	nixtamal	tartarean
commissurotomy	nunatak	thamakau
cravenette	oflag	tortillon
ctenoid	pampootie	vernisage
cypseline	paroemiology	vespiary
distelfink	pipsissewa	zanja
ephelides	poikilitic	zimocca
epithalamium		zygoneure

WHATEVER LOL[a Wants, Lola Gets]: Teens' texts set to music. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

[F]IRE AND RAIN: This mix doesn't play well on the Beltway. (Ellen Ryan, Rockville)

[The Wh]EELS ON THE BUS: Scary kids' song performed by Samuel L. Jackson. (Mark Raffman)

AIN'T TOO PRO[ud to Beg]: A more appropriate song than "Hail to the Redskins." (Kathy Hardis Fraeman, Olney)

MELLOW YELL[ow]: Donovan sings about sitting on a lit reefer. (Jim Barnes, Leesburg)

UNDER THE BOAR[dwalk]: A ballad about Miss Piggy's summer

romance. (Ed Edwards, Surrey, England)

TAKE ME TO CHU[rch]: An alien "Jeopardy!" fan comes after the player he hates most. (Mary Kappus, Washington)

MY BLUE HEAVE(n): Maybe tequila with blueberry pie wasn't such a good idea after all. (Jeff Brechlin; Edmund Conti, Raleigh)

And Last: **CAN I GET A WIT**[ness]: The Empress's weekly lament. (Joy Sibley, Fairfax; Roger Dalrymple)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at bit.ly/invite1129.

Still running — deadline Monday night: Our contest for mischievous ideas for mini-drones. See bit.ly/invite1128.

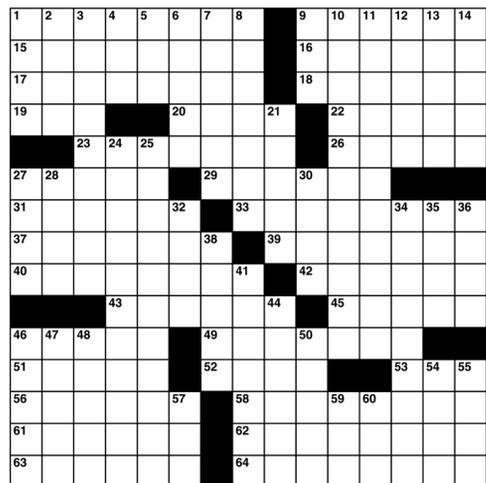
POST PUZZLER

BY LYNN LEMPEL © 2015 CROSSYNERGY SYNDICATE LLC

- ACROSS**
- Big fat nothing
 - Insect mistakenly called a 17-year locust
 - Beachgoer's sun protection
 - Pontificates
 - Union concerns
 - City famously claimed by President Kennedy
 - Angular opening?
 - Painter of "The Hallucinogenic Toreador"
 - Wiggle room
 - One tending an entranceway
 - It's a stunner
 - Hindu teacher
 - Unctuous
 - Some pole carvings
 - Model showing the bare essentials?
- DOWN**
- Washington port city
 - Some European secondary schools
 - President Johnson initiative of 1965
 - December gift bearers
 - Ricochets
 - Prehistoric tool source
 - Bit for a quilt, maybe
 - British noblewoman
 - Wackos
 - Creator of Della and Perry
 - Four-century-long Chinese dynasty
 - Production
 - Murderous bootlegger sent to Alcatraz
 - Overdoes the sunbathing
 - Disappointments
 - Actress with 19 Oscar nominations
 - Intends to convey

- Clear for takeoff?
- Grant portrayer in two TV series
- With everything included
- Longest song to reach #1 on the Billboard Hot 100
- Means of communication with the future
- Check
- Interlaced
- Skates, e.g.
- Dad, today
- Where folks might spot Edsels
- U.S. undercover agent

- To be, to Tiberius
- Figure of speech
- Gem of a nut brand name
- One who's got the goods
- Those in a big mess?
- Pursue with hearts and flowers
- Helicopter blade assembly
- Linear lead-in
- Elsa's sister in "Frozen"
- Where a gorilla sleeps
- It may be rounded (abbr.)
- Seldom or never, briefly
- "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" writer



Answer to last week

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

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | JUNE 21: This year you will notice a significant change in August; you'll become far more upbeat. You also might discover that your life seems to flow better. As a result, you will draw in many more opportunities. If you are single, you meet people with ease. During the period that follows August, you might meet someone quite endearing who stays in your life for a long time. If you are attached, the two of you might be saving money in hopes of redoing your home or buying a new one.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You might want to celebrate the summer solstice, but are unlikely to have the energy. If you find that you are feeling fussy, take a nap.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Reach out to a friend or family member whom you rarely call or make plans with. This person has a way of sparking your creativity, and he or she encourages you to be more open.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You seem to be giving more of yourself to other people. Pressure may build with someone close who might be irritated about your lack of attention. Make peace through a caring gesture.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You might feel as if someone slipped you an energy drink. Get

into the moment, and celebrate the summer solstice. You will notice that people seek you out.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Spend some quality time with a loved one. Get out of the house. Enjoy a mutually preferred pastime that allows both of you to catch up on news.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You can be found with friends or celebrating the advent of summer. You might be holding a grudge against someone you really care about. Clear the air while everyone is light and easy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You might want some time alone, as you may be overworked or perhaps you have enjoyed yourself too much. Pressure builds around an older parent and/or a professional matter.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You have felt pressured of late, but suddenly you'll find that there's no reason to be so tense. Detachment needs to become a routine in your life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Do a better job listening. Don't worry so much about a choice you are about to make. Get feedback over dinner.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Many people seek you out, but you know who you want to be with. Allow greater give-and-take with a loved one.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) A partner might make a request that you would prefer not to meet. Speak your mind, but avoid creating drama.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You'll feel the winds of summer warm up a relationship. If you are single, you seem to attract several potential suitors without batting an eye. Be open to celebrating the day, but don't make any major commitments.

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Neighbor's business seen as a blight

Ask Amy
AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: I live on a busy street. Either because of the type of street or because of the actual people, our block is a "good fences make good neighbors" kind of neighborhood. The problem is with a neighbor who moved in about two years ago. After spending over a year creating some kind of dirt wall and then planting scrawny, unhealthy, random bushes to complete it and then adding three stone wall "treatments," our neighbor hung up signs advertising his landscaping business.

The bushes block views of cars traveling around a busy corner, thus making driving and walking on the street a bit more dangerous, and we are only a few blocks from an elementary school. My next-door neighbor, who is trying to sell her house, says potential buyers take one look out her front window and head out the back door. I am just glad I have blinds! Any advice?

Blinders On

You could investigate local zoning and safety laws to see whether your neighbor's business is in compliance. If your neighbor is in compliance, there is likely nothing you can

do. He has built his own "fence," and even if it is not a "good" one, you should try to be a good neighbor.

Dear Amy: There is a kid at school I have become friends with. However, I don't know if I should be friends with him because a lot of kids hate him (including my best friend). He can sometimes be annoying, and a while ago he smashed my other friend's pencil sharpener. In general he is funny and is nice to me, but the way other kids react around him shows me that he is mean to others. Should I be friends with him or not?

Indecisive in Seattle

You should be nice and kind to everyone. You don't say if you know why your new friend has lashed out at others, but your friendship with him presents you with an opportunity to model kindness and inclusion, and it gives him the opportunity to learn from you how to treat people with respect. This is a challenge, and I give you credit for being willing to try.

Dear Amy: I recently heard through the grapevine that a neighbor feels I am "standoffish." This, despite us having had this neighbor over

for numerous dinner parties and celebrations at our house for the first seven of the 20 years we've lived here.

Not once during this time have we seen the inside of this neighbor's home or been invited over, even for a potluck. I stopped inviting this neighbor, who I felt wasn't interested in cultivating a friendship.

I am not sure how to respond to this person, whom I see at neighborhood events. Do you have ideas?

Takes Two to Tango

By your own description of how this relationship has devolved, it seems (to me, at least) that you ARE standoffish toward this neighbor. And now I am wondering why you care?

When thrown together with this neighbor, you should behave in a way that is "neighborly." That means inquiring about the family, pets or garden. This does not mean you must attempt again to loop this person into your friendship circle.

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.

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