

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Crock o' doodle doo: Cartoon captions from Week 1126

BY PAT MYERS

Bob Staake's cartoons in Week 1126 inspired the usual wide variety of caption ideas, though there were many along the same theme: The Empress counted 19 referring to Wonder Woman in Picture 3, and 24 that changed one letter of "the buck stops here" in Picture 2. If your entry was pretty much like one that got ink, good for you. You get nothing.

4th place

Picture 2: "JUST AS IT'S SPELLED." (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

3rd place

Picture 3: Joyce regrets that the same doctor did her eyelids and her breast implants. (Roger Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.)

2nd place and the gadget that shoots spinning disks at flies:

Picture 3: Hillary demonstrates that she has no visible connection to her foundation. (Jeff Hazle, Woodbridge)

Pen and ink: honorable mentions

PICTURE 1

"I said, 'Make a PROFIT, Muhammad.'" (John Burton, Herndon, who last got Invite ink in 2002)

It is a little-known fact that Norman Rockwell omitted his hipster mustache and "flattened apple" hat from his self-portrait. (Todd DeLap, Fairfax)

"Signorina Mona Lisa! I said, 'Show me your TEETH!' " (Rob Wolf, Gaithersburg)

"No, no, no! Do not wipe off the numbers until I say so." (Sylvia Betts, Vancouver, B.C.)

On school portrait day, it was so noisy that Vincent cut off the other ear, too. (Robyn Carlson, Keyser, W.Va.)

"You know, Mr. Weiner, you could just buy a new cellphone." (Andrew Hoening, Rockville)

Sadly, newcomer Juan picked the wrong day to set up his street easel in Pamplona. (Jeff Brechlin, Eagan, Minn.)

"No, no, the re-creation of 'The Last Supper' should NOT involve pizza!" (Rick Haynes, Boynton Beach, Fla.)

"Mother! Put your dress back on!" shouted Whistler in alarm. (Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

Far from feeling handicapped, the artist was able to take advantage of his severe scoliosis. (Jeff Contompassis, Ashburn)

The Supreme Court decides to ban body cameras, but will allow police brutality to be recorded by sketch artists. (Danny Bravman, Chicago)

PICTURE 2

John sure did get tired of people pronouncing his name with a hashtag instead of a number sign. (Danielle Nowlin)

Rep. Gohmert vowed to find the person who converted his nameplates to Wingdings font. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

"Let's just say my interview at Hallmark wasn't at all what I expected." (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

Willis made the mistake of ordering a laptop desk. (Ralph Nitkin, Rockville)

"That's my name, don't swear it out." (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

"That's my full name, but most people call me %." (Art Grinath)

After the messy split, the "Sesame Street" lawyers forbade Bert to use letters or numbers. (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

Eventually, President Truman got tired of people asking what the S stood for. (Todd DeLap)

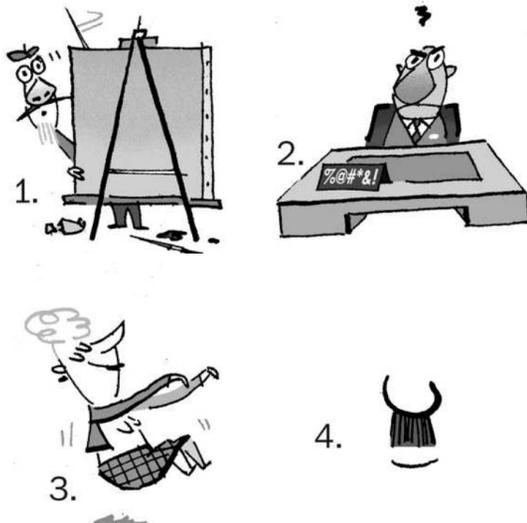
PICTURE 3

A typo during the research phase led to the development of the hoverboard. (Jeff Contompassis; David Friedman, Arlington)

The Betty White Macy's Thanksgiving balloon nears completion. (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg)

You can't go wrong wearing plaid during the fall. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

The Invisible Man carries his bride across the threshold. (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)



CARTOONS BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial

Picture 2: The sign engraver misunderstood the boss's request to "do it in cursive." (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

Week 1130: Yux Redux: Play on a foreign phrase

Cogito ergo bum: Sudden realization of graduating philosophy majors. (Greg Deye)

Avant-garden: The flowers are lovely, but I'm not sure about the urinal in the middle of the rhododendrons. (Laurie Brink)

Ode de toilette: Bathroom stall poetry. (Tony Arancibia)

This week we present an encore of a contest we did back in 2011 to enormous success — perhaps because it's the epitome of the Invitational's trademark highbrow/lowbrow humor: "Putting the Rude in Erudition," as an earlier-model Loser Magnet put it (since "Putting the Rud in Erudition" didn't have the same ring to it). Uber-Loser Chris Doyle recently suggested we do this contest, accompanying his pitch with several clever examples; the thing was that Chris had totally forgotten Week 936 — even though he'd gotten ink in it himself (as usual): "Mardi Gas: Fart Tuesday." Which convinces the Empress that there's a world of new ways out there to insult other languages. **This week: Make a wordplay on a foreign phrase or term (or English phrase using foreign words) and describe it,** as in the examples above from Week 936 (see the rest of the results at bit.ly/invite940; you can play on the same terms, but you can't make the same joke, duh). Using the term in a funny sentence is always welcome; using the term in a boring sentence is not.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives, apropos of this week's contest, a donation from foreign climes: a deck of playing cards from Australia. On the back of the cards is a cartoon of an "Aussie Sheila" and a guide to what her various expressions mean (e.g., "Grouse lippy": "What a nice shade of lipstick"); we'd show a picture but some of the terms are unprintable. Donated ages ago by Brad Alexander, who enters the Invitational every week from Wanneroo, Western Australia. The Empress met Brad and his wife a couple of years ago when they were visiting Washington, and she didn't think Brad's lippy was grouse at all.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired "Whole Fools" Grocery 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, July 6; results published July 26 (online July 23). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1130" 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 Mark Raffman; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Beverley Sharp. 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.

Continuing its clueless attempts to outdo Google, Bing produces a careless driver. (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

Each morning Doris rises promptly at 6. (Frank Osen)

Few people remember Barbara Bush's short-lived career as a trapeze artist. (Andrew Hoening)

In her later years, Wonder Woman would fly her plane with the left blinker on. (Ward Kay)

Penelope finds life much easier now that she's uploaded herself to the cloud. (Frank Osen)

"Quick, slip the piano back before she notices." (Nannette Melnick, Silver Spring, a First Offender)

Lucy in the sky with skirt. (Tom Witte)

PICTURE 4

Few people knew that Hitler's mustache was a wig. (William Kennard, Arlington)

Oliver Hardy died long before the invention of the selfie stick. (Rob Pivarnik, Stratford, Conn.)

On vacation in Hawaii, Bob realized

that he was too heavy for both the grass skirt and the surfboard. (Robyn Carlson)

Adolf loves the result of his wet-cement face-plant. (Craig Matthiessen, Burke, a First Offender)

Grace Jones's first selfie was upside down and off center. (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

The boob tassel needs to hang a little lower if you want it to cover the appendectomy scar. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Satan grows bangs. (Bird Waring)

Unsurprisingly, the combination horseshoe/toothbrush was not a big seller. (Larry McClemons, Annandale)

Using your Yorkshire terrier as a guest towel should probably be a last resort. (Jeff Shirley)

Fade-off Hitler. (Doug Frank, Crosby, Tex.)

Still running — deadline Monday night: Our contest for poems using spelling bee words. See bit.ly/invite1129.

POST PUZZLER

BY BOB KLAHN © 2015 CROSSYENERGY SYNDICATE LLC

ACROSS		DOWN	
1	Plot spoilers?	1	"Life's Been Good" singer Joe
6	Acquainted with	2	Tickle
10	Soft touches	3	Quarterback in five Super Bowls
14	Earmark	4	Punch-drunk
15	Commemorative block	5	Crack
16	Lod carrier	6	Make things more interesting, so to speak
17	Practicing principal	7	Laugh riot
19	Support staff	8	Bridge opening, briefly
20	Tail	9	"Weird Al" Yankovic's "White & ____"
21	10-year-old Sydney Lucas, for her 2013-2014 role in "Fun Home," became the youngest performer ever to win one	10	30 Rock's style
22	Head-turning holler	11	Snow-white
23	Smoke screens	12	Flight safety enhancement
25	Sibilant slitherer	13	Dark horse
26	Whence the mojito	18	Count Basie's New Jersey birthplace
28	Sham rocks	24	Unpredictable
30	New Orleans dessert often prepared tableside	26	Have a job close to home
		27	Butterflies
		29	Cookout leftovers
		30	"The Silicon Valley of India"
		31	Item in a surplice store?
		32	Good lookers?
		33	Pops
		34	Matched
		35	Sculptor of the statue of Zeus at Olympia, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World
		40	Soprano player
		41	Super dupe
		42	Did one's part
		43	She's Esme in "Babe" and "Babe: Pig in the City"
		44	Rat Island native
		45	Dipsticks
		47	Caesarean section?
		49	Squib
		50	Wind instrument

Answer to last week

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

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | JUNE 28: This year you are quite content with your life. However, you need to realize that change is inevitable. Allow yourself to go with the flow. Be present in the here and now. If you are single, you exude a certain magic that attracts others, and it will be intensified this year. A love affair to remember is likely to develop. If you are attached, delight your significant other with a special trip or a long-desired item.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

The wise Ram will defer to others. You might be uncomfortable with a question that involves a friend or parent. With humor, you'll bypass a problem with ease.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Whether plans are set or are just being made, the situation remains the same: The person with you wants to be leader of the gang. Give him or her that pleasure.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Your play is always full, and today will be no different. The manner in which you handle overwhelming demands will vary; some of you will employ organizational skills, while others might need to ask for help.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Your delightful imagination draws others toward you. Try not to spend money as easily as you typically do. Get a head start on tomorrow.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You are a very social sign, but you also enjoy staying close to home. Be a couch potato, curl up with the family pet and make this day yours.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Catch up on a friend's gossip; even if you don't want to, you might not have a choice. Get together with a loved one for brunch and maybe a movie. Visiting seems to be the theme of the day.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Be aware of the pros and cons of a major purchase. You might find this item to be necessary for promoting your business. Think before you sign any papers; you don't want to spend unnecessarily.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You might not be as flexible as you think you are. You want what

you want, but so do others. Try being less tenacious once in a while. Many requests head your way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You let go of problems easily. Acting in this manner allows you to take a break from the chaos around you. Invite a dear friend to a baseball game or some other mutually enjoyed activity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Go along with someone else's decision. You may find that you're able to persuade others to make changes. As a result, people will find you more intriguing than ever. A loved one might express his or her delight in a big way.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Someone's invitation may be intriguing, but you might not understand what this person really wants from you. Take a risk and find out. Your sense of humor is highlighted.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Your romantic nature keeps a loved one interested. Sometimes acting on wild ideas only adds to the moment. You might have too many obligations to really free yourself up. Work on changing that.

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Adults having fun at a child's expense

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: My husband and I have a bright, engaging 5-year-old daughter. Our

problem has to do with how some family members and close friends interact with her.

Examples include people visiting our home and telling her that they are going to take her baby brother home with them, which resulted in my daughter screaming in protest while the other person had a hearty laugh.

Then there was the time an adult relative came to her birthday party and repeatedly said, "It's my party, and I'm going to cut the cake!" while my daughter progressively got more confused and agitated. This went on until she was in tears and the adult started laughing.

We see no meaning in such interactions. We have tried to steer the conversation elsewhere, and we want to get the message across politely, but clearly, that we do not appreciate people agitating our child.

My daughter says that she hates being teased by adults, and we have asked her to tell people that, but in that moment, she can't. What can we do to send the message politely that

we would like our child to be treated with respect and not teased for fun?

Agitated Mom

Some adults are able to engage children appropriately by "kidding." Five-year-olds usually catch on pretty quickly when an adult says, "Hey, wait a minute — that's MY birthday cake!" if the adult telegraphs that this is a kidding game. The adult conveys this with a smile and body language that signals to the child his intentions.

Teasing a child until she is obviously distressed is just bullying. Laughing at a child you have made cry is disgusting.

I'm not sure why you are so worried about being polite. While this is happening, you should place your hand on your child's arm and say, "Uncle Buck is teasing you, honey." If you don't catch it in time, after you comfort your child you should ask the adult, "Please don't tease her. You are the only person who enjoys it."

Dear Amy: My best friend of over 40 years recently told me that he doesn't want to be my friend anymore. I was very hurt and shocked.

"Gary" and I met in music school. We were roommates in

college, played in a rock band and even took vacations together. He was my best man when my wife and I got married more than 37 years ago.

My wife and I moved to the East Coast some years ago, but Gary and I kept in touch. He is now with a woman whom he identifies as his "wife," although they are not married. (He has never been married.)

I wrote Gary a four-page letter and apologized if I ever did anything to offend or hurt him, asking him to be honest with me about the problem between us. He wrote back, saying the problem was more with himself than me. That was it.

Could Gary actually be bisexual and is hurt that I "left him" — emotionally and geographically?

Confused

Are you bisexual because you have such a deep attachment to this man?

Obviously such speculation is pointless. When someone tells you, "It's not you, it's me," sometimes it is wisest to believe him.

Write to Amy Dickinson at askamy@tribpub.com or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.