

## DIVERSIONS

## THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

## Mind over meter: The clerihews of Week 1133

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1133**, we announced our second-ever contest for clerihews, a light-verse form coined a century ago by the humorist Edmund Clerihew Bentley.

**The rules:** Four lines rhyming AABB; a person's name ending the first line; and a meter that sounds like the worst entries for our contests in which we want *good* meter. The Empress received so many terrific clerihews that she'll run another set of winners three weeks from now (the less timely ones, as opposed to ones about the GOP candidates; who knows which of them will be standing on Sept. 6?).

## 4th place

**Bernie Sanders**

Never panders,  
Thinks for himself and speaks well.  
He hasn't got a chance in hell. (J. Larry Schott, Gainesville, Fla.)

## 3rd place

**Madam Secretary Clinton, otherwise known as Hillary Rodham**

Qualifications to be president? Yes, she's got 'em.  
But still Fox News refuses to acknowledge her as a viable contender.  
Seems it's opposed to her agender. (Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

## 2nd place and the tasteless U.K. souvenir shot glass:

**Bill Cosby,**

Whatever his flaws be,  
At least wasn't like one of those selfish lugs  
Who invite you over but don't share their drugs. (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

## And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial

**Antonin Scalia**

Would very much like to see a  
Return to the days when gentlemen wed only ladies;  
In fact, he'd like time turned back to the 1780s. (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

## Boo 'hews:

## honorable mentions

**Donald Trump**

Is a horse's rump  
And is apparently quite proud of it.  
On second thought, he's not the rump, but what comes out of it. (Robert Schechter)

**John Boehner**

Couldn't make his position any plainer:  
"This Iran treaty stinks; Congress will shred it!  
I'll let you know why as soon as I've read it." (Max Gutmann, Cupertino, Calif.)

**Hillary Clinton**

Knew very well she'd make a mint in  
Speaking fees, but she still claimed she was "broke"  
And could therefore relate to the common folk. (Robert Schechter)

**John Ellis Bush**

Is making a push  
To be prez, which for even the most stout of us  
Absolutely scares the Jebesus out of us. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

**Chris Christie**

Was the Right's enlistee  
For best bloviating bully on the stump.  
Then came Trump. (J. Larry Schott)

**John Kerry**

Is very  
Amused to see someone on the Right mock a vet of the war.  
That's so 2004. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

**The only way Donald Trump**

Could be less of a chump  
Is if he (the whole package: body! shirts! belts!)  
Were somebody elts. (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

**Rick Santorum**

Maintains his decorum  
By never bugling  
The top result of his ego-Googleing. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

**Lindsey Graham**

Would like to slay 'em—  
In Iran and Asia Minor—  
But now he'll settle for South Caroliner. (Frank Osen)

**Hey! It's Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman!**

"Yeah, that's right, I'm on the loose, man.  
But don't worry, I'm no threat to American law and order —



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## New contest for Week 1136: Gaah! It's Limerixicon XII!

**The cardinal hates spontaneity;****He castigates us for our gaiety:****"The Devil's within****And your laughter's a sin . . ."**

**That's no way to be treating a laity!** (Chris Doyle, from Limerixicon 3, the contest for "ca-" words, 2006)

As we hinted last week, we return once again to check up on Chris Strolin and company's inexorable climb up Mount Dictionary to learn that OEDILF.com — the Omnificent English Dictionary in Limerick Form, established 2004, predicted finish date Dec. 12, 2043 — has now trudged, 90,000 limericks strong, into the seventh letter of the alphabet. Just the beginning of it, of course. Let's give Chris and his fellow limericists their annual Loserly boost: **Supply a humorous, previously unpublished limerick significantly featuring any English word, name or term beginning with "ga-,"** as in the example above by the galumphingly gallant, galactically garrulous Chris Doyle. **See wapo.st/InviteLim** for our fairly strict rules on limerick rhyme and meter (in a nutshell: "perfect" rhyme, and a strong "hickory-dickory-dock" rhythm in Lines 1, 2 and 5; a "dickory-dock" in Lines 3 and 4; plus "weak" syllables on either side). See OEDILF.com about submitting limericks there after this contest is over.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives yet another in our recurring Kitschy Shell Sculpture Prizes: a pair of scallop shell owls whose plastic eyes stare at you with with a mixture of shock, indignation and just plain creepiness. We highly recommend placing it on a child's nightstand, to give little Tyler a little jolt to the senses upon awakening. Donated by Florida thrift store habitue Nan Reiner.

**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, Aug. 24; results published Sept. 13 (online Sept. 10). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1136" 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 Chris Doyle; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Kevin Dopart. 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.

I'm one Mexican who doesn't want to cross the border. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

**David Cameron,**

Like all polls, does lots of yammerin',  
But even empty talk sounds nicer coated with the gloss  
Of the British uppa closs. (Brendan Beary)

**American Pharaoh**

Is there in the A-row  
With Secretariat, but in Row Z  
In the spelling bee. (Edmund Conti, Raleigh)  
[The contest announcement said a clerihew had to be about "a person," but who cares?]

**Osama bin Laden**

Four years ago barely had time to utter "God in Heaven!  
Is it . . ."  
He'll never finish, nor will he get to visit. (Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

**Barack Obama**

Confessed to the Dalai Lama  
That meditating on some remote cliff  
Was looking increasingly terrific.



PAT MYERS/THE WASHINGTON POST

**Owly terror: Another Shell Kitsch second prize.**

(Warren Clements, Toronto)

"The Little Mermaid" protagonist **Ariel**

Teaches young girls a lesson that's no better than secretarial.  
Solely for the purpose of nabbing a princely tenor,  
She goes through a bigger change than Caitlyn Jenner. (Matt Monitto)

**A gifted writer is Harper Lee,**

And I don't mean to be a carper, gee,  
But to believe that the manuscript of "Go Set a Watchman" published by Rupert Murdoch-owned HarperCollins and as reported in the Murdoch-owned Wall Street Journal was just recently discovered by lawyer Tonja Carter — C'mon, don't you think we're smarter? (Roy Ashley, Washington)

**Kardashian, Kim,**

Its far from prim.  
A stark reminder  
Can be found behind her. (Stephen Gold, Glasgow, Scotland)

**Jackson Pollock**

Was an inveterate alcoholock  
And it was on the inside of his windshield that this drunken berk  
Painted his last abstract expressionist work. (Rob Stuart, Staines-Upon-Thames, England, a First Offender)

**Edmund Clerihew Bentley**

Created a form of verse that has never mocked gently.  
In The Post, the poetic humor you seek'll  
Most likely, in quality and subject matter, be fecal. (Matt Monitto)

Get an e-mail notification of each new contest and results every Thursday. Sign up at [bit.ly/inv-email](http://bit.ly/inv-email)

## SUNDAY CHALLENGE

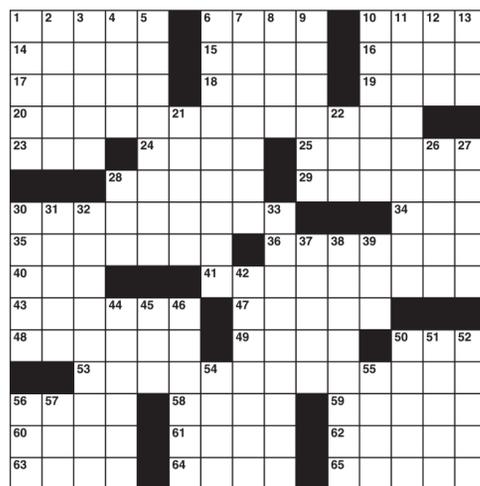
BY PATRICK JORDAN © 2015 CROSSYENERGY SYNDICATE LLC

## ACROSS

- Word on a reporter's badge
- Krill, to blue whales
- Sound companion?
- "Chicago" heroine
- During the wee hours
- Ride-requesting app
- Publicist's creation
- False fronts
- Invention's inception
- Spock portrayer in "Star Trek Into Darkness"
- Creature of Tolkien's Fangorn Forest
- Belle boy?
- Luncheonette lures
- Muscle car, e.g.
- It has slots for yachts
- Auspicious
- Calligrapher's selection
- Member of the social elite
- Make a seasonal voyage
- Billy's baby
- Maximum purchase price
- Modern messages to potential guests
- Cattle call offerings
- Pour, as port
- Gets a gasp from, perhaps
- Consolatory or congratulatory gesture
- Setting in "Star Trek Into Darkness"
- Not inept
- "The Maltese Falcon" genre
- Hog calls
- Disembarking place
- Tribe whose tongue is Chiwere
- Days of Hanukkah, e.g.

## DOWN

- Value highly
- Subject of Caesar
- Obtain forcibly
- Sound of longing
- Look into
- Be involved
- Squash implement
- Shakespearean rebuke
- Statement of confirmation
- He comes to court
- "Washboard" muscle
- Patient's payment
- Prominent period
- Catch up with the old gang
- Org. whose mascot is Eddie Eagle
- Maria's friend in "West Side Story"
- Fencer's option
- Euro divs.
- Doctored
- Salade niçoise tidbit
- Roasts
- Given authority
- One who's no dynamo
- Vanishes
- Hyde creator's monogram
- Dignified discourse
- Shocking subduers
- Banned duo?
- "Mad Men" pool staffers, briefly
- It's spotted in a corral
- Gave in to one's curiosity
- Diagnostic battery
- A, E, or IOU
- Diamond wearer in "Copacabana"
- Like a star pupil
- Class that may deal with DNA



Answer to last week

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

## HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | AUG. 16:** This year you have a chance to get what you desire without having to take big risks. You'll have to work hard to achieve what you want, but the conservative course is the right one. If you are single, curb a tendency to become overly possessive or jealous. You are likely to attract several potential sweeties. Explore your options with care. If you are attached, the two of you will make a major purchase. Be practical, though, as not all years have the fiscal potential that this one does. Be willing to work through any problems that exist between you.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)

Others might remark on a newfound precision in your handling of a project. Still, do not get too obsessed with the details.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)

Allow your creativity to flow freely. No matter what you do, this quality adds excitement to the moment. You're able to gain a new perspective on what you want.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)

Stay close to home. A family member or a close friend might pop over unexpectedly. Hanging out together might be more fun than you would have thought.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)

Make calls in the morning. If you can keep plans flexible, some

interesting suggestions are likely to emerge. Spontaneity can be a great source of fun.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)

You might be on top of a personal matter yet still feel unsure of yourself. Try to gain perspective. Go out and enjoy yourself, no matter what your thoughts are focused on.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Others will respond to you in a positive manner. Although you might feel as if a partner is pulling away, for the most part, you know that this response is merely a transition.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You might be past the point of having a discussion with a difficult friend. Know what you want and proceed accordingly.

## Passing judgment on enabling parents

## Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

**Dear Amy: I'm happily married in my late 30s with a home, career and beautiful daughter.**

My much-younger sister is 20 and still lives with our parents. She has made questionable choices, and at one point her boyfriend lived with my parents even though he was selling drugs. This led to a home invasion in which my father was held at gunpoint.

The boyfriend no longer lives there, but I question my parents and their enabling of my sister. I don't agree with their decisions, yet I'm considered "judgmental." My parents had the audacity to say I'd understand their decisions when I'm "older."

I'm not sure I want my daughter around this environment and so I limit my contact with them. Am I the bad guy here?

**Judgmental Daughter**  
**There is the quality of having good judgment, which is different from being judgmental. You seem to possess both characteristics.**

Given how you describe your parents' behavior and their situation regarding your sister, your good judgment is laudable; your being judgmental is perhaps inevitable.

People who "enable" tend to see their behavior as an expression of devotion. But

enabling is its own form of dysfunction because the enabler is avoiding the discomfort that results from saying no. It is not a function of being "older" but of being afraid and insecure.

Your relationship with your parents will improve if you continue to exercise good judgment while accepting their considerable flaws without passing harsh judgment. This is the life they are choosing to lead, and if they ask you for help, offer it compassionately.

**Dear Amy: I'm about to move to San Francisco from Brooklyn with my boyfriend of three years. I have accepted a job offer and will probably be starting almost immediately after we move to the West Coast.**

The day I accepted the offer, my boyfriend asked if it would be okay if he went on a monthlong hike with his sister and his best friend. This hike would happen after I start my job.

I felt this was unfair because he waited to bring it up until after I accepted the position and now don't have the option of going with them. I got upset with him, but eventually suggested we do a shorter hike before my new job starts. He says that I am not letting him consider life options, but I feel like he's not considering me. How do we find a middle ground where we can both be happy?

Unhappy

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Time for friends to get together! Don't not take someone's hostility personally. This person might be having a bad day. You could lighten his or her mood, if you so choose.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Deal with a responsibility that often takes up too much of your time. Free yourself up to join friends. You cannot perform to your max unless you indulge yourself more often.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Be willing to break past restrictions. Be more upbeat with a child or loved one. Your example will help others pursue their goals.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You might feel as if you have overextended yourself. A conversation with a partner reveals a fresh, new perspective. Your ability to empathize will lead to a stronger bond.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)

Listen to your friends. You might hear an assortment of thoughts and ideas. You don't need to mix anyone's suggestion, but be sure to choose the one that you feel works best for you. Be gracious.

© 2015 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

**The middle ground** you seek is for you to realize that you don't control your boyfriend. That's the path to happiness for both of you.

If he is facing a cross-country move to live with you and can afford to take a month-long hike before starting his new life, then he should do it. Wouldn't you want to do the same if you could?

It's not up to you to "allow" him to take this trip. Ideally, couples discuss big decisions before making them (presumably you discussed your job opportunity before agreeing to it), but successful couples also take an expansive view of one another's opportunities and encourage them to go for it.

**Dear Amy: Regarding**

"Nervous in Redlands," who worried about small children playing among dogs in the new dog park, why not go to the city officials in charge of the park? They could and should post the park for "Dogs and Owners Only." The city may be liable if a child is injured and there is no posted warning.

Concerned

**Definitely.** But in the moment, a responsible adult should intervene.

Write to Amy Dickinson at [askamy@tribpub.com](mailto:askamy@tribpub.com) or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

© 2015 by the Chicago Tribune