

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Homes'pun' humor: The 'air quotes' of Week 1134

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1134** we gave another run to our popular "air quotes" contest, in which we wanted you to find a telling word inside another word or name. Sorry, many of you, but we already did **Donald T'rump** in 2001. In fact, The Donald has been very good to The Style Invitational ever since Year 1 in 1993; a runner-up in Week 21 was "Donald Trump is so annoying that Amnesty International wants him beaten and locked up." (Tom Gearty)

4th place

Se'dated': Out for a romantic evening. — W. Cosby (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

3rd place

The'irs': That which, after April 15, no longer belongs to us. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

2nd place and the horse-head squirrel feeder:

Com'place'nt: Second best is good enough for me. (Yuki Henninger, Vienna, Va.)

So f'un'ny:

honorable mentions

Se'rape': See, I told you. — D. Trump, New York (Jeff Hazle, Woodbridge)

Ce'meter'y: Tick. . . tick. . . tick. . . — G. Reaper (Brendan Beary)

"Can'dor: "Well, yes, it does look big in that dress." (Dion Black, Washington)

"Ass'UAGE: "Oh, no, it doesn't look big at all." (Danielle Nowlin, Woodbridge)

"Spa'ghetti: A plate of bean sprouts. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

Affordable Ca're Act': Also known as "The sky is falling! The sky is falling!" (Frank Mann, Washington)

IP'hon'ne: "Dear, we should talk. Can you look at me when we talk?" (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

Red'ski'ns: Going downhill since the 1990s. (Ward Kay)

P'lung'ing neckline: Deepest cleavage ever. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Sa'turd'ay Night Live: What the show is now vs. whenever the complainer was in college. (Steve Honley, Washington)

"Tref'oil: The least popular Girl Scout scout cookie in Brooklyn. (Jeff Covell, Arlington)

A'sham'ed: "I regret that some people found my remarks offensive." (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

"Lame'ntations: Crocodile tears. (Jeff Contompassis, Ashburn)

"Was'hingtonian: D.C. resident who complains about how much better it used to be when she could shop at Garfinkel's and Woodies. (Steve Honley)

"Ha'ir: The thing on Trump's head. (Melissa Balmain)

A'sparta'me: Switching from regular to Diet Coke. (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

Calip'hate': No elaboration necessary. (Mike Gips)

Cav'eat' emptor: Word to the wise at the \$3.99 buffet. (Rick Haynes, Ocean City, Md.)

Chris 'Christ'ie: A candidate with just a bit of an ego. (Ed Scarborough, Germantown, a First Offender)

Co'it'us: Birds do, bees do. (Edmund Conti, Raleigh)

Infi'dell'ity: A venue for sampling a wide variety of tasty dishes. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Com'miser'ation: All you get from a wealthy friend when you're badly in debt. (John Shea, Philadelphia)

So'cialis'm: Whatever it is, it's giving Bernie a big rise. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Cont'race'ption: The rush to get the condom package open before the mood wits. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

Exe'cute': "No, Mr. Bond, I expect you to watch cat videos until you kill yourself." (Dion Black)

Exhi'bit'ionist: A poorly endowed flasher. (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

F'utility': After a summer storm, waiting for Pepco to get the power back on. (Howard Walderman, Columbia)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial:

Su'perv'isor: The boss who believes too strongly in "hands-on management." (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

New contest for Week 1137: Be a published author!

TRY A THREE-WAY! Utilizing Polarized Plugs (Bruce Alter)
PULLING STRINGS TO GET AHEAD: Collected Transcriptions for the Harp (Bruce Alter)

TRIGONOMETRY THE HARRY POTTER WAY (Stephen Dudzik)

As of this writing, the number of different paperback titles available on Amazon.com: 29,465,646. Hardcover: 10,721,497. Kindle books: 2,509,059. And so it's certainly no easier to get people to buy *your* book, rather than the competing volume on how to re-porcelain your sink, than it was in 2001, when Style Invitational Losers Bruce Alter and Stephen Dudzik got ink in a contest for spicy titles for boring books. It wasn't, however, an Invite contest; Bruce and Steve were moonlighting with the now-defunct Invite-like contest in the Canadian paper the Globe and Mail. I agree wholeheartedly with Steve's suggestion that we rip it off.

This week: Give us a spicy title for a boring book, real or imagined. You might explain the boringness in a subtitle, as in the first two examples, or integrate it into the title, as in the third. **A short pitch for the book would not be out of line.**

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place gets one of our favorite prizes ever: genuine swag from the current Virginia state Senate campaign of Libertarian Carl R. Loser of the Richmond area: **The Loser for Liberty tote bag and deck of cards** were acquired for us by Richmond-based Loser (not related) Jeff Shirley. (By the way, Mr. Loser rhymes his name with "poser" — although, he says, "I do not correct people when they say 'loser' because I find that they remember the name better.")

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. 31; results published Sept. 20 (online Sept. 17). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1137" 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 Beverly 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.

Gen'eros'ity: What Your Mama showed to the football team. (Robert Schechter)

Gua'cama'le: Fatigued avocado dip with dark-green and brown splotches. (Jeff Contompassis)

H'usb'and: Computer geek who claims to have a wife. (Philip Justus, Potomac)

House of Rep'resent'atives: A legislative body with a 16 percent approval rating. (Christopher Thorpe, San Francisco, a First Offender)

I'ow'a: Spending \$7 million on campaign ads and still coming in third. (Mike Ostapij, Mount Pleasant, S.C.)



PAT MYERS/THE WASHINGTON POST

The Style Invitational has never before endorsed a candidate ...

Journa'list': A writer whose entire body of work consists of that "Ten Things You Need To Know. . . ." clickbait. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

Large Had'ron Co'llder: It slices! It dices! It smashes to bits! (Michael Rosen, New York)

Long I'slander': Those stereotypes? They're all true. (Ken Stern, New York)

Mob enfor'cement': These guys really know how to take care of you. (Beverly Sharp)

Plastic'surge on': "Have your husband's eyes been wandering? This week only, 20 percent off facelifts." (Arnold Berke, Washington, a First Offender)

Re'cog'nition: The award the boss gives you to make you forget how unimportant your job is. (John O'Byrne, Dublin)

Se'cur'ity: Junkyard dog. (Jeff Hazle)

Washing'ton' Post: The Sunday paper before the Internet. (Michael Woodward, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories)

Still running — deadline Monday night: Our "ga-" word limerick contest. See bit.ly/invite1136.

SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY BOB KLAHN © 2015 CROSSYENERGY SYNDICATE LLC

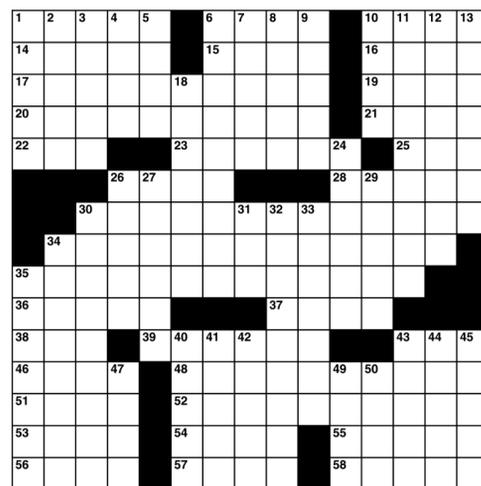
ACROSS

1 Greenhouse louse
6 Read the meter?
10 They're warmer than Timberlands
14 Dr. Seuss's Thidwick, e.g.
15 It's always related
16 Seedy area
17 Duran Duran derived their name from a villain in this 1968 movie
19 Keep from
20 In "2001," a sentence HAL repeats as Dave is deactivating him
21 Focused gp.
22 Nice hot drink?
23 Anticipate
25 Head of lettuce?
26 Machination
28 Inspects the figures?
30 They're especially embarrassing

34 Thrill-a-minute
35 The Little Brown Jug sport
36 Exposed
37 Fantastic fliers
38 Title from the Sanskrit for "beauty"
39 Visionary?
43 30 Rock letters
46 Play things
48 Ready
51 Bills
52 Hollywood ending?
53 Black-and-white invention of 1912
54 Sometimes it follows Easter
55 Paul Anka's first hit
56 Meander
57 Setback at church?
58 ___ Health ("The Return of the Native" setting)

DOWN

1 Circumference
2 Cop game
3 Greek goddesses of the seasons
4 ID on some jackets
5 Like The Who's Tommy
6 Parts of darts
7 Easter lily
8 Pooped
9 "Way cool!"
10 Food stamp?
11 Cooperates
12 He coined "flower power" in the '60s
13 Craft
18 Explosive sounds
24 ___ combined (Olympic event)
26 Smoother
27 "Streets of ___" (song about a three-note city?)
29 Small beams
30 Mystery writer
31 Tessa who created Rizzoli and Isles
31 Gate that turns a double negative into a positive
32 Secure
33 Extra pieces
34 Shock therapy?
35 Freaks
40 Baked, in Bologna
41 Square
42 Gobs
43 Peterson AFB command
44 Stop for gas?
45 "Booknotes" broadcaster
47 Well-heeled?
49 "Soldier of Love" band
50 Tiny offshoot



Answer to last week

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

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | AUG. 23: This year you express yourself in a way that others can't resist. You mix logic with adventure. You will be unusually lucky in your choices. How you handle your day-to-day life may change because of a newfound optimism. Listen to others, but know that you can break patterns. If you are single, be ready to say no a lot until you meet Mr. or Ms. Right. You will know when he or she enters your life. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy your life far more than in the past.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You're full of energy, ready to take off for your version of an escape. You may want to invite a child or a loved one along. You smile, and others respond in kind.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You have a sense of fun that is unique to you and a special person in your life. You might choose to spend plenty of one-on-one time together.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
You will listen carefully while someone shares his or her ideas, but later will ask for a compromise. The other party will see no reason for negotiation. Be smart, and do not push. Give it time.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
For some reason, you seem to be able to help others relax and enjoy their day. You forgot about

one person, though — you. Make time for yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You may be one of the major players of the day, whether you are at a baseball game or simply hanging out with friends. Your good spirits encourage others to have a great time as well.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You seem to have kept your feelings to yourself for some time, but despite your best efforts, they will emerge from out of the blue. Try not to make judgments.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Say yes to an invitation if you have any interest in what is happening. Expect to have a caring conversation with a close friend. There may be more going on than is obvious.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You might be coveting a special item that you're not sure you can afford. Take a step back and do some comparison shopping. You might be surprised by what comes up.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Some of you might pick up the phone and reach out to a loved one; others might show up at someone's door. The only mistake you can make is not to share your feelings.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You feel a need for space or solitude. Make it so. You will be more relaxed than you have been in a while.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You are playful and full of energy. Fortunately, you have a lot of friends around you who want to make more of this day, too. The real purpose is to hang out.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Be aware of what others want from you, and give them just that. Everyone will be happier as a result.

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A senior who is single and loving it

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

women. NO, I'm not abusive to anyone or frightening to children and puppies.

Dear Amy: I am a single senior male, divorced for over 40 years. NO, I'm not gay. NO, I don't hate

English abroad for a summer in a developing country. I recently received my dream job of a nine-month teaching assignment as a foreign English teacher in the same city where I taught while in college.

I am thrilled to have this opportunity, and my parents, siblings and long-term boyfriend are all equally excited for me.

My one concern is that my grandparents, who are in their late 80s and early 90s, are upset that I'll be leaving. They are not in good health, and I understand why they feel so upset and betrayed that I am leaving.

They keep asking me why I want to leave and begging me to come home for Christmas. I will have a bit of time off for the holidays, but I would prefer to travel to neighboring countries rather than come back to the U.S. How do I explain my reasons for not coming home to my grandparents? Also, how do I deal with my own guilt about leaving my grandparents?

It is never appropriate, or particularly useful, to respond to rudeness by being rude.

You could, however, respond by saying, "I hope that my single status doesn't make you uncomfortable, but I assure you I'm happy as a clam."

Sometimes happy singletons make married people nervous.

Dear Amy: I am 22 and just received my degree in education. When I was in college, I taught

there. Nana? Not so much. Promising to see your grandparents at this stage in their lives might seem like a drag to you, but if this makes things easier for them, then why not do it?

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Flashback

Definitely. Then she can decide what she wants to do.

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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