DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Dud poet society: More clerihews from Week 1133

BY PAT MYERS

Four weeks ago, the Empress didn't put up a new contest so that this week she could be traipsing around the Italian coast (well, traipsing and judging limericks). So this gave her a chance to share more clerihews from Week 1133, with their ingenious rhyme combined with comically bad meter. See the first set of clerihews at **bit.ly/invite1136.**

BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Novak Djokovic
Has a powerful forehand stroke, of which
You may have heard; at Wimbledon he was the betterer
Of Roger Federer.
(Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

To root for the team whose quarterback is **Robert Griffin,**
Your upper lip must stiffen.
Try not to weep about each soul-crushing loss,
Or their tree-cutting, journalist-suing, fan-gouging boss.
(Mark Raffman, Reston)

Antonin Scalia
Seems to have the idea
That life will be a bowl of tapas
If we always – no exclusions – adhere to the exact writings of the Founding Papas.
(Mae Scanlan, Washington)

President Obama
Hates drama.
Although he says we can't get screwed by his nuclear deal with Iran,
Yes We Can.
(Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

Here is petulant **Bibi Netanyahu,**
Whose cheer for Obama is no "huzzah;" who,
Calling him a "diplomatic midget,"
Extends a digit. (Mark Raffman)

A dentist-hunter with a bow did slay the regal **Cecil;**
Fifty thousand dollars paid, a ranger-poacher's legal wrestle.
What should become of this Dr. Palmer, who thought a mere camera shoot banal?
Let him suffer through a painful root canal.
(Ming Ivory, Harrisonburg, Va., a First Offender)

Piet Mondrian
Had hung some plaid laundry on
An easel to dry, since it was still wet;
When a collector came in and bought the whole set.
(Brendan Beary)

I'm a big fan of **Alex Ovechkin,**
And though I don't mean to kvetch, can
You tell me why the Capitals annually
Fail to bring home the Cup of Stanually? (Mark Raffman)

Caitlyn Jenner
Faces a difficult future, when her
Choice to live as a she
No longer interests reality TV.
(Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

Caitlyn Jenner is no longer Bruce;
For being called "sir," she has no more use.
Incredible as it is, she upstaged the Kardashians;
Maybe, finally, this is where the classy begins and the trashy ends.
(Neal Starkman, Seattle)

Marcus Antonius
Delivered a euphonious
Eulogy to a Roman crowd and earned the affection
Of everyone sitting in the Caesarean section.
(Chris Doyle)

Along with **Matthew McConaughey**
Last year's cast has gone away
From "True Detective,"
Rendering it defective.
(Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

In Re the Presidential aspirations of **John Ellis Bush:**
Seriously? Another one? You must be smoking Kush.
All the horrible decisions made by his big brother Dubya,
Don't they trubya?
(Nan Reiner)

Chris Christie
Has friendly pollsters who insist he
Has nationwide appeal despite the many slurs he
Faces from his constituents back home in New Jersey.
(Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

Donald Trump
Told the Republican rump
He's only enraptured
By soldiers who don't get captured.
(Chris Doyle)

Bernie Sanders
Is getting ganders
That might cause Hillary
To call out the artillery.
(Frank Osen)

NBC's **Williams (Brian)**
Lost his job because of lyin'.
Thus it happened that taking over in the next semester
Was Holt (Lester).
(Mae Scanlan)

Madonna
Gonna
Be
Remembered for something like virginity.
(Kevin Dopart)

PAT MYERS/THE WASHINGTON POST

And the second-place winner gets 190,000 prizes! Well, kinda sorta. Dr. Lakra's Mutant Laboratory.

Anna Karenina
Made the mistake of letting other men in her.
When she threw herself on the railway line, travelers were heard to complain,
"That blasted express from Moscow is late again!"
(Brian Allgar, Paris)

Johannes Brahms
Calms.
You can put to sleep both Caucasians and people of color by Brahms's Lullerby. (Mae Scanlan)

David George Philip Cholmondeley,
7th Marquess of Cholmondely, comely
Scarlet- and gold-clad Lord Great Chamberlain of the United Kingdom, gearless,
Is just David Rocksavage, peerless.
(Phil Battey, Alexandria)

The Empress, **Pat Myers,**
Inspires
Losers to work their brains into a funk
For junk. (Mae Scanlan)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Sept. 7: our insult contest. See bit.ly/invite1138.

New contest for Week 1139: A little sixty-fourplay

Formats:
1. A riddle (i.e., a question-and-answer joke)
2. A funny observation
3. An acrostic poem (the first letters of each line spell out a name)
4. A song parody

Subjects:
A. Footwear
B. Donald Trump's campaign
C. The new thin Oreos
D. A fad that is SO over

Limitations:
(i) Must comprise exactly 64 words
(ii) Must contain a word plus an anagram of that word
(iii) Must contain all 26 letters of the alphabet
(iv) Could be a tweet (i.e., may have no more than 140 characters including spaces)

This week we reprise, for the first time, one of the oddest Style Invitational contests ever, Back in 2000, the Empress's predecessor, the Czar, presented a contest called "When We're LXIV," which was sort of like 64 contests in one: a choice of four formats times a choice of four subjects times a choice of four limitations.

Loser Bruce Carlson reminded the E that about four weeks hence will be the Czar's 64th birthday, and so how about if we ran this contest again in his "honor," with a new set of choices? Okay, Bruce. Plus, the E doesn't have to go out and get the Czar a silly tie or whatever. **This week: Fashion an entry by selecting one element from each menu group above. Make sure you indicate the combination you chose (e.g., 2-C-iii).**

The categories above were submitted by various Losers and Style Invitational Devotees when I asked for suggestions in the Aug. 6 Style Conversational column: Thanks to Doug Frank, Tim Livengood, Mike Gips, Marni Penning Coleman, Neal Starkman and Bruce Carlson. Nan Reiner suggested today's headline.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place, incredibly apropos of this combo-contest, wins **Dr. Lakra's Mutant Laboratory,** a collection of 84 cardboard triangles each containing one quadrant of a mutant face. Mix and match 190,000 ways (well, not really, unless you don't mind, say, a neck where the ear would go). Donated by Dave Prevar, who doesn't quite look like ANY of those combinations.

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, Sept. 14; results published Oct. 4 (online Oct. 1). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1139" 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 Dave Prevar. 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.

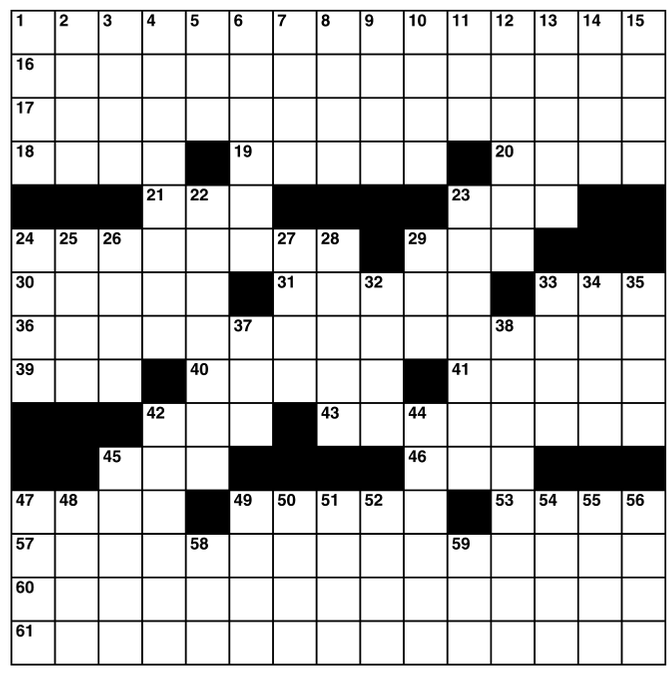
THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL: The Empress is surveying her overseas domains this week (actually, she's marrying off the Royal Scion), so no Convo this week, and probably not next week either. Earlier columns are at wapo.st/styleconv.

SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY MARTIN ASHWOOD-SMITH © 2015 CROSSYNERGY SYNDICATE LLC

ACROSS
1 Pioneering football coach
16 Bar line?
17 It'll help you with your hang-ups
18 Big Apple retailer
19 Perot of politics
20 Crescent-shaped figure
21 1995 court VIP
23 Oran's nation (abbr.)
24 Fair sight
29 Fr. martyr, maybe
30 Ivy League inst.
31 Verdi opera "____ Miller"
33 You may be its main squeeze
36 Hasn't a clue (oddly enough, since this is a clue)
39 Beach lotion letters
40 How Cro-Magnon man walked
41 Ken and Lena
42 Emulating, on menus
43 Sawbuck portrait
45 Bad from the start?
46 Bulldogs fan, perhaps
47 "Fer ____!"
49 Circus barkers
53 Honey lover of kid-lit
57 Realistic competitive philosophy
60 Neighbor of a Prussian
61 Flowers given to the Preakness Stakes winner

DOWN
1 Ramblers, briefly
2 Actress Powers who played Roxane in 1950's "Cyrano de Bergerac"
3 "Enough already!"
4 Studio periods
5 "Botch-____" (Rosemary Clooney hit)
6 Art prints, briefly
7 "Payable ____ before ..."
8 Classical fiddler
9 Abrupt turns
10 Ladies' rooms?
11 Dad's lad
12 Plate armor for protecting the upper thigh
13 Bella of 1970s politics
14 Secluded valley
15 "Breathless" star
22 Some escape routes
23 Whistling, like some kettles
24 Ruminants' mouthfuls
25 Each, informally
26 Bikini feature?
27 Actress Sommer
28 Something to do around midday?
29 Albany-to-Baltimore dir.
32 Small Greek character?
33 Can of worms, say
34 "Rats live ____ evil star" (palindrome)
35 Org.
37 Chorus syllable
38 Three periods in a row, grammatically
42 Lung compartment
44 Mr. + Mr.
45 Bunch of wise guys?
47 Specimen collector
48 Capitol place
49 Jolly Roger crewman
50 Hard to catch, in a way
51 Cosmetics additive, often
52 Lady's man?
54 A noted O'Neill
55 It could mean trouble
56 It's not his
58 Doc ____ (Spider-Man foe)
59 Somme water



Answer to last week

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

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | SEPT. 6: This year may have a surprisingly positive tone. You might not expect what heads down the path toward you, but you will not hesitate to leap right in. Experiencing yourself in a new way opens you up to many new people and opportunities. If you are single, you most likely will be enamored of someone who seems mysterious; the feelings will be mutual. If you are attached, the two of you feel more connected than you have in a while. Share more of your insights with your sweetie.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19)*
Use the morning hours to visit with friends you don't see often. After assessing everything you must do, it probably would be wise to schedule a little downtime.

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20)*
Curb spending. You tend to find unproductive ways of dealing with intense feelings that you might not be acknowledging. Investigate alternatives that might be less expensive.

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20)*
You have a way about you that draws many people to you. Sometimes, you experience frustration from being unavailable for everyone you care about.

CANCER *(June 21-July 22)*
Take some much-needed personal time in the morning. By the afternoon, you might opt to join loved ones.

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22)*
Breeze right on out the door early, perhaps to join a family member or friend for breakfast. No one enjoys socializing as much as you do, but remember to relax a little.

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*
You have decided that you need to do something with a friend, but perhaps you have not yet scheduled it. Handle this matter and make the remainder of this long weekend yours.

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)*
You might not have been as available as others might like you to be. Later today, you might decide to make a call to the gang.

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*
One-on-one relating will take you in a new direction. Ask yourself what you want, and then respond accordingly. Make or return calls. Avoid getting caught up in gossip.

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)*
Your laughter proves to be contagious, and others seem to respond in kind. You might be more of a trendsetter than you realize. Open up to a new idea that might perk up your day-to-day life.

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*
You have a unique vision. Others might not know how to respond at first, but they will figure it out eventually. Be more forthright in your decision-making. Get feedback more often from a close loved one.

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)*
Your manner attracts many people to you. Your popularity soars. You love your friends, but you might collapse with fatigue with so much activity happening around you.

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20)*
Understand that others miss you. Make an effort to attend at least one holiday celebration. Allow a loved one to tease you without copping an attitude.

© 2015 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Signed, sealed, delivered, it's yours

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: My partner of eight years, "Joe," feels that partners should not have any secrets between them, including that both should be allowed to view all communications.

I told him that I would never read his e-mail or snail mail addressed only to him unless he asked me to read something specific.

He feels that partners should have absolutely nothing to hide from each other and, therefore, we should each be allowed to check out each other's e-mail whenever we want.

I totally disagree. On occasion, I receive e-mails sent in confidence that I prefer he not see. I would like to know your opinion, as well as input from your readership.

Respect My Privacy

I'm with you. There is a difference between secrecy and privacy, and I think it is completely legitimate to expect that e-mail and U.S. mail addressed to you should not be read by your partner without your permission. Having privacy is not the same as proactively hiding something specific.

When couples go through a trauma such as adultery, which leaves them with a serious legacy of mistrust, one way to deal with it is to completely open up all communication for scrutiny on demand. Unless the trust has been breached, there should be no need for such total transparency.

One reason for your correspondence to be private (if you want it to be) is to protect the privacy of the people writing to you. I would not want to share a personal or professional letter or e-mail without the sender being aware of my intentions.

I assume readers have other opinions and ideas.

Dear Amy: I recently responded to a friend's Facebook post. She had posted a picture from her past. I commented on how nice it was to see the photo and what great memories it brought back.

She then responded to my post with a cringe-worthy comment, asking whether I remembered a certain night with "so-and-so."

I do remember those days well. They are buried deep — just where I want them. My family (kids, husband, other relatives, etc.) see these posts.

I have no intentions of sharing stories of youthful indiscretions with the aforementioned FB friend. I just wish everyone would be mindful of comments made beyond "nice picture" or "brings back memories."

I'm sure I'll catch a lot of heat from readers, but I want to keep my past to myself. What do you think?

What's Past is Past

You have encountered the classic Facebook overshare. This is the same person who might say to your kids: "You should have seen Mom back in the day! She was the original party animal!"

Here are some options for how you can deal with it:

Quietly scroll through, move on and hope others don't carry it further.

Delete the original comment YOU made.

Send that friend a private message asking her to be more discreet (or "block" or "hide" her).

Reply with humor: "Busted!"

I enjoy Facebook, but if my privacy is going to be violated, I want to be the one doing it.

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.

© 2015 by the Chicago Tribune