

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

GA on our mind: This year's top Limerixicon limericks

BY PAT MYERS

Week 1136 was our 12th annual Limerixicon, in which we aid and abet (or at least one of those things) the grand effort of OEDILF.com to compile limericks featuring all the words in the dictionary. This year's sliver of the alphabet is for words beginning with "ga-"; the addition of these inking entries — selected from close to 1,000 — should push OEDILF's total archive to more than 90,000 limericks.

A note: Some of the words below are meant to be read with alternative, often British pronunciations, e.g., re-SPITE rather than RES-pit. They're all listed in the dictionary, though.

4th place

On safari when hunting for **game**
There's a way to avoid public shame.
Don't shoot Cecil or Tiggers
Or Rovers or Triggers
Or anything else with a name.
(Kevin Dopart, Washington)

3rd place

Were I asked by a curious guy
Where my sexual preferences lie:
Am I straight? Am I **gay**?
Well, I guess I would say
That I do just enough to get bi.
(Craig Dykstra, Centreville)

2nd place and the shell "sculpture" of two owls:

Your Mama won't talk when she's dressed.
When clothed, she thinks silence is best.
But boy is she **garrulous**
When completely appare-less,
As a thousand bored Johns can attest.
(Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial

There's a pill that Big Pharma projects
Will make women more eager for sex.
(Till it makes men, en masse,
Cease to belch and pass **gas**,
It won't have the desired effects.)
(Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

Excess GAggagge: honorable mentions

If you think, "If my **gal** goes on Addyi,
When I ask her for sex she'll be gladdyl!"
Get a clue. Save the money
On pills for your honey
And instead spend less time with your caddy.
(Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

Dr. Seuss had the story down pat:
A spoiled, unlikable brat
Had a gun that she'd stow
In her nanny's chapeau:
She called it the **Gat** in the Hat.
(Mae Scanlan, Washington)

To spores of the plants I've befallen.
My eyes itch and water; it's **gallin'**.
I'm wheezin' and sneezin'
In hay fever season.
It's dreadful; Oh, Lord, it's a pollen.
(Kirk Miller, Richardson, Tex.)

As a **gangster**, poor Nicky was lame,
Just as dense and as dumb as they came.
For example, I hear
That he neutered a deer,
'Cause they told him to go "fix the game."
(Mark Raffman, Reston)

I don't like my women too thin
I want more than just bones and skin
If she is so **gaunt**
She has nothing to flaunt
Then I won't be the yang to her yin.
(Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

The candidates — **gad!** they're a million!
Make debates come across as vaudevillian,
And you can't help but stare
Right at Donald Trump's hair
And wish for a topside Brazilian.
(Ben Aronin, Washington)

Plead for progress? Scalia'll reprove ya
With some jurisprudential effluvia,
Then, with scowling harrumph
And a baleful **galumph**,
He'll trudge homeward to Antediluvia.
(Nan Reiner)

Both Americans and Britons pronounce it "jail," but the Brits spell it "gaol":
If one day you should find yourself **gaoled**,
It is likely because you have faoled
To obey certain laws
And it's also because
You lack bucks with which out to get baoled.
(Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1140: You're giving us a bad name

Antabuse is a good name for an alcoholism drug but a bad name for a magnifying glass. (Chris Doyle)

Rolling Rock is a good name for a beer but a bad name for an insurance company. (Jim Lyons)

The Chrysler Building is a good name for a skyscraper but a bad name for an SUV. (John Conti)

Wachovia is a good name for a bank but a bad name for a cemetery. (Michael Cisneros)

It's the first repeat — after 11 years — of one of our funniest contests ever. It's clear from the examples above, which all got ink in Week 547, mere weeks after the Empress dispatched the Czar and replaced the boar heads in the throne room with some delightful wall sconces. **This week: Cite a REAL brand name, past or present, note its original use, and then say what sort of product, organization, etc., that name would be bad for.** The revival of this contest was suggested by Hopelessly Recidivist Loser Jeff Contompas, who was reminded of it when he noted on the Style Invitational Devotees page on Facebook that "Target sells a house-branded Up & Up pregnancy test, but not condoms." See the winners of the 2004 contest in this week's Style Conversational column at bit.ly/conv1140.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a notepad with \$20 bills depicted on its pages. These are about twice the size of real \$20 bills, so they're clearly worth \$40 each. Donated by rolling-in-dough Dave Prevar.

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. 21; results published Oct. 18 (online Oct. 15). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1140" 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 Kevin Dopart; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Chris Doyle. 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.

Gallant knight, **gallop** off if you must
But don't let your lady's lust rust
In a chastity belt
Round her loins sweet and svelte.
No, don't keep her trussed — keep her trust.
(Ian Graham, Orp-Jauche, Belgium, a First Offender)

Dr. Spooner still **garbled** his words,
Though insisting, "I'm wetter with birds."
At a wedding, this freak
Was invited to speak
And delivered "a few wasteful turds."
(Brian Allgar, Paris)

My friend's a **gastronomy** geek
But my own needs are simple and meek
Pâté and champagne
Are too fancy. Just plain
Peas and hominy's all that I seek.
(Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

Just to **gaze** every day on Denise
And her beauty affords me such peace —
(Or it did so before,
Till she spotted me, swore,
Pulled the blinds shut and phoned the police.)
(Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

If you hear "**gardyloo!**" then it's clear:
Overhead a big pail will appear.
Make your exit a quickie —
That garbage is icky! —
It's true, man: the yuck will slop here.
(Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Said his lawyer, "I don't mean to cavil;
Your defense, though, is going to unravel
If you don't stop your chiding
Of the judge who's presiding,
And deriding the size of his **gavel.**"
(Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Without pain, there's no **gain**,
jocks have found,
But their reasoning's clearly
unsound.

Just today, I have eaten
Ten eggs, lightly beaten,
And painlessly gained a whole pound.
(Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

Those mariners ancient were rallyin'
To bring treasures home for the tallyin';
With no fear or panic
They braved the Atlannic
Going 6,000 miles on a **galleon**.
(Jeff Loren, Manassas)

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DONALD TRUMP DONALD TRUMP
DONALD TRUMP DONALD TRUMP
DONALD TRUMP (**gag**) (Kel Nagel, Salisbury, Md.)

We encountered a **gaggle** of geese
While touring with friends down in Nice.
They nipped fingers and feet,
So we beat our retreat.
But at dinner? Three foie gras apiece!
(Kathleen Cross, Silver Spring, a First Offender)

As a billionaire tries to provoke
And calls foes he's debating "a joke,"
Two **gazillionaires** shelling
Out millions are telling
The rest: Things go better with Koch.
(Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

Regardless if blue or if red,
Campaign season fills one with dread.
The only respite:
All the **gaffes**, day and night.
Let's just hope they don't mean what they've said.
(Parker Caldwell, Chicago, a First Offender)

See more limericks in the online *Invita* at bit.ly/invite1140.

Still running — deadline Monday night, Sept. 14: A contest that gives you 64 ways to lose. See bit.ly/invite1139.

BY JEFF CHEN © 2015 CROSSYNERGY SYNDICATE LLC

ACROSS
1 Mark Cuban and Daymond John, e.g.
7 Start of a speculation
15 West Coast evergreen
16 "No doubt about that!"
17 Capital of Kazakhstan
18 Soup legume
19 Location of some Swiss banks
20 Dutch painter of "The Prince's Birthday"
21 Connections
22 Pops
23 Morse bits
24 Pesty flier
25 Numero ____
26 "Bones"
27 Applies cyanoacrylate
29 Straightened up in one's chair
31 It takes care of clods

32 Supreme Court Justice's sobriquet, derived from a rapper's stage name
37 Last name for an anonymous woman
38 Boxing venue
39 Might
41 ____ Modern (British museum)
42 Objector's word
43 First name for an anonymous woman
44 Many MIT grads
45 Google ____
46 Tribe for whom a state is named
47 Gulf moguls
49 Command to a canine
50 "You gotta see this!"
52 "Fancy schmancy!"
53 Opening at an arcade

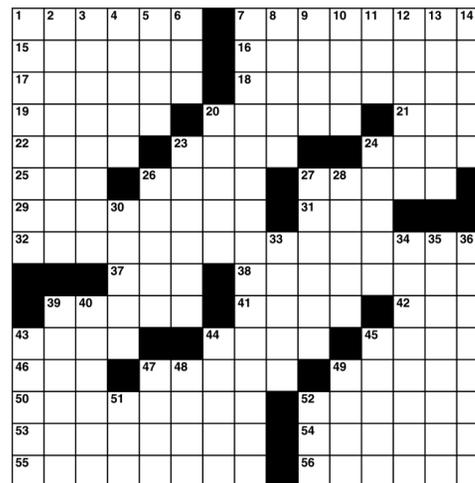
SUNDAY CHALLENGE

54 Wave, or wave producer
55 Biting canines
56 Surgical device

DOWN
1 Hoagy Carmichael standard
2 Rosh ____
3 Item in a Pokémon trainer's arsenal
4 Chestnuts
5 Newspaper tycoon of film
6 Jamaican pop genre
7 "Ain't no doubt about that!"
8 Dunderheads

9 Proficient
10 Vixen's restraint?
11 ETA pt.
12 Laid out
13 Boxing venues
14 Home brewer's supply
20 Vanzetti's co-defendant
23 Attempted to downsize?
24 One of the inn crowd?
26 Runoff at the mouth?
27 Spirits
28 Dirty dog
30 Provide, as with power
33 Surface alternatives
34 Campaigner's modern tool

35 He battled Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in "Game of Death"
36 Show featuring Agents 86 and 99
39 Himalayan plaything?
40 Infant's wear
43 Power, slangily
44 Trial segment
45 Humdinger
47 Programming conditional
48 West Point mascot
49 Dirty film, of sorts
51 Soldier in a colony
52 Places full of cutting remarks? (abbr.)



Answer to last week

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

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | SEPT. 13: This year your penchant for detail will be heightened. You are entering the first year of a 12-year luck cycle, which is often the most fortunate one. Like a cat, you will land well no matter what. If you are single, your charisma draws others toward you. If you are attached, your significant other can't help but respond to your magnetism. Though you will experience a lot this year, remember to keep your significant other in the loop. Libra is always kind to you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You might have stretched yourself too thin. Stop for a while, and do something just for you. Tonight you'll experience a late surge of energy and fun.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You might be getting the cold shoulder from a friend. Give this person some time to chill out, and you'll find warming up the connection to be easier.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Your way of handling others doesn't seem to be working. You could be having some difficulty creating the type of afternoon you are dreaming of.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

You could be getting into a Sunday routine of calling those whom you don't see often. You'll find this ritual to be rewarding, because you

care a lot about these people.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You might be a bit excessive in some area of your life. As a result, a roommate or family member could appear to be growing distant. Use a bit of self-discipline.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You rarely cross boundaries or step on anyone's toes. However, you might want to reach out to someone who seems to be very closed down.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Your sense of direction will be very important, especially since you might decide to take off alone on a hike or drive. You could end up somewhere you never would have imagined you would be.

Brilliant son disappoints his mother

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Mother: You don't seem to really know what kind of man your son has become, because you are focused squarely on your own disappointments — professionally and personally — that you might not know what he is good at. He might be "salesman of the year" at the hardware store, and yet you are pushing him to go to work with airplanes. If he responded to you, he might say, "If you are so eager about airplane mechanics school, Mom, why don't YOU go?"

Your son might be wrestling with anxiety or other issues that you don't know about. But if he has held a job for a substantial period of time, you should be satisfied that he is doing what he wants to do — unless he tells you otherwise.

Your son is an adult, not a little child whom you can try to mold to fit your version of what success is. You should back off and set aside your own dreams for him. Take him as he is — and start there to build a relationship. If you are more accepting now, he might be more open to your influence down the road.

Dear Amy: I will be turning 50 soon, but I have little to celebrate. I felt that a birthday like this deserved something special, and I was hoping to take a trip to Las Vegas for the weekend.

I'm not a big gambler, but I'd

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

For whatever reason, you might decide to pull back right now. Of course, you realize that doing this is likely to evoke quite a reaction from others. Is this the response you want? Think again.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

An older friend or relative seems to be even more demanding than usual. Ask a loved one for some feedback on how to go about dealing with this person.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Make plans that allow you to finally relax, as you have had a lot on your mind lately. Be sociable, but create the space you might like to have at this point.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Remain responsive to a loved one. This individual might be unusually talkative at this point. Listen well, as he or she needs to share some news with you. Be spontaneous!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Others might seem overconfident right now. You love being around your friends, but they could be particularly demanding. This situation is only temporary; let it go.

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really like to see Vegas. I did some serious research and found that it was "doable" from a cost perspective, but when I broached this subject with my wife, she immediately said there was no way she was getting on an airplane (anxiety issues), and whatever enthusiasm I had was gone forever.

I'm now committed to a dinner with my sister and mother (we share the same birthday), and while I love my family, this just seems like a tremendous letdown. Am I wrong to feel this way?

Unhappy Birthday

Unhappy: I'm so sorry this has happened. It is a terrible feeling to have your heart set on something specific and then be let down.

Please remember that you will be 50 all year long. Could you take this trip with a friend at another time? If you took a few days off, would your wife drive out to Las Vegas with you?

I want to encourage you to find ways to celebrate yourself, even if you're surrounded by party poopers.

Amy's column appears seven days a week at 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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