

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Quipped from the headlines: Report from Week 1141

BY PAT MYERS

Week 1141 was our perennial Mess With Our Heads contest, in which you chose a real headline from that week's Post and wrote a bank head, or subtitle, that either misinterprets the original head or comments wryly on it. Great results, as always.

4th place

How first lady can avoid a dress flap

Aides suggest she drop designer Dr. Denton
(Pie Snelson, Silver Spring)

3rd place

A no-brainer on Syria

Palin weighs in on Mideast conflict
(Duncan Stevens, Vienna)

2nd place and Mr. Tea Infuser:

Bush's unfamiliar position: underdog

Transplanted azalea withers from warm, yellow watering
(Rob Wolf, Gaithersburg)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial

Amid pomp and circumstance, a shepherd tends his flock

'Quit playing FarmVille on your phone — they're about to call you up for your diploma!' friend mutters to classmate
(Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

Bank reserves: honorable mentions

Ben Carson says a Muslim shouldn't be president

And Muslims say Ben Carson shouldn't be president
(Neal Starkman, Seattle; Gregory Koch, Falls Church)

Stocks close down on growth concerns

Colonial Williamsburg removes replicas because 'fat tourists keep getting their arms caught'
(Mark Raffman, Reston)

Tortorella to coach U.S. squad in Cup

Embarrassed players wish he would put more clothes on
(Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

The beginning of Trump's end?

That would be right on top of his neck
(Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

Israeli supermodel wanted a no-fly zone for her wedding

All male guests had to wear yoga pants, kilts
(Sylvia Betts, Vancouver, B.C.)

Carly Fiorina subdued in victory lap after debate

Police allege "she looked black"
(Stephen Litterst, Newark, Del.)

'I've tried three wheels before, but not two. I'm a little nervous.'

Brie addict struggles to reduce daily cheese consumption
(Roy Ashley, Washington)

Candidates on both sides bashing China

Senate Dining Room spat between Sanders, Cruz turns into plate-throwing brawl
(Rob Cohen, Potomac)

When dating in your 40s, is it better to be divorced or never married?

Experts agree that, yes, married people shouldn't be dating
(Christopher Thorpe, San Francisco)

Culture of reprisals against whistleblowers

Disgruntled fans routinely toss stuff at refs
(Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

At debate, many candidates spell out their strategy on Iran

'B-O-M-B' (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

Washington Post honored at food journalist conference

Paper edges Times of London in coveted Fish & Chip Wrapping category
(John McCooney, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

Md. man 'touched everyone's hearts'

Out-of-control surgeon performed unwanted, invasive procedures
(Rebekah Bundang, Vienna, a First Offender)

Groupy to shed 1,100 jobs

Company-wide e-mail titled '10% off!' wasn't best way to break the news, execs say
(Brendan Beary)

White House picks florist

'Ha, now you know how we feel,' say Rose Garden inhabitants
(Danielle Nowlin)

Doesn't get any easier for Virginia

Tyke to be told there is no Easter Bunny
(Mark Raffman)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Tour de Fours XII: A DICEy situation for Week 1145

Paracomedic: an EMT who performs stand-up while you lie down in the ambulance.

Ice-damsel: The person in distress if you try to "rescue" this princess is you.

Pasturepedic: A mattress that brings the freshness of the outdoors into your bedroom (antihistamine available separately).

Pundecided: Should we go with 'Surfin' DOA' or 'No Vibrations' for the obituary headline?

This year's Tour de Fours neologism contest uses two letters never used in the preceding 11 Tours: C and D. But the game's the same: **Coin a word or multi-word term that contains the letter block D-I-C-E**, and describe it, as in the examples above; the letters may be in any order, but there may be no other letters between them. Feel free to use it in a funny sentence.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives "The Art of the Bonsai Potato," consisting of a little plastic stand on which you place a real potato, whose sprouts you trim with serene concentration as if they're hundred-year old pine twigs. "Zen — without the wait," it cheerfully promises. Mini-tools and "hilarious 32-page book" included. Donated by longtime Loser Christina Courtney.

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, Oct. 26; results published Nov. 15 (online Nov. 12). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1145" 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 Jeff Contompas; 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.

Metro nears new deal to keep cellphone users connected

Riders will be able to call the office to say they're stuck on the Red Line again
(Brendan Beary)

GOP hopefuls spell dread for federal employees

Only 3 forgot to include the silent A
(Neal Starkman)

How to make 2016 the year of the tomato

Trump urges GOP to recruit women candidates with 'huge personas'
(Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Copper returns as an agent in the battle against resilient bacteria

Officer McGruff says: 'Take a bite out of grime'
(Jeff Contompas, Ashburn)

A look ahead at Wednesday's Mass

After Tuesday's banquet, Christie predicts 5-lb. gain
(Rick Haynes, Ocean City)

Amazon announces new \$50 tablet

'Amateurs,' scoffs pill-gouger Martin Shkreli
(Brendan Beary)

Another disappointing transportation meeting

Metro seatmate turns out not to be soul mate for 7,653rd consecutive morning
(Danielle Nowlin)

Name the panda Elvis

CIA reveals Bin Laden's cryptic last words
(Frank Osen)

Number of uninsured fell steeply last year

Owner of free Novocain clinic lost control on double-diamond ski slope
(Gary Crockett)

Obama is now letting U.S. telecom carriers go to Cuba

Country told to expect installer between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. next Tuesday
(Roger Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.)

On Lesbos, endless waves of boats and fears of a more treacherous voyage

U.S. government slow to aid because senators cannot say 'Lesbos' without giggling
(Bird

Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

Overdue praise for the line Classic

'Would you like to come up and see my etchings?' gets new life in tat age
(Mae Scanlan, Washington)

Papal visit to Washington will start in summer, end in fall

Psychics agree that pontiff's first Segway outing won't fare well
(David Garratt, Silver City, N.M.)

Pope meets with Fidel Castro, urges Cubans to 'serve people,' not ideas

'Soylent Verde' policy unveiled
(Bird Waring)

To minimize lumber damage, quickly get rid of water

Infections from chronically full bladders can spread to nearby parts
(Jeff Contompas)

Too much time behind bars

Ted Danson regrets early TV career
(Mark Raffman)

Waiting hours and hours for a joyous few seconds

'Dinner and a movie' retains its romantic utility
(Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

With today's offenses, reaching triple digits doesn't look quite as impossible

Irritated Beltway drivers growing extra middle fingers to adapt
(Danielle Nowlin)

First commute goes well at Silver Spring Transit Center

'Tomorrow we'll try a second passenger,' officials vow
(Duncan Stevens)

Get ready for three-on-three

'Man-man-woman marrying man-man-dog is next,' Santorum warns
(Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

U.S. sees opportunity for military gains against ISIS in Syria

Wishes everyone luck with that, changes channel
(Mike Connahan, Alexandria)

Still running: Deadline Monday night, Oct. 19: Our contest to give a brand name a better use.

See bit.ly/invite1144.

SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY ALAN ARBESFELD © 2015 CROSSYNERGY SYNDICATE LLC

ACROSS
1 1948 Hitchcock film
5 Blasted, as in a harsh review
14 Man who can take the suffix "esce"
15 Where lots of stuff gets stuffed
16 Roundup target
17 Devise
18 Pound sounds
19 Ebbets Field star
20 Speaker of the diamond
21 "The Matrix" hero
22 Skirt length
23 People who want to lose should avoid them
25 Architect associated with Barcelona
27 Words before whim or tear
29 Have ____ to play
30 Crew direction

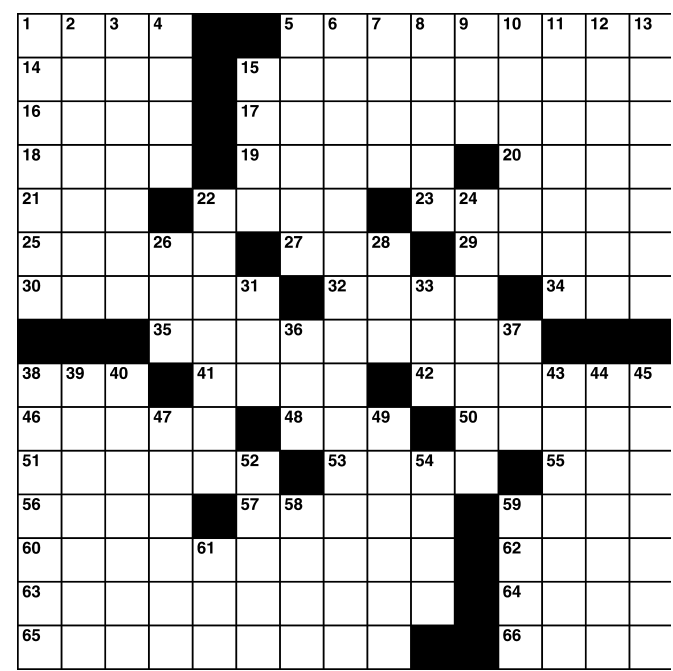
DOWN
59 "Howdy"
60 Radish or beet
62 List shortener, briefly
63 Call for help?
64 Rice-A-____
65 Certain sedimentary rock
66 Romaine de Tirtoff's pseudonym

DOWN

1 Moves a Dali, e.g.?
2 Put too much away
3 Like many holes
4 Positions that may be split
5 Common rental
6 Rarely

7 Some old theaters
8 Barely beats, with "out"
9 NPR journalist Shapiro
10 Sideshow spiel
11 Familiar with
12 Put another handle on
13 In pigtails, perhaps
15 Actress Ryan of "Boston Public"
22 Old Japanese emperors
24 Destroyer, e.g.
26 "How silly of me!"
28 Wisk alternative
31 Section of the Gettysburg address?
33 Stirrup site

36 TV E.T.
37 Cruise in Hollywood?
38 Enervates
39 Place for peace and quiet
40 Capital of Estonia
43 Keep an eye on
44 Cheerful
45 "Don't believe that!"
47 Designated
49 Punk rock surname
52 Olfactory stimulus
54 Put a number on, in a way
58 Snack in a stack
59 "Is this the spot?"
61 ____ Lobos



Answer to last week

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

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | OCT. 18: This year you decide to make your life feel more dynamic. You throw yourself 100 percent into nearly everything you do. If you can't get focused on what you are doing, you might choose not to do it at all. Your relationships with siblings and those in your daily life become more important. If you are single, you seem to be able to relate to many people, and vice versa. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy spending more and more time together. You are not only romantic partners but also best friends. Capricorn can be so serious.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 Be adventurous. Your sixth sense might direct you in an unusual direction. Listen to news carefully, and hold off on making any judgments for now. You will be in a position to discuss an important matter and get feedback that you value.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 Deal with someone directly. Don't hesitate to ask for more of what you feel you need. A partnership flourishes when you are open about your desires and situations involving both of you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 You might wonder which way to go in a discussion with a dear friend. Remain positive and open to an unusually creative solution. You'll see a matter differently from how you have in the past.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 Be willing to make an adjustment. You might enjoy heading down a different path

and managing a personal matter differently. You could be overthinking a problem.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 Your creativity emerges when dealing with a child or loved one. This person might not have intended to challenge you, but that seems to be what's happening. Listen to what he or she has to share, as it might be important.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 You'll discover that your sense of direction is right-on, which actually might surprise you. Anything is possible. Be aware of how creative you can be, even if you're having a boring day.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 Speak your mind, and know full well what you must do. Allow greater give-and-take. Know your limitations, but still take a risk that feels good. At some point, you will talk to someone you care about, and catch up on his or her news.

Will financial conundrum spoil trip?**Ask Amy**

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: My sisters and I discussed taking an overseas trip. There are five of us. I found a great vacation package and ran it by all of them.

We were all in agreement that this was perfect, so I asked if they would all be ready to purchase. I explicitly stated that, although we all agreed to put the trip on my credit card, I would need immediate payment from all of them, and that if anyone was not ready to pay, that we could hold off.

All of my siblings said they had the money in hand. It's now more than two months later and one of my sisters, "Cathleen," has not paid me. Before my credit card payment came due the first month, I asked if I could expect her check soon. She said she didn't have it because she had since paid for another trip with her boyfriend. The second month, she again stated she didn't have the money.

Another sister talked to Cathleen, only to find out that she has made another large purchase and that she doesn't feel she needs to rush to pay me since I "have money." (My

husband and I are upper-middle class but are by no means rich.)

How do I ask her for the payment? I'm afraid of upsetting her since she and I have had a rocky relationship at times, and I don't want this trip tainted by money issues. The trip is nonrefundable, and I'm in the hole.

Stuck Sister

Stuck Sister: You should start by taking this to "Cathleen" directly, and, depending on her answer, you could take it to the group.

E-mail her: "Your payment for the trip is so late that I'm now in the hole for your portion. Do you still want to go on this trip? Let me know one way or another so we can all decide what to do."

If your sister isn't going to pay for her portion, one option is for the rest of the group to absorb and share the cost.

Dear Amy: I have a friend of over 40 years who has been sharing all kinds of private information about me with others. The most troublesome is her compulsion to brag about every party of mine she goes to, to people who were not invited. It has already ruined one long friendship.

I have asked her to stop, and

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

If you're looking at a major financial change, do some price comparison before making a choice. Some of you might want to splurge on a new item for your wardrobe or indulge a loved one with a significant gift.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You know what to do, and you'll follow your instincts. You naturally seem to gravitate toward a family member who appreciates your time and attention. Some of you will opt to make a major purchase.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Make it okay to take your time and relax. Make time for a chat with a special person. You might choose to be somewhat reclusive until later in the afternoon. Suddenly, a burst of energy will push you right out the door.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Remain sure of yourself when making important decisions. You know what makes you happy. Don't back down; trust yourself. A friend who provides diverse suggestions might not realize how sure you are of your choices.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

You could be in the position of wanting to try something different. Understand what is happening within your immediate circle. A must appearance, whether it's social or professional, can't be avoided.

she promised she would, but the behavior has continued.

As my punishment for confronting her about this, she dropped me from her guest list, but I forgave her and continued to invite her. She also repeated some deeply personal information about me to others — information she had promised to keep private.

I am shocked at such indiscretion. After so many decades, I hate to walk away from her, in part because it will be difficult to avoid running into her, but it seems impossible to get through to her, and I don't want any other friendships ruined. Any ideas?

M

M: You made a reasonable request of your friend, and she punished you for it. It doesn't seem there is much of a friendship left.

If you run into her, you should be cordial, if tight-lipped.

Amy's column appears seven days a week at www.washingtonpost.com/advice. Write to Amy Dickinson at askamy@tripub.com or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

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