

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Shoot first, ask questions later: Week 1143 results

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1143, our perennial Ask Backwards contest, the Empress listed 15 odd phrases and asked you to write questions that those phrases could answer. This week's best entries came from 11 of those categories. For "L'Oreal and Hardy," too many people asked who had created a line of long-lasting slapstick (or slipstick).

4th place

A. Bei Bei's daily schedule.
Q. What is "Eat. Sleep. Act cute. Gather information for Chinese masters?"
(Neal Starkman, Seattle)

3rd place

A. Somewhere over the rainbow.
Q. Where does Kim Davis think Hell is located?
(Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.; Sam Aaron, Atlanta)

2nd place and the Nationals' Calvin Coolidge bobblehead:

A. Shaquilla O'Rabinowitz.
Q. What Israelite routinely passed clean over Jordan?
(Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial

A. A platypus, a sourpuss, and pus.
Q. What are three things you don't want to run into Down Under?
(Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Half-asked efforts: honorable mentions

A SWARM OF FRUIT FLIES
What's an anagram of "awful if it's from arse"? (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

What lets you know that rather than being happy to see you, someone has a banana in his pocket? (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

What movie cliche happens in nearly every car chase on city streets? (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

What happens when Dan Snyder steps out in front of D.C. football fans? (Greg Pearson, Arlington)

THE GOSSAMER-MAN TRIATHLON
What event was canceled when all the participants collapsed under the weight of their number bibs? (George-Ann Rosenberg, Washington)

What is the final event of the Mr. Punyverse competition? (Jeff Contompasis)

What consists of the 3-meter wade, the 10-foot stroll and the 2-minute kickstand lift? (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

AN ICICLE, A TESTICLE AND A LISTICLE

What is "The Top 2 Reasons You Shouldn't Clean Gutters in the Winter"? (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

What do you get when you Google "10 things you find in back of a sled dog"? (Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

What are suggested by "1 below," "two below" and "10... below"? (Rob Cohen, Potomac)

SHAQUILLE O'RABINOWITZ

Who was the first player inducted into the NBA Hall of Fame? (Chris Doyle)

Who said, "Free throws, I can't do — but I can get them for you wholesale"? (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Who is a member of the NBA, the IRA and the ABA? (Tom Witte)

POUTINE ON THE RITZ

If Russia's leader leader bathed in brown gravy, rolled in a tub of cheese curds, and sat on a cracker, what would some people mistakenly call the combination? (Mark Raffman)

What dish from Quebec is locally known as *Crappe sur la craque?* (Barry Koch)

SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW

Where did Dorothy and Glinda get married? (Evelyn Voorhees, Worthington, Mass., a First Offender)

Where does Roy G. Biv live? (Stephen Dudzik, Olney; Rick Haynes, Ocean City, Md.)

Since immigrants are bad, where did The Donald's string of foreign supermodel wives and mistresses come from? (Kevin Dopart)

A PLATYPUS, A SOURPUSS AND PUS



GRID CONSTRUCTED WITH THE INSTANT ONLINE WORD SEARCH MAKER
AT PUZZLE-MAKER.COM

New contest for Week 1147: It's E-Z find-a-word — yours

J-12: BORMENTS: The trials of "listening" patiently to a jabbering acquaintance. "... Well, she's not actually my real aunt, but I call her Aunt Marge anyway. And anyway..."

N-4: WHIRK: The ceaseless job of helicopter parents.

We're back with a contest we debuted last year, one that attracted lots of entries — most of them by people who seemed to understand what we were asking for. No, no, it's not a word-find puzzle. Well, it is, I guess, in that you get to find your own new words. And there are a zillion of them waiting to be found, given our super-easy rules. **This week: Create a word or multi-word term that consists of adjacent letters — in any direction or several directions — in the grid above, and provide a humorous definition**, as in the examples above. You may also give an especially clever definition for an existing term you find. And you may use the word in a sentence, if that makes your entry funnier.

IMPORTANT: Because the Empress is already bonkers enough without having to search for your precious word through a 361-letter grid, **you must state the coordinates of the first letter of your term (e.g., C-12);** the E can trace it from there. Note that **you may snake your word around the grid;** just don't skip letters or use the same spot on the grid twice. But if you don't give me those coordinates, I'm going to skip your word.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a genuine antique, and a really cool one: Dated 1915, and clearly original, it's a 12-volume set of booklets comprising "Household Engineering," a correspondence course from the American School of Home Economics, and aiming to bring those modern ideas of workplace efficiency to the home. Part I is about kitchen design; it does mention the "refrigerator," but that was simply an insulated chest with an ice compartment.

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 last of our current models, "The Wit Hit the Fan" and "Hardly Har-Har," or one of the winners of Week 1146. 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, Nov. 9; results published Nov. 29 (online Nov. 25). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1147" 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 Jesse Frankovich; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Brendan Beary. 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/invofday; and follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

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.

In Australia, what are three things that taste better than Vegemite? (Mark Raffman)

Who's right ahead of Rand Paul in the polls? (Duncan Stevens, Vienna)

2028 C.E.

What is currently displayed on the "next train" sign above the platform at Metro's Dulles Airport station? (Jeff Contompasis, still waiting in nearby Ashburn, Va.)

When will Chelsea Clinton and Jenna Bush square off in a presidential election whose central issue will be "getting the truth about Benghazi"? (Mark Raffman)

What is the year we still don't land an astronaut on Mars? (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

According to President Obama's orders to the Secret Service, when will Malia and Sasha be allowed to go on unsupervised dates? (Mark Raffman)

A VW GAS PEDAL What is another name for a lie detector? (Steve Honley, Washington)

What is the second-fastest way to drive VW into a brick wall? (Dudley Thompson)

Since immigrants are bad, where did The Donald's string of foreign supermodel wives and mistresses come from? (Kevin Dopart)

A PLATYPUS, A SOURPUSS AND PUS What part of a Beetle sticks when

you squash it with your shoe? (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

What's sure to become known as part of a "de-feet device"? (Roger Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.; Ben Aronin, Washington)

15 GB

How much space is left on a 15,000,000,001 GB drive when you load in all of the GOP candidates' policy ideas? (Duncan Stevens)

How long did it take Mr. Giga to eat his steak? (Sam Gwynn, Beau-mont, Tex.)

Can you tell Mr. Shaw here how many times you've read "Pygmalion"? (Jack McBroom, Fort Valley, Va.)

What is the year we still don't land an astronaut on Mars? (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

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More honorable mentions in the online [Invite](http://bit.ly/invite1146) at bit.ly/invite1146.

Still running — deadline Monday night: our contest for ideas for two new Loser magnets for honorable mentions. See bit.ly/invite1146.

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY PATRICK JORDAN © 2015 CROSSSYNTHESIS LLC

ACROSS		35		Top-selling		64		Put out of kilter		10		Favorite nosh of Gromit's pal Wallace		1978's "The Wiz"	
1	Proverbial back breaker	36	Enlarge, as a home	65	Best Actor Oscar winner between Tracy and Stewart	11	Region symbolizing traditional values	38	Couldn't stand	39	Last word of "A Christmas Carol"	42	Cabin pressure result?	44	Aggressively lively
6	Sand or speed follower	40	Bus. card datum	12	Make the bloopie reel	21	Long, loud laments	45	Stat for a DJ,	22	"I'm gonna pass"	26	Musical with the song "Buenos Aires"	50	Creator of Madison and Ungar
10	Part of some bistro names	41	Pamplona plantations	13	Novel that inspired the film "Clueless"	27	Record biz samples	51	Corinthian's K	14	Weight-loss brand hawked by Sharon Osbourne	52	Cartographer's close-up	54	Frenziedly
14	"George Washington at Princeton" painter	43	1967-70 secessionist state	15	Ken of "Fort Apache: The Bronx"	28	Chickadee cousin	55	Xbox series since 2001	16	"Bingo"	56	Strike discovery	57	Tupperware piece
15	Ken of "Fort Apache: The Bronx"	47	Like Lewis Black's character in Pixar's "Inside Out"	17	Novel that inspired the film "Clueless"	29	Propriety-challenging	20	Answer to last week	21	It's taken before firing	22	Dorothy's portrayer in "The Wizard of Oz"	23	24
16	"This is yours"	48	Come to terms with	23	It's taken before firing	25	26	27	28	29	20	21	22	23	24
17	Endorse enthusiastically	49	"And Then There Were None" director Clair	24	Perform a christie or a telemark	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37
18	Novel that inspired the film "Clueless"	50	None" director Clair	25	It's taken before firing	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
19	Come by honesty	51	Perform a christie or a telemark	26	Packs tightly	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
20	New celebrity of 2015	52	Scrapped space shot	27	Sidesplitting show	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53
23	Product prefix indicating coldness	53	Abscind to bond	28	Propriety-challenging	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62
24	Focus fondly (on)	54	It's taken before firing	29	Propriety-challenging	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70

Answer to last week



HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | NOV. 1: This year your intuition allows you to tune in to many people. You also have a sense for when something you would prefer to avoid is about to happen. Use this ability to the max. If you are single, you most likely have a secret admirer. If you are attached, the two of you often are in your own world. Your emotional bond is strong. Cancer has similar sensitivities as you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Your family demands your time. Make it your pleasure to indulge them. You have an unusual way of fulfilling requests. By inviting someone over to play a favorite game, you'll remind both of you of the importance of the bond.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Make your round of Sunday calls. If you don't reach out to others as often as you know you should, consider making that more of a priority. Your vitality sparks, even in a simple conversation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Your sense of humor will emerge when dealing with matters from yesterday. A friend might pitch in at the last minute. You know that