

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Vendor benders: Report from Week 1144

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1140, we asked which brand names would be bad choices for another product. The winners included One-a-Day toilet paper, a Dum Dum Pops sperm bank, the Bumble Bee presidential debates, and Facebook as a title for the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue. Then in Week 1144, we spun it around and asked which names would be *better* for something else.

4th place

Duncan Hines is an okay name for a cake mix, but it would make a great name for baby bubble bath. (Laurie Morrison, Rockville; Larry Gray, Union Bridge, Md.)

3rd place

Fanta is a good name for a soft drink but a better name for a sea island. (John McCoey, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

2nd place and the squeezable “egg-laying” rubber chicken:

Pop Rocks is a fine name for a candy but is fantastic for Bernie’s new campaign slogan. (Janice Haas, Bethesda)

And the winner of the Inkin’ Memorial

VCU is a good name for a university but a better name for a Russian surveillance agency. (Frank Mann, Washington)

I can’t believe it’s not better: honorable mentions

Fox News is fine for a TV network but a better name for the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue. (Doug Frank, Crosby, Tex.)

Hanover is a good name for an insurance company and a better name for a collection agency. (Frank Mann)

The Who was a great name for a rock band but an even better name for the GOP “undercard” debates. (Steve Glomb, Alexandria)

Cialis is a good name for an ED remedy but an even better name for a looking-glass manufacturer. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Brach’s is a good name for a candymaker but a better name for bird food: “Parrots ask for it by name.” (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

20th Century Fox is a good name for a movie studio but a better name for a seniors’ escort service. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

AMF is a good name for a bowling company, and it perfectly describes your ex. (Pie Nelsom, Silver Spring)

Ball Park is a good name for a hot dog, but it’s a better name for an athletic supporter. (Jeff Covell, Arlington)

Bed, Bath and Beyond is an okay name for a home goods store but would be a better name for an upscale brothel. (Gordon Cobb, Marietta, Ga.)

Blue Moon is a good name for a beer but an even better name for a car seat with built-in AC. (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)

Browning Arms is a good name for a gun manufacturer but a better one for a group proctology practice. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Cargill is fine for an agricultural company, better for an amphibious vehicle. (Margaret Welch, Oakton; David Friedman, Arlington)

Chap Stick is a good name for lip balm, a better name for a British walking cane. (Rob Cohen, Potomac)

Citgo is a good name for an oil company but an even better name for a dog trainer. (David Komornik, Danville, Va.)

Continental is a good name for an airline but a better name for an adult diaper. (Larry Gray)

Cover Girl is a good name for cosmetics, a better name for the new Playboy. (Kristen Rahman, Silver Spring)

DeBeers is a good name for a diamond company but a better one for a Chicago sports bar. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna)

Def Jam is a good name for a record label but a better name for an earwax remover. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

Domino’s is a fine name for pizza but would be a great name for a demolition company. (David Friedman)



New contest for Week 1148: It’s TankaWanka II

The Donald should have A far more fitting nickname. Like J. Lo’s slick name, it should right out at you jump! Hey, then: How about T. Rump?

Last fall we introduced a brand-new form of poetry — or at least we declared it so in Week 1095, since that was easier than getting complaints that we didn’t do the old form correctly. Whatever, it’s a variation on the ancient Japanese poetry called tanka, which are, roughly, 31-syllable poems in five lines; they begin with 5-7-5, as haiku do, then have two more lines of seven syllables each. However, notes Wikipedia, “traditionally tanka had no concept of rhyme.” And traditionally The Style Invitational has a big fat concept of rhyme. We like it. Hence the TankaWanka. This week: **Write a TankaWanka about something that’s been in the news lately. The poem must consist of five lines of 5, 7, 5, 7 and 7 syllables in that order. And it must include at least one rhyme**, as in the example above by Willy Wanka, a.k.a. Gene Weingarten, who threw in a second rhyme at no extra charge. You may add a title, perhaps quoting a headline of a news item, if it helps the reader what you’re talking about.

Winner gets the Inkin’ Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place gets an Ecumenically Insulting Two-Pack: First, just in time for Hanukkah, a T-shirt depicting a man in Hasidic garb striking a martial-arts pose: It’s labeled “Jewjitsu.” Brought back from *Israel* by Loser Mike Gips, who decided not to wear it to High Holy Days services. And also, just in time for Advent, a bag of Scripture Candy, jellybeans that on the package are labeled “sin” (the black ones), “Jesus’ blood” (red), “clean” (white) and more. Plus “The Jelly Bean Prayer.” We like it because it rhymes. Donated by Style Invitational Devotee Daphne Steinberg.

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, probably one of the new pair that will be announced with the results 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. 16; results published Dec. 6 (online Dec. 3). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include “Week 1148” 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 Jon Gearhart; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Jesse Frankovich. 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, and follow the Empress on Twitter at @StyleInvite.

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.

E-ZPass is a good name for an electronic toll collection system but a better name for a constipation remedy. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Hills)

FedEx is a fine name for a delivery company but a better name for Ben Bernanke’s memoir. (Jaclyn Yamada, New York)

Five Below is a good name for a discount retail store but a better name for a discount burial service. (Rick Haynes, Boynton Beach, Fla.)

Fritos is a good name for a chip but a better name for a sandal. (Ami Greenberg, Washington)

Groupon is a good name for a discount site and a better name for a bus tour company. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

Hasbro is a good name for a toy company but a better name for a DNA testing service. (Chris Doyle; John O’Byrne, Dublin)

Instagram is a nice name for a fun phone app but better for a Denver drug delivery service. (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

Kaiser Permanente is an okay name for a health-care network but better for Angela Merkel. — The Greek Government (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

Bibigo is a good name for Korean dumplings, but it would be a better name for Israel’s Labor Party. (Jerry Pohl, Rockville, a First Offender)

Oral-B is a good name for a toothbrush but a better name for a porno film rating. (Chris Doyle)

Parcheesi is a good name for a game but a better name for a pizza joint at the 19th hole. (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

Polo is a fine name for preppy clothing but would be great for a missing-person locator service. (David Friedman)

Southern Comfort is a suitable name for a whiskey and even a better one for hemorrhoid cream. (John O’Byrne)

Stuckey’s is a good name for a restaurant but a better name for a laptop cleaner. (Ami Greenberg)

Time Warner is a good name for a media company but a better name for an alarm clock. (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

Union Market is a good name for an upscale food emporium, but an even better name for Logan Circle late at night. (Mark Raffman)

Stay Puft is a good name for marshmallows, and “**The Force Awakens**” a good title for a “Star Wars” movie, but they both would be even better names for ED medications. (Larry McClemons, Annandale; Bill Verkuilen, Brooklyn Park, Minn.)

Vijay Singh is a good name for a professional golfer but an even better name for Eve Ensler’s “Monologues: The Musical.” (Ned Andrews, Franklin, Va.)

Wavy Lay’s is a good name for a potato chip but a better name for a waterbed. (Larry McClemons)

And Last: **Lowenbrau** is a nice name for beer, but a great name for The Style Invitational. (Todd DeLap, Fairfax)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Nov. 9: our “word search” neologism contest. See bit.ly/invite1147.

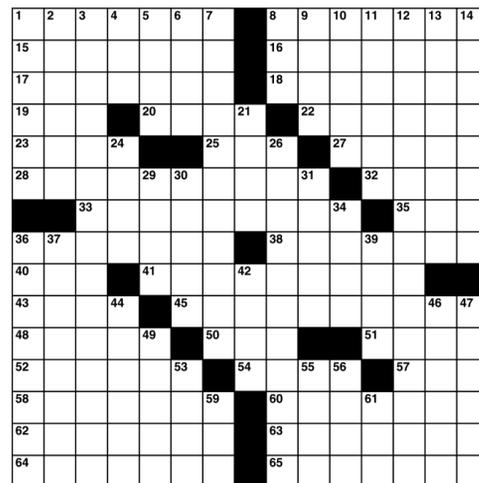
SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY RANDOLPH ROSS © 2015 CROSSYENERGY SYNDICATE LLC

ACROSS
1 A way to go or rest
8 State with status
15 Navigation aid
16 Fearsome fish
17 Nutty
18 Parasite
19 Lighter?
20 White coat
22 Bloviator’s issue
23 “The Intimate _____” (1990 jazz album)
25 Middle of a winning combination
27 Hot stuff
28 Highly guarded piece of information
32 1914 battle line
33 Farsighted women
35 Prepare to shoot
36 American rival until 1991

DOWN
1 Dilated a circle on-screen
2 Small bump
3 Popular driller
4 Old Tokyo
5 Nos. on checks
6 It may be raised at a party
7 Florida attraction
8 Additional afterthought, for short
9 Saws with the grain
10 Classic Camaros
11 Colleague of Max Ernst
12 Movie sequel to “The Da Vinci Code”
13 Old gangster warning to leave quickly
14 Sail supports
21 “Star _____”
24 In _____ (upset)
26 The Joker on TV
29 Start of something big
30 Guessed wrong
31 Sax type
34 Loudness measure

36 Poe poem
37 Radio medium
39 “_____ too much” (glutton’s admission)
42 Cries of triumph
44 Micromanager’s concern
46 Ultimate purpose
47 Went bad
49 Reason _____
53 Lots of bucks
55 Hawaiian strings
56 Spark
59 Paris’ Pont _____ Arts
61 Roman god



Answer to last week

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

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | NOV. 8: This year you become more reserved than you have been in a while. Others might take this behavior change personally and will encourage you to speak about what you’re dealing with. If you are single, you will expand your circle of friends. Many people would like the opportunity to get to know you better. If you are attached, the two of you often retreat together and welcome a change of pace. Libra could make you uncomfortable, as he or she understands you too well!

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You appreciate others’ caring, but you want more excitement. Be spontaneous, and go off and do what you want. You might hear some whining from a loved one. Don’t allow this person to get to you; instead, be flattered by his or her caring.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Your upbeat personality will shine bright today. Even if everyone around you is being witty, you will enjoy the caring that comes through. Only one person is likely to create flak or cause a disagreement; give him or her some space.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
With your imagination, it would be difficult to get bored. Do you really wonder why so many people gravitate toward you? You know how to make them laugh.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Focus on the basics when dealing with family. Otherwise, you are likely to see a disagreement emerge. Understand that everyone

has a different style of expressing himself or herself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Catching up on others’ news remains key. Reach out to a neighbor who is full of neighborhood gossip. Listen carefully, as you might need to know some information. A loved one could feel unimportant because of your sudden popularity.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You might need to make a major expenditure, which could interfere with your Sunday plans. Listen to what others share and see how they feel about this matter.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Whereas others might not enjoy all the interactions happening, you will. A difficult family member will let you know how he or she feels. This person can be controlling and might surprise you with his or her response.

Father’s inaction to situation stinks

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: A young neighbor boy defecated on public property close to our yard. I think he just got

caught up in playing.

I walked over to his house and told his dad. His mother, who is my good friend, was not home. Dad was watching a football game with friends, but I expected a prompt response. Unfortunately, 45 minutes later he had not cleaned it up, and his children continued to play in the area. I sent a text to the father and mother letting them know that kids were there.

Within a few minutes the mother rushed over and was cleaning it up apologetically. She said she was not home earlier because she had been at the hospital with her mother.

I am so disturbed that the father didn’t respond immediately to clean up his son’s mess, but even more so that he allowed his wife to deal with it while he watched sports!

As a friend, should I say something to the husband about his lack of response and treatment of his wife? He is a bit

of a bully, and I’m not interested in a fight, but both the unneighborliness of his response and the treatment of his wife are appalling.

Upset Neighbor

Upset Neighbor: If you do speak to your neighbor about his disrespectful inattention, what outcome would you hope for? Do you imagine he would say, “I get it now — I’m an inattentive boor!” or something similar? All the same, because this incident involved you directly, you certainly have the right to say, “I want you to know that I don’t appreciate that you didn’t respond when I told you about your son’s accident.”

Your friend already knows what she’s dealing with. Be her supportive friend.

Dear Amy: I come from a family of nine children who don’t always see eye to eye. Some of us barely speak to each other. The problem is, whenever there is any type of sibling rivalry, our mother intervenes.

This has caused much division among us. I tried to explain to our mother that she should not

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Consider getting more downtime, especially if you feel stressed out or cranky. The unexpected takes up a lot of your energy. A discussion with a new friend might not be the best idea.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Head out to where your friends are. You will enjoy being among the crowds. You could become involved in an activity that you find relaxing. If money is involved, be careful. The potential to make an error or go overboard remains likely.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You have the capacity to become stubborn and controlling. You might be more difficult than you realize. You could have a reason for this behavior, or perhaps it’s an automatic reaction. Either way, find a better way of handling what is ailing you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Your inclination not to get hung up on small matters encourages you to take the high road. Are you ignoring the situation? Or are you simply choosing a new direction because of your understanding of the dynamics involved?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Others call with invitations or just to touch base. A loved one will demonstrate caring with ease. You might wonder why you are heading in a certain direction.

get involved. We are all adults, and we need to work out among ourselves, but if we choose not to, that is our business!

My mother believes that because she is our mother, it makes it her business, and she has the right to try to smooth the waters. This not only makes it worse for the siblings, but it also puts a strain on our relationship with her.

Feeling Frustrated

Feeling Frustrated: Don’t even bother telling your mother what is or isn’t her business. She is going to make you all her business. Accept it.

In a family of so many siblings, you can easily lay down ground rules, which another sibling could immediately undo. You must accept that this is a dynamic that currently exists and will continue. Because you value your privacy, you should not discuss these difficulties with your mother.

Write to Amy Dickinson at askamy@tribune.com or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

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