

## DIVERSIONS

### THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

## Roles of DICE: Winning neologisms from Week 1145

BY PAT MYERS

**Week 1145** was one of our annual Tour de Fours neologism contests, in which we supplied a block of letters — this time D-I-C-E — and asked readers to coin a word or multi-word term containing that block, in any order but with no letters between them (we did allow a space or hyphen). Too many people to credit suggested **Pedicament**: being stuck in gridlock and you really have to go.

### 4th place

**Ride and prejudice**: It is a truth universally acknowledged that a cabbie in need of a fare still won't pick up a black man after dark. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

### 3rd place

**Patton medicine**: A bracing slap in the face. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

### 2nd place and the "Art of the Bonsai Potato" gardening kit:

**Decirculation**: The one number that's way up in the newspaper industry. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

### And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial

**Tea iced**: What Rep. Kevin McCarthy was last month. (Todd DeLap, Fairfax)

### CIDE dishes: honorable mentions

**Bedcide manner**: What Dr. Kevorkian was renowned for. (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

**Siouxicide**: Insisting on keeping a derogatory name for your football team. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

**Fraticide**: "On Visiting Day, the Nu Nu house committed fraticide with a sign offering 'free jello shots to hot high school girls and their moms.'" (Frank Osen)

**Fartricide**: When it's literally silent but deadly. (Jeff Hazle, Woodbridge; Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)

**Mooicide**: What judgmental vegans call meat-eating. "I can't believe OKCupid matched me up with this guy — ugh, he's mooicidal!" (Duncan Stevens, Vienna)

**Flied chicken**: The day-old special at Earl's Shack o' Wings. (Larry Gray, Union Bridge, Md.)

**McDeity**: A lesser god. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

**Faccident**: When a candidate slips and says something true. (Rick Haynes, Boynton Beach, Fla.)

**Towerdice**: Fear of heights. (Tom Witte)

**Antidecorate**: What toddlers do to a room. (Jennifer Dickey, Silver Spring)

**M&Medicating**: Using chocolate as your drug of choice. (Jeff Shirley)

**Malediction**: Having your secretary write up your layoff letter to her. (Roger Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.)

**Redicament**: The same old mess. (Nancy Della Rovere, Silver Spring)

**Decimull**: Try to figure out your kid's Common Core math homework. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

**Recidviewer**: Someone who binge-watches the full "Star Wars" series six times straight. (Pat Tompkins, San Mateo, Calif.)

**Deciderer**: What W called his Magic 8 Ball. (Rob Wolf, Gaithersburg)

**Johndice**: Unfortunate condition causing orange-tinted skin and overactive tear ducts. (Danielle Nowlin)

**Humorrohoidectomy**: Removal of the funny bone. Prognosis is grim. (George-Ann Rosenberg, Washington)

**Incider trading**: Bad behavior at Apple headquarters. (Ann Martin, Falls Church)

**Benedictator**: A leader who cares about you and knows what is best for you and forces you to buy health insurance. (Amy Harris, Charlottesville)

**Decibelch**: Unit of measure for burping contests. (Chris Doyle)

**Icedope**: "This snowball clearly disproves global warming!" (Ann Martin)

**Decimater**: The mother of all guilt, able to defeat all offspring with a single frown! (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## New contest for Week 1149: Gestures of depreciation

**Ways to observe National Love Your Lawyer Day: Buy a cup of very hot coffee and spill it on yourself. Buy him a copy of the book "Legal Ethics [Are] for Dummies"**

**How to celebrate National Love Your HMO Administrator Day: Bake her a cake, then cut off 40 percent as a deductible, another 25 percent as a copay . . .**

This week's contest comes courtesy of Mark Raffman, who's written numerous lawyer jokes in past Invitational contests (e.g., Week 989, combine two professions: "A lawyer/prostitute: Get people off for money. Repeat."). Which I'm sure ticks Mark's colleagues at his corporate law firm no end. Mark alerted the Empress to a real thing called National Love Your Lawyer Day, this past Nov. 6, sponsored by the American Lawyers Public Image Association: "We're hoping this day will spark public interest in commending lawyers rather than condemning them," the press release says. Fortunately, that's several days in the past, so we can now proceed with **This Week's Contest: Suggest ways to celebrate National Love Your Lawyer Day — or a made-up "holiday" celebrating some other profession**, as in Mark's own examples above. For suggesting the contest complete with great examples (and for being local), Mark gets a date with the Empress to get ice cream. If you meet the same requirements in a future week, you can get ice-creamed, too.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place wins an incredible bottle of something we do not recommend that you drink: It's a clear wine containing a coiled real snake — and hanging from its mouth is a real scorpion, almost as big as the snake itself. Brought back from Vietnam by Hall of Fame Loser Stephen Dudzik.

**Other runners-up** win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug (either the takeoff on the LOVE symbol or "This Is Your Brain on Mugs") or the ardently desired "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet designed by Bob Staake, probably one of the new models to be announced next week. 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. 23; results published Dec. 13 (online Dec. 10). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1149" 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 Danielle Nowlin; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Beverley Sharp. 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; 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.

**Die-curious**: So reckless that they say you have a death wish. "Driving with your knees? When did you become die-curious?" (Duncan Stevens)

**Epic death**: The only thing standing between most idiots and a Darwin Award. (Jon Gearhart)

**Prude and Prejudice**: The Bob Jones University student

handbook. (Jon Gearhart)

**Lice dancing**: Shake, shake, shake, shake your cootie. . . (Chris Doyle)

**Decibull**: The standard unit of political spin and distortion, expressed as falsehoods per minute. "Fiorina's debate performance was clocked at a record 83.4 decibulls." (Duncan Stevens)

**Accidentistry**: A still-thriving profession in the NHL. "Ovie shunned the accidentistry, preferring to flash a jack-o'-lantern smile." (Kevin Dopart)

**Medicaterer**: A pharm-to-table supplier for the well-stocked rave. (Kevin Dopart)

**Squidecstasy**: That feeling, sexy and divine./ When 20 tentacles entwine. (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

**Far Side Chats**: Oddly, FDR's early radio addresses did little to reassure a worried nation. (Chris Doyle)

**Bodice chipper**: The hot "romance/gore" genre, like "Untamed Desire in Fargo." (Amy Harris)

**Coincidents**: Dinks on the bumper that just happened to occur when you were driving your parents' car. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

**Agincident**: Your umpteenth ticket from the same speeding camera. (Barbara Turner)

**Cod'iece**: A medieval garment that covered the crotch but still allowed one to take a P. (Brendan Beary)

**Still running — deadline Monday night, Nov. 16: our contest for 5-7-5-7-7 TankaWanka poems. See bit.ly/invite1148.**



PAT MYERS/THE WASHINGTON POST

**Be doubly potent (or doubly sick) if you drink this elixir containing a snake with a scorpion in its mouth.**

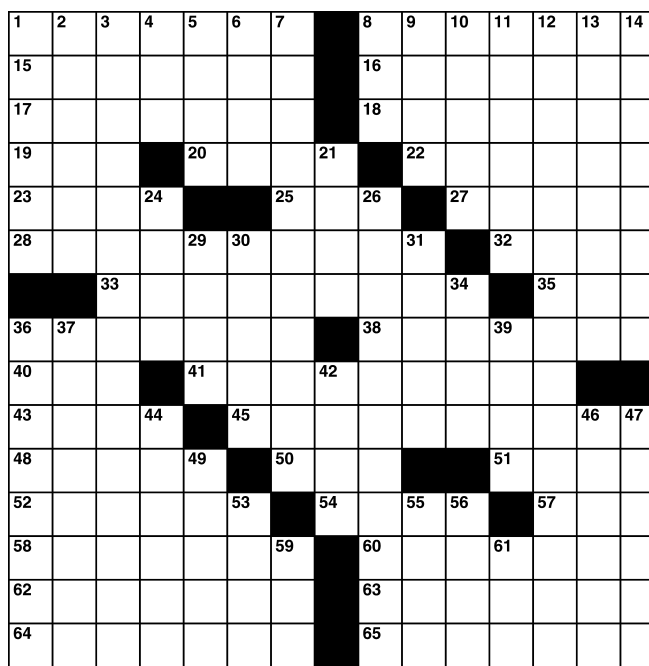
### SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY RANDOLPH ROSS © 2015 CROSSYENERGY SYNDICATE LLC

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>DOWN</b>	<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>DOWN</b>
1 A way to go or rest	1 Dilated a circle on-screen	64 Stable employees	10 Classic Camaros
8 State with status	2 Small bump	65 Absorbed slowly	11 Colleague of Max Ernst
15 Navigation aid	3 Popular driller		12 Movie sequel to "The Da Vinci Code"
16 Fearsome fish	4 Old Tokyo		13 Old gangster warning to leave quickly
17 Nutty	5 Nos. on checks		14 Sail supports
18 Parasite	6 It may be raised at a party		21 "Star ____"
19 Lighter?	7 Florida attraction		24 In ____ (upset)
20 White coat	8 Additional afterthought, for short		26 The Joker on TV
22 Blotter's issue	9 Saws with the grain		29 Start of something big
23 "The Intimate ____" (1990 jazz album)			30 Guessed wrong
25 Middle of a winning combination			31 Sax type
27 Hot stuff			34 Loudness measure
28 Highly guarded piece of information			36 Poe poem
32 1914 battle line			37 Radio medium
33 Farsighted women			39 "____ too much" (glutton's admission)
35 Prepare to shoot			42 Cries of triumph
36 American rival until 1991			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
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. 15:** This year you have a way of communicating that allows others to hear your message. Others are drawn to your vitality. If you are single, you will have the big job of sorting through potential sweeties to find who you want as a friend and who you want to be more. Be careful with others' feelings. If you are attached, the two of you often can be found chatting over a cup of coffee or walking together outside. Capricorn is not as tough as he or she appears to be.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Others look to you for direction and feedback. Use your instincts when having a talk with someone whom you respect and from whom you desire a positive response. You could change your plans, as you'll want to spend time with an older relative.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) Keep reaching out to someone you care a lot about. This person could be at a distance and might need to touch base with you as well. Whatever you do nearly always proves to be fun.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) You understand the importance of one-on-one relating, especially with someone you have not seen in a long time. Reconnecting with distant loved ones in this way will keep the bond alive and healthy.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) A dear friend might have plans that he or she is keeping hush-hush. You could find yourself on

an unusual adventure if you are willing to proceed blindly. A family member would like you to stay close to home.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) You'll want others to go off and do what they want so that you'll have time to yourself. Having some personal time to read the Sunday paper or enjoy a lively conversation might be important to you. Don't hesitate to take a nap.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your imagination springs into action, which will delight others as well as yourself. Feel free to follow your whims, as they could be more exciting and fulfilling than already established plans.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You might be known for your soft-spoken style and alluring ways. You could feel as if you have too much activity happening around you. Don't hesitate to make plans with whomever you want. Support

yourself in creating more of what you desire.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Join friends or family for a late lunch. As you catch up on news, someone might say something that you find hurtful. Be less sensitive, and let go of any judgments for now. Whether you're attached or single, romance flourishes.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Don't feel as if you must facilitate others' days. Your instincts become active when dealing with a family member. You might sense that this person is hiding something.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Your energy attracts many, no matter what you decide to do. If you opt to stay at home, know that you can't expect peace and quiet. Others seek you out.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Your ideas are not infantile or silly. However, you might not want to share them right now. Take the space you need to get into a project.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) A friend whom you don't often hear from could stumble into your path. This person has a tendency to create some chaos in your life whenever he or she appears. Make it your pleasure to go along for the ride.

## No need to begrudge husband's trip

### Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

**Dear Amy:** My husband and I have been married for seven years. He just turned 50 (I

am 49). We have three children — one each from previous marriages and one together. We also seriously dated in high school.

At the recent family dinner for my husband's 50th birthday, I found out my sister-in-law has offered to "take" my husband to England as a birthday gift. My husband's family is from the U.K. and he is the only sibling to be born where we live in Canada.

My sister-in-law is married to a wealthy man and travels frequently — up to twice a year to the U.K. We are self-employed and struggle to pay the bills. My husband has said he has wanted to take me to England since we were teens.

I don't know what to say. I can't invite myself on his birthday trip because it was her offer and she is paying.

I am heartbroken. It is unlikely that we will ever be able to afford to go ourselves. The only trips we have ever taken have been motorcycle

trips annually, about a six-hour ride from home. My sister-in-law knows I have never been abroad and that my husband has been talking about taking me for a very long time.

I have asked myself over and over why she wants to "take" him rather than "send" us, especially since the trip is being planned for the month before I have MY 50th birthday.

Upset

**Upset:** Let's say your husband's sister gives him a new motorcycle for his birthday. You greet this generosity by being heartbroken because you want one, too. I understand that this is sensitive, but there are two choices for how to react when your beloved receives something wonderful:

"Honey, I am so happy for you. I know you've wanted to take this trip for a long time. What a special gift! I'll hold down the fort. My happiness for you is my gift to you."

OR: "I am heartbroken. I can't believe your sister isn't footing the bill for both of us to go; after all it is almost my birthday, too!"

Your sister-in-law is likely not sending you both to

England because she wants to see her family and her brother. You'll feel better about all this if you react with generosity.

**Dear Amy:** My wonderful daughter has been dating a very nice young man for about six years. She is now in her mid-30s and wants to marry and have children. The problem is that the young man is happy with things as they are. What would be your advice to me as her mom? Should I put pressure on my daughter to get him to commit? Should I stay out of it?

Wanting to Do the Right Thing

**Wanting to Do the Right Thing:** Your daughter is in her mid-30s. Surely she understands that someone who is happy with things the way they are will not deliberately stuff down his self-interest in order to marry. The worst thing you should do is pressure her to pressure him. Definitely stay out of this.

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