

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Wryidentification: Here's what these objects are

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1158 we showed you Bob Staake's straightforward depictions of seven everyday objects, and asked what they "really" were.



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BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

4th place

Picture 5: I still don't understand quite how it happened, but my wife bought one of these for \$8.95 and it ended up costing me \$3,000. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

3rd place

Picture 3: Starting in 2018, all cigarette lighters will be required to contain water faucets as a safety measure. (Bruce Niedt, Cherry Hill, N.J.)

2nd place and the slightly off-color dog-theme magnets:

Picture 2: The "2001" monolith reaches puberty. (Edward Gordon, Austin)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial

Picture 4: Fisher-Price execs still insist their "Little Exorcist People" would have been a hit, if only the priest's head hadn't kept falling off. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

Drawn; out: honorable mentions

PICTURE 1

45-degree rotation reveals how Edvard Munch achieved his subject's expression: inserting two hacksaw blades into the head. (Paul Burnham, Gainesville, Va.)

As the Grim Reaper dives onto the Slip'N Slide, he realizes he should have left his scythe at home. (Lewis Lesansky, Burke, Va.)

Look at that face. Who would vote for that? (William Kennard, Arlington)

PICTURE 2

Under Armour's new sports bra for cats. (Dave Zarrow, Reston)

A 1-million-times magnified view of a Lego atom. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.)

Training bed-of-nails for a novice mystic. (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

Sheila was so anal-retentive that, even under a microscope, her hives lined up. (Andrew Hoenig, Rockville)

That's clearly a boatload of ISIS terrorists claiming to be Syrian refugees. And our weak president will stupidly let them in! — D. Trump (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

Minecraft Menorah. (Kristen Rahman, Silver Spring)

PICTURE 3

Hillary Clinton's lock on the nomination. (Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

NSA seal of approval for privacy software (Bob Clifford, Brookeville, Md., a First Offender)

This minimalist vanity looks okay, but when I turn on the faucet, half the water spills over the side. (Frank Mann, Washington)

Quasimodo's most beloved toy was a jack-in-the-box. (Mike Gips)

PICTURE 4

Marked with the Michigan government's seal of approval, it's a bottle of genuine Flint water. (Sylvia Betts, Vancouver, B.C.)

After she applied the tester to her release valve, the indicator

New contest for Week 1162: An 8-year re-Onion

Saudi Authorities Decry Wasteful 3-Hour Death Row Appeals Process

Super Bowl Halftime Show Marred by Functioning Sound System

Man Who Saw 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens' 6 Times Over Holidays Thought It Was Pretty Good (All from the Onion, Feb. 9)

Back at the end of 2008, we paid homage to (i.e., shamelessly dropped the name of) the Onion, the satirical newspaper nonpareil, and invited Style Invitational readers to imitate what the Onion does best: to write fictional headlines that tell a joke brilliantly in themselves; in fact, the articles accompanying them sometimes read like afterthoughts. The Onion's pages (since our previous contest, they've moved entirely online) feature two basic types of fake-news stories: satire about people and events that are actually in the news, and the depiction of some laughable ordinary behavior by some ordinary guy as a straight news story.

Eight years ago, the Loser Community channeled the Onion to gain the usual valuable prizes; the Week 794 headlines included "Striving for Change, Ford Introduces Hybrid Edsel" (Bill Gee); "Boy Didn't Really Stay Up All Night at Sleepover, Friends Say" (Jean Sorensen); and "Gave 110% Passed Over Again by Cliche Hall of Fame" (Art Grinath). Let's do some more. **This week: Write a fictional Onion-type headline, as in the examples above.** It can be on any subject, but it has to be funny on its own, without a story or any other explanation attached. It can't have been published somewhere else.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives "Ideal Marriage: Its Physiology and Technique," a book written in 1926 by one Th. H. Van de Velde, M.D. (this is a 1959 printing). It is, if you notice the hint in the subtitle, a 300-page sex manual.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug, the older-model "This Is Your Brain on Mugs" mug or a vintage Loser T-shirt, each with a Bob Staake design.

Honorable mentions get one of our coveted Loser magnets, "Magnet Dum Laude" or "Falling Jest Short." First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). Email entries to losers@washpost.com or, if you were born in the 19th century, fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday night, Feb. 22; results published March 13 (online March 10). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1162" in your email 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 Tom Witte; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Nan Reiner. 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.

revealed that Mrs. 3PO could expect a sequel. (Joanne Free, Clifton, Va.)

The Vati-Can, for the disposal of used holy water (Ann Martin, Falls Church, Va.)

Some stupid pirate buried his treasure near the top of this missile silo. (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)

The pope's ChapStick. (John Ramos, Duluth, Minn.)

PICTURE 5

Bryce Harper's hair gel applicator. (Larry Carnahan, Arlington)

The Williams-Sonoma Artisanal Basting Tool is now offered at the reduced price of \$79.95. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Writing implement preferred by Trump's speechwriters. (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park)

Porcupine bristles on a stick were never a big snack at the fair. (Konrad Schwoerke, Durham, N.C.)

Looking down, Julie couldn't remember why Kid from Kid n' Play was delivering her baby. (Todd DeLap, Fairfax)

PICTURE 6

Martian life discovered flattened under rover's tire! (Mark Spencer, Waldorf, Md.)

Tom Brady's watermelon. (Danielle Nowlin)

A giraffe buried in the snow. (Kathy Hardis Fraeman, Olney)

The giraffe slug: Slow. No neck to stick out. Leaves a trail of slime. The perfect political party mascot. (Mascot of their political party.) (Ellen Ryan, Rockville)

PICTURE 7

Lot's lesser-known concubine, who was turned into a pillar of pepper. (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

Grace Jones in the unfortunate "Spanx incident" (Jeff Hazle, Woodbridge)

The sad result of a grease fire at a



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White Castle. (Jeff Contompassis, Ashburn, Va.)

Minnesota's Tom Grotting augmented his installations of frozen pants with frozen evening gowns. (Sylvia Betts)

More captions in the online Invite at bit.ly/invite1162.

Still running — deadline Monday night: our contest for bogus "facts" about politicians. See bit.ly/invite1161.

SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY JEFF CHEN © 2016 CROSSYENERGY SYNDICATE LLC

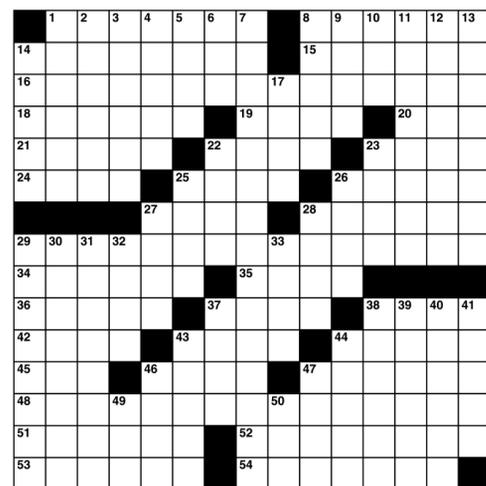
ACROSS
1 Road leading to battle
8 Mechanical engineer's calculation
14 Playful banter
15 Like some rental rates
16 Gut response
18 Averred
19 It might be removed in celebration
20 IRS form expert
21 British nobles
22 Pueblo tribe of New Mexico
23 Notre Dame football legend George
24 Eyelid woe
25 Feels off
26 A6 and A7
27 Cause of some teen-age angst
28 Founder of the American Shakers

DOWN
1 Charged
2 Place that's buzzing with activity
3 Faze
4 Butts in
5 Not much
6 No. on a business card
7 Enormous exertion
8 Lewis with 12 Emmys
9 Metronome sound
10 Monotonous routine
11 Portrayer of Brave Sir Robin

ACROSS
29 Wise guys
34 Ran under water
35 Palindromic Indian food
36 Sundance entry, often
37 Post-boomer group, for short
38 Airport queue
42 Diamond VIPs
43 High wind
44 Native American transport
45 Hot season for a Parisian
46 "Back to the Future" antagonist
47 Levy on alcohol, e.g.
48 Despicable
51 Hospital trainee
52 Bums
53 Entities
54 Wrapped Mexican fare

DOWN
12 More careless
13 Transmission sites
14 Levitates
17 Ages and ages
22 Galvanization
23 Goo
25 Part of RNA
26 Like many proverbs, for short
27 Done to _____ (perfect)
28 Sophocles tragedy
29 Chophouse order
30 Downloadable sound
31 Racing family name
32 Collectors of DNA

ACROSS
33 Employee of the Daily Planet
37 Natural talent
38 Revoke
39 "I'll Be Your San _____ Rose" (Emmylou Harris song)
40 Governing bodies
41 Sorts, as with chickens
43 Helsinki natives
44 Cutlass _____ (Oldsmobile seen in "Fargo")
46 North Atlantic sighting
47 Bogus
49 Base used by many
50 Gunpowder, e.g.



Answer to last week

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

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | FEB. 14: This year your ability to be an excellent communicator emerges. This talent has not always been evident, but it will become clear to nearly everyone who deals with you. You have done a lot of introspection as of late, and you'll continue to do so. If you are single, your personality draws many potential suitors toward you. Especially after summer, you will find that Cupid has aimed his arrow at you. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy an intimate, flowing quality to your relationship. As a couple, you often evaluate your priorities. Schedule an important trip that you both have talked about. Taurus can be even more stubborn than you are!

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You'll manage to treat yourself and others while still maintaining your budget. You might be very pleased until someone to whom you have financial ties lashes out at you about this issue. Know that having different ideas about spending causes tension.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Reach out to someone at a distance from whom you often get feedback. Your creativity seems to emerge in nearly every conversation. You will have a challenging interaction with a loved one who likes sitting on the other side of the fence from you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
You could be willing to negotiate in order to achieve acceptable terms with a loved one. You will be quite pleased with the results, but you might be dealing with too much enthusiasm and energy on your side. Do not start trouble.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
You will easily persuade a family member to join you at a fun event. Communication finally

flourishes. Your creativity reaches its peak when you encounter a difference of opinion. You could become quite vocal as a result.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Your willingness to take a stand on a particular issue could surprise many of your friends and loved ones. You are willing to back up your ideas with actions, which others admire. Use caution with your funds. You could be looking at a large gap.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Try to understand someone else's vision. This person's biases and mental filters are very different from yours, yet once you see where he or she is coming from, you will find a place of agreement. A new friend might be unusually drawn to you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Close relating continues to be the norm. How you deal with others could change, especially as you might not be in the mood to adjust your plans and/or reveal too much. Count on your instincts; they are right on.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You have been quite good-natured

about deferring to others, yet you might sense that your fuse could blow at any time. If there ever was a willful, determined sign, it is you. You continue — or you might attempt to continue — that easygoing stance. Should you finally erupt, make it okay.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You might not be aware of how much anger you have swallowed until a situation arises in which you feel some of it coming up. You might be shocked by what seems to be happening around you. Try to see past the obvious.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Allow your ingenuity to float through your day. You could opt to change your plans, but persuading another person to join you will take talent. Know you have what it takes to lure this person across the finish line.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You have a way about you that draws many people toward you. A partner or loved one can't seem to get enough of you, and he or she might want to isolate you. Your intelligence will give you the ability to handle this attitude in the right way.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Keep asking questions without fear. The responses you receive might make you feel very uncomfortable, as others seem to be on edge. Continue to ask, but also help others feel at ease. You might need to explain what you are looking for.

When is it time to crush the crush?

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

my next book, which is due to be published this fall. I hope you'll enjoy this from the "Ask Amy" archive while I'm away. In honor of Valentine's Day, today's column deals with tricky romantic relationships. **Dear Amy:** I am a woman in my early 20s. I just need an outside opinion as to what might be the most "normal" thing to do in my situation. Some family friends, the "Smiths," have a son, "Jack," who is my age. Jack just moved into my area. I don't know him very well, but from the little that I do know, I am interested in him and would like to get to know him better. I guess you could say that I have a little crush on him. He lives about 40 minutes away.

I have tried to include Jack in

doing things with some of my friends over the past few months, but he has been able to come with us only once. He always says, sincerely, that he wants to come but is leaving town or has friends coming into town, etc.

The trouble is that now I feel kind of awkward continuing to call and invite him to do things with me. I have done it just enough times that it is kind of weird. And I don't want to be weird. But what can I do? He has no real reason to call me because this isn't his area and he doesn't know many people.

Even if Jack is interested in getting to know me, too, he is too shy to call to chat or call to see if I want to do something with him.

So is it weird to just keep inviting him? Should I lay off and hope against hope that he'll suddenly call about . . . something?

What is the right protocol?
Crushed in Virginia

Crushed in Virginia: If "Jack" wanted to see you, he would find a way to see you.

He would accept more of your invitations (no matter what else was going on), show up in your area on a pretext, or run out of gas at the end of your street and ring your doorbell.

Do you notice how your crush has made you brave and bold? Crushes are like that. Even a shy person will figure out how to be bold if he's interested in someone.

There isn't anything wrong with getting in touch with Jack from time to time to attempt to include him in your outings, but if he continues to decline your invitations, stop making excuses for him and realize that he's just not interested. (April 2006)

Write to Amy Dickinson at askamy@tribune.com or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611. © 2016 by the Chicago Tribune