

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

The Game of Laugh: Report from Week 1159

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1159** we asked you to suggest ideas for novel board or parlor games that would be even more noteworthy than a real game called Eww, Who Tooted?, in which players make artificial farts with little tooters. Numerous political games involved playing — or being stuck with — the Trump card.

Loser Drew Bennett wrote in about another real game, one that seems to delight his granddaughter. It's called Goopy Louie; the package exhorts tykes to "Put Your Finger Up His Nose and Try To Pick a Winner!" If the kid extracts the wrong goopy booger, poor Louie's head pops open and his brain flies out.

This outgrosses the best grossout efforts of Lilly Welsh (the Acne game to pop giant artificial zits) but does fall one step short of Roy Ashley's Taste My Booger (you don't want to know the details).

4th place

Name That Snowstorm: Pass the time when nature buries you alive by coming up with names that are just as clever as "Snowmaggedon" et al. Just pick two or more word cards and combine the results: Blizzard + Disaster? Blizzaster! Or Disastard! Snow + Apocalypse + Doomsday? Snowpocaloomsday! Blizzard + Armageddon + Apocalypse? Blizzmagelypse! Seconds of fun for the entire family. (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

3rd place

The Game of Loaf: Unionists, welfare mothers, ex-hippies and liberal professors loop around a game board, growing fat on Washington handouts and avoiding gainful employment, while hardworking Americans from the heartland suffer confiscatory taxation by the federal government. — T. Cruz, American heartland (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

2nd place and the metal "Hello Loser" sign:

GOP SlapDaesh: A sophisticated game of military strategy. Players compete to destroy ISIS by drawing cards marked "Carpet-bomb them," "Make the sand glow in the dark," "Kill every one of the bastards" and "Bomb the s— out of them." Release date November 2016; revised version expected by February 2017. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial

Klu: Mr. Black did it. Game over. (Dion Black, Washington)

No dice: Honorable mentions

One-AARPsanship: Players move pieces around a board whose squares are marked with parts of the anatomy. They score points for recounting in painstaking detail the diseases, operations, medications and just plain aches and pains they've had with that body part. The winner is the last one to fall asleep. (Chris Doyle)

The Game of No-Life: Land on "Saturday Night" and the card reads: "Watch reruns of 'Love Boat' while you do your nails that no one will see." On "Birthday" it says, "Break out that frozen Georgetown Cupcake you've been saving all year." Winner? It's solitaire, of course. (Frank Mann, Washington)

The Game of Life — and Death: And you thought your spouse took a long time coming up with moves in Scrabble! (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.)

Reconnect for . . . ? : In this game you go through your Facebook friends list and try to figure out why you accepted a request from that person who was a jerk to you in high school. (Dion Black)

So You Think You Can Lance: In this specialty version of Operation, precisely cut and drain gel-pack abscesses and boils without contaminating or damaging other body parts. Losers have to fill out the Medicare CMS-1500 claims form. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

HardScrabble: Just like ordinary Scrabble, but before you take a turn, you have to solve a calculus problem, drop and give 10, then juggle three of your tiles. (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park, Md.)

Crab: Like Scrabble, but it's all four-letter words. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

Do in' Time: When you land on "Go



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1163: Put it in reverse

SKROD: Fish that are always swimming upstream. (Tom Witte, winner of Week 545, 2004)

ATNAS: The man who bears the weight of the entire American economy on his shoulders. (Tom Witte, winner of Week 684, 2006)

It's one of our simplest, most elegant neologism contests ever — and we haven't done it in almost a decade. And only twice in all. **This week: Spell a word, name or phrase backward and define the result in a way that relates to the original**, as in the examples above. The Empress doesn't plan to give ink to entries that repeat the ones she ran in 2004 and 2006; you can check those results at bit.ly/invite549 and bit.ly/invite688. (You can use the same word that's been used, but the definition must be significantly different.) And yes, Tom Witte still enters the Invite almost every week, as he has since Week 7 in 1993. The man's a 24/7 neologism factory, which is the primary reason he has almost 1,400 blots of Invite ink. But just like you, he can submit only 25 entries this week — and I promise to run more than 25 entries in the results.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a lovely brand-new barbecue apron promoting the use of spice rubs on large cuts of meat; it bears the slogan "Wanna Rub My Butt?" It's of generous length and no doubt effective in keeping your clothes clean, but the Empress reports that trying it on produced no takers. Donated by Loser Jon Gearhart.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug, the older-model "This Is Your Brain on Mugs" mug, a vintage Loser T-shirt, or something from the Mystery Box. Honorable mentions get one of lusted-after 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. 29 (how often can we say that?); results published March 20 (online March 17). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1163" 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 was suggested by both Beverly Sharp and 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; 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.



BY MARK HOLT

Another in our series of Prize Garments You Probably Shouldn't Wear to Religious Services, this barbecue apron.

to Jail" in Monopoly, you Do Time on this supplemental board: you can become pruno king, join a gang, even get conjugal visits. Try to avoid being shanked or becoming someone's prag. When you land on "Overcrowding — Early Release," it's back to real estate dealings. (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

M.C. Escher's Chutes and Ladders: Roll the dice and find yourself either exactly where you started or lost in another dimension. An eternity of fun! (Frank Mann)

Existential Pursuit: The game board is nothing but blank squares. Choose any square to start from. Roll the dice. Move your game piece any number of

squares, in any direction — what's the difference? Roll again. Repeat forever. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.; Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

North Korean Checkers: Unanimously considered by far the greatest game of all time! Invented, manufactured and distributed by the Champion of the World and Still Undefeated Supreme Leader! (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

Futile Pursuit: A version of Risk reduced to the Middle East, although any country can play. Contestants fight each other randomly until something bad happens, at which point they continue fighting until something really bad happens. Nobody wins, but another game starts right up. (Michael Rolfe, Cape Town, South Africa)

Whac-a-Pol: Try to be the quickest at making America great again by knocking all the pols back into their dark, dank state-holes. Always a bipartisan party favorite. (Kevin Dopart)

Benyantz: Roll the dice and hope for the best. (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

Call of Doody: Suspenseful action game in which "parents" race to get toddlers onto potties before time, among other things, runs out. (Richard Friedman, Indianapolis)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Feb. 22: our contest for Onion-type headlines. See bit.ly/invite1162.

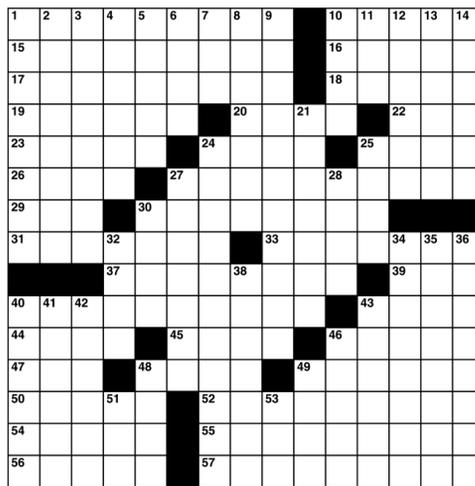
SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY RANDOLPH ROSS © 2016 CROSSYNERGY SYNDICATE LLC

ACROSS		DOWN	
1	Environmentalist's study	1	Sign of trouble
10	Eva of "Green Acres"	2	Romantic, musically
15	Interest of pollsters	3	Some top British collegians
16	Fatuous	4	Nursery rhyme couple
17	Artificial	5	Mystics
18	New _____, New York	6	Luxury home features
19	Roofed patios	7	Wine holder
20	Crack, in a way	8	Draws out
22	Head of England?	9	Portrayer of Alex P. Keaton
23	Drops	10	Reagan role
24	Sq. bisector	11	Baptist leader?
25	Word that's an example of itself	12	Cat on film
26	Bygone birds	13	Playing around?
27	English subject	14	Draw new map lines for
29	East ender?	21	Mutually accept
30	Without any substance	24	Unhappy
31	Savings	25	Org. that investigates accidents
33	Airline flying since 2000	27	"Bam!" shouter
37	Worries about	28	Sagan's subj.
39	Tailored Taylor	30	Docile
40	Surprises, as a due date	32	Make of nonstick cookware
43	TV co-star of Alda, Farr, and Morgan	34	Neighborhood event for bargain hunters
44	Veto	35	One-piece suits
45	Munchies, on Madison Avenue	36	International accords
46	Game with stones	38	"Too much information"
47	"Likable" politician of the 20th century	40	Hat worn with goggles
48	Sampras rival	41	Physicist
49	Member of a smart set	42	One after another?
50	Nightclub charge	43	Relayed
52	Small fruit pie	46	Pasta choice
54	Advil alternative	48	Top exec.
55	"Prophet" printmaker	49	Chem. units
56	You can see right through them	51	Garden party?
57	Ignorance	53	Opposite of max.

Answer to last week

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



HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Feb. 21: This year you become more concerned with your well-being and routine matters. You might transform your health through diet and exercise. You easily could achieve your goals. You tend to put 100 percent into whatever you do. A possibility of an adjustment surrounds your work, but it is unlikely to be a problem. If you are single, you meet people with ease. At least one person who enters your life could become a serious partner. If you are attached, consider showing more interest in your sweetie's life, and/or develop a mutual hobby or pastime together. LEO brightens up your mood.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
It is possible that in your enthusiasm about being able to spend time with a loved one, you have missed some important signals from a key person in your life. At first, this person seems to be somewhat stern, but later on he or she will relax more.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You will be quite content to spend time at home, read the Sunday paper, watch a movie or visit with a favorite person. The problem might lie in the fact that those plans don't suit that individual. You could find yourself in a volatile situation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Return calls. Others will be delighted to hear from you. Get together with a loved one, as long as you both can decide on the same activity. An adjustment made by both parties will help resolve this problem.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
You might not be up for moving around a lot and would prefer to stay close to home. Do just that. A

loved one could be set on going out. Perhaps you can suggest alternative plans that could please both of you. Avoid becoming too feisty.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
What you choose to do needs to be in sync with what you want to do. Do not cut yourself short. Others might sense that you seem to be too into pleasing them. Make plans that suit you and that could work for others. Avoid a conflict.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You might want to assume a low profile. You might feel a little down, which might be a passing phase, or perhaps it has to do with you taking on extra responsibility. Either way, avoid any major purchases or commitments for now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
A friend's invitation might be difficult to say no to. You could be overwhelmed by everything you need to do. A family situation is transforming. You might not see it become stable for a while. Use care with spending.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You could be difficult with someone you need to be looking up to. There will be ramifications if you don't do what is expected of you. Detach and understand why this person is making demands. Ask questions to gain a better understanding.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Try not to rain on anyone's parade. Your negativity could take over and cause a problem, and others might be more reactive than usual. A little self-discipline goes a long way. Discuss what is going on with you. Try to cut out the drama.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
One-on-one relating could be difficult because there are certain pieces of information that you aren't ready to share yet. The other party could test you to see if you will open up; he or she senses that more is going on than what meets the eye.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You could be more challenging than you realize. You might want to come to terms with someone, but your efforts could fall flat. Let this person make the first move. You can be sure that he or she is experiencing the same discomfort that you are.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You have a lot to do, but you'll find that you will get through everything on your to-do list with ease. A call to someone at a distance might be challenging, as it is clear that he or she really wants something from you. Listen well before reacting.

Splitting hairs over hubby's grooming

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear readers: I've stepped away from my column while I'm writing my new book, which is scheduled to be published in the fall. Enjoy these "Best Of" questions in my absence. I'll be back with fresh questions and answers next week.

Dear Amy: My husband, "George," and I have been married for 13 years and have two young children. We argue frequently about one thing: His not shaving on the weekend and/or when he is not going to work.

George is over 40 and well educated. He is a working professional who looks nice at the office. At home and on vacations, he doesn't shave and thinks nobody notices his (lack of) personal hygiene except me. I'm tired of feeling embarrassed by his appearance when we go out in public. Will you tell him what others are thinking?

George's Wife
Dear Wife: Here's what others are thinking: "There's a hard-

working guy who doesn't want to shave unless he has to. Hmmm. Why does his wife have that sour look on her face?"

Here's a story: One time I went on a beach vacation with a group of friends. One day, the men declared it to be "hair day." They didn't shave or bathe, and they poured everything they could think of into their hair. I'm talking eggs, salad dressing, coffee, and, yes, beer. Every food group was worked into their scalps.

It occurred to me watching these guys that their idea of sheer freedom — their version of a "vacation" — was to stop doing all of the things they feel they have to do to maintain the sort of appearance that bosses and wives tend to find appealing. That's when I realized that for some men, a real "spa day" is actually the absence of grooming. Reflecting on your question, I can't imagine being embarrassed by someone else's facial hair. My own facial hair gives me enough trouble.

Perhaps the two of you could compromise in some way that is

satisfying to both of you. Because one thing much worse than stubble is arguing about it.

(From January 2006)
Dear Amy: It would be good to read a column by you devoted to the reasons why many younger women like to see their men look like slobs, with unkempt facial hair and clothing.

The men at the Academy Awards did indeed look as if they were too lazy to shave or get dressed, yet the women were dressed, coiffed and made up elegantly. What a vast difference between the two.

I noticed many men without ties — either regular or formal. Is there some animal instinct driving this?

John from Pennsylvania
Dear John: Yes. We women even have a name for this animal instinct. We like to call it "George Clooney."

(From April 2006)
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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