

## DIVERSIONS

## THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

## The Unnion: Winning headlines from Week 1162

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1162** we asked for headlines in the style of the Onion's. We got plenty of both the real-issues-satire type and the treat-little-daily-behaviors-as-news type — around 1,700 in all.

## 4th place

**Barry Gibb Announces Dates Of Bee Gee Reunion Tour** (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

## 3rd place

**Mel Gibson's Career Destroyed By Jewish Distillers, Zionist Bartenders** (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

## 2nd place and the 1926 sex manual "Ideal Marriage":

**Winner Of \$100 Lotto Scratch-Off Probably Won't Quit Job**

(Mark Briscoe, Alexandria, whose last blot of Invite ink was in 2005 — for a headline contest)

## And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial

**ISIS Now Offering Tote Bag With 5-Year Membership** (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

## Creamed Onions: honorable mentions

**Meghan Trainor Angers Fans With New 80% Bass, 20% Treble Mix** (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

**St. Louis Gateway Arch Will Follow Rams To Los Angeles** (Larry McClemons, Annandale, Va.)

**Cat Needs To Be Fed Again, Declares Cat** (Josh Feldblyum, Philadelphia)

**GOP Candidates To Wear Shock Collars To Enforce Debate Time Limits** (David Graham,\* Sterling)

**Apache High School Adopts Shylock As Mascot** (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

**Local Wag With Great Scalia Joke Itches For 'Too Soon' To Be Over** (Brendan Beary)

**Millions In Path Of Hysterical Winter Weather Forecast** (Bruce Niedt, Cherry Hill, N.J.)

**32 Oz. Jar Of Kirkland Garlic Was Best Before 02/2011** (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

**'Well, That's 10 Seconds I'll Never Get Back' To Replace 'I Just Threw Up A Little In My Mouth' As 'Ebola of Lame,' According To Area Teen** (Sandy Moran, Santa Rosa, Calif.)

**Apple Introduces First Self-Texting Car** (Rob Huffman, Frederickburg, Va.)

**Targeting Pickiest Eaters, McDonald's Adds Boogers, School Paste To Happy Meals** (May Jampathom, Oakhurst, N.J.)

**Chipotle To Serve Only Locally Sourced Bacteria** (Art Grinath, Takoma Park, Md.)

**Sophomore Trapped Overnight In Campus Safe Space Is Now Triggered By Safe Spaces** (Michael Rolfe, Cape Town, South Africa)

**Holocaust Foundation, Disney Announce World Tour Of 'Schindler's List On Ice'** (Michael Ginsberg,\* Nashville)

**Pope Francis Says Sanders 'Not Christian'** (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

**Obama: 'I'm Not Giving Trump The Netflix Password'** (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.)

**In Bid To Soften Brash Image, Trump Eyes Kanye As Running Mate** (John Hutchins,\* Silver Spring)

**Jake From State Farm To Wed Rachel From Cardholder Services** (Bill Dorner)

**Linda Continues To Say 'For All Intensive Purposes' Despite Being Corrected By Co-Worker 2 Weeks Ago** (Kurt Stahl, Frederick)

**GOP Debate: Immigrant, Son of Immigrants, Grandson of Immigrants Argue Over Who Hates Immigrants More** (Sharon Bartlett Kizer\*, Beaverton, Ore.)

**RNC Researchers Strive To Develop Better Code Words By Fall Campaign** (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

**Tiger Mom's Fetus Delays Development To Savor Remaining Me-Time** (Randal Wetzel, Hagerstown, Md., who last got ink 16 years ago)

**Eying 'Enhanced Visitor Experience,' Stonehenge To**



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## New contest for Week 1166: Questionable journalism

**A. It was a no-brainer, he said.** (The Washington Post, March 7)  
**Q. Why did the zombie send back his restaurant meal?** (Mark Raffman)

**A. At least it did on Friday night, when the Washington Concert Opera brought it to Lisner Auditorium.** (The Post)  
**Q. Is Koko the Poo-Flinging Monkey always going to pick the worst time to misbehave?** (Brendan Beary)

**A. "It's not nearly as complicated for us as it is for him."** (The Post)  
**Q. When asked to remove their heads from their posteriors, what did two of the three Republican front-runners reply?** (Marni Penning Coleman)

This perennial Style Invitational contest — we've run it at least 10 times since 1998 — has never failed us. **This week: Take a sentence (or most of a sentence) that appears in text (not a headline) in The Washington Post or on washingtonpost.com dated March 10-21 and make up a question that the sentence could answer,** as in the examples above from earlier this week; the Empress solicited them in the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook. If you're using print stories, include the date and page number; for online stories, copying out the URL above or below your entry would be very helpful (but please do *not* embed the link within the entry itself).

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives an Invite Desk Set consisting of an **Evolution eraser** — a beautiful two-inch-tall creation that's in the shape of an ape on one end and a man on the other, so as you erase, you can "evolve" toward the man (or perhaps toward the ape) — and the **iPlunge**, a nifty cellphone stand in the shape of a toilet plunger. Donated eons ago by Losers Kevin Dopart and Nandini Lal, respectively.

**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. Honorable mentions get one of our 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. Deadline is Monday night, March 21; results published April 10 (online April 7). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1166" 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 Kevin Dopart; the honorable-mentions subhead is by William Kennard. 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.



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**The Evolution Eraser: Finish second and rub out humanity. Or at least simianity.**

● **THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL:** The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter Week 1166, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.

**Install Ferris Wheel** (Howard Walderman, Columbia, Md.)

**Satan Announces New Addition To Admissions: Wait List** (Phil Frankenfeld, Washington)

**Local Twins Have No Idea What Other Is Thinking** (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

**Lopez, Kardashian, Minaj Share Uncomfortable Flight As Occupants of Seats 12A, 12B And 12C** (Rob Huffman)

**Attend Community College, Work Cinnamon Part-Time: Malla Reveals Plans** (Brendan Beary)

**Woman Disguises Knock So Restroom User Will Not Know She Knocked Before** (Sandy Moran)

**1 Percenters Granted Protected Minority Status** (Mary Kappus, Washington)

**Trump To Drop Presidential Bid After Encounter With Younger, Prettier Country** (Lee Graham,\* Arlington)

**Cruz's Trousers Spontaneously Ignite At Town Hall Meeting** (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

**Regular Mechanic Inquires What Clown Installed These**

**Brake Pads** (Sandy Moran)

**Spinach Cans Were Spiked With Steroids, Olive Oyl Confesses** (Rachel Bernhardt, Silver Spring)

**Christie Proudly Displays 'N.H. Primary Participant' Trophy In Governor's Mansion** (Brian Finch\*, Reston)

**Despite Blowing Out All His Birthday Candles, Area Boy Not Starting For Golden State Warriors** (Todd DeLap, Fairfax)

**EPA Approves Homeland Security Low-Flow Waterboarding Plan** (Elden Carnahan, Laurel, Md.)

**Experts Agree 'Obama Nominee' Is Just Plain Fun To Say** (Jeff Contompasis)

**Copy Editor Quits Yoga After Instructor Tells Class To Lay On Mats** (Megan Durham, Reston)

**Editor Resigns After Printing Series Of Bogus Headlines** (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

\*A First Offender

**Still running — deadline Monday night, March 14: our contest for adding B's to words to make new words. See bit.ly/invite1165**

## SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY BRAD WILBER © 2016 CROSSYNERGY SYNDICATE LLC

**ACROSS**

1 Drill sergeant's order  
12 Interrogation room features  
14 Okra, often  
16 Towed vehicle, perhaps  
17 Old "Put a tiger in your tank" brand  
18 Garbage carrier  
19 "The Robots of Dawn" author  
22 Addis Ababa is its capital (abbr.)  
24 Day of the wk. for the 1929 Wall Street crash  
25 Beach find turned into puka jewelry  
28 Chew the scenery  
30 Official lang. of Belize  
31 Primary maker of Formula One racing suits  
32 Publisher who inspired "Citizen Kane"

33 Exasperated boss played by Tim Conway in "The Carol Burnett Show" sketches  
35 Binges  
38 Jaunty cadence  
39 Sign by a sold-out ticket booth  
42 Floral symbol of prestige, in China  
43 Airport pickup member  
45 Babbling Addams Family member  
46 Patch things up, e.g.  
48 Peloponnesian War victor  
49 Falco or Brickell  
51 Bates "Misery" co-star  
54 Churn  
55 Upper-story makeovers to obsolete industrial buildings  
59 Star of the Broadway premiere of "Agnès of God"

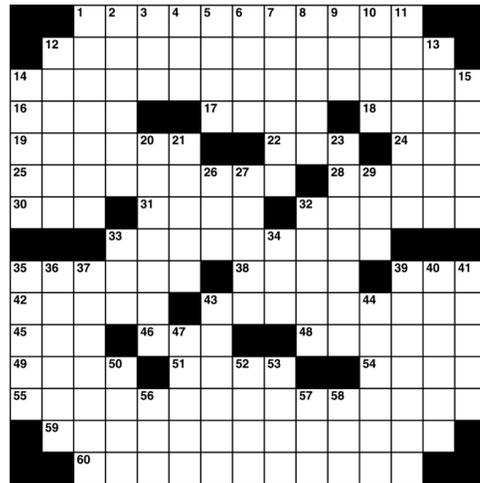
60 Info about an Amazon.com pre-order button

**DOWN**

1 Credit card activity?  
2 In the future  
3 "Polly wanna cracker?" response, maybe  
4 "Fat chance, lassie"  
5 Fraction of a newton  
6 "Time's Arrow" novelist  
7 Glittery threads  
8 Grain bane  
9 Constellation containing the Stingray Nebula  
10 Becomes a wet mess  
11 \_\_\_ Set

12 Trinity member  
13 Muzzles  
14 Try to locate  
15 Message conforming to a 140-character limit  
20 Riverside raptors  
21 Frontier shelters that are all roof and no walls  
23 Shoe lift  
26 Creature on the Australian coat of arms  
27 Chili server  
29 Prefix with content  
32 Suspends  
33 "Robin Hood: \_\_\_ in Tights"  
34 Hopper or crisper  
35 Long pitch

36 Daisy in "Blondie," e.g.  
37 Plankton animal  
39 Repentant miser of fiction  
40 Coarse, nubby fabric  
41 Ph.D. hurdles  
43 Burundi neighbor  
44 Circle of cowpokes?  
47 Paris' \_\_\_ des Beaux-Arts  
50 Raison d'\_\_\_  
52 Hogwarts spell that produces a flock of birds  
53 Leakes of "Real Housewives" fame  
56 Stanford rival, familiarly  
57 Visibly mortified  
58 Curative locale



Answer to last week

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

## HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | March 13:** This year you exude stability, openness and the ability to put your feelings into words. Many people find you to be unusually charming and direct. You might be prone to making a major purchase — anything from a new cellphone to a car. Do some price comparison before you act. If you are single, so many desirable people start to appear in your immediate circle. You don't have to commit until you are sure. If you are attached, the two of you often spend hours gabbing away, sharing news and funny moments. Your bond seems to grow as a result. Gemini can exhaust you.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
You could be hung up doing taxes or pricing out a new purchase. When you decide to stop, a loved one could become unusually caring. Return the sentiment rather than establish how exhausted you are; otherwise, you could create some hurt feelings.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
You can't go wrong if you follow your feelings. You seem to know what to do in order to make a dear friend happy. A feeling of excess surrounds you. Be careful later, as someone could become demanding. Establish boundaries with care.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
Close the door if you need to get some work done, or if you want to snooze. You need more personal time. Once you emerge, you'll be far more caring and will evoke a caring response. You could be in a situation where a partner wants your attention.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
You know how to get your friends to join you. You love get-togethers

that are planned around food. Why not invite everyone in your immediate circle to brunch? You will enjoy the food, but also all the news you hear. Plan on retreating later in the day.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
You'll have to respond to someone's needs in the morning. You are likely to accept extra responsibility, even though it could take time away from some other fun plans. A friend draws you toward him or her later, which allows for more playfulness.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
You identify with others easily and respond accordingly. You have the ability to see the big picture and can understand where loved ones are coming from. You often open doors for friends. Later on, check in with an older family member.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
You love close, intense moments, and today is no exception. With a loved one, you might act as if this is the first time you've ever interacted. Casting this veil of romance will bring you closer together. Make a call to a friend at a distance.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
Others will make decisions that please you, especially as they demonstrate their loyalty to you. Be willing to express your feelings when relating to a key person. If you don't, this person is likely to express some anger or frustration.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
You might need part of the daytime for a project or some type of household chore. You could be doing taxes or getting into some spring cleaning. At a certain point, you no longer can put off visiting with a loved one.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
Your creativity remains a source of fun when making plans. A child or new friend appreciates being included in what occurs. You might feel emotionally overwhelmed by everything that is happening around you.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
Getting going could take some effort. You might decide on a lazy day of being a couch potato. Know that you won't be able to maintain that status past midafternoon. A friend or loved one seems determined to create some good times.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
Make your Sunday round of calls. You seem to have a need for communication. You often are not able to visit certain loved ones, which makes reaching out even more important. Cultivate these ties, and don't allow them to fall to the wayside.

## A cheater deals with ex-lover's threat

## Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

**Dear Amy:** I'm an older man, married for a number of years. Not a "terrific" marriage, but I've lived it so long I'm just used to it. But that's another story.

A few years ago I met a single woman. We started talking; one thing led to another, and we spent the night together.

It had been well over four years since my wife and I had relations. I've carried on a sort-of-relationship with this woman and have seen her a few times.

She's now demanding I come to be with her. I know it's just my money she wants, from things she has said. I want to get her out of my life, but she has threatened to tell my wife everything if I don't "get my act" together.

I can't come clean; it would kill my wife. Her health is poor. I know I'm a stupid jerk for getting into this; I've never done this before and feel so guilty about it. I need help.

Stupid in Texas

**Stupid in Texas:** Do not let this

person blackmail you. You need to own this and find a way to tell your wife and deal with the fallout in your marriage in a way that is respectful and loving. If you don't tell your wife, the threat will keep you off-kilter and your lie and the secrecy will continue to affect your marriage.

**Dear Amy:** I almost had a fight with my neighbor.

I have been getting her mail by mistake and opening it before I realized it wasn't mine. As soon as I realized my mistake, I have taken the mail to my neighbor.

Today she was downright snotty with me. She asked me why I was opening her mail. I have no interest in her affairs and am tired of receiving mail that isn't mine. I considered sending this person an email telling her I don't want her stupid mail and that maybe she should talk to the letter carrier, but I wrote you instead. Am I being oversensitive?

Trying to Be a Good Neighbor

**Trying to Be a Good Neighbor:** This mail-opening incident

should not have happened more than once.

There is no excuse for your neighbor to be rude to you, but think about it — wouldn't it bother you if you repeatedly received mail addressed to you that had already been opened? Our mail contains much vital, personal and private information.

It is illegal to knowingly open mail addressed to someone else.

Keep that in mind as you open mail without first checking to make sure it is addressed to you.

Yes, you should suggest to your neighbor that she speak with the letter carrier.

And you should take any mail delivered to you by mistake, write "delivered to wrong address" on the envelope, and leave it — unopened — for your letter carrier to take to the correct address.

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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