

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Har choices: Our 'Wait Wait'-style quiz questions

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1164 we honored (a.k.a. totally ripped off) NPR's comedy quiz show "Wait Wait . . . Don't Tell Me" and asked for multiple-choice questions about real events or trivia. The Empress asked longtime Washington Post writer Roxanne Roberts — who's also a longtime "Wait Wait" panelist — for her fave among this week's inking entries: It was Kevin Dopart's "11/11/11" (especially his wrong answers). More from Roxanne in this week's Style Conversational.

4th place

The power of public prayer in America was tested in an unusual way by whom?

- A. The mayor of Jackson, Miss., who tweeted, "I believe we can pray potholes away."
 B. A high school principal in Lubbock, Tex., who opened a football pep rally with a citation from Psalm 55:15: "Let death take my enemies by surprise."
 C. The driver of a Greyhound bus to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, who announced, "Lord, I forgot my glasses; please watch over this trip," and then offered to let any riders off before continuing.
Answer: A. per wjtv.com (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

3rd place

Some schools do their utmost to protect their students — as when, in 2010, an English headmistress did what?

- A. She discouraged abductors by issuing every child a stun gun.
 B. She changed the school uniform to a padded "marshmallow suit" to cushion the kids against bumps and bruises.
 C. She ordered black bars placed over the children's eyes in yearbook pictures, thus ruining the photos for child pornographers.
Answer: C. (The Daily Mail) (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

2nd place and the barf bag decorated with the word for "vomit" in various languages:**What went wrong when an Iowa farmer recently ran unopposed for the local school board?**

- A. He resigned immediately after being elected, explaining that he hadn't realized the job would involve going to meetings.
 B. No one voted in the election — even he didn't.
 C. He lost as a result of a campaign by neighborhood kids who encouraged voters to write in SpongeBob SquarePants instead.
Answer: B. (Des Moines Register) (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial**A London resident showed his love for Burger King how?**

- A. He officially changed his name from Simon Smith to Bacon Double Cheeseburger.
 B. He held his wedding in the Burger King on Tottenham Court Road, complete with the presiding official dressed as the King, and the couple exchanging onion rings with their vows.
 C. He stole the Burger King statue from a local restaurant, and demanded free Chicken Fries for life as the "king's ransom."
Answer: A. per Time.com (Larry Gray, Union Bridge, Md.)

Losing Wait: Honorable mentions**Recently an Australian writer was surprised to find what in her email's junk folder?**

- A. An offer for a senior-citizen discount at Trump University.
 B. A message telling her that she had won a \$150,000 prize from Yale University — and it was real.
 C. Two hundred emails containing no porn ads, Viagra offers or Nigerian scams whatsoever.
Answer: B. (Sydney Morning Herald) (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Public Enemy Number One? In Al Qunfudhah, Saudi Arabia, a shop selling camel urine was shut down because it was actually selling:

- A. Camel urine.
 B. Scott's Liquid Gold wood cleaner.
 C. Shopkeeper urine.
Answer: C. (The Daily Mail) (Jeff Contompassis, Ashburn, Va.)

The driver of a tractor-trailer that rolled out of a Minnesota parking lot, crossing the street and striking a tree and a parked car, was:

- A. The truck's owner's 5-year-old son, who started up the semi when his father went to the restroom.



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1168: Asterisky Business

Why da heck is a convention of dendrochronologists* such a hoot, anyways? Because it's like a tree-ring circus!
 *Dendrochronologists date events by studying growth rings in trees. (Chris Doyle)

Why did the chromosome blush when the DNA polymerase* came into the room? He caught her with her genes unzipped!

*DNA polymerase causes the double helix of the chromosome to "unzip" so the gene can be replicated. (Mohamed Alosch)

This is a contest we've done just once before, 13 years ago: **Tell us an original joke whose punch line can't be understood without knowledge — not necessarily scientific — that most of us don't have (which you'll supply with a concise explanation), as in the examples above, which got ink back in 2003.**

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives, in keeping with specialized knowledge, "The Ultimate North Carolina Quiz Book," a 1999 volume that will tell you 500 more things about North Carolina than you used to know. (What is the highest incorporated town east of the Mississippi? Beech Mountain, N.C.) Found somewhere by Loser Pie Snelson. Who is not from North Carolina.

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, April 4; results published April 24 (online April 21). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1168" 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 Jesse Frankovich; 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.

B. The truck owner's Labrador retriever, who managed to put the truck in gear.

C. The truck owner's ex-wife, who thought his girlfriend was sleeping in the cab.

Answer: B. (fox9.com) (Melissa Yorks, Gaithersburg)

11/11/11 was recognized as the date . . .

A. Most evocative of same-sex couples, according to the California Association of Numerologists.

B. Most closely resembling corduroy, according to the Corduroy Appreciation Club.

C. Most like a fence, according to Donald Trump's Veterans Day remarks at the New York Military Academy.
Answer: B. (gothamist.com) (Kevin Dopart)

A New Jersey state agency recently refused to release records about the death of a dolphin in a local river for what reason?

A. The request violated the dolphin's privacy.

B. The request misspelled "dolphin" as "dalfin."

C. The dolphin had been used in an anti-Chris Christie campaign ad, as a contrast to an unnamed "whale."
Answer: A. (nj.com) (Duncan Stevens)

It's not just for smoking anymore: Which of these marijuana-related products recently hit the market?

A. Grass-fed chicken: "boneless breasts from the happiest ranch on Earth."

B. Canna-Biscuits: Treats for man's best stoner buddy.

C. Shampot: "Gee, Your Hair Smells Mellow."
Answer: B. (canna-pet.com) (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

After a hunt in Florida in February that killed 106 invasive Burmese pythons, what were zoologists surprised to find inside one snake's stomach?

- A. An entire fawn.
 B. Twelve alligator purses.
 C. A Mickey Mouse costume from

Disney World.

Answer: A. (WFLA.com) (Tom Witte)

Someone was recently elected and sworn in to the East Chicago, Ind., city council despite what impediment?

A. He lives in Florida and has never lived in Indiana; he was put on the ballot without his knowledge as a prank.

B. He is in jail on a murder charge, awaiting trial.

C. He's a border collie.
Answer: B. (Chicago Tribune) (Duncan Stevens)

From ho-ho to uh-oh: People in an Alberta town saw Santa do what un-Santa-like act last Christmas Eve?

A. He replenished his gift supplies by robbing a jewelry store at gunpoint.

B. He upgraded his sleigh by stealing a car in broad daylight.

C. He went on a rant about how he was going to build a wall around the North Pole.
Answer: A. (Reuters) (Xin Yu, Fitchburg, Wis.)

As we near the 2016 Olympics in Rio: How does coffee relate to the Games?

A. Starbucks, the sponsor of this year's U.S. uniforms, will place its Siren logo (and a handwritten name) on each item.

B. Coffee has been ruled a legal performance enhancer for Olympic swimmers.

C. In 1932, Brazil couldn't afford to send a team to the Los Angeles Olympics. So it loaded a ship with the athletes and coffee, selling the coffee at ports along the way. But they made only enough money to enter the water polo team — and they were disqualified for beating up the referee.
Answer: C. (NPR "Weekend Edition") (Lela Martin, Midlothian, Va.)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at bit.ly/invite1168.

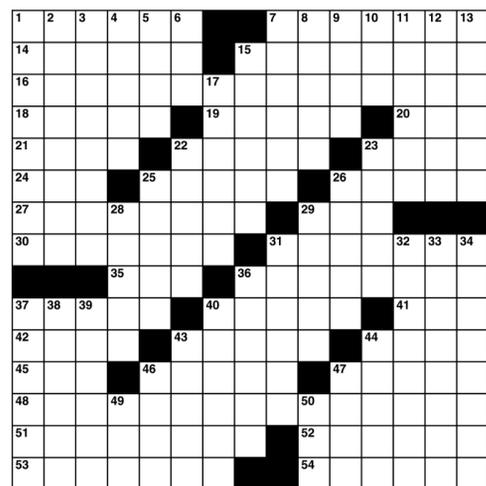
Still running — deadline Monday night: our perennial compare-and-contrast contest. See bit.ly/invite1167.

BY PATRICK JORDAN © 2016 CROSSINERGY SYNDICATE LLC

- ACROSS**
- 1 Treats on tea carts
 7 Reject, as a theory
 14 Lofty luminescence
 15 Abnormality
 16 "Lolita" novelist
 18 Voicer of Dory in "Finding Nemo"
 19 Great White Way glowers
 20 The Hulk's emotion
 21 Doesn't need to be let out, say
 22 The Katzenjammer Kids, e.g.
 23 Its tail is called a flag
 24 Iron or silver follower
 25 "Downsize This!" author Michael
 26 Packs of camels
 27 TV's Ginger Grant or Eunice Howell
 29 Teaching temp
 30 Led on
- 31 Neck areas
 35 Traffic-stopping hue
 36 Phrase uttered while holding a card, perhaps
 37 Slogs (through)
 40 Ancient
 41 Blow a line, say
 42 Tip jar inserts
 43 Classic game show host Bert
 44 Take to the hills
 45 First name on a 1997 "Classic Movie Monsters" stamp
 46 Abe Simpson's daughter-in-law
 47 Tyler of "The Talk" author Michael
 48 "Lolita" character whose name is an anagram of the answer at 16-Across
 51 Vigorous exertions
 52 Treat terribly

SUNDAY CHALLENGE

- 53 Some narrow passages
 54 Like matryoshka dolls
- DOWN**
- 1 Avoid humiliation
 2 RainSoft rival
 3 Vocalized evaluation
 4 Lymphatic system components
 5 March 17 slogan starter
 6 Pianist at Rick's Café Américain
 7 Make known
 8 The Great and the Terrible
- 9 The Katzenjammer Kids, briefly
 10 Hua's predecessor
 11 More murky
 12 Broke a tie
 13 Breaks, as a tie
 15 First adjective in "The Raven"
 17 Surprise attack
 22 Displayed obeisance
 23 Clear of glitches
 25 Spiked staffs
 26 "Don't dawdle!"
 28 Stack in a pit
 29 Bloodcurdling
 31 Sweeney Todd, at times
- 32 Determines by cautious trial
 33 Blaze battler's coil
 34 Took in, as a Netflix program
 36 Tapering drums
 37 Mowgli's adoptive family
 38 Oil ritually
 39 Coors Field location
 40 Teeming throngs
 43 "Shut your trap!"
 44 Occupies entirely
 46 Trekking trio in Matthew
 47 Cut out (to)
 49 Acronym on the IRS' Form 1040
 50 Occupants of a tree



Answer to last week

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

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | March 27: This year you are fiery and bold. Sometimes your energy will not be greeted positively. As a result, you will find yourself escaping or acting out. Be careful with your spending, as you could do some damage. A little self-discipline will go a long way. If you are single, you open up to a new type of person. You might want to date for a while before making a commitment. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy traveling, exploring different cultures and taking a workshop or seminar together on a mutually interesting topic. Scorpio tunes in to you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 Much of what you recently have heard might come to the forefront now and make sense. You'll start to process what a big change someone has made without letting others know how important it was to him or her. Communicate your feelings.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 You might wonder about the revolving door of friends that seems to enter your life periodically. Enjoy the moment. You rarely relax like this or have so much fun. You could be unusually willful when dealing with a partner.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 You could be at a point where you need to stop and try not to relate so intensely. You have a lot to get done, and you will, but taking a break or a nap right now would be best. You can't keep running around as you have been without a break.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 Your ability to conjure up wild ideas and have them fit the moment seems to work for you. Others love to pal around with you when you

are in the mood to simply enjoy yourself. A child or loved one could get moody or jealous.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 Stay centered and make a request. You might expect some resistance, but others won't hesitate to respond. You might wonder why it has been so easy to get what you want. Could you be making mountains out of molehills? Get into the moment.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 Your ability to diagnose a problem is likely to help others, especially a friend and a close loved one. You might wonder why you do not do this for yourself. A discussion could reveal someone's intense feelings. Handle this person with kid gloves.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 You could be on the fence about a major purchase and unsure about which direction you should head in. Though you might have been open to having a discussion, you seem to be avoiding it now, as you know the impact it will have. Clear the air.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 You might want to take a leap of faith. Recognize that you will land

fine because you can handle an issue. Don't look for problems where there are none. Accept a loved one's gesture for what it is. Try approaching this person differently.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 Make this a lazy day, where you don't feel the need to do anything. The more rest and relaxation you get right now, the better the next few days will be. You can't sit on a problem for much longer. Open up a discussion, but make it a one-on-one talk.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 Resist having a conversation that could annoy a loved one. You can initiate it another time without irritating this person and still get the results you desire. You might be surprised by what this friend reveals. Try not to have a knee-jerk reaction.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 You might have concerns and could feel critical of some of what you hear. However, you know that this situation is partially your responsibility. One-on-one relating might push you to reveal more of what is on your mind.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 Reach out for more information before you "yea" or "nay" a potential trip. Don't fret over a certain situation; instead, escape to a movie and let go of the matter. You will see how much more relaxed you are when you emerge.

Feeling betrayed when friend dates ex

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: I broke up with my boyfriend of three years a few months ago. I thought we were working on things and were going to get back together. Well, we aren't. He started sleeping with a close family friend and now, I believe, they are dating.

This girl and I spent almost every summer together as kids, and she likes to refer to my family as hers. She previously dated my ex's best friend.

I feel beyond betrayed and devastated by their relationship. It has severed our families' bond that goes back generations. I wanted my ex to move on and, in the end, it'll let me move on as well, but it's difficult with a feud going on between the families.

At each family gathering, the situation is mentioned and everyone just gets upset all over again. When their "relationship" was discovered, he hid her in our old apartment when I stopped by

to discuss our separation, i.e. belongings, our dog, finances, etc.

An hour later, she posted a lot of harmful things on Facebook indirectly pointed toward me. To avoid more drama, I blocked both of them from social media.

Yesterday, she messaged my mother and requested to "clear the air" with me.

Amy, what should I do? Do I accept her offer to talk? More than anything, I want to tell her exactly what I think of her. How do I fully move on with this still weighing down on me?

Betrayed

Betrayed: While you do not owe your former friend a meeting of any kind, it can be a good idea to accept another person's offer to "clear the air."

If you agree to meet with this former friend, you should start by listening — not talking. She might have a revelation or apology to offer. Listening also puts you in more of a power position because you can make rational choices about how — or

whether — to respond.

Given everything you describe, I agree that telling this friend exactly what you think of her behavior is called for; I hope doing so makes you feel better, although it is not likely to change the outcome.

Dear Amy: You advised "Wannabe Fiancee" to present her live-in boyfriend with an ultimatum, which reminded me of my own situation. When my now ex-wife presented me with this ultimatum, I wish I had followed my instincts and resisted it. I didn't want to get married, but I wasn't ready to leave the relationship. Our marriage didn't last very long.

Been There

Been There: This topic is a rich one, and I appreciate the honest responses.

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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