

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Of B we zing: Winning neologisms from Week 1165

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1165 we “honored” Loser Brendan Beary for his 1,000th blot of Invite ink by inviting him to judge the Style Invitational contest of his choice. Although he's best known for his poems, Mr. B opted for a neologism contest: to add one or more B's to an existing word or substitute one or more B's for another letter. A couple of weeks ago, the Empress sent Brendan a list of all 1,200-plus entries, with no identifying information attached; he didn't know until now who had written the entries he chose. Brendan shares some thoughts on the entries and the judging [experience](http://conv1169) in this week's Style Conversational, at bit.ly/conv1169.

4th place

Biancée: The one for whom you put a ring on it. (Dave Silberstein, College Park)

3rd place

¡Basta la vista! Goodbye, already! (Michael Rolfe, Cape Town, South Africa)

2nd place and the “Sorry,” a wrap garment made of Loser T-shirts:

Barbinger: The first sign of Spring Break. (Lee Graham, Arlington)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial

Bieberschnitzel: German for “mediocre cut of meat.” (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park, Md.)

B-flats: honorable mentions

Panobama: The view from the right. (Ivars Kuskevics)

Borville Wright: Inventor of the in-flight magazine. (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

The Pabst is prologue: The explanation for your headache this morning. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

Borsche: A souped-up Eastern European sports car. (Christopher Lamora, Arlington; Lela Martin, Midlothian, Va.)

Bedlab: A place where chaotic experimental sex is carried out. (John O'Byrne, Dublin)

Bambidextrous: Wearing deerskin gloves on both hands. (John Glenn, Tyler, Tex.)

Bumpkin pie: A popular backwoods dish consisting of . . . um, don't ask. (Kimberly Baer, Woodbridge, Va., a First Offender)

Biogenes: Greek philosopher who searched for an honest memoir. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

“Bad Bax”: Steampunk film about a rogue chiropractor. (Chris Damm, Charles Town, W.Va.)

J.K. Bowling: Author of “Harry Potter and the 7-10 Split.” (Christopher Lamora)

American heartland: The country's white-bread-basket. (Kin Yu, Fitchburg, Wis.)

B'nailbiter: An exciting finish to the annual JCC mah-jongg tournament. (Gordon Cobb, Marietta, Ga.)

Boobs on the ground: No, that's NOT what we call women in combat! (Larry Gray, Union Bridge, Md.)

Herbibore: Your friend who's just started a vegan diet. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Gluteus maxibus: Public transportation with extra-wide seats. (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

“In the beginning, Bob created the heavens and the earth”: According to PolitiFact, Bob's worst “Pants on Fire” campaign claim. (Gary Crockett)

Byllables: The building blocks of every lawyer's vocabulary. (Jon Gearhart)

“Bore!”: Warning shout before beginning golf anecdote. (Ann Martin, Falls Church, Va.)

Philanthrobby: Giving till it hurts. (Rick Haynes, Boynton Beach, Fla.)

Boiletries: Medicated ointments for your abscess. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

Bednesday: Hump Day! (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

Best Side Story: What actresses tell every cinematographer they meet. (Kevin Dopart)

Ne'er-do-bell: Pavlov's cat. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Boobledding: Using the classic



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1169: Be caustic by acrostic

JAWS: Just Avoid Water, Stupid!

THE SOUND OF MUSIC: This Has Everything! Syrupy Outbursts! Uplifting Nannies! Dancing Over Flowery Mountains! Unctuous Songs Involving Children!! (from doubletake-media.com)

Printed vertically, they'd be called acrostics; horizontally, they're often called backronyms. Either way, you describe something with words beginning with each letter of the something. We've done backronym contests a couple of times before, to describe people and products, but Loser Duncan Stevens suggests a twist: **Review or otherwise describe a movie, book, play or TV show (or Internet equivalent) with words whose first letters spell out the name of the work**, as in the examples above from our own Bob Staake and from Double Take Media, a bare-bones website that, if it were a movie, would be a three-minute reel of Super 8. You may add the occasional article, conjunction or preposition (e.g., “a,” “and,” “to”), but your entries would have to be especially clever to beat out those that use only the letters of the title.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a Scatological Two-Pack of (a) a Number Two Pencil — a regular wooden pencil topped with a big plastic doo-pile; and (b) “Who Farted?,” a pretty book consisting of nothing but classic movie stills in which Tracy and Hepburn, Astaire and Rogers et al. show facial expressions that an extremely juvenile person might caption with the book's title. Donated, respectively if not respectfully, by Losers Anne Paris and Jeff Contompasis.

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 regifted Loser T-shirt. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-over 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, April 11; results published May 1 (online April 28). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include “Week 1169” 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 “Of B we zing” is by Tom Witte; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Chris Doyle. 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.

“stuff it in the bra” smuggling system. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.)

Bimbroglio: Any “Real Housewives of Beverly Hills” episode. (Howard Walderman, Columbia, Md.)

Bendarme: A Paris police officer known for his coercive manner. (Gerald Diamond, London, Ontario)

Probetariat: A convention of proctologists. (Stephen Gold, Glasgow, Scotland)

Jobsam: A discarded candidate, now washed up on a beach. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

Brotunda: Capitol Hill's old-boys' club. (Christopher Lamora)

Boath: A bigamist's wedding vow. (Christopher Lamora)

Flash bard: Elizabeth Bare-it Browning. (Chris Doyle)

Birthbay: Lady parts. (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Binlaws: Rules that govern trashing your spouse's family. (Jon Gearhart)

Klondike barb: A bitingly cold remark. (John McCooy, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

Bernia: What you get from six months of trying to pull Hillary to



PAT MYERS/THE WASHINGTON POST

An improvement on the Loser pens of old: The Number Two Pencil, this week's No. 2 prize.

the left. (Chris Doyle)

Mathematics: Figuring out, “How long can I stay in here before the kids start banging on the door?” (Jennifer Dickey, Silver Spring)

Bunaccompanied: Traveling while pregnant. (Greg Arnold, Herndon, Va.)

Hooked on Phobics: A training course for psychologists. (Christopher Lamora)

Conbratulations: What's offered to the proud new parents of twins. (Pie Snelson, Silver Spring)

Pettiboat: An undergarment for a plus-size woman. (Tom Witte)

Bummingbirds: Millennials who never really leave the nest. (Mike Ostapiej, Mount Pleasant, S.C.)

Girl Scout Bookies: They make a mint every year. (Ann Martin)

Reinbarnation: What happens to farm animals at the end of day. (Frank Osen)

Barbie Antoinette: Doll featuring extravagant costumes, cake and a removable head. (Jesse Frankovich)

BlinkedIn: The first professional networking service to use retinal IDs. (Chris Doyle)

Basich: Your standard Republican governor. (Edmund Conti, Raleigh, N.C.)

Dog and bony show: A Humane Society benefit with fashion models. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

Next week: our annual horse name “breeding” contest — with results to run on Kentucky Derby weekend.

And still running — deadline Monday night, April 4: Our contest for jokes so nerdy you have to explain the punch line. See bit.ly/invite1168.

SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY BRUCE VENZKE © 2016 CROSSENERGY SYNDICATE LLC

ACROSS

1 Electropositive element

7 Like many a play at first base

15 Normal time, musically

16 Charge to those who derive direct benefit

17 Luzon battle site

18 Beer marketed as “the national beer of Texas”

19 Volcanic scoria

20 Advertiser's phrase

22 Shady street's name

23 Juice bar purchase

25 Hippolyta's sire

26 Kvetch

28 Domestic course

31 “Ships of the desert”

33 “Moonstruck” actor Vincent

37 Most overused

39 Cell transmitters

40 Running right through midfield, in football slang

42 Dogs often locate them

43 Where to find a wake

45 Printer brand

46 Little scrap

49 Feudal state

51 Huck, to Tom

52 Lose a sense

54 Easy victory

57 Delivery assist

59 Hanukkah fare

61 Gestures a farewell

62 Revokes, as a legacy

63 Most saccharine

64 Gunner's station

DOWN

1 Airport lineup

2 Citation abbr.

Answer to last week

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

3 Specify the maximum or minimum allowed

4 “Well, I'm really surprised!”

5 Kick it ___ notch

6 “Tightrope” singer Janelle

7 Square-jawed pooch

8 With everyone agreeing

9 50th state bird

10 Increased

11 Common coll. degrees

12 Certain photo caption

13 Novelist Zora ___ Hurston

14 Worrisome microorganisms, for some

21 ___-di-dah (pretentious)

24 Chaotic scufflers

25 Certain Pulitzer Prize winner, possibly

26 Prohibition-supporting org.

27 Instrument for a Marx brother

29 Spanish 101 word

30 Drew forth

32 U.S. Army E-6

34 Person without a light?

35 Engrossed with

36 Professional group (abbr.)

37 When American elections are usually held

41 Small sapling, e.g.

44 Second Amendment supporter (abbr.)

46 Emits forcefully

47 Melonlike fruit

48 Vibrant

50 It's just like E in music

52 Breezy burst

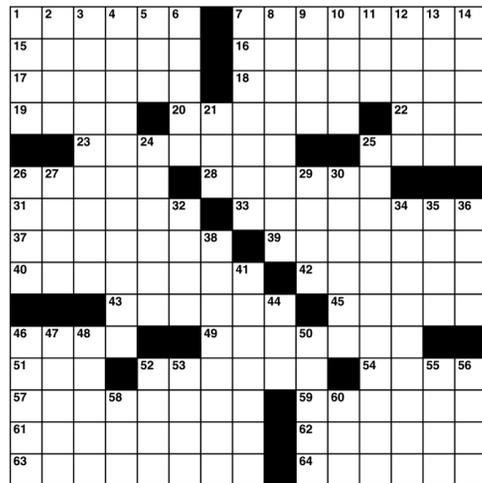
53 Swiss river

55 Social media phenomenon

56 Clandestine signal

58 Singer Joey or Kiki

60 Soccer phenom Freddy



HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | April 3: This year you often surprise others with your actions and thoughts. They enjoy a new sense of originality that comes from you. You also are likely to be open about your thoughts. If you are single, your uniqueness is appreciated by many people, even if you are not aware of that fact. It will take someone as independent and as much of a free thinker as you are to be able to relate well to you. If you are attached, the two of you are like a seesaw. When one is up, the other is down. Yet you still manage to be sensitive and in tune with each other. Aquarius can create a lot of uproar.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You have a friend at a distance who could be very demanding. You can't seem to pull far enough away. Do you know how to gracefully pull yourself out of a conversation and become unavailable without hurting this person's feelings? Try your best.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You might decide to visit with an older relative or friend. This person appreciates your time and attention more than you realize. In a conversation, you'll gain a sudden realization that could startle you. Be sensitive to an authority figure.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Keep looking at the big picture, especially when dealing with a friend who seems to be unpredictable. Remember, you have been through periods like this. There is no better time to be a good friend without passing too much judgment.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

One-on-one relating is highlighted. You'll gain a unique perspective, but only if you stop trying to

control a situation and relax with the moment. You could be very tired and not realize what you are doing. A friend is going through some dramatic adjustments.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Others won't mean to challenge you, but a loved one could be so assertive that his or her actions and words might have a slightly hostile edge. Know that you are loved. Bypass the tone. Surprising news around a conversation about travel heads your way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You have a lot you want to accomplish, which you will, as long as you relax more and worry less. A project could go south because of disruptions. Trust that you will make time for it later. Enjoy a surprise that pops up.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Your creativity and sense of humor merge together. You barely will be able to accomplish everything you want to because you are having more fun than you had anticipated. A loved one might be more easygoing than usual. In fact, he or she might pitch in.

Ask son about girlfriend's stealing

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: My dear adult son (in his 30s) recently invited me to meet his girlfriend of two months. He seems to be over the moon about her.

We had a cordial meal, then shopped a bit. My son's girlfriend admired some glittery material on sale, and then I happened to catch her slipping a small amount of it into my son's pocket without paying for it, as we all stood together.

He did not object. I am shocked and dismayed. It is quite obvious that she has the funds to purchase such an item. To date, he has not asked my opinion of her.

Should I discuss this with my son, or is this a minor offense to be forgotten?

Saddened

Saddened: I don't think this is necessarily a minor offense, and if it is true that your son helped his girlfriend steal this material from a store, then hasn't your

estimation of him taken a hit? If a security officer nabbed them leaving the store, surely the consequences would fall to your son, who had this stolen material.

And so, although you may not want to weigh in on your son's girlfriend's character unless you are asked, perhaps you should say to your son: “Did I see what I thought I saw in the store? Did you really walk out with something without paying for it? What. The. Heck?”

Dear Amy: I am a 14-year-old girl, and I have a best guy friend. He is really sweet. I always thought of him as a brother.

He asked me out a month ago by text, and I politely declined. I said I like him as a friend.

A few weeks ago, my friend and I were planning to go to the mall. He hasn't texted or called me since then, and I decided after a few unanswered texts and calls that it would be best to stop and wait for him to text me. I want him to be able to stop his feelings for me so we can

continue to be friends.

Now he very rarely texts me, and if I text him first, he makes up an excuse to leave the conversation. I would really love to keep him as a friend, but is it already a lost cause?

Sad in San Diego

Sad in San Diego: When you develop a crush on someone, you can't always control your feelings, and so although you would like for your friend to pivot away from his crush and dive right back into your friendship, you have basically rejected him. He's going to feel it for a while. It might be easier for him to hang with you in a group.

Don't give up on your pal. Continue to reach out in friendship, and he may drift back. Friendships between boys and girls are sometimes challenging — but valuable.

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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