

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Sweet Add-a-Line: Song 'tailgaters' from Week 1171

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1171** we asked for song tailgaters: You choose a line from a song, then follow it with your own, rhyming line. While the Empress said the goal was to make a two-line mini-poem rather than a song parody, many of the entries below do match the songs' tunes (links in the online Invite, bit.ly/invite1175).

4th place

Yellow matter custard dripping from a dead dog's eye — (Lennon/McCartney)

Are you really going to give this "new cuisine" a try? (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

3rd place

Do, a deer, a female deer; re, a drop of golden sun; (Rodgers & Hammerstein)

Mi is me! Amazing me — fa ahead of everyone . . . — D.T. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

2nd place and the 'professional-quality' kazoo and instruction book:

If they say I never loved you, you know they are a liar, (Jim Morrison)

If I say I can write lyrics, so am I, or whate-vire. (Mark Raffman)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial

Nothing could be finer than to be in Carolina in the morning (Gus Kahn)

But if you are transgender and your fluids must surrender, here's a warning . . . (Jesse Etelson, Rockville, whose only previous Invite ink was an honorable mention — in Week 8, 1993)

Lyr-icks: honorable mentions

Well, I'm runnin' down the road tryin' to loosen my load, I've got seven women on my mind (Jackson Browne)

One is Megyn Kelly, two are kind of smelly, and four have got a big behind. — D.T. (Doug Wadler, Potomac, Md.)

On a dark desert highway, cool wind in my hair (the Eagles)

Didn't put no pants on, cooled my derriere. (John Kammer, South Riding, Va.)

My bonnie lies over the ocean, my bonnie lies over the sea (traditional Scottish song)

And it's clear from the Panama Papers, my bonnie's been lying to me. (Stephen Gold, Glasgow, Scotland)

It's not that you're attractive (Ira Gershwin)

I took a vasoactive. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Oh, what a beautiful morning, oh what a beautiful day (Rodgers & Hammerstein)

Metro is running so smoothly with only an hour's delay. (Howard Walderman, Columbia, Md.)

Old man, look at my life, I'm a lot like you were. (Neil Young)

When I met your new wife, biblically I knew her. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

Regrets, I've had a few, but then again, too few to mention (Paul Anka)

On votes, I trail, it's true, but I've got plans for the convention! (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

Should auld acquaintance be forgot (Robert Burns)

If Vegas was the hookup spot? (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

We don't need no education (Roger Waters)

Donald Trump is our salvation! (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

When you're weary, feeling small, (Paul Simon)

Don't whine to me while I'm watching basketball . . . (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

Well, I'm runnin' down the road tryin' to loosen my load (Jackson Browne)

Good news is I won't be slowed tryin' to find a commode. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Without your pulling it, the tide comes in . . . (Alan Jay Lerner)

But not so, sweetheart, for the garbage bin. (Michael Rolfe, Cape Town, South Africa)

I look at the floor and I see it needs sweeping (George Harrison)

It's a good thing you're hot, 'cause you suck at housekeeping. (Mark Raffman)

In my mind I'm going to Carolina (James Taylor)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1175: Good luck with 13

HAMNESIA: A vegetarian's inability to recall what meat tastes like.

SNEIKH: A used-camel salesman.

ZIRL: A phone voice that, whatever you ask, answers: "Huh. Got me."

Neologism time! This week's contest was suggested to the Empress *years* ago by Loser Mark Raffman, who was inspired by a barely related Invite entry by Beverly Sharp: "The agony and the XYZ: Losing at Scrabble because you can't get rid of those dang high-value consonants." Mark's idea: **Make up a word whose Scrabble letter values add up to exactly 13, and define it.** (Why 13? Why not?) Anyway, your word cannot be eligible for English-language Scrabble; just type in your word at scrabble.merriam.com to make sure it's not valid. You don't have to worry about how many of each tile are available in a Scrabble set, and you don't incur 50 more points for a seven-letter word. As with all our neologism contests, feel free to use your word in a sentence if it makes the entry funnier.

Scrabble letter values:

A, E, I, O, U, L, N, S, T, R — 1 point; D, G — 2 points; B, C, M, P — 3 points; F, H, V, W, Y — 4 points; K — 5 points; J, X — 8 points; Q, Z — 10 points

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a device that the Empress wishes she had when her two scions were tykes: It's the **"I Said No" Pen**, a ballpoint with a horn-shaped speaker on the other end that, when you push a button, declaims "NO" in a dozen different ways, from little barking nos to long grunty nos. There's a YouTube clip to the whole repertoire of negativity at bit.ly/nopen. Donated by Loser Dave Prevar. (The E must now return to simply shouting at stupid entries while she's judging.)

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).

ANNOUNCEMENT: The Style Invitational is entering the 21st century!

Starting this week, you won't be sending your entries by email: Instead you'll submit them via the Internet, as with every other contest worth its gourmet sea salt. You'll still be able to put all your entries on a single form, and you'll get an auto-reply email as a confirmation. This new method will ensure that you send us the necessary information and that you don't put the wrong week number on your submission, and it makes it easier for the Empress to hide your name when she's judging. (The field for bribe payments is entirely optional.) **To enter this week's contest, go to subpl.at/invite1175.**

Deadline is Monday night, May 23; results published June 12 (online June 9). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. See contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results was suggested by both Jeff Shirley and Chris Doyle, the honorable-mentions subhead by Doyle and Jesse Frankovich. Join the 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.

With proof that I was born with this vagina. (Gary Crockett; Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

I am what I am, and what I am needs no excuses (Jerry Herman)

I'm out of a job 'cause I'm a slob who hurls abuses. — Curt Schilling (Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

I'm back in the saddle again (Gene Autry)

Viagra is now my best friend. (Ira Allen, Bethesda, Md.)

When the moon is in the seventh house, and Jupiter aligns with Mars (Rado and Ragni)

We'll hold Supreme Court hearings — if POTUS is one of ours. (Gary Crockett)

I am woman — hear me roar: (Helen Reddy)

The toilet seat is up once more. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Let it go, let it go, can't hold it back anymore (Lopez & Lopez)

Go on yell at the screen, like it's changing the score . . . (Charlie Dawson, Greenbelt, a First Offender)

Oh Danny boy, the pipes, the pipes are calling — (Frederic

Weatherly)

That stupid shower head needs reinstalling. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

She got a big booty so I call her Big Booty (2 Chainz)

For some reason lately she's been kind of moody . . . (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

Oh! say, can you see, by the dawn's early light (Francis Scott Key)

You're up far too soon — we set the clocks back last night. (Ed Edwards, Worcester Park, England)

Doo, doo, doo, lookin' out my back door (John Fogerty)

What did I get two Newfoundlands for? (Nan Reiner)

Strangers in the night, exchanging glances (Singleton & Snyder)

Wondering in the night just where his pants is . . . (Dan O'Day, Alexandria, Va.)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at bit.ly/invite1175.

Still running — deadline Monday night, May 16: our "grandfoal" contest. See bit.ly/invite1174.

BY BRAD WILBER © 2016 CROSSYNERGY SYNDICATE LLC

ACROSS

1 Insolvent
11 Itinerary info
15 What an echo on a recording may delineate
16 By way of, old-style
17 Carpenter's collapsible measuring gadget
18 Whodunit suspect, often
19 Something metaphorically massaged
20 Confucian "path"
21 Towering
23 Abandon, informally
25 One in protective gear at home
27 Cries of disappointment
28 Liberals
31 Pol. affiliation of Teddy Roosevelt
32 Wildlife photographer's excursion
35 Welcome gift that may include dental floss
36 Tenacious foe of Julius Caesar
37 Many an '80s Chrysler

38 Wag one's finger at
40 Carnival ride music, e.g.
41 Where Troy Aikman was a QB
42 Flop's opposite
43 Chophouse orders
45 Texer's roar
46 Punctuate a rapprochement, in modern lingo
48 Mother who hums to her offspring
50 Guffaw syllable
51 Sitcom featuring a voice-only doorman
55 Oxonian's "Outstanding!"
57 Atlas Mtns. locale
59 "Fatal Attraction" husband
60 Sistine Chapel ceiling figure with an extended arm
61 Transposing two numbers, say
64 Father, to Philippe
65 "Finish," to sommeliers
66 Concorde fleet, once
67 Wackford Squeers in "Nicholas Nickleby" or

Henry Brookheurst in "Jane Eyre"

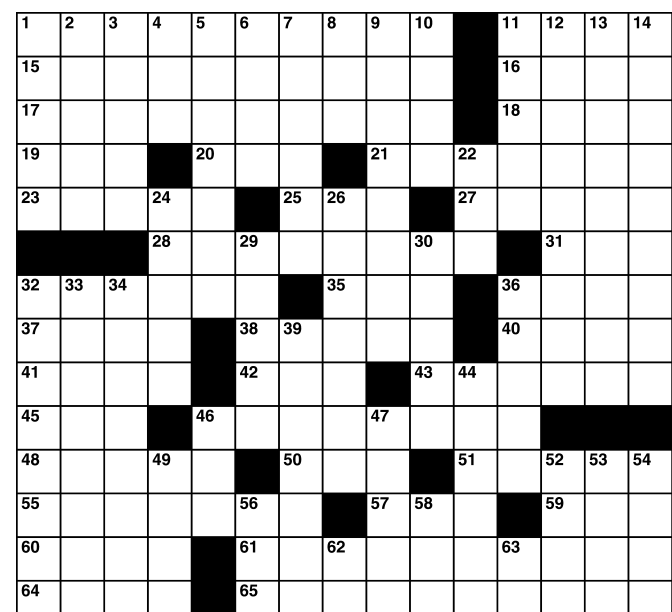
DOWN

1 Nonplussed
2 Tony Shalhoub's "Cars" role
3 Specialized jargon
4 Looney Tunes "devil," casually
5 Run off at the mouth
6 Org. handing down rules for clubs
7 Produce suddenly
8 Cruciform letter
9 Outshone
10 Consider
11 Early surgery aid

12 Words indicating second thoughts
13 The Big___ (Shaquille O'Neal nickname)

14 Conversational taboos, perhaps
22 HMO participants
24 Drosselmeyer's godchild in "The Nutcracker"
26 Second Amendment subject
29 Scarf tucked into a bodice
30 Associate with
32 Beansies and yarmulkes
33 Book-jacket reviews, usually
34 Crumble
36 Minister's calling, with "the"

39 State of "Champagne wishes and caviar dreams"
44 Creamy cheese made with remnants of mozzarella
46 Frosty the Snowman transformer
47 Dealt in stocks
49 Performers who might pretend to be trapped in a box
52 Creator of laudatory lines
53 Author on Italy's two-euro coin
54 Rile up
56 Eastern au pair
58 Resolute
62 Place to detain (abbr.)
63 "___ Dos Fridas" (Kaiko painting)



Answer to last week

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

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | May 15: This year you open up to new possibilities. Your creativity and ability to find solutions emerge as your strong suits. If you are single, your allure cannot be denied. You have many people around you who would like to be more than "just friends." If you are attached, the two of you enjoy an especially interesting year together.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

The morning could be particularly relaxing for you if you embrace the slow pace. Make your Sunday calls, whether you're making plans for later in the day or touching base with loved ones.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

When you allow your imagination to wander, you break into new realms and come up with unusual ideas.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

You could be in a position where you visualize life from a different perspective from your norm.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

You might be trying to come to terms with a neighbor or new friend.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You have the capacity to spend more money than most. How you visualize the results often are far more glamorous than they are in reality.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Although you are likely to enjoy yourself whatever you decide to do, there is a bit of melancholy in the air because of the weekend coming to an end.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Observe others before stepping into a situation where there could be some arguing. You really are not in the mood to participate in a squabble.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You might be off running around when you notice that someone is

trying to catch up with you. Friends mean a lot to you, especially at this point.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Your temper seems to have others backing away from you right now. Perhaps you don't realize what a formidable opponent you can be.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Reach out to someone at a distance who you would like to visit, and plan on spending time together. Y

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You might want to deal with a problem head-on. A friend continues to be wayward in his or her actions, especially toward you because of your opinions.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

You might want to distance yourself more from people who insist on having their way. You could be tired of always being the person who generously allows others to be who they are, even if you are uncomfortable.

Respect parents' princess-free zone

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Readers: I've stepped away from my column for a week while I put the finishing touches on my new book, which will be published in the fall. Please enjoy these "Best of" columns in my absence. I'll be back with your fresh questions and answers next week.

Dear Amy: My son and daughter-in-law will not allow my granddaughter to have Barbie or princess dolls because they believe these dolls would have a negative effect on her body image. Is this a valid concern? I respect the parents' wishes, but I feel as if my granddaughter is missing out.

Curious Grandmother

Curious Grandmother: I'm not sure what princess-themed dolls have to do with negative body image, although they may introduce several other troubling concepts to girls. For instance, everybody knows that your ball gown is always stuck at the dry cleaner when you really need it. And don't get me started on the whole "one day your prince will come" idea.

Barbie is another story, of course. With her outside, bizarre and otherwise unwomanly proportions, if Barbie were an actual woman, she would be a 10-foot-tall monster whose permanently pointed toes and spindly lower body could never support her ample bosom.

If a little girl didn't have Barbie in her life, what exactly would she be missing out on? Not much. Dolls give girls and boys the opportunity to engage

in imaginative play, but stuffed animals (or other dolls) can (and do) provide the same opportunities.

It is the parents' right to choose toys for their kids, and thoughtful parents are careful about the messages these toys convey — whether they're Barbies or bazookas. In my family, I chose to explain, educate and occasionally roll my eyes at Barbie, rather than ban her from the house, but I respect parents' choice to be thoughtful and discriminating about what toys they provide for their children, and you should, too. — March 2007

Dear Amy: I have been dating my boyfriend for more than a year, and I love him very much. I think that we are a perfect match, and I definitely see marriage in our future.

For his birthday last year, I surprised him by flying in his best friend from across the country. Well, his best friend and my best friend met, and are now in love. I'm very happy for them, and we've all become good friends.

Now it seems that we are playing the adult version of the children's game "telephone." For instance, my boyfriend and I will have a typical sort of argument and, as I always have, I go to my best friend for advice, consolation or a swift kick in the rear.

When I tell my best friend how annoyed I am over what my boyfriend did, she tells her boyfriend, who then tells my boyfriend. By the time it gets back to me, it hardly resembles what it started out as and has been intensified by my letting others know "our" business. It has gotten to the point where

small arguments become recurring fights.

I don't know how to deal with my newfound lack of confidential support. I don't know whom to go to with problems. Short of cutting off all conversation about our boyfriends and friendships, I'm not sure how to cope with everything I say being twisted and then thrown back in my face.

Trapped in Virginia

Trapped in Virginia: Mature people learn to process some of their frustrations privately, thus saving their friends and family for the really big stuff. Mature people also need to have the ability to sift through, do triage and personal problem management — and not tell their romantic partner every single thing that happens to their girlfriends. Mature people don't then turn around and repeat something to an involved party that they have heard third-hand, and they don't hear a gripe fourth-hand, then twist it around and pick a fight about it.

One member of your group has to grow up already. I vote for you. If you've asked your girlfriend to keep a confidence and she can't, it's time to withdraw your confidence. If you value discretion, then save your important confidences for people who can keep them. Moving forward, the person to talk to about your problems with your boyfriend is your boyfriend. — January 2007

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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