DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

YUX: Our top 13-Scrabble-pointers

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1175 we asked you to create new words whose Scrabble letter values add up to 13 (without blanks, bingos, etc.) and that weren't in an actual Scrabble dictionary. The Empress gives a letter of distinction — his choice of Q or Z — to Loser Todd DeLap, who ran her shortlist of words through a validator he'd constructed, flagging "pepcoed" (14 points) and "snafusion," which is a TWELVER. Hey, whoever wrote those neologisms, you might as well save them; we could do this contest again with any number.

4th place

DVORK: Your friend who can name the composer of every symphony. (Amanda Yanovitch, Midlothian, Va.)

3rd place

LOOCIFER: The person who didn't replace the toilet paper roll. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

2nd place and the I Said No talking pen:

GODSPLAIN: If logic won't do, perhaps there's a biblical passage you can quote out of context. (Frank Mann, Washington)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial:

DCAYED: Having served in federal office too long. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Double nerd scores: Honorable mentions

RETWERPS: People who lack the courage to say things for themselves. (George-Ann Rosenberg, Washington)

TELLUBRIDE: Least popular ski resort for bachelor parties. (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

CATULENCE: Gas produced by Fluffy sleeping on the bed. Yeah, it was definitely Fluffy. (Sarah Jay, Churchville, Md.)

BATHEIST: Someone who believes in cleanliness but not godliness. (Jeff Shirley)

ADOLLTERY: Cheating on your inflatable girlfriend. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

BIMBROS: Surfer dudes. (Lee Graham, Arlington)

CARNIBORE: A proselytizer for the Paleo Diet. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

PESTATARIAN: Someone who tells you constantly why his new diet is the best ever and insists that you switch immediately from that lethal trash you've been ingesting. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

DAYLUGES: A series of aquatic events held continually last month throughout the D.C. area. (Joy Gawen, Falls Church, Va., a First Offender)

BAGOBITS: The modern-day airplane snack. (Kimberly Baer, Woodbridge, Va.)

RHINOSTONE: Fancy term for a booger. (Kevin Dopart)

MEOUCH: A scar from when you rub your cat the wrong way. My husband has a large meouch on his arm from our brown tabby, recently renamed Zorro. (Kate Sternberg, Reston, Va., who got her only other blot of Invite ink in 2005)

PURRANHA: A seemingly innocent kitty that attacks without warning. (Jeff Shirley)

CADULLAC: A Buick. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

BIDDAY: An eBay auction for bathroom fixtures. (Pete Kinsella, Glen Allen, Va., a First Offender)

AUTOSOMNIAL: So boring you put even yourself to sleep. (Christopher Lamora, Arlington)

FARTESIANS: Their model is "I stink; therefore I am." (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

FOPAW: A type of shoe worn by politicians to cover their tracks. (Jon Gearhart)

MAWDUST: Orange powder that collects on your lips when you're munching Cheetos. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

IMPALEGO: A painful condition occurring on the soles of the feet. Afflicts primarily parents of young children. (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church, Va.)

GREENCH: Whoever installed the ultra-low-flush toilets at work.

BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1179: Blasted alphabetical contests . . .

Cute Animals Barfing: Less popular videos circulating on Facebook
"Beware: Congress Appropriating": New hazard signs at the Capitol
Annual Bowel Contraction: Medical measurement for the tragically constipated

This week's contest is the "brain"-child of Loser Jeff Shirley, who noted that while the Invitational has run contests to compare two real entities with the same three-letter abbreviation, we don't seem to have run this variation: **This week: Coin a three-word phrase whose words begin with A, B and C — in any order — and describe it,** as in Jeff's examples above. It may be an actual phrase or name if you describe it with breathtaking wit.

NEW: No more emailing entries! Instead, submit them at this website: subpl.at/INVITE1179.
Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a prize that was inexplicably declined by Chris Doyle in 2014: It's Bubble Geezer, a battery-powered machine in which a plastic grandpa blows bubbles from his exposed keister. Well, maybe it's a wee bit explicable: Chris, the Invite's highest-scoring Loser, has been a winner or runner-up *two hundred eleven times*. Still, he has won only one electronic fart sculpture. I think.

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). Deadline is Monday night, June 20; results published July 10 (online July 7). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. See contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. YUX in the headline for this week's results was submitted by both Tom Witte and Jeff Contompasis; 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 is hanging out at the West Chester Poetry Conference in Pennsylvania this weekend, tossing in her two cents (U.S.) at a workshop on light verse and song parodies, so no online column this week.

PAT MYERS/THE WASHINGTON POST

Yes, YOU could win an electronic bubble fart machine that Chris Doyle (not pictured) didn't want!

(Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

KENITALIA: Barbie's boyfriend is now anatomically correct! (Chris Doyle)

HILLARIOUS: Describes a joke that isn't funny, even though the jokester tries very, very hard to make it so. (Duncan Stevens)

HILLBERN: A left-handed driver who unintentionally drives the car off a cliff. (Amy Harris, Charlottesville, Va.)

HILLYRE: A somewhat screechy instrument prone to playing false notes; produces an inexplicable twang in southern climes. (Bill LeWarne, Darnestown, Md., who got HIS only other blot of ink in Week 104 — 21 years ago)

TRUMPTEEN: Yuge in number. "He's taken trumpteen different positions on that issue in the past month." (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

DOODOODLES: Those poop emoji. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.)

HASHTAT: A permanent memento of your favorite tweet. (Lee Graham)

MOMPETE: To engage in one-upmanship over who has the more outstanding offspring. "Emily's son is selling lemonade to raise money for orphaned illiterate puppies. How do I mompete with that?" (Hildy Zampella)

MORTGAUGE: An instrument for measuring how far underwater you are. (Jesse Frankovich)

THERMOSS: Fuzzy growth that covers the inside of the bottle your kid left in her locker since April. (Jeff Contompasis)

VOLUPTUA: Roman goddess of the hourglass. (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park, Md.)

ZERT: A dieter's no-calorie treat substitute. "No, thanks, on that chocolate cake; I'm planning to enjoy a little mint-waxed floss for my zert." (Danielle Nowlin)

GASSAULTING: Letting one fly in the elevator. (George-Ann Rosenberg)

ANUSTHESIA: Preparation H. (Chris Doyle)

TRIKK: To cheat at Scrabble by using more of a certain tile than are in a regulation set. (Jeff Contompasis)

TWELVER: A word that wouldn't qualify for this contest. (Jesse Frankovich)

SCATOLERANT: What the Empress of The Style Invitational has to be. (Duncan Stevens)

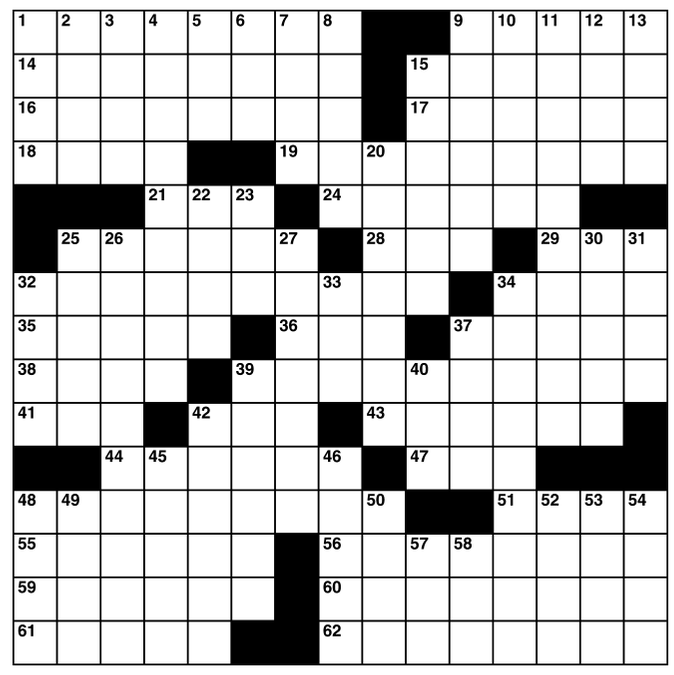
TWO contests still running — deadline for both is Monday night, June 13: for political song parodies (see bit.ly/invite1177) and for new collective nouns (bit.ly/invite1178).

SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY PATRICK JORDAN © 2016 CROSSYNERGY SYNDICATE LLC

ACROSS
1 Put blacktop on, perhaps
9 Goof up
14 Romantic's quest
15 Mischief maker
16 His theory on gravitational waves was verified in 2016
17 Like a liquidation item
18 Sibilant summons
19 Surgical ties for blood vessels
21 Bar or metric prefix
24 Co-host of Lara and Lesley
25 City near John Wayne Airport
28 Epcot center?
29 Apply blades to blades
32 Tiling unit
34 "Bold in a Bottle" beverage
35 Sites for barnacles
36 Letter between two rhyming letters
37 Exhibit overprotectiveness
38 Brief reversals?
39 "Fer cryin' out loud!"
41 Takeoff stat
42 Geller portrayer on "Friends"
43 Jubilant shout
44 Societal reject
47 Rap, to a rapper
48 Crafty guy?
51 Brandy-flavoring fruit
55 Put back on a blog
56 Surprise victor of storydom
59 Mobilizing messages
60 Won the heart of
61 Ceremonial woodpiles
62 Sessions on convention agendas

DOWN
1 Choreographer's concern
2 "Gunfight at the O.K. Corral" screenwriter Leon
3 Is in charge of
4 Kwanzaa and Candlemas
5 Key near X
6 Cedar Rapids college since 1851
7 Mephistophelian
8 Daisy Dukes fabric
9 Geological layer that's about 1,800 miles thick
10 Newsstand buy
11 2000 spoof of "Scream" and its ilk
12 Low-lying area
13 They ring out in some rings
15 Did much more than giggle
20 Flip
22 Aristocratic honorifics
23 Cold or fast follower
25 Lottery winner's words to the boss, perhaps
26 Notebook filler, often
27 It may involve a Snellen chart
30 Past pudgy
31 "... ____ not in Kansas anymore"
32 Elisabeth who narrates "Tuck Everlasting"
33 Got into a stew?
34 Oyster fork's neighbor in a formal place setting
37 Southwestern snake dancers
39 Ceiling supports
40 Silent butler's topper
42 Features of Woody Woodpecker and Foghorn Leghorn
45 Be a devotee of
46 Makes like a misanthrope
48 Spiderweb, e.g.
49 "You may ____ on it" (Magic 8 Ball answer)
50 All's antithesis
52 Coin depicting Kemal Atatürk
53 Friendly leader?
54 Some are OTC
57 Shofar source
58 Initials for an oversharer



Answer to last week

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

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | June 12: This year you alternate between being practical and fastidious to being artistic and creative. With these two extremes, you discover a balance that allows your self-expression to emerge. Your spontaneity comes from a depth of personality. If you are single, you will have to make space and time for a special person. Your giving nature could set you up for being taken advantage of unless you maintain strong boundaries. If you are attached, your sense of humor often saves the day when you and your significant other see life differently. A good joke often takes the punch out of a difficult moment. Libra is caring and intellectually stimulating.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Pressure builds no matter what you do. It makes no difference whether you are expressing caring feelings or simply running errands. The unexpected occurs with an authority figure. At first you might be stunned, but you'll get into the mood of the moment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Pace yourself, and know how much ground you need to cover. Your actions encourage others to follow through on what they need to do, whether it involves visiting with friends or helping an elderly person to move. Chatter seems to surround you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Pressure builds, as delegating tasks to people might be too difficult. You could be out of sorts as a result. Pick up the phone and cancel some plans. You will be more relaxed if you do. When you emerge later, you'll be able to get a lot done.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Use your phone as much as you can today to stay in touch with others. You might want to make even more calls, but you could have too much to do. Email works just as well. Others receive your thoughts and know they are cared about.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
It is easy for you to pick up the phone and invite others over. Set up a spontaneous dinner or get-together, and encourage your friends to bring a favorite item. Let the party begin! You could have difficulty ending the party.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You might want to visit with an old friend. Once you get talking, you could have difficulty stopping. Consider your priorities. Some free time is likely to open up once you give up the need to spend equal time on each plan or activity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
You might decide to rearrange your work schedule and make a change in your daily life. Wait a few days before making a big announcement, and take some pressure off yourself. Schedule a weekend away in order to ease the tension.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You have been busy, and you will continue to be. It might feel as if you have too much to do and too little time. Your feelings overwhelm you at times. You could be tired of your routine and are likely to decide to toss your schedule to the wind.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You have a lot on your plate and can't seem to get past a problem. Don't try to force your hand with a boss, parent and/or an older person. You won't get anywhere that way; in fact, you might cause more of a problem for yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Reach out to a loved one who has been calling and wants to get together. You have a lot on your mind and too much to do. Explain your situation when setting a time and place. You don't need to dedicate as much time as you think you do.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You understand much more about a situation than those around you do. Much could be going on behind the scenes. The more you learn and understand, the more you are likely to become accepting. Your smile helps others worry less.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Get together with loved ones. You have strong ideas that might be difficult for others to grasp at times. You understand the implications of what will happen if no one takes action, but do those around you? You are likely to find an ally when sharing.

A stiffer spine smooths a 'rough patch'

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: My girlfriend of five years, "Sandra," and I have recently been going through a rough patch. We're still very much in love, but there are major life decisions looming that we need to come to terms with if we are to stay together happily.

Recently, Sandra has reconnected with "Marion," a friend from college. They are trying to repair their relationship after a major fallout.

Marion invited Sandra to a party recently, with the permission to "bring friends," but Sandra is hesitant to bring me along. Apparently, Marion had expressed quite forcefully during their fallout that I was a terrible person. Sandra and I have no idea why she would feel this way, but Sandra said to me, "She's just like that, sometimes."

Do I attend Marion's party, now that I know how she truly feels about me? I've attended her parties before and have never received an odd look or mean word from her. Many of my friends will be going, and they've assumed I'd be there by virtue of historical precedent.

On the one hand, I don't want to cause tension and would hate to make Marion feel uncomfortable in her own home. On the other hand, she did say my girlfriend could "bring friends," and she knows I'm at the top of that list.

Furthermore, I don't feel entirely comfortable being left at home while Sandra attempts to repair relations with someone who, apparently, is rooting for our relationship to fail.

As of now I'm leaning toward not attending, but I'd love your take on the situation.

Caught Off Guard

Caught Off Guard: You should go. Dive right in. You are "Sandra's" long-time boyfriend, her presumed "plus-one," and definitely her friend.

My main questions are for your girlfriend, however:

Why has she permitted this person to trash you, unchallenged?

Why did she disclose her friend's uncharitable assessment of you — to you?

Why does she want you to stay home?

You say the relationship with your girlfriend has hit a rough patch. The dynamic between the two of you is a manifestation of how flawed your relationship is right now.

Dear Amy: I'd like to respond to the question from "Worried Parents," the parents who wanted to talk to their young-adult daughter about the weight she had recently gained.

While I liked your advice, you should have pointed out that they don't really need to tell their daughter she has gained weight — trust me, she already knows.

Been There

Been There: Absolutely.

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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