

## DIVERSIONS

## THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

## Bones Mots: Dead-on obit humor

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1176** we asked for a humorous line for someone's obituary — and the person could be real or fictional, specific or generic, living or not. Our fingers are crossed tightly in hope that between press time and the moment you read this, someone below didn't become "not."

## 4th place

Visitation for **Mr. Fosse** will be held at 5-6-7-8! (Stephen Litterst, Newark, Del.)

## 3rd place

Ms. McMurray, **assistant to the Great Magico** until her recent unfortunate accident, will be laid to rest on May 2 at 12:30 p.m. at Highland Park Cemetery, and on May 3 at 1:30 at Mountain View Memorial Park. (Bruce Alter, Fairfax Station, Va.)

## 2nd place and the pair of ceramic California Raisins:

Reminiscences about Mr. Jones will be offered in a special service by his colleagues in the **American Auctioneers' Society**, today from 9 a.m. to 9:01 a.m. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

## And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial:

In keeping with his wishes, **Kim Jong Un** will not die. (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

## Passed on: honorable mentions

**Mr. Schwarzenegger** will not be back. (Duncan Stevens)

**The Taliban** announced that the funeral of its new leader, who has yet to be named, has been tentatively scheduled for early August. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

For those planning to attend the funeral of the **Kennedy Center executive**, please note that you must have attended four other funerals this season. (George Smith, Frederick, Md.)

**Mr. Tarantino** was shot dozens of times, stabbed, impaled with a samurai sword, immolated, and left in a giant pool of fake blood, in accordance with his funeral wishes. (David Kleinbard, Mamaroneck, N.Y.)

After repeated attacks by Donald Trump, **Civility** finally succumbed to its wounds last night. It will reportedly be buried next to the late Humility and Accountability. (Leigh Giza, Bristow, Va.)

Correction: Our report yesterday that we had greatly exaggerated **Mr. Twain's** death was in error. (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

Alas, **Zayn Malik** failed to notice that not all the traffic came from One Direction. (Victoria Fombelle, Decatur, Ill.)

We are saddened to report that **Mr. Jrzbbz**, a retired announcer for Metrorail, grmmphled on Drcssday. Services will be held at Filimmpjg Church on Swzthmkn Street. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Mrs. Jones, who suffered from recurrent episodes of amnesia, used personal experiences to inspire her work as a **soap opera scriptwriter**. She leaves behind four ex-husbands, her current husband/former stepson, two children who aged from infancy to adolescence overnight, and an evil twin. (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church)

Today, **Elisha Graves Otis** ascended for the last time. No buttons were necessary. (Steve Honley, Washington)

The **conjoined triplets** led a long and cheerful life, but now they are six feet under. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Mr. Gridley will be buried beside his beloved wife. Lifelong **crossword enthusiasts**, the Gridleys will lie in eternal rest, two across and six down. (Hildy Zampella)

**Gregor Samsa**, a traveling salesman and recent recluse, was killed in his home during a scheduled pest control treatment. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

**Mrs. Yomama** was laid to rest yesterday in a coffin they hadda get from Pods. (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

**Alice "Tinker" Bell** died suddenly last week during the taping of a TV show when a stagehand neglected to flash the applause sign. (Chris Doyle)



FROM "ZITS," BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, ALTERED BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST WITH A PARODY BY CHRIS DOYLE

## New contest for Week 1180: Strip search!

"When we think of Alaska, butterflies aren't the first image that comes to mind..." ("Mark Trail," June 12) No, that would be lipstick on a moose.

This week's contest was suggested by Royal Consort Mark Holt, the Empress's main squeeze. Mark, a regular reader of The Post's comics section, thought it would be fun to take lines from various comics out of context and lend them that Loserly touch. It's a lot like our recurring contest Questionable Journalism, but with just the funnies. **This week: Find a line of text from any comic strip or panel that appears on The Post's comics pages or on washingtonpost.com/comics, dated anywhere between June 16 and June 27, and either (a) supply a question that the original line could answer, as in Chris Doyle's line that replaces "Find the problem?" in the cartoon above; or (b) follow it with your own line of dialogue or reply, as in the Alaska example. Write your entries as text — you don't have to put them in pictures — but include the name and date of each comic you're using.**

**NEW: No more emailing entries! Instead, submit them at this website: [subpl.at/INVI1180](http://subpl.at/INVI1180).**

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a fabulous fuzzy green and yellow beanie with soft noodly tentacles boinging out every which way. Donated by Loser Dave Prevar.

**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 27; results published July 17 (online July 14). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. See contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). "Bones Mots" in the headline is by Tom Witte; the honorable-mentions subhead was suggested by both Jesse Frankovich and Jeff Shirley. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](http://on.fb.me/invdev). "Like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](http://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](http://wapo.st/styleconv).

Harriet was a lifelong **NPR listener**. In lieu of flowers, please call the local station and drone on for 15 minutes about how great she was. (Bill Lieberman, Ellicott City, Md.)

**Mr. LaPierre** was buried with the traditional 300-million-gun salute. (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

California-bound settler **George Donner** perished in the Sierra Nevadas, reportedly from consumption. (Chris Doyle)

**Ernest Hemingway** died. (Tom Glynn, Los Altos, Calif., a First Offender)

**Mr. Brin's** memorial service is expected to last .00482 seconds, but mourners will no doubt be impatient anyway. (Mike Gips)

Though he did not survive his attempt to go over Niagara Falls in a canoe a second time, **Mr. House** was fondly remembered as being "good till the last drop." (Jeff Hazle, San Antonio)

Ms. Lee financed her law school tuition by working as an **exotic dancer**. In lieu of flowers, donations may be slipped into the lacy elastic band around her casket. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

Because of renovations to the funeral home, mourners of **Mr. Wiedefeld** will be admitted only at 24-minute intervals. (Duncan Stevens)

Mr. Newton, an avid **bungee-jumping** enthusiast, died suddenly after a brief battle with the ground. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

To attend the wake for "Family Circus" creator **Bil Keane**, mourners are advised to run around the chapel, tramp through the garden, weave between the bushes, jump in the sandbox, play with the dog, run around the chapel again, knock on the door and ask for Billy. (Rob Cohen, Potomac)

Ms. Wilson, whose successful **real estate** career spanned three decades, was interred in a spacious



VALERIE HOLT

**Local journalist Brady Holt (a.k.a. Son of Empress) models the prize noodly appendage.**

35-square-foot mahogany coffin, with a vaulted lid and high-end brass fittings. (Rob Huffman)

**Noted litigator** Dewey Cheatham was officially pronounced dead yesterday at 10 a.m. Funeral services are stayed pending an appeal of the coroner's findings. (Frank Mann, Washington)

**Luciano Pavarotti** departed this life precisely when Your Mama started singing. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Survivors of former Virginia governor **Robert McDonnell** request that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to — never mind, just send flowers. (Frank Mann)

Jack Ullman, the "**donut czar**" of greater Cleveland, died early Thursday morning. His body is to be cremated. (Rob Huffman)

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you refrain from mentioning his participation in The Style Invitational. (Gary Crockett)

And last: **The Empress of The Style Invitational** was remembered last weekend at a rousing memorial service. One mourner observed, "I don't think I've ever heard a 'Be Our Guest' parody at a funeral before." (Duncan Stevens)

**Still running — deadline Monday night, June 20: our contest for A-B-C (or B-C-A, etc.) phrases. See [bit.ly/invite1179](http://bit.ly/invite1179).**

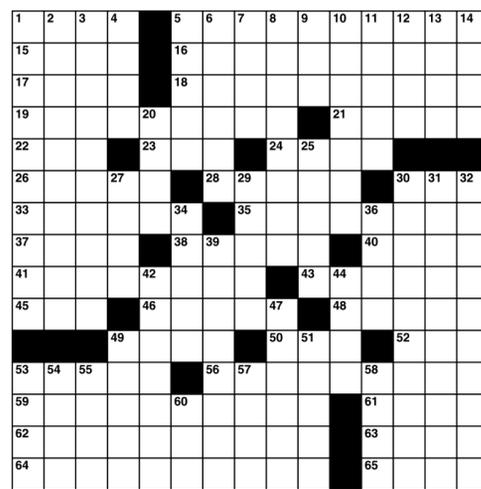
## SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY ALAN ARBESFELD © 2016 CROSSNERGY SYNDICATE LLC

- ACROSS**
- \_\_\_\_-bitty
  - Place frequented by some soldiers
  - Opposite of bianca
  - What an honors class offers
  - Pub crawl purchase
  - Devotee
  - "Be that as it may ..."
  - Seven-time all-star third baseman Scott
  - Bashes
  - First name in objectivism
  - Eponymous Scottish inventor James
  - Baffle
  - Internet forum troublemaker
  - John and Ruth
  - Pester, and then some
  - Experimented with
  - Jay or Ray, briefly

- DOWN**
- Really suffering
  - One who can easily pass the bar
  - Balancing experts
  - Tale
  - Arctic explorer Robert
  - Recent delivery
  - Lit \_\_\_\_
  - "Well done!"
  - "Vous êtes \_\_\_\_" (sign on a Parisian mall map)
  - Gleeful laugh
  - Schoolyard comeback
  - Extremely, informally

- "The Neverending Story" author
- Loads
- Lab sounds?
- Rap sheet entry
- First name in play-by-play
- Prelate's address (abbr.)
- Outing for a quartet
- Hightail it
- Mountain road sign that might necessitate changing gears
- Herring's cousin
- \_\_\_\_ the Destroyer (Marvel Comics superhero)
- "In my opinion ..."
- Authorize
- Part of a tennis serve
- Less challenging
- Partner of ciencias
- Kitchen extensions?
- Alto lead-in?
- SpaceX founder Musk
- Flag
- Up to the task
- Apple for the teacher, perhaps?
- Grazing ground



Answer to last week

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

## HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY| June 19:** This year you often change your mind and go from one extreme to another. The issue is that you see both sides of an argument and understand the duality of a situation differently from how others do. If you are single, come fall you will enter a very romantic period where you might have more than one potential suitor. If you are attached, the two of you often get into an animated discussion about what you want. You often will take the opposite side an issue just to explore the pros and cons with your sweetie. Sagittarius challenges you.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)

You might have too many choices available to you and don't know what to do. You need an escape, and the sooner the better. Choose the invitation that provides a sense of distance from your daily life.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)

Make time for a special person today. One-on-one relating flows with ease between the two of you, especially after a few minutes. Allow your feelings to react accordingly to various comments and/or interactions.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)

You easily could go along with nearly anyone's plans today. You even might be more outgoing than you have been in a while. Be fluid and open in a conversation. Rest assured that you will not be bored.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)

You might be in a situation that you find difficult at best. Someone seems to think that he or she is more efficient and better suited to take over a project in which you are involved. Be kind in how you voice

your feelings.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)

Your inner child can't be suppressed right now. Know that you have a strong possibility of connecting with someone who is as playful as you are. Recognize that this connection can't be restrained.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

If you feel that it is time for a lazy Sunday, you will prove that you are tuned in to the ethers and to what you need. If you can avoid going out and can stay in your pajamas, all the better.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Make a phone call before dashing out the door, as you might not have the time later to catch up on a friend's news. Others seem to want to be around you, but if you don't react in the way they would like, you can expect a strong reaction.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Use caution when making a financial decision. As little as it might matter to you, this decision could have unanticipated implications. Be ready

to say "no" if need be. Don't lose sight of your priorities. You have a tendency to go overboard, so be careful.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You are so focused and in a positive mind-set that you might feel as if no one can stop you. However, a lot of people are making requests that you can't help but say "yes" to.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Stay centered despite a feeling of fatigue. If you don't want to go out, don't. You push hard, and it is not surprising that exhaustion takes over when the pace slows down.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You love your friends, and nothing pleases you more than spending time with your immediate group of pals. What is important to you is being with this group of people.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)

You'll be noticed, whether you are taking care of a situation at work or dealing with another responsibility. What is definite is that you won't be able to join friends as easily as you might like to.

## Amid divide, stay in touch with nieces

## Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

**Dear Amy:** I've been married for 10 years to a wonderful man. I have a loving relationship with

his mother. When my sister-in-law was alive, our families regularly shared good times. Since her death (about five years ago) my husband's brother has excluded us.

A couple of years ago my husband and I researched different living options for his mother, as did the other side of the family. It was total confusion. In the end, my husband's solution prevailed, honoring his mother's wishes. In the meantime, he and I received numerous incendiary emails from that side of the family.

Last year, my brother-in-law remarried. We were not invited to the wedding.

This past weekend, my mother-in-law implied that my brother-in-law and his wife would like to be invited to our weekend home, which is in a beautiful resort community. I blurted out, "They'll be invited when it's a cold day in hell." My husband was in agreement. Knowing my mother-in-law, the message will get back.

I can't take the words back, and I don't think there's any chance of repairing the relationship with my brother-in-law. I do worry

about the relationship my husband has with his nieces. Just let things ride?

*So Sad to Lose Family*

**So Sad to Lose Family:** You can't be all that sad about losing family if you would take an (implied) olive branch and basically use it to switch these family members.

If they want to ingratiate themselves to you (in order to have a better relationship, yielding, perhaps, an invitation to your vacation home), then they will have to find a way to reach out to you and your husband directly.

It is possible that your mother-in-law brought up this vacation idea on her own, as a way to try to bring her two sons together.

You and your husband should do your best to stay in touch with these nieces, regardless of your relationship with their parents. The children suffered a huge loss when their mother died. It would be a terrible shame for them to lose yet more family members over a long-standing squabble.

**Dear Amy:** Some of my colleagues claim that I don't have a sense of humor.

I am a teacher at an undergraduate program, and my friends, family members and even my students really appreciate my funny bone. But then a male

colleague told me a joke about a man hitting his educated wife on the face, which I found quite distasteful.

At a gathering, he told everyone that I did not understand his joke because I do not have a sense of humor. Another colleague, whom I have saved from the wrath of the superiors several times, heartily agreed. I am upset about these two people's conduct, but I did not say anything to them. Do you think they are right about me?

*Wondering*

**Wondering:** I don't know if your co-worker is right about you, but I do know that you are right about him. Based on your report of this incident, your co-worker's joke is both unfunny and offensive. His choice to double down and try to engage co-workers in bullying you is unacceptable.

Workplace bullies often use "humor" to dominate and humiliate others. You should stand up to this jerk, and if he continues on in this vein, you should consider asking a superior to rain down some wrath and see if he thinks that's funny.

Write to Amy Dickinson at [askamy@tribune.com](mailto:askamy@tribune.com) or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

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