

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

The har truth: Week 1183 'Honest' ink

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1183** we asked for musings roughly in the form of "If xxxx were more honest, then..." Numerous Losers cracked: If Trump (or If Clinton) were more honest, he/she'd still be almost totally dishonest.

4th place

If **NBA players** were more honest, when a teammate missed the first of two foul shots, they would slap his face rather than his hand. (Howard Walderman, Columbia, Md.)

3rd place

If **seed catalogues** were more honest, they would tell you that all photos are of professional flowers/vegetables/fruit that are paid to pose. (Robyn Carlson, Keyser, W.Va.)

2nd place and the Illuminibowl rotating-color toilet light:

If **Dunkin' Donuts** were more honest, it would change its slogan to "America Waddles on Dunkin.'" (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial:

If **salespeople** were more honest, they wouldn't keep asking, "Can I be honest with you?" (Annette Green, Lexington, Va.)

Outliers: honorable mentions

If **credit cards** were named more honestly, they would be called debt cards. (Scott Miller, Porter Ranch, Calif., a First Offender)

If **Kellogg's** were more honest, it would admit that Snap, Crackle and Pop pretty much sound the same. (Rob Huffman, vacationing in Reykjavik, Iceland)

If **Kanye West** were more honest, he would embrace his talent and overcome his shy modesty. (David Ballard, Reston, Va.)

If **laptops** were more honest, they'd be called catbottoms. (Amanda Yanovitch, Midlothian, Va.)

If **Canadians** were being honest, they'd let us know that if Trump wins, THEY will build a wall. (Peter Hammond, Potomac, Md., a First Offender)

If **Hillary Clinton** were more honest, it would prove she really is willing to try anything to get elected. (John Hutchins, Silver Spring, Md.)

If **Hillary Clinton** were more honest, Vincent Foster, Chris Stevens and the crew of the Edmund Fitzgerald would be alive today. — Rep. Trey Gowdy (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

If **police** were more honest, they would charge people with "asking for a badge number" rather than "resisting arrest." (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

If **cellphone companies** were honest, they would just have a single button at the bottom of their license agreements, reading, "I accept, but I have no idea what I just accepted." (Duncan Stevens)

If **7-Eleven** were more honest about its drink sizes, they would be called Half, Full, Strained and Burst-Bladder. (Jeff Contompassis, Ashburn, Va.)

If **lifetime warranties** were more honest, they'd be called "We're betting that you're too lazy to mail this item back to us." (David Kleinbard, Mamaroneck, N.Y.)

If **my GPS** were more honest, it'd replace "Recalculating" with "What the hell are you DOING?!" (Todd DeLap, Fairfax, Va.)

If **Sam's Club** were more honest, it'd remind us that we already have three unopened gallon buckets of mayonnaise in the pantry. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis, Md.)

If **my kids** were more honest, they'd admit that my sense of style is pretty groovy. (David Ballard)

A more honest name for **Fruit Roll-Ups** would be Corn Syrup Fly Paper. (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church, Va.)

If **Your Mama** were more honest, she wouldn't call you Junior. (John Hutchins)

If **lotteries** were more honest, they would be called "notalotteries." (Philip Justus, Potomac, Md.)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1187: Just drop it, okay?

Tycoo: To fire an underling using a soft voice.
Witles: Cuts down one's IQ.
Air filite: A very light Jewish delicacy.

Back in Week 733, nine years ago, we ran a contest in which we asked you to create a new word by dropping the first letter from an existing one. Eighty-eight-time Loser Matt Monitto suggests we turn it around. **This week: Drop the last letter from an existing word, phrase or name and define the result, as in Bob Staake's "tycoo" and Matt's examples above. You may add hyphens.**

Submit entries at this website: bit.ly/enter-invite-1187.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a little "collectible" knickknack of a bear in a dress throttling Mother Goose, all mounted on a spring that's mounted on a "book" open to that horrible nursery rhyme telling children how unlucky they were to be born on a Wednesday or Thursday. Brought across the Atlantic Ocean and delivered directly into the Empress's hand by Loser Jayne Osborn of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, Formerly Europe.

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, Aug. 15; results published Sept. 4 (online Sept. 1). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. See contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "The har truth" was suggested by both Chris Doyle and Nan Reiner; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Kevin Dopart. 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.



PAT MYERS/THE WASHINGTON POST

Delight your little one with this week's second prize: Nurse Ratched Bear strangling Mother Goose.

If **air hand dryers in public bathrooms** were labeled more honestly, they would be called pre-pants hand dryers. (Annette Green)

If **airlines** were more honest, they'd call reclining seats "midair melee instigators." (Frank Mann, Washington)

If **my wife** were more honest, that would be a bad thing. (Todd DeLap)

If **lawyers** were more honest, we'd lose some of our best jokes. (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

If **Hillshire Brands** were honest, it would specify that Jimmy Dean sausages contain little or no Jimmy Dean. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

If **dating sites** were more honest about profile pictures, they would include the disclaimer "Actual size may vary." or "Some settling of contents may have occurred." (Lee Graham, Arlington, Va.)

If **tanning salons** were more honest, they would be called rotisserie human cafes. (Scott Miller)

If **deodorant makers** were more honest, they'd sell Soft & Dri Clothing Paint. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

If **dairy companies** were more honest, they'd put it on the label that their milk comes from the actual nipples of animals, like those gross women who breastfeed their babies in public, but even more disgusting! (Tom

Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

If **pears** were named more honestly, they would be called ones. (Scott Miller)

If **Hallmark** were more honest, its slogan would be: "When you care enough to send a card but not a present." (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

If **Hillary Clinton** were more honest, she would admit that her email scandal started with an ad that read, "Is Your Email Secure? Click Here to Find Out." (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

If I were more honest, I'd admit that I don't think it was worth the \$20,000 I spent to see Lin-Manuel Miranda's final Broadway performance in "Hamilton." The casting was horrible — I'm no historian, but I thought that Thomas Jefferson was white. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

If **infomercials** were more honest, they'd market exercise bikes as clothes racks right up front. (Jon Gearhart)

If **NPR hosts** were more honest, they would giggle whenever they read a promo for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. (Duncan Stevens)

If **Playboy** were more honest, they'd go by their full name: "Play With Yourself, Boy." (Pete Morelewicz, Washington)

If **Nike** were more honest, it would admit that the unjust do it, too. (Kevin Dopart)

If **What3Words** were more honest, my house would be labeled "painful.lego.minefield." (Todd DeLap)

If **De Beers** were more honest, its slogan would be "a diamond is always pawnable." (Kevin Dopart)

If **The Washington Post** were more honest, it would be called The Washington Please Post This on Facebook. (Carol Teitelbaum, Olney, Md., a First Offender)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Aug. 8: our contest for poems based on anagrams. See bit.ly/invite1186.

BY DOUG PETERSON © 2016 CROSSYNERGY SYNDICATE LLC

ACROSS

1 "Straight Outta Compton" role

8 Seek information

15 They come in bunches

16 Much praised

17 Most Bollywood stars

18 Permanent

19 Capture, in a way

20 Fork-tailed predator

22 Piquant

23 Racket extension?

24 ___ out (ignore)

25 Revival effort, initially

26 Wade noisily

28 Niels who modeled the atom

30 Some notebooks

33 1992 racing game that spawned a franchise

37 Sister of Regan

38 Constantine's country

39 Viennese relative of Donald Duck

41 Exciting March Madness periods, briefly

42 Fencing option

43 Adjective on a taqueria menu

45 Camera shop letters

46 Singer Lambert who's toured with Queen

49 Old Saturn model

50 First name in bronzers

53 Common platter shape

54 Brown alternative, familiarly

55 Air current ridden by a soaring bird

57 Bookstore section

59 1953 film with the tagline "A raging torrent of emotion that even nature can't control!"

60 Count on boxes

61 With lots to spare

62 Team once called the Highlanders

SUNDAY CHALLENGE

DOWN

1 Birds associated with the god Thoth

2 Neutralizes the effect of

3 Tricky football plays

4 Early man

5 Article in Oaxaca includes Swahili

6 Language group that includes Swahili

7 City served by Düsseldorf Airport

8 Author Bunin or Turgenev

9 Snatch

10 Type of broadcast enjoyed by trivia buffs

11 Supervised by

12 "For realz?"

13 Musical set in Manhattan's East Village

14 Boldly unconventional country music album

21 "___ #1's" (2005)

24 Show whose title character used a customized Winchester

25 Allowance spender

27 More than trickle

29 Port of 38-Across

30 Bygone Buick

31 Admitted defeat

32 Subway transfer loc.

34 Strictness

35 Caesar's 1,056

36 New Zealand parrots

37 ___ Worm ('80s light-up toy)

40 Norwegian royal name

44 Ancestor claimed by Julius Caesar

45 Twilled fabric

47 "Pride and Prejudice" suitor

48 Pacific salutation

50 Site of Vulcan's forge, in myth

51 Queen Anne's Revenge, e.g.

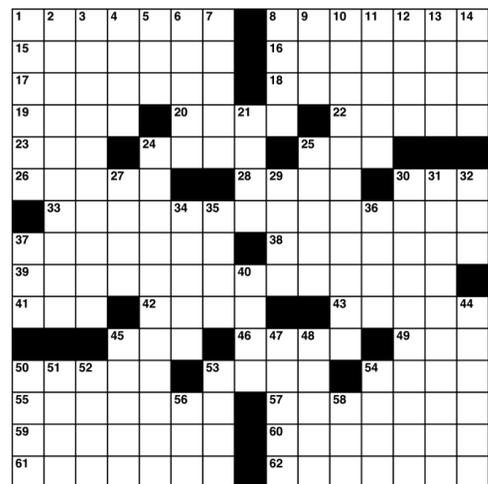
52 Pond swimmer

53 Fresh Effects brand

54 Word with horse or rat

56 Installation material

58 Many a fed. holiday



Answer to last week

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

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Aug. 7: This year you depend on your ability to think through problems and find creative solutions. Be careful with money, even if you have a trusted adviser who handles your funds. If you are single, one person of interest could be quite controlling; think twice before you leap into this relationship. If you are attached, you could eliminate a lot of the stress between you and your sweetie by keeping separate checking accounts. Libra knows how to cajole you to see their side of an argument.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Even though you are assertive, you will bend to a partner's will. Anger seems to dissolve, but it could come up when discussing a skeleton in your closet. You might need to talk to a parent or another relative who might know more about this than you do.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) A mellower approach could help you deal with a power play that is likely to cause quite a problem for you. If you come from an authentic space, you will lunge right past the issue and get ahead, no matter what is going on.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Your sense of humor needs to kick in to have your day work. Avoid getting triggered by the various assortment of friends around you. You'll want to initiate a long-overdue conversation.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You might opt to invite friends and family over for an early-Sunday dinner. There is an element of playfulness that can't be replaced. You are likely to hear some interesting news.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) It is natural for you to put your best foot forward no matter what you are doing. Be careful when dealing with a loved one today, as they could get jealous.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You see others in a different light from that in which they see themselves. Your sense of well-being allows you to take risks more frequently. A loved one might express some confusion, as he or she isn't sure about your direction.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Though it is important to be supportive of those around you, right now you will want to feel free to move in a new direction. Others might follow, but this change is for you, not them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Be willing to head out alone, especially if you have something to do that others may not be interested in. A new friend will want to join you, but on some level you'll enjoy being alone.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You might need to pull away a bit in order to gain a new perspective on an important issue. Join friends, even if only for a few hours. You may be amazed by what happens with a little time and distance from the issue at hand.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Your willingness to accept more responsibility shines through. Perhaps you need to let others assume this role as well. What would you do with more free time?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Look at the big picture, especially if you find that you are getting annoyed by certain events. You might need some time off from the issue at hand.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You may be angry without really knowing it. Try looking back at your life's history to see when you have felt like this before. A friend or loved one is likely to appreciate what you are sharing.

Religious departure may not be the issue

Ask Amy

Dear Amy: About three years ago I met a wonderful guy online. "Jeff" and I have very passionate romantic feelings for each other, as well as being best friends.

Everything would be perfect, were it not for the fact that he is Muslim and from a very conservative family, and I am an Israeli Jew. He has admitted multiple times that if his parents found out about me, he would likely be disowned.

Because of this, as well as the fact that he has commitment issues due to past abusive relationships, he is reluctant to admit his feelings for me "officially" and though we actively say "I love you," he refuses to say we are dating. I understand his fears, but I've been approached by several other men who want to explore relationships with me.

I'm convinced Jeff is my soul mate, but should I give up any possibility of being with him, since we probably won't

be able to have a future together, unless he breaks off contact with his family?

Am I a fool for waiting until a miracle happens? I don't want to force him into such a difficult decision, but I also want a romantic relationship where my significant other can be proud of me.

Questioning

Questioning: First, you should reject the "soul mate" concept. There is not just one person on the planet whose soul can mate with yours.

The religious differences between you are not your only obstacle. The commitment issues stemming from other relationships would present red flags and undermine the success of your own romance. It is even possible that he uses these religious and family issues as convenient roadblocks to prevent you from getting too close.

You should accept these limitations as being very real,

and see other men if you are interested in trying to have a committed relationship. He is being open with you, and so you should be honest with him.

Dear Amy: "Facebooked" was very upset when colleagues didn't "like" or comment on his Facebook posts. This bothered me, too, and I eventually responded by simply "hiding" posts from people who didn't interact with me. Not seeing their posts helped a lot.

Worked It Out

Worked It Out: Sometimes, seeing posts from certain people triggers reactions, which you simply wouldn't have otherwise. "Hiding" works.

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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