DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Snip judgment: Week 1187 neologisms

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1187 we asked you to drop the last letter from any word, name or phrase, then describe the resulting neologism. In the late-summer deluge of more than 2,000 entries, the Empress received 23 separate ideas for "Faceboo," suggesting everything from Unlike-buttons to zits, none of them quite inkworthy.

4th place

World Wide We: Oneness and harmony with all humankind. Mutually exclusive with Internet use. (Daniel Galef, Montclair, N.J., a First Offender)

3rd place

Prince Charmin: A seemingly debonair gentleman who turns out to be a complete 'wipe. (Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

2nd place and the figurine of a teddy bear grabbing Mother Goose around the neck:

GrateFU: "Thanks for the foreign aid, but you're still the Great Satan." (Mark Raffman, Reston)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial:

Obamacar: The glitchy second-rate vehicle your partner made you get because it was cheaper, and now constantly complains about. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

Clip flops: honorable mentions

The Nuclear Butto: Someone who'd ask: If we have all these atomic weapons, why couldn't we use them? (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

Swimming poo: Going off the Depend. (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

Billie Jean Kin: Son of Michael Jackson — though he denied it (Kevin Tingley, Vienna, Va.)

Invertebrat: One as spoiled as he is spineless. (Nathanael Dewhurst, Lynn, Mass.)

Capture the Fla.: All-or-nothing game played by Bush and Gore in 2000. (Larry Gray, Union Bridge, Md.)

Canada goos: Hazards in the grass near any large pond. (Larry Gray)

VuLGA: Language used by New Yorkers whose flights have been canceled. (Pete Kinsella, Glen Allen, Va.)

Humble pi: "3.1 is close enough." (Howard Walderman, Columbia, Md.)

Equipmen: Guys who get a fourth date (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Achilles hee: The one little spot you're ticklish. (Danielle Nowlin)

Finge: The shortest digit on the shop teacher's hand. (Sylvia Betts, Vancouver, B.C.)

PharMac: A burger made with no natural ingredients. (Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

Beltwa: Cry of despair at 10 miles of brake lights. (Ellen Ryan, Rockville)

Blunderbus: Metro's alternative transportation solution during SafeTrack work. (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

Universit: The traditional four-year waiting period before a student graduates to debt. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

Militar: An invisible substance that keeps America mired in a war. (Lawrence McGuire)

Chevrolé: "Yay! That new manufacturing plant is going to bring a lot of jobs here!" (Danielle Nowlin)

Unequa: Native American tribe vanquished by the U.S. Cavalry. (William Liss-Levinson, Great Neck, N.Y., a First Offender)

Heavy Meta: Aggressive style of music with lyrics that focus on describing an aggressive style of music (Josh Feldblyum, Philadelphia)

Websit: Why American rear ends have expanded since 1993. (Ellen Ryan)

Outloo: The software Hillary used to dump her email. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Asphal: The outcome of my extremely brief attempt at skateboarding. (Pam Sweeney, Burlington, Mass.)

BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1191: Mess with our heads

Real Post headline: **Big families, squeezed out?**
Fake bank head: **Plus-size patrons sue Six Flags over small seats on roller coaster** (Brendan Beary)

Real headline: **Lucy, the world's most famous fossil, may have met her demise in a fall**
Bank head: **Museum technician regrets texting while carrying skull** (Dave Prevar)

The Washington Post, in recent years, has put a welcome emphasis on writing lively, engaging headlines, with less of the "headlinese" language (missing "the" or "to be" verbs; cliches like "raises ire"). But lively or no, there should be plenty to choose from in **this week's contest: Reinterpret (or comment wryly on) a headline appearing in The Post (print or online) and dated Sept. 1-12 by writing a bank head, or subtitle,** as in the examples above from the Aug. 30 Post (a few days ago I invited the Loser Community, on the Style Invitational Devotees page on Facebook, to contribute ideas for this week's sample head/bank combos).

In the print paper, you may use an article's main headline, or a significant part of it (for example, everything before or after a colon); the story's bank head; or the jump head (the headline on the story's second page). Online, you may use not only headlines (or significant parts) above an article, but also headlines on the home page and elsewhere that serve as links to the article. And for both, you may use headlines in ads. For further guidelines, see the Style Conversational column at bit.ly/conv1191.

Submit your entries at this website *(note, Mr. and Ms. I Have No Use for Computers: This is a website, not an email address):* **bit.ly/enter-invite-1191.**
Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives yet another in a series of prize hats that would surely add dignity to any Loser, while subtracting it from anyone else: This week it's a fleecy whale-motif hat, complete with big flippery tail at the top. We will call it the Dorca. Donated years ago by Universal Prize Donor Cheryl Davis.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug, the older-model "This Is Your Brain on Mugs" mug or our new Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Punmanship." Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet, "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, Sept. 12; results published Oct. 2 (online Sept. 29). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. Both "Snip Judgment" and the honorable-mentions subhead are by Tom Witte. 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

Royal Consort Mark Holt knows what's good for him and displays this week's second prize. We call it the Dorca.

LaundroMa: Not my preferred job description, son. (Ann Martin, Falls Church.)

Unloade: Loaded, as in "Don't worry, this gun is unloade . . ." (John Glenn, Tyler, Tex.)

The Dead Poo: The number two movie of the year! (Mark Prysant, Silver Spring, a First Offender)

Parent-hoo: Any kid knows that "If you make that face, it's going to freeze that way" is pure parent-hoo. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Gobbledegoo: Turkey-flavored Jell-O. (Beth Morgan, Palo Alto, Calif.)

Confederat: Someone who uses "heritage" to excuse bigotry. (Joanne Free, Clifton)

Labore: The first-time mom who never stops recounting the agony and ecstasy of childbirth. (Amy Harris, Charlottesville)

Ketchu: A sneeze with a bloody nose. (Mark Raffman)

Stupid as. . . : Someone so clueless you can't even describe how clueless. (Burt Freiman, East Amherst, N.Y.)

"Your call is very important to u": But not to us! (Jamie Martindale, newly relocated to Riga, Latvia)

All the world's a stag: And the men merely playas. (Susan Geariety, Menifee, Calif.)

A tooth for a toot: Worst. Deal. Ever. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

Grind to a HAL: What your computer sometimes does — clearly with spite — when you're on deadline. (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

Running mat: The lesser half of a presidential ticket. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Newscaste: The mainstream media or, as I call them, the lowest form of life. – D. Trump (Chris Doyle)

Washington POS: Any op-ed piece that I disagree with (G.T. Bowman, Falls Church)

The beaten Pat: A contest judge after reading hundreds of entries from folks who think instructions are for the less gifted. (Lawrence McGuire)

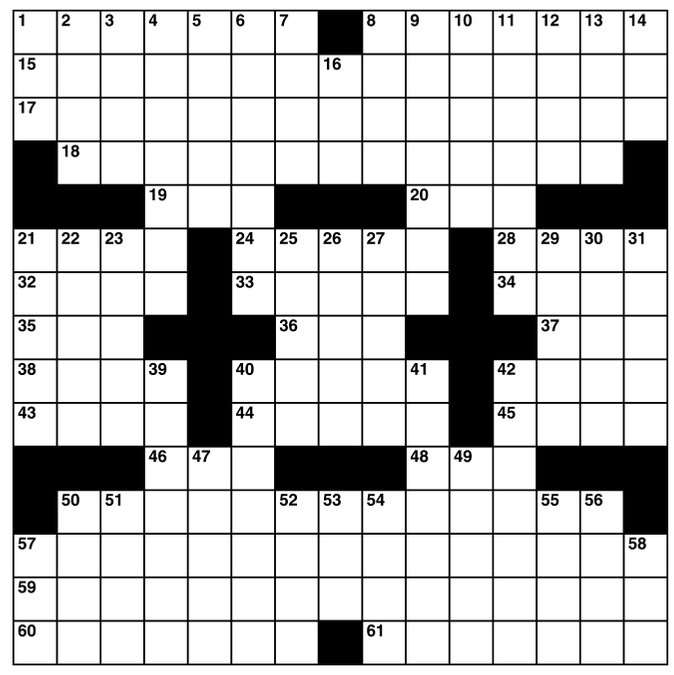
Still running — deadline Monday night, Sept. 5: our name-chain contest. See bit.ly/invite1190.

SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY BRUCE VENZKE © 2016 CROSSYNERGY SYNDICATE LLC

ACROSS
1 Proportionately
8 Lack of refinement
15 Haitian dictator
17 War of 1898
18 When ads are grouped together
19 ID sought by phishers
20 Drunken buffoon
21 Huck's conveyance
24 Peasant's porridge
28 ABA members' titles
32 Geometry topic
33 Type of financial inst.
34 Gospel music derivative
35 Cousin on "The Addams Family"
36 "Do you follow me?"
37 ____ Fail (Coronation Stone)
38 Holiday refrain
40 Hall's musical partner
42 Diplomat's asset
43 One of Luke's teachers
44 Jacques of a kids' song, e.g.
45 Perturbs
46 Coppertone tube abbr.
48 Color of embarrassment
50 What many passwords must be
57 Jack and Jackie's daughter
59 Leave a dispute unresolved
60 Certain tenants
61 Educational units

DOWN
1 Tape recorder speed (abbr.)
2 Refreshers of a sort
3 Passé bit of footwear
4 Card game with melds
5 Colliery accesses
6 Gambling minuses
7 Nymph rejected by Narcissus
8 Devoid of emotion
9 For the most part
10 Shipping container weights
11 Names for fugitives, likely
12 Mentally twisted
13 Genteel gatherings
14 Bald eagle kin
16 Fogelberg of folk
21 Describing London forecasts, often
22 Threepio's friend
23 Honored with a party
25 Palindromic scanning device
26 Rallier's cry
27 Lawn care equipment
29 Green energy variety
30 Spot beneath a nail
31 Trellis strips
39 Rodeo gear
40 Away from the plant
41 U.S. government bond category
42 News
47 West Indies volcano
49 Lab burners of old
50 Batting practice structure
51 LAX postings
52 Early space chimp
53 William Hurt's "Body Heat" role
54 Craftsman competitor
55 ____ Beach, Florida
56 Barbara who played Jeannie the genie
57 Baseball iron man Ripken
58 Sycophantic reply



Answer to last week

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

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY|Sept. 4: This year you are more in touch with your long-term desires. You are willing to go that extra step to make a dream a reality. Others envy your sense of direction and your determination. If you are single, you might be drawn to a special person who has you under their spell. If you are attached, the two of you often debate over financial matters. Consider getting separate bank accounts. Understand how very different Libra is from you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You are likely to stumble into a power play or control game. You might step right into the situation and wonder how you got there. As a result, you'll pull back and surprise not only the controlling person, but also those around you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You know the parties involved in a difficult situation, and you'll choose to walk away to avoid being caught up in their issues. Your personal thoughts about the matter might shock even you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Refuse to get involved in a disagreement or a negative situation; the story is likely to change given a few weeks. A friend might jump right into the Labor Day festivities.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
You could be in a situation where it is nearly impossible to get more of what you want. Your sense of humor and willingness to give are obvious, but these might be working against you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Be more direct when dealing with a somewhat rebellious associate. This person is a part of your life, but you can avoid them. Maintain an appropriate distance. A misunderstanding could happen from out of the blue.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You might be more indulgent than you realize. Pull back to prevent further damage from happening. Be careful with any area of your life in which you have a tendency to go overboard.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Someone might be bucking your authority. Be aware that there are limits to what is possible on your end. You like stability, but this person seems inclined to act in unexpected ways. Be more direct and forthright with them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Know that you might not be in the mood for as much socializing as is expected of you this weekend. You could decide to invite a friend or two to brunch or dinner at home or out.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You will not be content sitting at home reading the Sunday paper. Head out the door, join a friend or two and count on being among the crowd. You love to people-watch.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You have an innate bias that could cause you a problem during a discussion with an older person. This particular view pushes many people away from you. Understand what is happening, and be willing to defend your judgments against scrutiny.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You could be at a point where you would prefer to be more involved with a project or an idea. Whether you're playing a board game or having an intellectual conversation with someone, you seem to be happier than playing a sport outdoors.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You have been committed and sensitive to others, and now you want your time with a loved one. Though you might be surprised by this person's response, you will enjoy your time together nonetheless.

Regretting cohabitation with boyfriend

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: I am a 31-year-old mother of an 11-year-old girl. I have been dating a 45-year-old man for more than a year.

I recently lost my job. My rental lease with my roommate ended shortly after.

My boyfriend and I had been discussing moving in together, so we decided that now would be the time.

He had always been very excited about this idea, pledging that he was ready to settle down and looking forward to being able to support us and live as a family.

We discussed the financial concerns and agreed that I should stay on unemployment while going back to school with financial help from the Workforce Investment Act assistance program.

We were both quite excited about this. When he previously expressed concerns, I assured him that I would carry my load.

I moved in with him this past weekend and have been here for four days.

I know going from being a bachelor to living with your girlfriend and her daughter is a challenge, and we have tried to provide him with space and respect for what he is providing for us, but he is not responding well to us being here.

At this point in time, I have no idea who he is, if he still loves me, or what the future holds.

He has been incredibly irritable, disrespectful and rude.

He is frustrated with every breath of his being at the slightest thing. He is impatient and feels as though I am not a good mother. It seems as though he would be happier if we moved out .

He confirmed that this was true. Is this just the typical first-week jitters of getting adjusted or should I stop unpacking and start trying to figure out how to live on my own again?

Worried, Lost Mother

Worried, Lost Mother: You should chalk this up to a mistake and seek other housing. Make this change as quickly as possible, staying in the same school district, and doing everything possible to keep your daughter's external life of school and friends consistent.

Answer all of your daughter's questions and don't permit her to pull any of this onto her shoulders.

Can you cohabit with your former roommate? If that was a decent situation for you and your child, you should see if you can renew that housing relationship.

If you need to pursue subsidized or short-term housing, get in touch with a social worker who might be able to direct you.

Dear Amy: "WelcomeMat/DoorMat" described having friends with a great "side hustle" of renting out their place on Airbnb.com. The problem was that the friends then crashed at DoorMat's house.

My wife and I did exactly what you suggested when we had a friend who rented out his condo and then kept crashing with us. We started charging him a cut of his take. We treat this like a business arrangement, and it has worked out well for all of us.

Side-by-Side Hustle

Side-by-Side Hustle: It's the trickle-down economy. Well done.

Amy's column appears seven days a week at *washingtonpost.com/advice*. Write to *askamy@amydickinson.com* or Amy Dickinson, Tribune Content Agency, 16650 Westgrove Dr., Suite 175, Addison, Tex. 75001. You can also follow her @askingamy.

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