

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

#Rehashgags: Winning do-overs

BY PAT MYERS

Week 1205 was our annual retrospective contest, in which the Loser Community could enter (or re-enter) any of the previous year's 50-some contests — often using more recent events for fodder. For Week 1206 we did the very same thing, so next week there'll be more of the same. Still, it's no surprise that the Empress got many more good entries than there are room for here; see lots more (including terrific song parodies) in the online invite at bit.ly/invite1209.

4th place

For Week 1150, to change a name by one letter:

Rahputin: State Department adviser, 2017 (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

3rd place

Week 1162, *Onion-style headlines:* **M&M's to Replace Artificial** Disodium 6-hydroxy-5-[(2-methoxy-5-methyl-4-sulphonyl)azo]-2-naphthalenesulfonate Red Eye **With Natural** 7-*D*-Glucopyranosyl-9,10-dihydro-3,5,6,8-tetrahydroxy-1-methyl-9,10-dioxanthracenecarboxylic Acid (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

2nd place and the tote bag with a gotcha joke in Arabic:

Also Week 1162:

McDonald's Apologizes for Cultural Appropriation, Closes All Branches Outside Hamburg (Michael Rolfe, Cape Town, South Africa)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial:

Week 1173, *food puns:*

Steamed dumpings: Taking the farm-to-table movement way too far. (William Kennard, Arlington)

Naught again! honorable mentions

Week 1150, *change someone's name by one letter:* **John Madams:** The original Vice president. (Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

Week 1155, *replace vowels in a movie title with other vowels:* "Behind Locked Doors" -> "**Behind Licked; Odors**": New title for "My Life as a Dog" (William Kennard)

"Moby Dick" -> MBYDCK -> "**Maybe Duck**": A discouraged Ahab ponders easier quarry. (Colin Schatz, Oakland, Calif., a First Offender)

"**Fantastic Boasts and Where to Find Them**": @realDonaldTrump: The Movie. (Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

Week 1160, *redefine a word:* **Umami:** A Japanese insult: "Everyone's had a taste of umami." (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Seesaw: The view from the window of a bullet train. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Week 1162: *Onion-style headlines:* **Trump to Keep State of the Union Speech Brief: "Veni, Vidi, Vici"** (Jeff Contompasis)

Young Man Who Said 'Yes We Can' to Malia Obama Still Missing (William Kennard)

Week 1163, *spell words backward:* **GNILF:** A good neighbor you'd like to get to know better. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

Week 1165, *add or substitute the letter B in a word:*

Bratuity: An additional \$10 tip as penance for not controlling your kids. (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

BSer-friendly (adj.): Describing gullible voters. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

Week 1168, *Asterisk Business — jokes that require specialized knowledge to understand:*

There was an analytical lab supervisor who didn't believe in praising his workers too much. **He only gave out attoboys.***
*The prefix atto- means one-quintillionth. (Jeff Contompasis)

Week 1170, *"breed" two racehorse names and name the foal:* **Stradivari x Can't Remember = FiddlerOnTheRoofie** (Chris Doyle)

Week 1171, *pair a line of a song with your own rhyming line:* **Then nearly 14 billion years ago expansion started. Wait . . .** ("Big Bang Theory" theme)
The school board says I now must state: this theory's open to debate. (John Hutchins, Silver Spring, Md.)

Week 1174, *"grandfoals" from breeding*



MAGNETS DESIGNED BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Presenting, above and below, our newest pair of Loser magnets: The slogans, by Tom Witte and Beverley Sharp, respectively, were honorable mentions themselves, in slogan contests back in 2007 and 2012. The Empress will start awarding them to the Week 1205 winners.

Invented Facts: A fictoid contest for Week 1209

The first rice cake, as you might expect, was the consequence of an explosion in a Styrofoam factory.

The modern toilet paper roll was the brainchild of carnival worker P.B. Whipple: While winding layers of spun sugar onto a cardboard holder, he realized that cotton candy was remarkably similar to TP, though slightly less digestible.

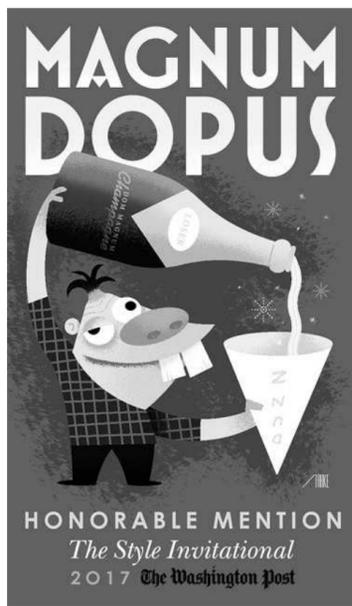
The Style Invitational, bringing you fake facts before it was official government policy. Yes, it's yet another of our fictoid contests, this one suggested by 105-time Loser Melissa Balmain, who doesn't get the usual contest-suggestion prize of an ice cream date with the Empress because she's in Rochester, N.Y., and it's too cold there for ice cream: **Tell us a humorously untrue account of how a product or invention came to be, or got its name, as in Melissa's examples above. Don't write huge paragraphs; Melissa's toilet paper roll fictoid, at 37 words, is plenty long for us.**

Submit entries at this website: bit.ly/enter-invite-1209 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place gets, apropos of this contest, a board game called Fact or Crap: You take a card that contains some bit of trivia (e.g., "The armadillo is the only animal to suffer from leprosy") and you have to decide whether it's . . . yep. Donated by Loser Marleen May.

Other runners-up win the yearned-for "This Is Your Brain on Mugs" Loser mug or our Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Punmanship." Honorable mentions get one of the new magnets shown here today. First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). Deadline is Tuesday night, Jan. 17; results published Feb. 5 (online Feb. 2). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Kevin Dopart; the honorable-mentions subhead is 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.



Week 1170 *foal names:*

Señor Moment x Someone Else's Kid = Nacho Daddy (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

Week 1175, *neologisms whose letters add to 13 Scabble points:* **Flatinum:** The metal used to make anvils and steamrollers. (Jeff Contompasis)

Week 1176, *funny obits for the living:* In memory of Metro chief Paul Wiedefeld, **all trains will stop running for one minute** at noon tomorrow instead of the customary 17. (Gregory Koch, Falls Church)

Week 1187, *drop the last letter from a name:*

Forrest Gum: "Life is like a box of

Chiclets." (Chris Doyle)

Peter Rabbi: A mohel. (Tom Witte)

Week 1195, *change a movie title without changing any letters:*

Trans Formers: Documentary on Caitlyn Jenner's team of surgeons (Rachel Bernhardt, Silver Spring)

What Ever Happened to Baby, Jane?: Tarzan and his wife wonder if a dingo ate Korak. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

More honorable mentions in the online invite at bit.ly/invite1209.

Still running — deadline Monday night, Jan. 9: Our contest for poems about people who died in 2016. See bit.ly/invite1208.

SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY MARTIN ASHWOOD-SMITH © 2017 CROSSYNERGY SYNDICATE LLC

ACROSS

1 Rolling Stones hit of 1968

16 City on Cook Inlet

17 "The Big Bang Theory" theme song band

18 "___ in Calico" (jazz standard)

19 A foot wide?

20 Arp's art

21 Cravat holder

24 ___ Pea of cartoons

27 Warehouses

30 Least done

34 Carry the day

37 Leaves for a drink?

39 Start of many a play

41 "Waterworld" girl

42 Make a bad impression?

43 Biblical fact?

46 Colorant

47 With full judicial participation

48 Cultural value system

50 Adverse fate

52 Go downhill quickly

56 Line of fashion?

59 Satisfied sigh

62 Pot grower

63 Schedule D item

68 Choice words

69 Secret assurance

DOWN

1 Try to punch, perhaps

2 Eel, at sushi bars

3 Carmen of jazz fame

4 Winner of eight gold medals in 2008

5 Lithium-___ battery

6 Org. with many arms

7 "Raging Bull" subject LaMotta

8 "A Death in the Family" author

9 Relinquishes (Alpo rival)

11 Pensacola's place, briefly

12 Maturing in stages, as investments

13 Minor place?

14 Prog. listing

15 ___ fit (flips)

22 Skater Midori

23 Remington rival

25 Floral arrangements

26 "Tales of Mystery and Imagination" auth.

28 Pine for

29 Overnight sensation?

31 Barely made, with "out"

32 Betamax creator

33 Head, in Cannes

34 It's a living

35 Desktop graphic

36 Fed. crash investigator

38 Overabundance

40 Apple debut of 2012

44 Big name in ambient music

45 Ad ___ committee

49 California peak

49 Valletta's land

53 Before

54 Avert, with "off"

55 HS health course

56 Con game

57 A piece of cake

58 "C'mon! Be ___!"

60 Antiquing material

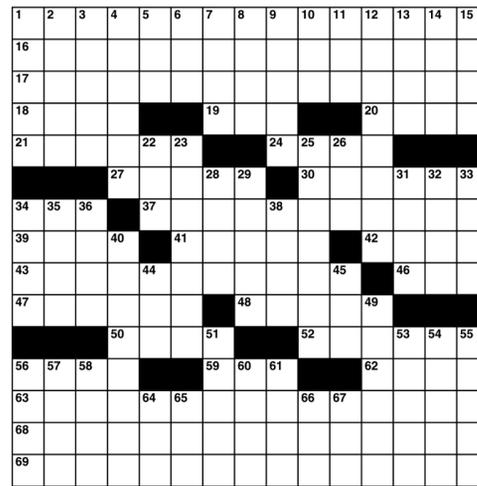
61 Fabled race loser

64 Drip source, at times

65 "Happy Days" eatery

66 Electees

67 Renfrew refusal



Answer to last week



HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Jan. 8: This year you move forward with a tried and tested plan. Your creativity emerges in the process. Allow others to participate in making an idea even stronger through some criticism. If you are single, you might meet someone who could become much more than just an acquaintance. If you are attached, autumn will be meaningful for both you and your sweetie. Gemini can be witty.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You might have planned this day to get certain projects done, but you could wake up with a sense of concern. If you feel uneasy or awkward, make choices that will help you get past any insecurities.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Have a long-overdue talk with someone about your priorities, and listen to what is important to them. Though you might feel as if the conversation is complete, this person is likely to feel otherwise.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
The possibility of handling a personal issue becomes higher as the day goes on. If you feel the need to sleep in, by all means, do. You know what works for you, and you understand what will help you feel better.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Use the daylight hours to the max. Reach out to a loved one and plan a long-overdue visit. You could feel caught in a weird interaction with this person. Communication is not likely to be as clear as you'd like.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Stay on top of your work. Don't cancel a get-together, as it could cause a problem. By evening time, an invitation from a friend heads in your direction. Know that you can't say "no" to this person. Squeeze in as much socializing as possible.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You will hear a lot that you might not agree with, but know that listening carefully will open your mind. Touch base with a loved one at a distance. Get together with this person in the near future.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
You might want to get a better sense of where a loved one is coming from. The best way to determine this person's position is through spending time with them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Others have been very controlling as of late, and although you might be somewhat annoyed, you'll opt to let it go. Put in your 2 cents, and have a discussion about the possibility of developing a better situation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Complete what you must in the

morning. You will feel much better in the afternoon, and you'll be more open to getting together with friends. You might find yourself in the middle of a party. Get into the moment. Spontaneity makes you smile more.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Use the daylight hours to the max. Someone you see on a regular basis clearly seems to be very opinionated. What you hear could confuse you, as you are likely to learn of some facts and ideas that were not disclosed up until this point.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Stay close to home, and relax in the daytime. How you feel and the choices you make could change radically once you have rested. You also might become more detached from an issue. Try to slow down the hectic pace.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You can't help but express your feelings now, even if you have decided to say very little in the recent past. One provocative statement could cause the gates to open and opinions to be aired.

Debate about Communion exclusion

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: My husband's brother and his wife just got divorced after 17 years of marriage and 25 years of being together.

They have three children, who are close cousins to my three children. All the children are under age 15. My children love their aunt and uncle, and consider her still their aunt, even though she is no longer married to their uncle. I too consider this woman my family, even though technically she is no longer my sister-in-law.

My daughter's Communion is this spring, and this woman is godmother to my little girl. Naturally I want to invite her to the church and dinner afterward, but my brother-in-law forbids it! My husband is inclined to side with his brother and say she is not welcome and that I need to honor this since it is his family.

My daughter will feel terrible if her godmother is not welcome, and I am also fearful that the cousins will not come if their mother is not welcome.

Am I wrong in thinking it is okay to invite her, even though they aren't married anymore? Is my husband acting appropriately in telling me it is his call to decide?

We are now fighting over this, and it isn't pleasant for anyone. What's appropriate here?

Upset

Upset: Your husband and his brother have what could be called the primary relationship in this tough triangle. They grew up in the same household and have long-standing familial loyalties that your husband is anchoring to now. You can imagine that your husband is under some pressure from his brother regarding this event. Sibling loyalty (unfortunately) trumps your close relationship with your sister-in-law.

You can also imagine that, given the breakup of this marriage, she might not be ready to amicably attend a family event alongside her ex.

Because she is the child's godmother, this is an issue you should take to clergy. You and your husband should ask for a meeting and attend together.

In my view, you should invite her, and the couple should work out between themselves who will attend.

You and your former sister-in-law should work hard to maintain your friendship and relationship, regardless of what happens with this event.

Dear Amy: I have a simple

solution for "Worried Future Mother-in-law," who was worried that the mother of the groom would be drunk and disorderly at the wedding.

They should simply not serve alcohol at the reception, although they shouldn't tell the groom's mother ahead of time — otherwise she might bring her own or arrive drunk.

Problem Solved

Problem Solved: I have read that "dry" receptions are on the upswing, but many marrying couples, their families and friends are not willing to sacrifice their own celebratory imbibing for others' sake.

I absolutely believe in limiting alcohol served at these celebrations. Alcohol use at weddings leads to problems that last far beyond the typical hangover. Drunken revelers damage property and relationships, and the consequences of drinking at these open-bar events are sometimes tragic.

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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