

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Report from Week 1078:
Dash over to these Hyphen the Terrible neologisms

BY PAT MYERS

Week 1078 was another installment of our age-old contest in which the Empress asked readers to find two hyphenated words or terms in the same edition of a publication, then combine the halves of them into a new term. Since Web sites don't usually break lines to make the columns line up, online readers had far fewer hyphens to choose from; perhaps that's why we didn't get the deluge of entries that our neologism contests usually draw.

The winner of the
Inkin' Memorial

BEAUtiful + POLitics: Beau-pol: A charming, intelligent and thoughtful politician who, after leaks of toxic material about his life, turns out to be a disaster. (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

2nd place and the "We the People Are Piffed" T-shirt:
ALbums + coLOGNE: Al-ogne: Perfume that's guaranteed to keep you from being bothered. (Kevin Dopart, vacationing in Naxos, Greece)

3rd place
AMerica +
disproPORTIONATEly:
Ameri-portionately: Super-sized. (Pam Sweeney, Burlington, Mass.)

4th place
EFfort + AFGHANISTAN:
Ef-ghanistan: What Americans reply when they're asked about our longest war. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

Dash test dummies:
honorable mentions

Obvi-state: To say what goes without saying. Example: "The definition of 'obvi-state' is to say what goes without saying." (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

Liver-worst: Grain alcohol (Dayna Fellows, Bethesda)

Disas-terns: The unpaid summer help that your company will be paying for until next summer. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Man-uments: The Washington Monument, the Space Needle, the Empire State Building, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, etc. (Mike Gips)

Anonym-pho: One of the whores with no name. (Chris Doyle)

Anonym-pho: A Jane Do. (Kevin Dopart)

Mer-icle: A Carnival cruise without a catastrophic event. (Mike Ostapiej, Mount Pleasant, S.C.)

Crimi-rich: Ne'er-do-wealthy. (Chris Doyle)

De-pelling: What you'd be doing, fast, if your climbing rope broke. (Edmund Conti, Raleigh)

Bos-phemy: Admitting that, okay, Derek Jeter's a pretty good ballplayer. (Pam Sweeney, Burlington, Mass.)

Rel-ginia: The ultimate red state. (Kevin Dopart)

Didly-master: Jack of all trades, but . . . (Rick Haynes, Ocean City, Md.)

Optimis-hap: Inadvertently sitting on your rose-colored glasses. (Chris Doyle)

Tween-nomics: The ratio of babysitting wages to One Direction ticket prices (Pam Sweeney)

Zam-borghini: It smooths out a rink in 4.6 seconds. (Frank Osen)

Envi-Mi: The new little Kardashian dog. (Pam Sweeney)

Cy-chologists: Baseball managers during those trips to the pitcher's mound. (Pam Sweeney)

Bacon-distance: One degree of separation. (Chris Doyle)

Pre-tween: That wonderful stage after potty-training and before eye-rolling. (Todd DeLap, Fairfax)

Ex-tween: A person with the body of a teenager and the judgment of a drunken carp. (Todd DeLap)

Foot-seas: Innocent activity that could land you in deep water. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

Biparti-cult: A tiny, sinister group of congressmen who believe in reaching across the aisle. (Mike Gips)

NBC-plot: TV writers' term meaning "This story is going nowhere." (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

New contest for Week 1082:
Band on the pun

The Beagles: Had No. 1 hits with both a "A Dog Day's Night" and "Kennel California." (Jeff Contompasis)

The B-12's might help with your "Love Slack." (Julie Kempton)

Lad Gaga: So those rumors WERE true! (Jeff Contompasis)

Dave Matthews Bad: Honest rock. (David Clayton)

Just a few days ago, Pre-Loser Lisa Kelsey of Pawling, N.Y., shared on Facebook's Style Invitational Devotees page about a little game on Twitter called (if you add spaces and a comma) Remove a Letter, Ruin a Band: to drop a letter from the name of a music group to make a funny name. The Devotees immediately expanded on the idea, and we'll run with it as well: **Alter the name of a music group or performer slightly — not necessarily by just one letter, but enough so it's obvious what the original is — and describe it in some way**, as in the examples above from the Devotees page. It's going to be the clever description that will earn the ink.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives, apropos of this contest, a bright orange cloth belt covered with weirdly misspelled titles of Rolling Stones songs, such as "Ruby Tcesday" and "Get Off Df Hycould." Donated — regifted, actually — by Hall of Fame Loser Elden Carnahan, who won it in Week 599 (2005). It was originally donated by Robin Diallo, who'd found it in New Delhi, though the wrapping on the belt had Chinese lettering.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet, either the Po' Wit Laureate or Puns of Steel. First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or, if you were born in the 19th century, fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Aug. 4; results published Aug. 24 (online Aug. 21). No more than 25 entries per entrant per contest. Include "Week 1082" in your e-mail subject line or it might be ignored as spam. Include your real name, postal address and phone number with your entry. See contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. This week's honorable-mentions subhead is by Michael Ostapiej. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.me/invdev), and click "like" on Style Invitational Ink of the Day at bit.ly/inkofday.

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.



GIMME SPELLER: This belt covered with mostly misspelled titles of Stones songs is this week's second prize. Though it's being regifted, it can still go to waist.

Mer-torney: Half-man, half-fish, all shark. (Mark Raffman, Esq., Reston)

Flounder-thing: What Tucker Carlson did on "Dancing With the Stars." (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)

Goo-getter: A baby wipe. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Alley-High: Song from the musical "Souze Pacific." (Barbara Turner)

Num-vee: Five, to Cicero. (Christopher Lamora, Los Angeles)

Over-sures: "Hi, sweetheart, your place or mine?" (Mike Gips)

Lame-knock: To callously use the phrase "that's so lame" instead of the more socially acceptable "that's so mobility-challenged." (Jeff Contompasis)

Before-size: Same as after-size, but not during-size (hopefully). (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Orga-cide: What a way to go. (Jeff Shirley)

Still running — deadline Monday night: Our contest for stupid questions. See bit.ly/invite1081.

WIP The Style Invitational
Ink of the Day

From a contest for stupid questions:

"Why do people drive so close in front of me? Don't they realize it's dangerous?"

--Jerry Ewing
Week 217, 1997

Weekly humor/wordplay contest at wapo.st/StyleInv Like us on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday

See a classic Style Invitational entry every day on your Facebook news feed: Click "Like" at bit.ly/inkofday. (And it's in living color.)

POST PUZZLER

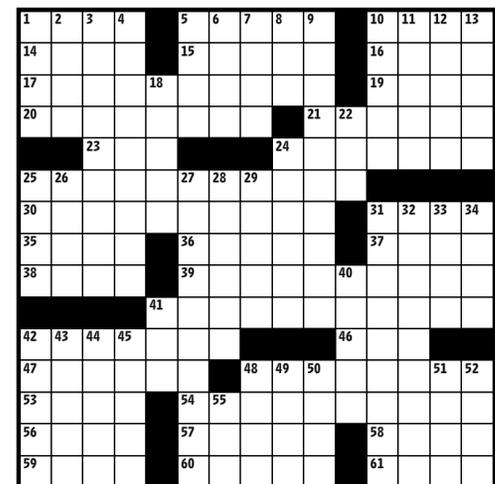
No. 225

BY BYRON WALDEN EDITED BY PETER GORDON • FIREBALLCROSSWORDS.COM

ACROSS
1 Parted company?
5 Took a freewheeling adventure?
10 Buffoon
14 Bountiful setting
15 Mandy's role in "The Princess Bride"
16 Not up
17 Orbit City mom
19 Place with brats
20 Fish out of water
21 Sinks a six-incher, say
23 Emily's List, e.g.
24 Four-time Emmy-winning role for Allison Janney
25 One way to wax
30 Completely committed to
31 North Carolina governor for whom a county and two cities are named
35 Roger's cousin?
36 Haloid Company, today
37 Melt

38 With 7-Down, 1964 hit that became Pearl Jam's highest-charting hit
39 Kurdistan, for example
41 Producer of string players?
42 1904 Summer Olympics host
46 Quick tennis point
47 Amethyst, e.g.
48 Hip-hop from the early 1980s
53 Minor in astronomy?
54 "No way!"
56 Support, in a way
57 R&B group with the 1963 chart-topper "Easier Said Than Done," with "the"
58 Five of 5, in Morse code
59 Supported
60 Sourpuss's expression
61 FiveThirtyEight datum

DOWN
1 Pinto charger of horror lit
2 Slightly
3 Construction site formations
4 Degas haunt
5 "Hitchcock" actress Jessica
6 IHOP division?: Abbr.
7 See 38-Across
8 Ideal leader?
9 Superstition admonition
10 Spinning concern
11 30-something on the BMI scale
12 Film in which Mia Farrow plays the psychiatrist of Woody Allen's character
13 Taking something very seriously?
18 Angel wrestler in the Bible
22 Gp. including UNC
24 Get off the fence
25 Don Everly's younger brother
26 "___ Cockeyed Wonder" (1950 Mickey Rooney comedy)
27 Features that sometimes identify players
28 Tops
29 Plumbing device that might catch a dropped earring
31 Primary weapons
32 Seal the deal, perhaps
33 Loathe
34 Basin adjunct
40 Big shot?
41 Shot ___
42 Main ingredient in the Moroccan dish pastilla
43 High-powered
44 Exemplar of focus
45 Stump, maybe
48 Roughly
49 MGM co-founder Marcus
50 || × || × || × || × || × || × V
51 Geometry class prefix
52 For fear that
55 F1 neighbor



Answer to last week, No. 224

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

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | JULY 27: This year you start a new 12-year life and luck cycle. The first year will be the most fortunate. Wish upon a star, and then check in with yourself to make sure you really want what you are asking for. Review your goals every so often to prevent any problems from occurring. Many doors will open for you. If you are single, you might meet someone who shows up from out of the blue. This is a banner love year. If you are attached, be careful about being too me-oriented.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Your instincts will guide you as an older person tries to manipulate a situation. A loved one might give you the cold shoulder. Know that this person's attitude will fade.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You might opt to stay close to home, where you feel more comfortable. Let go of the need to change your sweetie's mood.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
If someone still doesn't get your message, it is probably because he or she doesn't want to. You might be unusually tired from the recent hectic pace. Stay out of a money agreement, which might backfire.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
You might be noticing how much a partner is changing in front of your eyes. Accept that everyone

changes. Hold off on making any unnecessary comments.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You might not be sure how to handle a difficult family member, as it appears that he or she is not vulnerable to your charm. Be careful with an associate who shares too much.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Know when to disappear and be your own company. A call from a child or loved one might energize you. Tonight is full of fun and excitement.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Be careful with your finances. You easily might spend more than you had anticipated. Tonight, go for something fun.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You seem to be more expressive

than you have been in a while. Those who are close to you might not know how to respond. Be careful in a conversation where facts might be distorted.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You might need to sort through many invitations before deciding where you want to be. Stay relaxed — you will know when something feels right. Touch base with your in-laws or a friend at a distance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You may be exhausted by having to be so responsive with a partner. This person has more energy than usual. Just go with the flow.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
An older person might cop an attitude for no particular reason. Let this person do what he or she wants. An unexpected exchange might lighten up the day.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Pace yourself to ensure that at least part of your day is relaxing. Schedule a massage if you can. Do not fuss about what has not happened, but rather enjoy what and who is available.

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Trying to make amends years later

Dear Amy: I have a hard time getting it together when it comes to sending gifts to family members. My heart is in the right place; I purchase gifts and cards for graduations, birthdays and holidays, but I never send them!

What is the best way to let nieces, nephews and cousins know that I've been a flake all these years and that I am sorry I didn't let them know that I truly care, now and on their special days?

They are no longer children, and so many celebrations have passed without recognition because my grand plans always fell through. Is it too late to make amends? What would I say?
Day Late, Dollar Short in Alaska

Your query is a welcome respite from the usual onslaught of complaints about people who send gifts but never receive the gratitude.

Tape this phrase to your bathroom mirror: It is never too late to make amends.

Set aside a week to complete this task. Write to each person on your list. Here's a script to get you started: "I am writing you with the awkward task of

admitting that I am and always have been a complete flake when it came to acknowledging special days in your life. I have no excuse other than the fact that though my intentions have always been good, I simply could not get my act together over the years to send you cards, gifts, etc.

"I regret this so much and hope you can forgive me. I want you to know that I think about you often and would like to keep in better touch. At least I promise to do a better job from here on out, and I hope you won't give up on me."

Enclosing a check might help.

Dear Amy: I'm a concerned uncle. My beloved 20-year-old niece "Molly" visited my family during a recent long weekend. Following her departure, my wife brought to my attention her suspicion that Molly was vomiting after eating.

She had no direct evidence, just the observation that she visited the bathroom following meals, seemed to linger and coughed after exiting. Molly is a normal weight but perhaps somewhat thinner than when we saw her last at Christmas. She was careful about her

eating and wanted to join me with my regular running regimen while she was here.

Please offer your advice on whether I should bring this to my sister's (her mother's) attention. My sister suffered from an eating disorder during her college years. What should we say or do about this?
Appreciative in Suburbs

Do not hesitate to talk to your sister about this.

Uncles and aunts are in a perfect position to offer loving but slightly objective observations to parents about how their kids seem to be doing.

Simply tell your sister, "We loved having 'Molly' with us. We are concerned that she might have been purging her meals while she was at our house. I wasn't quite sure what to do but thought you would want to know."

Amy's column appears seven days a week at www.washingtonpost.com/advice. Write to Amy Dickinson at askamy@tribune.com or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, 17500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

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