

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Rhymes against humanity: Report from week 1079

BY PAT MYERS

For Week 1079, the Empress resurrected an ancient Invite contest and asked once again for you to write a question whose answer consisted entirely of rhyming words. Some of our contests over the years have produced satire so lacerating that debate ensued whether it qualified as humor. Well, Week 1079 is emphatically not one of these contests. It's just ingeniously silly fun.

The winner of the Inkin' Memorial

Q. What did Lovy shriek to Thurston when the Professor emerged from skinny dipping in the lagoon on Gilligan's island?

A. "Towel the nerd, Howell the Third!" (Rachel Bernhardt, Silver Spring)

2nd place and the magnetic woman-and-sniffing-dog salt-and-pepper shakers

What's a flowery but accurate way to describe the Three Stooges?

A sassin' trinity of asininity. (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

3rd place

How did Paula Deen, in full Georgia drawl, respond to Chris Wallace's interview question "What car do you drive these days?"

"Prius, Chris." (John McCooney, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

4th place

What's the four-year news cycle in Iowa?

Ag, ag, ag, gag. (Doug Frank, Crosby, Tex.)

Middling riddling: honorable mentions

What's the new appliance gadget designed to discourage nibbling between meals?

Black & Decker Snackin' Wrecker. (Mae Scanlan)

What was the frightfully successful new line at the Big & Tall store?

King Kong's string thongs. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Can you summarize "Moby-Dick" in five words?

Sail. Trail pale whale. Fail. (Christopher Lamora, Los Angeles)

"You're tired of watching soccer, Daddy? Let's watch Yogi Bear, okay? Come on, why not?"

"Boo-boo's stale as vuvuzelas." (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

What does a politically correct Snyder family member do?

Dreads kin's Washington football team. (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

When the Red Sox bet the Yankees a cake that they'd repeat last year's success, what was the result?

Boston lost 'n' tossed in frostin'. (Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

What order does Nadya Suleman take at her new job at the podiatrist's office?

"Octomom, stock toe balm." (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

What comes in the Fivesome Package at the best little whorehouse in Texas?

Four Yellow Rose bordello pros. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

What's the name of the charity event at White Oak Lanes for awareness of inflammatory bowel disease?

Swollen-Colon Bowlin' (Dave Savolaine, Kensington, a First Offender)

What world leader had to modify his diet, and why?

Putin: Gluten tootin'. (Rob Wolf, Gaithersburg)

What is something that starts mysteriously, spreads rapidly and can't be killed?

Rumor tumor. (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

What need might you understand this to?

Yoda decoda. (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

What do you hope Michael Phelps doesn't wear to his wedding?

Speedo tuxedo. (Rick Haynes, Ocean City, Md.)

What's the unofficial motto of Scranton, Pa.?

Yo, pride in Joe Biden. (Kevin Dopart)

When the detective discovered the culprit was a street dancer, what did he say?

"Perp's a plebeian terpsichorean." (Mae Scanlan)

What's ESPN's idea for ratings-grabbing women's table tennis?

Thong Pong! (Rick Haynes)

What did ABC order George



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1083: Everybody get appy

- An app for 1,001 great martini recipes – using liquefied cauliflower.
- An app to make your phone sound an alarm when you start snoring at work.
- When a car approaching you has its high beams on, the app makes your windshield automatically screen the light – and curses out the other driver for you.

It's been six years since Apple started using the slogan "There's an app for that" to promote the iPhone 3 and the many big and little enhancements that users suddenly couldn't possibly do without. A few months ago, the company announced that the number of available iPhone apps had passed the 1 million mark.

Still, we have at least a tentative hunch that there are still some good ideas for apps that don't yet exist – and surely there are some bad ones as well. This week: **Offer up an idea for either a humorously useful app or a humorously counterproductive one**, as in the examples above; the second is by Loser Mike Gips, who woke up from his desk-chair daydream long enough to suggest this contest to us one afternoon.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives two "Official Barves Bags" – airline-style barf bags decorated with a doctored logo of the Atlanta Braves, whose fans at Turner Field persist in doing the "Tomahawk Chop," waving their arms and foam hatchets and chanting ersatz-Indian-style, making the D.C. football team name positively reverent by comparison. The instructions on the bag, designed and made by Loser John Kupiek: "Spew your opinion of Tomahawk Choppers into bag. When bag is full, dispose properly by presenting it to a Tomahawk Chopper." The Braves play at Nationals Park Sept. 8-10. This prize will be awarded Aug. 28.

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. 11; results published Aug. 31 (online Aug. 28). No more than 25 entries per entrant per contest. Include "Week 1083" 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 was submitted by both Jeff Contompassi and Tom Witte. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at 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.

Stephanopoulos to do when he took over "Good Morning, America"?

Sour Lauer power! (Christopher Lamora)

What's that you won at the county fair – a lifetime supply of carbonated cattle drinks?!

Ever-present effervescent heifer present! (Joel Golden, Fort Washington, a First Offender)

What do you call someone who protests the mammogram booth at the women's health fair?

Breast-test fest pest. (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

What will a faster Internet connection get you?

Speedia Wikipedia. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

What was the headline after boxes of pornographic playing cards from South of the Border were sent to the White House?

Prex Inspects Tex-Mex Sex Decks! (Marni Penning Coleman, Falls Church)

How do you cheer for your favorite soccer player, Brazil's Neymar?

"Shoot beaut boot, cute hirsute brute – woot woot!" (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

What do L.A. Clippers fans hope to be doing?

Hurling Sterling. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

What did Maria tweet after she confronted Arnold about his affair?

"Just discussed lust, trust – nonplussed!" (Mark Raffman, Reston)

What do you call overmedicating an ADHD child?

Riddlin' a little 'un with Ritalin. (Jon Gearhart)

Why did the interfaith group serve roast squab at its first dinner?

A smidgen of pigeon's a bridge in religion. (Mae Scanlan)

What's that Las Vegas hotel with two bathtubs in every room?

Cialis Palace. (Douglas Raybeck, Amherst, Mass.)

Did you hear the story about the roller derby queen who left her disapproving husband for the fry cook at McDonald's?

"Later, skater hater!" Tater waiter, date 'er, mate 'er! (Mark Raffman)

What's the hospital staff's nickname for an angiogram?

Heart fart chart. (Brad Alexander, Wanneroo, Australia)

What do you call the chorus of snarky fashion comments by Joan Rivers et al. at red-carpet events?

Prada/Escada yadda-yadda schmatte cantata. (Phil Frankenfeld, Washington)

What's it called when you put your right hand in, put your right hand out, clutch your throat and grin, and pretend you're passing out?

Jokey chokey hokey-pokey. (Chris Doyle)

What celebrity-owned restaurant chain fared even worse than Macho Camacho's Nachos?

Lynrd Skynrd's Innards. (Christopher Lamora)

What do deli owners in Leipzig use to protect their smoked salmon?

Bach's Lox Box Locks. (Timothy Kloth, Alexandria, a First Offender)

Still running – deadline Monday night: Our contest to change the name of a music performer slightly and describe the new act. See bit.ly/invite1082.

POST PUZZLER

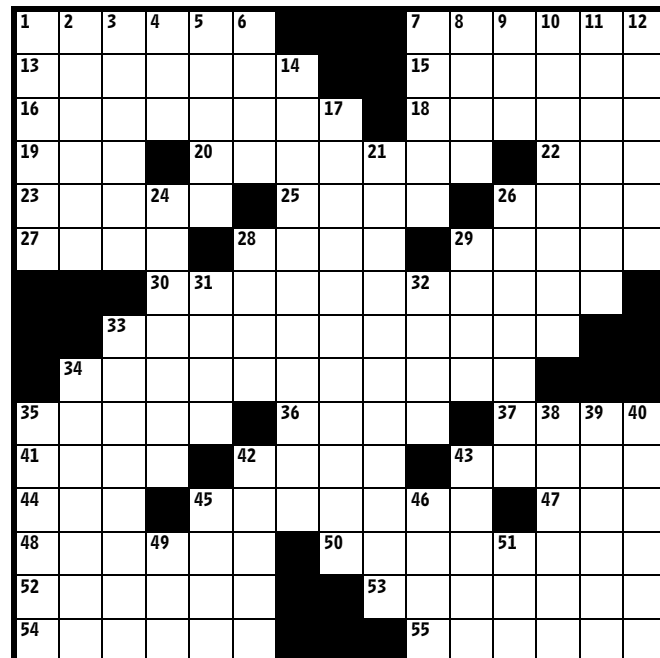
No. 226

BY JEFFREY HARRIS EDITED BY PETER GORDON • FIREBALLCROSSWORDS.COM

ACROSS	33 Actor who co-hosted the Oscars the same year he was nominated	DOWN	12 Land hunters, maybe	34 Show tune that begins "Most people live on a lonely island"
1 "Whaam!" genre	34 Dish also known as a Norwegian omelet	1 Hawk	14 Events for antique phenomina that follow a cycle of about 11 years	35 Fisher-Price parent character
7 Bellyaching sort covers	35 Whiz	2 Toothache relief brand	17 Phenomina that follow a cycle of about 11 years	38 "Arrested Development" character
13 New wave band with an EP of Abba covers	36 Gaunt	3 Analyzes the structure of	4 Put it to	39 Grand Marnier flavoring
15 Kelp is rich in it	37 Subway map dot	5 Levels, metaphorically	21 Observance given its current name in 1954	40 Fixed, as a currency
16 Satan's princedom	41 "Tis lamentable"	6 Image on the flag of Lebanon	24 Second shots	42 Chillaxes
18 Portuguese-speaking capital	42 One of a matched pair	7 Cunning	26 What an emoticon might indicate	43 Thrill's antithesis
19 Mixers found in some bars	43 Microwaveable treat	8 Number before a colon	28 Tore	45 Bête noire
20 Conquer	44 Adapted from	9 2013 Polish film directed by Pawel Pawlikowski	29 Brother in the hood?	46 Zero, essentially
22 "___ Death" (Fox sitcom about a long-married couple)	47 Item on a carousel	10 Company that owns the Mariners	31 "Right on!"	49 It's commonly paired with prosciutto
23 Sly looks	48 1996 thriller starring Robert De Niro and Wesley Snipes	11 The movie "Clue" has three of them	33 Language related to Malay	51 Number for many GNC products
25 Bass offerings	50 Taking one's time with, perhaps			
26 E-mail folder heading	52 Letting up			
27 "Anything ___?"	53 Golf hole figure			
28 Photo finish?	54 Vassals			
29 Squalid	55 Let out			
30 Puts on cassette				

Answer to last week, No. 225

C	A	S	T	B	I	K	E	D	B	O	Z	O
U	T	A	H	I	N	I	G	O	A	B	E	D
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HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | AUG. 3: This year you begin a new 12-year luck cycle. The first year, your most fortunate, you will attract new people and opportunities. If you are single and ready to settle down, you might meet Mr. or Ms. Right, but you will have to sort through quite a few suitors first. If you are attached, you are unusually intense. You spend a lot of your time at home deep in reflection. Share your thoughts and you will get powerful feedback. Laughter helps you relax.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You will need to make time for a grumpy partner, best friend or close family member. Even your jovial nature seems to irritate this person. You can't turn yourself inside out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
A loved one finally will come out of the doldrums. You can start relaxing. Dodge a controlling individual, rather than get caught up in his or her machinations.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Don't allow a misunderstanding or a difference of opinion to affect what could be a fun day. You like being with this crowd, whether you're at a baseball game or at the beach.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Defer to a loved one who has plans for a fun outing. Your

choice probably wouldn't please this person nearly as much as his or her own idea. Make it an early night.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Rethink a decision regarding your personal life. Do whatever you need to do in order to feel comfortable. Have a long-overdue chat.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You might say too much and realize it only when it is too late. Try to be more reserved, and you will be less likely to make a faux pas.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
You may want to get the situation under control, but it is unlikely you will succeed. The other party involved knows how to manipulate well. The trick will be not to get involved.

Interventions can be tricky

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: My friend of over 50 years was always a heavy drinker. Recently his drinking has become a problem. He becomes very loud and opinionated. He has ruined the past four or five times we have been out with our wives, once even getting in a fight. We are both in our 70s. Another longtime friend and I ran an intervention in which we told him of our concerns. His wife is co-dependent and fears she will have to change, too. Partly because of her, the intervention went nowhere. Now my friend has turned on me. He has sent many ranting e-mails, and "blame the messenger" is the theme. We have told him and his wife that we will no longer see them after his cocktail hour starts (5 p.m.). According to his wife, other friends are doing the same thing, but you would think it is the biggest betrayal in human history. We still value this friend but are stymied. Any hope?

Sad

First, a word about interventions. Friends and family use interventions as a last-ditch effort to confront an addict, but these confrontations

only work when there is unanimity among the group about the non-negotiable consequences if an addict refuses to seek help. In this case, your friend's wife is the key player, and as long as she continues to deny and enable her husband's drinking, an intervention will not work.

Now that you have told your friend the truth, there is some hope that he will finally seek help, but unfortunately alcoholism is an insidious disease. Your friend is acting out in rage and frustration, and you can see this as an effort to make you responsible for his problems. You are not.

Your response should be respectful and encouraging: "Please get help for your drinking. We miss your friendship. Let me know if you want to get together for breakfast; I'd like to talk."

Fifty years of friendship gives you currency. I applaud your efforts.

He would benefit from Alcoholics Anonymous (aa.org) and she from Al-anon (al-anon.alateen.org). Both organizations host local meetings and have helped countless people.

Dear Amy: I live with my husband and nephew who do not

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Handle a difficult situation on your own. A misunderstanding may emerge no matter what you do. Can you take a break from the matter? If not, step back. Go where your friends are.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You might feel as if you have to socialize. Make it okay to have solitary plans and do what you want. Expect a little flak when you turn down a friend's invitation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Even if you don't think you'll have plans, you will. Invitations come in from friends to join them, be it for a barbecue or a softball game.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You may be full of energy, and you might want to have a heavy discussion with someone you respect. Not everyone can debate an issue without taking it personally. Tread carefully.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Make calls in the morning to loved ones at a distance or to those you rarely speak to. Before you know it, you will have vacation plans to get together. Use your intuition when dealing with a difficult associate.

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work because they can't find jobs in their respective fields. I couldn't find work in my field, either, but decided to take a mental job because we had to survive.

I have footed the bills for six years, and neither of them seems to feel the pinch because they live comfortably. I am considering getting a divorce and kicking out my nephew. Have I waited too long?

Conflicted

I don't know if you've waited too long, but there is no time like the present to take steps to re-balance your marriage.

Kicking out your nephew might be a good first step. Without a male playmate, your husband might feel the urge to step up and rededicate himself to being productive.

I don't know if there are other issues preventing you and your husband from salvaging your relationship, but I hope you will consider inviting him into counseling before calling a lawyer.

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, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

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