

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Addled contemporary: Week 1102's radio contest

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1102, the Empress presented what everyone thought was a pretty typical Invite challenge: Come up with a niche radio station, à la the very specific ones on satellite and Internet stations such as Sirius, such as one for Wiccans or one playing music from Disney theme parks, and to describe it, list some songs it might play, etc. But for some reason, the Loser Community didn't tend to find the right wavelength. The results weren't a disaster — it wasn't like the time the Czar asked people to write irreverent things about what God looks like — but we did end up with room to share a few more of the superior entries from Week 1101, in which readers could enter any of the past year's contests. (Not to mention room to show the skunk hat.)

4th place

Back Tracking: Find secret meanings in rock classics played in reverse, including Led Zeppelin's "Nevah Ot Yawraits," the Beatles' "Retleks Retleh" and Black Sabbath's "Nam Nori." It's actually unlistenable, of course, but it'll freak your parents out. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

3rd place

365 Nights of Hanukkah: Enjoy all two well-known Hanukkah songs all year round! (Heather Spence, New York)

2nd place and the "Dull Men of Great Britain" calendar:

The Putin Comedy Channel: You. Laugh now. Okay. No more laugh. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial:

Small-Talk Radio: No issues are discussed; the host merely fields call after call from "longtime listener, first-time callers" gushing about how much they love the show and where they're listening from — with a long pause to figure out how to turn their radios down. (Pam Sweeney, Burlington, Mass.)

Megahurts: honorable mentions

All-Jazz Era: Middle Eastern swing and bebop classics, like "Abu Dhabi Honey Moon" by Sunni Rollins, "All the Things U.A.R." by Artie Shah, and "Mahmood Indigo" by Ahmad Jamal. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

It's a Small World Earworm Radio: Listen for just a moment and it will last you all day. Now: "Let It Go" on the hour! (David Koronet, Mount Airy, Md.; Carol Passar, Reston)

The Time All the Time: Every three seconds. (Edmund Conti, Raleigh, N.C.)

The Yule Log Station: The warm, homey sounds of a crackling Yule log. Just like having a fire in your dashboard without all the trouble. (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

Sad Songs Say So Much: Only the most depressing tunes, including "Cat's in the Cradle," "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald" and "Hail to the Redskins." (Todd DeLap, Fairfax)

Think, Think a Song: Where every track played poses a question — "Who Let the Dogs Out?" "Why Don't We Do It in the Road?" — and each is followed by an in-depth discussion. One year, the hours of debate following "What's New Pussycat?" ultimately became the subject of PhD dissertations. (Rick Haynes, Boynton Beach, Fla.)

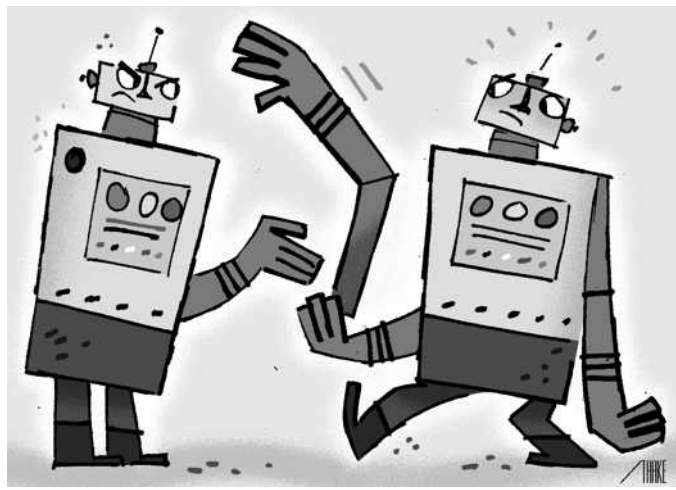
Don't Touch That Dial: Round-the-clock exhortations on the wickedness of self-abuse. (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

Ballet Play-by-Play: "Whoa, Nellie, this looks like a real Cinderella story, folks! The Prince just picked up five yards with that last jete, and now he's running out the clock with entrechats. Over to you, Leslie." (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

The Scrub Channel: Music to wash dishes by. The playlist includes "Soap Gets in Your Eyes," "How Can You Mend a Broken Plate?" and, of course, "Ragtime." (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Golf Radio: Clicks followed by bleeps. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

Parent's Fantasy: Every five seconds it plays "Are we there yet?" or "Billy's on my half" but can then be blissfully turned off. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)



New contest for Week 1106: Show your resolve

I'm going to be more considerate to my clone and return his parts after I've borrowed them. (Ron Charles)

I resolve to defeat the union's demand to reduce the 80-hour week to 75. (K.C. Angus)

I resolve that I will visit my doctor on a regular basis to have my oil changed. (Charles Crockett)

Given that we're already into the second week of 2015, I assume we've already given up on our New Year's resolutions. So let's think ahead — and look back: 148-time Loser John O'Byrne was rooting through his files of the Globe Challenge, an Invitish contest that used to run in the Toronto-based Globe and Mail newspaper (its editor, Warren Clements, has gotten some Invite ink himself), and he shared the results of a January 2000 contest. So let's give it a new lease on life (i.e., shamelessly rip it off) 15 years later: **Suggest a New Year's resolution that someone might make 100 or more years in the future**, as in the Ontarians' examples above (that's not The Post's Ron Charles). You might attribute the resolution to a particular person, perhaps a descendant of someone currently inhabiting the planet.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives the glorious piece of headwear pictured here atop the Empress's poodlish (but actually passably sweet-smelling) mop. The E will have a hard time choosing between this and her tiara to wear at this weekend's Loser Post-Holiday Party. Donated by Marsha Alter, wife of 110-time Loser Bruce Alter. **Other runners-up** win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired "Whole Fools" Grocery Bag. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet designed by Bob Staake: either "The Wit Hit the Fan" or "Hardly Har-Har." 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 Tuesday, Jan. 20; results published Feb. 8 (online Feb. 5). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1106" 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. The headline for this week's results is by Tom Witte; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Beverley Sharp. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdex. "Like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook 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.



PIE SNELSON

The Empress doesn't always wear her tiara in restaurants, especially at Loser brunches.

True Confessions: The best from our secret microphones in church confessionals around the nation! And try our sister station KREEP — the best talk from Schenectady ladies' rooms. (Warren Tanabe; Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)

No-Hit Wonders: The worst bands you've never heard of 24-7. (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

Wrong Generation Radio: '90s rock for angry preteen YouTube commenters who wish they were around 20 years ago, "before music started to suck." (Kristen Rahman, Silver Spring)

Second second chances: More from Week 1101
When reentering earlier contests, entrants could refer to more recent events.

Week 1051, create an anagram about something in the news:
Take all the letters in this text. . . .
"Senate report on CIA's torture noted physically disabling results."
. . . and rearrange all the letters to make:

"Useless intelligence: solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and protracted." (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Original: "Coach: 'I'm done with #@&-ing Griffin.' Brass: 'We are not

sure.' "
Anagrams to: "Fan/critic begs: 'Rid us of the #@&-ing owner man! Ha, I swore!' " (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Week 1053, Questionable Journalism: Find a sentence from The Post and write a question it might answer:

A. Go figure.
Q. With the ban on guns now strictly enforced, would the Math Olympiad official yell to start the competition? (Kevin Dopart)

A. To both gentlemen, I pose a question: WTF? [from Dana Milbank's column]
Q: What was the moderator thinking in every presidential debate ever? (Todd DeLap)

Week 1084, limericks featuring words beginning with fi- to fo:
I had dozens of bites on my bod
On a Christmas I spent cursing God
In a discount hotel
In Cancun — a noel
I refer to as "Fleas Navidad." (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

Week 1074, describe a stage or movie musical with a parody of a song from another musical:
"The Producers" to "Food, Glorious Food!" from "Oliver!":
Crude, glorious crude! Milk, manna and honey.
When our show's booed, we'll keep all the money.
Years slaving on proper shows; my bankroll got littler.
So, what if instead I chose A — do!f — Hitler?
Crude, glorious crude! Our ticket to riches.
They'll be in the mood, those horny old witches.
Just picture this perfect plan! How could we get screwed? With . . .
Crude — tasteless and rude — Childishly lewd — manners eschewed —
Glorious crude! (Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

Still running — deadline Monday night: Our contest for poems about people who died in 2014. See bit.ly/invite1105.

POST PUZZLER

No. 249

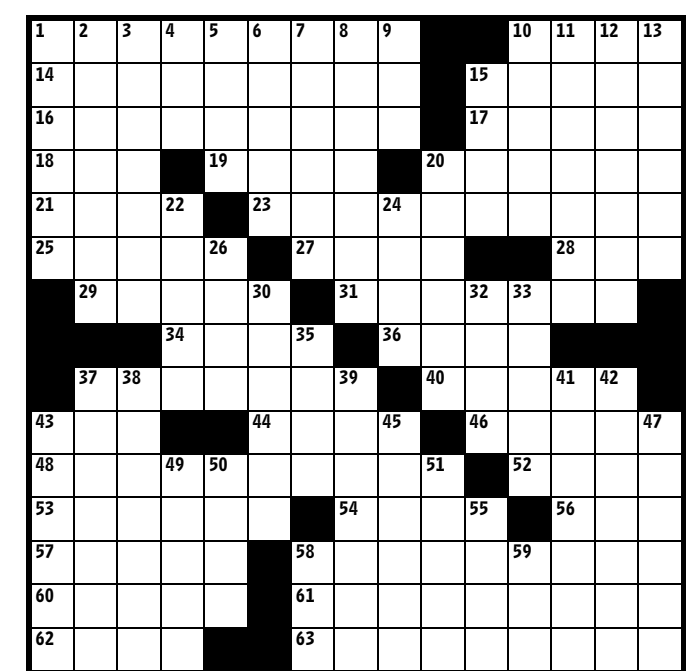
BY TRIP PAYNE EDITED BY PETER GORDON • FIREBALLCROSSWORDS.COM

ACROSS
1 It's far from certain
10 Setting for many senior moments
14 1989 Lifetime Grammy winner
15 "Madam Secretary" star
16 Virgin option
17 Indo-_____ languages
18 Game that involves skipping
19 Gig divisions
20 Go up, in a way
21 Take the lead, perhaps
23 Fictional paleontologist
25 Device originally made to calculate artillery firing tables
27 Small square
28 Live in the past?
29 "You never really know a man until you have divorced him" quipper
31 More carbon-covered

Answer to last week, No. 248

T	M	Z	S	P	O	R	T	S	A	H	A	L	F
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DOWN
1 Subordinate thing, sometimes
2 Holding back, with "in"
3 Historic residential hotel on New York's Upper West Side, with "the"
4 Close one
5 Ham relative
6 Insult popularized on "SCTV"
7 Its flag is different on each side
8 He had a yacht named Christina
9 Holiday that falls in January or February
10 Hazard



HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | JAN. 11: This year, you will be complimented on your imagination and how well you organize things. If you are single, you will meet many people. You might find someone you would like to be with from late summer on. Take your time deciding. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy relating directly without distraction. Make it so.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Today you might choose to stay at home. Detaching will allow you to better understand your interactions with others. Avoid isolating yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Throw yourself into a fun family project. How you are feeling and what you are doing will reflect the mood of the day. Don't get too busy that you can't enjoy your Sunday luxuries.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Stay on top of your calls and plans. An adjustment to let others join in will make them feel cared for. Be your authentic self. Tonight, togetherness is the theme.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Listen to what a loved one has to share. A conversation may go on for several hours as you discuss a personal matter. Stay tuned in to a change of mood from this person.

Ask Amy
AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: My husband and I just hosted another family meal and, once again, I am dismayed by the complete lack of basic manners and courtesy from various adult family members. No one says please or thank you. Many of them talk with their mouths full. They are all older than 40. I can't think of any polite way to make them aware of their rudeness, but I am sick of it. Any suggestions?
Grossed Out

One suggestion is for you as host to slow the meal way down and try to introduce a new pace and thus a new way of interacting at the table. People tend to be gross when rushing through the meal. There is no polite or easy way to correct adults in front of other adults. If you are the parents of these 40-somethings, you get a special dispensation and can probably get away with saying, "Whoa Bart, can you please finish chewing before you talk? We'll wait. . . ." Siblings can also sometimes rib one another into compliance, but they can't do that if their own manners are atrocious.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Honor a change, and remain flexible when it comes to a demand from someone in your daily life. You may be overwhelmed by everything you have to handle.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
If you are in the mood to go to an art fair or do some shopping, go off and do it. Don't forget a special friend or loved one who would be thrilled to have a gift for no special reason.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
The moon in your sign increases your energy and charisma. You might note how others desire to be closer to you. Get to know an interesting new person whom you have your eye on.

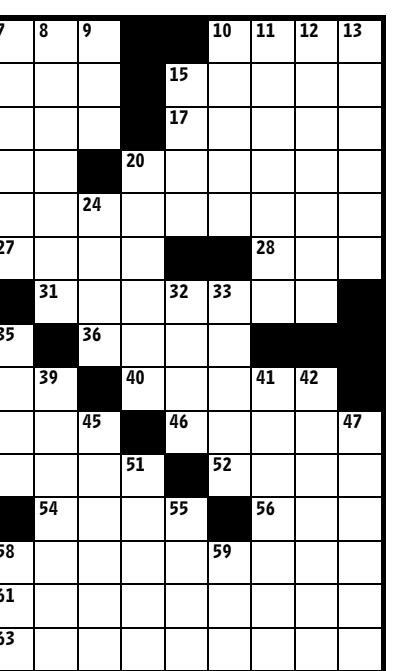
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You may be determined to follow through on a project. Although timing does count, you won't be

Otherwise, depending on your relationship, you can speak to each privately, saying something like, "I've noticed that our table manners have really disintegrated, and it's pretty gross when we're eating together. Have you noticed this? Can you help me to restore some civility at the next dinner?" Enlisting your table mates as partners may help each become more aware of his or her behavior.

Dear Amy: I have been married for 17 years, and for the past year I have stopped coloring my hair. Last week my husband told me that he is not attracted to me anymore — mainly because of my hair color. I feel very strongly about not coloring my hair. I want to go through life being as authentic as I can be, but should I color my hair to save my marriage?
Inquiring Wife

After acknowledging how shallow your husband's pronouncement seems to be, it might help if you try to figure out why your choice has thrown him off so much. Is this a power play, and your husband feels threatened by your choice to be independent and "authentic"?

11 George I's I
12 Bingeing
13 Team of the University of Texas at El Paso
15 Wash up
20 Antediluvian
22 Actor who some say caused a 1930s crash in under-shirt sales
24 Haughty type
26 Loonie, e.g.
30 Cut down
32 Period
33 Head set?
35 Partnership for Peace gp.
37 "Tonight" follower in "West Side Story"



successful unless you are well-rested. A conversation you have with a loved one will be intended to be kept private.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Indulge a loved one and do what he or she wants. You might surprise yourself as to how much you enjoy the moment. Don't be surprised if you find yourself surrounded by friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Someone you look up to will be reaching out to you, so make sure you're available. Others might be impressed with how you present yourself. You might be exhausted by all the activity around you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You value friendship. You know its importance, and your bonds with others are stronger as a result. Let go and have fun!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You can't walk away from a loved one's overtures, so don't even try. You know this person well, and you enjoy the attention. Make a point of scheduling more quality time together.

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Poor manners spoiling her appetite

Have you made other changes that go along with this choice? You don't say, but if you have decided to go natural and your hair is gray, is your husband making a value judgment about being (or feeling) "old"? When you stop to ponder the many changes a partner can experience, your husband's problem seems petty. If he had expressed himself in a sensitive, positive and loving way ("Oh, honey, I really miss the redhead you used to be"), it might inspire you to gracefully capitulate. Behave neutrally and patiently. If he doesn't adjust, I suspect there is more to this than he is acknowledging. He might be throwing this change at you to cover for an attraction he is feeling toward someone else. If you go "round and round about this and don't make any headway, a professional counselor can help you get to the real root of the problem.

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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