DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

A Wrinkle in Tome: Spiced-up book titles

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1137 we asked you to come up with an exciting-sounding title for a book with less than spicy content. Many amateur publishing shills offered entries along the lines of "Tits and Boobies: Field Guide to Birds"; "Succulent Breasts: 101 Chicken Recipes"; and "Secrets of a Stripper: Tips for Wallpaper Removal." (Titles in quotes below are actual book titles.)

4th place

Eat All You Want and Still Lose Weight
"A Simple Guide to Intestinal Parasitic Diseases" (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

3rd place

Call Me Bruce Again
Small-Town Librarian Mildred Bruce Chronicles the Aftermath of Her Divorce (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

2nd place and the "Loser for Liberty" tote bag from the campaign of Carl Loser for Virginia state Senate:

Unmasking the First Muslim President
The Hidden Genius of Kemal Ataturk (Mark Raffman, Reston)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial

Stick It to the Man
"Phlebotomy Handbook: Blood Collection Essentials" (Amy Harris, Charlottesville)

The fibliography: honorable mentions

Elvis Lives!
The Big Book of 5-Letter Anagrams Larry Gray, Union Bridge, Md.; Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

Catholic School Hookers
Home Ec Projects Vol. 2: Crochet a Prayer Shawl (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

Awesome Cleavage
Principles of Zygotic Cell Division (Michael Landauer, Bethesda, who last got Invite ink in 2003)

Murder Between the Sheets
Eradicate Book-Damaging Silverfish and Other Insects (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Score on One-Night Stands
The Ins and Outs of the Bleacher-Rental Business (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

How to Hustle
The Comprehensive English Dictionary, Volume 8-D (Jeff Contompasis; Hugh Thirlway, The Hague)

How Kinky Is Too Kinky?
A Guide to the Perfect Perm (Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

Viva las Vegas
Celebrating The 1970s Chevy Subcompact That Everyone Hated (Ellen Goldlust, Blacksburg, Va., a First Offender)

Spanking Women
Grade School Nuns Through History (Frank Osen)

How to Make Her Ask for More
Successful Therapies for Anorexia (Rick Haynes, Ocean City, Md.)

Screw Your Way to the Top
A Step-by-Step Guide to Building Your First Tree House (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

Secretly! Passionately! Lustfully!
The Thesaurus of Adverbs (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

The Ultimate Bong
My Life as a National Cathedral Bell-Ringer (Duncan Stevens, Vienna)

Hot Secrets the Kardashians Won't Tell You About Drupal
(Laura McGinnis, Silver Spring, a First Offender)

I Clicked Here and You'll Never Believe What Happened Next!
Learn From My Grammar Mistakes in the !Kung Language and Avoid Major Cultural Misundertandings (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

Get It On With a German Shepherd
Rancher Gunther Schäfer Shows You the Right Way to Dress in Lederhosen. (Michael Daws, Drobak, Norway, a First Offender)

I Lost 100 Pounds 10 Years Ago, and They're Still Gone!
Scammers: Britain's Continuing Scourge (Neal Starkman, Seattle; G.T. Bowman, Falls Church)

A Peek Behind Shower Curtains
The Development of Waterproof Spray Shielding (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1141: Mess with our heads

Post headline: An American Void
Fake bank head: 'No WAY am i sitting on that bidet thing — I'd fall right in,' Omaha tourist declares in Paris

Post headline: Trump, Carson top GOP race
Bank head: Otherwise, African Americans are bottom GOP race

And once again, we invite readers to comically misinterpret what The Washington Post was saying — and not just by writing letters to the editor. This week: **Reinterpret (or comment wryly on) a headline appearing in The Post (print or online) Sept. 17-28 by writing a bank head, or subtitle,** as in the examples above from last Sunday's Post. 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. See the Style Conversational column for further guidelines at bit.ly/conv1141.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives the **Mr. Tea Infuser,** a little man with perforated rubbery pants into which you put some tea, then set him inside the hot tub of your cup until the brown stuff seeps out. Donated by Dave Prevar, who, while he is admittedly a 263-time Loser, swears he does not personally seep into hot tubs.

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 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 Monday night, Sept. 28; results published Oct. 18 (online Oct. 15). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1141" 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 Jeff Contompasis; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Beverley Sharp. 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.

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.

Snuff Films!
How to Remove That Tobacco Residue That Coats Your Mouth (Todd DeLap, Fairfax)

Learn the Ways of the Force
"Introduction to Physical Science, Rev. Ed." (Kevin Dopart)

Drop Acid for Better Health
The All-New No-Citrus Diet (Mark Raffman)

Ghostbuster!
My Quest to Discover Who Really Wrote Celebrities' Memoirs (Selma Ellis, Rolling Meadows, Ill., a First Offender)

The Joy of Doggy Style
50 Cute Outfits for Your Poodle (Frank Mann, Washington)

MILF and Me
My 30 Years as Stenographer for the McMinnville Independent Laparoscopy Foundation (Frank Osen)

How an Undocumented Immigrant Nearly Brought Down the Seat of the British Empire: A Lesson for America
(Previously titled "A Bear Called Paddington") (Richard Wong, Derwood)

Restraint and Submission
How Not to Get Ink in The Style Invitational (Bill Smith, Reston)

More spicy names in the online Invite at bit.ly/invite1141.

Still running — deadline Monday night, Sept. 21: Our good-name/bad-name contest. See bit.ly/invite1140.

VAT19.COM

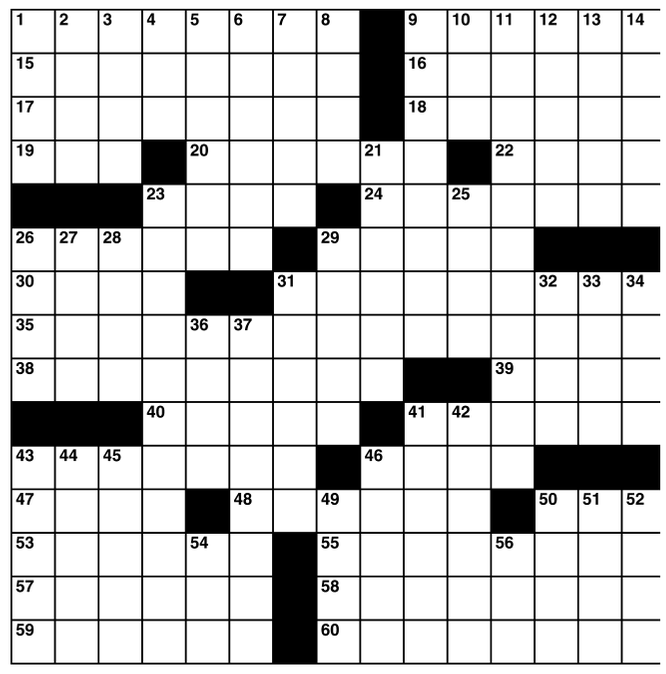
Put some Earl Grey in his silicone pants, and it won't be long before Mr. Tea will turn your water brown.

SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY TONY ORBACH © 2015 CROSSYNERGY SYNDICATE LLC

ACROSS
1 Failure to meet a deadline
9 Not too playful
15 Daring do
16 Pied wader
17 Gauges
18 Vegan's testament
19 Narrow cell
20 Many, in Greek
22 Odds-on choice, slangily
23 Dis and dat
24 Rehabs, in a way
26 Provisions
29 Like some consonant sounds
30 Spoken
31 "I Could Have Danced All Night" singer
35 Copious amounts of bubbly
38 High styles
39 Siouan people
40 ____ living
41 Spitz, for one
43 Cliché
46 Flatfish
47 Western wolf
48 PC inserts
50 "Shame!"
53 Comfortable with
55 Big cheese in the pizza biz
57 Revolt
58 Two-time Nobelist, formally
59 ____ Booth (David Boreanaz's character on "Bones")
60 Disable for a while

DOWN
1 Shelter org.
2 Currency that featured portraits of Bellini and Caravaggio
3 Corn lily genus
4 Trading place
5 Eyeball
6 Straddling
7 Craft
8 Cataloging abbr.
9 Steel in a display carousel
10 Lacto-____
11 Wheelhouse
12 Mountaineering tool
13 Time off
14 Kitchen extensions?
21 Ancient Greek theaters
23 Version with all the bells and whistles
25 Yemeni city known for coffee production
26 Gp. business call
27 Field
28 "Forbidden" perfume brand
29 Van Gogh or Chopin, in a bottle
31 Emerged
32 Truffaut contemporary
33 Hubbard in a book cupboard
34 Caesarean being
36 Cardamom-spiced tea
37 Dead-tree document
41 Gave a pass, slangily
42 French Rhine wine region
43 Loses focus
44 Perez or O'Donnell, formerly of "The View"
45 Like a person whose BMI might be TMI
46 "Ditto"
49 Dash readings
50 Spelling on TV
51 Climb, as a rope
52 Thing that might be brought up in a street fight
54 Cal. column
56 Mo. of the Hopi Niman Kachina Festival celebrating the harvest



Answer to last week

S	H	A	R	K	S	■	I	D	A	R	E	S	A	Y
T	A	N	O	A	K	■	T	O	B	E	S	U	R	E
A	S	T	A	N	A	■	S	P	L	I	T	P	E	A
R	H	I	N	E	■	S	T	E	E	N	■	I	N	S
D	A	D	S	■	D	A	H	S	■	■	G	N	A	T
U	N	O	■	D	I	C	E	■	G	L	U	E	S	■
S	A	T	E	R	E	C	T	■	H	O	E	■	■	■
T	H	E	N	O	T	O	R	I	O	U	S	R	B	G
■	■	■	D	O	E	■	U	P	S	S	T	O	R	E
■	C	O	U	L	D	■	T	A	T	E	■	B	U	T
J	A	N	E	■	■	P	H	D	S	■	D	O	C	S
U	T	E	■	E	M	I	R	S	■	S	I	C	E	M
I	T	S	A	L	U	L	U	■	O	O	L	A	L	A
C	O	I	N	S	L	O	T	■	R	O	L	L	E	R
E	Y	E	T	E	E	T	H	■	S	T	Y	L	E	T

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | SEPT. 20: This year you will take a hard look at your life and decide what you would like to change. The opportunity to revitalize or change a situation will occur in the later part of your birthday year. At that point, you will enter the first year of a new life and luck cycle. If you are single, romance will knock on your door. Don't commit unless you know this person is The One. If you are attached, the two of you need to plan on going on more getaways together. You need this time away from your day-to-day life to revive the bond that exists between you. Sagittarius has no time for details.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You will respond to an offer that takes you away from the here and now. The newness of this adventure appeals to you, but it also appeals to a loved one. You might feel as if you have hopped on a magic carpet ride to a faraway land.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Your patience is one of your strongest qualities. Today, that characteristic will create a better foundation between you and a loved one. Caring seems to just happen. Be careful with impulsiveness at the moment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
As dexterous as you are, you should be able to easily jump over any obstacles in your way. However, one obstacle might be an individual whom you want to get to know better. What is stopping you?

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
You might not have the time to indulge a child. You also could need to do some shopping, even if you would prefer not to. Make a point of squeezing in some exercise. An older relative or friend will surprise you with his or her actions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Your playfulness will be appreciated by a new friend. Before you know it, you both could be acting as if there were no tomorrow. This person will have enormous trust in you, as he or she seems to understand you better than others do.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You might feel drained by what is happening around you. Be smart and take some much-needed time off. Use caution with someone you meet today, regardless of how adorable this person might seem!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
You have a very caring friend whom you shouldn't ignore, unless you want to have a bigger problem on your hands than you thought possible. You'll find this person to be unpredictable, but you both will have a great time together.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Be aware of what is happening with your finances. Instrument good sense and self-discipline. There is always an occasion to spend. Take a hard look at your budget and see what you can eliminate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Know that you have what it takes to do whatever you want to do. A caring call or a message from someone at a distance will set your imagination afire. Why not make plans to meet up with each other soon?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Take your time. Withdraw from the social circuit you have been a part of lately. A loved one will express his or her affection for you. Be open to this person's needs. A request could come in from out of left field that you'll need to honor.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You could be taken aback by a friend and what he or she has planned. A loved one will decide to join in, too. Together, you might feel like anything is possible. Open up to someone else's caring, even if you might feel a little uncomfortable.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Demands from a parent or boss will disrupt your plans. You actually like hanging out with this person, though, as you often learn a lot. You also understand each other well. Use caution with your finances, as money could run through your fingers like water.

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This birthday treat may backfire

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: So, my sister's 18th birthday is in a couple of weeks and my parents are going to surprise her with a trip to Disney!

We live about six hours away, so it's not a travel hassle, and we all think it's a great idea, but . . . my sister is not good with surprises, and she can be ungracious.

She doesn't want our parents to spend a lot of money on her, so she just wants to see a movie on her birthday, but we all know that would be seriously depressing.

My parents say if she isn't gracious about it, they'll cancel the trip, and everyone will then be mad at her.

Should I warn my sister in advance? Or say nothing and watch it blow up?

Birthday Brooder

Dear Brooder: You should talk to your parents about this and urge them to rethink their concept. The idea is to please your sister on her special birthday — not deliberately choose a high-impact celebration that involves travel and the raised hopes of the whole family. You are already assuming she will disappoint you.

Your sister might feel a little anxious about the pressure involved in reacting to a surprise. If your sister is an introvert, she might be reacting to her anxiety in a way that you interpret as bratty or overly dramatic.

Your folks should offer her a choice. If she doesn't like this idea, then they should let her choose something else — and plan to take this road trip (with you) another time.

Dear Amy: Can you give me a strategy on dealing with family members who (out of forgetfulness or willfulness) do not acknowledge that I kept my maiden name when I married my husband 20 years ago?

I manage to remember her recently married daughter's new last name; I remember when someone divorces or remarries and it involves a name change. In fact, everyone in my family remembers name changes that happen through marriage, divorce or remarriage.

I've tried humor and I've tried directness. Your family getting your name right is a pretty low bar to clear, is it not?

Not Mrs. Smith

Dear Not: I see two possibilities here: Either your family members can't remember your name, marking significant collective cognitive impairment — in which case you should look on them with wonderment and compassion — or they have found a way to successfully needle you for 20 years, in which case they seem like a lot of other families.

I hope your friends and business associates are able to respect your choice. When it comes to your family, you might assume that there is some envy contained in their behavior. Sigh and silently pity them.

Amy's column appears seven days a week at washingtonpost.com/advice. Write to Amy Dickinson at askamy@tribpub.com or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

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