

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

The punabridged dictionary: Winning redefined words

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1160** we asked you to come up with a totally different definition for an existing word (this time the word had to start with P-through Z). Funny but suggested too frequently: **ZEBRA** as a garment too big even for Dolly Parton; **REMEMBER** is what the surgeons did to John Bobbitt. Some of the entries below require you to pronounce the word differently — e.g., read **THEME** as THE ME.

4th place

PITUITARY: So foul-tasting you have to spit it out. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.)

3rd place

SCATTERBRAIN: A typical stage direction in a zombie movie. (Joanne Free, Clifton, Va.)

2nd place and the bottles of red Linenade and chocolate/maple/bacon soda:

STUD POKER: Personal protective device to ward off conceited suitors. (Howard Walderman, Columbia, Md.)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial

PERMUTATION: How Chernobyl Fried Chicken offers refunds. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

A semiglossary of honorable mentions

POTHOLE: An obnoxious stoner. (Andrea Dewhurst, Lynn, Mass.)

OPAL: A friend with benefits. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

PAGEANT: An insect found squashed inside a book. (Chris Damm, Charles Town, W.Va.)

QUIBBLE: Pet food for finicky eaters. (Frank Osen)

TYPEFACE: The result of falling asleep at your keyboard. (Ben Aronin, Washington)

YO-YO: Greeting between friends. (Jennifer Dickey, Silver Spring)

WEEKEND: How workers feel by Friday. (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

WOMBAT: Oh, it's somewhere between the rib cage and the bellybutton. (Mike Ostapiej, Mount Pleasant, S.C.)

ZIP CODE: Omerta. (Howard Walderman)

TESTICLE: "Answer These 10 Questions to See if You Are a Real Man" (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

TESTICLES: A Greek philosopher noted for his sensitivity. (Thor Rudebeck, Chicago, a First Offender)

SHERIFF: Approval under certain conditions. (Mike Kozubek, Chicago, a First Offender)

PAPAYA: A female sailor known for consuming great amounts of canned fruit. (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

PC: A kiddie pool. (Gordon Cobb, Marietta, Ga.)

PALEONTOLOGY: The study of Irish people. (Danielle Nowlin)

UNDERPANTS: Fails to show sufficient excitement. (Brendan Beary)

PEACH FUZZ: Police recruits. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

UNDERSTUDY: Preparing to fail by failing to prepare. (Mark Raffman)

THEME: The Donald's favorite topic. (Kevin Dopart, Washington; Tom Witte)

PARSNIP: The act of lowering one's golf score on the scorecard. (Chris Damm)

PERCHERON: To carefully place a small object. "That vase is fragile; could you percheron the back of the shelf?" (Gerald Diamond, London, Ontario)

PERDITION: The most expensive way to pay for your Washington Post. (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park, Md.)

PERSEVERING: How a divorce lawyer charges. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

PERUSE: How Your Mama charges. (Frank Osen)

STARBUCKS: Rudolph and Bambi. (Jim Exnicios, Manassas)

WARDEN: The Pentagon. (Hugh Thirlway, The Hague)

PIRACY: Rated XXX.14. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

ZUCCHINI: A leopard-print swimsuit. (Beverly Sharp,



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Was it Answer B that really happened with Saran Wrap? Wait, wait, we'll tell you below.

New contest for Week 1164: 'Wait Wait' for us

A "Wait Wait . . . Don't Tell Me" question to Chance the Rapper on the topic of . . . wrap: Sometimes Saran Wrap can save the day — as when what happened last year in Chile?

a. A mugger on the street was captured by bystanders and held by wrapping him to a lamppost naked with Saran Wrap.

b. A man was saved from a house fire when he jumped into a makeshift Saran Wrap net.

c. A desperate surgeon used Saran Wrap instead of a skin graft, creating the world's first transparent man.

The Empress has a hunch that more than a few Style Invitational fans also listen to "Wait Wait . . . Don't Tell Me," the weekly NPR program that's a cross between a current-events quiz show and the Algonquin Round Table, starring host Peter Sagal and a rotating panel of quick-quipping wits.

In one of the show's recurring comic quizzes, called Not My Job — "the game where we ask very cool people about very lame things" — Sagal presents a celebrity guest with a Ridiculous but True piece of recent news or other trivia along with two related Ridiculous but Untrue ones, like the question above. (Chance the Rapper, by the way, correctly guessed A on a show that was rerun last weekend.)

Which brings us to **this week's contest**, which was suggested repeatedly by the Royal Consort until the Empress gave in. We admit it's a challenge, but we have faith (or at least hope) in both the trivia-finding and comedy-writing skills of the Loser Community:

Compose a multiple-choice question about a Ridiculous but True fact or event, with two entertaining wrong answers as well as the right one. One of the two wrong answers may be obviously untrue as long as it's funny. We're not going to independently research the veracity of your Real Thing, so you'll need to show us a reasonably believable source for your RBT fact. And you will, of course, tell the Empress the correct answer. You can hear and read lots of other "Wait Wait" quizzes by clicking on the link at npr.org/programs.

AND YES YES! "Wait Wait" panelist Roxanne Roberts, the longtime Washington Post feature writer (and news quiz whiz, and even an occasional Invite Prize Donor), has agreed to choose some favorite entries from among the finalists.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives an airline barf bag decorated with the word for vomit in numerous languages, brought back (unused) from New Zealand by Loser Elden Carnahan, just in time for the upcoming slew of prime-time campaign commercials.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug, the older-model "This Is Your Brain on Mugs" mug, a vintage Loser T-shirt, or something from the Mystery Box. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "Magnet Dum Laude" or "Falling Jest Short," or a Mystery Box item. First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). Email entries to losers@washpost.com or, if you were born in the 19th century, fax to 202-334-4312. **Deadline is Monday night, March 7;** results published March 27 (online March 24). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1164" in your email 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 Chris Doyle, as is the honorable-mentions subhed. 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.

Montgomery, Ala.)

RODENT: A nasty pothole. (Marty McCullen, Gettysburg, Pa.)

RADISH: Really ultra-super phenomenally awesome, sorta. (Larry Gray, Union Bridge, Md.)

SYCOPHANT: Prehistoric pachyderm also known as the brown-nose mammoth. (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

PENCHANT: "Attica! Attica! Attica!" (Gerald Diamond)

PRIUS: From ancient times, i.e., before we were born. — Merriam-Webster, Tween Edition (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

PLASTERBOARD: A cocktail menu. (Gary Crockett)

TOY: A deadlocked game between the New York Giants and New York Jets. (Mark Raffman)

TWIST: A night in a motel with Elmer Fudd (Mark Raffman)

YESHIVA: What you do when your Hebrew school keeps the thermostat too low. (Brendan Beary)

WRECKAGE: The Terrible Twos. (Sylvia Betts, Vancouver, B.C.)

WALLOP: What Trump wants to

put between the United States and Mexico. (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

WATERHINT: Closer than regular friends, though not as close as blood brothers. (Danielle Nowlin)

WHIPPOORWILL: Torture choice: 50 lashes or five hours of Shatner's Priceline commercials. (Ellen Raphaeli, Falls Church)

SPOTLIGHT: Diet dog food. (Joanne Free)

VIOLATIONS: String arrangements that muck up so many Beatles recordings. (Larry Gray)

TENDRIL: What you need to do regularly at West Point. (John O'Byrne, Dublin)

TATAMI: Off-heard request at a strip club. (Jerry Birchmore, Springfield)

SUPERVISE: Vat Kant and Hegel were. (Jesse Frankovich)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Feb. 29: Our contest for spelling words backward. See bit.ly/invite1163.

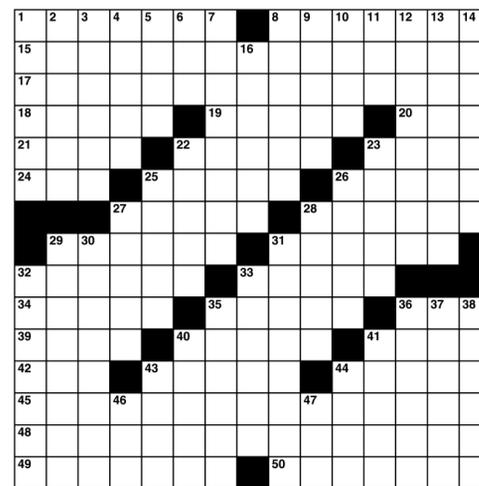
SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY DOUG PETERSON © 2016 CROSSYNERGY SYNDICATE LLC

ACROSS	32 Hill body	3 "Wizards of Waverly Place" star Gomez	16 Longtime "60 Minutes" humorist	32 Like Hebrew and Arabic
1 Laysnugly	33 It's named for a WWII flying ace	4 Nashville intonation	22 Cumberland Gap explorer	33 Eponymous skateboarding maneuvers
8 Potentially awkward between-innings diversion	34 Quaint exclamation	5 Racing circuits	23 Screening device	35 Succumbs to pressure, in a way
15 Despite the difficulties	35 Gets fuzzy	6 Contact spot	25 "The Men Who Stare at _____" (2009 George Clooney film)	36 Texas border city
17 Starters with a kick	36 Chaim Potok's "The Gift of Asher _____"	7 Former "SNL" announcer in the Television Hall of Fame	26 Rotor sounds	37 Fails to pronounce
18 Telling signs	39 High time?	8 Big name in test preparation	27 Showy flowers, informally	38 Flaps in a Ford
19 Suffix in the names of two state capitals	40 Factions on the fringes	9 How tuna is often sold	28 Becomes scorched	40 Tokyo-based electronics giant
20 Stewart with many hits	41 Bamako's country	10 Conciliatory offerings	29 Heavy metal band with the platinum album "Rust in Peace"	41 Sage saying
21 Donkey _____	42 Ending in chemistry class	11 Octane booster maker	30 "You might say that"	43 Binge consequence, perhaps
22 Not fresh	43 "Dream Lover" singer	12 Language written with an 85-character syllabary	31 Relishes often served with cheese plates	44 Insect stage
23 Japanese noodles	44 Brother of Hector	13 Class that may involve a step		46 Nevada county
24 Notable segment	45 Cartoon pal of Chumley the Walrus	14 Salt-free seasoning brand		47 "Cats" inspiration, initially
25 Bridge maven Charles	48 Determined climber of rhyme			
26 Collaboratively edited	49 Snack introduced in 1948			
27 "Hot dog!"	50 Type of red algae			
28 Half of the "Up in Smoke" comedy team				
29 She played Danza's daughter on "Who's the Boss?"	DOWN			
31 Pungent soup garnish	1 "Scout's honor"			
	2 Inspire with love			

Answer to last week

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



HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Feb. 28: This year it will be important to clearly define what you want — only then will it become a possibility. Friends support you in a venture that probably will be successful. These same friends often play key roles in your life. If you are single, you are likely to encounter several admirers who could become a lot more. You will know which person will be right for you; listen to your intuition. If you are attached, you flow very well together in different situations. You have a connection with your significant other that could be nearly psychic. SCORPIO seeks your acceptance.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Stay in touch with your long-term needs, especially when having an important conversation with a key person. Share an important thought and get feedback. This back-and-forth probably will evoke an emotional response.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You might understand what a friend can achieve better than he or she does. This person could be more idealistic than he or she would like to admit. An insightful conversation today is the direct result of allowing more give-and-take.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Pace yourself in order to move a project off the ground. At the same time, you could be attempting to fulfill a relative's request, which seems to be very important. You might need to rearrange late-afternoon plans to squeeze everything in.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) An invitation that will allow you to get out of your immediate environment, even just for a few hours, probably will renew your

energy. Confusion surrounds mixed messages, which could arise by midday. Do your best to avoid a hassle.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Your plans might be best if they're centered on an immediate domestic situation. Reorganize your schedule accordingly. You also might decide that it's time for a new diet or exercise regimen. Perhaps you need to schedule a doctor's appointment first.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You'll express your contentment as you spend some time catching up on a neighbor's news. Some of what you hear will delight you, although there is a possibility that the information is not 100 percent factual. Spend more time with your friends and loved ones.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Be sensitive and open to an alternative plan that has come forward. Your ability to understand what is going on could radically change your sense of what you would most like to do. Trust your instincts, as they usually are right on.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You could feel unusually energized and content. You might not be sure about what you want to do because suddenly a lot of choices have surfaced. A friendship gains importance to you. Make sure you spend time with this person if possible.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Don't worry — your time will come to be on center stage. Today is excellent for catching up on sleep and perhaps some other personal matters. On the other hand, you might have some TV series you would like to catch up on.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) If you could have a perfect Sunday, what would that look like? You have the opportunity, if you are willing to take it, to reach out to someone you care about. The two of you often share your aspirations. Detach and eye the possibilities.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Wherever you go, you steal the show. Others will find that you look remarkably energetic. However, you might feel quite the opposite, as you have been so busy. Later in the day you'll run into a favorite person, which will end the day perfectly.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You see the value in breaking patterns and achieving more of what you desire. This new approach could manifest itself in a conversation with a friend. A loved one will be delighted by your willingness to try something new.

Staying sober, but with a social cost

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: I am an alcoholic in remission. I am not recovering — I have a disease that I fight daily.

For almost 17 years I have not had alcohol in any form. Also on the no-no list are painkillers.

This is my sore spot: I have family and friends who bemoaned my drinking for the first half century of my life. These people have never — and I mean never — hosted an alcohol-free event.

I have requested that they do so, and they have flat-out said no.

There are times that I can ignore the booze. But there are times when the walls start to close in and I panic because the mere smell of a deep red wine makes me lose all reasoning and all I want to do is flee (or have a drink). So, I flee. Then I sit in the car and cry.

I want to still be part of the crowd, to laugh, to joke and eat good food. I want to enjoy the camaraderie of the group energy, but I can't. That's so unfair and just once in a while it would be

nice not to worry about it when I'm around Normies. Is that too much to ask?

Sober

Sober: First let me express my admiration for 17 years of one-day-at-a-time. It might be a good idea to find a local sober/recovery group where you can share your story, strategies and frustrations.

It is unfortunate that your family and friends don't support your sobriety more fully. Either they simply have no idea of the magnitude of the challenge for you, or they are being blatantly disrespectful of your reasonable request to attend an alcohol-free event occasionally. My instinct is that alcohol is an important part of your family's culture.

However, guess what? Just as they couldn't prevent you from a half century of drinking, you cannot prevent them from continuing to drink. It's the age-old Serenity Prayer challenge — to cope with those things (and people) you cannot change.

I hope you have at least one

friend who is willing to host alcohol-free dinners and parties along with you so that you can enjoy food and fellowship without the constant worry of relapsing.

Dear Amy: "At a Loss" wondered why her addict dad faded away from the family. You do not seem to know much about addiction. Sadly, I'm also an addicted parent. The main reason I chose to fade away was because it became very hard to deal with a spouse and kids and still try to get my life on track.

It took almost three years to get sober. Kids, unfortunately, were neglected. But there isn't a day that has gone by where I don't wish to be able to turn back the clock and be a better dad to my children.

Sober Now

Sober Now: Thank you for your insight.

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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