

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Going back on our words: Winners from Week 1163

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1163 we asked you to spell a word or other term backward and define the result, which should relate somehow to the original:

4th place

ST. NUTS: The patron saint of daredevils. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

3rd place

ABUC: What to make out of closer relations with Havana. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

2nd place and the "Wanna Rub My Butt?" barbecue apron:

REDYNS: Well, we know it *doesn't* mean "blushes with shame." (Todd DeLap, Fairfax)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial

QARI: A deep hole the government throws billions into. (Ellen Ryan, Rockville)

Flopped flips: honorable mentions

REDYNS: Here's an inoffensive Washington football team name that rhymes with the old name, still refers to the team color, and reflects (literally) the ownership. (Francis O'Donnell, Silver Spring, a First Offender)

EL BIB: It covers a multitude of sins. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

TNILF: Acronym for "Town I'd Like to Flee" (Frank Mann, Washington)

NEMICEPS: Bladder muscles that oppose you at a medical exam. (Kevin Dopart)

EREHWYNA: Where roughly half the population of the United States plans to move if what's-his/her-name is elected president. (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park, Md.)

EPYKS: Long, boring video chats. (Frank Osen)

ELGAE: Slime on America's reputation: "The elgae outbreak of 2016 is the worst since Jackson v. Adams in 1828." (Kevin Dopart)

DUH: The government agency Rick Perry forgot. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

DEFINK: To get a stoolie to zip it. (Chris Doyle)

AEHRRAD: You-know-what hitting the fan. (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.; Chris Doyle)

EL YOD: Much ink he has. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

DRIB: One of those white splotches on your car after you park under a tree. (Craig Dykstra, Centerville, Va.; Gerald Diamond, London, Ontario)

SISONGORP: Whatever it is, it's not good. (Marni Penning Coleman, Falls Church, Va.)

YNUF: I laughed the first time, okay? (Gordon Cobb, Marietta, Ga.)

EDUN: Paradise. Or hell. It depends. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

NO-ROM: A politician without any memory of stupid things he's said. (Christopher Damm, Charles Town, W.Va.)

NOBLE PAP: The Nats' closer sounded good when he apologized. But will that hold up when he chokes away a save? (Bill Lieberman, Ellicott City, Md.)

TAKTIK: Strategic whining by a child in the checkout line so Mom will buy the candy bar. (Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

ADNAP: To laze around all day, contribute nothing to society, and still be fawned over by crowds of people. (Xin Yu, Fitchburg, Wis.)

MOR GOPI: Desire of some of Trump's least-educated supporters. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.)

ELBOW: That jiggly part on the back of your arm. (Danielle Nowlin)

PEEB: The irritatingly impatient driver behind you when the light changes. (Craig Dykstra)

PUKCAB: Plan B for getting home from the bar. (Craig Dykstra)

E-GABRAG: Online gossip magazine. (Dale Frankel, Bloomfield, Mich., a First Offender)

KROW: A foul-tasting creature, but boy, you really miss it when you haven't had it for a while. (Mike



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1167: So what's to liken?

The last Cheeto in the bag vs. President Taft's bathtub: You'd gladly stick your tongue in the bag to get the Cheeto.

The Cat in the Hat had a game he called "UP-UP-UP with a fish." After an all-you-can-eat buffet, you might be playing that game too.

Tiny hands * The Apple Store employee of the month * three inches of snow * Hillary's emails * daylight-saving time * an all-you-can-eat buffet * President Taft's bathtub * a selfie stick * the last Cheeto in the bag * an octagon * the Pentagon * 7th-grade boys * leftover Valentine's candy * embalming fluid * bunions * The Cat in the Hat * Walmart mulch * Scrabble tiles

It's our beloved compare-or-contrast contest, in which you take any two items from the list above and explain how they're similar or different, as in the examples above, or connect them some other way. As she's done occasionally in the past few years, the Empress asked the 1,000-plus members of the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook to offer, a la Mad Libs, a bunch of random nouns or noun phrases. From something like 115 ideas offered, the E chose the 18 above, pretty much by shutting her eyes and stabbing her finger at a printout. They came from Devotees Ann Martin, Brendan Beary, Daphne Steinberg, Diane Wah, Bruce Niedt, Dennis Power, Mike Creveling, Kathy El-Assal, Marni Penning Coleman, Amanda Yanovitch, Dave Prevar and Jeff Contompasis.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a genuine Hot Wheels 1948 Ford Super De Luxe, specifically the model featured in "Back to the Future," more specifically after Biff rear-ended the manure truck. (The manure on this one is molded plastic, and it even snaps off.) Donated by Jeff Contompasis.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug, the older-model "This Is Your Brain on Mugs" mug or a vintage Loser T-shirt. Honorable mentions get one of our Loser magnets, "Magnet Dum Laude" or "Falling Jest Short." First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). Email entries to losers@washpost.com. Deadline is Monday night, March 28; results published April 24 (online April 21). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1167" 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 Jesse Frankovich; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Jeff Contompasis. 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.



HOTWHEELS.BR.COM

Positively Biffy: This week's second prize, a "Back to the Future" Hot Wheels Ford complete with snap-off manure.

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.

Ostapiej, Mount Pleasant, S.C.)

LOOPRAC: A torture device on which parents are strapped in, driven in endless circles, and stretched extremely thin. (Amanda Yanovitch, Midlothian, Va.)

KLAW: A cat's response to a leash. (David Kofalt, Gaithersburg)

MUGELBBUB: A demon who tortures souls after sticking their shoes to the floor. (Duncan Stevens)

AISSUR: Word meaning "we want only peace." (Gerald Diamond)

AWOI: Classification for candidates who disappear after the first caucus. (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

DELI OPS: The FDA's covert kitchen inspection program. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

NAYR: A House leader who says

no to anything the president proposes. (Jesse Frankovich)

KNUBED: Set straight after falling for an Internet hoax. "I got knubed immediately with a Snopes link after I shared that post about the singing otter." (Craig Dykstra)

EEF FOC: An ugly epithet hurled at those who greet us too early in the morning. (Jamie Martindale, McLean; Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

ELBERT: A man with a high voice. (Tom Witte)

KCAR: A classic model with really big headlights. (Chris Doyle)

ENOTLAID: A guy who prefers Internet sex to the real thing. (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

Still running — deadline Monday night, March 21: our Questionable Journalism contest. See bit.ly/invite1166.

SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY ALAN ARBESFELD © 2016 CROSSYENERGY SYNDICATE LLC

ACROSS	30 Buck chaser?	59 Legendary fitness guru	10 Exxon competitor	36 "The Harder They Come" setting
1 From the halls of Montezuma, say	31 Dress (out)	60 Hall of fame?	11 Huge amount of juice?	37 A lot may have it
8 Two and three, for six	32 Pollock specialty	61 Imposed fraudulently (on)	12 100 centesimi, in pre-euro days	38 Joseph Smith followers
15 "Love in the Time of ____" (Marquez novel)	35 Make a solemn vow		13 Person with lots to take care of?	39 Not budging
16 Property recipient, in law	36 Acts prematurely	DOWN	14 Two-handed two-pointer	40 Bolivian excavation site, perhaps
17 Medication for ADHD	42 Not worth ____	1 Performer with a flexible schedule?	21 "Calm down now!"	41 Crossed the threshold
18 Hideaway	43 Wisk alternative	2 Doctor of literature	24 Lhasa native	45 Concert venues
19 1980 Olympics track star Steve	44 Intro	3 Fundraising freebie, at times	25 Fine particle	47 Cornice support bracket
20 Tijuana eye	46 Noted Broadway belter	4 Puts on cloud nine	27 Adages	49 "Orlando" author
22 Vexes	48 Leave thunderstruck	5 Knick rival	29 ____ rock (music genre)	52 Roughly
23 Title pig in a 1995 film	50 Tirade	6 "Exodus" hero	33 Satirist Mort	53 Where a hero's journey might begin
24 Nashville sch.	51 Professional pitcher?	7 Certain iPods	34 Cannes showing	55 Mentalist Geller
25 Accompany	52 Big name in kitchen gadgets	8 Casino card game	35 Sparkling Italian wine	57 Kung ____ chicken
26 Winner of a career Grand Slam in tennis	53 "The Silence of the Lambs" director	9 Purchase at a pub		
28 The vernal equinox heralds its onset (abbr.)	54 "My sentiments exactly"			
	56 Like some 45-Down (abbr.)			
	58 Synagogue officials			

Answer to last week

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HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | March 20: This year you feel far more energetic than in the past, especially when it comes to relating to others. You often spend time pondering the hows, whys and whats of your relationships. If you are single, you could meet someone as soon as September who is significant to your life's history. You might be surprised by how many potential sweeties come forward during this time. If you are attached, although your differences become more distinct, you and your sweetie become a lot closer with acceptance. You like each other's quirks more and more. Virgo sometimes makes critical comments that irritate you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You'll wake up knowing that it's the first day of spring. Beam in what you have been dreaming of. You are determined to turn around a situation that you have been sitting on. Pressure builds to an unprecedented level. Just be yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You could be overwhelmed by everything that is on your mind. Go out for a morning walk, enjoy a long, relaxing bath or make lists of what you must do. Your ingenuity kicks in later in the evening. You'll find shortcuts through what seemed insurmountable.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Make calls in the morning, because by the afternoon, you might be more in the mood for some down time at home with a loved one. Refuse to be held back by someone else's desire to do something that feels totally off to you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You could wake up feeling as if you have way too much on your

plate and can't find a way to clear it out. By the afternoon, you will be energized and can cut through any hassles quickly. Use a surge of high energy well.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Use the morning for whatever you feel is important. You seem to be carrying around a lucky rabbit's foot. By the afternoon, the desire to really kick back and have a good time takes over. Self-discipline walks out the door, or so it seems.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You might wake up feeling somewhat stressed out. Look to fatigue as the main culprit. Take the morning off, at least until you feel as if a rainbow has appeared in your backyard. Allow yourself to be more spontaneous.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You enter a period where the planets will let you know whether you are on the right path in the next few weeks. Observe. If everything is copacetic, you'll deserve a celebration; otherwise, make an adjustment. Use the morning for meetings.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Responsibilities call in the morning. Go off and complete them quickly, as friends will play a significant role in your plans later in the day. A key relationship could play a significant role in what goes on. You don't have to push.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You will be an unstoppable force in the morning. You have a get-up-and-go spirit and more willingness to take risks than your friends have. In the afternoon, responsibility calls. You might be tempted to nix handling what you must.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) A partnership means a lot more to you than you might acknowledge, even if only to yourself. This morning, you realize just how much. Why not allow the other party to know? You could be delighted by the response you receive.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Others want to dominate. You might be a little more controlling than you would like to acknowledge, but if you can let go, you will have a blast — at least for the moment. A friend or loved one pulls you in closer after a discussion.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Get done what you must quickly, whether it is taking the kids to Sunday school, reading the paper or simply enjoying an easy morning. By the afternoon, several people will play a key role, even if you did not plan to get together with them.

Not 'being there' causes pain, anguish

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

2014, two of my brothers-in-law died and I went to their funerals, paying for airfare and motels. Last year, my husband died and two of my sisters did not come to be by my side. I let them know that I can't get past this. I thought we'd always "be there" for one another.

You are always telling family members to mend disputes. I can't get past the fact that they hurt me. I'm just thankful we live in different states and don't have to see one another.

Sad: I'm so sorry this has happened. You did the right thing to contact your sisters to let them know how their behavior affected you. This feeling of disappointment

compounds your loss and sadness. It's a true fact that your siblings have a lot of power; they have known you your whole life — they are the only people who knew your parents the way you did. They are witnesses to your life's story. They are there for the birthdays and weddings and they should be there for the losses, too. But sisters seem to have a special ability to crush and disappoint one another.

You don't say how your sisters have replied to your letter — or if they have replied. Their behavior reflects very badly on them, just as your behavior during their time of loss reflects very well upon you. You should not have to beg them for connection, and unfortunately you may have to find a way to move forward and deal with this loss — on top of your other loss.

I hope you are attending a grief group. Communicating with other grieving people, you will learn that sometimes, unfortunately, death brings out

the very worst in people. If they don't know what to do, they do nothing, and there is nothing worse than doing nothing when someone else is hurting.

Dear Amy: My son is getting married to a woman I really don't like. How do I respond to the oft-asked question, "How do you like her?"

Future Mother-in-Law

Future Mother-in-Law: I think when people ask this, they are really asking for a description. And so you can offer a neutral description of who she is and what she does, how the two met, etc. You can also say (hopefully truthfully), "Max adores her, and that's all I care about."

Otherwise, if people probe further — which they often do — I suggest you lie your head off.

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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