

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Those smart-ask Losers: Report from Week 1166

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1166 we once again asked readers to choose any sentence from a Washington Post article or ad that week, and give us a question that it might answer. Shockingly, many entrants had politics on their minds.

4th place

"Answer" from The Post: The entire community is anticipated to be sold out by this fall.

Q. Does it seem inevitable that the House GOP will swallow its principles and endorse you-know-who? (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

3rd place

A. Nobody else has that kind of ground game in South Florida.

Q. Why do people line up for gator burgers at Bubba's of Boca Raton? (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

2nd place and the Evolution Eraser and plunger-shaped phone stand:

A. Two days before Christmas, a trust called DE First Holdings was quietly formed in Delaware, where corporations are required to reveal little about their workings.

Q. What does "The Night Before Christmas" sound like when retold by Bernie Sanders? (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial

A. It also carries reports about such topics as rabbit farming and domestically made school backpacks.

Q. Why are critics saying the State of the Union address is being influenced by too many lobbyists? (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

Mis-Q's: honorable mentions

A. Sometimes their bottom halves were nearly the full width of the runway.
Q. What is the most shocking finding from last year's study of pilot obesity? (Kimberly Baer, Woodbridge, Va.)

A. "I just grayed out or blacked out a little bit."
Q. Do you deny starring in your fraternity's racially insensitive minstrel show? (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

A. When the angry words darted over my head as I worked on my coloring book, I barely heard them.

Q. How did you maintain your composure during the debates, Dr. Carson? (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

A. Judging from the pictures you sent, your shower doors appear to be framed in anodized aluminum.

Q. What do you think of the nude selfies I took in my bathroom? (Jeff Contompassis, Ashburn, Va.)

A. Let me be honest here.
Q. What does a politician say before lying? (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

A. Virginia was a little bit quicker, a little bit sharper, and a little bit more athletic.

Q. President Clinton, how was your intern's replacement? (Jim McCormack, Fairfax, a First Offender)

A. Gov. John Kasich has long resisted direct engagement with Trump.
Q. Why has the GOP front-runner been married only three times? (Pam Sweeney, Burlington, Mass.)

A. Plus, they have a food source with the Potomac River nearby.
Q. You're cutting SNAP benefits because D.C. families could dive in dumpsters, Senator McConnell? (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

A. A reporter for the Midland Reporter-Telegram described the spectacle as "a spaghetti of writhing angry reptiles" that emanates "a strange dense smell with an evil vomit-like edge to it."

Q. Why did the Midland Bar Association stop inviting the press to its annual luncheon? (Mark Raffman)

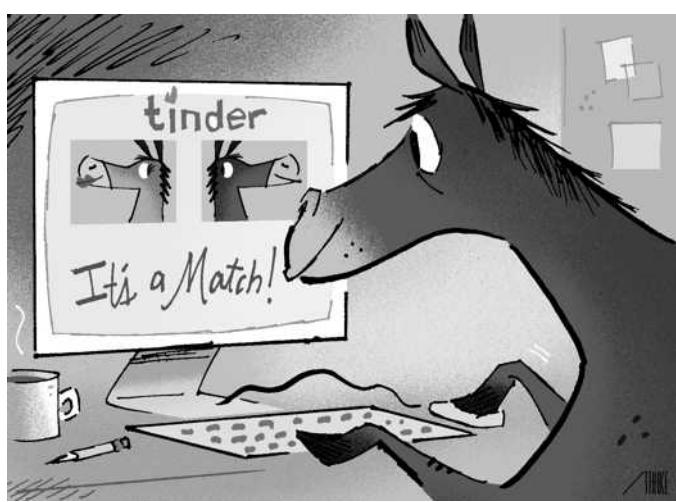
A. Yes and no.
Q. Does Hillary Clinton have a plan to respond to criticism that she equivocates on important issues? (Duncan Stevens)

A. The Mets had explored trades for Tejada but apparently couldn't find any willing partners.

Q. Since he stinks as a player, could Ruben Tejada maybe be an apprentice plumber or drywaller? (Brendan Beary)

A. For some employees, a single sighting is enough to trigger what psychology texts call "musophobia," an extreme fear of mice.

Why does the Disneyland hiring process include an interview with



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1170: Derby or not Derby

Stradivari x Catapult = Fiddle On The Roof
Mighty Moses x Percolator = He Brew
The Big Mo x Exaggerator = OK, The Medium Mo

The 2015 Triple Crown was won by a horse with a misspelled name — which the Empress had mistakenly spelled correctly as "American Pharaoh," rather than "Pharoah," last spring in the 21st running of The Style Invitational's horse name "breeding" contest. This year, we checked the names of our stud roster more carefully (yes, Mooose really has three O's) and so it's off to the races with Year 22 of our most popular contest. **Below is a list of 100 of the almost 400 racehorses nominated for this year's Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont; your job is to "breed" any two of them and name the "foal" to reflect both names**, as in the examples above. Yes, every horse on the list is male; sorry, Kim Davis! As in the racing world, **a name may not exceed 18 characters including spaces**, but one or more of the characters may be punctuation marks or numerals. You may run words together, but the name still should be easy to read. Make sure to spell the original horse names correctly in your entry, or the E's search button might skip over them. Please use the format in the examples. **As always, you may send as many as 25 entries**, preferably on a single e-mail.

Winner doesn't get a \$2 million Derby purse but does get the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives Desktop Derby, a little bitty kit containing a mat, a spinner, some plastic horses, a gold-colored trophy and a 32-page guide to horse racing. We don't know how interesting the game is, but we're intrigued how all that stuff fits into a 3-inch-square box. Donated by Christina Courtney.

These 100 horses were drawn from a list of almost 400 Triple Crown nominees published by KentuckyDerby.com:

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| All World | Flexibility | Pinnacle Peak |
| Alpha Team | Found Money | Pinstripe |
| Annals of Time | General MacArthur | Prospectus |
| Attraction | Gettysburg | Rated R Superstar |
| Awesome Speed | Giant Trick | Realm |
| Bar None | Great Dane | Riddler |
| Battery | Gulf Of Mexico | Shagaf |
| Benediction | Gun Runner | Singleton |
| Big Red Rocket | Happy Match | Smokey Image |
| Big Squeeze | Hardly Home | Snow Fighter |
| Billy's Kitten | Hawk | Sorryaboutnothing |
| Bombs Away | Hot Item | Start A War |
| Brody's Cause | Ima Monster | Stradivari |
| Can't Remember | John Q. Public | Suddenbreakingnews |
| Caribbean | Kiss Limit | Swagger Jagger |
| Catapult | Lani | Swipe |
| Cherry Wine | Latest Craze | Tally |
| Cold Blood | Let Me Go First | Ten Blessings |
| Collected | Life Is A Trip | That Makes Sense |
| Creator | Magical Mystery | The Big Mo |
| Cupid | Majesto | The Lieutenant |
| Cutacorn | Matt King Coal | Time Will Tell |
| Danzing Candy | Mighty Moses | True Solitaire |
| Deserved | Miles of Humor | Twenty Four Seven |
| Destin | Mo Tom | Twirling |
| Diplodocus | Mohaymen | Unexplained |
| Discreetness | Molasses Brown | Urban Bourbon |
| Dressed in Hermes | Moose | Walk Out |
| Economic Model | Mor Spirit | Weight No More |
| Emoji Man | Name Changer | Whitmore |
| Enroute | Nyquist | Who's Out |
| Exaggerator | Outwork | Williamsburg |
| Fellowship | Percolator | Zulu |
| | Perfect Saint | |

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 lusted-after 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, April 18; results published on Kentucky Derby weekend: May 5 online, May 8 in the paper. Include "Week 1170" 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 Kevin Dopart; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Chris Doyle. 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.

Mickey? (Stuart Backer, Falls Church, Va., a First Offender)

A. Go crawl in a hole.
Q. What was the worst advice Saddam Hussein ever followed? (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

A. It is very messy to clean them out.
Q. Why do divorce lawyers wear rubber gloves when meeting with clients? (Mark Raffman)

A. Both are repugnant, both dangerous and both deserving of the most

unreserved condemnation.
Q. Yo, Rev. Sanctimonius, how do you like the bazooms on that stripper up there? (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at bit.ly/invite1170.

Still running — deadline Monday night, April 11: our acoustic/backronym contest for movies, books, etc. See bit.ly/invite1169.

SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY DOUG PETERSON © 2016 CROSSYNERGY SYNDICATE LLC

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| ACROSS | 34 Gifted with aptitude | DOWN | 12 1990 #1 rap hit that was originally a B-side | 36 "The Price is Right" props |
| 1 Winged DC Comics character | 35 Basis for many folk song melodies | 1 Actress and inventor Lamarr | 13 African nation made up of over 100 islands | 37 Tabasco titles (abbr.) |
| 9 Patio piece | 38 "Xena: Warrior Princess" antagonist | 2 Basilica section | 14 Animated princess voiced by Idina Menzel | 42 Prize |
| 15 Final passage | 39 Gulf east of Djibouti | 3 Resourcefulness | 21 "Think again?" | 44 Smooth and connected |
| 16 Part's partner | 40 Avoid conformity | 4 "America's Got Talent" judge | 23 "¿Qué ___?" | 46 Going by |
| 17 Unlikely scholarship recipient | 41 Madison Ave. setting | 5 Ragnarok figure | 24 Nectar source | 47 Sundance entry, often Gives a little |
| 18 Indoor sports venues | 42 Middle ___ | 6 "That makes sense" | 25 "Tuesday Night Music Club" artist | 48 Hatcher who voices a forklift in Disney's "Planes" |
| 19 Old-fashioned agreement | 43 Knight on old charts | 7 They're seen in the latest lines | 26 Port container, perhaps | 51 Colorado natives |
| 20 Target Field pro | 45 Resounding wins | 8 Allow to pass | 27 Middle Earth creatures | 52 Word in most Grammy categories |
| 22 German camera company | 48 Order to go | 9 Pro with schedules | 30 Underwater projection | 53 Critics' concerns |
| 23 Supporter of Ray Charles? | 49 Kiss, in Kent | 10 Britain's second Astronomer Royal | 31 Half a cubit, once | 55 Application fig. |
| 25 Dripping, in a way | 50 Heavy metal instrument | 11 "If I Only Had a Brain" composer Harold | 33 1989 Grammy-winning Metallica song | 57 Satisfied |
| 28 Chest item | 54 Duelist of fiction | | 34 Did great on | |
| 29 Mock shriek | 56 Planetary measure | | | |
| 31 Letters on dreidels | 58 Pages, at times | | | |
| 32 Eponymous German mineralogist | 59 Shark's bite? | | | |
| | 60 "Pippi Longstocking" setting | | | |
| | 61 Vain sorts | | | |

Answer to last week

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HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | April 10: This year you become more available and open. You seem to be able to communicate with others clearly, and they with you. However, know that an emotional or intellectual disagreement could arise simply because of a misunderstanding. If you are single, enjoy dating until the cold weather arrives, as this is when you will meet someone who makes you stop in your tracks. If you are attached, the two of you need to break past self-imposed mental barriers. Look at the positives of what exists between you, and accept your differences as part of the mix. Gemini loves your enthusiasm.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
All the positive energy in the world might not be able to prevent a tiff from happening. Try not to overreact or have a knee-jerk reaction. Once your temper flares, so might someone else's. Don't mess up what could be a dreamy, fun day.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You might make the best effort possible to keep a situation calm, but unfortunately the other party wants to scream, yell and carry on. You'll have no choice but to walk away, unless you want to make a difficult situation even more difficult.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Your softer side emerges when dealing with a younger friend. You understand the depth of this person's caring. A loved one could be jealous, which you might realize when he or she goes on the warpath.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
You could feel somewhat out of touch with others. You might need to pull back and do something you really want to do.

Be careful when dealing with any mechanical equipment, as you could be accident-prone. Keep your focus.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Emphasize what you want and expect from a friend; you actually might succeed in making your point heard. Expect the other party to do the same. A child could become angry, as he or she feels as if you are not giving him or her enough attention.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Pressure builds, as someone you look up to has some expectations that you may prefer not to meet. Also, a person who affects your domestic life could become angry if he or she is not the center of your universe right now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Deal with someone else directly. You might be surprised by what comes out as a result. Try to detach and listen. If you react, you could be starting a round of quarrels that you would prefer not to hear or be involved in. Choose your words with care.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You will be in the mood for a fast change, although it might involve a loved one. Talking this person into joining you could cause a problem. You might feel bogged down by responsibilities. Allow the other party to have his or her way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You might need to be ready for what could happen if you push a loved one too hard. You also will react strongly to this person's comments, creating some uproar. Is this what you really want? Tune in to your intuitive self.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Honor what is happening within your immediate circle of friends. You might decide to go off and do something you have really wanted to do. Call a close friend whom you don't see often, because he or she seems to want to visit with you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You could be in a position where you might want to make some substantial changes. A friend could feel challenged by some of your decisions. A loved one will be delighted by the idea of some up-and-coming changes.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Honor a need for some personal time, even if an older relative seems disappointed and/or angry that you don't want to do what he or she expects you to. Refuse to respond to harsh words. There are times you need for you and you alone.

Wife may need to be the bigger person

Ask Amy
AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: My mother has made my wife's life difficult — with poor comments and decisions,

and by not respecting my wife as the authority figure in our home and with our daughter.

I am largely to blame for not putting my foot down. My mother made a poor comment at my daughter's soccer game to some other mothers, implying that my wife didn't attend all the games. She took that as a slap in the face. She does attend every game.

I shared my wife's frustration with my parents, and my father left a voice mail saying that they wanted nothing to do with our family anymore. My daughter heard it, and my wife demanded that they apologize before they could see my daughter or our family again.

My parents were stubborn, and this lasted three years.

Finally, I reached out and mended fences, arranging a dinner. My folks never apologized at the dinner but

simply wished to move on. My wife did not accept this. It has gone on for another year, and I am quite depressed by not having my family involved in my life. My wife seems to feel it is acceptable to have no contact with my family.

Amy, how can I get my wife to look past this and have a simplified relationship with my parents rather than none at all? Do I have the right to ask this?

Sad Dad

Sad Dad: Your wife does not have the right to deny you the opportunity to interact with your parents — and to include your child in some interactions, if you wish. If she wants/needs to stay home, she should.

Your folks have behaved abominably, and they have reacted to your reconciliation in a way that I believe is, unfortunately, somewhat typical of their generation — "Let's just move on," instead of apologizing, talking about their feelings or listening to others talk about their feelings. Your parents don't seem to have been especially

pained to be estranged from you and your family. Are they willing to agree to your reasonable expectations — that they respect your wife?

This is incredibly frustrating, especially to someone like your wife, who feels so wounded and who does deserve an apology.

However, this may call upon your wife to be the bigger person and to understand this on a visceral level: Your parents are deeply flawed. She doesn't like them. But does she understand that in some ways, her behavior mirrors theirs?

Can she tolerate occasionally being with people she doesn't like in order for you to have an integrated relationship with your two families? She doesn't seem willing to try, and that's something she really should work on, because this estrangement seems most painful for you.

Write to Amy Dickinson at askamy@tribune.com or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.