

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Film flammery: Altered movie titles

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1195** we asked you to alter a movie title — without changing or rearranging any letters: The changes had to result from changing punctuation, adding or deleting spaces, etc. At least 18 people offered the cannibalism tale of “The Grad U Ate.”

4th place

Indiana Jones and the Temp, Leo F. Doom: Indy’s vacation is cut short when his nebbishy substitute turns out to be an evil mastermind bent on global destruction. (Sarah Jay, Churchville, Md.)

3rd place

Bob & Carol, & Ted & Alice: Commas spoil all the fun. (Tim Westmoreland, Takoma Park, who got his only previous blot of Invite ink in Week 142 — 21 years ago)

2nd place and the L-for-Loser bottle stoppers:

All the Presidents — Men: Limited engagement through Jan. 20, 2017 — H.R.C., New York (Ben Aronin and Rivka Liss-Levinson, Washington)

And the winner of the Inkin’ Memorial:

Rebel Without ACA Use: After losing one too many knife fights, a teenage loner signs up for Obamacare. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Demotion pictures: honorable mentions

Citizen Kañe: The story of Charles Foster’s even more self-centered relative. (Bruce Johnson, Churchton, Md.)

Good, Fellas! A mob boss finds out that his new “motivation by positive reinforcement” plan isn’t as effective as the other thing. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

T or A? T or A? T or A?: Trump finally deliberates over something. (Francis Canavan, Reston)

A Night Tore Member: Christian Grey realizes he finally overdid it. (Jill Fosse, University Park, Md.)

Child Reno: F the Corn! Little Janet refuses to eat her vegetables yet grows up to become a powerful attorney general. (Doug Frank, Crosby, Tex.)

Fat Her’s Little Dividend: Miss Universe exacts revenge on a presidential candidate. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Do “G Day” After Noon: A young woman learns the ways of the lunch shift at Outback Steakhouse. (Doug Frank)

DA’s Boo-T: A shapely prosecutor struggles to be taken seriously. Starring Kim Kardashian. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Dr.? No!: A sixth-year PhD student spends another awkward Thanksgiving with the relatives. (Rivka Liss-Levinson)

Fat Al Attraction: Being a weatherman on national TV has its perks, even if you’re not quite studly. (Doug Frank; Brian Collins, Olney)

Fat Hero: “F the Bride”: A bridesmaid fights back when she’s too big to fit in the ugly dress that Bridezilla wants her to wear. (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

Finding NE, MO: Episode 12 of “Touring the Midwest.” (John Glenn, Tyler, Tex.)

GA-ND-HI : A charismatic leader heads a peaceful protest march from Atlanta to Fargo to . . . Honolulu? (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

Goodwill Hunt in G: Five hipsters compete for the biggest thrift store deal to the hypnotic backing of a piano sonata. (Nathanael Dewhurst, Lynn, Mass.)

“Ground-Hog Day”: A pig farmer’s battle to put the “ham” in “hamburger.” (Mark Mironer, Edina, Minn., a First Offender)

Ho Meal One: Breakfast at Your Mama’s. (Jesse Frankovich)

The “God, Father!” Part II: Sequel to the hit about a teenage daughter’s embarrassment over her dad’s increasingly ambitious comb-overs. (Danielle Nowlin)

Spell “Bound”: Scandal erupts when the Scripps-Howard Spelling Bee throws out a softball to a judge’s son. (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

The Break Fast Club: Comedy: Those gangly college friends find



BOB STAAK FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1199: We want some bad choices

Your home is haunted. Would you rather have a ghost that silently watches you have sex or a ghost that whispers creepy riddles at you while you’re going to the bathroom?

Would you agree to go up 1 to 2 points on the attractiveness scale if it meant that your breath would smell like buttered popcorn the rest of your life?

Either your best friend gets laid off with two weeks’ pay or you lose the ability to copy and paste on electronic devices for the rest of your life. Which do you pick?

Would you agree to go up 1 to 2 points on the attractiveness scale if it meant that your breath would smell like buttered popcorn the rest of your life?

The fortunately preposterous dilemmas cited above are among the “Questions for Terrible People” in a new book by that name by Boston comedian Wes Hazard. Hazard offers “250 questions you’ll be ashamed to answer” — one to a page in headline-size type — by which you can determine just how scummy a person you are.

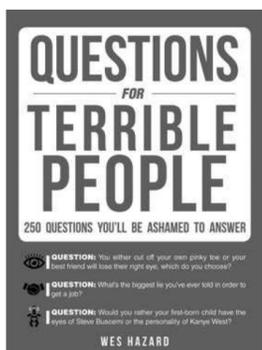
This week: Offer one or more funny Questions for Terrible People in this vein; they don’t necessarily have to be a choice between two undesirable alternatives, but the questions should be entertaining in themselves; we’re not looking for answers here (at least not this week). See more questions from the book in this week’s Style Conversational column at bit.ly/conv1199.

Submit entries at this website: bit.ly/enter-invite-1199 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the Inkin’ Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy, plus the “Questions for Terrible People” book. Second place gets an electronic toilet paper roller that emits a recording of Donald Trump when you pull on it. Donated by Dave Prevar, who also gave us the Donald and Hillary pens we offered recently; of course, by then you’d be listening to either the president-elect or a total loser.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug, the older-model “This Is Your Brain on Mugs” mug or our Grossery Bag, “I Got a B in Punmanship.” 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). Deadline is Monday night, Nov. 7 (since there won’t be anything else on your mind that day); results published Nov. 27 (online Nov. 23). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week’s results is by Chris Doyle; Chris also wrote to honorable-mentions subhead. 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.



The book that inspired this week’s contest.

part-time work in a crystal shop. (Dan Steinbrocker, Los Angeles)

The Cab, Le Guy: “Taxi Driver,” reimagined in Paris. (Kristen Rahman, Silver Spring)

Art-Hur: A lovable drunk is driven through New York City in his chauffeured chariot. (Jon Grantham, Bowie)

La La La, N.D.: Two workers fall in love at a Prozac manufacturing plant on the prairie. (Frank Osen)

Life Is, Beautiful: Humphrey Bogart stars as an existentialist philosopher. (Ed Sobansky, Bowie)

Little Bi G-Man: The J. Edgar Hoover story. (Mike Creveling, La Plata, Md.; Dave Airozo, Silver Spring)

Mad Ma X: In the 10th installment of the series, little Billy still hasn’t cleaned his pigsty of a room! (Jesse Frankovich)

Minority, Report! President

Trump issues his first executive order. (Stephen Dudzik)

Mild Red Pierce: A teen beats infection after a visit to the mall kiosk. (Josh Calder, Washington)

No Wand Forever: Caitlyn Jenner reflects on The Big Decision. (William Kennard, Arlington)

O, Liver! An orphan reconsiders asking for more food. (Joe Neff, Warrington, Pa.)

Pay It for Ward: June Cleaver saves the day when the family’s electricity is shut off. (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Pre-TTY Woman: Julia Roberts stars in a remake of “The Miracle Worker.” (David Peckarsky, Tucson, a First Offender)

Snow: White: From the “First Things First” series of nature documentaries. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

‘S Now White: At last, a whimsical animated feature about gentrification! (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

The Not e-Book: A millennial is dumbfounded when he finds a bunch of papers all stuck together with glue or something. (David Fialkoff, North Potomac, a First Offender)

The Shin in G: A family’s Vermont retreat is disturbed by the discovery of a human leg in their motel room. (Sarah Jay)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at bit.ly/invite1199.

Still running — deadline Monday night, Oct. 31: Our contest to translate a wordy or misleading sentence into “plain English.” See bit.ly/invite1198.

SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY MARTIN ASHWOOD-SMITH © 2016 CROSSYENERGY SYNDICATE LLC

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Lieutenant Horatio Caine portrayer	1 Diana of “I Married a Woman”
12 Oaxaca article	2 Close, to Keats
15 Accepting personal responsibility	3 Your, in Tours
16 Famous Dakota resident	4 Since way back when
17 Vengeance	5 Crème-crème linkup
18 Letters from the Civil War era	6 Some CBS forensics spinoffs
19 Calm waters northeast of the West Indies	7 Solvers’ shouts
20 iPhone buy	8 ___-Rooter
21 Riddle-me-___	9 British and Aussie colleges, for short
22 They’re worth four points in Scrabble	10 “Here, piggies!”
24 Descendant of Noah	11 Highly decorative
30 Add to the books	12 Neighborhood
31 Designer’s bottom line?	13 Marked down
	14 Soft mineral that’s often carved
	23 Worldwide, briefly
	25 Rescue squad VIP
	26 Zoo barrier, sometimes
	27 Yo-yo
	28 Latin land?
	29 Animated bunny hunter
	31 Is clueless
	32 Storied speakeasy raider
	33 Certain activists
	35 Hawaiian harvest
	38 Small rail
	39 Basic bed
	44 Floods
	46 Most together
	48 Basketball’s Stoudemire
	50 Gut feeling
	51 Bad gut feeling?
	54 Nobelist author
	55 Clarinet component
	56 In which case
	57 Hamlet’s big brother?
	58 Certain serves
	59 Sorry state

Answer to last week

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

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Oct. 30: This year your creativity and endurance open new doors for you. Sometimes you get stuck in your rigidity. Let go and do more listening. If you are single, know what you want, because you could have a difficult time choosing from your many potential suitors. If you are attached, the two of you often come up with unusual ideas that are reflected in the many choices you make as a couple. Others admire your creativity and togetherness. Scorpio knows what buttons to push to get a reaction from you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You’ll discover how strongly a partner feels about a key issue. Remain open to a conversation that covers your differences. A new beginning becomes possible if you can learn to compromise.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You might want to defer to others. Listen carefully to feedback. Some people might need more space when making a decision. You’ll need to show your confidence in them. A friend often inspires you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Accept that you might not be as energized or as witty as you think you are. Know that you need to slow down and make today a lazy day. Don’t give in to anyone’s bias.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You have the ability to draw others toward you. Some people might be mesmerized by what you say and do. Honor a fast change of pace. Know when you need to pull back or share more of what you are feeling.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Stay centered when dealing with a key associate. A new beginning evolves if you can stay open-minded. You have a lot to follow through on. Others might not agree with your ideas and how you proceed. Let a friend’s ideas inspire you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) A loved one could be quite alluring. This person might want your thinking to be like his or hers. A conversation opens up new possibilities. Know that what you want might not fit with someone else’s expectations.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Pace yourself, and understand that new possibilities are coming forward. Listen to what is being shared and be willing to ask for support. A loved one could become extremely verbal.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Your allure draws others to you. Your sensuality seeps out in many situations. A secret admirer could have difficulty not expressing his or her awareness and feelings about your charming aura. Look around, and you might figure out who it is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Your imagination comes forward when dealing with a problematic situation. Listen to your inner voice, and know that the timing will be better in a few days.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Friends come forward with some fun plans. As calls come in, you might have a sense of who is on the other end before you even pick up. You’ll gain a unique perspective of what a friend is going through.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Read between the lines with a boss or parent. You are taking on a lot of responsibility right now. Can you really handle everything that is on your plate? Understand a loved one’s fears and objections and know that he or she is on your team.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Understand what ails a friend. Your temper could emerge from out of the blue. A new beginning is possible, as long as this person is able to let go of his or her rigidity.

Freeloading dad should find new digs

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: My parents divorced when I was very young.

My brother and I were raised by our hard-working mom without any financial support from our dad.

We are now in our 20s, have gone to college and are working at successful careers. I am married.

Dad has always been a freeloader. He’s never had a steady job and relies on women to house and support him. His lifestyle includes drinking and drug addiction.

As adults we have tried to help him through the years, but without any success. Because we have been repeatedly taken advantage of, we have learned to accept him for who he is and not to expect anything from him.

Recently, my wife left the country to be with her family. She will be gone for three months. As soon as she left, my father asked if he could stay with me for a few days.

It’s now been several weeks of housing and feeding him, and when I’ve asked him when he’s

planning on leaving, he doesn’t answer.

I have a very small apartment. He sleeps on my couch. I know he has nowhere else to go. He’s burned all of his bridges with his side of the family. I’m afraid he will be homeless if I kick him out.

The little money he has seems to be spent on prescription drugs. I am very unhappy but don’t know how to ask him to leave. I feel guilty for not supporting him, but I also feel like I am enabling his behavior of never taking responsibility for himself.

A Sad Son

Sad Son: Because your wife is returning on a specific date, you have a ticking clock.

Don’t ask him when he is planning to leave, because he is not planning to leave. Give him a specific date by which he needs to be out.

Tell him, “My wife is returning on the 20th and you need to be out then, so you’ll need to find somewhere else to stay.”

You could research low-income housing options for seniors (if he qualifies). You could attempt to hook him up

with a social worker who might help him with his addiction issues. Staying with you is not an option, and so don’t offer him this option.

Freeloading people have a way of landing on their feet — or on someone’s couch, but don’t expect him to make a move until he has to.

Dear Amy: “Feeling Like an Outlaw” described how the last time her family stood up to her father-in-law, he didn’t speak to them for six years. Now she is worried about hosting the holidays. From what I read in her letter, her holiday problem will be solved if she just stands up to the old man. Then she will have six years of holiday dinners she won’t have to host.

Fan

Fan: Bam!

Amy’s column appears seven days a week at washingtonpost.com/advice. Write to askamy@amydickinson.com or Amy Dickinson, Tribune Content Agency, 16650 Westgrove Dr., Suite 175, Addison, Tex. 75001. ♡ You can also follow her @askingamy.

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