

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Transcriptions: Week 1198 winners

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1198** we asked readers to find a sentence in that week's Post or another newspaper and translate it into "plain English," free of spin, obfuscation or just plain lying. Some entrants' translations snarkily assumed an election outcome other than the one that occurred; to those Losers, I hope that being robbed of ink is the biggest thing you have to be upset about all week.

4th place

"Kaine said there's nothing in his life or emails he'd be 'overly embarrassed about' and said he's determined not to be distracted."

Translation: **"Kaine admits having no life."** (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

3rd place

From a classified ad: **"Oil Painting: Man and Camel — \$110 Original, in beautiful gold frame."**

Translation: **"I don't know how to use Craigslist."** (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

2nd place and the Hillary Laughing Pen:

"How does one face the absurdity of existence in a cold, indifferent universe, where time's arrow points inexorably toward death and the only certainties are loss and sorrow?"

Translation: **"What do you mean you're out of the pumpkin spice ones?!"** (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial:

On *China's plan to rate its citizens*: **"Imagine a world where an authoritarian government monitors everything you do, amasses huge amounts of data on almost every interaction you make, and awards you a single score that measures how 'trustworthy' you are."**

Translation: **"Imagine how you got your own credit rating."** (Kevin Dopart)

Tossed in translation: honorable mentions

From a job posting: **"Capable of crafting and executing an organized sales plan."**

Translation: **"Willing to cheat your own grandmother."** (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

A Nobel Prize committee member about Bob Dylan's refusal to acknowledge receiving the literature award: **"One can say that it is impolite and arrogant."**

Translation: **"What a douche."** (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church)

Nationals General Manager Mike Rizzo: **"We can go in a lot of different directions to improve our ballclub."**

Translation: **"We have absolutely no clue how to improve our ballclub."** (Frank Osen, Pasadena)

"Scientists say that the Ross Sea has hardly been touched by humans and as such is a perfect laboratory."

Translation: **"Hey, look! Nobody's ever touched this stuff! Let's touch it!"** (Marni Penning Coleman, Falls Church)

Horoscope: **"You have a hobby you love, so make it okay to dedicate some hours to this pastime."**

Translation: **"Enjoy that Internet porn!"** (Mark Raffman, on travel in Vietnam)

"After one of the most egregious cases of domestic violence among National Football League players two years ago . . . the league vowed a not-again, get-tough approach."

Translation: **" . . . the league vowed to not, again, get tough."** (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

FBI Director James Comey: **"Given that we don't know the significance of this newly discovered collection of emails, I don't want to create a misleading impression."**

Translation: **"Even though that's what I'm obviously doing."** (Joe Neff, Warrington, Pa.; William Kennard, Arlington)

"Here's an important rule to remember: If you ever find yourself in Antarctica near the Mount Erebus lava lake, don't take your eyes off it."

Translation: **"Here's an important rule to remember: Nature documentarians enjoy**



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Week 1202 parody contest: Don't be afraid of the dark

Two days before the election, the Empress went to see the musical "Carousel" at Arena Stage. It's a top-notch production by any measure, but since Nov. 8, emotions must be exploding inside the D.C. theater, onstage and off, as voices and orchestra swell in Rodgers and Hammerstein's majestic finale, "You'll Never Walk Alone": "Walk on through the wind, walk on through the rain, though your dreams be tossed and blown." **This week: Write lyrics to a song that, in some way, express hope; set them to a well-known tune.** You don't have to be sappy; you may even be cynical (you know us). But the theme: hope. Just stick up your chin and grin — at least we'll have something to sing in four weeks while we're scrubbing off the graffiti.

Submitting entries at this website: bit.ly/enter-invite-1202. Feel free to include a link to an audio or video clip to the tune you're using. Or you can even make your own recording.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives something a lot of people would like to get their hands on right now: this fabulously squishy, gel-filled Stress Man squeezey thing. It's labeled "boss." Donated — some time back — by Dave Prevar.

Other runners-up win their choice of the yearned-for "This Is Your Brain on Mugs" Loser 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, Dec. 5 (you have an extra week!); results published Dec. 18 (online Dec. 21). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest (really, I bet someone out there will send me 25 songs this week). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The "Transcriptions" headline is by Tom Witte; 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 bit.ly/conv-1202 for song parody guidance.



PAT MYERS/THE WASHINGTON POST

This week's second prize: the wonderfully satisfying Stress Man. Think you could use it?

humblebragging. (Jeff Contompassis, Ashburn)

"U.S. officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss an operation that has not been acknowledged, said the drones being flown out of Tunisia . . ."

Translation: **"The Pentagon announced that it is flying drones out of Tunisia."** (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

Metro General Manager Paul Wiedefeld on planning SafeTrack: **"In a perfect world, you would study it for a year and come up with this."**

Translation: **"We brought the Metro map to happy hour and threw darts at it over a couple of Coronas."** (Hildy Zampella)

"0% Interest for 4 Years on All Products"

Translation: **"We've seen 0% interest in our products for the past 4 years."** (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

"I love Florida, this is my second home."

Translation: **"I wouldn't be caught dead here in the summer."** (Florida native Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

"Are you an expert-level Help Desk professional who is passionate about leading highly effective teams to support more than 5,000 users?"

Translation: **"Are you looking to avoid any life outside of work?"** (Jon Gearhart)

"Lyft Inc. co-founder and President John Zimmer denied reports the ride-sharing firm is for sale and said it has more than doubled its ridership in the U.S. since late last year, with 17 million rides in October."

Translation: **"Lyft Inc. is for sale."** (Francis Canavan, Reston)

"Do you need more storage space?"

Translation: **"Do you have too much crap?"** (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

" . . . is pleased to offer third party financing plans to meet every lifestyle and budget."

Translation: **" . . . especially the Crippling Debt lifestyle and budget."** (John McCooey, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

An article quoting President Obama's last State of the Union address: **"It's one of the few regrets of my presidency that rancor and suspicion between the parties has gotten worse instead of better."**

Translation: **"Hey! Who threw that?"** (Hildy Zampella)

And Last: **"So instead of crying over all their near misses, maybe Washington sports fans should enjoy their teams that are very good."**

Translation: **"The Style Invitational Loops, bringing you the finest in poop jokes since 1993."** (Jeff Contompassis)

More "plain English" in the online *Invite* at bit.ly/invite1202.

Still running — deadline Monday night, Nov. 21: Our annual Tour de Fours neologism contest. See bit.ly/invite1201.

SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY DOUG PETERSON © 2016 CROSSYENERGY SYNDICATE LLC

ACROSS

1 Live
9 Shrink-wrap, say
15 Chutney ingredient, at times
16 Utterly ridiculous
17 Typical solitaire size
18 Boston Marathon sponsor
19 Prophet with a chapter in the Koran
20 Muppet who speaks in a falsetto
22 Final word
23 Hands-free devices for new parents
25 Got by
28 Command
29 Drum filler
31 Overly familiar
32 Voice-activated assistant

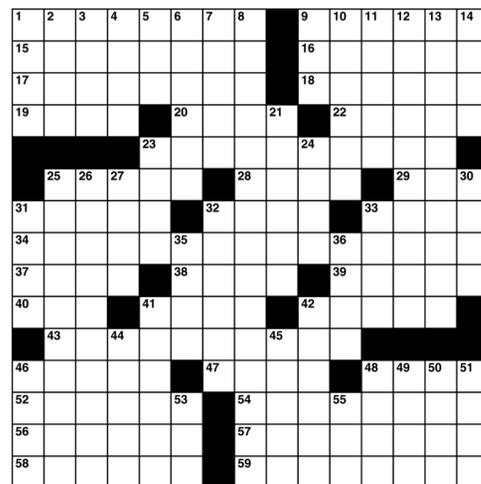
33 Wound up
34 Likely to be criticized since 2003
37 CBS franchise
38 Legendary sewer
39 Hangover locales? "___ of the Ocean" (August Wilson play)
41 Really clobber
42 Bar offering
43 Sign of note for a stranded motorist
46 Bloody Mary, for one
47 Astronomical sighting
48 Puff on an e-cigarette
52 32-Down speakers
54 Lost track?
56 Defunct jeans brand once owned by Fruit of the Loom
57 Jacked up
58 Trackers' clues
59 Frequent flier?

DOWN

1 App identifier for standby passengers
2 Hombre, once
3 ___ bargain
4 Not together
5 Makeup of some strands
6 Word with winning or losing
7 Brush choice
8 "Done this a few times before"
9 "Chandelier" singer
10 Splits up
11 ___ Games (quadrennial event)
12 Rider on candy boxes

13 Like seats for standby
14 Philippine coin
21 "Book of the Dead" figure
23 Branch location
24 Reclined
25 Zumba class accompaniment
26 Cow
27 Bits of Morse code
30 Caustic solutions
31 Reverberating tone
32 Great Plains language family
33 Carrier since 1948

35 Word on a gift card
36 Duffel stuff
41 Find a new letter for
42 Put over high heat
44 Alias of Marvel Comics superhero Wolverine
45 Burst with pride
46 Attire, informally
48 Pharmaceutical vessel
49 Adele, e.g.
50 Source of pressure
51 Whirling current
53 "Help!"
55 Kegler's no.



Answer to last week

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

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Nov. 20: This year you discover that you don't have much personal time, as you always seem to be in demand. The responsibilities you take on could be heavy and overwhelming. If you are single, you meet many potential suitors. Before you date someone, make sure that they are everything they appear to be. Fall will be significant for relationships. If you are attached, the two of you often struggle at home to do what you must. Leo always stands behind you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You feel more in sync with loved ones. A serious conversation cannot be avoided and will define your perspective about your in-laws or someone at a distance. A friend might be unusually pushy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You are in touch with your needs as well as a roommate's or family member's. Manage what is happening around your daily life. A parent, relative or powerful authority figure might tell you off, in a sense. Listen well, even if you don't agree.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
You say what you think. A serious friend seems more willing to share. News from a distance, which might involve travel or a relative, could encourage a change of plans in the near future.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
You might have a scheduled shopping trip, or perhaps you just want to run some errands. You will like being out, though you could be extravagant with your spending.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You might not understand what is happening with a loved one who appears to be on the war path. Take a deep breath, and know that you will find out what is wrong.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Honor what is happening with a friendship that is important to you. Keep in mind, though, that you also need to schedule some quality downtime for yourself. Otherwise, you could be irritable and difficult, which you still might be anyway.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Zero in on a loved one's plans, and don't hesitate to join in. You might be more withdrawn than you realize. Your body language could be pushing others away.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Take charge, yet be spontaneous. You are in the limelight, and others are drawn to you. Understand what is happening with an older friend or relative. You might want to make time to visit with this person soon.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You might be too busy doing what you must to kick back and enjoy those with whom you have a lot in common. Don't hesitate to stop and smell the roses.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
One-on-one relating draws you in. The conversations you have could be pivotal to your well-being. Your perspective also might change. You'll be much happier if you allow someone else to take the lead with making plans.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Remain sensitive to a loved one, as he or she depends on your feedback and support. Focus on your priorities, and you might decide to adjust your plans. A friend who tends to be negative could be upset. Express your willingness to pitch in.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You often push yourself without stopping to evaluate how you feel or what you need. Do that today, and you might decide to change your plans. Make yourself the highest priority possible.

Deceitful dad reneges on financial gift

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: I am a 28-year-old woman, working at a job I love.

My father routinely lies to me.

When I was growing up, he sold his business for several million dollars. He chose not to pay his taxes, invested the money, lost it all and then kept it hidden from my mother until the truth came out that he was under IRS investigation.

He has always been secretive and deceptive with his money, hiding money in the ceiling, taping it to the backs of photo frames, and opening secret bank accounts and bragging that my mom didn't have access.

Fast-forward 10 years. My parents are divorced. I paid my own way through college, spent four years in counseling and am in the process of buying my first home. My dad agreed to give me \$10,000 toward my down payment in lieu of contributing toward a wedding. Two weeks later, he denied ever having that conversation.

Last month, he was bragging about saving more than \$75,000

in 2015. He says he received approximately \$500,000 in inheritance.

When my offer was accepted on a home, I let him know that I needed him to write the check. He accused me of being "manipulative" and "backing him into a corner."

Now I am angry and bitter. I don't know if I should still try to work toward having a healthy relationship, or back off with the realization that his money is more important to him than keeping his word.

What do you think?

Sad

Sad: I'm wondering what you learned in four years of therapy that you would actually go to your father for money, or believe him when he dangles it in front of you.

According to you, he has always lied, cheated and lost when it comes to money. You should not have any financial dealings with him. Furthermore, you should check your own wallet after spending time with him. He sounds like an operator.

Dear Amy: For "Left-Out Liberal," who can barely stand to discuss politics because she and her husband disagree, my parents disagreed on religion (she was very active in her church, he was lapsed), and so they agreed from the beginning not to discuss religion.

However, in their case they *did* agree on politics. Politics was the dinner topic every evening of my childhood.

The couple should shift to topics they can discuss.

Kate

Kate: This tough political year has a lot of families on a slow boil. I hope we all settle down soon.

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 at askingamy.com.

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