

## DIVERSIONS

## THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

## From Week 1211: Your tweeting har

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1211**, inspired by, oh, I don't know, we asked for disparaging tweets of celebrated historical or literary figures. Some of the inking entries below were "written" by particular people; if there isn't an attribution, think of them as coming from any old time-warped (and otherwise warped) shallow narcissist with a ridiculous sense of perspective.

## 4th place

@OskarSchindler so inept! Factories lost money. Freeloader "workers" didn't build munitions. On my weak list. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

## 3rd place

If @Muhammad is such a big deal, why isn't his picture on any coins? Not to mention six-foot portraits. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

## 2nd place and the Fishin' for Floaters bathtub game:

@VladP 1/20/17: Take that, @JimHenson. #TheRealPuppetMaster (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

## And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial:

Looks like @TheMessiah's getting delusions of grandeur. Thinks he's @realDonaldTrump. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

## Social network: honorable mentions

Can't believe @TJefferson spent \$15M on Louisiana Territory! Very bad deal. Should have just grabbed it and made France pay. (Gil Glass, Washington)

@ALincoln, so low-energy! 4 scores in 7 years? LAME! I can do better at one pageant! (Sean Doherty, Silver Spring, a First Offender)

Such a nasty woman, @Cleopatra. A real snake! Nice asp, though. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.; Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Clueless @Julius turned into Caesar salad, blames @2Brutus. Still won't call it by its name: Radical Pre-Islamic Terrorism. (Gary Crockett)

Hey, @LudwigVB, I hear you wrote another symphony. Too bad YOU can't. #okbadjoke (Edmund Conti, Raleigh)

Hey @DurgCaveman, you fire no big as me fire. GOLL! #ThargBestKnuckleDragger (Jesse Frankovich)

My @ColCusterCavalry is biggest! My secret plan is the best. I have greatest hair ever. #SittingBulls--t will FAIL! (Art Grinath, Takoma Park, Md.)

Delusional @Dorothy. Icky farmhand fantasies. And that mangy mutt! #lockhimup -- @The\_Gulch (Kevin Dopart)

Dim bulb @TAEdition tries 9,000th filament, still nothing. I win historic victory with #gaslighting. (Gary Crockett)

@Edward VIII, big league loser. Gave up throne for some p\*. Throne GETS you p\*, dumb duke! (Lynne Larkin, Vero Beach, Fla.)

Hey @mc\_escher, I'm in your building but can't seem to make it up these damn stairs. Something is \*@&( up. #NotUpToCode (Jeff Brechlin, Apple Valley, Minn.)

@FrodoBaggins wasted perfectly good jewelry by throwing it in a volcano. Give it to Goodwill and get the tax break! #dramaqueen (Duncan Stevens)

@Gandhi u 2 skinny bra #haveaburger (Jamie Johnson, Fayetteville, W.Va., a First Offender)

Some POTUS @GWashington turns out 2 be! There goes another silver \$ into the river. #taxandspend -- @Grover\_Norquift (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

You've gotta see this @FDR guy -- what a lame leader. Lets his aides push him around. Wife is a 2. Pathetic. (Marleen May, Rockville)

Saw @HelenKeller today. Called & waved to her but no acknowledgment. Rude! Democrat? (Larry McClemons, Annandale, Va.)

Just 5K people, @Jesus? You even gave out fish sandwiches. My crowd 10,000x bigger -- see the photo. (Hugh Thirlway, The Hague)

Failing fiddler @JoshuaBell plays



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## Week 1215: A so-so contest (How so-so is it?)

All from Style Invitational Week 21, August 1993:

Donald Trump is so annoying that Amnesty International wants him beaten and locked up. (Tom Gearty)

The White House staff is so inexperienced that it has never "been" with another staff. (Meg Sullivan)

D.C. streets are so badly maintained they have more potholes than Jerry Garcia's sofa. (Robin Grove)

When the results of this week's contest run, The Style Invitational will have turned 24 years old. And since Week 1 — in virtually every kind of contest we've come up with — entrants to the Invite have always figured out a way to slip in zingy jokes about politics, celebrities and whatever else was grabbing headlines that week. This week the Empress reprises a contest we hadn't done since Year 1. The results then were almost all about current events — but as you see above, some of them have proved remarkably long-lived, even if they were referring to the start of the Clinton administration and some loudmouth casino mogul. **This week: Write a humorous exaggeration in the form "x is so y that . . ." as in the examples above.**

WEEK 1214 UPDATE: The Empress was alerted a few days ago by alert non-Loser Rich Strimel that the transcript of the inaugural address we're using for the **Week 1214** contest contained a typo: It said "they will their heart"; it should be "they fill their heart." It's now correct at [bit.ly/trump-address](http://bit.ly/trump-address). Deadline is still Tuesday night, Feb. 21.

**Submit entries at this website:** [bit.ly/enter-invite-1215](http://bit.ly/enter-invite-1215) (all lowercase).

**Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial**, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place gets a little white toilet-shaped mug promoting "King of Thrones," a 2013 cable series on bathroom renovations that was so quickly forgotten, it lacks a Wikipedia entry. Donated by WaPo TV critic Hank Stuever, who knows what to do with promotional toilet mugs that come his way. AND the E will toss in "Rattlesnake Poop" (chocolate-covered sunflower seeds), donated by Cheryl Davis, AND "Moose Droppings" (little chocolate nuggets), donated by Duncan Stevens.

**Other runners-up** win 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 new lusted-after Loser magnets, "No Childishness Left Behind" or "Magnum Dopus." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). Deadline is Monday night, Feb. 27; results published March 19 (online March 16). See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline for this week's results is by Tom Witte; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Jeff Contompasis. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](http://on.fb.me/invdev). "Like" Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](http://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](http://wapo.st/styleconv).



PAT MYERS/THE WASHINGTON POST

**You have a golden opportunity to win this lovely ceramic cup,**

in train stations, makes just \$32! Embarrassing. (Alison Candela, Rockville, a First Offender)

Overrated @Gehrig "luckiest man"? Sorry, buddy, that position's been filled. (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

Only 1 life to give for his country? @Nathan Hale has no stamina! (Frank Mann, Washington; Elliott Shevin, Oak Park, Mich.)

@OliverTwist always asking for more handouts! Welfare prince exploits hard-working job creators. (Duncan Stevens)

@Shakespeare: All codpiece and naught but the limpest cod. -- @SirFrancisBacon (Jeff Hazle, San

Antonio)

@Spidey sense? If he had any sense, he'd clear the webs from his head and finally boink Mary Jane. (Roger Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.)

@Sun Tzu says the supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting. Wuss. -- @GenghisK (Chris Doyle)

Rough Rider? Please, @TRoosevelt. @CatherineTheGr8 could ride better upside down and backwards. -- @VPutin (Jeff Hazle)

@RealFDR, 12/5/1941: Emperor @Hirohito is totally overrated! More like ZEROhito. (Eric LeVasseur, Seal Beach, Calif., a First Offender)

@AlmightyGod takes foreverrr to get to work, then quits in 6 days. All the shows say he's over. -- @Lucifer (Kevin Dopart)

@Hemingway sober up and maybe then you could write a sentence of more than six words before nodding off -- @JamesJoyce @JamesJoyce, it's called punctuation. Try it some time. Ulysses = best doorstep I never read. -- @Hemingway (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

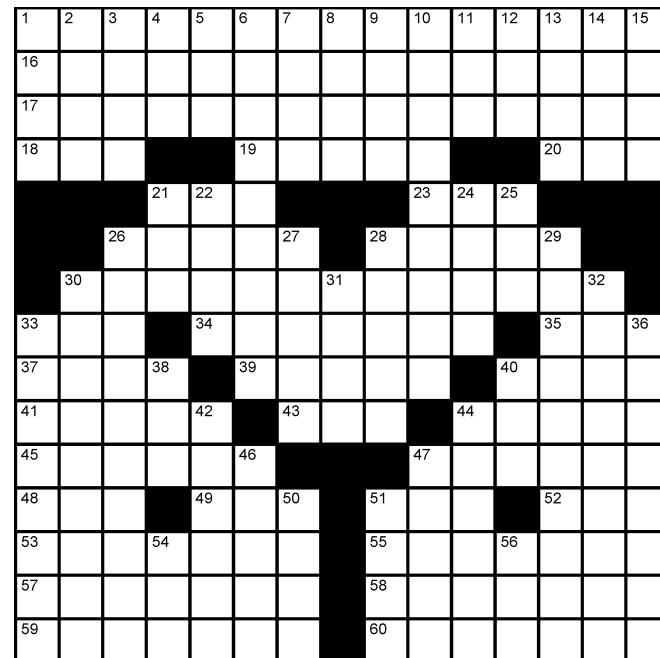
## SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY MARTIN ASHWOOD-SMITH © 2017 CROSSYNERGY SYNDICATE LLC

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>DOWN</b>	<b>DOWN</b>	<b>DOWN</b>
1 Shot in the dark, maybe	37 "Enchanted" girl in a 2004 movie	1 "Really?"	12 Personal quirk
16 This may start a series	39 Shots in the dark	2 Soda brand since 1924	13 Uma's role in "The Producers"
17 Frustrated crossword solver's cry?	40 Wheeled convenience	3 Fiber made into thread	14 Decisive defeat
18 Deep ____	41 Film teasers	4 Race, as an engine starter	15 Summers in Arles
19 Quebec peninsula	43 Kindergarten song	5 Roman hello	21 ____ Lobos (rock quintet)
20 Symbols in email addresses	44 Homer's wife	6 Some downloaded ditties	22 "In memoriam" item
21 Auction unit	45 Went the distance	7 This, in Tijuana	24 Big times
23 Whistle blower?	47 Ire	8 Archaeological excavations	25 Christmas tree
26 New Orleans hero?	48 Light gray	9 Palindromic ship deck	26 Book work?
28 Nobelist Curie	49 Flash ____	10 Works together	27 Yiddish gossip
30 Salespeople give them out	51 Stewart or Hamm	11 Returns pro	28 Broadcaster of "Morning Joe"
33 Lightly apply	52 Moving sight?		29 He abdicated in 1936
34 Apartment dwellers	53 Draw using small dots		
35 Unsold of basketball fame	55 Get tangled		
	57 Spanish gentlemen		
	58 Dire ____		
	59 Most high-strung		
	60 Bolshevik opponent		

Answer to last week

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



## HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY|Feb. 19:** This year you attempt to please those around you, but often cannot. First, you need to honor who you are, then you need to maintain that integrity. If you are single, you will attract quite a few suitors by the end of the year. Unless you absolutely do not want to get involved, take a good look at each person before you choose someone to date. If you are attached, the two of you live in your own dream world at times. You don't care what others think, as long as you and your sweetie can be happy together. Sagittarius finds you intriguing.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) You will churn the waters wherever you are. Listen to a friend's solutions as you try to decide which direction you should head in.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) A friend probably doesn't mean to be flaky or deceptive, even though they are acting like it. What you are seeing is one of the multiple characteristics that make this person who they are. Express your caring to an older relative.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) Others will take your information and put their own slant on it. Some of you might feel upset if you are not appreciated for what you share. You will learn a lot about the person who is creating this deception.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) Your caring comes out no matter what you decide to do. You are likely to be more nurturing than romantic. You have a better understanding of which preconceived ideas seem to be creating an emotional distance between you and a loved one.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) You might not understand why, but you feel like a kid again. Your natural penchant for romance emerges and forces you to handle a problem directly. Your sense of humor comes out when you allow your feelings to flow.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) How you view an emotional situation could change in the next few days. You'll see what is going on with the other party involved, and you also will see the role that confusion plays. If you try to break down this barrier, you might experience some resistance.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You have the right words to elicit the reaction you desire, but at what cost? Sometimes you are feistier than you realize when dealing with a loved one. You might make a quick statement that is perceived by others as hurtful.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Curb a tendency to overspend in order to ease some stress. What happens as a result could surprise you. Take a closer look at your financial situation.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Those closest to you will be able to see that you really seem to be feeling your Wheaties. As a result, they'll feel more connected to you than they have in the past. A friend has played, and continues to play, a major role in what happens around you.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) A lot continues to go on behind the scenes. You might wonder what to do or whether you need to help encourage a change. Your best bet is to stay open-minded and be ready to pick up on others' cues.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You continue to incorporate more friendship into your life, as those closest to you have become a much higher priority for you. You love romance, but you see little value in it if a friendship is not at the base.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) No matter which way you turn, you seem to greet someone who feels as if they know it all. You don't like to relate to this type of person, but you might have to right now. Find a better way to identify with this person.

## Siblings bicker about cabin expenses

## Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

**Dear Amy:** My three siblings and I are planning a mountain getaway for our parents' 50th

wedding anniversary celebration. My parents will be in the master suite. We have all agreed to split their cost and expenses as a gift.

When renting a large cabin with separate bedrooms, do you think singles should pay the same rate as couples? Should all four siblings share the total cost for the entire group?

There is a family of three (includes a baby), there is a family of four (two older teens) and then there are two single adults.

What is the etiquette when splitting costs among family units of varying sizes?

Do you charge per person, per bed or per room?

If singles shared a room, do they pay half of one share? And what about food costs? How should we split food costs?

This is causing a big rift between us. Feelings and emotions have gotten the best of

all of us. Your input into this mess would be greatly appreciated.

Distressed

**Distressed:** This isn't an etiquette question so much as a practical question with many solutions. My suggested solution is that you should charge per bedroom in the cabin. Then people can pay for their own privacy or share a room to save.

In terms of paying for food, perhaps it would be most practical to set a price-per-individual for the weekend — say \$75 per person (or whatever), which would also cover the cost for your folks. You could load this money onto a prepaid card for food, and your group would draw it down as you go. Individuals should pay for their own alcohol separately.

I hope you come to terms about this before the event. It wouldn't be much of a celebration for your folks if their kids were bickering over money during the weekend.

I'm sure readers will want to

weigh in with their own recommendations.

**Dear Amy:** You ran a letter from "Disturbed," who was worried that her boyfriend was such an introvert. You should have encouraged this couple to join a Toastmasters group. I did this, and it was a great and safe environment to overcome my extreme shyness.

More Outgoing

**More Outgoing:** There is nothing "wrong" with being an introvert, and introversion doesn't necessarily need fixing. But "Disturbed" did say her boyfriend wanted to work on his anti-social shyness. Many readers suggested Toastmasters ([toastmasters.com](http://toastmasters.com)), and I thank you all.

Amy's column appears seven days a week at [washingtonpost.com/advice](http://washingtonpost.com/advice). Write to [askamy@amydickinson.com](mailto:askamy@amydickinson.com) or Amy Dickinson, Tribune Content Agency, 16650 Westgrove Dr., Suite 175, Addison, Tex. 75001. You can also follow her @askamy.

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