

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

GHImericks: Week 1240 winners

BY PAT MYERS

For our annual Limerixicon contest, our salute to the unending effort by OEDILF.com to compile a complete dictionary in limerick form, in **Week 1240** we asked for verses that featured **gh-** and **gi-** words.

4th place

Said Giselle the **giraffe**, on a date, "I do not want to stay out too late, And while necking is fine, That's where I draw the line, 'Cause this isn't a petting zoo, mate." (Mark Raffman, Reston)

3rd place

In the melting pot we call Amur'can, Disagreeable stew has been perkin', Made from yammering yam With a thick slice of ham And a limp, insignificant **gherkin**. (Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

2nd place and the T-shirt with a glossary of crude Italian expressions:

The video snippets of freaks Shooting butt rockets out of their cheeks Turned me into a Twitter Of Facebook and Twitter, Both hangouts for **GI**F-bearing geeks. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial:

The news may be much out of date, For F. Douglass is notably late. But we still can acclaim His posthumous fame: As a **ghostwriter** he is first-rate. (Ann Martin, College Park)

TouGH Luck: honorable mentions

As a track athlete, Nate was well versed; As a **gigolo**, though, he was cursed. In each case the same trait Predetermined his fate: 'Twas his penchant for finishing first. (Mark Raffman)

For racists, a pat on the wrist, And he slanders the ones who resist: "Many sides" get his pans. Okay, Herr Tiny-Hands, I think we're all getting the **gist**. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

"The mortician's gone bankrupt," said Sue. "And I even predicted it, too. Though I did have a hint That the business was skint: The dead **giveaway** — that's when I knew." (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

Said the cop, "I would bet my last dime, That a **ghoul** has committed this crime. But the chance of arrest Is unlikely at best. I'm afraid it's a wraith against time." (Stephen Gold, London)

As a kid, my anxiety grew With the tales of a **ghost** in the flue. Though I'm grown now and wise (And less prone to surprise), I've a sense of, at times, **deja boo**. (Chris Doyle)

"This cathedral's deluxe to the hilt!" Said the king. "It's the best ever built!" But the pope, with dismay, Scorned the gold-leaf display: "There's no purpose to Catholic **gilt**." (Mark Raffman)

She's so fat — let me put it this way: I have heard some astronomers say That Your Mama's great **girth** Makes some parts of the Earth Have a total eclipse every day. (Brendan Beary)

Though there's no greater **gift** than a song, And I love it when folks sing along, Your insistence we sing Every note of "The Ring" At your wedding, was, frankly, just wrong. (Stephen Gold)

A chef on **Gibraltar** got fame For his frying pan. In it he'd claim To make a chow mein That would drive folks insane: The Wok of Gibraltar's its name. (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

He buys every new tool, every **gizmo**; It has something to do with machismo. But his handyman skill is just run of the mill With results that are often abysmo. (Nancy Della Rovere, Silver Spring)

"Gh"as in "tough"; "o" as in



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1244: Primed for product reviews

**Review for a box of paper clips: Very disappointed — one star. First, they're not made from paper. Second, they don't clip anything — not my hedges, not my coupons, not my nose hair.** — Bruce Niedt, Week 1098, 2014

The last time we did a contest for creative product reviews on Amazon.com, in 2014, The Post had just been bought by a Mr. Bezos of Seattle — no doubt, we figured, because he'd read the Invitational's initial set of reviews in 2012. We never did hear back from that guy, though there's this little drone thing circling the Empress's house . . .

Previously we asked you to review such items as paper clips, Morton's salt, emery boards, a spool of thread, a dish cloth and a solar dancing turkey. **This week: Send us a creative "review" (like the sample above from 2014) for any of the items below that are listed on Amazon.com.** The reviews must not be harmful to the manufacturer or seller. Feel free to post the reviews on Amazon itself *after* we post the results online Oct. 5. While some reviews on Amazon run hundreds of words, we're looking for much shorter entries; 75 words would be lengthy for us. Search on Amazon.com with the exact words below, or click on the links in this week's Invite online, to find the product to "review."

- **Revlon toenail clip**
- **Reynolds Wrap Aluminum Foil — 75 sq. ft.**
- **Home Premium 5-Piece Rubber Door Stopper, Brown**
- **DenTek Extra Strong Triple Clean Floss Picks**
- **Arm & Hammer Clump & Seal Multi-Cat Litter**
- **High Five Poop Emoji Float Pool Floater Inflatable Lounger**

Submit entries at this website: [wapo.st/enter-invite-1244](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1244) (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Inkin' Memorial**, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy — one of the last few before we officially announce the new design that we've been giving to recidivist winners. Second place receives a **Donald Trump "Over-Reaction Figure,"** complete with movable arms and a cap of molded yellow hair that you can pull off or rearrange, as in the photo. The figure's right hand has a certain finger extended. Donated by 161-time Loser Jeff Shirley.

**Other runners-up** win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Punmanship." Honorable mentions get one of our 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, Sept. 18; results published Oct. 8 (online Oct. 5). See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline for this week's results is by Gary Crockett; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Jesse Frankovich. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.me/invdev). "Like" Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](https://www.facebook.com/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

**The Trump "Over-Reaction Figure," complete with movable hair-helmet and The Finger.**

**"women"; "ti" as in "nation" . . .** Learning English's a difficult dish: We spell phonemes however we wish.

You want regular? Tough. Women? Nation? Enough! All in all, a fine kettle of **ghoti**. (Nan Reiner) ["Ghoti" predates George Bernard Shaw, whom it's often credited to]

My **giraffe**-breeding business is toast; Now it's time that I **give** up the **ghost**. I had pretty good sales, But then ran off the rails 'Cause the overhead's higher than most. (Brendan Beary)

Sir Lancelot stripped off his jerkin, His breeches, his shirt and his merkin. "A cucumber, right?" But she laughed at the sight, Saying, "I think it's more of a **gherkin**." (Brian Allgar, Paris)

I would call its leaves pretty, I think, But there's no getting over its stinking. And its seeds make a mess — I'd prefer it, I guess, If the **ginkgo** had rather less ginkg. (Brendan Beary)

*And Last:* Being blessed with the **gift** of sharp wit, I decided to enter a bit. Did it win? It did not. And the **gift** that I got In return? What a cheap piece of shinola! (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Lodge, Mich.)

*More honorable mentions in the online Invite at [wapo.st/invite1244](http://wapo.st/invite1244).*

**Still running — deadline Monday, Sept. 11: our No T-R-U-M-P contest. See [wapo.st/invite1243](http://wapo.st/invite1243).**

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

**"TOP CHOICE" BY PAM AMICK KLAWITTER**

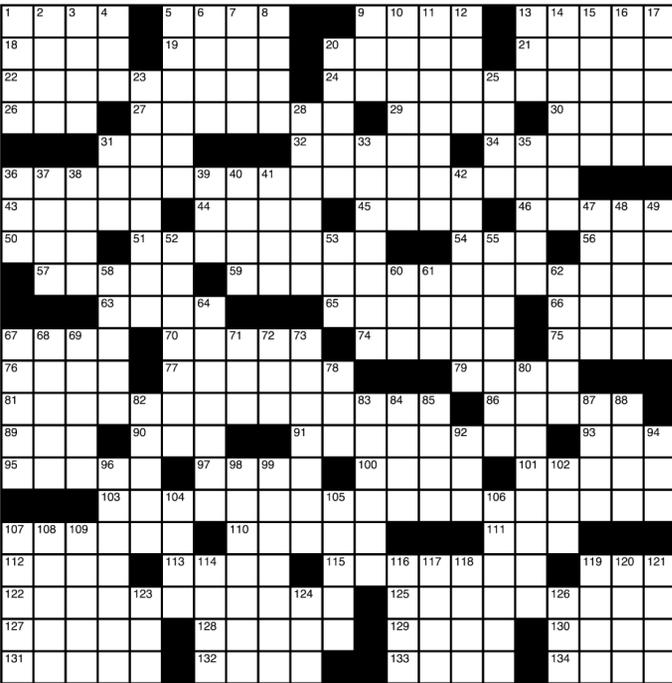
- ACROSS**
- 1 "Dallas" was one
  - 5 Like much cheese
  - 9 Improv style
  - 13 They're surrounded by aqua
  - 18 Developer's plot, perhaps
  - 19 Round number?
  - 20 Dingbat
  - 21 Onno on skates
  - 22 Hairdo for experts?
  - 24 Hairdo for gadget lovers?
  - 26 Roll at a nursery
  - 27 Honored athlete
  - 29 John in Dublin
  - 30 Flier over Hawaii
  - 31 It may follow you, but not me
  - 32 Tricks
  - 34 Old German leader
  - 36 Hairdo for sportscasters?
  - 43 Only NFL coach with a perfect season
  - 44 Undistinctive marks
  - 45 "No man island": "— Donne
  - 46 "With enough courage, you can do without a reputation" speaker
  - 50 Sounds of uncertainty
  - 51 Household hisser
  - 54 Enzyme ending
  - 56 Oil-rich fed.
  - 57 System of values
  - 59 Hairdo for certain Germans?
  - 63 Secretly includes in the 108-Down loop, briefly
  - 65 Ambien maker
  - 66 "— gonna happen"
  - 67 U2 philanthropist
  - 70 Work on, as a soundtrack
  - 74 Having less vermouth, as a martini
  - 75 "Family Guy" creator
  - 76 Footnote word
  - 77 More work
  - 79 Gossip
  - 81 Hairdo for daring gymnasts?
  - 86 Car shopper's option
  - 89 Andorra's cont.
  - 90 That, in Mexico

- 91 Emphasized, in a way
- 93 Chihuahua cheer
- 95 Prefix with sphere
- 97 "I'd consider \_\_\_ honor"
- 100 French honey
- 101 Seaman's shout
- 103 Hairdo for economists?
- 107 2017 Masters champ Garcia
- 110 P.C. Wren protagonist
- 111 Energy Star co-creator, familiarly
- 112 Skunk River city
- 113 VMI program
- 115 Three-layer fishing net
- 119 Changeable border
- 122 Hairdo for wickerworkers?
- 125 Hairdo for burglars?
- 127 Words with wait or state
- 128 California cager
- 129 Painter Magritte
- 130 Tough test

- DOWN**
- 1 Wise words
  - 2 Eight, in 14-Down
  - 3 Dry as dust
  - 4 90-year-old mint
  - 5 Rhododendron variety
  - 6 Short title for Beau Lee
  - 7 Bits of work
  - 8 Old-fashioned do?
  - 9 Ivy, e.g.: Abbr.
  - 10 Woodworking tools
  - 11 1-Across plot staple
  - 12 Roman wrap
  - 13 Sevillian soy?
  - 14 See 2-Down approval
  - 15 Places to see studs
  - 16 On one's own
  - 17 Like the designated driver, by design
  - 20 Gymnast Kerri who performed an iconic vault in the 1996 Olympics
  - 23 Uncivilized Sarcophagus symbol
  - 25 Grain appendage
  - 28 NBA's Hawks, on scoreboards
  - 33 Avoided on the job
  - 35 "— Grows in Brooklyn"
  - 36 Coll. football's Seminoles
  - 37 "Alas!"
  - 38 Toss from office
  - 39 Calculator feature, for short
  - 40 First name in Norse navigators
  - 41 Half an approval
  - 42 Twisted jazz revue
  - 47 1978 Broadway jazz revue
  - 48 Tease
  - 49 First of the second nine
  - 52 Grows

- 53 Switch positions
- 55 Clean and then some
- 58 Cold War concern
- 60 Much
- 61 Mentalist Geller concern
- 62 Selassie worshiper
- 64 Put a price on a flight?
- 67 High-end hotel amenity
- 69 Logical opening?
- 71 1988 Ryan / Quaid remake
- 72 Short lines at the register?
- 73 Two-piece suits
- 78 Where to see a wake
- 80 Still-life fruit, perhaps
- 82 "Ghost Town" (2008) actress
- 83 Almost a ringer
- 84 "Joy of Cooking" writer
- 85 You and me, say
- 87 Seriously overcharge

- 88 End of a threat
- 92 "Brat Farrar" novelist
- 94 Saturn drivers?
- 96 Deflategate concern
- 98 Ring duo
- 99 Had dessert, in a way
- 102 literary word
- 104 Frontier protection
- 105 Polecat cousin
- 106 Looked to be
- 107 Polecat cousin
- 108 It clicks open
- 109 Watch again, as a movie
- 114 Hogwarts messengers
- 116 Start to bat?
- 117 '60s TV talking animal
- 118 Go for the gold
- 119 Fabied favorite
- 120 Politico Bayh
- 121 Dripping sandwich, maybe
- 123 Bambi's aunt
- 124 Symbol of peace
- 126 "That's really something!"



9/10/17 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2017 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Sept. 10:** This year offers many opportunities that stem from those you know. Personal exchanges and a better sense of direction help you bond more easily. Be willing to make a dream a reality. If you are single, you will meet someone with ease. But alas, is this the right person? If you are attached, the two of you consciously achieve a long-term goal, which could involve a special trip or travel of some sort. Taurus could be even more stubborn than you.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Opt to incorporate a more mental or spiritual slant into your day. A conversation over a meal or even just walking can root out more of your feelings toward an older or creative person.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Relate directly to one individual and understand more of their logic. You cannot change what is going on, but you can accept it. You might realize that recent events were not directed toward you.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Deal directly with a loved one who means a lot to you; they often have been a source of unusual yet valid ideas. Investigate new possibilities without committing. Your creativity surges because of this person.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) Your steadfast perspective allows greater stability, making risk-taking more acceptable and less destabilizing. A loved one wants to tap into your perspective. Appreciate this person's sensitivity while helping them support themselves.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Understand the importance of a discussion that someone else initiates. You might not be able to change the conversation, but you can gain insight into this person.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You might want to spend more time at home with your family. Some of you will opt for some extra relaxation. Whatever you choose to do, you will want to keep matters uncomplicated.

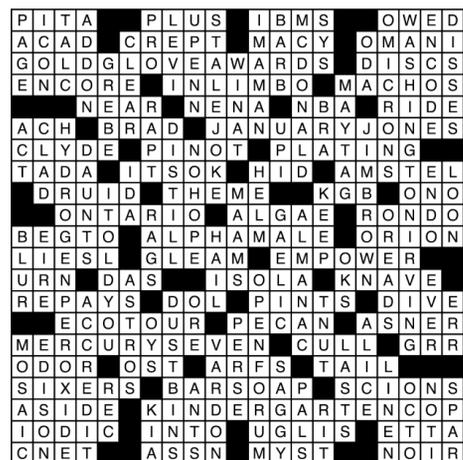
**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) One-on-one relating elicits more vulnerability and authenticity. However, be sure to take some personal time for yourself. Building a stronger tie with greater security will be the natural outcome.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You could be in the midst of a major change. Others might not be as aware of what has been going on as you might like. Be open, and you'll gain a better perspective of what to do and when.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) Others seek you out. Fortunately, you might be more receptive than you have been in the recent past. Once you finish a round of calls, texts and emails, make or confirm plans to be with a favorite person.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) You could be wondering how to bring up a hot topic with a certain group of friends. There might not be a "right" way; just dive right in. Ask for a loved one's feedback, if need be.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



9/3/17