DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Jest one more time: The Year in Redo

BY PAT MYERS

For Week 1101, as we do every winter, we invited readers to enter, or reenter, any of the past year's contests, with the option of using more recent subject matter. To the Empress's total lack of surprise, she received far too much great stuff to run this week; more honorable mentions — including a couple of full song parodies — appear in the online Invite at bit.ly/invite1105.

The winner of the Inkin' Memorial

From Week 1051: Create an anagram — *a text with the letters rearranged — of some text referring to something in the news:*
Original: " 'A word to the wise ain't necessary — it's the stupid ones that need the advice.' — Bill Cosby"
Anagrams to: A word to the ladies, evident by nasty tactics he uses, is: Don't be alone with this creep. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

2nd place and the woman-and-sniffing-dog salt-and-pepper shakers:

Week 1076, double dactyls:
Narrative-parrotive,
S. Rubin Erdely
Charged UVA with some
Odious acts.

Too bad the whole thing proved
Unverifiable:
Seems that a Rolling Stone
Gathers no facts. (Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

3rd place

Week 1085, items for particular gift shops:
T-shirt at the NIH gift shop: "My Doctor Went to West Africa and I'm Pretty Sure All I Got From Him Was This Lousy T-Shirt." (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park)

4th place

Week 1067, alter a quote slightly *and attribute it to someone else:*

"Sonny, little chance of reign." Queen Elizabeth, to Prince Charles. (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

Left-unders: honorable mentions

Week 1053, Questionable Journalism: *Take a sentence from The Post and make up a question that the sentence could answer:*
Sentence in The Post: "It's like taking a brain circuit that controls your ability to learn how to walk and hooking it up to your vocal muscles."
Q. How do pundits describe Joe Biden's speaking style? (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

A. You're having an "enforced social occasion."
Q. What term does Dick Cheney prefer instead of "rectal feeding"? (Frank Osen)

Week 1055, neologisms formed by adding or substituting K:
Gerald Fork: You're not sure why, but the darn thing keeps falling on the floor. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

Pro bonko: Describing a freebie given by a lady of the evening. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn; Roy Ashley, Washington)

Week 1057, bogus sports trivia:
Since 2016 is a leap year, the Rio de Janeiro Summer Olympic Games have been moved to 2017. (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

During World War II, Harvard College looked the other way while football players were allowed to take either Latin or Greek, instead of having to take both. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Week 1062, poems on the news:
You're a guest of Uncle Sam and CIA!
We'll make sure that you have water every day!
And, perchance, if you are needing
Some encouragement with feeding,
Rest assured we'll be behind you all the way. (Nan Reiner)

Week 1058, good/bad/ugly:
Good: Your flight arrives early!
Bad: The attendant doesn't say a cheerful "bye-bye!" at the door.
Ugly: You break your ankle on the emergency slide. (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Week 1065, alter an "x-and-y" phrase:
The Sorrow and the Putty: All that's left of many well-intentioned home repair projects. (Frank Osen)

Thee and Crumpets: An English church breakfast. An Irish church breakfast: Green Eggs and Hymn. (Christopher Lamora, Los Angeles)

BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1105: A lit obit of fun

Orthopedic surgeon Frank Jobe (1925-2014), who pioneered reconstructive surgery for baseball pitchers
A doctor often earns his fame
When a cure (or illness) gets his name.
But one poor doc struck out upon
The mended arm of Tommy John.
Still on he sliced, in his scrubs and robe
All in the name of the patients of Jobe.

As surely as life goeth to death, and one year cycleth on to the next, so doth the Invite bring forth its obit-poem contest, a.k.a. Dead Letters. This week: **Write a humorous poem of no longer than eight lines about someone who died in 2014,** as in the example above by Staff Elegist-in-Doggerel Gene Weingarten. There are lots of lists online of the newly departed; just Google "notable deaths 2014." There's an art to being clever without being vicious; you don't get to hope or predict that the person is going to burn in Hell, for example, because he's from the Other Party. Your poem isn't required to rhyme, but we've found that the year's cleverest poems almost always do.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a handsome ceramic salt-and-pepper set in the shape of outhouses, with little green roofs. And they are helpfully labeled "Full of P" and "Full of S." Donated by Loser Elden Carnahan.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag.

Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet designed by Bob Staake: either "The Wit Hit the Fan" or "Hardly Har-Har." First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or, if you were born in the 19th century, fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Jan. 12; results published Feb. 1 (online Jan. 29). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1105" in your e-mail 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 Brendan Beary; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Kevin Dopart. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at *on.fb.me/invdev*.

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.

Burger and flies: What to get when your buddy says, "Let's get some grub." (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

Week 1051, anagrams:
"Democrats are still wobbly after the punch they took in November"
anagrams to: " 'Knee Obama in the crotch' vote trends up well for the lobbyist army." (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

Week 1064, if a moment of history had changed:
If English colonists had discovered and cultivated marijuana, then today there would be no movement anywhere to legalize tobacco*
(*except by the U.S. Congress, which would insist that it be legal in the District of Columbia). (Mark Raffman)

Week 1054, obit poems:
""The Fast and the Furious" actor Paul Walker:
He met his end while in a car,
Though he was not the driver,
Had he but lived up to his name
Perhaps he'd be aliver. (Danielle Nowlin)

Week 1061, crossword words and clues *for a partially filled-in grid:*
SW- - DL - AN: SWORDLEAN: To prepare to take the blame, as in "Uh-oh, looks like his chief of staff had better swordlean." (David Ballard, Reston)

WA - R - - - EA - - -: WALRUS HEARSE: Paul-bearer. (Kevin Dopart)

Week 1059, add words in parentheses to a song title:
"(Isn't It Redundant to Say) The Sound of Music" (John Shea, Philadelphia)

"(I Want to Read Joe Klein's Columns Online, but) Time Won't Let Me" (Roy Ashley)

Week 1048, Ask Backwards: *we give a phrase and you write a question:*
A. The Two and a Half Wise Men
Q. Why is a gingerbread creche a bad idea? (Kevin Dopart)

The Two and a Half Wise Men
What would you call the Redskins' front office if you added two and a half wise men? (Roger Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.)

The Wicked Witch of the Waist
Who was the sworn enemy of Oz — and of Lbs? (Steve Honley, Washington)

Week 1084, limericks *featuring words beginning with fi- through fo-:*
"With foreplay, she'll always want more!"
I'd heard that so often before . . .
But I didn't hear right,
And I wasted the night
By trying to have sex on the floor.
(Neal Starkman, Seattle)

A foreigner here on vacation
Asked Doc to perform a castration.
But when he realized
That he meant "circumcised,"
'Twas too late — they were lost in translation. (Rob Cohen, Potomac)

Week 1067, change one letter in a quote:
"Shall I part my hair behind?" — T.S. Eliot
"Shall I part my hairy behind?" — Jim Carrey (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

Week 1056, new weather terms:
Ocr-ice: Black slippery patches that you don't notice until you're airborne. (David Friedman, Arlington)

Week 1066, "breed" two horses *on a list of the year's Triple Crown nominees, and name the "foal":*

Scotland x Twenty Percent = Plaid the Fifth (Barry Koch)

Hoppertunity x Deceived = Kermit the Fraud (Jeff Contompasis)

Charge Now x Undertaker = Layaway (Jeff Contompasis)

Guggenheim x Undertaker = The Wright Stiff (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg)

All Tied Up x Almost Famous = Larry Houdini (Roger Dalrymple)

So Lonesome x Wildcat Red = Onan O'Brien (Danielle Nowlin)

Week 1081, stupid questions for Yahoo Answers:
Why is Sunday considered the first day of the week when Saturday always happens a day earlier? (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

Still running — deadline Monday: Our contest to compare two entities with the same three-letter abbreviation: See bit.ly/invite1104.

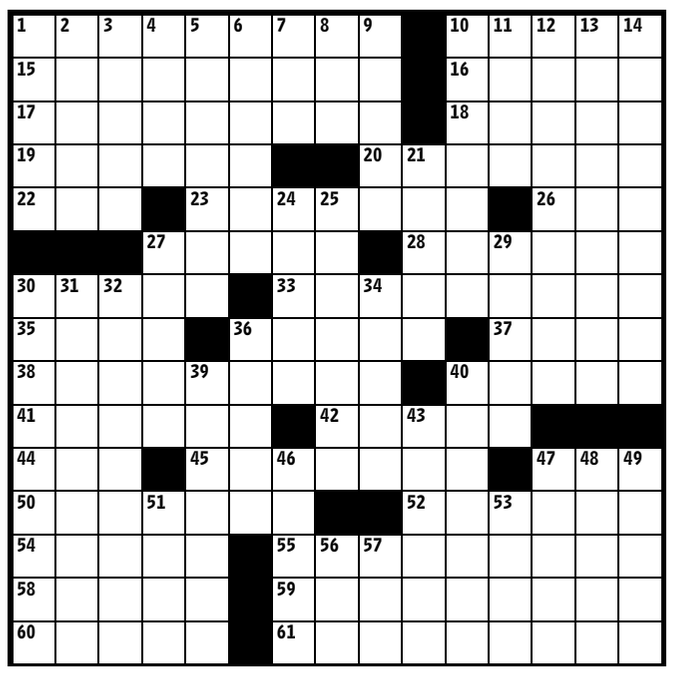
POST PUZZLER

No. 248

BY FRANK LONGO EDITED BY PETER GORDON • FIREBALLCROSSWORDS.COM

ACROSS
1 News source that broke the Donald Sterling story
10 "Cop and ____" (1993 film that won Burt Reynolds his only Razzie for Worst Actor)
15 Like just one game ever at the Astrodome
16 With 48-Down, 1941 No. 1 hit for Jimmy Dorsey
17 Aimed for
18 "No Logo" author Klein
19 ____ Fresh (classic ad mascot)
20 Iron-pumping person?
22 ____*Drift (annual rally racing event)
23 Unconscious means of learning
26 Shropshire she
27 Pensée products
28 Don't agree
30 Iron-pumping targets
33 Wax found in jackets
35 Saab with many models
36 Aloe may be applied to them
37 Stadium section
38 Hi-fi feature
40 "Wear it well" sloganeer
41 Prepares for a powerful stroke
42 Tumblr owner
44 Storefront abbr.
45 Actor who delivered the line "If you're Q, does that make him R?"
47 Bush native to the South
50 "De nada" lead-in, often
52 Vocal cord problem
54 Splits violently
55 Give a cursory look?
58 Coors Light product
59 It generates thrust by charging
60 President between Katsav and Rivlin
61 Place for many a harnessed traveler

DOWN
1 Bad things to fall into
2 Offerer of concrete solutions?
3 Squat
4 Impertinent person
5 Tiny characters in "E.T."
6 Home of the Danish Railway Museum
7 Spoke, say
8 Title subject of a 1978 hit song
9 Heeds a red alert
10 Drawing many blanks, maybe
11 2009 Wimbledon semifinalist Tommy
12 Began with
13 Mint sprig alternative
14 Women, to some codgers
21 Lifts
24 Crayola color similar to Mauvelous
25 University of North Florida team name
27 They might get ticked off
29 Large volume
30 Really harmful hold
31 "Street Scene" Pulitzer winner
32 Mae West relative
34 Anthologized, e.g.
36 Above, in a text
39 They can handle heavy winds
40 Without success
43 Humperdinck title boy
46 Of the sense of smell
47 Place for minor perps
48 See 16-Across
49 Ranger's uniform part
51 Grant
53 Danes, e.g.
56 Reaction when something grabs you
57 Code opener?



Answer to last week, No. 247

S	N	A	P		L	A	M	E		S	P	O	R	T
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		V	I	N	C	E	L	O	M	B	A	R	D	I
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HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | JAN. 4: This year you are able to see both sides of an argument, yet you won't always know which one is right. You may be testing out different ideas and approaches. Communication can be difficult, and you may seem to be off in some other mental realm rather than in the present. If you are single, a relationship may be very intense at first. You will learn how to accept others rather than criticize and want to change them. If you are attached, you might have difficulty being more loving and accepting.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19)*
You might feel pulled in many different directions. As a result, you're likely to blow off plans and do what you want. Once you return, the stress will, too. Go to bed early.

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20)*
Have a discussion that you have been putting off. The strong emotions you seem to be feeling are normal for a full moon. Still, you might want to lower the intensity.

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20)*
You seem to be enjoying yourself a little too much! Observe a tendency to be possessive. Chill out rather than cause yourself a problem. Tonight, treat a loved one to dinner.

CANCER *(June 21-July 22)*
You might think that you are more in control of a situation than you are. The full moon may wreak havoc where you'd least expect it. Be sensitive and make good choices.

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22)*
In a chaotic situation, you may decide to back out or stay mum rather than cause yourself a problem. Take some time to visit a friend who seems to be pulling away.

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*
Bring friends together. A loved one might surprise you with his or her reaction. Just listen carefully to what he or she is saying, and take your time in responding.

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)*
No matter whom you deal with or what situation you are in, you'll be able to bypass any tension. Tonight, choose to be by yourself.

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*
A hefty amount of messages, calls and e-mails will need to be sifted through. You see much more of what is happening than others do.

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)*
Use extreme caution with your finances. You might be overwhelmed by everything that is going on. Don't make any formal agreements right now.

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*
The full moon might be taking an emotional toll on you. Those you deal with might be out of step as well. The less said, the better.

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)*
Some of the high energy of yesterday seems to have dissolved. You might opt to stay closer to home or follow through on a project. In any case, spend some downtime alone.

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20)*
You might be focused on a get-together with friends. A loved one may be set on spending some time with you now. You will need to juggle all these different demands if you want to keep the peace.

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May-December couple looks ahead

Ask Amy
AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: I am a 51-year-old man *with no children. About four months ago, I became involved with a 27-year-old woman who teaches at the same college I do. We clicked immediately. We share the same passions and interests and love being around each other. We both agree this is the best and healthiest relationship of our lives. Right now the age difference hasn't really been an issue, especially since we are both fit, active people.*

The problem is that we both sense that as we progress, the age difference will become a factor, especially if we wanted to raise a family (and even if we did not). We don't dwell too much on the future because we are very happy with what we have now. At the same time, we dread the idea that at some point we may have to give up this wonderful relationship. What should we do?

Fretting

What you should do is to love each other well, for as long as you are able. You are smart people. You have done the math. A 24-year age difference is significant, but even the most age-perfect pairings bring significant challenges. You can overcome many things, but you cannot beat the clock. The pressure you feel is doubled for your partner, and she may ultimately decide she is not up to the challenge. Life presents imponderable opportunities for failure; my advice is to grab your moments of grace and enjoy them while they last.

Dear Amy: My husband and I *have the newspaper delivered to our condo building each day, but we have noticed that if we don't retrieve it from the lobby by about 8:30 a.m., it's already gone.*

We think that other condo owners take our paper. It would be annoying under any circumstance, but in this high-end building, all the unit owners are well heeled and can easily afford their own subscription.

It seems the height of pettiness to pinch someone else's paper, and I would like to bring it up at a board meeting in a respectful way (just stating that we notice our paper is gone before we get to it, does anyone know why, does anyone else have the problem, and so on) but my husband says doing so won't change anyone's behavior; they will do what they will do.

I say that it's a cop-out not to call this to the attention of the condo owners in the hope that the possible culprit/culprits may feel at least a little ashamed, whether they stop doing it or not. What is your take on this?

Miffed

I'm firmly with you on this. You have paid for something, it is being delivered to a secure location, and it is being stolen.

One solution would be for the door staff at your building to have a list of newspaper subscribers and write the name on the top of each newspaper when it is delivered in the wee hours.

You should definitely bring this up at a board meeting. It might be happening to other subscribers, too.

Amy's column appears seven days a week at *www.washingtonpost.com/advice*. Write to Amy Dickinson at *askamy@tribune.com* or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

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