DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Do wit again: Retrying the past year's contests

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1152 the Empress invited the Loser Community to enter (or reenter) any of 50 of the year's previous contests. She received entries for almost all of them, especially foal names, bank headlines and repurposed business names. but also a slew of excellent song parodies, more than we can share here. See them, along with other extra entries, in the online Invite at bit.ly/invite1156.

4th place

Week 1141, bank headlines:
Post head: **Mastectomy may not be best option, study finds**
Bank head: **Radical treatment for bronchitis questioned** (Rob Cohen, Potomac)

3rd place

Week 1144, repurposed brand names:
Yoplait is an okay name for a yogurt, but it's a great name for a children's gym in New Jersey. (Michael Weiner, Gaithersburg)

2nd place and the giant inflatable dreidel:

Week 1117, song parodies on the news: (Extremists demand Muslims' deportation; to "Tomorrow" from "Annie")
The people who cry, "Praise Allah!"
Let them weep in sorrow,
scream or holler;
Kick them out!
My country despises Allah.
Put the face of Jesus on the dollar —
Show His clout!

In each city and town: you're brown? You're going!
And I'm feeling no qualms,
imams go too!

If anyone worships Allah,
They'll be heading out by yacht or trawler;
Ban them fast!
Don't holler to Allah;
The boat's getting smaller,
America's great at last! (Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial

Week 1110, Your Mama jokes:
Yoda's Mama is so dumb, she talks like this. (Gregory Koch, Falls Church)

Wringing out the old: honorable mentions

Week 1103, song titles as TV themes: For "World Series of Poker": "I Want to Hold Your Hand" (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

Week 1105, obit poems: *Millie Zantow, Recycling Activist:*
She was buried (tsk tsk) when
found clearly not nimble,
As her number came up with no
triangle symbol. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

(**Week 1106, resolutions 100 years from now:** Schedule a visit to the Statue of Trump at Ellis Island, and climb into the extended middle finger. (Frank Mann, Washington)

Week 1109, bogus D.C. trivia: President Truman collected 457 dollar bills during his term in office and kept them in a jar on his desk. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

• Metrorail escalators were designed extra wide to allow tourists to conveniently place their luggage next to them, or to stand together as a family. (David Ballard, Reston)

Week 1110, Your Mama jokes: Sir Isaac Newton's Mama is so fat, he wrote that "F = Ma." (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

Week 1112, neologisms containing S, H, A, R and P: Ballparkish: Only approximately approximate. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

• Derpsichorean: Having two left feet. (Chris Doyle)

Week 1114, headlines with a positive spin: Liberty University makes packing for college easy (Kevin Dopart)

Week 1117, parodies on the news: (To "Uptown Funk")
I'm so hot (hot damn!)
Live-tweeting my master plan!
I'm so hot (hot damn!)
Got some flames I'd like to fan.
I'm so white (that's right!)
If you're Muslim I'll pick a fight.
I'm so white (that's right!)
Mexicans had best take flight.

Trade deal? I'll undo ya (whoo!)
Refugees? Gonna screw ya (whoo!)
Racists? I'm gonna woo ya (whoo!)
'Cause Dumb Down Trump gonna give it to ya!

Don't believe him? Just watch! (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

Week 1118, "breed" two Triple Crown-eligible horse names: Carpe Diem x Royal Squeeze = Crappe Biem (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

• Firing Line x Condo Commando = Scared Shortless (Jon Gearhart)

• Leave the Light On x Moon River = Motel Styx (Perry Beider, Silver Spring)

Week 1119, color names: Pepcobalt — It's supposed to be a bright blue, but it can go dark unexpectedly, sometimes for a week at a time. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.)

Week 1122, "grandfoals": Chat With Dentist x 2B Continued = Coming Extractions (Chris Doyle)

• GermanOfTheBored x Let My Pimple Go = Adolf Zzzzzitler (Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

• Helene a Handbag x Kiljoy Was Her = Drachma Queen (Kathy El-Assal, Middleton, Wis.)

Week 1125, truncated song titles: [Ti]**ME IN A BOTTLE:** Jingle for the new neighborhood fertility center. (Rob Wolf, Gaithersburg)

SIMPLE TWIST OF FAT[e]: The Cruller Shop (Al Larsen, Arlington, a First Offender)

Week 1132, fake military trivia: The names of some Civil War generals have made their way into our vocabulary. They include Ambrose Burnside, who had impressive sideburns, and Rufus Hitshed, who was not a very nice guy. (Roger Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.)

• Before a recruit receives his dog tags, he must "mark" his bunk. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

Week 1133, clerihews:
Bob Dylan
Put on tefillin
To demand answers from God,
then grinned

When God said, "Zimmerman,
have you checked with the wind?"
(Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

• Alex Rodriguez
Is big in the Major Leaguez.
For 22 years he produced
And juiced. (Kevin Dopart)

Week 1134, "air quotes": Incen"diary": When your spouse reads what you wrote about old flames. (William Collinge, Gettysburg, Pa.)

• P"ass"ing interest: Just looking, dear. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

Week 1140, good/bad name: Legoland is a good name for an amusement park but a bad name for a bereavement counseling center. (Jon Hensley, Arlington)

Week 1141, bank heads:
Post head: Man suffers heart attack, tumbles from escalator at L'Enfant Plaza Metro station
Bank head: Train had arrived on time (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

• Bowser, McAuliffe and Hogan endorse joint trade missions
Mayor, governors first shared reefers, then chipped in for munchies (Pie Snelson, Silver Spring)

• Why you can't call nuts, avocados, olives or salmon 'healthy'
It's 'healthFUL,' carp grammar pedants (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

Week 1144, repurposed brand names:
Prelude is a good name for a car, and also a good way to describe the first part of a date with Bill Cosby. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

• Chico's is a good name for a women's fashion boutique, but a better name for a brand of underpants. (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

More winners in the online Invite at bit.ly/invite1156.

Still running — deadline Monday night: our "Vowel Movement" contest. See bit.ly/invite1156.

BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1156: Dead letters

Madame Claude
Was a bawd.
But she had class
When she peddled tushie.

Once again, The Style Invitational celebrates the New Year with the level of class for which it is so justly renowned. **This week: Write a humorous poem of no longer than eight lines about someone who died in 2015,** as in the example above by Washington Post Pooet Laureate Gene Weingarten. You can find many lists of Heaven's newest residents by Googling "notable deaths 2015." As always with our obit poems, being clever doesn't mean you have to be brutal; don't give someone's new address as Hell just because he voted the other way or because she dressed badly. Your poem isn't required to rhyme (or play on rhyme, as in the example above), but over the years of obit poems, the rhymers have blotted up the great majority of Ink from the Empress.

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a special imported two-pack: "Fat of Python" skin ointment and "Cobra Toxan" cream, brought back from a Vietnamese vacation by Hall of Fame Loser Beverley Sharp. We advise, however, that you leave their contents in their tubes, lest you become the subject of a Style Invitational entry 56 weeks from now.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug, the older-model "This Is Your Brain on Mugs" mug or the ardently desired "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our brand-new Loser magnets, "Magnet Dum Laude" or "Falling Jest Short." First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). Email entries to losers@washpost.com or, if you were born in the 19th century, fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday night, Jan. 11; results published Jan. 31 (online Jan. 28). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1156" in your email 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 Chris Doyle; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Danielle Nowlin. 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.

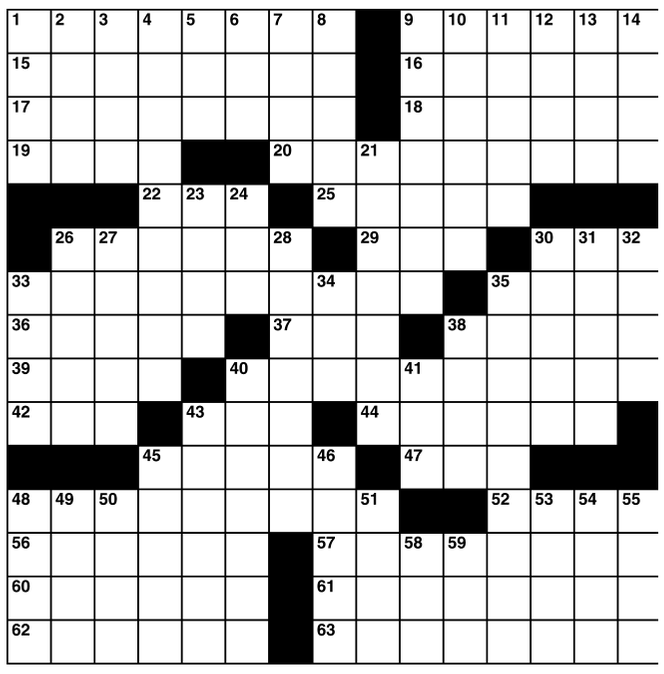
THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.

SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY PATRICK JORDAN © 2016 CROSSYNERGY SYNDICATE LLC

ACROSS
1 Assess too hastily
9 Feel insulted by
15 It can help you get a ride
16 Truman's British counterpart
17 Freebies at many chambers of commerce
18 Some calves
19 Leave off the invitation list
20 Eateries offering cold rolls
22 Cougar's collegiate rival
25 Sprawling stories
26 Sweeney Todd's arsenal
29 Pitches between innings?
30 Headline-worthy
33 Fitness program since 1969
35 Prissy's home
36 Made a scene?
37 IV inserters, at times
38 Sports
39 Avoid a collision, perhaps
40 Aerobic activity in many a 33-Across class
42 Raised eyebrow's formation
43 Diminutive draft
44 Perseid meteor shower's frequency
45 Hospital bill entries
47 "Game of Thrones" weapon
48 Spoke before
52 "Muffin top" cause
56 Exhibit ostentatiously
57 Sarcastic gesture involving two fingers
60 Stimulating drink
61 Beat badly
62 Backdrops in "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" films
63 Holds still

DOWN
1 Alternatives to moccasins
2 Lay waste to
3 Classic final rebuke
4 Prankster's gadget
5 German location of the world's tallest church steeple
6 1988 Meg Ryan remake
7 Breaks
8 Happen next
9 Series whose theme song was sung by Frankie Laine
10 Philosophical topic
11 Guesstimates
12 "Enchanted" 2004 role for Anne
13 Adverb with an apostrophe
14 Literary killer of Alec Stoke-d'Urberville
21 Loser to Fischer in 1972's "Match of the Century"
23 Drove in at an angle
24 Be off
26 One with a track record?
27 Ancient Lake Texcoco resident
28 Ad-libbers eschew them
30 Trattoria herb
31 "The Twilight Zone" plot device, often
32 The Greasers or the Socs, in "The Outsiders"
33 Bali Strait island
34 First magazine to put Steve Jobs on its cover
35 Certain overpayer's due
38 Deceptive deed
40 Mugs
41 Two-time Emmy winner Arthur
43 Crop-commencing contraption
45 Minuscule measure
46 Capitol Hill positions
48 PD broadcasts
49 One may lead to a game of chicken
50 Attract
51 Scandalous scuttlebutt
53 Mathematicians' point sets
54 To ____ (flawlessly)
55 Flophouse furnishings
58 School's first stage?
59 Functioning as, to Agrippa



Answer to last week

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

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | JAN. 3: This year you express an unusual amount of intensity and a strong desire to achieve an important goal. You are willing to fight for what you want. A male friend could play a substantial role in your year. Try not to become argumentative with friends if they don't agree with you. Always respect your differences. If you are single, you are likely to meet someone through your immediate circle. This person just might be the right person for you! If you are attached, the two of you will join forces to make a long-term goal a reality. Scorpio often expresses themself in a sarcastic tone.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You'll focus on a certain individual who seems to be rather difficult. Mars moving into your sign could mean that arguments occur with close associates and loved ones. Spending money could be a big issue. Disagreements are possible.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You could be at a point where you want to let someone else run the show in order to let them see what your responsibilities feel like. This person might be less critical once they walk in your shoes! Be more of an observer for now.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
You might want to come to terms with a situation in your daily life. Whether the issue involves your work routine or your health, you will decide to handle it directly in the next few weeks. You have so much energy; use it to focus on this matter.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
You could experience an element of disruption at home. This irritation might have surfaced with a child. If you are single, you will notice that a loved one has become very difficult. You will want to take a step back and not get involved.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Whatever triggers a disagreement might not be as relevant or as important as you think. You could be heading into an argumentative period, unless you become more physical and get lots of exercise. Try to schedule some time away from this situation to relax.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Balance your checkbook before spending any money in 2016. You need to know where you stand. Someone in your day-to-day environment — perhaps a neighbor — could become difficult and argumentative. Remove yourself from the situation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
You could feel as if you have to repeat a lot of what you've already done. Postpone doing whatever you have in mind until later! Use caution with spending; otherwise, you could make a situation worse. A partner might disagree with you about a purchase.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Mars moves into your sign and energizes you. The timing is perfect for starting an exercise program. At the same time, you will get the benefit of having a stressbuster so that you flare up less easily in difficult situations. A friend could be sarcastic.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Do as much as you can in the morning, when you naturally relate to others more easily. In the afternoon, whatever ails you will come forward. You might be suppressing anger. Be careful, as it could emerge from out of the blue.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You could be at a point where you can't make sense of what is going on with a boss or older relative. You need to let this person explain what is happening. You can ask only so many questions. Focus on a long-term goal, as you have a lot of energy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Make calls in the morning, and allow yourself to daydream. Music takes on a new depth for you. By the afternoon, you might be surprised by how demanding an authority figure could be. Say that you have had enough in a way that can be heard.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You have a tendency to wonder what to do when others become very demanding. You are capable of a good argument, but it probably would be better to pull back and consider what is going on with the other party instead.

How to thank drunken maid of honor

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: I need some advice. I was recently married, and my maid of honor threw me a bridal shower.

The shower was the Thursday before the wedding. At the wedding she proceeded to imbibe too much alcohol, botched her speech, got in a fight with her boyfriend (who tried to fight my husband), hit on my brother, father and the (married) photographer and then left in a blaze of crying hysterical glory well before the night was over.

Needless to say, we are not currently on speaking terms. So as I am writing my thank-you cards, do I still send her one for the bridal shower?

D

D: Yes, you should thank her. You can write, "Thank you so much for hosting my bridal shower. We all had a nice time, and I genuinely appreciate all of your efforts on behalf of my wedding. What confuses and disappoints me is your behavior at my wedding. You may not even remember what you did, but you embarrassed yourself — and me. I hope this is a wake-up call for you to consider the consequences of your drinking."

My basic point is that the friendship is over anyway — and you should both do the polite thing and thank her for hosting an event that evidently went well, and also the friend thing, which is to tell her the truth about her behavior and how it affected you.

Dear Amy: I am a huge fan of your column. The letter from "Diabetic," whose husband sabotaged her efforts by bringing sweets home, really struck home for me.

In my house it is my husband who is diabetic, and he brings home all the cookies and chocolates that none of us need to be tempted with on a daily basis.

My solution was to put all of these treats in a drawer of his dresser.

For the rest of us in the household the treats were out of sight and out of mind, and it made him realize that he is really the only one eating this stuff. Works for us.

Healthy

Healthy: I love your solution. Your choice was to make your husband hyper-aware of who was actually consuming these sweets. I hope he is able to get a handle on his problem, because failing could have extreme consequences for him.

Write to Amy Dickinson at askamy@tribune.com or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

©2016 by the Chicago Tribune