

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Retooning: The Week 1180 winners

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1180 we invited to you choose any comic strip or panel that appeared in The Post, in print or online, over a 12-day period, and either (a) add or replace a line of dialogue or (b) provide a question that a line in the comic could answer (it didn't have to be said to the character in the strip). Online at bit.ly/invite1184, we'll give links to the originals.



FROM "MARK TRAIL," BY JAMES ALLEN, NORTH AMERICA SYNDICATE, ALTERED BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

4th place (above)

(Robyn Carlson, Keyser, W.Va.)

3rd place

A. I'd never forget it if you guys cleaned out the garage for me.

(From "Blondie")
Q. What's a really weird way to ask for a colonoscopy appointment? (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

2nd place and the fabulous noodly beanie:

A. I hate trying to depose millennials.

(From "Dustin")
Q. What did President Obama mutter about Kim Jong Un? (Steve Honley, Washington)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial:

I'm the least racist person you'll ever meet.

(Doonesbury," actual Trump quote)
Added line: "I'm so not racist, let me tell you, I won't even let those Mexicans who clean my buildings use Spic and Span." (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

Median strips: honorable mentions

A. With my bare hand? ("Zits,")
Q. What did Paul Ryan say when advisers told him to have a friendly handshake with Donald Trump? (Duncan Stevens)

A. I play the whimsical dung beetle.

("Baby Blues")
Q. Is there any odder-named musical instrument than the sackbut? (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

It's days like this I wish I was a dentist!
("Hagar the Horrible")
What's the last thing you want to hear during your root canal surgery? (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

Well, I'd like to give him a shot, anyway.
("Dustin")
"I know that crying infants on airplanes annoy you, but don't you think vodka is a little drastic?" (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

Is the hour up? I'm about to explode!
("Baby Blues")
"I'm sorry, Secretary Clinton, but your opponent insisted there be no 'disgusting' bathroom breaks allowed during the debate." (Annette Green, Lexington, Va.)

I now control the one thing I most need to fulfill my destiny!
("Prince Valiant")
How did Hillary Clinton say thank you to Bernie Sanders after he told his supporters to vote for her? (Lawrence McGuire)

Hey, I don't know if you've noticed — I can't fly.
("The Amazing Spider-Man")
But you can still buy plenty of guns, right? (Frank Mann, Washington)

We look forward to topping it next year.
("Blondie")
Why did you order a large plain pizza for this year's Procrastinators' Club annual dinner? (Stuart Backer, Falls Church, Va.)

You're the most brilliant human alive.
What's the one phrase Donald Trump's parrot can say perfectly? (John Hutchins)

Let's try this classic from the '80s.
("Sherman's Lagoon")
Added line: "Okay, fine, I get it. I'll clean out the pantry tomorrow." (Mark Raffman)

Let's have Mexican tonight.
("Mother Goose and Grimm")
"Mr. Trump, who are you going to

bash in your next speech: immigrants, Muslims or women?" (Art Grinath, Takoma Park, Md.)

A recent study found that one in four people would date a robot.
("Mike du Jour")

At least I'd know what buttons to push.
(Phil Frankenfeld, Washington)

I shall take her by the hand, and invite her to have a root beer with me.
("Peanuts")

What did Kanye West probably not say to himself when he saw Kim Kardashian? (Duncan Stevens)



FROM "JUDGE PARKER," BY WILSON AND MANLEY, NORTH AMERICA SYNDICATE, ALTERED BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Honorable mention: by Kevin Doport, Washington

New contest for Week 1184: Plan C — a third candidate?

— Elect Bert from "Sesame Street": It's time, after all these years, to have a man of letters in the White House. (Stephen Dudzik, Peter Metrinko, Week 782, October 2008)

— Vote Benedict Arnold for president: Now here's a candidate who has really fought for change in American government! (Rick Wood)

— What voters want above all else is consistency, and no one else on the ballot can match tapioca pudding in that regard . . . (Brendan Beary)

Eight years ago — a few weeks before 60 million U.S. citizens would vote for a certain hockey mom to become the president of the United States in case a bad thing happened to her would-be boss, a man in his mid-70s — The Style Invitational offered some other options. In Week 782, the Empress printed a 16-item list of potential candidates, including Bert, Benedict and Tapioca, and asked the Loser Community to explain why any of them should be president.

This year, as both of the presumptive (evidently a word meaning "icky") nominees are among the least popular candidates in history, it's surely time again for the Invite to produce some alternative candidates, as Loser Jerry Birchmore suggested to the Empress. But this year we'll take nominations from the floor. This week: Explain why some novel person (or thing) should be president; you could also suggest a president-veep ticket. Note to the humor-impaired: The Style Invitational is a humor contest.

Submit entries at this website: bit.ly/enter-invite-1184
Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a cool rubber doorstop that looks like a big red splat of goo. Donated by Roy and Inge Ashley.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug, the older-model "This Is Your Brain on Mugs" mug or a vintage Loser T-shirt. 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 "fresher" (FirStink for their first ink).
Deadline is Monday, July 25; results published Aug. 14 (online Aug. 11). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. See contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The "Retooning" headline is by Chris Doyle; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Jeff Contompasis. 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.

You should know that owning one of my own would be close to a religious experience for me.
("Baby Blues")

What did David Koch say while shopping for his first congressman? (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

I heard some talk about it a while ago. I'm glad they're finally doing it.
("Mary Worth")

What did no mother ever say about her teenage daughter and her boyfriend? (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Yeah.
("Overboard")
Speaker Ryan, are you excited about supporting the nominee? (Duncan Stevens)

I think that story is going to blow up into something big.
("Judge Parker")

What was Donald Trump's response when he heard that Hillary Clinton had French toast for breakfast? (Rick Haynes, Ocean City, Md.)

Here's a letter for you with postage due.
("Beetle Bailey")
"My time machine works! Is it really 1956?" (Kevin Tingley, Vienna, Va.)

"Never have I seen such a disgusting example of kissin' up to an adult!"
("Curtis")

Yeah, but the Empress has to have a soft spot somewhere . . . (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

See more honorable mentions (with links to the originals) in the online Invite at bit.ly/invite1184.

Still running — deadline Monday night, July 18: our contest for "honest" statements. See bit.ly/invite1183.

SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY BRUCE VENZKE © 2016 CROSSYNERGY SYNDICATE LLC

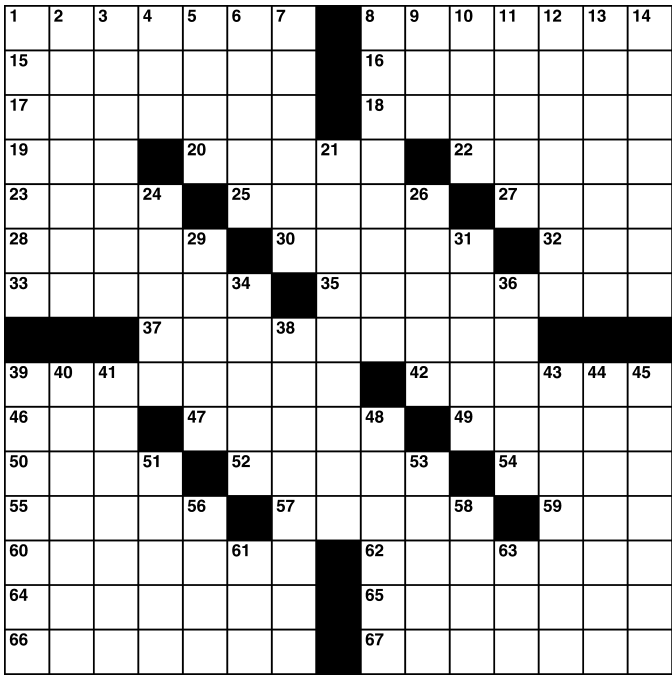
ACROSS
1 Suppressed
8 Joyful laugh
15 A smidgen
16 Round-trip of sorts
17 Basque, e.g.
18 Gymnast's garment
19 Work on a lawn
20 Basketball's Wilt the ____
22 Tot's wheels, informally
23 Math subj.
25 Grab forcibly
27 Newspaper section, briefly
28 Low interest rate?
30 Inattentive mistake
32 Respectful
Indian title
33 University official
35 Dirty, cluttered area

DOWN
37 Neat and tidy
39 Uneven, as a victory margin
42 Manually
46 Arbor Day mo.
47 Name for the wind, in song
49 "Yes ____, Bob!"
50 Old place of congregation
52 Donizetti role
54 Magellan's milieu
55 He wed a Duke
57 Strong suit fabric
59 Klondike lure
60 Totally loses it
62 Street fighter, e.g.
64 Word before fission or family
65 Most strange
66 Bears witness (to)
67 Stops

DOWN
1 Less arid
2 Not carried, as a burden
3 Providing sustenance
4 Alpine evergreen
5 Colleague of Jimmy and Clark
6 Les ____-Unis
7 Lions' den survivor
8 Audacity
9 Term of affection
10 Fail to include
11 Fashionably nostalgic
12 Walk aimlessly

13 Those sneakily hanging about
14 Followed up on "We need to talk"
21 Bar game played for drinks and involving deception
24 It may be wild or educated
26 Cornerstone word (abbr.)
29 "What can she possibly see ____?"
31 Sports awards since 1993
34 Of an ocean motion
36 Sodas on "M.A.S.H."

38 Careful readers
39 Garfield's favorite food
40 Chooses not to participate
41 Shield from danger
43 Spaces on a leaf
44 Most closely related
45 Leaves in the lurch
48 Futon alternative
51 Congressional divide
53 Reach a consensus
56 Burnsian negatives
58 Places for studs
61 Frisking action
63 PlayStation rival



Answer to last week

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

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY| July 17: This year you focus on the quality of your day-to-day life. If you are single, you could meet someone who will make a remarkable yet challenging partner. If you are attached, you will want to be more accepting of your sweetie's shortcomings as well as their good qualities. Love will flourish with this attitude. Capricorn has the same issues as you do, but he or she handles them very differently.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
What you choose to do as you wake up might surprise others. Allowing yourself the gift of spontaneity helps to ease a lot of tension. Others greet your impulsiveness with a smile.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You might wake up with a new insight about a personal matter. You are likely to choose to share this insight with a loved one or trusted friend. Rather than continue to discuss a situation over and over again, choose a fun escape, like a concert.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Let a friend or loved one make the choices as you decide to retire from the job of social planner. This person will love having a more dominant role in what goes on.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Get as much done as you can in the earlier part of the day. By the afternoon, friends and a spontaneous happening could take over. You can see a hassle developing with a loved one, as your perspectives are so different.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Passions run high, and a willingness to toss yourself into living life to the fullest defines your day. Whether you opt for a picnic with a loved one or a day drive to a favorite spot, you will be totally present.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Stay close to home or visit with family in the earlier part of the day. Those who often surround you want your company. An opportunity to be more playful and get into a favorite pastime with great company presents itself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Be responsive to others, but don't cancel plans despite a proclivity to do so. Get together with family and friends for a traditional Sunday brunch. Let the rest fall into place.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Curb spending; do not give in to impulsiveness. Say "no" to temptation. You might want to look toward a financial goal to help you muster up some more self-discipline. Communication flourishes in the afternoon.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Though others will want to join you, you could have plans that you don't want to share. Your energy acts like electricity to a sluggish pal.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Take a moment or a few hours for yourself, and do whatever you would like to do. You just might want to curl up with a great book or watch a favorite TV series. Don't worry — this won't become a habit, as you will see this afternoon.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Without intending to, you'll start swapping funny stories about a favorite person. The laughter and fun will delight all of you. Visit a friend or family member who appreciates one-on-one time with you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
A visit could take longer than you had anticipated. You also could be very tired and withdrawn. Recognize what you can influence. Join friends later in the afternoon.

Potluck cookies don't go down well

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

One friend called me three times to ask if I was going to assign what dishes people should bring and how many people were coming.

I told her that I was not assigning dishes, since in my experience potlucks usually work out just fine, and that I had no idea how many people were coming, since people seem incapable of sending an RSVP these days. I suggested she might bring a salad or side dish. The day of the party, she and her boyfriend arrived with 12 cookies and proceeded to fill their plates. The boyfriend had two plates!

My questions are (a) what is appropriate etiquette when a couple attends a potluck; should they bring two dishes? and (b) how can I politely tell my friend that it is inappropriate for two working adults to bring 12 cookies to a potluck dinner?

Frustrated

Frustrated: Let's review: Your

friend asked you three times what she and her guy should bring. This might have been your signal that she was confused or anxious about it. You refused to assign them a dish, saying that these things have a way of working out. And then, after things seem to have worked out (did anyone go away hungry?), you have a problem with their choice.

A couple coming to a potluck dinner should bring one dish. Their dish should serve between five to 10 people. Twelve cookies is a meager offering for a large potluck dinner, but, then again, as you say, these things have a way of working out. Don't correct your friend after the fact.

Dear Amy: I need help. My dear wife of 56 years is wonderful, lovely, loyal, and law- and rule-abiding. She is perfect in every way. When it comes to recycling, saving electricity and water, she is on it.

If I rinse my coffee cup under running water for more than a few seconds, she reminds me of the necessity to conserve water. Of course, she is right; we live in California. So, what's the problem?

Because I am chronologically challenged (we both are), I have to get up more than once during the night to urinate. I do not flush the toilet each time. There is about a gallon of water in the bowl, and my small addition is barely noticeable. By not flushing, I reckon I am saving 1,200 gallons a year. I feel pragmatic and virtuous. However, my wife insists that by not flushing, I am creating an unsanitary condition in our house. Her bathroom is at the other end of our house, and I do not monitor her water usage.

My wife is not a control freak nor is she a nag. So, what gives?

A Lucky Husband in CA

Lucky Husband in CA: I am running your letter in my column because I am in love with both of you — married for 56 years and only bickering about a tinkle in the toilet.

You two don't need my help. You are doing everything right.

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