DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Wit to be tied: Winning name chains

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1190 we asked you to make a string of up to 15 names, each connected to the next in some way, to end up either at the name you started with or at an opposite one. Often, the funniest links are those that take a little thought to figure out — but if you don't get them, they're just a big HUH. The Empress did a lot of HUH last week, but did get the entries below. Some are just similar names; some play off the names, like Tinker-Taylor; and some refer to the people themselves. In the online Invite at **bit.ly/invite1194**, there are some explanatory links to click on.

4th place

Aly Raisman; Lazarus; "Deadpool"; Ryan Reynolds; Blake Lively; Robert Blake; "Baretta"; Wayne LaPierre, "Wayne's World"; Aurora, Ill.; "Sleeping Beauty"; Prince; "Let's Go Crazy"; Jim Beam, **Aly Raisman.** (Sue Lin Chong, Baltimore)

3rd place

Kim Kardashian; Lil Kim; Little Richard; "Good Golly Miss Molly"; Molly Shannon; Shannon, Ireland; Kathy Ireland; Christie Brinkley; Billy Joel; "Allentown"; Steve Allen; Merv Griffin; Eva Gabor; Eddie Albert; **Albert Einstein.** (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church, Va.)

2nd place and the DVD of "The Losers":

Debbie Wasserman Schultz; Charles Schulz; "Peanuts"; Cracker Jack; Marion Barry; Muriel Bowser; Sha Na Na; Woodstock; Snoopy; Julian Assange; WikiLeaks; Depends; Bill Clinton; Hillary Clinton; **Debbie Wasserman Schultz**. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial:

Colin Kaepernick; "QB VII"; Leon Uris; Leon Panetta; Caspar Weinberger; Casper the Friendly Ghost; the Holy Ghost; God; Pope Francis; Francis Scott Key; "The Star-Spangled Banner"; **Colin Kaepernick** (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Jest ligature selves: honorable mentions

Jeb Bush; Jed Clampett; "The Beverly Hillbillies"; Los Angeles; Griffith Park; "MacArthur Park"; Donna Summer; Donna Tartt; Don Ho; "Tiny Bubbles"; **Donald Trump**. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Anthony Weiner; Oscar Mayer; Oscar de la Hoya; Georgetown University; Big East; Big Easy; New Orleans Saints; Joan of Arc; Noah; David; Goliath; "Giant"; James Dean; Jimmy Dean; **Anthony Weiner.** (Jeff Contompasis)

Donald Trump; Mike Pence; Ezra Pound; Minnesota Fats; Q; "Skyfall"; Chicken Little; Colonel Sanders; Husky Tools; **Donald Trump.** (Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

John Deere; Buck Owens; "Hee Haw"; Donkey Kong; Pac-Man; Sheldon Adelson; Sheldon Cooper; Stephen Hawking; Peter Sellers; "The Pink Panther"; David Niven; David Letterman; **Deere, John.** (Chris Doyle)

David Letterman; "The Postman Always Rings Twice"; James M. Cain; James Monroe; Marilyn Monroe; Joe DiMaggio; the New York Yankees; Yogi Berra; Yogi Bear; **Stephen Colbert.** (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

Donald Trump; "The Art of the Deal"; Art Garfunkel; "The Sound of Silence"; the Wall of Sound; Jerry Garcia; Ben & Jerry's; Phish Food; Luca Brasi; Khartoum; Benghazi; **Hillary Clinton.** (Gregory Dunn, Alexandria, Va.)

Jon Hamm; Mayo Clinic; Rochester; Jack Benny; Benny Hill; Frankie Valli; Four Seasons; Paris Hilton; France; "The Coneheads"; Jane Curtin; Don Draper; **Jon Hamm.** (Pam Sweeney, Burlington, Mass.)

Justin Trudeau; "O! Canada"; Baltimore Orioles; Earl Weaver; Spider-Man; Peter Parker; Trey Parker; "Blame Canada"; **Justin Bieber.** (Chris Doyle)

Mitch McConnell; the Kentucky Creation Museum; God; Zeus; Dr. Seuss; "Yertle the Turtle"; **Mitch McConnell.** (Chris Doyle)

Vladimir Putin; Vlad the Impaler; Lance Armstrong; Sir Lancelot; "Camelot"; Lawrence of Arabia; Superstorm Sandy; "The Desert Song"; Sigmund Romberg; Whoopi Goldberg; Whoopee Cushion; **Vladimir Putin.** (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Pampers; Baby Face Nelson; Nelson Eddy; Jeanette MacDonald; the Golden Arches; Archie Bunker; Edith Bunker; Edith Piaf; "April in Paris"; June Allyson; **Depends**. (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

Julian Assange; Golden Snitch; Nimbus 2000; Styx; Sharon Stone; "The Mending Wall"; Pink Floyd; Floyd Mayweather; "April Showers"; "The Cruelest Month"; T.S. Eliot; "The Waste Land"; the Internet; WikiLeaks; **Julian Assange.** (Phyllis Reinhard, East Fallowfield, Pa.)

Michael Jackson, Bubbles, Alka-Seltzer, Alcatraz, Dwayne Johnson, John Holmes, Watson, Ken Jennings; Movie Star Barbie; "Toy Story"; Buzz Lightyear; Neil Armstrong; **Michael Jackson.** (Todd DeLap, Fairfax, Va.)

Anthony Weiner; Snickers; Mars; "Lost in Space"; Will Robinson; Carlos Danger; **Anthony Weiner.** (Mary Kappus, Washington)

God; Eva Marie Saint; "North by Northwest"; Delta Burke; Atlanta; Rhett Butler; Lee Daniels; Charlie Daniels; **the Devil** (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

JFK; Marilyn Monroe; Eminem; Mars; Spirit; St. Louis; Cardinals; Pope Francis; Francis Bacon; Kevin Bacon; Tom Hanks; "The Terminal"; **JFK.** (Todd DeLap)

Kim Kardashian; Caitlyn Jenner; "Victor/Victoria"; Julie Andrews; Eliza Doolittle; "Doctor Dolittle"; Dr. Scholl's; Paul Bunyan; Lizzie Borden; Elsie the Cow; Mike Bossy; Puck; Bottom; **Kim Kardashian.** (Chris Doyle)

Donald Trump; Megyn Kelly; Grace Kelly, Princess of Monaco; "The Princess Bride"; ROUS; **Donald Trump.** (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis, Md.)

Yasser Arafat; Fat Albert; the Pillsbury Doughboy; "The Danish Girl"; "The Little Mermaid"; **Ariel Sharon.** (Nathanael Dewhurst, Lynn, Mass.)

Abraham Lincoln; Penny Marshall; Rob Reiner; Anthony Weiner; Oscar Mayer; Oscar the Grouch; Triumph the Insult Comic Dog; Arc de Triomphe; Paris Hilton; "Hotel California"; the Eagles; Philadelphia; Gettysburg; **Abraham Lincoln.** (Hildy Zampella)

Sarah Palin; "The Russia House"; John le Carré; Carry Nation; A.A. Milne; Winnie-the-Pooh; Bear Grylls; George Foreman; Barbara Boxer; Boxing Day; Christmas; Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer; Caribou Barbie; **Sarah Palin.** (Chris Doyle)

Elizabeth Warren; Warren Harding; Richard Nixon; "All the President's Men"; Woodward and Bernstein; Katharine Graham; A.O. Sulzberger; Punch and Judy; Howdy Doody; Buffalo Bob Smith; John Smith; Pocahontas; **Elizabeth Warren.** (Chris Doyle)

And Last: **The Czar;** Gene Wilder; Dr. Frankenstein; Dr. Frank Burns; Trapper John; John Madden; Mary Ann Madden; "Gilligan's Island"; "Fantasy Island"; Tattoo, Tatooine, Jabba the Hutt, the Playboy Mansion; "Pat the Bunny," **the Empress.** (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Sept. 26: our Poeds contest. See bit.ly/invite1193.

BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New for Week 1194: Nyetymologies: fake word origins

Commodore: During the reign of Charles VIII (the Affable), a perquisite of senior officers in the French Navy was the golden chamber pot, *une commode d'or.* (Joseph F. Wilkerson, New York Magazine Competition, 1999)

Persecute (Middle English *purse,* pocketbook, + cute): To torment a man for wearing an attractive handbag. (Lauren Foley)

Four weeks ago we paid tribute to the late Mary Ann Madden, editor of the long-running New York Magazine Competition, by shamelessly using one of her favorite contest formats: the name chains that appear today. This week we'll rip off Ms. Madden one more time, thanks to Loser John O'Byrne, who sent the Empress a scanned copy of the results of NYMag Competition 927, from Jan. 18, 1999 — near the end of the competition's three-decade run in print. **This week: Provide a humorously untrue explanation for the derivation of a word,** as in the bogus etymologies above, both of them Madden honorable mentions for Week 927. Don't explain a whole expression; the Invite has done that contest fairly recently.

Submit entries at the website bit.ly/enter-invite-1194 (all lowercase).
Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives "Maybe He's Dead, and Other Hilarious Results of New York Magazine Competitions," a 1981 paperback collection donated by Alfred Lubran. (No, there's no corresponding book for the Invite, but you can see every past contest on the Master Contest List at the Losers' own website, NRARS.org.)

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug, the older-model "This Is Your Brain on Mugs" mug or our new Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Punmanship." 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 "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). Deadline is Monday night, Oct. 3; results published Oct. 23 (online Oct. 20). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is Danielle Nowlin; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Jon Gearhart. 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.

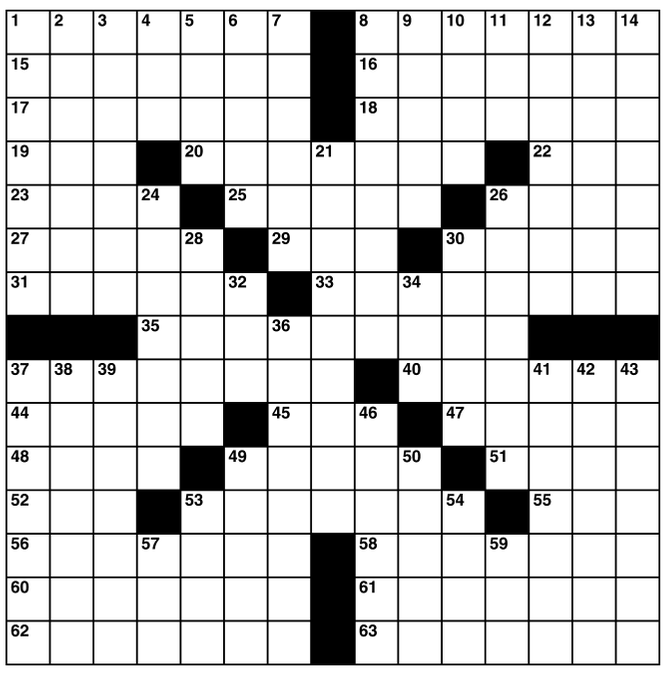
THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.

SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY RANDOLPH ROSS © 2016 CROSSYNERGY SYNDICATE LLC

ACROSS
1 Remark from someone getting by
8 Jump around
15 Stable employee
16 Like some breezes
17 Isolationist
18 Pranced playfully
19 Poll no.
20 Branch of physics related to equilibrium
22 Getting things done well, briefly
23 Start of something
25 Restaurant "turf"
26 Inflict upon
27 Escalator feature
29 NFL knee injury letters
30 Religious law
31 Not unless
33 Precarious place at the circus
35 911 responders in protective gear
37 On the ocean floor, say
40 Marks in Spanish class
44 Reddish-brown minerals
45 Shopping network
47 Spanish queen
48 Flight data, briefly
49 2001 British Open winner David
51 Funnyman Foxx
52 Black bird
53 Singer with the Starliters
55 Response to an oversharer
56 Roger or Samuel
58 Super Bowl party snacks, perhaps
60 It'll help circulation
61 "It's MY treat"
62 Has another fit
63 Releases (from)

DOWN
1 Designates for delivery of
2 It may be going
3 X on the NYSE
4 Good name for a chef
5 Some bent pipes
6 Salami and pastrami
7 Typos
8 People skills
9 Special talent
10 Enablers of WWW access
11 Not just any
12 Trattoria treat
13 Builder
14 Singer Leon
21 Smart with smartphones
24 Some convertibles
26 One not likely to be the first in line
28 Christian apparel
30 Lead, as a meeting
32 Some radio bands
34 Destroy the interior of
36 Parting gifts?
37 Potential lemon
38 Merchant of music
39 Undies
41 Many losers have one
42 All the way over
43 Dentists, to some
46 One left holding the bag
49 "Death, Be Not Proud" poet
50 Sainted pope of the 11th century
53 "Holy mackerel!"
54 White-tailed eagle
57 Double DIII
59 Real conclusion



Answer to last week

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

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY|Sept. 25: This year goodwill often surrounds you. You might begin to feel even more positively about those around you. You see the power of optimism. If you are single, you meet people wherever you go. You are likely to meet someone of significance this year; just be patient. If you are attached, the two of you often differ in your choices, but you enjoy each other so much that you are able to compromise easily. Leo nearly always makes you laugh.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You have a very busy day that involves a child or friend. This person is full of get-up-and-go, and will let you know how much he or she appreciates your time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You could reveal how stubborn you are today. You will let someone else know your limits. A friend appreciates your time and attention and lets you know.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
You could be very upbeat and ready to change direction. You'll discover how devoted a friend is. When you spend time together, you both become very silly.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
You could be going overboard when dealing with a personal matter. You are likely to hear good news that surrounds your home and family.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Your personality melts barriers and prevents any substantial problems from taking hold. You know how to lighten up the moment.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Consider taking the day off from your normal routine and doing what you want. Some of you will have a fun project or two lined up, while others will be looking to relax.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
You might seem calm and content, but you actually will be busy mentally planning your day. You seem to be going in two very different directions, and you could find yourself in two different settings.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Others could be pushing you harder than you had anticipated. Understand that they likely have plans for you that revolve around certain expectations.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Your fiery personality emerges and takes off when you meet up with a friend or loved one. A change of scenery will mean more to you than you had anticipated.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You always seem so put together. You might not be as sure of yourself as you would like others to believe. Someone could make an offer that sounds too good to be true. Recognize that what you have been offered is possible.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You have the ability to get past a problem. If you are willing to get feedback and discuss the issue with some resourceful friends, you will come up with the right idea.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You'll want to get through a project that is weighing you down. Only by throwing yourself into the situation will you know which direction to head in.

Elder assessment not always welcome

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: When my late father was ill, I always appreciated hearing comments from friends who visited Dad, since I didn't live with him.

It helped me adjust the level of care and change what I did for him.

I've had two occasions where I have noticed some concerning things about the parents of two of my friends. I shared my observations with these friends, and both did not receive it very well.

Mostly they were shocked to find out their parents were exhibiting odd behavior or had such strong dementia they could be a driving hazard.

I truly felt that I was helping the greater good by mentioning to their families what I had noticed, or been told, or experienced. I was kind and factual.

One friend has stopped speaking to me, and the second one cooled our long friendship.

In the future, I honestly don't know what to do.

Concerned in Calif.

Concerned in Calif.: You mention passing along things you "had noticed, or been told, or experienced."

There is a big difference between reporting something you have personally observed vs. something you have been told. In the first case, you are a first-person witness. In the second, you are a gossip.

You should reexamine how you are delivering this news. Being kind and factual is great. But you should start by preparing the person for the news by demonstrating that you understand how challenging it can be to receive it.

For example: "When my father was becoming more frail, I really appreciated learning what other people observed when they saw him. Sometimes it was hard, because I wasn't there to see for myself. I just visited with your dad and noticed some things. Do you want me to share this with you?"

The person may not be prepared in that moment to talk about it, but might later. Offer assurances: "I just want you to know, I've been there. I know it's hard."

Dear Amy: I read the letter from "Anxious," the grandmother who wants to avoid her son's ex-wife at her granddaughter's events.

I am on the receiving end of this.

I divorced my husband after 12 years of marriage, and his mother glares at me, refuses to speak to me and is downright rude.

My daughter says that she thinks her grandmother hates me, and it makes her very sad.

In fact, my daughter has started to attend therapy for this (and other reasons).

Please don't snub the mother. You don't have to be friends, just cordial. Children see everything.

Snubbed

Snubbed: Thank you for offering your personal experience regarding how adversely this treatment affects a child. I hope things improve for your family.

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

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