

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Haikudos: The 'punku' of Week 1213

BY PAT MYERS

**Week 1213** was a simple concept: Write a haiku — for our purposes, anything with three lines and 5-7-5 syllables — that incorporated a pun (or at least a word used two ways). Punku. The subject matter could be anything, but to judge from the majority of entries, the Loser Community still needed to vent about Our Nation.

With notable exceptions, the week's political haiku outshone the rest, many of which were simply old (if funny) jokes in 17 syllables, e.g., "Elevator sex/ Something completely wrong on/ So many levels."

Shortly after posting this contest four weeks ago, the Empress heard from Demi Newell, who'd created the Twitter hashtag #punku in 2014; she can be followed at @DemiNewell.

4th place

Rich straight white men rule. Looks like America's been Grabbed by the passe. (Seth Tucker, Washington)

3rd place

Ollie the bobcat Broke out of her enclosure. That's a fel-in-e. (Dave Silberstein, College Park)

2nd place and the cool Death Star night light:

Liz Warren stifled From reading Ms. King's letter — In-Coretta-ble! (Bruce Niedt, Cherry Hill, N.J.)

And the winner of the Ink in' Memorial:

"The Bowling Green Mass" Is what I call it, because It didn't -acre. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

Hacku: honorable mentions

The dishonest press Says I banned a religion! I should muzzle 'em! (Homeira Ghorbani, Washington)

The Christian Right prays For the NRA: "Blessed Are the piecemakers." (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

"It's fake news, FAKE NEWS!" Don cries and sighs. "The press lies!" He pronounced "prez" wrong. (Kevin Mettinger, Warrenton, Va.)

Both Spicer's fashion And card sense stank — he followed Trump in the wrong suit. (Mark Pomponi, Ellicott City, Md., a First Offender)

Extreme vetting is Reaching shoulder deep into The butt of a cow. (Jesse Frankovich)

Story's a bust! Trump Didn't hide King's statue — jeez! (Though it whispered, "Please?") (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Wanted to find God, To be filled with holiness. Tried acupuncture. (Pete Morelewicz, Fredericksburg, Va.)

Good Old Boys' Network, Consider yourself Warred: We shall all persist. (Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

To defend your boss, Just cite "alternative facts." Do it the Conway. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Kellyanne Conway Watched her favorite film last night. It's "The Lyin' King." (Doug Wadler, Potomac)

So much vile discourse. Perhaps President Trump should Try Bannon-free speech. (Seth Tucker)

Homer caught his son idolizing Steve Bannon: "Not very bright, Bart!" (Kevin Mettinger)

If Kingsley, Kendrick Married, then separated: A Ben-Anna split. (Leslie Horne, Greenbelt)

He is on Twitter Every night at 3 a.m. A clockwork orange. (Jesse Frankovich)

The Senate vets Trump's Nominees: Another day, Another dullard. (Chris Doyle)

Utah coffins made For the naked and the dead By Mormon Nailor. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Week 1217: Mergers you wrote Combine two businesses with puns

Cooking institute/ journalism school: Baste On! A True Story (Jane Auerbach)

Doughnuts/ Jacuzzis: Beignet and the Jets (Andrew Hoening)

Petting zoo/ bellsmith: A Ram, a Lamb, a Ding-Dong (Elliott Schiff)

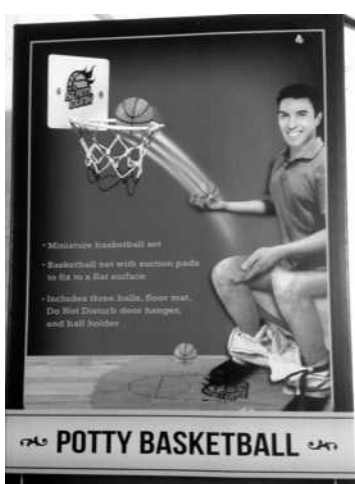
Here's a contest we've done only once before — 12 years ago. The 2005 results were classic, and the Empress is optimistic that there's lot more wordplay fodder out there. **This week: Give a clever name to a combination of two or more businesses**, as in the examples above from Week 641. See the 2005 results in this week's Style Conversational column at [bit.ly/conv1217](http://bit.ly/conv1217); not only are they fabulous puns, but they'll show you which jokes won't be eligible this time around.

Submit entries at this website: [bit.ly/enter-invite-1217](http://bit.ly/enter-invite-1217) (all lowercase).

**Winner gets the Ink in' Memorial**, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a Potty Basketball game, which includes a little wall-mounted hoop, three mini-balls, a court-motif floor mat, and that all-important Do Not Disturb sign. This prize may well suit those Losers not musically adept enough for last week's prize, the Toilet Tunes electronic mat. Donated, brand-new, by Loser Steven Steele Cawman, who got it from Bed Bath & Beyond, presumably in the Beyond department.

**Other runners-up** win the yearned-for "This Is Your Brain on Mugs" Loser mug or our Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Lunmanship." Honorable mentions get one of our new 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, March 13; results published April 2 (online March 30). See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline for this week's results was sent by both Chris Doyle and Tom Witte; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Jeff Contompasis. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](http://on.fb.me/invdev). "Like" Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](http://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).



How better to practice your dribbling than with the Potty Basketball game?

This past November Two paths diverged in a wood. We chose psycho path. (Kathy El-Assal, Middleton, Wis.)

Hair-raising era, For sure, but take heart: Never Do Cheetos prosper. (Ann Martin, Falls Church)

Why invite the strife Of a husband or a wife? Don't altar your life. (Max Gutmann, Cupertino, Calif.)

Spokesman Sean Spicer Set the time for his briefing: It's at Truth-Hurry. (Doug Wadler)

If flowers stand for Love, why then is every bloom Armed with a pistil? (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

If you've got a job At Customs Enforcement, you'll Need a heart of ICE. (Duncan Stevens)

He Bought the Farm Farmer Brown, he drowned, Corpse stuck in the manure pit, Forever in turd. (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

Frederick Douglass is

Even greater now than when he was dead. Thanks, Trump! (Frank Osen)

Anthony Weiner And Trump both get in trouble Sending out edicts. (Seth Tucker)

Hail and Farewell "I'm the Grim Reaper. It's midnight. Time's up at noon. So halve a nice day!" (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Thank goodness we have Judicial balances to Issue a reign check. (Jesse Frankovich)

Oh, snap, Steve Bannon! You've got white supremacists Rolling in the heels. (Chris Doyle)

A vegan mess hall? Army cooks serve soy patties? Call it TOFUBAR. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

How low can he go? Trump's focus is not on high, It's in debasement. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Morning joe wrecked by Civet disobedience: It pooped decaf beans. (Pete Morelewicz)

I Came, I Saw . . . Oops! Caesar misconstrued What the soothsayer had said: "Flee market today." (Beverly Sharp)

Impersonating Groucho Marx, Bob had the right Clothes, but no cigar. (Leslie Horne)

Now this can get ink! I bowdlerized the bad words — It's in-f-able. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Still running — deadline Monday night, March 6: Our contest for new words you can discover in a word-search grid. See [bit.ly/invite1216](http://bit.ly/invite1216).

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

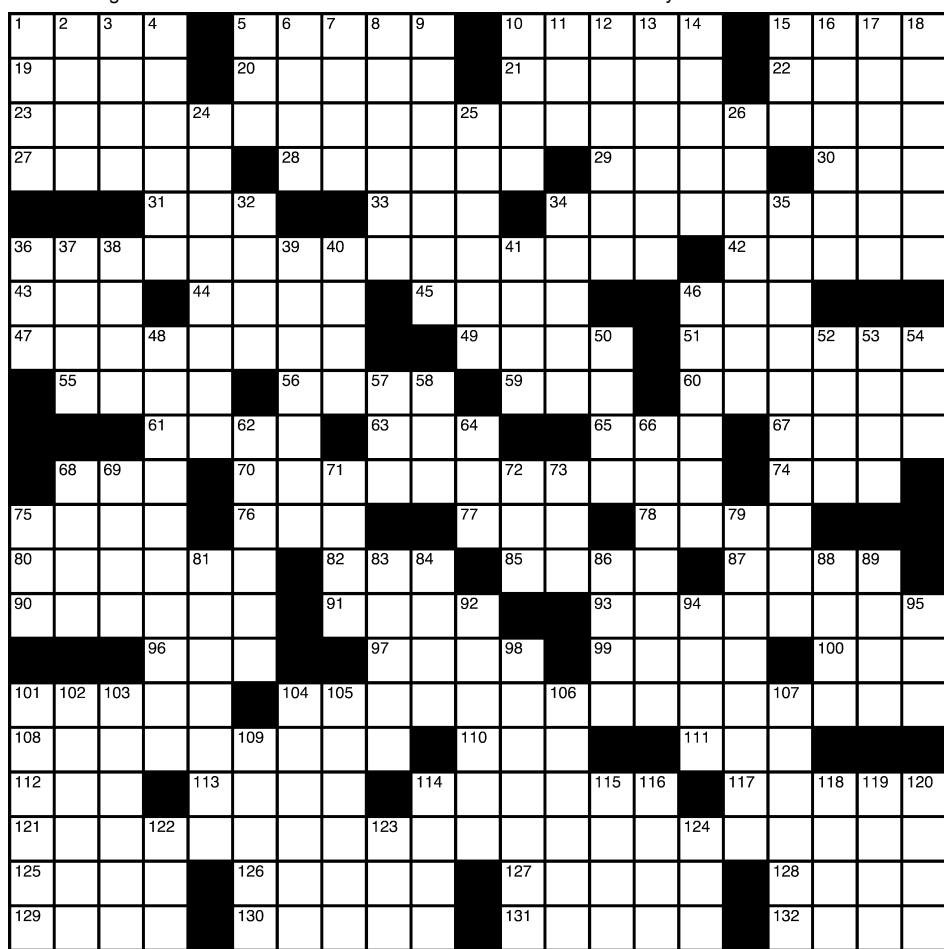
IN OTHER WORDS™ BY JIM HOLLAND

ACROSS

- 1 For every one
- 5 Attempts
- 10 Asian vine leaf
- 15 Came down to earth
- 19 Cadenza, e.g.
- 20 Kidney-related
- 21 Together
- 22 Suvari of "American Beauty"
- 23 At center stage, literally
- 27 Pond buildup
- 28 Talk about incessantly
- 29 Floor-length garment
- 30 Asian New Year
- 31 Lao Tzu principle
- 33 Apple core, for short?
- 34 Chopin work
- 36 Start the day cheerfully, literally
- 42 Numskulls
- 43 Rock's — Lobos
- 44 Start a pot
- 45 Tazo offerings
- 46 CPO's org.
- 47 Links transport
- 49 Smart Simpson
- 51 Made out
- 55 Milne character
- 56 Elevator innovator
- 59 Pic source
- 60 "A Streetcar Named Desire" wife
- 61 Gather
- 63 Collar
- 65 "What's the ?"
- 67 Withdraw by degrees
- 68 Track runner, to a tout
- 70 Stinging rebuke, literally
- 74 Farm house dweller
- 75 Get into shape, with "up"
- 76 "Not \_\_\_ long shot"
- 77 Gob
- 78 Start to freeze?
- 80 1956 Triple Crown winner
- 82 Pampering place
- 85 Linguist Chomsky
- 87 Logician Turing
- 90 Rubs the wrong way

DOWN

- 1 Movie role played by Skippy
- 2 Sci-fi writer
- 3 Now and then, literally
- 4 Off-fried food
- 5 Indian title of respect
- 6 High-\_\_\_
- 7 "Diana" singer
- 8 Tinker Bell's creator
- 9 Make a subtle exit
- 10 German road
- 11 Approx. repair cost
- 12 Oh so very
- 13 Surround
- 14 Release
- 15 Pal of Pierre
- 16 Soup bean
- 17 Swallow
- 18 Preferences
- 24 Annoying situation
- 25 Mark, for one
- 26 Office phone unit
- 32 "\_\_\_ piece of the rock": Prudential slogan
- 34 Support for the sheriff
- 35 Now and then, literally
- 36 Subj. with x's
- 37 Yucky stuff
- 38 Nobel Peace Prize city
- 39 Degenerate from disuse
- 40 Toon flapper
- 41 Primary
- 46 Hidden
- 48 Pay no admission price, literally
- 50 Rio contents
- 52 "Red Balloon" painter
- 53 Dash
- 54 Blocker of "Bonanza"
- 57 Elite group
- 58 '40s-'50s pitcher Maglie
- 62 Ideally
- 64 Cricket club
- 66 Brooklyn Bridge seller, say
- 68 First captain?
- 69 Vogue editor-in-chief Dame \_\_\_
- 71 Bridge position
- 72 Mythical flutist
- 73 Back again
- 75 Film watcher's channel
- 79 (Has) come down with something
- 81 Causes
- 83 San Diego player
- 84 \_\_\_ code
- 86 Little helper?
- 88 "Yeah, right!"
- 89 Art class subject
- 92 Show up
- 94 Word with hygiene or history
- 95 Two more than an eagle
- 98 Disgust
- 101 "The Name of the Rose" actor
- 102 American sparrow relative
- 103 Citation and Corsair
- 104 Stir up
- 105 Toddler's outfit
- 106 Academic security
- 107 Parts of kettles
- 109 Inquisitor \_\_\_ de Torquemada
- 114 "Moonstruck" Oscar winner
- 115 Arch style
- 116 Sound of a flop
- 118 Train station
- 119 Stocking shade
- 120 Wood finisher?
- 122 Chicago winter hrs.
- 123 "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" monogram
- 124 Burnable media



3/5/17 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2017 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

**New crossword:** On March 1 we began publishing the L.A. Times crossword puzzle in the daily Style and Sunday Arts & Style sections.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY|March 5:** You often feel tense about family matters and need to spend extra time working through these issues. You have high energy, and you take your career very seriously. If you are single, someone you meet could be very special. If you are attached, the two of you become more content with your domestic life together. You and your sweetie appreciate each other's company even more. Gemini always has a different idea, plan or solution.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Note your thoughts when you wake up, as your dream life has been very active as of late. People seem to reach out to you early in the day, which makes you smile. Whatever your plans are, they seem to evolve into a social event.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) You appreciate quality, which can hurt your wallet if you are not careful. You will have a good time shopping, as long as you use self-discipline.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) Keep conversations light, but know that a friend could need some advice. Whether you're visiting with a group of friends or dealing with a difficult situation, your goodwill comes through.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) You might be reflecting on a conversation or simply need some personal time. Make sure you set aside special time just for you, or else you will feel pressured. Get into a home project or opt for a nap.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) You can't avoid making a call to someone who is in distress. Plan on meeting this person at a favorite outdoor spot; the two of you have a lot of news to catch up on.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You respond to a request from an older friend or relative. Understand that you might need to do something that involves a work or community event. A partner seems to push you in a certain direction.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Reach out for more information. Detach from the situation at hand, and you'll gain a new perspective. A family member, or perhaps even your pet, is likely to become demanding if left alone for too long.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Sometimes kicking back and letting others make the first move pleases you. You will gain more understanding about each person and where they are coming from. Your sense of humor emerges when a family member does the unexpected.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Defer to someone else. This person will be very pleased about taking care of the plans and following through on a matter that is important to both of you. Touch base with a relative or friend whom you rarely speak to but think of often.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Be careful around a family member who seems overly agitated at the

moment, as they easily could misdirect their energy at you. You also can reverse this negativity if you so choose. Consider how you can change your role in a volatile situation.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You could be delighted by a loved one's sentiments. What this person offers you is the space to be as vulnerable as possible. A friend's anger could emerge from out of the blue. Know that you might not be the cause, and avoid being reactive.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) Stay close to home and devote your time to a roommate or family member. Both of you could benefit from stepping away from your very demanding schedules.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

