

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Double quipping: 2017 retrospective I

BY PAT MYERS

In Part 1 of a two-week tour through the past year, in Week 1257 the Empress invited readers to submit (or resubmit) entries to the varied contests from Week 1203 through Week 1229 (November 2016-May 2017). For contests that relied on that week's newspapers, we used current ones this time around. And the subject matter for any of the contests could be made more timely — as you'll see.

4th place

Week 1213, a haiku that includes a pun: Moore: "I just can't lose — Alabamans, they love me!" Turns out they dug Jones. (Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

3rd place

Week 1215, "X is so Y" jokes: Trump hotel yoga studios are so loyal, they play "Hail to the Chief" when classes do down-dogs. (Dottie Gray, Alexandria)

2nd place and the various novelty snacks:

Week 1214, a sentence or more using only words from Trump's inaugural address: "The forgotten men and women of our country will be forgotten no longer! I speak of wealthy people, flush with cash in the tens of millions. They will be enriched at the expense of the little people! And that is so great!! (William Kennard, Arlington)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Week 1218, bank headlines: Real Post headline: Yellen leaves a solid legacy at the Fed. Ousted chairwoman spotted walking briskly from burning paper bag at front door (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park)

No can do-over: Honorable mentions

Week 1204, hopeful thoughts for a never-Trumper: For stargazers on the West Coast, there's nothing so bright as a North Korean rocket! (Daniel Helming, Maplewood, N.J.)

Week 1207, new clues for words in a crossword: ITSATRAP: Experienced husband's thought upon hearing, "Do I sound like my mother?" (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

Week 1208, poems about people who died in 2016: At Henry Heimlich's funeral, The mourners were asked, "Please: When filing past his coffin, Do not give him a squeeze." (Mark Raffan, Reston, Va.)

Week 1209, false trivia about inventions: The modern hospital bears little resemblance to its predecessor, the "house of spittle," which was reserved exclusively for patients with consumption. (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

Week 1210, tweets that trash-talk historical figures: @LuckyLindy flies transatlantic alone and he's a hero. Try it with two cranky toddlers, then tell me how hard you had it, Chuck. (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church, Va.)

Week 1211, tweets that trash-talk historical figures: @NapoleonB bragging about Waterloo win? Soon he'll be a Waterloser!! Keep an eye out for Bonaparte's retweet! (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Week 1212, neologisms from ScrabbleGrams 'racks': BDELOTU -> LOBUT: Easy yoga position. (Kyle Hendrickson, Frederick, Md.)

Week 1213, haiku with a pun: Donald's a yes-man, Allowing Vladimir to Work without a nyet. (Chris Doyle)

Week 1214, using words in Trump's inaugural address: "Forgot your miseries! The pleasant flush of the behind, to free trapped movement with grateful success, will restore your spirit. Same as I do." (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

Week 1215, joint businesses: Hairstyling school upstairs from a mortuary: You Can Do It over My Dead Body (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va)

Week 1216, using words in Trump's inaugural address: "Local Hero x Convict Pike = Hoagie Pokey (Danielle Nowlin)

Week 1217, joint businesses: Tea garden/ employee pension counselor: Chai and Retiring (Chris Doyle)

Week 1218, bank heads: Real ad: Fresh cut neck bones 79 cents/lb. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Week 1219, "lik the bred" poems: My name is Kirk, with many fans But I don't like this team of Dan's. I'll soon play for a team that wins: My contract done, I'll shed the Skins. (Mark Raffan, Reston)

Week 1220, pedantry: The singular form of "cannoli" is "cannolo." The reason for the



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Week 1261: Post mortems — our annual obit poem contest

Y.A. Tittle died last year And one thing's surely certain: He's history's most famous guy Whose first name was Yelberton.

Yay, we made it to 2018! Well, er, we did. And as inevitably as taxes (reformed or un-) comes The Style Invitational's annual top-of-the-year contest: Write a humorous poem of no longer than eight lines about someone who died in 2017, as in the example above by Washington Post Official Joke Poet and Pathetically Obsessive New York Giants Fan Gene Weingarten. You can find many lists of the latest retirees to the Heaven Belt — including many little-known but interesting people — Googling "deaths 2017" (without quotes). As always with our obit poems, cleverness doesn't mean cruelty; don't express joy over someone's death or predict a trip to the underworld because his movies were stupid or she voted the wrong way (though you may vilify Charles Manson however you like).

Your poem isn't required to rhyme, but the Empress happens to have chosen rhyming verses in all 15 of her previous obit poetry contests. Still, if you have, say, a fabulously clever, spot-on haiku, send it.

Submit up to 25 poems at the website wapo.st/enter-invite-1261 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our new Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives, somewhat apropos of this contest, a pair of stretchy low-rise socks with a foot-X-ray skeleton design.

Other runners-up win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Punmanship." Honorable mentions get one of our 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, Jan. 15; results published Feb. 4 (online Feb. 1). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Tom Witte; Chris Doyle wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. "Like" 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.



WISH.COM

Dem bones can be yours if you just miss winning this contest.

Rings no telephone. — J. Foxworthy (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

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obscurity of the latter is that no sane person would ever have just one cannolo. (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

Week 1221, the child of any two people: The child of Thomas Edison and Jenny McCarthy would go on to invent the electric dim bulb. (Jeff Contompassis, Ashburn, Va.)

The child of Martin Yan and Christiaan Barnard would find herself between a wok and a heart place. (Mae Scanlan)

The child of Ben Carson and Pat Sajak would be asleep at the Wheel. (Jesse Frankovich)

Week 1222, "breed" two real racehorses and name the "foal": Local Hero x Convict Pike = Hoagie Pokey (Danielle Nowlin)

American Anthem x Takeoff = Stars and Strips (David Garratt, Silver City, N.M.)

Classic Rock x Sonneteer = Lynyrd Cohyn (Dave Matuskey, Sacramento)

Week 1226, "grandfoals" from breeding Week 1222 winners: Chinese Checkers x Congrats, Loser = You Look Marblesless (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

Week 1228, "secret inspirations" for movie titles: "Of Thee I Sing": Michael Flynn (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

"Doctor Dolittle": Ben Carson (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Week 1229, alphabet couplets: C is for Copulate — meld thigh-to-thigh; D's for the Diapers you'll soon need to buy. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

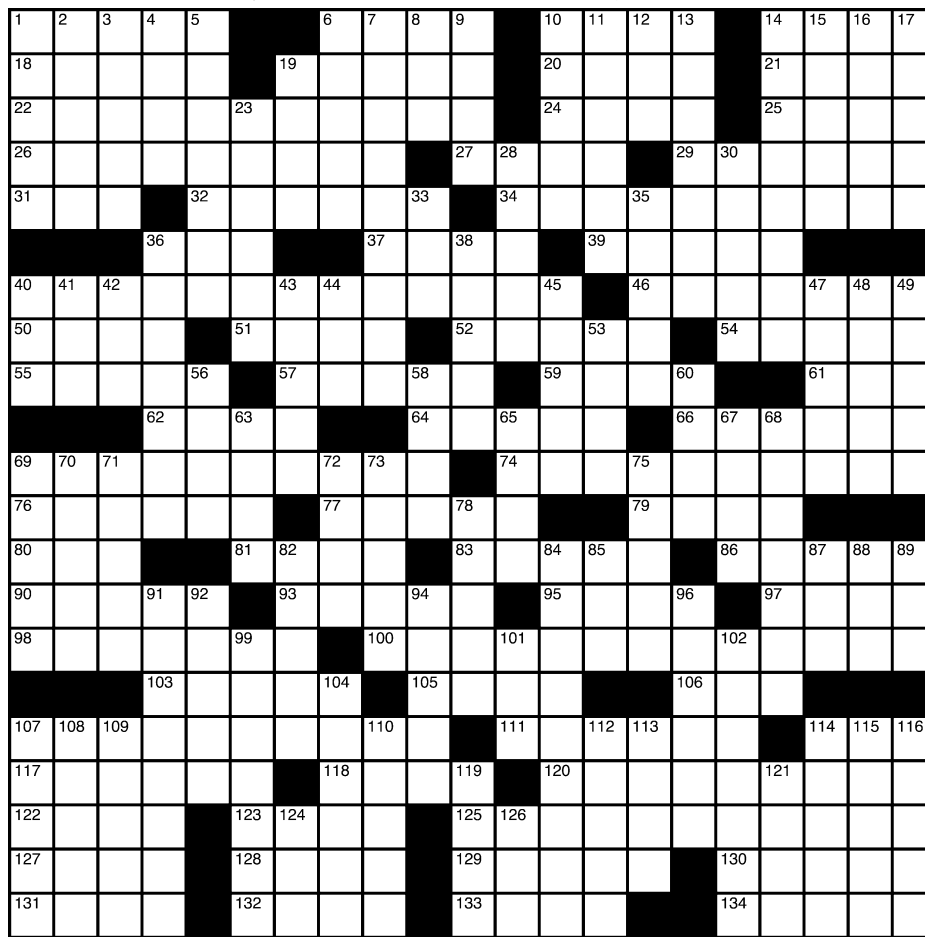
More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1261.

Still running — deadline Monday night, Jan. 8: our contest for "year in preview" events of 2018. See wapo.st/invite1260.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- "ACCORDING TO YOUR RESUME" BY PANCHO HARRISON
ACROSS
1 Join the cast of
6 Apt. listing unit
10 Golden
14 Biblical verb
18 Bara of the silents
19 Exonerate
20 Judicious
21 Sundance's sweetie
22 "...you've repaired planes for civilian pilots, but can you _?"
24 One guilty of disorderly conduct?
25 Slightly
26 Quasimodo's love
27 Trendy greeting
29 "The Optimist's Daughter" Pulitzer winner
31 Biblical beast
32 Some Miles Davis groups
34 "...you've made indie films, but can you _?"
36 Govt. loan agency
37 Web page standard
39 Game show host
40 "...you've made decorative bowls, but can you _?"
46 Lightweight hats
50 It may be restricted
51 Artsy Manhattan neighborhood
52 Latin clarifier
54 Desert trial
55 Derring-do, e.g.
57 Disciplined, in a way
59 Many a Prado painting
61 Windy City rail initials
62 Longtime Pro Bowl site
64 Closer's stat
66 B vitamin used to treat high cholesterol
69 "...you've conned small-time dealers with your forgeries, but can you _?"
74 "...you've monitored planets with your telescope, but can you _?"
76 Sparkly strands
77 Rhone tributary
79 Standstill
122 Actress Delany
123 "Oh, nuts!"
125 "...you've written non-theatrical prose, but can you _?"
127 Spellbound
128 Early role for Ronny
129 Takes the Black Friday plunge
130 Sorbonne
131 Melanie's "Working Girl" role
132 Drive, for one
133 Catch a glimpse of
134 Pittsburgh product
DOWN
1 Between ports
2 Fischer's forte
3 Contract conditions
40 Hula hoops, say
41 "...we good?"
42 Spot
43 Party-pooperish
44 Honor society letter
45 "Turn the Page" rocker
8 Actress Charlotte
9 "Happy Days" mom, to Fonzie
10 Very, in music
11 In quantity
12 Id controller
13 The first Mrs. de Winter, in fiction
14 Tie
15 10th-century emperor
16 Get cracking
17 "Yay me!" shouts
19 Breton or Gael
23 Chocolate trees
28 Was in a jam?
30 Sch. in Knoxville
33 Penn, e.g.: Abbr.
35 Insincere, as a promise
36 Sunny-day shapes
38 Crete's highest elev.
40 Hula hoops, say
41 "...we good?"
42 Spot
43 Party-pooperish
44 Honor society letter
45 "Turn the Page" rocker
47 Hajji's destination
48 Up and at 'em
49 Kenton and Getz
53 Cubs' all-time home run champ
56 Burglar's challenge
58 Exon, formerly "Diana" singer
60 Prefix with port
65 Powerful engine
67 Man, but not woman
68 Swears to Rubberneck
70 Spock portrayer
71 Well-timed
72 Forensic detectives, for short
73 Take the loss
75 Chintzy
78 Like Willie Nelson vocals
82 Indian title
84 Michael Jackson compilation album
85 Many OCS grads
87 Salmon-to-be
88 Discount abbr.
89 Some "X-Files" characters
91 Fancy threads
92 Oscar winner
94 Unrefined
96 Remote
99 Iditarod team member
101 Winter Games org.
102 Grapples
104 Whence Asian
107 Went after
108 Saw
109 Taboos
110 NFL commissioner
112 Flanders Fields flower
113 Beethoven's fifths?
114 Beneficiary
115 Naproxen brand
116 Ford finned flop
119 In...: existing
121 Snazzy coating
124 Barbary beast
126 Hesitant speaker's sounds



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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Jan. 7: This year, you express a newfound charm, which makes it difficult for others to say no to you. You tend to be the ever-practical Capricorn, and will use this gift to the max. If you are single, dating is not a problem. During this process, you are likely to meet someone of significance. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy your social life more and more. You also will have a reason to celebrate this year, as you take a major step together as a couple. Libra knows how to make you relax.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You could feel as though someone is raining on your parade. Perhaps this person is an elder who has strong opinions. Remain confident, although you might want to ask yourself why you would take this person's judgments to heart.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your sense of direction forces you to head in a different direction from what you had anticipated. You see a venture in a very different light. A restriction could appear at the last minute. Still, do your best to move forward.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Reach out to a loved one. When you are with this person, your creativity seems to go up several notches. Together, you come up with some wild yet doable ideas. Be willing to try a new pastime or a different place.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You could be more easygoing than you realize, especially with others who seem to be acting out. You understand what is happening. Emphasize the quality of your domestic life. You might want to make an early Sunday dinner for some friends.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Make an effort to call a friend whom you have not had time to visit with over the holidays. Of course, your call will be appreciated, even if this person doesn't sound grateful. Make plans with a loved one to get together for a fun happening.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Be aware of a tendency to splurge and cause yourself unnecessary problems. How you handle a difficult situation could change, depending on what you have planned to do. A movie might be the perfect outing for you and a close loved one.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You could be pushing yourself way too hard. Sometimes slowing down seems difficult, but it is necessary. A family member might need some extra attention from you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Reach out to a loved one whom you have not seen in a while. As a result, both of you will be happier. Listen to a friend who is a confidant, and share some important news. Figure out how to incorporate this information into your life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Your high energy attracts a lot of people. Friends and family surround you. Your popularity is undeniable and seems to be the cause of the expansion of your inner circle. You might feel as though you are not as financially secure as you might like.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Others wonder why you have become so busy and serious-minded as of late. Responsibilities seem to carry a heavy weight in your life. Be sensitive to the alternatives regarding a work-related issue.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You seem more able to disconnect from a volatile issue than usual. Once you do, you'll understand what is bothering you. Try to identify with each person; you will see a resolution once you do.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) One-on-one relating could affect your finances, as well as your attitude toward a partner. You might feel as though this person is being selfish or not as generous in their dealings with you. Ask yourself whether this is a phase or a long-term issue.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



12/31/17