

# DIVERSIONS

## THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

# To err is humor: Wrong trivia answers

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1285** the Empress asked for a typical trivia question accompanied by a humorously wrong answer.

### 4th place

**Q: Centuries before it became traditional, Archduke Maximilian of Austria became the first recorded person to give what to his bride-to-be?**

*Correct:* A diamond engagement ring.

*Bad guess:* Chlamydia. (Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

### 3rd place

**Q: What color are Smurfs?**

*Correct:* Blue.

*Wrong:* Red, after they've been steamed. (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

**2nd place and the horrible golf tees shaped like women's bodies:**

**Q: Which North American mammal nests in other mammals' bedding?**

*Correct:* The short-tailed weasel.

*So wrong:* Scott Pruitt. (Well, actually . . .) (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

**And the winner of the Lose Cannon:**

**Q: Where does the expression "Hasta la vista, baby" come from?**

*Correct:* The movie "Terminator 2."

*Wrong guess:* The Spanish proficiency test for ICE agents? (Howard Walderman, Columbia, Md.)

**The alt-wrong: Honorable mentions**

**Q: The NFL recently announced that what action will incur a penalty?**

*Correct:* Hitting with the helmet. *Guess:* Offending Donald Trump? (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

**Q: Au is the symbol for what chemical element?**

*Correct:* Gold. *Incorrect:* Cutekittium. (Dan Helming, Maplewood, N.J.)

**Q: And which element is Pb?**

*Correct:* Lead. *Guess:* Peanut butter? (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

**Q: What fabled angry little troll would take away your firstborn child if you couldn't guess his name?**

*Correct:* Rumpelstiltskin. *So wrong:* Jeff Sessions? (Todd DeLap, Fairfax)

**Q: Cheddar cheese originated in which country?**

*Correct:* England. *Guess:* Kraftghanistan? (Tom Witte)

**Q: What is the only Division I college team to take its nickname from a U.S. politician?**

*Correct:* The Austin Peay Governors. *Incorrect:* The Syracuse Orange. (Gregory Koch, Falls Church)

**Q: What state was named for one Thomas West?**

*Nope:* West Virginia? *Correct:* Delaware: West was Baron de la Warr. (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

**Q: In response to current events, this business recently changed its name, removing any reference to its founder.**

*Correct:* Trump SoHo Hotel. *Wrong:* Edward Coli Lettuce Farms. (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

**Q: During a Passover Seder, what is traditionally said regarding strangers who are poor and have no place to go?**

*Correct:* "Let all who are hungry come and eat!"

*NOT correct:* "WOMP, WOMP."

(Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

**Q: Per a recent fad, what "spy" is placed inside a house, reporting back to Santa on who has been naughty and nice?**

*Correct:* The Elf on the Shelf. *Guess:* Alexa? (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

**Q: Who famously said, "I never met a man I didn't like"?**

*Correct:* Will Rogers. *Incorrect:* Hannibal Lecter. (Mark Raffan, Reston)

**Q: The band Imagine Dragons claims its name is an anagram. Which one did the group most likely have in mind?**

*Most likely:* Raging Mad Noise. *Least likely:* Gonad Migraines. (Jeff



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## New contest for Week 1289: Fake gnu: Bogus animal trivia

**In the Southern Hemisphere, a falling cat always lands on its back.** (Bob Mulvaney)

**Bats urinate only while perched upside down. The noxious odor coats their bodies with a scent that repels predators.** (Patrick Mattimore)

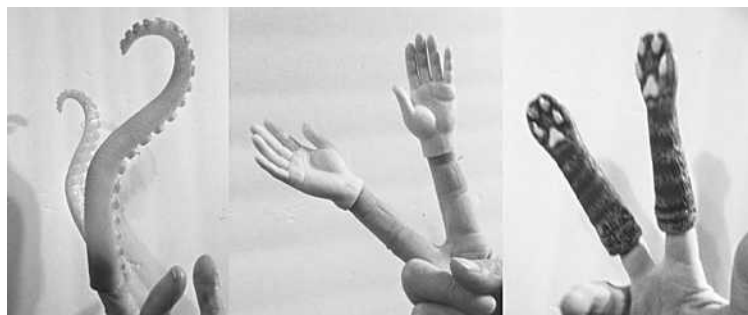
**Director Chuck Jones based the Porky Pig character on a real stuttering pig his parents once owned.** (Brendan Beary)

This week's results got the Empress in the mood for another call for totally bogus trivia. **This week: Tell us a fictoid — a humorously false "fact" — about the nonhuman animal kingdom**, as in the examples above; all of them were inking entries in our first, general fictoid contest, Week 702 back in 2007. (Amazingly, a full 11 years later, each of them is still untrue, as far as we know.)

Submit entries at the website [wapo.st/enter-invite-1289](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1289) (all lowercase). Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a triple-pack of **Useless but Nifty Paired Animal-Appendage Finger Ornaments** — tentacles, cat paws, and human hands — donated by Loser Ann Martin. Plus one **Elephant Trunk Finger Ornament**, from Inge Ashley.

**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, "We've Seen Better" or "Idiot Card." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, July 30**; results published Aug. 19 (online Aug. 16). See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline "To Err Is Humor" is by Jesse Frankovich; Kevin Dopart wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. 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).



PAT MYERS/THE WASHINGTON POST

**The second-place liar about animals gets all these pairs of appendages plus a finger-elephant-trunk ornament.**

Contompasis, Ashburn)

**Q: The Bill of Rights is composed of how many amendments?**

*Correct:* Ten. *So wrong:* One: the Second. — D.J.T. (William Kennard, Arlington)

**Q: What does the acronym NASA stand for?**

*Correct:* The National Aeronautics and Space Administration. *Incorrect:* Not, Apparently, a Space Agency (Dan Helming)

**Q: What renowned theater figure said, "There are no small parts, only small actors"?**

*Correct:* Konstantin Stanislavski. *Oh, no:* Peter Dinklage. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

**Q: Who was the lead of the pop group Spanky and Our Gang?**

*Correct:* Elaine McFarlane. *Wrong:* Stormy Daniels. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

**Q: Where is Mount Rushmore?**

*Correct:* South Dakota. *Guess:* New York City? (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

**Q: On what date did the South surrender?**

*Correct:* April 9, 1865 *Alternative answer:* It did? (Ira Allen, Bethesda)

**Q: In "Of Mice and Men," what California man wants only to pet bunnies?**

*Correct:* Lennie. *Not at all correct:* Hugh Hefner? (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg)

**Q: An ancient-alien theorist is a**

**person who believes what?**

*Correct:* That extraterrestrials helped humankind to develop civilization.

*Alternative answer:* Anything. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

**Q: What was Richard M. Nixon's middle name?**

*Correct:* Milhous. *Noooo:* Madhous. (Dinah Rokach, Silver Spring)

**Q: Who composed the Minute Waltz?**

*Correct:* Frédéric Chopin. *Guess:* George Minute? (Tom Witte)

**Q: What is the heaviest naturally occurring substance found on Earth?**

*Correct:* Uranium. *Guess:* Urmama? (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

**Q: What 10th-century Buddhist text established the line of succession of Dalai Lamas?**

*Correct:* The Book of Kadam. *Guess:* "Children of a Lhasa God"? (Chris Doyle)

**Q: What is the slogan of Melania Trump's public-service campaign?**

*Correct:* "Be best." *So wrong:* "Be best." (Lisbeth McCarty, Norman, Okla., a First Offender)

**Still running — both deadlined Monday night, July 23: Song parodies about the news ([wapo.st/invite1287](http://wapo.st/invite1287)); and Disclaimers and product warnings ([wapo.st/invite1288](http://wapo.st/invite1288)).**

## L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

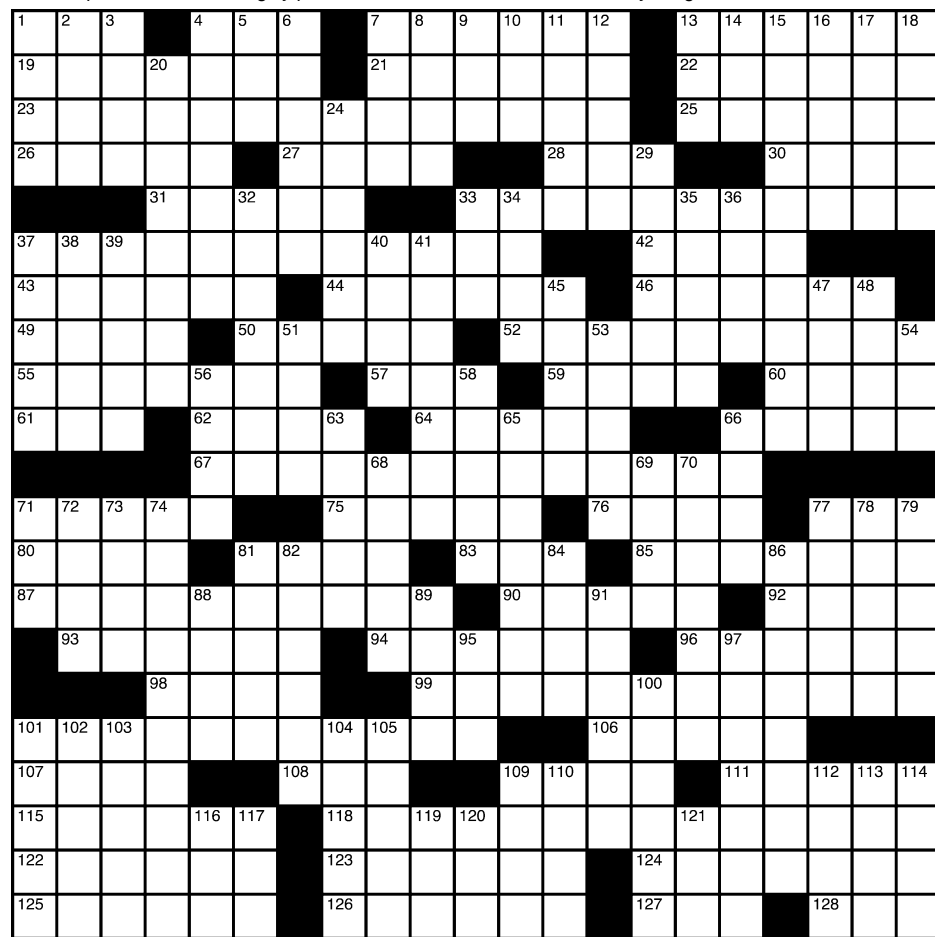
**"ANTICS" By ROGER and KATHY WIENBERG**

### ACROSS

- 1 Crunch beneficiaries
- 4 Agnus
- 7 Rustic dwelling
- 13 Using a passport, say
- 19 Newman song that mentions Santa Ana
- 21 Decisive point
- 22 Persuasive sort
- 23 Polite but unyielding statement?
- 25 Stimulate
- 26 Petroleum source
- 27 Legendary rock guitarist
- 28 2018 Pyeongchang org.
- 30 Author Ferber
- 31 Bolt of lightning?
- 33 Caulking crew?
- 37 Building where things are taken back?
- 42 Within reach
- 43 How some dares are made
- 44 Major arteries
- 46 Impressive groupings
- 49 Seed cover
- 50 Filer's choice
- 52 Sign on an available boutique?
- 55 Braun competitor
- 57 Director DuVernay
- 59 Comply
- 60 Joint for jumping
- 61 \_\_\_-Cat
- 62 "Yikes!"
- 64 Empathetic comment
- 66 More than wondered
- 67 Serf surrounded by whales?
- 71 Leaves painfully
- 75 Wonder's "My Cherie \_\_\_"
- 76 \_\_\_ game
- 77 Chemicals giant
- 80 Colorful fish
- 81 Levee
- 83 Org. that often strikes
- 85 Holiday candle holder
- 87 Fort Bragg lodger?
- 90 Crèche figure
- 92 Swelter

### DOWN

- 1 Zeros in
- 2 Uninspired
- 3 Common mixer
- 4 Land adjoining a manor house
- 5 Wearer of a "Y" sweatshirt
- 6 Like most sonnets
- 7 "High Voltage" band
- 8 Criticism
- 9 Canyon part
- 10 Doc bloc
- 11 Wrestle suffix
- 12 Laud
- 13 Untouched serve
- 14 A penalty may be served in one
- 15 Triple Crown venues
- 16 Rust, for example
- 17 Insurance giant
- 18 Fantasy
- 20 Highly prized
- 24 Defender of Troy
- 29 Cocktail hour nibble
- 32 Embassy employee
- 33 Arrange dinnerware on
- 34 Time spans
- 35 Brazen
- 36 Fictional Civil War novel setting
- 37 Colorful horses
- 38 Ill-fated Houston company
- 39 Capital on the Nile
- 40 Mardi Gras acronym
- 41 Two-time British Open champ
- 45 Fleeced
- 47 Civil War soldier
- 48 Dagger of yore
- 51 New Rochelle campus
- 53 Caribbean sorcery
- 54 Fictional newsman
- 56 Cuts short
- 58 Cause trouble
- 63 Japanese seaport
- 65 Shot that misses everything
- 66 Gulf between Yemen and Somalia
- 68 Tweak, perhaps
- 69 Apple or pear
- 70 Dishes from a "station"
- 71 Assignment
- 72 Tech debut of 2010
- 73 Operate using a beam
- 74 Shakespeare play featuring Ariel
- 77 Clog clearer
- 78 Like some buckets
- 79 "\_\_\_ Everybody Knows Your Name"
- "Cheers" theme song
- 81 Stoop
- 82 Bays, e.g.
- 84 Compulsively neat, say
- 86 Hamper
- 88 Cry with a flourish
- 89 Neighbor of Ghana
- 91 Kitchen gadget
- 95 Fast flight
- 97 Understanding words
- 100 Egypt's second president
- 101 Cut into cubes
- 102 Chicago hub
- 103 Type of numeral
- 104 Victim of Romulus
- 105 Atmospheric layer
- 109 5 for B or 6 for C
- 110 Jerry in the NBA logo
- 112 Complain
- 113 Previously
- 114 Unaccompanied Name"
- 116 Kickoff aid
- 117 Abnormal
- 119 Squelch
- 120 Sponge (up)
- 121 Novelist Levin



7/22/18

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

## HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | July 22:** This year, you often believe you want one thing, but then you completely change your mind in a matter of hours. You are in the process of going through a change. Try to stay in tune with yourself, and life will be easier. If you are single, you could stumble into a torrid romance only to discover that this person is not right for you. You might opt to remain uncommitted. If you are attached, your fickleness might drive your partner a little crazy. Stay loving and appreciative as you go through some changes. Sagittarius likes your changeability.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) You feel so energized and daring that you might start acting out and taking risks in a major way. Know that an in-between path does exist. Decide to meet friends halfway for a late lunch. Hop into the car for a drive.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) You seem to be able to flow through most issues with ease. Detach when you hit a boundary or limit and see what is really going on. Expect to be challenged on a fundamental level. This experience will force you to grow.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) Be willing to break past restrictions that have held you back for a while. You might be happiest if you respond to a loved one's invitation. What occurs between you might make both of you think about different possibilities.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) Express your feelings. In a sense, they are part of your possessions. Reach out to someone at a distance whom you care about. You might want to throw yourself into a hobby, where you can lose all sense of time.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) You seem to be blossoming like a flower throughout the day. You might not be sure what is happening and could choose to ask questions and read between the lines. Your spontaneity often saves you from devious thoughts and plans.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You do not always have to get along with others; you can march to the beat of your own drummer and head in the direction that feels right. You enter a period where you might be doing more reflecting than usual.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Hold yourself back, as you easily could go overboard and cause yourself a unique set of problems. Later in the day, a friend or group of friends might seek you out. You might not be sure which direction you should head in, but you'll figure it out.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) No matter how anybody looks at you, they have to see that you are a powerhouse who should not be held back. A purchase you decide to make could be instrumental in freeing yourself up.

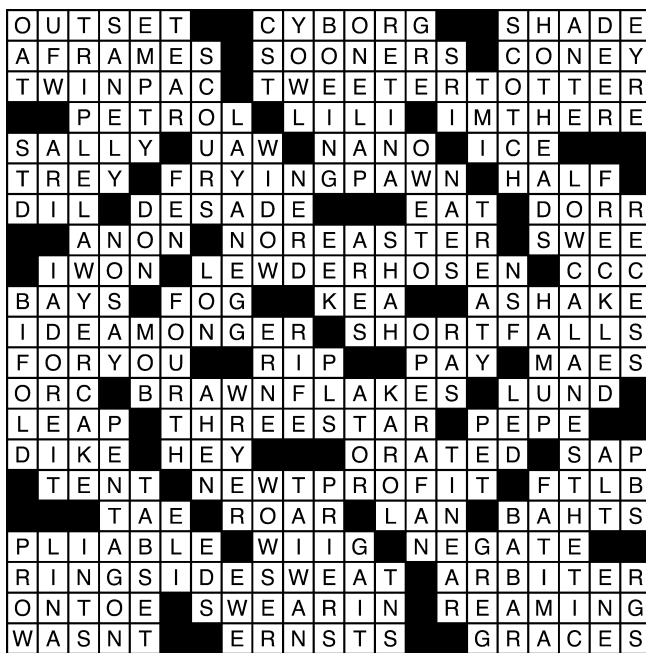
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You feel renewed and as if anything is possible. Stop holding yourself back, and express your essence. You gain more of a perspective as the day goes on. You might feel as if you have returned home and now see your world quite differently.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You sense that you might need some time alone. In some ways, you have mixed feelings. You also might not be sure as to the best way to proceed. Slow down and think through your options over the next few days.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Note a swing in your energy levels. You could feel much more popular and appreciated than you have in the recent past. Just sit back and respond accordingly. Use care with your funds, as you easily could make an error.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) You might be more focused on completing a particular chore or getting a head start on a matter involving your work. Still, do not forget to reach out to an older friend or relative. Invite this person over for dinner, and they will appreciate your efforts.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



7/15/18