

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

# Deck the LOLs: Holiday parodies

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1306** the Empress asked for songs about things in the news lately, set to a Christmas, Hanukkah or New Year's tune. As always with our parody contests, the results were phenomenal. See many more (like "Mistress Time Is Here"), including some videos, in the online Invite at [wapo.st/invite1310](http://wapo.st/invite1310).

**4th place**

**To "Good King Wenceslas":** Sulking Donald Trump looked out On a bleak November, When world leaders stood about. The Great War to remember. Gently fell the rain that day, On their solemn meeting. In his room Trump chose to stay, Eating steak and tweeting.

All the leaders gathered there Called him out together. "Does he think his precious hair Won't survive the weather? Therefore, Mr. Trump, be sure, You'll look vain and snooty If you let your prized coiffure Keep you from your duty." (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

**3rd place**

**To "Winter Wonderland"** Send the troops! It's a crisis! Don't look now! Here comes ISIS! I hear they were seen With MS-13 Walking in a migrant caravan.

It's a huge, huge invasion! None of them are Caucasian! Get under your bed! There's people to dread Walking in a migrant caravan.

Don't you know my brand of elocution Stresses that the boogeyman is near? Let some lawyer cite the Constitution. I'm content to rant and monger fear.

Build the wall with a doorway In case some come from Norway. We're going to gas Bad hombres en masse Walking in a migrant caravan. (Bob Kruger, Rockville)

**2nd place and the toilet ornament:**

**To "Let It Snow"** Though the Saudis arranged a killing And the evidence is chilling, Don't want to offend them, so Let it go, let it go, let it go.

Yes, the prince said, "Khashoggi ceases," And they cut him into pieces, Does that mean we blame them? No! Let it go, let it go, let it go!

Though the folks at the CIA Say the hit order came from the crown, Mr. Trump says that that's okay If they keep oil prices down.

True, it's naughty to kill a critic, But let's not get analytic, Who's responsible? Who can know? Let it go, let it go, let it go. (Max Gutmann, Sunnyvale, Calif.)

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

**To "Frosty the Snowman"** Toss me the dough, man, there's a mistress with a tale, She'll describe your groin — better give some coin, Keep the tabloids off her trail.

Toss me the dough, man, there's a chick we need to pay, Says she spanked your bum, dude, but she'll keep mum, We'll just need an NDA.

There surely is some magic when we spread around the bucks, We squelch the stories from the broads that the Donald goes and makes love to.

Toss me the dough, man; we'll make sure these seeds don't sprout. Pay a trifling fee, and you'll be home free, 'cause we'll never get found out. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

**Failz Navidad: Honorable mentions**

**To "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"** Crack! went Alex Smith's right leg, Like the breaking of an egg! Victim of a vicious sack So gruesome all our jaws went slack.

More than halfway through the season, Playoffs still were within reason. 'Skins held first; fans held hopes



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## New contest for Week 1310: The Year in Redo, Part 2

From *Week 1288*, product warnings/disclaimers: **"This aircraft could plummet from the sky, falling thousands of feet and crashing in a fiery ball, spreading its contents over multiple acres, but that rarely happens."** (Russell Beland)

Winner of *Week 1284*, compare two items in a list we supplied:

**The difference between the print Washington Post and Florida Man: I'm happy to find one of them lying on my doorstep at 5 a.m.** (Jerome Uher)

It's *Week 2* of our annual retrospective, in which you get to enter any of the previous year's contests. Last week we covered November to May; now we'll get the 25 newer ones, which include bogus trivia about animals; funny product warnings; anagrams of movie titles; limericks; and several neologism challenges, among other dubious pursuits — including the parodies we feature this week.

So this week: **Enter (or reenter) any Style Invitational contest from Week 1282 through Week 1306.** You may enter multiple contests as long as you don't submit more than 25 entries in all. For contests asking you to use that week's paper, use papers and online articles dated Dec. 13-24 (and feel free to refer to more recent news in any of the contests). You may even resubmit non-inking entries from earlier contests.

How to find these contests? If you're a Post subscriber, you can go to [washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational](http://washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational), where there's a list of the contests that you can click on one by one, starting from Week 1306. (Be sure to check the results of that week's contest, four weeks up the list, to make sure that your idea didn't already get ink for someone else.) If you're not — though you should be, you know — or if you'd like to search through a plain-text version of all the contests at once, go to the Loser Community's own website, [nrars.org](http://nrars.org), click on "Master Contest List," and scroll way down to Week 1282 and below. See last week's Style Conversational column at [wapo.st/conv1309](http://wapo.st/conv1309) for more directions. Please give the week number plus a brief ID of the contest your entry is for (e.g., "Week 1304, what-if jokes").

Submit entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1310](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1310) (all lowercase) — NOT the entry forms for those old contests.

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our new Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a little promotional **foot-shaped beer bottle opener** — with the hole for the bottle in the middle of the foot — that in gloriously tone-deaf fashion bears the imprint of a Virginia funeral home. As Jeff says: "It sends simultaneous messages of 'pour one out for the recently departed' and 'you may already have one foot in the grave.' Jeff also notes that it's magnetic so that you can keep it handy on your refrigerator, should you feel the sudden need or whim to call the funeral home. **Other runners-up** win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. 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, Dec. 24;** results published Jan. 13 (online Thursday, Jan. 10). See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline for this week's results is by Jesse Frankovich; Jesse also wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.me/invdev). "Like" Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](https://www.facebook.com/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 flip side of this bottle opener promotes a funeral home.**

high, Just to see those chances die. Playoff hopes now aren't worth beans: Smith smashed his leg to Smithereens. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

**To "The Dreidel Song"** I have a feeling hate'll Be ladled out today, When Trump's upset and fretting, A spate'll come our way.

He'll bray, he'll bate, he'll prate, he'll Berate, and he'll inveigh, Then once we've been diverted, he'll cause a new melee. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

**To "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree"**

Writing a Christmas parody In the age of Donald Trump, Everyone dancing merrily While I'm feeling like a grump. Writing a Christmas parody Doesn't bring a happy smile While there are folks on my TV Tiki-torching to "Sieg heil!"

I just can't write entertaining lyrics when I hear: "We will have so many great times While we're out committing hate crimes!"

Writing a Christmas parody When there's just one thing to say: May we still have democracy By the next Election Day. (Barbara Sarshik, McLean)

**Still running — deadline Monday night, Dec. 17: The Year in Redo, Part 1 — enter contests from Week 1255 through Week 1281.** See [wapo.st/invite1309](http://wapo.st/invite1309).

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

**"IN OTHER WORDS" By JOE KIDD**

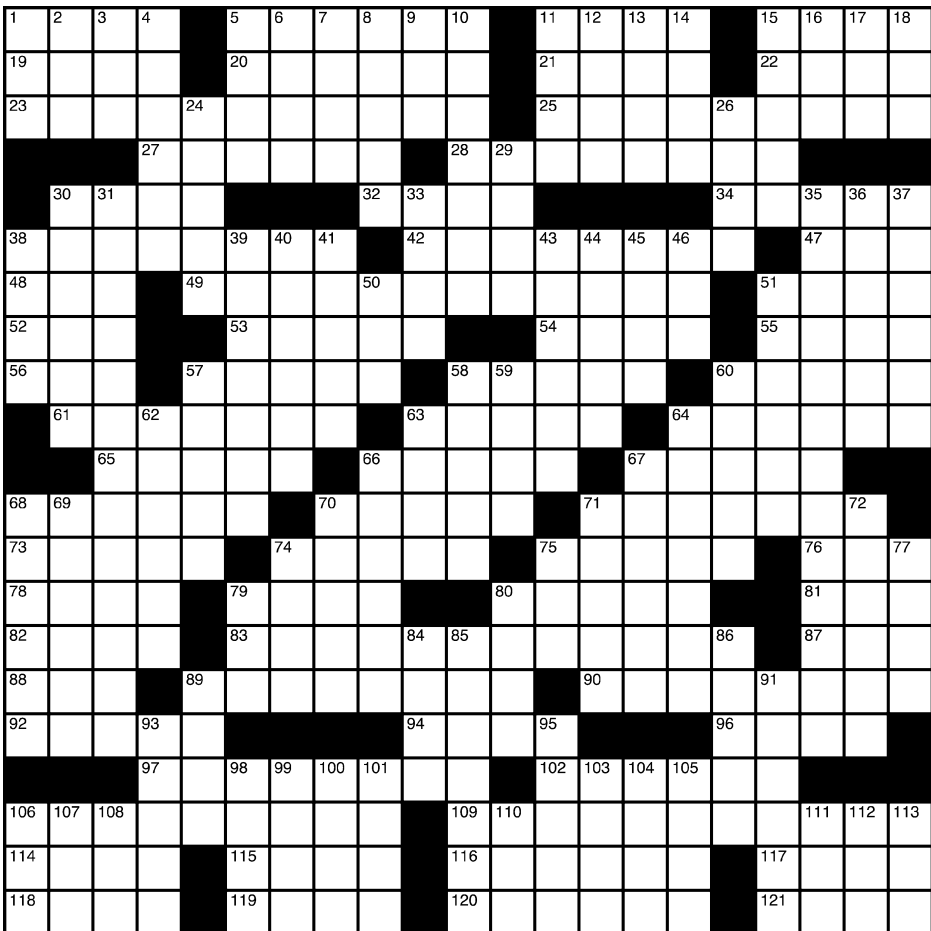
- 1 Pole, e.g.
- 5 Old toon feine with an alley gang
- 11 Fro Football Hall of Fame state
- 15 Moonwalker Shepard
- 19 Pad starter
- 20 Stir up
- 21 Early sci-fi captain
- 22 Travels randomly
- 23 EARTH
- 25 AIDE
- 27 Muss up, as hair
- 28 Soup kitchen service
- 30 Leave slack-jawed
- 32 Shrub with a purple fruit
- 34 Lab dish eponym
- 38 Workout aftermath, often
- 42 Grizzled seafarers
- 47 Harmless cyst
- 48 Eastern path
- 49 CRANED
- 51 You take them at your own risk
- 52 Kwik-E-Mart owner
- 53 Belief system
- 54 Bar assn. member
- 55 "Strange \_\_\_" may seem ...
- 56 Impediment
- 57 Sugar portions
- 58 Bookstore adjuncts
- 60 Inscription on a spine
- 61 Ticked pink
- 63 Tijuana toast
- 64 Nursery rhyme girl
- 65 "Snowy" sight in Florida
- 66 Edible pockets
- 67 Carried on
- 68 Starts over
- 70 Fixed looks
- 71 Vague discomfort
- 73 They aren't pros
- 74 More fetching
- 75 Some court pleas, for short
- 76 Forbes rival
- 78 Hindu titles of respect
- 79 Party or movie ending

- 80 City on the Ruhr
- 81 Weekly talk with a msg.
- 82 "Mad Men" actor Jon
- 83 MISO
- 87 La-la lead-in
- 88 Clothing dept. size
- 89 Like many an injured arm
- 90 Fall big-time
- 92 Simple type of question
- 94 La., once
- 96 Less than hardly
- 97 Like much FM
- 102 Keats and Shelley
- 106 AMOUNT
- 109 FIENDISH
- 114 Aviation-related prefix
- 115 Troll's cousin
- 116 No longer fastened
- 117 Region
- 118 Like positive outlooks
- 119 Heckles

- 120 Tennis wear
- 121 Oz. and lb.
- DOWN**
- 1 Hospital reminder, perhaps
- 2 Protected side
- 3 In the way of
- 4 Patience, they say
- 5 House of Dana fragrance
- 6 Rink star and a "Catch-22" pilot
- 7 Backyard party centerpiece
- 8 Pickled veggies
- 9 Enzyme suffix
- 10 Like an increase from six to sixty
- 11 At some former time
- 12 "... we go"
- 13 Mosque leader
- 14 Move like molasses
- 15 Deft
- 16 Bloke
- 17 Soothing suffix for a hot day

- 18 Code-breaking org.
- 24 Metric weight
- 26 Sounds at pounds
- 29 Hawthorne cover image
- 30 Get all sudsy
- 31 SMITE
- 33 El Pollo \_\_\_ southwestern restaurant chain
- 35 RESIST
- 36 Stack again
- 37 Boot part
- 38 Take the main part
- 39 They may be lame
- 40 Between-courses serving
- 41 Silver, for one
- 43 Goof-ups
- 44 Made a scene?
- 45 "Why don't we?"
- 46 Crack
- 50 Some entrance requirements
- 51 Asian island capital
- 57 Gives a hoot

- 58 Do wedding work
- 59 Word said with a sigh
- 60 Senate wear
- 62 Conceit
- 63 Concern for a tailor
- 64 "Horsefeathers!"
- 66 Security guard's duty
- 67 Solidarity leader
- 68 Without thinking
- 69 Cause to turn red, maybe
- 70 Stab
- 71 Iraq city on the Tigris
- 72 "E" in a classic equation
- 74 Extended time out?
- 75 Abbr. on a bounced check
- 77 Rocky outcropping
- 79 Collins ingredient
- 80 Software pro, in want ads
- 84 Name in a footnote
- 85 A trusted friend
- 86 "Inferno" poet
- 89 New Rochelle college
- 91 Tech-heavy exchange
- 93 "In Search of..." host
- 95 Lively movement
- 98 Pretentious sort
- 99 Like drive-thru orders
- 100 Mark's replacement
- 101 Fwys., e.g.
- 103 Couture giant
- 104 "It \_\_\_ my fault"
- 105 Hens and helpers
- 106 Galley need
- 107 \_\_\_ volente
- 108 Hosp. personnel
- 110 Scrap agent's goal
- 111 Scrap for Rover creator
- 112 "30 Rock"
- 113 B-flats in an F major scale



Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Dec. 16:** This year, you might not be as generous as you have been in the past. You feel a need for more self-discipline in your life. At times, you will return to your overindulgent ways. If you are single, several people would like to be involved with you. Before diving right in, test the waters first. If you are attached, be easy on your sweetie as they adjust to your need for more discipline. Schedule more one-on-one time together. Aries shows you the path to a great time.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) You communicate your thoughts easily. Nevertheless, you can't seem to say no to an older person's demands. You need to accept responsibility and pitch in. Because of your efforts, you will be more tired than usual. Schedule a nap to recharge.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) You might not be able to connect with someone at a distance; however, you are not likely to stop trying. To evoke a response, perhaps you should try another technique. Make this Sunday one of rest. Very soon, you might not have much time to yourself.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) Zero in on a friendship that you often forget to nurture; treat this person with as much regard as you feel for them. A close associate might not be open to sharing their thoughts and ideas with you.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) You have a take-charge attitude that might not always be received positively. Enjoy an older friend who often seems uptight. You might note that you have too much energy for this person.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) Detach and take an overview. You might be a little tired, but your mind seems to be working overtime. Use this moment to return calls, rethink your position in a potential conflict and go over some last-minute holiday details.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) One-on-one relating generally proves to be rewarding; however, you might be concerned about some tension that seems to exist between you and a loved one. A positive discussion opens a new possibility that you had hoped for.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You might be surprised by a partner's assertiveness. You cannot get past a barrier that seems to loom around your domestic life. You would like to air out the problem. Your communication skills will carry you past this barrier.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Understand what is happening between you and a sibling, relative or neighbor. You might feel as though this person has copied an attitude for no good reason. A gesture or a token of affection might help ease the situation.

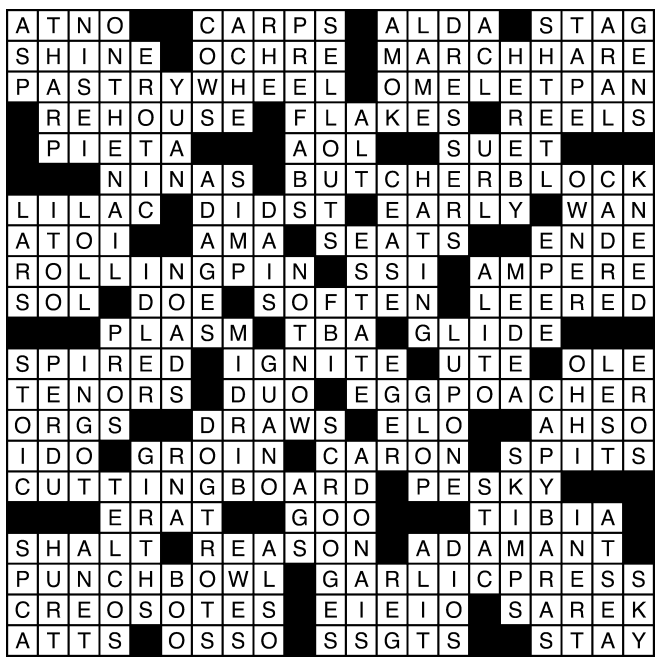
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) No one dislikes being financially tight more than you do. As you consider last-minute gifts, try being more imaginative and giving out handmade items. You can offer a homemade dinner or whatever else might please the other party.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You might make someone uncomfortable because you seem remote or distant. You may need some quiet time by yourself to relax and get away from the stress of the holidays. A family member could approach you hesitantly but with care.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You might not be as joyous as your friends are, but you still could enjoy going out or meeting others for lunch or dinner. You could feel overwhelmed by everything you need to do. A loved one who senses the problem offers to pitch in.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) You might not be aware of how possessive or materialistic you can be at times. Slow down; look at what you're doing about the holidays, the parties and the gifts. An older family member exhibits a great deal of understanding about your feelings.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



12/9/18