

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Ha-ku: Punny poems from Week 1317

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1317** we once again asked for Punku — haiku that contain one or more puns. (Yes, we know, these aren't true haiku; we welcomed anything with three lines and 5-7-5 syllables.) Many Losers wrote about the "Stupor Bowl," that the Mueller probe would "leave no [Roger] Stone unturned," even ancient saws like "no pun in ten did." No ink for youse.

4th place:

Stormy Daniels films? I have the full collection — It's the whole she-bang. (Seth Tucker, Washington)

3rd place:

The **#MeToo** movement Has had it up to here with Male patten' boldness. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

2nd place and the electric Sorry Button:

Coddling **Kim Jong Un:** I just hope this policy Won't leave us Seoulless. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Whichever's **Northam,** In shoe polish or a sheet, He's now in redface. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Nigh-ku: Honorable mentions

More on the Virginia scandals:

Blackface as Jacko? Doesn't the governor know Polish jokes are out? (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

If Ralph denies pix but later moonwalks, then it Doesn't mean jack, son. (Kevin Mettinger, Warrenton, Va.)

Stupid move, Northam! Fairfax, Herring? You too! Sigh . . . The Old Dumbinion. (Hildy Zampella, Alexandria)

Northam's new story: It was a passing phase — his Minstrel period. (Duncan Stevens)

All over the world

We're waging war: Sic transit Gorier mundi. (Chris Doyle)

The nuanced discourse

At a Trump MAGA rally Is quite inciteful. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

I love Maroon 5!

If you haven't heard them yet, You Auto-Tune in. (Frank Osen)

Said exhaustedly:

"None has worked harder than me! Sometimes noon to 3!" (J. Larry Schott, West Plains, Mo.)

Speaker Pelosi's

One tough cookie, but has a Wall nut allergy. (Kathy El-Assal, Middleton, Wis.)

Chants of "U.S.A.!"

It's like a Riefenstahl film: "Triumph of the Swill." (Patty Harbison, Nashville, a First Offender)

They told Beethoven

He couldn't compose while deaf. He didn't listen. (Jim Villani, Gainesville, conductor of the Manassas Symphony, and a First Offender)

Pew, Gallup, Harris,

Rasmussen, Quinnipiac... A poller vortek! (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

Measles in Portland?

Time to cut out the fiction And stick to the vax. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

"Big, beautiful wall"?

Mexicans are upset, but They'll get over it. (Laura Clairmont, Ashburn)

What to call a speech

Full of wild absurdities? State of the Onion. (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

At the National

Enquirer, blackmail's just a Wee Peckerdillo. (Duncan Stevens)

Bezoz types revenge

Using just one finger — he's A-huntin' Pecker. (Rob Cohen, Potomac)

Pigeons overtake

Venice's San Marco. It's A real coo d'état.



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1321: Pumping Prime: Amazon reviews

Toenail clippers (2017): This is a great product! Pretty sure I set a new distance record this weekend. I even shot one into the trash can without leaving the couch! (#nailedit!) (Danielle Nowlin, Week 1244)

Paper clips (2014): This product is hopelessly confusing. I can never tell whether the small inside loop is supposed to go on top, or the big outside end. Where is the instruction manual? (Ken Gallant, Week 1098)

It's been a year and a half since we last sought your creative product reviews for various everyday items sold on Amazon.com. Given that its owner keeps the Empress outfitted in a proper ermine stole, we want to make sure that our readers don't forget about this little-known website.

This week: Send us a humorous "review" (like the samples above from our earlier contests) for any of the items below that are listed on Amazon.com. The reviews must not cause harm to the manufacturer or seller. Feel free to post the reviews on Amazon itself *after* we post the results online March 28. While some reviews on Amazon run hundreds of words, we're looking for much shorter entries; 75 words would be lengthy for us.

To find the exact items we're using this week, click on the links that we put in the instructions to this week's entry form as well as in the online Invite.

12-pack of men's white cotton handkerchiefs

Flat shoelaces, 5/16-inch wide

5-pound dumbbell

Velveeta Original Pasteurized Recipe Cheese Product, 64 oz.

Swivel vegetable peeler

60 binder clips, assorted sizes

Amazon Basics standard toilet paper holder

Submit entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1321 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy.

Second place scores a real collector's item, complete with wonk-celebrity provenance: We offer four-count-'em-four **K-cups of genuine Select by Trump coffee**, two each of Clubhouse Medium Roast and Tower Light Roast. They are from the personal collection of The Post's David A. Fahrenthold, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for his dogged work uncovering then-candidate Trump's fascinating "charity" (non)payments. David bought two boxes of the pods on eBay a couple of years ago (you think he'd accept compromising Trump swag?) and reports that they tasted "bad even then." The line was discontinued in 2017 partly because of poor sales. And no, they're not on Amazon.

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, March 11;** results published March 31 (online March 28). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "Ha-ku" in this week's results is by Tom Witte; Tom, Kevin Dopart and Bill Dorner each submitted the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees 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.



This week's 2nd prize: The best coffee that was ever made ever.

(Kathy El-Assal)

Please don't mock the Prez

For his revised border plan: Stop the slat shaming! (Mark Raffman)

I have to admit:

With Brady's sixth ring, he goes From hero to GOAT. (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

All those angry tweets POTUS sends from the toilet: You'd expect calm odes. (Kevin Dopart)

The "most productive"

President ever? More like The Mar-a-Laggard. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

Her ad said, "Hot chick"

Seeking mate to share my stash." Alas, she meant "stache." (Bill Dorner)

Fair Catch

Huge men bearing down, They mean you harm! Wave your arm! (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

No poem from Trump?

Does he fear he'll be deemed a Man of low haiku? (Bob Kruger, Rockville)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1321.

Still running — deadline Monday night, March 4: Our classic Questionable Journalism contest. See wapo.st/invite1320.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"REVISITING THE PAST" By C.C. BURNIKEL

- ACROSS
- 1 Island near Java
- 5 At the drop of —
- 9 Players with parts
- 13 Like highways
- 18 Apple variety
- 19 Jay of "Jerry Maguire"
- 20 Top story
- 22 Post with a column
- 23 Process that may transform a neutron into a proton
- 25 Tree with edible nuts
- 26 "I swear!"
- 27 Man of La Mancha
- 28 Line on a package
- 31 Hefty closer
- 34 Out before the term ends
- 35 Sturdy trees
- 38 Cote call
- 39 Hectic hosp. areas
- 41 "Iron Man" Ripken
- 42 Ostrich relative
- 45 Navy bigwig
- 48 School notebook decorations
- 51 Sound mixing control
- 52 Georgia, once: Abbr.
- 53 Online pop-up, say
- 56 Asia's ___ Darya river
- 57 Expert
- 60 Magazine since 1850
- 62 Princess in "The Princess and the Frog"
- 63 Don Juan
- 66 One of Donald Duck's nephews
- 67 Google :: Android :: Apple
- 68 Isaac's eldest
- 69 Common animal welfare goal
- 73 Actor ___ James of "Divergent" films
- 77 It ends in Nov.
- 79 Like die-hard fans
- 80 Hearty bowlful often topped with tortilla chips
- 82 Skate park move
- 85 Spice rack staple
- 88 Like the Beatles?
- 89 ___ Fridays
- 90 Tip for a loser?
- 92 Raised numblers

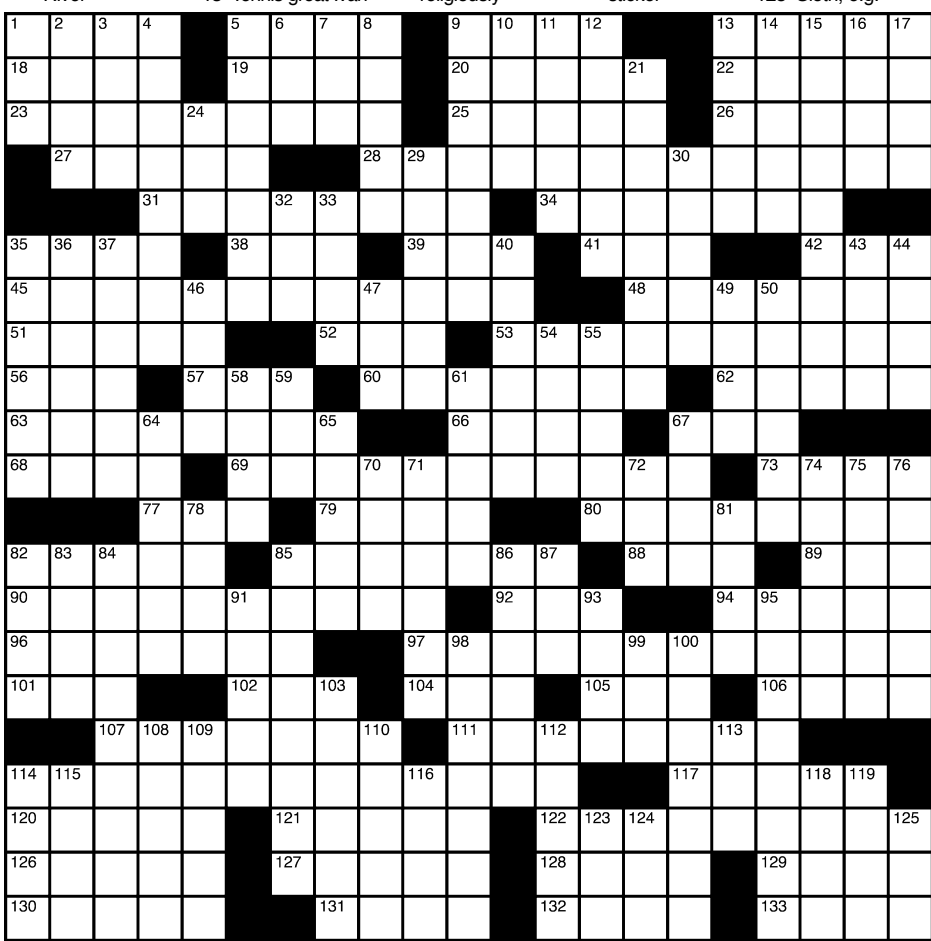
- 94 Every hour on the hour, say
- 96 An official election ballot can't have one
- 97 Barbershop standard
- 101 Bummed
- 102 Clearance rack abbr.
- 104 Danson of TV's "Fargo"
- 105 Bus sched. item
- 106 Tailless primates
- 107 Withdrawal charges
- 111 Longtime comic with a "Great Jewish Joke Book"
- 114 Anonymous fan
- 117 Singer Jones
- 120 Brown with a flying pan
- 121 Permanent marks
- 122 Makes retroactive ... or what the eight other longest Across answers have
- 126 Sun block?
- 127 Mississippi's ___ River

- 128 Sandbox boo-boo
- 129 Sushi roll wrap
- 130 Mini racers
- 131 The Ivy League's Quakers
- 132 Caboose
- 133 Agt. after tax evaders
- DOWN
- 1 Marathon runner's wear
- 2 Iowa college town
- 3 Past the deadline
- 4 Complaint from the nosebleed section
- 5 "West Side Story" number
- 6 Ad ___ committee
- 7 "Gotcha!"
- 8 Clandestine arrangement
- 9 11-time MLB All-Star Miguel
- 10 Perfectly, with "to"
- 11 Exorbitant
- 12 Altioids rival
- 13 Tennis great Ivan

- 14 Valentino's love
- 15 Fioletta Stone discovery area
- 16 Yale alumni
- 17 Turns red, perhaps
- 21 Classic parlor game
- 24 Investor's barometer, with "the"
- 29 del Fuego
- 30 Melancholy
- 32 Ground cover
- 33 Alley prowlers
- 35 Rub out
- 36 Incan herd members
- 37 Gorgon slain by Perseus
- 40 Mistake
- 43 Like the Grinch
- 44 Org. that may request food recalls
- 46 Air ___ Southwest subsidiary
- 47 "More or less" cousin
- 49 "I'm ___ you!"
- 50 Franklin and Jefferson, religiously

- 54 Nair rival, once
- 55 "Taste this"
- 58 Egyptian Christian
- 59 Prior night
- 61 Mary's best friend
- 64 Accounting jobs
- 65 Missile Command producer
- 67 Pizarro victim
- 70 Con counterpart, across the
- 71 Pyrenees
- 71 Compendium
- 72 Clumsy one
- 74 Inside investment info
- 75 Oregon college town
- 76 Offers a view
- 78 Hall of Fame linebacker Junior
- 81 English horn
- 82 Tributes in verse
- 83 Constantino coin
- 84 Star
- 85 Eggs order
- 86 Tattoo parlor sticker

- 87 Flamenco cheer
- 91 Snowstorm consequence
- 93 Suffix meaning "country"
- 95 Egregious
- 98 Becomes tiresome to
- 99 Vessel for couples
- 100 Pub patron
- 103 One with a lot of baggage
- 108 Salmon cousin
- 109 Gives a darn?
- 110 Pollution portmanteau
- 112 Shady area
- 113 Wordless agreement
- 114 Quarterback's setback
- 115 Jazz great
- 116 Tofu nutrient relative
- 118 Splittable bit
- 119 Eldest daughter of Cronus
- 123 Wonder
- 124 Its HQ is named for George H.W. Bush
- 125 Sloth, e.g.



3/3/19 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | March 3: This year, you exhibit a tendency to be a free spirit or your own person. You might not always get applause for your strength. If single, you might meet several people to whom you could relate. Take your time getting to know such people. If you're attached, you and your partner enjoy a lot of personal time together. Nothing pleases you more than a weekend away with your sweetie. Aquarius understands you well.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) A friend could seek you out early in the day. This person might be quite irritated about an issue and need to speak to you. Clear the air, and enjoy this friend. You seem to nearly always have a good time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You might want to go out early in the day. Some of you might go to church; others may want to get together with friends for a leisurely brunch. Wherever you are, you get someone's attention or approval.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Take off for a day trip, or escape with a movie. You will find that this helps you relax and smile more. If alone, you could meet someone quite unusual and different.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Defer to another person and get to the bottom of a problem. Even if that person's ideas are somewhat offbeat, the other party exhibits good sense. How you handle a child or another issue reflects a newfound calmness.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You might need to make the first move, but you could be quite delighted by the long-term results. An older person or an irritating person could be hard to handle. Opt out. Go off to do your thing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Slow down and pace yourself. You might enjoy a hectic pace; however, like everyone else, you need to recharge. You hear news that might have you thinking about a key person in your life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) A child or loved one could be charming and clearly adoring every moment that they have with you. Plans and happenings could delight you. If you push this

person or cut the amount of time that you have together, you might see quite a display of temper.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Stay close to home. Relax. You might opt to make a favorite meal or order a standing favorite. Caring seems to blossom at home. You don't need to go out. If expectations aren't met, a partner could be sassy or difficult.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You have a tendency to speak your mind and get past problems. However, as good as your intentions might be, someone gets under your skin. Head to the gym. You need to work through this irritation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You might be confident and sure of

yourself. As a result, you make an effort toward a loved one. Whether this person responds depends on his or her mood; however, that same person could become sarcastic and difficult.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) The moon in your sign adds some zip to your footsteps. You're in the mood to smile and go off to enjoy your day. Unfortunately, if you really want to enjoy the day, you will need to bypass a dear friend who has a case of the grouches.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Catch up on errands and paperwork. If you think that you'll get money back on your tax return, then by all means, get it started with an eye to completing the task. Maintain a low profile, and get extra rest.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

