

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Mockingbards: Winning parodies

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1357** the Empress once again sought song parodies about the news. Once again she was deluged with hundreds and hundreds of songs — and dozens and dozens were just so clever. Some are on video; some melodies might not be familiar enough for most readers to sing along with. And so the E is awarding two sets of winners and runners-up: one here in print, plus one for entries published only online at wapo.st/invite1361. There you'll find links to all the tunes so you can listen along.

4th place

The Impeachment Witness's Song

To "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow"
Today you're on a mission
To do this inquisition
Just tell me now and I won't ask again:
When may I go to the bathroom?

Through all the endless chatter
I feel my bursting bladder
Just one quick break, and I will say
"amen"
When I may go to the bathroom.

You show no signs of stopping,
But I can't be the only one
Whose clothes may all be sopping
When my day here with you is done.

I have a strong foreboding
My gut will be exploding
So tell me now and I'll be happy then:
When may I go to the bathroom?
(Barbara Sarshik and Andy Pike, McLean)

3rd place

To "Oh, Susannah!"

Oh, I come from the Big Apple
(though I'm really just from Queens);
My brain is full of scrapple and my
wounds are full of beans.
I never study anything; at science
I'm not strong,
But I'm your Stable Genius King,
and I am never wrong.
A-la-bammy! Get in your trucks and
flee.
I'm at NOAA in Miami with my
Sharpie on my knee.

They say some loser Dorian is
stirring up a squall.
I bet he's Baltimorean; they're
nasty, one and all.
I'll throw some paper towels at you
to wipe up mud and rain,
But I've got better things to do, like
phone calls to Ukraine.
A-la-bammy! Just pay no mind to
facts.
When I give the law the whammy,
Billy Barr's fat pen redacts.

I cheat and lie without result,
though New York is on my tail.
I'm counting on my brainwashed
cult to keep me out of jail.
They say I've grifted plenty and I'm
selling out this land,
But I'm goin' to 2020 with my map
and pens in hand.
Nyah-nyah, harpies! Your votes will
make a rout,
But I've got my box of Sharpies,
gonna cross the lib states out.
(Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

2nd place and the Zimbabwean \$10 bill:

To "Hey Jude"

Hey! Crude is dirty stuff,
Off your duff now; it's time to get a
Much cleaner alternative to those
fuels;
Or get your jewels kicked in by
Greta.

We hear, from pols and sheikhs,
High-pitched shrieks, like an
operetta.
If you drive a Hummer, guzzling
gas,
I hope your ass gets kicked by
Greta.

When timid politicians quail, she'll
say, "You fail!"
They're eating the words that she's
not mincing,
It's winter, they say, "Look, it's
cold!" That act's got old;
She finds their denials
unconvincing.

Trump? No, won't irk the base —
Let's replace him with a poinsettia,
At least he'd suck carbon out of the
air!
He should beware the wrath of
Greta (Greta, Greta, Greta, yeah!)
(Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

To "New York, New York"

Start spreadin' the news, I'm
leavin' today.
I want to beat the taxes in New
York, New York
The left-wing fake news, Manhattan



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1361:
2020 vision — the year in preview

Feb. 18, 2020: President Trump delivers the State of the Union address while seated, and petting a curled-up Lindsey Graham in his lap.

July 24: In a surprise move, the Tokyo Olympic committee dedicates the entire Opening Ceremonies to an extended reenactment of President George H.W. Bush vomiting on Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

Oct. 3: Yet another academic scandal erupts when it is revealed that Donald Trump Jr. used a Photoshopped image of himself next to Felicity Huffman in his application to Trump University.

At a time when our ship of state can spin on its rudder at the drop of a tweet, it seems almost ludicrous to predict what's in store for next year. But hey, "Almost Ludicrous" could adorn the Style Invitational Coat of Arms. So in what's become an annual Invite contest, name some humorous news event to happen in 2020, as in the examples above by Longtime Loser Malcolm Fleschner, who used to write his own Years in Preview in his newspaper column before it, alas, went the way of all Fleschner. Include a date on the event only if it's relevant (feel free to explain why); otherwise the Empress will add an arbitrary one to fill out the calendar.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1361 (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Dec. 16;** results will appear Jan. 5 in print, Jan. 2 online.

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a T-shirt discovered by Hall of Fame Loser Beverley Sharp in a Seoul street market; it observes, in simple black on white: "Good All Things to Be Happy." It's about Yoda-size.

Other runners-up win one of our last "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mugs or our "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "Too-Weak Notice" or "Certificate of (de) Merit." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "Mockingbards" is by Jeff Contompassis; Roy Ashley wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. "Like" the 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 — this week we'll look back at last year's predictions for 2019 — check it out at wapo.st/convi361.



13-time Loser Michele Uhler serenely models this week's 2nd prize at a recent Loser brunch.

DA,
Everyone's grinding axes in New York, New York.

I want to wake up in a state where old folks in red
Will reelect me next year
Before they drop dead

I'm tired of boos, I'm going away,
I say the place that lacks is in sad old New York

If I can't fake it there, I'll take it where they care
A big F.U. New York, New York!
(Hildy Zampella, Alexandria)

Songs in the key of like:
Honorable mentions

To "Oklahoma!"

"Ohhhhhh-K boomer" is a conversational refrain,
Said by voice or tweet, a short and sweet

Way to show Millennial disdain!
"Ohhhhhh-K boomer," spoken with an edge or with a sigh, Says,
"You've done your part, our turn will start
When you have the courtesy to die!"

We know we've despoiled the land,

And the climate is way out of hand,
But when we say, "Ow! Well, mea culpa, hey?"

We're only saying, "We're not some gods, we're just boomers,
We're just boomers, OK?"
(Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

To "Old Town Road"

I'm gonna call Ukraine for some dirt on Joe,
I'm gonna try me some quid pro quo
Gonna contradict what the transcripts show,
Gonna say the call was perfect.

Need you to investigate Biden, see what Hunter's hidin',
Sure would be a shame to see Russia's border widen
Wanna buy a missile? I'm sure that this'll

Get me reelected — did I just hear a whistle?

Can't nobody tell me nothin'
Bolton can't tell me nothin'
Congress can't tell me nothin'
Constitution can't tell me nothin' . . .

(Ryan Martinez, Takoma Park)

"Self-Partnered"

To "It Had to Be You"

It had to be me, it had to be me
I dated around and finally found,
I'm my cup of tea
My pronoun is "me," not "us" and not "we."

A table for one is really quite fun,
I'm now Tinder-free.

Some lovers I've tried
Have dumped me or lied,
They made me feel sad, or just made me mad and injured my pride.

Nobody else gave me a thrill;
Happy alone, I pay my own bill.
I'm glad to be me, self-partnered me,
It had to be me. (Jennifer Martin Broadway, Marquette, Mich., a First Offender)

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"PET SITTING" By PAUL COULTER

ACROSS

1 Medical chart entry
4 Author Janowitz
8 Green eggs and ham promoter
14 USPS deliveries
18 Brown of jazz
19 Beats it
21 Thorny shrub
22 "That's not good"
23 On easy street
26 Beer buy
27 Hall of Famers
28 Put away
29 Knife holder
31 Demands
32 Curtail
37 "fair . . ."
38 My Chemical Romance
40 Sedentary sort
44 They pick up things
48 Mailed
49 Get ready to eat?

DOWN

1 Adjust, as car wheels
2 Category
3 Cosmetician
4 African menaces

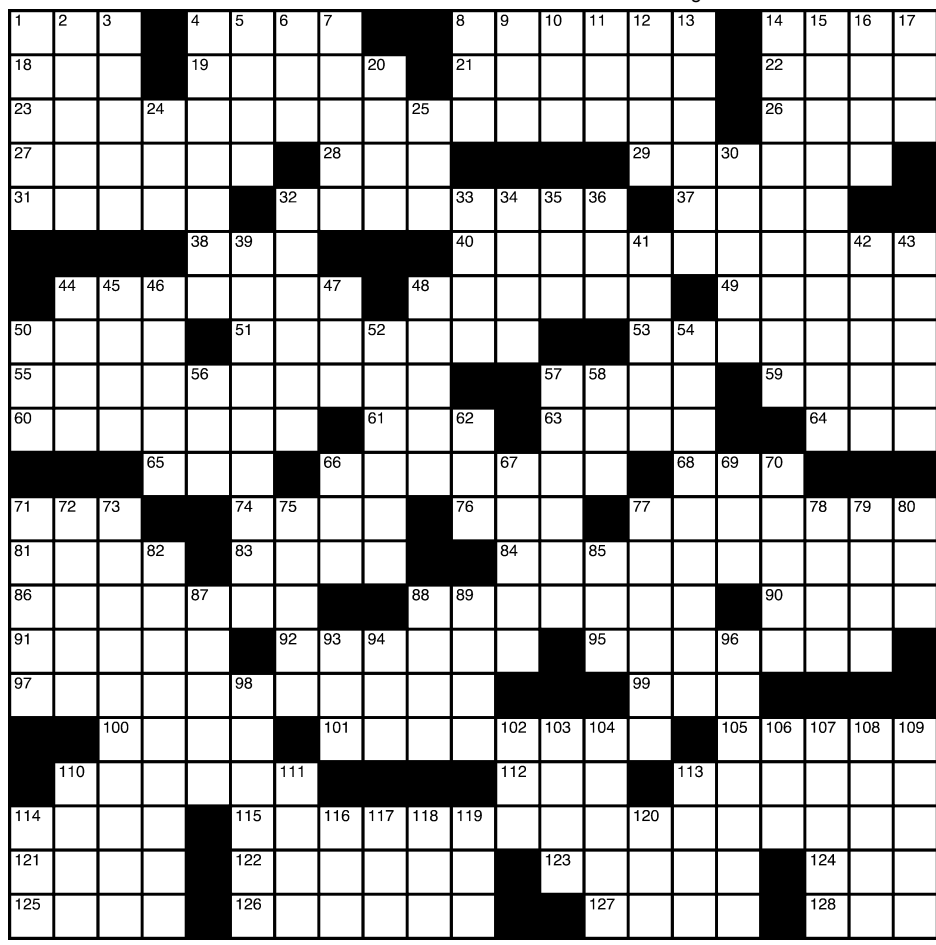
5 Orthopedic surgery targets, initially
6 Kid's cry
7 For face value
8 Longtime "The Avengers" comics artist
9 Pressure lead-in
10 Nth degree
11 Post-OR area
12 Affectations
13 Perchance, old-style
14 Hour in a pilot's announcement
15 Response to sad news
16 Hebrew for "head"
17 "Loves You": Beatles hit
20 Annual Jan. speech, in Twitter hashtags
24 Ate
25 Bag
30 Ecuadoran gold region
32 Holy scrolls
33 Emailed a dupe to

34 Bang-up
35 "For shame!"
36 Outer; Pref.
39 Deerskin attire
41 Aspirations
42 Proficiency determiners
43 1992-'93 NBA Rookie of the Year
44 Slight, as a chance
45 Architect
46 Attendance count
47 Penn. e.g.: Abbr.
48 Aching to a larger degree
50 Birds-feather link
52 Staff builders
54 Dancer who played a scarecrow
56 Not yet on the sched.
57 Quintet
58 Capt.'s inferiors
62 Fed. fiscal agency
66 Acquire
67 1966 Michael Caine title role

69 Aloof
70 Group of eight
71 Wise start?
72 Loot
73 2006 Dunst title role
75 Big name in electric cars
77 Soldier's helmet
78 R&B vocalist
79 "Bill & . . ."
80 '50s political initials
82 Self-destruction
85 Charles River sch.
87 Like TV's "Supernatural," e.g.
88 Mother of the Titans
89 Former Fords
93 Harem room
94 "90 Minutes" network
96 Antarctic features
98 Expert in futures?
102 252 wine gallons

DOWN

103 Unwanted workers
104 Detox program
106 Berne's river
107 Fifth-century bishop in Ireland, familiarly
108 Most crosswords have one
109 Determined about
110 Upset and then some
111 Photographer
112 Dora who had a relationship with Picasso
113 Cottontail's tail
114 One of six hidden in this puzzle, each sitting on an apt location
116 Certain corp. takeover
117 Airport near Tel Aviv
118 Go after, in a way
119 Surg. sites
120 Ike's WWII arena



12/8/19

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Dec. 8: This year, you opt to live at a slower pace and enjoy your close friends and loved ones. Even if you choose stability, do not be surprised by an unanticipated event. If single, you could meet someone who knocks your socks off. Get to know this person well before deciding anything. If attached, the two of you suddenly go for a change in lifestyle. You become a firm believer in the variety of life. Taurus might seem steady and stable, but they could be the source of a tsunami at any given moment.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You sense the potential of a slower day, yet you know how much you need to complete before the holidays. If you feel inspired, head out. You cop a devil-may-care attitude when out. Watch your spending.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You wake up rejuvenated and ready to take on any chore, errand or nothing at all. Your unusual flexibility does not go unnoticed by a loved one who might nudge you in a chosen direction.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

One-on-one relating draws you in closely, but not for long. Many friends and calls could bombard your day and plans. Hook up with that special person and together tackle a fun holiday errand.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Your emotional nature draws many friends. Often, they need some help understanding their own feelings. Today you make it clear — you have special errands to do, but they are welcome to join you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Take charge and work with the moment. Others eye what you are doing and demonstrate an interest. What you take on might be surprising to some people, but you will enjoy yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Reach out for a loved one at a distance. You also might want to send cards to those who are not in your immediate vicinity. You could be surprised at some news you hear from someone.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

One-on-one relating goes down a different, more poignant trail than you intended. Though conversations and openness can

only please you, be wary of saying too much too soon.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

The less said, the better right now — at least by you. Work on the art of listening to others. In any case, sometime, somewhere during the day, you could be stunned by what another person says or does.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You might dream of a slow, easy pace. Actually, you could come close to just that as long as you do not feel obsessive about some aspect of your life. If need be, go over your holiday budget and make adjustments.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Zero in on a special child or person in your life. You might want to take

them to a holiday happening. You discover a lot of new facets to this person. You might be taken aback by this person's whimsical nature, which was unknown to you up until now.

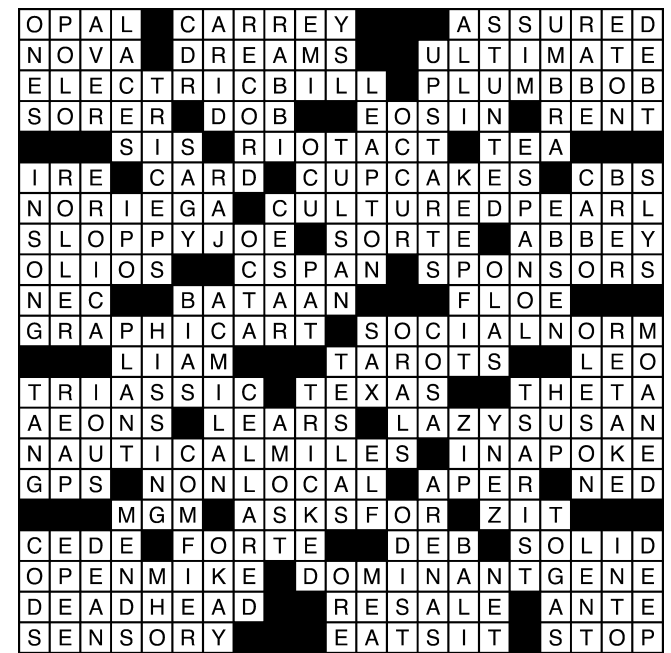
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You opt to stay close to home, perhaps get a snooze or two and hang a string of lights here or there. You might be dedicated to this pace, but the unexpected could still knock on your door.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

You speak your mind and others respond. At some point during the day, a comment could leave you or the other party speechless. You could be in a crowd of shoppers or in another social situation when this moment occurs.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



12/1/19