

## DIVERSIONS

## THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

## Jest one more: Winning 'plus-ones'

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1395 we asked you to add "plus-one" to something known by a number. The most frequently submitted entry was something like **45 presidents plus 1: Yes, please!**

**4th place:**

**The Sound of Two Hands Clapping:** What begins the audio version of "Koans for Dummies." (Harold Mantle, Walnut Creek, Calif.)

**3rd place:**

**The Feeding of the 5,001:** If Jesus had known how greedy that last guy was going to be, he'd have sent Peter out for another fish. (Michelle Christopherou, Guilford, Surrey, England)

**2nd place and the "Houston Asterisks" T-shirt:**

**Four and Twenty Blackbirds Plus One:**

Once upon a midnight, baking pastries for the king's partaking. Slicing ouzels, merls and crows, I saw I'd gotten to a score— Diced four grackles, kept on working, when I spied a blackbird lurking, Eyeing me and blithely smirking, high above my kitchen door. "Does this pie have room," I asked him, "for another of your corps?" Quoth the Raven, "Not one more." (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

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

**50 First Dates Plus 1:** "C'mon, Mom, I don't need you to chaperone anymore!" (Rob Cohen, Potomac)

**Limited additions: Honorable mentions**

**The 1-percenters plus 1 percent:** "There goes the neighborhood!" (John McCooney, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

**10 Things I Hate About You Plus 1:** And you never appreciate all the lists I make! How can you live so disorganized? (Hannah Seidel, Alexandria)

**100 Bottles of Beer on the Wall:** Prequel to the musical saga. (Ben Aronin, Washington)

**1984 + 1:** The year 1984, when we finally emerge from the current dystopia. (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

**20,001 Leagues Under the Sea:** The short sequel in which Captain Nemo finds the precise crush depth of the Nautilus. (Brett Dimaio, Cumberland, Md.)

**The 50 states plus 1:** [This entry blocked by the Republican Party] (Adam Nubbe, Falls Church, a First Offender)

**51 Ways to Leave Your Lover:** Say you've got the virus, Cyrus. (John Glenn, Tyler, Tex.)

**51 Ways to Leave Your Lover:** Call out his vanity, Hannity! (Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring)

**525,601 minutes:** How you measure a year when your clock runs .0005 percent fast. (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

**61 Minutes:** Given the age of the show's reporters, well, they just need a little more time. (Bill Lieberman, Ellicott City, Md.)

**Around the World in 81 Days:** An inattentive Phileas Fogg trips on the international date line. (John McCooney)

**The Big Ten Plus One:** And you're still three short of the real number of teams. (Adam Nubbe; Bill Lieberman)

**Eight Days a Week Plus One:** How long every week seems to be these days. (Jesse Aronson, Arlington)

**The Five Corners:** Colorado, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and the 4th Congressional District of North Carolina. (Zachary Levine, Rockville)

**Four little words:** "I love you, tonight." (Howard Walderman, Columbia)

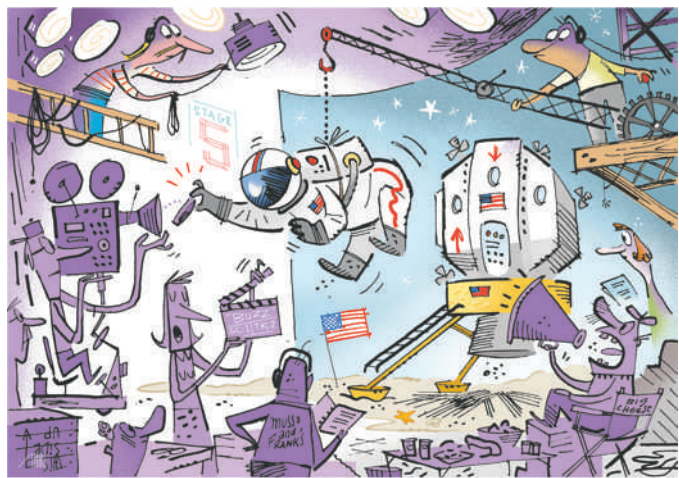
**One Thousand and Two Nights:** The king wants to hear Tale No. 432 again. (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

**Pentathlon plus one:** The drug test. (Wendy Shang, Falls Church)

**Seven Brides for Eight Brothers:** Sometimes you end up as the fifteenth wheel. (Hannah Seidel)

**Seven Habits of Highly Successful People plus One:** 8. Be born to really rich parents. (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

**Six Easy Pieces:** The president aces a jigsaw puzzle test. (Mike Mason, Centerville)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## New contest for Week 1399: The lie-zy days of summer

- On Aug. 24, 1969, the footage of the **first moon landing** was filmed in a Hollywood studio, but only because Buzz Aldrin had forgotten to remove the lens cap during the real event one month earlier. (Jason Russo)
- Synchronized swimmers** are typically fitted with plastic mouth inserts to ensure that their smiles match. (Robert Schechter)
- Early in their history, the **Yankees** were frequent losers to their archrivals, the Yankers. (Steve McClemons)

It's the third stop in our tour of false facts about the four seasons. **This week: Tell us some bogus trivia about the summer or things that happen or have happened in the summer**, like the examples above from earlier Style Invitational fictoid contests about history and sports.

Submit up to 25 entries total at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1399](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1399) (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Sept. 7**, in honor of the Unofficial Last Day of Summer; results will appear Sept. 27 in print, Sept. 24 online — which, yes, is after the Official Last Day of Summer. So we forgot.

**Winner gets the Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives what could charitably be called "retro" and less charitably "srsly?": It's a gadget called **Steve Spangler's Energy Stick**, which is a glass tube with some wires and light filaments inside. It's marketed as a science toy because when you hold both ends of the tube, you "turn your body into a human conductor of electricity" with the electrons in your skin, thereby producing flashing lights and annoying noises. This is guaranteed to delight your junior biophysicist for multiple nanoseconds. Donated by Dave Prevar.

**Other runners-up** win their choice of our "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grocery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "No Bility" or "Punderachiever." 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](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline "Jest One More" was submitted by both Chris Doyle and Beverley Sharp; Terri Berg Smith and Kevin Dopart both came up with the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.me/invdev); "like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](https://www.facebook.com/bit.ly/inkofday); follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

**Next week — more horses!** To coincide with the Finally Gonna Happen 2020 Kentucky Derby on Sept. 5, we'll be doing our venerable **racehorse name "breeding" contest**, using 100 of the names of this year's Triple Crown nominees. Back in May we did the contest using the names of past winners, but now we'll be back with the real thing.

THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week's at [wapo.st/conv1399](http://wapo.st/conv1399).



Wow! Electricity! This week's second prize.

**The Eighth Seal:** Elmer's. (Maja Keech, Bowie; Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

**The Four Questions Plus One:** Why aren't they called the Four Answers? (Rob Cohen)

**The Four Tops plus a pair of sweatpants:** is all you need for your lockdown wardrobe. (Jeff Hazle, San Antonio)

**The Seven Articles of the U.S. Constitution Plus One:** "I'm told that Article 8 is written on the back of the Constitution in invisible ink, and gives me unilateral authority to postpone the election." (Steve Smith, Potomac)

**The Seven Deadly Sins plus 1:** Pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, wrath, sloth, and not noticing the green left-turn arrow until it's almost over. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

**The Eight Deadly Sins:** The eighth

is pedantry. Actually, however, it should really remain at seven because greed and gluttony are basically the same. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

**The Thirteen Days of Christmas:** When you try to return a bunch of lords-a-leaping without a gift receipt. (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

**The Three Fates Plus One:** The first sister spins the thread of life, the second sister measures it, the third cuts it, and the fourth turns you into a yo-yo. (Greg Dobbins, Boynton Beach, Fla.)

**The Sinister Six Plus One:** Spider-Man's nemeses — Dr. Octopus, Electro, Kraven, Mysterio, Sandman and Vulture — pale before ORKIN GUY. (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

**The whole 10 yards:** Something the Washington Football Team hopes to achieve one day. (Luke Baker, Columbia)

**Three's a crowd plus one:** The biggest crowd ever, period! (George Smith, Frederick)

**Two Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest:** Many thought McMurphy was faking it, but no one questioned the admission of Louie Gohmert. (William Lomas, Haymarket, Va., who last got ink in Week 194 — 24 years ago)

**Your Age Plus One:** How old you will be when you really have your act together. (Jennifer Martin Broadway, Marquette, Mich.)

**Still running — deadline Monday, Aug. 31: our contest for a metaphor or meme to describe 2020.** See [wapo.st/invite1398](http://wapo.st/invite1398).

## L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

**"SPACE SAVERS" By PAM AMICK KLAWITTER**

## ACROSS

1 Did gondola duty  
6 "Today" rival,  
9 Middling  
13 Short staff?  
18 Dollar alternative  
19 Short trip  
20 Alpha's antithesis  
22 Beat in the kitchen  
23 "Wait ... let me start over"  
26 Najmy who voiced Peggy Hill in "King of the Hill"  
27 Bad look  
28 Heckle, but not  
29 The "P" in PIN:  
31 Unilever swab  
32 Old manuscript copier  
34 Scalpel sites, for short  
35 Polynesian wrap  
37 Rage  
38 To the point  
40 Spa sounds  
41 Early pictures  
43 Some online reads  
45 Diamond surfaces  
48 Georgia gridders, to fans  
49 "Ginger \_\_\_\_":  
1952 Newbery Medal-winning book  
50 "Spring forward" letters  
51 School reunion attendee  
52 Car radio button  
54 Oxygen-eating bacteria  
56 Asian festival  
57 Gets dirty  
58 Busy center  
61 Uncle Sam's land, proudly  
62 Bunny tail  
63 Coral component  
64 Big shot: Abbr.  
65 Cellar, but not collar, opening  
66 Belief common to much religion  
68 "Explain, please?"  
70 Western PA airport code  
71 Disappearing retail giant  
73 Hosp. readouts  
74 Lodge opening?

75 Patel of "Slumdog Millionaire"  
76 Gets one's feet wet  
77 Milne hopper  
78 Caught  
80 First novel in Christopher Paolini's Inheritance Cycle  
82 Sign of a hit  
83 Wks. and wks.  
84 Platters in sleeves  
85 Beautifully  
86 Puts down  
88 Honors  
90 Svelte  
92 911 pro  
93 Culture: Prof.  
94 Friend of Goat in "Pearls Before Swine"  
95 Some skippers  
97 Flock hangout  
99 List-shortening term  
103 Sticks on a boat  
105 Boat owner's rental

106 Flat owner, maybe  
108 Sound  
109 Fitness mantra opening  
111 Method for slow, steady progress  
114 Like a fleabag motel  
115 Asian wraps  
116 Dusk, to Donne  
117 \_\_\_\_ dish  
118 Half of scissors?  
119 Hacking targets: Abbr.  
120 Sellout letters  
121 Hackneyed

## DOWN

1 Beach toys  
2 Early Mesocamerican sculptors  
3 It may be golden  
4 Some retired academics  
5 Point  
6 Karmann \_\_\_\_  
7 President before an Adams

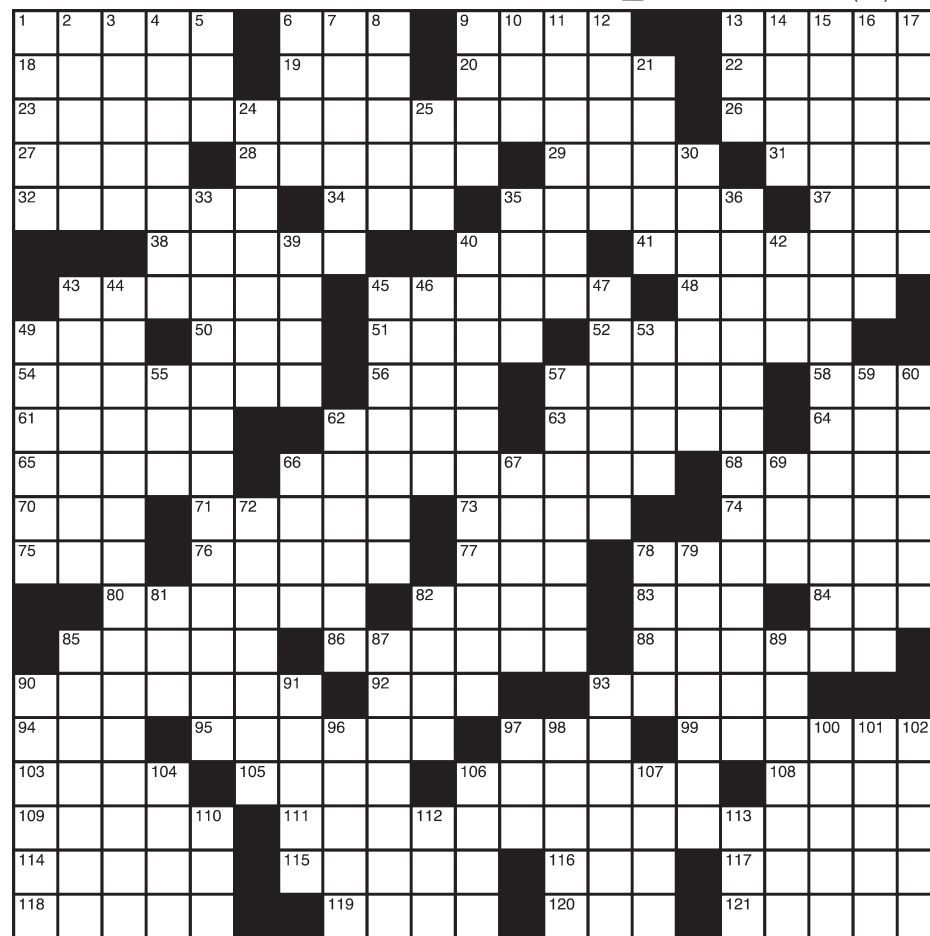
8 Eponymous newborn score creator  
9 Sauces for sushi  
10 Yoga syllables  
11 Overlook  
12 Lustful looker  
13 Comics cry from a birdcage  
14 Member of three L.A. Lakers championship teams  
15 Feeling ecstatic  
16 Stadium merch  
17 Uses a Zoom alternative

21 "Hair" dos  
24 First name of Dickens' Madame Defarge  
25 Ed.'s stack  
30 Dudley's toon foe  
33 Make every effort  
35 Brother of Ham  
36 Fancy poultry dish

39 Retired fliers: Abbr.  
40 Superior to all others  
42 Sheepish girl?  
43 Gentrification target  
44 Negative forecast  
45 Campaign funders  
46 Alaskan native  
47 "SNL" staples  
49 Took a breather  
53 Heat up  
55 O'er and o'er again  
57 Features of urns

59 Loosens, as a tot's pajamas  
60 Soft hits just over the infield  
62 Big name in tennis  
66 Carpenter's groove  
67 Sierra \_\_\_\_  
69 LGBT History Mo.  
72 Drawers? "\_\_\_\_ a loss"

79 Remote area known for its middle?  
81 Hermione's guy  
82 Stream blockers  
85 Assumed names  
87 Paging devices  
89 Family dinner fowl  
90 Half of some couples  
91 Hershey's caramel candies  
93 A time to dye  
96 Granada girls  
97 It's a sign  
98 \_\_\_\_ Park  
100 Christine of Colorado  
101 Like radon, say  
102 Home on high  
104 Kick starter?  
106 L, in box scores  
107 "What a mess!"  
110 TV's Burrell and baseball's Cobb  
112 Ocean flipper  
113 Back (out)



8/30/20

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

## HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Aug. 30:** Possessing rock-solid talent, financially astute and organized, you have an amazing year coming up. Not only do you produce miracles behind the scenes, but you increase funds for you and your family. If single, it is rare as so many want to be with you, but it happens — and during the first part of this year. If attached, your partner looks to you for everything. Pisces sometimes loves being propped up.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
Today promises happiness and good times. Plan a gathering and select gifts. Others will be thoughtful and generous. People from your past can call unexpectedly. Reminisce about the good times, but remember that a leopard doesn't change its spots.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
Life is bright with the promise of better times ahead. Consult your extended family, including friends, about a significant relationship. Follow advice. You'll have a new awareness of how others impact your life.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
You've been exploring different beliefs and customs and may have been disappointed by certain ones. Accepting this philosophically will bring you peace. Your greatest lessons come through journeys and personal exploration.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
Today places an emphasis on security. Tax and insurance matters need attention. Appreciate all that you have rather than lamenting lack. Prepare for an unexpected communication.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
Enjoy the present with companions, but reflect before making a commitment. A partner is loving and thoughtful. Devote today to honoring teamwork and sharing. It's also a perfect cycle for resolving any negotiations that need attention.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
Be certain your diet is balanced and drink plenty of pure water or healthy teas and juices. It's a time to grow in strength and wellness. Break counterproductive habits. Healing techniques from other cultures are worth trying.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
Today brings excitement. A new

love or friendship is promised and might surprise you. Expect intense emotional needs and attractions. A bond can deepen, but listen if a loved one hints that you're too intense or heavy.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
Overall, your living arrangements are improving. The teacher and crusader within you emerges. There is much to learn about your heritage. Today also favors pursuing a new avocation. Careful scheduling is the key to making everything work out smoothly.

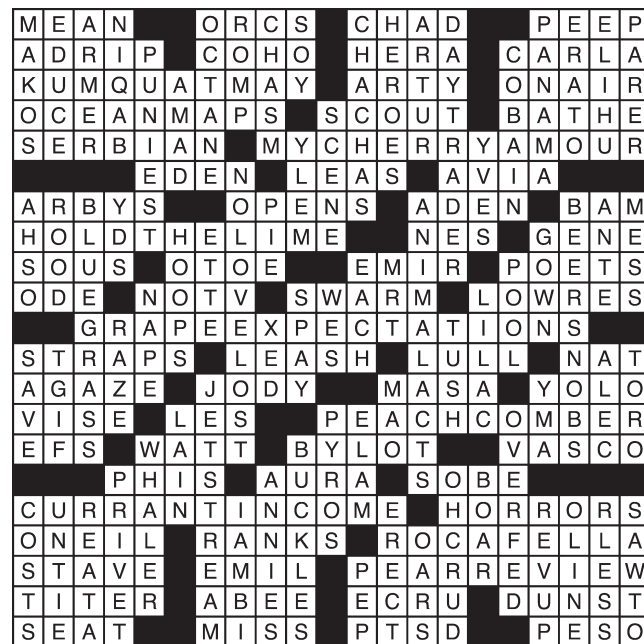
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
Today promises a variety of activities and the presentation of interesting ideas. A problem is solved. You'll have the chance to return a favor. Expressing your deepest feelings today can feel awkward. Maintain a lighthearted approach to relationships.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan 19)  
Today creates confusion about budgeting and finances. A sentimental mood prevails. Economize in expenses, as well as regarding the outpouring of your emotion and energy. It's easy today to be a bit abrupt.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
Moderate exercise and good-natured competition provide positive outlets. It's an interesting day, but stress can build. Take time to focus, and keep your wishes and dreams in mind. Then it becomes a very good day indeed.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
The power found in silence and the healing qualities of peace and privacy will be cherished today. You'll be interested in justice and humanitarian concerns. Your efforts to implement changes of all kinds in your life are rewarded.

## Answers to last week's puzzle.



8/23/20