

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Look both ways: Before & after names

In Week 1449 the Empress put up a "Before and After"-type wordplay contest in which you start with a name and append another name, word or phrase (sometimes bending the spelling along the way).

4th place:

Dwayne Johnson's Wax: Quite impressive when buffed. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

3rd place:

Roald Dolly Parton: Beloved author of "James and the Giant Melons." (Pam Sweeney, Burlington, Mass.)

2nd place and the 'Scream' lapel pin:

F. Scott FitzGerald Ford: "So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the . . . oops, man overboard!" (Mark Raffman, Reston)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

Giannis Antetokounm-Poe: Once upon a playoff mission, 2021 edition, After sitting out two games (his knee was feeling really sore) — Wearing Nike sneakers squeaky, showing off his talents freaky, Six-eleven, strong and Greek, he made amazing moves to score. Named the Finals MVP, the finest player on the floor: Giannis, Number 34. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

ImPAIRed:

Honorable mentions

James Madison Cawthorn: "Knowledge will forever govern ignorance . . . well, until now." (Mark Raffman)

Lin-Manuel Miranda Warning: (to "You'll Be Back" from "Hamilton") You'll shut up! Close your mouth, Sassy the cops and it could all go south.

You'll shut up — do not talk. There's a chance that they could let you walk. Motions rise, DAs fall; You'll remain impassive through it all, And when you need support, They will send a public (free!) defender to stand up for you in court! (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Dalai Lamazon: Offers enlightenment and wisdom in two days, guaranteed. (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

Dan Snydermatitis: A rash in which the patient's skin turns . . . uh . . . rashlike. Also caused by abnormally thin skin. (Frank Mann, Washington)

Eminemmanuel Macron: "Yella vesta protesta / Be a pest 'n' I'm gonna arrest ya!" (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Eminemily Dickinson: "Hope is the #S&* thing with feathers." (Mark Raffman)

LeBron James Joyce: Working on "Finnegans Wake 2: Space Jammier." (Coleman Glenn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.)

Lyndon B. Johnson & Johnson: "One and done." (Greg Dobbins, Boynton Beach, Fla.)

Madame Curious George: A radioactive monkey escapes into the arms of a man in a yellow haz-mat suit. (Laurie Morrison, Rockville; Josh Feldblyum, Springfield, Pa.)

Marlon Brandonald Trump: "Stealllllla!" (Harold Mantle, Walnut Creek, Calif.)

Lewis Carroll of the Bells: "Hark how the bells go dongleding And with a swifty twanking say, 'Let all your cares go flarrowing This frabjous Christmas Day!' " (Coleman Glenn)

Mister Ed Sheeran: Singing horse who wrote the hit single "Shape of U," about his favorite shoe. (Jesse Frankovich)

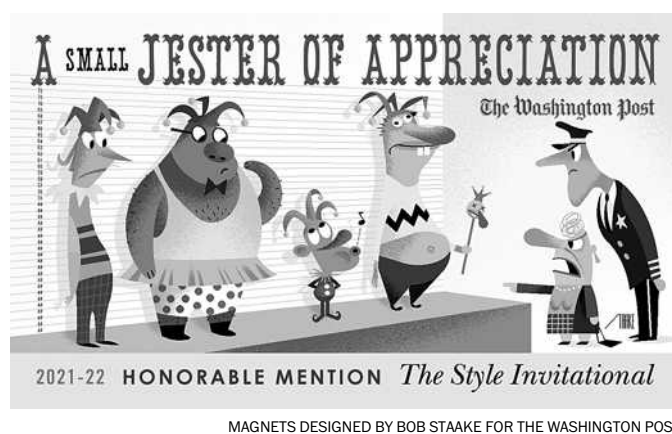
Ogden Nash Equilibrium: "Game theory / Makes me weary." (Daniel Galef, Tallahassee)

RuPaul Bunyan: He's a lumberjack and he's okay. (Edward Gordon, Austin)

Won't You Be My NeighBoris Johnson: A man leaves his community in a huff, then hangs out next door spreading a virus. (Kevin Dopart, sojourning in Naxos, Greece)

Andrew CuoMopov: "I Heard It Through the Grapevine." (Bruce Carlson, Alexandria)

Cuomododo dragon: A nearly extinct lizard that makes a lot of noise and whose touch is repellent. (Henry J.



New contest for Week 1453: Haven't read it — mis-subtitle a book

One Hundred Years of Solitude
Wrong subtitle: *The Covid Hoax Continues*

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe
Spice Up Your Love Life With Costumes

Small Vices
The Best Tools for Making Doll House Furniture

This week's contest was suggested by 292-time Loser Jon Gearhart, who couldn't sleep and so thought up this contest along with about 20 examples: **Choose any book title listed on Amazon and misinterpret it by adding a subtitle**, as in Jon's examples above; famous titles, or ones whose real subjects are obvious, might work best for this contest. (All together now: Amazon founder Jeff Bezos owns The Washington Post.)

ANNOUNCING THE 2021-2022 LOSER MAGNETS! Each year since 2003, Our Art Guy Bob Staake has created a pair of magnets for the Invite's honorable mentions. They may be the size of a business card, but you can also think of them as limited-edition (500 each) Staake prints. The ideas were inking entries in our 2015 contest for magnet slogans; "A Small Jester of Appreciation" is by Elizabeth Molyé; Nancy Della Rovere had suggested "No Cigar," and Bob turned it into an homage to Magritte's painting "This Is Not a Pipe." Elizabeth and Nancy each win a magnet, six years later.

For this week's contest: **Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1453** (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Sept. 20;** results appear Oct. 10 in print, Oct. 7 online.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a set of three genuine dried "naturally glowing edible scorpions" — along with a black-light flashlight that's supposed to create that natural glow. Edible? Well, that's what the package says. It also says, "Amaze your friends." We suggest not edding them. 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 either one of the new lusted-after Loser magnets or the current "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. The headline "Look Both Ways" is by Beverley Sharp; Jeff Contompassis 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; and follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week's at wapo.st/conv1453.

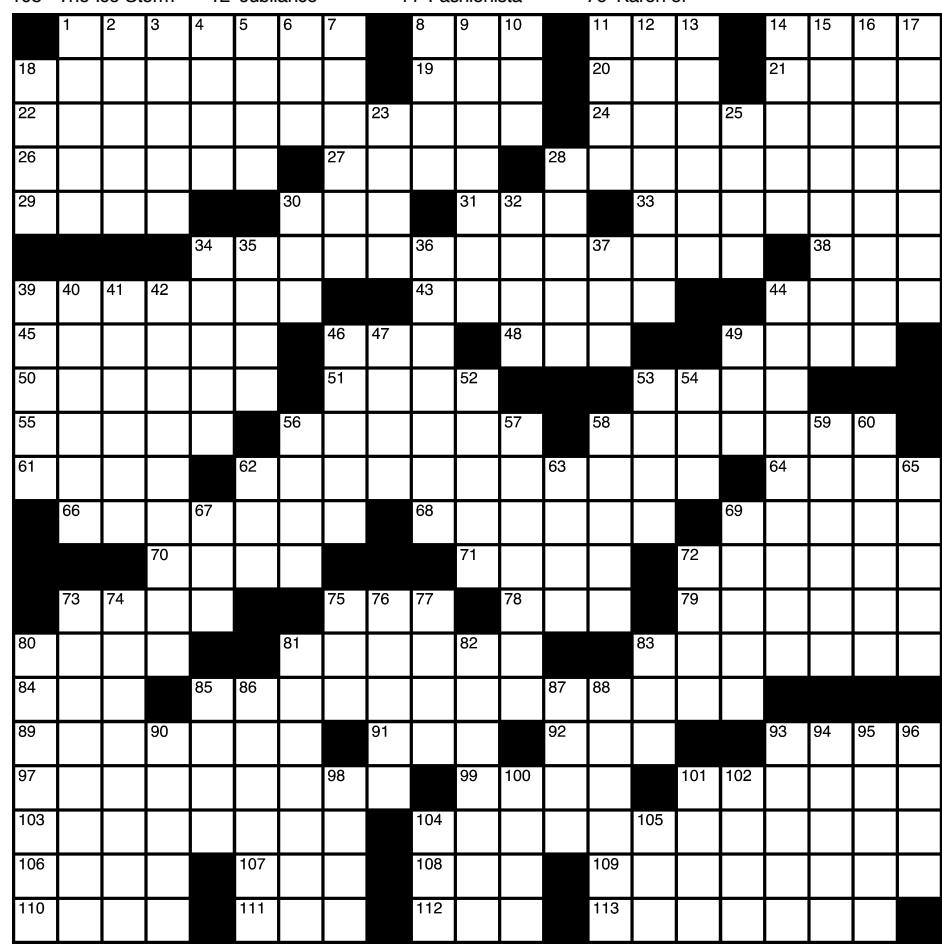
- Aaron, Washington, a First Offender**
- Archduke Ferdinand the Bull:** His assassination led to the Wars of the Roses, Lilies, Gardenias and Hyacinths. (Roy Ashley, Washington)
- Bonoprah Winfrey:** "You get a car! You get a car! U2 get a car!" (Jesse Rifkin, Arlington)
- Captain Morgantivaxxer:** "Avast conspiracy!" (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)
- Clint Eastwoody Owl:** "Give a hoot — don't pollute — or I'll shoot." (Jeff Contompassis, Ashburn)
- CriscoOsteen:** Truly inspired by the Lard. (Ellen Raphaeli, Falls Church)
- Dirty Harry Belafonte:** "Go ahead. Make my day-o, day-ay-o!" (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)
- Dustin Hoffmanifest Destiny:** "Mrs. Robinson, it is both justified and inevitable that you will seduce me." (Sara Walsh, Rockville)
- Kim Kardashian Fleming:** Author of "For Your Eyes Only, Except for Everyone Else Who Saw the Sex Tape" (Bruce Alter, Fairfax Station)
- Lauren Boebert Lahr:** A cowardly lyin' congresswoman. (Chris Doyle)
- Mae Westmoreland:** Led our troops astray in Vietnam. (George Thompson, Springfield, Va.)
- George R.R. Martin Luther:** He

- was actually going to write 250 theses. (Hannah Seidel, Alexandria)
- George Washington Football Team:** First in . . . no, uh . . . hmmm . . . never mind. (Mark Turco, McLean)
- Jos. A. Banksy:** He surreptitiously painted the side of a building in a jaunty argyle pattern. (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)
- Kamala Harrison Ford:** Star of the movie "Air Force Two," where she foils the terrorists with a bucket of warm spit. (Kevin Dopart)
- Meryl Streeptease:** Starred in "The Devil Wears Nada." (William Kennard, Arlington)
- Scooby-Doobie Brothers:** "Ruh-rooh, risten to the rusic!" (Coleman Glenn)
- Stephen Breyers Ice Cream:** The manufacturer can't seem to understand when this should go on the shelf. (Duncan Stevens)
- And Last: **Pat Myers-Briggs Type Indicator:** No matter how you take the test, you lose. (Craig Dykstra, Centreville)
- More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1453.
- Still running — deadline Monday night, Sept. 13: Our contest to find new words in a word search grid.** See wapo.st/invite1452.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- "SOUNDS FAMILIAR" By MARK FELDMAN**
- ACROSS**
- 1 Only astronaut to fly in the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo programs
- 8 Sushi order
- 11 Short blue person?
- 14 Exile of 1979
- 18 Small bits of color
- 19 Easter lead-in
- 20 "Xanadu" rock gp.
- 21 Aqua ___: U.K. mineral water brand
- 22 Place for reading recipes?
- 24 Fragrant tea-flavoring shrubs
- 26 Quakers in forests?
- 27 Emailed
- 28 Ink on a billionaire?
- 29 Extreme disorder
- 30 Through
- 31 Madrid mama bear
- 33 "The Bald Soprano" playwright
- 34 City center street performer?
- 38 Flash ___
- 39 Third-party accounts
- 43 Provide with the latest
- 44 Green stone
- 45 Where one trying to score may be out
- 46 U.S. Army medal
- 48 Classic Pontiac
- 49 ___ pool
- 50 Like some stockings
- 51 Congers
- 53 React to a sprint
- 55 A montage of them was presented at the 2006 Oscars
- 56 Native Alaskans
- 58 Fencing moves
- 61 Nothing special
- 62 Bit of carelessness at cocktail hour?
- 64 Long stretches
- 66 They're usually unbeatable
- 68 Accustoms (to)
- 69 Storied building material
- 70 Fit
- 71 Feds under Ness
- 72 Current amount
- 73 Mail ctrs.
- 75 Stadium cheer
- 78 Offbeat
- 79 Eyed impolitely, with "at"
- 80 Bath buggy
- 81 Not at all light
- 83 Corn syrup component
- 84 Joplin's "Maple Leaf" ___
- 85 Postal mishap?
- 89 Legislative group, e.g.
- 91 Backing-up key
- 92 Bit in a horse's mouth
- 93 Cleaning tools, for short
- 97 Starter for a noncompetitive race?
- 99 Deli stock
- 101 Formed with the tip of the tongue, like the letter L
- 103 Property receivers, at law
- 104 Reality TV believer?
- 106 Axes
- 107 KC-to-NYC dir.
- 108 "The Ice Storm"
- director Lee
- 109 Acted like
- 110 Most massive known dwarf planet
- 111 Rehab hurdle
- 112 Screening org.
- 113 Western movie threat
- DOWN**
- 1 Imagine, colloquially
- 2 Horse-and-buggy ride
- 3 Cod relatives
- 4 Library vol. ID
- 5 Letters after pis
- 6 1906 Runabout, e.g.
- 7 Shows hospitality toward, as a visitor
- 8 Before long, to Shakespeare
- 9 Bird named for its cry
- 10 Annoy
- 11 "This seems familiar" word
- 12 Jubilance
- 13 University of Idaho city
- 14 Malice
- 15 Spider that stalks its prey
- 16 Opening number?
- 17 Surely is
- 18 Con job
- 23 Bar specification
- 25 "Death in Venice" author
- 28 Aspect
- 30 Bugs with brakes
- 32 Wrapped in a blanket, say
- 34 Mosque toppers
- 35 Due
- 36 Block off
- 37 Award-winning Mark Tatulli comic strip
- 39 Relaxes
- 40 Apply, as a brake
- 41 Lawn chair
- 42 Hanks sobriquet for films like "You've Got Mail"?
- 44 Fashionista
- dog?
- 46 Knish sellers
- 47 Ooze
- 49 Oxlike antelope
- 52 Stretch
- 53 Letters before chi
- 54 Duchamp contemporary
- 56 "What about me?!"
- 57 Layered Italian dessert
- 58 General direction
- 59 Bullfight figure
- 60 Traps
- 62 Long-running forensic series
- 63 First name in an 1857 case
- 65 Activist Greta Thunberg, e.g.
- 67 Hosp. units
- 69 Suspect
- 72 End of a ball game?
- 73 Like table salt
- 74 Composer of solo violin études
- 75 "Vive le ___!"
- 76 Karen of
- 77 Fashion lines
- 80 Introduction
- 81 Portraitist John Singer ___
- 82 Long-vowel symbols
- 83 Tatami, e.g.
- 85 Leave speechless
- 86 "Thanks, it's already done"
- 87 "Stay" singer
- 88 Lisa seen in GEICO ads
- 88 "Get a move on!"
- 90 Salad green
- 93 Like some popular videos
- 94 Perceptive
- 95 Pole tossed by a Scot
- 96 Downhill traveler
- 98 Applications
- 100 Discipline with stretches
- 101 Lie next to
- 102 Hide
- 104 Cricket club
- 105 Thurman of "Pulp Fiction"



9/12/21 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Sept. 12: You have a great imagination. You are also sincere and very alert. In a discussion with others, you are expressive. You are impulsive but very hard-working. Nevertheless, you always have time for others. This is a year where your success will be acknowledged. Expect promotions, kudos and awards. This is a busy year, because others notice you and want your contributions.

Moon Alert: After 4:45 a.m., there are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions. The Moon is in Sagittarius.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You will enjoy studying today because you have the focus and energy to sit down and learn something. Some of you will use your patience to wade through the details of making travel plans. Get organized and settle financial disputes.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You will take a calm, serious approach to shared property, wills, inheritances, taxes and banking matters. You won't overlook details. You will be precise and careful. It's a playful week. (Be patient with partners.)

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) This is an excellent day for a serious discussion with a friend or partner. You will welcome advice about something from anyone who is older or more experienced. Focus on home and your parents. Work is productive. Express your ideas.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) This is a productive day because you have a strong sense of duty and obligation. You might work on behalf of someone else. You might help them. Whatever you do, you do with care and precision.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Increased responsibilities with children are possible today. Some of you will benefit from today's influence by using it to practice something and hone a technique, either in sports or in the arts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) A discussion with an older family member will benefit you today because you can learn something. Or perhaps, this discussion is mutually beneficial because of the practical, emotional support it gives to someone.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today you will like to be alone with your thoughts. However, you also will enjoy the company of serious people. You're not in the mood for frivolity. You will be careful in whatever you do. Keep a low profile. Shop for something special.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You will be frugal with your money today, which is why you might not spend money. If you shop, you will likely buy long-lasting, practical items. Have a serious discussion about finances. Enjoy increased popularity, and buy wardrobe goodies for yourself.

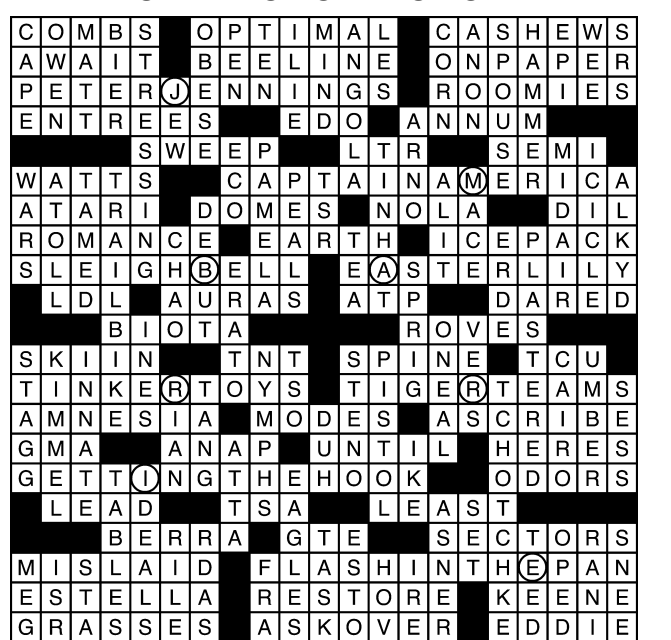
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with stern Saturn; you're not in the mood to party or socialize. However, you welcome the company of serious people, especially if they have practical advice for you. People admire you. (A secret love affair is possible.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) This is an excellent day to do research, especially if you are looking for answers to old problems. Your mind will be persevering, careful and thorough in its efforts to wade through details and find what you're looking for.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) A discussion with someone older or more experienced can benefit you today. Possibly, whatever this older person says might even affect your future goals. Why not stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before you? Learn something. Focus on self-improvement. (Your ambition impresses bosses.)

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You impress bosses, parents and authority figures, because they see you as conscientious, careful and persevering. These are qualities they admire because they know you will get things done.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



9/521