

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Invite ink: Gagger with a spoonerism

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1463 the Empress asked for Q&A jokes involving spoonerisms — in which the first sounds of two different words are switched. Thanks but no thanks for the various pairs featuring “luck,” “truck,” “pluck,” etc.

4th place:

How is an obnoxiously uncouth comic like an undressed atheist? One is needlessly crude and one is creedlessly nude. (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

3rd place:

How is Orson Welles’s classic film like a 10,000-piece Lego set? One is “Citizen Kane”; the other: “Kit is insane!” (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

2nd place and the Toilet Timer odor warning:

How is southern South America like Andrew Cuomo? One is Patagonia, the other is gonna pat ya. (Ryan Martinez, Takoma Park)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

What’s a demagogue’s reaction to a rabid crowd at a rally? If he’s rotten to the core, he’ll cotton to the roar. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Kissed the mutt: Honorable mentions

How did the political parties view the recent Virginia elections? To Republicans it was a fairy tale; to the Democrats, a Terry fail. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

How is a quip by the White House press secretary like a Gatorade bath for a winning Kentucky Derby rider? One’s a Psaki joke; the other’s a joke soak. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

How is a Shakespeare play like the GOP treatment of Rep. Liz Cheney? One is “The Taming of the Shrew”; the other is the Shaming of the True. (William Kennard, Arlington; Steve Offutt, Arlington)

How is Donald Trump like Mike Pence? One traffics in fibs and lies; the other’s pestered by libs and flies. (Pam Shermeyer, Lathrup Village, Mich., a First Offender)

How is one critic’s gushing review of a film like another critic’s snarky pan? One rates highly, while the other hates wryly. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

How was Lincoln’s political rise like his assassination? One was predestination; the other depressed a nation. (Alex Steelsmith, Kailua, Hawaii)

What’s the difference between Dak Prescott and Martin Shkreli? One is a Dallas Cowboy; the other’s a callous Dow boy. (Mark Raffman; Scott Warner, Hagerstown)

What are two things associated with a trip to Cancún? A booze cruise and Cruz boos. (Jesse Frankovich)

What did Laura Ingalls Wilder call her book about smacking no-good dudes on the Great Plains? “Hit a Louse on the Prairie.” (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

What’s the difference between a bartender and a gynecologist? One mixes the fizzes and the other fixes the missis. (Milo Sauer, Fairfax)

From what two things can you hear the ocean and the Chinese president’s voice? A seashell and a Xi cell. (Jesse Frankovich)

How is a cook announcing dinner like a magician announcing he actually cut the lady in half? One cries, “Soup’s on!”; the other cries, “Oops! Sawm!” (Jonathan Paul, Garrett Park)

How is a dirty window like a computer running Windows? With one, you want to scrub it clean; with the other, you want to club its screen. (Coleman Glenn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.)

How is a handlebar basket like a hazardous wintertime dare? One is a bicycle’s item; the other is “Icicles! Bite ‘em!” (Sarah Walsh, Rockville)

How is a home in the Land of Sweets like a rodent with an unpredictable temperament? One’s a marshmallow house; the other is a harsh/mellow mouse. (Coleman Glenn)

How is a Madeleine L’Engle novel



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1467: The Year in Redo, Part 1

Week 1436, new plots for movie titles: Paper Moon: In Part I of “Back to Our Offices: 2021,” a contest for best built photocopy. (Ann Martin)

Week 1421, rearrange words used in President Biden’s inaugural address: “Of all my predecessors, one stands out as a president of profound conviction. In fact, I believe his greatest one still lies ahead.” (Frank Osen)

Week 1418, new words containing the letter block U-N-D-O in any order: Undoh: To realize you were right after all. (Dave Prevar)

Last year at this time, the Empress asked why anyone would want to think back on 2020 — let’s just get to next year and get it behind us! Then, six days into 2021 . . .

The obvious reason: You get a second chance to enter the past year’s Style Invitational contests. This week we look back at the first half of the year — including perennials like “joint legislation” and foal names, as well as one-offs like our cicada diorama contest (this time with your choice of bug); I’ll leave you in suspense about next week’s contest. This week: Enter (or reenter) any Style Invitational contest from Week 1413 through 1439, except for Weeks 1414-1416, which are last year’s retrospectives plus the 2021 Year in Preview. You may enter multiple contests as long as you don’t submit more than 25 entries in all. And yes, feel free to use more current references this time around.

Get links to all those contests, plus important details and instructions, in this week’s Style Conversational column at wapo.st/conv1467. If you don’t subscribe to The Post, email me at pat.myers@washpost.com and, after I ask you why the heck not, I’ll give you alternative directions.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1467 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, Dec. 27; results appear Jan. 16 in print, Jan. 13 online.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a fabulously dorky Darth Vader USB charger that plugs into your car’s cigar lighter socket, or whatever it’s called now; connect your phone cable and Darth does his trademark heavy breathing. Donated by Loser Daphne Steinberg, who snagged it especially for us on the Buy Nothing platform.

Other runners-up win their choice of our “For Best Results, Pour Into Top End” Loser Mug or our “Whole Fools” Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, “A Small Jester of Appreciation” or “Close, but Ceci N’est un Cigare.” First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/inviteFAQ. The headline “Gagger With a Spoonerism” is by Chris Doyle; Chris also 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.

wobbler. (Tom Witte)

How is a third dose of the Pfizer vaccine like someone saying “cock-a-doodle-doo”? One is an RNA booster, the other is bein’ a rooster. (Coleman Glenn)

How is a trendy barbecue joint like Four Seasons Total Landscaping? One is a place for foodies’ ribs; the other is a place for Rudy’s fibs. (Bob Kruger, Rockville)

How is an Oscar Mayer wiener like Pac-Man? One is a hot dog; the other is a dot hog. (Jesse Frankovich)

How is an urge for romance like lice dancing on your head? One is a booty call and the other is a cootie ball. (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park; Byron Miller, Cobble Hill, B.C.)

How is footwear like Donald Trump? One is socks and shoes; the other shocks and sues. (Eric Nelkin)

How is Miss Piggy like 1960s Playboy bunnies? One is a nagging sow; the others are sagging now. (Terri Berg Smith, Rockville)

How is Oscar Wilde like Meghan Markle? One brewed some rich wit; the other wooed some rich Brit. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

How is the “Voices Carry” singer like a masochist’s plea? One is Aimee Mann, the other is “Maim me, Ann!” (Frank Mann, Washington — who happens to be Aimee’s brother)

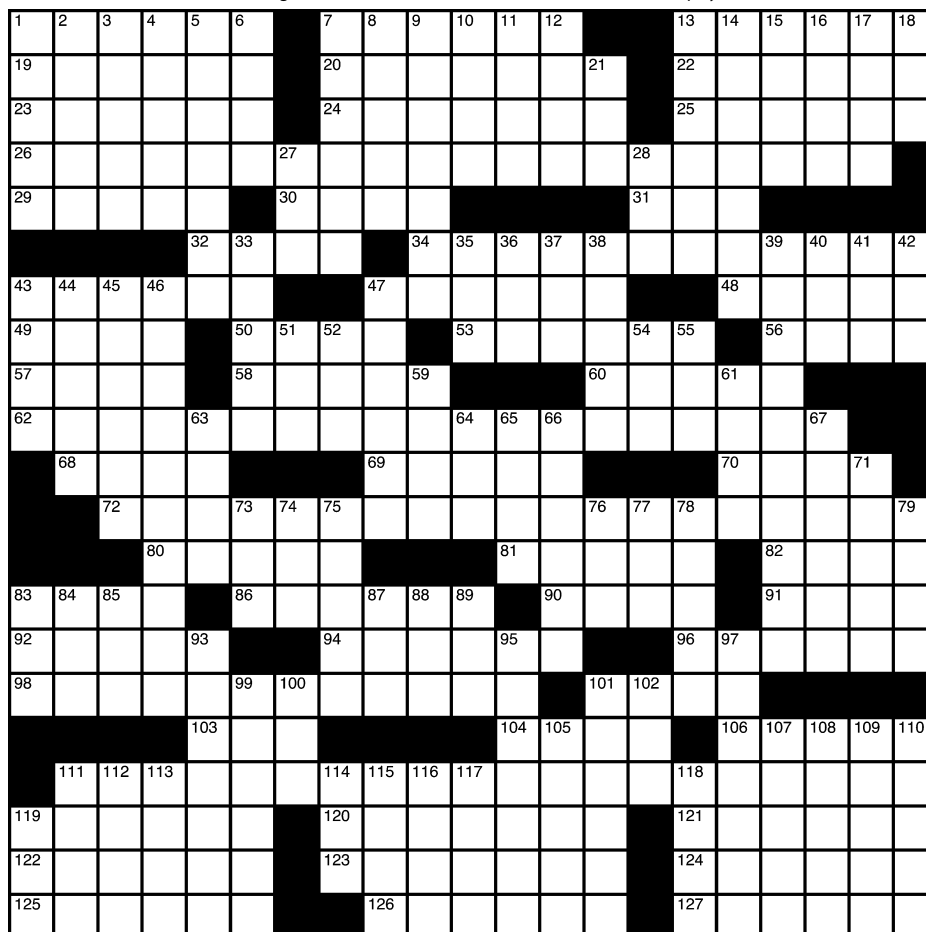
More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1467.

Still running — deadline Monday night, Dec. 20: Write a funny newspaper correction. See wapo.st/invite1466.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- ACROSS
1 Make a face, perhaps
7 Tab on old cash registers
13 Tarkington
19 Disagreeable
20 Brunch fare
22 Like zebras and donkeys
23 ___ pin: metal fastener
24 They know their stuff
25 Plants with flavorful and irritating varieties
26 Sweaters in King Arthur’s court?
29 “Ciao!”
30 Shiraz’s country
31 PC shortcut key
32 Earth goddess
34 Offshore retreat for comedians?
43 NL West team
47 Thing thrown from a tree?
48 Hotel selection
49 Director Kazan
50 Clog (up)
53 Amsterdam’s Anne Frank House, e.g.
56 Swindle
57 “Best ever” acronym
58 Harsh-smelling
60 Spectrum maker
62 Query to a U.K.-focused think tank?
68 Pic, in Peru
69 Buffalo QB Josh
70 Utah ski resort
72 Altered the revealing side of a dress?
80 Work with pupils
81 Mazda two-seater
82 Adverb for Descartes
83 Police force acronym
86 Venue for the premiere of Handel’s “Water Music”
90 Genesis casually
91 Come across
92 Capital of Yemen
94 Allows access
96 Diner counter array
98 Siblings who produce court orders?
101 Tusked beast
103 Like the lower half of the Polish flag
104 Allows access, poetically
106 Major appliances
111 Dieters’ interim report on smaller-sized clothes?
119 March
120 Out of the loop
121 Prison with a Greek eponym
122 Worshipper
123 Lead off
124 Kitchen gadget
125 Defy
126 Biological quintet
127 Members of the genus Viperia
DOWN
1 Saves, with “away”
2 Pot boiler in “Macbeth”
3 Remove, as a knot
4 Female driver
Ortiz of “Fast & Furious” films
5 Augur
6 Rookie
7 Cosa ___
8 Missouri River city
9 Ordinal for Uranus
10 Bygone fruit spray
11 Longtime TV host who gives automotive advice in “Popular Mechanics”
12 Caesar’s penultimate words
13 Mortar partner
14 Congo line?
15 More than cold
16 Currency of 30-Across
17 In the distant past
18 ___ Arc, Arkansas
21 Common ID
27 Quaint word of revolution
28 South Asian lentil dish
33 Evaluate
35 Sam+Am offering
63 Rutgers URL ending
64 Sammie with crunch
65 Twenty quires
66 Bay of Bengal’s ocean
67 Sound system
71 Madonna companion, in much art
73 Put away
74 Dresden “Drat!”
75 Word on old tablets
76 Hook partner
77 The VW Amarok, e.g.
78 ___ fresca: pico de gallo
79 Little ones
83 Bismarck-to-Tucson dir.
84 Journalist Hemingway’s assignment
85 Singer DiFranco
87 “No big deal”
88 Summer at the Sorbonne
89 Bygone geopolitical abbr.
93 Wears down
95 Meteorological lines
97 Put on display, with “out”
99 Go back
100 Dedicated verse
101 Engenders
102 Brutus Buckeye is its mascot: Abbr.
105 Intrinsically
107 Made an official choice
108 IRS option
109 More amiable
110 Marquee names
111 Enjoy the kiddie pool
112 Cupid analog
113 Sreenivasan of PBS News
114 Oft-corked container
115 Chicago pizzeria franchise, familiarly
116 Security source
117 Hotel bed request
118 Valley with vintners
119 Course goal for many



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Answers to last week’s puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Happy Birthday | Dec. 19: You’re creative, with a flair for the dramatic. People notice you. In turn, you are a people watcher. You’re confident and curious, and you love to travel and learn things. This year is the final year of a nine-year cycle, which is why you are wrapping up things and letting go of what is no longer relevant in your life.

Moon Alert: After 5 a.m., there are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions. The Moon is in Cancer.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Today you’re in a philosophical mood, which is why you’re pondering your future and wondering about plans for travel or further education. You want to enrich your life. Be open to meeting people from other cultures.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) This is a favorable day to discuss how to divide something like an inheritance or how to deal with shared property. Very likely, things will go your way and you’ll be laughing all the way to the bank.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Conversations with partners and close friends will go well today because everybody’s in a good mood! They want to be part of something bigger than themselves. They want to work harmoniously with others because it feels good.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You feel energetic today. This is a good day to make work-related travel plans. You might see ways to expand your work because you’re thinking about your goals and how well or not you are achieving them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) This is a fabulous day to socialize because people are receptive and eager to meet you, and, in turn, you want to explore and learn more about them. It’s a mutually beneficial situation. This is also a great day to enjoy playful activities with kids and explore sports events.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) This is a wonderful day to entertain. Invite friends and family over for good food and drink. People will enjoy talking to each other because this is an upbeat day. Timing is everything. When it works, go with the flow.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You’re happy today because you’re in a positive frame of mind. Everything you want to do today will work out as planned. In particular, you will enjoy hanging out with siblings, relatives and neighbors, especially because people will work harmoniously with each other.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Business and commerce are favored today. Financial negotiations will go well. Act on any ideas that you have to boost your income, because they might pan out. In particular, dealing with foreign interests could be favorable.

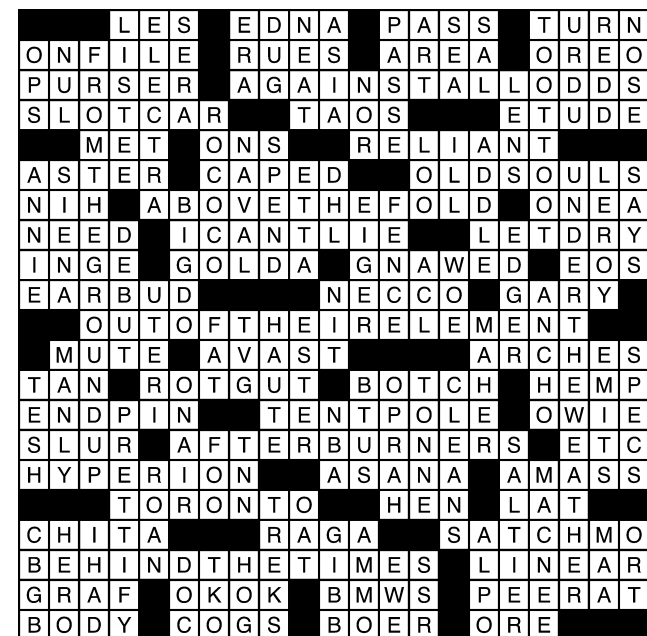
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today, the Sun is in your sign dancing with your ruler Jupiter. This makes you feel idealistic, optimistic and happy. Your relations with groups, clubs and conferences will be successful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today it’s appropriate to work alone or behind the scenes. Nevertheless, with both Mercury and Venus in your sign, you feel sociable. Balance this day by juggling these two influences.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) What a marvelous day to schmooze. Not only will you enjoy the company of others, you will benefit from your interaction with them, especially if you discuss what you want to achieve in the future.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Others are impressed with you today, which means you can use this to your advantage. Make the most of it. Ask for what you want. Ask for a favor. It’s okay to get the support of others when things go your way.

Answers to last week’s puzzle.



12/12/21