56 Author with three 85 Lawmaking

57 Dash alternative.

perhaps 59 Seven and

63 Simply 64 First name in

jazz 66 Block an access

road between

68 "SNL"-like show

that spawned

many comedic

69 Start of a pirate

74 Intermission

reason for

oversleeping?

Sideshow Bob

76 Once-a-yr.

79 \_\_ pad 80 Bane of

82 Rose's

81 Wells' fruit

62 Like so

century 88 Frankfurter's

93 Spare no

exclamations 91 Beethoven's 32

94 Strong-armed

95 Some operate

99 Patronizes, as a

remotely 97 Montreal's prov.

98 Lets loose

103 Honorific for

medium

109 A step down from "Funny!

comic

110 Setting of many a "Far Side"

107 One way to start 108 Dough in Tehran

106 Bygone

100 Snack

# **DIVERSIONS**

#### THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

# What duh . . . : Stupid questions

#### **BY PAT MYERS**

In Week 1384 the Empress asked for stupid questions, especially relating to The Current Situation, but more timeless ones as well Several Losers just quoted verbatim: "I see the disinfectant, where it knocks it out in one minute, and is there a way you can do something like that by injection inside, or almost a cleaning? A couple of questions were too good to be called stupid, and so they get nothing: Todd DeLap asked, "Did you realize that 'Fauci' backward is 'I Cuaf'?' and Eric Nelkin wondered, "Wait. when were the Certain Times?"

## 4th place:

"Don't you think I look a lot more manly without that stupid mask?" (Marli Melton, Carmel Valley,

## rd place:

"Why are my neighbor's blackeyed Susans staring at me?" (Paul Duffy, Geneseo, N.Y., a First Offender)

## 2nd place and the shower cap-style Ear **Guards:**

"Anyone want to carpool over with me to the testing site?" (Bill Bouyer, Ocoee, Fla.)

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

If ignorance is bliss, why is Trump so cranky all the time? (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

## ... and dumber: **Honorable mentions** "Do you agree with the

president on that point, Mr. Vice President?" (John Glenn, Tyler, Tex.)

"Since you have to be on a

door that's bigger than my

ventilator for a month now, can I borrow your masks?" (Joe Neff, Warrington, Pa., "Is it too much to ask for a plane

umbrella?" - D.J.T. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.) They say that it is loss that teaches us about the worth of things, but what has it taught us

about socks? (Chuck Smith. "Can you and your sister stop fighting and be quiet for the

next hour while I lead a Zoom

meeting?" (Marli Melton) "Hi, do you offer Zoom acupuncture?" (Sarah Walsh,

"A notorious multiple-bankruptcy con artist sent me a \$1,200

report this obvious scam?"

Dudzik, Olney)

(Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.) "Officer, do you even know how to use that Taser?" (Stephen

'check.' Should I call the FTC to

Can you believe those greedy teachers, asking for raises after we've been doing their job for them all this time? (Josh Feldblyum, Springfield, Pa.)

"Alexa, how far is six feet in a size 8 shoe?" (Bill Bouyer)

"Did you hear that the virus comes from Chinese penguins?" (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

"Are you wondering if those pants make you look fat?" (Kyle Hendrickson, Frederick)

Can we shake left-handed since I only wipe my nose with my right hand? (Rob Cohen, Potomac)

"Come on, wasn't that the best two minutes you've ever had?" (Tom Witte)

"Do you take this excrescence to be your husband?" (Dan Steinbrocker, Los Angeles)

"Does hydroxychloroquine make your hands grow?" (Jesse

Frankovich)

"Does this face mask come in mesh?" (Jean Sorensen, Herndon)

"Doesn't anvone here still care about Brexit?" (Ken Gallant, Seguim, Wash.)

"For a Wonder Bread fan like me, is there somewhere that I can get a sourdough ender?" (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Has anyone ever watched paint dry all the way to make sure the whole process is boring? (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines,

"Honey, with your promotion to inspector general, why don't we buy a new house?" (Steve Smith,



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

# New contest for Week 1388: Turning around a business

**OAF ODES SEAFOOD:** A restaurant with clumsy waiters who insist on singing sea chanteys. **ALLERGY GALLERY:** The Museum of Natural

**LEGATO GELATO:** The smoothest ice cream

This week's contest was suggested by Absolutely Obsessive Loser Jeff Contompasis. Are you seeing what he did here? This week: Create a business, product, organization or similar entity that contains a word, name or phrase and its anagram, and describe it, as in Jeff's own examples above. ("Allergy Gallery" was his inking entry in a similar contest, Week 955 in 2010.) An anagram is a word or group of words that rearranges all the letters in another word or group of words, without omitting or duplicating any of them. Just think of having a bunch of Scrabble tiles and moving them around.) There's a really good chance that someone else will send the Empress the same anagram you did, so the ink would go to the funnier description.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1388 (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is** Monday, June 22; results will appear July 12 in print, July 9 online.

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a pair of kneelength socks that, together, depict a bag of Lay's sour **cream and onion potato chips.** These are simply de rigueur for the Loser wardrobe, but only after Memorial Day. Sandals optional.

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, "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 "What Duh..." is by Stephen Dudzik; Nan Reiner wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the 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 reviews each new contest and set of results. See wapo.st/conv1388.



Bet you can't . . . well, who'd want to wear just one, anyway? This week's prize socks.

"How can Governor Cuomo's sign language interpreter even hear him from inside that box?" (Lil Tompkins, Laurel, a First Offender)

"I'm teaching my children at home. Where do I call to get a substitute?" (Robyn Carlson, Keyser,

"I crammed a Q-Tip up my nose, and when I pulled it out it was covered in red and greenish goo, but I didn't see any of those little spiky balls. So I'm good, right?" (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

"If I maintain a 12-foot distance from my wife, can I be within zero feet of my girlfriend?" (Bob Kruger, Rockville

"Why does this mask make everything look so dark?" (Wendy Sheng, Falls Church, a First Offender)

"If I mix hydroxychloroquine with meth, will it work faster?" (Lee Graham, Rockville)

If you're not allowed to eat a sandwich on the Metro, why is it called a subway? (Jesse

"Mr. President, could you explain your long-term strategy on this issue?" (Eric Nelkin, Silver

"Since I'm an essential employee, I'm going to be paid more, right?" (Terri Berg Smith, Rockville)

"Since school is canceled, shouldn't we gather all the neighborhood kids and put them together in a room to teach them something?" (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

"Since we can't shake hands anymore, why don't we start rubbing noses?" (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

"I'd feel safe if I kept my mask on, like you do, during the dental exam, okay?" (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

Why do female politicians do so many things that get Donald Trump in a lather? Are they out to provoke him or something? (Duncan Stevens)

Why is it that every time Anthony Fauci is asked to testify before Congress, a new disease appears in the United States? (David Kleinbard, Mamaroneck, N.Y.)

"Will my blood still be red after I drink the bleach? How will I know when I'm bleeding?" (Nancy Della Rovere, Silver Spring

"Would you like to see my PowerPoint on people I have observed in our neighborhood who are not practicing social distancing?" (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Why don't we eliminate the security risk of cloth-covered faces (bank robbers, much?) by covering our noses and mouths with nice clear Saran Wrap? (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

Still running - deadline Monday night, June 15: Our contest to delete letters from the middle of a movie title. See wapo.st/ invite1387.

## L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

16 Called the game

18 "Creations from

22 What a nervous

"Woodstock"

quartet, initially 33 Plentiful supply

Rashida Jones

many dramatic

facial feature

36 Iodine source

Source of

39 Mars: Pref.

41 Since Jan. 1, to

44 Take from a sale

46 "Criminal Minds"

49 At the drop of

47 Tin-eared

50 Golfer

38 Licks

40 Issa of

la cocina" brand

director may do?

17 App buyer

24 \_\_ browns 29 Many profs.

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

92

counterpar

"The \_\_ K 1950s TV

Western

companionship

"EXCHANGEABLE 89 Equal share, PARTS" By maybe
YAAKOV BENDAVID 90 Cupid

ACROSS 1 Brings from

96 In need of 7 Like some captioning 13 Energy bill letters 97 16 See 117-Across 19 Victim of

Perseus 20 MLB call-up, often "With any luck" 105 Big name in 23 Fault a rearrangement history 106 "Toodles of infielders? 25 "Mean Girls"

writer and 26 McCann of 27 Sahara respites 30 Michael who

played Juno's designed love interest in "Juno"
31 Priest who Marin title

reared Samuel 32 Swear 33 Like the Sisters in "Macbeth"

35 Gives surf ratings? 39 Way to one's heart?

42 "Lucas" co-star Ashe Stadium neighbor 44 Ready, as a

maps 51 Withdrew 52 Have trouble

in "Aladdin"

Crafty site? 70 Vision starter 71 Lucy's sitcom

\_\_ cords Brutal act of

disgust 121 NBA's Cavs, on scoreboards 122 Prepares (oneself), as for a crisis 123 Stable animals

crowd sounds

Miller and Vonn 11 Statue of Liberty

Olympians

architect

10 Emulate

Unhurried bunch 102 Some H.S. 2 Biblical betrayer 3 2015 romantic 103 Sushi fillings fantasy role for "\_\_ as good a Blake Lively 4 Yellowstone 5 "Old Possum" Marvel Comics

108 Butler in literature 109 Pursue 111 "Sick" insult 112 Inability to smell 114 Emulate a Jedi? 117 With 16-Across

118 SoCal locale in a 1987 Cheech 119 Harm's way

"\_\_ cryin' out loud!"

with Sisyphus? 55 Arranges for

65 Celtics star Walker

73 Inside job 75 Big ref. volumes 77 Link letters 78 Masters yoga? Cruising 83 Freud's

homeland

120 Sounds of DOWN

6 Took a pass Pungent greens Give the slip to

range 45 Uber alternative 48 Collection of

59 Dobrev of "The Vampire Diaries"

72 Henry James for much of his

xwordeditor@aol.com

12 Fine point 13 Passed, as bad Ballesteros 111 \_\_-tired 113 Karaoke aid 52 Canoeing venue 53 Curly-horned 83 Verizon subsidiary 115 Leeds-tochecks London dir. 84 Game with Skip 14 Machinery noise goat 54 Cesspool 15 Boo cards chance!

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

# **HOROSCOPE**

BY MADALYN ASLAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | June 14: Gutsy and determined, you make this year a success no matter what comes. And you do it your way, by your own honorable code. Learning moderation helps in your personal life. If single, you pursue a mate ardently and get a commitment in the latter part of the year. If attached, you are very protective of your partner, and your bond is super-strong with intense intimacy. Cancer can be moody.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) A childlike sense of wonder and curiosity gives you a spark of creativity that manifests in natural leadership tendencies. You will be especially strong and influential. Old barriers can be overcome, and you manifest a cherished wish through sheer effort.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Today stimulates a deeper spiritual awareness. Heed a message brought in a dream. You find peace helping those less fortunate. Connect with nature to release frustration or anger. Spend time in quiet reflection.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Friends are a special blessing today. Membership in an organization or new group can be a catalyst for happiness and accomplishment. You will be welcomed by new acquaintances. You also get back in touch with old companions.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Changes within a profession as a whole make adjustments a must. The urge to try something new is brewing. Your choices will be good ones. Today is also marvelous for developing artistic gifts.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) You are rewarded today with new insight concerning the direction of your life. You use words creatively. This is a terrific time to design business or greeting cards, address labels or personal stationery.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Allow fate to play her hand, and accept the inevitable graciously. Still, communicate with a partner in regard to shared finances. Inherited or invested funds, as well as tax and insurance payments require your attention.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct.22) A relationship may change. Someone close to you wants to try a new project or wander an unfamiliar path. Allow this to happen. All will be well. Accept meetings and partings graciously.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today provides focus and direction. There is an accent on material security. You will be inclined to argue but can accomplish much. Plans are made to purchase a longdesired item. You feel a rapport with your pet.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) A soul mate connection or psychic bond develops with one you admire. Children are a source of joy. Past patterns hold the key to a love's mysteries. Listen carefully to what a dear one says, for conversations are meaningful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan 19) Real estate transactions can be profitable today. For those with bittersweet memories of early home and family life, it is time to process them for release.

©2020 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You will be able to solve difficulties through discussion and multitask with ease. There is a flurry of emails and calls related to future travel plans. Conversations are profound and brighten your perspective.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You will want to shop. There are some treasures you simply must have. Fulfill old obligations first; be aware of the force of habit regarding money management. Live within your means, and all will

# Answers to last week's puzzle.

Α	R	М	0	R		С	R	Ε	Е			Α	В	В	Α		Р	S	Α	Т
С	0	0	K	Ε		Н	Ε	Α	R	D		В	R	U	Т		Α	Ν	D	Υ
С	0	U	R	Н	J	Е	S	Т	Е	R		R	0	0	М		Υ	0	L	Κ
	D	Е	Α	R	0	Ν	ш	S		_	R	0	Ν	Y		Α	┙	В	Е	Е
				0	D	_	Z		F	┙	0	Α	Т	S		R	0	Α	R	S
В	R	_	Ε	F	_	Ν	Η	Е	R	L	J	D	Е		┙	Е	Α	Ρ		
L	Α	S	S	_	Е			S	Α	S	Е			Η	Е	Α	D	Ρ	-	N
0	D	-	S	Н		Α	O	Α	$\perp$			Α	М	ш	S		ഗ	Е	L	Α
Ν	Α	Т	Е		С	_	>	_	L	D	Ш	F	Е	Z	S	Е		Α	_	G
D	R	_	Z	Κ	Е	R	ഗ			0	>	Α	L			H	Α	┙	Е	S
			С	U	Ε	S		Α	Ν	G	Ε	R		Ρ	0	0	F			
R	E	F	Ε	R			S	W	1	М			D	0	W	Ν	F	Α	L	L
U	Z			Т	R		Α	L	В	Α	L	L	0	0	Ν		0	D	1	E
Т	R	Е	Ε		Α	R	М	S			0	Α	Т	Н		Р	R	Ι	Ν	Т
S	Α	L	U	Κ	1	S			L	Α	U	D			R	Ε	D	Ε	Ε	М
		D	R	Е	D		G	U	1	L	Т	Υ	Р	L	Е	Α	S	U	R	Е
D	1	J	0	Ν		Α	Ε	S	0	Р	S		R	U	Ν	S				
E	R	U	Р	Т		Е	L	Е	Ν	Α		F	1	R	Е	Α	Ν	Т	S	
В	1	D	Е		G	R	Α	F		С	Н	1	С	K	Ε	N	S	U		T
U	S	G	Α		S	Ι	Т	U		Α	D	F	Е	Е		Т	Е	Т	R	Α
Т	Н	Е	Ν		N	Е	Ι	L			L	Α	D	D		S	С	U	S	

6/7/20