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DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Let's do the twist: Song anagrams

BY PAT MYERS

up a choice of anagram challenges involving songs: (a) Choose a line, or even multiple lines, from a song and rearrange all the letters; or (b) anagram the song's title and, optionally, give the revised title some parody lyrics. Today's winner goes a giant step further: It rearranges all three verses of the carol "Away in a Manger" - that's 432 individual letters in its 116 words - into the

In Week 1412 the Empress offered

4th place:

rhyming poem below.

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas anagrams to I AM GOING, LIKE, "NO THANKS! IT'S STILL OCTOBER!

3rd place:

Carol of the Bells = **CHOLESTEROL FLAB**

See how the fat, soft belly fat, Seems to appear when winter's

(Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

Not getting out, just getting stout, Skin getting white, pants getting

Watching the game, always the same,

Nachos and beer sure to appear. Large pizza, please, with extra

No, that won't do — we'll order two.

Can't ride a bike, can't take a hike, Burgers and fries, no exercise. Parties are fun, food by the ton, Eggnog and booze, can't see my

Very very very listless! Very very very listless!

Step on the scale, face turning

So out of shape, big hulking ape. King . . . Kong . . . King . . . Kong! (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

2nd place and the inflatable antlers:

Have yourself a merry little Christmas, let your heart be

Be rather cheery, for Mr. Yuge-Mitts lost it all. (Helluva year, this.) (Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

And the winner of the **Clowning Achievement:**

All three verses, 432 letters, of "Away in a Manager" anagrammed into this poem (which can almost be sung to the hymn tune).

MY REAL WORTH My keen Christmas wish here is to

Share joy and goodwill as I walk down the street. To give my time freely and ask not

help all I meet,

for pay, And cherish that duty every minute, each day.

To reward the jobless, even though

I am broke, And hide noble deeds with a shrug or a joke.

To seek to be jolly, decent, godly,

And toil restlessly, bear these said tasks unseen.

To buy all the beers when I go to a

The landlord at the inn will think I am a star.

I'll carry a banner, reading "Jesus Is Love."*

(*If I win the lottery, cancel all the

above.) (Tony Crafter, Sevenoaks, England, a

First Offender)

SOILED...OLDIES: Honorable mentions

The Jackson 5's ABC = ACB Well, you're on the SCOTUS now,

Doing things you never did before. Five may be key, a clear guarantee, But we'd like to have one vote more.

Now, now, now, we're gonna show you (show you, show you) What you're here for, gal, Sit yourself down, take a seat. The chief'll now be free to turn up the heat.

ACB, chosen by DJT! No leftie like RBG! ACB, 6 to 3, Amy, make it be! (Chris Doyle Denton, Tex.)

O Christmas Tree = O SIR TECH MASTER

O techno-geek, O techno-geek, My smart TV's not booting! O techno-geek, O techno-geek, Something is not computing! Here sit I sad, on Boxing Day, My gadgets strewn in disarray, There's no amount I wouldn't pay To get your troubleshooting. (Mark Raffman, Reston)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1416: The Year in Redo, Part 2

F-fluent: What a lot of tots have become after learning new vocabulary at home from their stressedout parents. (Dan Helming, Week 1391, for new words that don't contain C, O, V, I or D)

If 2020 were a Christmas tree, Charlie Brown would look at it and say, "Let's get the big shiny pink one instead." (Matt Monitto, Week 1398)

"Downton Abbey" updated for 2020: Lord and Lady Grantham struggle with the challenges created by social distancing — especially dressing themselves. (Jonathan Jensen, Week 1403)

This week we continue our 2020 do-over (oh, yes, Lord, please) with a second chance on any - or all - of 25 recent contests, including limericks, cartoon captions, foal names, fake trivia, up to this week's song anagrams.

This week: Enter (or reenter) any Style Invitational contest from Week 1388 through 1412. You may enter multiple contests as long as you don't submit more than 25 entries in all.

See descriptions and links for all the old contests, plus more important details, in this week's Style Conversational column at wapo.st/conv1416.

Please begin each entry with "Week [xxxx]" plus a brief ID of the contest your entry is for (e.g., "Week 1402, 14-point Scrabble words"). 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

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-**1416** (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is** Monday, Jan. 4; results appear Jan. 24 in print, Jan. 21

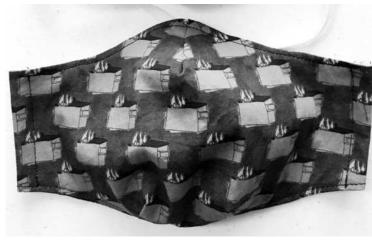
Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our new Style Invitational trophy. Second place wins a face mask in Dumpster Fire print cotton, handmade by Loser Rebekah Bundang. Lovely and appropriate as it is, let's hope it won't be needed all that far into 2021.

Other runners-up win their choice of our "For Best End" Fools" Grossery 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*. The headline "Let's Do the Twist" is by Jon Gearhart; Jesse Frankovich wrote the honorablementions 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/conv1416.

A new "You're Invited" podcast episode: Mike Gips interviews 750-time Loser Beverley Sharp, who gained a new, somewhat secret identity with the Invite. **See bit.ly/invite-podcast.**



What says "2020" better than a face mask in Dumpster Fire print?

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year = IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL **MOHAIR FETE YET**

... I've a vest in the attic That attracts so much static, I'm bound to appear In the ugliest sweater this year! (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

"Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer" = EVER MOURNING A TENDER GRAY BROAD (Jesse Frankovich)

Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer = **GRANDMA GOT A VERY NO-BUN DERRIERE**

But her new implants - gifts made her much cheerier, And lifted Gramps, her pants and her posterior. (Frank Osen)

The Twelve Days of Christmas = A RASH ELF TWEETS COVID

MYTHS ... On the sixth day of Christmas the Donald tweeted me

Six innuendos, FIVE ALL-CAPS RANTS! Four idle threats, Three big lies, Two enormous boasts And a hot cup of covfefe! (David Smith, Stockton, Calif.)

And Last: I Walk the Line = **WELL, I HATE INK**

Each time my name gets printed in The Post. Reporters badger me from coast to coast.

The glare of fame just vexes me the

Drives me to drink. Well, I hate ink! (that beleaguered Jonathan Jensen) More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1416.

Still running – deadline Monday night, Dec. 28: Part 1 of our Year in Redo, to enter Weeks 1360-87. See wapo.st/ invite1415.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

10 Proposal

'__ had known

12 Standouts in a

13 One with net

income?

16 "Devil Inside"

19 African capital

Salisbury

20 Island east of

27 It may be an X

32 Conductor Zubin

or an O

29 Seed pod

34 "M*A*S*H"

figure 35 Vitamin spec

36 Perfect one of

37 Bitcoin, e.g.

Twirled

40 Vaulted

three meals?

39 Kauai breakfast

restaurants?

Sumatra

25 Alleviated

monitoring gp

once known as

15 Weather

band

41 Donovan of

44 Win by

"Clueless"

a 2006 spoof

once sported a

45 Beat anxiously

46 Brand that

crocodile

51 Bye that's bid

56 Type of whiskey

63 "All That Jazz"

Suspension

65 Surveillance

66 Investigation

Nebraska

"Definitely,

71 Lebanese port

73 Dad's and Mud

69 Balaban of

Maybe'

70 Trunk

Like much of

68 Form of security

Cold War enemy

choreographer

bridge support

plane acronym

53 Stiffly proper

54 "True dat!"

55 Intimidate

59 Assert

74 Much 75 Chopin work

80 Holey Italian

83 Loyal servant

85 50-50 chance

90 It may be up,

93 Promoted to

94 Around

96 Throaty

97 Aloe

92 Opine, with "in'

Trip odomet

attention-c

Flower from

the Greek for

horse" horse

"rainbow

100 Second place?

101 "A horse is a

102 Cork's home

103 Absorbs, with

course

107 Conk

105 Deviate from a

function

88 "Hang on .

bread

82 Reluctant

106 Gets a ride, but

not a Lyft

108 Jazz club group

109 Cleveland's lake

110 Dorm diet staple

third-largest city

o-ending nouns

111 Puerto Rico's

112 U. of Maryland

athlete

114 Nor. neighbor

116 Summer quaffs

1 EPA-banned

with "the

4 Event in a

novel

5 Half a '60s

quartet

6 Last of 24

toxins

DOWN

2 Chicago district

3 "Othello" villain

Peter Blatty

classic William

Cut into cubes

8 Upper left key

9 Like some ATM

withdrawals

115 Test for jrs.

113 Like Span.

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS 73 Order to a

construction

University city

opposite, on the

Mohs scale

80 Parachute

81 Ovine cry

necessity

82 Apple media

songs?

facto

Eat away

90 Day of the PGA

92 "Which one wil

it be?

89

player for silly

E.T.'s Earth pal

76 __ polloi 77 Utah Valley

78 Corrida cries

"EYE EXAM" By MIKE PELUSO **ACROSS**

1 Bend in pointe 5 Style 9 Dark film genre

Sticks: draincleaning aid 18 Barn-raising group 20 Worth a rave

review, in show 21 University near 22 Half-off sale

acronym 23 Destination for aficionados 24 Workplace movie screen?

94 Cheater's device 26 Small Kia SUV 96 Emulate Earhart "Silent Night" et Street show "Dust in the 100 The NFL had Wind" rockers 31 Tampico abode

two of them in 32 Silas with a 2018 104 Brew with a hint 33 Chicago-toof chocolate? Indianapolis dir.

34 Good news, in metaphor 37 Chill-inducing 38 Prepared for surgery, in a

42 Titles for attvs. 43 Apple product for unmarried 47 Frites seasoning

48 Generate, with 49 "I Left Something Turned ___ Home": 1997 Trace Adkins

50 Côte d'_ 51 Court game word 52 Actress Lupino

53 List of PGA players with pictorial links to their bios? 57 Fist bumps Action movie staple

60 Worked with a crew, maybe 61 Utah range 62 Upper class 63 Graceful 64 Checked out in

66 Trojan king 69 Contentious filings 72 Swimsuit

designer

advance

xwordeditor@aol.com

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Dec. 27: Giving, ethical and idealistic, you are the clever contributor in what you offer the world this year. It's the best time to express yourself creatively. You recognize your worth, while succeeding in public. If single, beware of self-sacrificing. You are devoted to a fault. One may take advantage of that this year. If attached, your bond is unbreakable, and you communicate yourselves into bliss. Aquarius can get into your skin.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Your use of constructive thoughts and words magically uplifts the world you dwell in. A sister or brother becomes a closer friend. A weekend outing gives you renewed energy. Make requests of others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) It's easy to be overcharitable today. Say no to a demanding acquaintance. Be especially conservative when it comes to financial risks or pricey purchases. There is a clarity about long-range priorities.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You feel the need to accomplish more. This ambition leads you to pursue your work with an intensity. Don't let job-related stress build. If you challenge others, add a touch of charm and humor.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Today brings hidden information to the fore when most needed. Be cautious about expressing love and devotion too overtly. Wilderness areas add to your serenity and strengthen you. Get out into nature whenever you can.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Today can tempt you to envy others. Concentrate on your quality of life. A friend makes a helpful recommendation. Your mental attitude is brighter. Look at alternative solutions to old problems.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Focus on creating the right impression. Combine professional expertise with the human touch, and your day is off to a wonderful beginning. Don't ask for favors; others are impressed by your dedication and self-sufficiency.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today allows you to understand a complex neighbor or sibling. Ideas

that were hard to grasp are suddenly crystal clear. Renew and reread. Meditations are deep and meaningful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) A new view of love and desire develops. Intimate contacts hint at past life connections. Commitments and partnerships are reevaluated. Life is less serious, and there is time to bask in new knowledge.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today brings wonderful conversations with those you love. Be scrupulously correct in following rules, both written and unwritten. Avoid those who drift or prove unreliable. Others might not be all they seem to be.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today you investigate and analyze. Don't deny the facts. Apply astute insight, and you will dissolve all barriers. Animal friends offer wonderful companionship. Create a kind and helpful attitude for work.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Romantic trends are shifting. You may experience a change of heart about a loved one or have to accept that someone you care for is a bit preoccupied. A familiar environment is nurturing.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You might work at home, even though it's Sunday. A loved one can guide your career path. Bring sanctity to your residence by adding plants to an exposed window or exchanging harsh lights for softer lamps.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

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12/20/20