DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Vowel-ups: Tinkering with song titles

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1439 we asked you to (a) choose any song title and delete all its vowels, then (b) add any vowels you liked to make a new title. NEWS! With his "Cocaine"/"Ice Cone" entry this week, Gary Crockett - King of the Loser Frontier – hits the magic 500 blots of ink, his ticket into the Style Invitational Hall of Fame. See some of Gary's Greatest Ink in this week's Style Conversational at wapo.st/ conv1443.

4th place:

Crazy Train:

Delete the vowels: C R Z T R N Add other vowels:

Cure a Zit Area Now! Ozzy Osbourne's new jingle for Clearasil. "Acne! You know how it goes millions of pimples appear on your nose!" (Coleman Glenn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa., a First Offender)

3rd place:

Lay Lady Lay > LLDL> Lie Lady Lie: "His clothes are dirty, but his grammar's clean . . ." (Greg Johnson, Victoria, B.C.)

2nd place and the 8color toilet bowl night light:

Stairway to Heaven >

Stairway to Heave In: There's a lady who drinks till she literally stinks And her stomach's in need of relievin' If she's visiting you and she can't make the loo Rush her out to the stairway to heave in. (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

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

I'm a Believer > Mob Lover: Sen. Ron Johnson changes his tune after Jan. 6: . Then I saw their race, now I'm a mob lover. Not a trace of doubt in my mind . . . (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

What a failing! Honorable mentions Bye Bye Bye > Boo Boo Boo: 'N

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BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1443: The letters of the laws

The Delivering Envelopes Judiciously On-time Year-round Act — the DEJOY Act — is a real bill introduced this year in both the Senate and the House by four members of Congress and numerous co-sponsors; it would essentially forbid the Postal Service (and the eponymous chief) to slow down the mail.

This week's contest was suggested by the Empress's Royal Consort, who notes the trend of giving silly names to legislation so that they form silly acronyms – witness HELLPP, or the Helping Ensure Life- and Limb-Saving Access to Podiatric Physicians Act — and figuring, surely correctly, that the Loser Community could do it more cleverly.

This week: Propose some law – it doesn't have to be a serious issue – and give it a name and acronym, along the lines of the above but funnier. That can be the whole entry, or you might add a line to elaborate.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1443 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, July 12; results appear Aug. 1 in print, July 29 online

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our new Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a fabulous soft rubbery hand puppet depicting a, well, some indeterminate aquatic creature; guesses included a shark, barracuda, alligator and dinosaur. In any case it could be very useful if you were quite happy, thank you, with social distancing when it comes to hugs and touchiness. Donated by Loser Dave Prevar.

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, "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 "Vowel-ups" is by Jesse Frankovich; Jesse 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*.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

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Sync attempts, and quickly abandons, a comeback tour. (Hannah Seidel, Alexandria)

I Feel Fine > I Fool a Fan: "This guy's good to me, you know,

He rampaged in D.C., you know, 'Cause I said so. He's in love with me, I fool a fan." (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

A Horse With No Name > Hours With an Enema: A sad song about constipation from a diet of plants and birds and rocks and things. (Kevin Dopart)

Borderline > Beardo, a Real Ano: John Boehner's bilingual hit about Sen. Ted Cruz and his rants about immigration. (Kevin Mettinger, Warrenton, Va.)

Please Please Me > Paul Is ... Paul Is ... Me! (Dave Zarrow, Reston)

The Sounds of Silence > Those Nudes of Sal - Nice! Hello, darkroom, my old friend . . . (Frank Mann, Washington)

YMCA > You. Me. Ciao.: This "50 Ways to Leave Your Lover" remake cuts out 49 of the ways. (Todd DeLap, Fairfax)

Cocaine > Ice Cone: That summer anthem:

If you snort one of those, it's gonna ... freeze your nose, ice cone. It's gonna drip down, down on the ground, ice cone. I won't lie, you should try, you should buy ice cone. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

Come Together > A Comet Got Her: Finally explains how she got joo joo eyeball and spinal cracker. (Frank Mann)

"C" Is for Cookie > Case for Cake: The "Sesame Street" monster expands his culinary horizons. (Erika Ettin, Washington)

Ain't Too Proud to Beg > Note to Poor: Date Big: The Temptations' guide to the underfunded aspiring gigolo. (Sandy Tenenbaum, Silver Spring, who last got ink in 1996)

Alone Again (Naturally) > Lean Again (Not Really):

In a few days from now, if I'm not feeling down to size I promise myself to treat myself to a Whopper and large french fries" (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

American Idiot > More Con, D.T.: The Former Guy continues to prey on his supporters. (Kathy Hardis Fraeman, Olney)

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, in which the E shares some reallife acronym bills, at *wapo.st/conv1443*.

The Empress's dainty hand

week's second prize.

Graham, Rockville)

Reston)

becomes the Fangs of Fear! This

April Come She Will > Pry Lice,

Mash Well: A tune for parents to

hair after summer camp. (Lee

Auld Lang Syne > Ladle Nog,

sing while they comb out their kids'

Son: The traditional song to sing at

11 p.m. on Dec. 31. (Mark Raffman,

Both Sides Now > Bath-Suds-on-

Ewe: A song about how Mary kept

her little lamb so clean; the title

(Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Born to Run > Barney Tran: The

inspiring purple dino sings about

Both Sides Now > But He Said

Snowy: Kindergartner learns a

hard lesson about D.C. weather

Don't Stop > Don T.'s Type:

A Canadian at an American

forecasters. (Mark Turco, McLean, a

"Please stop thinkin' about Ivanka

...." (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

Hokey Pokey > Eh? Okay, I Puke:

wedding reacts to being asked to

join in the festivities. (Roy Ashley,

Home on the Range > Human

Throng: Replaces the roaming

buffalo. (Donna Saady, Rockville)

Perkins's ode to his hemorrhoid

Honey Don't > Heinie Donut: Carl

pillow wasn't as popular as the one

he wrote to his blue suede shoes.

(Terri Berg Smith, Rockville)

I Want to Hold Your Hand>

Won't They Load Your Hind?

being true to themselves. (Jon

Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

First Offender)

Washington)

later became the name of a

charming village in England.

Lyric asks: "Are you sure you want fries with that?" (Mark Turco)

> I'm Too Sexy > Emits Ox: A woman gives birth to an 11-pound baby and does not feel too sexy for her shirt. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna)

In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida > No Good, Dude - VD!: Iron Butterfly soundtrack for the Army's STD training film. (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

Jealousy, Jealousy > Jowls, Jowls: Eighteen-year-old Olivia Rodrigo proactively frets about a potentially sagging jawline. (Leif Picoult, Rockville)

Let It Snow > Lite, 'Tis, No? Yoda sings about his diet. (Irene Plotzker, Wilmington, Del.)

Love Me Tender > Leave Me Ten, Dr: "Leave me ten toes, leave them on. Tell me they are mine. I know that I've got frostbite, Leave me at least nine." (Joanne Free, Clifton)

Sweet Home Alabama > Sweet Ham à la BAM !: Lynyrd Skynyrd's tribute to Emeril's glazed-pork recipe. (Scott Richards, Hollywood, Md., a First Offender)

Miss You > Mossy: The Rolling Stones finally start to slow down. (Mark Calandra, Wenham, Mass.)

Misty > Musty: "Look at me, I'm the room you need to clean ASAP ..." (Jonathan Jensen)

Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da > Be Loud, Be Lewd!: The anthem of shock jocks. (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

YMCA > Yay, I'm CIA!: Morale-boosting song for our intelligence agents: "Young man, vou are now a real spy/ No mere gumshoe at the dull FBI . . ." (Carl Yaffe, Rockville)

And Last: Born to Run > Borin' to Run: Bruce explains why the Empress didn't print your entries. (Jesse Frankovich)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1443.

Still running - deadline Monday night, July 5: our contest to compare/contrast any two items on our random list. See wapo.st/invite1442.

attachments. Nevertheless, you need freedom of action, because you are spontaneous and you have definite ideas. You are forever youthful. This year your spiritual values will grow as you learn new things that are important to you. In fact, you might decide to share or teach what you learn. You will respect your strengths this year.

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Taurus.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Today you might find money or you might lose money. Or perhaps something that you had misplaced is found or, instead, you might lose something.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Today the Moon in your sign is lined up with unpredictable Uranus, which could make you impulsive. Guard against doing something rash. Be patient with yourself and others. Entertain at home amid the chaos.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) This is a restless day, which means it's hard to stick with one task or focus on anything for too long. Your mind and energy will flit from subject to subject.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You might meet a real character today - someone unusual or from a different background. Or, possibly, someone you already know will surprise you by doing or saying something you least expect. You might suddenly change your plans for the future.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You might be surprised at something that a parent, teacher, boss or the police does. Think twice before you react. Never forget the power of courtesy. Be polite with authority figures, shop for wardrobe goodies and enjoy physical exercise.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Travel plans will suddenly change today. They might be canceled or delayed or, in turn, you might have to travel when you did not expect to do so. Likewise, news from afar or the media might surprise you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Double-check details related to your bank account or anything that you share jointly with someone else, because something might surprise you today. Possibly, someone will suggest a new arrangement.

You might feel rebellious about restrictions you feel that are related to others. Or, possibly, things are the other way around and someone feels rebellious of the arrangement with you. The key is to be patient today.

Your work routine will be interrupted by something unusual today. This is an accident-prone day for any job that you're doing. You might hear surprising news that is health-related. Meanwhile, something unexpected could impact your pet. Be aware of this.

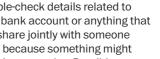
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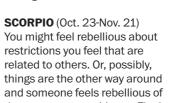
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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Parents should be vigilant today because this is an accident-prone day for your kids. Meanwhile, you might experience a sudden cancellation of a social event or something related to sports. Conversely, you might suddenly receive an invitation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Your home routine will be interrupted today. Be patient, because somebody might lose it. Family disputes, especially with females, might take place. Or a small appliance might break down. Surprise company might drop by.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Pay attention to everything you say and do today, because this is an accident-prone day for your sign. However, it's an interesting day. You might see new places, meet new faces or hear new ideas.





SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | July 4: You are creative and you have good business sense. You have strong family

6/27/21

