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DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Ask mandates: Winning A's and Q's

BY PAT MYERS

Week 1457 was our 40th(!) Ask Backwards contest, in which we supply the answers and you the questions -1,400 of them this time. And just as he did last year, "Jeopardy!" GOAT and (right now) host Ken Jennings weighs in with his favorite entries in the Ken/Jeop categories.



Beyond pale: **Ken Jennings** names his faves

of the week!

surprisingly these days, we found the Seattle resident at the airport. "These are great!" he reported, "I had a good laugh in the bleakest place on

earth: LAX."

His choices?

"I'm a sucker for dumb puns, so I loved Dalai Double, Tic Tac Tao, Buzzy Koan and Christopher Guess. And a game show that "only goes to \$11" is actually a pretty good

pitch!" And more! "Impotent Notables is so good I want to suggest it to the 'Jeopardy!' writers." But: "The 'Whiter Shade of Pale' joke got me so steamed that I knitted my eyebrows together in anger! Unfortunately they're so blond no one could tell.

4th place:

A. Zen Jennings.

Q. Who'd always go for a true Dalai Double? (Jeff Hazle, San Antonio)

3rd place:

A. A bun in the oven. Q. What do bakers have no control over in Texas? (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

2nd place and the vintage 2008 Loser Tshirt:

A. Ken Jennings.

Q. Who was the inspiration for "A Whiter Shade of Pale"? (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

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

A. Six hours without Facebook. Q. How do 56 percent of

Americans describe an eight-hour workday? (Jeff Hazle)

Q&A-bombs: Honorable mentions

A. Ken Jennings. Q. Who discovered that dear Watson wasn't so elementary after all? (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

A. Ken Jennings. Q. Who was clearly snubbed by not being invited to host "Reading Rainbow"? (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

A. Zen Jennings. Q. Who is the only "Jeopardy!" contestant whose heart doesn't skip a beat with the last "bum bum" of the "Think" music? (Coleman Glenn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.)

A: Zen Jennings Q: Who encourages the "Jeopardy!" audience to applaud with one hand? (Pia Palamidessi, Cumberland,

A. Zen Jennings Q. Whose game show rival is Buzzy Koan? (William Kennard, Arlington; Mike Gips, Bethesda)

A. Zen Jennings Q. Who is the all time winner on the game show Tic

Tac Tao? (Mike Gips) A. Not a Future "Jeopardy!"

Category. Q. What is Impotent Notables? (Terri Berg Smith, A. Not a future "Jeopardy!"

category. Q. What is Famous Pictures of Muhammad? (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

A. Not a future "Jeopardy!" category. Q. What is Ex-Executive Producers? (Amanda Yanovitch, Midlothian, Va.)

A. Spinal Jeopardy. Q. On what show does the prize money only go to \$11? (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

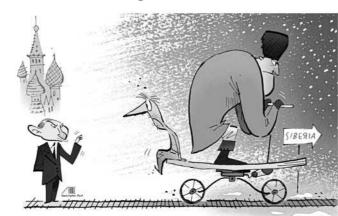
A. Spinal Jeopardy. Q. Which movie

stars Christopher Guess? (Jesse Rifkin, Arlington)

A. Spinal Jeopardy. Q. What is a good reason for sitting out with "the twisties?" (John Conti, Norfolk,

A. 3½ pounds. Q. How much did Prince William spend on a baby gift for his niece Lilibet? (Fred Shuback, Silver Spring)

A. 3½ pounds. Q. How big is a pound cake in Texas? (Daniel Galef,



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1461: It's the eponymy, stupid

DISPUTIN, v.: To invite a one-way ticket to the gulag. "Ever since the Khodorkovsky verdict, Russians have been afraid to disputin." (Steve Ettinger, 2006)

SINEMATIC, adj. Describing utterly nonsensical behavior. "You decided to crash the car because it wouldn't turn left and right at the same time? Pretty sinematic." (Duncan Stevens)

SNYDER, *adj.*: More miserly. "I never met a guy who was snyder with a dollar than your uncle." (Craig Dykstra, 2010)

MINAJERIE, n.: A zoo housing animals with mysteriously swollen parts. (Duncan Stevens)

Here's a contest that we haven't done since 2010 and most of the names spoofed that year aren't exactly of the hour right now: Lohan, Reubens, Whittington, Rangel, Haynesworth, Fenty. So! This week: Create an eponym — a word based on the name of a well-known person — define it, and perhaps use it in a humorous **sentence**, as in the examples above by Loser Duncan Stevens, who suggested doing this contest again, and from earlier Invite contests.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1461 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, Nov. 15; results appear Dec. 5 in print, Dec. 2

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a plush hat . . . or rather, a plush pizza to be worn atop the head. It has



Topperoni: Wolfe Geist of Fort Washington, Md., models this week's second prize.

a bright yellow surface, with red pepperoni circles and various strips of whatever. A sort of Italian beret! Oven cooking is not advised, especially while it is on your head. 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 new lusted-after Loser magnets, "A Small Jester of Appreciation" or "Close, but Ceci N'est Pas 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/InvRules. The headline "Ask Mandates" is by Kevin Dopart; Chris Doyle 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.

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week's at wapo.st/conv1461.

The "You're Invited" podcast: Seventeen half-hour episodes, including dish from the Empress and the Czar, and tips from top Losers. See bit.ly/invite-podcast.

Tallahassee)

A. 3½ pounds. Q. How many animal shelters did it take to house Clifford the Big Red Dog? (Bob Kruger, Rockville)

A. 3½ pounds. Q. What is Boris Johnson's annual hair care budget? (Bird Waring)

A. 31/2 pounds. Q. What do Nicki Minaj's cousin's friend's testicles weigh? (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

A. Six hours without Facebook. Q. What is the best thing about undergoing triple-bypass surgery? (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

A. Six hours without Facebook. Q. What is 18 hours short of the recommended daily allowance? (Chris Doyle)

A. Such a stupid question. Q. What does "that's a good question" actually mean? (Joseph Horgan, Kensington, a First Offender)

A. A self-driving pogo stick. Q. What should Dolly Parton not choose as her new vehicle? (Andy Promisel, Fairfax)

A. A self-driving pogo stick. Q. What will the presidential limousine look like if AOC gets elected to the White House? (Ira Allen, Bethesda)

A. 30,000 steps. Q. What does the phrase "some assembly required" mean? (Marli Melton, Carmel Valley,

A. 30,000 steps. Q. Approximately how long is a broken Metro escalator? (Duncan Stevens)

A. 30,000 steps. Q. What's involved in the new GOP voting rules? (Karen Golden, Prince Frederick, Md.)

A: John Jacob Jingleheimer Fudd. Q: What is the full name of the rapper known as J-Fu? (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

A. John Jacob Jingleheimer Fudd. Q. Whose name twips people up as much as mine does? (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

A. A bun in the oven. Q. How did the original draft of "Peter Rabbit" end? (Dave Savolaine, Silver Spring; Duncan Stevens)

A. A bun in the oven. Q. What was Sara Lee surprised to find after a visit from the Pillsbury Doughboy? (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

A. Curry Spice. Q. What aftershave did Gene Weingarten wear on his date with Padma Lakshmi? (Frank Mann, Washington)

A. Curry Spice. Q. What is Gene Weingarten's stripper name? (Lee Graham, Rockville) A. Curry Spice. Q. What do Indian

takeout orders and Washington Post takeout orders have in common? (Pia Palamidessi)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1461.

Two contests still running deadline Monday, Nov. 8, for both: Week 1459 (wapo.st/enterinvite-1459): Write song lyrics in the first person "for" some particular person; Week 1460: Write a short poem using one of the new dictionary words we supplied (wapo.st/enter-invite-1460).

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

90 Many Ph.D. students

94 *Work a side

91 Reminder

"SHH!" By JOHN-CLARK LEVIN ACROSS 1 Dried meat

snacks 9 Whitewater craft 15 Son of Abraham 20 Got emotional

named for a storied flier 22 Rousey who American

an Olympic judo 23 *Discerning *Building 26 "Little Red

Book" writer 27 Author Tolstoy Land between

31 Bia : Red Sox nickname 34 Truckers' loads 36 Call, old-style 37 *Performer's

46 Not attentive 47 Bauxite, to

48 Conquer a

51 Decked out

57 Is down with 58 Smelting

60 Corp. alternatives 61 Unwitting test

record label Greek fabulist 66 Locks in a barn 67 *Apportion 72 Point after

deuce 73 Sticking point? 74 Jefferson column type 75 Catch a few

78 Handles clumsily 81 Give up 82 " la France!" "The History of the Standard

*Follow

branches 39 Pickle brand

5 Yom Kippur

old age 103 Poppycock 104 Votes in favor 105 Rod user 107 Teeny, tiny bit 108 Kind of PC port 110 Place for a mask 113 *Infatuated with

116 Place for Amtrak passengers to unwind ... and a hint to how to interpret eight puzzle answers 120 Fiji neighbor

122 Paragon of 123 Mork's leader 124 Hider's revelation 125 Fish with the

DOWN

period on the job 43 "A Hymn to __": "My Fair Lady"

50 Chaplin

52 Victoria's Secret purchase 53 *Electricity

by-product

62 Longtime U.K. 65 Bilbao bear

Oil Company author Tarbéll

86 Neighbor of III. 87 Obstacles to good teamwork Picnic crashers 89 Play it by

33 Get-up-and-go 35 Sit in casks, say 3 "Aladdin" parrot 37 Secret supply

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

observer 6 Despot Amin 8 Graf __: WWII

9 Opposite of trans 10 Contact lens in "Apocalypse

12 Vague threat 14 Egg container 15 Baghdad native 16 In a way, informally

17 Thin 77-Down 18 Fruity thirstquenchers 19 Horse preceder, when things are amiss?

25 Laid low Wind" family

31 Blotchy

28 "Gone With the 32 Team's #1

pitcher

52 Washroom fixture 53 Police record 55 Cause for a

port on the Mediterranean

Sunni and Shia

with a stork

40 Medusa, for one 41 Neighbors of the

42 Latvian chess

44 Atahualpa

competition 49 Mideast

50 Like chicken-

fried steak

subject 45 Track

mascot

arsenal 81 Italian "dear 85 Run for it

is one 111 Guinea pig look-80 Pool party 112 Affectedly 86 Sought-after Japanese beef 87 Ages and ages

58 Flip-flop 59 The Beatles' last

Right Thing

66 Tiny Oreos 68 Place of refuge

"Olympia," e.g.

"The Imitation

encryption

76 Rescue from a

77 17-Down, e.g.

78 K-12 fundraising

gps. 79 "Rule, Britannia"

composer

69 Manet's

studio album

114 New England accessory

115 Future Ph.D.'s 117 McKellen who played Gandalf 118 February Va.

95 "Pick me! Pick me!" 96 A jiffy

Répair shop

98 __ rasa: blank slate

100 Volunteer's offer

102 Mess up 105 In the matter of

106 American-born

107 Airs now

popular in Southern cuisine

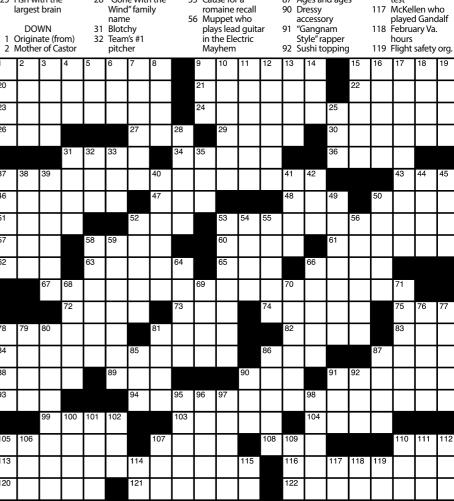
Jordanian queen

about the size of

a pinkie toenail 110 Part of the navel

offer

101 Type of pie



xwordeditor@aol.com Answers to last week's puzzle below.

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Happy Birthday | Nov. 7: You are artistic and determined. Sometimes you are shy. You have an appreciation for beauty and like to surround yourself with beautiful things. You are an individualist who is very independent with modern views. You do your own thing! This is an exciting, fast-paced year full of change. Stay flexible and positive.

Moon Alert: Caution. Avoid shopping or making important decisions from 8:30 a.m. to 8:15 p.m. After that, the Moon moves from Sagittarius into Capricorn.

Be open to meeting new friends.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) This is a great day to travel. Do anything to expand your experience of the world, because you will love a chance to enjoy adventure. Check the Moon Alert. Keep your cool in disputes about shared property, insurance matters or inheritances.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) This is a lovely day to enjoy the company of partners and close friends. There is a Moon Alert all day; nevertheless, this a lovely day to socialize and exchange clever ideas with others. Be patient with partners and close friends about authority issues.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) With the Moon opposite your sign today, you will have to be cooperative with others. This means you have to go more than halfway when dealing with those who are closest to you. Check your finances. Be reasonable about disagreements that affect your job, your health and your pet.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) This is a wonderful, creative day. Enjoy fun and adventure. Do anything that makes you feel as if you're on a vacation. Enjoy fun activities with kids and sports events. Be loving with romantic partners. Likewise, parents need to be patient with their kids.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) This is the perfect day to cocoon at home and lounge in your robe. Increased activity on the home front might be a challenge because of residential moves, renovations or visiting guests. Stay calm to keep the peace with family members.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today you will love a short trip or anything that feeds your desire for

adventure. You might want to enlighten someone about something. It's a good day to relax at home. Stay chill midweek during disagreements.

Be aware that there is a Moon Alert

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

for most of this day. This promotes creativity and socializing. Relax and enjoy your day. It's a strong week; however, be patient with disputes about money and possessions midweek. **SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You are focused on financial

matters today; however, most of

this day is a Moon Alert, which is a

poor time for making important financial decisions. Entertain at home. Invite the gang over. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) This is a positive day because the Moon is in your sign for most of the day. However, there is also a Moon

Alert. The best way to handle this is

to kick back and relax.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Even though this is a popular time for you, today you want to hide and enjoy solitude in pleasant surroundings. You need a breather from the busy world around you. Dissension midweek is nothing that can't be handled.

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AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) An important conversation with a female companion might take place today. It might make you rethink your future goals. Don't volunteer for anything during the Moon Alert. Seek privacy. Avoid disputes midweek.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Today you are high-viz. Others notice you. Enjoy your day, but postpone important decisions until after the Moon Alert is over. Have an important conversation. Avoid issues about politics, religion and racial matters. Just power through this week.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

