

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

The mum of all jeers: (Someone's) Mama jokes

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1110, we asked for "Your Mama" jokes about some particular mother (though they're really about the mother's child). We hereby apologize to any of these people's actual mothers. If they were smart enough to read a newspaper.

4th place

Dan Snyder's Mama is so nice, he only sued her twice. (Ben Aronin, Washington)

3rd place

Ernest Hemingway's Mama was big. As big as a woman who gave birth to a man. An honest man and strong, who did not mind that a big woman was his mama. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

2nd place and the figurine of a man straddling a cactus:

Brian Williams's Mama is so stupid, she can't remember giving birth to him aboard Apollo 11. (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial

Yo-Yo Ma's Mama is so dumb she named her son after her favorite stringed instrument. (Dave Silberstein, College Park)

Ma-dissed proposals: honorable mentions

E.T.'s Mama was so mean, she disguised her voice and told him he had the wrong number. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

Harry Houdini's Mama was so tricky, it took him nine months to get out of her. (Mark Raffman)

M.C. Escher's Mama was so twisted, she gave birth to herself. (Dion E. Black, Washington)

Pope's Mama's so fat that when she walks into a room she causes a schism. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Harry Truman's Mama was so dumb she couldn't think of a name that begins with S. (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

René Descartes' Mama so dumb she wasn't. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Hermann Rorschach's Mama was so obsessed with reputation, she told her son to stop showing people all those dirty pictures. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Felix Unger's Mama is so anal-retentive, doctors need a jaws-of-life to give her a colonoscopy. (Ted Weitzman, Olney)

Calvin Coolidge's Mama was so taciturn. (Jeff Shirley)

Kim Jong Un's Mama is so fat and ugly that [(w%#3-_*)(^4\$8 0-lsljforejfuksu-%#<@^\$?)*+%zX &./!]* . . . error . . . error . . . error . . . (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

Gandhi's Mama was so mean, she fed him naan violently. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

Pope's Mama's so dumb, she thought infallibility meant he couldn't lose his balance. (Steve Honley, Washington)

Martin Luther's Mama was so indulgent, she was nailed 95 times behind the church door. (Kevin Dopart)

Dana Carvey's Mama is so dumb, she wrote George H.W. Bush asking him to stop making fun of her son. (Edmund Conti, Raleigh)

Captain Kirk's Mama is so loose, you boldly go where everyone's been before. (Todd DeLap, Fairfax)

William F. Buckley's Mama was so pedantic she could make exhilarative disquisition both soporific and periphrastic. (George-Ann Rosenberg, Washington)

Stevie Winwood's Mama was so mean she made him play in traffic. (Chris Doyle)

Pablo Picasso's Mama was so ugly he had to invent cubism to paint her portrait. (George-Ann Rosenberg)

Wile E. Coyote's Mama was so mean, she bought stock in Acme Corp. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis; Edward Gordon, Austin)

E.L. James's Mama is so dumb, she thinks her daughter wrote a book on interior design. (Rob Wolf, Gaithersburg)

E.L. James's Mama is so dumb that she went to the fruit juice aisle looking for Mommy Pom. (Sylvia Betts, Vancouver, B.C.)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1114: Awww together now

— **Your Mama's Fat Cells May Provide Unlimited Clean Energy**
— **Israelis, Palestinians Find Common Ground: Both Pass on Pork Belly Fat**
— **Visiting Martians say they're not conquerors, just want to serve Man, plan elections soon**

You know how hard it is to bring yourself to even look at the slew of dispiriting headlines these days, let alone the depressing articles that follow them; sometimes it's as if comic-book villains have come to our real world, with no caped superheroes to bail us out.

The Washington Post has come to our rescue: Every week it sends subscribers an e-mail newsletter called The Optimist, with links to good-news and feel-good articles — "stories that inspire." (To sign up, go to your account at bit.ly/twp-newsletters.) Recent headlines included "Couple married 67 years holds hands in final hours together; 'Cat cheats death, claws way out of grave days after his burial'; and 'The Hubble spotted this smiley face in space.'"

But if we're really optimists, why limit the news to good news? If we want to live up to the name, we should see the bright side in bad news as well. **This week: Write us a humorous headline — from the present, past or future — that puts an optimistic perspective on some otherwise not-so-promising news**, as in the examples above by 225-time Loser Gary Crockett, who suggested this contest. (Do you think another recent Invite contest was on his mind?)

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives Lucky O'Pooper, a cheap-looking plastic wind-up leprechaun that poops candy. (Packaging: "I Poop Candy!") Donated by 119-time Loser Barbara Turner.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet designed by Bob Staake: either "The Wit Hit the Fan" or "Hardly Har-Har." First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or, if you were born in the 19th century, fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday night, March 16; results published April 5 (online April 2). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. Include "Week 1114" in your e-mail subject line or it might be ignored as spam. Include your real name, postal address and phone number with your entry. See contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Tom Witte; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Jeff Shirley. 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. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.

Whistler's Mama was so ugly, her son would only show half of her face. (Jeff Shirley)

Harry Truman's Mama's bedroom was so welcoming, all the young bucks stopped there. (Kevin Dopart)

Vin Diesel's Mama's so dumb, she got his first name off her truck registration certificate. (Michael Greene, Richmond)

Minnesota Fats's Mama is so fat, her favorite game is Ate Ball. (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg)

Frank Lloyd Wright's Mama was so dumb, she thought Fallingwater was a men's room her son designed. (Rob Huffman)

Optimus Prime's Mama, Amazon Prime, offers free two-day schtupping. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

Chuck Norris's Mama is so tough, when he was in the womb, she'd pay a black belt to kick him back.

(G. Smith, Alexandria)

Superman's Mama is so dumb she can't recognize him with glasses on. (Roger Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.)

Clark Kent's Mama's so fat, even with X-ray vision he can't see through her. (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

Sigmund Freud's Mama was so dumb, he had an Oedipus Simple. (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

Charles Darwin's Mama was so hairy, evolution just seemed obvious to him. (George-Ann Rosenberg)

Dr. Mengele's Mama was so evil, at birthday parties she jury-rigged Operation to give out 10,000 volts if you touched the sides. (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

Galileo's Mama was so fat that before she walked past it, it was known as just "The Tower of Pisa." (Keith Waites, Frederick)

Chris Christie's Mama is so fat you can see her behind Chris Christie. (Gary Crockett)

Colonel Sanders's Mama is so lazy, when she goes to KFC she orders a side of couch potatoes. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Bob Staake's Mama is so misshapen, his cartoons of her look like a normal person. (Josh Feldblyum, Louisville)

The prophet Muhammad's Mama was so virtuous and loving that we honor her memory a thousandfold. (Jeff Shirley)

Still running — deadline Monday night: our song parody contest for "Happy Birthday" alternatives and other occasions. See bit.ly/invite-1113.



Pot of, um, gold not included: The second-prize candy-pooping Lucky O'Pooper seen from its more discreet side.

POST PUZZLER

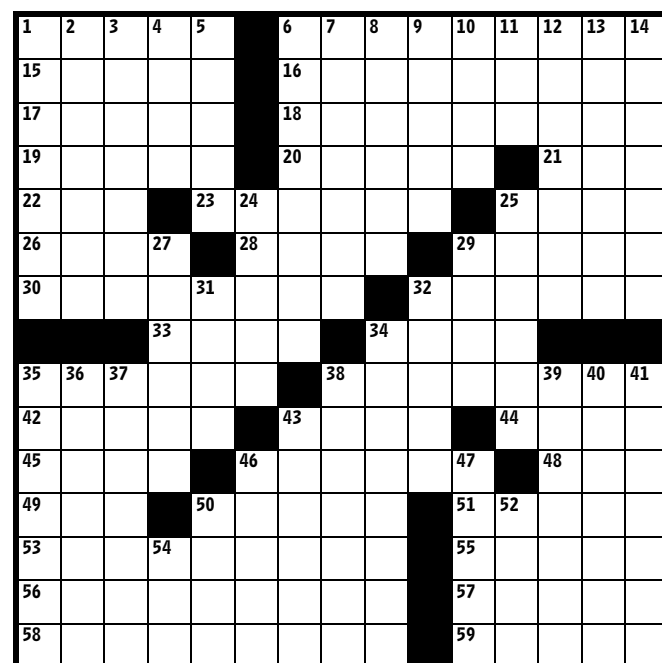
No. 257

BY TRIP PAYNE EDITED BY PETER GORDON • FIREBALLCROSSWORDS.COM

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|--|--|--|---|--|
| ACROSS | 32 Person who makes sure you aren't hearing things? | 55 Bud | 10 Fastening device | 37 Doesn't consider |
| 1 Subject of "Ocean's Eleven" | 33 Strip off | 56 Collection of ringers | 11 Legal name follower, sometimes | 38 Convex body parts |
| 6 Places for private dinners | 34 Witness in the O.J. trial | 57 Grandmasters plot them | 12 Thomas' competitor | 39 Mineral below orthoclase on the Mohs scale |
| 15 Item in a gynoecium | 35 "Sheesh!" | 58 No sweat | 13 Lambasted | 40 Untouchable sights |
| 16 Haggler's cry | 38 "Ice Station Zebra" | 59 Keep asking, say | 14 Fail a DUI test, maybe | 41 Puzzled |
| 17 Triggerman's squeezes | 42 Rival of Rafael and Novak | DOWN | 24 Cubic dozen | 43 Drink produced outdoors |
| 18 Words that often precede a list | 43 At C level | 1 Activates | 25 Fund drive participants | 46 2011 Oscar nominee for "Warrior" |
| 19 Splash | 44 Chicken holder, at times | 2 Light green | 27 "Woo-hoo!" | 47 Feature of a first-day cover |
| 20 Carry on | 45 ___ Reader | 3 Can opener | 29 An affair to remember | 50 Hobbie |
| 21 Treasure hunt instruction, sometimes | 46 Call-button responders, often | 4 ___Sings Broadway" (1963 album) | 31 Will of "The Waltons" | 52 Poet translated by Edward FitzGerald |
| 22 Relaxed, perhaps | 48 Southern constellation | 5 Stops arguing | 32 Fragrance from Dana introduced in the 1930s | 54 Former baseball commissioner Vincent |
| 23 The days, e.g. | 49 "Web Therapy" channel, for short | 6 Time for many returns | 34 Fans of a made-up group | |
| 25 Two-time Time Man of the Year | 50 Gettin' ready to | 7 Recount survivor | 35 Fight for change | |
| 26 Pop singer Aubrey | 51 Column's bottom, perhaps | 8 On the schedule | 36 It was established by the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 | |
| 28 Scott known for a famous decision | 53 It just sits there collecting dust | | | |
| 29 Score loudly? | | | | |
| 30 "Whatever" | | | | |

Answer to last week, No. 256

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HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | MARCH 8: This year you often feel overwhelmed by new opportunities and the work that they bring. Be careful with your finances, as you might be subject to wild swings. Avoid a devil-may-care attitude. If you are single, from August on you might meet someone quite special. Take your time getting to know each other. If you are attached, your significant other may be surprised by a new wild streak in you. He or she also might enjoy this change, at least for a little while.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Others' somber attitudes might force you to reflect on what is happening around you. Your initial impression might not be accurate. Visualize what you desire, and then act.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
A trip may be in the offing, or perhaps you can expect a visit from someone you have not seen in a while. A loved one will do his or her very best to be supportive. A mellow day.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
A surge in creativity will brighten your mood. Extremes mark discussions, yet you will come to a positive conclusion. Be present in the moment.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Others seem to need you. As a

result, you might need to change any plans you have made for now. Open up to new possibilities that surround you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Deal with others in a more straightforward way. Ask questions openly, without hostility. Refuse to accept information as anything but hearsay for now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
A discussion on the home front might not feel comfortable. You probably won't be able to change your plans right now, but you can be more aware of where a loved one is coming from.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
No matter what happens, let it slide off your back. Communication might seem off, but just try to go with the flow. Your

adaptable attitude will be contagious.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Be direct in how you deal with others. Your vision of what is right may differ from a loved one's. Make it okay to have different views. Resist having an argument.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
An invitation from a friend will fit your idea of a good day perfectly. Though you might be slow to get started, you'll still get there.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Your leadership will be needed. Listen to your instincts, and let go of a potential misunderstanding. Touch base with an older relative.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You might be surprised by events in the early morning. You'll like what you hear, but it won't be what you expected. A friend may act strangely. Let it go.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Deal with a friend directly. You might not get the full gist of what this person is saying. Ask questions from a nonjudgmental point of view.

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Alzheimer's leaves wife's life in limbo

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: My husband and I have been together for 27 years. It was love at first sight, and I would

not trade our happy time together for anything or anyone else.

My husband has been stricken with Alzheimer's disease. I am working full time trying to pay for his care, maintain our home and trying my best to maintain my sanity. About two years ago, I could no longer manage his care at home and found a facility for him. My husband always seems happy to see me when I visit, but he has no idea who I am.

Words cannot describe the heartbreak of watching him slip away. It is becoming more and more difficult, and I go through all the anger, sadness, grief and loss every day.

I recently met a man who knows about the situation with my husband. He is a perfect gentleman, and I find myself attracted to him. I have thoroughly enjoyed our conversations and the idea that someone sees me as more than a caregiver.

Am I wrong to want to pursue this relationship? I took my marriage vows seriously and I love my husband, but the man I married is no longer here. How

do I go forward when I feel like my life is at a standstill?
Wife/Caregiver in Limbo

Your situation echoes that of journalist (and friend) Barry Petersen, whose vivacious wife, Jan Chorlton, had early-onset Alzheimer's and ultimately died of the disease. Petersen writes honestly about this journey in his book: "Jan's Story: Love Lost to the Long Goodbye of Alzheimer's" (2010, Behler Publications). He also produced a story for "CBS Sunday Morning," which you should watch. Petersen met his current wife, Mary, during the late stage of Jan's disease, and the two cared for her together "as a family of three" until the end — and later married.

As Petersen says of his relationship, "Don't judge until you walk a mile in my shoes." No one should have to take those footsteps, but many will. An estimated 5 million Americans have Alzheimer's; by mid-century, that number is expected to triple.

I hope this new friendship brings you happiness and that this man can assist you as a partner and friend while you continue to love and care for your husband. The Alzheimer's Association is a helpful resource: alz.org.

Dear Amy: My nephew "Hugo" was invited to his friend's wedding. The bride's family has limited the number of guests, so Hugo cannot bring a companion. Hugo's girlfriend of about a year and a half ("Martha") told Hugo he is "disrespecting their relationship" because he plans to go to the wedding without her. Martha also said Hugo is being treated like a "B-list guest" because he did not receive his invitation until a couple of weeks before the wedding, rather than six weeks in advance, and should protest by not going. (The friend did send out a "save the date" notice months ago.)

Martha barely knows the groom. I don't see how Hugo's going to the wedding amounts to disrespecting their relationship, nor do I think Hugo is being treated like a B-list guest. Am I wrong? Shouldn't he feel free to go to the wedding if he wants to?
A Meddling Aunt

I agree with you that "Hugo" should go to the wedding if he wants to. Maybe he'll meet a nice girl there.

Write to Amy Dickinson at askamy@tribpub.com or Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

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