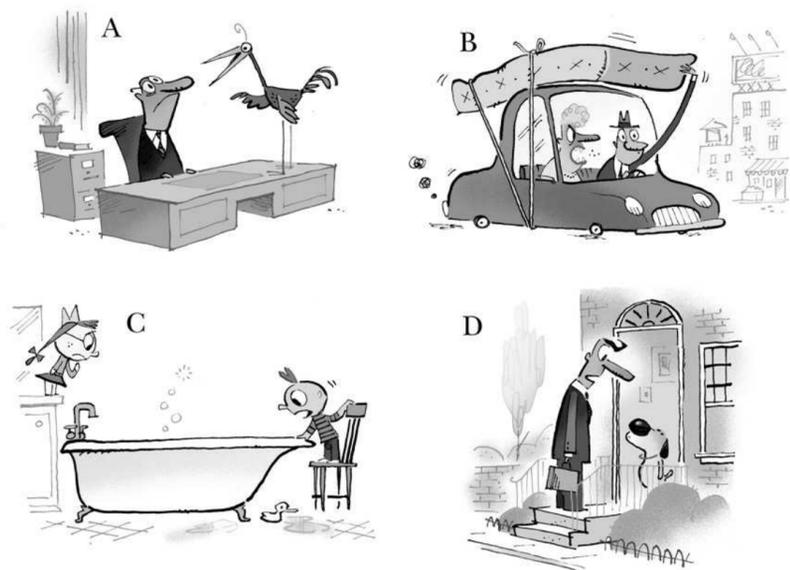


DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Maim that toon: Winning captions

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1282**, we once again asked the Loser Community to write captions for four Bob Staake cartoons for which he had *nothing* in mind — and yes, we ran this contest the week *before* the news broke about Scott Pruitt's desire for a used mattress from the Trump International Hotel.

4th place

Picture A: The president fires yet another Cabinet member by tweet. (J. Larry Schott, West Plains, Mo.)

3rd place

Picture D: "I need to see the papers of the two Chihuahuas who live here." (Frank Bruno, Columbia)

2nd place and the Texas Blood Crawlers candy:

Picture B: "Jack, I still say a windshield and four tires for a mattress is a bad trade!" (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Picture C: "Well, Mom, if I had my own phone I could call 911." (Rick Haynes, Ocean City, Md.)

The weak in pictures: Honorable mentions

PICTURE A:

"It'd be sort of like Uber, but for babies." (Chuck Helwig, Centerville)

"We're all going for worms after work. I expect you to be there." (Frank Mann, Washington)

"If your desk had long legs like mine, you wouldn't be sitting down there on your tuchus." (Roger Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.)

Ernest wasn't happy with his watermelon bouquet from Edible Arrangements. (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)

"I hunt and peck. Does that count?" (John McCoey, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

PICTURE B:

"I don't care how thick it is, Scott, I'm not going to sleep on a used mattress from *that* hotel!" (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis; Jeff Strong, Fairfax)

"You said you were going to take the little shampoos, maybe a hand towel..." (Frank Mann)

"You're still going too fast — Mom fell off again." (Kenny Moore, Rocklin, Calif.)

"I thought you said you were taking a *mistress*." (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

Marge couldn't believe that she let her husband buy the tofu special at Costco. (Ralph Nitkin, Rockville; John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

"I've met some cheap pimps in my life, but... curb service?" (Elliott Jaffa, Arlington)

PICTURE C:

"Are you sure this is how they did it on 'Breaking Bad'?" (Mark Richardson, Takoma Park; Kevin Dopart)

It was early in their career that the high-diving act of the Amazing Three Wazudas became the Amazing Two Wazudas. (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

"Hmm, it seems nine really is the limit." (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

PICTURE D:

"I hate to complain, but your person keeps pooping on our lawn." (Kathleen DeBold, Burtonsville)

"Hello, I'm here to apply for the belly masseur position." (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

"I followed you home. Can you keep me?" (Dave Zarrow, Reston)

"Welcome home! Um, before you go inside, I'd like to remind you how uncomfortable you said those Ferragamo shoes were." (Hildy Zampella, Alexandria)

Being "sent to the doghouse" means something entirely different in Beverly Hills. (Mark Raffman,

Reston)

"What did you do with the door, Bailey?" (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

You can't get elected dogcatcher in THIS neighborhood. (Bill Lieberman, Ellicott City, Md.)

"I admit that I crossed a line. And I deeply regret calling you a 'feckless runt.'" (Bill Dorner)

PICTURES A, B, C and D:

There's a good time to be told, "You're fired." (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

Still running — deadline Monday night, July 2: Our contest for funny answers to trivia questions. See wapo.st/invite1285.



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1286: Mind your P's and B's (and more)

Barachute: Pack one of these to ensure a soft landing when the bouncer tosses you out of the tavern.

NBR: National Bubbly Radio: Specializing in good news about government and politics. (Airs 10 minutes per day.)

Chiladelphia: You won't have a hot time in this old town tonight.

This week's contest was suggested by Loser John Folse, who was inspired by IHOP's name change (not really, except really stupid) to IHOB to promote the hamburgers on its menu: **Replace one or more P's in a word, name or multi-word term with a B or with another letter and define or describe the result, as in the examples above.** Feel free to use it in a funny sentence. If the word has more than one P, you may leave one unchanged, but you can't change the P's into two different letters; as with all our change-a-letter neologism contests, the humor almost always works best when it's clear what the original word was. Submit entries at the website wapo.st/enter-invite-1286 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives, abrobos of this week's contest, a triangular Poo Pinata, emblazoned with the increasingly tiresome emoji. Presumably its name does not indicate what will be dumped on the person who cracks it open. Donated by Kyle Hendrickson, the longtime holder of the Cantankerous trophy: That's awarded each year to the Loser who has been published most often in the Invite without ever winning first place. Kyle, with 101 blots of always-a-bridesmaid ink, is truly a loser among Losers.

Other runners-up win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Punmanship." Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "We've Seen Better" or "IDiot Card." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, July 9;** results published July 29 (online July 26). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "Maim That Toon" 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" 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 discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"COOL COMFORT" By GAIL GRABOWSKI

- 1 Tip off
- 5 Iridescent stones
- 10 Broadway restaurant
- 15 Fancy window feature
- 19 Bizet's "Habanera," e.g.
- 20 Frequent co-star of Sly
- 21 From the top
- 22 Bottom of a pie
- 25 Quality bedding material
- 27 Gourmet gastropod
- 28 Puts at risk
- 30 Rung
- 31 Fish caught in pots
- 33 Stock ending?
- 34 Historic 1804 contest
- 35 Texas city in the film "Friday Night Lights"
- 38 Org. with a New London academy
- 41 Sites with jets
- 45 Leading the line
- 46 Where Petaluma is
- 50 Switchboard connection: Abbr.
- 51 Mil. driller
- 52 For hire to sire
- 53 It may be a lot
- 54 Wistful remark
- 56 Burn the toast, say
- 57 How much sautéing is done
- 58 Hate the idea of
- 59 Org. founded on the 100th anniversary of Lincoln's birth
- 60 "Dark of the Moon" poet
- 62 Hummus scooper
- 63 Fam. tree member
- 64 Religious faction
- 65 Room in some posh residences
- 69 Made off with
- 72 Barely done
- 74 Road closing?
- 75 Amazon predator
- 77 Brand with a Creamy Vodka sauce
- 79 1954 Ford debut
- 81 Great Plains tribe

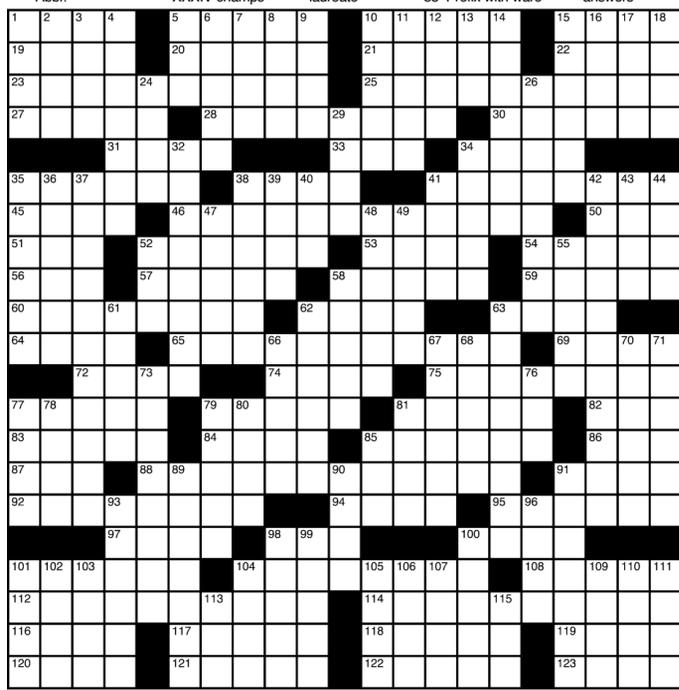
- 82 Unc. to Dad
- 83 "It's not my first"
- 84 Choral part
- 85 Teaching model
- 86 Hugs, on cards
- 87 Manning of football
- 88 Tex-Mex dipper
- 91 Botch
- 92 Carriers of carriers
- 94 Pre-college, briefly
- 95 Female folklore fiend
- 97 Scoffing sounds
- 98 Rel. title
- 100 "She Believes": Kenny Rogers hit
- 101 Lash out at
- 104 Like parts of the Great Plains
- 108 Invited
- 112 Oakland-based environmental group
- 114 2009 Meryl Streep role
- 116 Author Dinesen
- 117 Ruin, with "up"
- 118 Part of PGA: Abbr.

- 119 Singer on a 2007 Black Heritage postage stamp, familiarly
- 120 Is just right
- 121 Bring to a boil
- 122 Lots of paper
- 123 Overly curious
- DOWN**
- 1 Pub hardware
- 2 Shillelagh's land
- 3 "With a Z": 1972 TV special
- 4 Like the most summery day
- 5 Non-Fx
- 6 City awarded the 2024 Summer Olympic Games
- 7 Donor drive target
- 8 Sylvester's problem
- 9 Fill completely
- 10 Palatable
- 11 Well-coordinated
- 12 Super Bowl XXXIV champs

- 13 24 horas
- 14 On trial
- 15 Fifth-century Roman Empire foe
- 16 Revolution prefix
- 17 "Seriously?"
- 18 They're often cooped up
- 24 Pub round
- 26 Separately
- 29 Mumbai melody
- 32 Altar sacrifice, at times?
- 34 Enjoyed some courses
- 35 Initial stages
- 36 College offering
- 37 Struggling student's option
- 38 Freed, in a way
- 39 iTunes Store category
- 40 Mil. authority
- 41 Intangible quality
- 42 Game player's purchase
- 43 Suit
- 44 Part of a plan
- 47 "Mio"
- 48 2002 Nobel Peace Prize laureate

- 49 View from much of U.S. Highway 101
- 52 Samaritan's offering
- 55 Can't get out of it
- 58 Like many soup veggies
- 61 Performer's place
- 62 Keep the beat?
- 63 Use, as one's resources
- 66 Last Supper question
- 67 Meditative discipline
- 68 Long, thin mushroom
- 70 Awful
- 71 Barbecue fare
- 73 Water-absorbing plant part
- 76 Tube top
- 77 Kitchen job
- 78 Cast assignment
- 79 Protection from the elements
- 80 Short orders?
- 81 "Mayor" author
- 85 Prefix with ware

- 89 "C'est magnifique!"
- 90 Big name in casual garb
- 91 Air out
- 93 Predatory fish with an acute sense of smell
- 96 Former car-financing org.
- 98 Green word?
- 99 Glowing piece
- 100 Beat around the bush, e.g.
- 101 "Get real!"
- 102 Response to un captain
- 103 Administrative hub
- 104 Wallop
- 105 Just shy of shut
- 106 Trojan Horse, for one
- 107 Rick's "kid"
- 109 Drug bust unit
- 110 Some annexes
- 111 1944 turning point
- 113 Rip off
- 115 Coolers, briefly, that span two words in the nine longest answers



7/1/18

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | July 1: This year, optimism becomes a given in your life. You will see concrete results from this attitude change. If you are single, you have a strong personality, so you probably will need someone a little less intense for a partner. You will have several potential sweeties around you. If you are attached, this year offers many romantic moments. Aquarius teaches you how to express your feelings.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Call your friends and make the most of this Sunday. A spontaneous get-together could heighten the enjoyment of this weekend. You might meet a new friend at this happening. Your feelings could be more intense than they have been in a while.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You might feel pressured to make certain things happen. Others respond to your leadership and direction. Your ability to call the shots might be curtailed more than you'd like because of your acceptance of a stronger role within your family and at work.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You could be in a situation in which you are able to help others evolve and come to a clearer understanding. Your perspective is quite unique, and others enjoy hearing your views and logic.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You might be able to calm down a potentially explosive situation. Opportunities appear through a loved one. You might not be able to control someone else, but you do appreciate that you can influence their mood.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You usually control situations, but at this point, others seem to be taking the lead. Embrace a more easygoing attitude. You have the rare opportunity to see the whole scenario from the perspective of a key person in your life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Pace yourself, and recognize that you can do only so much in one day. What occurs is a direct reflection of your priorities. Others see life from your perspective. Your domineering personality emerges.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Your personality helps melt someone else's resistance. You see this person reveal their true colors. Note a tendency to overspend. A child or loved one lets you know they really feel about you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You could feel tense trying to understand where certain members of your family are coming from. It is up to you to determine the best path to proceed on. Your loved ones appear to be supporting you.

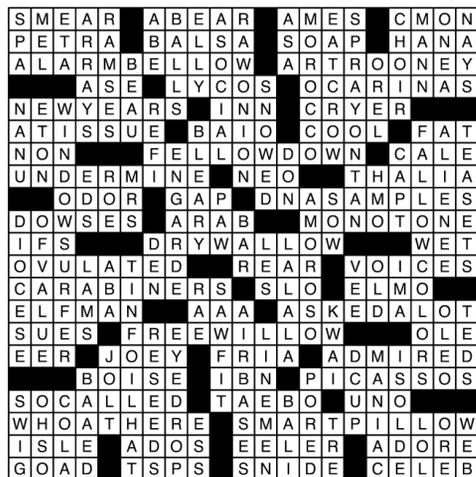
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Speak your mind with the expectation that others will get the gist of your message. You might be holding more in reserve, waiting to see the reaction to the first piece of significant information you share. Avoid going to extremes, if possible.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You'll deal with an emotional situation directly and won't allow others to interfere. A friendship affects today's plans. You could find that spontaneity sets the stage. Honor what is happening within your circle and join in.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Your smile draws many people toward you. You will share some news that probably contains some gossip. You'll enjoy the reaction you get. Of all the signs, your sign values friendship the most.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Use today just for you. You will recharge better in a quiet situation without many people around. Pick your company with care. You could be happy just vegging out and watching TV. Getting some quality downtime could set up your week well.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



6/24/18